

exhibition

Reading History Thru' Images

World Press Retrospective Exhibition 2000 at the Bangladesh National Museum

By Nafid Imran Ahmed

FOR increasing public interest in press photography and to promote the free flow of information worldwide, the World Press Photo Foundation has played a major role since its inception in 1955. The World Press Photo Foundation is an independent platform for international press photography.

Each year, an independent international jury, consisting of nine members, judges the entries, submitted by photojournalists, agencies, newspapers and magazines from all corners of the world. Since 1955 World Press Photo Foundation has been organising this travelling exhibition each year.

Chobi Mela, the 1st Festival of Photography in Asia has not only brought the World Press Photo Exhibition 2000 to Dhaka, it also provided the opportunity to see a retrospective of the World Press Photo Exhibition to the people of Bangladesh. The formal opening of Chobi Mela was held with the inauguration of the World Press Retrospective 2000 at the National Museum on December 15.

The World Press Photo retrospective exhibition was first presented to the public in the fall

history of the world and how it had been profoundly transformed over that period of time. This exhibition is a collection of the best of the best. Apart from the World Press Photo of the Years, the exhibition also features some of the outstanding pieces of photojournalism. The National Museum gallery now showcases 209 pieces of the

conflicts raged in the Middle-East alone, in addition to the interminable Vietnam war. The agonies of Hungary and then Czechoslovakia, Lebanon and Indonesia, Biafra and Bangladesh, Cambodia and Chile, made headlines worldwide. But it was also a time for humankind to dream of the conquest of space and to begin to realize it.



most rare moments of visual history of the World captured by photojournalists from all corners of the globe since 1955.

According to Robt Pledge, the curator of the retrospective exhibition, when this retrospective was first launched in 1955 a tempestuous, contradictory

takes us in Dallas, Texas, USA dated 22 November 1963. This photo shows the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

The brutality of the Vietnam war is one of the major subjects of the World Press Retrospective. The World Press Photo of The Year 1966 by Japanese photojournalist Kyoshi Sawada unfolds the fact. In this photo American troops drag the body of a Viet Cong soldier to be buried. World Press Photo of The Year 1968 by Eddie Adams of the Associated Press, USA takes place in Saigon, South Vietnam, dated February 1, 1968, in which South Vietnam National police chief Nguyen Ngoc Loan executes a suspected

Viet Cong member.

Not only Vietnam, a photograph of our liberation war is also features in the retrospective. A brilliant photograph by Michel Paul Laurent/Horst Faas of the Associated Press, France, West Germany taken December 18, 1971, in Dhaka, the photograph shows how the suspected East Pakistani collaborators are beaten and executed by Bengalis after defeat of Pakistani forces.

World Press Photo of The Year 1972 by Nick Ut of the Associated Press, Vietnam captured Trangbang, South Vietnam on June 8, 1972, where a child Phan Thi Kim Phuc flees with other children after U.S. planes

were dropped napalm on South Vietnamese troops and civilians.

Apart from the wars, there are many photographs, which captured the accidents and crisis of the world. World Press Photo of The Year 1975 by Stanley Forman of the The Boston Herald, USA is such a photograph.

In this photo a woman and a girl are hurled off a collapsing fire escape in an apartment house



fire. The woman was killed but the child survived, her fall cushioned by the woman's body.

All the 209 pieces of photographs exhibited in the retrospective are the best snaps of the World Press Photo annual exhibitions. This compilation of photographs gleaned from almost five decades of World Press Photo is not entertainment. An eyewitness to history, it mirrors the years with images of unspeakable violence and madness. By printing these photographs, newspapers and magazines all over the world have contributed to raising the



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social and political consciousness of their readers. In bringing together this selection of two hundred and nine images, the World Press Retrospective has attempted to develop a broader historical perspective of our world without losing any of the emotional impact.

The exhibition will remain open to all from 11:00a.m. to 5:00p.m. till January 5.

literature

R[aw]ollicking Recherche

British fiction writer Peter Bradshaw enchants Dhaka's literati, poets, fiction writers at the Aark Arts Literary Evening held on Tuesday

By Sudeep Sen

A phenomenon within the larger British literary scene, that of journalists producing novels with a fair bit of success, is an interesting sub-trend to watch. Journalists and columnists like Zor Heller, Tony Parsons, A G Gill, John Walsh, Julie Burchill, and some others have all produced works of creative prose recently. A recent addition to that list is Peter Bradshaw, who was the toast of London not long ago for his stylised, acerbic, witty columns (or one might say anti-columns) for *Alan Clark's Diaries* for The Evening Standard where he then worked as an editorial-writer and columnist. He was pursued through the High Court by the Tory MP Alan Clark, a fact that only helped Bradshaw's case, as his spoof columns became even more popular and garnered more news and media space.

Whether it is the fact that the aforementioned set of journalists inhabit a cosy world of mutual admiration-hatred-support group, or whether the publicity and notoriety they get through others means; in Peter Bradshaw's case, it is his inherent talent with words, the way he weaves them, the street-cred dialogue he employs, the hip-cosmopolitan-contemporary setting of his story, and ultimately, his sharply-muttered wit, intelligence, and sincerity that makes Bradshaw stand out among his peers.

Lucky Baby Jesus (London: Little Brown, Pages 305, £14.99, ISBN 0-316-84737-2) is Bradshaw's debut novel. The paperback edition of this book has just recently appeared, and he was in Dhaka for a short visit and appeared at a private reading on January 2, 2001 as part of Aark Arts Literary Evenings'.

Lucky Baby Jesus's protagonists Sean Cunningham, editor of The Sodomite, a gay magazine; Ysenda, her younger sister Catherine; Wayne; Nick; and others all jostle for narrative space that is hectic, angst-ridden, and full of sexual crises. It is a multi-textured terrain that encompasses within its latitudes, the alternative underground world of writing, the world of theatre, media, nightclubs, glamour, grunge, cool,

hip, and the helical spiral of convenient self-centred relationships. It is the way Bradshaw handles the entire menagerie of emotions and situations with a calculated understated scalpel makes me fly through its pages without pauses. But Lucky Baby Jesus is also a novel about sex, repressed sex, closeted sex, and the insatiable hunger for more sex the way sex is intellectualised for the purposes of feigned discussion or sometimes even for the negation of so-called guilt.

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Recommendations



Art Exhibition

An art exhibition, titled 1st Young Artists Exhibition of Japan-Bangladesh, has started at the Zainul Gallery, Institute of Fine Arts, University of Dhaka. The exhibition will showcase the art works of 14 young artists, seven from Bangladesh and seven from Japan, till January 9, from 2 p.m. to 8 p.m. everyday.

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. to 5:00p.m. till January 5, 2001.



Bangla feature film Taka Ana Pai on Ekushey TV at 12:15 noon.

TV GUIDE

PICK OF THE DAY



The Paper

on HBO at 12:00 midnight. A modern-day tightrope act between career and family through the world of big city newspaper. It unfolds a tensely-paced 24-hour period of the newspaper and its harried editors who are trying to manage their troubled lives against the unyielding demands of a deadline.

Starring : Michael Keaton,

Hema Malini)

STAR WORLD

6:30 Life In The Word With Joyce Meyer 7:00 World News 7:30 Home Improvement 8:00 Happy Days 8:30 Guts A Girl, and A Pizza Place 12:00 Maggie Winters 1:00 Ally McBeal 1:30 The Oprah Winfrey Show 2:30 The Practice 3:30 Grace Under Fire

Ministries 4:30 Walker Texas 5:30 Creflo Dollar Daily

STAR PLUS

6:00 Tu Main

Main 6:30 STAR

Geeatma 7:30 Hit Ya

Jharokha 8:30 Good

Morning India 9:00

Hit Ya 9:30 Star

Morning Show 12:30

Hit Ya 1:00 TSN

1:30 Tanha 2:00 Meri

Saheli 2:30 Saans

3:00 Shagun

3:30

4:00 The Bold & the Beautiful 4:30 Mork & Mindy 5:00 Happy Days 5:30 Baywatch 6:30 Hollywood Squares 7:00 Home Improvement 7:30 Star News 8:00 Asia 8:30 Wildest Police Video 9:00 Star News 9:30 Walker Texas Ranger 10:30 Martial Law 11:30 Friends 12:00 Star News 1:00 World's Wildest Police Video 1:30 Walker Texas Ranger 2:30 Martial Law 3:30 World's Wildest Police Video 3:30 Kenneth Copeland

Kabhi Kabhi Mere Ghar Mein Bhuchal

Ata Hai 4:00 Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu

Thi 4:30 Cine Jharokha 5:00 Hit Ya

Fit 5:30 Kuchha Papad

6:00 Small Wonder

6:30 Fox Kids 7:30

Kahani Ghar Ghar Ki

8:00 Tu Tu Main

Main 8:30 Ma Shakti

9:30 Kaun Banega Crorepati 10:30

Kahaani Ghar Ghar Ki 11:00 Kyunki Saas

Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi

11:30 Aaj Ki Baat

12:00 Shagun 12:30

Taleebans 1:00

Kahaani Ghar Ghar

12:00 Star News 1:00

World's Wildest Police Video 1:30 Walker Texas Ranger 2:30 Martial Law 3:30 World's Wildest Police Video 3:30 Kenneth Copeland

Nowhere PG 6:00

Romance: Friends & Lovers 15 6:00

Drama: One Good Cop PG 8:00

The Ticket 10:30 Thursdays

Hot Meg Movie: The Santa Clause G 12:30

Hot Favoured: The Only Thrill 1999

(15) 2:30 Action :

Stranger on My Land (15) 4:30 E! Ths: Versace 15

ZEE CINEMA

6:30 Jaan Hatheli Par

(Hema Malini, Dharmendra) 10:30

Maha Gauru

(Rajani Kant, Meenakshi) 2:00

Honey Moon (Leena, Anil Dhaval) 6:30

Pretatma (Sandip Goyal, Sonali) 10:30

Hathiyar (Dharmendra, Rishi Kapoor) 2:30 Janam Se Pehle (Raj Babbar, Roshan, Sonam)

Wildlife 4:00 Wild

Return To The Wild

Toyota World Of

Wildlife 4:30 Wild

The Rescued Koala

4:30 Animal Minds

5:00 Science :

Tomorrow's World

5:30 Science: Shiver

8 # Hypothermia

8:00 Death

Zoneback To The

Killermountain

1:00 Animal Minds

1:30 The Cheetah

Family 2:30 Death

Zoneback To The

Killermountain 3:30

Wildlife 4:00 Wild

Return To The Wild