

Celebrating Life is back! The Daily Star & Standard Chartered's Celebrating Life: A Film, Photography and Lyrics Contest is all set to take off again in 2010. This is the third incarnation of Celebrating Life, and with your participation, we hope to make it the grandest yet!

What Celebrating Life Is

“Celebrating Life” is a composite competition, inviting films, photographs and lyrics entries that showcase various aspects of life in Bangladesh. Organized jointly by The Daily Star and Standard Chartered, this initiative is our attempt to provide participants with a platform for creative expression, on a scale unprecedented in the local media scene.

The competition is divided into three categories: film, photographs and lyrics. Celebrating Life will feature 36 winners; 14 in the film category, 12 in the photography category and 10 for lyrics. Prize money amounting to a total of twelve lac ninety-six thousand taka will be awarded to the winners. The winners of 2010 will be announced at an Award Giving Gala by the end of August 2010

Weeklong festivals will be organized in twelve districts of Bangladesh throughout 2010, showcasing the winning entries from the previous years' competitions. We will take the spirit of Celebrating Life to every corner of Bangladesh, and make sure that the whole nation can participate in the celebrations!

This Year's Theme

For this year's contest, we have picked the theme "*Indomitable Bangladesh*". We want your films, photographs and lyrics to celebrate the irrepressible spirit of this nation, to celebrate the optimism and positivity all around us.

Contestants are allowed complete freedom to explore any subject matter of their choice within this theme. However, we strongly encourage participants not to limit themselves to urban settings, but to deal with rural Bangladesh as well.

About the Film Contest

The film contest will invite entries across three segments: Best Film, Best Debut and the Best TV Production Award.

□ Best Film

In this segment, submissions will be awarded in the categories of Best Documentary and Best Short Fiction. The length of the films for the Best Film segment should be between 20 - 45 minutes.

□ **Best Debut Film**

In this segment, submissions will be awarded in the categories of Best Debut Documentary and Best Debut Short Fiction. The "Debut Film" segment shall invite entries between three to twelve minutes in length, encouraging experimentation and originality.

All submissions must be in DVD format for preview purposes. Winners will be asked to provide master copies of their awarded films in DVCAM master format. Submissions must be original and unpublished work of the filmmakers. No submission can be returned to the participant.

Cash awards of Tk. 200,000 will be given to each of the two Best films from the Best Short Fiction and Best Documentary categories. In addition, winners will also be provided with a budget of Tk. 300,000 each to produce an assigned film within a given timeframe.

Cash awards of Tk. 50,000 will be given to each of the two Best Debut Films. The winners will also receive certificates and crests.

The Daily Star-Standard Chartered and the maker of the films will have rights over usage of the winning films for public screening, television screening, charity purposes or for any other promotional purpose either individually or as a joint event.

□ **Best TV Production Award**

This segment shall recognize the best of 2009's TV and Film productions based on the following categories: Best Director, Best Producer, Best Fiction, Best Actor, Best Actress, Best Cameraperson, Best Editor, Best Music Score/Sound, Best Script, and Best Costume/Makeup. The winners of this segment shall receive crests and certificates. A special Celebrating Life festival shall be organized, during which all winning entries will be screened on air by Channel I. The winning entries shall also be screened in festivals all over Bangladesh. Please note that no cash prizes shall be awarded in this category.

A special award shall be provided to a music personality (singer, director, musician or any other) in recognition of contributions made to the music industry of Bangladesh.

If your work has been aired on BTV or any of the satellite channels, and you think that it deserves critical recognition, please send it in to us on a DVD. Along with your entry, you must include a full cast and crew list printed on paper.

A jury board consisting of experts in the field will judge the submissions. The winning films will be broadcasted on Channel I and shall be screened in a touring festival program in twelve districts across Bangladesh. Eminent film directors have shown interest in working closely with the top two winners of this contest for upcoming projects.

About the Photography Contest

In the photography contest, participants are allowed to submit a maximum of 3 entries per person.

A jury board composed of eminent personalities/experts in the field will judge the submissions, amongst which three winners will be selected who will receive certificates, crests and cash prizes. The winner will receive a cash prize of Tk. 50,000, the 1st runner's up entry will receive Tk. 40,000 and the 2nd runner's up entry will receive Tk. 30,000. Nine additional entries will receive honorable mention awards and certificates.

Only digital pictures will be accepted in CD/DVD format, the minimum acceptable resolution is 1500 pixels. Once the preliminary selection is finalized, the participants shall print out the chosen photographs and re-submit. The organizers have the right to disqualify any entry without any prior notification due to non-adherence to technical guidelines, or unacceptable nature of the content of the images. No submission can be returned to the participant.

Selected photographs will be featured in a district level festival all around Bangladesh. The top three winners of the photography competition will have an opportunity to work with The Daily Star as apprentices.

All selected photographs will become the property of The Daily Star, Standard Chartered, and the photographers. The organizers will gain rights over any form of usage. The winnings photographs will also be featured on Standard Chartered Bank's Yearly calendars; credit lines will be provided on any form of usage.

About the Lyrics Contest

Entries can be in both English and Bengali, and participants can submit a maximum of three entries per person.

A jury board composed of eminent personalities/experts in the field will judge the submissions, amongst which ten winners will be selected in two categories – five for “English Lyrics”, and five for “Bengali Lyrics”, who will receive certificates, crests and cash prizes. The winning entries in either category will receive Tk. 15,000 each; the 1st runner's up entries in either category will receive Tk. 10,000 and the 2nd runner's up entries in either category will receive Tk. 7,000. The rest of the ten winners, 4th and 5th, in either category will receive Tk. 3,000 each. Lyrics should be submitted in the form of computer printed hard copies. No submission can be returned to the participant.

Renowned music directors and singers will compose songs based on the winning lyrics, and young and veteran singers will give voice to the songs. These songs will be featured on CDs. The prize-winning songs will also be performed at district level festival concerts all around Bangladesh.

All winning lyrics will become the property of The Daily Star, Standard Chartered and Zaheen Music. The organizers will gain rights over any form of usage.

Rules and Regulations

1. How to submit: All entries must reach the Daily Star office by 31st May 2010. No entries will be accepted after the last date of submission.
2. Write your name, address, email address and cell phone number clearly in block letters on the envelope and on the back of each submission. In case of CDs/DVDs please ensure that all contact information is written on both the CD/DVD Cover and the CD/DVD itself.
3. Please retain a copy with yourself, because no entries will be returned to the participant.
4. The results will be published in The Daily Star after the Awards Giving Ceremony. Keep reading the leading English daily!
5. Personal calls are prohibited. Any persuasion, verbal or written, will result in immediate disqualification. Read the website thoroughly for any queries. If you have a query, please send it to us through our website, we will reply as soon as possible.
6. The same person can take part in more than one or in all three contests.
7. There is no age limit. Any Bangladeshi citizen or any foreigner residing in Bangladesh is eligible.
8. No submission can be returned to the participant.
9. The last date of submission is 31st May 2010.

Address your entries/submissions to:

Rafi Hossain
Festival Director
Celebrating Life
The Daily Star
19, Karwanbazar,
Dhaka –1215, Bangladesh.
Email: celebratinglife.contest@gmail.com
Website: www.celebratinglifebd.com