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Images, Communication & Information Technology

Press Release

Wednesday, March 24, 2010

POLICE CLOSE DRIK GALLERY FOR THIRD DAY RUNNING

Police continued to lock the gates to the Crossfire exhibition at Drik Gallery for the third day.

A team of officers came and forcibly closed the Dhanmondi gallery on Monday, 22 March, as the exhibition was due to be inaugurated alongside the launch of the new Pathshala South Asian Media Academy.

Officials demanded that the exhibition is taken down and stopped. However, artist, photographer Shahidul Alam, refused and decided to continue with the launch on the street outside the gallery.

Police claimed the gallery did not receive permission to hold the show. However, Dr Alam told how the gallery has been hosting several shows each week since opening in 1993, and has never before required permission.

Monday's opening took place in a small impromptu programme held on the road outside Drik. The event was inaugurated by the celebrated Indian writer and human rights activist, Mahasweta Devi. Nurul Kabir, editor of New Age, M Hamid, CEO of RTV and Jorge Villacorta, curator from Peru were present, along with many artists and media professionals from abroad, and also, members of the public.

The exhibition, 'Crossfire,' curated by renowned Peruvian curator Jorge Villacorta, features symbolic representations relating to the theme of crossfire and the Rapid Action Battalion (RAB).

The Media Academy, an extension of Pathshala, South Asian Institute of Photography, regarded to be one of the best photojournalism schools in the world, intends to train other sectors of the media, namely broadcasting, print and multimedia journalism, and to build up a body of honest, courageous, energetic and skilled media professionals.

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