

Chobi Mela 1V begins from November 9

Exhibition, workshops and discussion sessions on the cards



Photographs by Mahabub Alam Khan of Bangladesh (top) and Sucheta Das of India

CHOBIMela is the name of a festival, which is fast becoming a culture in Bangladesh. This event, one of the largest of its kind in Asia, brings photographers and their works to the forefront. The three-week long Chobi Mela IV is scheduled to take place from November 9 to November 30, 2006. The festival with more than thousand images has 'Boundaries' as its theme.

Festival Director Shahidul Alam expressed his views on this year's theme 'Boundaries':

"Photography creates its own compartments. The photojournalist, the fine artist, the well paid celebrity, the bohemian dreamer, No photoshop, yes photoshop, Canonites, Nikonites, Leicaphytes, digital, analogue.

"The haves, the have nots. Heterosexuals, metrosexuals, transsexuals, homosexuals. The straight, the kinky. WTO, subsidies, sperm banks, kings, tyrants, presidents, prime ministers, revolutionaries, terrorists, anarchists, activists, pacifists, the weak, the meek, the strong, the bully. The good, the

evil. The hawks, the doves. The crusaders, the Jihadis.

"Boundaries -- seen and unseen -- define our modes of conduct, our freedoms and our values."

Chobi Mela, South Asia's first major photography festival, is one of the many initiatives of Drik, which operates from Dhaka. Drik began operations in 1989 in a small house in Dhanmondi, Dhaka. Mark Sealy, Director of Autograph -- the Association of Black Photographers, London -- remembers hearing about Drik's ambitious aim to be a 'fully self-funding picture library that would act as a hub for images produced by Bangladeshi and other South Asian photographers'.

Since 2000, every two years the Drik Picture Library and its partners in Bangladesh and other countries organise the Chobi Mela International Photography Festival. Over the years this festival has gained immense popularity and acceptance. Therefore, incredible though it may seem, 20 countries are participating in this event this year -- a fact that bears testimony to its growing recognition. At the same



Photo: Jah Nongpation

time it's not very surprising to learn that the highest number of entries came from Bangladesh itself.

In December 2000 Chobi Mela

was first launched by Drik as South Asia's first festival of photography, which incorporated 18 exhibitions, including 'The War We Forgot', a photographic study of the 1971 'War of Liberation' by 30 international photographers, including Don McCullin, Marc Riboud, Mary Ellen Mark, Raghu Rai, Abbas, Rashid Talukder and Kishore Parekh. 'The War We Forgot' exhibition met with a heavy-handed 'request' for certain images to be removed. But Chobi Mela did not compromise; the whole exhibition was moved from the gallery and exhibited at Drik's own gallery.

The second Chobi Mela held in November-December 2002 was themed as 'exclusion'. Shahidul Alam wrote: "There are others who have stretched the medium to its limits. From the concerned photo-journalists who have stood up for the oppressed, to the conceptual artists who have taken on social issues as their motif, there have been photographers who have aligned themselves with the excluded, voicing their concerns, and fighting for their rights. This is especially so in the majority world, where photography neither has the

glamour, nor the economic returns often associated with the profession in the West. The media however, has become a tool of the powerful. Media distortion and suppression, combined with the acquiescence of those who stand to gain, ensures that propaganda is packaged as news, silence is bought and consent engineered. Each pen that fails to write, each shutter that fails to open, each voice that refuses to shout in protest, when governmental and corporate power flexes its muscles bears the guilt of compliance. This festival, in giving space to the excluded, pays homage to the few who have continued to say no."

The theme of the third edition of the Chobi Mela, held in December 2004, was 'Resistance'. Regarding the theme, Shahidul Alam wrote: "To resist, to challenge, to question, to go against the grain, to deliberately choose the untrodden path is a conscious decision. It is a risky route fraught with danger, but a route we must follow, if change is to come."

No doubt Chobi Mela IV will be very interesting and different from the previous ones (as they always are). Chobi Mela IV received more than 300 digital and analogue entries, out of which 44 entries will be exhibited at the British Council, National Museum, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, Bengal Gallery, Alliance Francaise, Goethe Institut, Russian Cultural Centre and Drik. Apart from this, there will be an open-air and moving exhibition on 18 rickshaw vans. In addition to this, seven workshops and discussion sessions will be held at the Goethe Institut, Dhaka.

Since the stage is now set, all we have to do is be patient and await the festival to begin.

The Daily Star is the media partner of Chobi Mela IV.

Source: Drik Media Cell

Theatre

'Golapjan' goes to Pakistan

ERSHAD KAMOL

Theatre Art Unit is set to go to Pakistan to participate in the theatre festival with their popular production *Golapjan*. Arranged by Rafi Peer Theatre Workshop, the play is written and directed by SM Solaiman. The festival will be held in Lahore from November 9-20.

Featuring the tragic life of an aged woman named Golapjan, the play portrays the decaying and yet colourful lifestyle of the traditional Dhakaia. As a sub-plot, the play features several changes in the traditional lifestyle of Dhakaia such as traditional carts have been replaced by rickshaws and then three wheelers, *ghughni*, *bakharkhani* have given way to snacks and chocolate. As a result, the Dhakaia people are losing their trades also.

Rokeya Rafiq Baby performs in the central role. She said, "It's basically a mono-character play supported by a chorus. SM Solaiman's musical has always been a hit in Bangladesh. We hope it will also achieve appreciation in the prestigious theatre festival in Pakistan, in which several Asian



Artistes perform in the musical

theatre troupes participate. We will stage two shows of *Golapjan* on November 10 and 11."

In fact, Theatre Art Unit is participating in another theatre festival in Kolkata, India. Rokeya Rafiq Baby pointed out that they would stage

two plays at Rabindra Sadan in a theatre festival arranged by West Bengal Theatre Academy. She also added, "We will stage *Golapjan* and *Court Martial*. Both of the plays are written and directed by SM Solaiman."

Fazlul Haque Smriti Committee'06 award

announced



Award recipients Humayun Ahmed (R) and Rafiquzzaman (L) seen with Mustafa Monwar and Rabeya Khatun

Paying homage to Fazlul Haque, a pioneering cine-journalist of our country, the, Fazlul Haque Smriti Committee has introduced an award, says a press release. The objective is to honour cine-journalists and film directors who have demonstrated superior skills in their respective fields.

This year, renowned director and writer Humayun Ahmed and cine journalist Rafiquzzaman won the award in the film direction and cine journalism category respectively.

CULTURAL FEAS

Crafts and Ceramics

Exhibition

Title: Crafts and Ceramics Exhibition by Young Artists

Venue: Dots Contemporary Art Centre, 191/A, Haque Tower, Tejgaon-Gulshan Link Road, Tejgaon

Date: October 15 to November 9

Time: 11:00 am to 8:00 pm

Film Screening

Title: Ontorjatra

Director: Tareque and Catherine Masud

Organiser: Laser Vision

Venue: Bangladesh Institute of Administration and Management (BIAM) Multipurpose Auditorium

63, New Eskaton

Date & Time: November 8, at 5:00 pm

Child artistes display creativity

Grand finale of L'I Champs held

KAVITA CHARANJJI

Diwakar Sharma, 13, is truly differently abled. Despite being visually impaired he continues to hold audiences in thrall with his wonderful melodies. This correspondent had the chance to interact with him five years ago when he was a student of

the Delhi-based National Association for the Blind (NAB). Interspersed with English lessons, games and Braille lessons, the children avidly sang a mix of English and Hindi songs. Even then his talent was visible, particularly his rendering of the patriotic *Ai mere watan ke logon*. Now he is a student

adjudged the first runner up in Zee TV's grand finale of *Sa Re Ga Ma Pa's L'I Champs* programme. The No 2 spot went to Sameer Mohammat from Mumbai while the elated if disbelieving --Sanchita Bhattacharya from Kolkata walked away with the first prize. As the winners went away with the prizes, it was an exciting moment for the participants, audience and parents alike.

The judges of the contest were singers Abhijeet Bhattacharya, Bappi Lahiri and Alka Yagnik. It was a tough task for them to zero in to the winners as the competition was close and talents were aplenty. The popular anchor of the show was Shaan.

Stars such as Shah Rukh Khan, Anupam Kher, Chunky Pandey and Puja Bhatt graced the occasion. The biggest applause was of course reserved for Shah Rukh, who pointed out that the programme was "a great opportunity to see and listen to the children. I am here in my capacity as 'Don' uncle." Shah Rukh announced the winners amidst much fanfare.

Also present was Shreya Ghoshal, the first L'il Champs winner and recipient of a national award.

The finale was emotional as teary eyed young contestants and parents tried to hide their disappointment while the family of the winners were on cloud nine. Sameer sang *Tere masoom...* He was followed by Sanchita's rendering of *Kabhi alvida na kehna*. Diwakar in turn performed *Main ne choo kar dekha hai*. The judges too pitched in to sing several numbers.

The singers of the contest also received awards from choreographer and dancer Shiamak Davar. As a token of appreciation, the impressed Davar gifted Diwakar with a free lifetime membership supported by his trust Victory Arts Foundation. Similarly he presented Sameer and Sanchita with a three-year membership of Shiamak Davar Institute of Performing Arts (SDIPA) centres in India.

The last word of the evening was that of actor Chunky Pandey who maintained, "Singers should retire because L'il Champs are here."



Sanchita in full form



Diwakar, the first runner up of a mainstream school in Delhi. Today Diwakar has done himself proud. On Saturday last, he was

TV GUIDE

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

News Bulletin

BTV
News Headlines (Bangla) at 8:55 am, 12:10 pm, 2:00 pm, 3:00 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
News (Bangla) at 7:15 am, 9:00am, 2:00pm, 7:00pm, 9:00pm, 10:30pm, 12:15 am.
Telecast of BTV news (Bangla and English) at 11:30 pm.

ATN BANGLA
News (Bangla) at 7:00 am, 10:00am, 2:00 pm, 7:00 pm, 10:00 pm, 11pm.
News (English) 8:20am, 7:00pm
Telecast of BTV News (Bangla and English) at 11:30 pm.

ntv
News Headlines (Bangla) at 10:00 am, 12:00 am, 6:15 pm, 9:30 pm.
News (Bangla) 7:30 am, 2:00 pm, 5:00 pm, 7:30 pm, 10:30 pm.
Telecast of BTV News (Bangla and English) at 11:30 pm.

TARA BANGLA
News Headlines (Bangla) at 5:30pm, 7:30pm.
Tara News (Bangla) at 8:30 pm, 11:30 pm.
Tara News Bangladesh (Bangla) at 9:30 pm.

BBC WORLD
Every hour on the hour

BTV
08:10 Desher Gaan
08:20 Bishwa Protidin
08:30 Open University
11:15 Shukhi Poribar
11:40 Musical Programme
12:05 Shanbadpotrer Pata Theke
12:30 Maa O Shisur Kotha
01:30 Mati O Manush
02:15 Rup Kothar Deshey
02:40 Cartoon
03:30 Educational Programme
04:30 Band Show
05:30 Magazine
06:40 Tagore Song
08:40 Drama
10:25 Teknaf Theke Tetulia
CHANNEL-i
09:30 Shongbad Potrey Bangladesh
09:45 Public Reaction
09:50 Gramen Phone
11:05 Triloyomatra
11:30 Cricket Online (live)
11:30 Amar Chhobi
12:30 Aaj Dupurey O Citycell
12:30 Tarokakothon
01:05 Ebong Cinemara Gaan
01:30 Shongbadpotre Bangladesh
01:45 Public Reaction
02:40 Humayun Ahmed's Selected Drama
04:05 Amar Gaan
04:30 Sharif Melamine
04:35 Shangitmla
04:50 Sa Re Ga Ma
05:10 i Sports
05:30 Chhaya Jhankar
06:00 Chhaya Jhankar
06:20 Mirror

07:50 Rup Rohoshyo
08:20 Drama Serial: Ferari
09:35 Dewal
10:00 Badha Projapati
10:00 Drama Serial: Shada
12:00 Ranger Swapno
Grammephone
Ajker Shangbadpotro
ATN BANGLA
10:30 Anyodrishti
11:05 Drama Serial: Nire
11:35 Tar Nil Dheu
12:15 Three Stooges
12:15 Amar Computer
01:30 Shur Chhobi
02:30 Talk Show
03:15 Drama Serial: O Amar Chokkhu Nai
03:45 Children's Programme
05:10 Bangla Namer Desh
05:45 Islamic Programme
06:20 Aynar Shamney
07:50 Drama Serial: Jollad
08:20 Drama Serial: Ferari Siren
08:50 Drama: Shopner
09:10 Bishriti
10:40 Talk Show: Mukto Shonglad
Rtv
09:10 Tagore Song
10:30 Purush
11:00 Drama Serial: Boro Didi
12:05 ICT Today and Tomorrow
02:30 Islamic Programme
03:40 Drama Serial: Black and White
04:20 Mina
05:10 Talk Show: Ei Mon
06:00 Ajker Bangladesh
06:35 Amar Desh
08:00 Tele Film: Doyeta

08:50 Magazine
Programme: Char
09:20 Dewal
10:45 Drama Serial: Akash
Ki Chhoa Jai
Rtv Exclusive
CHANNEL 1
08:40 Shuprobhat Bangla-desh
09:30 Chokh Mele Dekhi
10:30 Bangla Feature Film: Moha Nayak
01:00 Bangla Fusion
03:30 Drama Serial: Daar Kak
04:30 Bioscope
05:15 Shukh Tara
06:00 Saanj Bela
06:30 Top News

06:45 Jonotar Ishtihar
07:00 Nongor
08:15 Drama Serial: Daar Kaak
09:00 Fashion
Programme:
09:00 Rupantor Golpo
Expression
BANGLAVISION
09:30 Rastro Bonam Eka
10:00 Raat Birate
10:30 Public Forum
11:30 Drama Serial: Uro Chothi
12:00 Ebong Classer
02:30 Bairey
03:00 Magno Chaitanne
Sish
03:00 Desher Pathay



The Bodyguard
On HBO at 09:30pm
Romance
Cast: Kevin Coster, Whitney Houston

03:30 Ki Jadu Bangla
Gaaney
04:00 Cinebit Shada Kalo
04:30 Shamney Nirbachon
05:00 Music Rhythm
05:30 Amader Atithi
06:25 Diner Sheshey
08:10 Drama Serial: Shonar Phool
09:20 Agamir Kontho
SONY
09:00 Telebrands Tele
Shopping
09:30 Chartbusters Music
10:00 Music Mantra Music
10:30 Music Beats Music
11:00 Man Mein Hai
11:00 Vishwas Spiritual
12:00 Kaajjal - Sabbki

09:00 Drama
Ek Ladki Anjaani Si
09:30 Drama
Aisa Des Hai Mera
10:00 Thodi Khushi Thode
Gham Drama
10:30 Bigg Boss Reality
Based
11:00 Vaidehi Drama
11:30 Khauffnaak Thriller/
Horror
STAR PLUS
09:30 Kumkum - Pyara Sa
Bandhan
10:00 V Trailers - Star Plus
10:30 Shaka Laka Boom
Boom
11:30 Karam Apnaa Apnaa
12:00 V Trailers - Star Plus
12:30 Resham Dankh
01:00 Kasauti Zindagii Kay
01:30 Kumkum - Pyara Sa
Bandhan
02:00 Bhabhi
02:30 Kesar
03:00 Saarthi
03:30 Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi
Bahu Thi
04:00 Kahin To Hoga
04:30 Karam Apnaa Apnaa
05:00 Prithviraj Chauhan
05:30 Antariksh
06:00 V Trailers - Star Plus
06:30 Aladdin
07:00 Timon And Pumbaa
07:30 Sonpari
08:00 Karishma Ka Karishma
08:30 Antariksh
09:00 Kasauti Zindagii Kay
09:30 Viraasat
10:00 Karam Apnaa Apnaa
10:30 Kahaani Ghar Ghar Kii
11:00 Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi
Bahu Thi
11:30 Kahin To Hoga
12:00 Paraya Dhan

HBO
10:15 Decoit
12:00 Beverly Hills Cop II
12:00 Beastmaster III: The
Eye of Braxus
04:00 Prime Gig
06:00 Beethoven's 2nd
07:45 Around the Bend
09:30 The Bodyguard
12:00 The 18 Shaolin
Goldenboys
02:00 Freddy vs Jason
STAR MOVIES
08:45 Heaven's Pond
10:20 Dr. No
12:15 Finding Forrester
02:30 Force Of Impact
04:00 Dodgeball: A True
Underdog Story
05:35 November
07:00 From Russia With Love
09:00 Moscow Heat
10:35 First Power
STAR WORLD
09:00 The Simpsons
09:30 The Oprah Winfrey
Show
10:30 My Wife And Kids
11:00 The King Of Queen
11:30 Wild Card
12:30 Everybody Loves
Raymond
01:00 Becker
01:30 Night Rider
02:30 Prah Winfrey Show
03:30 The Bold And The
Beautiful
04:30 General Hospital
05:30 Desire: Table For
Three
06:30 The Simpsons
07:00 Heers
07:30 Riends
08:00 Einfield
08:30 Ne Tree Hill
09:30 Ghost Whisperer

10:30 Ommander In Chief
11:30 Desire: Table For
Three
NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC
08:30 Bin Laden's Spy
10:30 Be The Creature
11:30 Air Crash Investigation
12:30 Seconds From Disaster
01:30 Crime Night
02:30 Bin Laden's Spy
04:30 Nat Geo Junior
05:30 Bin Laden's Spy
07:30 Tigers Of The Snows
08:30 Escape Tech
09:30 Is It Real?
10:30 Nat Geo Investigates
Terrorism
11:30 Rated W
DISCOVERY CHANNEL
08:30 Raw Nature, Raw Meals
09:30 First Emperor: The Man
Who Made China
11:30 X-Files
12:30 Bringing Home Baby,
Family Affair
01:00 Baby Story, A
01:30 Raw Nature, Raw
Lessons
02:30 New Detectives
03:30 Ultimate Guide, The:
Mummies
04:30 Raw Nature, Raw Meals
05:30 Junkyard Wars 10
06:30 Deadliest Catch, Man
Overboard
07:30 Raw Nature, Raw Talk
08:30 Honey We're Killing The
Kids!
09:30 Bringing Home Baby
10:00 Runway Models
10:30 Placebo: Mind Over
Medicine
11:30 America's Most
Haunted Places