

9th Int'l Short & Independent Film Festival Dhaka

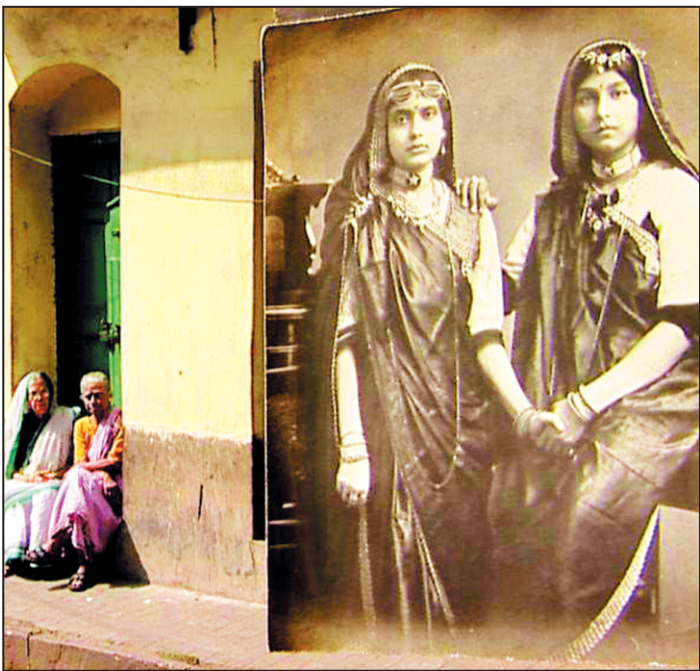
Clarion call to maintain film standards

FAYZA HAQ

THE 9th International Short & Independent Film Festival, Dhaka began in the Central Public Library on December 22. This was despite the pervading political unrest in the city and the fact that lesser people turn up each time. The programme was launched by Justice Md Habibur Rahman at the Sufia Kamal Central Public Library, Shahbagh. Litterateur Hasnat Abdul Hye was the Chairperson, and Aminul Islam was the festival director.

The venue was decorated with colourful balloons and festoons. The song, "Ganey ganey ... nriyo jagey" was rendered with the accompaniment of the "tabla" and the harmonium by the group Ananda Dhwan. Included in the festival are 160 films of which 45 are entries from Bangladesh. As Abdul Hye put it, "They provide entertainment, aesthetics and experience."

Introductory speeches followed in led by Justice Habibur Rahman, who said that the film festival encourages the flow of culture despite the prevailing turmoil and unrest in the country. He criticised

A scene from *City of Photos*, one of the films being screened at the festival

the prevalence of vulgar films which had little constructive message to offer. He quoted from a Charlie Chaplin film by

commenting "And that is business!" meaning that vulgar commercial films have captured the market.

To this, Rahman added that films like "Rupban" have encouraged young film makers. He said that short film makers comprise only 10% of the total count of film makers in the country. However, he added that this handful of film makers were doing undoubtedly creative work like "Megher Onek Rong". He lauded film personalities like Morshedul Islam and Tanvir Mokammel as well. He said that freedom of expression should be maintained at any cost; since the outset in 1998. He continued to say that the film festivals have presented foreign films to viewers and made them popular.

Dwelling on the types of films, Rahman said that there were all type of films including animated ones. These, he said, came from 27 countries and included 128 films from Asia, USA, Latin America and the former USSR. He explained that digital cameras and computers are now in use. According to him, "The film-makers must not be dependant on the government only." He made a clarion call to uphold the standard.

Hasnat Abdul Hye added that had it not been for the sufficient backing of patrons and film-makers, the tradition of the film

festivals in Dhaka would not be possible. He said that it has its own film aesthetics and that it has been appreciated by critiques and discerning audiences. He said that films from all continents except Africa had participated. He also added, "We have received help from ntv, Maachranga, the Culture, Home and Foreign Affairs Ministries etc. Seminars on film-making will follow, with exchange of views."

Aminul Islam, in his turn said it that the festival would run till December 30 and that there would be relevant seminars in the National Museum. He announced that Baby Islam had won the Hirial Sen Memorial Award and that Tarek Shahriar was the winner of the Independent Short Film Festival Award.

Three remarkable short films in Technicolor from overseas including two from Russia, concluded the festival.

Theatre festival in Chittagong

Egarosho Unonabbai: A play featuring the peasant rebellion



Actors in a dramatic scene from the play

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Theatre Guild will stage *Egarosho Unonabbai* at Shilpakala Academy, Chittagong at 7 pm today, as part of the ongoing theatre festival arranged by Group Theatre Forum.

Wahedul Azam Tipu's play, *Egarosho Unonabbai*, is set in the backdrop of the peasant rebellion against the oppression of the East India Company in the Bangla year 1189 (1782 ad). *Egarosho Unonabbai* however, is not the story of oppression of the British on the natives, rather the play is a narrative of an ordinary peasant leader Nurul Deen's courage to revolt against the oppressors as well as his urge for the ultimate freedom.

CULTURAL FEAST

Group Exhibition

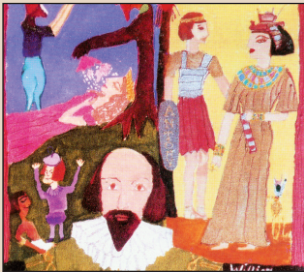
Title: Winter Art Exhibit

Organiser: Shako

Venue: Art & Soul Gallery, Road# 36,

House 16, Gulshan Avenue

Time: December 16-26 from 11 am to 8 pm



Solo Art Exhibition

Title: Devotion

Artist: Aadil Hoque

Date: December 18-24, from 12-8pm

Venue: Bengal Gallery Of Fine Arts

Australian Painting Exhibition

Title: Desert Voices

Venue: Shilpangan Gallery

Time: December 17-26

Theatre

Play: Brand

Troupe: Centre for Asian Theatre

Venue: Experimental Theatre Stage

Date: December 24 at 6:30 pm

Play: Behular Bhashan

Troupe: Theatre and Music

Department, Dhaka University

Venue: Natmondal Auditorium, DU

Date: January 1-4 at 6:30 pm

Closeup 1 grand finale

Bangladesh finds "the voice" in Nolok

KARIM WAHEED

It was perhaps the biggest event aired live in Bangladesh: *Closeup 1* ended with a bang. The nation has given its verdict: Nolok Babu is the victor. His is the voice Bangladesh has been looking for. At Around 10:30 pm when the results were announced, an emotionally moved Nolok was in tears. He received 7,85,391 votes from Bangladeshis living in the country and overseas. The first runner-up Razib received a total of 3,13,946 votes and Beauty, the second runner-up received 3,20,328 votes. The points received from the votes combined with scores by the judges decided the winner.

Nolok received a cheque for Tk 10 lakh from the chairperson of Unilever Bangladesh Ltd, Sanjeev Mehta, keys to a brand new Nissan Sunny from Ehsanul Haque, executive director of Brac Bank and a 42-inch plasma TV from Obaidur Rahman, director of Transcom Electronics.

First runner-up Razib received a cheque for Tk five lakh from ntv and a Philips home theatre system from Transcom. Beauty received a cheque for Tk three lakh from Asiatic and a Philips home theatre system from Transcom.

Apart from the top three contestants *Closeup 1* also awarded two participants that demonstrated remarkable valour and determination. Shamapri Roy, a visually impaired contestant whose rendition of Tagore songs charmed the audiences and judges, received the Closeup Confidence Award and a cheque of Tk one lakh. Champa Banik received the



(L-R) First runner-up Razib, second runner-up Beauty and the winner Nolok pose for the camera

Closeup Personality Award and a cheque for Tk 50,000. Champa, a promising artiste went to Rangpur to participate in the auditions for *Closeup 1* after she was not selected in the Dhaka auditions. She eventually made it to the top 16 of *Closeup 1* but backed off from the contest for the sake of her unborn child, making way for another contestants.

Special attraction of the event was performances by the contestants. Apart from other talented contestants from previous rounds, the "top 10" entertained the guests as well as audiences facing TV screens. Rumi performed *Amae kandaley*, Nowrin sang *Krishnochura laal hoyechhe* and

Abid rendered a Tagore song *Pagla haowar badol diney*. Sonya and Mahadi performed a film song *Ekhanej dujoney nirojoney*, Mehrab sang a popular number of Miles Neela. Rinku delivered a soulful rendition of *Eshob dekhi kanaar haat-bazaar*, Rashed performed *Ami khujechhi tomae mago*, a song that stirred a range of emotions in the top 16 round.

Razib sang a patriotic song *Shurjodoye tumi shurjasteo tumi*, Beauty performed a Lalan song *Sharboshadhon shiddhho hoi tar* and Nolok rendered a folk song by Bari Siddiqui, *Amar gaye joto dukkhho shoy*.

The melange of these songs belonging to the diverse genres demonstrated the opulent heritage of Bangla music. At a time when it seemed like our music was losing ground, *Closeup 1* took an apt initiative that generated interest in our roots and songs among the young generation and in the process it created a window of opportunity for talented artistes; an opportunity that might have just been an unattainable dream to many otherwise.

Here's hoping the saga continues in coming years.

Zhang Ziyi didn't speak any English when she made her American movie debut five years ago in *Rush Hour 2*. Now dubbed "China's gift to Hollywood" by *Time* magazine, the Beijing-born beauty, 26, is crossing cultural lines.

According to some critics, Ziyi may earn a best-actress Oscar nod for her role as the legendary geisha, Sayuri, in *Memoirs of a Geisha*, the big-screen adaptation of Arthur Golden's best-selling novel about the life of a traditional Japanese entertainer.

In a recent interview, the talented actress shared her views on her latest movie, geishas and more.

Asked why she thinks westerners are so fascinated with the geisha culture, Ziyi says, "The fascination with geishas is not limited to Western people. I'm Chinese, and hardly anyone in China knows what a geisha's world is. It's very mysterious. As humans, we're always obsessed with the unknown. When you don't know someone – you really want to get to know her or him... or some food you've never tried. People say, 'Oh, it's very special, you really have to taste it.' Maybe that's why."

Was it strange playing the role of a legendary geisha and not being Japanese? Ziyi's response is, "You know, the first time I heard the news (that I got the part), I just thought, this role is so great. Any actress from any background who gets this tremendous role will give their very best effort. So, I did just that. I hope my performance reflects all my effort."

Any interesting experience while shooting for the movie? A chortling Ziyi says, "We were doing rehearsals. We all had our kimonos on. There was this big mirror in the room, and all of us actors were standing in a line, watching ourselves. Each of us had to put a book between our knees, and walk. We had to put a teacup on the top of our heads as well and walk. Apparently that's how the geishas were taught the art of perfect posture. They also went through extensive lessons in etiquette. It sure was an intriguing experience!"

Ziyi's idea of beautiful is: "One has to be well-rounded, independent and confident. Looks and the physique are

Ziyi in a scene from *Memoirs of a Geisha*

not of utmost importance. One has to have a nice heart and maintain kindness under all circumstances; that's the essence of being truly beautiful."

On the idea of "forbidden love", the actress shares, "That's the only thing I don't like about Sayuri's character. If I love someone, I would definitely share that with the object of my attraction. I wouldn't wait for 10 years – that's too long."

Do people sometimes have trouble with her name? Ziyi smilingly says, "In China, my name is Zhang Ziyi. In America, my name is Ziyi Zhang. They just switch the first and last name so it's easier for them."

Compiled by Cultural Correspondent



Rani Mukerji

Top ten Bollywood actresses of 2005

According to box-office success, a list of top ten Bollywood actresses was published by rediff.com and Rani Mukerji topped the list. She seems to have become the reigning queen of Bollywood. Almost everything she stars in becomes a hit. Last year, she had *Hum Tum* and *Veer-Zaara*. This year, she had *Black* and *Bunty Aur Babli*.

Other actresses to make the list are: Preity Zinta, Bipasha Basu, Priyanka Chopra, Mallika Sherawat, Sushmita Sen, Kareena Kapoor, Aishwarya Rai, Vidya Balan and Chitrangda Singh.

Source: rediff.com

TV GUIDE

All programmes are in local time. The Daily Star will not be responsible for any change in the programme.

News Bulletin

BTV

News Headlines (Bangla) at 8:55 am, 12:10 pm, 2:00 pm, 3:00 pm, 4:00 pm, 7:00 pm.

News (Bangla) at 8:00 am 1:00 pm, 5:00 pm, 8:00 pm.

News (English) at 3:00 pm, 10:00 pm.

Late Night News (Bangla and English) 11:30 pm.

CHANNEL-i

News (Bangla) at 7:15 am, 9:00 am, 2:00 pm, 7:00 pm, 9:00 pm, 10:30 pm, 12:15 am.

Telecast of BTV news (Bangla and English) at 11:30 pm.

ATN BANGLA

News (Bangla) at 7:00 am, 10:00 am, 2:00 pm, 7:00 pm, 10:00 pm, 11 pm.

News (English) 8:20 am, 7:00 pm, 11:30 pm.

Telecast of BTV News (Bangla and English) at 11:30 pm.

Latest News (Bangla) at 9:00 am, 10:00 am, 11:00 am, 1:00 pm, 2:00 pm, 3:00 pm, 4:00 pm, 6:00 pm and 8:00 pm.

ntv

News Headlines (Bangla) at 10:00 am, 12:00 am, 6:15 pm, 9:30 pm.

News (Bangla) 7:30 am, 2:00 pm, 5:00 pm, 7:30 pm, 10:30 pm.

Telecast of BTV News (Bangla and English) at 11:30 pm.

TARA BANGLA

News Headlines (Bangla) at 5:30 pm, 7:30 pm.

Tara News (Bangla) at 8:30 pm, 11:30 pm.

Tara News Bangladesh (Bangla) at 9:30 pm.

BBC WORLD

Every hour on the hour

ATN BANGLA

08:10 Musical Programme on Nazrul: *Bulbul*

08:45 Drama Serial: *Ferari Siren*

09:25 Drama Serial: *Britto*

11:05 Drama Serial: *Hortoner Bibi*

11:35 *Char Deyaler Kabyo*

12:15 Bangla Film: *Hingsha*

03:45 *Shurer Madhuri*

04:20 Children's Programme: *Hattimatim Tim*

05:00 *Gram Ganjer Khabor*

05:10 *Amader Joto Kotha*

05:45 *Islami Sawal O Jobab* (live)

06:20 Travel Show: *Amar Danish Amar Bangladesh*

08:00 Drama Serial: *Jol*

08:30 Drama Serial: *The New Shabuj Opera*

09:00 Drama Serial: *Lal Neel Beguni*

09:30 Drama Serial: *Ek Jonomey*

10:35 *Citycell Shusthya Thakun* (live)

ntv

08:35 *Aajker Shokal*

09:00 Drama Serial: *Kachher Manush*

09:30 Talk Show: *Ki kotha Tahar Shathe*

10:05 *Mukto Chalochitro*

10:30 *Dhakar Cinema: Sipahi*

01:05 *Muktanggon*

03:15 *Closeup 1 Tomakei Khunjichhey Bangladesh (Final)*

04:25 *Tepantorer Mathhey*

05:15 *Din Darpan*

05:20

Alokat Shubho Shondha

06:20 Right Click

06:50 Drama serial: *Romizer Ayna*

08:25 Drama: *Haraner Naat Jamai*

09:10 *Dindarpan*

11:25 *CHANNEL i*

09:30 *Shongbad Potrey Bangladesh and Public Reaction*

09:45 *Tritiyo Matra*

10:45 *Na Bola Kotha* (Live)

12:30 *Aj Dupurey*

05:10 *Ebong Cinemay Gaan*

01:25 Public Reaction

02:40 *Shaet Raang*

04:00 *Bashundhara Amader Gaan*

05:15 *Janapader Khabor*

06:00 Music Plus

06:30 *Dui Prohor*

07:50 *Swaponokher Kolpokaler*

09:35 *Hrodoye Mati O Manush*

10:00 *Rexona Challenge*

HBO

11:00 *Juwanna Mann*

01:00 *S1Mone*

03:15 *The Accused*

05:30 *For Love or Money*

07:30 *Eight Legged Freaks*

09:30 *The Big Saturday: The Bourne Supremacy*

11:45 *Shanghai 13*

01:45 *National Security*

STAR MOVIES

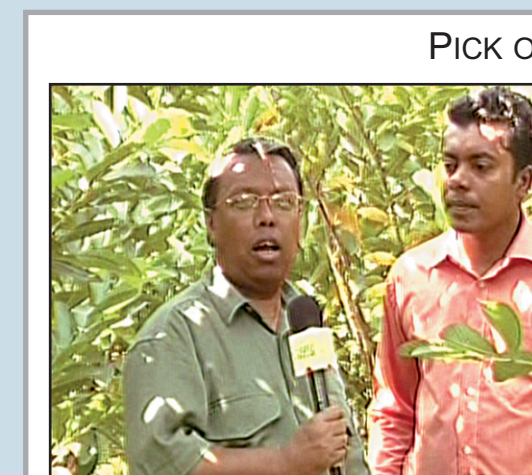
9:00 *When Zachary Beaver Came To Town*

10:30 *3 Ninjas*

12:10 *Catch That Kid*

1:45 *Blue Streak*

3:20 *Johnny English*



Hridoye Mati O Manush

On Channel-i at 9:35 pm

Genre: Agricultural Programme

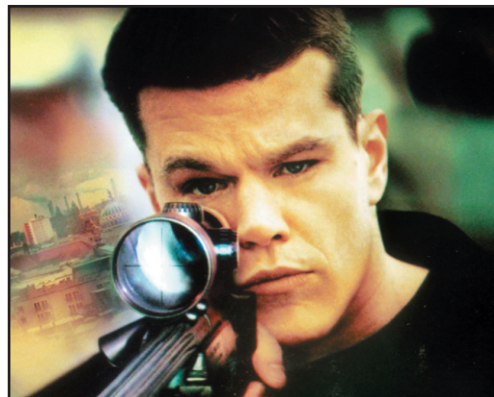
Host: Shykh Seraj

4:50	Bicentennial Man	7:30	Meri Mrs Chanchala
7:00	Robocop 3	8:00	Pardey Ke Peechey
8:50	Die Hard 2: Die Harder	8:30	Kaboom
10:55	Lord Of The Files	9:30	Best Of
12:30	What Planet Are You From?		

STAR PLUS

10:30	Dharam Aur Hum	10:30	Baa Bahoo Aur Baby
11:30	Jai Ganga Maiya	11:00	Shanno Ki Shaadi
12:55	Taaza Hits	11:30	Tu Tu Main Main
1:00	Star Bestsellers		
2:25	Film Topper		
3:00	Kora Kagaz		
5:00	Hit Filmein Hit		
	Sangeet		
5:30	Ssshhhh...Koi Hai...		
6:30	Talespin		
7:00	Timon And Pumbaa		

PICK OF THE DAY



The Bourne Supremacy

On HBO at 9:30 pm

Genre: Action/Adventure

Cast: Matt Damon, Franka Potente, Brian Cox, Julia Stiles

5:30	Housewives	06:30	Crocodile Hunter Diaries
6:30	Life As We Know It	07:30	Attenborough Presents
8:30	The Man Upstairs	08:30	Lords of the Animals
9:30	Tna Xplosion	09:00	Wild Island
	Radio John Live At	09:30	Fun Zone
	3 Tenors Live In The	10:30	One Planet
	Forbidden		

ANIMAL PLANET

10:30	O'shea's Big Adventure	10:30	Wild Discovery
11:30	Natural Rescues	11:30	Ult