

CULTURAL FEAST

Art Work and Calligraphy Exhibition

Organiser: Bangladesh Shilpkala Academy and Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran
Venue: National Art Gallery, Bangladesh Shilpkala Academy, Dhaka
Date: January 8-17
Time: 11:00pm-7:00pm

Film Screening

Organiser: Indian Cultural centre
Venue: House# 25, Road# 96, Gulshan 2

Date: January 19
Title: Lage Rago Munnabhai

Date: January 27
Title: Bialish-42 (Bangla)

Date: January 28
Title: Legend of Bhagat Singh

Date: January 29
Title: Fanaa

Photography Exhibition on Shamsur Rahman

Title: Bok taar Bangladesher hridoy
Venue: Bengal Shilpkala, 275/F, Rd 27 (old), Dhanmondi
Inauguration: January 16 at 5:00 pm

Film Screening

Title: Constantly in Motion
Organiser: Goethe-Institut Bangladesh and Dhaka University Film Society

January 16
Emotional Roller-Coaster, Programme 3

Living a Beautiful Life directed by Corinna Schnitt
Attention - Respect directed by Michael Bryntrup

Mark Morrisroe-Polaroids 1959-1989 directed by Curtis Burz

The Real Thing directed by Bjorn Melhus

Ron & Leo directed by Oliver Husain

With Me directed by Kerstin Cmejka
Self-Portrait as a Nude; Study No. 2 directed by Wolfgang Lehmann

Structure and Symbol, Programme 4

Private Physics by Felix Höfler & Herwig Weiser

Land Under Cornelius Kirfel

Rack directed by Volker Schreiner

Little Flower directed by Sebastian Jochum; Germany 1994, 5:20 min.

The Source directed by Tim Coe; Germany 2002, 2 min.

Jivan 'Up There' directed by Marc Comes

Falcon directed by Karo Goldt
Persuaders directed by Peter Simon
No Sunshine directed by Bjorn Melhus

One After Another directed by Anna Anders

Drama, Strings & Horns directed by Gunter Krüger

Utrecht Hüte directed by Franz Höner

January 17
(Repeat of Day 1)

Images of the World

Dis Location

Erratum

Aminur Rahman was inadvertently printed as Anisur Rahman in the article 'Austro-Bangla book on lyrics', printed on January 15. We regret the error.

Two Bangladeshi films go to 36th Int'l Film Festival Rotterdam



Dolly Zahir and Amirul Islam in *Nirontor*



Rokeya Prachi in *Swapno Danaye*

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

TWO Bangla feature films, *Nirontor* directed by Abu Sayeed and *Swapno Danaye* directed by Golam Rabbani Biplob, have been nominated for screening at the 36th

International Film Festival Rotterdam, Netherlands. The festival is scheduled to be held from January 24 to February 4.

Cast of the award-winning film

Nirontor includes Shabnoor, Ilias Kanchon, Litu Anam, Dolly Zahir, Jayanto Chattyopadhyay and Amirul

Islam. *Swapno Danaye* features Mahmuduzzaman Babu, Rokeya Prachi and Fazlur Rahman Babu, among others. The story of *Nirontor* is based on noted author Humayun Ahmed's work *Janam Janam*.

The festival at Rotterdam is one of the most consistently innovative film

events in Europe. Annually screening around 450 films (including 200 features) at venues throughout the city, it also offers assistance to up-and-coming filmmakers.

Both films are produced by Impress Telefilm Ltd and sponsored by Banglalink.

Tradition

'Homeguti Khela' retains age-old appeal

AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh

Some local games have retained their appeal through the ages. The two-century-old traditional *Homeguti Khela* was inaugurated at the vast field of Boroihata of village Laxmipur in Phulbaria Upazila recently. Over 20,000 people from far and wide were present to enjoy the game, which is held annually. Local Union Parishad chairman Asquiq Haque Ahsiq inaugurated the game and Abu Siddique Abu conducted the game.

The game, traditionally held at Phulbaria Upazila, is a special attraction for the people of the

region and its adjoining areas of Mymensingh and Tangail districts. *Homeguti Khela* (*Home* means concealing the *guti*, a brass ball) is played in the afternoon on the last day of Bengali month *Poush*. The day, locally known as *Pahura* or *Poush Sangkranti*, is held with great festivity.

People from several villages participate in the game. People from Muktagacha and Sadar Upazila also participate in the game and Abu Siddique Abu conducted the game.

The *guti* usually weighs 30 kgs and the group that can conceal the *guti* and thus outwit other teams, is the winner.



Villagers in Laxmipur, before the game

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The winning team is accorded a reception at Laxmipur village where the game starts. Last year the game continued for eight hours. The game has a record to continue for 10 days without any interval.

The game is played within 8-10 km from its starting point at Boroihata in Laxmipur village. At night thousands of torch lights are used to search for the *guti*.

During the British Raj, the zamindars introduced the game at the same spot marking it the zero point as both sides of the place were divided into two parts as 'Taluk' and 'Pargona', said game committee sources. With a view to nurture

team spirit among the subjects, the zamindars started the tradition.

At one point the *guti* was made of wood and afterwards it was given the shape of a ball (made of jute). However, six years ago chairman of Deukhola Union Parishad, Ataur Rahman Hadi took the initiative to give the *guti* its current shape.

"Though there is no reward for the game, we participate in the game to continue our ancestral tradition," said Giasuddin, 55, of village Nayavilla, also a *Homeguti* player for the last 40 years.

The *guti* made of brass, weighing 30 kgs

PHOTO: STAR

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