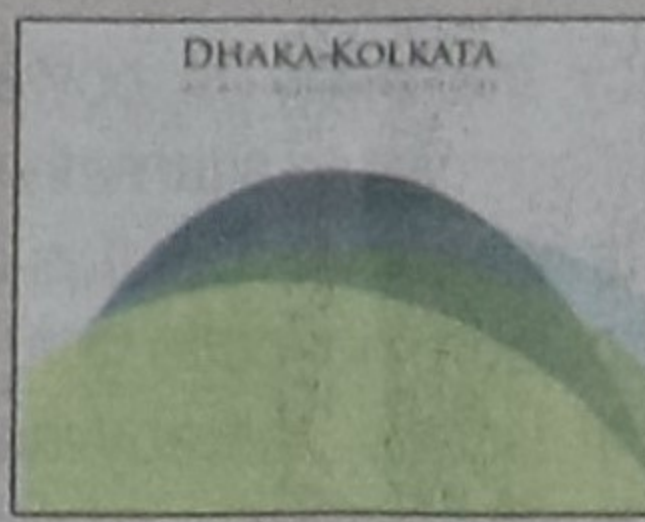


WHAT'S  
ON THIS  
WEEK

**Int'l Ibsen Seminar and Theatre Festival**  
Title: Ibsen Through New Eyes  
Venue: Shilpakala Academy & Jahangirnagar University  
Date: November 12-23  
Time: Everyday 5.30pm onwards

**Painting Exhibition**

Title: Dhaka-Kolkata  
Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, H 275/F, Rd 27 (old), Dhanmondi  
Date: November 13-22  
Time: 12-8pm

**Art Exhibition and Auction**

Organisers: Citibank, N.A. Bangladesh and Gallery Chitrak  
Venue: Gallery Chitrak, H-21, R-4, Dhanmondi  
Date: November 20  
Time: 11am

**Musical**

Title: "Any Dream Will Do"  
Venue: International School Dhaka, Plot 80, Block E, Bashundhara  
Date: November 20  
Time: 7pm



## Int'l Ibsen Seminar and Theatre Festival '09 Moaser Theatre Group stages "My Wild Duck"



Directed by Nader Borhani Marand, the play is an Iranian adaptation of Ibsen's "The Wild Duck".

## CORRESPONDENT

On November 18, Moaser Theatre Group from Iran staged "My Wild Duck" at the ongoing International Ibsen Seminar and Theatre Festival. Staged at National Theatre Hall, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, the production was an adaptation of Ibsen's "The Wild Duck".

Directed by Nader Borhani Marand, the play zooms in on Hedvig Ekdal. Hedvig has written a play and names it "My Wild Duck". Molvik, her teacher, has encouraged her to write the play. The two have decided to meet the iconic playwright Ibsen to show him Hedvig's work and ask for his assessment. However, right before leaving her home, Hedvig decides to take one last look at the script, which is based on her childhood and two letters -- one from her mother Gina and the other from a family friend Gregers Werle. Both Gina and Gregers killed themselves after writing the letters.



As Hedvig goes over the letters, the past comes alive. Gregers had returned to his father's home following a self-imposed exile. There, he learns the fate of a former classmate of his, Hjalmar Ekdal. Hjalmar married Gina, a young maid in the Werle household. The elder Werle had arranged the match by providing Hjalmar with a home and a profession as a photographer. Gregers,

whose mother died believing that Gina and her husband had carried on an affair, becomes enraged at the thought that his old friend is living a life built on a lie.

Guided by a fervent strain of idealism, Gregers endeavours to reveal the truth to Hjalmar, and thereby free him from the deception, which surrounds him. He meddles in the affairs of a strange family, producing

disastrous results. Over the course of the play the many secrets that lie behind the Ekdals' apparently happy home are revealed to Gregers, who insists on pursuing the absolute truth. Among the secrets: Gregers' father impregnated his servant Gina then married her off to Hjalmar to legitimise the child.

Stage designer Manouchehr Shoja divided the space into three parts. Scenes featuring the adult Hedvig took place in the front-right. Blurry, faded memories were enacted in the back; the stage was divided with uneven columns. Significant conversations and revelations were made in the front-left.

Costumes by Paridokht Abedin Nejad followed the timeline of the original play. Background music by Amir Ghorbani complemented the brooding premises.

Fahimeh Amanzadeh played Hedvig. The cast also included Mehrdad Ziaee (as Hjalmar Ekdal), Ayoub Aghakhani (as Gregers Werle) and Behnaz Jafari (as Gina Ekdal).

The play was in Farsi and English subtitles were screened next to the stage. However, the subtitles were anything but coherent, which is a major drawback because "The Wild Duck" is considered to be one of Ibsen's most complex plays.

Today Prachyanat will stage "Punarjanmo" (an adaptation of "When We Dead Awaken") directed by Azad Abul Kalam at Experimental Theatre Hall, BSA and Tehrik-E-Niswan from Pakistan will stage "Gurra Ka Ghar" (an adaptation of "A Doll's House") directed by Anwer Jafri at National Theatre Hall.

## Two Bangladeshi documentaries to be screened in Srinagar

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

Two acclaimed documentaries from Bangladesh and an array of movies on thought-provoking subjects ranging from modern version of an ancient love story between a Muslim prince and a Hindu woman and effects of militancy on the human psyche will mark the South Asian Documentary Film Festival to be held in Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir state, from November 23 to 25.

The Bangladesh flag in the festival will be carried by Tanvir Mokammel with his "Swarnabhoomi", the story of stranded 'Biharis' and Anwar Chowdhury with his "Waterworks" on painter Farida Zaman who analyses her own artworks in the documentary.

Tanvir, who recently returned from a two-month tour of Japan, will attend the festival and introduce his film to the audience and interact with it on November 24. This is his first visit to Jammu and Kashmir.

The festival, being organised by Anhad Institute of Media Studies and Educational Multimedia Research Centre of Kashmir University, will feature 23 thought-provoking films by directors

from India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Nepal and will provide students of mass communication an opportunity to interact for the first time with some leading South Asian directors like Mokammel, Anju Chetri of Nepal and Munizae Jahangir of Pakistan.

The festival will start with the screening of "Bhagmati", a 21-minute documentary by Ashok Koul, which stars Indian actors Tabu and Milind Soman portraying in the present the immortal love story of Mohammad Quli Qutb Shah and Bhagmati. The film conveys that the universal love in all its forms is the essence of the existence of this beautiful universe.

The world has known Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan as a popular Sufi Qawwali singer but Pakistani director Farjad Nabi's documentary tells the metamorphosis of the singer, from a genuine popular artiste to a mass-produced exotic of the East. It won the second prize at the South Asian Film Festival in Kathmandu.

"War-Engendered Widows" by Anju Chetri portrays the story of women in her country who were widowed by the conflict in the Himalayan nation. Chetri's other film "Conflict and Rape", to



Farida Zaman in a scene from Anwar Chowdhury's "Waterworks".

be screened at the festival, is about women who were raped by security forces and Maoists in Nepal.

"Words in Stone" by Akhila Krishnan is about Wali Gujarati, the first poet to write ghazals in Urdu in 17th century, whose tomb was destroyed in the communal carnage that had rocked Gujarat. The film, using Wali as a metaphor, attempts to look at culture, language, and history in the light of change. It seeks to show how some histories gradually disappear when people are made to forget them.

"Search for Freedom" by Pakistan-based television news channel correspondent Munizae Jahangir explores the lives of four Afghan women drawn from diverse strata of society -- a princess, a war widow, a young medical student and a mother of four children -- who are affected by the political and social turmoil in Afghanistan at various times from the 1920s to the present day.

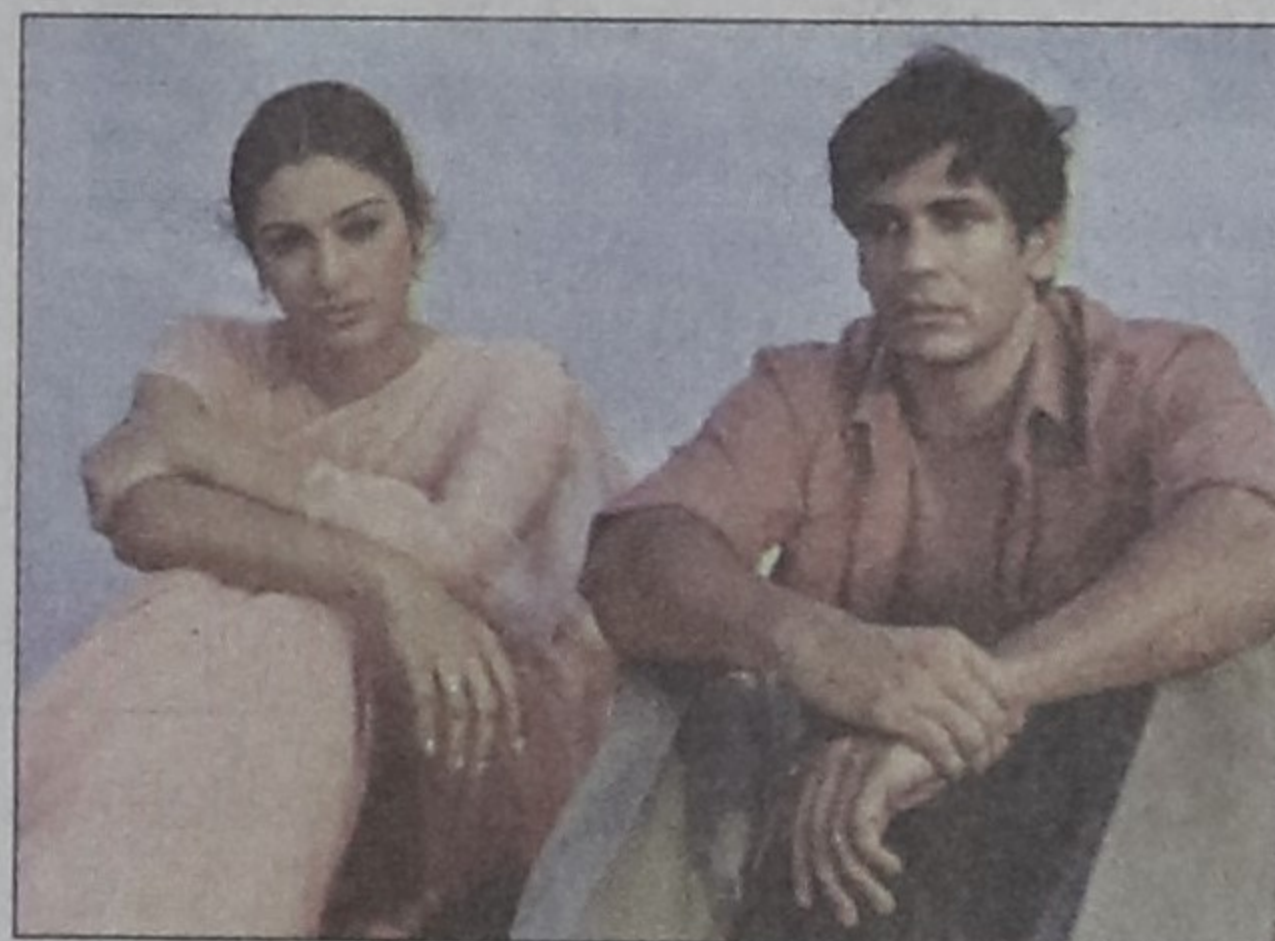
The "Quality of Life" by Aakash Shakeel focuses on the mental trauma of people hit by militancy in Jammu

and Kashmir, particularly in the valley, where the mental healthcare system has been under tremendous pressure and "Working on the Edge", a project of students of Kashmir University, delineates the life of journalists who have risked their lives to do their job.

"Xeno" by Albert Kurian is an eight-minute film which tells the story of a man who is suspected to be a terrorist while having tea. "America America" by K.P. Sasi is a music video that "exposes the American war machine".

Srinagar, the picturesque summer capital of India's Jammu and Kashmir state, is in the grip of sub-zero temperature these days. But the Ibne Khaldun Auditorium and the Allama Iqbal Centre Library in Kashmir University will warm up as lovers and students of meaningful cinema throng the venues for the festival.

Pro-left social and cultural activist Shabnam Hashmi of Anhad points out that quality cinema has always aroused a good response in Srinagar and the coming festival will not be any different.



Tabu and Milind Soman in Ashok Koul's "Bhagmati".

## Book Fair celebrating 'Nobanno'

## CORRESPONDENT

To celebrate 'Nobanno' (harvesting season), Adorn Publication Limited held a book fair at Central Public Library, Shahbagh. The fair, titled 'Nobanner Boi Utshab', ends tomorrow.

The book fair began on November 4. The event was inaugurated by National Professor Anisuzzaman. The inauguration ceremony was attended by poet Hassan Azizul Haque, poet Nurul Huda and others.

"The purpose of holding this fair is to celebrate 'Nobanno'. Traditionally 'Nobanno' is celebrated with 'pitha-puli' and other traditional food," said Syed Zakir Hossain, publisher and proprietor, Adorn Publication.

"The fair is also a treat for bookworms as it gives them an opportunity to check out the latest publications."

"Special discounts are offered during



(From left) Poet Nurul Huda, Professor Anisuzzaman, poet Hassan Azizul Haque and others at the inauguration of the book fair.

the fair to encourage people to buy books and develop a reading habit," added Hossain.

Apart from Dhaka, Adorn Publication also held 'Nobanner Boi Utshab' in Chittagong and Sylhet.

## Fifteen documentaries make Oscar's short list

AP, Los Angeles

Of the 89 documentary films eligible for Oscar consideration this year, 15 were selected for a short list of potential nominees. And Michael Moore's "Capitalism: A Love Story" wasn't one of them.

The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences announced the 15 titles Wednesday.

Some of the year's most popular documentary features were overlooked, including Moore's R-rated film, which was praised by critics and earned more than \$14 million at the box office.

Also omitted from Oscar consideration was the well-reviewed Mike Tyson documentary "Tyson," the rock-doc "It Might Get Loud," and the story of Vogue magazine and its editor-in-chief, "The September Issue."

The short list of films is determined by a committee of members of the academy's documentary branch. They watch all eligible contenders and vote for their favourites by secret ballot. The top vote-getters make the short list of potential nominees.

The selections this year are "The Beaches of Agnes," "Burma VJ," "The

Cove," "Every Little Step," "Facing Ali," "Food, Inc.," "Garbage Dreams," "Living in Emergency: Stories of Doctors Without Borders," "The Most Dangerous Man in America: Daniel Ellsberg and the Pentagon Papers," "Mugabe and the White African," "Sergio," "Soundtrack for a Revolution," "Under Our Skin," "Valentino The Last Emperor" and "Which Way Home."

Five documentary features from that list will be chosen as nominees for the 82nd Academy Awards. Nominations will be announced February 2, 2010, and the awards will be presented March 7.

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