

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Exhibition

Artists: Ivy Islam and Shamim Reza
 Venue: La Galerie, Alliance Francaise de Dacca, 26, Mirpur Road, Dhanmondi
 Date: August 29-September 2
 Time: 9am-12pm and 5pm-8pm (Saturdays 5pm-8pm)



Seminar

On the 180th birth anniversary of Leo Tolstoy
 Organizer: Russian Centre of Science and Culture
 Venue: Auditorium, RCSC, H 510, Rd 7, Dhanmondi
 Date: September 11



Display of Books and Photos

To mark the 90th birth anniversary of Russian writer Boris Zhadar
 Venue: Library, Russian Centre of Science and Culture, H 510, Rd 7, Dhanmondi
 Date: September 3-14



Film Screening

Film: Kamenskaya-1
 Venue: Library, Russian Centre of Science and Culture, H 510, Rd 7, Dhanmondi
 Date: September 9
 Time: 12pm



A slice of life in the region

Bangladeshi issues showcased at Travelling Film South Asia '08



Clockwise (from top-left): Stills from *Living Goddess*, *Eisenfresser* (Ironeaters), and *The Miseducation of Pakistan*.



shopping. If you find a girlfriend and then may be you don't like them after three years you can kind of take them back to the shop and say I'll get a different one now. The girls were caught between the Bangladeshi culture and western ideas - you can go and have boyfriends and maybe experiment a little bit, but the parents frown on the western ways. I find this conundrum very interesting," he explains.

The audience's reaction to the film was evident in the huge applause he received. Along with the film, the music by Tagore singer Aditi Mohsin gave a haunting quality to the work. "Even if you don't understand the music, the poetry and the words, you get a very strong sense of the sound, emotion, feelings of loss and yearnings. The beautiful, magical music contrasts starkly with these London girls who often freely throw four letter words. This is intentional because even though they are very rough outside, the music conveys what I imagine is their inner selves," says Chambers.

The other film to win plaudits was *Eisenfresser* (Ironeaters) directed by German-based Bangladeshi documentary filmmaker Shaheen Dill-Riaz. The film

zooms in on the aftermath of an annual famine in northern Bangladesh. Two farmers, along with their relatives, are forced to leave their homes and find work as labourers in the ship breaking yards on the beaches of Chittagong. Here they dismantle the discards of the western world: decrepit oil tankers and enormous container ships, which expose them to toxic and other perils. The compelling film bagged the "Ram Bahadur Trophy for Best Film", Film South Asia '07.

Many films left an imprint. There was the Indian film on Partition called *Rabba Hum Kee Kariye* (by Ajay Bhardwaj), *Remembrance of Things Present* (by Indian director Chandra Siddan) which won the "Second Best Film Award," Film South Asia '07 and films from Nepal and Afghanistan. Other films came from Pakistan, Bhutan and Sri Lanka.

The outstanding 13 films in Delhi were hosted by the India International Centre in collaboration with Himal Association and Himal South Asian, Kathmandu. This was the sixth edition of Travelling Film South Asia 2008 - a festival featuring outstanding documentaries from the region produced in the last two years. The screened films were selected from

the 45 documentaries aired at the competitive section of Film South Asia (FSA) 2007, in Kathmandu. The FSA is a biennial festival held in Kathmandu once every two years and brings together filmmakers linked by the theme of South Asia, though the filmmaker does not have to be South Asian.

The Travelling Film South Asia 2008 has already traversed many parts of the globe - Chittagong in Bangladesh, Islamabad, Karachi, Lahore, universities in the US, thrice in Delhi, Goa, Colombo and Sussex. On the horizon are screenings in Gauhati, the Bangkok film festival and Singapore.

Enamul Karim Nirjhar: Winner of National Film Award 2007

ERSHAD KAMOL

Architect turned filmmaker Enamul Karim Nirjhar has won the National Award for his debut movie *Aha* in 2007. The movie, released in 2007, has earned appreciation through participating at foreign film festivals.

"The news of winning the national award was exciting to me in the sense that I've received the award for my first movie. It has inspired not only me but the total team of *Aha*."

"I initiated making the movie with the money I saved from the profit of my profession, which is architecture. I consider it a recognition of my creativity. And the award will motivate me to make more quality movie," he added.

Enamul Karim Nirjhar thinks that national awards should be announced regularly and the award winning movies should be screened through government initiative.

However, Nirjhar considers that the selection process of the national awards should be transparent. He demands changes in the mechanism of selection. He said, "I don't understand the logic behind not receiving awards in respective years of releasing quality movies such as *Nirantar* and *Swapnodanay*, which got awards at foreign film festivals."

Nirjhar further stated that negotiations are going on to release playbacks of *Aha* from the Indian popular production company HMV.

Nirjhar is now busy making another feature film titled *Namuna*, which is supposed to be released at the end of this month. Nirjhar said, "It's one of the three movies that got government grants this year. I'm really glad at winning the government grant."

However, Nirjhar claims that he is facing hurdles in making the film. He said, "It's the system that a grant winning movie must be completed within a limited time frame, which is quite difficult



in terms of maintaining quality."

"Bad weather sometimes creates problems. Moreover, the required technical facilities are not available in the country. So, I've to compromise with my plan to release the film in time according to the contract with the government, which is disappointing to me."

On the theme of *Namuna* Nirjhar informed that the movie symbolically satirises political turmoil.



A scene from the film *Aha*.

Rajonikanta's contributions recalled

GOLAM MOSTAFA JIBON, Sirajganj

Speakers at a discussion here urged the government to observe the birth and death anniversaries of renowned poet Rajonikanta Sen at the national level. They also stressed the need to collect and preserve the memorabilia related to Sen.

Sirajganj Zilla Shilpakala Academy arranged the discussion and a cultural programme at the Bhasani Milanayatan in Sirajganj town on Saturday evening. The participants paid homage to three renowned poets: Nobel Laureate Rabindranath Tagore, National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam and Kanta poet Rajonikanta Sen.

The speakers noted that the government observes the birth anniversaries of Rabindranath Tagore and Kazi Nazrul Islam on a national scale. But it does not observe the birth or death anniversary of Rajonikanta Sen in a similar vein despite his rich contributions to Bangla literature. They stressed the need to collect the memorabilia of Sen and establish an institution at his village Sen Bhangabari in Belkuchi Upazila of Sirajganj district for their preservation.

The Deputy Commissioner of Sirajganj, Ashraf Ali, was present at the discussion as chief guest, while Jannat Ara Henry, joint secretary of Zilla Shilpakala Academy presided over the programme.

The speakers also said that Tagore and Nazrul had infused new life into Bangla literature and music through their immense creativity. Alongside them, Kanta Kobi gave new direction to the Bangla poems.

T. H. Sohel, assistant professor of History, Sirajganj University College, Karuna Rani Shaha, principal, Pabna Government Teacher Training College and Alamgir Rahman, superintendent of police, Sirajganj were among others who took part in the discussion.

Later, as part of a cultural programme, artists recited poems and presented music related to different themes such as love, nature and country by the three poets.



Rajonikanta Sen

In remembrance of Abdullah Al Mamun

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

A condolence meeting was held at the auditorium of Mukul Foj in the town commemorating the death of Abdullah Al Mamun, a leading theatre personality of the country.

Professor Amir Ahmed Chowdhury Ratan, convener of Sammilito Sangkritik Jote presided over the meeting. President of Udichi Central Committee Professor Jatun Sarker; poet and theatre personality, Farid Ahmed Dulal; advocate Mohammad Abul Quasem; advocate Abdul Motalab Lal and drama director Azhar Hablu spoke on the occasion.

Sarwar Kamal Robin, secretary of Udichi Mymensingh unit delivered the welcome speech. Poet Amjad Dulan conducted the programme.

The speakers asserted that Al Mamun was a pioneer in the theatre movement of the country, creating a new dimension in this field. They credited him with the innovations introduced in BTV plays and said that his untimely death on the world's stage had left a vacuum. They also went on to say that through his work the drama maestro always sought to lead society and eliminate the prejudices that were rampant in the country.

The speakers also maintained that Al Mamun was an artiste blessed with rare qualities. "It is our duty to complete the unfinished works of Al Mamun," the speakers went on.

The function began with the rhythm of music. The artistes of Mukul Foj Sangkritik Academy - Sujata Routh, Karabi Poddar and Purabi Mitra - rendered mourning songs and recited poetry.

Abbas Kiarostami receives Venice prize

World-renowned Iranian filmmaker Abbas Kiarostami has received the Glory to the Filmmaker award at the 65th Venice Film Festival.

Kiarostami won the prize for his film "Shirin" which was screened at the event's "Out of Competition" section.

The award, which is named after the film "Glory to the Filmmaker" by Japanese director Takeshi Kitano, honours eclectic masters of world cinema.

Kitano presented the award to Kiarostami in a ceremony held at the historical Sala Grande of the Palazzo del Cinema.

Filmmaker, painter, designer and photographer, Kiarostami has received many prestigious international awards, including the Golden Palm at Cannes in 1997 and the Silver Lion at Venice Film Festival in 1999.

Some 52 films are being screened at the Venice Film Festival that runs from August 27 to September 6.

Source: Internet



Abbas Kiarostami

Jennifer Aniston in TV sitcom

The 39-year-old rose to fame playing Rachel Green in *Friends*, which was also shown on the NBC TV network.

30 Rock, starring Tiny Fey and Alec Baldwin, is a behind-the-scenes spoof of a TV network and the huge corporation that owns it.

The third series of the Emmy Award-winning sitcom starts in October. It has featured a number of guest appearances by big names from showbiz.

Aniston's *Friends* co-star David Schwimmer appeared in an episode of 30 Rock during the



last series. Since the hugely-successful *Friends* ended in 2004, Aniston has concentrated on films, including *Friends with Money* and *The Break-Up*.

In July, Warner Brothers film studio told the BBC there were no plans for a rumoured big-screen version of *Friends*.

Since the success of the *Sex and the City* movie, there has been constant speculation that the US sitcom's six stars had agreed to their own film.

Source: Internet