

Film

Reflection of the pain

'Ayana' screened at British Council auditorium

NAFID IMRAN AHMED

MEN to seek revenge on women are sometimes using acid in the country as a weapon. This tendency grows among men after they are refused. In Bangladesh almost every other day we see reports on acid victims. Many beautiful faces are disfigured with this dangerous chemical. For quite some time now a social awareness for the acid survivors has come in place. Many organisations are working for the acid victims and trying to figure out a way to stop this menace.

As part of the British Council's ongoing programmes to support the acid survivors and combat violence against women, a film titled 'Ayana' (Mirror) was screened at the British Council auditorium on September 26.

'Ayana' (Mirror) is an attempt to visualise the acid violence of

Bangladesh. It is a 25-minute colour betacam documentary. Produced by Ari Chobi Nirman Prothisthan and directed by S M Ashraf Abir, the premiere of the film was held on August 16 this year at the German Cultural Centre (Goethe Institut).

Young director Abir works as a freelance journalist and a regular staff reporter with the online magazine Meghbarta (www.meghbarta.net). From his childhood days, he aspired to become a filmmaker. It was only natural for him to partake as many film workshops and courses as he could avail himself of. It was in 1999 when he, for the first time, stepped into the world of film making, doing an experimental research documentary on the tea labourers of Sylhet. While editing the film, the idea of making a documentary on acid victims raced across his mind. Abir realised the magnitude of cruelty involving the crime of acid pouring when his



No face left to face the world: A snap of Dolly from 'Ayana'

friend provided him newspaper clippings containing reports on acid victims.

The film starts with a blank screen with a baby crying in the

background. A little village girl is talking about what she wants to become when she grows up. And then a city schoolgirl is talking about her ambitions. Then suddenly some liquid substance is spilled on the screen. Like a dream just swept away. The faded screen returns with Dolly, an acid burn patient lying in the DMCH (Dhaka Medical College Hospital) Burn Unit. She shares the most painful experience of her life.

Three acid victims are individually interviewed in the documentary. The second victim, Lucky, is from Mymensingh, who has received some treatment. She talks about the pain and suffering she had to undergo during her treatment. She was unable to eat and walk. As skin from different parts of her body was taken for her treatment, she was even unable to move.

Dr S L Sen, Chief Plastic Surgeon speaks about the treatment of the acid victims. He said, that the primary treatment for

someone burnt by acid is to pour as much water as possible on the wound. He also speaks about the treatment of acid victims in the rural areas of Bangladesh as only Dhaka Medical College has a 9-bed Burn Unit in the whole country. A 50-bed burn unit is going to be introduced within a short time; this is also highlighted in the film. Dr. Firoz Ahmed, Mental Department (DMC) talks about the different reasons for acid violence such as romance and marriage refusal.

There is also an interview of Nurun Nahar, a rehabilitated acid victim who now works for the Engio Coop Bangladesh and is working for the acid victims. And Advocate Habibunnesa of Bangladesh Supreme Court talks about the law stated for acid violence.

After this the film focuses on the family of Aminul and Shanta. Shanta's beautiful face was burned with acid because she refused to marry her cousin. But Aminul did not abandon the

woman he loved. They are now happily married for the past six years. They now have two beautiful children to take care.

Assistant direction for the film was given by Tanvir Zahid Nayan, Camera by Jewel, Still photography by G M B Akash (Drik) and Music by Buno.

The film-show was followed by a panel discussion on 'Future Strategies for Raising Awareness Against Acid Attacks', Matiur Rahman, Editor of the *Prothom Alo*, Dr S L Sen, Chief Plastic Surgeon, Dr John Morrison, Executive Director, Acid Survivors Association and Film

Makers Morshedul Islam and Kowser Chowdhury spoke on the occasion and discussed about future steps that should be undertaken to stop this curse.

In our country we do not have adequate facilities for the treatment of the acid burnt victims. The convicted criminals are also getting away, as a result the numbers of acid attacks are increasing day by day. 'Ayana' (Mirror) - the first ever 25-minute documentary on acid victims is an outstanding effort to raise social awareness for acid victims and for stopping this menace.



Lucky, another acid victim portrayed in the film



SM Ashraf Abir, the young director of the film 'Ayana' during a shooting session



Photo-Exhibition : Germany 1945-1995.

Goethe Institute Dhaka holds a photo exhibition titled 'Germany 1945-1995' (Deutschland seit 1945), featuring fifty years of German history at House # 10, Road # 9, Dhanmondi R/A. The show runs from 2 to 8 p.m. every day, (except Fridays & Saturdays) till September 30.



Solo exhibition

A solo painting exhibition by Ali Akbar is being held at the Gallery 21 (765 Satmasjid Road, Dhanmondi, Dhaka). The exhibition will remain open to all everyday from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. till September 30.

Sculpture show

The 3rd solo sculpture show by Maynul Islam Paul is being held at the La Galerie l'Alliance Francaise de Dhaka. The exhibition will remain open to all everyday from 5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. till September 30.

Six Seasons

Shilparag Gallery at Dhanmondi (House #15, Road # 27 old) presents an exhibition on the theme six seasons. Leading artists of the country have captured in their canvas the rich variety of our seasons and their ambience. The month-long show will continue till October 14 everyday from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.

TV GUIDE

TODAY'S HIGHLIGHTS



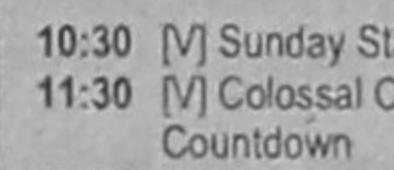
EKUSHEY TV
EKUSHEY: 8:30 p.m. *Jibon Theke Neya*, Directed by Zahir Raihan this all time favourite stars Razak, Shuchinda, Roji Samad, Anowar Hossain, Anjed Hossain and many more.



STAR GOLD
HBO: 9:30 p.m. *Witness*. The Amish, a secluded community in America. A community still rooted in 18th century pacifist values. The Amish are those who cop Harrison Ford encounters in his investigation of a drug land murder. The only witness to the murder is an eight-year-old Amish boy.



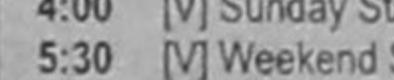
STAR WORLD: 10:30 p.m. *The X-Files*. *Biogenesis*: Mulder believes that metallic objects discovered in Africa are proof that life originated elsewhere in the universe.



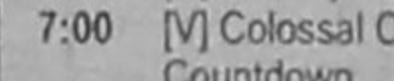
BBC WORLD
7:30: *Correspondent*
9:30: *This Week*
10:30: *India Tomorrow*
11:30: *BBC Biz Report*
12:30: *Profiles*



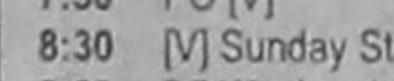
STAR MOVIES
7:30: *Top Gear*
8:00: *The Pretender*
9:00: *Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's The Lost World*
10:00: *Ally McBeal*
11:00: *The Practice*
12:00: *First Wave*
1:00: *Buffy The Vampire Slayer*
2:00: *Angel*
3:00: *Crown and Country*
3:30: *Travel Asia*
4:00: *Baywatch Hawaii*
5:00: *The Simpsons*
5:30: *3rd Rock From the Sun*
6:00: *Star News Focus Asia*
7:00: *The X Files*
8:00: *Star Trek: The Next Generation*
9:00: *That 70s Show*
9:30: *Star News Focus Asia*
10:30: *The X Files*
11:30: *Star Trek: The Next Generation*
12:30: *Star News Focus Asia*



STAR PLUS
6:00: *Kuchha Papad Pucca*
6:30: *Star Geetmala*



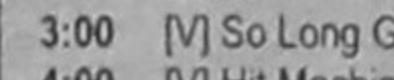
CHANNEL [V]
6:00: *SV So Long Gone*
6:30: *SV Best of Jumpstart*



ESPN
6:30: *Sportscenter: International Edition*
7:00: *English Premier Football League*
7:30: *Wild Asia*
8:30: *Wild Discovery*
9:30: *Discovery Kids*
10:30: *Splat! IV*
11:00: *Mega Movie: Magic II*
11:30: *Untamed Australia*
12:30: *Land of the Tiger*
1:30: *Shark Weekend 2001*
3:30: *Medical Mysteries*
4:30: *Lonely Planet V*
5:30: *Crime Night*
11:15: *Sunday Best: Prelude to a Kiss*
1:15: *Action: Con Air*
3:30: *Star Kids Club: The Willies*
5:30: *Drama: True Friends*
6:00: *Doubtfire*
11:15: *Sunday Best: Prelude to a Kiss*
1:15: *Action: Con Air*
3:30: *Star Kids Club: The Willies*
5:30: *Drama: True Friends*
6:00: *Star Trek: The Next Generation*
10:00: *Friday Night: Premiere Star Trek Troopers*
12:30: *Star News Focus Asia*



ZEE TV
12:30: *Bournvita Quiz Contest*
1:00: *Ateet*
1:30: *Dollar Bahu*
2:00: *Hip Hip Huray*
2:30: *Zee & You*
3:00: *Hindi Feature Film*
6:00: *Super Sunday Preview*
7:00: *English Premier Foot-*



CHANNEL [V]
7:30: *SV So Long Gone*
8:30: *SV Best of Jumpstart*

PICK OF THE DAY



The World Is Not Enough.

On Star Movies at 7:00 p.m. Greed, revenge, world dominance, high-tech terrorism it's all in a day's work for James Bond, who races to defuse an international power struggle with the world's oil supply.

ZEE NEWS

6:30: *News in Hindi*

10:00: *Cyber Zee*

11:00: *Spl. Correspondent*

12:00: *Inside Story*

2:00: *Dollar Bahu*

2:30: *Zee Premier Show*

3:00: *Cinema Hits*

4:00: *Beyond Headlines*

6:00: *Ek Nazar*

5:00: *Cyber Zee*

10:30: *Funda Kya Hai*

11:00: *Drishti*
11:30: *Cyber Chat*
12:00: *Business Quotient*
12:30: *Jadoo & His Magic Word*

12:45: *Jobs People Do-Hindi*

1:00: *Crt Rsr-IT & Corp*

2:00: *Kya Ap Jante Ho*

2:30: *Aa Gayi Hindi*

2:45: *Little Einsteins*

3:00: *Paiva Vaspol*

3:30: *Xpressions*

4:00: *Swayam*

4:30: *Parenting Ek Ehsaas*

5:00: *Off-beat Professionals*

5:30: *Echak Daana*

6:00: *Managing People*

6:30: *Crt Rsr-School & ECL*

7:30: *Footprints of Time*

8:00: *Right Click*

8:30: *World Games*

9:30: *Fashion Design*

10:00: *Zed TV Curtain Raisers*

11:00: *Nel Riders*

11:30: *Corporate Warriors*

12:00: *Strictly Business*

1:00: *Hil Pi Hit*

2:00: *Jharkha*

2:35: *Blue*

3:05: *Tara Rum*

3:30: *Sindbad*

4:00: *Hit Pi Hit*

5:00: *Zee Music Box*

12:30: *Hit Mix*

1:30: *Artist of the Fortnight*

2:00: *Heidi*

2:30: *Bugs Bunny Specials*

3:00: *Scooby's All Star Laff-a-lympics*

4:00: *2 Stupid Dogs*

4:30: *The Popeye Show*