

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Solo Art Exhibition

Title: Myth, Memory and Motherland
Artist: Tarun Ghosh
Venue: Galleri Kaya, H 20, Rd 16, Sec 4, Uttara
Date: October 31-November 14
Time: 11am-8pm

TARUN GHOSH

Myth, Memory and Motherland
Selected work - 1973-2008

Musical Soiree

Songs of Five poets
Organiser: Nandan
Venue: Ramesh Chandra Dutt Memorial Auditorium, Chhayanat Sanskrit Bhaban
Date: November 14
Time: 6:30pm



13th Asian Art Biennale '08

Organiser: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
Venue: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, Osmani Memorial Hall and National Museum
Date: October 21-November 19
Time: 11am-7pm (Fridays 3pm-8pm)



Solo Art Exhibition

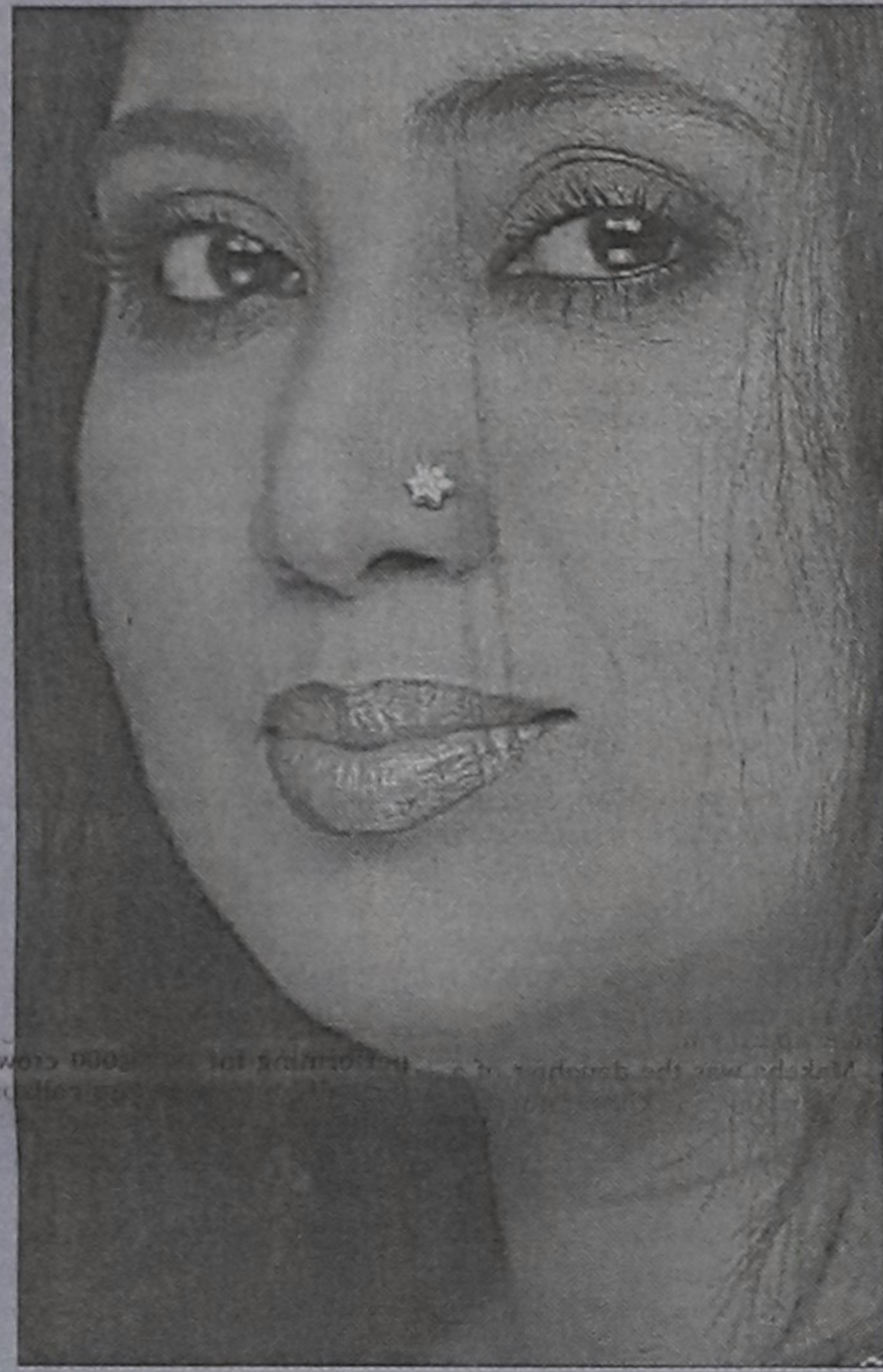
Title: Expression of Life
Artist: Kamal Kumar Das
Venue: Zainul Gallery, Faculty of Fine Arts, DU
Date: November 10-15
Time: 12pm-8pm



Tête-à-tête

No one is perfect but I try my best to be sincere and honest.

-- Baby Naznin



CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

As a pop and playback singer Baby Naznin needs no introduction to Bangladeshi music fans. This skilled singer has

other interesting talents as well. Baby was an avid volleyball player when she was younger and represented her home division (Rajshahi). She has also taken part in many art competitions. Making scul-

tures is one of her favourite pastimes, she says.

Her first audio cassette featuring 12 'ad-hunik' songs came out in 1987. She has been a successful playback singer and has recorded for over 100 movies.

Asked about the level of her popularity, Baby says, "I'm overwhelmed by the adulation bestowed on me by my fans. I also appreciate it when the critics compare me to myself. I thank the lord for all the love."

Going on a philosophical note, Baby says, "The world has so much to offer in terms of knowledge and culture. I wish I had more time to delve into life's intricate aspects. If you have the knowledge and honesty everything becomes simpler. That's the best way to earn respect. One has to maintain these good practices, which are rarely found today. No one is perfect but I try my best to be sincere and honest."

Hailing from a small town in Rajshahi, Baby values the struggle behind achievement. "If everything is laid out on a silver platter there is nothing left for you to achieve. I admire it when people achieve things on their own, fighting the odds. There is a sense of fulfilment in that."

Some of Baby's all-time favourite singers are Lata Mangeshkar, Asha Bhosle, Noorjahan, Ghulam Ali Khan and Rashid Khan. The artiste enjoys instrumentals and piano recitals as well.

Exhibition

Nepalese art in town



Clockwise (from top-left) "Mt. Everest" by B.K. Nar Bahadur, "Buddha" by Kishor Nakarmi and "Toran" by Bipana Maharjan.

TAKIR HOSSAIN

Contemporary Nepalese art burst into the international scene during a former Prime Minister, Jung Bahadur's visit to England in the early nineteenth century. A small group of traditional 'chitrakars' (temple artists) of Nepal were selected and commissioned to paint royal family portraits, scenes of royal hunts and landscape in the "European Court Style." Since then contemporary art in Nepal has matured into a unique form, developing its own individual characteristics.

The last four decades has seen the contemporary art scene truly

flourish. Galleries have replaced the old patrons, and the art market too has evolved to reach a broader clientele.

Over the last few years, our art market has seen many foreign artists holding exhibitions of their works in Dhaka. Our artists are also holding exhibitions in different countries as this practice enables exchange of thoughts and ideas with painters of other countries.

Five Nepalese artists, whose exhibition is now on at the Gallery of Fine Art, Asiatic Society of Bangladesh, represent the ongoing trends of their country. The works feature human forms, objects and landscapes that are both realistic

and semi-realistic. Nar Bahadur's bold strokes and vibrant colours give varied dimension to his works. His works mainly depict the beautiful landscapes, festivals and traditions of Nepal. There is a different kind of simplicity, romanticism and reality in his works. Mount Everest in all its majestic mystery has also been featured in his paintings.

Kishor Nakarmi has tried to depict Buddha's contemplative and spiritual image, indicating the instability in our present world. An extended study of Buddha's way of life inspired Kishor to turn down this painting track. A number of Nepalese painters have worked on



Buddhist themes.

Bipana Maharjan's images are soulful and evocative. There is a mature lucidity in her works that at times creates a contrasting reflection. She is interested in the interplay of light and shadow.

Sudhan Shrestha is concerned with depicting mostly large chic women and the faces are important features in his works. At times the forms are depicted in a surrealistic milieu, creating an unconventional and unusual look.

Gautam Ratna Tuladhar brings in the exquisite past in temple forms with deep primitive prowess. He is the only sculptor in the group and likes to work with stone.

The exhibition has been arranged by Flame and ends on November 15.



Bollywood bids adieu to B.R. Chopra

B.R. Chopra, a leading Indian filmmaker who found rare success creating both hit Bollywood musicals and dramatic, socially conscious films, died last Wednesday at his home in Mumbai. He was 94.

His death was announced by his son, Ravi Chopra, a film producer. An architect of the golden era of Hindi cinema, Chopra had a reputation for making quality movies and injecting them with socially relevant themes while still catering to popular tastes and fostering the careers of Bollywood stars like Dilip Kumar and Vyjayanthimala.

Perhaps his most accomplished and well-known film was the 1957 musical "Naya Daur," highlighting the conflict between rural traditions and modern technology. Made in the first decade of Indian independence, it coincided with the then Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru's initiatives promoting economic planning and rural community development.

Some of Chopra's films were boldly ahead of their time. Indian films could hardly be imagined without melodious songs, but his hard-hitting courtroom drama, "Kanoon," was both songless and successful at the box office. In "Gumrah" he challenged an Indian society steeped, in his view, in shallow moral values bordering on hypocrisy, with a tale of marital infidelity in which a woman resumes an affair with a lover after her marriage.

Among recent Bollywood hits that he produced were "Baghban" (2003), a story of family and the mistreatment of the elderly. It portrays a retired middle-class bank employee and his wife, whose selfish sons force the couple to live apart.

Baldev Raj Chopra was born into a middle-class Hindu family in Lahore on April 22, 1914. He was one of seven children of a government officer and spent most of his childhood in Pakistan. He received his master's degree in English literature from Lahore University, but after failing examinations to become an Indian civil service officer, he turned to film journalism, becoming editor of the popular magazine Cine Herald in 1938.

An attempt to make a film of his own, financed by his father's friends, was aborted in 1947 when riots set off by the partition of India forced him and his large extended family to flee to Delhi. When his father died, Chopra became the sole breadwinner for a family of 25.

The family later moved to Mumbai and invested heavily in his first

full-fledged movie, "Karwat" (1949), which flopped. The family went bankrupt, almost finding itself on the streets, and Chopra returned to journalism, though he kept his film ambitions alive.

Two years later he produced and directed "Afsana" (1951), a thriller based on mistaken identity. In 1955 he established a production company, B.R. Films, which in the 1960s produced a string of movies destined to become Indian classics, among them "Kanoon"; "Naya Daur," about horse-carriage drivers facing creeping industrialisation in a post-independence age; and "Sadhana," about a prostitute's love affair with a professor.

Chopra continued to make and direct films in the 1970s and '80s,



B.R. Chopra



Dilip Kumar and Vyjayanthimala in one of Chopra's biggest hits, "Naya Daur."

often bucking a Bollywood system dominated by major stars. For example, "Insaf Ka Tarazu," which dealt with rape, and "Nikaah," a conservative Muslim love triangle, were runaway hits without having star actors.

In the late 1980s Chopra produced one of India's most successful television serials, "Mahabharata," based on the ancient Hindu epic.

In 1999 the Indian government conferred the prestigious Dada Saheb Phalke Award on Chopra for his contribution to Indian cinema.

Besides his son, Ravi, Chopra is survived by two daughters, Shashi and Neena; a brother, Yash, who is also a filmmaker; and two grandsons, Abhay, a Bollywood director, and Kapil, an actor.

Source: Internet

Fourteen cartoons seek three Oscar berths



Fourteen films have been submitted to the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences in hopes of securing one of the three nominations available in the best animated feature category.

The contenders are "Bolt," "Delgo," "Dragon Hunters," "Fly Me to the Moon," "Igor," "Kung Fu Panda," "Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa," "S9.99," "The Sky Crawlers," "Sword of the Stranger," "The Tale of Despereaux," "Waltz With Bashir," "WALL-E" and "Dr. Seuss' Horton Hears a Who!"

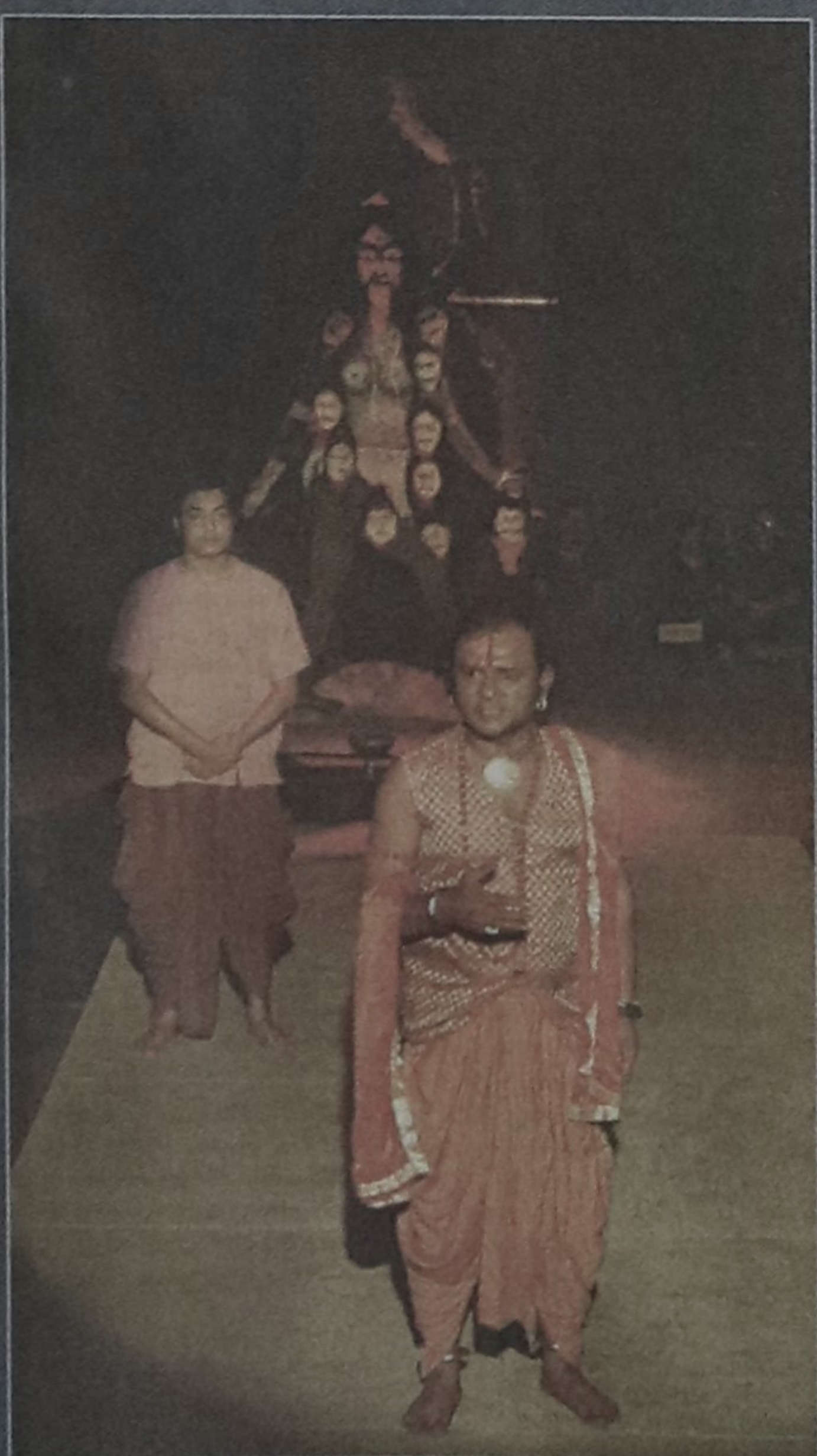
Because there are at least eight but fewer than 16 submissions, a maximum of three movies can share the spotlight when Oscar nominations in all categories are announced on January 22.

Disney/Pixar's "WALL-E" is widely considered the frontrunner to win the Oscar. Competition for the other two nominee slots will include such box office hits as Blue Sky Studio's "Dr. Seuss' Horton Hears a Who!" and DreamWorks Animation's "Kung Fu Panda" and "Madagascar" sequel, which is currently No. 1 at the North American box

office. The submissions also include Israel's award-winning animated documentary "Waltz With Bashir," which has emerged as this year's "Persepolis."

"Bolt" and "Fly Me to the Moon" are stereoscopic 3-D titles. By next year, the majority of the leading competitors could be 3-D titles, as stereoscopic animated fare scheduled to open in 2009 includes Focus' stop-motion "Coraline," DreamWorks Animation's "Monsters vs. Aliens," Disney's "Up," Blue Sky's "Ice Age: Dawn of the Dinosaurs" and Sony Pictures Animation's "Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs."

Source: Reuters



Theatre troupe Prachyanat staged their 14th production "Raja Ebong Annanyo" (King of the Dark Chamber...and Others) on November 10 at the Experimental Theatre Hall, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy. Directed by Azad Abul Kalam, the production is a contemporary, experimental presentation of the classic Tagore play "Raja" (1910).