

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Film Screening

Title: War and Peace (I, II)
Director: Sergei Bondarchuk
Venue: Russian Centre of Science and Culture, H 510, Rd 7, Dhanmondi
Date: September 21
Time: 3pm onwards



Group Art Exhibition

Title: Searching Our Roots
Organiser: Alliance Française de Dacca
Venue: Gallery, Alliance Française de Dacca, 26 Mirpur Road, Dhanmondi
Date: September 5-18
Time: 9am-12am and 4pm-8pm (Only 4pm-8pm on Saturdays)



Film Screening

Title: Importance of Wim Wenders: A Retrospective
Organiser: Dhaka University Film Society and Goethe-Institut Bangladesh
Venue: Goethe-Institut Bangladesh, H 10, Rd 9, Dhanmondi
Date: September 15-17
Time: 2pm onwards



Exhibition

Title: Eid o Aamar Swopnobhumi
Organiser: Nitya Upahar
Venue: Gallery Nitya Upahar, 3rd floor, Aziz Cooperative Super Market, Shahbag
Date: September 5-30
Time: 10am-8pm



Looking back

Drik celebrates its 19th anniversary

NADIA SARWAT
Drik, one of the major picture agencies of the country, completed its 19th year on September 4, 2008. To celebrate the occasion, Drik held a discussion programme titled "Looking Back" on September 11 at the Drik Gallery in Dhanmondi. The programme was blessed with a hearty gathering of compatriots and well-wishers of Drik.

Veteran photographers of the country who had captured rare moments of the Liberation War, including Rashid Talukdar, Naib Uddin Ahmed, Aftab Ahmed, Abdul Hamid Raihan and Jalaluddin Haider shared their experiences at the programme. Divided into several sessions, the discussion started with Shahidul Alam, internationally renowned photographer and managing director of Drik. He briefly informed the audience about the agency, its views and activities.



Shahidul Alam (left) with other discussants at the programme.

PHOTO: MUMIT M.



A photograph of an unknown Freedom Fighter on his way to join the Liberation War. Photograph by Mohammad Shafi.

group of people to set up a full-fledged picture agency. Over the years, Drik has succeeded in representing a group of media professionals and practitioners with a social commitment, living and working in the "majority world" (an alternative term for the coun-



A street child leading a procession during the Mass Uprising of 1969. Photograph by Rashid Talukdar.

tries that the westerners labelled as third world or developing world). With facilities such as library, darkroom, studio, gallery, publication, multimedia and Internet, Drik provides art media products for international clientele as well as supporting the cre-

ative individuals. Drik has expanded its activities through other initiatives like Pathshala (a training institute for photography), Drik News (a web-based news photo agency), majorityworld.com and more.

A multimedia presentation titled "Drik Last Year" was screened to inform about the activities of Drik in 2007. Photographer Shehab Uddin, who joined Drik in 2005, made a presentation titled, "Amrao Manush" -- a moving photo story on the people living on the streets in Bangladesh. A power point presentation on majorityworld.com was also shown at the event.

The special attraction was a documentary on a photo exhibition titled "Bangladesh 1971" organised jointly by Drik and Autograph ABP at the Rivington Place in London recently. The exhibition also included films focusing on the Liberation War and displayed photographs primarily by Bangladeshi photographers. The exhibition will likely be held in Bangladesh at the next "Chobi Mela" in January 2009.

"Aha!" to represent Bangladesh at the Oscars

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Enamul Karim Nirjhar's debut film *Aha!* will represent Bangladesh in the Best Foreign Language Film category of the 81st Annual Academy Awards (Oscars). The announcement was made at a press conference held at Dhaka Sheraton Hotel on September 11. The conference was arranged by Bangladesh Federation of Film Societies (BFFS). A nine-member committee, headed by producer and President of BFFS, Habibur Rahman Khan, selected *Aha!* for the presti-

gious competition. Director Nirjhar was also present at the press conference.

Aha! is the fourth film produced by Impress Telefilm Ltd that is going to the Oscars. Impress Telefilm Ltd productions *Shyamol Chhaya*, *Nirantor* and *Swapnodanay* went to the Oscars in 2005, 2006 and 2007 respectively.

Aha! bagged four National Film Awards for the year 2007 including best director, best female singer, best cameraman (colour), and best editor. The film has been screened at several international film festivals including Munich, Cairo and

Osian.

Featuring the story of a family living in Old Dhaka, *Aha!* zooms in on the different issues city-dwellers face everyday, like unplanned urbanisation, generation gap and more. Apart from direction, Nirjhar has written the story and developed the screenplay.

The cast includes Humayun Faridee, Tariq Anam Khan, Fazlur Rahman Babu, Shathi Yasmin, Ferdous and Khaled Khan. Songs used in the film have been written by Nirjhar and set to tune by Indian music director Devjyoti Misra.



A scene from *Aha!*

TV Watch

Drama serial "Ek Janomey" featuring Abdullah Al Mamun

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Drama serial *Ek Janomey*, directed by the late Abdullah Al Mamun, is on air on ATN Bangla. The 288th episode of the serial will be aired tonight at 9:20 pm.

The story of the serial depicts the solitude of an individual. Rakib Chowdhury is a famed cultural personality. Throughout his illustrious career, Rakib has been honoured several times for his works. But in his personal life, Rakib fails to establish himself as a happy father or husband. His two sons are poles different from each other. The elder son is good-natured but he is also a failure as a husband. The younger son is in love with an older woman.

Rakib Chowdhury is a widower. Ruby is one of his favourite and successful students. Rakib



Dolly Zahur and Abdullah Al Mamun in the serial

was instrumental behind Ruby's success. Ruby is a teacher by profession. Rakib expects Ruby's love, which is apparently impossible due to social obstacles. Thus, Rakib feels lonelier than

ever. The cast includes Abdullah Al Mamun, Dolly Zahur, Tarin, Joya, Sabbir, Zahid Hossain Shovon, Jamal Uddin Hossain, Jitu Ahsan and Chumki.

Amitabh addresses the controversy regarding Jaya's remarks

Amitabh Bachchan addressed a press conference on September 10 to clear the air about the controversy that erupted after his wife Jaya's comments at the "Drona" music launch. He also announced that his new film, "The Last Lear", would release as per schedule this week despite Maharashtra Navnirman Sena leader Raj Thackeray calling for a ban on all Bachchan movies in Maharashtra.

Amitabh was accompanied by the film's producer, Planman's Arindam Choudhary, as well as director Rituparno Ghosh and co-stars Shefali Shah and Divya Dutta. "I will not get into this controversy because it has become a government issue," Amitabh said. "The home ministry has ordered an enquiry now, and the matter is in their hands. I will wait for their decision, and take my own. We are ready to face them, and ready to

bear the consequences. We are ready for the punishment too.

"But if even one person has been hurt, we apologise. Jaya's statements did not have malice. There was nothing political in it either. My mind and heart is clean," he continued.

When a journalist asked him whether he would have to repeatedly prove his loyalty to Mumbai, he replied, "No. If you are a celebrity, you are under scrutiny all the time."

Another journalist asked him if he met Raj Thackeray about this incident. "Raj Thackeray is my friend, and we have a great friendship," Amitabh joked. Meanwhile, Choudhary claimed that they would release 20 prints of "The Last Lear" in Maharashtra, out of the total 100 prints.

Source: Internet



Amitabh Bachchan

Nicole Kidman tops Hollywood overpaid list

Nicole Kidman was named the most overpaid celebrity in Hollywood in the second annual list of least bankable stars by U.S. magazine *Forbes*, taking the top slot from fellow Australian Russell Crowe.

Kidman's films were estimated to only earn \$1 for every dollar she was paid compared with \$8 a year ago.

"The Invasion," a remake of the 1956 classic "Invasion of the Body Snatchers," even lost \$2.68 for every dollar earned by Kidman who was reportedly paid \$17 million for her role.

"Despite winning an Oscar for her performance in 2002's 'The Hours,' Kidman has become the most overpaid celebrity in Hollywood," said *Forbes*, adding that her upcoming movie "Australia" could give her a boost.

Second in the list came Jennifer Garner, whose movies including "The Kingdom" and "Catch and Release" have under-performed at the box office. Her movies were calculated to earn \$3.60 for every \$1 she was paid.

Kidman's ex-husband, Tom



Nicole Kidman

Cruise, came third in the list with a \$4 return for every dollar he was paid, mostly because of the failure of last year's movie "Lions for Lambs." For every dollar the star earned the film returned only \$1.88.

Forbes said the ranking was

compiled by looking at a star's past three movies and dividing their total earnings by the films' gross income to get the actor's payback figure.

Making up the top 10 of overpaid Hollywood celebrities were Cameron Diaz, Jim Carrey, Nicolas Cage, Drew Barrymore, Will Ferrell and Cate Blanchett.

The actor whose bankability improved most over the past year was Crowe, who was ranked the most overpaid celebrity last year when Kidman was in second place.

Last year, *Forbes* estimated the movie "Cinderella Man" earned \$5 for every dollar that Crowe was paid. But this year, he was the 18th best earner on a previously issued list of which actors were worth their paychecks, with a return of \$6.88 for every dollar he earned.

This bump was attributed to last year's movie "American Gangster" with Denzel Washington, for which Crowe returned a healthy \$10.80 for every dollar he was paid.

Source: Internet

Australia grants rapper Snoop Dogg visa, plus counselling

REUTERS, Canberra

Australia granted rapper Snoop Dogg a visa on Friday after public complaints over a planned tour in October, but said he would be required to undergo counselling before arriving Down Under.

Snoop Dogg, whose real name is Cordozar Calvin Broadus Jr., was refused permission to even apply for a visa to enter Australia in 2007 because of his criminal record, sinking plans for him to co-host the MTV Australia Video Music Awards.

Australian immigration officials last month cleared an October visit, but then demanded more informa-

tion after a spate of public complaints from Australian victims of crime groups.

Oscar-winning Australian actor Russell Crowe this week wrote a letter to immigration officials to support Snoop Dogg's visa application and 17-day "SmokedOut" tour. Crowe said Snoop Dogg had pledged to do charity work with at-risk youths while in Australia.

"I submit to you that Snoop Dogg poses no threat to Australia or to any individual in this country," Crowe wrote.

A spokesman for the Australian immigration said the visa will be cancelled if Snoop failed to abide by the law during his visit to

Australia and strict behaviour rules to abide by while in the country.

Snoop Dogg was first barred by Australia's former conservative government, which lost power last year to the centre-left Labor government of Prime Minister Kevin Rudd. Labor has steadily softened tough immigration laws while in power. Critics say Snoop Dogg's lyrics are racist and sexist. The rapper has sold over 17 million records.

His criminal record counts several drugs and firearms charges since 1990, including a 1993 acquittal for murder. He has also been denied entry to Britain.



Bollywood actress Mahima Choudhury (centre) inaugurates a superstore 'Star World' at Molly Capita Centre on 76, Gulshan Avenue. This new outlet will provide clothing by several international brands including Pantaloon and Westside. Asadul Amin (left), managing director of Star World is also seen in the photo.