

WHAT'S ON



150th Birth Anniversary
of DL Roy
Organiser: Bengal Foundation
Venue: National Museum,
Shahbagh



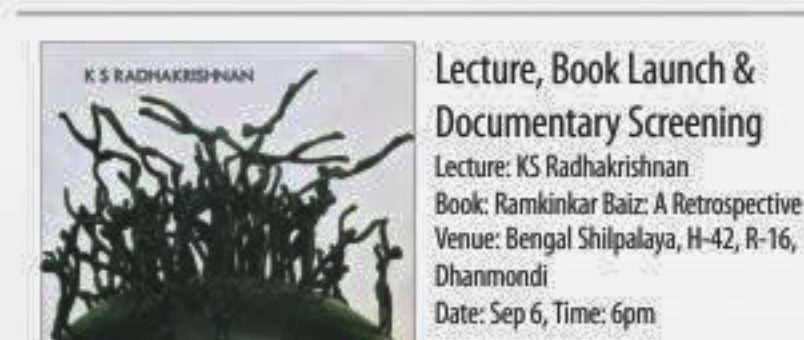
Contemporary Film
Screening
Venue: International Cultural
Archive (Lift-5), National Theatre
Hall, Shilpakala Academy
Date: Sep 2-6, Time: 6pm



Grand Musical Concert
By Shillong Chamber Choir
Organiser: Indira Gandhi
Cultural Centre
Venue: Minto Road Stadium, Dhaka
Date: Sept 6, Time: 6:30pm



Nazrul Death
Anniversary and
Classical Music
Venue: Chittagong, Dharmad
Date: Sep 6
Time: 11 am (Nazrul) & 7pm



Lecture, Book Launch &
Documentary Screening
Lecturer: KS Raddelshian
Book: Ramkanta Baid: A Retrospective
Venue: Bengal Shilpakala
Academy
Date: Sep 6, Time: 6pm



Folk Musical Programme
Troupe: Boshuria
Venue: Music & Dance
Auditorium, Shilpakala
Academy
Date: Sep 6, Time: 7pm

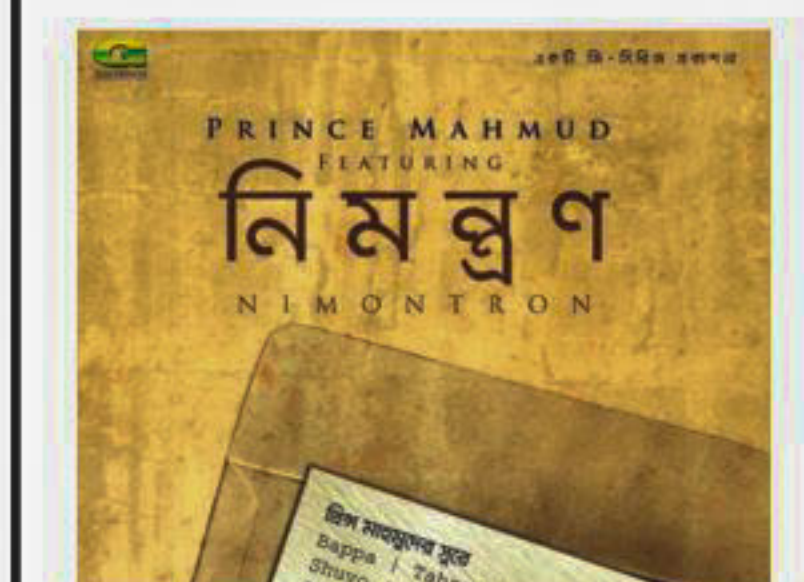


Recitation & Rendition
Organiser: University Cultural
Foundation
Venue: Music & Dance
Auditorium, Shilpakala
Academy
Date: Sep 7, Time: 6:45pm

NEW RELEASES



Savar Tragedy
Solo album by Fakir Alamgir
Source: Impress Audio Vision



Nimontron
Mixed album
Source: G-series



Amiyosudha
Mixed album
Source: Celebrity Music



Chhuto
Solo album by Joy Shahrir
Source: Aajob Records

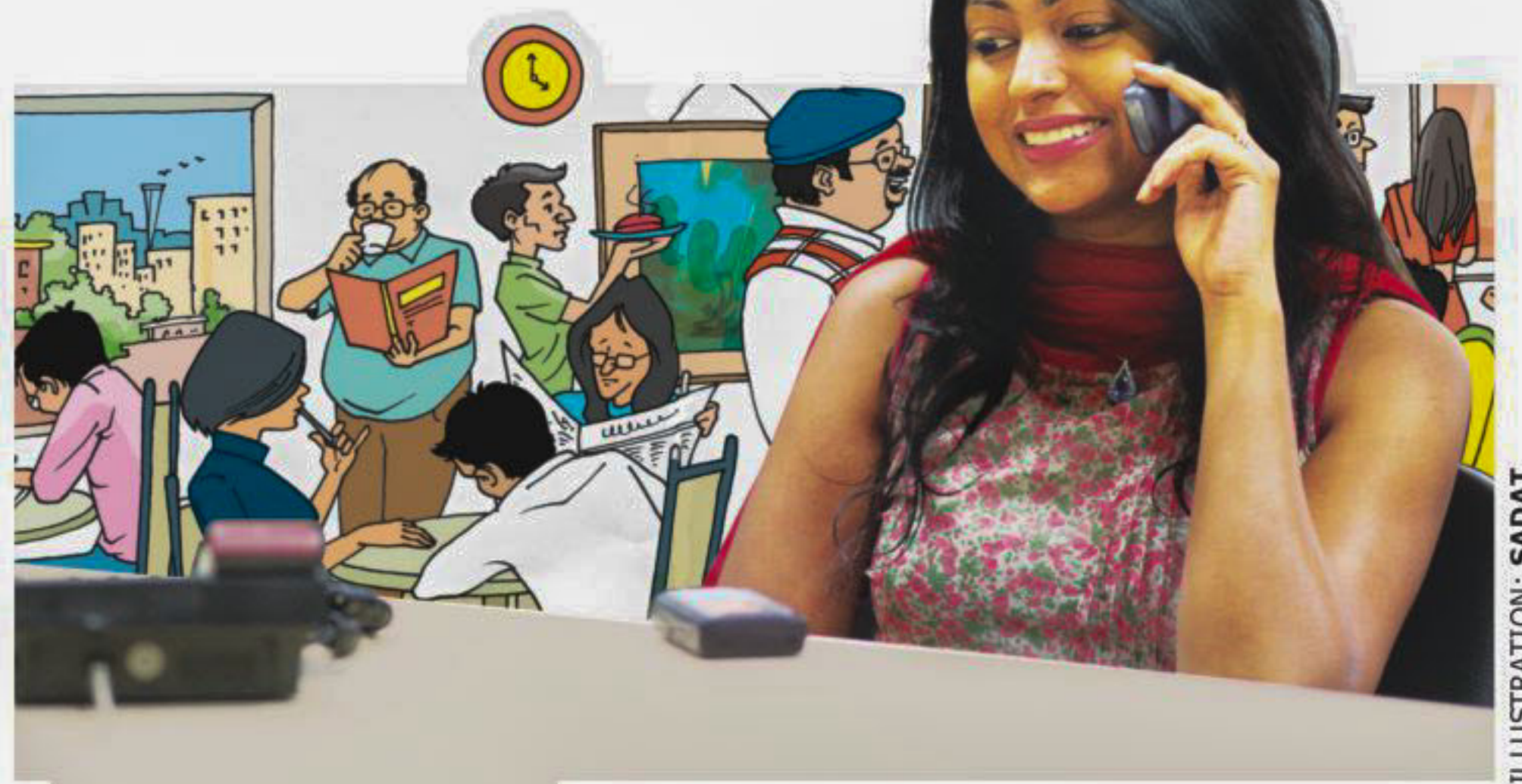


ILLUSTRATION: SADAT

DS Café with

NIPUN

Nipun is an upcoming actor who entered the glittering cinema world very recently. Despite this she has already bagged two National Awards. She has also worked in Tollywood, besides modelling and acting for the small-screen. Recently, Nipun visited the DS Café where her eager fans flooded her with questions by ringing in.

Mostak, Dhaka: How many films have you done in Kolkata?
Nipun: I have only worked in the film "Porichoy" in Kolkata.

Kamal Parvez, Tangail: Could you share some of your experiences of the Kolkata film industry?

Nipun: It's an amazing experience. I acted opposite noted actor Prosenjit. The best part of it all is that the crew was very professional and well trained. They take their work seriously.

Shafiq, Tangail: How did you enter the celluloid world?

Nipun: Everything happened like a dream come true. I had come from the US just for a few days in 2006 when I got an acting assignment from Shohanur Rahman, and was truly surprised as I was apprehensive about my acting abilities. Anyway, one day I just decided to go for it.

Shamim, Dhaka: Which film got you the National Award?

Nipun: I won the National Award for my role in "Shaighor", directed by Shah Alam Kiron. The film was based on a novel by Humayun Ahmed.

Nipa, Sylhet: When will your Tollywood film "Porichoy" be released?

Nipun: During Puja.

Ripon, Chittagong: What other Tollywood films do you have on your plate?

Nipun: I have acted in only one film in Kolkata. I have received other offers but I first want to see the audience response to "Porichoy". Depending on that I will go in for others.

Omar, Dhaka: How many of your serials are being telecast in Dhaka?

Nipun: I have acted in only one serial "Red Signal" which is now being telecast on Banglavisian.

Shagor Chowdhury, Sylhet: Do you go for shoots everyday?

Nipun: No, No! I don't work everyday.

Afroza, Dhaka: Do you like working in films that contribute to the social cause?

Nipun: Of course. In a time of crisis, celebrities are called for financial aid, and that's when

we definitely show up.

Rubina, Dhaka: Where is your hometown?
Nipun: Comilla.

Karim, Rajshahi: Are you involved in any kind of social work?

Nipun: My father always dreamt of building a hospital. Although, he is no more, we have managed to build one Madrasa and an orphanage. There's a lot that I want to do for the welfare of the society.

Runa, Dhaka: What are your hobbies?

Nipun: Cooking is my favourite hobby and I particularly like to cook Morog Palau.

Taslima, Sylhet: Are you a collector of anything?

Nipun: Yes, I do collect stuff, especially when I go to shopping malls abroad. If like anything, I end up collecting them as souvenirs. Collecting Russian doll is my long time favourite.

Murad, Dhaka: Where did you complete your studies?

Nipun: I did my degree in computer science from Russia.

Chanchol, Dhaka: What are the problems confronting cinema halls in our country?

Nipun: There were once several movie theatres many of which have closed down. The ones that are still around need an overhaul. We need more cineplexes. The greater the number of good cinema halls, the more viewers will flock to them.

Jahurul Islam, Dhaka: Why are fewer movies being made in our country?

Nipun: Well, there are a lot of reasons behind for which I would need more time to explain.

Adnan, Dhaka: What is the biggest hindrance to living in Dhaka city?

Nipun: Well, I think the traffic jams are the main irritant. Many people can't reach their destinations on time no matter how hard they try.

Joy, Dhaka: To what extent should an artiste shoulder responsibility for their deeds?

Nipun: It's not just an artiste; everyone in general should be responsible for his/her actions. The National Award has increased my responsibility as an artiste.

Kanon, Mymensingh: Do you think the film industry can return to its golden days?

Nipun: I think and I deeply believe that one day the golden days will come back.

Transcribed by Shah Alam Shazu

Leading light of literature

Abdul Mannan Syed's 3rd death anniversary observed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Yesterday marked the 3rd death anniversary of veteran poet, essayist and literary critic Abdul Mannan Syed. On the occasion, several cultural and literary organisations arranged discussions and poetry recitation events.

Syed started writing poems in 1960. His first book of poetry was published in 1967. Through a career spanning over five decades, he wrote numerous poems and published over 60 books.

His poems are conceptual and some deal with death, romance and at times the absurd. As an experimental poet, he frequently changed his style and content. He often used the imageries of the moon, sun, sky, clouds and water in his poetry.

He was recognised for his noteworthy research works on Jibanananda Das and Kazi Nazrul Islam. Syed also conducted research on Rabindranath Tagore, Manik Bandyopadhyay, Syed Waliullah, Michael Madhusudan Dutt, Ishwar Chandra Gupta and other iconic literatures.

"Satyer Mato Badmash", "Janmandho Kobita Guchcho", "Park Street-e Ek Rattir", "Kobita Company Private Limited",



"Machh Series", "Cholo Jai Porokhey", "Chhondo" and "Rabindranath" are among his notable works.

In his illustrious career, the versatile writer received several honours including the prestigious Bangla Academy Award, Ekushey Padak and Alaol Literary Award for his contribution to Bengali literature.

About Syed, noted poet and literary critic Sinha MA Sayeed said, "Syed was undoubtedly one of the versatile personalities in Bengali literature. He wrote poems, essays, prose, short stories, novels, plays, travelogues and more. He translated and edited many books. His poems are symbolic and surrealistic. He regularly contributed to 'Konthoshor', one of the notable literary journals in the '60s. Professor Abdullah Abu Sayeed edited the journal. He was very close to the late poets Sikdar Aminul Haque, Abul Hasan and Abid Azad."

Syed was born to Syed AM Badr-ud-Duja and Anwara Majid in 1943 at Bashirhat in Chobish Pargana, India. He studied at Nawabpur Government High School, Dhaka College and the Bengali Department of Dhaka University. He taught at the department of Bengali, Jagannath College, Dhaka. Later he served as the Director General of Nazrul Institute and was the first scholar-in-residence in Bangladesh at North South University. For a long time he was associated with Shilpataru, a monthly literary magazine published from Dhaka by the late poet Abid Azad.



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Institute of Asian Creatives (IAC) in Gulshan has organised a solo watercolour exhibition titled "Verses Written through Water", featuring the works of renowned printmaker Anisuzzaman. This is his 13th solo art exhibition. He is the associate professor of Printmaking Department, the Faculty of Fine Arts, University of Dhaka. The exhibition begins today and will run till September 17.

Dhaka University Vice-Chancellor Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique will inaugurate the exhibition as chief guest. Professor Mahmudul Haque and artist Shahid Kabir will be present as guests of honour. Noted businessman and chairman of IAC, Mohammad Noor Ali and Ishrat Akhond, trustee of IAC will also speak at the inauguration.

About the exhibition, the artist said, "In my watercolour, I have chosen 'Kosha' and 'Dingi'—popular forms of boats; well composed, eye-appealing, and with mesmerizing colorations. In this compositional aspects, I have chosen mostly spacious view of boats waiting for passengers or even in leisure. Form and coloration are the main focus of this series. I believe in this series of water colours, viewers and connoisseurs will get a glimpse of my endeavor of artistic euphoria with elegant composition."



FAHMIM FERDOUS

Neil Nongkynrih worked as a concert pianist for 13 years in Europe before coming back to his home-land in Shillong, India, where what he started 12 years ago by the name of Shillong Chamber Choir has grown into an accomplished musical group. The Daily Star caught up with the visionary artiste, as he arrived in Dhaka to perform:

Why and how did you start a chamber choir in a place like Shillong?

Neil: I was a classically-trained musician in Western music and I was a professional in Europe for over a decade; it was quite certain that I did not have much professional prospects back in India,

especially because I was interested in Bollywood. But when I came home in 2001, I heard lots of gunshots; there was a lot of militancy and terror, and people didn't stay out after dark. I wanted to do something for the kids there, even if it was a weekend thing. And then I realised I was doing something that the society needed. I went back to England, but my heart was here, so I took a risk and came back.

Was it difficult to begin practice of Western Music in a place like Shillong?

The choir has been in opera-

Music to drown the gunshot-sounds

In conversation with Neil Nongkynrih

Neil: There are two places in India where there is a strong influence of Western culture; one is Goa, the other is Shillong. Even 10 years ago, people of our region were not as inclined to Bollywood as the other parts of the country. Having said that, it was difficult because the concept of 'choir' was of church hymns, and people didn't want to go listen to it at a concert. But gradually, they found out the taste and flavour of it.

How challenging was it to make a musical impact in the region?

Neil: There were always three names that came up as the major international exponents of Indian music; AR Rahman, Zubin Mehta and myself.

Now, Mr. Rahman is doing his music in Bombay, where the industry is established; Mr. Mehta is probably in Vienna right now -- and there I was in North-East India, a place even many Indians didn't know well about. And whatever media publicity there was, it was mostly negative. So when we started with this choir and got some recognition, it has made people of the Northern parts look at me like I have brought it about. I didn't do it consciously though; I am not political, or even a social activist.

The choir has been in opera-

tional for 12-odd years. Tell us about the journey.

Neil: It took a fair bit of time before we got recognition; and I think it was a good thing. Newfound fame is difficult to sustain; if you win something overnight, you can also lose it very quickly. We started in Shillong, and then got some recognition in neighbouring Gauhati (now Guwahati). The biggest media attention we got was when we were selected to play for (US) President Obama at the Rashtrapati Bhavan (Presidential Palace) in 2010; everybody were asking who these 'virtually unknown' group was who would be playing instead of the more popular, famous names. But when we performed, it was to great response!

And we got invited to the Rashtrapati Bhavan every year on Christmas. And following that, we were asked to do a bit on TV (India's Got Talent Season 2 on Colors TV), although I am a very camera-shy person, and we won that. It was during then that I realised that people could relate to Bollywood, and we re-did the old hits in a choir format that people loved. Even outside India, when we went to perform in China and places, we saw a lot of non-Indians also followed Bollywood closely, so that

approach made it easier for us to connect with them.

What has the Shillong Chamber choir been up to lately?

Neil: We've done a charity event for the flooded areas of Uttarkhand; we've worked with Mr. Bachchan for the music of "Kaun Banega Crorepati", we're also working on our second studio album, music videos, and a movie based on the story of the Shillong Chamber Choir.

This is your first visit to Bangladesh; how's it feeling so far?

Neil: I have wanted to come to Bangladesh for a long time; my maternal grandfather was a doctor, and he adopted the name SM Roy; although we don't have any Bengali blood, he took it because he passed his MBBS from a college in Sylhet. Also, the village where my mother comes from is on the border of Bangladesh. I am more excited to be here than to go to US, because everybody has been there, right? (chuckles)! How many people have been to Bangladesh? And it's so nearby, I feel like we should have come earlier. We've also prepared two Bangla songs that we're going to perform at the concert, and we'll also play at a concert in Sylhet on Sunday. Really looking forward to it.



The Shillong Chamber Choir.



THE WEEKENDER

Up close and personal with

Konal

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

The winner of Channel 1 Shera Kantho, Konal is busy with her career as a singer and an emcee. Off from her grinding schedule during her vacations, Konal gave The Daily Star a rare view of how she spends her leisure.

What is your idea of a perfect holiday?
Konal: A perfect holiday means starting my day to the sound of music, followed by breakfast with my parents. Later on, I might spend time painting, reading a book, practicing singing or may be just watching movies.

Do you enjoy travelling during vacations?
Konal: I do. Depending on the span of my vacation, I decide whether to visit somewhere nearby or somewhere far away. Banderban is my favourite within the country by far, and if I am to go abroad, I'd pick Thailand.

Do you get asked to sing for friends and family?
Konal: I have this one friend who visits me sometimes to listen to my songs. At times even my cousins come up with plenty of requests and I try my best to fulfill their expectations.

What is your top favourite leisure-time activity?
Konal: Reading poems. I'm a huge fan of Shakti Chattopadhyay. I often try to memorise poems when I have the time.

What other weekend activities do you enjoy?
Konal: I usually cook during the holidays; I usually don't cook the same dishes, but try to cater to the individual tastes of whoever is at my place.

Does it bother you if you don't get time off for a long stretch?
Konal: It doesn't bug me too much, really. After all, it is what I enjoy doing. Which section of your newspaper do you go through the moment you open it?

Konal: We keep The Daily Star and Prothom Alo newspapers. The Entertainment section is my first choice to read through.

A forgotten supernova

Salman Shah's
17th death anniversary

A CORRESPONDENT

With Sohanur Rahman Sohan's "Keyamat Thekey Keyamat", Bangladesh's filmworld got a new lease of life. Through this blockbuster, two stars were born -- Salman Shah and Moushumi.

Shahrar Chowdhury Imon, with the screen name Salman Shah -- changed the typical image of a Bangladeshi film actor. In the early 1990s, when the country's film industry remained stagnant, Salman Shah took the film industry by storm with his spirited performance and irresistible charm. The ailing film industry witnessed a real romantic hero and welcomed a new era in the romantic film genre with his appearance. Soon he turned into a heartthrob of the young moviegoers.

Salman Shah had been and still is a shining star in Bangladesh's filmworld. In his short film career, he worked in 18 hit films. He secured a strong foothold with the film "Keyamat Thekey Keyamat", and followed it by "Shopner Thikana", "Tumi Amar", "Priyojon", "Konayadan", "Swapner Nayok", "Swapner Purush", "Ei Ghar Ei Shongshar", "Sujan Sokhi", "Swapner Prihibi" and several other smash hits.

But the shining star was soon lost under a dark cloud. On September 6, 1996, the film industry and fans alike were shocked by Salman's untimely



demise. Failing to cope with the loss of their favourite actor, some ardent fans even took their own lives.

Apart from acting in film, Salman Shah acted in several TV plays including "Akash Chhoya", "Doyel", "Saikat Sarosh" and "Nayon". He also acted in two TV serials.

Salman Shah brought a change into the stagnant scenario of Bangladesh films, but nothing significant has been done to commemorate this talented actor. It is unfortunate that people in the current film industry have consigned him to oblivion and no effective measure has been taken to preserve his memories.

AKIRA KUROSAWA
Asia's gift to the world of cinema

SYED MAQSUD JAMIL

Today marks the 15th death anniversary of internationally-acclaimed Japanese filmmaker Akira Kurosawa (March 23, 1910-September 6, 1998).

Kurosawa started as a painter in 1936. He worked for some time as an assistant director. He made his directorial debut with a commercially successful movie "Sanshiro Utaga" in 1943. In 1948, he directed "Drunken Angels", which won critical acclaim. It marked the beginning of decade-long collaborations with another great, Toshiro Mifune, who was a little known actor till then. Mifune played the leading role and Kurosawa was recognised as one of the outstanding films of Japan. Kurosawa and Mifune would go on to collaborate in 16 films.

August 1950 was a watershed in Japanese film industry with Akira Kurosawa making "Rashomon" with Toshiro Mifune in the lead role. "Rashomon" won the Golden Globe in 1951 at the Venice Film Festival. The commercial popularity and critical acclaim of "Rashomon" opened the western world for other notable Japanese filmmakers. The making of "Rashomon" was of a kind which the film viewers found different from what they saw. Kurosawa's mastery of a black and white film was fascinating. The Japanese wooded landscape the pouring rain sunlight filtering through the tree top all made it a spectacle of absorbing beauty. Mifune played his role of Tajomaru with such aplomb! It was sheer magic in black and white! quintessentially the best of Asia to the world.

"Ikiru" was another epic to follow in 1952 -- the aging bureaucrat with the typical stooping gait and pile of dust covered files on his

table. The files have been piling on for years till he learns that he has cancer and few more months to live. To his mortification he overhears his son and his wife planning what they will do with his pension fund. He is devastated. Then he decides to enjoy his life and use it for a good cause. He starts going through his stack of files and finds that community works of urgency are languishing on his desk. An area does not have a community park and poor sanitation has made the open space a threat to public hygiene. The community park is eventually prepared and opened.



"Ikiru" was followed by action movie "Seven Samurai" in 1954. Its worldwide popularity encouraged an American filmmaker to make "The Magnificent Seven". Kurosawa continued to make one film a year. In 1957 he made "Throne of Blood" which was adapted from Shakespeare's "Macbeth". "Hidden Fortress" (1958) followed. Kurosawa's "The Bad Sleep Well" (1960) is a highly rated movie with the story revolving around a vengeful young man marrying the daughter of a corrupt industrialist who was responsible for the suicide of his father. There

were "Yojimbo" (1961) and "Sanjuro" (1962) two comedies.

He made "Red Beard" in 1965, his last movie with Mifune. In the '60s and '70s Kurosawa seemed to be going through a lean period. He made "Dersu Uzala" (1975), a Russian collaboration movie. It is the story of a Russian explorer forming a friendship with a local hunter in a Siberian forest.

The '80s were when Kurosawa came back with his trade mark forte -- the Samurai stride. In 1980 he made "Kagemusha" with the help of Francis Ford Coppola and George Lucas. It is the story of a petty thief with great resemblance to a Samurai warlord who is picked up to act as his double. When the warlord dies he is forced to take up arms in his place. "Kagemusha" won Palm D'Or at Cannes Film Festival.

"Kagemusha" was followed by an epic "Ran" in 1985 -- an adaptation of Shakespeare's "King Lear". It is a masterpiece in colour with green hills, bulbous clouds and thrilling sequences of horse riding spread over big canvas. It opens up with the aging King with his retinue of three sons and courtiers chasing a wild boar. Unlike Lear, he gets it with great effort. That unfolds with his declaration of division of his kingdom among his sons to the protest of his youngest son, his banishment and the King's eventual dismay at the gory outcome.

This was followed by more personal films "Dreams", "Rhapsody in August", and "Madadayo". In 1990 Akira Kurosawa received the Academy Award for Lifetime Achievement. CNN spoke of him as "one of the [five] people who contributed most to the betterment of Asia in the past 100 years."

The writer is a music and film buff.