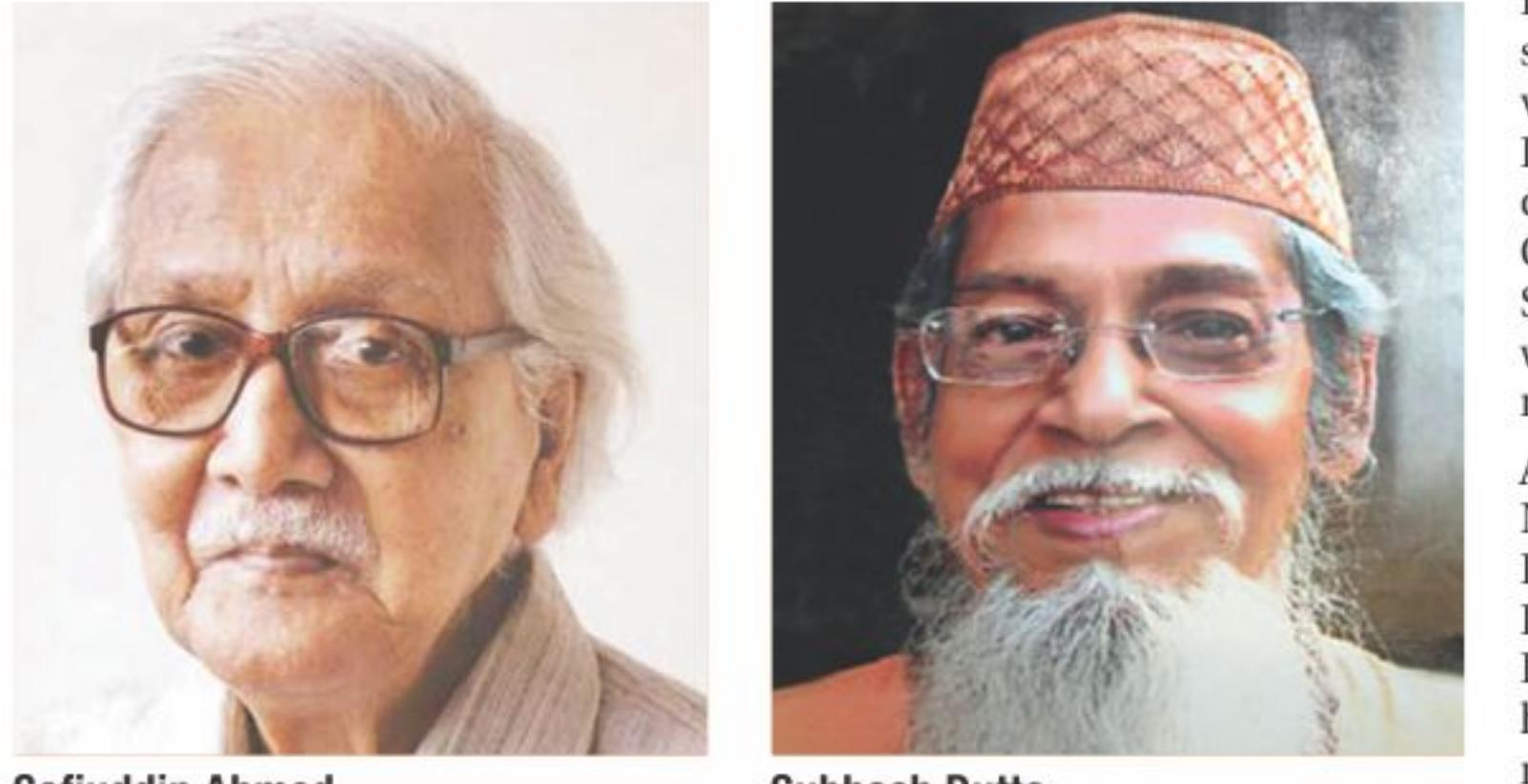




Humayun Ahmed

Pandit Ravi Shankar



Sufiuddin Ahmed

Subhash Dutta



Humayun Faridee

Sunil Gangopadhyay



STAR ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Siddiqua Kabir

12th Dhaka Int'l Film Fest
Both the Bangladeshi entries -- "Guerrilla" and "Moner Manush" -- bagged awards and Turkish filmmaker Sinan Cetin received the Best Director Award for his comedy-drama "Kagiti" (Paper) at the 12th Dhaka International Film Festival 2012, held from January 12 to 20. Iconic Iranian filmmaker Dariush Mehrjui was the "personality of the fest". A retrospective screening of his selected films was one of main attractions.

Bangladesh shone at ADFEST 2012
Adfest is Asia Pacific's largest annual regional advertising festival celebrating and raising the standard of creativity in the region. The 15th Asia Pacific Advertising Festival, better known as ADFEST 2012, was held in Pattaya, Thailand during March 18-20, 2012. ADFEST 2012 received 24 short film scripts, including five scripts from Dhaka. Of the selected "Fabulous Four" scripts, two were from Bangladesh.

Dhaka Theatre's "Tempest" at Global Shakespeare Fest
Dhaka Theatre adapted William Shakespeare's "The Tempest" in a Manipuri form and staged the production in London, UK on May 7 and 8 as part of Global Shakespeare Festival 2012. Nasiruddin Yousoff directed the play, translated by Rubaiyat Ahmed. Apart from regular members of Dhaka Theatre, the play featured guest artistes Rubel Noor Lodi (as Prospero) and two Manipuri artistes -- Nilmoni Sinha and Bidhan Sinha. The festival marked the Cultural Olympiad, on the occasion of the 2012 Summer Olympics in London. The Cultural Olympiad featured 37 Shakespeare plays in 37 languages.

Bangladeshi films under spotlight at Swiss festival

A number of Bangladeshi films were screened in Switzerland, at an international film festival. The famed Friberg International Film Festival (FIF) 2012 focused on Bangladesh, under a special section called "New Territory", and screened eight Bangladeshi films from March 24 to 31, 2012. The films were "Aha!", "Guerrilla", "Meherjaan", "Monura", "Swopnodanay", "Moner Manush", "Matir Moiin" and "Runaway".

2012 IN THE REAR-VIEW MIRROR

Chowdhury, who with his comrade Masterda Surja Sen set off the anti-British movement in this part of the subcontinent, inaugurated the festival. Editor and publisher of The Daily Star, Mahfuz Anam, along with distinguished personalities of Chittagong pledged at MA Aziz Stadium to develop the Port City with a view to ensuring the development of the country.

Artist Fokhrul Islam no more
Noted artist Mohammad Fokhrul Islam passed away on April 6 at Ibrahim General Hospital, Dhammendi in Dhaka. He was 48. He had been ailing from diabetes related complications. Fokhrul started off as a ceramic artist in the early 1990s, but decided to switch to painting in the mid 1990s. Since then, his voyage through paintings where he depicted a spiritual and contemplative world, had been concerned with uninhabited landscapes.

Dhaka Art Summit held
Samdani Art Foundation (SAF), in collaboration with Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA) and Bangladesh National Museum (BNM), organised the first Dhaka Art Summit (DAS). The four-day event kicked off on April 12 at National Theatre Hall, BSA and drew national and international attention.

Dr Sanjida Khatun receives Desikottam award

Visva-Bharati University conferred its highest honour Desikottam on Rabindra Sangeet exponent and one of the founders of Chhayanaut, Dr. Sanjida Khatun, at Shantiniketan, India on April 27. The award was conferred at the convocation of the university by Paschimbanga Governor MK Narayanan as chief guest. Among others, noted actor Soumitra Chatterjee and Visva-Bharati Vice-Chancellor Sushanta Datta Gupta were present at the ceremony.

15th birth anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore
Bangladesh and India jointly organised a two-day programme on the occasion of the closing of year-long celebration of Rabindranath Tagore's 150th birth anniversary, and the inaugural of bard's 151st birth anniversary. The function kicked off on May 6. The programme featured an art exhibition and live performances.

Sufiuddin Ahmed passes away
Eminent painter and printmaker Sufiuddin Ahmed passed away at Square Hospital in Dhaka on May 20. He was 90. He had been suffering from old age complications. The artist left behind his wife, two sons, one daughter and a host of relatives and admirers to mourn his death.

Humayun Ahmed passes away
Popular writer Humayun Ahmed passed away while undergoing treatment for cancer at a New York hospital on July 19. A pall of gloom descended soon after the news streamed into the country. A former associate professor of the Chemistry Department of Dhaka University, Ahmed came into prominence after the publication of his first novel, "Nondito Norko", in 1974. He was an author, dramatist, screenwriter, playwright and filmmaker. As a writer, Ahmed often displayed a fascination for creating stories around supernatural events; his style was characterised as magical realism. He is regarded as the most popular writer in the Bengali language for a century and according to many, he was even more popular than Sarat Chandra Chattopadhyay.

Farooki beams into Busan with "Television"

As Mostafa Sarwar Farooki's film "Television" brought down the curtain on Asia's biggest film festival in Busan, South Korea on October 13, the movie set off a big buzz internationally. Busan International Film Festival director Lee Yong-kwan said that "Television" was an easy choice as the closing film. "It was first of all very entertaining as a movie, in both its subject matter and storytelling, it was selected by not only BIFF but also representative experts from around Asia for the Asian Cinema Fund, for a reason," he said. "A new trend can be industry-related or artistic, and that a country is

creating domestic films through telecinema is monumental. BIFF felt compelled to showcase this movement."

Goya exhibition in Dhaka
Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, the Spanish Embassy in Bangladesh and the Inditex Chair of Spanish Language and Culture, University of Dhaka jointly organised the first exhibition of Francisco Goya's artworks in Bangladesh, starting from October 9. About 84 Goya prints were on display at Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts in Dhammendi, Dhaka. The collection included works ranging from his first etchings through which Goya mastered this difficult technique.

Sunil Gangopadhyay no more
With Sunil Gangopadhyay's death on October 23, an era in Bangla literature came to an end. The author passed away at the age of 78. Sunil -- a poet, novelist, short story writer, journalist and columnist -- was born in Bangladesh's Faridpur district on September 7, 1934. His first poetry collection, "Eka O Koyekon", hit the stalls in 1958 and his first novel, "Atmaprakash" followed after eight years. His memorial works are "Ami Kirokombhabe Beche Achhi", "Jugalbandi", "Hothar Nirar Jonne", "Ordhek Jibon", "Aranyer Dinatri", "Prothom Alo", "Shei Shomoy", "Purba Poshchim" and "Moner Manush".

Bangladesh film opens 'Dok Leipzig'

"Shunte Ki Pao!" (Are You Listening?), a documentary by Karim Ahmad Simon, opened one of the oldest documentary festivals, "Celebrating Life" in 2012. Eminent filmmaker Subhash Dutta died on November 16. Besides being a noted director, Subhash Dutta was a brilliant actor, and acted in numerous films, including "Rajdhani"'

"Gheto Putro Kamola" at Golden Globe Awards

A special screening of Humayun Ahmed's last film "Gheto Putro Kamola" was held at the Beverly Hills Wilshire Auditorium in Los Angeles, USA on November 10. The screening was part of the 70th Golden Globe Awards that will take place in January next year. It was the first Bangladeshi production to be part of the prestigious ceremony, which along with the Academy Awards culminates the US film industry's awards season.

Hay Festival Dhaka puts

Bangladesh on global literary map
The 2nd instalment of Hay Festival Dhaka was held from November 17 to 19. This year's arrangement, sponsored by The Daily Star, was bigger and drew much international attention. The Hay festival, now 25 years old, is the pre-eminent global festival of literature and ideas. This year's Hay Festival Dhaka, hosted by Bangla Academy, boasted presence of Indian sitar maestro Pandit Ravi Shankar died on December 13 in San Diego of United States. He was 92. In many ways the maestro launched Indian classical music at the world stage and showed the world, indeed many in India as well, its sheer power. He re-wrote the rules of Indian classical performances and took it beyond its traditional and limited boundaries. Pandit Ravi Shankar was a humanist with a deep sense of concern for the oppressed and deprived. He, along with Ustad Alla Rakha, performed at the Concert for Bangladesh in Madison Square Garden, New York City in 1971 and was one of the key movers, along with George Harrison, of this landmark concert.

Pandit Rajan and Pandit Sajan Mishra, Vidushi Alarmel Valli, Ustad Ali Ahmad Hussain Khan, Pandit Kumar Bose, Pandit Tejendra Narayan Majumder and Ustad Shahid Parvez Khan performed at the grandest event of its kind in Bangladesh.

12th International Short and Independent Film Festival in Dhaka

The 12th International Short and Independent Film Festival in Dhaka began at the Central Public Library in Shahbagh, Dhaka on December 13. Featuring over 200 films from around 30 countries, the weeklong festival was a platform for young filmmakers who want to see themselves in global film competitions and want to take cinema ahead. Bangladesh Short Film Forum (BSFF) has been arranging the festival biennially since 1988. It is one of the oldest film festivals in the country.

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