

# 1<sup>st</sup> International Children's Film Festival Bangladesh

## Report

**1. Dates:** The Festival was held from January 28 to February 03, 2008.

**2. Venues:** The main venue was Central Public Library.

Other venues are: Iranian Cultural Centre, Russian Centre for Science and Culture and German Cultural Centre.

**3. Inauguration:** The inaugural program of the festival was held on 28<sup>th</sup> January 2008 at Central Public Library. The inaugural program was divided into two parts. The first part was held at the open premises, starts with the presentation of Tagore song 'Alo Amar alo Ogo Aloy Bhuban Vora' by the young artists 'Chhayanaut'. Then the National flag was hoisted by the chief guest Resheda K. Chowdhury, hon'ble Adviser, the festival flag was hoisted by Mustafa Monwar, Chairman of the festival advisory committee and the flag of the Children's Film Society was hoisted by Muhammad Zafar Iqbal, president of CFS. It was followed by setting free of balloons with festival slogan & logo by Professor Anisuzzaman and seven doves by Resheda K. Chowdhury.

In the second part, A brief discussion on children films and necessity took place at the Showkot Osman Auditorium. The session was presided over by Mustafa Monwar. The discussants were Muhammad Zafar Iqbal, Morshedul Islam, Professor Anisuzzaman and Resheda K. Chowdhury. The chief guest Resheda K. Chowdhury and Professor Anisuzzaman then declared the festival open by jointly lighting a lamp. After the opening speeches and other formalities, the Estonian film Ruudi was screened.

**4. Number of participating countries:** 37

**5. Total number of films shown in the festival:** 135

**6. Number of screenings:** Total number of screenings in the festival was 155 in 5 different venues.

**7. Total number of audience:** 12,800.

**Number of school:** 8 high schools, 5 primary schools.

**Street children:** 1100 (with the help of Manusher Jonno & HSBC Bank)

**Working children:** 200 (from Ain O Shalish Kendro)

**Urdu speaking children:** 300 (from Al-Falah Bangladesh)

**8. Child delegates:** From the essay competition, hundred children were selected, among which eight were participated in the festival, including two from Khagrachhari. Besides, 20 physically challenged children were participated in the festival. These children came from twenty eight districts. Thirty six of them came from Dhaka, and fifty two from the other parts of the country.

**9. Other events:**

**Workshop:** A workshop on filmmaking was organized for the child delegates to let the children know about the process of film making. The workshop was divided into four sessions, each for one and half hour. The first segment of the workshop, dealing with the definition of art, was conducted by Mustafa Monwar, the second, about the basic idea of film language, was conducted by Katherine Masud, the third, basic idea of film making process, was conducted by Morshedul Islam and the fourth, discussing the role of films in mental development and in understanding social reality and responsibility, was conducted by Dr. Muhammad Zafar Iqbal.

**Seminar:** A day-long seminar on children's film was arranged. The seminar was divided into four sessions. The first session's theme was problems and prospects of children's film making in Bangladesh. The keynote paper was presented by Badal Rahman, moderated by Morshedul Islam, and chaired by Dr. Zafar Iqbal. The second session's theme was Influence of film & media on children. The keynote paper was presented by Geet Ara Nasreen, moderated by Mosihuddin Shaker, and chaired by Professor Anisuzzaman. The third session's theme was Necessity of children's programme on TV channels. The keynote paper was presented by Fuad Chowdhury, moderated by Munni Saha, and chaired by Atiqul Haque Chowdhury and the fourth; session's theme was Importance of government support in children's filmmaking. The keynote paper was presented by Anupam Hayat, moderated by Munira Morshed Munni, and chaired by Mosihuddin Shaker.

**Meeting with important persons:** Children had the opportunity to spend time with three eminent personalities namely Prof. Abdullah Abu Sayed, the founder of Bishhaya Shahitta Kendre, Prof. Mozaffar Ahmed, the chairman of Bangladesh Transparency International, Sultana Kamal, the former advisor of the caretaker government and advocate for three days.

**Official Dinner:** An official dinner was arranged in Topkapi, Gulshen for everyone directly or indirectly involved in the festival. This program was arranged by the courtesy of Shahidullah Khan Badal & Naila Khan.

**Reception for child delegates:** A reception was arranged for the child delegates during the festival at the main festival venue.

**10. Publications:** Posters, Souvenirs, Sticker, Tattoo, Daily bulletin for 7 days, Screening Schedules.

**11. Souvenirs:** There was an assortment of souvenirs – Bags, T-shirts, Posters, Pens, Sticker and more.

**12. Logo film:** A logo film of 40 seconds duration was made with a combination of live action and animation based on the festival slogan and theme.

**13. Closing ceremony:** A closing ceremony was held on 3<sup>rd</sup> February at 6 pm at the Showkot Osman Hall of Central Public Library. The chairperson of the festival advisory committee, Mustafa Monwar officially declared the festival closed and the festival director Morshedul Islam announced the festival dates for the next year.

**14. Festival declaration:** A five- point festival declaration was read out at the closing ceremony demanding state support and social awareness for making films for children in the country.