

anniversary

Abul Mansur Ahmad Sung

A commemorative discussion in celebration of Ahmad's 100th Birthday

By Nadine Murshid

ANGLA Academy honoured Late Abul Mansur Ahmad through a discussion as part of celebrating his birth centenary on September 16, 1999 at the Bangla Academy Seminar Room.

Ahmad was an acclaimed journalist, an eminent writer, a politician as well as a lawyer. Born on September 3, 1898, he had seen the turn of the twentieth century and perceived things with a keen eye and a broad mind.

Director General of Bangla Academy Syed Anwar Hossain speaking at length about Mansur Ahmad, said, 'As a politician and as a journalist Abul Mansur Ahmad had done his job well and as a writer he had produced an excellent array of books of which *Ayna*, *Food Conference*, *Asmani Porda*, *Gulliverer Shophornama* are best known. His autobiographical books too have earned popularity among the general populace.'

Quoting Ahmad, he said, 'Culture is our corporate personality. Our culture is what we are. If culture can be compared with the personality of a human being, so can civilisation, which means what we have, is our civilisation.'

He further quoted Ahmad cultural and said, 'Civilisation is a rational construction and culture is an emotional growth.' On the divide of West and East Pakistan Mansur Ahmad wrote, 'West Pakistan and East Pakistan may be of the same nation, but their nationality is different and they have two different corporate personality. So, the culture of the two is different as well.'

Professor Rajeeb Humayun read the key-note piece on Abul Mansur titled 'Ahmad and Bangladesh's Culture'. The seven-page article included anecdotes about Ahmad, his life, his beliefs and his nobility. Prof Humayun said, 'At that age and time the broadmindedness he had is still remarkable. Ahmad was first a Bengali, then a Muslim. Some thought him to be a fundamentalist, but he was not so. He practised Islam and he wanted Muslims to spread around the world - not enclosed in a single country. He had said



that West Bengal and East Bengal differed the way the American English and the European English differed. He said that our culture is to be built and created and not imitated from the other Bengal. By our Bengal, he meant Bangladesh and Assam. The Hindu-Muslim conflict also features in the paper. Professor Humayun then spoke about the Bengali language and how it is losing its many dialects because BTV and Radio Bangladesh present their programmes in a particular manner. He said all should prevail starting from the 36 dialects to Joy Bangla and Bangladesh Zindabad.'

Renowned journalist Syed Abdul Maksud said, 'Abul Mansur Ahmad was a journalist, a writer and a politician; and he was good at them all. While he was in Jagannath, Abul Kalam influenced him to be a journalist and later he worked for Mujibur Rahman's paper. In 1947 he worked for Dainik Ittehar in Calcutta and by the 1960s he was a renowned

journalist.'

He then displayed two old newspapers, *Dainik Ittehar* and *Noboyon* containing news reports by Abul Mansur Ahmad. In his books, Mansur Ahmad emphasised on content, not the words he used or the language. After the partition he had said in his book *Amar Dekha Rajnitir Ponchash Bochhor* to Relish. I think Abul Mansur Ahmad is a writer with whom you always cannot agree or ignore. He was a writer in such a time when we were not independent, when we did not have our identity, our culture. Now, we have a culture of our own, the culture in which he believed. We even have our words, like egg used to be 'anda' and now it's 'dm'. Eminent writer Syed Shamsul Huq used to write 'butum' instead of 'potam' (button); Sanjida Khatun uses words which are our own and we no longer use the words the West Bengalis use - we have developed a language of our own.'

Professor Anisuzzaman, who presided over the function, 'We are here to bestow our respect to Late Abul Mansur Ahmad. Ahmad was a writer and he wrote with emotion and utmost sincerity. He joined Muslim League in his time and one of his goals in life was to help the less fortunate and the disabled. He had always maintained that the two Bengali cultures were completely different. When he talked of East Bengal he meant Bangladesh and Assam. In my opinion he over-emphasised on the idea that Muslims have no contribution in literature.'

Professor Anisuzzaman concluded the seminar with the words, 'Abul Mansur Ahmad wanted an identity of our own and now we have it. We have tried to commemorate this man of great calibre but it is not enough. Nothing we can do can honour him as much as he deserves.'

would have been a place where a person can live in harmony. He said he felt that a road should be named after this man so that everyone gets to know him.

Professor Shaheen Akhtar then went up on stage and said, 'My first contact with Abul Mansur Ahmad was when I was in school. I had won a prize for something and I was awarded with his book, *Food Conference*. I didn't like it - the cover was attractive but the name did not appeal to me! While handing it to me our principal told me to read it saying it was a very good book. Later when I started to read it, I was spellbound. Then I read all his books starting from *Amar Dekha Rajnitir Ponchash Bochhor* to Relish. I think Abul Mansur Ahmad is a writer with whom you always cannot agree or ignore. He was a writer in such a time when we were not independent, when we did not have our identity, our culture. Now, we have a culture of our own, the culture in which he believed. We even have our words, like egg used to be 'anda' and now it's 'dm'. Eminent writer Syed Shamsul Huq used to write 'butum' instead of 'potam' (button); Sanjida Khatun uses words which are our own and we no longer use the words the West Bengalis use - we have developed a language of our own.'

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exhibition

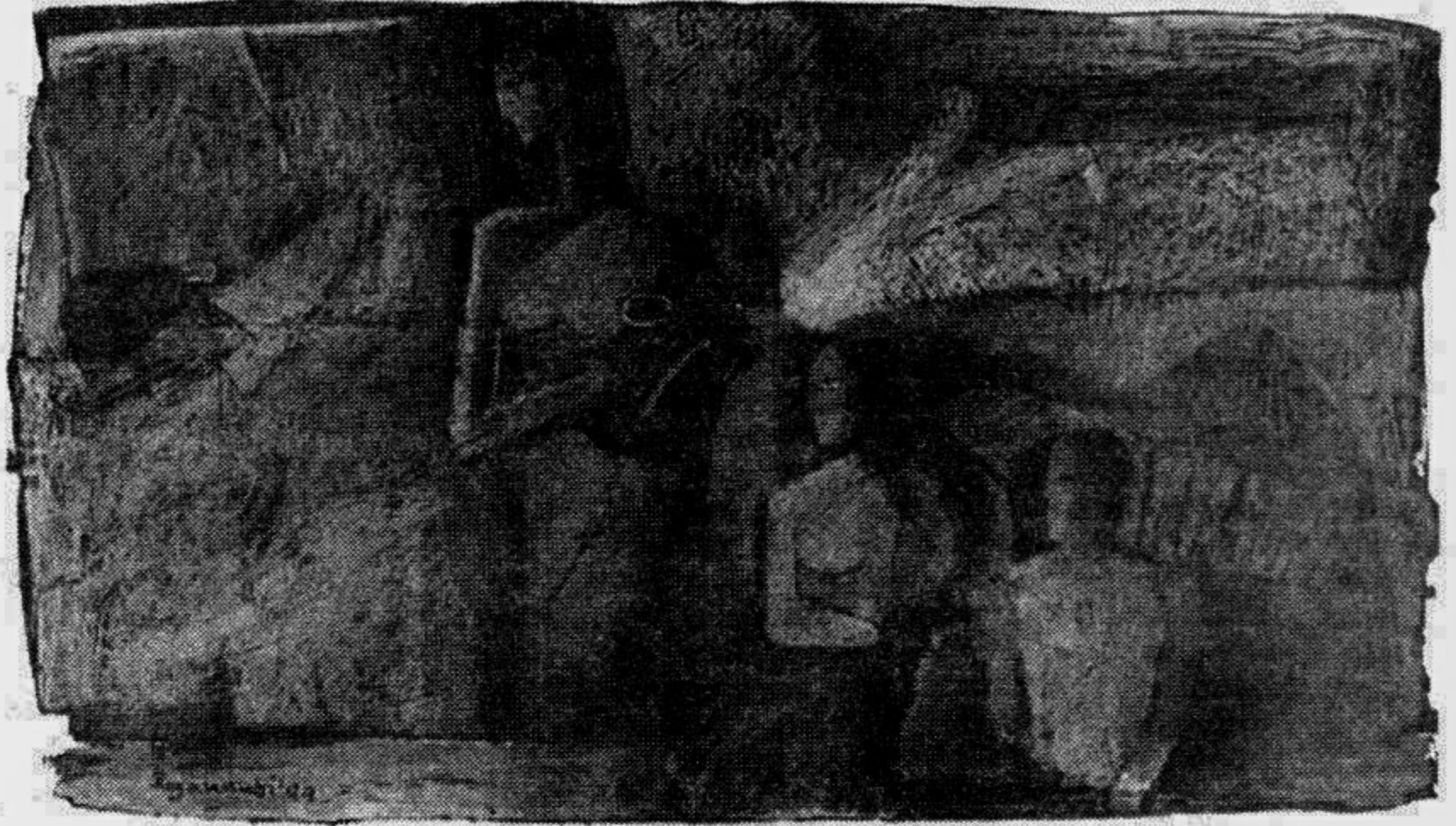
Perceptions of Nature

Fourth solo painting exhibition of Rezaun Nabi is now on at Alliance Francaise de Dhaka

By Nafid Imran Ahmed

THE painting shows a woman standing with another couple with an earthen pitcher in her arm - the piece done in mixed media is titled *Light*, and truly a work that draws the attention of the gallery-goers. In his work artist Rezaun Nabi depicts the daily, monotonous lives of people with beautiful representation of the magical effect of light on them. *Light* is just one of his paintings displayed at his fourth solo exhibition that started at the gallery of Alliance Francaise de Dhaka on Friday.

Rezaun Nabi's learned a lot from his father and his illustrious elder brother Rafiqnabi before his formal training in the field of art. After graduating from the Institute of Fine Arts, University of Dhaka he went to Netherlands for International courses on Graphic



LIGHT mixed



RHYTHM-3 Acrylic on canvas

Design. The influence of graphic design is clearly evident in his paintings. Use of special textures also proves his excellent skills as a printmaker.

The artist loves to work in mixed media but also adept oil painting. He has a few pieces in watercolour on display at his present exhibition. Though he is comfortable with all three media, he likes working on acrylic best, he says.

The works of the artist are in vivid colours. In various geometrical forms and strokes he expresses his affection towards nature. Green and blue, the true colours of nature, are seen used elaborately in his works. He also uses demure colours in some of his paintings. The pattern of colours and different types of texture such as flow of colours, dots, and spontaneous brush strokes give his pieces a very lively look.

Though he uses light colours, there are a few pieces in dark colours. One such example is *The Rain Must Fall part 1* and its continuation *The Rain Must Fall part 2*. Usage of geometrical forms specially the shape of the boat is one of his favorites and he has used it generously in many of his works.

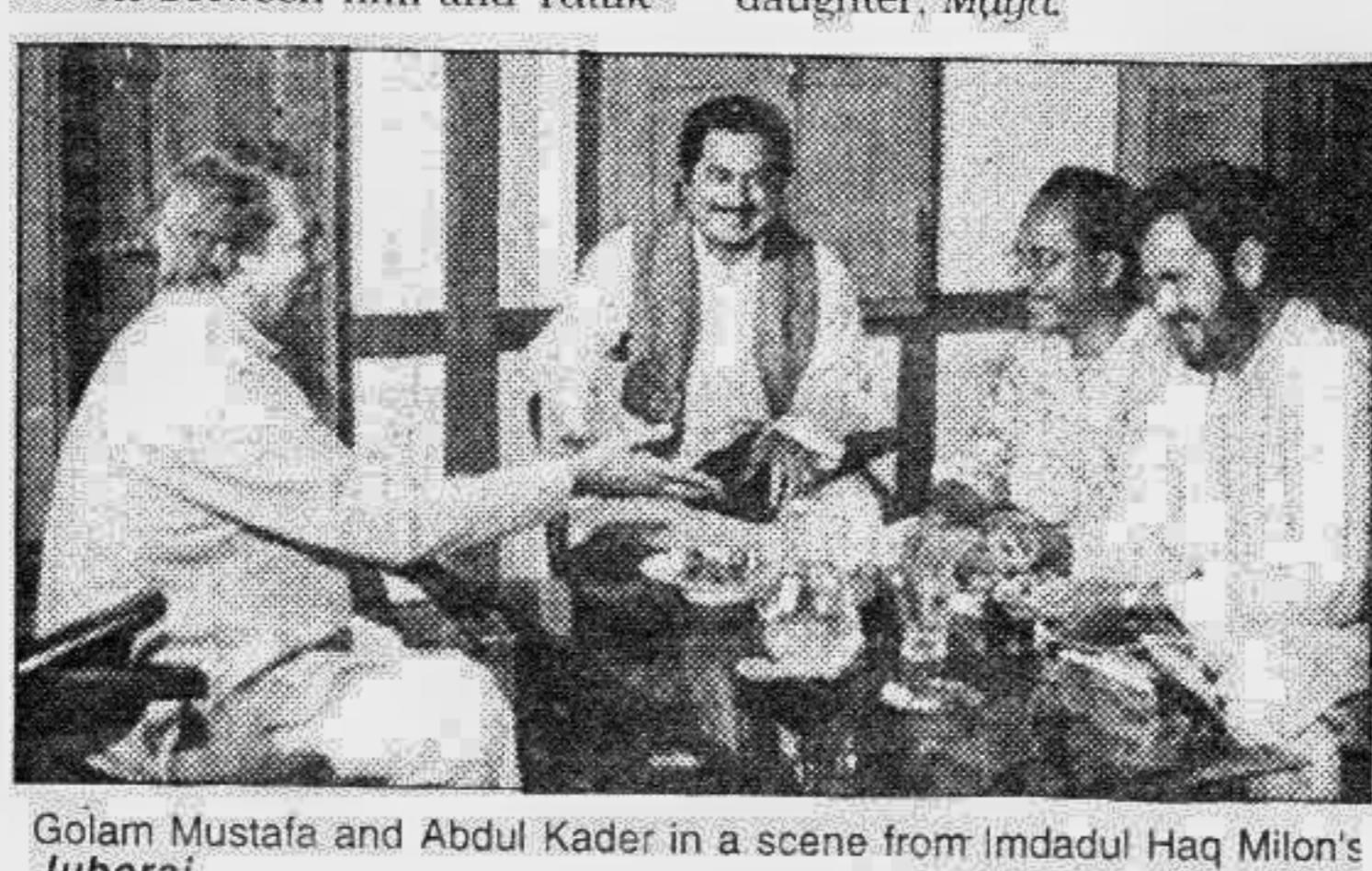
Rezaun Nabi's exhibition is open till September 25 from 10.00 am to 8.00 p.m. every day.

in preview

JUBORAJ

The 3rd episode of Imdadul Haq Milon's 'Juboraj' will be aired tonight at 9:00 on BTV. Synopsis: Juboraj and his mother is worried about Maya's marriage. There is no news from the Talukdar family. Talukdar pressures Rokeya to Maya, time to time, informs Rokeya about her mental state. On the other hand, the match maker Meser Ali brings Noor and Kader from the groom's family to fix the date of the wedding ceremony and a date is fixed. The ceremony will be held on Friday, the seventh of the coming month. Juboraj sends Champa with the letter to Maya. But Talukdar notices Champa trying to communicate with Maya, so he scolds her and sends her back. Champa gives back the letter to Juboraj. Unable to convince Talukdar, Rokeya revolts against him and takes her daughter's side. To face the difficult situation, Talukdar takes on a different

strategy. Hearing no news from Maya for the past five days, Juboraj anxiously comes to Maya's home. Talukdar acts talent fully with Raju as he see him, and informs him of the date fixed for Maya's wedding and forbids him to come here any more. Juboraj tells about the conversation between him and Taluk-



Golam Mustafa and Abdul Kader in a scene from Imdadul Haq Milon's Juboraj

TV Guide

Sunday 19th September

All programmes are in local time. The Daily Star will not be responsible for any change in the programme

BTW

3:00 Al-Quran, programme summary 3:10 Recitation from the Bible 3:15 Desher Gaan 3:20 Open University 4:00 Khabar 4:05 Animation: Bananas in Pajamas 4:30 Pushti Tatho 4:45 Metho Soor 5:25 Sports programme 6:05 Shopan 6:30 Khabar 6:40 Programme from Chittagong center 7:05 Mati O Manush 7:25 Ethash Kotha Koi 8:00 News at Eight (Bengali) 8:30 Poriprekhi 9:00 Se-rial drama: Juba Raj 9:30 Thriller: Feluda 10:00 News at ten (English) 10:30 Ujjibon 11:00 Sha-Soore Badha 11:30 Khabar/The News 11:45 Clo-

den 8:00 BBC World News 8:30 World Focus: Simp-son's World 9:00 BBC World News 9:30 Hard Talk 10:00 BBC World News 10:30 This Week

11:00 BBC World News 11:30 India Business Report 12:00 BBC World News 12:30 Wild World: Mastermind India (Quiz Presenter: Siddharth Basu) 1:00 BBC World News 1:30 Hard Talk 2:00 BBC World News 2:30 Total World Focus: This Week 3:00 BBC World News 3:30 BBC World News Headlines 4:00 BBC World News 4:30 Morning India 5:30 Lassie 9:00 Animal Adventure 9:30 Wonder Years 10:00 Small Wonder 10:30 Janata Ki Adalat 11:00 Shotgun Shoot 11:30 Aanu India Show 12:00 Mastercard Family Fortune 12:30 India Business Week 1:00 The Great Escape 1:30 IBF Star Sunday Lunch Mexican Parade 2:00 Mega Hit Parade 2:30 Star Sunday Matinee: Betaab 5:30 Jubilee Plus 6:00 Aur Pher Ek Din 6:30 BBC World Headlines 8:10 Dateline London 9:00 BBC World Headlines 9:05 Weekend World: The Road To War - In 2nd World War 10:00 BBC World News 10:30 India Business News 11:00 It's a Small World 1:1:30 Janata Ki Adalat 12:00 Mega Hit Parade 12:30 Star News Sunday 1:30 India Business Week 2:00

12:00 BBC World News Headlines 12:30 Simpson's World 1:00 BBC World News 1:05 World Weekend: 20:20 Profiles of Century 2:30 Living: The Big Trip #15/16 Spain vs Africa 4:30 Hard Talk 5:00 BBC World Newsdesk Inc. World Report/24 Hours

STAR PLUS

6:30 Nishaad 7:30 Good Morning India 8:30 Lassie 9:00 Animal Adventure 9:30 Wonder Years 10:00 Small Wonder 10:30 Janata Ki Adalat 11:00 Shotgun Shoot 11:30 Aanu India Show 12:00 Mastercard Family Fortune 12:30 India Business Week 1:00 The Great Escape 1:30 IBF Star Sunday Lunch Mexican Parade 2:00 Mega Hit Parade 2:30 Star Sunday Matinee: Betaab 5:30 Jubilee Plus 6:00 Aur Pher Ek Din 6:30 BBC World Headlines 8:10 Dateline London 9:00 BBC World Headlines 9:05 Weekend World: The Road To War - In 2nd World War 10:00 BBC World News 10:30 India Business News 11:00 It's a Small World 1:1:30 Janata Ki Adalat 12:00 Mega Hit Parade 12:30 Star News Sunday 1:30 India Business Week 2:00

Fortune of War 3:00 Movie Classic: Beat The Devil 4:30 Media TV 5:00 The Knock 6:00 Travel Asia

STAR WORLD

6:00 Batman 6:30 Animal House 7:00 Crystal Maze 8:00 Mr Belvedere 8:30 Only Fools & Horses 9:00 The Adventures of Sindbad 10:00 Small Wonder 10:30 Mind Your Language 11:00 Xena 12:00 Hercules 1:00 L.A. Heat 2:00 Walker Texas Ranger 3:00 Tropical Heat 4:00 WWF Superstars 5:00 The Simpsons 5:30 Travel Asia 6:00 Asia News Sunday 6:30 3rd Rock From the Sun 7:00 The Crow 8:00 The X-Files 9:00 Cops 9:30 TV Com 10:00 Asia News Sunday 10:30 3rd Rock From the Sun 11:00 The X-Files 12:00 The Crow 1:30 Asia News Sunday 1:30 3rd Rock From the Sun 2:00 The X-Files 3:00 Cops 3:30 Kenneth Copeland Ministries 4:00 Life In the Word... 4:30 World News 5:00 2 Point 4 Children 6:30 Hollywood Squares

STAR MOVIES

7:30 Drama: Sand Peb-

bies 11:00 Bhaskar Ghose Show 11:30 Sunday Night

Aspen Extreme 1:45 Drama: Blue Bayou 3:30 Thriller: Off And Running 5:15 Thriller: Final Conflict 7:30 Action: Under

STAR INDIA TV

7:00 Jagran 7:30 to 9:30 Every Half Hour — Zee News: Hindi 9:57 India News: Hindi 9:57 India News English 10:30 Zee News English 11:00 Zee Sports Show 12:00 Zee News English 12:30 to 6:30 Every Half Hour Zee News: Hindi

holocaust and developments, and their keen interest to the socialist modernisation.

A week-long photograph exhibition titled 'The Glorious Journey', exhibiting one hundred and five photographs on the daily life in China taken by some of the renowned Chinese photographers at various periods of time got underway at the central gallery of the 'Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy' on Wednesday last. Organised by Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy and Embassy of the People's Republic of China, the exhibition marking the 50th anniversary celebration of China, displayed snapshots captured during different time zones on various aspects and events highlighting their

stood up in the east of the world.

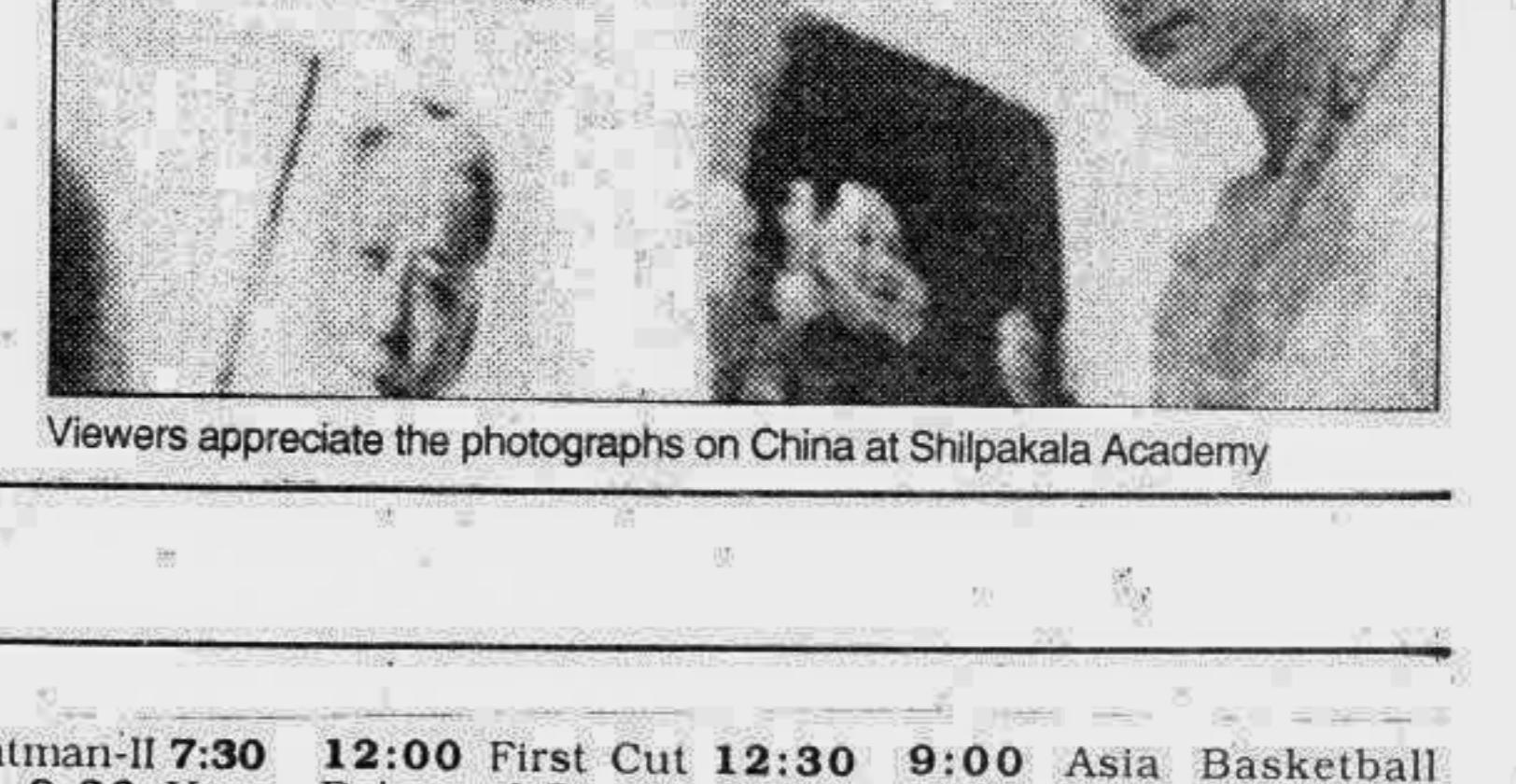
On October 1, 1949 the chairman of the People's Republic of China, Mao Zedong, proclaimed the founding of the country at a speech made to the nation at Teine An-Mien Square. Since then, for the past fifty years, 1949-1999, the Chinese people has built up their own great country by overcoming the difficulties and setbacks. The Chinese people, full of confidence, are rising in the new century.

The exhibition signifies the development of the country through various themes of the photographs differing from national and occasional ceremonies, events to personalities, athletes and landscapes, landmarks to the development on

the industrial, cultural and social fields.

The themes varied from one topic to another as they present the development in the industrial sectors and educational system, different cultural events and their colourful celebration, the ruling system of the government and the par-

liament, farming and crop production, technical development etc. Aerial photos of the urban and rural China show the impressive architecture of the nation as in the photographs of the central hall at Beijing taken by Lan Hanguang, during the second session of the ninth National People's Congress (March 5, 1999).



Viewers appreciate the photographs on China at Shilpakala Academy

Pick of the Day



Last Man Standing

on Star Movies at 10 PM. Starring Bruce Willis, Bruce Dern, Christopher Walken, and Karina Lombard. In this action-driven gangland thriller, Bruce Willis engages in a dangerous game of deception and double-cross as he takes on rival bootlegging mobs to pull off the ultimate con. The film was inspired by Akira Kurosawa's classic *Yojimbo*, which translated means 'body-guard'.

ZEE INDIA TV

7:00 Jagran 7:30 to 9:30 Every Half Hour — Zee

News: Hindi 9:57 India

Challenge Cricket —

India 'A' vs Australia "A"

5:30 Sil Stalking 6:30

Water Rats-I 7:30 High-

lander II

Documentary 5:30 Aao

Aais Karen 6:30 Tele

Shopping Network 7:00

Hollywood Hungama 7:30

High Five 8:00 Dunia Gol