

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 Sanskrit Kendra in Kolkata, India. The two-daylong festival featured around 200 Bengali poets and writers from all over the world. Rabiul Hossain, Nirmalendu Goon, Sajjad Kadir, Nasir Ahmed, Anwar Syed Haque among others from Bangladesh participated at the festival.

Indigenous performing art festival at Shilpakala
A seven-day indigenous performing art festival, arranged by Department of Theatre and Film, Bangladesh Shilpakala 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 Pirir Gaan*, *Alkap*, *Royani* and *Kushan Gaan* were presented by folk artists from Jessore, Tangail, Kishoreganj, Kushtia, Chapainawabganj, Barisal, and Kurigram.

Eighth Mitsubishi Asian Children's Enniti Festa commences
Eighth Mitsubishi Asian Children's Enniti Festa 2006-2007 took place at the National Art Gallery, Bangladesh Shilpakala 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 'Shotohorsher 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 (BGTf) in association with Bangladesh Shilpakala 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.

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

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 premiered
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 premiered 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



and an individual.

Nazrul artists honour Sohrab Hossain and Sudhin Das
Nazrul Sangeet Shilpi Parishad (NSSP), an organisation of Nazrul artists, celebrated the 87th and 77th birth anniversaries of Nazrul exponents Sohrab Hossain and Sudhin Das respectively (both were born in April). The programme was held at the Nazrul Institute on April 16 at the Kabirhaban auditorium, Dhanmondi.

3rd National Dance Festival '07
"Milechhi milon-e chhand-e anand-e" -- with this slogan the 3rd National Dance Festival '07, arranged by Bangladesh Nritya Shilpi Shangstha (BNSS), began at the National Theatre Stage, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy on April 23. Thirteen troupes presented

classical dance forms such as Kathak, Bharatanatyam, Manipuri as well as folk-based performances.

18th National Rabindra Sangeet Festival
The 18th National Rabindra Sangeet Festival organised by Bangladesh Rabindra Sangeet Shilpi Sangstha (BRSSS) began on May 4 at the Shawkat Osman Auditorium, Central Public Library at Shabbagh.

The seven-day festival featured solo performances by around 150 noted and upcoming Tagore artists and group presentations by 10 cultural organisations from all corners of the country.

17th National Art Biennale '07
The much-awaited National Art Biennale was inaugurated on June 17 at the National Art Gallery, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA). The exhibition was on till

in Bihar, Orissa and Bengal.

The upsurge began on June 30 through a mobilisation of 10,000 Santals at Bhagnadihi, who declared a rebellion against the British colonists. It was led by two brothers, Sidhu and Kanhu (hence the event is also referred to as the "Sidhu-Kanhu Day") who led the armed insurrection initially against zamindars and mahajans and subsequently against the police and the British army.

Citycell-Mahakal Theatre Festival '07
Citycell-Mahakal Theatre Festival '07, arranged by Mahakal Natyasampradaya was held in July at the Experimental Theatre Stage. The 11-day theatre festival continued till July 25 with a gap of two days.

Commercial release of "Matir Moyna" in Kolkata
Matir Moyna, the internationally acclaimed film directed by Tareque



Masud and produced by Catherine Masud, had its commercial release in Kolkata on July 31 at several theatres such as Nandan. This is the first time that a Bangladeshi movie was released commercially in India.

Theatre festival in aid of flood victims
To lend a hand to the flood victims, department of Theatre and Music of University of Dhaka arranged a weeklong theatre festival at Natmondi. The festival was held from June 22 to 28. Two plays were staged each day. Proceeds from ticket sales were donated to the flood victims. Plays directed by the students of the department, were staged at the festival.

Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation (BGTf) and Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA) also jointly arranged a theatre festival at the National Theatre Stage in aid of

flood victims. The eight-day long festival began on August 30. Popular plays were staged at the festival.

Soumitra Chatterjee in Dhaka
Acclaimed film actor Soumitra Chatterjee came to Dhaka in September to attend a retrospective of his films organised by Chalachitram Film Society. As part of the silver jubilee celebration of Chalachitram Film Society, the retrospective was held from September 6 to 8 at Shawkat Osman Memorial Auditorium of Central Public Library.

Celebrating 100 years of "Charjapada" discovery
Goethe-Institut, Bangladesh held a literary evening, titled *Charjapada: The Beginning of Bangla Poetry* on September 4, to mark 100 years of discovery of the *Charjapada*, the ancient manuscript bearing early examples of Bangla, Assamese and Oriya. The manuscript was discovered by Haraprasad Shastri in 1907.



The evening included discussion and reading from Bangla, German and English translations of *Charjapada*.

Nine Bangladeshi films screened at the South Asian Film Festival
Nine Bangladeshi digital films participated at the weeklong South Asian Film Festival in New Delhi, India, starting from October 24.

Participating films from Bangladesh were: *Morshedul Islam's Khelaghar*, *Muktir Gaan* by Tareque Masud and Catherine Masud, *Balighodi* by Razibul Hossain, *Choturtho Matra* by Nurul Alam Aduque, *Shomapti* by Tanveer Hossain Probal, *Tin-er Talwar* by Asutosh Sujan, *Scripturiter* by Kamruzzaman Kamru, *Uno Manush* by Mostafa Sarwar Parooki and *Garam Bhaat Othoba Nichhok* by Bhoot-er Golpo by Animesh Aich.

India Bangladesh Festival of Books and Writers

To get writers, publishers and academics together with the hope of forming a platform for working out the modalities for an easier exchange of books and ideas, a five-day India Bangladesh Festival of Books and Writers was inaugurated at the Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB) November 2. High Commissioner of India, Pinak Ranjan Chakravarty inaugurated the festival. Professor Serajul Islam Chowdhury was present as the guest of honour.

Task force's recent drive against obscenity and piracy
At the end of the year, the task force initiated a massive drive against obscenity and piracy -- two major issues that Dhaliwood (the Dhaka-based film industry) has been grappling with. The task force raided the possible places in search of 'cut pieces' featuring vulgar and obscene clips that are added to films, and officials are arresting individuals involved with such activities.

After the successful drive by the task forces, directors, actors, producers and other involved persons with the film industry hope for a revival in the industry.

"Swapnodanay" wins special jury award at IFFI
Five months after winning the Asian Talent Award at Shanghai Film Festival, Bangladesh film director Golam Rabbani Biplob's 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.

International Docufilm Festival held at Liberation War Museum
The 2nd IWM International Festival of Docufilms on "Liberation and Human Rights" began at the Liberation War Museum on December 3. Thirty documentaries -- on war, crimes against humanity and demanding justice -- from eleven countries were screened in four categories: 'International Panorama', 'Bangladesh Panorama', 'Country Focus' and 'Documenting 71'.

This year's festival was dedicated to the memories of Abdu Salam, a freedom fighter from Khulna region.

"Ironcasters" wins Grand Prix in Paris

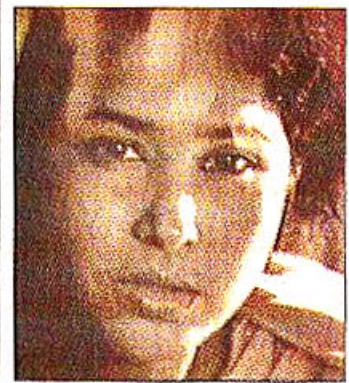
Bangladeshi filmmaker Shaheen Dill-Riaz's feature-length documentary *Lohakhor* (Ironcasters) on the workers of ship-breaking yards in Chittagong, has won the Grand Prix -- the first prize -- at the Paris International Environmental Film Festival 2007 (Festival International du Film d'Environnement). A total number of 41 films (including full-length fiction, full-length documentaries and short films) from 30 countries participated in the competition. The festival took place from November 21 to 27.

"Aha!" screened at three international film festivals
Recently, Enamul Karim Nirghar's film *Aha!* was screened at three international festivals -- Cairo International Film Festival, Silk Road Film Festival and Dubai International Film Festival. The film's tour began in late November and continued till mid December.

In remembrance...

The cultural arena of Bangladesh lost some of its most talented stars in the year 2007. This is a tribute to the personalities whose demise have left an irreparable void in their respective fields:

Rosy Afsari
Noted film actress Rosy Afsari died on March 9 of kidney failure. She was 60.



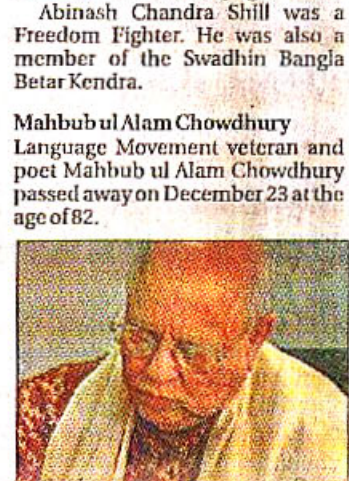
died on November 19.

Along with Bappa Majumder, Sanjib formed Dolchhut in November 1996. In 1997, Dolchhut released their first album, titled *Ahl*. Dolchhut's second album, *Hridoypur* soon became a hit. He rendered several popular songs of this album titled *Ami tomakei bole dibo*, *Gari cholena* and *Bioscope*. His rendition of *Tomar Bhanj Kholo* in the film *Bachelor* became very popular.

Sanjib was also a journalist. He was the feature writer of many esteemed Bangla dailies like *Ajker Kagoj*, *Bhorer Kagoj* and others.



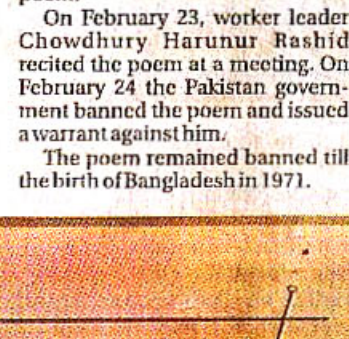
Abinash Chandra Shill
Renowned *dotara* player Abinash Chandra Shill passed away on December 6 at the age of 54. The musician died from a heart attack.



The youngest son of *dotara* maestro and music composer Kanai Lal Shill, Abinash began his music career at an early age.

Abinash Chandra Shill was a Freedom Fighter. He was also a member of the Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendra.

Mahbubul Alam Chowdhury
Language Movement veteran and poet Mahbub ul Alam Chowdhury passed away on December 23 at the age of 82.



He wrote the first poem on 'Amar Ekushey' *Kandite ashini, phashir dabi niye eshechhi*.

Since 1948, when Urdu was proposed as the only state language of Pakistan, Mahbub ul Alam got actively involved in the protest activities. On February 20, 1952, Mahbub fell ill while working at the dock and railway areas of Chittagong to mobilise the labourers in the strike called the next day.

On the evening of February 21, Mahbub ul Alam learnt that the police had opened fire on processions, which caused death of "40 activists" as mentioned in his poem.

On February 23, worker leader Chowdhury Harunur Rashid recited the poem at a meeting. On February 24 the Pakistan government banned the poem and issued a warrant against him.

The poem remained banned till the birth of Bangladesh in 1971.

ON AIR

PICK OF THE DAY



Swapno Mangal
On ATN Bangla at 8:00 pm
Drama Serial
Cast: Zahid Hassan, Romana



X-Men Trilogy
On Star Movies from 5:15 pm
Genre: Action/Sci-fi
Cast: Hugh Jackman, Halle Berry

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 6:55 am, 12:10 pm, 2:00 pm, 3:00 pm, 4:00 pm, 7:00 pm.
News (Bangla) at 6:00 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, 7:30pm, 9:00pm, 10:30pm, 12:15 am.

ATN BANGLA
News (Bangla) at 7:00 am, 10:00am, 2:00 pm, 7:00 pm, 10:00 pm, 11pm.
News (English) 8:20am, 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 (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 5:35pm.

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.

ATN BANGLA

08:15 *Ajker Shingbadpota*
09:30 *Drama Serial: Monchakey Dhi*
09:45 *Drama Serial: Alok Nigori*
10:30 *Talk Show: Adil Omyadristi*
11:05 *Shushtho Thakun*
11:35 *Musical Programme: Notun Chhobir Gaan*
12:15 *Hotamot*
01:25 *Cocola Chhotchhoti Golpo*
02:30 *Daily Soap: Doll's House*
03:10 *Drama Serial: O Anar Chokhu Nui*
03:45 *Children's Programme: Chhotolol Pithibi*
04:20 *Agricultural Programme: Sharnel Din*
05:00 *Gam Gonjor Khabor*
05:10 *Shushtho Thakun*
05:45 *Business Week*
06:20 *Documentary Programme: Ashrey Pasher Manush*
06:50 *Drama Serial: Swapno Mangal*
08:45 *Entertainment Show: Aaj Kal Porsho*
11:30 *Old Is Gold*
12:00 *Gramophone Lead News*

CHANNEL-1
08:05 *Tagore Song*
09:30 *Shingbadpota*
09:45 *Bangladesh Public Reaction*
09:50 *Gramophone Trio*
11:05 *Educational*

Programme

12:30 *Citycell Taroka Kethan*
01:05 *Edong Cinema Gaan*
01:30 *Sa Re Ga Ma*
02:40 *Special Programme: Banijyo D Orhonti*
03:05 *Hridoyer Gaan*
03:30 *Special Programme: Talk Show: Ek Dui Tin*
04:00 *Star Gate SG One*
07:50 *BBC Bangladesh Shingap*
09:35 *Drama Serial: Heel Topador*
10:00 *RC Travel On*
11:30 *Drama Serial: 69*
12:00 *Gramophone Ajker Shingbadpota*

ETV
08:00 *Ekushey Shakol*
08:45 *Ekushey Dupur*
12:00 *Nishikulum*
01:30 *Spondon*
02:30 *Kotha Ar Gaan*
03:00 *Music Show*
04:30 *Drama Serial: Chena Manusher Pechail*
05:15 *Ekushey Shondhya*
05:45 *Sims Maria*
06:15 *Golden Moments*
07:30 *Drama: Nabochha*
08:30 *Drama Serial: Hudu*
09:30 *Ekushey Shomoy*
10:30 *Special Programme: Majhey Kichu Bochor Chhilo*

Rtv
08:15 *Ganchil Ei Din*
09:00 *Rtv Exclusive: Borney Borney*
09:05 *Rochilo*
09:50 *Tarzan*
10:00 *Musical Programme: Prodim*
10:30 *Shantokulir*

Programme

12:30 *Citycell Taroka Kethan*
01:05 *Edong Cinema Gaan*
01:30 *Sa Re Ga Ma*
02:40 *Special Programme: Banijyo D Orhonti*
03:05 *Hridoyer Gaan*
03:30 *Special Programme: Talk Show: Ek Dui Tin*
04:00 *Star Gate SG One*
07:50 *BBC Bangladesh Shingap*
09:35 *Drama Serial: Heel Topador*
10:00 *RC Travel On*
11:30 *Drama Serial: 69*
12:00 *Gramophone Ajker Shingbadpota*

ETV
08:00 *Ekushey Shakol*
08:45 *Ekushey Dupur*
12:00 *Nishikulum*
01:30 *Spondon*
02:30 *Kotha Ar Gaan*
03:00 *Music Show*
04:30 *Drama Serial: Chena Manusher Pechail*
05:15 *Ekushey Shondhya*
05:45 *Sims Maria*
06:15 *Golden Moments*
07:30 *Drama: Nabochha*
08:30 *Drama Serial: Hudu*
09:30 *Ekushey Shomoy*
10:30 *Special Programme: Majhey Kichu Bochor Chhilo*

Rtv
08:15 *Ganchil Ei Din*
09:00 *Rtv Exclusive: Borney Borney*
09:05 *Rochilo*
09:50 *Tarzan*
10:00 *Musical Programme: Prodim*
10:30 *Shantokulir*

BANGLAVISION

08:35 *Shubho Shokal*
09:05 *Agram Kanjho*
10:10 *Drama Serial: Tarik Ali Haderi*
10:40 *Praner Gaan*
11:05 *Sports Vision*
11:30 *Cinebit Shada Kalo*
01:05 *Drama Serial: Mohanogor*
02:40 *Amar Ami*
03:15 *X Crime*
04:15 *Maula Bhuban*
04:45 *Chyolol Din-er*
05:00 *Sheshay*
06:00 *Anwar Agami*
06:25 *Cinebit*
08:25 *Drama Serial: Mohanogor*

STAR PLUS

10:30 *American Dragon: Jack Long*
11:00 *101 Dalmatians*
11:30 *V Trailers - Star Plus*
11:55 *Bolly V*
12:00 *Santaan*
12:30 *Bidaai*
01:00 *Kasauti Zindagi Kay*
01:30 *Kumkum - Pyara Sa Bandhan*
02:00 *Bhanchi*
02:30 *Karam Apnae Apnae*
03:00 *Saamhi*
03:30 *Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi*
04:00 *Kayamath*
04:30 *Sangam*
05:30 *V Trailers - Star Plus*
06:00 *Kasturi*
06:30 *Bidaai*
07:00 *Baa Bahoo Aur Baby*
07:25 *Bolly V*
07:30 *Sangam*
08:30 *Meri Awaz Ko Ma Gasyi*
09:00 *Kasauti Zindagi Kay*
09:30 *Idea Ila Awards*
12:30 *Bolly V*

STAR MOVIES
08:15 *Flightplan*
09:55 *Ice: Countdown To D-Day*
11:30 *Vip Access: National Treasure 2*
12:00 *Jaws*
02:10 *John Tucker Must Die*
03:40 *Krippendorf's Tribe*
05:15 *The X-Men*
07:00 *X2: X-Men United*
09:15 *X-Men: The Last Stand*
11:00 *The X-Men*

STAR PLUS

07:30 *Friends*
08:00 *Seinfeld*
08:30 *My Wife And Kids*
09:00 *8 Simple Rules*
09:30 *According To Jim*
10:00 *Yes Dear*
10:30 *Last Comic Standing*
11:30 *Cops*
12:30 *Heroes*

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC
08:30 *Sharks: At Risk*
09:30 *Soy Gadgets*
10:30 *Sauna Belt*
11:15 *Wonder Armour*
11:30 *Dance of the Jinn*
12:30 *Nectar of Life*
01:30 *Light Speed*
02:30 *Komodo Dragons*
03:00 *Macaws*
03:30 *Spy Gadgets*
04:30 *I Didn't Know That*
05:00 *Venom Harvest*
05:30 *Big Bang*
06:00 *Forest Cries*
06:30 *Spy Gadgets*
07:30 *Python Attack*
08:30 *Air Crash Investigation*
10:30 *Fernari*
11:30 *Desperate Dwe*
12:30 *Power Of Play*

HISTORY CHANNEL
08:00 *Sauna Belt*
09:30 *Che Guevara*
10:30 *The Aztecs*
11:30 *The Ellen DeGeneres Show*
12:30 *The Bold And The Beautiful*
01:00 *General Hospital*
02:00 *Heroes*
03:00 *Robbery*
04:00 *The Simpsons*
07:30 *Da Vinci Code*

Radio Foorti 88.0 FM

07:00am *Hello Dhaka (Apu)*
11:00am *Amar 88.0 (Nusrat)*
03:00pm *Dhaka Calling (Sakib)*
07:00pm *Seven Eleven (Sadie)*
11:00pm *Late Night Show (Shuvo)*

Radio Today 89.6 FM
07:15am *Good Morning Dhaka (Biplob)*
07:45 am *Today's Happy Moments*
08:45am *Shokaler Khabor*
12:00pm *Today's Adda (Nudrat)*
01:45pm *Dupurer Khabor*
04:00pm *U-Turn (Kibria & Tania)*
06:45pm *Shondher Khabor*
08:00pm *Tobe Tai Hok (Sayem)*
09:45pm *Raater Khabor*
11:45pm *Moddho Raater Khabor*

ZEE STUDIO
01:00 *Hollywoods 10 Best*
01:50 *A Low Down Dirty Shame*
04:00 *Great Expectations*
06:20 *Filari*
06:30 *Once Upon A Time In Mexico*
09:00 *Hit Shols 2*
11:00 *Batman And Robin*