

# TEENS and TWENTIES

## Funny Memories A Significant Experience

by Ahsan Latif

**T**HROUGHOUT my life there has been a lot of experiences, incidents and occurrences. Some, building up my confidence, made me aware of my responsibilities, others, leading me to embarrassment. The following passage is a recapitulation of one such incident.

It was a holiday. The previous day we decided that, that day we would practice cricket. Having worked well into the night, I felt dizzy and reluctant to wake up so early. However, after a debate between my will and reluctance, I finally got up from bed. Taking my breakfast early in the morning is something I hate as much as I hate my hostile enemy. So trying to avoid breakfast and consequently my mother's rebuke, I sneaked out of the house.

As usual, my willingness to play supplant my reluctance as soon as I walked into the field and on seeing my friends, their showers of "Hi, Hallo" and calling me by names which were given by them.

As time proceeded, everyone started to dress up. But one of my friend and I—the two mischief-makers took out a bat and a ball and started playing. One of our friends warned us not to play in such a callous way. His reason accompany by all the other friends was that the ball might hit them accidentally, since I was batting at the place where they were dressing up. We did not take any notice of our friends and not foreseeing any accidents we started playing even more wildly. My friend who was bowling, bowled very fast, but I

## 'There is Nothing Wrong in Modelling'

by Rabeth Khan

**"Q**UALITY advertisements can be produced in our country" these words were spoken by the popular television artist Afzal Hossain, who is also one of the pioneers involved in the upgrading of our television advertisements. To quench our curiosity regarding different aspects of modelling, we decided to interview Afzal at his own advertisement agency Matra in Purana Paltan.

According to Afzal, the standard of modelling during the past five years has climbed up the ladder very quickly. He cites a few reasons behind this improvement. There are more models available; there is stronger competition among the companies and satellite television has influenced our advertising spirit in a positive way. The satellite television channels include Zee TV, Star Plus and ofcourse Indian television channels. These channels have played an important role in the upgrading of our advertisement standard. Responding to the popular notion that most of the better advertisements are done in Bombay, Afzal commented that this is a misconception. In fact he said it is just the opposite as very few advertisements have been done in Bombay.

Afzal also lauded the efforts of smaller advertisement agencies, which with limited funds, have done quality advertisements here. If we look behind a year back and see which advertisements gained popularity, we will see that, most of them have been produced locally, he added. There are few agencies, who do not think that quality advertisements can be produced locally. These firms according to Afzal, have no contribution in the development of local advertisement. He also pointed out that there are a few technical difficulties such as the absence of good equipment. He added that if requested advertisement firms invested the same amount of money, they would invest in Bombay the quality of advertisements would be greatly enhanced.

Afzal pointed out that youngsters shouldn't take modelling as a profession but only as a pastime. Modelling he has said not reached a professional level and cannot sustain a group of young people as full time models. Moreover, he said that, the youngsters neglect their education while showing too much interest in modelling. In his opinion, the interested people should always give priority to education

and keep modelling as a part-time vacation. To him, modelling is a very good way to show one's talent and shape one's personality.

Nearly everywhere in the world, there are modelling agencies which provide advertising agencies the models they require. When he was asked about the basic qualifications to be a model, he said that there are no hard and fast rules. A model has to be average looking, smart, have a good height and have to be very intelligent. The rates of the models are not fixed and apart from the popular models, the rates for newcomers are not much. There are some rules, which has to be followed after signing. The most important one is that, if you do an advertising for a soap this year, you can't do an advertising for another soap before one year.

So how do parents of models react to their assignments? To this Afzal commented that the parents have generally become more co-operative and open-minded. He underlined



the fact that it would be very foolish not to let youngsters do modelling. They have to think freely and there is nothing wrong in modelling.

When asked about the basic ingredients that make an advertisement good, he said that the technical efficiency, imaginative camera-work and a good jingle are the key factors. The more investment is made, the quality of the advertisement becomes better. He also remarked that the more good advertisement agencies are born, the future of modelling looks very bright.

When asked about some of his favourite advertisements, he named "Azad Ball Pen," "Funny Noodles," "Jumping Mango" and "Colt Shaving Cream". The advertisements of the last two products haven't yet been televised. Lonely day, Lonely nights, you are far away from me, this might be the jingle of the advertisement of Azad Ball Pen but we can all hope that the lonely days of modelling in this country are far away and a brighter time awaits us.

## "There is an Artist in Every Man or Woman"

by Raffat Binte Rashid  
Photos by Md Anran Hossain

**T**HERE is no way you can memorize by heart, the strokes that you learn in your painting class or the ideas that you are exposed to in your Oriental Art class. These are simply not that 'memorize and regurgitate' type of learning. These are things that are seen with the mind and drawn by the eyes; the hands are simply the media, connecting the thoughts, seen and realized.

The students of the Institute of Fine Arts are therefore exclusive and special from the rest of their fellow friends studying different institutes or universities. These young girls and boys with a burning desire (not to be someone big and established) to make the world their romantic canvas, are usually, maybe almost certainly, not what students are today, something that is indicated by the serenity of their campus.

"They are calm and our boys have no time for vandalism or that type of involvement," explains Professor Rafiqun Nabi, Director, Institute of Fine Arts. "The main reason for this can be their sole responsibility towards their own life. Hundred per cent of our students enroll here against the will of their parents, relatives and their society, so the responsibility is their's alone," he continues.

For anyone who aspires to be an artist, this dream begins to take shape as soon as he or she reaches a level of concise-

College, it was as bad as committing a sin," says Maruf Ahmed famous painter of contemporary times. "My father almost threw me out of the house and threatened to exclude me from his will, when I enrolled in this institute," he recalls his first struggle as a painter.

An art student's education in this country only paves a way allowing them to reach a minimum level, the rest depends on his own way of developing skills. His education is continuous, he learns from life, society and his environment. An artist perceives a subject and then executes, all the time summing and deducting between lot of fractions. "He is a big editor. He grows, from his own feelings and his rich taste, those who can take these pressures survives while others wither away," Nabi explains their fight. "But we teach in such a way so that they can survive," he clarifies.

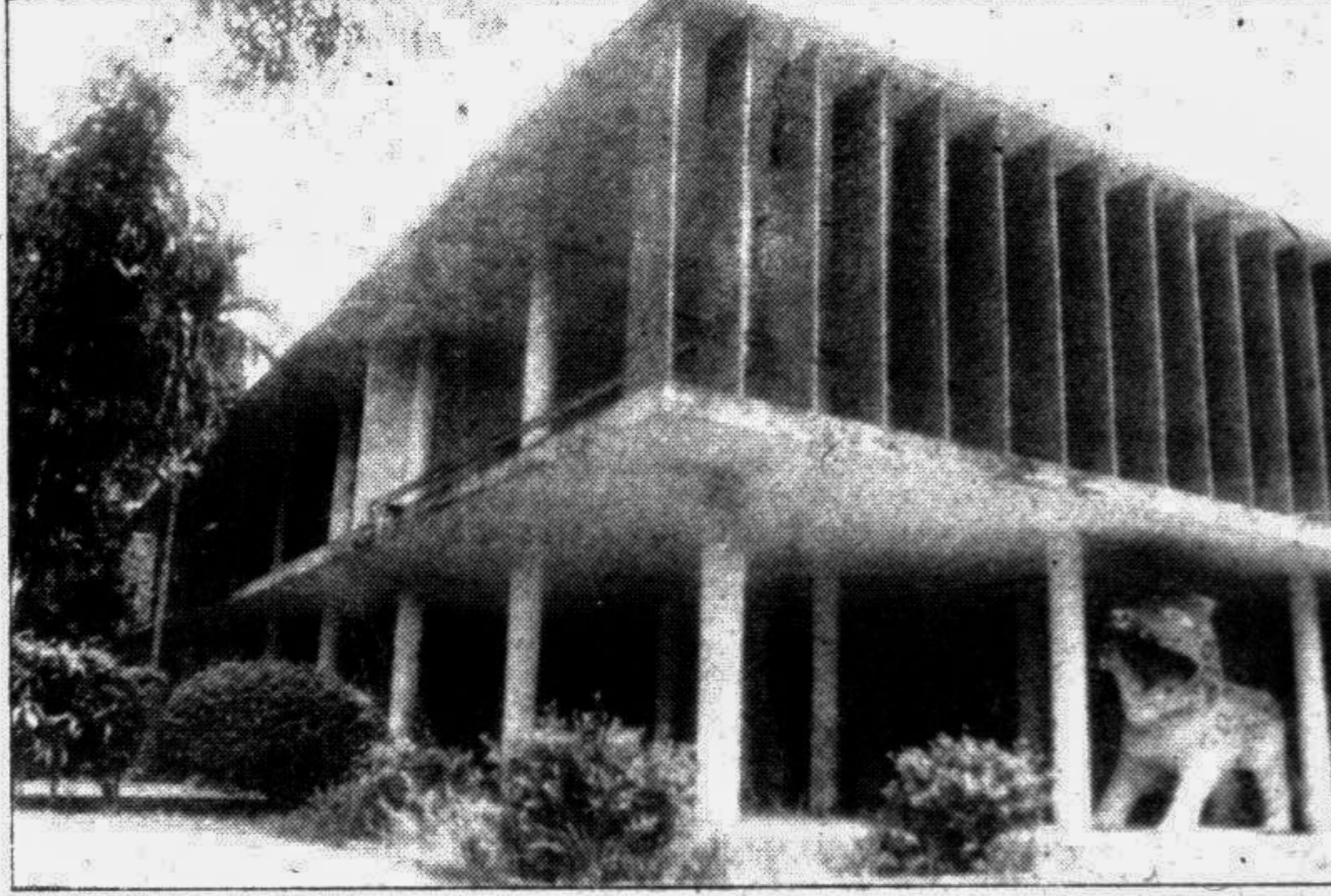
But if you look deep into an artist's life you will definitely find mental satisfaction that is very rare. "We are content with very little and we have a wider scope to develop since there is less competition compared to other profession," reflects Nabi.

Only recently the scene has

held off, it hampers six months progress. Practice is our only method of learning," he says.

Nabi, who was a student of a very modern era, the late fifties, joined the institute as a teacher the day after he passed out in '64. He feels that a city is judged by its cultural activities, how much dramatics, music, art is created, decides whether the city is cosmopolitan or not. "Nowadays the number of galleries or exhibitions have increased, it is extremely good sign. The student and also the artists can compare works, techniques and ideas. But the process of holding an exhibition is very easy. Anyone with a sponsor can do it even while in the 1st or 2nd year; this, at times questions the quality of their work displayed, he feels.

There is no end to this sort of learning, you remain a student forever, always taking in bits of information from surroundings and painting them together on canvas. The world is still a romantic place because of painters or artists.



The Institute of Fine Arts building



The world is their romantic canvas.

ness, usually at a very tender age. Materializing this dream, becomes a tremendous drive almost an obsession in life. "There is no time to waste, they alone will be held responsible for the consequence and thus to prove their point to their society they most strive on," Nabi emphasizes the sincerity of his students.

In fact whenever you hear of an artist, the image of a man with tousled, hair, a distant dreamy look, that same people may call 'mad' in the eyes—paint splattered all over his apron, brush in hand, staring unblinkingly at the canvas, is visualized. "Artist, what will he do; He has an uncertain future, who would marry him? These are the sort of questions from parents which have posed as obstacles to aspiring artists.

"In our times we could not pronounce the word Art

like earning extra money. But if an artists completes may be 100 paintings a year only two or ten if he is lucky, would be sold. His energy, time and his love are all over looked. To make matters worse their instruments such as paints brushes, canvas etc are treated as luxury items and so are very expensive.

A certain brand of number



There is no time to waste, responsibility is his alone.

**Matters of the Heart**  
I'm a 15-year old girl and have an older sister and a brother. When my brother and sister were in their teens, my parents always listened to their problems, but neglecting me. My father is mostly out of town. My sister is earning and gives money at home and therefore my mother never speaks against her dominating nature. Because of their attitude I can't concentrate on my studies. I want to go abroad but my father can't afford it. Please advice.

Anonymous.

It is probably your own imagination that your mother is neglecting you. Parents usually love their children equally. Perhaps she has a lot on her mind and his unknowingly been aloof. The best thing to do is to let her know how you feel without getting agitated. As far as going abroad, you have plenty of time to prepare for that. A lot of young people have applied for scholarships and received them. Why don't you do, the same?



Materializing their dream, is their only obsession.

family life or 'sangsar'. Where they get married the environment is different and she fails to continue, but those who broke the chains are all doing well and are established now "Nabi says, in fact he considers

12 brush now costs Tk 6000; in the sixties it was Tk. 12:50 only. How can a student afford this, naturally he looks for alternative qualities which in the long process hampers their quality of the work. This is a

## Songs of Lalon

by Lalon Shah  
Translated by Brother James

**D**O you think that sort of love is an ordinary matter? Lost in love, Hari went about with a patched rag about his shoulders. One day the beautiful Radha, in a fit of hurt pride, abandoned Shyam. To save his hurt feelings Shyam became a yogi and cut off his hair.

Lost in love, Bhola too spent his time on a burning ghat — around his neck the bones of the goddess Shakti, and behaving like a madman.

Rup and Sanatan were minister of state; Overcome by love they became fakirs. Lalon says: Learn from this the power of love.

Lalon Shah was a Baul (poet, ascetic, mendicant) who lived to the age of 116; he died near Kushiya in on the 17th of October 1890. He travelled a lot, and composed hundreds of songs. "Lalon Shah was a Baul" — and the greatest and most prolific composer among the Bauls. The Bauls are members of a religious group in Bangladesh and in West Bengal, India. Some are Muslims, some are Hindus. Each group celebrates its own religious festivals, but one group joins the other group on some occasions. They live together in "akh-ras" or monasteries. A Muslim might have a Hindu guru or guide; a Hindu might have a Muslim spiritual guide. Bauls believe that the human body is a miniature world with the Sain, the Master, dwelling within.