

TEENS and TWENTIES

That Third Eye

by Tasin Ahmed

WORK hard, be satisfied and earn your living," is Chanchal Mahmood's advice to the younger generation. Chanchal Mahmood is from a very educated family and, needless to say, his parents wanted him to become either a doctor or an engineer. But he had ideas of his own. Chanchal was keen on painting and his ambition was to become a famous painter like Zainul Abedin. Although he obtained a degree in political science from Dhaka University in 1989, his heart was all set on becoming a photographer by that time. Today, he has established himself as one of the best photographers in our country.

"A camera always speaks the truth. A photograph sketches and draws the real thing, the pure thing whether it be true or damning. A photo reflects the life of a person, the nature of a country, and things totally depend on the photographer's mind or vision." That's why Chanchal calls a camera the third eye.

While talking to him in his exclusive Elephant Road studio, Chanchal Mahmood expressed his views and motives about photography in Bangladesh. According to this jewel of our country, "Photography is an interesting but rather hard occupation and one has to be hundred percent involved in it to be successful. He believes in what he says and probably that's why he has earned so much fame in recent times.

According to Chanchal Mahmood, the calendar season is his main earning period and this is when he really has to work hard. During this period, he searches for unusual subjects and remains alert all the time to get the right picture. Sometimes his camera doesn't always behave the way he wants it to. Then he faces the problems of inadequate light, the weather and many more. But eventually he overcomes all of these hindrances and gets the picture of his desire and of his choice. And that's what thrills him the most.

Chanchal Mahmood has a wonderful and fantastic sense of art and has the true eye for beauty. Both at home and abroad he has won numerous awards including the Ballantine Finest Certificate of Excellence (in England) in 1991. His exhibition 'Land and People' is considered as

one of the best solo exhibitions in our country. Today he is one of the most sought after photographers in our country. He is currently the photography consultant for the fortnightly 'Priyojon' and is involved in almost all the top advertising firms in our country. Chanchal Mahmood strongly believes that photography has a bright future in our country. But his sorrow is that there is hardly any help from the government in this sector. He is also ashamed to tell that large hotels and firms in our country use the services of foreign photographers for their advertisements and he feels that this is absurd. Because although we don't have any school of photography in our country, we have some superbly talented photographers who are in no way less skilled and talented than the ones from foreign lands.

From Chanchal I came to know about a very interesting incident which would certainly boost our all feel proud and make us our ego. A senior photographer of our country, M A Beg, once detected a flaw in the lenses manufactured by Canon; this was more than a decade back. He wrote to them pointing out this error. Although they were furious at the beginning, when they realised their mistake, they wrote a letter of apology to him and awarded him a certificate of honour.

Chanchal Mahmood was a bit unhappy, almost angry, when asked about the photographers of our country at present. From him I came to know that the first gold medal for Bangladesh was won by a Bengali photographer, Anwarul Hossain. Veterans like M A Beg, Anwar Hossain, Golam Kasem 'Daddy', Shujit Babu, Amanul Huq, the famous brothers Naibuddin Ahmed and Nozesh Ahmed — they are all out of sight today.

Nobody knows of Amanul Huq, whose documentary photographs during the liberation war are on display in the museum. It is pathetic when one hears that a renowned photographer in our country has to sell his camera to make ends meet.

Today, we get excited when we see a beautiful picture. Invariably we search for the name of the model whose photo is printed. But how many of us look for the man whose hand is behind the image? How many of us search for 'that third eye'?

Reflections

by Jade

In the mirror
Stands a young girl tearless
but weeps loudly.
Her body thin and straight, curveless
like the road to Rudy's diner.

In the mirror, I see you.
Being brought in from the ambulance.
I hear blue codes and code stats and
I know what they mean but I try not to.
On your bare body I see a
multitude of tubes
and think of roots on that old oak tree
where you first kissed me.

Outside I hear other sirens
another lover screams for his significant other.
And she is diagnosed with heart failure
at twenty.
They too took an endless, curveless
road to arrive here.

I remember my lips softly on yours
motionless like those summer mornings.
we spent watching the ocean breath.
I remember those afternoon where you took private
lesson from the ocean.
Your hand worked hands gently stroked my limbs.
As the ocean's, tender limbs caress each grain of sand.
You played me like a violin.
As the waves played with the sand.

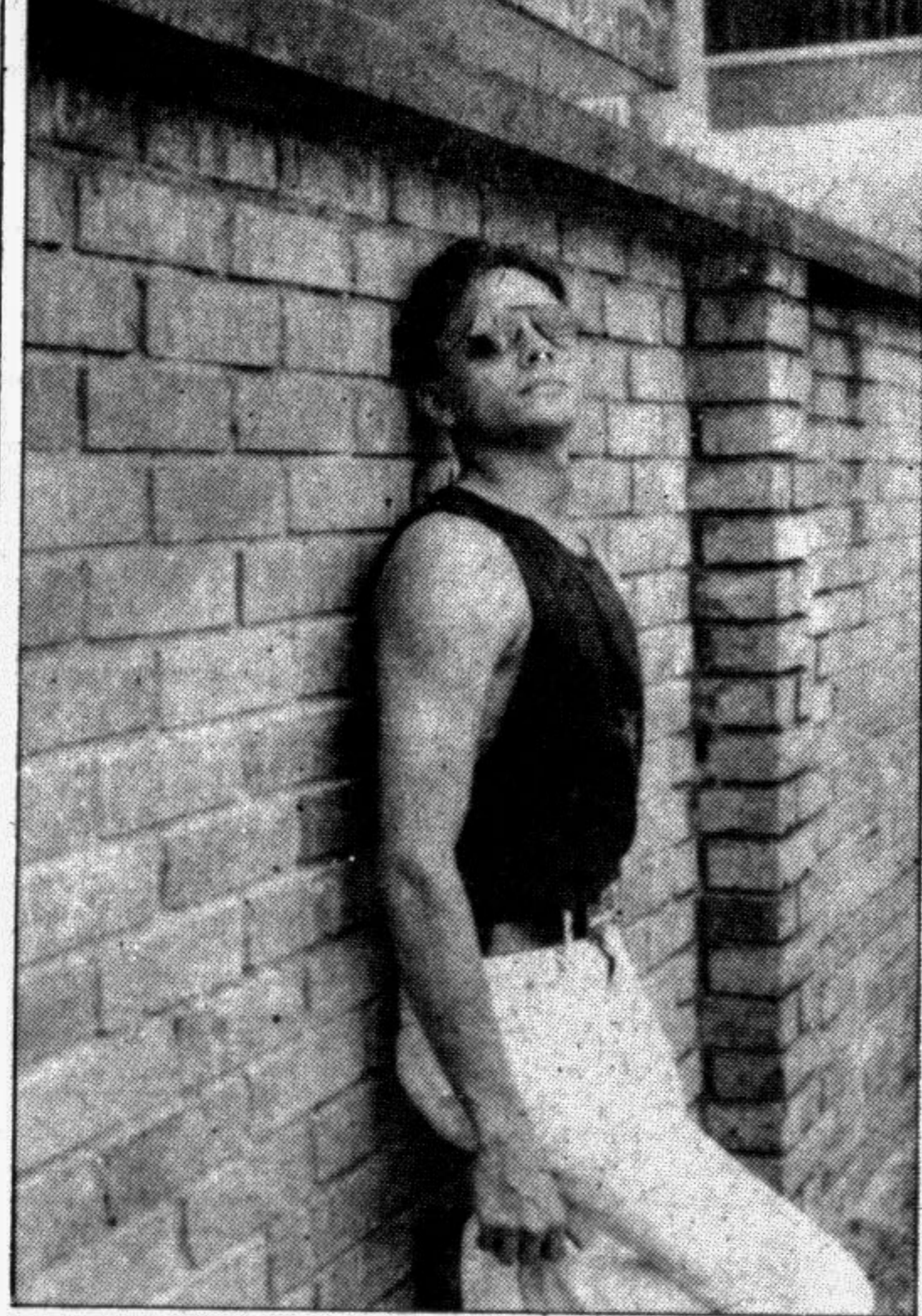
And though the mirror,
I see my john hancock
on a piece of a almond colored paper.
A signature that took you off of life support and
permitted your heart
to be repotted, replanted like
the tulips we had worked on the day before.

And now I see myself standing before you, motionless.
I see that green line flashing across the heart monitor.
And beg for forgiveness.

Today, I look into the mirror and
see nothing.
No reflections. No oceans.
Not even you.....

WHAT makes Anim the most sought-after fashion model in the country today? He is tall, honest, confident, cool and charming. There is something arresting in his eyes — probably the reflection of a genuine and a sincere person that speaks more for Anim than his sturdy physique or chiselled good looks ever will. He has the best catwalk in town and above all, who wouldn't want to agree with the unparalleled Bibi Russel's comment that he is the only Italian-like model in Bangladesh?

We spoke to him in his bedroom — a small room repre-



Anim, the most sought after model.

sented all boyish exteriors. Clothes lying here and there, vague smell of Drakkar, posters of fashion models all

'Tall, Dark and Handsome' He is Your Man

by Ferdous Hossain and Ahsan Latif

over the walls. Casually dressed in jeans and leaning on his floor-bed, Anim answered, "Actually I was never interested in modelling" when he was asked how he stepped in this world. "Playing football was my hobby. My friend, Pallab, also my colleague in modelling, insisted on my doing a fashion show. I signed up for

ceded in earning the recognition of being the top fashion model of Bangladesh. When he was questioned on this account he flashed with embarrassment. "Really? Well, I am flattered and would definitely thank them all. See, I have got my feet above the ground already!"

Being the third among five brothers, this Arian never expects to take modelling as his profession. He thinks the condition in which Bangladesh's modelling world is, it would be hard for those who would want to take it as a profession. He says "that our country has limited products, we don't have an international market, like our neighbouring country India, and lack of sponsors is also a very big factor. When our country has five fashion shows per year, India has the same number of fashion shows per month. Our local sponsors should come forward in promoting the fashion world here."

Being contradictory, Anim optimistically hopes that "modelling will take a good place in the future but limitations of everything are forcing it to lag behind." But what about the openly-stated fact that "modelling is vulgar"? Gulping his cold drink, his eyes fixed on the open window, he wondered off for half a minute to return with, "if people see vulgarity in modelling, then it is only a reflection of what is in their sick minds. I find the models decent, smart and cordial. I have met all kinds of people here and I think this place is as good as any other. When asked whether he would hesitate to let his younger sister or brothers do modelling, the "Aarong model", being very assertive, said, "Absolutely not! I have personally seen and felt this world. So where does the question of hesitation arise

from? I will be more than glad to introduce them to this exotic fashion world."

Whenever there is a talk on fashion, Bibi Russel's name is bound to be mentioned. How was his experience working with the internationally renowned model? "I consider myself to be lucky that I have had the chance to work with her in two fashion shows. She is friendly, altruistic and helpful. Taking a sip of his drink with renewed vigour, he said, "I remember during the BATEXPO 94 rehearsal (his first show with the celebrity) she helped me a lot. I have yet to learn a lot of things from her. Some infamous magazine has quoted something against her, using my name, which has created a massive misunderstanding between us. I had nothing to do with that article and I deeply apologise to her through this one, if she was offended. I am really looking forward to working with her. I hope Bibi Apa understands the whole confusion because I am still enthusiastic to learn more from her," he concluded with great hope.

Anim's interest are diverse. He loves football and would like to watch Bangladesh playing in the World Cup. His taste in music is in exact contrast to his reading habits. Who would possibly say Tagore songs and Harold Robbins go together? His local favourite models are Nobel, Pallab, Faisal, Tania, Sweetie and Mou. This person from Noakhali has no idols. However, his foreign favourite is India's Arjun Rampal. Two girls he freaks on are Cindy Crawford and Naomi Campbell. He says that he would love to know about Merco Van Basten. This local honk made a very bold statement by saying that he would love to spend 24 hours with Samantha Fox.

The very mention of her name sends this brown-eyed

model into his passionate dream. "Oh! what a woman, man. I have a massive crush on her." When asked whether he would like to work in any Indian ad which would be a remake over here, he bluntly replied that he wouldn't mind doing the Kamasutra ad with Pooja Bedi and the Cadbury's Ad (the one of cricket).



Anim at work!

The good-looking and shapely Anim has many female admirers. But when we questioned about his girlfriend, he

said, "I am a bit wary of relationships now. I was involved with a girl for 11 days. But things didn't work out for us."

This twenty-five year old is tied up with his modelling assignments. If he is not walking down the ramp, he is doing some photo-session or the other. Otherwise, there are some tiresome rehearsals for his fashion shows that sap all his time and energy. Still his career ambition is to help his brother in their family business in the States. After having captivated the fashion audience with his charming stature, he is the most-sought-after model in town. But we

still need more Anims to promote our fashion world to a greater extent. Anyone interested?

A name which is very familiar to every TV drama audience and is popular among the young and the old is Zahid Hasan. Success for Zahid Hasan came after a long struggle, his is a story which should be imitated by people who want to prosper in life.

Zahid's first television drama was telecast in 15th January, 1990. 'Jibon Jemon' was produced by Alimuzzaman Dulu. The story of the drama depicted a boy who became a drug-addict due to family problems.

When I asked him whether it was his childhood dream to be an actor, he replied, "No, I didn't have any childhood dreams. In my first year of college, I began to think about acting seriously." When I asked him about his favourite role or roles he preferred most, he voiced confidently, "I have been acting in television for the last five years and I haven't acted in much good roles. Up to the end of 1994 and the beginning of '95, I was always given an innocent character to play and that somewhat forced me into a specific image, which I do not want. I like to play diversified roles. Recently I even thought of acting as a 'hijra' (transvestite) or a 'mastaan' something different. Time is also an important factor in influencing me towards such varied roles. I always want to do those types of roles which suit the current period of life."

When asked to comment on the difference of drama standards of now and ten years back, Zahid frowned, "Though people say the standard of drama has declined now, it is not true in certain aspects. Yes, there are some aspects that are declining now, but at the same time, artists, ten years back didn't have to face such stiff competition. Today we have to compete against Star Plus, Zee TV, ATN and so on. I have noticed that nowadays people tend to watch only half the drama. I believe this competition will do us a lot of good."

"I am Happy to be a Star"

by Rabeth Khan

even two years back. The remake of 'Keyamat se Keyamat Tak' in Bangla 'Keyamat Theke Keyamat' which became a super hit was offered to me. Initially the lead roles were given to me and Bipasha. Later Bipasha opted out due to family reasons, and Moushumi came to take her place. That was when I came out of the project. I knew the credit of the success would go to Moushumi. So after that I wanted to do with a lesser known actress so that it would be a fair fight."

When asked about his first impression about Film Industry and how long he intends to stay there, he answered, "As I am absolutely new in the industry I do not know much about it yet, but my first impression is good." Answering the second question, he thought for a few seconds and said, "If my first film is a failure, I may opt out of Film Industry, because I do not want to stay in a place where I am in the second row."

To a question whether acting can sustain individuals, Zahid answered, "If it had been even last year, I would have said a big 'no' because normal television dramas give such a nominal amount of money that it is impossible to survive on it. But nowadays package dramas have made a big difference. I take twenty thousand taka for each package drama, which means even a B-grade actor can easily live comfortably by doing two package dramas earning something nearly the same I earn in one drama. I am sure if this trend goes on, more young artists will join without much hesitation."

My next question to him was whether the parents are encouraging those youngsters who want to join in the 'line of acting'. Zahid said, "No, there is always a conviction in their mind that their children have to be a doctor or an engineer. That whole idea is wrong. If parents force their children to do what they do not want to do, the result might be bad. At the same time, youngsters should take it up as a challenge to prove their parents that they are successful in what they desired to be most. "I'm sure then the parents would be happy again. Even in my initial period, my family, specially my parents, were against the idea of me becoming an actor. But they are very happy now."



Zahid Hassan 'our' Hearthrob

Asked about his future plans he said, "I want to be always associated with culture. Of course I want to give my best in acting so that people will always remember me even after I fade away. After my acting career is over I may be a drama director or have an advertisement firm of my own." Incidentally, Zahid worked with Afzal Hossain and Tariq Enam in their respective advertisement firms.

When I asked him about the lifestyle he leads, Zahid flashed his appealing smile. "I like to lead a simple life. Many stars have different moods and I hate that. All of my friends and dear ones live simple lives."

Seeing Zahid a bit exhausted, I asked him a completely different question — how he feels about love. He flushed, "To me love is a bond of feeling and sharing. Nowadays youngsters have made love a thing which means eating out at a restaurant or dancing at a party."

The Longest Wall Ever Built

WHEN Shih Huang Ti became the first Emperor of all China, in 221 B. C., one of his resolves was to strengthen China's defences against bandits and marauders from Manchuria and Mongolia in the north. Ever since about 300 BC the most vulnerable parts of the boundary had been defended by outposts and small forts, and here and there a wall had been built. Shih Huang Ti decided to join all these odd stretches of wall together, and so make one continuous defensive wall across the north of China from the sea to a point 1,200 miles inland. The wall is sometimes double, and the total length of the masonry is about 1,800 miles.

Originally this wall was from twenty feet to thirty feet high, with towers forty feet or fifty feet high every 200 yards. Along its top ran a roadway which passed through an arch at each of the towers.

— The Wonder Book of Wonders

Fun Competition!

WHY don't you teenagers grab a pen and write an article on 'what you think about your parents and their generation?'

AND PARENTS
You can also join the competition and write about what you think about your children and their generation?

An interesting debate, don't you agree? By the way please try to stay within 800 to 1000 words and send your write-ups by May 8, 95 to The Daily Star office. Don't forget to mention your full name, address, with telephone number. We know, you may read your article in this page & win an attractive prize.

Editor
Teens & Twenties



Ruler of the Universe

by Sanjida Shaheed

ON top of the world I roam.
Oh, this buoyant feeling of happiness
Weights down so heavily
Inside.
My heart screams out
So loud, yet in profound silence;
In happiness that's almost a pain.
For it's almost too big a burden for me.
Oh, but I feel like God!
Yes, like God!
Cos I share
The same spirit of creation
Hugging infiniteness.
When I'm sedulous and entire,
Pouring my soul
Onto my favourite pursuit.
Treating it with earnest love,
And care.
Like God.
When he was creating the universe.
And so my own creation.
However small may be
Brings me feelings I can't handle.
Raising my spirit to God-like proportions.
I'm the somehow, some why
The ruling God of the entire universe.