



ENTER
Chobi Mela VII 2013

From the CEO

Dear friends,

Change and communication are consistent with our times. It is the same for Drik where I have the pleasure of taking over as CEO from April 2012. It is an exceptional challenge to lead this unique organisation; an organisation that has carved out its identity in the rock face of common misperceptions, boldly and innovatively using a range of visual tools not to simply communicate but to drive positive and lasting social change. At the age of 23 years, Drik has developed an uncommon voice and vision, respected in most circles; even amongst those that Drik feels the necessity of confronting. Along the way, it has gained a solid track record of delivering distinctive and high quality solutions for all multimedia needs.

But these are also troubled times, where many well meant organisations find it difficult to negotiate commercial realities and in converting their products and services into sustainable returns. My background is not in photography but in developing organisational capabilities for large companies. It is this minor strength that I hope to bring to Drik, to its small but highly talented and committed team. My focus will be on bringing the customer closer, on planning longer and better and in ensuring that the exceptional promise of Drik is maintained and enhanced for the future.

This will be a journey rather than a sprint and over the course of it I look forward to meeting many of you...till then, thank you for believing in us and may we continue to receive your support and deliver beyond your expectations.

Warm regards,
Saiful Islam
ceo@drik.net

World Press Photo 12 exhibition ends.
Photo: Saikat Mojumder/Drik



From the Editor

Dear friends,

May was a month of strengthening our creative commons through recruiting new staff; training others through inspiring workshops; supporting overseas training and celebrating with them when they won accolades. Drik's network too got wider with participating in international fora and the holding of the first seminar partnering with the World Association of Newspapers WAN-IFRA in Dhaka. The World Press Photo exhibition drew to a close but the comments left by the many visitors such as 'amazing, touching, informative, beautiful, inspiring and disturbing' is a measure of its impact.

Our sister organization, DrikICT gained recognition for its work and we are proud of them. The students and alumni of Pathshala continue to make their mark in the international arena, with Khaled Hasan winning the Samdani Award at the Dhaka Art Summit. Our creative zeal is set to achieve new heights and will get very active as we prepare for the seventh Chobi Mela festival in January 2013. Much to look forward to, so stay with us, participate and be a part of our exciting programs and events.

Best,
Chulie de Silva
Communications Manager
chulie@drik.net

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Theme photo of Chobi Mela VI: Karen Knorr UK/Puerto Rico, Courtesy of Taseer

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Chobi Mela VII: Drik calls for applications

International Festival of Photography 2013, Bangladesh

Fragility is the theme for the Chobi Mela VII, International Festival of Photography to be held in January 2013 in Dhaka, Bangladesh. Guidelines and applications are available from the festival website www.chobimela.org. Deadline for applications 31 July 2012.

The call of Chobi Mela VII is to seek fragile fleeting moments, to record the nuanced lives we all live. "In an economy gasping for breath, in an ecosystem reeling under consumption, waste and the ravages of war, the greed of a few threaten the future of many," says festival director Shahidul Alam. The festival challenges artists to push back the tide of unbridled growth and lay their stake to a sustainable universe.

"The brilliance of Chobi Mela persistently emerges as a near contact sport between the past and the future, old and young," said Chris Riley, US media innovator, and formerly head of planning in the Graphic Design Group at Apple, Inc., and a speaker at the 2011 festival. *"The overwhelming sense of Chobi Mela VI in Dhaka, Bangladesh, in Asia at the beginning of what has been described as the Asian Century is one of potential. Huge creative potential, the potential to change the narrative of the global community, recast its mythologies and restate its essence. From Dhaka the stories must be different; they must be from a different perspective and in a different form. This is the Chobi Mela challenge: to emerge into the world and change it."*

Chobi Mela VII in 2013 will be an important step towards meeting this challenge.



Key members of the South Asia newspaper fraternity met at the World Association of Newspapers (WAN)-IFRA conference, “Maximising Revenue and Reach” on 30 May at Westin Dhaka.

The conference featured interesting case studies from newspapers, advertisers and looked at trends world-wide, examined the creative innovative hybrids for growth opportunities for the newspaper publishing industry.

WAN-IFRA South Asia office based in Chennai, India helped to bring WAN-IFRA services closer to members in Dhaka. Drik is the WAN-IFRA Representative in Bangladesh.

See also:
<http://www.wan-ifra.org/events/maximising-revenue-reach>

WAN-IFRA conference on Maximising Revenue and Reach of Newspapers



Training Drik staff

Mr. Johan Hann, a consultant senior expert at PUM Netherlands was at Drik, conducting a series of workshops and building skills of Drik staff on marketing. During his period here he also looked at Drik and its potential for growth in the international market. Drik thanks him most sincerely for his dedication and commitment and looks forward to working with him in the future.

Note: PUM is an affiliate of the Dutch employers' association, and is funded by both the Dutch government and private sector based on the philosophy that a self-sufficient small and medium-sized business sector is beneficial to both worldwide development and that of the global economy.



Training the trainers

Muhammad Aminuzzaman, Project Manager for Rural Visual Journalists Network, Hasib Zakaria, Vice Principal, and two lecturers Tanvir Murad Topu, Andrew Biraj of Pathshala South Asian Media Academy, successfully completed TOT (Training for Trainers) held by Wordpress Photo in Netherlands.



Exhibition at Lodi-The Garden Restaurant
Photo courtesy: no man's land

Naxal Women in “With Love from Southasia,”

The stories of the class struggle of Bangladeshi Naxal women with portraits by Shahidul Alam was an exhibit at the “*With Love from Southasia*,” exhibition of “*no man's land*,” a design and dialogue space in New Delhi that aims to reengage Southasia as a region. The photographs were on display between May 5th and May 31st 2012 at Lodi - The Garden Restaurant, a central green space on Lodhi Road, New Delhi, India.

Bengali “Crossfire” reaches U.S.

Story by Beena Sarwar for Lattitude News

Read story at

http://www.latitudenews.com/story/alam-bangladesh-crossfire-queens-museum/?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+latitudenews%2Fmain+%28Latitude+News+Main+Feed%29



Photo: Beena Sarwar

Guerilla Internet: Using the net to fight its own dominance

Deutsche Welle in a report said “*The largest European Internet conference, re:publica, in Berlin may have seen many international speakers before, but surely never a bearded Muslim from Bangladesh, who challenges the meaning behind the term ‘third world’ and gives an alternative of his own.*” The bearded Muslim in this report was Shahidul Alam who gave the Keynote address at the conference on 3rd May 2012. STATION-Berlin Luckenwalder Straße 4-6. 10963 Berlin

See:

“*The Borders of the Global Village*,”

http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=jnS1WaZmcxU#!

Read more at:

<http://www.dw.de/dw/article/0,,15927486,00.html>

Silent Revolution of Photography in Bangladesh

Alam speaks about his passion for providing photography education to formerly underrepresented groups in the field, such as women, working-class children, rural journalists and citizen journalists.

He says that in the right hands, photography can be nothing short of revolutionary.

See:

<http://asiasociety.org/blog/asia/video-photography-revolutionary-tool-bangladesh>

Scholarships and Awards

Congratulations to all

- **Bangladeshi blogger Abu Sufian**



Bangladeshi journalist Abu Sufian whose blog about extrajudicial executions and other kinds of injustice was the jury choice in the “Reporters Without Borders” category of this year’s BOBs (Best of Blogs competition), organized by the German radio station Deutsche Welle.

- **ASM Rezaur Rahman** General Manager of Drik and Curatorial Director of Chobi Mela has successfully completed Arthink South Asia Fellowship 2011-12 offered by Goethe Institut. As one of the fifteen promising art managers from South Asia, he went through a two weeks intensive training on Art Management in New Delhi. He concluded the programme by participating in a four weeks secondment in Museum of Photography and Helmut Newton Foundation in Berlin.
- **Md. Mostafa Sorower**, Project Manager, has been awarded an European Commission/University of Sydney scholarship for the Master of Human Rights and Democratisation, Asia Pacific Regional Programme 2012-2013. Foundation semester at the University of Sydney, Australia and the second semester at the University of Katmandu, School of Law, Nepal.

- **Foyzal Ahmed Dadon**, Team Leader, Drik Gallery and **Refanoor Akter Moly**, Archive Developer, Drik Picture Agency has been awarded Bachelor of Arts degrees from the Government Bangla College, Under the National University of Bangladesh.
- **Wahid Adnan**, Drik News staff photographer received a scholarship to participate in the Multimedia and Online Journalism course at the International Institute for Journalism, Berlin, Germany.

DrikICT

- **Drik ICT on ISO 9001:2008 Certificate:** Drik ICT Ltd. was awarded the ISO 9001:2008 certificate of registration effective from March 28, 2012. The ISO 9001:2008 certification validates the effectiveness of the critical focus that Drik ICT has placed on meeting its customer’s needs.

Pathshala artists continue to make waves

- Pathshala graduate Protick Sarker; undergraduate Ismail Ferdous and Bangladeshi artist Mohammed M. Hasan Bhuiyan were among the 25 winners in the World Bank’s Imagining Our Future Together art contest for young artists.
- Pathshala alumni Gazi Nafiz Ahmed is one of the four photographers to be selected for the prestigious VII Photo Mentor programme under John Stanmeyer.



Visual story telling for WaterAid Bangladesh

Drik’s photography documentation and story reportage for WaterAid Bangladesh is drawing together a heartwarming picture of improved access to water supply and sanitation services for poor communities in Tangail, Mymensingh and Khulna districts. WaterAid is working with 21 local partners and is implementing a fresh approach where communities play an active role in establishing the facilities, maintaining them and adopting good hygiene practices.

Photo: Habibul Haque/Drik for WaterAid

new faces at Drik



Shazedur Rahman
Team Leader
Audio Visual department

Shazedur is a theater and audiovisual communication expert who says his creative journey commenced as a young theater activist in Dhaka in the anti-autocratic movement of '90's against Gen. Ershad regime. He is a graduate of Jahangirnagar University, Bangladesh and received his PhD in Drama and Theater Arts from Pondicherry Central University, India under the fellowship of Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR).

Md. Kamal Hossen
Network Coordinator
Rural Visual Journalism
Network (RVJN)

Kamal's experience includes communication and advocacy, partnership management and networking with NGOs and local media outlets, research, publication and audio visual production.

Kamal holds a Bachelors and Master Degree in Anthropology from Jahangirnagar University and a Professional Certificate Course on Environmental Management and Governance from Institute of Governance Studies (IGS), BRAC University.



Md. Obayedullah Khan
Marketing Officer

Khan obtained his Bachelor's degree from Multimedia University, Cyberjaya, Malaysia. He will contribute to Drik with his experience in business development and market research and skills in project and media communication management.

Md. Syfur Rahman Rubel
Video Editor
Audio Visual department

Rubel brings with him professional skills as a video editor and graphics designer with expertise in non linear video editing, graphical art, animation, visual manipulation etc.



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