

RECOMMENDATIONS

Exhibition

**December 03-18**  
An exhibition of art works created during the Contemporary Asian Art Workshop 2002 by artists of the country is on at the National Art Gallery of Shilpakala Academy. The display remains open from 12 to 8 pm everyday until December 18.

**December 05-10**  
The sixth solo art exhibition of Rafi Haque is going on at the La Gallery of Alliance Francaise (26, Mirpur Road, Dhanmondi, Dhaka).

**December 05-10**  
A six-day-long art exhibition of artist Habib is going on at the Gallery Chittrak premises. The show will remain open for all from 10 am to 8 pm everyday.

**December 04-18**  
The solo painting exhibition of Kazi Ghyas titled *Serenade of Rain* featuring his recent watercolours is being held at the Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts. The display will remain open for all from 12 to 8 pm everyday.

Songs of hundred mystic poets

**December 05-07**  
Bangladesh Lok Sangeet Parishad and UNESCO Bangladesh jointly organised 'Songs of Hundred Mystic Poets 2003' at the National Public Library. The programmes will include discussion meetings, documentary film screening and folk songs of about 120 mystic poets of Bengal. The programmes will start at 4:30 pm everyday.

Book launching

**December 08**  
Prothabash Publications launches a book entitled *Hidoye Rongdhonu* (The Rainbow in a Heart) by Sharmin Ahmad at the Liberation War Museum auditorium. The ceremony will be attended by eminent literatures like Selina Hossain, Dr. Muhammad Zafar Iqbal and Professor Sardar Fazlul Karim. The programme starts at 4:30 pm.

Anniversary

**December 12**  
The 25th founding anniversary special programme of children's drama association Dhaka Little Theatre will be held at Drik (House no. 58, Road no. 15/Anew) at 10 am to 5 pm.

Spanish film festival



December 07-09

Zahir Raihan Film Society, in association with the Alliance Francaise of Dhaka, will screen six films in the Contemporary Spanish Film Session at the Alliance Francaise auditorium, Dhanmondi:

- Dec-7: *Butterfly* 5pm
- Mad Love* 7pm
- Dec-8: *Intact* 5pm
- Sex and Lucia* 7pm
- Dec-9: *Girl of Your Dreams* 5pm
- Goya in Bordeaux* 7pm

Art

# Dynamic display from "Opar Bangla"

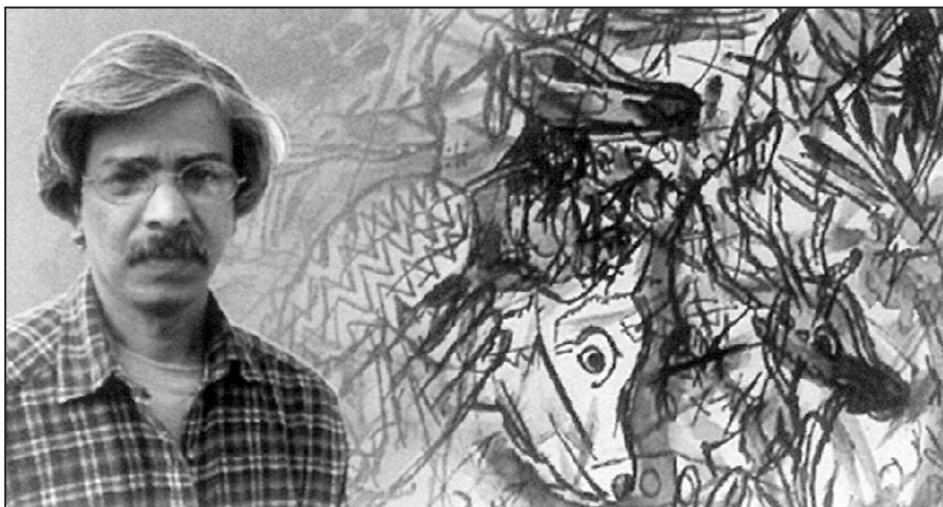
## Habibur Rahman's "Parable of existence" at "Chittrak"

FAYZA HAQ

HABIBUR Rahman, who is now settled in Kolkata, began his remarkable solo at "Chittrak" recently. An award winner at the "Birla Academy of Fine Arts and Culture" in 1997, he has progressed from his "Homeless" series to bring in lyricism and folk elements in his pictures within pictures, with details bringing in more motifs with each curl, line or dot.

Habib said, "I've exhibited here in Dhaka, as I have my friends and relatives here. I've come to exhibit here in order to have an exchange of ideas and opinions. The artists in West Bengal don't work in a style that is altogether different from that of the painters and printmakers of Bangladesh; there are more artists there and so the competition is more steep: I'd say this applies to every field and not just art. I stay at Kolkata because of personal reasons. I'm married to an Indian Japanese language interpreter and artist Bela Purohit. Of course, sometimes I feel homesick there."

Asked if his paintings followed the West Bengal tradition rather than the vast expanse of semi-abstracts that one comes across in Bangladesh among his contemporaries, Habib said, "My teacher Mohammed Kibria has done innumerable abstracts and it is my admiration for his work that has egged me on. I had graduated in printmaking from DU, before doing my masters in printmaking from Maharaja Sayajirao University, Baroda. In my works in the present exhibition you see my various stream of thoughts at different times. A work bears the title 'Image within image' and this expresses situations when there might be a telephone call when I'm wrapped in deep thought with some friend; there might be someone playing a cassette of CD nearby and the notes might be distracting me. To feel more than one sensation at one time leads on to breaking of one image and the presenting of another. Some pictures bear the titles 'Story of our times' and these bear narratives of today



Habibur Rahman seen against his work

included many inscriptions in his words? To this Habib said, "I've included a few lines of poetry or songs or some comments about the picture itself but this is not a large part of my work as you would find in Abdus Sakhoo's folk-work based paintings, or art works which maybe pure calligraphy. Sometimes I might have included even fragments of conversational pieces which might stir me." Talking about the elements of surrealism in his works, Habib said, "In the process of telling a tale, I bring in important and symbolic pieces and juxtapose them, willy-nilly, with a dream-like effect. As for going in for total abstraction, that does not appeal to me. Surrounded by soil, air and water, I cannot paint something I can't see or feel and which projects something which might be ambiguous to my viewers."

Asked which artist had inspired him in particular, Habib said, "I like artists like Zainul Abedin, Qamrul Hassan, Safiuddin Ahmed, my teacher, Mohammed Kibria. In India, I like Jyoti

Egged on compare the works of his group in Bangladesh those who belong to the mid 40s range -- with those of the counterparts in West Bengal, Habib said, "I think the Bangladeshi artists have forged ahead and are doing better than the West Bengal artists because their eagerness to learn from the progressive world is more. Zainul Abedin had brought with him the tradition of the Bengal School in the late 50s in Bangladesh. The painters and print makers have more exchange and interaction with the world outside as with their counterparts in USA, Europe and Japan. The Bangladeshis, in brief, are more progressive and global in their outlook."

"I like the work of Safiuddin Ahmed, in particular", Habib said, discussing his teachers in Bangladesh, "as it is lyrical and because he excels in the print media, in which I've my basic education. In order to reach the perfection that Safiuddin had projected, we too were compelled to concentrate and strive. As for Mohammed Kibria, he is a giant too among us and some people may profess to like him because of his stature. His technique of painting images within images is an art that he taught us. A few lines might present a drama or a fiction piece or a poem. I also admire Qamrul Hassan's works as regards the country life of Bangladesh, which is a continuation of Jamini Rai's genre."

Touching on the reason of why he had gone into print making at the outset, Habib said, "I can't make prints now as it something too expensive for me. When I'd gone into the field at the outset it was because I'd wanted to give my works to numerous people which is more feasible in the print world. Later, the plate-making, use of ink and press and other factors of print making did not suit me as much as the direct handling of paints and pastels on paper or canvas."

"The colours that I've used are mostly brown, mustard, vermilion, and shades of olive set off by white and black in my work. The choice of my colours depended on my subjects and the manner in which I wished to delineate them. There are 74 pieces here at 'Chittrak', including mixed-media, pen and ink drawing based works and water-colour. It took me a year to complete my collection, although there are a few pieces from earlier times too," Habib concluded about his exhibit.

Habibur Rahman has had four solos in Dhaka and Barodha, and has participated in more than 20 major joint ventures. He has had three awards including the ones from "All India Fine Arts & Culture, Kolkata" in 1987 and Best Award in print-making from the Fine Arts Institute, DU, in 1982.

Festival

# ITI Theatre Festival and Seminar

ERSHAD KAMOL

THE BANGLADESH Centre of the International Theatre Institute (ITI) has organised a Theatre Festival and an international seminar entitled 'Celebrating Diversity' from December 9 to December 16. Plays will be staged at the Mahila Samity Mancha and at the newly built National Theatre Experimental Stage simultaneously. Along with this arrangement street theatre, folk theatre, dance and children's programmes will be held at the "Rabindra Sarobar" open air stage at the side of the Dhanmondi Lake.

**The programme is as follows--**  
**December 9:** *Tarai Bandha Ghorar Dim* by Tonatuni at the National Theatre Stage and *Birsha Kabya* by Desh Natok at the Mahila Samity Mancha.

**December 10:** *Teerthanakar* by Shubochon at the National Theatre Stage and *Gondar* by Prachyana at the Mahila Samity Mancha.

**December 11:** *Mohua* (dance drama) by Nriyanchal at the

National Theatre Stage and *Shongkranti* by Aranyak at the Mahila Samity Mancha.

**December 12:** *Bohe Prantojon* by Anushelton, Rajshahi at the National Theatre Stage and *Madhavi* by Theatre at the Mahila Samity Mancha.

**December 13:** *Janok* by Natyachakra at the National Theatre Stage and *Ingeet* by Dhaka Padatik at the Mahila Samity Mancha.

**December 14:** *Sampan Naiya* by Uttarahdakar, Chittagong at the National Theatre Stage and *Bonopangshul* by Dhaka Theatre at the Mahila Samity Mancha.

**December 15:** *Siddhidata* by Lokonaty Dal at the National Theatre Stage and *Rakto Korobi* by Nagorik Natya Samprodyia at the Mahila Samity Mancha.

**December 16:** *Protisaran* by Natyakendra at the Mahila Samity Mancha.

The international seminar will be held on 11 & 12 December at the CIRDP Auditorium from 10 am to

5 pm. The subjects to be discussed on the first day are -- "Global mainstreaming and diversity" and "Promoting diversity in national culture". On the second day, the morning session will include discussion on conflict and diversity whereas in the afternoon session, a report of the whole scenario of the country will be presented.

The 117<sup>th</sup> session of the ITI worldwide Executive Council will be held on 9th & 10th December. This is for the first time that such a session is being held in Dhaka. On 13 December, the four permanent committee members of ITI - Communication Committee, Cultural Identity and Development Committee, Dramatic Theatre Committee and Theatre Education Committee will hold their Board meetings in Dhaka.

On this occasion more than 20 foreign delegates including World-wide ITI President Manfred Beilharz and Executive Director Jennifer Walpole will come to Bangladesh. Over 100 local delegates will participate in the seminar.

Music

# 'No' to 'commercial' songs

## Face to face with Fahmida Nabi

NOVERA DEEPTA

INSPIRED by her father, famous singer Mahmudun Nabi, Fahmida Nabi started to sing when she was very young. Although her mother never performed in public, she was a good singer as well. But it was not family influence but an urge for music from within which attracted Fahmida to enter the world of music. She learned her initial music lessons under Ustad Amanullah Khan. Fahmida remarks, "I had a matured taste for music from my very childhood. My favourite track was Lata Mungeshkar's *Na Mono Lagay Na*."

She says, "Feelings must be deep rooted in all songs. Emotional tunes and lyrics should be able to stir the listeners to a melancholic state of mind. I am proud to say that my father was adept in doing so and it is from this feeling that I am inspired to keep away from rendering 'commercial' songs. The Carpenters is my favourite, their lyric and music are still my favourites."

Samina Chowdhury, her sister, has the same feeling towards music like Fahmida. When Samina sang the popular song *Ekbar Jodi Keu Bhalobashito* for a film and drew the attention of the audience Fahmida fell behind. But Fahmida says, "I don't feel it as an obstacle to fame since our main target is to sing really good songs."

Fahmida is basically a presenter of modern songs. She also performs Tagore songs on request of her listeners. She plans to release a mixed cassette containing songs of Tagore, Nazrul, Lalon, Atul Prashad, Rajanikant, modern and folk shortly.

"Music videos are important for exposure of music," she says, "Because of the diffusion of the satellite culture into ours, time is changing fast. Therefore, we must keep up with new trends and styles. Music has taken the audience to a point where the visual is very important for both the singers and the listeners. People don't listen to the radio as much as before. Now television is a big medium, even vaster than the cinema. A good music video reaches the audience very



Fahmida Nabi

easily. But, the videos should have a story behind them. The concept of music video here is still not up to the mark."

Fahmida is working on her new album which will be released next Eid. It is a duet with a promising singer Nipo with whom she released another album *Yusuf Julekha* which was well appreciated by the critics and listeners. The new album contains songs like *Shararat Kedechhi, Ja chate Ja, Palabe Kothay Tumi Bolo Na* will attract the listeners.

Classic collection

A Chinese policeman walks among replicas of the sphinx outside the National Museum of China in Beijing on December 5. A month-long exhibition, entitled *Adventure into the Pyramid*, which features 143 relics valued at \$260 million, opened in China's capital on Friday. Some of the relics are from the National Museum of Egypt and have never left Egypt before.



PHOTO: REUTERS

# TV GUIDE

All programmes are in local time. The Daily Star will not be responsible for any change in the programme.

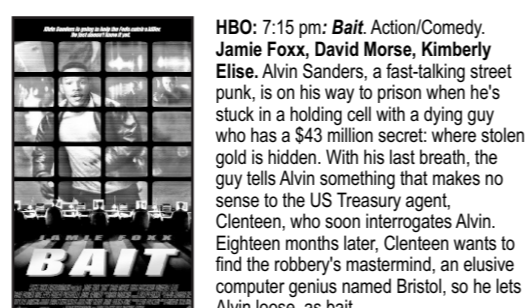
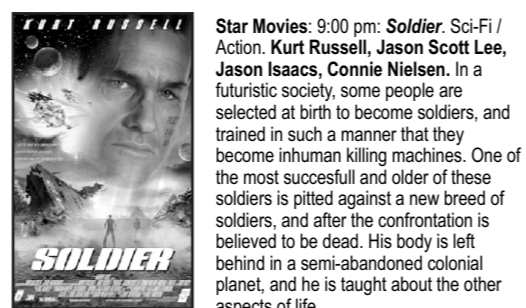
News Bulletin

**BTV**  
News Headlines (Bangla) at 9:40 am, 12:10 pm, 2:00 pm, 3:10 pm, 4:00 pm, 7:00 pm.  
News (Bangla) at 8:00 am 1:00 pm, 5:00 pm, 8:00 pm.  
News (English) at 3:00 pm, 10:00 pm.  
Late Night News (Bangla and English) 11:30 pm.  
**CHANNEL-i**  
Breakfast News 07:15 am, 9:00am  
News (Bangla) at 7:15 pm, 9:00, 10:30, 12:15 am.  
Teletext of BTV news (Bangla and English) at 11:30 pm.  
**ATN BANGLA**  
News (Bangla) at 8:00 am, 12:00 pm, 7:00 pm, 10:00 pm, 11:00 pm.  
Teletext of BTV News (Bangla and English) at 11:30 pm.  
Latest News (Bangla) at 09 a.m, 10:00 a.m, 11:00 am, 1pm, 2:00 pm, 3:00 pm, 4:00pm, 6:00 pm, and 8:00 pm.  
**n tv**  
News Headlines (Bangla) at 5:02 pm, 6:30 pm, 9:45 pm.  
News (Bangla) 7:30 pm, 10:30 pm.  
**TARA BANGLA**  
News Headline (Bangla) at 5:30 pm, 7:30 pm.  
Tara News (Bangla) at 8:30 pm, 11:30 pm.  
Tara News Bangladesh (Bangla) at 9:30 pm.  
**BBC World**  
Every hour on the hour

**BTV**  
07:35 *Suprobat Bangladesh*  
08:25 Selected Tagore Songs  
09:15 *Anya Bhubon: Sensitive Samurai*  
12:15 *Sangbad Potrer Pata Theke*  
01:05 *Priyo Manush (Repeat)*  
01:30 Cartoon Show: *Totally Tooned In*  
02:05 *Kriya Jagat*  
02:30 *Amader Ranna*  
03:05 *Nakhhatrer Alo*  
03:35 *Shukhi Paribar*  
04:05 *Bashori*  
04:30 *Shotorupa*  
05:05 National Television Debate Competition  
05:55 News For Children  
06:10 *Geetanjali*  
07:00 Share Market, Weather Forecast  
07:05 *Mati O Manush*  
07:30 Film Show: *The Lost World*  
08:30 Drama Serial: *Naikar Namey Nam*  
10:25 *Teknaf Theke Tetulia*  
10:35 *Abhishashi*  
11:00 *Shur O Bani i*  
**CHANNEL-i**  
08:00 Ganer Anushtan  
09:30 *Shangbadpotrey Bangladesh*  
09:45 *Tritia Matra*  
11:00 *Chithi Pelam*  
11:30 *Ebong Cinemar Gan*  
12:00 *Chhera Pata*  
12:30 *Veem Jhatpat Ranna*  
11:00 *Chatpat Parishkar*  
Drama Serial *Dana*

01:30 *Shanghat*  
Shangbadpotrey Bangladesh  
02:00 Feature film *Jantrana*  
05:15 *Muktijuddho Amar Ahankar*  
05:45 FCT Business Talk  
06:10 Music Plus  
06:45 *Baniyo O Orhoniti*  
07:50 Sun Light Your Choice  
08:25 Drama Serial: *Sharey Tin Tala*  
09:35 Drama Serial: *Ekannoborti*  
10:00 Drama Serial: *Thikana*  
**ntv**  
05:02 *Ithasher Ei Diney*  
05:10 *Potrikar Khabor*  
05:30 *Apar Jigyasha*  
06:00 *Kichhu Katha Kichhu Gaan*  
06:32 *Shubho Sandhya*  
06:52 *Neel Paharer Gaan*  
08:00 Drama Serial: *Tin Purush*  
08:35 Fashion Talks  
09:10 Right Click  
09:47 Drama Serial: *Palayon Parba (Ep-2)*  
11:10 *Ithasher Ei Diney*  
11:15 Din Darpan  
**ATN BANGLA**  
10:15 Annodristee  
10:50 Drama Serial: *Baba*  
12:40 Anurodher Assor  
1:20 Feature film: *Belath Ferot Meya*  
4:20 Shapla Shaluk  
5:50 Uro Cola Saat Rang  
6:20 Islamee Sawal O Jawab  
7:40 English Serial: *Thunder Stone*  
8:15 Musical prog: *Uschash*

## TODAY'S HIGHLIGHTS



**Star Movies:** 9:00 pm: *Soldier*. Sci-Fi / Action. Kurt Russell, Jason Scott Lee, Jason Isaacs, Connie Nielsen. In a futuristic society, some people are selected at birth to become soldiers, and trained in such a manner that they become inhuman killing machines. One of the most successful and older of these soldiers is pitted against a new breed of soldiers, and after the confrontation is believed to be dead. His body is left behind in a semi-abandoned colonial planet, and he is taught about the other aspects of life.

**HBO:** 7:15 pm: *Bait*. Action/Comedy. Jamie Foxx, David Morse, Kimberly Elise, Alvin Sanders, a fast-talking street punk, is on his way to prison when he's stuck in a holding cell with a dying guy who has a \$43 million secret: where stolen gold is hidden. With his last breath, the guy tells Alvin something that makes no sense to the US Treasury agent, Cleinteen, who soon interrogates Alvin. Eighteen months later, Cleinteen wants to find the robbery's mastermind, an elusive computer genius named Bristol, so he lets Alvin loose, as bait.

## PICK OF THE DAY



**Interview With The Vampire: The Vampire Chronicles**  
On HBO at 9:30 pm  
Genre: Drama / Horror  
Tom Cruise, Brad Pitt, Kirsten Dunst, Stephen Rea  
It hadn't even been a year since a plantation owner named Louis had lost his wife, and now he had lost his will to live. A vampire named Lestat takes a liking to Louis and offers him the chance to become a creature of the night: a vampire.

**ZEE CINEMA**  
10:30 *Makdee (Shabana Azmi, Shweta Prasad)*  
1:30 *Humraaz (Bobby Deol, Amisha Patel)*  
5:30 *Kranti (Bobby Deol, Amisha Patel)*  
8:30 *Do Hazaar Ek (Jackie Shroff, Dimple Kapadia, Tabu)*  
**HBO**  
10:45 *Zeus and Roxanne*  
12:45 *I Dreamed of Africa: A True Story*

6:30 Now See This  
7:30 CSI : Miami Entrance Wound  
8:30 AXN Extreme, Dhamaka  
9:30 World's Freakiest Food  
10:30 The Shield Carnivores  
11:30 The Sniera Two Days of Blood  
12:30 World's Freakiest Food  
**STAR MOVIES**  
9:00 U.S. Marshals  
11:15 Michael Collins  
1:30 Glory Daze  
3:15 The Cowboy Way  
5:10 Antitrust  
7:00 Bad Company  
9:00 Soldier  
10:45 Two Fisted Tales  
12:15 Ripper: Letter From Hell  
**STAR GOLD**  
10:00 Rhino - Rhino - Cfsi  
12:00 Gaane Bhi Do Yaaron  
12:30 Biwi No. 1  
4:30 Bandhan  
8:00 Maya  
8:30 Ziddi  
**STAR PLUS**  
2:25 Mail Milap  
2:30 Haqeeqat - Ajay Devgan  
5:30 Musafir Hoon Yaaron  
6:30 Fox Kids Sunday  
7:30 Shararat-Thoda Jaadu Thodi Naz  
8:00 Kismey Kitna Hai Dam Aj Dekh  
9:00 Ajnabee  
**STAR WORLD**  
12:30 Ally Mcbeal  
1:30 Miss World  
3:30 Dark Angel  
4:30 Roswell  
5:30 Whose Line Is It Anyway  
6:30 Baywatch Hawaii  
7:30 The Simpsons

8:00 3rd Rock From The Sun  
8:30 The Kumars At No. 42  
9:00 Rendezvous With Simi Garewal  
9:30 Style  
10:00 Top Drive Getaway  
10:30 Cover Story  
11:00 Focus Asia  
11:30 The X Files  
**NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC**  
12:30 Inside The Pentagon  
1:30 X Force  
2:30 Warriors Of The French Foreign Legion  
3:30 Mission Wild  
4:00 Return To The Wild  
4:30 Ng Explorer  
5:30 On Assignment  
6:00 Tomorrow's World  
6:30 The Day The Oceans Boiled  
7:30 X Force  
8:30 Africa From The Ground Up  
9:00 Nat Geo Genius  
9:30 Inside The Soviet Circus  
10:30 Volga: The Soul Of Russia  
11:30 Scientific American Frontiers  
**STAR SPORTS**  
8:00 Australia 3 Test Series  
8:30 Brisbane Australia Vs India 1st Test Day 4  
9:00 Australia 3 Test Series  
9:30 Brisbane Australia Vs India 1st Test Day 4  
10:00 Super Centuries (R)  
10:30 Pga Grand Slam Of Golf  
11:00 2003 Kauai Hawaii Day Two(S)  
11:30 Sunny By Night

Australia Vs India 1st Test Day 4 Highlights (S)  
**ESPN**  
9:30 English Premier Football League 2003/04  
Manchester United Vs Aston Villa (R)  
11:30 Cricket Gold (T)  
12:30 Premiership Extra (R)  
4:00 Spanish Football League 2003/04  
Barcelona Vs Real Madrid (R)  
6:00 Uefa Champions League Magazine Show (T)  
6:30 Sportscenter Weekend (T)  
6:35 Super Sunday Preview (L)  
7:55 English Premier Football League 2003/04  
Everton Vs Manchester City (L)  
10:00 English Premier Football League 2003/04  
Southampton Vs Charlton Athletic (L)  
**TEN SPORTS**  
8:30 Gamer TV  
9:30 Legends: Invazamm  
10:00 Horse Racing Preview Show  
1:00 WWE: Specials : Survivor Series 2003  
2:00 Pick of the Week  
2:30 NZ Tour of Pak 03: 5th ODI, Preview  
6:00 NZ Tour of Pak 03: 5th ODI  
11:00 NZ Tour of Pak 03: 5th ODI, Review