

## WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

**Group Exhibition of Masks**  
Title: Mukh O Mukhosh-2  
Venue: Galleri Kaya  
Date: January 16-25  
Time: 11am-8pm



**Solo Ceramic Art Exhibition**  
Title: Dissolved Past and Present  
Artist: Debashish Pal  
Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, 275/F, Rd 27 (old), Dharmundi  
Date: January 17-26  
Time: 12pm-8pm



**Group Art Exhibition**  
Artists: Mainul, Mehedi, Babu, Safin & Tonal  
Venue: Shilpangan Art Gallery, H-26, R-3, Dharmundi  
Date: January 20-28  
Time: 10am-1pm and 5-8pm



**2nd Children's Film Festival '09**  
Organiser: Children's Film Society Bangladesh  
Venue: Shawkat Osman Auditorium, Central Public Library, Shahbag  
Date: January 24-30  
Time: 11am onwards



## Future in Frames

# 2nd Int'l Children's Film Festival to commence with "Hands Off Mississippi"

JAMIL MAHMUD

With the slogan "Future in Frames", 2nd International Children's Film Festival '09 begins tomorrow with the screening of German filmmaker Detlev Buck's "Hands Off Mississippi". Based on an acclaimed novel, the light-footed family film sparkles with warmth and a lovingly nostalgic feeling. It bagged the German Film Prize 2007 as best children's and youth film.

The inaugural ceremony of the festival will be held at Shawkat Osman Auditorium, Central Public Library at 4 pm tomorrow. Eminent educationist Professor Abdullah Abu Sayeed will inaugurate the weeklong festival, which ends on January 30.

In association with UNICEF, Children's Film Society Bangladesh is organising this year's festival. The festival will showcase a total of 156 films from 40 countries including 35 from Bangladesh.

Apart from Bangladesh and Germany, the festival will highlight films from Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, China, Chile, Cuba, Denmark, Ethiopia, Estonia, India, Iran, Japan, Nepal, Palestine and Uganda.

The festival will be held simultaneously at



A scene from "Hands Off Mississippi"; the film will be screened at the opening of 2nd International Children's Film Festival beginning tomorrow.

six venues including Central Public Library, Goethe-Institut, Iranian Cultural Centre and Alliance Francaise de Dacca, British Council, Russian Centre of Science and Culture. The

Central Public Library premises will be used as the main venue.

The high point of the festival is a competitive segment, which will feature 15 films made by Bangladeshi children. Five will be chosen for awards by a panel of judges comprising child filmmakers.

Other attractions include a daylong workshop for children on film, a daylong seminar on children's cinema, a special session 'Learning through Cinema' and child delegates' meeting with three eminent personalities. A total of 104 child delegates from all over the country, including differently-abled and underprivileged, will attend the festival.

The seminar will be held on January 27 at the seminar hall of Central Public Library where Fuad Chowdhury, Shamsul Alam Bakul, Masihuddin Shaker and Badal Rahman will provide keynote papers on four different film related topics.

The workshop on basic ideas in cinema will include lectures by Morshedul Islam, Catherine Masud, Tareque Masud and Tanvir Mokammel.

A special screening of Palestinian documentary "Little Peace of Mine" will be held on January 29. The documentary features brutality on Palestinian children by the Israeli army.



## The other side of the story

Judging a talent show



Fahmida Nabi

SYEDA SHAMIN MORTADA

Music is an integral part of our lives and everything we do is somewhat related to music. "Close Up 1: Tomakei Khujchhey Bangladesh" was like a breath of fresh air for the TV audience, delighting and mesmerising music lovers all around the country. Renowned artiste Fahmida Nabi, who recently made waves with her song "Lukochuri lukochuri golpo" (from the film "Aha!"), was a judge on "Close Up 1", one of the most watched shows on television and was accompanied by the noted music composer Ahmed Imtiaz Bulbul and popular singer Partha Barua.

"I've always believed that without active participation of the young, nothing good can materialise, and this show has discovered and introduced the finest singing talents from all corners of the country. Youngsters with big dreams have proven their mettle on this platform," says Fahmida, adding, "I've been with 'Close Up 1' from 2005 and the situation was pretty different back then. Hip, urban youngsters were not that keen on traditional Bangla songs and many alleged that this show was copied from American and 'Indian Idol'. I think there's no harm in learning from others. More importantly this show revived an interest in mainstream Bangla songs. Young people were listening to more Bangladeshi music and studios got busy producing more albums."

This was the third instalment of the programme and the judge thinks that instead of holding the show every year the contest should be held every two years to add more variety.

"We should aspire to do even better in future and bring about more changes. Directors, judges, participants, associated partners -- everyone should be equally involved in the show," she suggested. When asked what she would like to change in the show, the artiste said, "Judges' evaluations and pointers should be taken seriously. We belong to the world of music and logically should know more about the details and potential of the participants. At least 70 percent of the score should come from the judges and the rest from the audience."

"A capable singer should know when to emote and how to restrain when necessary," she added.

After weeks and months of nerve wrecking grooming and competition, the journey towards achieving the ultimate goal finally came to an end. But there were rumours about discord and disagreements among the people involved with the show. "When a lot of people work very closely round the clock under a lot of pressure, a bit of misunderstanding tends to emerge. I just hope that the winners utilise their opportunities properly. I truly appreciate the roles of Unilever, ntv, Adcom, the media partners and everyone else involved with the show. Without them this show would never have been possible. Last, but definitely not the least, heartfelt gratitude to the audience of our country who interactively took part in the show by voting. That is why this show is so popular today. I think everyone has been a part of this reality show," Fahmida said.

The writer is a freelance contributor

## Theatre

# Jungle Dahon A narrative of the Rakhain existence

RAFIQUL ISLAM, Barisal

Barisal-based theatre troupe Shabdaboli's 50th production "Jungle Dahon" is a theatrical expression of the life and livelihood of the ethnic group Rakhain.

One of the first troupes in the country that started practicing studio theatre, Shabdaboli has been regularly staging plays in Barisal since 1991. For studio productions, Shabdaboli usually chooses experimental plays. "Jungle Dahon" is no exception.

Written and directed by Animesh Saha Litu, "Jungle Dahon" traces the history and struggles of the Rakhains. After losing a battle in their native region, Arakan (in the present day Myanmar), Rakhains migrated to the coastal areas of Bangladesh in the seventeenth century. They set up homes in the heart of jungles, remote hills and other inaccessible areas. Yet, their homes and lands were often snatched away from them. The characters of the play narrate the ongoing struggle of the Rakhains. In the play, the struggle is symbolised with an encounter



"Jungle Dahon" traces the history and struggles of the Rakhains.

between Baghain, the protagonist, and a tiger.

Bayezid Bostami plays the character of Baghain in the play. Rifat, Manna, Fatema Diba, Noureen Nazma, Farzana, Sourabh and Mariam play important roles in "Jungle Dahon." Naznin Ruma has designed the costumes and Al

Mamun is the light designer. Shubho Das and Polash Chowdhury along with the director have worked on the background score.

According to Syed Dulal, president of the troupe, Shabdaboli stages the play at its studio in Barisal every Friday.

Translated by Nadia Sarwat

## Chollish Minute Por on BTV

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Single-episode play "Chollish Minute Por" will be aired on January 24 on Bangladesh Television at 8:45 pm. Written by Arun Chowdhury, the play is directed by Chayanika Chowdhury.

Sanjida, a happily married woman, has to come to terms with the harsh reality of the sudden death of her husband. Although it's a grim world without him, she decides to carry on. Gradually, Sanjida adapts to a busy schedule and in time becomes a successful entrepreneur. Clutching the warm memories of her loving husband, Sanjida vows never to marry again. Everything goes well until one day a stranger approaches her, claiming to be her husband.

Aupi Karim and Nirob play the lead roles.



The play features Aupi Karim (R) and Nirob in lead roles.

# Batman & Bollywood? Oscars eye "Knight", "Slumdog"

AP, Beverly Hills

"The Dark Knight" is the box-office behemoth with the deceased acting front-runner whose name everyone knows. "Slumdog Millionaire" is the out-of-nowhere surprise with a cast no one in Hollywood ever heard of before.

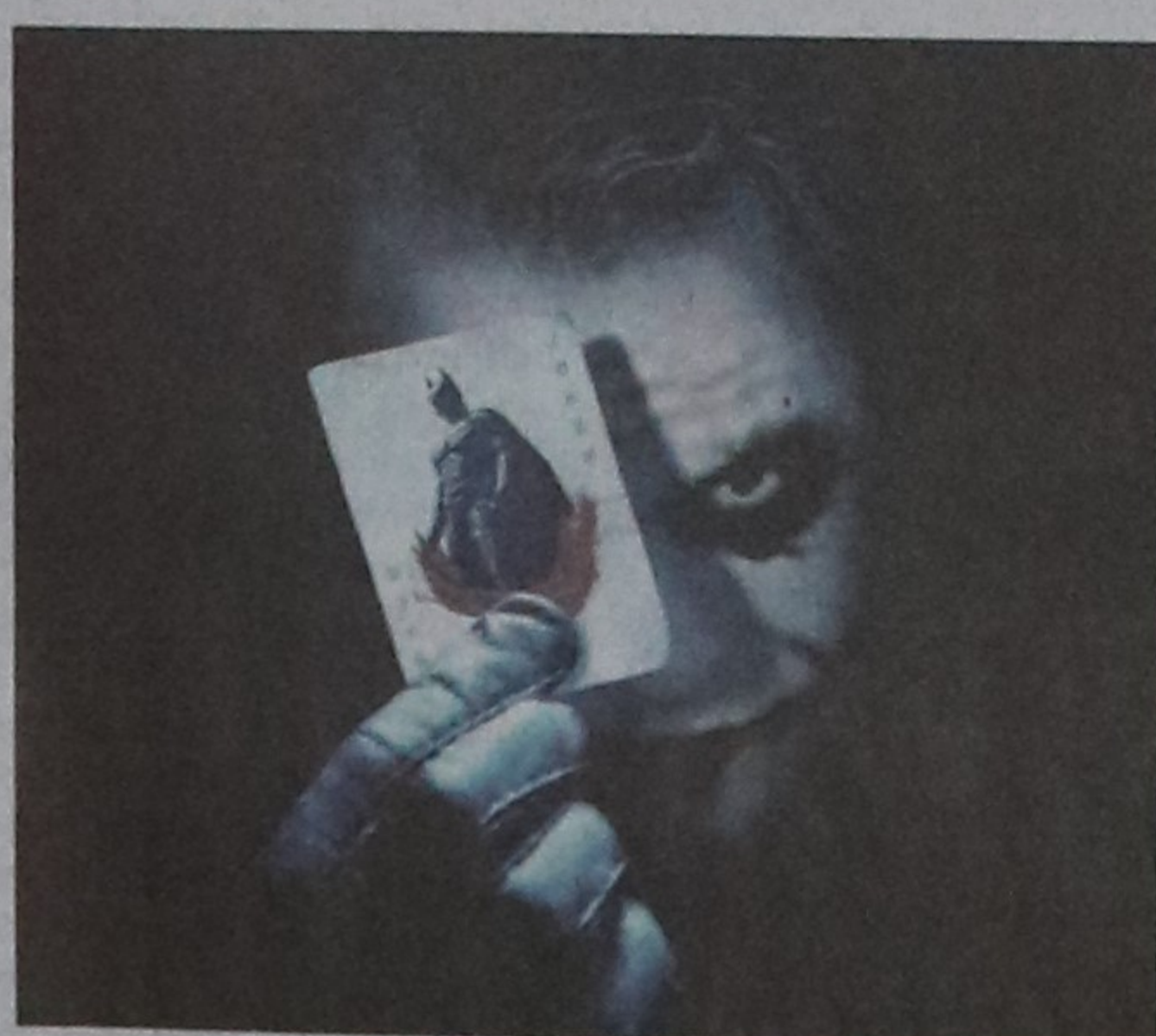
Academy Awards nominations, announced yesterday, could set up a duel between these two rarities: One a superhero saga so esteemed that it has lifted the comic-book genre into best-picture territory, the other a tiny tale whose rags-to-riches theme mirrors the film's rise to success.

On the one-year anniversary of Heath Ledger's death, he is expected to earn a supporting-actor nomination for his feverish performance as Batman's arch nemesis, the Joker, in Christopher Nolan's "The Dark Knight."

Ledger has been the solid favourite throughout awards season. The film had been considered a long shot in other top categories, but it has gained momentum for best picture, director and screenplay as it grabbed across-the-board nominations for awards from one Hollywood guild after another.

"Slumdog Millionaire" leaped onto the awards radar as it premiered at film festivals late last summer, while "The Dark Knight" was soaring beyond the half-billion mark at the domestic box office.

Directed by Danny Boyle, "Slumdog Millionaire" became a darling of critics, and the film has



Ledger has been the solid favourite throughout awards season.

climbed to nearly \$50 million at the box office playing in narrow release compared to the theatre blitz of "The Dark Knight" and other studio blockbusters. It swept its four categories at the Golden Globes, including the prize for best drama.

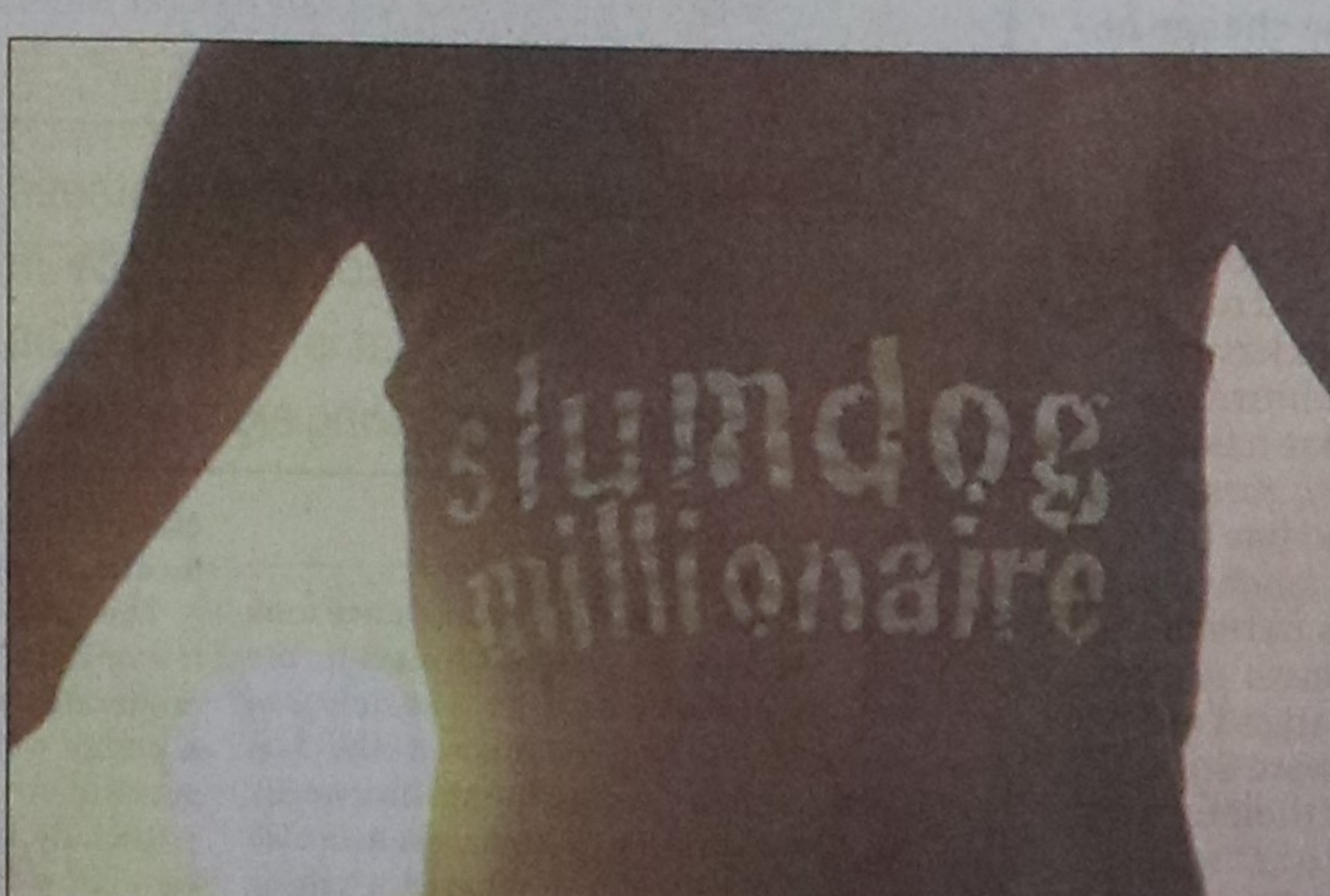
"The Dark Knight" continues, the story Nolan

started with "Batman Begins," starring a top-name cast that includes Christian Bale, Michael Caine, Morgan Freeman and Gary Oldman.

"Slumdog Millionaire" features unknown actors in the lead roles in the story of a youth rising to fame and fortune after terrible hardships on the

streets of Mumbai, the heart of India's film industry.

Other best-picture contenders could include two films about fallen political figures: the Richard Nixon drama "Frost/Nixon" and the Harvey Milk tale "Milk." Also in the running are the Roman



"Slumdog Millionaire" is the out-of-nowhere surprise with a cast no one in Hollywood ever heard of before.

Catholic drama "Doubt," the marital tragedy "Revolutionary Road" and the romantic fantasy "The Curious Case of Benjamin Button."

Frank Langella as Nixon in "Frost/Nixon" and Sean Penn as the slain gay-rights activist in "Milk" are likely best-actor nominees.

Kate Winslet has a shot at two nominations, best actress for "Revolutionary Road" and supporting actress for the Holocaust-themed drama "The Reader." Winslet won both prizes at the Golden Globes.

Among other acting prospects are Winslet's "Titanic" co-star Leonardo DiCaprio for "Revolutionary Road," Brad Pitt and Cate Blanchett for "Benjamin Button," Anne Hathaway for the family drama "Rachel Getting Married" and Meryl Streep, Philip Seymour Hoffman and Amy Adams for "Doubt."

The Oscars also might offer a classic Hollywood comeback story. A pariah for years because of bad-boy behaviour that wrecked his career, Mickey Rourke has returned to grace with the sports drama "The Wrestler," which earned him the Globe for best dramatic actor.

The 81st Oscars will be presented February 22 in a ceremony from Hollywood's Kodak Theatre.

This year's Oscars already present a departure from previous shows. Rather than a comedian, such as past hosts Billy Crystal, Chris Rock or Jon Stewart, the MC this time is film star Hugh Jackman.