

Culture

exhibition

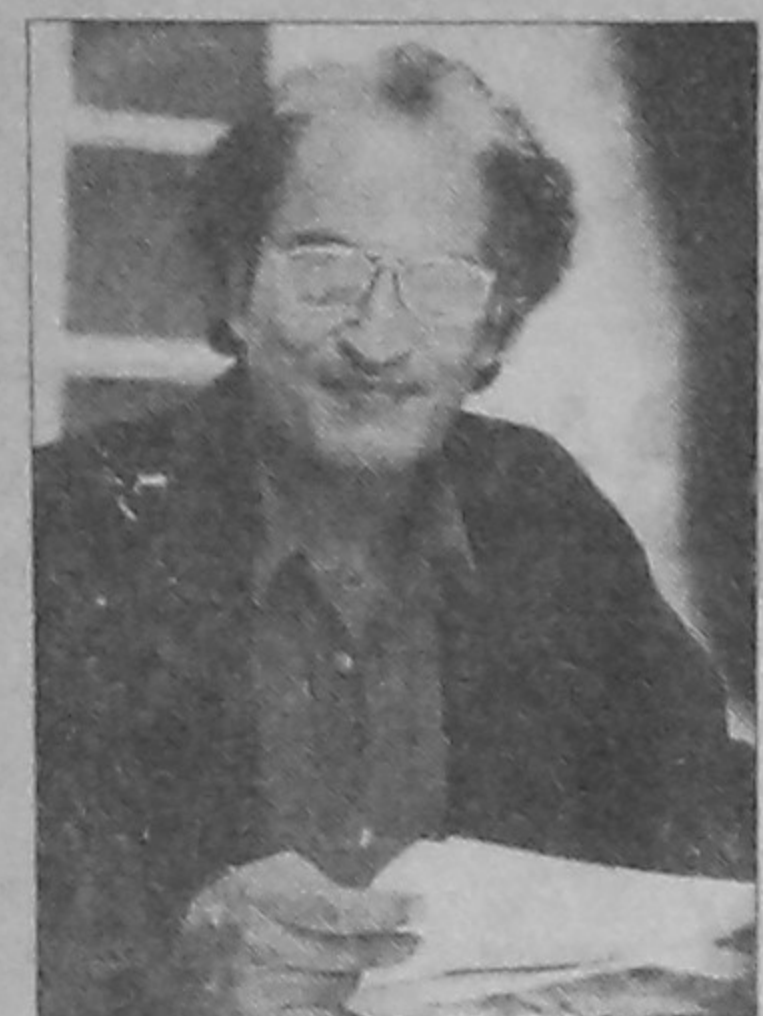
A Photographic Encounter with Raghu Rai

The show entitled 'My Land & its People' showcases some breathtaking images of Indian superheavyweight photographer

By Saima Islam and Ziaul Karim

In an epiphanic realisation Raghu Rai wrote about his photographic encounter with Mother Teresa as having her Darshan: for the gallery-goers the images put on display at Drik by the great Raghu is almost a darshan to the nuances of ordinary life.

Raghu Rai has been the most celebrated Indian photographer



Raghu Rai Photo by Monirul Alam

for over thirty years now.

The High Commission of India in Bangladesh and Pathshala - the South Asian Institution of Photography has jointly organised a two-week long photography exhibition from February 18 to March 2 at the Drik Gallery. Photographer Anamul Haque inaugurated the exhibition. His (Raghu Rai) exhibition at the Drik Gallery in Dhaka, is a long overdue and long awaited showing of the work by one of the greatest image makers of our time" this is how Shahidul Alam the managing director of Drik expressed his excitement in having Raghu's exhibition at Drik.

His pictures are breathtaking in black and white or in colour. The technical excellence, the angle, the focus, the thoughts behind the pictures all show Raghu's sensitive eye in capturing the nuances of everyday life.

The picture featuring Indira Gandhi in her sombre mood and standing all by herself is an existential commentary of one's loneliness. The picture is in black and white and from the shadowy structure, one recognises the person as Indira Gandhi, though her face is not visible but her slightly drooping head makes one feel that the moment was of a deep personal thought, in the background the long stretch of the magnificent Himalayas is seen. The great lady against the Himalayan setting brings to one's mind the allusions of classical India where great minds used to gain wisdom in such a setting.

For Raghu, the moment holds more importance than the object in focus. He captures the dockyard of Calcutta but one would notice a solitary man working on a ship deck first, the extended grey sky lay casually in the background but the force of the man's intense work does not make the picture a relaxed one.

The 'Vidyasagar Setu Bridge' is a brilliant example of Raghu's sense of composition. The cargo boat that is seen at the foreground forms a triangle with the bridge at the background.

In his 'Holi Celebration by Tribal' the very essence of the celebration is captured beautifully, their smiling faces, the gleaming eyes. The picture as it vibrates the enthusiasm and happiness of those colourful



Vidyasagar Setu Bridge 1996

people. The most striking feature of his images is that they are firmly grounded in a time and space and portray a life that is quintessentially Indian.

In 'With Jain Guru - Jaipur' Raghu's experimentation with the light and shade will definitely capture the attention of the onlookers for a while. The white walls of the room of the guru creates a sense of boundary, from the single window of the room, almost a spiritual light is coming and the end of the trail is touching the Guru's sitting figure very gently, two women in white sari is standing along side the white wall, this

black and white picture is a good example of Raghu's fascination for playing with light and shade.

The photographer not only experimented with the technique and light and shade but

vividly captured through Raghu's camera, the dead body being burnt, the people standing beside the 'ghat', the domestic animals lay casually, the water in the background, women hang their clothes on the strings,



Taxi drivers, Calcutta 1990

each of his picture shows a deep understanding of the moment. He always tells his story in a straight forward manner, all his pictures are thought-provoking and one can interact with his thoughts spontaneously on seeing the pictures.

His 'First Monsoon - Gujrat' is such a picture, the mother is seen to be trying to shelter her youngest one with her sari and her two girls are standing beside her and enjoying the drops of the first monsoon, the mother's love and joy, the children's ecstatic faces and the rain drops make the picture a memorable one not because it is unique but because the sensitive eyes that perceive the subtlest of human existence.

The pictures of the 'Ghats', like the 'Varanasi Ghat', are

some people are seen lying in the corners, the images capture this sort of detail, which make the whole atmosphere almost tangible, as if one can smell the air of the 'ghats' or feel its warmth or cool weather.

Another interesting aspect of Raghu's pictures is that, many have more than one story to tell: Raghu creates layers through his focus. In 'Humayun's Tomb' the focus is on the tomb but one would notice the chefs gossiping on the roof of the building from which the snap was being taken. The 'Imambara Lucknow' is focused from a distance through the ruins of some beautiful architectural monuments, in a distance there lies Imambara, which being well taken care off but that comes to one's view

only when he sees the ruins where some boys are idly sitting down, which we know from viewing their legs on the ruins.

Raghu loves capturing the movement, most of the time he keeps the movement of the vehicles visible, using the slow shutter speed, which creates the immediacy of the moment more visible.

'Among the Sparrows' is one of his masterpieces, one Mayna has come and sit amidst the sparrows those were eating grains, a gap has been created in the gathering of the sparrows, the philosophy, the timing, the spirit of the picture is at the same time thought provoking and breath taking.

This photographer lead a colourful life as his pictures, he started his photography career in Hindustan Times as a staff photographer in 1965 quickly making his mark as an extraordinary image maker, Raghu's work appeared in important local and international publications and won numerous awards.

In 1971, he was awarded the Padamsree, one of India's highest civilian awards. That year, he was one of the several Indian photographers who came to Bangladesh to document our war of liberation.

In 1977, he became a member of the highly celebrated photographer's co-operative, Magnum. In 1982, when he joined India Today as a picture editor, he began to permanently change the use of photography in India, particularly in the print media. In Shahidul Alam's words, "As a photographer, his eloquent images, combined with the social message in his photo essays, created a trend in photojournalism in the region, that has inspired a whole new generation of image makers".

His photographs and photo essays have appeared in almost all the important magazines and newspapers of the world like Time, New York Times, Stern, Paris Match, Geo, National Geographic. He has had solo exhibitions in India, Hamburg, Prague, New York, Paris and Tokyo. 25 of his pictures are in the permanent collection of Bibliotheque Nationale, Paris since 1971. His cover story for the National Geographic magazine published in the May 1992 was widely published and one of the pictures from the story was awarded the 1st place in the 'Pictures of the Year' in 1992 in the US by the University of Missouri School of Journalism.

His poignant images of Mother Teresa have graced the pages of Life, Paris March, Figaro and numerous other well-known magazines. As recogni-



Imambara Lucknow 1992

tion of his international status, he was one of two Asians invited to be on the International jury of the World Press Photo Foundation, three times in the last ten years.

"A series of over ten exquisitely published books ranging from the monumental publication, Taj Mahal to the more intimate and introspective Calcutta show the range and diversity of this extraordi-

nary image maker..." said Shahidul Alam.

Raghu travels places from Jaipur, Gujrat, Rajstan to Calcutta, and from Delhi, Pune, Ladak, Varanasi, Ahmedabad, Chandigarh to Maddhya Pradesh and many more places to capture the essence and the spirit of Indian life and in doing so he gave it a universal beauty that can be felt by everyone all over the world.



In Sparrows 1966



Jharia Coal Fields 1992

TV Guide

Thursday 24th February
All programmes are in local time. The Daily Star will not be responsible for any change in the programme

BBC WORLD

6:00 BBC World News
6:30 HARDtalk 7:00 BBC News / Asia Today inc. World Business Report
9:00 BBC News 9:30 Asia Today 10:00 BBC World News 10:30 HARDtalk 11:30 How Buildings Learn #4/6 - Unreal Estate 12:00 World News 12:30 The World Living: The Real India Travel Show 1:00 World News 1:30 HARDtalk 2:00 BBC World News 2:30 The Money Programme 3:00 BBC World News 3:30 Hard Talk 4:00 BBC World News 4:30 World Living: Holiday 5:00 BBC The World Today 6:30 The Money Programme 7:00 BBC World News 7:15 World Business Report 7:30 BBC The World Today 8:30 World Living: How Buildings Learn #4/6 - Unreal Estate 9:00 World News 9:30 HARDtalk 10:00 BBC World News 10:30 Out of India 11:00 BBC World News 11:30 Talking Movies 12:00 The World Today 12:30 World Business Report 1:00 World News 1:30 HARDtalk 2:30 Earth Report - 3:00 BBC World News 3:30 World Business Report 4:30 Europe Direct 5:00 BBC News inc. World Business Report/USA Direct/Asia Today

CHANNEL [V]

7:30 [V] Hit Machine 12:00 Virtual [V] (Back To Back Vids) 12:15 [V] Hit Machine 3:00 [V] Jungli Jukebox 3:30 [V] First Day First Show 4:00 [V]

Line Lagao 4:30 [V] Hit Machine 5:00 [V] The Ticket 5:30 [V] Hit Machine 6:00 [V] Gone India 6:30 [V] Hit Machine 7:00 Tea With [V] (Back To Back Vids) 7:30 Virtual [V] (Back To Back Vids) 7:45 Tea With [V] (Back To Back Vids) 8:30 [V] On Campus 9:00 Tea With [V] (Back To Back Vids) 9:30 [V] Line Lagao 10:00 [V] Hit Machine 11:00 [V] Dares You 11:30 [V] Jungli Jukebox 12:00 [V] First Day First Show 12:30 [V] Hit Machine 1:00 [V] Late Night 3:00 [V] Hit Machine

STAR PLUS

6:30 Ninaad 7:30 Good Morning India (News, Business & Entertainment news) 9:15 The Trial Show - Film Trailer 9:30 TVC Shopping 10:00 Good Morning India - Rpt. (News, Business & Entertainment news) 12:00 3-2-1 (Game Show) #32 Ep-12:30 TVC Shopping 1:00 Film Based Prog- Hit Ya Fit #202 1:30 Daily Soap-Sansar #Ep-109 2:00 Kahani Me Twist 2:30 Daily Soap: Swabhiman #430 (N) 3:00 Aur Phir Ek Din Kahani Me Twist #33 3:30 Jubilee Plus (Weekly Film Trade Review) 4:00 Say Cheese #34 4:30 Spiderman 5:00 The Wonder Years 5:30 Animal Adventure 6:00 Small Wonder 6:30 Daily Soap-Maal Hai To Tall Hai #99 7:00 Film Based Prog- Hit Ya Fit 7:25 The Trailer Show 7:30 STAR News (Hindi) 8:00 Zindagi, Com #34 8:30 Is Dunya Ki Sitare- Govinda Pt-2 9:00 Ajeeb Dastan #57 9:30 STAR News (Eng) 10:00 Kinetic Mega Show #34 Gust- (Anchore- Ruby Bhatia) 10:30 Shok TV! 11:00 Aaj Ki Baat 11:30 Kabhie Kabhie 12:00 Star News- Late Night Edition

7:30 Daily Sope: Swabhiman 1:00 Daily Soap-Sansar 1:30 Aaj Ki Baat 2:00 Daily Soap- Maal Hai To Tall Hai 2:30 Is Dunya Ki Sitare- Govinda Pt-2 3:00 Ajeeb Dastan 3:30 Kinetic Mega Show #34 Gust- (Anchore- Ruby Bhatia) 4:00 Shok TV! 4:30 Kabhie Kabhie 5:00 Ninaad 6:00 Zindagi, Com

STAR MOVIES

7:30 Family: Camp Nowhere (Christopher Lloyd, Jonathan Jackson, Wendy Makkena, M. Emmet Walsh) PG 9:30 Romance: Romeo + Juliet (Leonardo Di Caprio, Claire Danes, Brian Dennehy, Paul Sorvino) (15) 11:30 Horror: Death At Love House (Robert Wagner, Kate Jackson, Dorothy Lamour, Joao Blondell, John Carradine) (12) 1:30 Romance: In Love And War (Sandra Bullock, Chris O'Donnell) (15) 3:30 Comedy: World's Greatest Lover (Gene Wilder, Carol Kane, Don DeLuise) PG 5:30 Drama: Outrage (PG) 7:30 Action: The Protector (Jacki Chan) (15) 9:30 The Ticket 10:00 Thursday Mega Movie: Fled (Laurence Fishburne, Stephen Baldwin, Salma Hayek, Will Patton) (15) 12:00 Romance: Angie (Geena Davis, James Gandolfini, Aida Tarturo, Stephen Rea, Philip Bosco) 2:15 Drama: Eye For An Eye (Chuck Norris, Christopher Lee, Maat Clark)

Game- 9:00 Family Hour- 9:30 Bird People of Japan 10:00 Wild- 11:00 Tommorrow's World- 11:30 The Third Planet 12:00 Ocean Worlds- 1:00 People & Places- 2:00 Meet The Pandas- 3:00 Wild- 4:00 Reef At Ras Mohammed- 5:00 Family Hour- 6:00 Wild 7:00 Submarines And Spies- 7:30 The Third Planet 8:00 Ocean Worlds- 9:00 People & Places- 10:30 Wild 11:00 Science Adventures- 12:00 Ocean Worlds- 1:00 People & Places-

Sony Max

6:30 Film Show- Kasam Khoon Ki 9:30 Chartbusters 10:00 Music Mantra 10:30 Film Show- Mela (Dilip Kumar) 1:30 Chartbusters 2:00 Music Mantra 2:30 Film Show- Vijeta 5:30 Film Show- Chopp 8:30 Chartbusters 9:00 Music Mantra 9:30 Film Show- Awam (Rajesh Khanna, Smita Paril) 12:30 Film Show- Saal Sawaal

DISCOVERY CHANNEL

12:30 Hunters 1:30 Discover Magazine 2:30 Uncharted Africa 3:00 Lands of Legends 3:30 Discovery Profile Series 4:30 Splat! 5:00 Beyond 2000 5:30 Discover Magazine 6:30 Ushuaia 7:30 Travelers 8:30 Lonely Planet 9:30 Eyewitness 10:00 Eyewitness 10:30 Wild Game 11:00 Blue Water Dreaming 11:30 Aspects of Life 12:00 Animal Survivors 12:30 Wild Discovery 1:30 Medical Detectives 2:00 Medical Detectives 2:30 Discover

Magazine 3:30 Travelers 4:30 Ushuaia 5:30 Lonely Planet 6:30 Pop Set 7:00 Splat 7:30 Wild Discovery 8:30 Untamed Amazonia 9:30 Beyond 2000 10:00 Discovery News 10:30 Portrait 11:30 Discovery Profile Series



42nd Annual Grammy Awards on Star World at 7:00pm

ALPHA TV

6:30 Aalap 7:00 Kee Darun Dreshow 7:30 Monihaar 8:00 Manabi 8:30 Serial: Akanksha 9:00 Bangla Movie 11:30 Serial: Grohon 12:00 Serial: Chandi 12:30 Serial: Shyaola (*Kushal Banerjee, Pallob, Sab-

bosachi, Biplob Chatargee) 1:00 Bahari Ahaar 1:30 Plabon 2:00 Griho Sajja 2:30 Bangla Movie - Shakh A Froshakha 5:00 Bharti Bhromon 5:30 Asian Sky Shop 6:00 Serial: Bhalo Basha 6:30 Serial: Ku-

6:30 Star News Hour 7:30 Breakfast News (Eng.) 8:09 Breakfast News (Hindi) 9:30 Star News (Eng.) 10:00 Star News (Hindi) 11:00 Battle-ground (R.) (To 8 PM Evrey Hour Hindi News) 8:00 Sawal Aap Ke 8:30 Nationwide 9:30 Star Samachar 10:00 Star Business News 10:20 Sports Update 10:30 Star News Hour 11:30 Star News (Eng.) 12:00 Star News (Hindi) 12:10 Star Business News (R) 1:00 Star News (Hindi) 6:30 Breakfast News (Eng.)

ZEE CINEMA

6:30 Film Show- Zalzala (*Dharmendra, Kimi) 9:30 Kuch Lambe Kuch Nagme 10:00 Tarana 10:15 Movie Fare 10:30 Tribute To Madhubala Film Show- Gateway of India (*Madhubala, Bharat Bhushan) 1:30 Moods Melody 1:45 Madhyantar 2:00 Film Show- Jaanwar Aur Insaan (*Shashi Kapoor, Rakhee) 5:30 Abhinetri 6:00 Chehren 6:45 Film Time 6:30 Film Show- Bees Saal Baad (*Biswajeet, Waheeda Rehman) 10:15 Movie, Masti, Magic 10:20 Aina 10:30 Anil Kapoor Festival Film Show- Loafar (*Anil Kapoor, Juhi Chawala) 2:20 Moods Melody 2:30 Film Show- Mela (*Sunil Dutt, Sadhana)

TNT MOVIES

9:30 Comedy: The Hon-eymoon Machine (*Steve McQueen, Bigid Bazlen) 11:05 Comedy: Lady L (*Paul Newman, Sophia Loren) 1:20 Drama: Crisis (*Cary Grant, Paula Raymond) 3:35 Musical: The Barkleys of Broadway (*Fred Astaire, Ginger Rogers)

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STAR WORLD

6:30 Hollywood Squares 7:00 Martin Short Show 8:00 Home Improvement 8:30 Happy Days Ep- Marlon's Misgivings 9:00 Series: Sabrina- The Teenage Witch #8 Ep- Third Aunt From The Sun 9:30 Two Guys A Girl And A Pizza Ep- Two Guy's A Girl And A Party 10:00 Ally Mcbeal Ep- 11:00 The Oprah Winfrey Show 12:00 Series: The Practice # Ep- 1:00 The Things People Do 1:30 The Bold And The Beautiful #2130 2:00 Martin Short Show 3:00 The New WKRP In Cincinnati 3:30 Happy Days Ep- Richie Almost Dies 4:00 Hollywood Squares 4:30 Home Improvement 5:00 Star News Asia 5:05 Fox World Business Report 5:30 Daily Sope- Friends Ep- The One With Ross's New Girlfriend (*Jennifer Aniston, Courteney Cox, Lisa Kudrow, Matt LeBlane, Matthew Perry, David Schwimmer) 6:00 Special Event- 42nd Annual Grammy Awards 8:30 Whose Line Is It Anyway 9:00 Daily Sope- Friends Ep- The One With The Breast Milk (*Jennifer Aniston, Courteney Cox, Lisa Kudrow, Matt LeBlane, Matthew Perry, David Schwimmer) 9:30 Special Event- 42nd Annual Grammy Awards 12:00

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WHOSE LINE IS IT ANYWAY

12:30 Daily Sope- Friends Ep- The One With The Breast Milk (*Jennifer Aniston, Courteney Cox, Lisa Kudrow, Matt LeBlane, Matthew Perry, David Schwimmer) 1:00 World's Widest Police Video 2:00 Series: Walker Texas Ranger #202 Ep- 3:00 Series: Creflo Dollar 3:30 Kenneth Copland Ministries 4:00 Life in the word with Joyce Meyer 4:30 Sky World News 5:00 Ooh La La 5:30 The New WKRP In Cincinnati 6:00 Aerobics Oz Style 6:30 Hollywood Squares

ZEE INDIA TV

7:00 Jagran 7:30 to 10:30 Every Half Hour-Zee Hindi 11:00 Mys-tary Unfolds 12:00 Zee News in Hindi 12:57 News Headlines 1:00 Ru-Ba-Ru 1:30 to 6:30 Every Half Hour-Zee News Hindi

MTV INDIA

8:00 MTV Classic 9:00 Non-Stop Hits 10:30 MTV Most Wanted VJ Shehnaaz 11:30 MTV Non-Stop Hits 12:00 MTV Hit Film Music 12:30 Mtv Housefull V Nafisa 2:30 Non-Stop Hits 3:30 Love Line VJ Malaika 4:00 MTV Bakra 4:15 Non-Stop Hits 4:30 MTV Select VJ Nikhil 5:30 Mtv Most Wanted VJ Shehnaaz 6:30 Mtv Chill Out VJ Cyrus/Asif/Nikhil 7:30 MTV Ek Do Teen VJ Raageshwari 8:30 Non-Stop Hits 9:30 Mtv Hit Film Music 10:00 MTV Nafisa 11:00 Mtv Lovelife 11:30 The Grind (Beach Show) 12:00 MTV Chill Out VJ Cyrus/Asif/Nikhil 1:00 MTV Birthum 1:30 MTV Celebrity Death Match 2:00 Non-Stop Hits

MUSIC ASIA

7:30 Aalaap 8:00 Ta Ra Rum 9:00 Brake Fall 10:00 Music Mag 10:30 Hit Mix 11:00 Colgate Zag Zag Best Of The Day 11:30 Ponds All Time Romantic Hits 12:00 Bajaj Music Box 12:30 Saare Ga Ma Classic 1:00 Himani Gold T. Jharokha 2:00 Nexgen 2:30 Ta Ra Rum 3:30 Brake Fall 4:30 Bajaj Music Box 5:00 Just Jammin 5:30 Hit Mix 6:00 Saare Ga Ma Classic 7:30 Ponds All Time Romantic Hits 7:30 Teen

SONY TV

7:30 Aatma 8:00 Rushiprasad 8:30 Chartbusters (Trailer Show) 9:00 Ek Mahal Ho Sapna Ka 9:30 Music Mantra (Trailer Show) 10:00 Family No.1 10:30 Hum Sub Ek Hain# 81 Ep- Daler Da Baja 11:00 Just Mohabbat 11:30 C.I.D. # 102 Ep- The Lady Vanishes Pt 2 12:00 Movers & Shekars 12:30 Chartbusters (Trailer Show) 1:00 India Magic 1:30 Music Mantra (Trailer Show) 2:00 Boogi Woogi 2:30 Ek Mahal Ho Sapna Ka 3:00 Aurat 3:30 Cine-Matine Film: Around The World 7:00 Junoon