

WHAT'S ON

Amar Ekushey Book Fair
Venue: Bangla Academy premises
Date: February 1-28
Time: 9am onwards

Amar Ekushey Programme
Organiser: Sangskritik Jote
Venue: Central Shaheed Minar premises
Date: Feb 8-19 at 4pm

Dui Bangla-r Rabindra Natyemela 2011
Organiser: Prangone More
Venue: National Theatre Hall, BSA
Date: February 12-18

Classical and Flamenco Guitar Fest
Organiser: CGAB
Venue: Chayrast Auditorium, Shankar
Date: Feb 18

Book Launch
Title: City of an Architect
Author: Mububur Rahman
Organiser: Deivistaa
Foundation; Venue: Asiatic Society Auditorium, Nimtoli

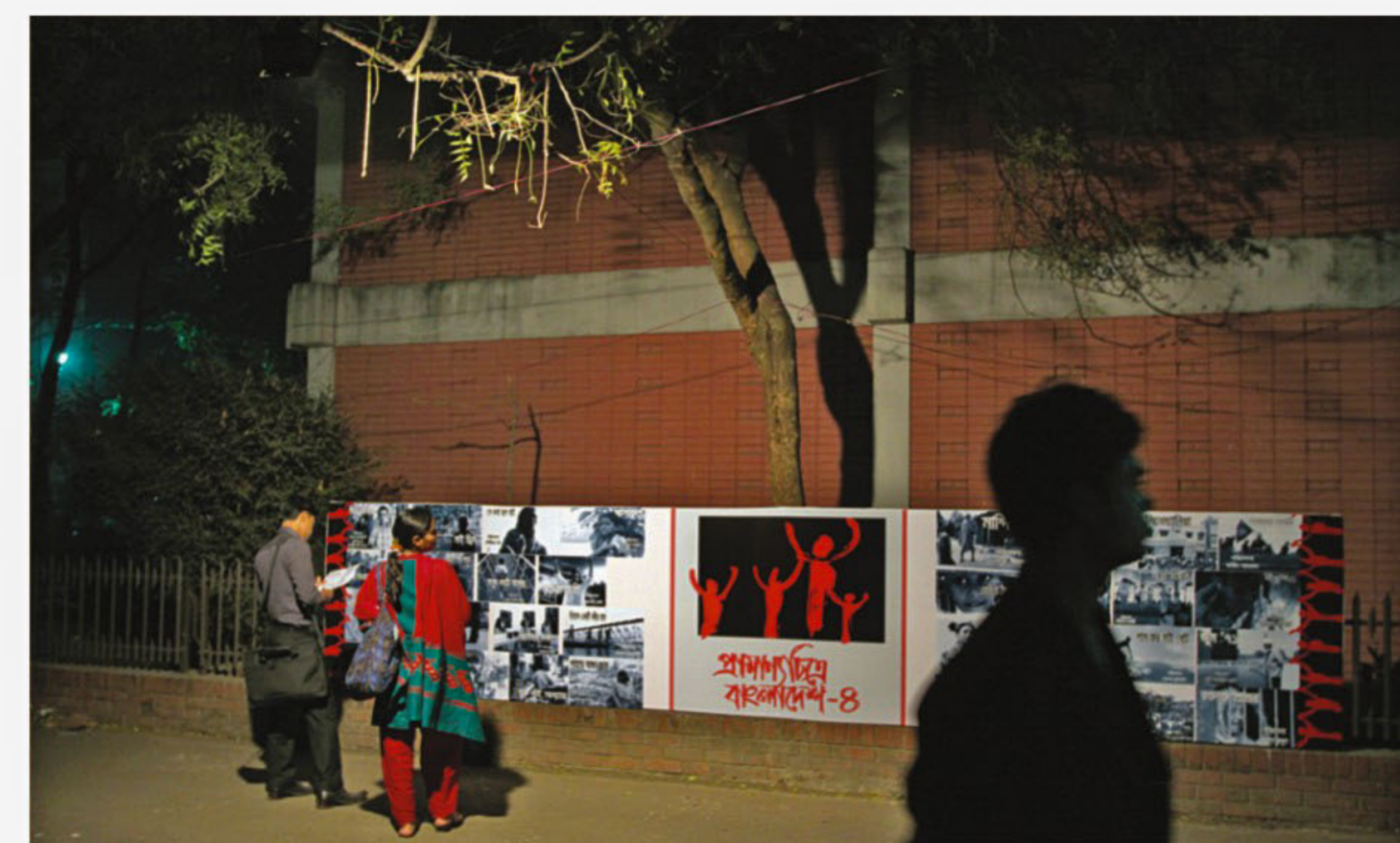
Book Launch
Title: Jamuna Nader Moshira
Author: Selima Hossain
Venue: ICC, H-35, R-24, Gulshan
Date: Feb 12, Time: 6:30pm

Film Festival
Based on novels by Leo Tolstoy and Fyodor Dostoevsky. Venue: RCSC, R-7, H-510, Dhamondi
Date: 13 and 15; Time: 11am

In Memory of Kalim Sharafi
Organiser: Unirent Limited
Venue: Main Auditorium, National Museum
Date: February 15; Time: 7pm

Bangladesh through Audio-visual Medium

Fourth Documentary Fest begins



The festival features 33 documentaries made on different issues.

JAMIL MAHMUD
With 33 films made on different issues regarding Bangladesh, the 4th Bangladesh Documentary Festival has begun at the Central Public Library, Shahbagh, Dhaka on February 9.

Finance Minister Abul Maal Abdul Muhit formally inaugurated the festival, while Information Secretary Hedayetullah Al Mamun attended the ceremony as special guest.

The 33 films to be screened at the festival have been categorised in three segments -- General and Competition (general and students). The general segment features 18 films, while competition -- general and students -- features five and 10 films respectively.

Other than that, the documentaries feature a diverse range of contemporary subjects such as the largest kitchen market in Dhaka called "Karwan Bazar" (by Paul James Gomes); rituals like "Charak Puja" (by KM Jahangir Alam); the aftermath of flood, "Marooned in Water" by Moinul Huda; unrest in the hills, "Hill in Flames" by Ertugkula Changma; present milieu in the film industry.



Stills from the "Telling Tales" and "Cinemaniam".

"Cinemaniam" by Saiful Wadud Helal; the life of a rickshaw-puller, "Calling Home" by Shadman Alvi and activities of a group of artists, "Tale of an Art Camp" by Anwar Chowdhury.

Shahriar Kabir's "War Crimes '71"; Fauzia Khan's "Telling Tales"; Anand's "The Village of Widows" and Palash Rasul's "Raktakto Prantor" are films on the Liberation War.

A biographical work on Binod Bihari, titled "Agnipurush Biplobi Binod Bihari" will also be screened at the festival. Enamul Karim Nirjhar's "Manush Koyta Ashchhe" was premiered yesterday at the festival. Eminent and emerging Bangladeshi documentary makers along with several foreign participants, including Canadian filmmaker Janet Best, are showcasing their films at the festival.

REDISCOVERING TAGORE
British Council's festival begins with a writing workshop

AKRAM HOSEN MAMUN
British Council's four month-long festival, titled "Rediscovering Tagore", opened with a two-day Tagore inspired writing [in English] workshop on February 9.

A Senior Lecturer in Creative Writing at Brikbeck University (London), Bell has already published two novels; co-authored and co-edited the bestselling "Creative Writing Coursebook".

A Tagore enthusiast, Bell had used Tagore's poems as a springboard for writing exercises and as examples of truly great writing to inspire the participants. Impressed by the works produced by participants, Bell said, "The standard of work at the workshop has been very high -- there is some genuine emerging talent in this class which I hope we will be hearing more from in the future."

writer can find in the works of Tagore, she said, "Tagore's life is an excellent example of the qualities required of any aspiring writer -- a love of literature, an interest in all aspects of human life and a tolerance which comes with constant growth and self-renewal."

She continued that the writers "can hope to follow Tagore's example by being interested and engaged in the world around them."

The workshop included in-depth ses-

"Tagore's life is an excellent example of the qualities required of any aspiring writer - a love of literature, an interest in all aspects of human life and a tolerance which comes with constant growth and self-renewal." -- Julia Bell

sions on translation and the publishing industry. The participants discussed various aspects of translating literary texts. They also talked about how much of the original literary elements can be retained and how much gets lost in translation.

Syed Masud Hossain, head of Culture, British Council, expressed hopes that the workshop will encourage "aspiring creative writers to write more in English with a focus on translation."

The Daily Star is the media partner of the festival.



Julia Bell (centre) with the participants. Eshita Azad (front-right), Project Manager, Arts and Skills, British Council is also seen in the photo.

Michael Moore sues Weinstein Brothers

Filmmaker Michael Moore has taken legal action against producers Bob and Harvey Weinstein, claiming he is owed millions in profits for his 2004 documentary "Fahrenheit 9/11".

Moore claims the brothers used "Hollywood accounting tricks" to keep him from receiving \$2.7 million (\$1.67m).

According to legal papers, an audit brought several alleged irregularities to light.

A lawyer for the Weinsteins called the claims "hogwash".

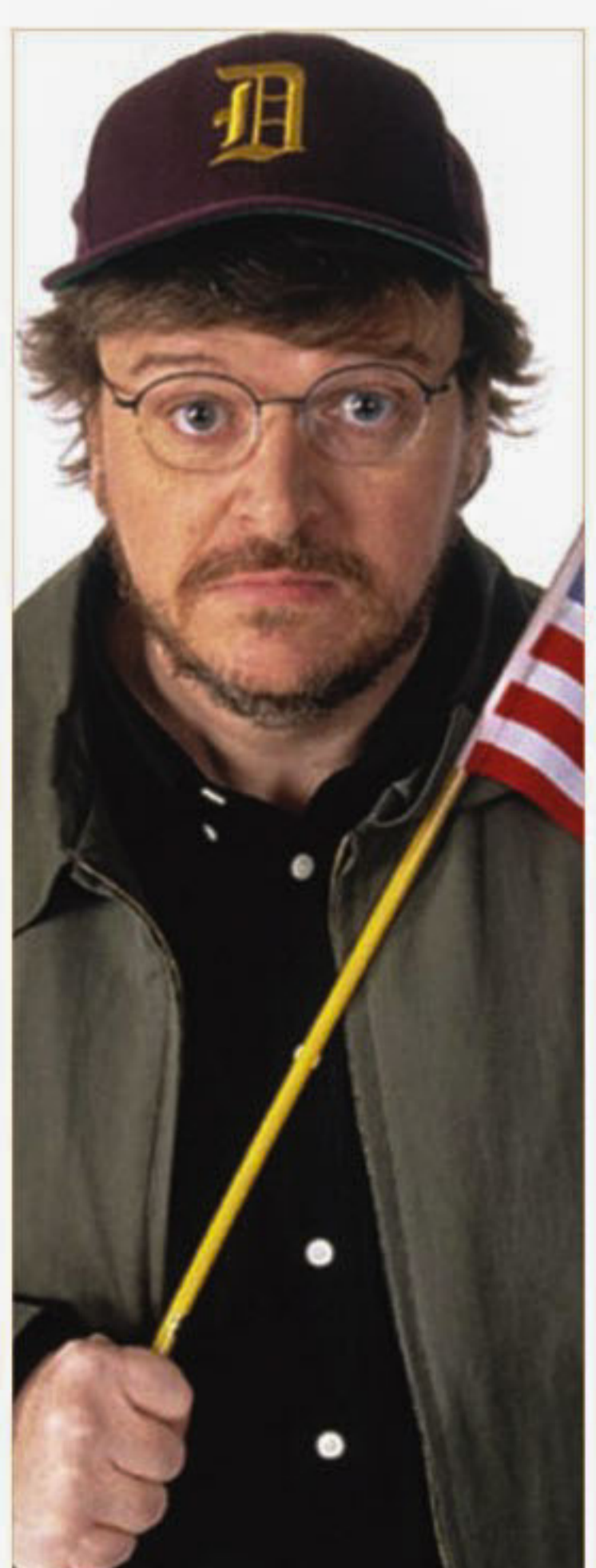
Moore alleges his agreement with the Weinstein brothers was to split all profits equally.

But the Oscar-winning director claims "grossly excessive and unreasonable" expenses were deducted before those profits were calculated.

He claims audits show money was deducted for advertising costs that was never spent, and that a private jet was hired to fly one of the brothers to Europe.

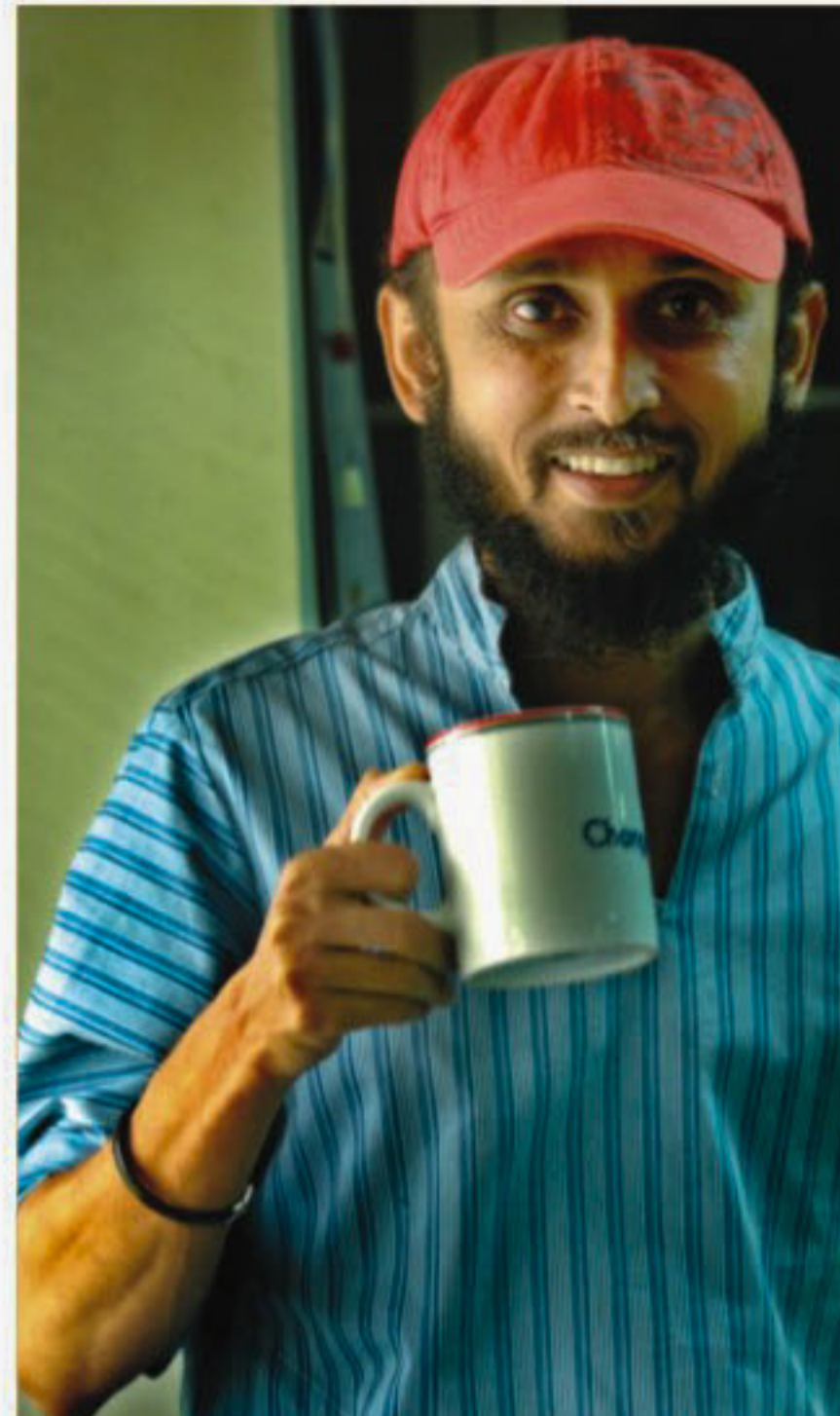
The Weinsteins' lawyer said Moore's suit should be dismissed.

"Fahrenheit 9/11", which centred on the Bush administration's actions after the 11 September attacks of 2001, made more than \$220 million (\$137m) worldwide.



Michael Moore

Farooki's First Book in Rough Cut



A CORRESPONDENT

Celebrated filmmaker Mostafa Sarwar Farooki's debut book "Rough Cut" is going to be launched at the ongoing Ekushey Boi Mela (book fair).

Edited by Sajjad Hussain, the book is a compilation of some of Farooki's poems, short stories, essays and an interview, says a press release. In Farooki's interview with Sajjad Hussain, the director narrates about his childhood memories, struggles, inspiration, political thoughts, views on religion, marriage, theories on art, and linguistic debates. The cover has been designed by Dhruvo Esh.

Oitijhyo Publication is the publisher of the book. "I've never realised that I'd become so engaged with the book. I should have started this earlier," said Farooki. "Almost everything I've said in the interview were never said before. I hope the readers are going to like it," he added.

Partho Borua's Playback Debut

Singer-musician Partho Borua will give vocals for a film "Shophal Bhubon" directed by GM Faruk.

The film. The song "Sudurtoma" was written by Kabir Bakul and is being recorded by Partho. Recording is underway at Promix Studio.



Partho Borua is seen at the studio with composer and music director Arman Khan.

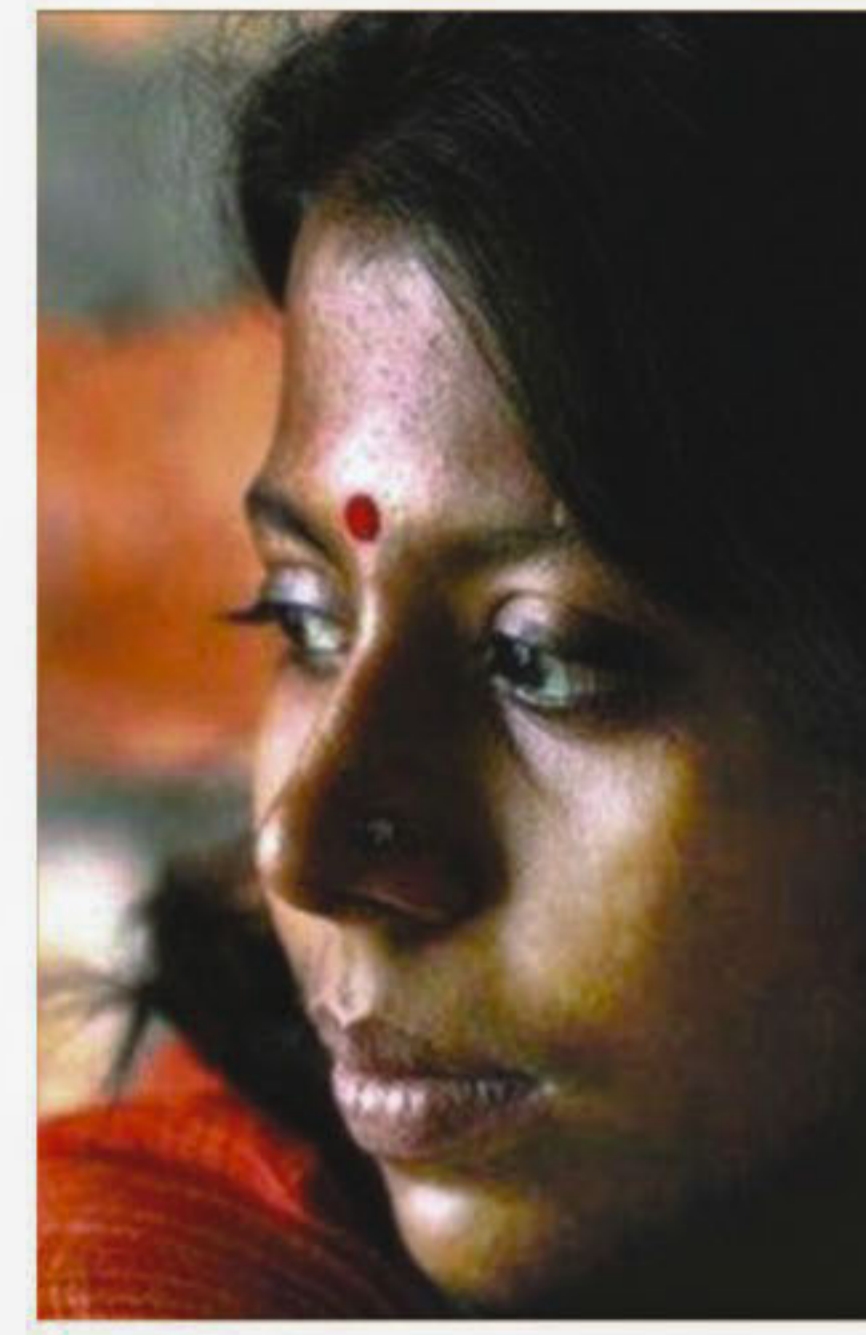
Alor Pithey A(n)dhar Ganer Dol O Krishnakali's Second Album

A CORRESPONDENT

Krishnakali's long awaited second album will be launched today at Dhaka Sheraton Hotel. Syed Mahbubur Rahman, managing director, BRAC Bank is expected to be present as the chief guest at the programme.

Eminent theatre personality Mamunur Rashid; veteran Gano Sangeet singer Kamrudin Absar; Professor Anu Muhammad; Professor Liakat Ali and political activist Khushi Kabir will be present as special guests at the ceremony.

With music direction by Arko and Emon, the eight tracks have been written and composed by Krishnakali. Eastern and western musical instruments and genres have been infused into the compositions. The album includes some rock, a reggae, and Kirtan numbers.



Alor Pithey

Samia Zaman Calls the Shots



Samia (left) with the actors.

Following the success of "Rani Kutbir Baki Itihash", media personality and filmmaker Samia Zaman is currently busy with her latest venture, "Chheleti".

Shah Alam Shazu had the opportunity for a one on one with Samia, who agreed to provide a rundown on the progress of her new film, which is being shot at FDC.

The FDC gates were crowded with keen movie fans who jostled to get a glimpse of their favourite stars. Just a couple of hundred yards from the main entrance was floor number 9, where "Chheleti" was being shot.

Here one encountered the talented Koushik Shankar Das and Sarwar Bapi, the film's chief assistant director and first assistant director respectively. After exchanging greetings, Koushik said that the set was being prepped while the heroine was putting on her make-up.

Samia came up and welcomed this correspondent to the shoot. Talking about the movie, she said that the story was written by lyricist Zulfikar Russel, while Ranjan Rabhani was in charge of art direction.

and Ankan stepped into the set with the crew ready to shoot the next scene. The cinematographer took his place behind the camera -- with six/seven crew members beside him; some holding lights, as another read the script out aloud. Samia instructed the actors to rehearse once before shooting.

After the final instructions, the camera started to roll -- but it needed three takes before the scene was okayed by Samia.

Meanwhile actor Faria let out that the film marked her debut on the silver screen and her character's name was Faria. Paria added that she was enjoying her work under the able director.

Child artiste Ankan also stepped forward and informed that he was portraying a character called Bichchu who delivers some good laughs.

Faria went inside to get ready for the next shot. The assistant directors got together to discuss the next scene, while many others struck up an adda all around.

Samia revealed that it was her plan to do a children's film after "Rani Kutbir Baki Itihash". As the search for a good story went on, the script by Zulfikar Russel came in, which she instantly liked. As plans surrounding the film began to unravel, an opportunity for a government grant surfaced and the director applied. She added that although she had talks with producers about making a children's film, they were uncertain about the commercial success of such movies.

Asked if the film had a serious plot, Samia said it was a movie that everyone could watch, though there were some emotional touches. Impress Telefilm, she said, was co-producing the film.

Theatre Festival to celebrate Rabindranath's 150th birth anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

To celebrate the 150th birth anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore, theatre troupe Prangane Mor is holding a weeklong theatre festival this month.

The festival will feature 12 plays by 11 troupes, and will take place -- from January 12 to 18 -- at the National Theatre Hall and Studio Theatre Hall of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy.

Reputed Bangladeshi troupes Prachyanat, Palakar, Prangane Mor and Theatre Art Unit along with Swapnodal, Shabdaboli (Barisal), Habiganj Theatre (Habiganj) and Fame School of Drama (Chittagong) will stage their productions at the festival.

Prangane Mor, Shabdaboli and Fame School of Drama will stage their adaptations of the popular Tagore play "Raktokarobi". Prachyanat will stage its post-modern depiction of "Raja" ("Raja Ebong... Oonano"), while Palakar and Theatre Art Unit will

stage their latest productions, "Banglar Mati Banglar Jol" and "Magoj Shamachar" respectively.

Troupes from India to be featured at the festival are Writik Natya Sampraday, Nabonayam and Rangokarmi. Among Indian troupes, Nabonayam will stage "Nana Rangey Rabi" and Rangokarmi will stage two plays -- "Chandalika" and "Manoshi".

Both Swapnodal (from Bangladesh) and Writik (from India) will stage their respective adaptations of the play "Daakghar".

Apart from plays, everyday the festival will feature dance, songs and recitations that will be performed at the lobby of National Theatre Hall, starting from afternoon.

On the last day, a seminar on the topic "Practicing Rabindra plays in the context of Bangladesh" will be held.

Prangane Mor arranged an eight-day Rabindra Theatre Festival in 2009 as well. The festival featured eight plays by as many troupes from Bangladesh and India.



A scene from "Banglar Mati Banglar Jol".

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Advertisement for Shahor Bhora Kancher Kholi on Ekushey TV at 09:40pm, featuring a play by Apurba, Richi Solaiman.

Advertisement for Krishker Bishwa Cup Cricket on Channel-i at 02:35pm, featuring a match between Bangladesh and Sri Lanka.

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