

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Genocide Convention, Cultural Programme
 Organiser: Liberation War Museum
 Venue: Liberation War Museum, Segunbagicha
 Date: December 13
 Time: 4pm



Discussion, Cultural Show
 Organiser: Liberation War Museum
 Venue: Liberation War Museum, Segunbagicha
 Date: December 14
 Time: 4pm



Recitation, Gono Sangeet
 Organiser: Liberation War Museum
 Venue: Liberation War Museum, Segunbagicha
 Date: December 15
 Time: 4pm

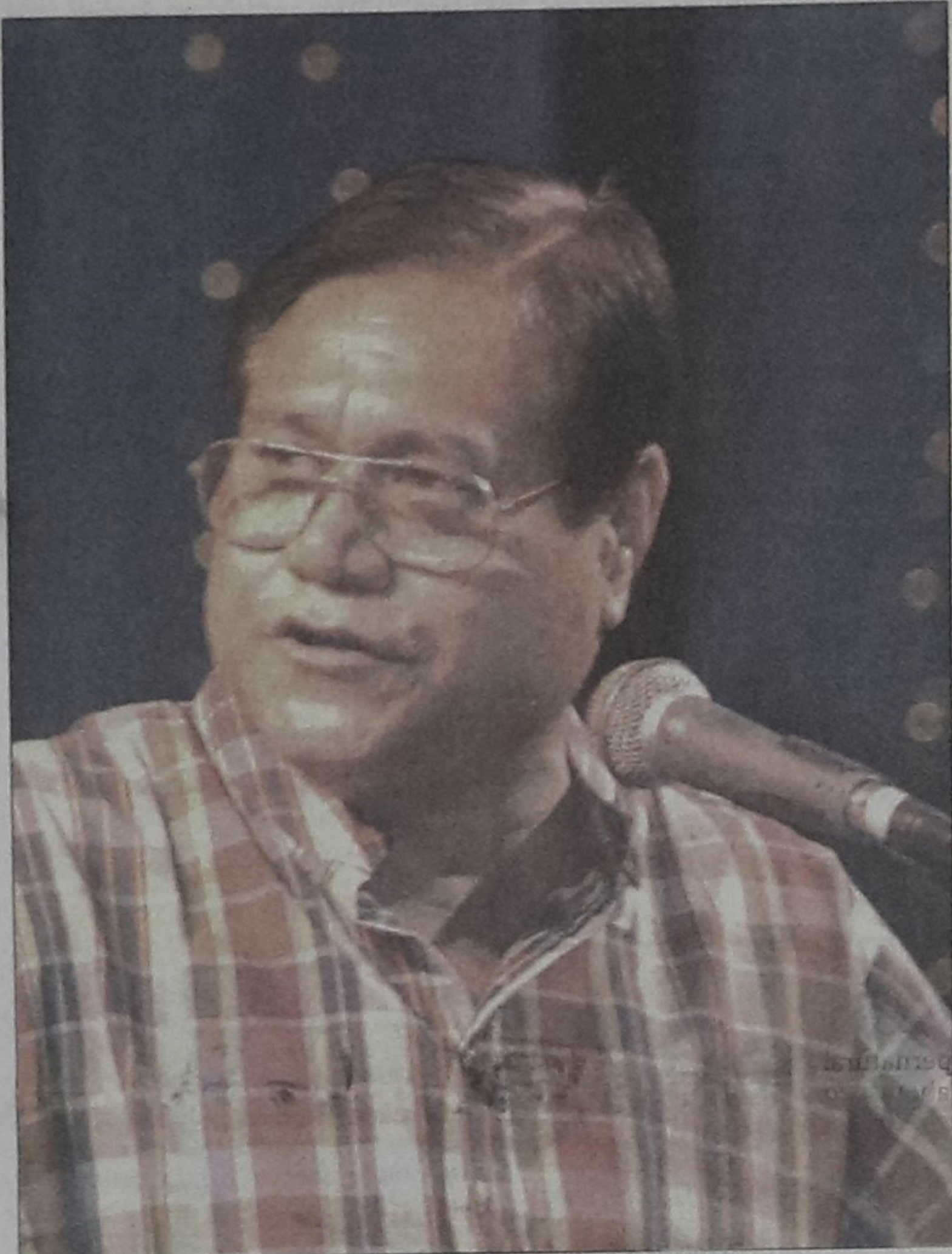


Recitation and Dance
 Organiser: Liberation War Museum
 Venue: Liberation War Museum, Segunbagicha
 Date: December 16
 Time: 10am



“Cultural contribution in 1971 deserves proper evaluation”

-- Rathindranath Roy



CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Rathindranath Roy was one of most prominent performers of the Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendra. Recalling his early singing career, Roy mentioned inspirational songs such as "Purbo digantey shurjo uttechhey" and "Nongor tolo tolo" (composed by Samar Das), "Rokto diye naam

likhechi" (composed by Shujee Shyam) and more.

He also sang some Rabindra Sangeet such as "O amar desher mati," which motivated Bengalis during the Liberation War. In Roy's view there are few parallels to these patriotic songs. In his words, "The spirit, the situation and the passion cannot be conveyed through words. Think about these

songs rendered during the Liberation War. Nothing compares to them."

Roy has also done his bit to promote folk genres, especially 'Bhawaiyya' songs that are popular in the Rangpur area. In 2002 he founded the Bhawaiyya Academy in Rangpur. Now the institution has branches in Gaibandha, Kurigram and Lalmonirhat. The objective of this academy is to promote folk songs through teaching youngsters and organising cultural programmes. Roy also has plans to launch a research-oriented publication on 'Bhawaiyya' music.

According to Roy, folk music is deeply embedded in Bangladeshi culture. To quote him, "These songs are our roots; our true heritage. As long as the villages in Bangladesh exist, there will be folk music. Rock, pop or any other contemporary genre can never take away the appeal of folk music because it is a part of our national identity."

Roy used to perform songs such as 'Bhajan,' 'Kirtan,' 'Shyama sangeet,' 'Murshidi' and 'Marfati' at the Ramkrishna Mission as he had a deep interest in the sadhus. He says, "These sadhus are not only devoted to the religion but also wise and inclined towards social work." He has written and set to tune some spiritual songs such as "Biswa bibek jagatey dhoraye eley Vivekananda."

Roy joined the Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendra in May during the Liberation War. Reminiscing on those days, he says, "There were very few facilities at the radio station. It was quite challenging for the staff to carry out their work. We had our dining hall downstairs and the studio was not even sound proof. It was a one-channel machine with which we used to do all the recordings. There was no commercial aspect of this; all the performers, instrumentalists and engineers were

dedicated to their respective mediums."

Roy began his career as an artiste in 1960. He became a regular singer on radio and television. Initially his guru was his father Harolal Roy and later Ustad PC Gomez. He performed in a good number of programmes when he was a student of Dhaka University.

Roy feels that the new television channels are not promoting folk songs, as they should. He says, "None of the TV channels has a professional studio, which is a must. His major complaint against BTB is that the channel, unlike the radio, does not telecast folk music at prime time."

Roy has a few reservations about stage shows as well. He says, "There are very few solo and group performances featuring folk songs on stage nowadays. This is because 'Adhunik,' rock and pop music are given preference over folk music." Roy is not reluctant to give credit to those who are popularising folk songs by remixing/re-arranging them. But he does not consider the new versions as "true" folk music. The seasoned artiste is unwilling to perform folk songs with Western instruments.

Roy has also been a playback singer and has won many awards like BACHSHASH (Bangladesh Cine Journalists Society) Award in 1979 and 1981, The Ekushey Padak in 1994 and the Popular Folk Song Award in the World Youth Festival in East Germany in 1973.

Roy still regrets that the contributions of cultural activists during the Liberation War have not been given their due. According to the artiste, "Cultural contribution in 1971 deserves proper evaluation and artistes who had inspired the nation in its troubled times should be honoured accordingly."

The article is a reprint of an earlier version.

Eid special

Alpo Dekhar Golpo on Banglavision

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Single episode TV play "Alpo Dekhar Golpo" will be aired on Banglavision tonight at 8:15 pm. Written by Masum Reza, the play has been directed by Ushnish Chakrabarti.

The story centres on Kushum and Pavel. Kushum lives in an apartment with her

mother. Pavel rents the flat just above Kushum's, only for three months. After exactly three months, when Pavel leaves the flat Kushum's mother seems relieved. The story gets a twist when one day Kushum goes in the vacant flat and finds a portrait of Pavel.

The cast of the play includes Sumaiya Shimu, Anisur Rahman Milon, Tushar Khan and Chitralekha Guha.



Anisur Rahman Milon and Sumaiya Shimu in "Alpo Dekhar Golpo".

Telefilm Hentmundu Urdhopad on ATN Bangla

Written and directed by Manik Manobik, telefilm "Hentmundu Urdhopad" will be aired on ATN Bangla today at 4:40 pm.

Shajal, a student of Charukala, has always been finicky about everything. To some extent, he is a perfectionist. This trait reflects on his perception of beauty as well. A beautiful face and svelte physique are not enough; the object of his attraction has to have perfect feet as well. And so, Shajal remains single while all his friends get married. His nit-

pickness becomes the subject of jokes among his friends. Shajal eventually comes across Shahana who meets all his expectations, but their likes and disliked do not match. As he again tries to get back to being single, Shajal meets Sharmin. Everything seems to work out between the two, and they even decided to get married. Does the fussy Shajal get a happy ending though?

Tisha, Iresh Zaker and Mithila play the lead roles.



Iresh Zaker and Tisha in "Hentmundu Urdhopad".

DVD on ntv

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Single-episode TV play "DVD" will be aired on ntv tonight at 8:15 pm. The play has been written and directed by Dipankar Dipon.

The story revolves around a mysterious DVD. One morning Khandokar Romel receives a DVD from an anonymous source. A

caution on the cover of the DVD suggests that Romel should play the DVD alone. Watching the DVD at home becomes impossible as his family is always around. Finally when Romel plays the DVD alone in his office a strange face appears on the screen.

Tatuir Ahmed, Tanvin Sweetie and Anisur Rahman Milon play the lead roles.



Sweetie in a scene from "DVD".

A.R. Rahman triumphs at LA Awards

With the nominations for the Golden Globes around the corner, the influential Los Angeles Film Critics Association award have been just announced, with plenty of surprises for the perennially nominated Meryl Streep and well-regarded star Kate Winslett.

While the animated hit "Wall-E" walked away with the best picture nod, Danny Boyle took the best director award for "Slumdog Millionaire" beating fellow Brit Christopher Nolan, maker of the highest grossing film "The Dark Knight."

A.R. Rahman was named the best composer for his work in "Slumdog Millionaire." Among the high profiled scores this year are in the films "Quantum of Solace," "Mamma Mia!" and "The Curious Case of Benjamin Button."

Los Angeles Film Critics Association is not particularly known for hailing big Hollywood hits and this year's choice could raise a few eyebrows. But then the association promptly hugged the underdog by giving the best director award to Boyle. "Slumdog," which had no distributor five months back when Warner Independent folded, was then picked up by Fox Searchlight. The distributor, which has released smash hits such as "Juno," has been lucky with India themed films -- the Oscar nominated Deepa Mehta film "Water" as well as Mira Nair's "The Namesake." It also distributed the art house hit, Wes Anderson's "The Darjeeling Limited."

Los Angeles Times said, "Slumdog," which got the third highest votes following "Wall-E" and "The Black Knight," created a controversy among the 43 voters.

Though the film has received the highest praise from publications including Time, The New Yorker, USA Today and The Chicago Tribune, some of the voters in Los Angeles dismissed it outright.

Source: Internet



Eastwood, "Dark Knight" among Golden Globes snubs



Sean Penn (right) in "Milk", one of the films that despite creating a buzz has been snubbed by the Golden Globes.

REUTERS, Los Angeles

The Hollywood Foreign Press Assn. (HFPA) did not get "Milk." It barely acknowledged "The Dark Knight." And though in past years it loved "Sex and the City" the TV series, it ignored "Sex and the City" the movie.

It also challenged Clint Eastwood to prove he is a good sport.

The 81 active voting members of the HFPA, the highly idiosyncratic group behind the Golden Globes, decided that Eastwood did not deserve a directing nomination for either "Changeling" or "Gran Torino." And his performance as "Torino's" angry ex-Marine also did not merit a spot among the best dramatic actor nominees -- even though the National Board of

Review, an equally idiosyncratic lot, has proclaimed Eastwood the year's best actor.

Instead, the Globe-trotters, always eager to attract as many A-list celebrities as possible to their televised awards dinner, issued Eastwood an invitation by way of two music nominations: best score for "Changeling" and best song for "Torino."

Now, Eastwood is as serious about his music as he is about his movies, but that's the equivalent of asking him to sing for his supper.

Even more of a surprise Thursday was the poor showing for "Milk," even though Sean Penn was included among the best dramatic actor contenders for playing the late gay activist. While the New York Film Critics Circle

hailed the film as the year's best, the HFPA did not include it in the best drama category and ignored director Gus Van Sant.

A number of HFPA members actually attended the movie's world premiere at the Castro Theatre in San Francisco and applauded the film. "But a lot of them seemed to think the movie is just all about Sean," one insider theorised.

Often criticised for promoting popular hits over art house fare, the HFPA did reward mega-musical "Mamma Mia!" with two nominations but allowed "The Dark Knight" -- the biggest film since "Titanic" -- only a supporting actor nomination for the late Heath Ledger.

"This nomination is deeply appreciated and is not lost on those of us who continue to love and miss him," said Ledger's father, Kim.

But the Globes did not extend that love to "Dark Knight" writer-director Christopher Nolan or Batman's alter ego Christian Bale.

Perhaps most puzzling of all: The movie version of "Sex" failed to register in the comedy categories.

During the run of the TV series, the Globe voters lavished their attention on star Sarah Jessica Parker (seven nominations, four wins) and the show (six nominations, three wins). But the movie? Nada.

Must have been a case of been there, done that.