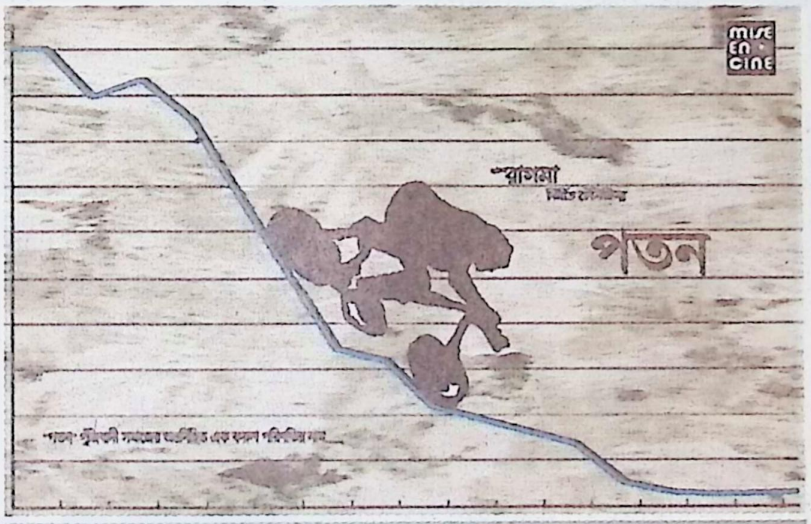
while his short film 'Search of Water' won the third position at the Viewer's Choice Category at the We Are Water Film Festival of Spain.

Mukhor says that filmmaking has become an addiction for him. With a group of his friends, all aspiring filmmakers, he began to spend all his free time directing short films. The young filmmaker, who still has to complete his graduation, has released seven films till date.



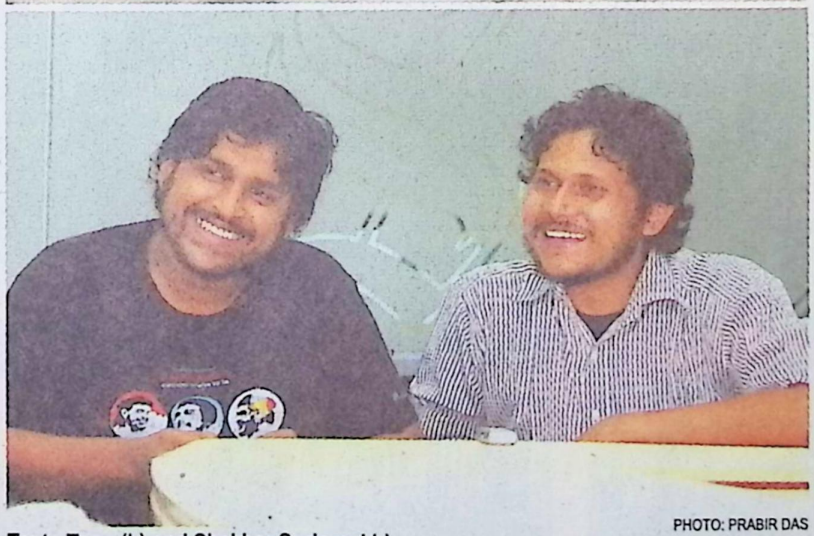


PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Tapto Topu (L) and Shekhar Surjomukhi.

"I knew from the beginning that I would be faced with financial constraints if I were to release a film on the big screen. I realised that television would not be the best medium, either, because the aesthetics is very different. Thus, I decided to hit the festival circuits with my films," says Mukhor.

If there's a will to make and show good films then financial constraints don't affect the creative process of a film, says Mukhor.

"There's more scope now for independent filmmakers to do their work without fearing intervention. Channel 9, for example, is producing a show about independent filmmakers, showcasing their short films and other works. I don't think financial constraints limit the compass of showcasing your talent," he says.

Bangladesh has a long way to go before we can be free of professional ineptitude that's the biggest deterrent in filmmaking. Citing an incident of an editor who was bent on included a picture of the Niagara Falls as a background in one his films, Mukhor says that most people involved with the various aspects of filmmaking are not very interested in developing their craft.

"I clearly remember the said editor proclaiming that this was called editing! People get to see the Niagara Falls in a film set in Bangladesh. What more could they want?" Mukhor laughs.

Mukhor is ambitious about his future. He hopes that his films will contribute in uniting the market for both commercial and art films, thus eliminating the distinction that alienate 'good' films from commercial ventures.

"I see my films as my personal canvas. Through my films, I can show what I want to show. The stories are those that I want to narrate, the way I want to narrate them. It's my show all way through," he concludes.

A Platform for New Voices

Following the tradition set by revolutionary filmmakers like Raihan and Kabir, independent filmmakers of today are interested in making films that allow them to tell their story in their own way. These filmmakers have come out from the prescribed business format that threatens to restraint their vision. They are free to choose their own subject, as they are free from commercial dictation and censorship that would be imposed on them if their films were funded by a studio. Interestingly, in this way, independent filmmakers continue the rebellion started by Zahir Raihan and others more than 40 years ago. ■