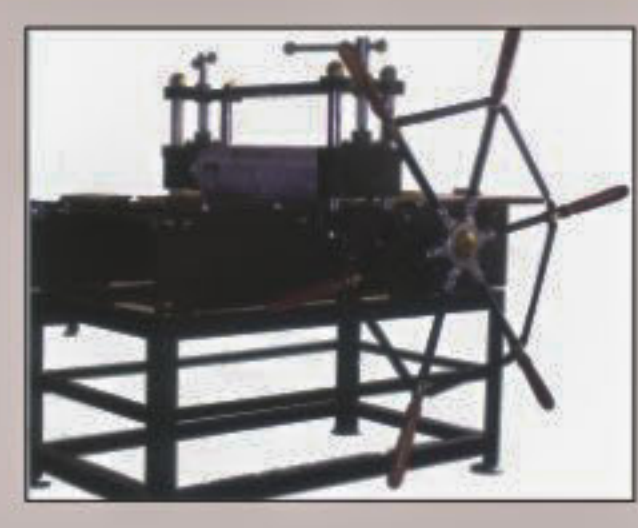


## WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

**Printmaking Workshop**  
 Venue: Cosmos-Atelier 71  
 Date: January 29 & 30  
 Time: 9am-8pm



**Mudhu Mela 2010**  
 Title: 186th Birth Anniversary of Madhusudan Dutt  
 Organiser: District Administration, Jessor & Banglalink  
 Venue: Sagordari, Jessor  
 Date: January 22-28  
 Time: 3:30pm onwards



**3rd Int'l Children's Film Festival**  
 Organiser: Children's Film Society Bangladesh  
 Venue: Public Library, National Museum, Alliance Francaise, Goethe Institut, Iranian Cultural Centre, British Council and others  
 Date: January 23-29  
 Time: 11am onwards



**Musical Soiree**  
 Title: Praner Khela  
 Artists: Farida Parveen and Gazi Abdul Hakim  
 Venue: Bengal Shilpaya, H 275/F, Rd 27 (old), Dhanmondi  
 Date: January 28  
 Time: 7:30pm



## A gifted dancer's big break into movies

### Sudeshna Swayamprabha in Goutam Ghosh's Lalon biopic

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

One of the up and coming young Dhaka dancers, Sudeshna Swayamprabha, unintentionally got her big break into movies recently. Unintentionally, because Sudeshna's undeterred passion lies in dance and she has not been keen on acting. Big break, as the movie -- "Mon-er Manush" -- in question is a biopic of the mystic bard Lalon (based on a Sunil Gangopadhyay novel) and is being directed by internationally renowned helmer Goutam Ghosh.

"Mon-er Manush" is an Indo-Bangladesh joint venture. Bangladeshi producer Habibur Rahman Khan has joined hands with Kolkata-based producer Goutam Kundu to make this film. Incidentally, Khan's Ashirbad Chalchitra had also produced Ritwik Ghatak's "Titas Ekti Nadir Naam" and Goutam Ghosh's "Padma Nadir Majhi". West Bengal actor Prosenjit Chatterjee will play the protagonist.

Sudeshna plays the role of Golapi, Lalon's wife. How did she land the role? "At last year's Ibsen Festival, my mother's (noted dancer and exponent Sharmila Bandopadhyay) troupe Nrityanandan staged an adaptation of "The Lady from the Sea." Habib Khan was in the audience and apparently he liked my performance. He asked my mother if I'd be interested in acting in the film. Initially, both my mother and I were reluctant, but Khan approached us on several occasions. "My mother changed her decision and

encouraged me to meet Goutam Ghosh, because (a) this is Goutam Ghosh we're talking about! and (b) the movie is based on Lalon's life," she says.

From the Bangladeshi side, the cast includes Raisul Islam Asad, Champa, Hasan Imam and Chanchal Chowdhury. Apart from Prosenjit, other Indian actors in the movie are Priyanshu Chatterjee and Paoli Dham.

According to Sudeshna, shooting should wrap up by next month. So far the film has been shot in Shanti Niketan (India), Bikrampur (Bangladesh) and the Haor area in Sunamganj (Bangladesh).

How did it feel facing a movie camera for the first time? "I don't have stage fright, as I've been performing since childhood. And as many would agree, acting comes easy when you're a dancer. But, yes, of course it was my first time facing a movie camera and the first scene we shot involved Prosenjit and me. It was somewhat intimidating. However, the director and the actor were both very understanding and they put me at ease," she says.

"My mother and father (recitor Bhaswar Bandopadhyay) have been constant sources of inspiration. My mother helped me with my costume as well," she adds.

Are more films/TV plays in her future? "Dance is and will always remain my priority. But if I come across a good script, why not?"



Prosenjit and Sudeshna in a scene from "Mon-er Manush".

## Shakila to perform on RTV tonight

A CORRESPONDENT

Seasoned singer Shakila Zafar is guest on Rtv's live musical late night show "Bashudha Tomar Jonyo Amar-ei Gaan" tonight. The programme will be aired at 11:30 pm.

The attractive and vivacious Shakila Zafar has been entertaining the Bangladeshi audience with her melodious voice for the last 30 years. In 1979, after winning a classical music competition on Bangladesh Betar, she embarked on her musical voyage, and since then there has been no turning back. In tonight's programme Shakila will share the story of her journey in the musical arena with viewers. She will also perform some of her hit tracks and take requests from the audience.

"Bashudha Tomar Jonyo Amar" is hosted by Sayem. The programme is aired on Thursdays at 11:30 pm.



Shakila Zafar

## 3rd Int'l Children's Film Festival Glimpses from the fourth day



Director Raja Sen speaks to the children.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

On the fourth day (January 26) of the ongoing 3rd International Children's Film Festival, Indian director Raja Sen delivered a speech on renowned filmmaker Tapan Sinha. Following Sen's speech at the Shawkat Osman Auditorium, a documentary on Sinha -- "Filmmaker for Freedom" -- was screened. Directed by Sen, the documentary narrates Sinha's filmmaking genius.

Sen is the only filmmaker from overseas, who is attending the festival. The young audience seemed keen on what the Indian national award winning filmmaker had to say. Sen received the National Film Award in 1995 for his film for children, "Damu". Throughout the afternoon, the filmmaker was busy answering questions from the audience at the Public Library premises.

The organisers informed that a retrospective on Tapan Sinha is also part of the festival.

Seven films were screened at the Shawkat Osman Auditorium of Central Public Library (the main venue of the festival) that day. The line-up included a one-minute film from the series "UNICEF Sixty-Second Stories".

"Sixty-Second Stories" is the outcome of a workshop organised by UNICEF, in association with European Cultural Foundation and One Minutes Foundation. The workshop was held in June last year. The project aimed at enabling the youths (aged between 12 and 20) to narrate their stories in sixty-second videos.

The organisers also informed that they would award five children on the last day of the festival. Last year, awards at the festival did not carry any cash prize. The prize money will be given to the winning children's guardians. Organisers hope that the cash prize will encourage the children to make more films as well as to pursue their education.

Yesterday a daylong seminar was held at the Seminar Hall of Central Public Library. The seminar was divided into four sessions. At the seminar, discussants emphasised on the problems and prospects of making films for children in Bangladesh as well as issues like the impact of media on youngsters.

In association with UNICEF, Children's Film Society Bangladesh has organised the festival. Warid Telecom is the sponsor of the festival.

## Glitzy musical makes waves "The Merchants of Bollywood"

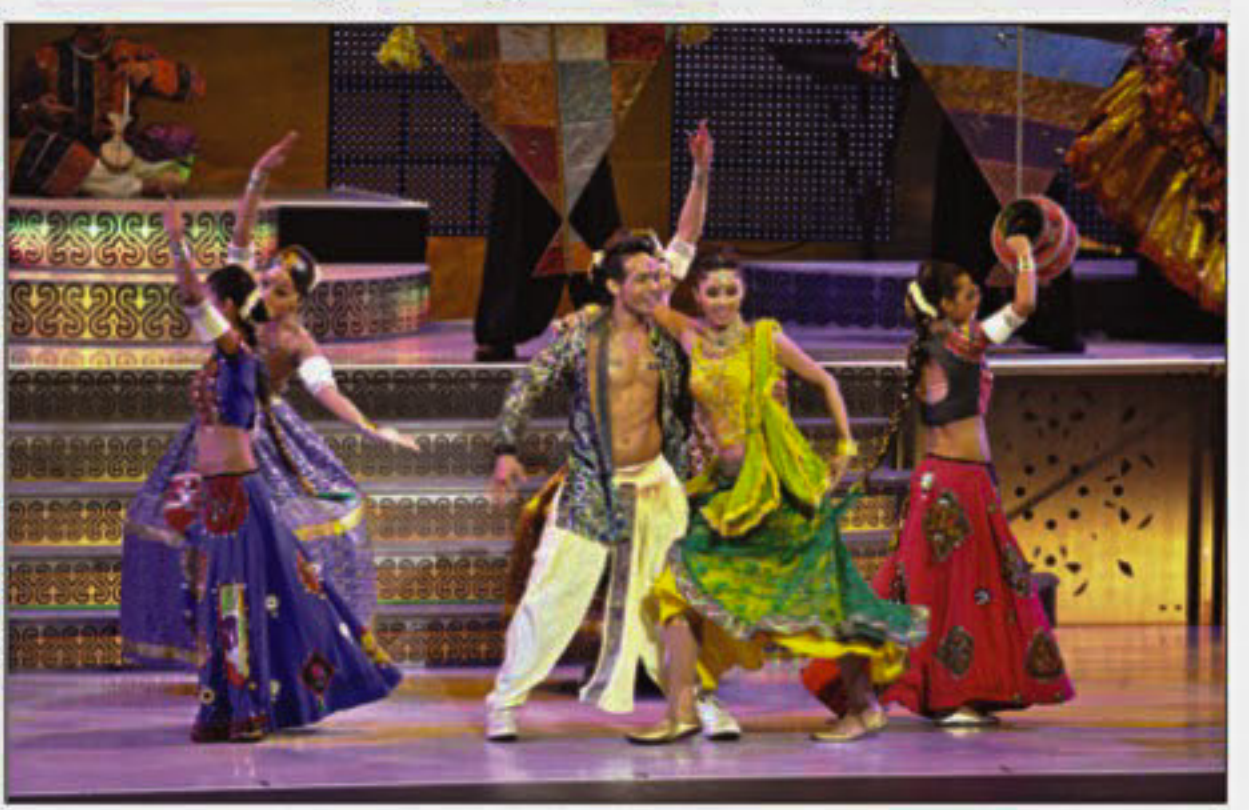
A year after "Slumdog Millionaire" won eight Oscars, interest in all things Bollywood is still going strong.

"The Merchants of Bollywood," a musical about the Hindi film industry, is all set for its first worldwide tour this year. First produced in Sydney in 2005, the musical has had two successful runs in Europe and was well received in Asia and Australia. But the success of "Slumdog Millionaire" has finally helped it unlock the doors to the North American market with a two-week run in Toronto slated for October, followed by a two-week run at the New York City Center and a six-week tour in other parts of the United States.

"It's taken us a long time to get there. Our American partners were always curious and interested in the show, but they weren't convinced four years ago. "Slumdog" certainly changed that a lot, and I think India also changed this. It keeps on growing and the interest in the country is also growing," said the musical producer Mark Brady while in Singapore, where the show ran at the Esplanade Theatre until January 17.

The glitzy musical with energetic dance routines and colourful costumes was written and directed by Toby Gough and is loosely based on the real-life story of the Merchant family dynasty, whose members have been

prominent choreographers and filmmakers since the beginning of the Hindi film industry in the 1920s. The US \$3 million production will run at the Hong Kong Academy of Performing Arts on February 2-11, and then tour Australia starting on February 17, before taking the stage of



Deepak Rawat and Carol Furtado (together centre) in "The Merchants of Bollywood".

the Peacock Theatre in London for a three-week run starting mid-May.

The actor Tony Bakshi, who has been on the production since the start, believes the musical really shows how the Bollywood system works, giving glimpses into the work conditions in the Indian film industry, which churns out over 800 films a year.

"I could have produced this in Sydney or London, but authenticity for us was very important from day one," Brady said.

Songs and dances are of course essential to the musi-

cal, which incorporates all sorts of different styles of Indian dancing, from classical dance performed in a temple to the folkloric dances of Rajasthan, and the contemporary dance forms of Bollywood, including disco.

"Bollywood dancing is

energetic, it's vibrant," said Merchant, who earned the sobriquet of 'Princess of Romance' for her choreography of romantic scenes in Bollywood movies.

"It's about expressing yourself and letting go," she added. "There is no form to it, but a lot of soul. It's meant to titillate the audience; it's a more commercial form of expression where you're using your body. It's very sensuous."

By contrast, classical dancing is highly disciplined, Merchant said.

Compiled by Correspondent.

## "Ruddho Koishore": Hard knock life sans dreams

"Ruddho Koishore" (Barren Dreams), a 28-minute long documentary directed by Anwar Chowdhury, will be screened today at 4 pm at the 3rd International Children's Film Festival at Public Library Auditorium, Shabbagh, in the city, says a press release.

The film follows the lives of boys and girls living in a char area (river shoals) who are deprived of most fundamental rights, due to the difficulties in the communication system. They are isolated from the mainland and are helpless against nature. The film features children and adolescents of Patilbari-Dighalkandi char area, on the Jamuna River, who don't know if their dreams of a better life would ever come true.

"Ruddho Koishore" was previously screened at the 4th International Film Festival on Water 2009 in Bangalore, India (as the opening film); 6th Kolkata Short Film Festival 2009, India; Traveling Festival of Karnataka Chalchitra Academy 2009-10, India (to be shown in 30 districts); 3rd Bangladesh Documentary Festival 2009 in Dhaka (as one of the closing films); National Premiere in "Voices of Adolescents" 2008, Dhaka; Special Session of Documentaries on Marginalised Communities 2009, Dhaka and Youth Festival 2008, Dhaka.



A scene from the documentary.

## Ferdaus and Bindu together again in a TVC

A CORRESPONDENT

After acting in the film "Jago", the duo, Ferdaus and Bindu will soon be seen in a new TVC produced by Prionti Ad Firm. They will act together in promoting the international standard studio apartments of the hotel Sea Hilton located in



Cox's Bazaar. "The shooting began recently at Cox's Bazaar and will continue till January 29 followed by shooting here in Dhaka," said Palash Parvez, the director of the TVC. Singer S. I. Tutul composed the jingle for the TVC. "The concept of the TVC is fantastic. Besides, Bindu is a dedicated artiste. We're hopeful it would work out well," said Ferdaus.

## Gorillaz to release new album in March

Like a cartoon sunrise over a cartoon landscape, with cartoon revellers firing celebratory cartoon fireworks, the cartoon band known as Gorillaz have revealed details of their third album. Plastic Beach, helmed once again by Blur's Damon Albarn and artist Jamie Hewlett, will be released on 8 March. Whereas their 2001 LP was an introduction to the Gorillaz' daft universe, and 2005's Demon Days showed them hanging-out post-apocalypse, the new album tells the story of Plastic Beach HQ, "a secret floating island deep in the South Pacific". "This Plastic Beach is the furthest point from any landmass on Earth," according to a press release. "Made up of the detritus, debris and washed up remnants of humanity... [it's] the most deserted spot on the planet."

Already, Gorillaz fans can sample the lead single from Plastic Beach, Stylo. The song is a surprisingly dour slice of space-disco, with cameos by rapper Mos Def and a hot-and-bothered Bobby Womack. Parlophone will officially release the single on 26 January.

Gorillaz are joined by artists such as Lou Reed, Snoop Dogg, Mark E Smith, Kano and De La Soul, as well as members of Super Furry Animals and the Clash. New York band Hypnotic Brass Ensemble and the National Orchestra for Arabic Music also appear.

Source: Internet



Gorillaz in our midst ... the cartoon pop crew will return in March.