

exhibition

Asia Starts Writing its Own Photographic History

Curtain raises on the 1st Festival of Photography in Asia

By Ziaul Karim

DECEMBER 15, 2000 would surely go down as a red letter day in our cultural history and Dhaka, the capital city of Bangladesh, would be recognised as one of the cultural capitals of the world for playing host to the 1st Festival of Photography in Asia and for tracing the photographic identities of the continent from a fresh perspective and through deconstructing the Eurocentric monolithic views on photographic norms and standards.

The biggest ever photographic extravaganza was formally opened through inauguration of World Press Retrospective 2000 by Finance Minister Shah AMS Kibria at the National Museum



Chinese-German photographer Wang Xiao Hui's portraits can be seen at Grothe Institute, Dhanmondi.

yesterday.

"The image of the country is changing for the better. There was a time when millions of people were to starve. Today we can boast of 100 per cent primary school enrollment, we have also successfully brought down population growth rate and a GDP hovering at 5 per cent. In different direction people are moving forward and I look at this exhibition against this changing scenario. Look at the world class brochure published in connection of the festival designed and printed here in Bangladesh. This is one good example of our ability to match international standards," said finance minister in his inaugural speech.

Earlier in his welcome address



A piece by Shahidul Alam under the theme Migrant Labour. The works under the theme can be seen at Shilpakala Academy gallery.

Director General of Bangladesh National Museum Shamsuzzaman term the festival as the beginning of a glorious chapter of our cultural history.

The National Museum and Drik jointly organised the inaugural ceremony of this all important exhibition showcasing photographic treasury of the region and the state of photography in the region as well along with the

very best in the photojournalism through World Press Photo exhibition.

Assembled thematically and spread over 16 different venues, the 1st Festival of Photography in Asia has a large number of images that moved and formed opinion of the world against violation of humanity, images that reconstruct the past to be reviewed upon with a fresh perspective.



This photograph is featured at the exhibition titled 'The War We Forgot.'

The World Press Photo Retrospective exhibition curator and president of prestigious Contact Press Images Robert Pledge dubbed the show as extraordinary and reflecting upon the compilation process said, "This compilation of photographs gleaned from almost five decades of World Press Photo is not entertainment. An eyewitness to history, it mirrors the years with images of unspeakable violence and madness. It constitutes a powerful condemnation of the violations of some of the most fundamental principles of human rights as they are inscribed in the articles of the Universal Declaration adopted by the United Nations in 1948."

The world Press Photo Retrospective exhibition first held in the fall of 1987 in New York as a tribute to the outstanding photojournalism over the three decades since the annual contest was first established in 1955. The World Press Photo contest is a global meeting point for the international photojournalist community.

The aims of the organising World Press Photo Foundation are 'to promote a free and unrestricted exchange of information and to encourage high professional standards in photojournalism. It strives to make

photojournalistic work widely accessible to the general public and to stimulate public appreciation of the work of press photographers.'

Marten Koets read the World Press Foundation note highlighting how photographs can be a vehicle of better understanding of life and society.

State Minister for Information Professor Abu Sayed was appreciative of Drik's astounding collection, over a 100 thousand, of photographs on our freedom struggle and expressed his hope that Drik would publish them gradually in future to let us construct our past from a new light.

Shahidul Alam, Managing Director of Drik and festival director while giving his presidential speech lamented about the social status of photographers in the country. Those who pursue the profession did it for the passion and love for it. "Photography is not a glorified profession. They do lot of works of significant and historical importance without any support either from the government or the private. There works are used in newspapers and journals without remuneration and without any credit. In our academic setup there is no place for photography."

Said Shahidul Alam, "The 1st



This now not famous image of Vietnam war was taken on June 8, 1972 by Huynh Cong Ut of The Associated Press can be seen at the World Press Photo Retrospective now being held at National Museum gallery.

Festival of Photography in Asia is not here in Bangladesh by accident, we strove for it, we dreamed for it and we sweat for it to happen."

Spread over different venues and spaced over a period of three-month, the 1st Festival of Photography in Asian brings together a wide range of photographic work and photographic practitioners from various part of the world and specially from the sub-continent and the rest of the Asia.

The most remarkable exhibition of the festival is War Veterans of Bangladesh by Abir Abdullah now being held at Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts at Dhanmondi where Abdullah tells the gruelling and miserable life of the wounded and lame war veterans, who took part in the independence war of Bangladesh against Pakistan in 1971 are now spend a uncertain life

with trouble of food and shelter. Many of the war veterans passes their days on the floor at the rest house for the wounded war veterans near College Gate at Mohammadpur in Dhaka.

The other very poignant photo essay exhibition going on at the Shilpakala Academy now is titled Migrant Labour featuring works of Shahidul Alam. Alam has worked on the theme for about five years to follow plight of the workers across eight countries and captured the pain and agony of deportation, the silent good-byes and numberless inexplicable moments of separation and hopes in the eyes to change the destiny.

The mega event has many photographic splendors in store to stimulate our imagination and for us to appreciate photography as an intimate description of life.



Iqbal Hossain's image exhibited under the general title Out of Focus. The photoessay Out of Focus are taken by a group of working class children and were exhibited in October as part of the festival programme.

Recommendations



Exhibition
A photography exhibition on the war victims of 1971 titled War Veterans of Bangladesh is being held at the Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, at road # 27, Dhanmondi. This show, held as part of the 1st Festival of Photography in Asia, will run till December 19 from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. every day.

Painting Exhibition
Painting exhibition by Nurul Amin is now being held at the Divine Art Gallery at 11:00a.m.

Eminent art critic Sayed Ahmed inaugurated the exhibition as chief guest, while artist Professor Abdus Sakoor was present as special guest.

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

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 *Gaurabmoy Atmadan Chiro-Jagora*.

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



Drawing and Sketch Show

A selection of drawing and sketches done in charcoal, pastel, watercolour and acrylic by gifted artist Kuru will be put on display at the residence of Mrs. Chowdhury at Road 9, House 4, Gulshan-1. The two-day show begins on December 16 and will continue until December 17 from 2 to 8 pm.

TV GUIDE

PICK OF THE DAY



Documentary Bijoy Pratidin Tonight on Ekushey TV at 4:30 pm.

From December 1 1971 the whole scenario of our freedom struggle began to tilt towards victory. Even the heavily censored press of that time began to give signal of the imminent victory. Right from 1st December until the final victory of the December 16, this documentary unfolds the day-by-day development of the events as projected by press in 1971.

Charwali Uparwali 2:00 Kabhi Kabhie Mere Char Mein Bhuchaal Aata Hai 2:30 National Geographic Special 3:30 Tea Time Cinema: 6:30 Musaffir Hoon Yaroon 7:00 Family Fortunes 7:30 Chalti Ka Naam Antakshiri 8:30 STAR Mast Movies: Radha Ka Sangam 11:30 Aaj Ki Baat 12:00 Zor (contd.) 12:30 Siski 1:00 Kalash 1:30 I Love My India 2:00 Kabhi Kabhie Mere Char Mein Bhuchaal Aata Hai 2:30 National Geographic Special 3:30 Tea Time Cinema: 6:30 Musaffir Hoon Yaroon 7:00 Family Fortunes 7:30 Chalti Ka Naam Antakshiri 8:30 STAR Mast Movies: Radha Ka Sangam 11:30 Aaj Ki



Television Tan Anumati Apekha on channel 1 at 12 noon and 11 pm.

BTV
Morning session
8:30 Opening announcement 8:45 Patriotic song 9:30 Army march-past live from National Square. President will take the salute.
Evening session
2:30 Opening announcement 2:45 Tele-film: Ithas Kanya 4:00 Khabar 4:50 Mahe



Special drama, Badur, commemorating the Victory Day on Ekushey TV at 9 pm.

Ramadan 5:30 Special programme for children commemorating the Victory Day 5:55 Songs of Freedom Fighting 6:00 Khabar 6:20 Readings from the works of the leading poets of the country 7:05 Special musical programme 8:00 New in Bangla 8:20 Swadhinata Aamar Swadhinata: A special programme marking the Victory Day 8:30 Special drama, Juddhe Jabo, commemorating the Victory Day 10:00 New at Ten 10:20 Special programme 11:15 Khabar / The news 11:30 Closing

Ekushey TV
2:00 Ekushey News Headlines 2:05 Aik Patrikay 2:15 Bangla Movie: Mukti Gaan 4:00 Sheer Chitra 5:00 Religious Musical Programme 5:30 Ei Shoptabo 6:00 Ekushey News Headlines 6:05 Documentary: Bijoy Pratidin

6:30 Chandike Special 7:00 Mukto Khobor Special 7:30 Ekushey News 8:00 Ami Birangona Bolchi 8:30 Interview with General Aurora 9:00 Drama: Badur 10:00 MTV News 10:20 Songs of 71 11:00 Ekushey Late Night News 11:15 Ekushey News Headlines

ALPHA TV BANGLA
6:00 Alaap 7:00 Grihosajja 7:30 News/Arghya 8:00 Andolon 8:30 Cine News 9:00 News / Bharat Bhromon 9:30 Bahari Aahar 10:00 Grihosajja 10:30 Jhara Samayer Upakatha 11:00 Bhawani Purer Chattujera 11:30 Gogly 12:00 Bahari Aahar 12:30 Manabi 1:00 Daibaddha 1:30 Chena Mukh Achena Manush 2:00 Sat Kahan 3:30 Feature Film 5:00 Zee Jalsa 5:30 Gogly 6:00 Arghya 6:30 Apna Der Janya 7:00 Surer Ni Jharna Dhara 7:30 News 8:00



The American President tonight on HBO at 10 pm. Micheal Douglas stars as President Andrew Shepard who, quite unexpectedly, falls in love with Annette Bening starring as Sydney Wade, an environmental lobbyist. The film offers a rare glimpse at an uncommon romance involving the most powerful man who must overcome obstacles not faced by average citizens.

Hiyar Majhe 8:30 Chokher Bali 9:00 Major Khela Kobitae 9:30 Jeman Bolben Sir 10:00 News/Triyo Purush 10:30 Sa Re Ga Ma 11:30 Monniye 12:00 Arghya 12:30 Bihar Bhromon 1:00 Shudhu Tomake Chai

1:30 Feature Film 4:00 Manabi 4:30 Gihhasajja 5:00 Jemon Bolben Sir 5:30 Majore Khela Kobitae

DISCOVERY CHANNEL
6:30 Go For It 7:30 Ushuaia III 8:30 Lonely Planet 9:30 Future Tense 10:00 Eyewitness III 10:30 Untamed Australia 11:30 Untamed Amazonia 12:30 Wild Asia 1:30 Ultimate Guide 2:30 Amazing Worlds 3:30 Extreme Machines IV 4:30 Beyond 2000 5:00 Discovery News 5:30 Assignment Discovery 6:30 ARK Tales of the Animal Rescue Kids 7:00 Splat IV 7:30 21st Century Medicine 8:30 Health Showcase 9:30 New Detectives III 10:30 Travelers 11:30 African Adventures 12:00 Adventure Crazy 12:30 21st Cen-

STAR WORLD
6:00 Batman 6:30 Jack Hanna's Animal Adventure 7:00 Things People Do 7:30 The Simpsons 8:00 The Bold & The Beautiful 10:00 TV Com 10:30 Travel Asia 11:00 Fox Kids 1:00 World Championship Wrestling 3:00 Baywatch 4:00 Hercules 5:00 Xena 6:00 Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's The Lost World 7:00 First Wave 8:00 Water Rats 9:00 3rd Rock From The Sun 9:30 Star News 10:00 Baywatch 11:00 First Wave 12:00 Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's The Lost World 1:00 Xena 2:00 Hercules 3:00 Key of David 3:30 Morris Cerullo 4:00 Space Island One 5:00 Lassie 5:30 Doogie Howser

STAR PLUS (INDIA)
6:00 Hello Cinema 6:30 Star Geetmala 7:30 Good Morning India 8:30 Fox Kids 10:30 National Geographic Special 11:30 Love My India 12:00 Chupa Rustom 12:30 TSN Masala 1:00 Mitr 1:30

Na Kehti Thi

STAR MOVIES
9:00 Comedy: Down And Out In Beverly Hills 11:00 Romance: Love On The Edge 1:00 Action: Miller's Crossing 3:00 Action: Free Fall 5:00 Comedy: Round Trip To Heaven 7:00 Action: Die Hard 9:30 US Top Ten 10:00 Thrillennium: Omen Iv The Awakening 12:00 Saturday Late Night Movies: Reckless Nights 2:00 Romance: Love On The Edge 4:00 UK top Ten 4:30 Comedy: Round Trip To Heaven 6:30 Horror: Omen Iv The Awakening

BBC WORLD
6:00 BBC News 6:30 World Business Report 7:00 BBC News 7:30 Asia Today / World Business Report 8:00 BBC News 8:30 Asia Today / World Business Report 9:00 BBC News 9:30 Asia Today / World Business Report 10:00 BBC News 10:30 Hardtalk 11:00 BBC News 11:30 Talking Movies 12:00 BBC News 12:30 Question Time India 1:30 Click Online 2:00 BBC News 2:30 Louis Theroux's Weekends (45-49) Moral Combat (50-52) Royal Coll Art (53) 3:00 Genuerous Rich (45) Bubble Trouble (46-48) Tate Mod (49-50) Shock (51) Royal (52) Global Sunrise (53) 4:00 BBC News 4:45 The Entertainment Biz (45-47) Pull Of The City (48-50) Nobel Minds (51) TBA (52) BBC News 5:30 Eur Dir (48, 52) USA Dir (45, 49, 53) Sci Wild (46, 50) Aus Dir (47, 51)

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3rd Rock From The Sun on Star World at 9 pm. Critically acclaimed comedy series, 3rd Rock from the Sun, enters its fourth season on Star World. Starring John Lithgow as the high commander of an investigative team sent to earth on a mission to learn everything about humans and their so-called advanced civilization.

mind India 11:00 BBC News 11:30 Talking Movies 12:00 BBC News 12:30 This Week 1:00 BBC News 1:30 Earth Report ex World Review 2:00 BBC News / Louis Theroux's Weekends (45-49) Moral Combat (50-52) Global Sunrise (53) 3:00 BBC News 4:00 BBC News 4:45 The Entertainment Biz (45-47) Pull Of The City (48-50) Nobel Minds (51) TBA (52) BBC News 5:30 Eur Dir (48, 52) USA Dir (45, 49, 53) Sci Wild (46, 50) Aus Dir (47, 51)

Rollercoaster 12:00 Rescuer's Stories of Courage Two Women 2:15 Contact 5:00 Steel Magnolias 7:30 Cinema Secrets P1: Whipping Up Weather 8:00 Flipper 10:00 The American President 12:15 The Bonfire of the Vanities 3:00 Kill-joy 5:00 Flipper

AXN
6:00 The Net/Eye-See You com 7:00 Profiler III / Las Brisas pt1 8:00 Grander Musashi RV 9:00 Silk Stalkings VI / Pumped Up 10:00 World Most Amazing / Video II 11:00 Profiler III / Las Brisas pt1 12:00 Pacific Blue III / Only in America 1:00 Movie: Love & A 45 3:00 Who Dares Wins / Grander Musashi RV 4:00 Grander Musashi RV / Walker's World 5:00 Silk Stalkings VI / Call Me @ Murder.com 6:00 World Most Amazing / Video II 7:00 Profiler III / Las Brisas pt1 8:00 Movie: The Breakup 10:00 World Most



Round Trip To Heaven on Star Movies at 5 pm. Larry (Corey Feldman) and Steve (Galligan) find out Larry's dreamgirl, centerfold April Summer, will be in Palm Springs, California, so they steal a car and head into the desert. They're not alone. The car they "borrowed" happens to contain bag full of cash and the felon, Stoneface Mancivitz, wants it back. Throw in a couple of clumsy cops and Larry's platonic friend and you have a delirious romp through the desert resort town.

ZEE CINEMA
6:30 Razia Sultan (Jayra), Nirupa Ray 10:30 Bewafa se Wafa (Vivek Mushran, Juhu Chawala) 2:00 Bahu Beti (Ashak Kumar, Malasinha) 6:30 Khel Main (Neetu Singh, Rishi Kapoor) 10:30 Narsimha (Sunjay Deol, Dimple K) 2:30 Smuggler (Sanjeev Kumar, Helen, Shaikh Mukhtija)

ZEE MGM
4:00 Monkey Shines 6:30 Who to Murder a Millionaire 9:00 Running for the Guns 11:30 The Ambulance 2:00 Return of the Musketeers 4:30 Beauty and the Beast 7:00 Final Approach 9:30 Moon Struck 11:30 The Ambulance 1:30 Wicked Step Mother