

## journal The Journey Begins

An international magazine, Six Seasons Review, devoted exclusively to arts and letters and published from Dhaka has already made its presence felt through its first issue

By Ziaul Karim

"I T was a very enjoyable experience. We could get together and produce something which was exciting and really a first in Bangladesh. There was a magazine in the '50s and another one in the '80s, none had the visual dimension as the present one has and weren't magazines for the arts in their totality," says Fakrul Alam, professor of English at the University of Dhaka and one of the members of the editorial quartet of the newly launched Six Seasons Review responding to a question about his experience with the project.

Published from the leading publishing house of the country The University Press Limited, this new journal has been blessed with the care of the most respected publisher of the country Mohiuddin Ahmed. One of the main reasons for the earlier journals to die in premature deaths was that they did not get right professional support and were mainly published riding on personal enthusiasm.

The first publication venture in English journal in this part of the world dates back to 1950s when Khan Sarwar Murshid and friends brought out the New

Values which was followed by Form: A Magazine of the Arts published precisely 30 years later with a circulation that can be counted on fingers. And that is our history of English journals before Six Seasons Review came into our reading menu.

Narrating the birth of the review-project in our somewhat intellectual life Professor Fakrul says, "Our publisher, Mohiuddin Ahmed, had been thinking of bringing out a magazine in English for a long time and the three of us, Kaiser Haq, Syed Manzoorul Haq and I myself, talking about doing something similar and Sudeep (international editor of the Review) was also happened to be in Dhaka. So we think we had the right mix. You could say that everything came together at the right time."

Responding to a query whether the editorial team had faced any difficulties in putting together their efforts, Professor Fakrul says, "We did not face any real problem. Normally getting a review out is difficult because of the financial aspect, and also, traditionally you need to worry about the printing. Thankfully, Mr. Mohiuddin Ahmed took care of all that. And all we did was solicit contributions from home and abroad and edit what came our way. We are also lucky to have

Sudeep's experience in layout designing."

Largely literature- and creative writing-based magazine, Six Seasons Review, has a rich content in its inaugural issue starting from fiction, poetry, literary essays to painting and photography. Professor Fakrul, explaining how the team handled the editorial contents of the review, says, "It was simple. I decided to look after the non-fiction pieces, Kaiser was in charge of poetry and Manzoorul Islam taken care of the fiction."

Who are the target readers of this half yearly journal that is priced at Taka 250?

Says Mohiuddin Ahmed, "We feel we kept the price low for the target readers. Our aim is to tap the writings of the expatriate Bangladeshis who are writing in English after having studied in the West. The new English that now have flourished in the world and getting a constant flow from outside the traditional centre of English literature has no place for Bangladeshi writing, sorry to say. What we at Six Seasons Review would like to do is to provide them a platform to encourage new writing in English and voice our cultural and intellectual identity to the world. And also we would like to open up a window to project the positive aspects of Bangladesh. We have long been prisoner of a negative image. We want to break away from it."

About naming the review, Professor Fakrul says, "When we got together to give a name to the magazine I had suggested Mausumi review since I wanted the magazine to be in touch with our rhythm of world at that point Kaiser said how about Six Seasons Review to represent all our seasons and all four of us thought that was an excellent title and so Six Seasons Review."

Speaking about the initial response to the inaugural issue, Mohiuddin Ahmed says, "We have received very positive responses from Pakistan, India and Nepal. Though it is not designed to be a regional journal, we certainly seek regional support for its growth. Our aim basically is to make it an a truly international journal."

Sudeep Sen, one of the finest English-language poets to emerge in the contemporary international literary scene and International Editor of the Six



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Seasons Review, while talking about his involvement with the journal says, "Initially I was asked to contribute to the first issue. As time went on I was more and more drawn into the project." What inspired the involvement?

"The obvious reason was that I was interested in the same kind of goals as the other three editors were. And it was felt that my involvement with the journal would add a sub-continental and international aspect to its profile. Having got involved I designed the entire journal, its logo and the basic master layout."

While answering a question whether he had a contribution to the editorial content, Sudeep says, "By the time I joined the editorial board the contributions had already been selected. So, I thought of lending my publishing expertise to the design element of the magazine. However, the subsequent issue which is already in the work, I have commissioned a large part of its contents. But at the end it has been entirely a team effort, a product of the editorial quartet."

The Six Seasons Review that has just taken off to an impressive flight would continue its journey and give exposure to our culture and literature to the international mainstream is what we expect from the magazine which has in its printers' line a brilliant team.

## festival Expressions in Henna and Glitter

S-Vise Ltd holds a mehdi festival to mark the pre-launching of its Social Expressions services.

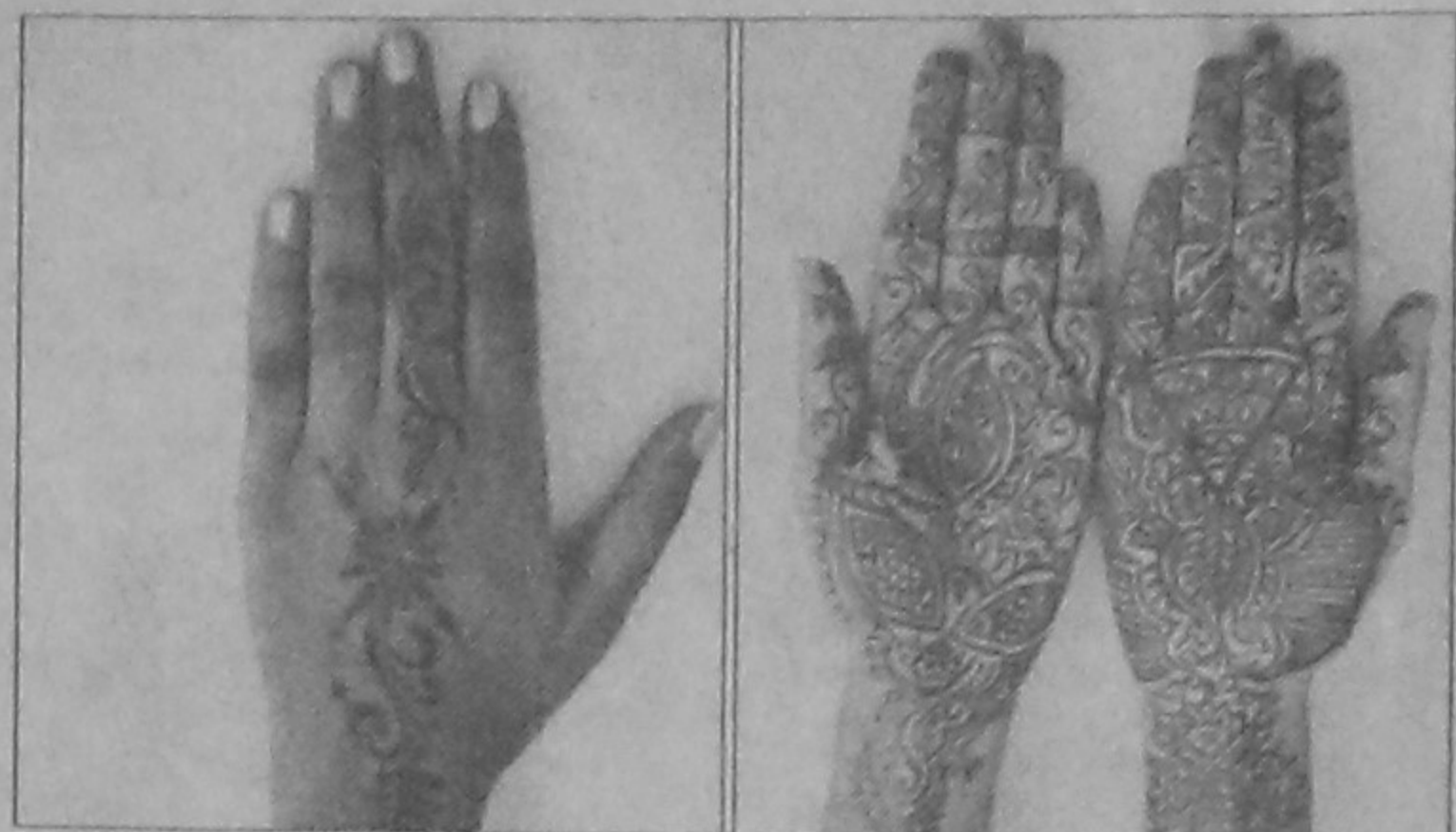
By Muneera Parbeen

THE young people coming out from the S-Vise joint at Banani are truly decorated in the festive mood. They are all decorated in mehdi and glitters. Palms decorated in the rich hues of mehdi for a truly traditional look, or glitter decorations in the form of a bangle on the wrist, or bajubandh on the upper arm, or a motif on the neckline or for a more modern look - a spider or lizard on the hand, that is the look that all are sporting.

No festival is complete for the girls of this subcontinent without the application of mehdi (henna) on their palms and hands. In order to facilitate the young women, and also men in town, S-Vise is holding its first Mehdi festival 2000 with all the glitter and glamour of a festive season.

And it is not only mehdi that is on offer. There are also on offer the equally tantalising tattoos and glitter decorations that is the fashion craze of the season. And with only a day left for Eid, scores of people are thronging the house at Banani to have their hands, and that of their near and dear ones, decorated with mehdi and glitter.

There are 10 young designers on hand to apply the designs on enthusiasts from the some 24 designs on hand. These come both in traditional as well modern motifs. There are the truly traditional designs inspired by decorations from the Mughal arena for full hand or half palm decorations, then there are the more modern alpina motifs which are also popular among the young



Mehdi patterns for the palm (R) and for the back of the hand (L)

people. Added to this are the offers for glitter decorations and glitter tattoos and this is not limited to the palms or hands but could be in any part of the body as desired. The motifs for this come in traditional as well as modern crazes, as lizards, spiders and even snakes. Well that is fashion for all!

The team for S-Vise has been working for the past month getting things in place for this Mehdi Festival 2000. The designers are all students of the Fine Arts Institute and Eden College and their enthusiasm know no bounds. Also on offer are gift packages designed separately for male and females, containing interesting items for the young people. The girls' pack for instance has bangles in it in addition to a mug, pendant and other nitty-gritty. The boys' pack has a T-shirt in addition to a pendant featuring the replica of ummad and a wallet and other materials. The idea is to find a range of items in a pack

that would be a perfect gift to someone to express special feelings for that person.

And that is not all, music is played all evening long at the joint by a live group with a professional DJ to coordinate it all.

The festival S-Vise is holding is apart of their pre-launching programmes for the organisation that is to offer social expressions in different forms. The two young men who have launched this company explained what all the noise was all about.

Parvez Md Ashique and Monir H Khan are the two men behind the creation of

S-Vise Ltd and with this company they hope to provide services in a new line to the people. What they are to offer are social expressions media, as in greeting cards, gift items and such services. They also are to arrange musical and cultural evenings as part of their activities.

Both of them are optimistic about the future of their pet venture, and Ashique, who is the manager of Archies' Galleries in town, and Monir, better known as Shimul the heart-throb of TV dramas, have put in a lot of time for this house. Shimul has also designed some of the accessories in the house, and says that the bottom line is to bring out designs and themes from the different civilisations of time, since it's the different kinds of social expressions that is what their house is all about.

Meanwhile is festival-time at the S-Vise house at Kemal Attaturk Avenue, just behind the Kakoli Market (UAE Complex) at Banani. If not to buy something for a beloved one, then surely to make use of the mehdi decorations. The festival remains open to all till Eid night.

## Recommendations



### Pleasure of Life

Pleasure of Life is a group exhibition, a part of Chobi Mela, the 1st Festival of Photography in Asia, 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 annually at Pathshala since 1998. Along with Bangladeshi photographers, there were groups from Bosnia Herzegovina, Peru and Zimbabwe. 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 'Gaurabhojy Atmadan Chiro-Jagorok'.

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



The Photography section of the magazine features gifted photographer Mahmud's photo essay Life in a Char



A designer applying henna on the palms of a young lady at the festival yesterday.

## TV GUIDE

- AKUSHEYTV**  
2:30 Ajker Potrikay  
2:40 Drishti 3:00 Ekushey News Headlines 3:05 Drama Series: Shode 3:30 Bahari Aahaar 12:30 Amader Kotha 4:00 Nazrul Geeti 4:30 Expedition to the Animal Kingdom 5:00 Religious Musical Programme 5:30 Drishti 5:50 Ajker Potrikay 6:00 Ekushey
- Bhromon 9:30 Bahari Aahaar 10:00 Griha Sajja 10:30 Raana Ghar 11:00 Iska Boner Bibi 11:30 Mon Niye 12:00 Bahari Aahaar 12:30 Half Chocolate 1:00 Shyaola 1:30 Ek Akasher Niche 2:00 Nayantara 3:30 Feature Film 5:00 Football 5:30 Anya Bhuvan 6:00 Arghya 6:30 Din Protidin 7:30 News
- & II 11:30 Shark Files, The II 12:30 Wild Discovery 1:30 Medical Detectives I 2:00 Medical Detectives II 2:30 Discover Magazine 3:30 Go For It! 4:30 Ushuaia 5:30 Lonely Planet V 6:30 Mega Movie Magic II 7:00 Real Kids, Real Adventures 7:30 Wild Discovery 8:30 Hunters 9:30 Extreme Machines IV 10:30 On the Inside 11:30 Discovery Profile Series 12:30 Wild Discovery 1:30 Hunters 2:30 Extreme Machines IV 3:30 On the Inside 4:30 Discovery Profile Series 5:30 Discover Magazine
- CNN**  
6:00 CNN This Morning 6:15 Asia Business Morning 6:30 Asian Edition 6:45 Asia Business Morning 7:00 CNN This Morning 7:30 Moneyline 8:00 Larry King Live 9:00 World News 9:30 World Sport 10:00 World News 10:30 Showbiz Today 11:00 World News 11:30 Q&A (Replay) 12:00 World News 12:30 World Report 1:00 World News 1:30 World News 2:00 World News 2:30 Insight 3:00 Larry King Live 4:00 World News 4:30 Biz Asia 5:00 Asia Tonight 5:30 World Sport 6:00 World News 6:15 Asian Edition 6:30 Biz Asia 7:00 World News 7:30 World Beat 8:00 Asia Tonight 8:30 World Sport 9:00 World News 9:30 CNN World News 10:30 Biz Asia 11:00 World News 11:30 Q&A South Asia 12:00 World News 1:00 Style South Asia 1:30 World Business Today 2:00 World News 2:30 Q&A 3:00 World News Europe 3:30 CNN Newsroom 4:00 CNN This Morning 4:30 Asia Business Morning 5:00 CNN This Morning

## BBC WORLD

- 7:00 BBC News 7:30 Asia Today 8:00 BBC News 8:30 Asia Today 9:00 BBC News 9:30 Asia Today 10:00 BBC News 10:30 Hardtalk 11:00 BBC News 11:30 Holiday 12:00 BBC News 12:30 Mastermind India 1:00 BBC News 1:30 Hardtalk 2:00 BBC News 2:30 Earth Report 3:00 BBC News 3:30 Hardtalk 4:00 BBC News 4:30 Click Online 5:00 BBC News 5:30 Earth Report 6:00 BBC News 6:30 Mastermind India 7:00 BBC News 7:15 World Business Report 7:30 Holiday 8:00 BBC News 8:30 Hardtalk 9:00 BBC News 9:30 Asia Today 10:00 BBC News 10:30 Wheels 11:00 BBC News 12:00 BBC News 12:35 World Business Report 1:00 BBC News 1:30 Hardtalk 2:00 BBC News 2:30 Talking Movies 3:00 BBC News 3:30 World
- Business Report** 4:00 BBC News 4:30 Asia Business Report 5:00 BBC News 5:30 World Business Report
- HBO**  
7:00 Two For Texas 9:00 Melanie Darrow 10:45 US Marshalls 1:30 Flipper 3:30 Excalibur 6:30 Brain Donors 8:15 Beethoven 10:40 A Few Good Men 12:45 Dream For An Insomniac 2:30 US Marshalls 5:15 Brain Donors
- STAR WORLD**  
8:00 Home Improvement 8:30 Happy Days 9:00 That 70's Show 9:30 Dharma & Greg 10:00 Chicago Hope 11:00 The Oprah Winfrey Show 12:00 Everybody Loves Raymond 12:30 Frasier 1:00 The Things People Do 1:30 The Bold and the Beautiful 2:00 Mork & Mindy 2:30 Happy Days 3:00

## PICK OF THE DAY



### A Few Good Men

While defending two young Marines accused of murder, a Navy lawyer (Tom Cruise) finds he must face his own deepest fears. But what begins as a routine open and shut case, slowly unravels into a far more complex issue than the young Lieutenant lawyer expects.

Baywatch 4:00 Hollywood Squares 4:30 Home Improvement 5:00 Star News Asia 5:30 Friends 6:00 JAG 6:55 Star News Asia

## ZEE CINEMA

- 6:30 Narasi Bhagat (Vishnuvant Pagnis, Durga Khote) 10:30 Mera Farz (Nagaruna, Sri Devi) 2:00 Hum Sava (Joy Mukherjee, Rekha) 6:00 Ek Hi Bhoor (Jeetendra, Shabana Azmi) 10:30 Jeene Nahi Doonga (Dharmendra, Anita Raaj) 2:30 Meena Bazaar (Om Puri, Rupa Ganguly)
- ZEE MGM**  
6:30 Carry On Again Doctor 9:00 Eleventh Commandment 11:30 Coca-Cola Kid 2:00 Roadie 4:30 Angel River 7:00 Break In-2 Electric Boogaloo 9:30 Mystic Pizza 11:30 Terror Squad 1:30 Bring On The Night 4:00 The Lady Forgets



### Mild Seven Out Door Quest on AXN at 7:00 p.m.

Hidden Seals Of Siberia 11:00 Tribal Tuesdays: Ancestral Gift 10:30 Amazon Bronze 12:00 National Geographic Specials: Great Lakes-Fragile Seas 12:30 Wild Africa From The Ground 1:00 Wild: Wild Family Secrets Kings Of The Canopy 1:30 Lost Civilisations Ofrio Vanta 2:30 Family Hour: Power Of Water 6:00 Wild: Africa From The Ground Up 7:00 Wild: Wild Family Secrets Kings Of The Canopy 7:30 Tribal Tuesdays: Lords Of The Garden 8:00 National Geographic Specials: Great Lakes-Fragile Seas 9:00 Insectia: Insects Gods 4:00 Wild: Africa From The Ground Up 4:30 Wild: Wild Family Secrets Kings Of The Canopy 5:00 Ocean: Sea Stories: Humpback Whale Of Tona 5:30 Reef Garden Of Okinawa

- ALPHA BANGLA TV**  
6:30 Aalap 7:00 Griha Sajja 7:30 News/Arghya 8:00 Din Protidin 9:00 News/Bhara
- DISCOVERY CHANNEL**  
6:30 Go For It! 7:30 Ushuaia 8:30 Lonely Planet II 9:30 Animal Survivors 10:00 Eye-witness II 10:30 ESPU 11:00 EOuter Bounds I

The Proprietor on Star Movies at 7:15 pm  
Adreinne Mar (Moreau), a famous novelist living in New York City, learns that the flat in Paris where she grew up is for sale. Looking for a key to her past, she buys the apartment and discovers a cache of letters written by her late mother. Adrienne's mother died in a Nazi concentration camp during WWII, but while she's been led to believe that her mother was betrayed while working in the resistance, the letters suggest that the truth was far more troubling.

**STAR GOLD**  
6:00 Cine Jharokha 6:30 Star Geetma 7:30 Good Morning India 8:30 Cine Jharokha 9:00 Hit Ya Fit 9:30 Star Morning Show 12:30 Hit Ya Fit 1:00 TSN 1:30 Tanha 2:00 Meri Saheli 2:30 Saans 3:00 Siski 3:30 Small Wonder 4:00 Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi 4:30 Cine Jharokha 5:00 Hit Ya Fit 5:30 I Love My India 6:00 Small Wonder 6:30 Fox Kids 7:30 Kahani Ghar Ghar Ki 8:00 Tu Tu Main Main 8:30 Kabhi Kabhi Mere Ghar Mein Bhuchal Aata Hai 9:00 Kora Kagaz 9:30 Kaun Banega Crorepati 10:30 Kahaani Ghar

- Goodnight 12:30 Movies With Style: Hells Kitchen 2:30 Action: Free Fall 5:00 Horror: Omen IV The Awakening
- 6:00 Burn Up Excess/Who Dares Wins 7:00 Survivor 8:00 High Action Adrenalin/Space Warship Yamamoto Yoko 9:00 Dual/Shadow Skills 1:00 Burn Up Excess/Who Dares Wins 11:00 Survivor 12:00 Mild Seven Outdoor Quest 1:00 Movie: Smurai X: The Movie 3:00 Who Dares Wins/Space Warship Yamamoto Yoko 4:00 Dual/Shadow Skills 5:00 Burn Up Excess/Who Dares Wins 6:00 Survivor 7:00 Mild Seven Outdoor Quest 8:00



Friends on Star World at 9:00 p.m.