

exhibition

# Poignant Images of War Veterans

Opening exhibition of Chobi Mela, the First Photography Festival in Asia, starts today



By Nafid Imran Ahmed

Twenty-nine years ago we have achieved our independence through the bloodiest war of the century. But what did we actually do for keeping the glorious past alive? We lost three million lives in that war and thousands of war veterans most of who are still living, what we done for them.

You remember us for only two or three days in a year. Rest of our time is spent in turmoil and illness', said Mogai in pain and grief, who is now a resident of the rehabilitation centre for the war veterans.

The lives of these wounded and lame war veterans are captured by Bangladeshi photographer Abir Abdullah. And with his tender photographs the 1st exhibition of photographs titled War Veterans of Bangladesh will start today at the Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts. The exhibition will be inaugurated by a group of brave freedom fighters who are now unfortunately wounded and lame war veterans at 4:30pm. And with this curtain will be raised on the biggest photography exhibition in the history of Bangladesh, Chobi Mela's The First Festival of Photographs in Asia.

The events of Mela formally

started with the workshop by Thomas Lütge and Charles Eric Huber, titled Faces Within Faces at Pathshala earlier this month, the festival formally be opened with Abir Abdullah's images of war veterans of our independence struggle today followed by a bevy of events, workshops, and exhibitions at 16 different venues in the city and will run through February 2001.

One of the major issues on focus at Chobi Mela is our Independence War of 1971.

When the men, who are now living their lives as war veterans, came to fight for their country, they had hopes and dreams that led them to go to the war and risk their lives. But all these had gone in vain. These wounded freedom fighters did not receive proper medical aid during the war and not even now, 29 years after the war. They could not even get any good jobs. Though the government has special quotas for the freedom fighters at public organisation, persons with forged and false papers usually fill those positions. The true fighters spend their lives fixed in their wheel chairs, some unable to move without aid from someone, others unable to acquire a decent job. As they are growing older, some of them are suffering from critical

diseases that either are very expensive to treat or cannot be cured in this country. So as a result many of them have devoted themselves to God or wear medallions for protection.

At the rest house for the wounded war veterans near College Gate at Mohammadpur in Dhaka, many of the living war veterans stay on the floor. War veterans from different part of the country come here for shelter or rehabilitation. Most of the war victims here move from one room to another, if they are capable of doing it. Or they smoke, play the guitar or just sit idle against the wall and spend the nights sleepless.

The honarum their family receives from the Trust is not enough to live a normal life.

Our Heroes' the war veterans, experiences improper evaluation, rehabilitation and ignorance everyday by the nation at large. They live a life hidden from the mainstream society all alone. They don't have a job, a friend or a future. Abir Abdullah's photographs tell an emotional story of these brave heroes of our country.

The exhibition will remain open everyday from 10:00am to 8:00pm till December 19.

sky entertainment

# New Channel on The Block

The world's largest film library of MGM now being showcased on Zee-MGM movie channel

By Ziaul Karim

**A**WARD-winning movies such as *Thelma and Louise*, *Four Weddings and a Funeral*, *Moonstruck*, *Silence of the Lamb*, *Dances with the Wolves*; legendary series like *James Bond*, *Rocky*, *Pink Panther* as well as the vast repertoire of timeless classics of MGM is now only switch-on distance in the South Asian living rooms. The company - Metro-Golden-Mayer better known as MGM, that owns the largest modern film library in the world, consisting of more than 4000 titles - through its partnership with the Zee Movies re-launched as a joint venture channel Zee-MGM recently.

television distribution television programme co-productions for Metro-Golden-Mayer Inc. has in its menu nearly 4100 feature films and 8900 television episodes. MGM is actively engaged in the worldwide production and distribution of entertainment product, including motion pictures, television programming, home video and DVD, interactive media, music, and licensed merchandise. Its operating units include MGM Pictures, United Artists films, Orion Pictures, MGM Television Entertainment, MGM Worldwide Television Distribution, MGM Networks, MGM Distribution Co, among others. Let's look at the rich diet Zee-MGM has in its menu for the coming fortnight.

Viewers of Zee-MGM in Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Nepal, Sri Lanka and the Maldives can now look forward to a marquee offering from the channel. The cine buffs now will have a slice of the history of the major western cinematic oeuvre on their platter. MGM Worldwide Television Distribution which handles global



Little Man Tate

hides the reindeer in her barn and feeds it cookies, until she can return it to Santa. Her father finds the reindeer and decides to sell it to the butcher, not for venison chops, but as an advertising display.

## Little Man Tate

on December 25 at 9:30 pm

Dede is a sole parent trying to



MGM's contemporary classics repertoire consists of motion pictures such as *Bull Durham* and *Death Wish 5*, among others



## TV GUIDE

### PICK OF THE DAY



#### Monday Comedy The Ref on Star Movies at 10 pm

Starring: Denis Leary, Judy Davis & Kevin Spacey

It's Christmas Eve, and cat burglar Gus (Leary) is not in the holiday spirit. He's just burgled a burglary, triggered a booby-trapped alarm system, and now he's stuck with two obnoxious hostages both of whom argue relentlessly. A night that was supposed to be one last happy holiday heist for Gus, has turned into a visit with the family from hell.

3:00 BBC News 3:30 Hardtalk 4:00 BBC News 4:30 Top Gear 5:00 BBC News 5:30 Correspondent Ex

World Review 6:00 CNN This Morning 4:30 Asia Business Morning 5:00 CNN This Morning 5:30 Asia Business Morning 6:00 CNN This Morning 6:15 Asia Business Morning 6:30 Asian Edition 6:45 Asia Business Morning 7:00 CNN This Morning 7:30 Business Unusual 8:00 CNN & Time 9:00 World News 9:30 World Sport 10:00 World News 10:30 This Week in the NBA 11:00 World Business Report 11:30 Best of Q&A 12:00 BBC News 12:30 Hardtalk 2:00 BBC News 13:00 Click Online 12:00 BBC News 12:30 World Business Report 12:45 World Sport 1:00 BBC News 1:30 Hardtalk 2:00 BBC News 2:30 Holiday 3:00 BBC News 3:30 World Business Report 4:00 World News 4:30 Asia Business Report 4:45 World Business Report 5:00 BBC News 5:30 Asia Business Report/Asia Today

Asian Edition 6:30 Biz 6:30 Crocodile 6:30 Hunter's Croc Files 7:00 Bonehead Detectives of the Paleoworld 7:30 Wild Discovery 8:30 Wild Asia 9:30 Medical Detectives III 10:00 Ultrascience II 10:30 Amazing Worlds 11:30 Discovery Profile Series Files 12:30 Wild Discovery 1:30 Wild Asia 2:30 Medical Detectives III 3:00 Ultrascience II 3:30 Amazing Worlds 4:30 Discovery Profile Series 5:30 Discover Magazine

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