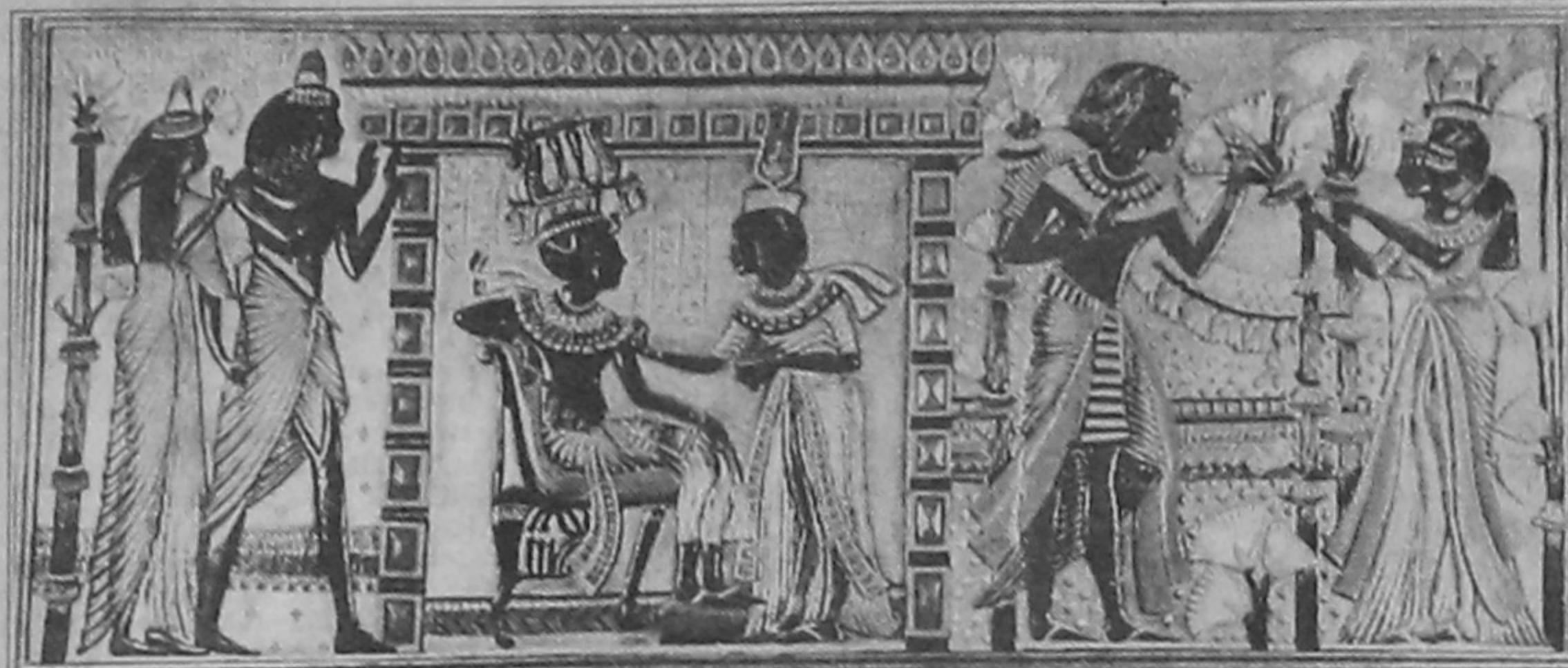


exhibition

Opportunities of the Golden Fibre

Exhibition on diversified jute products held in the city recently highlights new uses of jute.



An Egyptian Mural made with melamine paint on eco-wood made from jute.

BY MUNEERA PARBEE

WE have this general tendency to identify the fibre with its use in making of sacks and bags and gunny bags. The most we are willing to attribute it credit for is for its use in the making of handicraft items as wall hangings, and mats and the like of decoration pieces, that we don't use too often either.

The golden fibre of Bangladesh has more to it than its name. What we forget is how in very many ways we can still make use of it. We also forget that it's cheap, it's beautiful, it does not pollute the environment to suffocate our kids in the near future and most of all its ours.

But anybody who has visited the exhibition on Diversified Jute Products, held in the city in the

last week would be forgiven to think that they had walked in to the wrong place. For the items on display at the exhibition didn't go near anywhere the common conception we have of the golden fibre of the country. What was on show was a variety of items, much beyond the imagination of any ordinary person ignorant about in-depth knowledge on jute.

To start with there were thermosetting composites, which is said to be able to replace wood, doorframes, window shuttering, floor board, back rest (seat) ceilings, tables and sofa sets can be made with this material. It is said that these composite material is fire retardant, unbreakable, water resistant, has low thermal conductivity (means does not get heated easily) and to top it all are eco friendly.

Thermoplastic composites, manufactured with reinforcement of jute with plastic has been used to produce such materials as toys, steering wheels for cars, crates and containers and even garden furniture, canopy, fences and the like.

Then there was a selection on display of non-woven jute products. These included sheets that can be used as shoe insoles, mats, and floor coverings. Moulded automobile components made of non-woven jute and resin were another range of products. This process it was learned has been started in a small way with a collaborative venture between a German-Australian company and an entrepreneur based

locally here.

Jute products are also used to make materials to restrict soil erosion, improving upon the yield of agro-plant and in construction of rural roads. Sounds impossible but jute geo-textile products can be used for this.

Traditional textile products of jute are already popular and carpets top this side of the products that are trusted and used all over the country. Alternatively curtain cloth, sofa cover, cushion covers, mats, Santrajis etc are also in the market. Fine yarns of jute spun with viscose, polyester and the like are used for making this variety of home textiles.

More popular of the home materials as shawls, mattress covers, were also on display. Eye catching and appealing was the Grameen Uddyog spun materials

for clothing, blankets and ready to wear items as jackets. Bangladesh Jute Research Institute (BJRI) works on the development of this sector

And of course an exhibition of jute products cannot be complete without the traditional handicraft materials and these too were on display in plenty. Fancy bags, beach bags, hold-all mats, magazine racks, cushion covers, wall hangings and even shoes were aplenty to catch the eye.

The exhibition also had on display the use of jute to make paper pulp and other materials as hard wood and paper itself.

As one left the exhibition, totally saturated with the variety of uses of the golden yarn of the country, one almost was tempted to make a vow to use this local product in all its aspects from now on. After all they made the call of the day, being more eco-friendly than many other things on the market. What will indeed help popularise these products and bring them to everyone's door steps is holding of more exhibition and promotional programmes as this one and to take care to ensure quality production and better finishing of all the goods.

By the looks of this exhibition, some concerned sectors are already working on it and all these wide range of jute products could soon be in all of our houses.

Exhibition on Diversified Jute Products was organised by the Jute Ministry in association with the Export Promotions Bureau and the Delegation of the European Commission in Bangladesh.

sants comprising of artist Syed Jahangir, Prof. Bulbar Osman, Prof. Matlub Ali, Dr. Syed Azizul Haque and Mainuddin Khaled took part in a lively discussion on the paper. Dr. Rafique elaborated Sultan's childhood and his artistic trend. "Throughout a long period of his life, Sultan led a kind of bohemian life," he noted in his paper. According to him, Sultan was a mystic. "Spirituality and mysticism is found in most of his works," he added. The themes of his works include traditional rural activities, independence

anniversary

Re-discovering Sultan

Observing Artist S.M. Sultan's 6th death anniversary at the Shilpkala Academia

BY TAWFIQUE ALI

BANGLADESH Shilpkala Academy organised a discussion meeting on the country's eminent artist S.M. Sultan to commemorate his life and work, observing his 6th death anniversary on October 10.

Azad Rahman, Director General of Bangladesh Shilpkala Academy, presided over the meeting while Prof. Anisuzzaman graced the occasion as the chief guest. The keynote paper, featuring artist's early life, his growing up as an artist and nature of his work, was presented by Dr. Rafiqul Alam. A panel of discuss-

war etc. But as a theme, Sultan portrayed 'humans' in most of his works. Muscular human figures on his canvas are a testimony to the fact that he engrossed himself in humans. An intimacy with eternal idyllic landscape - from the Sundarbans to Kashmir - is remarkable. It also shows that the artist was drawn to the Nature.

After discussing the keynote paper, the discussants turned on to their critical appreciation of it. Of them Mainuddin Khaled was the first to make his points in Artist Sultan: Life and Work. Mr. Khaled opined that there was mysticism in Sultan, but he was

to know more about Sultan and there's plenty of scope for that.

Then came Dr. Syed Azizul Haque's turn to discuss and he deferred with the idea that a mysterious and spiritual sense was the driving force of Sultan. "It was his bohemian spirit that drove him much," he commented. He further disagreed that person Sultan was greater than artist Sultan. "We know him more as an artist", he argued. Regarding Sultan's being modern, he claimed, "Sultan is accordingly modern in his view and attitude and there is modernism in his works."

Prof. Matlub Ali was the third speaker who observed that the first two discussants had complemented to the deficiency of the paper. He not only made negative criticism of the paper but also appreciated some of its points. He commented that Sultan was an exploited artist. Regarding a point that Sultan was a resident artist, Prof. Ali commented that not only the "opportunities are to be blamed for that, artist himself too offered them chance to make him resident." According to him, Sultan's works on our liberation war have much depth and symbolic implication. "He drew nude figures to capture true picture of liberation war but he did not make it an erotic art," he said. He made a striking point saying, "We just do a routine work by paying posthumous homage to this artist but we could not give him what he deserved during his lifetime."

Prof. Bulbar Osman and artist Syed Jahangir spoke briefly. Prof. Anisuzzaman was also brief in his address. Commenting on Sultan's works, he said, "He has made a striking contribution between man and nature."

The chairperson, Azad Rahman, expressed his gratitude and welcomed all to conclude the occasion.

Recommendations

Mahbub's Solo Extended

The solo exhibition by Mahbubul Rahman at Gallery 21 has been extended till October 14.

The exhibition will come to an end with a discussion on Mahbub's work and a Baul evening at the gallery.

6th Solo Exhibition

The inaugural ceremony of the 6th solo exhibition by Nurun Nahar Papas will be held at the Aerial Centre on October 19 at 5.00pm.

Renowned artist Professor Anisuzzaman will inaugurate the exhibition as chief guest while artist Sayed Jagannath and Professor Abdus Sattar will also be present as special guests.

The exhibition will remain open from 12.00pm. to 8.00pm. till October 25.

Kaos Theatre UK

The British Council will present the play *importance of being earnest* by the award winning Kaos Theatre at 7.00pm. at the British Council auditorium. The Kaos Theatre is the winners of the Best Ensemble Award and The Stage Awards for acting excellence in 1999.

Nature of Ceramics

The 2nd solo art exhibition by Halimul Islam Khokon is going on at the Zainul Gallery.

The exhibition will remain open daily from 2.00pm. from 8.00pm. till October 16.

Cultural Extravaganza

A conference, poetry reading session, recitation and a classical concert will be held at the Alliance Francaise de Dhaka on October 14.

State Minister for Food Dhirendra Debnath Shambhu will be present as chief guest on the occasion.

Natyajan
Natyatshob-2000

Natyajan, a front ranking theatre group, will hold a week long (October 15-21) drama festival at the Shawkar Osman Memorial Auditorium (Central public library), Shahbag. The inaugural programme (exclusively for the invitees) will take place on October 15.

The plays will be staged as per the following schedule:

Sanglap Calcutta will present Shudraon and Ghore Fera on October 16 and 17 respectively. Lokakristi Calcutta will present Nob Prize and Kholaghore Eka on October 19 and 20 respectively. Nayajan Dhaka will present Tebhagar Pala and Gheret Bibet on October 8 and 9 respectively.

Admit card available Shagor Publishers, Baily road, Pathak Shomabesh, Aziz super market, Khabar Dabar, Bangabandhu Avenue, Ganer Dali, Elephant road and at the auditorium counter on the day of show from 10am.

TV GUIDE

PICK OF THE DAY



Clear And Present on HBO, Saturday, 14th October, at 10pm.

This slam-bang thriller based on the best-seller by Tom Clancy stars Harrison Ford as C.I.A. agent Jack Ryan who takes on a Colombian drug cartel, along with some double-dealing U.S. government officials.

Starring: Harrison Ford, Willem Dafoe

Entertainment Biz 9:00 BBC World News 6:30 World Business Report 7:00 BBC News 7:30 Asia Today / Asia Business Report 8:00 BBC News 8:30 Asia Today/ Asia Business Report 9:00 BBC World News 9:30 Asia Today 9:45 Asia Business Report 10:00 BBC News 10:20 Bangla Movie: Taka Ana Pai 10:00 BTW News 10:20 Bangla Movie: Taka Ana Pai 11:00 Late Night News 11:15 EI Shoptah 11:45 Ekushey News Headlines

Good Morning India (News, Ent.) 8:30 Spiderman 9:00 Robocop 9:30 Ninja Turtles 10:00 Power

Made in India: Mastermind India 11:00 BBC World News 11:30 This Week 12:00 World News 12:30 World Focus: Earth Report 1:00 BBC News 1:10 Weekend World: Rush 2:00 BBC World News 2:30 World Living: Talking Movies (Presenter: Tom Brook) 3:00 BBC World News 3:10 Weekend World: The Entertainment Biz 4:00 BBC News 4:30 USA Direct (Complied: SATVIEW Cable News 404129)

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