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Cameras roll on Bangladesh trip

by **Andy Gayler**

YOUNGSTERS from Luton have made a film about forced marriage while on a three-week trip to Bangladesh.

The group of 15 were in the country to learn first hand about life in the South Asian country, in a trip led by Luton's Mitalee Youth Association as part of an exchange programme, when they put together the movie.

Luton university postgraduate film student Zakir Husain directed and wrote the script.

"Forced marriage is not an issue that only exists within the Bangladeshi community," he said.

"This film will highlight many key issues and will raise awareness on the subject. I very much hope that organisations and agencies working in the field can use the film as a resource."

The story was based in real-life events, and information was provided by the Forced Marriage Unit at the



TAKE TWO: Filming a story about forced marriage was just one part of the trip organised by Mitalee

youth capacity building projects and cruise in the world's largest mangrove forest in Sundarban.

The British team worked together with the host group to explore social and environmental issues, including the impact on the forest.

And this journey to Sundarban was also filmed by a satellite TV channel as a documentary, and was broadcast in Asia, Europe and North America.

Tara Conway said: "My trip to Bangladesh began as an opportunity to carry out some work experience."

"However, I left with an appreciation of the country and its people, along with friendships I never thought it was possible in a short period of time."

"I'm glad I took the opportunity to explore a beautiful country that is so different from my own - it has heightened my awareness of other cultures immensely."

British High Commission in Dhaka. Characters in the work were played by members from both the Luton team and their Bangladeshi hosts, with others working as crew on the production.

The film is expected to screen at theatres in the

Luton area when it is finished and DVD copies will be given away free, the youth group said.

But the movie making was just one part of a hectic three weeks that saw the young people tour the High Commission, visit community and