

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Korean Film Fest
 Organiser: Embassy of the Republic of Korea
 Venue: Main Auditorium, National Museum, Shahbagh
 Date: December 5-11
 Time: 11am onwards



Drawing Exhibition
 Artist: Rafiqun Nabi
 Venue: Gallery Chitrah, H-21, R-4, Dhanmondi
 Date: December 3-20
 Time: 10am-8pm



Solo Photography Exhibition
 Title: Bangladesh on Top of the Everest
 Photographer: Musa Ibrahim
 Venue: Alliance Française de Dhaka, 26, Mirpur Road, Dhanmondi
 Date: November 26-December 9
 Time: 9am-8pm



Jazz Show
 Troupe: The Ari Roland Jazz Quartet
 Organiser: US Embassy in Dhaka and Nriyadhara
 Venue: National Theatre Hall, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
 Date: December 10
 Time: 7pm



Taking Bangladesh on top of Everest

Musa Ibrahim's solo photo exhibition

JAMIL MAHMUD

As you step into La Galeri of Alliance Francaise de Dhaka in Dhanmondi, you might get a shiver. Temperature inside the gallery is significantly lower than the outside; several additional air-conditioners are running to keep it cooler.

It's an effort to create the chilly Himalayan atmosphere; the reason -- a photography exhibition featuring the Everest expedition by Musa Ibrahim (first Bangladeshi to reach the highest peak of the world) is on at the venue.

Titled "Bangladesh on Top of The Everest", Ibrahim's solo exhibition began on November 26. The exhibition features over 40 photographs.

An installation featuring equipments used by Ibrahim during his historic expedition, such as a tent, tracksuit, boots and dry food etc is a highlight of the exhibition. White powder on the floor reminds one of Himalayan snow.

After a serious struggle, Ibrahim realised his dream of climbing Mount Everest on May 23, 2010. Thrilling moments from his journey (between April 10 and May 23) were documented with a 'point and shoot' camera.

This exhibition reveals the determination and perseverance of the young mountaineer.

The photographs on display also highlight Himalayan splendour -- from panoramic view to naturally created ice-sculptures -- at different



ranges. Some of the photographs at the exhibition are "Wide Horizon 1", "Adverse Nature", "Sunny Everest" and "Entering into History". Titles of the images are meant to articulate the moments.

"Wide Horizon 1" features a panoramic view of the Himalayas, while "Adverse Nature" features a difficult moment during the expedition, when the team encountered a blizzard. "Entering into History" shows Ibrahim signing the board at Rum Doodle Restaurant in Nepal after climbing down Everest.

The exhibition also includes some photos taken by Ibrahim's teammates from the expedition. Lal Bahadur Jirel has taken a photo that shows Musa holding the victory sign on top of

Everest. Kailash Tamang has taken a photo, which shows Musa holding the Bangladeshi national flag on top of the world.

Ibrahim's photographic skills are demonstrated through an image in which the shadow of Mount Everest resembles a pyramid.

Ibrahim started climbing hills in Bangladesh in 2000. He stepped into the Himalayas in 2002. He took mountaineering seriously in 2004, through active participation in signing the board at Rum Doodle Restaurant in Nepal after climbing down Everest.

Ibrahim founded the North Alpine Club Bangladesh (NACB) in 2007 with a vision -- 'Mission 2010: Vision Everest'.

The exhibition ends tomorrow.



Thrilling moments from Ibrahim's journey were documented with a 'point and shoot' camera.



An installation featuring equipments used by Ibrahim during his Everest expedition is a highlight of the exhibition.



PHOTO: MUMIT M.

The Reluctant Fundamentalist

Mira Nair's answer to Islamophobia

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

Filmmaker Mira Nair is returning to India to shoot her next venture -- "The Reluctant Fundamentalist", a film she says is her answer to 'Islamophobia' in the west.

She starts shooting the film next year and half of it will be shot in India.

The director, who is in Panaji, Goa to attend a retrospective of her films at the 41st International Film Festival of India, said, "The Reluctant Fundamentalist" is an adaptation of Pakistani writer Mohsin Hamid's international best-selling book of the same name.

"The film is really a kind of answer to the west's views on Islam. We see the films on Iraq and Afghanistan and Vietnam War. All these are always told from the American point of view. With this film, I have the opportunity to speak about Islam from our, the South Asian, point of view.

"There is so much Islamophobia -- myth and illusion about this religion and the way it is talked about in the western world is something we have to counter," Nair told media persons.

"The Reluctant Fundamentalist" is in the form of a monologue between two men in a cafe in old Lahore. I have also put song-dance and marriage and introduced a female character," she said.

The director, who had previously adapted William Thackeray's novel "Vanity Fair" into a film, said she loves going back to classic litera-

ture for stories and then reinterpret it in her own way.

"I go to stories that move me deeply. Adaptations are so interesting that they give you a chance what you want to say about the world and the story that you are telling," said Nair who has directed films like "Salaam Bombay", "Mississippi Masala" and "The Namesake".

Nair's debut feature film, "Salaam Bombay" released in 1988, won the Golden Camera award at the Cannes Film Festival and had also earned a nomination for Academy Award for Best Foreign Language Film.

She denied of having talks with Bollywood actor Shahid Kapoor for the lead role in "The Reluctant Fundamentalist" but admitted she was considering Ranbir Kapoor along with three other contenders.

"Shahid's name is a rumour. I am, however, very much interested in

Ranbir Kapoor. I have three other characters -- two from Pakistan and one from England. I also have three western roles and I am currently in talks with some Hollywood A-listers but can't announce the names till they are finalised," Nair said.

The director said she is yet to seek permission to shoot in Pakistan but will recreate most of the scenes in Delhi because it is similar to the Pakistani city of Lahore. "I think we will be shooting the bulk of Lahore scenes in Delhi and a few days in Pakistan probably," she said.



Tom Cruise steals wife's make-up!

Tom Cruise has been raiding wife Katie Holmes' beauty and make-up supplies in a bid to remain looking youthful.

"Tom is in major midlife crisis mode," the Daily Telegraph quoted a source as telling American tabloid the National Enquirer.

"He's freaking out over the new lines on his face, the grey hairs on his head and on his face when he shaves.

"He has started applying Katie's high-priced facial creams, cleansers and even

her make-up -- and he loves the results!

"He even slathers on Katie's foundation before public events and lightly applies her mascara to make his eyelashes look fuller.

"Tom is incredibly vain, and he's willing to go to great lengths to look good next to his younger co-stars.

"Katie is horrified that Tom has resorted to raiding her beauty supplies," the source added.

Source: Internet



How the post-war generation sees 1971

Filmmaking competition and festival in 2011

A CORRESPONDENT

With the slogan "Muktijddher Chetona-e Bikoshito Hok Torun Pran", a filmmaking competition and festival titled "Torun Chokhey Ekattor" will begin on the last week of March 2011. Organised by Movievan Film Circle, the contest will feature films on the Liberation War made by young, emerging filmmakers.

At a press conference held yesterday at the Seminar Room of Liberation War Museum, the organisers informed the media about the festival. Seasoned filmmakers of the country -- Morshedul Islam, Tareque Masud, and Shamim Akhtar -- attended the conference.

Organisers invited interested filmmakers (aged between 18-30) to send copies of plots, screenplays, and CVs to GPO Box No: 2212, Dhaka 1000 by March 1, 2011. Winning screenplays will be announced at the inauguration of the festival. Winners will get neces-



From left: Shamim Akhtar, Morshedul Islam, Tareque Masud and Abir Sreshtha, president of Movievan Film Circle at the conference.

sary equipments, training and other forms of assistance to turn their screenplays into films by the first week of December 2011.

Nasiruddin Yousuff, Morshedul Islam, Tareque Masud, and Shamim Akhtar have given their consent to

judge the screenplays and the films. The organisers will hold shows of the films at educational institutions, district Shilpakala Academies and other places of cultural significance across the country. Movievan Film Circle also plans to create a fund with

proceeds collected from the shows for the welfare of freedom fighter artists.

Based on audiences' opinions on the films and evaluation of the judges, the best film will be chosen and announced in the last week of March 2012.

Morshedul Islam remarked that Movievan has undertaken a challenging venture and should be commended for that. He also cautioned young filmmakers to be careful about the terms and agreements when seeking sponsorships from multinational organisations.

"I acknowledge that filmmaking is time and funds consuming, but don't let big corporations buy out your dreams and your history," he said to aspiring filmmakers.

Tareque Masud agreed with Islam and shared his bitter experiences of working with multinational organisations as sponsors. "We can overcome hurdles if we all work together and are confident of our creative abilities," said Masud to the young filmmakers.