

endeavour

Knowledge on Wheels

Bishwa Shahitya Kendra's mobile libraries hit the road

By Ziaul Karim

RE-eminent Bengali novelist and poet Sunil Gangopadhyay once wrote, 'I don't want to be a resident of heaven since heaven doesn't have libraries to satisfy my intellectual needs'. Perhaps Sunil won't be interested to settle in Dhaka either, as our beloved city is virtually library less.

Just think of it for a population surpassing 10 million, Dhaka has very few libraries that can be counted on fingers.

The story does not end here, the idea to beat the miserable Dhaka traffic and to cope with the soaring fare to visit the library is usually buried in the

mind of the reading public.

The Bishwa Shahitya Kendra's mobile library programme is a glimmer of hope in our barren intellectual life. The idea is to take libraries to people rather than attracting people to the libraries. With four buses converted to libraries each having a collection of over 13,000 titles, will round different localities each day seven days a week, thirty days a month. The choice of the titles is also quite exciting ranging from poetry to fiction, from essays to sociology and from history to philosophy.

Initially these libraries will routinely visit sixty different places of the city in a week.

The idea behind the introduction of the mobile libraries

which means these mobile units will perform the role of sixty libraries. The ingenuity of the programme is simple stunning.

Now you can be a member of the libraries at your own *Para* for a 100 Taka only and at no extra expenses. These libraries will also feature classical music and video collection to be borrowed for a two-week time. You don't have to travel to Kendra's office at Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue to become a member. Just fill up a three line form, pay the peanut amount of taka hundred and satisfy your reading hungry mind.

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The idea behind the introduction of the mobile libraries

is to rekindle our reading habit and revitalise our intellectual life and most importantly planting the seeds of a cultured society," said the guiding force of the Kendra and the architect of the programme Abdullah Abu Sayed. Speaking about his future plans he said that by June 2000, mobile libraries would travel other major cities like Chittagong, Khulna and Rajshahi.

He seemed very elated and eyes lit with hope when he said, "That day is not very far when every zila towns will be visited by the mobile libraries".

award

Sunil Wins Miniature Art Society of Florida Award

By cultural correspondent

SOLO Photography exhibition titled "Jhukir Mukhe Shishu" by Azizur Rahim Pleu is going on at Tropen Museum of Royal Tropical Institute of the Netherlands. Ambassador of Bangladesh at Heg, Giasuddin Ahmed, inaugurated the exhibition, which started on 21st October. President of Royal Tropical Institute Class Vink and the chief of Public Information Department of the foreign ministry of Netherlands, Ivone Van Hiss was also present at the programme. The Development Corporation of the government of Netherlands on the occasion of its 50th anniversary is sponsoring the exhibition. A total number of 52 colour photographs are being displayed in this three-month long exhibition which will conclude on January 16, 2000.

preview

Three New Documentaries to Ponder Over

By Muneera Parbeen

THREE documentary films produced by Step Towards Development, a non-government organisation, will be premiered at the Planning Development Academy auditorium in the city at 5 pm today.

Since its inception in 1995, the Audio-Visual unit of Steps Towards Development has been engaged in production of Documentary and Fiction films, TV spots, Training videos on important Development and Social issues on a regular basis. So far the section has produced more than 20 videos which have been screened throughout

Scripted and directed by Faridur Rahman. Duration: 25 min.

Santals are one of the major indigenous ethnic groups living in the northern part of Bangladesh. They have a rich culture and a long glorious history of struggle. They are the most disadvantaged among the ethnic groups. With the massive erosion of forests this indigenous community is at the verge of extinction. First of all losing their land to socially stronger Bengali community effected them. Now the deforestation is further threatening their very existence, as they are becoming landless day by day.



The documentary traces their struggle for survival.

Shei Dhaka, shei Buriganga
(The Dhaka that was, the Buriganga that was):

Directed by Aka Reza Ghalib and AKM Zakaria. Duration: 27 min.

The Dhaka city is inseparable from the river Buriganga that borders it. The city itself owes its origin to the Buriganga. The burden of population and expansion of the city is claiming its toll on the river. Confronted by illegal encroachment and pollution, the river is now at the risk of an untimely death. In addition to

highlighting the present predicament, the film takes a nostalgic look at the capital and its river. Historian Muntasir Mamun is the main protagonist of the film. Taking a personal journey down the river and the city, he reminisces of the Dhaka that was and the Buriganga that was. He takes us back to the time, which was pollution free, and encroachment was unheard of.

There is a suggestion in the film that by preserving the buildings and evicting illegal encroachments from the Buckland Bund the old glory of the riverfront can be restored.



the country by the mobile projection unit of the organisation. These videos are in constant use by the NGOs for raising awareness and advocacy. A number of the unit's productions have also been screened on National Television and abroad.

The documentaries of this package are a part of the production program of 1998-99.

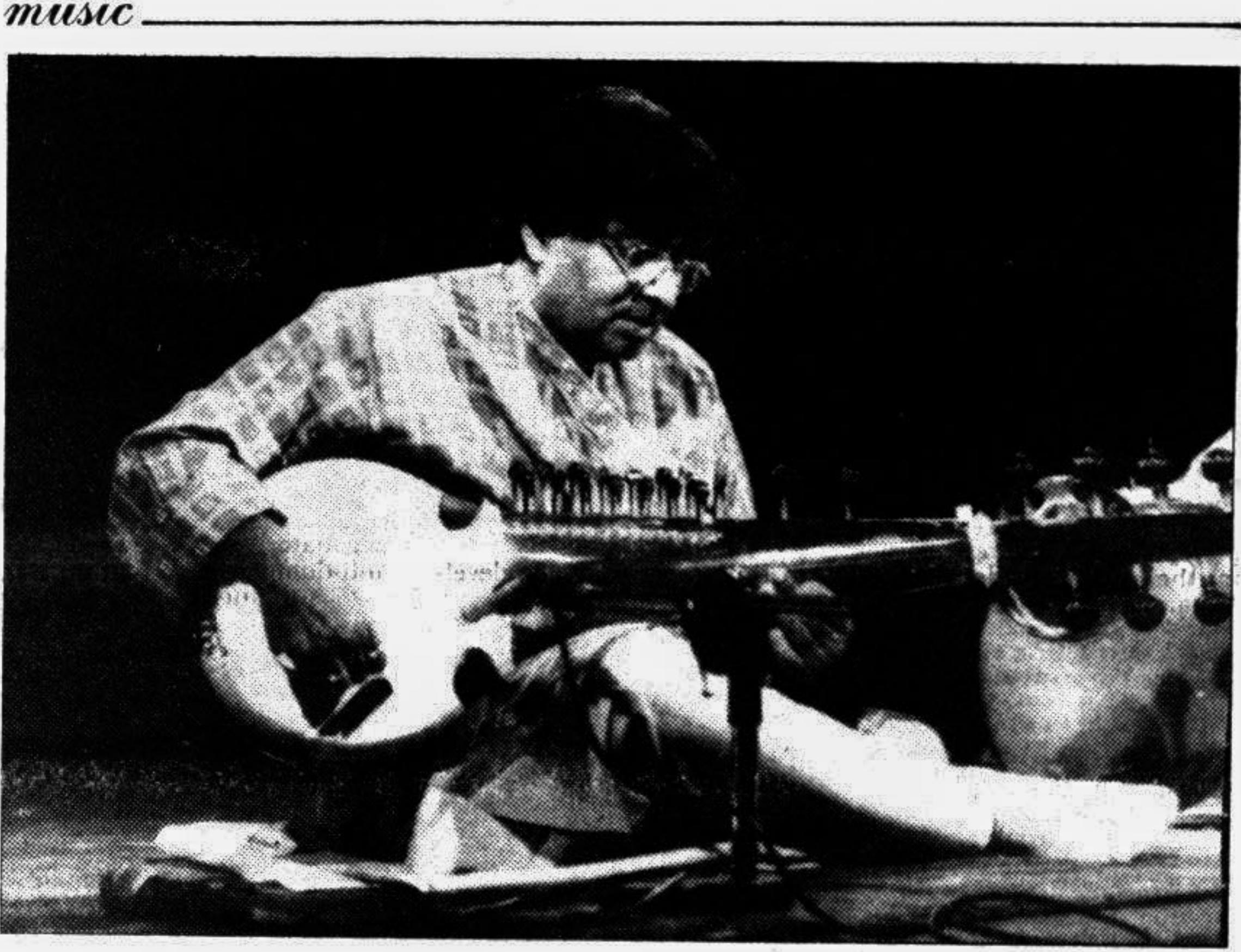
Synopsis of the three films:

Kalighar (The Black House): Scripted and directed by Tareque Shahrir. Duration: 30 min.

Rekha, Aysha, Jashim are all children, working in Dhaka city to earn a living. Rekha and Aysha work in a battery recycling factory while Jashim has a job in a casting factory. They call this factory - The Dark House - as it is a place full of the black dust of carbon. This carbon dust is a threat to their health.

This documentary tries to portray the hazardous working condition of these children and express concern for the uncertain future they face.

Uttarer Adibashi (Santals of the North):



Akole Lahiri playing the sarod at the British Council Auditorium yesterday. Organised jointly by the Academy of Performing Arts and the British Council, the programme also featured Shri Baruri, the Bharatnatyam exponent and vocalist Ittekhah Ahmed.

music



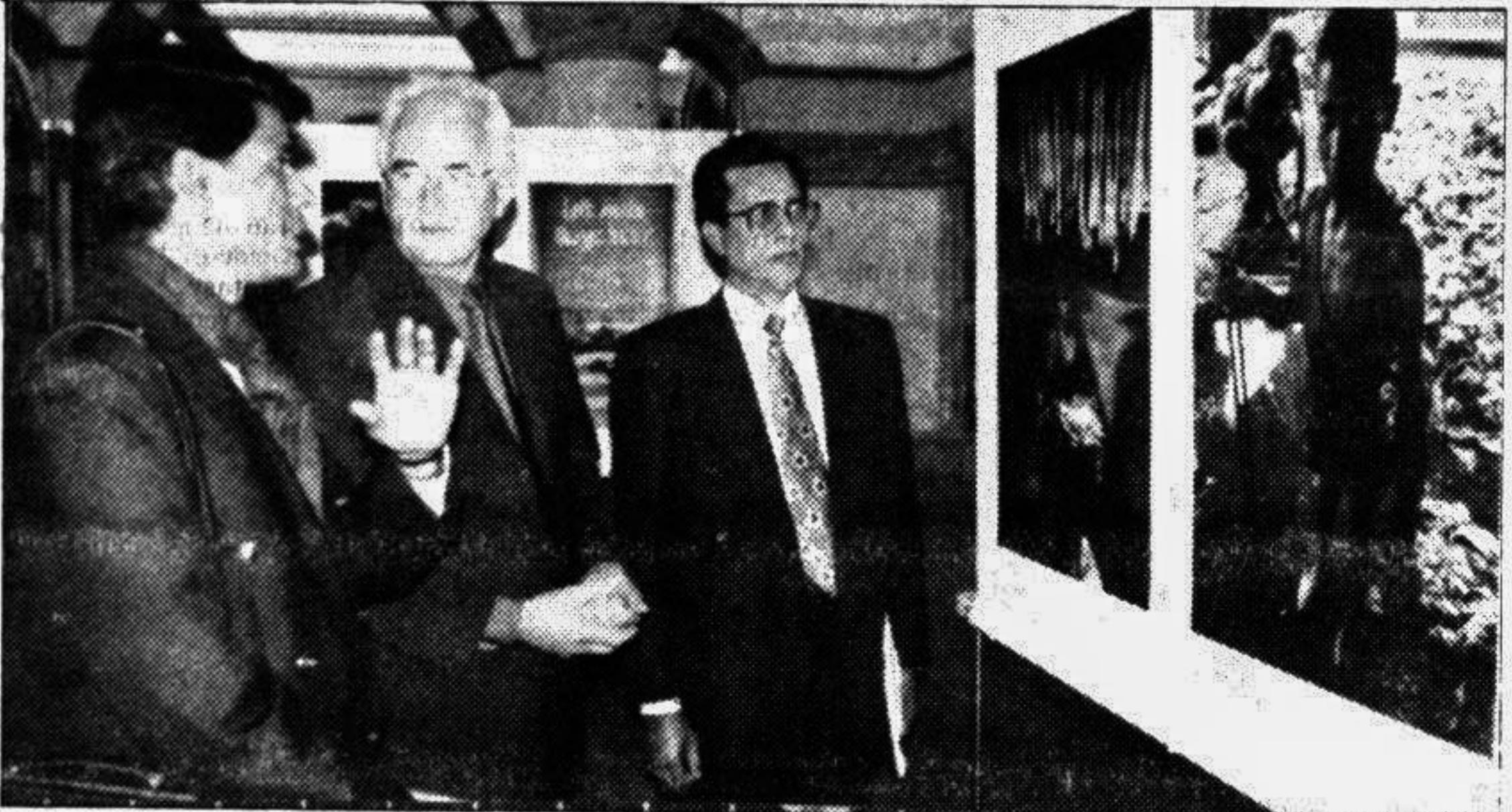
Bishwa Shahitya Kendra's mobile library ready to visit your para.

exhibition

Pieu's Show in Netherlands

By Abdus Saboor

YOUNG painter Sunil Ranjan Howlader has won the first prize for the painting 'Shaishabkalin' in the International Miniature Art Competition organized by the Miniature Art Society of Florida, USA. The painter has another two exhibits in the show. Sunil has already got the second prize from Montana, USA, in 1994 and the honourable mention award in the Art Exhibition organized on the occasion of Winter Olympic in 1998. Sunil also received the first prize in the poster competition organized by the UNICEF of Netherlands. Painter Sunil has already took part in more than 50 group exhibitions and three solo exhibitions. At present Sunil is working as a professional artist.



Azizur Rahman Pieu explaining his paintings

word 9:00 [V] Hit Machine 9:30 First Day First Show 10:00 [V] Hit Machine 10:30 Late Night [V] VJ Laila [N] 11:00 [V] Whazzatnois 11:30 Late Night [V] 12:30 [V] Hit Machine 1:30 Late Night [V] 2:00 [V] Patli Gully 2:30 Late Night [V] 3:30 [V] Hit Machine

Squares 4:30 World News 5:00 AsiaNews Update 5:05 World Business Report 5:30 Home Improvement 6:00 Series: Buffy The Vampire Slayer 6:30 AsiaNews Update 7:00 Ally McBeal 8:00 Series: The Practice 9:00 The Bold And The Beautiful 9:30 Series: Ally McBeal 12:00 Series: Buffy The Vampire 11:00 Series: Ally McBeal 3:00 Creflo Dollar 3:30 Kenneth Copland Ministries 4:00 Life In The Word With Joyce Meyer 4:30 Sky World News 5:00 Sorry 6:00 Non-Stop Hits 11:30 The Grind (Beach Show) 12:30 Non-Stop Hits Continue

Rahul 2:00 MTV Recycled 2:30 MTV Select VJ Nihkil 3:30 Love Line VJ Malaita 4:00 Non-Stop Hits 4:30 Pepsi Dance Connection Special: TV MTV 5:30 MTV Most Wanted VJ Nadya/Rahul 6:30 MTV Chill Out VJ Shehnaz/Amrita/Nikhil 7:30 MTV In Control: Cricket 8:30 TBA 9:00 Non-Stop Hits 9:30 MTV Hit Film Music 10:00 Housefull VJ Nafisa 10:30 Non-Stop Hits 11:30 The Grind (Beach Show) 12:30 Non-Stop Hits Continue

MUSIC ASIA

7:30 Aalaap 8:00 B&W Gems 8:30 Tea Time Game 9:00 Pops All Time Romantic Hits 9:30 Total Recall 9:45 Brake Fall 10:30 Hit Mix 11:00 Colgate Zig Zag Best Of The Day 11:30 Bajaj Music Box 12:00 H&W Gems 12:30 Disc Mc Kin Kisco 1:00 'Bharokha' 1:30 Pop Busters 2:00 Pop Re Pop 2:15 Top Notch 2:39 Nxt 3:00 Teen Talk 3:30 Sizzlers 4:00 Tea Time Gaane 4:30 Bajaj Music Box 5:00 Artist of The Fortnight 5:30 Hit Mix 6:00 Brake Fall 6:15 Top Notch 7:00 Ponds All Time Romantic Hits 7:00 Dekho Kya Fark Hai 7:00 Hit Parade 8:30 Best of The Best 9:30 Bajaj Music Box 10:00 Sizzlers 10:30 Jharokha 11:00 Brake Fall 11:45 Shabab 12:15 Pop Re Pop 12:30 Sizzlers 1:00 Best of The Day 1:30 Jharokha 2:00 Bajaj Music Box 2:30 Top Knottch 2:45 Pop Re Pop 3:00 Geeton Ki Bahar

STAR PLUS

8:45 Drama: Swing Kids 10:45 Comedy: Straight Talk 12:30 Action: Crying Freeman 2:30 Drama: French Lieutenant's Woman 4:45 Drama: Portrait of A Lady 7:30 Action: Hangmen 9:30 ET

BTS 10:00 Double Bill: Wynona Ryder - The Crucible 12:30 Double Bill: Wynona Ryder 2:30 Action: Lucas 2:30 Action: Hangmen

ZEE INDIA TV

7:00 Jagran 7:30 To 10:30 Every Half Hour - Zee News Hindi 11:00 Campaign Trail/Insight 11:30 Zee News - Hindi 12:57 News Headlines 1:00 AAP Ki Adalat 1:30 To 6:30 Every Half Hour - Zee News Hindi

STAR MOVIES

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STAR WORLD

6:30 Hollywood Squares 7:00 Brittas Empire 7:30 Jack Hanna's Animal Adventure 8:00 Sorry! 8:30 Happy Days 9:00 MTV Series: JAG 10:00 John Woo's Once A Thief 11:00 The Oprah Winfrey Show 12:00 Series: NYPD Blue 1:00 The Bold And The Beautiful 1:30 Media TV 2:00 Second Noah 3:00 Jack Hanna's Animal Adventure 3:30 Happy Days 4:00 Hollywood

MTV INDIA

7:00 Non-Stop Hits 8:00 MTV Hanging Out VJ Rahul/Sonia 9:00 Classic MTV VJ Sarah/Rahul 10:00 Non-Stop Hits 10:30 MTV Most Wanted VJ Nadya 11:30 MTV Chill Out VJ Shehnaz/Amrita/Nikhil 12:30 MTV Hit Film Music 1:00 MTV Housefull VJ Nafisa 1:30 MTV Fresh VJ

DD 7

10:30 Janmaddin 10:35 Daily Sope: Shree Ram Krishna 11:00 Daily Sope: Dropadi 11:15 Classical/Folk Songs 1:130 Parliament Hour/Musical 12:30 Daily Sope: Kunja Villa 1:00 Aakash Chouhan 1:30 Daily Sope: Rupkatha 2:00 Daily Sope: Kanakanjali 2:30 Daily Sope: Maha Prohbu 3:30 Daily

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