

had copied one of his early works and produced another in the vein of his watercolour landscapes. "They (forgers) have become so rampant in their practice that they are now producing works of artists who are still alive and who enjoy a regular sale. One particular work that the forger copied had been published by the Shilpakala Academy in one of their folders. And the other that is a landscape showing a line of palm trees, simply an imitation of my style; it is a sloppily done work. The signatures in both the paintings are similar but they readily give away the fact that they are fakes," Nabi recounts his encounter with the two fake paintings discovered from Haque Gallery at Gulshan-2.

The fakes were discovered when they were being sold off to a customer. They could not escape the keen eyes of a student of Nabi, who has the habit of doing the rounds in the galleries across Dhaka. It is he who challenged the gallery owners and asked them to take the controversial



One of Kamrul's original.

the first place.

"Once I found out, I myself have arranged for the news to be published in the paper. No one did that. There are galleries who had hung fakes in their exhibitions, but now it seems that my gallery is being branded as the source of fakes. Some people are doing it out of professional jealousy," says Bulbul.

works to the artist who created them. Once they were brought over to Nabi's place, the artist himself declared that the works were fakes.

Palash, the director of Haque Gallery claimed that they acquired them from another gallery called Chitrayon, which is situated in Uttara. Chitrayon's owner Abdur Rahim Bulbul said he bought them from a private collector who is a computer engineer named Rafiqul Islam Tuhin. Tuhin could not be contacted as the mobile phone he uses proved to be continuously out of reach. Bulbul said if he knew that the paintings were fakes he wouldn't have bought them in

