

CULTURAL FEAST

Exhibition

In memory of Shawkatuzzaman

FAYZA HAQ

S EVEN young artists of the Institute of Fine Arts, Dhaka University, held an exhibition in memory of their teacher Shawkatuzzaman. They used forms and themes from Shawkatuzzaman's work to forge experimental works of their own. The display, titled 'Get-together', was held at Zainul Gallery.

At one end of the gallery were sketches by Shawkatuzzaman. One was a black and white one in which a crow is seen bending over, looking at its feet with concentration. Then there was the one of a bird with its head turned in one direction. One of the works features some flowers while another shows branches of trees with scattered leaves. There was also a painting of a dog curling up in a backdrop of yellow. The sketches gave a sample of the artist's swift brush and his eye for

details.

Shibananada Adhikary Biplob brought in childhood dreams and memories in his work. A torn kite was seen against a background of brown, blue and green cubes. He had some depiction of women with caged birds beside them, symbolising the fact that in eastern society women had many limitations. The women, whether in colour or in black and white, were shown in detail, as regards the facial details, clothes and jewellery. The style was cubistic, in bold lines and a few curves. The *baul* had buntings and paper boats of celebration at the back, as he reached out to eternity in his emotional songs.

Monirul Islam, in his paintings, brought subjects who appeared to be in a state of shock, as were all Shawkatuzzaman's students and friends, when they heard the news of his death. Monir depicted flowers and dragonflies in blues,



Musician by Shibananada Adhikary (Top) and Get-together by Monirul Islam

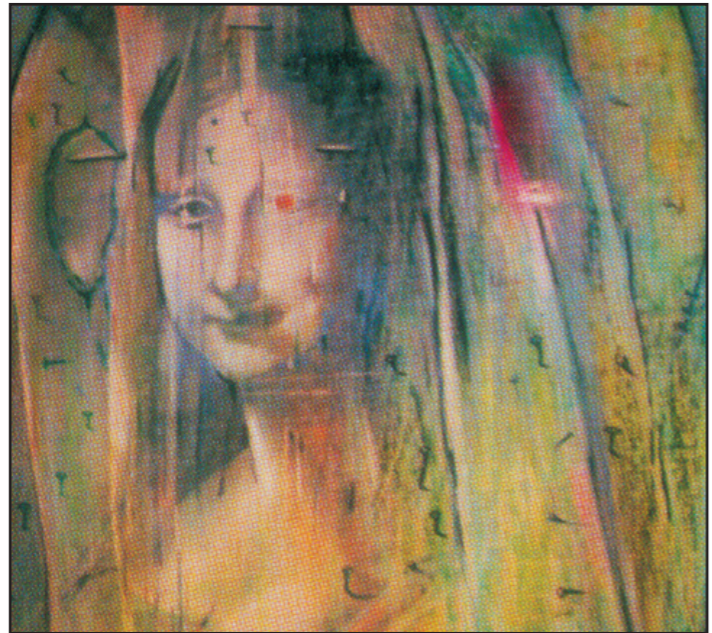
greens, yellow ochre. He had also done some hibiscus surrounded by the typical winged insects. A woman in a state of shock at the demise of the revered one was displayed in the next painting. Poetic images of lotus, fish and snail were seen surrounding the pensive figure. The artist had used stiff buckram as his canvas.

Nahid Mahsifarah featured embracing figures of a couple in swirls, curls and lines in blue and mauve. This was painting on ceramic. Her four country boats, done in black and white, on 12 glazed tiles was dramatic. She had done a number of paintings with delightful women all done in the Oriental style.

Ferdous Khan's paintings brought in details of women, with

minute representations of their facial features, clothes, jewellery and their accompanying pets, invariably a bird. In the background were suggestions of clumps of trees. They were in ochre and green colours that were dear to Shawkatuzzaman. The delineation of the woman from the village with her quaint, heavy, mauve, cotton sari, and chunky silver jewellery was also a delightful detailed work.

Deepa Islam too brought in a dragonfly, the well-known hallmark of the master painter Shawkatuzzaman. Namira Islam's exotic butterflies were also testament to the appreciation of nature and the wealth it has to offer.



Shamimun 'Lipi' Nahar undergoes surgery today



Shamimun 'Lipi' Nahar, who launched her debut album *Neshar Kajol* last month, is undergoing surgery today at the Holy Family Red Crescent Medical College Hospital, according to a press release.

Lipi is suffering from a thyroid condition and has had three major surgeries previously. Despite the physical constraints her passion for music remains kindled.

Movie Watch Water is glistening, deep and moving

While theatres overseas run Deepa Mehta's *Water* with little fanfare, the film caused a huge uproar in India. The film, set in colonial India, focuses on a "widow house": a place where widows were sent to live, hypothetically banished from society following the death of their husbands.

Hindu fundamentalists, angered by Mehta's depiction of what they said was a bygone practice (she has countered, in interviews, that it is not), disrupted the film's 2000 production, destroying the sets and burning Mehta in effigy. Production shut down, to reopen four years later in Sri Lanka under a fake title. Two years later, *Water* is finally here.

It's a quiet film to have caused such a reaction, and an often lyrical and lovely one. At its center is Chuyia (Sarala), an eight-year-old girl with bright eyes and a round, baby face. A tiny bride, she is now a widow and subjected to the mortifications of widowhood: Her bracelets are removed, her hair shorn, her vivid red blouse changed for a plain white saree. Brought to the widow house, she doesn't understand what's happening to her. "My mother's coming to get me," she says confidently, to anyone who will listen.

The only child in the house, Chuyia must adjust to a quiet world of women and poverty. She befriends Kalyani (Lisa Ray), a young widow allowed to maintain her beauty (her long hair has not been cut) so that she can work as a prostitute to help support the house. The days are long, the nights are still. Near the house is a river, which in the evenings glows a vivid, almost dangerous blue.

Shimmeringly filmed by cinematographer Giles Nuttgens, much of *Water* glides along like that river, calm and quiet. But other currents appear: One hears the voice of Gandhi, who dares to say, "Widows should not be strangers to love." A love interest appears for Kalyani, a danger arises for Chuyia and the film's wrenching final

scene conveys both tragedy and hope for a better world. Mehta's film is courageous and reticent, a shout-muttering as a whisper.

Compiled by Cultural Correspondent



Sarala (L) and Lisa Ray in a scene from the film

Ibsen Commemoration '06, Bangladesh The lady from the sea: Of love and existence

Ibsen's play *The Lady from the Sea* crystallises a collision of desires: that for stability and the comfort of reliable love and that for something unfathomable and mysterious. Thereby the play works beautifully on two levels: As a mature, intelligently constructed domestic drama, with vibrantly real characters; and as a symbolic meditation on greater, cosmic questions of existence.

As part of the ongoing theatre festival titled 'Ibsen in Asia', Department of Theatre and Music, Dhaka University staged *The Lady From the Sea* at the Experimental Theatre Stage on May 13. The festival is organised by Centre for Asian Theatre in association with Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy and supported by Royal Norwegian Embassy.

Ellida (Soeri Sultana) is the beautiful second wife of Dr Wangle (Ashiqur Rahman Leon) who has two daughters from his previous marriage, Bolette (Rehana Khatun Raha) and Hilde (Shamita Das). Ellida grew up in a lighthouse and seems to have more affinity with water than the land. Arnholm (AMM Noor-Us-Saiyem Khan) is a former suitor of Ellida and is asked by Dr Wangle to visit because he is concerned about Ellida. Lyngstrand (Syed Mamun Reza) is a talentless sculptor who is dying of consumption.

Ellida is haunted by the memory of a sailor (Farhad Hassan) she knew years ago to whom she was promised. The sailor's return throws her marriage of economic convenience into question. Professor Abdus Selim is the translator of the play with much code mixing (mixture of Bangla and English in dialogue diction).

As director of the play, Dr Israfil Shaheen has elicited some uniformly solid work from the actors.



A scene from the play

His composition at the final scene when Ellida selects her own destiny as well as the entertaining scenes deserve plaudits. However, he could not create the tense scenes properly when the sailor returns to his beloved after 10 years of eclipse.

The Lady from the Sea is a play full of atmosphere. Riazuddin Mahmud has created different layers on the stage to evoke the Norwegian hilly seascape. And different ambiances were created by changing a few set elements.

For this production, Ahmed Kabir Young's light design seemed to be the weakest part. Lighting cues failed to co-ordinate with the acting cue. Moreover, because of the poor light settings, most part of the huge

set had lack of visibility. And his use of symbolic colour on the cyclorama was not effective.

Kamol Khalid's music composition is effective for the play.

Soeri Sultana performed well as Ellida, who is emotionally inert and the nearby ocean becomes a point of obsession for her. Ashiqur Rahman Leon's body language and voice modulation are suitable for the characterisation of Dr Wangle, who is a respectable person and caring husband. The other performers should try to act from the heart to make the play more interesting.

In conversation with Mitsuya Mori

Professor Mitsuya Mori teaches theatre in the Department of Art Studies at Seijo University, Japan. He is a scholar on Scandinavian drama. Besides his academic activities, Mitsuya Mori is an acclaimed director of contemporary theatre. So far he has directed hundreds of plays. Moreover, he has translated many Scandinavian stage plays including Ibsen's drama. Mori is in the town to participate theatre festival titled 'Staging Ibsen in Asia', which is a part of ongoing Ibsen Commemoration '06, Bangladesh. His translation of Ibsen's *Ghosts* was staged in the festival.

On the arrangement Mori said, "It's a appreciable endeavour to arrange a theatre festival including master playwright Henrik Ibsen. It will help the theatre practitioners to exchange views."

On the current theatre scenario of Japan, Mori said, "In the big cities in like Tokyo, Osaka and others there are many theatre companies which stage traditional theatre such as Noh and Kabuki as well as contemporary theatre introduced in 19th century. Moreover, contemporary directors are blending traditional performing art forms with European theatre styles."

"Professional theatre is practiced in Japan. Traditional Noh and Kabuki theatre companies can run on their own, but the contemporary theatre companies sometimes struggle. People come to contemporary theatre, if the popular cinema or TV stars perform. And a few have a thirst for artistic presentation of serious theatre. Only a few big contemporary theatre companies get government patronage."

Mori further pointed out that the younger generation has less interest in theatre, which is alarming for the future of rich Japanese theatre.

On his own directorial approach Mori said, "I like to



Mitsuya Mori

bridge the traditional Japanese theatre with European styles. And even in case of European classics my approach is to give the play a contemporary flavour."

For his translation of Ibsen's plays, he has won the prestigious Yuasa Yoshiko Award.

By Ershad Kamol

TV GUIDE

PICK OF THE DAY



Fiat No-40
On ATN Bangla at 08:30pm
Drama Serial
Cast: Shimla, Tonny Dyes, Shahiduzzaman Selim

Labonya Probha
On ntv at 08:25pm
Drama Serial
Cast: Aupi Karim, Sweety

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, 9:00am, 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.
Latest News (Bangla) at 9:00 a.m, 10:00 am, 11:00 am, 1:00 pm, 3:00 pm, 4:00pm, 6:00 pm and 8:00 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

BTV
09:25 *Shaswato Jibon*
09:35 *Open University*
10:00 *Satellite Programme*
12:15 *Songbad Potrer Pata Thake*
12:30 *Shasho Tatto*
01:00 *Lal Golap*
02:15 *Educational Programme*
03:05 *Onu Poromanu*
03:30 *Nrether Tale Tale*
04:00 *Dolon Chapa*
04:30 *Protashar Alo*
05:05 *National TV Debate*
06:10 *Apon Bhumii*
06:35 *Programme On Cricket*
07:00 *Cultural Programme*
07:30 *Bangshi Bajay Ke*
08:45 *Drama Serial: Anechhi Surjer Hashi*
09:25 *Drama Serial: Anondo Sangbad*
10:25 *Teknaf Theke Tetulia*
CHANNEL-i
09:30 *Shongbad Potrey Bangladesh*
11:05 *Educational Programme (Live)*
12:30 *Aaaj Dupurey*
01:10 *Ebong Cinemar Gaan*
01:45 *Public Reaction*
02:40 *Selected Drama*
04:05 *Jamuna Bank 15th Asian Games Hockey Tournament 2006*
05:30 *Banjio O Orthonti*
06:00 *Gillette World Sports*
06:20 *Star Gate SG One*
06:45 *Business show*
07:50 *Drama Serial: Nil*

09:35 *Jyotsnay Drama Serial: Sampurna Rangin*
10:00 *Drama Serial: Bhalo Bashay Boshobash*
ntv
09:30 *Apon aloy Grammen Phone Shironam*
10:00 *Zoo Adventure*
10:05 *Dhakar Cinema*
10:30 *Muktangan*
01:05 *Drama Serial: Ramizer Aaina*
02:35 *Glamour World*
03:15 *Shada Rater Manush*
03:50 *Bhinnya Swader Khobor*
04:25 *Apnar Jigyasha*
05:20 *Shubho Shondhya*
06:20 *Crime Watch*
06:50 *Tele Quiz*
07:20 *Drama serial: Labonya Probha*
08:25 *Music Express*
09:10 *Drama Serial: Shada Raater Manush*
09:50 *Dindarpan*
ATN BANGLA
11:25 *Annodrishti*
10:30 *Drama: Ek Jonome*
11:05 *Musical Programme*
11:35 *Cholochitrer Golpo*
01:25 *Public Reaction*
02:30 *Drama serial: Nirob Koshto*
03:10 *Drama Serial: O Amar*
03:45 *Khokhu Nai*
04:20 *Shusho Thakun*
04:45 *Chotoder Pritthibi*
05:10 *Agantuk*
05:45 *Aj Potrekay*
06:20 *Islami Programme*
06:50 *Air Combat*
07:30 *Tagore Song*
08:00 *Human Nature*

06:00 *Ajker Bangladesh*
06:30 *Rtv Exclusive*
08:00 *Drama Serial: Flat No. 40*
08:30 *Kothamala*
09:00 *Human nature*
10:00 *Aj Potrekay*
10:30 *Cartoon film*
11:00 *Bridhdasnar*
12:05 *Pritthibir Pathe Pathe*
01:00 *Agantuk*
02:00 *Aj Potrekay*
02:30 *Islami Programme*
03:00 *Air Combat*
04:00 *Tagore Song*
05:05 *Human Nature*

03:00 *Ki Jadu Bangla Gaane*
03:30 *Shahar Shesher Bari*
04:00 *Apnar Agami*
04:30 *Cartoon*
05:00 *Amar Ami*
05:30 *Shudhu Gaan*
06:40 *Diner Sheshe*
08:05 *Drama Serial: Album Jibon Dhara*
08:40 *Shohor Shesher Bari*
09:15 *Amader Atitibi*
09:50 *Sports round-up*
11:00 *Sports round-up*
HBO
9:45 *Secondhand Lions*
12:00 *Tanking lives*
02:00 *You got served*
04:00 *Alien Hunter*
06:00 *Raising Weylon*

08:00 *Drama Serial: Shukhnagar Apartment*
08:30 *Drama Serial: Flat No. 40*
10:35 *Kothamala*
09:00 *Human nature*
10:00 *Aj Potrekay*
10:30 *Cartoon film*
11:00 *Bridhdasnar*
12:05 *Pritthibir Pathe Pathe*
01:00 *Agantuk*
02:00 *Aj Potrekay*
02:30 *Islami Programme*
03:00 *Air Combat*
04:00 *Tagore Song*
05:05 *Human Nature*

09:30 *Mortal Combat*
11:30 *The chamber*
1:45 *Countdown to invasion*
3:30 *Safe conduct*
STAR MOVIES
09:50 *Trespass*
11:45 *Kiss, The Last Dance*
01:35 *Sleeping With The Enemy*
05:45 *The Truth About Love*
07:35 *Hoosiers*
09:30 *First Blood*
11:45 *Starship Troopers 2: Hero of the Federation*

08:00 *Hollywood Squares*
08:30 *Whose Line Is It Anyway?*
09:00 *The Drew Carey Show*
09:30 *The Oprah Winfrey Show*
10:30 *The Apprentice*
11:30 *Charmed*
12:30 *Lost*
01:30 *Desperate Housewives*
02:30 *The Oprah Winfrey Show*
03:30 *The Bold And The Beautiful*
04:30 *General Hospital*
05:30 *Angel*
06:25 *Sports Update*
06:30 *The Simpsons*
07:00 *The King Of Queens*
07:30 *Friends Sr 8*
08:00 *Seinfeld*
08:30 *My Wife And Kids*
09:00 *Still Standing*
09:30 *Yes Dear*
10:00 *Friends*
10:30 *My Big Fat Obnoxious Siblings*
11:25 *Sports Update*
11:30 *Seinfeld*
DISCOVERY
08:30 *Wild Discovery*
09:30 *Discovery's Biggest Shows*
11:30 *Impossible Heists*
12:30 *Power Women*
01:30 *Wild Discovery*
02:30 *Detective Stories*
03:30 *Mystery Hunters*
04:00 *Physical Science In Action*
04:30 *Myth Busters*
05:30 *Wild Discovery*
06:30 *Extreme Machines*

07:30 *Wild Discovery*
08:30 *Unsolved History*
09:30 *Seven Wonders Of The Industrial World*
10:30 *Greatest Ever*
11:30 *FBI Files*
NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC
08:00 *Telebrands*
08:30 *Nat Geo Junior*
08:45 *Nat Geo Junior*
09:00 *Nat Geo Junior*
09:30 *Wildlife Diary*
10:00 *Nat Geo Junior*
10:30 *Nat Geo Reveals*
11:30 *Nat Geo Reveals*
12:30 *Go Wild With Hutch*
01:00 *Go Wild With Hutch*
01:30 *In the Womb*
02:30 *Nat Geo Investigates*
03:30 *The Living Edens*
04:30 *Backyard Science*
04:45 *Nat Geo Junior*
05:00 *Nat Geo Junior*
05:30 *Wildlife Diary*
06:00 *Nat Geo Junior*
07:30 *Nat Geo Wild*
07:30 *Storm Stories*
08:00 *Storm Stories*
08:30 *Ideas Unlimited*
09:30 *MegaStructures*
10:30 *Nat Geo Investigates*
11:30 *Built For The Kill*
ESPN
08:00 *Kardio Knockout*
08:30 *Asian X-Games Qualifiers*
09:00 *Sri Lanka Tour Of England*
10:30 *Motorsport Asia*
11:00 *Cricket Classics*
12:00 *Brazilian Football*
02:00 *Sri Lanka Tour Of*

03:28 *England Inside The Game*
03:58 *Sri Lanka Tour Of England*
05:30 *Icc Cricket World*
06:00 *Icc Cricket World*
06:30 *Sri Lanka Tour Of England*
10:30 *Sportscenter*
11:00 *Sportscenter*
11:30 *Fifa World Cup Programming*
STAR SPORTS
08:30 *Bull Riding*
09:30 *Race Day*
10:30 *Formula One*
12:00 *Chequered Flag*
12:30 *Fa Cup*
12:30 *Spanish Football League*
04:30 *Bull Riding*
05:30 *Ace*
06:30 *Cricket Classics*
06:30 *Pride Fc Archives*
07:30 *Pride Fc Archives*
08:30 *Australia Tour Of South Africa*
10:00 *Fifa World Cup Preview*
10:30 *Sportscenter India*
10:32 *Bull Riding*
11:30 *Sportscenter India*
11:32 *Formula One*
TEN SPORTS
09:30 *Total Rugby*
10:00 *World Of Athletics*
10:30 *Rally World*
12:00 *Trans World Sports*
12:00 *Chevrolet Circuit Show*
12:30 *World Hockey Magazine*
03:30 *WWE: Specials: Backlash (Raw)*
05:30 *Barca TV*
07:30 *WWE: Raw*
08:00 *The XFLYS Show : Ep 5*
10:00 *Wild Indies v Zimbabwe- 7th ODI,*