

# Making waves at Korean cultural festival

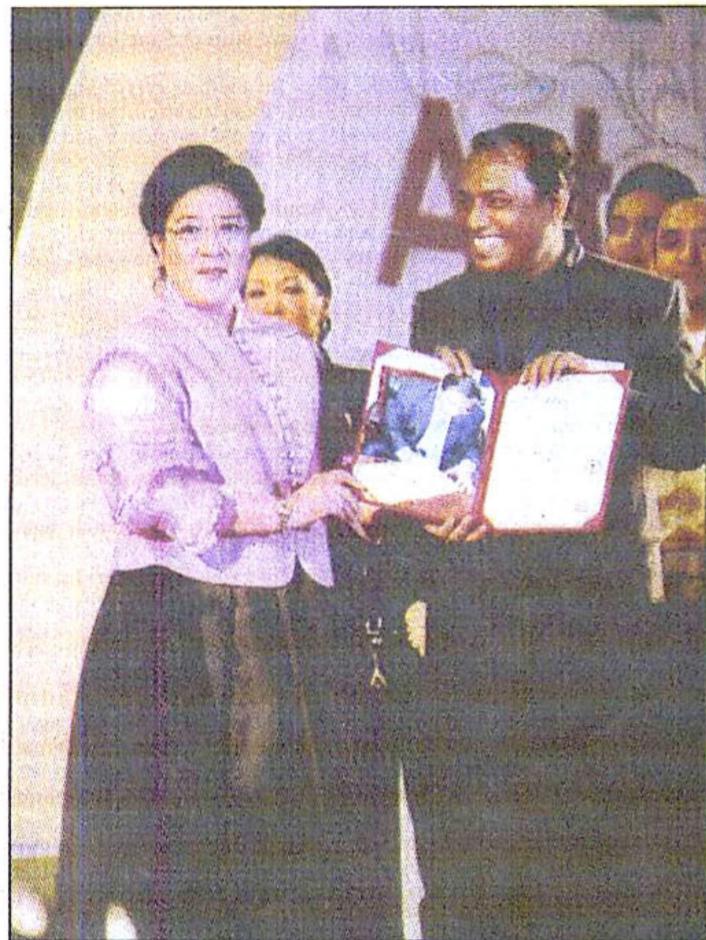
In Conversation with Indra Mohan Rajbongshi

ERSHAD KAMOL

**N**OTED folk singer Indra Mohan Rajbongshi represented Bangladesh in the 'World Masters' Festival in Arts and Culture 2007', which is also known as 'The Cultural Olympics' of the traditional artistes from around the world. The first ever of its kind, the festival was held at the 'aT Center' in Seoul, South Korea. The theme of the festival was 'Cultural Unity in Diversity', in which 36 World Masters from four continents -- Europe, Latin America, Asia and Africa -- participated. Artistes from 51 countries participated in the programme highlighting their unique cultures and heritage.

The festival marked an epoch for the global development in arts and culture. This unique initiative enabled to form a network of global maestros in arts, and flung the gate wide open to exchange ideas and views among nations and artistes of the world.

The festival continued from October 1 to 5, which was hosted by The Association of World Masters for the Exchange of Arts and Culture/ Korea Master Culture and Arts Exchange Association and supervised by The Organising Committee for The



Indra Mohan Rajbongshi (R) receiving his 'Certificate of World Master' from Kim Sung Oak, chairperson of The Association of World Masters for the Exchange of Arts and Culture

World Masters' Festival in Arts and Culture 2007.

An enthusiastic Rajbongshi informed, "It's a great honour for me to be considered amongst the 36 world masters. According to the organisers a 'world master' is an acclaimed artiste who has inherited and developed the traditional culture of his/her heritage, and who is acknowledged and revered in his country as an outstanding figure in the field. World masters were awarded with the 'Certificate of World Master'; guests from embassies and other dignitaries attended the festival and congratulated the masters in the opening ceremony."

On the selection process, Rajbongshi said that the organisers invited the embassies operating in South Korea to recommend the names from their respective countries. Through ministry of cultural affairs, the embassies suggested the names of artistes to be honoured as a world master. "The criteria of the selection process were that the nominated person must be renowned for his contribution to a traditional art form and at the same time a teacher of that art form at a well recognised institute. As the Vice Principal of Government Music College as

well as a regular folk singer, I was nominated from Bangladesh," said the artiste.

October 3 was the 'Asian Day' at the festival in which artistes from Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Malaysia, Myanmar, Pakistan, Uzbekistan and Vietnam performed. Alphabetically Indra Mohan Rajbongshi representing Bangladesh was the first world master to perform on the day. Rajbongshi rendered four songs: *Majhi baiyya jao re, Shadher lau, Ei je dunya kishero lagiya and If you get time visit Bangladesh*, a folk tune written by him.

On the response from the audience, Rajbongshi said, "Prior to visiting South Korea, I made the track of the songs using indigenous instruments including *ekta*, *dotara*, *mandira*, *diol* and *banjhi*. The appeal of Bangladeshi folk melodies seemed to awe the Korean audience."

On his future plan regarding folk music, Indra Mohan Rajbongshi informed, "For the last few years I have been planning a month-long festival that will feature songs of 1000 bards. I've already collected songs of 721 bards. I'm working on others now. Hopefully between 2010 and 2012, I will be able to hold the festival in Dhaka."

## "Balughori" goes to South Asian Film Festival



A scene from the film

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

**B**alughori, a feature film, directed and produced by young filmmaker Razibul Hossain, will be screened at the Second South Asian Film Festival '07, says a press release.

The festival, organised by South Asian Foundation, will be held in

Delhi, India, from October 24 to 30.

Eight South Asian countries including Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Nepal, Maldives, Bhutan and Afghanistan, will participate in the festival. Director

of the film, Razibul Hossain and actor Qayes Chowdhury, will attend the festival. They will meet renowned filmmakers, actors and film critics of the neighbouring countries.

The plot of the film follows Kuhel Ahmed, a veteran professor who faces imminent death. Things occur the way they should. But how do they affect him -- Ahmed argues with himself. The meaning of life and the apparent absurdity confront each other in his psyche. This inner conflict is at times unfamiliar and sur-

real. However, this 'conflict' is all too known to the human civilisation.

*Balughori* tries to explore that reality of individual existence. The insight into life is framed eloquently in the film.

Cinematography is also done by Razibul Hossain, while Habib Zakaria and Real Akonji have written the script and edited the film respectively. Apart from Qayes Chowdhury, Wahida Mallik Jolly, Farhana Mili, Rashid Harun, Monjoj Kumar Pramanik and Runa Khan have acted in the film.

## Syed Abdul Hadi in "Amar Ami" tonight



CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Talk show *Amar Ami* will be aired on Banglavision tonight at 8:55 pm. Hosted by Aupi Karim, tonight's *Amar Ami* features eminent singer Syed Abdul Hadi.

Syed Abdul Hadi needs no introduction to Bangladeshis. Playbacks and patriotic songs like *Akbaa jodi keu bhalabasta, Jey matir bukey* and many more have earned him a special place in the heart of millions. Going over his early days in the TV show, the veteran singer says, "The method of singing was much more complex in our time. Now it has become simpler."

Syed Abdul Hadi (R) with the host of the show Aupi Karim

## Meera Dev Burman passes away

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

The world of music lost another great persona when eminent singer and lyricist Meera Dev Burman, wife of legendary music director-singer Sachin Dev Burman, died in Mumbai on October 15 after prolonged illness. She was 84.

Meera Dev Burman had been seriously ill since the death of her husband and her condition deteriorated over the years due to advancing age and had to be frequently hospitalised, her daughter-in-law and noted playback singer Asha Bhonsle said.

Born in Comilla (Bangladesh) in March 1923, Meera Dev Burman was in the news recently for languishing in an old-age home for paraplegics in Mumbai where she was shifted from Agartala seven months ago.

However, she was moved to her son R.D. Burman's house in Mumbai in September following media reports about her condition in the old-age home.

After moving from Comilla, Meera settled in Kolkata. She was a student of Nobel Laureate econo-

set tune to a number of songs penned by Meera who was a singer in her own right.

After the death of her husband in 1975 and her son in 1994, life had become difficult for Meera.

Seeing her plight, Tripura government had recently felicitated her in Mumbai and gave her some financial assistance for her medical treatment.



Meera with S.D. Burman

## ON AIR

**PICK OF THE DAY**

**Hridoye Mati O Manush**  
On Channel i at 9:35pm  
Agricultural Programme  
Host: Shykh Seraj

**16 Blocks**  
On Star Movies at 7:00pm  
Genre: Action  
Cast: Bruce Willis, Jenna Stern

<b>BTV</b>	08:40 Esho Gaan Shikhi	09:45 Bangladesh Public Reaction	12:00 Bidaai	04:30 I Didn't Know That
	11:15 Desher Gaan Nobo Digonta	09:50 Grameenphone Tritio Matra	12:30 Bolly V - Star Plus	05:00 Pippin, Pugsly, Josh
	11:30 Shukhi Poribar	11:05 Na Bala Kotha	05:30 Big Bang	05:30 Lions
	12:10 Musical Programme: Agun Jhora	12:30 Citycell Taroka Kathan	06:00 Florida Swamp Air	06:00 Crash
	01:10 Tele-film: Bhalobhiko Blebhabsta	01:05 Tax Helpline	07:30 Norway	07:30 Show/Real Asia
	03:00 Bangla Feature Film: Hridoye Mati O Manush	01:15 Ebong Cinemar	08:30 Travel Asia	08:30 Elephant Range
	06:10 Hridoye Mati O Manush	01:30 Shongbadpotrey	09:00 That 70's Show	09:30 Inside The Super
	07:15 Jhonker	01:45 Public Reaction	09:30 The Jane Show	10:30 Carrier
	08:30 Drama: Okul Purer	02:40 Shikha Shujog Na Odhikar	09:50 Criss Angel Mindfreak	11:30 Inside 911
	10:30 Drama: Leal Balish	03:05 Special Programme	10:00 Malcolm In The Middle	12:30 Yellowstone
<b>ATN BANGLA</b>	10:30 Aktel Onyodriti	04:05 Educational Programme	12:30 K G Presents: The Sketch Show	<b>HISTORY</b>
	11:05 Shafit Din	04:50 Shotyer Shondhane	04:30 Yes Dear	09:00 Sauna Belt
	12:15 Bangla Feature Film: Shobor Jorino	05:30 Mukhijuddo Protidin	05:00 Monk	09:15 Global Pendant
	03:45 Shobor Jorino	06:00 Shoppi Agami	06:00 The Office (Us)	09:30 El CID
	04:20 Shesh Odkhotor	09:35 Hridoye Mati O Manush	06:30 Ghost Whisperer	10:30 Guts & Bolts
	05:00 Gram Gonj Khabar	10:00 Drama Serial: Mon Chhitey Jay	07:30 Tna Xplosion	11:00 Hover Tech
	05:30 Children's Programme	02:30 Profidin	08:30 Kyle Xy	11:30 Yes Prime
	06:00 Profidin	06:00 Profidin	09:30 Minister S2	12:00 Victims of Jealousy
	06:35 Tarzan	06:30 Reporter's File	10:30 The Black Donnellys	12:30 Dreadnoughts and Crosses
	08:00 New Sobuj Opera	11:45 Reporter's File	11:30 Secrets Of Street Magicians	01:30 Liberation of Paris
	08:40 Mega Serial: Chor	12:00 Jibon	12:30 Kyle XY	02:30 Cleopatra
	09:20 Kuthun	11:00 Look at Me	<b>STAR PLUS</b>	03:30 Honda
	<b>Rtv</b>	11:30 News Watch	09:30 Krishna Kathaiyan	04:30 Afghanistan
	12:00 Grameenphone	11:40 Media Bhubon	10:30 Star Voice of India	05:30 Hercules
	11:30 Drama Serial: Doll's House	01:00 X-Crime	09:30 Baa Bahoo Aur Baby	06:30 Hostages
	10:30 Protidin	02:30 Vokab	10:30 From Creation To	08:30 Jumbo Movie
	08:00 Ekusher Shokal	02:40 Drama Serial: Kachhey Durey	10:30 Bidaai	10:30 Rembrandt
	08:30 Mukhito Khabor	03:15 Banglaision Cafe	10:30 Saibala	11:30 Pyotr Tchaikovsky
	09:00 Sheshey	04:15 Citycell Diner	11:30 Coat Of Many Colors	12:30 Hostages
	10:30 Gopshop	01:30 Drishiti	12:30 Inside Shock And Awe	08:30 Discover India
	11:30 R. Music	02:00 Bangla Feature Film: Sheshey	01:30 Inside Iraq's Kill Zone	09:30 Truth About Food
	12:15 Lead News	05:30 El Shopaher Bishwa	01:30 R. Chebbi Hal Padoss	10:30 Everything You Know About
	12:30 Shongbadpotrey	04:30 Ebong Glasser	02:30 Mein	11:30 Galapagos
	09:30 Shongbadpotrey	05:45 Ekusher Shondha	03:30 Bullets	12:30 Life on the Edge
<b>CHANNEL i</b>	01:00 Drama Serial: Ebong Roshshyer Golpo	07:00 Balmy	11:30 Nach Ballye 3	11:30 Wild Africa
<b>BANGLAVISION</b>	08:00 News (Bangla)	08:00 News (English)		
	08:00 News (Bangla)	08:00 News (English)		
	08:00 News (Bangla)	08:00 News (English)		
	08:00 News (Bangla)	08:00 News (English)		
<b>Rtv</b>	08:00 News (Bangla)	08:00 News (English)		
	08:00 News (Bangla)	08:00 News (English)		
	08:00 News (Bangla)	08:00 News (English)		
	08:00 News (Bangla)	08:00 News (English)		
<b>ntv</b>	08:00 News (Bangla)	08:00 News (English)		
	08:00 News (Bangla)	08:00 News (English)		
	08:00 News (Bangla)	08:00 News (English)		
	08:00 News (Bangla)	08:00 News (English)		
<b>ETV</b>	08:00 News (Bangla)	08:00 News (English)		
	08:00 News (Bangla)	08:00 News (English)		
	08:00 News (Bangla)	08:00 News (English)		
	08:00 News (Bangla)	08:00 News (English)		
<b>CHANNEL 1</b>	08:00 News (Bangla)	08:00 News (English)		
	08:00 News (Bangla)	08:00 News (English)		
	08:00 News (Bangla)	08:00 News (English)		
	08:00 News (Bangla)	08:00 News (English)		
<b>BTV</b>	08:00 News (Bangla)	08:00 News (English)		
	08:00 News (Bangla)	08:00 News (English)		
	08:00 News (Bangla)	08:00 News (English)		
	08:00 News (Bangla)	08:00 News (English)		
<b>ATN BANGLA</b>	08:00 News (Bangla)	08:00 News (English)		
	08:00 News (Bangla)	08:00 News (English)		
	08:00 News (Bangla)	08:00 News (English)		
	08:00 News (Bangla)	08:00 News (English)		
<b>CHANNEL i</b>	08:00 News (Bangla)	08:00 News (English)		
	08:00 News (Bangla)	08:00 News (English)		
	08:00 News (Bangla)	08:00 News (English)		
	08:00 News (Bangla)	08:00 News (English)		
<b>BANGLAVISION</b>	08:00 News (Bangla)	08:		