

## WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

## Film Screening

Title: 2nd Int'l Film Week '08  
Organiser: JSFS  
Venue: Central Auditorium, JU  
Date: April 16-22, April 18  
3:00 pm In The Mood For Love (Hong Kong)  
5:30 pm The Day I Became A Woman (Iran)  
6:30 pm The Princess & The Warrior (Germany)



## Baishakhi Mela

Organiser: Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation  
Venue: Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre  
Date: April 14-24  
Time: 10am to 8pm



## Photography Exhibition

Title: Zoom in! Discovering New Hopes  
Venue: Drik Gallery, H 58, R 15A (new), Dhanmondi  
Date: April 16-20  
Time: 3pm-8pm



## Solo Painting Exhibition

Title: Traveling over the Horizon  
Artist: Kazi Rakib  
Venue: Galleri Kaya, H 20, R 16, S 4, Uttara  
Date: April 18-May 2  
Time: 11am-8pm



## Unheard stories from the fringes

Photo exhibition at Drik



Me and My Desire by Hasan Ahmed Rupu



Early Marriage by Gobinda Roy



Runu's Doll by Md. Shakil Islam Shuvo

KARIM WAHEED

Runu dreams of a new doll, new clothes. She wants to go to school with her brother. Her feather walks on her dreams, saying, "Girls don't need to go to school." Too young to be jaded, Runu draws dolls on dirt and wishes she could shape her life like the pictures (photograph and story by Md. Shakil Islam Shuvo).

Runu's fate is perhaps familiar but her story along with others', living on the fringes of society, are rarely narrated by those who

live in the same conditions. The ongoing exhibition "Zoom in! Discovering New Hopes" at Drik Gallery is a novelty in that sense.

In June 2007, Marie Stopes Bangladesh decided to participate in a project titled "Zoom in!" with an aim to help young people in UK, Netherlands and Latvia understand global development issues. The project created an opportunity for young adolescents in eight southern countries to share their experiences and observations through photographs. The project is designed to be an interaction between the young from

developed and developing countries. The "Zoom in!" project was funded by the European Union (EU) and jointly implemented by Marie Stopes International (UK), World Population Foundation and You Act (Netherlands), and Latvia's Association for Family Planning and Sexual Health.

The project enabled Marie Stopes Bangladesh to interact with underprivileged adolescents in an untried way. Twenty-four young individuals from the slums and communities where Marie Stopes works were provided with cameras. These young boys and girls, who perhaps have never had the

chance to shoot photos, went through an orientation.

"The outcome of this initiative is truly inspiring! These pictures give us a stunning view of their lives -- of hope in the midst of despair, of stolen bliss and more," says Dr. Yasmin H Ahmed, managing director of Marie Stopes.

Brian Forey, Charge d' Affaires, European Union inaugurated the exhibition on April 16. Forey congratulated Gobinda Roy, one of young photographers, who will represent the "Zoom in!" project (Bangladesh) in London.

A presentation was held at the inauguration. The photographers shared their experiences while working on the project.

The display is being touted as a "Photo-voice" project; it's not just about photos, rather the images help construct the whole story.

Laili Akhter narrates the story of Julekha, a *bede* (gypsy). Julekha recalls happy days with her husband and children. After the death of her mother, she started looking after her younger sister. One day, Julekha's world came crashing down when her husband repeated that dreaded word three times: "Talaak! Talaak! Talaak!". Julekha got ready to leave the home she could no longer call her own and asked her sister Maya to come along. As Maya responded, "Why would I want to leave my husband's home?", Julekha couldn't decide which one hurt her more -- losing her husband's love or a sister alienated?

"Be quick Shabana! At this pace it'll take you the whole day," rushes Shabana's (photo and text by Md. Selim Hossain Rikon) mother while breaking bricks. Shabana's mother started bringing her along to work after the young one complained that people at their slum were tempting her with cookies and trying to touch her. Going through puberty, Shabana sees her "girlhood" as a curse. Why else would her mother sigh for a son?

Sharif's (photo and text by Sajib Das) father was pulling a cart while the young one was sleeping on it. A truck hit their cart. A badly injured Sharif survived after blood transfusion. Two years later he was getting sick often and losing weight fast. Doctors confirmed that Sharif was HIV positive. Now no one plays with Sharif and his family members have become social outcasts. Sharif's father has no idea how to save his son.

Some of these stories will perhaps seem too grim to many but they are all too real -- not bird's-eye view but recounted by their compatriots. The young story-tellers certainly deserve a nod.

"Zoom in! Discovering New Hope" will continue at Drik till April 20.



PHOTO: MUMIT M.

Dhaka Mahanagar Samity (Dhaka Samity), an organisation working to preserve and uphold the history, traditions and cultural heritage of Dhaka, brought out a colourful Rally on April 17 to celebrate the 400th anniversary of the city. Starting from the Old Dhaka, the rally was a part of a three-day festival titled "Taste of Dhaka" that started on the same day at the Kalabagan Ground.

## 2nd Int'l Film Week '08 begins at JU

## CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

A weeklong film screening titled "2nd International Film Week '08" was inaugurated at the Central Auditorium, Jahangirnagar University on April 16. Jahangirnagar Students' Film Society (JSFS) has organised the festival, where 19 films will be screened. The festival also includes a 'cell phone filmmaking' contest for the students, seminar and a poster exhibition.

The festival began with the screening of the Cuban film *Viva Cuba*, directed by Juan Carlos Cremata Malberti. Prior to the film screening a brief inaugural programme was held at the venue.

Among others, noted filmmaker Morshedul Islam; Director General of Bangladesh Film Archive, Dr. Mohammad Jahangir Hossain; Professor Shaheen Kabir, department of English, JU and Begumzadi Meherunnesa, widow of theatre icon Selim Al Deen were present at the programme. The festival is dedicated to Selim Al Deen. President of JSFS, Ahmed Reza (associate professor, department of English, JU) presided over the programme.

JSFS paid tribute to Selim Al Deen with the posthumous award

and also honoured one of the leading film society activists Mohammad Khasru.

The weeklong film festival will showcase works of some of the most renowned and talented directors from around the world. The list of films include, *Rosetta* (Belgium) directed by Jean-Pierre Dardenne and Luc Dardenne; *Il Postino* (Italy) by Michael Redford; *Pushpak* (India) by Srinivasa Rao Singeetham; *Suryakanya* (Bangladesh) by

Alamgir Kabir; *Turtles Can Fly* (Iraq) by Bahman Ghobadi and *The Day I Became A Woman* (Iran) by Marziyeh Makhmalbaf.

To encourage the students, the organisation announced a cell phone filmmaking contest. The winner of the contest will be announced on the concluding day (April 22).

An exhibition of the posters of classic films from different era is on at the venue. Radio Foorti is the media partner of the festival.



A scene from Viva Cuba

## "Dainik Tolpar" begins on Channel-i tonight

## CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Channel-i will start airing TV serial *Dainik Tolpar* from tonight at 9:35 pm. The serial has been written by Anisul Haque and directed by Ashrafi Mithu.

Tonight's episode will feature public reaction after the premiere show of the serial. Few "NG" (not good) shots have been included for the viewers; the episode also features Anisul Haque speaking on this new venture.

The story is built upon the bitter-sweet relationship between the employees of the newspaper *Dainik Tolpar*. Masud Hassan is the editor



Fazlur Rahmna Babu (left) and co-artist in Dainik Tolpar

and Shamsuzzaman Babu is the correspondent of the entertainment page. The plot revolves around the lives of the people at the newspaper office and the celebrities they interact with everyday.

The cast includes Shamsul Alam Bakul, Fazlur Rahman Babu, Shobeb, Emon, Eresh Zaker, Prova, Kamal Bayejid, Biplob Prasad, Shameem, Lux Superstar finalists Faria and Munmun and *Close-up 1* finalist Lopa. Nobel, Aupi Karim, Mahmuduzzaman Babu, Nova and *Close-up 1* finalist Nishitha have made guest appearances in the serial.

The serial will be aired every Wednesday, Thursday and Friday at 9:35 pm from April 23.

## Reader's Opinion

## A visit to "Daruchini Dwip"

## FARIDA REZA

Based on a hugely popular book by Humayun Ahmed and directed by actor-director Tauqir Ahmed, *Daruchini Dwip* is soon to take part in a film festival in India. This would be an opportune occasion to go over the movie.

The views contained in this writing however, are those of a layman and are therefore bereft of proficiency and devoid of technical jargon.

Resources, material and aptitude in which the country abounds, wait eagerly to be tapped and harnessed, *Daruchini Dwip* is the result of this search. The drive for perfection is evident in most places and so is the teamwork. The story, the direction, the camera and the music add up to a situation where according to the gestalts the whole becomes more than the sum of its parts.

Humayun Ahmed's cap is not in need of ordinary feathers but one more would do no harm. Credit goes to him for the tightly interwoven plots and crisp dialogues, which characterise his writings. However there are some discrepancies, which lead to imperfection. For instance how does Abul Hayat's character, who himself is going through a monetary crisis, spontaneously offer money to Boltu? Where did this sum come from? How does the



A scene from Daruchini Dwip

intimidating aunt, at a minor provocation from the prospective groom, set the decked up Jori free from bondage? There are few more instances, which will be mentioned later.

Hats off to the caressing wielder of the camera. The delicate elusive beauty of the deep blue sea -- frilled with white linings, the sand, the surf, the setting sun, the sound of the giant waves defy expression in words. Only those with poetic imagination can capture nature's endowment in this manner. The long shots are breathtaking. Love lovers will store these memories in their dream caskets.

The juxtapositions -- fantasy to reality -- are smooth transitions

resembling the modulation of a good vocalist's singing with full-throated ease. Tauqir Ahmed, the once heartthrob of teenagers, has now emerged as an insightful director, good luck to him and happy viewing for us in future.

The choice of Rabindra Sangeet, once again is flawless, Dolly Zahoar's lip-synching to *Amar mon kemon koray* etches on her features not only her son's despair but also the futility of her own incompatible marriage, compliments to the singer and the actress.

A new generation of talented youngsters have joined the fold of the senior thespians. The teamwork is pleasing and successful. Though the former have much to

learn, nevertheless their exuberance and optimism balance the latter's experience and expertise. Thus a talent hunt has really helped the media.

Bangladeshi viewers are sensitive and demanding. A little change here and there leading to fulfilment will satiate their craving for good cinema, which they as logic oriented filmgoers long for.

The last scene is a dirge, a disappointment. It seems that the filmmaker who gave us much hope, suddenly got tired and dozed off to rest. The Kamalapur Railway Station looks desolate and lifeless. Nothing moves! Where are the passengers, the tea and magazine stalls? Has Kana Baba's father along with a microbus and a ship reserved the platform too? Was he afraid that his son would jostle and mingle with the ordinary crowd and catch a cold? It is a challenging task to shoot such scenes but we pay good money to see our own films, don't leave us in a lurch. A content audience takes back haunting memories and dwells on them for days. That which began so well could have continued till the end. We hope for better luck in future and pray that more of our movies will take part in international film festivals and earn kudos for the country.

The writer is an educationist and social worker

## Inter University Drama Festival '08 at Shilpakala

## CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

To create a common platform for the theatre clubs of private universities, IUB Theatre and Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA) have jointly organised a theatre festival at the National Theatre Stage. Eight theatre performances will be staged at the festival, which began on April 12. The festival is dedicated to late drama icon Selim Al Deen.

The festival was inaugurated by the widow of Selim Al Deen, Begumzadi Meherunnesa. President of Bangladesh Centre of International Theatre Institute Ramendu Majumder was the chief guest and chairperson of Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation M. Hamid was the special guest at the inauguration programme. The discussion was presided over by director general of BSA Bhuiyia Shafiqul Islam.

On the opening day, Jahangirnagar University staged Selim Al Deen's play *Shakuntala*, directed by Rashid Haroon. So far, drama clubs of East West University, American International University Bangladesh and University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh have staged *The Proposal*, *Kanjush* and *Bhaddornok* respectively at the festival.

IUB (Independent University, Bangladesh) Theatre will stage two plays -- *All This Madness* and *Buro Shaliker Ghare Ron*, while Primeasia University will stage *Padma Parer Manush* at the festival. Moreover, BSA will stage *Ekhso Bosta Chhaal*.

Chief Patron of IUB Theatre Dr G.M. Shahidul Alam said, "Through the festival we are trying to form a federation of theatre clubs working at different private universities in the country. BSA is supporting us towards this end. We have also invited the public universities to participate at the festival. In response Drama and Dramatics Department of Jahangirnagar University has staged a play."

Deputy Director, Department of Theatre and Film, BSA Golam Sarwar said, "Usually drama clubs of private universities approach us to stage plays at the National Theatre Stage and sometimes it becomes difficult for us to give them hall bookings. I suggested that they form a federation so that they can apply for the use of National Theatre Stage. This is a progress towards forming a federation."