

## WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

**Story of Stitches: The Art of Nakshi Kantha**  
Exhibition celebrating 30 years of Aarong  
Venue: Plaza, National Art Gallery, BSA  
Date: July 16-29  
Time: 11am-7pm, (Fridays 3pm-7pm)



## Abdul Alim Birth Anniversary

Organiser: Bangladesh Loko Sangeet Parishad  
Venue: Seminar Hall, Central Public Library, Shahbag  
Date: July 25  
Time: 5:30 pm



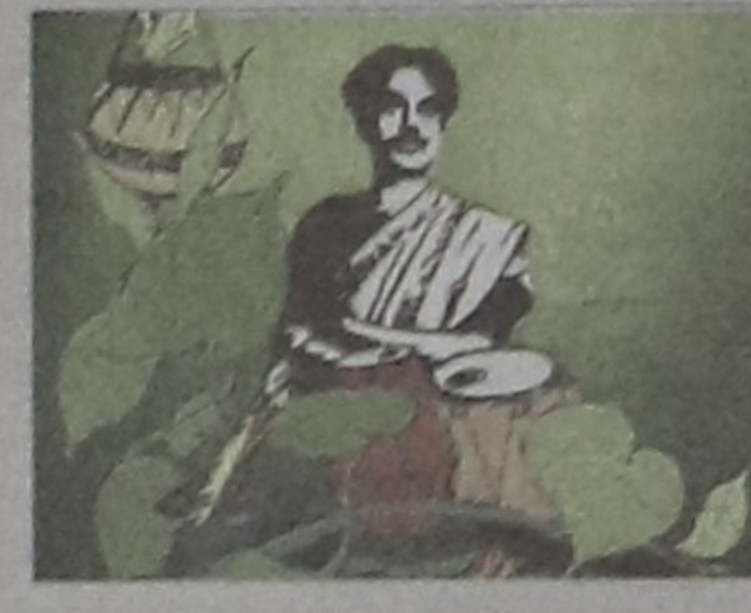
## BFFS Film Award

Organiser: Bangladesh Federation of Film Societies  
Venue: Shaheed Zia Auditorium, National Museum, Shahbag  
Date: July 25  
Time: 6pm  
\*Antarjatra\* by Tareque Masud will be screened after the award giving



## Anniversary Programme

28th anniversary and Nazrul Joyanti  
Organiser: Beneka Institute of Fine Arts  
Venue: National Theatre Stage, BSA  
Date: July 27  
Time: 6:45 pm



## Musing

# Asaduzzaman Noor and the leading ladies

NADIA SARWAT

It was a classic case of life imitating art. In the '90s, people brought out processions in many places of the country protesting the death sentence of a rogue with a heart of gold called Baqer. Baqer was merely a fictional character in the mega-popular TV series *Koithao Keu Nei*. And Baqer is just one of several powerful characters that Asaduzzaman Noor breathed life into.

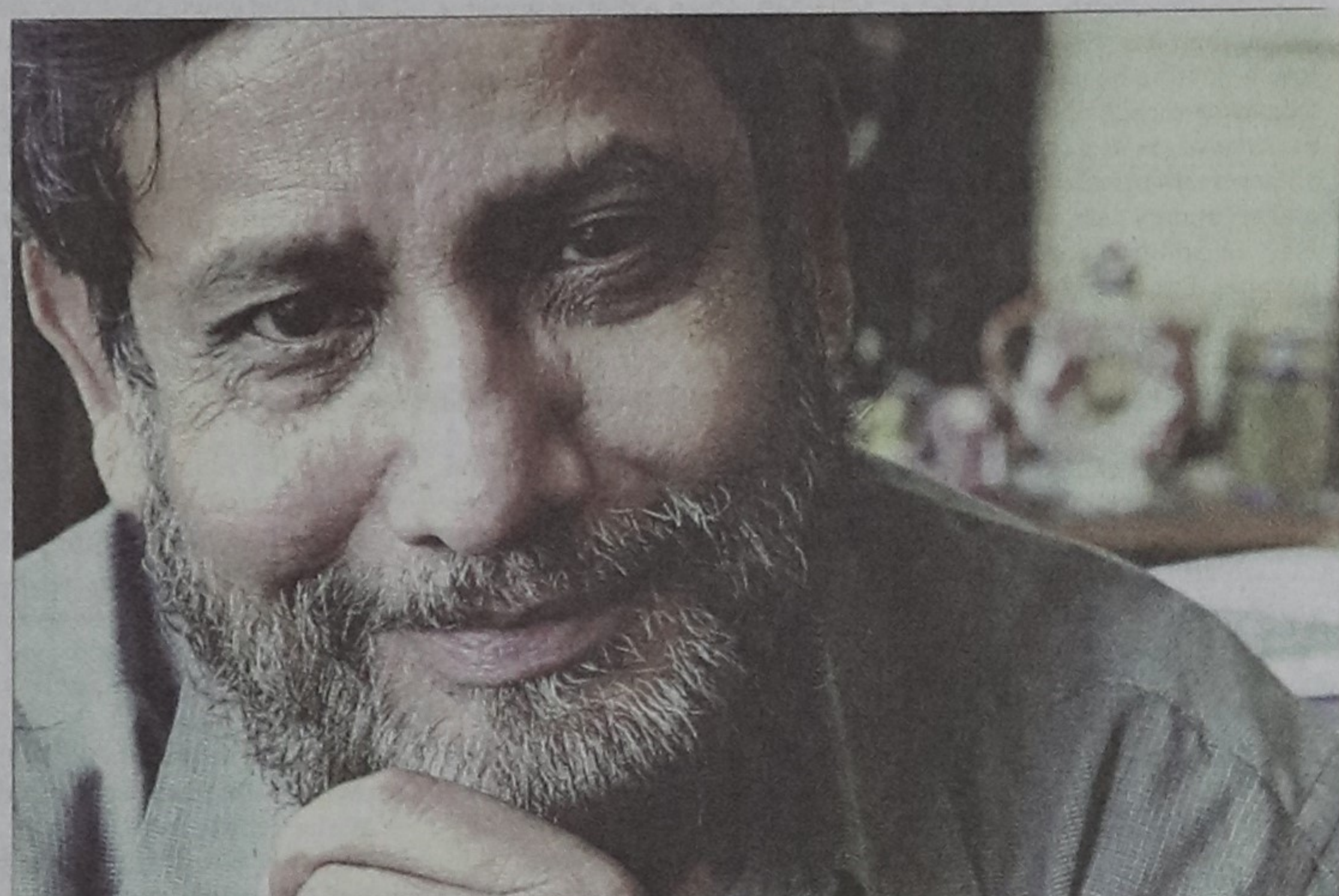
Be it an arrogant yet altruistic zamindar, a professional killer or even a domestic worker, Noor's appeal is irresistible. In his illustrious career spanning almost three decades, he has been seen acting opposite generations of female co-stars, ranging from Ferdousi Majumdar, Mita Chowdhury, Dolly Zahur, Subarna Mustafa, Sara Zaker, Tarana Halim to Bipasha Hayat, Shomi Kaiser, Afsana Mimi to Tisha. He has also occasionally worked with other actresses like Shampa Reza, Rini Reza, Nipa Reza, Falguni Hamid, Keya Chowdhury, Pricilla Parveen, Nargis, Munawar Sultana, Lubna and Tisa.

In the midst of his busy schedule, Noor recently talked to *The Daily Star* on his female co-artists.

"I began my career with a small role in the TV Play *Rang-er Phanush* (1974), directed by Abdullah Al Mamun. I have worked a lot with him since then. I hope he recovers soon.

"To be frank, I never limited myself to acting in romantic plays. My concern has always been the character. I have worked with a number of talented actresses and enjoyed working with all of them," Noor says.

Subarna Mustafa and Noor were seen together in TV plays quite frequently. Noor recalls how he first met the artiste. "I was quite close to Golam Mustafa at that time. On the set of the play *Borof Gola Nadi*, Mustafa Bhai brought along Subarna and introduced me to her saying, 'this is your Noor uncle. Noor, look after my daughter.' Indeed, Subarna continued referring to me as 'Noor Chacha' for a long time. I'm not sure when she started calling



Asaduzzaman Noor



Subarna Mustafa

me *bhai*. As we worked together in many plays, a close relationship developed between us. Though we don't meet or get to talk often now, I can honestly say that she is a good friend of mine."

Sara Zaker has also worked with Noor in several plays, and the two continue weaving magic on screen. In Noor's words, "Sara



Sara Zaker

and I began working together many years ago, mostly on stage. I think *Ayomoy* was one of our more memorable works on TV. One advantage of working with Sara is that we are also colleagues at Asiatic, so it is easier to manage our schedule. Our friendship also goes back a long way. In fact Sara and Aly Zaker are like family



Bipasha Hayat

members to me. Definitely our on-screen chemistry has benefited from this relationship. Most of my recent works are with Sara and there are more in the pipeline."

Mita Chowdhury was a familiar face on the small screen in the '80s until she left the country. Noor and Mita worked in a num-

bers of plays together.

"Mita's elder brother was my friend, though he was one or two years junior to me. In that sense, Mita was also like my younger sister. But as I said, whatever relationship we have in reality, we come out of that and try to get into the skin of our characters when working. As Mita left the country, I lost contact with her. She has returned recently but I haven't had the chance to work with her yet. My last work with her was a one-hour TV play written by Saiful Anam Tutul and directed by Mannan Hira. I can't remember the name exactly; it was aired few years ago. The play featured only the two of us; I found it quite challenging."

Noor does not have anything negative to say about his co-stars. "All of them are very talented, professional and meticulous. Each has a sound theatre background and the art seems inherent in them. In our time, we used to rehearse for days together for each play. There was a lot of interaction between us, so the teamwork was strong. We had the seriousness, the commitment to make each performance perfect. It is a great privilege to work with all of them."

When Bipasha Hayat first acted opposite Noor in the series *Ayomoy*, she was much younger and a newcomer. Later, Bipasha and Noor were again paired up in the film *Aguner Poroshmoni* by Humayun Ahmed.

"I even was invited to Bipasha's parents' marriage. She was born in 1971, when I was involved in the Liberation War. Otherwise, I probably would've been there when she was born," Noor smilingly says. "Bipasha is an extremely talented artiste, but she is not working much now. I think she should become regular as an actress again," he added.

Noor has his qualms about the present situation of the cultural scene. "Nowadays we don't often get the chance to get acquainted with our co-stars. Yes, there are many talented actors now, but they don't have enough time to concentrate on each role, as they are tremendously busy. Of course, some do manage to excel despite these limitations."

## "Uttam Kumar Memorabilia" at Nakshi Kantha Film Festival



Visitors at the Uttam Kumar Memorabilia

PHOTO: ERSHAD KAMOL

ERSHAD KAMOL, from Kolkata

To observe the death anniversary (July 24, 1980) of legendary Bengali film icon Uttam Kumar, a display of lobby cards, booklets and posters featuring the actor's famous films, is on at the Gorky Sadan, Russian Centre for Science and Culture in Kolkata.

Apart from posters, booklets and lobby cards, blockbusters such as *Sagarika*, *Grihodaho* and *Chawa*

*Pawa* and less known movies of the great hero such as *Bandi* and *Mister* are also on display.

Organised by Kolkata based Eisenstein Cine Club and Bengali Film Lovers Society in association with Bangla Telefilm Club the display titled "Uttam Kumar Memorabilia" is on since July 22 and will end on July 26. The display was inaugurated by Madhabi Mukherjee, who acted in several films with Uttam Kumar.

Madhabi Mukherjee said, "It's a

remarkable display of Uttam Kumar films. *Dada* (Uttam Kumar) and I acted in several films that were hugely popular. I feel like the golden days of yesteryears are getting a rebirth at this display. After 28 years of his death, *Dada* is still alive in fans' memories."

All items on display are from the collection of Indian archivist and documentary maker Rudrajit Mookherjee. He said, "As an archivist I have a fascination for antiquities. I've collected all these items from the producers and people related to Uttam Kumar."

"My collection includes posters of 202 movies in which Uttam Kumar acted. I also intend to hold an exhibit of these items in Bangladesh," he said.

Bangladeshi film activist Ahmed Muztaba Zamal said, "We will try to arrange a display of these items in Bangladesh."

Centring the display, the Gorky Sadan is drawing a huge crowd. The display is an added attraction at the film festival featuring seven Bangladeshi contemporary films produced by Impress Telefilm Ltd.

On the third day of "Nakshi Kantha Film Festival," *Aha!* directed by Enamul Karim Nirjhar was screened. The movie received a good response from the local audience.

## Have You Got the Look?



Male (left) and female finalists of Pantene You Got The Look 2008

SHARA AZAD

Aspiring for the heady fame of previous winners and current actor-models Apurbo, Azra, and Lisa, the 24 finalists in the seventh annual Pantene-sponsored, "You Got the Look" (YGTL) competition are working night and day -- literally. The finalists in the competition, organised by Grey Advertising Bangladesh Ltd, were selected first from a pool of about 2000 and then from an interview round where 120 contestants took part.

They have spent the month of July, at a "boot camp". This camp consists of the contestants attending grooming sessions, practicing walking down the ramp, dancing,



and exercising, in addition to group critiques, every single day from 9 am to 7 pm to prepare for a final event, where the winners will be chosen.

Though their day-to-day routine is both rigid and intense, the competitors believe that the struggle is well worth it. According to Craig Dias, one of the finalists, "You Got the Look" is "the biggest platform" for aspiring models, while Wasilul Alam Shujan, head of media for Grey Advertising, likewise states that the competition is a search for "the upcoming models of tomorrow." In any case, all the finalists have their eyes on the prize, promotion as a model and a chance at a career in television.

The stakes are high; however, all of the contestants seem to have formed a close-knit bond. Tasin Khan Onni, a finalist, says, "We don't feel like competitors; we are like friends." On the other hand, the dynamics may soon change as the final competition rapidly approaches.

The finale is to be held on July 31 at the Winter Garden, Dhaka Sheraton Hotel. Here the finalists will display their honed talents to invitees and a panel of judges. The four winners, will be divided into two categories -- two competitors for the "Best Look" and two for "Best Hair". Hopefully, the "You Got the Look" competition will give a major boost to their careers.

## Ozzy to be crowned living legend

Rockstar Ozzy Osbourne is to be given the living legend award in the Classic Rock Roll of Honour this year.

He will pick up his award at November's Classic Rock awards, where Whitesnake, Led Zeppelin and Def Leppard are all nominated for three awards.

The list was revealed by Alice Cooper, who is a previous living legend recipient, at a press event in London. On hearing of his award Osbourne said: "I couldn't be happier to know that Classic Rock haven't written me off!"

"Seriously, it's a great honour and I'm looking forward to going to my first Classic Rock Awards in November. Can't wait to see you there," he added.

Last year's recipient was Led Zeppelin guitarist Jimmy Page, whose broken finger was the talk of the evening.

This time the band are up for event of the year, following their much-hyped reunion gig - which was temporarily delayed by that injured digit.

The comeback show, at London's O2 Arena, was the band's first gig in more than 19 years. More than a million people entered a ballot for just 9,000 pairs of tickets.

Also shortlisted in the event category are Sheffield rockers Def Leppard and David Coverdale's Whitesnake, who receive a joint nomination for their combined tour.

They go up against metal festival Hard Rock Hell, Iron Maiden's world tour and Kiss's appearance at the Download festival.

Album of the Year sees Def Leppard and Whitesnake mentioned again, alongside Black Crowes and Alice Cooper, as well as newcomers Big Linda and Stone Gods and four others.

Def Leppard, Whitesnake and Led Zeppelin also appear in the Band of the Year category, competing against tacepainted rockers Kiss and Dave Grohl's Foo



Fighters

The winners will be announced at a gala ceremony on 3 November at London's Park Lane Hotel.

Source: BBC

## Tapan Sinha to receive Dadasaheb Phalke Award

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

Veteran Bengali filmmaker Tapan Sinha has been chosen for India's top national film award -- the Dadasaheb Phalke Award -- for the year 2006 for his outstanding contribution to cinema.

The award, given by the Indian government every year, carries a cash prize of Rs ten lakh, a golden lotus and a shawl.

Sinha, 84, who directed such critically acclaimed films like *Kabuliwala*, *Arogya Niketan*, *Haatey Bazarey*, *Khudhito Pashan*, *Atithi*, *Louhakatap*, *Jhinder Bandi*, *Sagina Mahato*, *Apanjan* and *Hansuli Banker Upakatha*, is expected to receive the award from President Pratibha Patil, at a function whose date is yet to be announced, an official announcement said on July 21.

Sinha began his career as a sound engineer in Kolkata's New Theatre in 1946 and four years later he got the opportunity to work at Pinewood Studios in Britain where he spent two years.

On returning to India, Sinha turned to direction and his cinematic journey began in 1954 with his maiden movie *Ankush* and delved deep into films dealing with subjects of social relevance some

of which earned him acclaim and awards at home and abroad.

The director made three films based on Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore's works: *Kabuliwala*, *Atithi* and *Khudhito Pashan*. His *Hansuli Banker Upakatha* was an adaptation of Tarashankar Bandopadhyay's story *Haatey Bazarey* was an adaptation of a work by another leading author Balaichand Mukhopadhyaya alias Bonophul.

Among other notable films by Sinha are *Upahaar*, *Tonsil*, *Kalomat*, *Adalat O Ekti Meye*, *Bancharamer Bagan*, *Ek Doctor Ki Maut* (in Hindi) and *Shatabdir Kanya*. Besides Bengali, Sinha also directed films in Hindi and Oriya.

Sinha has won 19 national film awards in various categories apart from laurels in international film festivals in London, Berlin, Moscow, Locarno, Venice and San Francisco.

Last month, the Indian government had conferred on Sinha the "One Time Award for Lifetime Achievement" to mark the 60th anniversary of Indian independence.

Since Sinha has been ailing for quite some time, Information and Broadcasting Minister Priyaranjan Dasmunshi went to the film direc-

tor's residence in South Kolkata and handed over the award on June 20.

Reacting to the announcement of Dadasaheb Phalke award, Sinha said he was "overwhelmed" for being selected for the highest award of Indian cinema.

The reaction was conveyed by the director's sister-in-law who said Sinha was too weak to move and even speak.

Tapan Sinha worked with all the top stars of Bengali cinema -- Uttam Kumar, Soumitra Chatterjee and Suchitra Sen -- in *Jhinder Bandi*, *Khudhito Pashan* and *Louhakatap* respectively and several of his films won the hearts of millions across generations.

His *Kabuliwala* brought out a riveting performance from legendary actor Chhabi Biswas in title role of the film while *Haatey Bazarey*, which won the best feature film award in 1967, has seen a memorable performance from Ashok Kumar, Ajitesh Bandopadhyay and Vyajanthimala in lead roles.

A government-appointed committee which chose Tapan Sinha for the Dadasaheb Phalke award included eminent directors Shyam Benegal, Gautam Ghose, actress Sharmila Tagore and renowned flutist Hari Prasad Chaurasia.



Priyaranjan Dasmunshi recently felicitated Tapan Sinha (seated) with a lifetime achievement award in Kolkata