

Zainul Quamrul Exhibition
Venue: Nalini Kanta Bhattachari Gallery, National Museum
Date: Dec 22-Jan 18
Time: 10am-8pm

Art Exhibition
Title: Rivers of the World
Venue: Dhaka Art Center, Dhanmondi and Rabindra Sarobar, Dhanmondi Lake
Date: Jan 16-19
Time: 3pm-8pm

13th Dhaka International Film Festival
Venue: Alliance Francaise de Dhaka, EMK Center, National Museum and Public Library

Solo Painting Exhibition
Artist: Bahram
Venue: Dhaka Art Center, H-60, R-7/A, Dhanmondi
Date: Jan 10-22
Time: 3pm-8pm

Prokriti Mela
Organisers: Grameenphone and Channel i
Venue: Channel i Premise, Tejgaon
Date: Jan 18
Time: 11am

Departure of a queen of million hearts

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

Screen legend Suchitra Sen, one of the biggest cultural icons for Bengalis, died of heart attack yesterday after having captured the public's heart for three decades through her ethereal beauty and intense celluloid performance, marking the end of an era in cinema.

The condition of Sen, 82, who was suffering from lung infection and related complications and was undergoing treatment at a super-speciality hospital in Kolkata, deteriorated late last night, leading to a massive heart attack at 9:25 in the morning, her family sources said.

The actress, who symbolised the golden age of Bangla cinema with memorable films like "Agnipariksha", "Devdas" and "Saat

Paake Bandha", was admitted to the hospital about two weeks ago.

Often described as the Greta Garbo of Indian cinema, Suchitra Sen, born in Pabna, Bangladesh, had turned a recluse after bringing an end to her celluloid career in late 1970s. A follower of the Ramakrishna Mission order, Sen spent her retired life in meditation and prayer.

No other heroine in Bengal since Kanan Devi had captured the hearts of Bengalis as Sen did. In an era of black and white movies, her intense performances catapulted her to stardom.

Such was the popularity of Sen that during Durga Puja, idols of Lakshmi and Saraswati were known to have been modelled on her face.

Beginning her career with Bengali film "Shesh Kothay" in

1952, Sen went on to receive a national award for her performance in Bimal Roy's 1955 Hindi classic "Devdas", playing the defiant Paro to Dilip Kumar's Devdas. She formed an unbeatable romantic pair with Uttam Kumar and the duo gave a string of memorable hits -- "Harano Sur" (1957), "Agnipariksha" (1954), "Saptapadi" (1961), "Grihadaha" (1967), "Indrani" (1958), "Sagarika" (1956), "Bipasha" (1962), "Komol Lata" (1969), "Alo Amar Alo" (1972), "Har Mana Har" (1972) and "Priyo Bandhobi" (1975).

Together, they featured in a total of 30 films between 1953 and 1975. Sen acted in 52 Bengali and seven Hindi films. "Champakali", with Bharat Bhushan, "Sarhaad" and "Bombai Ka Babu" with Dev Anand and "Mamta" were some of

her other notable Hindi films. However, her most famous Hindi film after "Devdas" was 1974's "Aandhi" by Gulzar.

After her 1978 movie "Pronoy Pasha" with Soumitra Chatterjee flopped, Sen quietly left the arch-light and even reportedly declined India's highest film honour the Dadasaheb Phalke Award in 2005 preferring not to make a public appearance.

In 1963, Sen became the first Indian actress to be honoured at an international film festival — best actress award for "Saat Paake Bandha" at Moscow film festival.

Born as Rama Dasgupta in Pabna, Bangladesh in 1931 to Karunamoy and Indira Dasgupta, Suchitra married Dibanath Sen from an aristocratic family in 1947 before launching a successful acting



Suchitra Sen

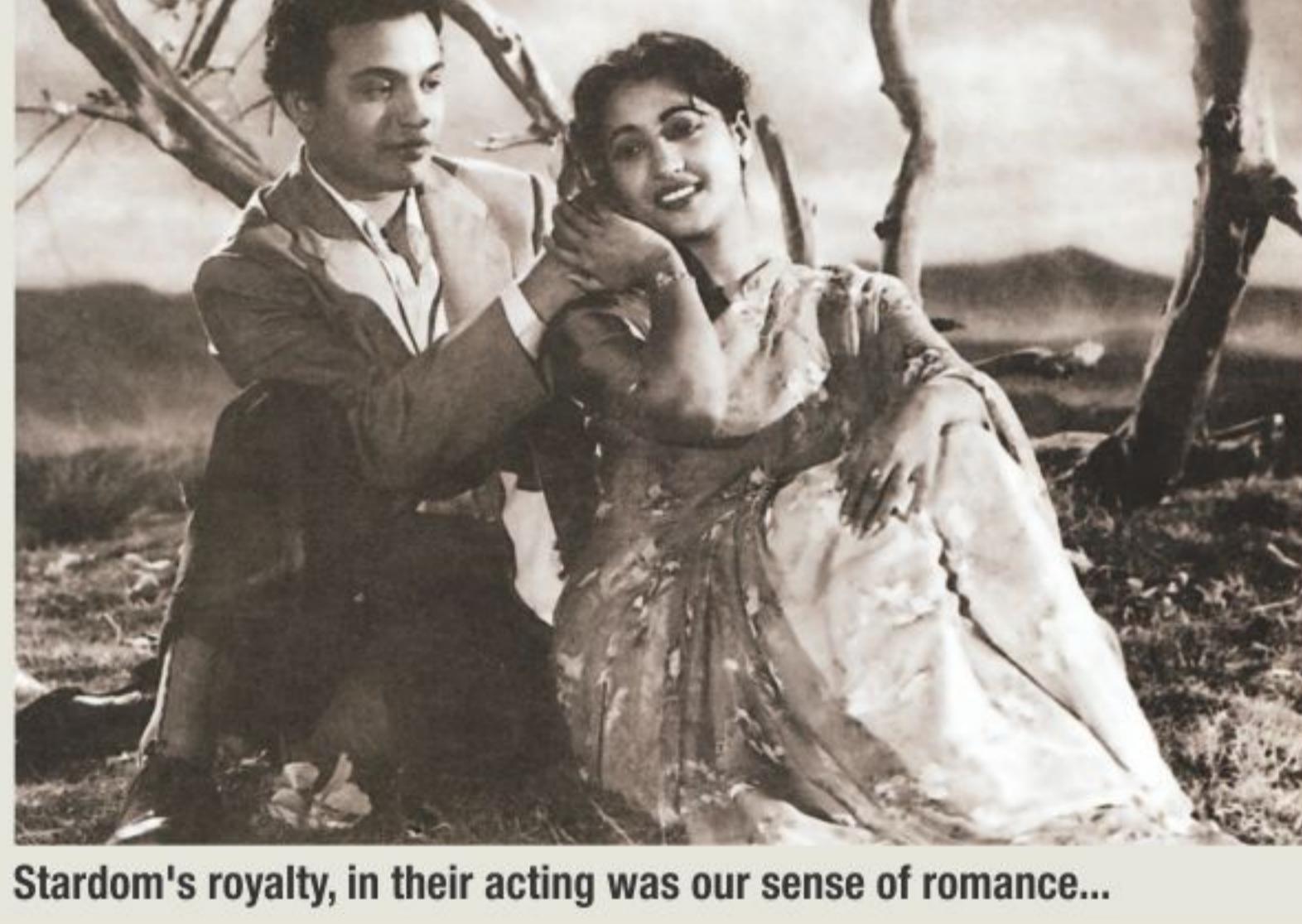
PHOTO COURTESY: HINDUSTAN TIMES

career. Initially, Sen was more interested in singing than in acting. In 1951, she auditioned as a playback singer but was instead offered a role by director Sukumar Dasgupta whose assistant director Nitish Roy named her Suchitra by which name she went on to achieve celebrity status.

Her first film "Sesh Kothay" (1952) remained unfinished and "Shat Number Koyedi" with Samar Roy as the hero in 1953 was her first film to hit cinema houses. That year three other films of hers were also released — Niren Lahiri's "Kajari", "Bhagaban Sri Krishna

Chaitanya" and Nirmal Dey's "Sarey Chuttar" opposite Uttam Kumar. In 1954, "Agnipariksha" played to packed houses for a record 15 weeks and the Suchitra and Uttam were on their way to success. The pair then had a string of runway successes due to their on-screen chemistry. But Suchitra's talent ensured the success of her films even without Uttam as her co-star.

Suchitra Sen-starrer "Uttar Phalguni", "Sandhya Deeper Shikha", "Deep Jelej Jai", with Basanto Chowdhury and "Hospital" with Ashok Kumar, were also hits.



Stardom's royalty, in their acting was our sense of romance...

Mum's the word

Mime Maestro Monsieur Partha Pratim Majumder turns 60

ZAHANGIR ALOM

The language of human exultation, love, pain, rage, gesture and eye contact is universal. The appeal of that language surpasses conventional or structured language. Internationally famed Bangladeshi mime maestro Monsieur Partha Pratim Majumder has made a unique bridge between Eastern and Western forms of mime that is very new and entirely his own creation.

Today marks the 60th birth anniversary of the maestro. In 2011, the living legend was conferred the highest cultural award 'Chevalier De L'ordre Des Arts Et Des Lettres' (Knight in the order of Fine Arts and Humanities) by the Ministry for Cultural Affairs and Communication of France for his contributions to mime.

Very few artists in this world have attained mastery over mime, the base of all performing art forms. Etienne Decroux is the father of modern mime, while the greatest mime maestro Marcel Marceau is thought to be the father of French mime. The name of Marcel Marceau has become synonymous with pantomime. He was a painter too.

Eminent Bangladeshi poet Shamsur Rahman once said, "The artworks by Partha Pratim is entirely based on silence; but he made this eloquence in silence that resembles lively poem. That's why he is a renowned and proud Bangalee."

His performance on a BTV programme "Jodi Kichhu Mone Na Koren" earned him huge popularity. The turning point of his career was his solo performance of 1979 at Shilpakala Academy that greatly impressed the erstwhile French Ambassador to Dhaka, Loic Moreau and the director of Alliance Française, Gerard Grousse, who offered him a scholarship in 1981 to obtain professional training in mime under the legendary French mime maestros Etienne Decroux and Marcel Marceau.

"Mime is at the same time the antique and the modern form of performing art. The know-how of corporal mime is mandatory for a performing artiste to smoothly stand on their career. If mime is compared with a short story, mimodrama is to be compared with a novel while pantomime predominantly deals with the comical presentations," Partha Pratim distinguished, in a conversation with The Daily

Star.

Partha, along with his family is now based in Paris and works regularly in French, American, Canadian films, theatre and TVCs. Since the mid-1980s, his miming excellence has unfolded on the illuminated stages both at home and abroad. His devotion and sensitivity uplift an ordinary theme to a sublime height, transcending cultural barriers.

Setting up of a mime institute of international standard is the ultimate dream of Partha Pratim Majumder, who feels an artistic urge and commitment to enlighten Bangladeshi students with his arts.

Partha Pratim Majumder was conferred many awards including, the highest European honour for theatre named "Moliere Award" in 2009 and the highest honour of Bangladesh "Ekushey Padak" in 2010. "I am the son of this soil, though I am a citizen of France. Bangladesh circles in my dreams. My lifestyle in Paris is like a Bangladeshi-Bangalee. My existence lies in the reddened sun inscribed in the flag of Bangladesh while my every heartbeat renders the national anthem of Bangladesh," the artiste concluded.

A century-old tradition

"Hoomguti Khela" held in Mymensingh



The winner with the "hoomguti".

PHOTO: STAR

AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh

The centuries-old traditional game 'Hoomguti Khela' -- involving a huge brass ball -- was held in Phulbaria upazila on Monday.

Like every year, on the last day of Bengali month Poush (Tuesday), the game was held at Laxmipur and Dewkhola villages of Phulbaria upazila. People in thousands from adjacent areas flocked to the venue to enjoy the traditional game.

Hundreds of players divided into groups took part in the game, coming from Phulbaria and Sadar, Trishal and Muktgarh upazila this year, organisers said. The game continued for nearly 10 hours.

The players of the game have to reach the 40-kg brass-made ball -- locally called guti -- to its destination, and the group that succeeds is declared winner, organisers said.

Md. Abu Bakar Siddique, president of Hoomguti Smriti Sangsad inaugurated the game at Boroi Atabandha ground, Laxmipur. Beats of drums to encourage the players also enthralled the huge audience.

Chairman of Dewkhola UP, Tajul Islam Bablu said the game was introduced by the then zamindars of Muktgarh dynasty to prove the strength of their subjects. After partition in 1947, this game is being organised by local people, he said.

People of all age groups and professions of the area throng at the venue on the day the game is played and it has been continuing for about two centuries with patronisation of the local people, informed Tajul Islam.

Marking the occasions, the adjacent villages take at every house to enjoy the celebrations.

Korban Ali, 75, of village Balaswar in Phulbaria, said he participated in the game on 50 occasions. Zamir Uddin, 52, another player of the same locality said they do not enjoy any other festival what they get from 'Hoomguti Khela'.

Terming the game as a 'folk fantasy', Prof. Ruhul Amin Khokon of Phulbaria Degree College said, such ancient game free from any sort of injurious ingredients must be patronized to keep it alive from being ruined.

American Hustle and Gravity vie for Oscars



The heavy weight cast of "American Hustle" is pushing its weight on the Oscars.

last year as well, with Lawrence winning best actress.

It is Adams' fifth Oscar nomination and her first in the leading actress category, although she has never collected a statuette. She will compete with Bullock for "Gravity", Cate Blanchett for "Blue Jasmine", Dame Judi Dench for "Philomena" and Meryl Streep who scored her 18th Oscar nomination for "August: Osage County".

The best actor category sees British stars Bale and Ejiofor up against Bruce Dern for "Nebraska", Leonardo DiCaprio for "The Wolf of Wall Street" and

Matthew McConaughey for "Dallas Buyers Club".

Sally Hawkins is up for best supporting actress for her role in Woody Allen's "Blue Jasmine", alongside Lawrence, Nyong'o, Julia Roberts and June Squibb.

In the best supporting actor category, Michael Fassbender and Cooper will vie with Jonah Hill, Barkhad Abdi and Jared Leto.

"Philomena", based on the true story of an Irish woman who was forced to give up her son, was also nominated for best original score and adapted screenplay for its writers Steve Coogan and Jeff Pope.

The five films competing for the best animated feature prize include "The Croods", "Despicable Me 2", "Frozen", Japanese film "The Wind Rises" and Belgian animation "Ernest & Celestine" - the story of an unlikely friendship between a bear and a mouse.

Irish band U2 were nominated for best original song for "Ordinary Love", which featured in "Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom".

However, the film's star Idris Elba was among some notable omissions for his role as Nelson Mandela. Other actors who didn't make the cut included Tom Hanks for "Captain Phillips", Emma Thompson for "Saving Mr Banks" and Robert Redford for "All Is Lost".

There was also no recognition for biographical drama "The Butler", while Paul Greengrass and the Coen brothers were overlooked in the best director category - with the Coen's film "Inside Llewyn Davis" earning just two nominations, despite high expectations.

The winners will be announced at the Oscars ceremony on March 2, at the Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles, hosted by Ellen DeGeneres.

Source: BBC