

## RECOMMENDATIONS

## Exhibitions

**January 13-February 12**  
Saju Art Gallery is holding the 50th Grand Group Art Exhibition of reputed Bangladeshi artists with 128 art works by 87 artists at the gallery premises (F/40-41, DCC, North Super Market 2nd Circle, Gulshan). The display will remain open for all from 10 am to 8:30 pm everyday except Fridays.

**February 8-20**

A solo photography exhibition by renowned portrait photographer Nasir Ali Mamun will be inaugurated by poet Shamsur Rahman at the Goethe-Institut, on Sunday, February 8, at 5pm. The exhibition will remain open till February 20, from 2pm to 8pm. Venue: House 10, Road 9 (new) Dhanmondi R/A.

**March 1-31**

A month long photo and book exhibition dedicated to the International Women's Day will be held at the library of the Russian Cultural Centre.

## Painting and recitation competition

**February 21**

A painting and recitation competition for children dedicated to the International Mother Language Day will be held at the Russian Cultural Centre at 10 am.

## Bertrand Blier Retrospective

Zahir Raihan Film Society will screen four films made by renowned French filmmaker Bertrand Blier at the Alliance Francaise auditorium at Road No. 3, Dhanmondi as per schedule given below:

8 Feb., 5pm: *The Visitors*  
7pm: *The Visitors* (Part 2)  
9 Feb., 5pm: *Cold Cuts*  
7pm: *Stepfather*  
10 Feb., 5pm: *Thank You, Life*  
7pm: *My Man*

## Let us know

The culture desk has been focusing on art, music, cinema and personalities for so long. But we know that for every story we print there are perhaps hundreds more that the newspaper leaves uncovered. In the New Year, we want to tell the stories of those highly talented artistes, singers, musicians, painters and actors, who have so far remained undiscovered.

However, to discover them, we need your help. We invite you to write to us if you know of a talented person or a story that you think we should write about. Whether it be a hidden talent, a long forgotten folk story or a new dimension in our cultural scene, come forward and let us know. We would like to hear from you, and would enjoy getting your talents noticed in circles that matter.

Make your story within 300-350 words, with pictures, and send it to culture@thedailystar.net or Culture Desk, 19 Karwan Bazaar, Dhaka 1215.

## Cinema

## IFFR: anatomy of a film festival

## The 33rd International Film Festival Rotterdam 2004 ends



SABBIR CHOWDHURY, back from Rotterdam, the Netherlands

600 films in 24 film theatres with 355,000 audience turnover and a revenue of Euro 1,000,000 from ticket sales; that, in brief, is all about this edition of International Film Festival Rotterdam (IFFR). But figures do not always speak the truth. Figures cannot say everything about a very successful film festival. The fact that the audience turnover is the largest among the film festivals in the world (bypassing the biggest film festivals on earth: at Cannes, Berlin and Venice) is enough to prove the worth of the festival. Throughout its thirty-three editions, ever since its inception in 1972, Rotterdam has proved itself to be the best loved film festival in the world.

Rotterdam Film Festival is something very special to the independent, activist and less-known filmmakers. Because, they know that this festival has always been friendly to them. No-where else in the biggest film festivals can they expect a sympathetic consideration. As a result, Rotterdam Film Festival has become the largest get-together of independent filmmakers in the world. This is more so because of the fact that each year, the festival's Hubert Bals Fund supports a good number of independent filmmakers from around the world in three stages: script development, post-production and distribution. Naturally, the festival programme contains a lot of films made by independent filmmakers. This year, a record thirty Hubert Bals Fund supported films were included in the Tigers Competition and the main programme.

Parallel to the screening of the films were lot of programmes like the Rotterdam Film Parliament, debates, talk shows, interviews, exhibitions,



A scene from Lee Kang-sheng's *The Missing* installation programmes, 'Filmmakers in Focus', 'Artist in Focus', 'What is cinema?' and so on. This was Simon Field's last festival as co-Director. Simon joined Rotterdam Film Festival as the only Director eight years back and remained so for five years. For the last three years, Simon Field and Sandra den Hamer acted as co-Directors. Simon was basically the Artistic Director and Sandra was the Managing Director, but this distribution often overlapped. Sandra den Hamer will be in charge of the festival as Director from 2005.

The main programme at Rotterdam featured some of the very best films of 2003 and 2004 like the 'Golden Palm' winner at Cannes *Elephant* by Gus van Sant, the 'Golden Lion' winner at Venice *The Return* by Andrei Zvyagintsev, *The Story of Marie and Julien* by Jacques Rivette, *Father and Son* by Alexander Sokurov, *Code 46* by Michael Winterbottom, *Zatoichi* by Takeshi Kitano, *The Barbarian Invasions* by Denys Arcand, *Anatomy of Hell* by Catherine Breillat, *Crimson Gold* by Jafar Panahi, *Distant* by Nuri Bilge Ceylan, *21 Grams* by Alejandro Gonzales Inarritu, *Twentynine Palms* by Bruno Dumont, *Lost in Translation* by Sofia Coppola, *The First Letter* by Abolfazl Jalili, the 'Golden Leopard' winner at Locarno *Silent Waters* by Sabiha Sumar, and *The Silence Between Two Thoughts* by Babak Payami.

The Tiger Awards, given to three films each year (each of the films should be a first or second



Three Tiger Award winners (L-R): Jan Kruger of Germany, Srdjan Vuletic of Bosnia-Herzegovina and Lee Kang-sheng of Taiwan

feature by the independent filmmaker), worth Euro 10,000 each, are also of immense help to the filmmakers. The winners can very well start their next film projects with this amount of money. This year's three Tiger Award recipients are: *The Missing* by Lee Kang-sheng (Taiwan), *Summer in the Golden Valley* by Srdjan Vuletic (Bosnia-Herzegovina), and *En Route* by Jan Kruger (Germany). *The Missing* also won the NETPAC (Network for the Promotion of Asian Cinema) Award and the KNF (Association of Dutch Film Critics) Award. The Amnesty International-DOEN



A scene from Srdjan Vuletic's *Summer in the Golden Valley*

award went to *Last Train* by Alexei German, Jr. The International Film Critics (FIPRESCI) Award went to *Peep "TV" Show* by Yutaka Tsuchiya (Japan).

Lee Kang-sheng is best known as the celebrated Taiwanese filmmaker Tsai Ming-liang's lead actor in his films. *The Missing* is Lee's debut feature. It centres on a woman who loses a child and starts searching for him. This sense of loss pervades the film and the film is also a search for identity in an apparently mechanised city life in modern Taipei. *Summer in the Golden Valley* is



A scene from Yutaka Tsuchiya's *Peep "TV" Show*

also the debut feature by Bosnian filmmaker Srdjan Vuletic. It deals with the protagonists, two young boys, trying to cope with the situation in the collapsed city of Sarajevo where the environment is degraded morally and ethically. Though there is a hint of a better future, but who knows how long it will take. *En Route* is a film about a young mother, her daughter, her boyfriend and a charming young man who intrudes in their apparently quiet life in their camping holiday site.

The International Film Critics (FIPRESCI) Award winner *Peep "TV" Show* by Japanese



A scene from Jan Kruger's *En Route*

filmmaker Yutaka Tsuchiya is a DV feature made with a very low budget. The film centres on a group of young people who roam around Tokyo, the mega city. They live alienated and dislocated lives in tiny apartments, passing their times surfing through the Internet, mostly indulge themselves in the Internet porno. They also intrude into the privacy of other people's lives. They are seen escaping the closed circuit television (surveillance) cameras. Their lives are miserable and that gives an idea about the future. The film is an apocalyptic vision of the future.

The filmmakers who visited the festival include Takeshi Kitano from Japan, Catherine Breillat from France, Raul Ruiz from France, Michael Winterbottom from the UK, Isaac Julien from the USA, Abolfazl Jalili from Iran, Gaston Kabore from Burkina Faso, Tunde Kelani from Nigeria, Kamal Haasan from India, and Sabiha Sumar from Pakistan.

Photo courtesy: International Film Festival Rotterdam

Sabbir Chowdhury, a film critic and film activist, teaches in the department of English at Jahangirnagar University, Dhaka, Bangladesh.

## Celebratio

## 50 Golden Years

## St. Joseph High School celebrates Golden Jubilee

ELITA KARIM

It was a total wonder to watch boys of generations and ages mingling together, at the 50th anniversary of St. Joseph High School. This was definitely a historic moment and undoubtedly created ripples of nostalgic thoughts in the minds of both the students and teachers.

The two-day ceremony, which began on February 6, was inaugurated early in the morning, followed by breakfast. Organised by the present students of the school, the various clubs, namely the Scintilla Science Club, Josephite Debating Club, Interact Club, Josephite Chess Club, Josephite Cultural Forum and Josephite Language Club arranged fun-filled events for the old students and their families. Former students of the school, who were each given an identity card for the two-day occasion, were seen enjoying the debate competition, chess contests, extempore speech contests and the various quiz sessions.

Right after lunch, the Cultural Forum began to display their array of programmes. Old classmates screamed with joy when a band from the classes of '95 and '98 performed popular numbers. While talking to the performers from the class of '98, Robin and Fida claimed that they never realised that they would actually gather the courage to go up on stage and sing the famous 'Mary Ann' by Anjan Dutta. 'We were told of this just before lunch, and didn't have much time for preparation.' Smiled the guitarists Amit and Mamun.

The whole school had turned into a fun fair, where not only the young children, but also the reunited friends bunched up together and bought ice cream and *puchka* for each other. In one of the many stalls, Newaz, a former student was selling T-shirts with the by-line 'My Husband is a Josephite' which literally cracked up everyone around. The old class-time jokes came back to life and fresh laughter was heard all over again on the school campus. The much awaited Miles finally got on stage late in the evening, much to the screaming delight of the spectators.

The frolics continued even on the next day, when the newly renovated basketball court was declared open. To celebrate this moment, a match was organised between the present school basketball team and the St. Joseph's Old Boys Association. After lunch, a special moment, titled 'Reminiscence' was organised, where former students and headmasters voiced their love for the school and school-time stories, followed by a cultural



The original academic building of St. Joseph School at Narinda



File photos of school activities from 1954-2004 show.

A gala dinner finally marked the end of the event, including the tears and hopeful dreams of coming back together once again in another 50 years.

## Around the wor

## Jennifer Aniston's post-Friends plans

FRIENDS might have wrapped just two weeks ago, but that doesn't mean Jennifer Aniston's workload is getting any lighter. According to *The Hollywood Reporter*, the actress, currently starring in the box-office hit *Along Came Polly*, has signed on to an untitled comedy for Warner Bros. about a woman who discovers that her family was the real-life inspiration



for the movie *The Graduate*.

The film, scheduled to start shooting this spring, will follow Aniston as she returns home to Pasadena before getting married. While there she discovers the dark family secret, including that her grandmother spawned the character of the famed seductress Mrs. Robinson.

Source: Internet

US actor Jack Nicholson (L) and US actress Diane Keaton gesture during the photocall for the film "Something's Gotta Give" competing in the 54th Berlinale Film Festival in Berlin on February 6.

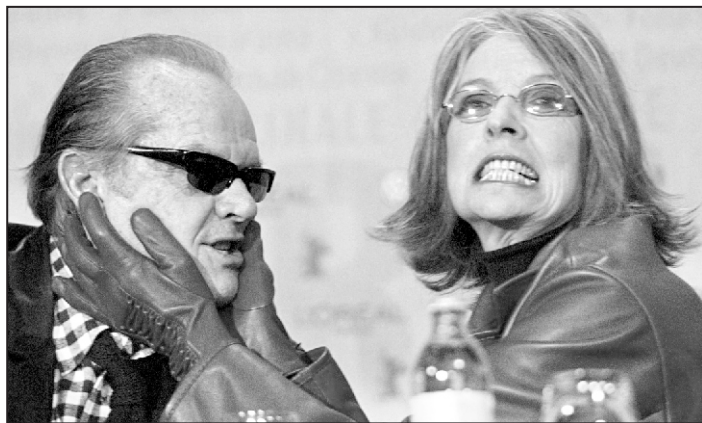


PHOTO: AFP

## TV GUIDE

All programmes are in local time. The Daily Star will not be responsible for any change in

## News Bulletin

**BTV**  
News Headlines (Bangla) at 9:40 am, 12:10 pm, 2:00 pm, 3:10 pm, 4:00 pm, 7:00 pm.  
News (Bangla) at 8:00 am, 1:00 pm, 5:00 pm, 8:00 pm.  
News (English) at 3:00 pm, 10:00 pm.

Late Night News (Bangla and English) 11:30 pm.  
**CHANNEL-i**  
Breakfast News 07:15 am, 9:00 am.  
News (Bangla) at 7:15 pm, 9:00, 10:30, 12:15 am.  
Telecast of BTV news (Bangla and English) at 11:30 pm.

**ATN BANGLA**  
News (Bangla) at 8:00 am, 12:00 pm, 7:00 pm, 10:00 pm, 11:00 pm.  
Telecast of BTV News (Bangla and English) at 11:30 pm.

**ATN**  
10:15 Talk Show : Annodristee  
10:50 Mega serial : Baba

12:40 Uro Cola Saat Rang

1:20 Bengali feature film : Nespap

4:20 Drama : Newyorker Suja Bhal

5:50 Islamee Sawal O Jawab

6:20 Talk show : Annodristee

Every hour on the hour

## BTV

07:35 Suprobhat

08:25 Bangladesh Selected Tagore songs

09:15 Anya Bhuvan: Sensitive Samurai

12:15 Sangbad Potrer Pata Theke

12:30 Bangla Feature Film: Tibra

03:05 Protbaad

03:35 Shukhi Poribar

04:05 Banshori

04:30 Amar Desh

05:05 National Television Debate

06:10 Geetanjali

07:00 Share Market, Weather Forecast

07:30 Film Show: The Lost World

08:30 Drama: Nandini

09:00 Drama

10:30 Priyo Shilpi Priyo Gaan

11:00 Cine Musical prog. Jhilmil

ATN

10:15 Talk Show : Annodristee

10:50 Mega serial : Baba

12:40 Uro Cola Saat Rang

1:20 Bengali feature film : Nespap

4:20 Drama : Newyorker Suja Bhal

5:50 Islamee Sawal O Jawab

6:20 Talk show : Annodristee

## 7:40

Danish Pathe Pathe

8:15 Musical prog : English serial:

8:50 The Adventure of Sinbad

9:25 Mega serial : Baba

10:35 Documentary film : Abibashe

12:20 Janopada

Bengali feature film : Uddar

CHANNEL-i

09:45 Tritiyo Matra

12:00 Chithi Pelam

12:30 Drama Serial: Cheran Pata

01:00 Ebong Cinemar

05:45 Janala

06:10 Music Plus

06:45 Banijyo O Orthority

07:50 Jibon Jekhane Jemon

08:25 Drama Serial: Sharey Tin Tala

09:35 Drama Serial: Ekannoborti

ntv

08:00 Ajker Sakal

08:30 Chenashur

09:00 Frankly Speaking

09:30 Ei Shomoy

10:02 Hello Music

11:00 Drama Serial: Andhakarer Phul Bhal

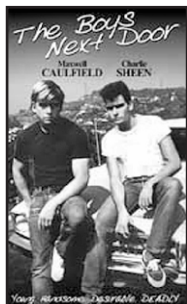
11:30 Magazine

Sequence

12:02 Millennium

02:30 Ke korbey Bajimaath

## TODAY'S HIGHLIGHTS



**MGM:** 9:30 pm. *The Boys Next Door*. Genre: Crime / Drama. **Maxwell Caulfield, Charlie Sheen, Patti D'Arbanville.** Ray and Bo leave their small town the weekend after graduation for a short road trip to LA. Soon, they find themselves lashing out and leaving a trail of bodies behind them. The violence escalates throughout. The anger. The destructiveness. The urge to kill in cold blood. They weren't born with it...



**STAR MOVIES:** 10:15 pm. *Guest House Paradiso*. Genre: Comedy. **Rik Mayall, Adrian Edmondson, Vincent Cassel.** Richie and Eddie are in charge of the worst hotel in the UK, Guest House Paradiso, neighbouring a nuclear power plant. The illegal immigrant chef has fled and all the guests have gone. But when a famous Italian

03:00 Drama Serial: Ronger manush

03:30 Tele Film:

05:10 Cartoon: Farddy

06:00 Apnar Jigyasha

06:35 Shubho Shondhya

06:50 Khabor Deshey Deshey

08:00 Drama Serial: Teen Purush

08:35 Fashion Talkies

09:47 Drama Serial: E Shomoy Oshomoy

11:20 Dindarpan

HBO

9:00 Austin Powers : The Spy Who Shagged Me

11:00 Murder She Wrote

: The Celtic Riddle

12:30 The Perfect Storm

3:00 Jaws 2

5:30 The Screaming Room : Books

Made into Horrors

Simon Sez

6:00 Escape From New York

9:30 The Muse

11:30 The In Crowd

1:30 The Perfect Storm

## PICK OF THE DAY



**DESPERATE MEASURES**

On AXN at 10:00 pm.  
Genre: Action / Drama / Thriller  
**Michael Keaton, Andy Garcia, Brian Cox**  
Frank Connor is a San Francisco police officer who lives to uphold the law, but who is suddenly forced to go to increasingly desperate lengths to find a compatible bone marrow for his gravely ill son, Matt. Peter McCabe is the boy's perfect, and only, DNA match. Unfortunately, he is also a homicidal

## MGM

9:00 Theodore Rex

11:30 Red Letters

2:00 Birthday Girl

4:30 Decadence

7:00 A Texas Funeral

9:30 The Boys Next Door (Charlie Sheen)

ZMS1

STAR MOVIES

6:45 Baby: Secret The

Lost Legend

Ice Age

8:15

3:30 Monk

4:30 Two Guys And A Girl

5:00 Titus

5:30 Journeys In Asian Cuisine

6:00 Travel Asia

6:30 Baywatch Hawaii

7:30 The Simpsons

8:00 Malcolm In The Middle

8:30 The Kumars At No. 42

9:00 Rendezvous With Simi Garewal

9:30 Style

10:00 Top Drive Getaway

10:30 Cover Story

11:00 Focus Asia

11:30 The X Files

ZEE CINEMA

10:30 Betaab (Sunny

Deol, Amrita Singh)

1:30