

Exhibition

Rokeya's lyrical lines

FAYZA HAQ

ROKEYA Sultana's ongoing exhibition at the Alliance Francaise brings in samples of all her work ranging nearly two decades. There are about five print makers of renown in the city and few out of these are women. Rokeya has included prints of her Shantiniketan days and some of the Madonna series of '91 with detailed drawing, shown going on boat, rickshaw and bus, with her daughter Laura. Even when she depicted nature, she kept women in mind. She always remembered the different barriers that women cross everyday, as they struggle to achieve something at the end of the day.



Rokeya at work (Top), an artwork by the artist

down a giant leaf. Around her are fish, snakes, turtles and wriggling plants of the river. On top there are

large gathering clouds. The water and sky are almost mixing together in the woman's journey. When she calls her exhibit *Chinno paatai shajai toroni*, Rokeya means that days pass by in our lives like the fallen leaves. Her work represents her daily life and its environment. Of course it is not a direct mirror of her life but mixed with her imagination and experience. Her work incorporates what touches and moves her most.

The next picture depicts a woman rising from the river and covered with lotus blossoms. As a woman, she is comfortable with female experiences, hopes and aspirations. Some of the lotus flowers are white while others gray and white. The white adds the aesthetic quality. This is called *Bonodevi*. She combines woman with nature. "People ask me at times, what I mean by bringing two women embracing or three women being close together. Being a woman I find the bonding of woman important in case of sisters, friends and mother and daughter. In our society in the East, we are not so close with men, and so the grouping with women comes in my pictures. As I often see a sea of female garment workers

leaving the factories, this is fixed in my mind."

Another print has a woman in a red sari, with a lotus on her lap. Behind her are giant banana mango and jackfruit trees. There is also the *patabahar*. This too is dry point, as there is a scarcity of zinc plates in the city at present. The plate she uses is called PS plate, which is recycled.

Rokeya's work is quite breathtaking. She has challenged set ideas and gone against taboos to depict human desires and aspirations, especially that of women. Similarly, when she depicts nature's beauties, one is taken aback with the grandeur. Beyond the flowers and leaves there is more meaning. The forms, lines and colours of both human and nature depict psyche and experience.

Rokeya has won 13 scholarships and awards, including the Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy Award on the National Art Exhibition in 2002. She has had nine solo exhibitions, including some in India and Pakistan.



Our heritage

Pottery to embellish interiors

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

How best can we brighten the dismal nooks and crannies of our homes for the festive occasion if not by filling them up with terracotta pottery of beige and brownish hues or painted over? One gets an entire range of items crafted from pottery, ranging from chimes with bells and balls to ashtrays and piggy banks. Going by the well-known roadside stalls in Dhanmondi, Gulshan and the High Court Mazar area we learn that the potters have to buy the clay and make the items in the villages of Savar and Dhamrai.

Both men and women work on the clay producing items like deco-

orative elephants with floral motifs of the *howdah*, with details of the eyes, ears, trunk and feet done with care and proportion. There are then the outstretched eagles with sharp eyes, beaks and every fleck of feather etched on with precision. There are the horses with their bridles, tail and details of their eyes and nose done with love and attention. There are complete trees with branches, leaves, flowers and orange fruits. Some have been given a shiny, glitzy finish.

Then there are the vases and jugs painted with traditional flowers and leaves as well as geometrical motifs of circles, lines, dots and whirling swirls of beige, brown and



Handicrafts made of clay on display at a roadside stall

burnt-sienna. There are flower pots and rectangular receptacles for holding plants. Toys for children in the shape of tiny pots and pans for cooking, jewellery for teenagers and even containers for keeping mosquito coils are found here, made with perfect precision with clay. They are painted over with a black base, with multi-colours forming the different motifs on them with paisley patterns, heart shapes and dots. They use enamel, plastic paints and oxide colours. Some are touched with bronze and gold hues. Both the potter's wheel and the hand are used for making them.



PHOTO STAR

Jackson plans new album in '07



Michael Jackson

REUTERS, London

Michael Jackson, seeking to revive his singing career after his acquittal on charges, has teamed up with a label in Bahrain to record a new album set for release next year, the label said last Tuesday.

A statement released on behalf of Two Seas Records said British music industry executive Guy Holmes had been named CEO of a newly formed joint venture between Jackson and Bahrain royal family member Abdulla Hamad Al-Khalifa.

Holmes, who now plans to divide his time between London and Bahrain, will oversee the making of Jackson's first studio album since *Invincible* in 2001, and also manage the star's business interests, the statement added.

"I am incredibly excited about my new venture, and I am enjoying being back in the studio making music," Jackson said in the statement.

The 47-year-old singer, one of the top-selling pop stars of all time, now lives in the Gulf state of Bahrain.

Holmes is chairman of London-based independent label Gut Records. News of Jackson's latest deal comes days after the singer announced he had reached agreement with creditors to refinance some US \$270 million in loans secured by his prized stake in the Beatles' song catalogue.

The fate of the new album will be closely watched by the record industry after *Invincible*, Jackson's previous comeback bid, registered disappointing US sales of around two million copies.

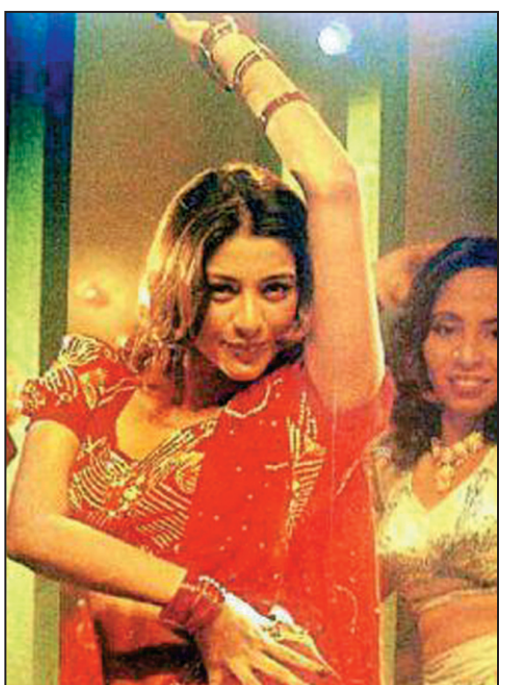
Jackson's *Thriller* remains one of the best-selling studio albums of all time with over 26 million US copies sold.

Bhandarkar plans "Chandni Bar" sequel

Sequels are in! With *Krish* and *Dhoom 2* slated for release this year, a number of producers are working on the next installments of their successful films. The latest to join the bandwagon is Madhur Bhandarkar, who has already registered a title that says it all: *Chandni Bar 2*. Apparently the talented filmmaker is planning a sequel to the hard-hitting movie *Chandni Bar* featuring Tabu in the lead role. The film about the lives of bar dancers, most of whom move to the big cities in search of a better life became quite a rage for its blunt approach.

"A thought crossed my mind and I registered the title *Chandni Bar 2* pronto," says Madhur. What's the sequel all about? "The sequel will look at life once the bars re-open after a few months of closure," he states. "But, like I said, it's just a thought right now. I haven't finalised anything yet."

Although Madhur is tightlipped about his future project, there's talk that he is keen to approach a certain "much sought-after beauty queen" to enact the pivotal role in this film.



Source: Internet

Tabu in a scene from *Chandni Bar*

CULTURAL FEAST

Musical Soiree

Title: 5-day folk musical soiree
Organiser: Department of Music and Dance, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
Venue: Plaza, National Art Gallery
Date: April 18-22 at 7 pm
Programme
April 20: Songs of Hasan Raja
April 21: Bhawaiya Songs
April 22: Majibhandari Songs

Exhibition

Title: The UFA FILM POSTERS, 1918-1943
Venue: Goethe Institut Dhaka
Date: April 13-26
Title: Firstlight
Photojournalist: GMB Akash
Organiser: The Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts
Venue: Bengal Shilpalaya, House 275/f, Road 27, Dhanmondi
Date: April 17-27
Time: 12 noon-8 pm
Title: *Chinno Patar Sajai Toroni*
Artist: Rokeya Sultana
Organiser: Alliance Francaise
Venue: 26, Mirpur Road, Dhanmondi
Date: April: 13-26
Time: Sunday-Friday: 9 am-12 pm and 5-8 pm
Saturday: 5-8 pm

Event New Year celebrations in Dinajpur



Artists of Udichi Dinajpur performing at the programme

PHOTO: STAR

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Marking the first day of the Bangla calendar year 1413, Udichi Dinajpur, a cultural organisation, held a programme at Dinajpur Institute recently. The programme was followed by a colourful procession brought out by the Dinajpur Baishakhi Celebration Committee. Dinajpur district administrative officials also held a *Panta Utsav* at the Station Club.

In addition a seven-day long *Baishakhi Mela* was inaugurated by Women and Children Welfare Minister Begum Khurshid Jahan Haque at Dinajpur Academy School. Around 70 stalls were put up at the fair. The *Baishakhi* Celebration Committee arranged a seven-day cultural programme with the participation of cultural organisations.

TV GUIDE

PICK OF THE DAY



Bhara Hobey Seat Khali
On Channel 1 at 08:30pm
Drama Serial
Cast: Black Anwar, Lara Lotus, Apurba



Scooby-Doo
On HBO at 09:30 pm
Genre: Family
Cast: Freddie Prinze, Sarah Michelle, Matthew Lillard

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) at 11:30 pm.
CHANNEL-i
News (Bangla) at 7:15 am, 9:00am, 2:00pm, 7:00pm, 9:00pm, 10:30pm, 12:15 am.
Telecast of BTV news (Bangla and English) at 11:30 pm.
ATN BANGLA
News (Bangla) at 7:00 am, 10:00am, 2:00 pm, 7:00 pm, 10:00 pm, 11pm.
News (English) 8:20am, 7:00pm
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 5:30pm, 7:30pm.
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
09:15 Bangladesh Vs Australia 2nd Test Match-2006
05:05 Protashar Alo
06:00 Dosh O Janopod Shaptodiga Jiboner Alo
06:35 Sijilo O Shahittya Egiye Cholar Pothey
07:00 Protdin Bangladesh Weekly Drama
08:45 Teknaf Thekey Tetulia
10:25 Apnar Shasthyo (Live)
10:30 ATN BANGLA
10:30 Anyodishitl Special Programme On ATN Taroka, Tarokader Taroka Bangla Feature Film: Abhiman
11:05 ATN Rannaghar Shundor Jiboner Jonyo
04:20 Ispahani Pure Snax Quiz Time
05:10 Amader Joto Kotha Islami Sawaal O Jawab (Live)
06:20 Prapok
08:00 Rock Link
08:30 Drama Serial: Ferari Siren
09:00 Drama Serial: Hortoner Bibi
09:30 Drama Serial: Britto
10:35 Char Deyaler Kaboy
CHANNEL i
09:50 Grameen Phone Triloymatra
12:30 Aaj Dupurey O Citicell Tarokakothon
01:05 Ebong Cinemar Gaan
01:45 Public Reaction
03:05 Hirdoye Mati O Manusher Daak
04:05 Bashudhara Amader Gaan
04:45 Sa Re Ga Ma
05:30 X-Music
06:00 Music Plus
06:30 Amar Chhobi
07:50 Drama Serial: Akashi Rongor Rumat
08:20 Drama Serial: Shutoy Badha Projapoti
09:35 Surf Exel Protivar Lorai
10:00 Drama Serial: Bhalobashay Boshobash
ntv
09:00 Siddiqua Kabir's Recipe
09:30 Ki Kotha Tahar Shathey
10:05 Chalochchitro Kotha
11:30 Bangla Feature Film Muktagan
02:35 Drama Serial: Labonyoprobha
03:15 Mega Serial: Ronger Manush
03:50 Drama Serial: Amader Anondo Bari
04:25 Shapila Kum Contest 2005
05:15 Dindapan
05:20 Smriti Jantalee
06:20 Shubho Shondhya
06:50 Right Click
08:25 Drama Serial: Kachher Manush
09:10 Alochan
10:00 Drama Serial: Chithi
11:25 Dindapan
Rtv
02:30 Shoto Proshno
03:30 Air Combat
04:00 Cine Dhoom
05:05 Human Nature
05:30 Swapper Bangladesh
06:00 Aiker Bangladesh
06:30 Rtv Exclusive
06:35 Antoranga Alap
08:00 Drama Serial: Biyer

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GOLPO
08:50 R Ranna
09:20 Drama Serial: Shurey Anka Chhobi
10:50 Health Show: Heartbeat
CHANNEL 1
10:00 Cartoon
10:30 Bangla Feature Film Olpo Sholpo Golpo
10:30 Sports Star
03:00 Game Show: Ha-Du-Du
04:30 Drama: Paanch Diner Golpo
05:00 Small Vile
06:30 Top News
07:00 Shombhabonar Bangladesh
08:30 Drama Serial: Bhara
Hobey Seat Khali
Drama Serial: Keu Kachhey Keu Durey
09:30 The One
BANGLAVISION
09:30 Drama Serial: Gaurochandrika
10:00 Game Show: Luck Bheki
10:30 Drama Serial: Meghtrong Meye
11:00 Media Bhubon
12:00 Shudhu Gaan
01:00 Desher Pothey
04:30 Ichhey Ghuri
05:00 Get Set Fit
05:30 Drama Serial: Gharochhara
06:40 Diner Sheshey
HBO
10:30 Forbidden Sins
12:00 The Forgotten
02:00 Van Helsing
04:45 New on the Big Screen in April
05:15 Running Mates
07:00 Cape Fear
09:30 Scooby-Doo
11:15 Street Fighter: The Ultimate Battle
STAR MOVIES
10:30 The Hand That Rocks The Cradle
12:30 Best Friends
02:05 Speak
03:40 The Ticket
04:10 Mortal Thoughts
12 Days Of Christmas Eve
07:25 Instinct
09:30 Sylvia
11:05 Out Of Time
STAR PLUS
10:30 Hatim
11:30 Krishna Arjun Sharrat
12:00 Bhabhi
02:30 Kesar
03:00 Saarthi
05:30 Shaka Laka Boom Boom
06:30 Lilo & Stitch
07:00 The Little Mermaid

DISCOVERY
10:30 On The Run
11:30 Junkyard Wars
12:00 Amazing Baby Videos
12:30 Baby Whisperer
01:30 Wild Discovery
02:30 Detective Stories
03:30 Planet Dinosaur
05:30 Kings of Construction
06:30 Wind Driven
07:00 African Adventures
08:30 Story Of Evolution
09:30 Wild Asia
10:30 Mean Machines
11:00 One Step Beyond
NATIONAL
08:30 Asian X Games 2005

STAR WORLD
10:30 American Idol
11:30 Grey's Anatomy
12:30 Charmed
01:30 The A Team
02:30 Oprah Winfrey Show
03:30 Bold And Beautiful
04:30 General Hospital
05:30 Angel
06:30 The Simpsons
07:00 The King Of Queens
07:30 Friends
08:00 Seinfeld
08:30 American Idol
09:00 The Simple Life
09:30 Scrubs
10:00 Arrested Development
10:30 Less Than Perfect
11:00 The Drew Carey Show

GEOGRAPHIC
10:30 Air Crash Investigation S3
11:30 One Day One World: The Weather
12:30 Air Crash Investigation
01:30 Built For The Kill
03:30 Kavyanjali
04:30 Backyard Science
04:45 Doc Eureka
05:00 Croc Chronicles S2
05:30 Crittercam-Wildtech Adventures
06:00 Snake Wranglers
06:30 Storm Stories
07:30 Be The Creature
08:30 Megastructures
10:30 Interpol Investigates
STAR SPORTS
09:45 Australia Tour Of Bangladesh, Bangladesh Vs Australia 2nd Test Day 5 1st Session(L)
12:30 Australia Tour Of Bangladesh, Bangladesh Vs Australia 2nd Test Day 5 2nd & 3rd Session(L)
05:00 Tna Xplosion (T)
05:30 Cricket Classics Caribbean Kings England Vs West Indies (T)
07:30 Goals! (T)
08:00 Cricket Classics Great Finishes (T)
08:30 Australia Tour Of Bangladesh, Bangladesh Vs Australia 2nd Test Day 5 Highlights(S)
10:00 Sportscenter India Update (L)
ESPN
08:30 Asian X Games 2005

Presented By Kia - Inline Vert Jamsil Indoor Stadium Korea Event Highlights(R)
09:00 New Zealand Tour Of South Africa Castle Lager/Mtn Test Series 2005 South Africa Vs New Zealand 1st Test Day 5 Highlights(S)
11:00 Nba Basketball Oakland Ca USA Phoenix Suns Vs Golden State Warriors (R)
01:30 Uefa Champions League Semifinals 2005/06 Leg 1(R)
03:30 Football Focus (R) English Premier Football League 2005/06 Newcastle England Newcastle Le United Vs Wigan Athletic (T)
06:30 Asian X Games 2005 Presented By Kia - Inline Vert Jamsil Indoor Stadium Korea Even T Highlights(R)
07:00 The Fifa World Cup Stories (T)
07:30 The Football Quiz Kick-Off Quarterfinals(T)
09:00 Motorsport Asia (S)
10:30 Motorsport India (R)
TEN SPORTS
10:30 Italian League Highlights
12:30 Trans World Sports
01:30 Portuguese League H/Ls Great Centuries
02:00 Gillette World Cup Football Preview
05:30 Caribbean Classics
06:30 WWE: The Bottom Line
08:00 Borderline
09:00 Legends
10:00 Golf Highlights