

## WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

### Photo Exhibition

On the occasion of 60<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary of Werner Herzog  
Title: Film Must be Physical  
Venue: Goethe-Institut Bangladesh, H 10, Rd 9, Dhanmondi  
Date: Sep 16-Oct 8



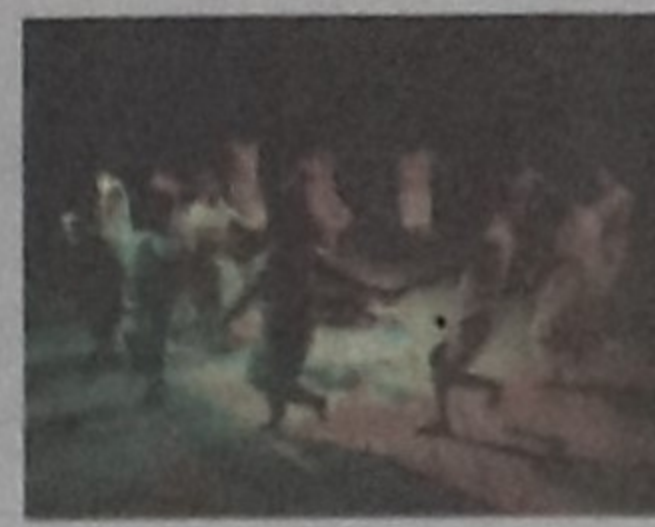
### Photography Exhibition

Title: India  
Photographer: Raghu Rai (India)  
Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, H 275/F, Rd 27 (old), Dhanmondi  
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: Gabbah  
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'."

Besides filmmaking, I thoroughly enjoy hosting TV shows. Currently I'm hosting programmes like 'Janar Achhe, Bolar Achhe' on ntv, 'Very Filmy' on Rtv etc. The Eid-special episode of 'Very Filmy' features actor Shakib



"Bangladeshi film industry 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 'Tomar 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 film industry 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

## Blige, Cole to perform at Vienna Jackson tribute

AP, Vienna

Mary J. Blige, Natalie Cole and Sister Sledge will headline a September 26 Michael Jackson tribute concert in Vienna, organisers said Tuesday.

Jackson's brother Jermaine told reporters that up to 25 performers are expected to perform outside a 17th-century palace in the Austrian capital. More names will be unveiled at news conferences later this week in London and Berlin, he said.

Chris Brown, Akon, Angela Bassett, and Germany-based boy band US5 are also among the 13 artists confirmed so far, Jackson and event promoter Georg Kindel said. Jackson's original band and dancers will also perform.

All the artists will play some of Jackson's greatest hits at the concert, including "Thriller," "Billie Jean" and "Black or White."

Organizers are billing the event as the main global tribute to Jackson, who died June 25 in Los Angeles.

Jackson's family and children will be in Vienna, and 65,000 fans are expected to attend, Kindel said.



Mary J. Blige

## Slumdog kids to star alongside Anthony Hopkins in new film



Slumdog Millionaire stars (left to right) Ayush Mahesh Khedekar, Rubina Ali and Azharuddin Mohammed Ismail.

"Slumdog Millionaire" child stars Rubina Ali and Azharuddin Ismail are set to star alongside Sir Anthony Hopkins in a new film, it has emerged.

The two stars of the Oscar winning film will appear in "Lord Owen's Lady," a new film about a Welsh nobleman who falls in love with an Indian girl.

The producers of the film are reportedly in negotiations with Hopkins to play Lord Owen's father, while the two children will also appear in the film.

The entire film will be shot in Wales and India.

Meanwhile, Ismail recently lost his father to tuberculosis.

Executive producer Martin Pennell has offered his condolences to the youngster and hopes the tragedy won't hinder his blossoming Hollywood career.

Source: Internet

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



PHOTO: STAR

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

KONGKON KARMAKER, Dinajpur

Thousands of local Hindu devotees recently gathered on both sides of the 30 km Dhepa-Khanchan 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 journey started from Dhepa river of Kaharol 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

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.

## Gates Foundation brings education message to MTV, Nickelodeon

AP, Los Angeles

Students who might be too glued to their televisions to keep up with homework are going to find channels like MTV, Comedy Central and Nickelodeon prodding them to get on task and graduate.

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 drop-outs. 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 under-

stand how the system is falling 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."



Bill and Melinda Gates

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

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.

## All Time Greats

## Ingrid Bergman: Setting the screen on fire

Remember the luminous and stunning Ingrid Bergman (born in Sweden on August 29, 1915) in films such as "For Whom the Bell Tolls", "Casablanca", "Anastasia" and "Autumn Sonata"? Her death on August 29, 1982 left a permanent void in Hollywood.

Perhaps Ingrid's her most famous and enduring role came in 1942 when she was cast against Humphrey Bogart as Ilsa, his long lost love in the wartime romance "Casablanca". If she set the screen ablaze with her fiery persona, another notable role was that of Maria in "For Whom the Bell Tolls" (also in 1942) based on American author Ernest Hemingway's novel of the same name. Here she acted with Gregory Peck in a memorable performance which fetched her the Academy Award for Best Actress.

However, the Oscar still proved elusive when she lost the award to Jennifer Jones for "The Song of Bernadette". Finally Ingrid won her first Best Actress Academy Award for her role as a Victorian housewife being driven to the precipice of insanity by her husband in "Gaslight" (1944). Other films that followed were "The Bells of St Mary's" (1945), for which she was nominated for Best Actress but lost to Joan Crawford. Then came two films with Alfred Hitchcock: "Spellbound" (1945) and "Notorious" (1946) where she was pitted against Cary Grant. The

latter is regarded as Ingrid's finest work.

Ingrid once more made an acclaimed appearance in Broadway in 1946 as Joan of Arc in the play "Joan of Lorraine". For this role she bagged a Tony Award for Best Actress. Two years later she played the role in the film

Broadway she acted in American playwright Eugene O'Neill's "Anna Christie" (1941). "Anastasia" (1956) marked Ingrid's return to Hollywood, earning her an Oscar for Best Actress and a place in her estranged fan's hearts.

Her angelic, unsullied image notwithstanding, Ingrid

Rossellini and made five movies with him between 1950 and 1955. In their ranks was "Europa '51" in 1952. The same year she gave birth to twin daughters, Isabella, who later became a famous model and actress and Isotta.

Then followed other films: "Elena et les homes" with French director Jean Renoir, the Hollywood hit "Anastasia". After her break up with Rossellini, she married Lars Schmidt, a theatrical producer from Sweden.

Over the next decade, Ingrid acted in films, television and stage: "The Turn of the Screw" (TV), "A Month in the Country" and "More Stately Mansions" (both theatre productions).

In 1974, Ingrid won a Best Actress in a Supporting Role Oscar for "Murder on the Orient Express". In 1975, in the same year that she divorced her third husband Lars Schmidt, she found that she had breast cancer. However, she continued to work and completed what was to be her last film, Ingmar Bergman's "Autumn Sonata" in 1978.

Her last role in a television miniseries was "A Woman Called Golda" (1982) in which she enacted the role of Israeli prime minister Golda Meir. For this role she won both an Emmy and Golden Globe.

On August 29, 1982, Ingrid died in her London home after succumbing to cancer. However, she stays in public memory till date.



Ingrid Bergman

version of the play and was nominated for the Academy Award for the Best Actress, though commercial success eluded the film.

Ingrid's earlier films were "Adam Had Four Sons" and as Dr Jekyll's fiancée in the film "Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde". In

earned notoriety for her multiple marriages. Her first marriage was with Peter Lindstrom, a Swedish dentist and subsequently a neurosurgeon. Later she married Italian director Roberto Rossellini, after an scandalous affair.

Ingrid moved to Italy with

Compiled by Cultural Correspondent