

## 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 Muktiudha  
 5:30 pm Why We Fight  
**Date:** December 6  
 3:00pm onwards Drowned Out, Anek Kothar Ekti Kotha  
 5:30 pm Mandala

## Film Screening

**In aid of Sitr Victims**  
**Organiser:** Dhaka University Film Society  
**Venue:** TSC auditorium, Dhaka University  
**Date:** 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  
**Organiser:** Department of Fine Arts, Bengal Shilpakala Academy  
**Venue:** Bengal Shilpakala Academy, H 275/F, Road 27 (old), Dhankamdi  
**Date:** December 3-17  
**Time:** 12pm-8pm

**Title:** Guernica: 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:** Rafiqun Nabi  
**Venue:** Gallery Chitrak, Road 4, House 21, Dhankamdi  
**Date:** December 1-7  
**Time:** 10am-8pm  
**Artist:** Shyamal Roy Chowdhury  
**Venue:** Art & Soul Gallery, Road 38, House 16, Gulshan  
**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

PHOTO: ISHTIAQUE BIN QUASHEM

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 Golam 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 theatre 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 Roy 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 Golam Sarwar, for providing us with this opportunity."

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, Golam Sarwar assured us that he would take care of the problems."

Even the Shilpakala Academy was in a predicament. Golam 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."

Cultural organisation Shadhona, 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.

## "Swapnodanay" 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 *Swapnodanay* (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 Urbini'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 added that the IFFI award is a big boost to the alternative cinema movement in Bangladesh and would definitely help in progressing his career as a director.

Biplob received the award from the Governor of Goa, SC Jamir.

This is the second successive year of IFFI in Goa that a Bangladeshi film won the special jury award. Last year, it was Abu Sayeed-directed *Nirontor*, which received the same distinction.

Interestingly, both *Nirontor* and *Swapnodanay* (starring Mahmuduzzaman Babu, Rokeya Prachi and Fazlur Rahman Babu), are produced by Impress Telefilm Limited.

Biplob said he was happy that films from Bangladesh are being increasingly recognised in recent years not only in the Indian festival circuit but in other parts of the world too.

He said *Swapnodanay* 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 Meszaros 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 *Fados* directed by Carlos Saura.

## 52nd anniversary of Bangla Academy

## Seven awarded honorary fellowship

NADIA SARWAT

Bangla Academy celebrated its 52nd anniversary on December 3 at its premises. On the occasion, the Academy conferred honorary fellowships to seven distinguished individuals for their remarkable contribution to respective fields in 2007.

This year's fellowships went to Professor M. Innas Ali in the field of

science and research, singer Soharb Hossain for music, Dr. M. Harunur Rashid for scientific research in Bangla, Dr. Mozaffar Ahmed for his contribution to environment and social development, Dr. Kamrul Islam and Dr. Nuruddin Ahmed for engineering and Hashem Khan for Art.

President of Bangla Academy, Dr. M. Harunur Rashid and director general, Syed Md. Shahed handed over the certificates and crests.

Addressing the importance of the humanist approach to disaster management, Dr. Mozaffar Ahmed said, "Living in a country where natural calamities are very frequent, we still lack an efficient system and preparation to face it. Natural calamities also change the socio-economic structure by breaking families and affecting the source of income."

Dr. M. Harunur Rashid said in his speech, "Bangla academy is proud to serve the nation for 52 years. As we cannot think of a Bangladesh without the *Shahid Minar* or the *Jatiya Smriti Shaudho*, I cannot think of Bangladesh without the Bangla Academy either."

In a cultural programme that followed, noted artistes Shahin Samad, Ferdous Ara, Julie Sharmilee and Mahiuzzaman Chowdhury performed patriotic songs.

To mark the occasion, Bangla Academy is holding a book fair on the premises. Publications of the Academy are on discount at the fair that will continue till December 16.



Artists and organisers of 'banglalink Desh Music Fest 2007' are seen at a press conference. The music festival will take place on December 7 at Kamalapur Stadium. Nagar Baul, Miles, LRB, Azam Khan, Warfaze, Hyder Husyn, Aruthohin and Black will perform at the concert. Proceeds from the event will be donated to the Chief Adviser's Relief Fund

## 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. Kazuo Hara's *Emperor's Naked Army March On* was also screened at the opening.

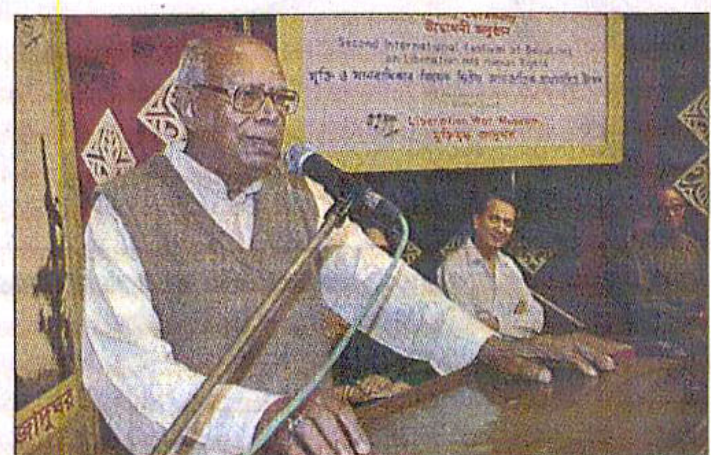
Festival director Manzare Hasin Murad hoped that the event would make people aware of the significance of documentaries as a tool to preserve history and memories.

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.

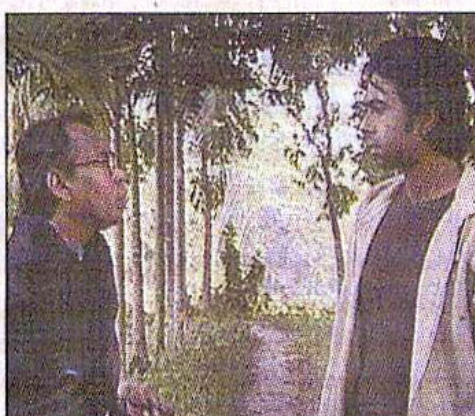


Naibuddin Ahmed speaks at the inauguration

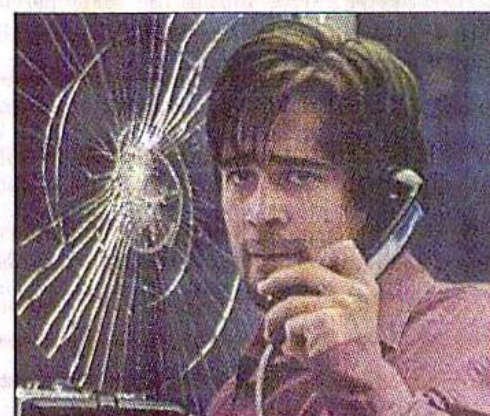
PHOTO: STAR

## ON AIR

## PICK OF THE DAY



Khuje Berai Tarey  
 On ATN Bangla at 8:35 pm  
 Drama Serial  
 Cast: Humayun Faridi, Apurbo



Phone Booth  
 On Zee Studio at 9:15 pm  
 Genre: Thriller  
 Cast: Colin Farrell, Kiefer Sutherland

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. (To be telecast on all Bangla channels).

**CHANNEL-1**  
 News (Bangla) at 7:15 am, 9:00am, 12:00pm, 2:00pm, 7:00pm, 9:00pm, 10:30pm, 12:30am.

**ATN BANGLA**  
 News (Bangla) at 7:00 am, 10:00am, 2:00 pm, 7:00 pm, 10:00 pm, 11pm.  
 News (English) at 8:00am, 7:00pm.  
 Latest News (Bangla) at 9:00 am, 10:00 am, 11:00 am, 1:00pm, 3:00 pm, 4:00pm, 6:00 pm and 8:00 pm.

**CHANNEL 1**  
 News (Bangla) at 8:00am, 12:00pm, 2:30pm, 6:30pm, 7:30pm, 10:00pm, 12:30am.

**BANGLAVISION**  
 News Headlines (Bangla) at 8:00am, 2:00pm, 6:00pm, 7:15pm, 10:30pm.  
 News Headlines (Bangla) at 10:00am, 12:00am, 4:00pm.  
 News Headlines (English) at 8:05pm

**Rtv**  
 News (Bangla) at 10:15pm, and 12:15am

**ntv**  
 News (Bangla) 7:30am, 12:02pm, 2:00pm, 7:30pm, 10:30pm, 1:00am

**ETV**  
 News (Bangla): 1:00pm, 3:00pm, 5:00pm, 7:00pm, 9:00pm, 11:00pm

**BTV**  
 09:05 National Cricket League  
 09:05 Special Programme  
 09:10 Greeting Kathun  
 09:10 Mat O Marush  
 09:15 Bhalobashi Gaan  
 09:20 Prodigal Bangladesh  
 09:25 Drama Serial: Alo Amar Alo  
 09:30 Drama Serial: Tumi Kemon Achho  
 09:35 Talk Show: Pongbatan  
 10:30 Prothom Antora  
 11:00 Talk Show: Data Line Dhaka

**ATN BANGLA**  
 09:15 Drama Serial: Shopnomongol  
 10:30 Drama Serial: Onyodishil  
 11:05 Drama  
 12:15 IT Zone  
 01:30 Musical Programme: Ganey Shurey Taruney

**CHANNEL 1**  
 09:10 Drama Serial: Rupali Manish  
 09:15 Children's Programme: Islamic Programme  
 09:20 Gram Gorjor  
 09:25 Islamic Programme  
 09:30 Talk Show: Proshongo  
 09:35 Musical Programme: Ganey Shurey Taruney

**Rtv**  
 09:10 Drama Serial: Jigey Thiko  
 09:15 Drama Serial: Khuje Berai Tarey  
 09:20 Drama Serial: Rangla Bau  
 09:25 Talking Point  
 09:30 Gramophone Lead News

**CHANNEL 1**  
 09:30 Shagbaddoprey Bangladesh  
 09:45 Public Reaction  
 09:50 Gramophone  
 10:05 Sports Time  
 10:10 Citycell Tarokathakan  
 10:15 Ebong Cinema Gaan  
 10:20 Mega Serial: Proboash  
 10:25 Talk Show  
 10:30 Sa Ro Ga Ma  
 10:35 Hindoy Gaan  
 10:40 Ispehari NCL  
 10:45 Roundup  
 10:50 Mukhtijutho Prodigal  
 10:55 Mega Serial: Saat Gayenda  
 11:00 Cookery Show  
 11:05 Gaurab Gatha  
 11:10 Drama Serial: Adhuthurey

**ATN BANGLA**  
 09:35 Aloya Bhobon Bhora  
 10:00 Selected Programme  
 10:10 Mega Serial: 69  
 10:15 Gramophone Aker Shagbaddoprey

**Rtv**  
 09:30 Gaanchil Ei Din  
 09:35 RTV Exclusive  
 09:40 Kethay Kathay  
 09:45 Shurey Shurey Poth Chola  
 10:00 Prodigal  
 10:10 Drama Serial: Dohon  
 10:15 Cookery Show: R Ranna  
 10:20 Drama Serial: Anon  
 10:25 Drama Serial: Kalpo  
 10:30 Dhallywood Beats  
 10:35 Bangla Feature Film  
 10:40 Prodigal  
 10:45 Akber The Great  
 10:50 Drama Serial: Dohon  
 10:55 Musical Programme: Gaan Ar Gaan  
 11:00 Drama Serial: Anondo

**ETV**  
 11:00 Jalm  
 11:05 Pritinil Pothee  
 11:10 News Watch  
 11:20 Rtv Exclusive  
 11:25 Ekusher Shokal  
 11:30 Ekusher Dupur  
 11:35 Drishi  
 11:40 Drama Serial: Bondhon  
 11:45 Cholar Pathrey  
 11:50 Kotha Ar Gaan-e  
 11:55 Magic Show  
 12:00 Shurothal  
 12:05 Ekusher Shondhya  
 12:10 SMS Maria  
 12:15 Desh Jurey Sanglap

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