

2007: A rundown

Two Bangladeshi films screened at Rotterdam Film Festival
Two Bangla feature films, *Nirontor* directed by Abu Sayeed and *Swapnodanay* directed by Golam Rabbani Biplob, were screening at the 36th International Film Festival Rotterdam, Netherlands. The festival was held from January 24 to February 4.

International Bangla Poetry Festival
The First International Bangla Poetry Festival was held at Purbanchal Sanskriti Kendra in Kolkata, India. The two-day-long festival featured around 200 Bengali poets and writers from all over the world. Rabib Hossain, Nirmalendu Goon, Sajjad Kadir, Nasir Ahmed, Anwara Syed Haque among others from Bangladesh participated at the festival.

Indigenous performing art festival at Shilpkala
A seven-day indigenous performing art festival, arranged by Department of Theatre and Film, Bangladesh Shilpkala Academy (BSA), was held at the Experimental Theatre Stage from February 22. Indigenous performing art forms such as *Gazir Gaan*, *Shong Pala*, *Kissa Gaan*, *Manik Pierer Gaan*, *Alkap*, *Royani* and *Kushan Gaan* were presented by folk artistes from Jessor, Tangail, Kishorgong, Kushtia, Chapainawabganj, Barisal, and Kurigram.

Eighth Mitsubishi Asian Children's Enniki Festa commences
Eighth Mitsubishi Asian Children's Enniki Festa 2006-2007 took place at the National Art Gallery, Bangladesh Shilpkala Academy on February 23. The colourful art competition was first held in 1990 and is held every two years with participants throughout Asia. The competition was being held under the joint auspices of Mitsubishi Public Affairs Committee, Asian Federation of UNESCO and the National Federation of UNESCO Association in Japan. 24 countries participated at the festival.

HSBC celebrates Bangla songs of last 100 years

It was a rare occasion as some of Bangladesh's best lyricists, composers, and singers were under the same roof. Though generations apart, their love and passion for music brought them together to give music lovers a chance to experience some gems of Bangla songs.

The event took shape through the untiring efforts of HSBC Bank, the organiser and sponsor of the event. Titled 'Shotoborshor Bangla Gaan' (Hundred Years of Bangla Songs) it was held at the Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre. This was the second such extensive initiative by HSBC to celebrate the last 100 years of Bangla music.

National Theatre Festival
The National Theatre Festival was arranged by Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation (BGT) in association with Bangladesh Shilpkala Academy. The festival started from March 5. At the 23-day festival, 46 troupes staged one production each at two venues of the academy -- National Theatre Stage and Experimental Theatre Stage.

Adiavasi Cultural Festival in the city
A three-day Adiavasi cultural festival kicked off on March 17 at Shawkat Osman Memorial Auditorium, Thirteen troupes presented

Public Library, Dhaka. The festival was inaugurated by Basundhara Dewan, the first female headman of Chittagong Hill Tracts and Bazar Chowdhury. The festival was organised by Society for the Environment and Human Development (SEHD), in association with 22 NGOs. Christian Aid provided financial support.

Documentary on Tajuddin Ahmed premired

Tajuddin Ahmed: The Unsung Hero, a 100 minute long documentary film by Tanvir Mokammel on the first prime minister of Bangladesh who organised the Liberation War in the absence of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, was premired at the Shawkat Osman Memorial Auditorium on March 25.

The film brings to light the Liberation War and the establishment of a national consciousness by featuring Tajuddin Ahmed as a politician

A seven-day festival

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18th National Rabindra Sangeet Festival

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