exhibition

Deadly, But the Show Must Go on

Photography exhibition 'Circus Woman' by Indian photographer Saibal Das ends

By Nafid Imran Ahmed

STRIKING lights, beaming from every corner of the arena, reflecting on the dazzling skin-huggers flashes before the eyes of the viewers at the circus. Their mesmerising feats on trapeze gradually give rise the tension among the thrilled audience. Their supple bodies float, swirl and swing in the air with the music reaching to its climax, and then applause adore them. Meet the 'Circus Woman'.

Chobi Mela, the first festival of photography on Asia, has a number of exhibitions by Indian photographers in its long list. An exhibition titled Circus Woman by photographer Saibal Das of India Today magazine ended yesterday at the Russian Cultural Centre. The exhibition started on December 17 and took the viewers through the unknown world of a group of women with a very risky profession - Circus.

Like Bangladesh the risk factors involved in the Indian local circus scenario are major. Lack of proper safety measures can result in serious damages. For those who work there, it is just a tightrope walk, in a fine balance between life and death. Photographer Sunil Das glanced beyond the glamour of the shows and picked up the glimpses of their joy as well as misery, their agony and amusement entwined in their everyday life. These on-display self-explanatory photographs revealed many aspects of those who work in this field.

After completing a breathtaking performance they are adored by the audience. They bow, not so much to receive the praises from the thundered watchers, but possibly unto the Almighty, for having yet another successful completion of nerve-wrecking performance. Sunil tracked along these nomads right from their rigorous training days to the deathbed where they wait for a final rest, and captured them in his camera.

Working for the circus and being a vagabond is almost the same thing. Travelling throughout the country, the circus girls perform in different places. One photo shows such a lonely circus woman sitting with all her belongings in a huge circus arena, where she must have given a breathtaking performance the previous night. But now it is time to hit the road and go to a new place.

At the same time, some of the circus women are also mothers and have to raise their children. Sunil had many shots of these mothers. In one of photos, a baby is sleeping in a hanging sari of the mother, while the mother sits beside and looks after during her time off. Another picture shows a mother, having fun with her child.

Maybe the worst part about being a circus girl is when any fatality jolts them if a single move of indiscretion, a momentary lack of synchronisation leads to a crash. If one survives such accident, she has to live in exile from the haloes of the arena, in her hell of disability.

Sunil has also pictured some victims of such mishaps. Where some lie in pain, all alone, no one to look after, some are seriously injured surrounded by her circus mates who are in deep shock and are praying for their friend. Actually what drives them to get exposed to such a risk of an uncertain and dark future and to overcome the fear of feeling the paws and nails of a lion poised over their shoulders, is nothing but hunger. This precisely compels some of the finest acrobats in India to perform in the ring for only a meagre sum.

Saibal also pictured the circus girls while they were practising and performing some authentic aerobic skills. One of these photos shows a lioness standing on a tool keeping her paws on the shoulders of a woman. Another one shows three men standing on a little girl. Saibal also took a couple of photographs while these circus girls were practising, putting on makeups and getting ready for the big show.

All in all, in this extraordinary exhibition Saibal Das tried to capture the lives of the circus girls behind the curtain, who are living their lives on the edge and Saibal was able to do it very successfully.

achievement

Struggling, But Not Defeated

Lovely paints holding the brush in her mouth

By Fayza Haq

"THE Essence of Life, Water" is the handiwork of Lovely, a child who has learnt to paint with her mouth at the Centre for Rehabilitation of the Paralysed (CRP) Bangladesh. A fall from the fourth floor of a building left Lovely paralysed from neck downwards.

Her painting of "Tranquillity" brings soft, gentle lilies in the palest of pinks. Buds and leaves are included in the painting, and also, naturally the water on which the water lilies float. The colours have been applied with subtlety and dexterity. Another soothing scene is brought in "Enjoying the gifts of Nature" which depicts a young woman in a blue blouse and a pink skirt fishing on the banks of a river. There are lilies nearby and bees on flowers at the side. The sky is also brought in. The flowers and the insects are presented larger than life.

A carved metal container is shown in "Contained in Heritage". The carving on the vessel and the shine on the metal are cleverly depicted. At the back are washes of blue, green and gray hinting water. A water pump and a vessel is shown in a "A Healthy Habit". The pump and the earthenware vessel as well as the water are brought in with swift, deft, and pale strokes. These are enveloped in purple and yellow washes.

Carefully done peacocks with blue, green and red flared tails are brought in "The Dance of Monsoon". The beauty of the wild exotic birds with their jewel - like tails and the emerald and jade bodies along with the ruby beaks are matched with the delicate mauve and beige legs. The ground and the sky are suggested with shades of blue and yellow.

"All Set for Two" is a more down to earth delineation of drinks being laid for a couple. The jug is of glass while the glasses are of brass. These are envelopes in shades of green, yellow and purple. A simple domestic scene is presented for admiration. Much more fascinating is "The Joyous" which brings in frogs under toadstool in a garden. The details of the flowers, leaves, grass, and the stones in the garden are done with care and imagination. There are numerous shades of colours in the frogs and also the toadstool. Water is hinted in the sky and in the front.

Equally enchanting is "Flowing Wishes" which has a meadow, green hills and trees at the back, a bridge and a flowing river with bushes of lavender coloured flowers in the foreground. Both the leaves and the flowers have been done in careful details. Thus we are confronted with a scene in green and blue. Just as absorbing is "Brimming Happiness" which brings in four blue and white swans swimming in a river. The waves are streaks of purple while the birds are blue, touched with delicate vermilion. The background scenes are hinted with pale washes.

As a culmination of singing the praise of nature's water, is "The Water Traffic" which brings in passengers on the river in a houseboat with a predomination of red and yellow, with touches of blue and brown.

In her courageous work, Lovely was guided by her tutor Arham-ul Haq Chowdury, an artist who has had eight solo exhibits of his arts and crafts.

Enjoying the gifts of nature

Recommendations

Pleasure of Life

A part of Chobi Mela, the 1st Festival of Photography in Asia, Pleasure of Life is a group exhibition, which started on December 19 at the Indian Cultural Centre.

This exhibition is the final product of World Press Photo's series of three seminars held yearly at Pathshala since 1998. Among Bangladeshi photographers, alongside groups from Bosnia Herzegovina, Peru and Zimbabwe. The first batch of advanced diploma students of Pathshala had the unique opportunity of participation in these seminars. Through the intensive process of analysis and editing, argument and review, what finally stands is a complex and distinctive collection of photo stories, images and words that expresses each individual photographer's search into the theme 'Pleasure of Life'.

The exhibition will remain open from 10:00a.m - 6:00p.m.everyday till January 3, 2001.

My Work

Another exhibition of Chobi Mela, by Great Britain's photographer John Kippin is going on at the gallery Chitrak. The exhibition started on December 17 and is concerned with representing the cultural construct that we call the landscape.

The exhibition will remain open to all from 10:00a.m - 8:00p.m. till December 31.

Exhibition on Liberation

On the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the Liberation War, the Liberation War Museum has put up a month-long exhibition titled *Gourobmoy Atmadan Chiro-Jagoruk*.

The remains found in the killing fields of *Jalladkhana* and *Nuri Masjid* and some photographs are being exhibited, at the museum gallery at Segun Bagicha.

TV GUIDE

PICK OF THE DAY

The Santa Clause tonight
on Star Movies at 10

Starring: Tim Allen, Eric Lloyd, Wendy Crewson & Peter Boyle

"This Christmas, the Snow Hits the Fan." Scott Calvin (Allen), is a divorced father competing with a new stepdad for the affections of his young son Charlie (Lloyd). But Scott's strained relationship with Charlie begins to mend after a bizarre twist of fate magically transforms Scott into Santa Claus. When the current Mr. Claus falls off the roof on Christmas Eve, Scott dons Santa's suit to "temporarily" fill-in. But Scott is not too thrilled when he finds out that he is in for a career change as he must take on all responsibilities that come with the position.

BTV

3:00 Opening Announcement 3:20 Open University 4:00 Khabar 4:05 Animation Film: Animal Show 4:30 Nutrition Facts 4:50 Mahe News Headlines 6:05 Classic Cartoons 6:30 Charidike 7:00 Adventure Bangladesh 7:30 Ekushey News 8:00 Protibedon 8:30 Noorjahan 9:30 Drama Serial: Eka Ekjon 10:00 Jubliee Plus 11:00 Bikhre Moti (Jitendra, Babita) 12:30 Bikhre Moti (contd....) 2:00 Geet Bahar 2:30 Yuvraaj (Vinod Khanna, Neetu Singh) 5:30 Bikhre Moti (Jeetendra, Babita)

Sanjida Khatun will appear in the programme Sharasari on Ekushey television tonight at 10:20

Ramadan 5:25 National Television Debate Competition 6:00 Khabar 6:10 Mach Bangla: Folk musical programme 6:30 Programme from Chittagong Station 7:00 Mati O' Manush: Agricultural development programme 7:25 Shataker Shata Smriti: Documentary 8:00 News in Bengali 8:20 Geeti Bichitra: musical programme 9:00 Drama Serial: Road Nombor Noy, Bari Nombor Choy 9:30 Film Show: Team Night-Rider 10:00 News at Ten 10:20 Chayachanda 10:45 Ujjiban: Islamic programe 11:15 Khabar/The News 11:30 Close Down.

EKUSHEY TV

2:30 Ajker Potrikay 2:40 Drishti 3:00 Ekushey News Headlines 3:05 Drama Serial: Na 3:30 Shofol Jara Kemon Tara 4:00 Chirontoni 4:30 Expedition to the Animal Kingdom 5:00 Religious Musicial Programme 5:30 Drishti 6:00 Ekushey News Headlines 10:20 Shorashori 11:15 Ekushey Nightly News 11:15 Protibedon 11:45 Ekushey News Headlines

HBO

7:00 The Accidental Tourist 9:30 Contact 12:15 Cinema Secrets ep 3 : Dangers of the Deep 12:45 Milk Money 3:00 Black Beauty 5:00 Sphere 7:30 The Family Jewels 9:30 It Could Happen to You 11:30 Angels in the Outfield 1:45 Rollercoaster 4:15 Milk Money

STAR GOLD

8:30 Hello Cinema 9:00 Satyakam (Darmendra, Hema Malini) 12:00 Geet Bahar 12:30 Sunday Noon Show Ghunghat (Pradeep Kumar, Asha Parekh) 3:30 Geet Bahar 4:00 Yuvraaj (Vinod Khanna, Neetu Singh) 7:00 Geet Bahar 7:30 Sunday Blockbusters Lahu Ke Do Rang (Vinod Khanna, Shabana Azmi) 10:30 Bikhre Moti (Jeetendra, Babita)

STAR PLUS

6.00 I Love My India 6.30 Star Geetmala 7:30 Good Morning India 8:30 Sunday Funday Fox 10:30 Janata Ki Adalat 11:00 Chupa Rustom 11:30 Chalti Ka Naam Antakshri 12:30 Family Fortunes 1:00 Musafir Hoon Yaroon 1:30 Mirch Masala 2:00 Hello Cinema 2:30 Mail Milap 2:40 Star Sunday Matinee: Pyar Ka Devta 6:00 Shrimati Sharma Na Kehti Hai 6:30 Jubilee Plus 7:00 Star Bestsellers- 8:00 Star Film Utsav: Anarkali 11:30 Jubliee Plus 12:00 Janata Ki Adalat 12:30 Shrimati Sharma Na Kehti Hai 1:00 Hasna Mat 1:30 Chalti Ka Naam Antakshiri 2:30 Jubliee Plus 3:30 Kuccha Papad Pucca Papad 3:30 Kahani Ghar Ghar Ki 4:00 Kabhi Kabhie Mre ghar Mein Bhuchaal Ata Hai 4:30 Gharwali Upanwali 5:00 Sewala Mewawala

Udayan High School, Dhaka and St. Placid's High School, Chittagong will participate in the ATN School Debate 2000, today on ATN at 7:10 in the evening

STAR WORLD

6:00 Batman 6:30 Jack Hanna's Animal Adventure 7:00 Second Noah 8:00 The Pretender 9:00 Sir Arthur Conan Doyle`s: The Lost World 10:00 Ally Mcbeal 11:00 The Practice 12:00 Martial Law 1:00 World Championship Wrestling Thunder 3:00 Crown And Country 3:30 Travel Asia 4.00 Baywatch 5:00 The Simpsons 5:30 3rd Rock From the Sun 6:00 Star News Focus Asia 7:00 The Three Tenors (Live in Concert) 9:00 TV.Com 9:30 Star News 10:00 Star News Sunday Cont'd 10:30 The Three Tenors (Live in Concert) 12:30 Mr Bean 1:00 Star News Focus Asia 2:00 Charlotte Church Voice of An Angel 3:00 Creffo Dollafr Daily 3:30 Keenneth Copeland Ministeries 4:00 Life In The World With Joyce Meyer 4:00 World News 5:00 Christmas Around The World

STAR MOVIES

7:30 Excellent Adventure 9:30 Action : Die Hard-2 (15) 11:00 Bhaskar Ghose Show 11:30 Sunday Best : What Dreams May Come (PG) 1:30 Family : The Christmas Takeover (G) 3:30 Star Kids Club: Babes in Toyland (PG) 5:30 Animation : Gulliver's Travel (G) 7:30 Drama : Phenomenon (PG) 9:30 Starbiz 10:00 Sunday Night Premiere: The Santa Clause (G) 12:00 Action Force: Total Recall (15) 2:00 Drama: Phenomenon (PG) 4:00 Animation : Gulliver's Travel (G) 5:30 Drama: What Dreams May Come (PG)

DISCOVERY CHANNEL

6:30 Go For It! 7:30 Ushuala 8:30 Wings 9:30 Crocodile Hunter's Croc Files 10:00 Jaws & Claws II 10:30 Popular Mechanics for Kids 11:00 Naturequest 11:30 ARK : Tales of the Animal Rescue Kids 12:00 Splat IV 12:30 Lonely Planet V 1:30 Discovery Profile Series 7:30 Vital Breakthroughs 8:30 Lifeline 9:30 Science Frontiers 10:30 Discovery Showcase 11:30 Discovery Profile Series 12:30 Vital Breakthroughs 1:30 Lifeline 2:30 Science Frontiers 3:30 Discovery Showcase 4:30 Discovery Profile Series 5:30 Discovery Magazine

ALPHA BANGLA TV

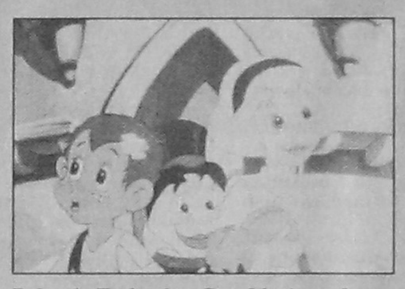
6:00 Alaap 7:00 Griha Sajja 7:30 News/Arghya 8:00 Surer Ei Jharna Dhara 8:30 Manabi 9:00 News/Bharat Bhroman 9:30 Bahari Aahar 10:00 Grihosajja 10:30 Sa Re Ga Ma 11:30 Serial: Jeevan Rekha 12:00 Apnader Janya 12:30 Serial: Bhalobasa Mondobasa 1:00 Cine News 1:30 Serial: Bhawani Purer Chattujea 2:00 Serial: Jeman Bolben Sir 2:30 Bangla Movie 5:00 Serial: Hiyar Majhe 5:30 Mon Niye 6:00 Arghya 6:30 Shudhu Tomake Chai 7:00 Serial: Googli 7:30 News 8:00 Serial: Jhara Samayer Upkatha 8:30 Serial: Agni Yuger Padatik 9:00 Kichu Smriti Kichu Gaan 9:30 Serial: Iskabonar Bibi 10:00 News/Daibaddho 10:30 Serial: Anya Bhuvan 11:00 Serial: Chena Mukh Achena Manush 11:30 Serial: Andolon 12:00 Arghya

BBC WORLD

6:00 BBC News 6:30 This Week 7:00 BBC News 7:30 Holiday 8:00 BBC News 8:30 Europe Direct 9:00 BBC News 9:30 World Review 10:00 BBC News 10:30 Wheels 11:00 BBC News 11:30 India Business Report 12:00 BBC News 12:30 Mastermind India 1:00 BBC News 1:30 Face To Face India 2:00 BBC News 2:30 This Week 3:00 BBC News 3:10 TBA 4:00 BBC News 4:30 Click on Line 5:00 BBC News 5:30 Europe Direct 6:00 BBC News 6:10 Mortal Combat 7:00 BBC News 7:30 TBA 8:00 BBC News 8:30 Click Online 9:00 BBC News 9:10 Royal10:00 BBC News 10:30 Mastermind India 11:00 BBC News 11:30 Talking Movies12:00 BBC News 12:10 This Week 1:00 BBC News 1:30 World Review 2:00 BBC News 2:30 Mortal Combat 3:00 BBC News 3:30 Talking Movies 4:00 BBC News 4:30 TBA 5:00 BBC News 5:30 Europe Direct

CNN

4:00 World News 4:30 World Sport 5:00 CNN World View 5:30 Inside Asia 6:00 World News 6:30 The Artclub 7:00 CNN World View 7:30 World Beat 8:00 Larry King Weekend 9:00 CNN World View 9:30 Style with Elsa Klensch 10:00 World Report 11:00 World News 11:30 Inside Asia 12:00 World News 12:30 Your Health 1:00 World News 1:30 World Sport 2:30 Diplomatic License 3:00 Larry King Weekend 4:00 World News 4:30 Ebizasia 5:00 World News 5:30 World Sport 6:00 World News 6:30 CNN Hotspots 7:00 World News 7:30 Business Unusual 8:00 World News 8:30 CNNdotCOM 9:00 World News 9:30 World Beat 10:00 World News 10:30 CNN IndiadotCOM 11:00 Style South Asia 11:30 Ebizasia 12:00 World News 12:30 Style with Elsa Klensch 1:00 CNN IndiadotCOM 1:30 CNNdotCOM 2:00 World News 2:30 The Artclub 3:00 World News 3:30 Diplomatic License



Babes in Toyland on Star Movies today at 3:00p.m.

AXN

6:00 World Most Amazing Wideo 7:00 Farscape Marathon 5:00 Who Dares Wins 6:00 I Dare You 8:00 Movie You're Under Arrest 10:00 I Dare You 11:00 Movie: You're Under Arrest 1:00 Earth Final Conflict/Wrath of Achilles 2:00 Big Sky II/Phase Five 3:00 Silk Stalking IV/Mrs Carlisle

ZEE CINEMA

6:30 Mausam (Girish Malik, Kanchan) 10:30 Swayambar (Shashi Kapoor, Vidya Sinha) 2:00 Dhanwan (Karishma Kapoor, Ajay Devgon) 6:30 Andaz Apna Apna (Karishma Kapoor, Salman Khan) 10:30 The Great Robbery (Nagarjun, Sridevi) 2:30 Kanyadeep (Ranjeet, Seema)

ZEE MGM

6:30 Doctor in Trouble 9:00 Boundaries of the Heart 11:30 The Rosary Murder 2:00 Mississippi Burning 4:30 The Crossing 7:00 Four Friends 9:30 The Favor 11:30 High Spirits 1:30 Flesh and Blood 4:00 The Preppie Murder

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

7:00 Family Hour : Nakura-An Island In Africa 8:00 Treasure Islands 9:00 Toyota World of Wildlife 9:30 Rolex Awards For Enterprise : Maria Eliza Manteca 10:00 Planet Greenthe Daily Struggleof Water 11:00 About Asia : Asian Elephants 12:00 Violent Earth: Nature's Fury 1:00 Saturday Unlimited-Emmy Winnersrat 2:00 Saturday Unlimited-Emmy Winnersheroes of the High Froniter 3:00 Saturday Unlimited-Emmy Winnerssonoran Desert 4:00 World Of Clones 5:00 Toyota World Of Wildlife 5:30 Savage Planet 6:00 Planet Green :Water-The Religiousdimension 7:00 About Asia : The Hakka Mystery 8:00 Violent Earth : The Day The Earth Shook 2 9:00 Rolex Awards For Enterprise : Laurent Prodie 9:30 Sunday Wild : Top Cat 10:30 About Asia : The Hakka Myst 12:30 Planet Green: Water-The Religiousdimension 1:30 World of Clones 2:30 Toyota World Of Wildlife 3:00 Savage Planet 3:30 Rolex Awards For Enterprise : Laurent Prodie 4:00 Planet Geeen : Water-The Religiousdimension 5:00 World Culture : Treasure Seekers Tibet's Hidden Kingdom 6:00 World Of Clones

"It could happen to You" on HBO tonight at 9:30

A delightfully insane comedy that portrays the comic torment of everyday life so convincingly! Halfway through his lunch, Charlie Lang (Nicholas Cage) realizes that he doesn't have enough cash for a tip. He promises the waitress, Yvonne (Fonda) to split the proceeds of the lottery he just bought. He wins of course and his wife (Rosie Perez) is livid when she finds out that he has split their money with a stranger.

STARRING: Bridget Fonda, Nicolas Cage, Rosie Perez

Star Film Utsav - 'Sahib Bibi Aur Ghulam' on Star Plus tonight at 8

The Simpsons on Star World today at 5:00 p.m.