

Exposition

Anwar Hossain's fascinating photographs



War & Peace (Top) and Invitation

FAYZA HAQ

ABOUT Anwar Hossain's exhibition of photographs at Alliance Francaise, Tanvir Mokammel says, "What is exceptional about Anwar's work is his firm commitment to the art of photography; and our country Bangladesh has much to offer in terms of beauty and bounty, while highlighting the injustice to our people through the years. He is the soul of visual image of Bangladesh. It is a pity that he has to live in France but whenever we need him he comes to work. Over the last 30 years he has presented a gold mine of experiences through expressive visuals. His art, with its subtle sensitivity and technical finesse are a gift to Bangladesh. As a team man he is superb and we have made 10 films together - four feature films and six documentaries. We don't even have to speak to each other, we have to merely look at each other and we understand what is on each other's mind while shooting. I've been lucky to have

had Anwar as my colleague." Mostafa Manwar says about Anwar, "The artist's images are his own creation, the exquisite elegance of which results from a unique blending of nature, culture and the heritage of Bangladesh." Pierre Clauquin says, "The series of photographs highlight the similarities and differences between Bangladesh and France." Another well-known photographer Enamul Huq says, "We've seen many of Anwar's exhibitions but this is very special. This focuses on his children and other children from Bangladesh. This is his most personal and intimate exhibition. This is about him and his love affair with the world. Anwar was always photographing people but these subjects are closest to his heart." Rana Haider adds, "We know Anwar Hossain as a creative person. My husband and I were posted in Iran and Anwar's exhibition was being held there along with that of Enamul Huq. The juxtaposition of his photographs from France with those of

is an extension of my previous shows. It is as if I'm following a rainfall, with its beginning and its ending in pitter patter. People knew me for my work in the '70s. Since then, lifestyle, equipment, philosophy, cinema and photography have changed. Now I try to show an image in a more modern way, without becoming western. This exhibition is a juxtaposition of the East and West. I've spent 10 years in France and had two children there. It is natural that his influence will be there. Look at the life in Dhaka. It too has changed enormously in the last decade. I'm searching for the inside of my soul, influenced by my children's love and everything that surrounds me. I'm trying to find a merging point of two different cultures."

Anwar Hossain has been a photographer since 1967 and a cinematographer since 1977. He won 60 international awards in photography. He has been an associate of RPS, UK since 1989; and of FIAP, Belgium, and IIPC, Delhi since 1991.

Bangladesh with the focus on his two children are meaningful, humorous, poignant and dramatic."

Anwar himself says, "This time it



A dose of harsh reality

Enamul Karim Nirjhar's documentaries screened

KARIM WAHEED

In this day and age life is fast paced. No one has time for introspection, let alone contemplation on the state of others. Do we think about how the average school-going child feels about his student life, curriculum and constant pressure from his parents to outdo his peers; does the youngster often feel suffocated? Liberated thoughts, access to enlightening information are familiar notions in the urban areas. What about our rural areas? Human beings are supposedly the "supreme creation", but what about the ever-growing rate of violence and heinous crimes against each other that make us cringe? Are we on the verge of becoming the "most vile of all creations" or are we already there?

These issues and more emerge in three documentaries Titled *Manush, Koita?* and *Ashchhey* by Enamul Karim Nirjhar. The documentaries were screened at the German Cultural Centre on March 18.

The first documentary screened was *Ashchhey* (Future). The film deals with school-going children, issues regarding our education system and what the parents and educationists think. The film starts with a moving image: a youngster shivered under the weight of his backpack walking to school. The song in the background goes: *School-er bag-ta boddho bhari, amra ki tha boitey pari? Koshto hoi...*

Professor Abdullah Abu Sayeed candidly says in the film, "The majority of our parents don't think 'outside the box'. They all want their sons and daughters to be doctors, engineers and high ups in the corporate world. And in the process the child's own dreams and aspirations are crushed. Their daily routine doesn't include adequate physical activities and no spare time is allocated for



A scene from Ashchhey

them to nurture their senses and imagination, as to keep up with the race, they always have to be buried in books. The system is like a machine churning out 'successful working professionals'."

*Koita?* (How many?) zooms in on the rural population. For the most part the film features two *kobiraj* (healers providing people with herbal remedy). Through their conversation, it becomes obvious that these people have been bamboozling naive, illiterate villagers into buying herbal medicines which are claimed to be "cures for everything". Most importantly, age-old notions forming from ignorance such as "a male child is more desirable" or "we don't get to decide how many chil-

dren we should have, let's leave the decision-making to the Almighty", come up during the conversations.

The last documentary screened was *Manush* (Humans), which highlights mankind's plight through these turbulent times. The film begins with a quote by artist Manirul Islam, "Mankind used to be fascinated by beauty; now we look for beauty in the most revolting of elements."

The documentary features appalling stories of violence: A mother recounting the shock when she found her son lying in a pool of blood, murdered by his own cousin and his associates; a journalist receives a *kafon* (a white piece of cloth used to enfold a dead body) for

doing features on criminals associated with some high up politicians. A news features a double-decker set on fire, leaving nine passengers charred. Days after the incident, a man is seen eating nonchalantly with the burnt vehicle in the background. People seem to forget too soon, our senses have become numb.

An open discussion was held following the screening. The viewers shared their opinions and ideas regarding the issues raised in the films. The event was organised by *Weekly 2000* and *Nine Steps*.

CULTURAL FEAST

Jatra Utsab '06 begins in Dhaka

KHALID-BIN-HABIB

Jatra (an indigenous form of drama) used to hold a popular position in our culture. It was an unparalleled medium of entertainment for the rural people. With the passage of time, this indigenous art form is losing its audience. In

this otherwise dismal scenario, there is a light at the end of the tunnel: a week-long jatra festival organised by the Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA) at its premises. State Minister for Cultural Affairs, Selima Rahman inaugurated the festival on March 17. Noted theatre personality Golam

Ambia Nuri was present as a special guest. The festival features live performances, discussions and special events.

The inaugural session was followed by the presentation of *Bedkonya*, written by Sekandar Ali and presented by Azad Opera of Narayanjanj. On March 18, Keya Jatra Unit of Laxmipur presented *Laili Majnu*, written by Charu Chandra Roy. On March 19, Mahua, written by Hirendra Krishna Das was staged by Agragami Lokonatyadal of Magura. *Shagor Bhasha* will be staged by Bishwashwari Opera of Barguna tonight. New Sabuj Opera of Manikganj will stage *Gunai Bibi*, written by Bashir Ahmed, on March 21. On March 22, Rupanjali Opera of Barisal will present *Rahim Badsha O Rupban Konya*, written by Mohammad Shamsul Haque.

The festival will wrap up on March 23. Desh Opera will stage *Karnolar Banobash*, written by Karim Khan.



Actors performing in the jatra Bedkonya

- Exhibition: 12th Asian Art Biennale, Bangladesh. Venue: National Art Gallery, National Museum, Osmani Auditorium. Date: March 5-31. Title: Trio. Participants: Kazi Rakib, Masuda Kazi, Kazi Iqbal. Venue: Gallery Kaya, H#20, road# 16, Sector# 4, Uttara. Date: March 10-24. Title: Etching, engraving and wood cut print exhibit. Artist: Mohammed Muslim Mia. Venue: Art & Soul Gallery, Rd 36, House 16, Gulshan Avenue, Dhaka. Date: March 17-26 at 11 am to 8 pm. Title: Exposition - Anwar Hossein. Venue: Alliance Francaise Gallery. Date: March 16-29. Book Launch: Meghdootom. Organiser: Bengal Foundation. Venue: Bangal Shilpalaya, 275/F Road No-27, Dhanmondi. Date: March 24. Time: 7:00pm.

ERSHAD KAMOL

Five Jordanian artists' 12 art works, including paintings and etchings are on display at the ongoing 12th Asian Art Biennale, Bangladesh '06. Of these art works, female artist Hilda Hiary's mixed media work, titled *Composition-2* received the Honourable Mention Award. Though Hilda did not come to Dhaka, Ala 'M Younis and Hakim Jaimain visited the biennale.

Three paintings by Ala, titled *Noise-1*, *Noise-2* and *The Feast* are on display at the biennale. Each of the paintings by this

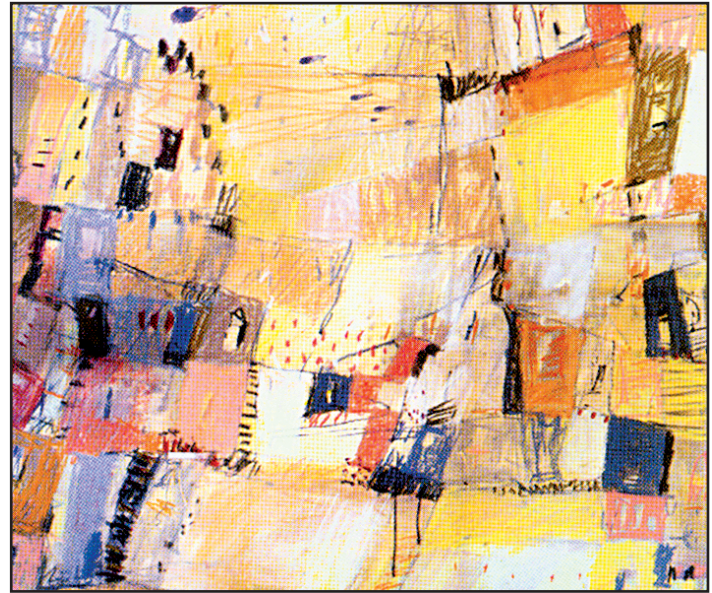


Impressionist is a saga of typical Jordanian metro life. Each of the symbolic colour strokes in her paintings *Noise-1* and *Noise-2*, features the story of happiness, sorrow and other emotions of the dwellers of Amman, Jordan. To quote Ala, "Like other artists of my country, I highlight the Jordanian culture and lifestyle in my work. As I'm an architect I like to express the human emotion metaphorically through building structures."

On the seminar of the Asian Art Biennale, Bangladesh, titled 'Women in Asian Art', Ala said, "It was a unique experience for me. I had the opportunity to expand my knowledge base on the role of women and how they are depicted in Asian art, especially in Bangladesh."

Ala also pointed out that many female artists such as Shereen Audi, Hilda Hiary and others are making a mark in the Middle Eastern Muslim country of Jordan.

Ala works in different mediums such as lithography, graphic, drawing and others. She has participated in workshops under several Egyptian and Paris-based Syrian artists. Prior to the art biennale in Bangladesh, the



An artwork by Ala 'M Younis, the artist (Bottom)

Jordanian artist had exhibited her art works in different countries such as Egypt, Morocco and Iran.

Ala is the winner of several awards, instituted by the 17th Youth Salon, Palace of Arts, Opera Complex, Cairo and

Annual Exhibition of Jordanian Artists Association, Amman,

Jordan.

TV GUIDE

PICK OF THE DAY



Shada Raater Manush. On ntv at 9:50 pm. Genre: Drama Serial. Cats: Tariq Anam Khan, Subarna Mustafa.



Men In Black. On HBO at 9:30 pm. Genre: Action. Cast: Will Smith, Tommy Lee Jones.

- 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 8:55 am, 12:10 pm, 2:00 pm, 3:00 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 News (Bangla) at 7:15 am, 9:00 am, 2:00 pm, 7:00 pm, 9:00 pm, 10:30 pm, 12:15 am. Telecast of BTV news (Bangla and English) at 11:30 pm. ATN BANGLA News (Bangla) at 7:00 am, 10:00 am, 2:00 pm, 7:00 pm, 10:00 pm, 11 pm. News (English) 8:20 am, 7:00 pm. Telecast of BTV News (Bangla and English) at 11:30 pm. ntv News Headlines (Bangla) at 10:00 am, 12:00 am, 6:15 pm, 9:30 pm. News (Bangla) 7:30 am, 2:00 pm, 5:00 pm, 7:30 pm, 10:30 pm. Telecast of BTV News (Bangla and English) at 11:30 pm. TARA BANGLA News Headlines (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.

- 09:35 Drama Serial: Sampurna Rangin. Drama Serial: Pothe Jetey Jetey. ntv 09:30 Apon Aloy. Grammen Phone Shironam. 10:00 Zoo Adventure. Dhakar Cinema. Muktangon. Drama Serial: Ramizer Aaina. Lux Glamour World. Drama Serial: Bhimnya Swader Khohor. Snapshots Of Change. 05:20 Apanr Jigyasha. Shubho Shondhya. Crime Watch. ntv Dekhe Bolun. Drama serial: Labonya Probha. Music Express. Drama Serial: Shada Raater Manush. Dindarpan. ATN BANGLA 10:30 Annodrishti. Drama: Ek Jonome. 11:05 Drama: Jol Rong Poddoo. Chochochitrer Golpo. Nirob Koshto. Drama Serial: O Amar Chokkhu Nai. Shushtho Thakun. Ispahani Pure Snax. Quiz Time. Matir Shubash. Islami Sawaal O. 05:10 BSB Education Zone. Drama Serial: Shukhnagar Apartment. 06:00 06:35 08:00 08:20

- 08:30 Drama Serial: Flat No. 40. 09:00 ATN Taroka (Music). 10:35 Kothamala. RTV 07:45 Shukhi Thakun Deho Mone. 02:30 Islamic Programme. 03:40 Aiker Bangladesh. 09:30 Poth Chawatei Anondo. 04:45 Human Nature. 05:30 Prithibir Pothe Pothe. 06:00 Music Music. 08:00 Drama Serial: Rater Golpo. HBO 09:30 Ghost. 12:00 A Match Made in Heaven. 02:00 Vampire in Brooklyn. 04:00 Roswell: The Aliens Attack. 05:45 Crossworlds. 07:45 The Big Bounce. 09:30 Men in Black. 11:30 Rome 05: The Ram has Touched the Wall. 12:45 Return to the Blue Lagoon. STAR MOVIES 09:45 War At Home. 11:45 Dodgeball: A True Underdog Story. 01:15 Torn Apart. 01:30 02:30 03:30 04:30 05:30 06:30 07:30 08:00 09:00 10:00 11:00 12:00 13:00 14:00 15:00 16:00 17:00 18:00 19:00 20:00 21:00 22:00 23:00 24:00

- 08:00 Seinfeld. 08:30 My Wife And Kids. 09:00 Everybody Loves Raymond. 09:30 King Of Queens. 10:00 Frasier. 10:30 Absolutely Fabulous. 11:00 Coupling. DISCOVERY 09:30 Discovery's Biggest Shows. 11:30 Night Safari. 12:30 Journey of Life. 01:30 Wild Discovery. 02:30 Detective Stories. 03:30 Medical Diary. 04:00 Operation Junkyard. 05:30 Junkyard Wars. 06:30 Man And Machine. 08:30 Zero Hour. 09:30 War Zone. 10:30 Extreme Engineering. 11:30 FBI Files. NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC 09:30 Megacities. 10:30 Seconds From Disaster. 11:30 Rough Trade. 12:30 Going To More Extremes. 01:30 A Different Ball Game. 03:30 Animal Nightmares. 04:30 Backyard Science. 04:45 Doc Eureka. 05:00 Serious: Arctic. 05:30 Planet Wild. 06:00 Snake Wranglers. 06:30 Storm Stories. 08:30 Is It Real?. 09:30 Interpol Investigates. 11:30 Animals Like Us. STAR SPORTS 09:30 Race Day 2006 F1. 1:00 Race Day Malaysian.

- Grand Prix(R). Formula One 2006 Malaysian Grand Prix(R). 11:55 Chequered Flag 2006 F1 Malaysian Grand Prix(R). 12:30 English Premier Football League 2005/06 London England West Ham United Vs Portsmouth (R). 2:30 Spanish Football League (S). 4:30 Fifa World Cup Programming La Coupe De La Gloire - The 1998 Fifa World Cup Official Film (T). 6:30 Atp Masters Series Pacific Life Open 2006 Final (S). 9:00 Cricket Classics Great Finishes. 9:30 Cricket Classics Super Doubles. 10:00 Sportscenter India Update (L). 10:02 Gillette World Sports Special. 10:30 Bull Riders Association Built Ford Tough Series 2006. 11:32 Charleston Sc USA Open(R). 11:32 Formula One 2006 Malaysian Grand Prix (R). 10:00 Sportscenter India Update (L). 10:02 Gillette World Sports Special. 10:30 Bull Riders Association Built Ford Tough Series 2006. 11:32 Charleston Sc USA Open(R). 11:32 Formula One 2006 Malaysian Grand Prix (R). 10:00 Sportscenter India Update (L). 10:02 Gillette World Sports Special. 10:30 Bull Riders Association Built Ford Tough Series 2006. 11:32 Charleston Sc USA Open(R). 11:32 Formula One 2006 Malaysian Grand Prix (R).

- Lager/Mtn Test Series 2006 South Africa Vs Australia 1st Test Day 4. 2:28 Highlights(R). Australia Tour Of South Africa Castle Lager/Mtn Test Series 2006 South Africa Vs Australia 1st Test Day 5 1st Session (L). 4:30 Icc Cricket World (R). 5:00 Australia Tour Of South Africa Castle Lager/Mtn Test Series 2006 South Africa Vs Australia 1st Test Day 5 2nd & 3rd Session (L). 9:30 Sportscenter India. 10:00 Cricket Classics India Down Under Sydney Australia India Vs New Zealand World C'ship Of Cricket (1st Semifinal)(R). 11:00 Sportscenter Asia. 11:30 West Indies Tour Of New Zealand The National Bank Test Series - 2006 New Zealand Vs West Indies 2nd Test Day 4 Highlights. TEN SPORTS 09:00 WWE: Heat. 09:30 Total Rugby. 10:00 World of Athletics. 10:30 Chevrolet Cricket Show Great Centuries. 11:00 Sri Lanka v Pakistan: 1st ODI Highlights. 01:00 Sri Lanka v Pakistan: 2nd ODI Highlights. 03:30 India in West Indies. 05:30 Indian Horse Racing. 07:30 WWE: Raw. 08:00 Martini World Cup Italian League.