

CULTURAL FEAST

International Festival of Docufilms

Title: 2nd International Festival of Docufilms on Liberation and Human Rights

Organiser: Liberation War Museum

Venue: Liberation War Museum

Date: December 5

3:00pm onwards Surplus, Ananya

Mukujutra

5:30pm Why We Fight

Date: December 6

3:00pm onwards Drowned Out, Anek

Kotha Ekti Kotha

5:30pm Mandala

Film Screening

In aid of SDR victims

Organiser: Dhaka University Film Society

Venue: TSC auditorium, Dhaka University

December 5

10:00am Life is Beautiful

01:00pm Blood Diamond

03:30pm Colour of Paradise

05:30pm Sareng Bou

Dhaka Book Fair 2007

Organised by: National Book Centre

Venue: National Parade Square, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar

Date: December 1-16

Art Exhibition

Title: Niton Kundu: The Creative Mind

Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, Bengal Shilpgram, H 275/F, Road 27 (old), Dharmoddi

Date: December 3-17

Time: 12pm-8pm

Title: Guenica: History of a Painting

Organiser: Department of Spanish, Institute of Modern Language, University of Dhaka

Venue: Zainul Gallery 2, Institute of Fine Art, University of Dhaka

Date: December 3-9

Time: 12am-7pm

Title: Tokai

Artist: Rafiqnabi

Venue: Gallery Chitrak, Road 4, House 21, Dharmoddi

Date: December 1-7

Time: 10am-8pm

Artist: Shyamal Roy Chowdhury

Venue: Art & Soul Gallery, Road 36, House 16, Guishan

Date: November 30 - December 16

Time: 11am-8pm

'Kushan Gaan' goes to SAARC Folklore Festival

Rural artistes face hurdles to go abroad



Kripashindhu Roy and his troupe performing 'Kushan Gaan' at Shilpakala Academy

ERSHAD KAMOL

For the first time a troupe of folk artistes will present an indigenous performing art form -- *Kushan Gaan* -- at a cultural festival abroad, informed Golem Sarwar, deputy director, Department of Theatre and Film of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy.

Sarwar is accompanying the performers -- Kripashindhu Roy and his troupe -- as the coordinator to the SAARC Folklore Festival '07. The four-day festival, a part of ongoing cultural exchange programme between the member countries of SAARC, will begin on December 6 in New Delhi, India.

At the festival, Kripashindhu Roy and his troupe from Kurigram, will present *Aswamedh Jagna* -- an episode from the *Ramayana* performed through *Kushan Gaan*. The genre, once very popular as an aesthetically rich ritualistic performing art form, is occasionally practiced these days in the North Bengal region.

Going over the reason behind selecting Kripashindhu Roy's troupe for the festival, Sarwar said, "The troupe's performance moved the audience at the Experimental Theatre Stage at Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy at the recent 'Indigenous Performing Art Festival' arranged by the Department of Theatre and Film of the academy. Roy's unique sense of proportion in art in the presentation amazed art activists and experts in Dhaka."

"The troupe will present ten

shows of *Kushan Gaan* between December 6 and 9 at different venues in New Delhi. There will be one show of *Kushan Gaan* with duration of an hour and nine more 10-minute shows," added Sarwar.

To participate at the festival, the fourteen-member troupe led by Kripashindhu arrived from Kurigram, about 400 km from Dhaka, on December 3. Kripashindhu, who is also the *Gayan* (lead singer) of the choir, said enthusiastically, "We are very proud to get an opportunity to take a traditional art form abroad; more so because this art form is not practiced widely any more. We appreciate the endeavour by Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, in particular Golem Sarwar, for providing us with this opportunity."

Cultural organisation Shadonna, in particular Lubna Marium, has provided support. "She has paid for all the necessary procedures, otherwise it would have been difficult for us to send the troupe to Delhi," said Sarwar.

Responding to the question whether it is possible to present *Kushan Gaan* in a 10-minute-long show, the artiste said, "It takes hours to present the narratives of *Kushan Gaan*. We will perform a part of the regular presentation in each of the shows in Delhi. The allocated time is not enough to present the essence of the art form. I doubt that the audience in Delhi will get the real taste of *Kushan Gaan*."

Kripashindhu and his troupe had to go through a lot of hassle to go to Delhi. According to him, "We did not have enough money to come to Dhaka from Kurigram. I had to sell my cow to generate funds. We did not have passports to travel abroad either. After receiving the invitation, we were in a dilemma whether we would be able to participate at the festival at all. But, Golem Sarwar assured us that he would take care of the problems."

Even the Shilpakala Academy was in a predicament. Golem Sarwar said, "The festival committee made a commitment to provide RS 50,000 for expenses, including conveyance after reaching Delhi. They have also arranged accommodation and conveyance for travelling from Kolkata to Delhi. But, they had not issued the funds in advance. And the Government of Bangladesh is not responsible for bearing any expenditure. The problem is that these rural artistes don't have passports, nor do they have enough funds for the journey."

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"Swapnadanay" wins special jury award at IFFI



Golam Rabbani Biplob (L) receives his crest from the Governor of Goa

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

Bangladeshi film director Golam Rabbani Biplob's success story continues. Five months after winning the Asian Talent Award at Shanghai Film Festival, his feature film *Swapnadanay* (*On The Wings of Dream*) bagged the special jury award at the 38th International Film Festival of India (IFFI) in Panaji, Goa, on December 3.

The film was given the award, which carries a cash prize of Rs two and half lakh and a citation for its simple but poignant story of economic and emotional struggles in rural Bangladesh.

Biplob's movie shared the award with the Mexican film *More Than Anything In The World*, which was honoured for child artiste Julia Urbina's superb acting.

"I'm elated over winning this award as the International Film Festival of India is the oldest of its kind in Asia," a delighted Biplob said.

He said *Swapnadanay* will also be screened at the Dubai International Film Festival beginning on December 9.

The director said that he would begin shooting his second feature film in June or July next year based on a story written by him. The script and cast of the proposed project are yet to be finalised, he added.

The top award of Golden Peacock, carrying a cash prize of Rs ten lakh and a citation, at the IFFI went to *The Wall*, a film from Taiwan, based on a story of "White Terror" in the 1950s, usually referring to persecution of suspected or real communists in many countries at that time.

The award for the promising director went to Thailand's Pongpat Wachir Abunjong for his movie *Me Myself*. The award carries a cash prize of Rs five lakh.

The jury at the IFFI, headed by Hungary's filmmaker Marta Mesaros and consisting of Turkish actress Meltem Cumbul, director Robert Sarkies from New Zealand and eminent Indian director Shahji N Karun, selected the award-winning films out of 14 entries from 13 countries in the Asia, Africa and Latin America competition section.

Internationally acclaimed Indian director Buddhadeb Dasgupta, who was the chief guest at the closing ceremony of IFFI, expressed satisfaction about the quality of films screened at the festival.

"A country's culture is always known by the films it offers to the world and not by its film stars," he said, adding "in that respect, this festival has been a success."

The 38th edition of IFFI, which had begun on November 23 with the screening of the Romanian film *Four Months, Three Weeks and Two Days* -- winner of the Golden Palm award at the Cannes Festival earlier this year -- closed with the showing of Spanish-Portuguese movie *Fados* directed by Carlos Saura.

International Docufilm Festival begins at Liberation War Museum

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

The 2nd LWM International Festival of Docufilms on 'Liberation and Human Rights' began at the Liberation War Museum on December 3. Selected documentaries -- on war, crimes against humanity and demanding justice -- from eleven countries will be screened at the festival. More than 30 films will be screened in four categories -- 'International Panorama', 'Bangladesh Panorama', 'Country Focus' and 'Documenting 71'.

The festival was inaugurated by veteran photographer Naibuddin Ahmed whose works reflect his interest in nature and the people of the country. He is best known for some of the moving photographs taken during the Liberation War.

This year's festival is dedicated to the memories of Abdus Salam, a freedom fighter from Khulna region. *Ami Swadhinata Enechhi*, a documentary by Sagar Lohani was screened on the opening day.

During the Liberation War, collaborators of the Pakistani army brutally murdered Abdus Salam's four-month-old child Rehana, when they could not trace him. He had no photographs of Rehana and

he preserved her clothes -- the only remains of his child. Salam donated the framed clothes to the Liberation War Museum on December 3.

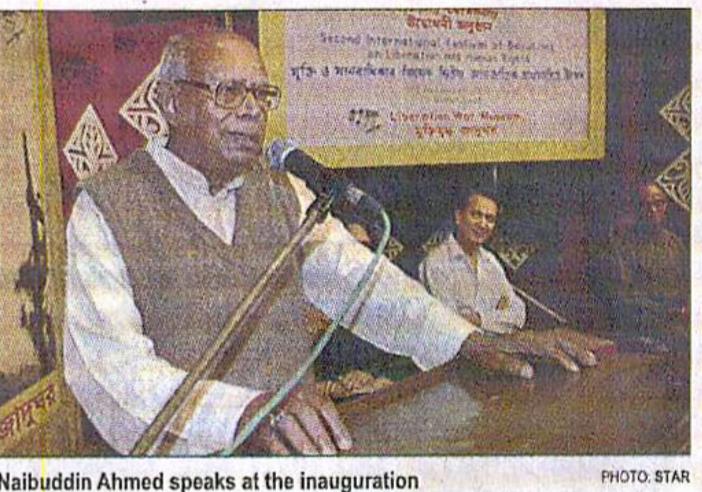
Festival director Manzare Hasin hoped that the event would make people aware of the significance of documentaries as a tool to preserve history and memories.

Museum trustee Mofidul Hoque

said that the festival will be held every year and efforts will be made to include it in the international documentary calendar. The museum has set up an audio-visual centre and is eager to help young filmmakers in their projects on Liberation War.

Earlier Sara Zaker, another trustee of the Museum, gave the welcome speech.

The festival will continue till December 9.

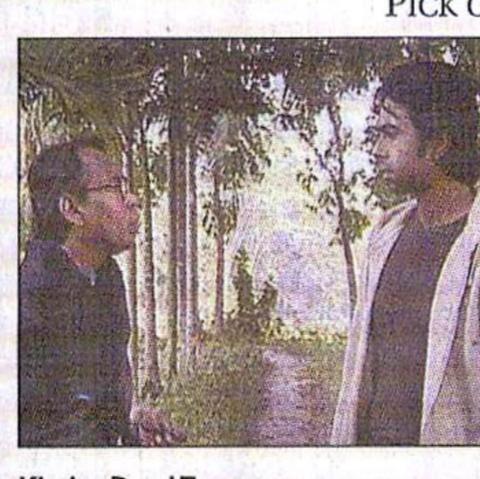
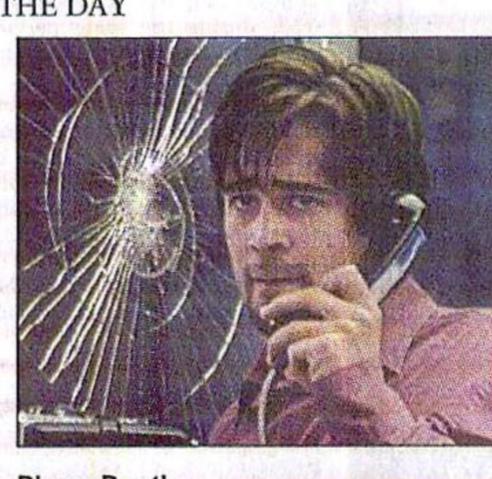


Naibuddin Ahmed speaks at the inauguration

Radio Foorti 88.0 FM	
07:00am Hello Dhaka (Apu)	11:00am Amar 88.0 (Nusrat)
03:00pm Dhaka Calling (Sakthi)	
07:00pm Seven Eleven (Sadia)	11:00pm Late Night Show (Shuvo)
Radio Today 89.6 FM	
07:15am Good Morning Dhaka (Biplob)	07:45am Today's Happy Moments
08:45am Dupur Khabar (Nudrat)	08:00pm U-Turn (Kibria & Tania)
01:45pm Dupur Khabar (Tania)	06:45pm Shondher Khabar (Sayem)
02:00pm Today's Adda (Nudrat)	08:00pm Raater Khabar (Modho Raater Khabor)
Discovery Channel	
09:30am Man vs. Wild (Mad Labs)	12:30pm Ghost Ships (EarthPulse)
10:00am Dirty Jobs (Interpol Investigates)	02:30pm Discovery Showcase (Gods & Goddesses)
11:30am Extreme Engineering (EarthPulse)	03:30pm Man Vs. Wild (I Didn't Know That)
12:00pm Discovery (Gods & Goddesses)	04:30pm Forbidden Pit Vipers (Lizard Kings)
National Geographic	
10:30am Colours of India (Gods & Goddesses)	11:30pm Triumph of Life (Inside North Korea)
11:00am Engineering Marvels of the 21st Century (Gods & Goddesses)	09:30pm ShowReal Asia 4 (Innovations)
11:30am A Haunting (Gods & Goddesses)	10:30pm sauna Belt (Deadliest Snakes)

ON AIR

PICK OF THE DAY

Khujeber Berai Tarey
On ATN Bangla at 8:35 pm
Drama Serial
Cast: Humayun Faridi, ApurboPhone Booth
On Zee Studio at 9:15 pm
Genre: Thriller
Cast: Colin Farrell, Kiefer Sutherland

STAR MOVIES

09:00 The Green Mile	11:30 Brothers & Sisters
12:15 Family in Hiding	01:30 Ghost Whisperer
01:45 Killing Time	02:30 Fashion House
03:15 Sahara	03:30 The Ellen Degeneres Show
05:25 Sniper 2	04:00 Behind Enemy Lines
07:00 Behind Enemy Lines	05:00 Rodney
08:45 Tears Of The Sun	06:30 The Simpsons
10:45 Halflight	07:00 Hope & Faith
12:40 Ginger Snaps Back: The Beginning	07:30 Friends
10:30 Dalmatians	08:00 Seinfeld
11:30 Kumik - Pyra Sa Bandhan	08:30 Europa
01:30 Saamhi	09:30 Ugly Betty
03:30 Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi	10:30 Chances
04:30 Sanganer	11:30 Most Shocking
06:30 Bidaai	12:30 Sainfeld
07:30 Banhao Aur Baby	
08:30 Sanjana	
09:30 Saamhi	
10:30 Bidaai	
11:30 Banhao Aur Baby	
12:30 Sanjana	
03:30 Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi	
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