

Qayyum Chowdhury

Mingling designs with forms



High Tide (Top) and Freedom Fighter

FAYZA HAQ QAYYUM Chowdhury says, "The artist who influenced me most is undoubtedly Zainul Abedin, my teacher. Before coming to the Dhaka Art College, I met him in Mymensingh where my father was posted. Apart from him the artists who moved me greatly are Vincent Van Gogh, Paul Gauguin and Picasso. More recently I met the Australian painter Egon Schiller, who had powerful drawings of human figures and

landscapes. I found his style irresistible. From India I admire Poritor Sen and SH Raja. I did not have formal education overseas but I went overseas for study tours, such as to UK, USA, Russia and China. Wherever I went, I visited the art institutes and the galleries. I tried to learn as much as I could by studying the paintings and talking to the artists that I came across." Before attempting large paintings, he makes small sketches and drawings and only then does he move on to the canvas and paper.

His paints and canvas are often brought from overseas, specially the water-colour paper, by his friends and well-wishers. "I believe with our weather, water-colour is most suitable for us," Qayyum Chowdhury says. "In Japan, China and India, most artists work on paper. My guru, Zainul Abedin, also liked water-colour sketches. Recently, I've tried acrylic but I don't find it as comfortable as oil. While working I like to listen to Indian classical music, Rabindra Sangeet, Mozart and Beethoven." He reads a

lot too, whether it is poetry, fiction or essay. He works a lot on nature. He says that nature is the main source of his inspiration. He is not realistic. His paintings are full of designs based on nature. According to him man is an integral part of nature and he looks at nature in his own individual way. His favourite subjects are elements taken from the valleys and rivers of rural Bangladesh, with its trees, flowers, birds, animals, people and boats. He has combined abstraction with folk form presenting an eloquent synthesis of design and form, with the figurative melting into the nonfigurative. Over the decades, since 1952 when he started out as a professional, he has

made alterations in his style. An artist's work should always have a change, he feels. He also did paintings on the Liberation Movement, the village being the focal point. The impact of the struggle on rural Bengal was important for him. In his series Childhood memories, he treated space, as a quality by itself and this was his way of reacting to the harsh realities of life. Another important series that Qayyum Chowdhury did was Village under water in which he depicted the great flood of the 80s. In this he found a new kind of harmony of forms and figures. In it he also created a harmony of abstraction and realism through a style that is now distinctly his own.



Remembering Tapas Sen Discussion on the ace light designer



Discussants at the programme

ERSHAD KAMOL

Late Indian light designer Tapas Sen is known for his immense contribution to the theatre arena in Bangladesh. The 'magician of light', as he was dubbed, passed away on June 28 in Kolkata. To pay homage to the legend, a discussion session was recently arranged at the Natmondal, University of Dhaka. Ramendu Majumdar, president of Bangladesh Centre of International Theatre Institute (BCITI), presided over the session in which Keramat Molla, Mamunur Rashid, Ataur Rahman, M Hamid, Professor Rahmat Ali and others participated. The programme began with

Munira Yousuf Memi reading the biography of Sen. Later, in his welcome speech, Jhuna Chowdhury, secretary general of Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation (BGTFF), focused on the reason for the joint effort of BCITI and BGTFF. The discussants commented that by giving stage lighting an aesthetic form, Tapas Sen had paved the way for the recognition of the technical hands in the theatre arena in the sub-continent. Discussants said, "He is part of theatre history in the subcontinent. He did wonderful light design in stage plays such as Kallol, Angar, Char Adhyaya, Raktokorobi, Putul Khela and other. The most remark-

able productions were during the 1950s to the 1970s, the golden era of the modern theatre practice in Kolkata. This pioneer created attractive light effects using day to day used materials. In recognition of his creativity he has won many awards such as Sangeet Natak Academy Award" "Sen also contributed to Bangladeshi theatre. Not only was he the consultant of the light setting materials at the Experimental Theatre Stage, he conducted many workshops in Bangladesh. Moreover, he did light designing for two Bangladeshi theatre productions- Cornelius and Phulrani, Ami and Tia."

CULTURAL FEAST

Exhibition Artist: Laila Sharmin Title: Truth, Beauty and Me Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts Date: July 19-28

Children's Art Competition and Exhibition Title: 4th International Children-Art Biennale Bangladesh-2006 Venue: Ziaur Rahman Auditorium, Bangladesh Shishu Academy Date: July 11-25 Time: 11:00am to 6:30pm

Theatre Play: Bela Shesher Golpo Troupe: Nandimukh Venue: Experimental Theatre Hall, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy Date: July 21 Time: 7:00pm

Film Screening Organizer: Alamgir Kabir Chalachitra Kendro Title: Comedy for Life July 21: 5:00pm Matir Moyna 7:00pm Akatturer Jishu July 22: 5:00pm Chitra Nadir Pare 7:00pm Padma Nadir Majhi Venue: Alamgir Kabir Chalachitra Kendro, 62 Science Laboratory Road

'Sunsilk Hair Style Show' on ntv



Dancers perform at the event

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT It was a field day for the city's glitterati as they made a beeline for the recent extravaganza of the year—the Sunsilk Hair Style Show by Jawed Habib at the Winter Garden, Dhaka Sheraton Hotel, recently. The show began and ended with catchy dance numbers by international and local performers, with another equally gorgeous dance in the middle. The three pieces—revolving around themes of hair and style—were choreographed by Shibli Muhammed and Shameem Ara Neepa.

On the ramp were both Bangladeshi stars, such as Sweetie, Deepa Khondokar, Kusum, Tinni and Farah Ruma, as well as international models. The function was choreographed by the famed Ajay Bisht, supported by Tupa. The aim was to showcase the past, present and future of style. After the makeovers, Jawed Habib invited the girls to walk along with the stars. The function attracted many of the top hair stylists of Dhaka. The show will be aired on ntv on July 21 at 9 pm.

'Taxi Driver': New TV serial on Channel 1

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT New drama serial Taxi Driver will be aired every Friday at 8:15 pm on Channel 1. The play is written and directed by Ashutosh Sujon. The storyline of the serial: Cab driver Zakir and his wife Shefali live in a rented house. Zakir becomes bored with his monotonous life and plans to change his lifestyle. He immerses himself in



Bijori (R) and co-actor in a scene from the TV serial

various activities. In the process, he fails to garner financial resources for his house-rent. House owner Kamal rents out the next room to a bachelor. This annoys Zakir but he has to endure it because of his financial crisis. Hasan Masud, Bijori Borkatullah, Liton Gomes, Sohail Khan, Chaity, Nurpon and Dipak are the major cast members of the play.

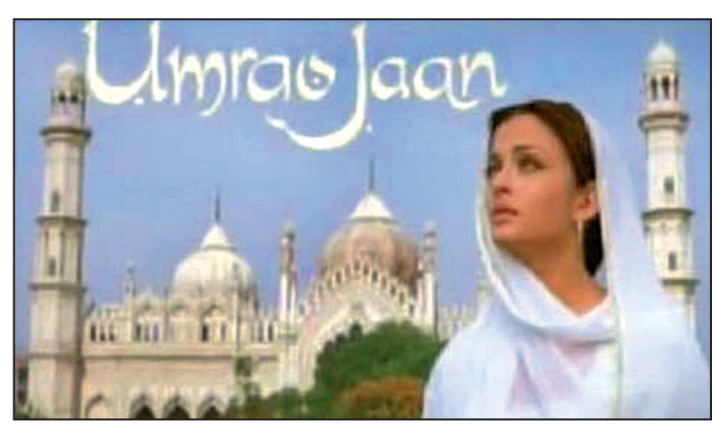
First look at the new 'Umrao Jaan'



Rituparno to make his first commercial film

Till now Rituparno Ghosh has been associated with arthouse cinema like Chokher Bali, Raincoat and the recent Antarmahal. Now the talented filmmaker is all set to direct his first full-fledged mainstream film. It'll be a comedy with elements of fantasy. Titled Sunglass, the film will be made in two languages—Hindi and Bengali—and will star Sanjay Suri, Konkona Sen Sharma, Jaya Bachchan, Naseeruddin Shah and Raima Sen in major roles. Shooting of this bilingual will commence from August 1. The film will have four songs, composed by the band 21 Grams.

Umrao Jaan will mark JP Dutta's comeback after LOC Kargil which bombed at the box office. Umrao Jaan is a different film for JP, considering his last three films were based on war. Abhishek Bachchan will be seen in the male lead opposite Aishwarya. The film also stars Shabana Azmi, Sunil Shetty, Arshad Warsi and Kulbhushan Kharbanda in key roles. Source: Internet



TV GUIDE

Table with TV program listings for various channels including BTv, Channel 1, Rtv, and Star World, with columns for time slots and program titles.