

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

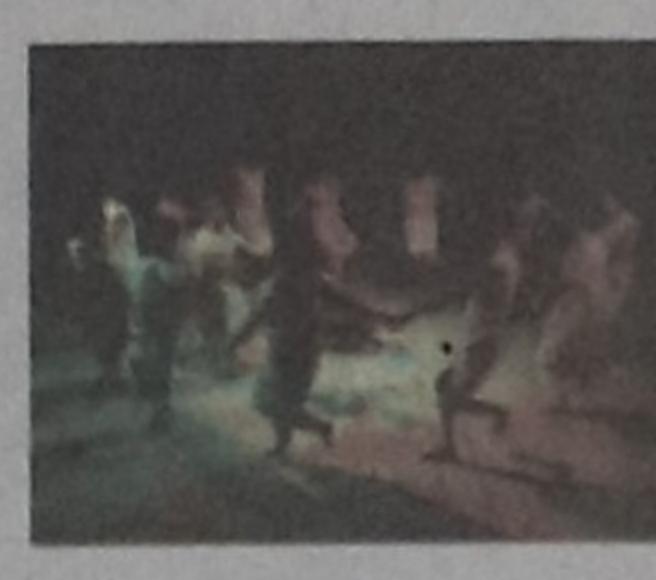
Photo Exhibition
On the occasion of 60th birth anniversary of Werner Herzog
Title: Film Must be Physical
Venue: Goethe-Institut Bangladesh, H 10, Rd 9, Dhamondi
Date: Sep 16- Oct 8



Photography Exhibition
Title: India
Photographer: Raghu Rai (India)
Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, H 2/5/F, Rd 27 (old), Dhamondi
Date: September 7-13
Time: 11am-7pm



Theatre
Play: Raarang
Troupe: Aranyak
Natyadal
Venue: Experimental Theatre Hall, Shilpakala Academy
Date: September 11
Time: 8pm



Iranian Film Festival
Film: Gabbeh
Director: Mohsen Makhmalbaf
Venue: Alamgir Kabir Film Centre, 62 Science Laboratory Road
Date: September 11
Time: 5pm



All about the exuberant TV host Debashish

NUSRAT JAHAN PRITOM

Debashish Biswas is a familiar name to young and old TV viewers alike. This lean, curly haired, affable guy pops up on the TV screen and makes everyone laugh in hit shows like "Poth-er Pyachali" or "Close Up 1: Tomakei Khujchhe Bangladesh". In person, Debashish is a genuine fun-lover as well.

About himself, he says, "I am a fun-loving guy, but I'm not witty by nature."

"I like to make people laugh. Yet, strangely, as a kid, I was very shy. It was perhaps in my college days that I got out of my shell. And now, it's hard to make me stop talking!"

"My father was a renowned filmmaker who directed 20/25 films in our country as well as in West Bengal. My initiation in the media, particularly films, happened through him."

"In 2001, my film 'Shashurbari Zindabad' got a good reception. Then I assisted my father in 2/3 films. My next film will be released this year. It's called 'Bhalobasha Zindabad'."



"Bangladeshi filmdom has a lot of issues, but despite the limitations, quality films are being made."

Khan. 'Hello Jokes,' hosted by me, will be aired on Desh TV on Eid day. Another show 'Tomor Jonno Morte Pari' will also be starting from Eid."

About his Eid plans, Debashish says, "Eating desserts, watching TV and

enjoying time out of work. That's what I intend to do this Eid."

So which profession will Debashish stick to: filmmaking or hosting TV shows? "Well, both!" he says with a smile. "Hosting TV

programmes will always be a part of me, though I may not be doing too many. My goal is to make at least one film each year. Bangladeshi filmdom has a lot of issues, but despite the limitations, quality films are being made. Despite our earnest efforts, the stereotype that Bangla films are 'vulgar' discourages young filmmakers. We have good stories, but we lack in the technical aspects. Bangladeshi cinema needs encouragement -- from both the masses and the state."

The Daily Star wanted to know more about Debashish, behind the filmmaker and TV show host. "I'm the only child of my parents, but I'm not a spoilt brat. I studied in Wills Little Flower School, then Notre Dame College, then IUB (Independent University of Bangladesh) where I completed my bachelor's degree and finally NSU (North South University) where I completed my masters."

"I love ice cream. Or as the clichéd phrase goes, 'I scream for ice cream.' I used to sketch in my childhood. I was also into football and was considered a good footballer, at least by some! And lastly I love my profession. The media seems to love me and I love the media."

The writer is a freelance contributor

on a palanquin.

The idol will be kept at the Rajbari temple for three months, as devotees believe that there's a link between the palace and the deity's origin. The festival has been organised since 1674.

Every year, the idol is brought to Rajbari Temple a day before Janmashtami celebration.

During the departure of the idol from Kantanagar temple, thousands of devotees rush from different areas and throng the riverbank. They pay homage, pray and make offerings to the deity, asking for peace and happiness. Kirtaniya (singers) recite verses and religious songs on the occasion. Marking the occasion, the temples of the district had been decorated and several programmes of sankirtan and bhandaras were held.

to have a glimpse of the idol of Lord Kantajiu and offer prayers. The idol travelled down the river, from the Kantanagar Temple to Dinajpur Rajbari (palace) Temple.

The journey started from Dhepa river of Kharol Upazila, under Dinajpur district, in the morning and ended at Kanchan river, after a 30 km cruise. The idol was taken to the Rajbari Temple

detriment to quality education.

To launch the five-year campaign, a documentary "Get Schooled" was aired on all of Viacom's networks simultaneously last Tuesday night.

The documentary features pop singer Kelly Clarkson, basketball star LeBron James and President Barack Obama, but the programme's real focus is on people behind the scenes, like a presidential speechwriter, and how education brought them success.

Activism is not new for Viacom and its networks. MTV has raised AIDS awareness, promoted participation in elections and led other education initiatives.

Passage of a deity: A 335-year-old tradition in Dinajpur



The decorated (yellow) boat carrying the idol, as devotees throng the river bank.

KONGON KARMAKAR, Dinajpur

Thousands of local Hindu devotees recently gathered on both sides of the 30 km Dhepa-Kanchan river route

to have a glimpse of the idol of Lord Kantajiu and offer prayers. The idol travelled down the river, from the Kantanagar Temple to Dinajpur Rajbari (palace) Temple.

The "Get Schooled" initiative focuses on low graduation rates in college and high school and the accountability of teachers. Gates criticised the practice of salaries rewarding seniority over proven efficacy, calling it a "short today and how it really contradicts our commitment to equal opportunity." Gates told The Associated Press. "If we don't change it now, it will hurt the future of the country as a whole."

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation is partnering with Viacom Inc.'s television networks, education leaders and celebrities to launch an awareness campaign to reduce the number of dropouts. The foundation, started by Microsoft Corp. co-founder Bill Gates and his wife, has invested more than \$2 billion in educational programs since 2000.

"People should understand how the system is failing

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