
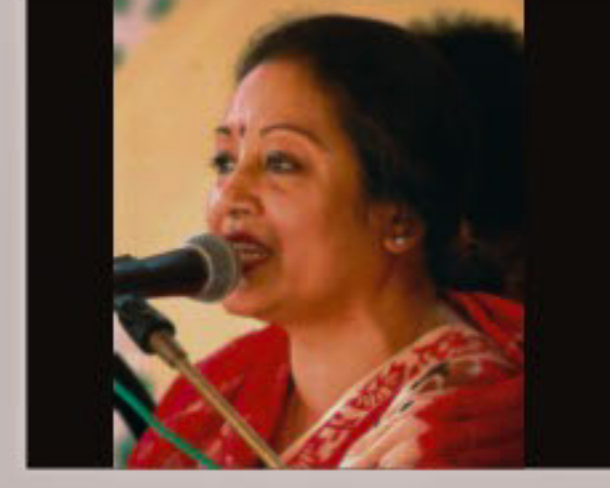




<p><b>WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK</b></p>	<p><b>Film Screening</b>                  Film: Chhadabeshi                  Venue: Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre, H 35, Rd24, Gulshan-1                  Date: September 20                  Time: 6pm</p> 	<p><b>Nazrul Sangeet Evening</b>                  Singer: Shaheen Samad                  Venue: High Commission of India Cultural Centre, H 35, Rd 24, Gulshan 1                  Date: September 24                  Time: 7pm</p> 	<p><b>Solo Painting Exhibition</b>                  Title: Nepotism                  Artist: Srijon Chowdhury                  Venue: La Galerie, H 7B, Rd 13, Gulshan                  Date: September 24-October 8                  Time: 12-8pm</p> 	<p><b>Photo Exhibition</b>                  To mark Int'l Day of Tourism                  Title: Tourist Sights of Moscow and Moscow Region                  Venue: Modern Language Institute, DU                  Date: September 2-28</p> 
-----------------------------------	---	--	--	---

## Resurrection of a national heritage

### Mastercraftspersons Award and crafts fair at National Museum



Recipients of this year's award (front row) with the dignitaries and organisers.

PHOTO: ZAHEDUL I. KHAN



The crafts fair at National Museum features 42 artisans from across the country displaying their crafts.

**ZAHANGIR ALOM**

National Crafts Council of Bangladesh (NCCB) and Bengal Foundation jointly organised Mastercraftspersons Award 1417 at the main auditorium of National Museum, Shahbagh, Dhaka on September 18.

Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid was the chief guest and Director General of Bangla Academy Dr. Shamsuzzaman Khan was the special guest at the event. Bengal Foundation Chairman Abul Khair and President of NCCB Shahid Hossain Shamim also spoke at the ceremony.

Luva Nahid Chowdhury, director general of Bengal Foundation, gave the welcome speech. A *banshi* (flute) recital by one of awardees, Kamal Chandra Sarkar, followed.

Noted folk singer and music teacher Chandana Majumdar took the stage and rendered a Lalon song "Roop Kasther Ei Noukakhani Nai Dubar Bhoi", followed by a Bijoy Sarkar composition, "Ki Shapey Kamralo Amay Rey Shapuria".

"Formed in 1985, NCCB has been working to revive the crafts in Bangladesh, along with providing patronage to artisans. From this year onward, NCCB and Bengal Foundation will jointly confer this award every year," said the President of NCCB.

"The role of art, literature and culture in creating universal brotherhood is undeniable. Bengal Foundation has been working to achieve this goal for the last two decades. We are setting up an art museum with separate galleries for art and photography on a 40-acre land located in Savar," said Abul Khair.

Welcoming the award winners and organisers, Dr Shamsuzzaman Khan said, "This effort will enrich our long standing heritage. We should also consider introducing courses on cultural studies, folklore, ethnology etc at educational institutes, so that we can learn more about our identity."

Terming the arrangement as "exceptional and extensive," Nurul Islam Nahid said, "Inviting ministers as chief guests to such programme has become a tradition. We

should change this custom. I think, experts should deliver speeches while I sit in the audience, as I would like to know more."

Later, the guests handed over Taka 50,000 along with a crest and a certificate to each of the four award winners.

This year Kamal Chandra Sarkar of Jhenidah; Shilpi Rani Biswas of Narayanganj; Ratan Chandra Das of Dhaka and Kartik Bashak of Tangail received awards for their respective contributions towards crafts like local musical instruments (*banshi*), *chikonkari* (needlework), leather goods and handloom. Forty-seven artisans involved in twenty-six crafts have been honoured so far.

The organisers also arranged a crafts fair and exhibition at Nalini Kanto Bhattashali Hall of National Museum where 42 artisans from across the country are displaying their crafts.

The Education Minister with other dignitaries inaugurated the fair after the award giving ceremony. The fair will remain open from 10 am to 5:30 pm everyday till September 22.



## Anil Kapoor plays Middle Eastern president on "24"



Anil Kapoor (right) in a scene from "24".

Dev Patel, of "Slumdog Millionaire" fame, recently called Hollywood racist. But Anil Kapoor, his co-star in the film, definitely doesn't feel so. Not only does he say that they are the epitome of equality, but he also claims that being cast as the president of a fictional Middle Eastern country modelled on Iran in the TV show "24" did not feel demeaning in anyway.

Says Kapoor, "I have worked all over the world, and I have never seen this kind of equality when it comes to being offered roles. I have never felt like I have been typecast. They treat everyone equally. If you are talented, can draw people, deliver the quality of work and bring in the money, they will accept you even if you are from Timbuktu." He also adds that Patel's statement was highly misconstrued. "I know Dev too well, and he could never have said something like that."

The actor, who is currently concentrating on being a producer, recently announced his plans to step into TV programming. When

asked if he was nervous about the telecast of "24", he laughs, "I am always excited, but not nervous. I am anxious to see everyone's reactions. The appreciation I have received internationally has cushioned me."

Kapoor, who was catapulted to global fame after Danny Boyle's Oscar-winning film, "Slumdog Millionaire", was picked up to play President Omar Hassan last year.

Kapoor claims that his character in the TV show allows him to showcase a wide array of emotions. "It's a grey character; a liberal man who works hard to make it to the top. And during his journey to the UN to sign a peace treaty, he slowly loses everyone's trust. I was told that the vulnerability that I brought to the character is not something that can be taught in film school. How can these same people typecast anyone?"

Bangladeshi viewers can watch Kapoor on "24", aired on AXN.

Compiled by Correspondent

## Ban on Satyajit Ray film lifted

India has finally lifted the ban on a documentary film made on the Himalayan state of Sikkim by the legendary director Satyajit Ray, his family said.

The film was banned after Sikkim merged with India in 1975.

It was made 40 years ago when Sikkim was an independent kingdom -- Sikkim's last ruler Palden Thondup Namgyal commissioned the film to woo tourists. Ray died in April 1992 after receiving an Oscar for lifetime achievement.

His son, Sandip Ray, also a filmmaker, told the BBC that he was delighted that the ban on the documentary -- called "Sikkim" -- had been lifted.

"I hope the documentary is screened soon," he said. "I have fond memories of the shooting in different seasons, going up and down the hills with the equipment and staying in the royal palace."

"My father was a great friend of the king's American wife Hope Cooke and she was instrumental in getting him involved."

When the film was completed, the king and his wife were reportedly furious -- especially over a shot that showed poor people scrambling for leftover food behind the royal palace in the capital, Gangtok.

"My father was asked to drop some shots and redo the final product," said Sandip Ray. "He did that but the situation changed."

By the time the final cut emerged, Sikkim had been merged with India in 1975.

Unsure how the people of Sikkim would react to the controversial shots in the film, the Indian government decided to ban "Sikkim".

"Except for a private screening by my father, the film has not been seen by anybody else," Ray said.

The two existing copies of the film are in the US and the British Film Institute.

It is not yet clear when the first screening of "Sikkim" will be held, but an official said it could take a few months.

"Sikkim" is believed to be a personal favourite of actor Sir Richard Attenborough, who made it available for the Academy of Motion Pictures, Arts and Sciences in 2003 for preservation and restoration.

Source: BBC



Satyajit Ray was one of the greatest Indian filmmakers.

## TV Watch || "Shimanto" on Desh TV tonight

A CORRESPONDENT

TV serial "Shimanto" will be aired tonight on Desh TV at 8:15 pm. The serial has been written and directed by Badrul Anam Soud.

The story of the serial revolves around a merchant family in a village. A gypsy (bedey) mistakenly murders Azmat, a merchant. After his death, Azmat's younger brother comes forward to look after the family.

The story gets a twist when the merchant's in-laws come to the younger brother's home. They want to take back their daughter Rupa, so that they can marry her off again. Thinking about the family's future, Azmat's mother wants her younger son to marry his brother's widow.

The cast includes Suborna Mostafa, Saberi Alam, Mamunur Rashid, Shams Sumon, Jitu Ahsan, Intekhab Dinar and Bonna Mirza.



A scene from the serial.

## Bangladeshi entry for 83rd Oscars

### Deadline for submitting films extended till September 21

A CORRESPONDENT

Foreign Language Film segment. Films from around the globe, except the United States, would compete for the top prize in the segment. Last year, Golam Rabbani Biplob's "Bitter Bairey" represented Bangladesh at the Oscars.

To qualify, films have to be released within the last year and have English subtitles.

The 83rd Academy Awards will be held in February 2011.

Deadline for submitting films to the 83rd Oscars Bangladesh Committee has been extended to September 21, according to a press release provided by the committee.

The Bangladeshi selection committee will choose the entry that would compete at the 83rd Academy Awards in the Best