

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 have 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 4:30p.m. 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 Lüttge and Charles Eric Huber, titled Faces Within Faces at Pathshala earlier this month, the festival formally be opened by 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 medals 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 honorarium 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 10:00a.m to 8:00p.m 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

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-Goldwyn-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.

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

television distribution television programme co-productions for Metro-Goldwyn-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.

### Prancer

on December 25 at 9:30 pm

Jessica, the daughter of an impoverished apple farmer, still believes in Santa Claus. So when she comes across a reindeer with an injured leg, it makes perfect sense to her to assume that it is Prancer, who had fallen from a Christmas display in town. She



### Little Man Tate

on December 17 at 2 pm

Dede is a sole parent trying to bring up her son Fred. When it is discovered that Fred is a genius, she is determined to ensure that Fred has all the opportunities that he needs, and that he is not taken advantage of by people who forget that his extremely powerful intellect is harboured in the body and emotions of a child.

### Mississippi Burning

on December 22 at 9:30 pm

Two FBI agents investigating the murder of civil rights workers during the 60s seek to breach the conspiracy of silence in a small Southern town where segregation divides black and white. The younger agent trained in FBI school runs up against the small town ways of his former Sheriff partner.

### Blame it on Rio

on December 17 at 9:30

Caine plays a punnam on holiday in Rio with his best friend. Both men have teenage daughters with them. When Caine falls for the amorous daughter (played by Michelle Johnson) of his best friend, they embark on a secret, if slightly one-sided relationship. Johnson's father is furious when he finds out about the 'older man' in his daughter's life, and sets out to hunt him down with the aid of Caine!

### Moonstruck

on December 16 at 9:30 pm

While waiting for her timid fiancé to decide between her and his mother, Cher falls in love with the fiancé's estranged brother (Nicolas Cage), a bakery worker with a love of opera and life.



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

Recommendations



### Painting Exhibition

The inaugural ceremony of the painting exhibition by Nurul Amin will be held today at the Divine Art Gallery at 11:00a.m.

Eminent art critic Sayeed Ahmed will inaugurate the exhibition as chief guest, while artist Professor Abdus Sakoor will be present as special guest.

The exhibition will remain open everyday from 10:00a.m. to 8:00p.m. till December 18.

### Shatabdi

Shatabdi's eid collection has been put on display at a four-day show, which started on December 7 at Aial Centre at Dhanmandi. Designer Nadira, well known for her creative design brought her latest sari and salwar-kameez ensemble to the show. The show will remain open from 11 in the morning to 9 in the evening until December 10.

### Bangla Faces

The Goethe Institut, Dhaka and Drik gallery have jointly organised a workshop on photography with renowned German photographer Thomas Lüttge at the Goethe Institut.

This is the second workshop of this kind by Lüttge in Dhaka. This year he will be conducting the workshop within the framework of the 'Chobi Mela', the first photography festival in Asia. The workshop will come to an end on December 11.

### Exhibition on Liberation

On the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the Liberation War, the Liberation War Museum has put up a month long exhibition titled Gourobnoy Atmadan Chiro-Jagonuk.

The remains found in the killing fields of Jalladkhana and Nuri Masjid and some photographs are being exhibited.

## 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 bungled 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.

### BBC WORLD

6:00 BBC News 6:30 Asia Today/Reporters 7:00 BBC News/Asia Today Inc/Asia Business Report 8:00 BBC News 8:30 Asia Today/Reporters 9:00 BBC News 9:30 Asia Today/Asia Business Report 9:30 Asia Today 10:00 BBC News 10:30 Earth Report Ex World Review 11:00 BBC News 11:30 Jancis Robinson's Wine Course 12:00 BBC News 12:30 India Business Report 1:00 BBC News 1:30 Hardtalk 2:00 BBC News 2:30 Correspondent Ex World Review

### AXN

6:00 You're Under Arrest 7:00 PSI Factor IV/Sacrifices 8:00 Boardwild/Space Warship Yamamoto Yoko 9:00 Curious Play/Shadow Skills 10: You're Under Arrest/You're Under Arrest 11:00 PSI Factor IV/Sacrifices 12:00 The Net/Chem Lab 1:00



16th episode of Toyota World of Wild, a documentary, on Ekushey TV at 7:00 in the evening.

### BTV

3:00 Opening announcement 3:20 Open University 4:00 Khabar 4:05 Educational programme 4:30 Programme on mother and child health 4:45 Mahe Ramadan 5:20 Aloy Bhuvan Bhara 5:45 Nutritional facts 6:00 Khabar 6:10 Mati-o-Manush 6:30 Umesh 7:00 Dolan Champa: Session of Nazrul songs 7:25 Barta Prabaha 8: 00 News in Bangla 8:20



Bangla feature film Jibon Theke Neya, directed by Zahir Raihan, on Ekushey TV at 8:00 tonight.

Programme commemorating the Victory Day 8:30 Drama 10:00 News at Ten 10:20 Anandalok 11:15 Khabar/The News 11:30 Closing

### Ekushey TV

2:30 Ajker Potrikay 2:40 Dristhi 3:00 Ekushey News Headlines 3:05 Andha Shikari 3:30 Potha Paychali 4:00 Pryo Gaan 4:30 Expedition to the Animal Kingdom 5:00 Religious Musical Program 5:30 Dristhi 5:50 Ajker Potrikay 6:00 Ekushey News Headlines 6:05 Classic Cartoons 6:30 Charidike 7:00 Toyota World of Wildlife 7:30 Ekushey News 8:00 Bangla Movie: Jibon Theke Neya 10:00 BTV News 10:20 Bangla

### HBO

7:00 Gung Ho 9:15 Private Benjamin 11:30 The Right Stuff 3:30 Showdown in Little Tokyo 5:15 Rescuers: Stories of Courage Two Women 7:30 Shakespeare in Love 10:00 Contact 12:45 Gung Ho 3:00 The Right Stuff



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### STAR GOLD

8:30 Jubilee Plus 9:00 Naya Din Nayi Raat 12:00 Geet Bahar 12:30 Prem Bandhan 3:30 Geet Bahar 4:00 Nanymoon 7:00 Geet Bahar 7:30 Monday Magic-Tarana (Dilip Kumar's Bday) 10:30 Bollywood News 11:00 Nastik 12:30 Nastik (Cont) 2:00 Geet Bahar 2:30 Nanymoon 5:30 Nastik

### STAR WORLD

6:00 Mork & Mindy 6:30 Hollywood Squares 7:00 The News WKRP in Cincinnati 7:30 The Oprah Winfrey Show 8:00 Home Improvement 8:30 Happy Days 9:00 French and Saunders 9:30 Blackadder 10:00 Murder Call 11:00 The

STAR PLUS (INDIA)

6:00 Chuppa Rustom 6:30 Star Geetmala 7:30 Good Morning India 8:30 Cine Jharokha 9:00 Hit Ya Fit 9:30 Star

Asian Edition 6:30 Biz Asia 7:00 World News 7:30 Hotspots 8:00 Asia Tonight 8:30 World Sport 9:00 World News 9:30 CNNdotCOM 10:00 World News 10:30 Biz Asia 11:00 World News 11:30 O&A South Asia 12:00 World News 1:00 CNN Indication 1:30 World Business Today 2:00 World News 2:30 Q&A 3:00 World News Europe 3:30 CNN Newsroom

### DISCOVERY CHANNEL

6:30 Go For It 7:30

6:30 Crocodile 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

### ZEE CINEMA

2:30 Khoon Ke Badle



Chicago Hope Star World at 12:00 Midnight

Ushuaia 8:30 Lonely Planet II 9:30 Animals in Danger 10:00 Eyewitness III 10:30 Danger Zone 11:00 Outer Bounds I & II 11:30 Shark Files, The (II) 12:30 Wild Discovery 1:30 Medical Detectives II 2:00 Medical Detectives I 2:30 Discover Magazine 3:30 Go For It 4:30 Ushuaia 5:30 Lonely Planet III

Khoon (Mahendra Sandhu, Asha Sachdeo) 6:30 Locket (Neetandra, Rekha) 10:30 Johar Mehmood In Hong Kong (I.S. Johar, Mehmood) 2:00 Miyan Biwi Aur Saali (Ramya, Nagarjun) 6:30 Mr. Romeo (Shashi Kapoor, Rinku Chawla) 8:30 Zabardast (Sunny Deol) 2:00 Mera Dil



### Contact on HBO at 10 tonight

Based on astronomer and futurist Carl Sagan's best selling novel, "Contact" offers a provocative blend of science, speculation and mysticism as it follows the spiritual and physical journey of Ellie Arroway, a young scientist.

Starring: Jodie Foster, Mathew McConaughey, James Woods.

### Tere Liye (Kader Khan, Neelam Mehara)

Nayantra 2:30 Feature Film 5:00 Football 5:30 Mojar Khela Kobitae 6:00 Arghya 6:30 Din Protidin 7:30 News 8:00 Nayantra 8:30 Ek Akasher Niche 9:00 Mon Niye 9:30 Jiban Rekha 10:00

News/Shyaola 10:30 Football 11:00 Din Protidin 12:00 Arghya 12:30 Bharat Bhroman 1:30 Surer Ei Jharna Dhara 1:30 Feature Film 4:00 Ek Akasher Niche 4:30 Griha Sajja 5:00 Shyaola

### ZEEMGM

6:30 Earth Angle 9:00 Miracles 11:30 Mad House 2:00 Domino 4:30 Charge of Model-T 7:00 Hollywood Hot Tubs (Paul Gunning, Donna McDaniell) 9:30 Absolution (Richard Burton, Dominic Guard 11:30 Fatal Pulse (Michelle McCormick, Ken Roberts) 1:30 Not Since Casanova 4:00 Bad Timing

### ALPHA BANGLA TV

6:30 Aalap 7:00 Griha Sajja 7:30 News/Arghya 8:00 Din Protidin 9:00 News/Bharat Bhroman 9:30 Bhahari Aahar 10:00 Griha Sajja 10:30 Cine News 11:00 Jemon Bolben Sir 11:30 Kichu Smriti Kichu Gaan 12:00 Bhahari Aahar 12:30 Half Chocolate 1:00 Shyaola 1:30 Ek Akasher Niche 2:00



Dharma & Greg on Star World at 10:30 pm