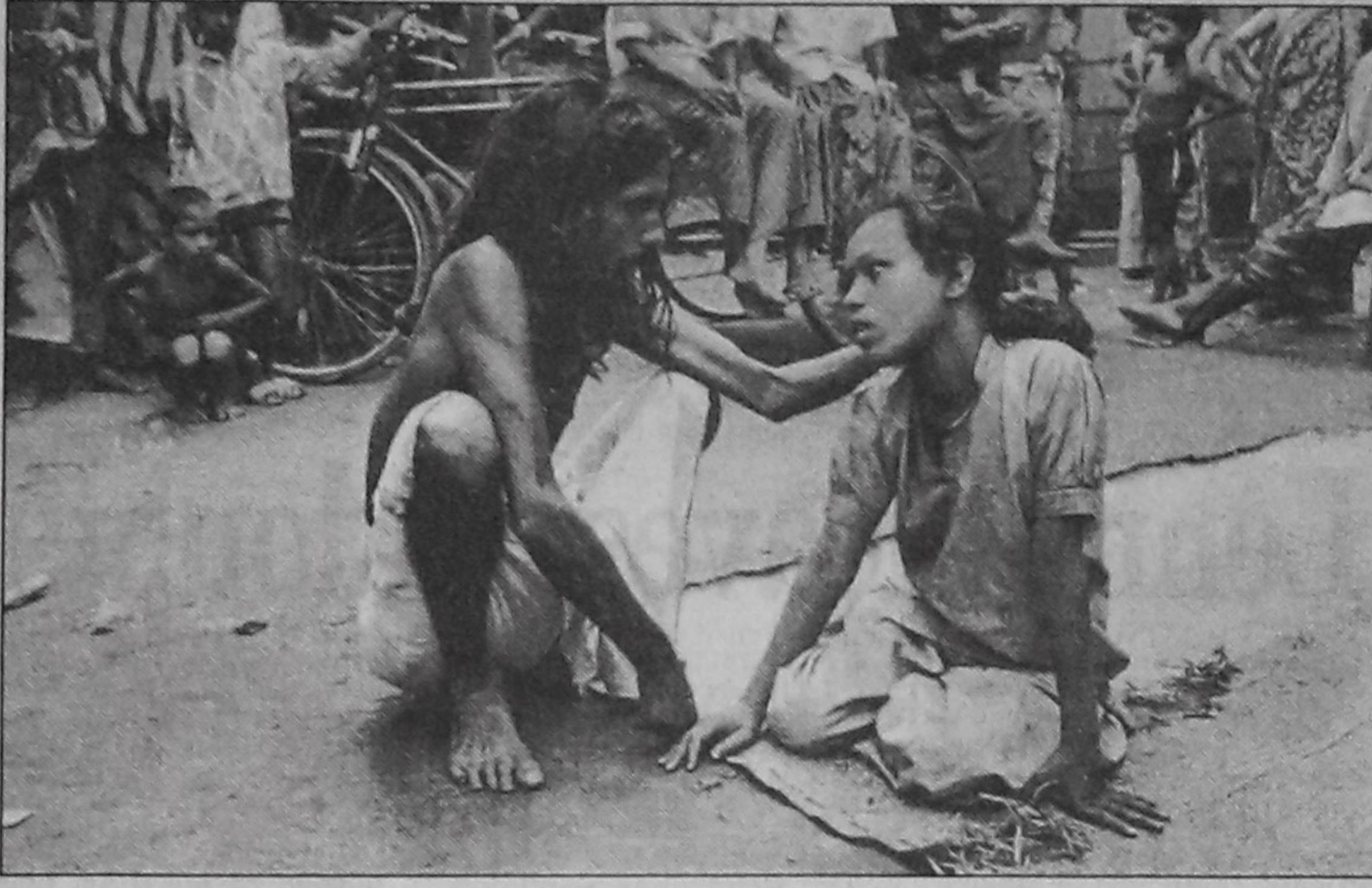


Photography

Women Viewed from Alluring Angles

An album on photo documentary launched at Bengal Shilpalaya



Suffering at the hand

By Fayza Haq

ITEMS from Mahmud's photo documentary *Our World* has been witnessed before at the National Museum but it was a treasure nornparel to see so many put together for the delight of photography lovers. The documentary deals with the uncertainty of women's lives in Bangladesh, their inability to obtain their due rights and the double standards that prevail with men dominating the scene, a phenomena that will take decades to change. This collection of photos has travelled to China and Nepal, with its selection of 53 photographs.

In *Faces* is included the photo of a smiling, bright-eyed woman, all dressed up to go out after finishing her daily household chores. The details of the jewellery, sari, blouse and hairdo stand out clearly against the gray and black backdrop. The smile and the twinkling eyes have been captured with suavity. The Bandarban woman preparing the land for sowing by firing the bushes stands strong and erect, with her blouse a little awry and heaps of heavy metal jewellery to deck her beauty even though it is

apparently her middle years. The background of trees, bushes and hills have been brought in to show the pristine environment which is ruined by acts such as this but of which the woman is unaware as she goes about her traditional work. The black-and-white photo has all the depth of a multicoloured one and perhaps more as black lends classicism, which pervades the entire album.

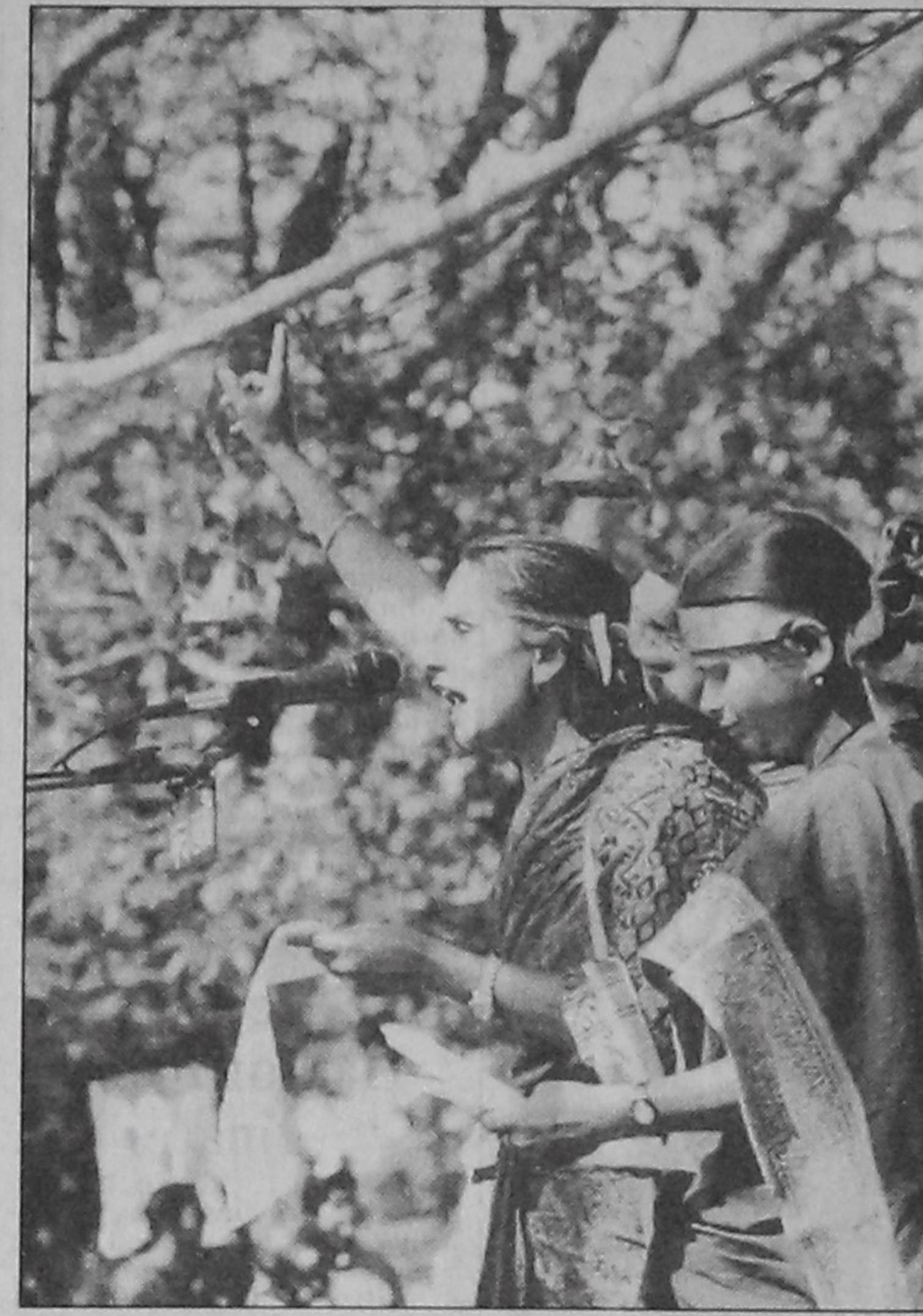
There is the dark, broadly-smiling face of the woman who has achieved much through her hard work with the help of the village cooperatives. Her seashell white bangles and her checked sari present an image of contentment and brave struggle. The sharp image in the photograph is, indeed, admirable.

The old lady pondering over her betel nuts and leaves, clad in simple white with one of her knees exposed as well as her chest and gnarled hands contrasts well with the little granddaughter sitting by the side, listening patiently to the aged lady's tales of yesteryears.

Do women smoke in public? They certainly do in Bandarban, as caught in the photo depicting a woman slowly and gradually inhaling a pipe to remove her weariness and fret. The relief might be a temporary one but it is there. The clouds of puffs and the hazy figure at the back lend inter-

est to the photo. So do the lines on the face, neck and forehead. The section *Faces* wishes to remove the old Bangladeshi concept that woman is "a reproductive machine". Due to her domestic responsibilities, a woman's education, skill and outside employment are limited and she remains dependent on men. Frequent pregnancies and high divorce rates as well as physical abuse are among the many ills that prevail in our society. This includes Garo women dressing themselves with traditional jewellery, headgear with tinsel trimmings and striped saris. The movement and facial features captured are certainly subtle and flaunt a tradition where both young and old can flaunt family finery.

The women and children walking over scorched land with heat waves lashing the hooded faces and the homestead far away



Demanding equal rights

speak once again of women's ties with their young ones and their difficult existence. The black and white figures seen against the vast dry land with footprints marking the passage of humans is a moving scene indeed in *A Swollen River* which is an ironic depiction of what things were at one time and are today.

The *burkha* clad woman waiting in a doctor's waiting room, a swathed figure which appears faceless and formless speak of the limitations of women in our society despite the work of the many feminists. The woman sitting huddled, at the edge of a bench with corrugated gates opening on to her is a pathetic figure indeed.

The pages termed *Pulse* brings in how the village gossip, ridicule and social constraints limit a woman's mental and physical existence. Yet, having completed

all the household work, they gather food, fodder, firewood, house-building material and even collect water. Women even work as hired agricultural labourers. All this is amply illustrated in a Naogaon woman performing the back-breaking task of planting rice, after which she will return home to complete her household tasks.

The Dinajpur woman beating paddy in rhythm also show the long hours that women have to put into their existence everyday, combining laughter and camaraderie to lighten overwhelming physical labour. Similarly, the photo *Lighter their bodies* maybe depict how single and divorced women, along with female migrant workers work at rice mills. All these images depict labour and yet there is poetry in the black, white and gray images.

Fragile is a section depict how women are often left with their



Protected from all eyes

children to survive with minimal or no support as the men go to urban areas to earn, especially after the recurrent floods. Women are left to work as sex workers, labourers and to live in slums. *Suffering at the hands* show how a young woman is tortured as the ignorant villagers believe that she is possessed. The voodoo man and the troubled young thing is the truth in our society which only a lens can prove beyond doubt. Pain and agony is again delineated in *Unable to bear the demands* where a woman's stomach is being washed by the doctor in the hospital when the young woman has resorted to poison being unable to satisfy the demands of dowry.

Although apparently an unpleasant scene, yet Mahmud has depicted it with compassion and an eye for detail such as the woman's pretty shawl-kameez. *Selling her body to survive* shows a teenaged, tired, sex-worker resting on a cement park bench to arise to face another day of turmoil.

This album has been used before to add interest to the Bangla publication of the Beijing platform for Action in '95, and the covers of the five volumes of the Institutional Review of GOB's WID Capability. These pictures have been viewed by 52,000 enthusiastic visitors in seven Bangladesh cities of Dhaka, Mymensingh, Chittagong, Sylhet, Jessore, Rajshahi, and Barisal districts towns of Pabna, Kushtia, Krunia, Bagerhat, Chandpur, Sharaput and Atraiang in '96.

It was then shown at Kathmandu, Nepal in '98. While the interesting text of the album is by Sushma Amataya, the Map publication has been done with the assistance of the Royal Danish Embassy.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Goethe's Theory on Colours

An exhibition of Jonathan Wolfgang von Goethe's (1749-1832) Theory on Colours will be held at the Goethe Institut, Dhaka, from August 6. The exhibition sets out to illustrate the famous man's large interest in the natural sciences and how he carried out research in number of scientific areas by means of his work on colours. His observations and knowledge gained are said to underline the light and colour phenomenon of nature. His experiments with prisms and other optical devices helped to support Goethe's view that light and shade are inseparable and that colours are product of their interplay.

Magazine Show Uthshav

After a long eight-month break this July-September session Bangladesh Television will resume telecasting *Uthshav*, the popular magazine show. A magazine show for all category of people. There will be the usual events, such as the Rawshan Jamil's Quiz, the game play with old songs. Besides these there will also be some additional items.

The programme is planned and hosted by Mosharraf Hossain.

Juvenile Theatre at Goethe

A juvenile theatre-play on GRIPS method will be performed by Natyachakra at the Goethe Institut auditorium, Dhaka, on July 15, 16 and 31 at 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.



British Film Week

The British Council with co-sponsorship from Lever Brothers Bangladesh Ltd. will host a film event titled 'British Film Week 2000' from 23-27 July at the British Council Auditorium. The titles of the films include *With or Without You*, *Notting Hill*, *Gregory's Girls*, *East is East* and *Beautiful People*.



Artwork of Porcelain and Glass

A solo exhibition of "Artwork of Porcelain and Glass" by Kazi Rakib has started on July 14 at Gallery 21. Artist Aminul Islam inaugurated the exhibition and artist Mahmudul Haq was present as special guest. Among his sixty pieces of artworks on display, forty are of porcelain, fifteen glass-paintings and five glass sculptures. Rakib's abstract illustrations say a tale of a lot about the intricacies of abstraction. The members of the audience who have seen painting on crockery are likely to get a totally different taste in these pieces, although some paintings of birds on porcelain are bound to present the accustomed seeing that everyone has seen as far as dye on glass is concerned.



Solo Sculpture Show at the L'Alliance

The second solo sculpture exhibition of Labu Patowary started on Friday at the Alliance Francaise de Dhaka. The exhibition will remain open till July 20, from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. everyday except Saturdays.

TV Guide

Monday 17th July

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

BTW

3:00 Opening Announcement, Recitation From The Holy Quran And Programme Outline 3:15 Patriotic Song 3:20 Open University Prog. 4:00 Bangla News 4:05 Cartoon: Learning In The Lab And Fun With Meth 4:30 Sashtho Thattho (Health Developing For Mother & Children) 4:45 Sports Programme 5:20 Nabo Juge Aamra (Programme For Children) 5:45 Pusti Thattho 6:00 Bangla News 6:05 Live Transmission New Artist Audition From Chittagong Center 7:00 News For Weather 7:05 Dolanchapa (Song of Nazrul) 7:25 Lok-Lokaloy 8:00 Bangla News At 8:30 Package Drama: 10:00 News At Ten (English) 10:20 Muktho-Dhara (TV Samariner) 11:30 Bangla News 11:35 English News 11:40 A) Programme Outline For Tuesday B) National Song 11:45 Closing

ZEE NEWS TV

7:30 Zee News: Hindi 8:00 Morning Zee 9:00 News Outlook 9:30 Zee News: Hindi 11:00 Encounter 7:00 Business News 7:30 Zee News: Hindi 8:30 Business News 9:00 News In English 10:00 Khas Khabar 10:20 Love Line 11:00 Zee News: Hindi 11:00 World Vies 12:00 News In English

MTV INDIA

07:00 Non-Stop Hits 8:00 MTV Classic 9:00 Non-Stop Hits 1:00 MTV Most Wanted VJ Shehnaz 2:00 MTV Non-Stop Hits 2:30 MTV Hit List VJ Shehnaz 1:00 MTV Housefull VJ Nafisa 1:30 MTV Kenwood India 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 Shehnaz 6:30 MTV Chill Out VJ Cyrus/Asif/Nikhil 7:30 MTV Ek Do Teen 9:30 MTV Hit Film Music 10:00 MTV House Full VJ Nafisa 10:30 MTV Monday Masti 11:00 Love Line VJ Malaika 11:30 The Grind (Beach Show) 12:00 MTV Chill Out VJ Cyrus/Asif/Nikhil 1:00 MTV Non-Stop Hits

MUSIC ASIA

7:30 Ta Ra Rum 8:30 Brake Fail 10:30 Hit Mix 11:00 Just Jasmine 11:30 Pyar Mohabbat Etc 12:00 Bajaj Music Box 12:30 Sa Re Ga Ma Ma Ciassic 1:30 Jharokha 2:00 Rangeen Tare 2:30 Ta Ra Rum 3:30 Brake Fail 4:30 Bajaj Music Box 5:00 Music Asia Live 5:30 Hit Mix 6:00 Sa Re Ga Ma Ciassic 7:00 Brake Fail 8:00 Pyar Mohabbat Etc 8:30 Nexgen 9:00 Music Mag 9:30 Bajaj Music Box 10:00 DSP Sizzlers 10:30 Himai Gold T. Jharokha 11:00 Pop Busters 11:30 Shabab 12:00 Music Zone

DD-1 (NATIONAL)

6:30 UGC Programmes 7:00 IGNU Programme 7:30 Samachar 7:45 Subhi Sabera 8:30 The News 9:32 Current Affairs Programme 10:32 Tarang 11:00 ETV Programme 11:32 Serial: Ardhangini 12:00 Serial: Kamyabi 12:32 Serial: Intezar Auri Sahe 12:55 Serial: Kiran 1:00 Serial: Tulsi 1:32 Serial: Agni 2:00 Serial: Diwar 2:30 Samachar 2:40 News In English 2:50 Serial: Aayi Hazoor 3:00 Series On Kasmir 3:32 Serial: Apriajita 4:00 Serial: Mitti Ki Rang 4:32 Serial: Aksar 1:00 Serial: Itezaar 1:30 Serial: Suno Kahan 1:45 Class-11:15 Class-11:30 Parliament / Musical 12:00 Bengali Film: 2:30 Khas Khabar 3:00 Daily Sope: Maha Probu 3:30 Daily Sope: Mohini 4:00 Daily Sope: Bhu Thikanay 4:20 Nepali Program 5:05 Tarunder Janney 5:30 News 5:40 Camera Cholchay 5:50 Palli Katha: 6:10 Serial: 6:40 Khas Khabar 6:20 Daily Soap: Jamnabumi 7:30 Bangla Sambad 7:55 Dinindan 8:00 Serial: 8:30 Serial: Juti/Banglar Sodeasi Gaan 9:00 Daily Soap: Jamnabumi 9:30 Daily Soap: Shree Ram Krishna 10:00 Khas Khabar 10:20 Moksha Mukhi 10:50 Sambad 11:00 Bengali Movie:

DD 7 (BANGLA)

8:40 Khas Khabar 9:05 Amitro Katha 9:20 Sangbad 9:30 Kheela Aar Khela 10:30 Gane Gane 10:35 Daily Sope: Shree Ram Krishna 11:00 Daily Sope: Hay Mohajeebon 11:15 Class-11:30 Parliament / Musical 12:00 Bengali Film: 2:30 Khas Khabar 3:00 Daily Sope: Maha Probu 3:30 Daily Sope: Mohini 4:00 Daily Sope: Bhu Thikanay 4:20 Nepali Program 5:05 Tarunder Janney 5:30 News 5:40 Camera Cholchay 5:50 Palli Katha: 6:10 Serial: 6:40 Khas Khabar 6:20 Daily Soap: Jamnabumi 7:30 Bangla Sambad 7:55 Dinindan 8:00 Serial: 8:30 Serial: Juti/Banglar Sodeasi Gaan 9:00 Daily Soap: Jamnabumi 9:30 Daily Soap: Shree Ram Krishna 10:00 Khas Khabar 10:20 Moksha Mukhi 10:50 Sambad 11:00 Bengali Movie:

SONYENT. TV

7:30 Atma 8:00 Sant Asaram Wan 3:30 Charibusters (Trailer Show) 9:00 Ek Mahal Ho Sapiro (Daily Soap) 9:30 Aurat 10:00 Music Mantra (Trailer Show) 10:30 Daily Soap- Ithaias 11:00 Daily Soap- Nazdeekyan 11:30 Daily Soap- Aamra 12:00 Charibusters (Trailer Show) 12:30 Movers And Shakers 1:30 Music Mantra (Trailer Show) 2:00 Boogi Woogi 2:30 Daily Soap- Ek Mahal Ho Sapiro 3:00 Daily Soap- Aamra 3:30 Daily Soap- Ghar Ek Mandir 4:00 Daily Soap- Ithaias 4:30 Daily Soap- Nazdeekyan 5:00 Junoon 5:30 Bajaj Ki Lehren 6:00 Just Mohabbat 116 6:30 Tujhe Dil Qurbani #17 (*Parmesh Sheth, Grusha Kapoor, Ronit Roy) 7:00 The Poppadum Show 7:30 Music Mantra (Trailer Show) 8:00 Chartbusters (Trailer Show) 8:25 Kabhi Yeh Kabhi 9:00 I Love You 9:33 # Ep- Sath Jeypore (*Anup Soni, Shruti Usha) 9:35 Saaya #85

ALPHABANGLATV

6:00 Alap 7:00 Grihosa 7:30 Bharat Bhronon 8:00 Serial: Din Protidin 9:00 Serial: Swapno Neel 9:30 Bhabhi Aahar 10:00 Grihosa 11:00 Serial: Guest House / Jemon Bolben 11:30 Serial: Ek Akasher Niche 12:00 Serial: Mojor Khela Kobita 12:30 Kichu Smriti Kichu Gaan 1:00 Serial: Agni Yuger Padatik 1:30 Bhabhi Aahar 2:00 Serial: Iskabon Bibi (*Indrani, Shila Dittay) 2:30 Bangla Movie-Prahar Sheshe 5:00 Serial: Ek Akasher Niche 5:30 Alap 6:00 Bharat Bhronon 6:30 Serial: Din Protidin 7:00 News 7:30 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 Shehnaz 6:30 MTV Chill Out VJ Cyrus/Asif/Nikhil 7:30 MTV Ek Do Teen 9:30 MTV Hit Film Music 10:00 MTV House Full VJ Nafisa 10:30 MTV Monday Masti 11:00 Love Line VJ Malaika 11:30 The Grind (Beach Show) 12:00 MTV Chill Out VJ Cyrus/Asif/Nikhil 1:00 MTV Non-Stop Hits

DD METRO

7:00 Anhad 7:15 Bhakti Sagar 7:45 Subah Aaj Tak 8:30 Imaging Science 9:00 The First Edition 9:30 Captain House 10:00 Serial: Alif Laila 10:30 Ret Par Likhe Naam 11:00 Daily Sope- Naya Naam 11:30 Daily Sope- Sava 12:00 United Tele Shopping 12:30 Geetom Bhai Kahan 1:00 Badi Bawafai 1:10 (*Suroj Thapar, Diya, Alokhnath, Beena) 1:30 Kaash #11 2:00 Movers And Shakers 3:00 Daily Soap- 1:00 Flash Garden 6:30 Mickey & Friends 7:00 Nature Calls 7:30 Parody Time 7:55 Navrang 8:00 Fashion Square 8:30 Daily Sope- Naya Naam 1:00 Khamosh Awazeen (Serial) 9:30 Muqaddar (Serial) 10:30 Ajai Tak 10:50 Single Metro Sports India Show 11:30 The Millennium Journey 12:00 Series- Derrick 1:00 Hindi Films-

ZEE TV

6:15 Yadoon Ki Pal (B/W Songs) 6:45 Old Is Gold 7:00 Bhakti Sangeet 7:30 Jagran 7:55 Fitness Plus 8:00 Guldsta 8:30 Breakfast Zee (News, Views & Chat) 9:00 News 9:32 Current Affairs Programme 10:32 Tarang 11:00 ETV Programme 11:32 Serial: Aksar 1:00 Serial: Itezaar 1:30 Serial: Yogi 2:00 Serial: Agni 2:30 Serial: Diwar 2:45 Serial: Samachar 3:00 Daily Soap- 1:00 Flash Garden 6:30 Mickey & Friends 7:00 Nature Calls 7:30 Parody Time 7:55 Navrang 8:00 Fashion Square 8:30 Daily Sope- Naya Naam 1:00 Khamosh Awazeen (Serial) 9:30 Muqaddar (Serial) 10:30 Ajai Tak 10:50 Single Metro Sports India Show 11:30 The Millennium Journey 12:00 Series- Derrick 1:00 Hindi Films-

BBC WORLD

6:00 BBC World News 6:30 World Living: Radical Highs 7:00 BBC News / Asia Today Inc. World Business Report / 24 Hours 7:45 Reporters 8:00 BBC News / Asia Today Inc. World Business Report 8: