

WHAT'S
ON THIS
WEEK

**Alamgir Kabir
Birth Anniversary**
Organiser: Alamgir Kabir
Chalachchitra Kendra
Venue: Shawkat Osman
Auditorium, Central Public
Library, Shahbagh
Date: December 26
Time: 5pm



**Architectural
Exhibition**
Title: Nature is...
Artist: Rafiq Azam
Venue: Bengal Gallery
of Fine Arts, H 275/F, R
279oldj, Dhanmondi
Date: December 15-26
Time: 12pm-8pm



**Solo Art
Exhibition**
Artist: Ferdous Khan
Venue: Zainul Gallery,
Faculty of Fine Arts,
DU
Date: December 22-28
Time: 11am-7pm

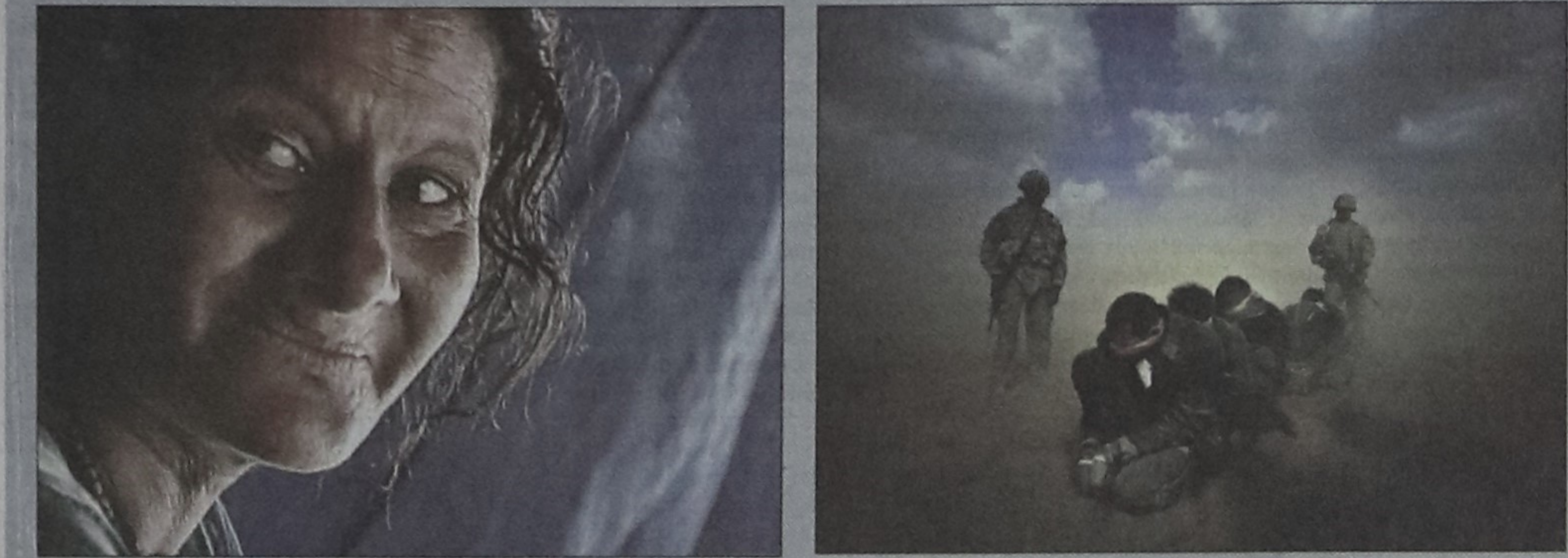


**Documentary
Festival**
Title: 3rd Int'l Festival of
Docufilms on Liberation
and Human Rights
Organiser: Liberation War
Museum
Venue: Auditorium, LWM
Date: December 21-27
Time: 3pm onwards



Liberty on the silver screen

3rd Int'l Festival of Docufilms on Liberation and Human Rights



The late Birangana Gurudasi Mandal in Yasmin Kabir's documentary "A Certain Liberation" (left); a scene from "Taxi to the Dark Side".

JAMIL MAHMUD

Dedicated to the memory of Birangana Gurudasi Mandal, the '3rd International Festival of Docufilms on Liberation and Human Rights' began at the auditorium of Liberation War Museum (LWM) on December 21.

Organised by LWM, the weeklong festival features 20 films from 10 countries in three sections, and will end on December 27. Eminent writer Syed Shamsul Haque inaugurated the festival.

The curtain raiser was Yasmin Kabir's documentary on Birangana Gurudasi Mandal -- "A Certain Liberation". The film features Gurudasi, who witnessed her entire family being brutally slaughtered by the collaborators of Pakistani army during the Liberation War. Gurudasi's sanity could not bear this trauma. Three decades later, Gurudasi continued roaming the streets of Kapilmuni, a small town in Khulna, looking for all she lost. Gurudasi passed away on December 7 this year.

Speaking on the objective of the festival, Maifidul Haque, a trustee of LWM said, "One of the main purposes of the festival is to link our struggle for freedom with similar efforts of other nations from different corners of the world, and encourage our young filmmakers to come forward to face the challenge of documenting history."

Maifidul Haque also informed that the non-competitive festival would be turned into a competitive one from next year. LWM has been providing support to those who want to document history.

This year's festival features films divided into three sections -- International Panorama, Country Focus and Bangladesh Panorama. "A Certain Liberation" is among nine films that have been included in the Bangladesh Panorama section. "Mirpur -- The Last Frontier," "Gano-abbhuthyan '69", "Iron eaters" and "In Search of History" are some of the films in the section.

Seven films including "Tales from the Margin," "War Dance," and "Cuba: An African Odyssey" are part of the International Panorama section.

After the US invasion of Iraq, the latter plunged into chaos, confusion and destruction. The organisers have chosen Iraq as the focus country in this year's festival. Five films made on the atrocities in Iraq including "Taxi to the Dark Side," "The Blood of My Brother" and "Voices of Iraq" are being screened as part of the Country Focus section.

"Voices of Iraq" is a film that has been compiled and directed by the people of Iraq. Alex Gibney's "Taxi to the Dark Side" examines the changes in US policies after 9/11, towards suspects in the war on terror, using the torture and death of an innocent Afghan taxi driver as the touchstone.

Today three films -- "The Blood of My Brother," "Roaring Kansat" and "Iron eaters" -- will be screened.

Babul Wrishi and the ancestral tradition of making percussions

AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh

Babul Wrishi, a maker of percussion instruments, is a known face in Haluaghat upazila. A father of four, Wrishi has been following the footsteps of his ancestors for over a decade. Today he fashions a wide range of instruments such as 'dhol,' 'dholok,' 'khol' and 'tabla.' Though he makes these instruments all year round, he has his hand full on major festivities such as Christmas, Durga Puja, Janmashtami and Dol-jatra when demand picks up. Clients from various places in the district visit Wrishi's shop at Monikuri Para in Haluaghat upazila headquarters to place their orders for the instruments.

Wrishi said that his wife Laxmi Rani enthusiastically pitches in when demand is high. He also asserts that he cannot meet the increasing demand due to financial constraints. "If I could engage more workers in my shop, it would better enable me to meet domestic demands," he said.

As the prices of hide and wood that go into the making of these musical instruments have surged upwards, the manufacturing cost too has gone up, leaving him in a tight financial situation, he added.

A medium sized instrument costs around Tk 600 to 800 and is sold at Tk 1,000 to 1,200. It takes about 7/8 days to make a perfect instrument.

If the makers of musical instruments receive adequate support, this traditional trade would pick up momentum. This is not only a trade, but has deep roots in our tradition and culture.



Babul Wrishi at work.

Marketing 101 Innovative ways to promote films

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

Aamir Khan as barber in a posh central Delhi locality giving scores of his fans a haircut similar to the one he sports in the film "Ghajini" and Akshay Kumar carrying the torch of the Olympic World Winter Games for differently-abled children -- these are the new marketing techniques Bollywood has come up with to promote movies.

Khan set up a makeshift stall in the Bengali Market locality of Delhi and personally held the clippers for a few hours over the weekend to give his fans -- young and middle-aged -- the ultra-short cropped hair he has in "Ghajini" ahead of its release on Christmas Day. The makers of the movie have also tied up with owners of multiplexes, restaurant chains across India to give waiters, ushers and ticket sellers the same haircut.

The superstar also encouraged onlookers to get a haircut from him and joked around with them as part of the promo of "Ghajini," billed as one of the biggest releases of Bollywood this year. It is rarely that the usually reclusive Aamir Khan appears in public, but he made an exception when it came to promoting "Ghajini".

Bollywood analysts say a major reason for Aamir's actions is that he wanted to ensure box office success for the film which is being released



Though Akshay Kumar is denying it, speculation is that his recent run for the Special Olympics was part of a marketing strategy for his upcoming film "Chandni Chowk to China".

hot on the heels of "Rab Ne Bana Di Jodi" starring Shah Rukh Khan, given the intense competition between the two Khans for the top spot in the film industry.

About ten kilometer away, Akshay Kumar, riding on the box office success of his last film "Singh is Kinning," ran with the official torch "Flame of Hope" of the 2009 Special Olympics from the historic Red Fort to Chandni Chowk, the old Delhi locality he was born in, apparently to promote his forthcoming film "Chandni Chowk to China" which is set for release in January.

Akshay is denying it was part of a promo, as he was running with the torch for a cause dear to his heart. He says it is purely coincidence that the torch will travel from Chandni Chowk to Shanghai.

However good the film is, marketing matters a lot, says a Bollywood trade analyst and pointed to the success of small-budget movies like "Welcome to Sajjanpur" directed by veteran Shyam Benegal and "Aamir," Aamir Khan's maiden production.

Bollywood's big production houses set aside a huge chunk of their budget for packaging a film ahead of its release either through interactive television shows or any other novel strategy.

Children's books use Christmas to push global warming agenda

Global warming alarmists, picking up where the Grinch left off, are trying to steal Christmas, some critics say. From children's books to school plays, the climate change crowd is dreaming of a green Christmas, angering opponents who say 'tis NOT the season to be preachy.

The children's book "Santa Goes Green" by Anne Margaret Lewis tells how a young boy named Finn gets Santa to leave the North Pole to help him track down Leopold, a polar bear he has adopted, because the sea ice is melting and Leopold's home is in danger.

"You see, it's like this Santa," Finn tells Santa in the book. "I've adopted a polar bear named Leopold. He is in danger of losing his home. I'm sure you being in the North Pole you know about the melting glaciers. All I want this year Santa, is to save Leopold and his home."

Santa is so inspired by his visit to the polar bear that he decides to re-use last year's wrapping paper, recycle toys and start using wind to generate



"Santa Goes Green" by Anne Margaret Lewis.

power for his toy shop.

The book ends with a note from Santa urging kids to send him notes on how to take care of the planet.

But the content has left some reviewers feeling bearish about the book. "The global climate change alarmists are now trying to brainwash our kids by infusing their unproven

and baseless climate change rhetoric into Santa books," T. Wilkinson wrote on Amazon.com, giving "Santa Goes Green" a one-star review.

"Sad. Really sad," Wilkinson wrote. Lewis, the author, told USA Today she was inspired to write the book after reading an article with her son Cameron about melting glaciers destroying polar bear habitats.

"He asked how we could help the polar bears, so we started going around the house every time we left a room and shut the lights off," Lewis told the newspaper. "Then we would say, 'We just saved another polar bear.'"

Another environmentalist Christmas tome that hit store shelves this year, "When Santa Turned Green," by Victoria Perla, says that global warming is causing the North Pole itself to melt, potentially leaving Santa homeless.

The book has been given the nod of approval by former Vice President Al Gore.

"When Santa Turned Green" helps

even the youngest child grasp the importance of caring for our planet and solving the climate crisis," Gore said, according to the publisher's Web site.

A musical, "Santa Goes Green," for children in grades 4 through 8, also made its debut this year. The 40-minute production features seven songs.

"Melting ice caps, global warming, surfing reindeer! The North Pole is going green this year and everyone is excited -- everyone, that is, except Santa who likes things just the way they are," publisher Hal Leonard's product description says.

While Santa finds going green "inconvenient," the reindeer and Mrs. Claus sing to change his ways.

Song titles include: "Recycle the Fruitcake," "The Greenhouse Effect" and "Turn Off The Pump (And Plug In The Sleigh)."

Source: Internet

Feature film Rabeya on ATN Bangla today



Jyotika Jyoti (left) and Bannya Mirza in "Rabeya".

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Tanvir Mokammel's latest feature film "Rabeya" will be aired today at 3:15 pm on ATN Bangla. One of the three films that received grant from the Bangladesh Government in the year 2008, "Rabeya" was premiered on TV on December 13 on ATN Bangla.

The story of the film goes back to the first week of December 1971. The setting is a village named Ibrahimpur, by the river Rupsha. The village is taken over by the Pakistani military. Emdad Kazi, the most influential man of the village is assisting them as the

chairman of the local 'Shanti Committee'. During a guerrilla encounter, young freedom fighter Khaled is killed. To set an example, the Pakistani Captain orders not to bury the corpse and let it rot in the open field. Rabeya, Khaled's sister and niece of Emdad Kazi, cannot bear this humiliation to his dead brother. In the middle of the night, Rabeya tries to bury the corpse on her own. She gets shot by the Razakars. Her death stirs the sleeping conscience of the villagers.

The cast includes Bannya Mirza, Aly Zaker, Tauquir Ahmed, Arman Parvez Murad, Abul Hayat, Masum Aziz, Keramat Maula, Chitrlekha Guha and Jyotika Jyoti.

Drama serial Antorikkho on Banglavisision

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Drama serial "Antorikkho" will be aired on Banglavisision tonight at 8:15 pm. Written by Pantha Shahrar and directed by Sumon Anwar, the play features Abul Hayat, Pijush Bandopadhyay, Masud Ali Khan, Joya Ahsan, Richi Solaiman, Ahmed Rubel, Fazlur Rahman Babu, Jayanto Chattopadhyay, Chandni, Pran Roy, Nadia and others in major roles.

The serial centres on Arif, a loner who leaves home to escape the humdrum of the city. On his journey he meets many, everyday people living amongst us. Each story contains some dramatic element -- all parts of a greater



Joya Ahsan and Mir Sabbir in "Antorikkho".