

## photography Portraying the Sunny Side

Another event of Chobi Mela ends at Gallery Chittrak

By Tawfique Ali

DHAKA just hosted the largest-ever photography festival in Asia. The extravaganza has been sewn up with a number of good shows, on wide ranging subjects and issues, at different venues in the city. The show titled "My Work", by Gohn Kippin from Great Britain was hosted by Gallery Chittrak from December 17 to 31 at Dhanmondi. Held as part of the ongoing Chobi Mela, this episode too, like other shows, served as a significant part of the entire exhibition.

"My Work" is all about presenting the cultural construct called the 'landscape'. Whilst working within a broadly familiar genre and tradition "My Work" lends particular consideration to revealing social, political and cultural issues and histories. Gohn Kippin is interested in the debates, framing representations of the actual world and attempts to define and create developments of the documentary-style photography. His photos have colour. The significant titles are 'Migrant Labour' and 'Nepal by Nepalis'. All the photographs are life-size pictures. The enormous size lends these photographs a distinction and has made them different from other works on display at other venues.

Pictures at this exhibition are colourful with brilliance of light that

easily captivate the viewers' attention.

The Three Graces' snapped in 1996 from the National Measure of Scotland, Edinburgh, was put on show in the first section of the gallery. It shows a sculpture of three female figures made of white stone. These three figures stand entwining each other speaks about an exquisiteness of womanliness. The shape, lines and curves of the woman figure, distinctly visible in the work, suggest how beautiful can woman be.

An aesthetic appeal of the bodily beauty has been retained through the artist's expertise. An implication is evident that a sculptor overwhelmed the photographer.

'Landscape with Animal' photographed in 1987 from Sunderland shows animal figures along with other bright objects.

Three photos called 'The Secret Intelligence of the Silent', 'Intelligence', and the 'Secret Project' an interplay of secrecy and silence against the backdrop of big open field, forlorn buildings and birds laying eggs in secret.

Traffic parking and movement have been wonderfully projected in 'Car Park Police' photographed in 1994 from Metro centre, Gateshead. An honest diligence, commitment and professionalism of traffic police in ensuring a chaos-free traffic points at the wild disorder and mismanaged traffic chaos in



Dhaka. The picture of thousands of vehicles kept in order further hints at the inadequacy of traffic management system and, above all, at losing professional honesty of Bangladesh traffic police.

"Hidden" snapped in from National Park, Northumberland in 1990 shows an abandoned fighter

aircraft, crashed presumably in a fight. The title indicates the hidden bullet injury received inside the aircraft whose body has been pierced by anti-aircraft guns.

"Moonrise over tees side" a shot taken from Teesside river in 1992, captures a movement of divine beauty of nature at a moonlit night



on the bank of the river. Unearthly beauty of the rising moon over the river Teesside would transcend one to another world for a while.

'Circling', snapped in 1994 holds a view of an industrial location in Monkwearmouth, Colliery, Sunderland. Hardware factories have been captured in it alongside a criss-crossed rail line.

'Aphrodite' is another shot that glorifies Goddess-like beauty of a woman, taken from Cumbria in 1997. This is a picture that shows a full bloomed woman of unparalleled beauty coming out of a shell in which pearls are seen scattered around her, as it were, to make the woman surpass even their beauty.

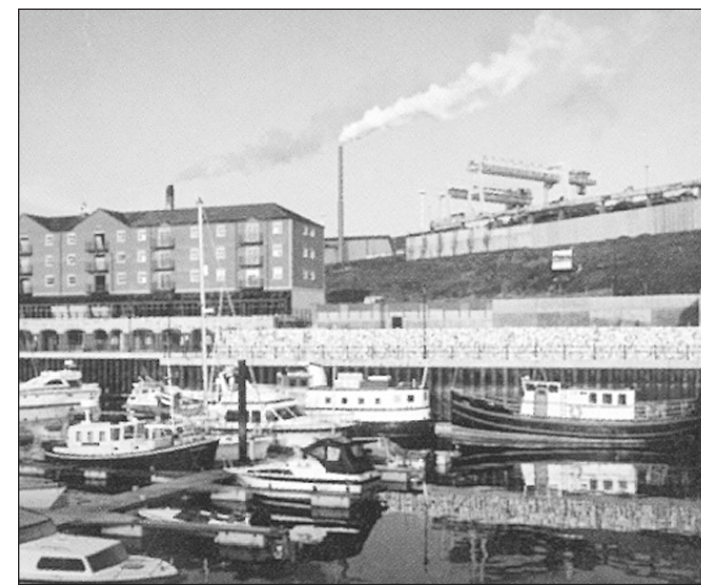
"Landscape with Santa" shot in 1992 from Metro Centre, Gateshead displays the Santa followed by a procession of believers in a churchyard in a beautiful landscape.

The works displayed in the exhibition by Kippin are the fruits of a ten-year-long hard work. Half of these photos were taken from the north of England, but the exact

locations have not been mentioned. Kippin, in his endeavour to tenure an image of Britain, has chosen a range concerns and feels that it offers a view of Britain and Britishness.

Gallery Chittrak was quite a beautiful corner in Dhanmondi

where both photographer and onlookers found an intimate atmosphere for artistic interaction.



### 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.

#### Mine, Yours, His/Her's

An exhibition titled Mine, Yours, His/Her's of creative interactive paintings by Omar Zafar was inaugurated at the Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts on December 20. The exhibition was jointly inaugurated by Abdus Samad Azad, Minister for Foreign Affairs and George Papandreu, Foreign Minister of Greece.

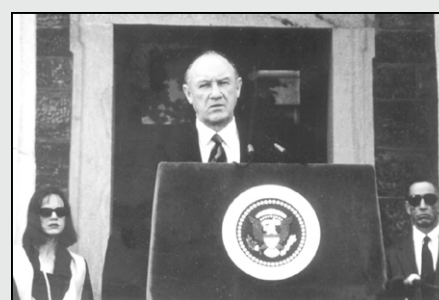
The exhibition has reopened after the Eid holidays on December 31 and will continue from 12 to 8p.m. till January 9.

#### World Press Retrospective 2000

Chobi Mela, the First Festival of Photography in Asia was formally opened on December 15 at Bangladesh National Museum with the inauguration of the retrospective exhibition of the World Press Photo Foundation, featuring the most significant press photographs taken over the last forty-five years. Many of these photographs have become icons in world history. This exhibition is being held at Bangladesh National Museum gallery and will remain open everyday from 11:00a.m 5:00p.m. till January 5, 2001.

## TV GUIDE

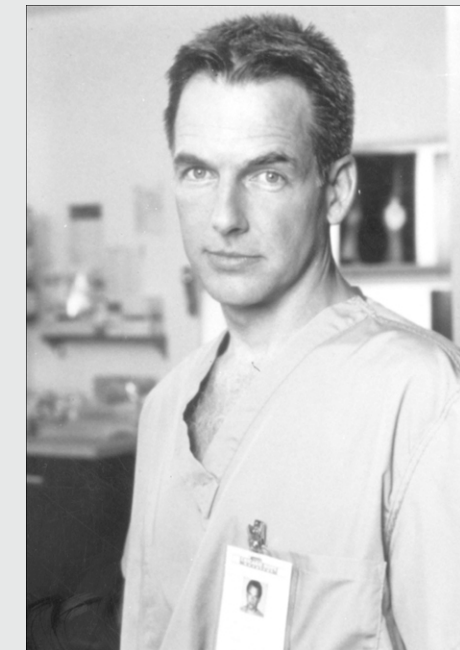
### PICK OF THE DAY



#### Absolute Power

**On HBO at 10.00 p.m.**  
The multi-faceted talents of Hollywood legend Clint Eastwood come to the fore in this white-knuckle thriller. He plays a notorious master thief who stumbles upon a bizarre murder one which involves the President of the United States. Career criminal Eastwood is on his final heist when he sees the President (Hackman) engaged in a kinky, extra-marital affair that leaves a woman dead. When Eastwood is framed as the killer, only a homicide detective (Harris) believes there's more to the story. Tautly directed by Oscar-winner Eastwood himself, this one is edge-of-the-seat stuff.  
Starring: Clint Eastwood, Ed Harris,

2:30 Comedy : Afterglow 15 4:30 Action : Chhupa Rustam 8:30  
Stealth fighter 15 Good Morning India 9:30  
6:15 Sci-Fi: Electra 15 9:30 Star Morning Show 12:30 Hit Ya Fit 1:00  
1:00 TSN 1:30 Tanha 2:00  
2:00 Meri Saheli 2:30 Saans 3:00 Shagun ep 3:30  
3:30 Kalash 4:00 Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi 4:30  
4:30 Hit Ya Fit 8:00 Cine Jharokha 5:00



Chicago Hope on Star World at 10.30 p.m.

Pather Pachali on Ekushey TV at 3.30 pm.

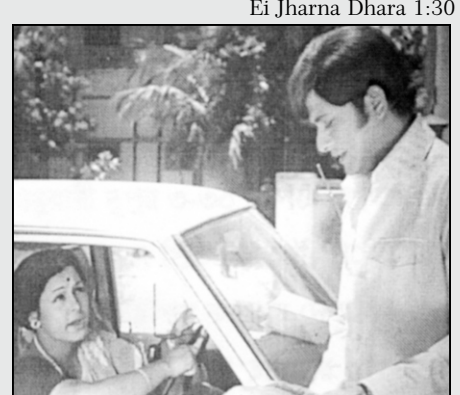
**EKUSHEY**  
12:00 Ekushey News  
Headlines 12:05 Ajker Potrikay 12:15 Bangla Movie: Bhul Bichar 2:40 Drishti 3:00 Ekushey News Headlines 3:05 Andha Shikari 3:30 Pother Paychali 4:00 Priyo Gaan 4:30 Expedition to the Animal Kingdom 5:00 Circus 5:30 Drishti 5:50 Ajker Potrikay 6:00 Ekushey News Headlines 6:05 Classic Cartoons 6:30 Charidike 7:00 Toyota World of Wildlife 7:30 Ekushey News 8:00 Aarong Eid Fashion 2000 9:00 Bangla



**Spy Hard on Star Movies at 10.30 p.m.**  
Starring: Leslie Nielsen, Nicollette Sheridan  
Nielsen plays Dick Steele, secret agent WD-40, called out of retirement to stop the world-conquering plans of his old nemesis, General Rancor, an armless madman determined to seek revenge upon Steele. Steele just happens to be the man responsible for Rancor's lack of appendages.

**STAR GOLD**  
8:30 Bollywood News 9:00 Chhoti Bahen 12:00 Geet Bahar 12:30 Sahib Bahadur 3:30 Bollywood News 4:00 Hum Tum Aur Who 7:00 Geet Bahar 7:30 Monday Magic Samadhi 10:30 Bollywood News 11:00 Shakuntala 12:30 Shakuntala (Cont) 2:00 Geet Bahar 2:30 Hum Tum Aur Who 5:30 Shakuntala

**STAR WORLD**  
7:00 Dr Ramesh Richard 7:30 50 Years of I Love Lucy 9:30 French and Saunders 10:00 Mr Bean 11:00 3rd Rock From The Sun 11:30 World's Greatest Magic 1:30 42nd Annual Grammy Awards 4:00 27th American Music Awards 6:00 Mr Bean 7:00 Home Improvement 7:30 Star News Asia 8:00 Friends

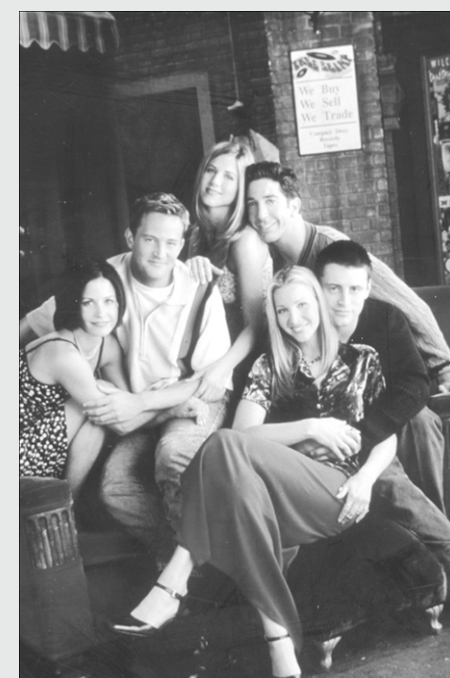


Bangla movie Amar Prem on Ekushey TV at 8:00 pm.

Movie: Omor Prem 10:00 BTV News 10:20 Bangla Movie: Omor Prem 11:00 Ekushey Nightly News 11:15 Ekushey News Headlines

**ALPHA BANGLA TV**  
6:00 Aalap 7:00 Griho Sajja 7:30 News/Arghya 8:00 Din Protidin 9:00 News/Bharat Bhroman 9:30 Bhahari Aahar 10:00 Griho Sajja 10:30

**HBO**  
7:00 Surviving Picasso 9:45 Framed 11:45 Club Paradise 1:45 Eraser 4:00 Above the Law 6:00 The Cisco Kid 8:00 Running Against Time 10:00 Absolute Power 12:30 The Stepdaughter 2:30 Above the Law 4:30 YoungatHeart



Friends on Star World at 11.30 pm.

BBC News 8:30 10:30 Mastermind  
Hardtalk 9:00 BBC India 11:00 BBC  
News 9:30 Asia Today News 11:15 World  
10:00 BBC News Business Report



Dharma & Greg on Star World at 9.30 pm.

11:30 Click Online  
12:00 BBC News  
12:30 World Business  
Report 12:45 World  
Sport 1:00 BBC News  
1:30 Hardtalk 2:00  
BBC News 2:30  
Holiday 3:00 BBC  
News 3:30 World  
Business Report 4:00  
World News 4:30 Asia  
Business Report 4:45  
World Business  
Report 5:00 BBC  
News 5:30 Asia Business  
Report/Asia Today

**CNN**  
4:00 CNN This Morning 4:30 Asia Business Morning 5:00 CNN This Morning 5:30 Asia Business Morning 6:00 CNN This Morning 6:15 Asia Business Morning 6:30 Asian Edition 6:45 Asia Business Morning 7:00 CNN

**DISCOVERY CHANNEL**  
6:30 Animal Survivors 7:00 ESPU 7:30 Outer Bounds I & II 8:00 Without Warning I 8:30 Lonely Planet IV 9:30 Beyond 2000 10:00 Next Step 10:30 Go for it! 11:30 Intimate Escapes 12:30 Wild Discovery 1:30 Medical Detectives I 2:00 Medical Detectives II 2:30 Vital Breakthroughs 3:30 Animal Survivors 4:00 ESPU 4:30 Outer Bounds I & II 5:00 Without Warning I