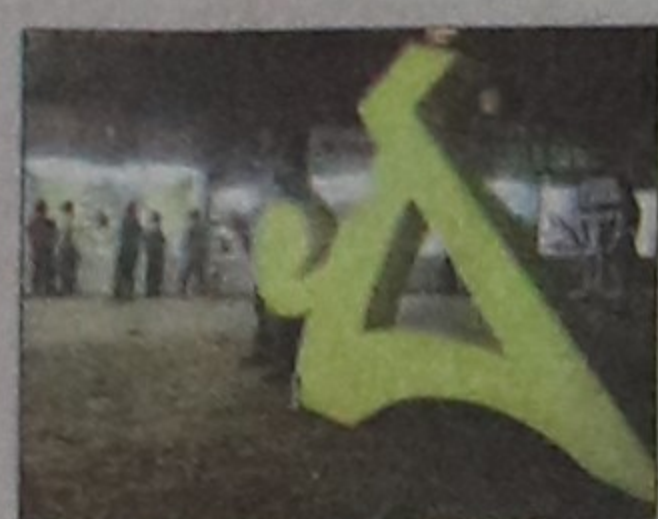


WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Ekushey Boi Mela '09
Organiser: Bangla Academy
Venue: Bangla Academy premises
Date: February 01-28



Chobi Mela V
Int'l Festival of Photography, Bangladesh '09
Theme: Freedom
Venues: National Museum, BSA, Drik Gallery, Bengal Gallery, AF, GIB, British Council, Asiatic Gallery, Kalpana Boarding and Karwan Bazar underpass
Date: Jan 30-Feb 20



4th Asian Film Festival
Organiser: Centre for Asian Arts and Culture
Venue: Alamgir Kabir Film Centre, H 62, Science Laboratory road
Date: February 12-17
Time: Inauguration at 5pm on February 12



Photography Exhibition
Title: Plot Number Fifty Six
Photographer: Kasef Mahboob Chowdhury
Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, H 275/F, Rd 27 (old), Dhanmondi
Date: February 10-13
Time: 12-8pm



FTII's homage to Ekushey February

Bangladeshi films to be screened in Pune

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

In a fitting tribute to Ekushey February, the Film and Television Institute of India (FTII) in Pune will for the first time organise screening and discussions on films and filmmakers from Bangladesh on February 21 and 22.

Those whose films would be screened at the FTII auditorium are Tanvir Mokammel ("Chitra Nadir Parey" and "The Promised Land"), Abu Sayeed ("Nirontor"), and Tareque and Catherine Masud ("Matir Moina" and "Muktir Gaan").

All mentioned directors would travel to Pune, the cultural capital of the western Indian state of Maharashtra, for the event. Director Shamim Akhtar was also invited but she would not be able to make it, said FTII sources.

This is the first time that FTII is focusing on films from Bangladesh and their directors.

While individual Bangladeshi film directors like Tanvir Mokammel, the Masud couple and Abu Sayeed are familiar in Indian festival circuits, it is not often that one finds their works being shown in tandem on any occasion. So, from that point of view, the event in Pune holds a special significance.

FTII was set up by the Indian government in 1960 by taking over the Prabhat Studio and among distinguished students of it are directors Mani Kaul, Kumar Shahni, cinematographer K.K. Mahajan (who has worked under veteran director Mrinal Sen in a number of his films), actors Rehana Sultan (who won a national award for best actress), Navin Nishcal and Anil Dhawan.



A scene from "Swapnobhumi" (The Promised Land) by Tanvir Mokammel; one of the films to be screened at FTII on the occasion of Ekushey February.

Chobi Mela V

Flashback: 1971



PHOTO COURTESY: MEDIA CELL, CHOBI MELA V

Photographers and photo agencies featured in the exhibition are Abdul Hamid Raihan, Aftab Ahmed, Bal Krishnan, Begart Institute, Golam Mawla, Jalaluddin Haider, Mohammad Shafi, Naib Uddin Ahmed and Rashid Talukdar.

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Drik Gallery-2 is one of the venues holding exhibitions as part of the ongoing Chobi Mela V. The photography exhibition titled, "Bangladesh 1971," featuring our Liberation War ended at Drik on February 9. On the closing day photographers shared their experiences of documenting the Liberation War with images at a discussion arranged by Drik. Veteran photographers Abdul Hamid Raihan, Rashid Talukdar and Sayeeda Khanam were the discus-

sants at the programme.

Photographers and photo agencies featured in this exhibition were Abdul Hamid Raihan, Aftab Ahmed, Bal Krishnan, Begart Institute, Golam Mawla, Jalaluddin Haider, Mohammad Shafi, Naib Uddin Ahmed and Rashid Talukdar.

Abdul Hamid Raihan was born in Kushtia in 1932. "I grew up amidst the Second World War. In 1968, I bought a Yasaki camera and started taking pictures. In 1970, Bangabandhu visited Kushtia and that was the first time I took photos of Sheikh Mujib. The moment is

forever etched in my mind. My lens captured various painful episodes during the Liberation War," he said.

Rashid Talukdar was born at Kalkini, in Madaripur district. His powerful and moving images remind the viewers of a glorious past. At the discussion, he said, "My father worked for the Railway Department and was transferred several times. There was no photographer in my family, so it was challenging for me to take up photography as a profession. Back in those days, the photo processing technology was rather poor. White was pre-

dominant after developing the images." Talukdar claimed himself as an "audacious" photographer and was always ready to face any tough situation. During the war, he snapped many outstanding incidents.

Sayeeda Khanam is another legendary photographer of our country. During the Liberation War, she was the only female photographer in our country. Her illustrious career is marked with remarkable experiences and incidents. She has been taking photographs for over half a century.

Swagga Like Us

Politically charged hip hop by M.I.A.

"If you like paper, get high like planes
If you catch me at the border I got visas
in my name
If you come around here, I make 'em all
day
I get one down in a second if you wait..."
-- "Paper Planes" by M.I.A.

In an interview in late August 2008, M.I.A. described the song as being a satire on immigrant stereotypes in the West: "It's about people driving taxicabs all day and living in a lousy apartment and 'appearing' really threatening to society. But not being so, because, by the time you've finished working a 20-hour shift, you're so tired you (just) want to get home to the family." Gunshots and cash register ringing have been used as beats in the song, grabbing the listener's attention like superglue on practically anything.

"People could say, 'Oh my God, this song is so violent,' but at the same time, there's a war in Iraq. I felt like certain people made so much money from selling ammunition and military weapons and stuff, and killed a million people, and it wasn't even an issue that was raised," says the artist. She has expressed surprise at the song's wide commercial success, telling Rolling Stone in October 2008, "I always took pride in being a little underground -- it really is a very unlikely record to cross over."

And cross over it did. So much so that the phrase "swagga (swagger) like us" has become ubiquitous in the hip-hop scene.

For those who don't know already, M.I.A. aka Mathangi "Maya" Arulpragasam is a British singer/rapper/songwriter/producer of Sri Lankan Tamil descent who has



M.I.A. has synthesised a stunning electronic gumbo composed of hip hop, electro, Jamaican dancehall, dashes of punk and a myriad other international musical styles.

over the past three or four years, synthesised a stunning electronic gumbo composed of hip hop, electro, Jamaican dancehall, dashes of punk and a myriad other international musical styles.

"Paper Planes" (from M.I.A.'s second studio album "Kala") is also featured in the film "Slumdog Millionaire." The song was nominated for the Record of the Year at the 51st Grammy Awards.

Listening to her tracks four or five

times you say, "Okay, this is awful -- the songs don't go anywhere. Is she speaking English? And what's with her singing voice?"

Until, that is, you finally notice yourself shamelessly squawking along with her hook-laden, foot-tapping numbers.

When she was six months of age, Arulpragasam's family moved back to their native Sri Lanka from London. Motivated by his wish to support the Tamil militancy on the

island, her father became a political activist, adopting the name Arular. The first years of her life were marked by displacement. Contact with her father was strictly limited, as he was in hiding from the Sri Lankan army. Eventually she, her two siblings and mother Kala moved back to London where they were housed as refugees. It was in the late '80s, on a council estate in Mitcham (South London), that Arulpragasam began to learn English. Her alias, M.I.A., stands for Missing in Action.

About her politically charged music, M.I.A. says, "People don't realise that I had to come from a village in Sri Lanka to get here. So the journey is about the journey itself, not just about doing music... Nobody wants to be dancing to political songs. Every bit of music out there that's making it into the mainstream is really about nothing. I wanted to see if I could write songs about something important and make it sound like nothing. And it kind of worked... I haven't heard honesty in music for so long and this is how I feel, and this is what I think. I was just being as raw as possible.

"I wanted to make music that you felt in your gut... You can't separate the world into two parts like that, good and evil. Terrorism is a method. But America has successfully tied all these pockets of independence struggles, revolutions and extremists into one big notion of terrorism. You can't grab people by the neck and choke them and then complain they're kicking you. If you're going around oppressing people, they will fight back."

Compiled by Karim Waheed.

Cine Hits on Ekushey TV

Giasuddin Selim talks about "Monpura"

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Film-based show "Cine Hits" will be aired today on Ekushey TV at 7:40 pm. This episode of the show will focus on the much-talked about upcoming film "Monpura."

Popular TV play-maker and film director Giasuddin Selim will be present as tonight's guest and share his experiences of shooting the film. "Monpura" is Selim's debut feature film. The soundtrack of the movie was released almost a year ago and have become a huge hit. The film will be released on February 13.

Produced by Ashraf Uz Zaman, "Cine Hits" is hosted by Imtu. The show is aired every Wednesday.



Giasuddin Selim is tonight's guest on the show.

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