

documentary

Depicting the Plight of the Homeless

'Mahabub Alam's Back to Home depicts the plight of the people rehabilitated from city's slums under different social projects.

From the Cultural Desk

THE problem of homeless people in the city is not a new one. Different natural calamities lead to accumulation of floating people in the city who come to the metropolitan in search of a livelihood.

This problem has been discussed many times and different projects have also been undertaken to solve the problem.



The maker: Mahabub Alam

A new documentary has been made on the situation of these people and the progress of the projects undertaken to mitigate their problem. The documentary titled *Back to Home* has been directed by Mahabub Alam and explores the plight of the poor people stuck in urban areas for a living.

Dhaka was once called 'The City of Mosques'. Later it became more popularly known as 'City of Rickshaws' at home and abroad. Right now, perhaps, it's better known as Dhaka, the city of Traffic Jam. Now-a-days Dhaka has also achieved the title of city of slums. About 40 per cent of the one core people who live here live in the metropolitan city reside in slums. The government has taken up a rehabilitation programme of the slum dwellers, 'Gharey phera' alongside the eviction scheme from slums that are mushrooming in the city.

The documentary traces the work ongoing in these sectors. Some organisations of the slum dwellers have taken up rehabilitation programmes for the slum residents as private initiative alongside the government sponsored 'Assrayan' programme. Out of the slum dwellers' organisations Bashtuhara Samaj Kalyan

Samity Sheba Sangha is carrying on their rehabilitation activities in 27 district towns including the capital city through its 178 branches. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina handed over cheques among some slum dwellers at the beginning of this year at the Osmani Memorial Hall Dhaka to encourage the 'Gharey phera programme' of the slum dwellers.

The documentary shows the lakhs of people are rendered shelterless after having been lost their belongings in the frequent natural calamities, erosion of the rivers and through the activities of the mahajans and influential people of the society. These people come to towns in search of work and shelter. The number of such jobless and shelter less people in capital city and in other district towns is increasing day by day. This group of people usually takes shelter at government vacant lands, beside the railway stations and launch terminals and abandoned houses, where slums are developed. A large number of this landless and shelter less people have also taken shelter in the city after the



Nawajesh Ali Khan speaks at the launching of 'Gharey phera'

Bastuhara Samaj Kalyan Samity organised a grand rally at Paltan Maidan on the occasion of World Habitat Day where slum dwellers of Dhaka City and adjoining areas attended. Central leaders of Bastuhara Samaj Kalyan Samity (Sheba Sangha) President M A Zaman, Mostafa Patwari, intellectual Abdul Mannan Kochi, student leader Mamun and others spoke at the rally. The speakers at the rally called upon the people of all classes to come forward for rehabilitation of the millions of slum dwellers.

The fact that the relocation of these poor people is not the last leg of rehabilitation is what is emphasised in this documentary. Life in most of the new places they have been shifted to is miserable. Lack of sanitation is one of the major problems in most of the new abodes set up. Interference by mafias and local influential also affect the people trying to set up a new life here. Some victims have been interviewed who describe the miseries besetting them.

The documentary film has tried to show the real picture of the living condition of these slum dwellers.

Mahabub Alam who has directed the documentary is a journalist. He also directed the noted *Rabiul Nirboshonay* in 1987. *Back to Home* has been made by Grameen Tele Media.

Mahabub is at present working on a 4-part teleserial titled *Nai Telephone, Naire Peon* which is also produced by Grameen Tele Media.



A still from the new serial in making 'Nai telephone, naire peon'

Writer Siddiqu Rahman reviews the documentary

liberation of the country.

The documentary shows the plight of the people rehabilitated at Aukpara of Savar and Panisail of Gazipur. The people rehabilitated in these places have found the means and ways to live. Cottage industry, fishing, sewing and other works have shown them the path to stand on their feet. Four thousand people at Aukpara and two thousand people at Panisail have so far been rehabilitated through private initiatives, which is an appreciable task.

The documentary traces the work ongoing in these sectors. Some organisations of the slum dwellers have taken up rehabilitation programmes for the slum residents as private initiative alongside the government sponsored 'Assrayan' programme. Out of the slum dwellers' organisations Bashtuhara Samaj Kalyan

exhibition

Of Space, Objects and Body

An exhibition, that redefines traditional photography logic, opens at city's Drik Gallery today

By Muneera Parbeen

A Photography Exhibition titled *Space-Object-Body* curated by Thomas Luttge of Germany opens at the Drik Gallery in the city today.

The photographs on show at the exhibition are the results of a workshop held at Baroda in India recently.

The subject matter of the workshop included such conceptions as relating to space-object-body, which relate to a theme that is open and beyond cultures. It implies such a setting to which the Indian participants could relate easily, which yet would produce work far different from the mainstream concepts. It would be visual, yet emotional at the same time.

This dealing with emotions, free of preoccupations may sound a little hard to grasp, but actually underlies the freedom to be able to capture such moments as comes fleeting to the mind in a frenzy of activities, or even stillness. Luttge's workshop was thus seemingly simple, and yet complicated in its concepts and form of concentration.

But on viewing the end results of his workshop, it becomes clear that the so seemingly nonsensical theme turns into the concrete celebration of time and space, so visually Indian, and yet so fleetingly different in their perceptions. The pictures based on this free hand perception of different photographers at the end frame concrete visual and subjective stills.

The results are enigmatic. The pictures depict parts of limbs, the hands or feet or other parts of the body, in the seemingly free boundary of space, and yet each one is sensual in their presentation of a time-space frame. On a closer look, the pictures reveal bodies alone, or in association of objects that transform a variety of emotions in the collection of their being.

A picture of a girl dancing (twirling around) in a dark corridor for example is a very catching still of time. The picture shows the movement of her dress which still seems to be on the move, while the light and shadow on the girl's body reveal different parts in clear definition of existence. This perhaps is one of the clearer examples of the Space-Object-Body theme. Another still of a

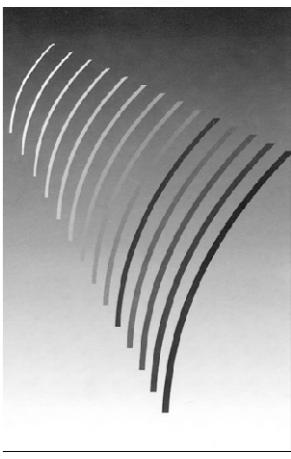


pair of hands in glimmering light, symbolises the union of space and object.

In this way the pictures offer a synthesis of understandable elements that is caught in the imagination and creativity of the photographer's perception of its relation with the physical world.



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* 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 Papandreou, Foreign Minister of Greece.

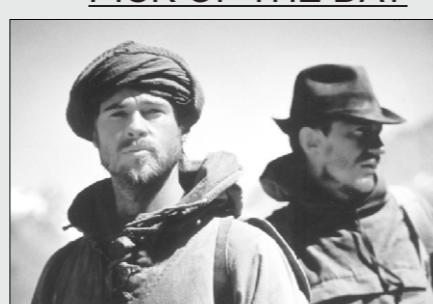
The exhibition has reopened after the Eid holidays on December 31 and will continue from 12 to 8 p.m. till January 9.

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 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. till January 5, 2001.

TV GUIDE

PICK OF THE DAY



"Seven Years in Tibet" on HBO at 10 pm

Heinrich Harrer, an Austrian leaves his country to climb a mountain in the Himalayas. A war breaks out he is placed in a *Prisoner of War* camp. On escaping Heinrich and his fellow climber become the only two foreigners in the Tibetan *Holy City of Lhasa*. Starring Brad Pitt, BD Wong.

Bhuchaal Aata Hai 2:30 National Geographic Special 3:30 Tea Time Cinema: 6:30 Musaffir Hoon Yaroon 7:00 Family Fortunes 7:30 Chalti Ka Naam Antakshri 8:30 STAR Mast

Movies: Beqaabu (Sanjay Kapoor, Mamta Kulkarni) 11:30 Aaj Ki Baat 12:00 Beqaabu (contd.) 12:30 Siski 1:00 Kalash 1:30 Gharwali Uparwali 2:00 Kabhi Kabhie Mere Ghar Mein

Bhuchaal Aata Hai 2:30 Hasna Matt 3:30 National Geographic Special 4:30

Hospital ex Mastermind 11:00 BBC News 11:30 Talking Movies 12:00 BBC News 12:30 This Week 1:00 BBC News 1:30 Earth Report 2:00 BBC News/Global Sunrise, The Gulf War, Dancing in The Street 3:00 BBC News 3:30 Talking Movies 4:00 BBC News/ Royal Coll Art, Icaesar, Idols, Burger & King

4:30 CNNdotCOM 5:00 World News 5:30 World Sport 6:00 World News 6:30 Biz Asia 7:00 World News 7:30 World Beat 8:00 World News 8:30 The Artclub 9:00 Style South Asia 10:00 World News

11:00 Business 11:30 CNN Indiatocom 12:00 World News 12:30 Ebizia 1:00 World News 1:30 CNN 2:00 World Sport 2:30 World News 6:00 World News 6:30 Biz Asia 7:00 World News 7:30 World Beat 8:00 World News 8:30 The Artclub 9:00 Style South Asia 10:00 World News

11:00 Business 11:30 CNN Indiatocom 12:00 World News 12:30 Ebizia 1:00 World News 1:30 CNN 2:00 World Sport 2:30 World News 6:00 World News 6:30 Biz Asia 7:00 World News 7:30 World Beat 8:00 World News 8:30 The Artclub 9:00 Style South Asia 10:00 World News

11:00 Business 11:30 CNN Indiatocom 12:00 World News 12:30 Ebizia 1:00 World News 1:30 CNN 2:00 World Sport 2:30 World News 6:00 World News 6:30 Biz Asia 7:00 World News 7:30 World Beat 8:00 World News 8:30 The Artclub 9:00 Style South Asia 10:00 World News

11:00 Business 11:30 CNN Indiatocom 12:00 World News 12:30 Ebizia 1:00 World News 1:30 CNN 2:00 World Sport 2:30 World News 6:00 World News 6:30 Biz Asia 7:00 World News 7:30 World Beat 8:00 World News 8:30 The Artclub 9:00 Style South Asia 10:00 World News

11:00 Business 11:30 CNN Indiatocom 12:00 World News 12:30 Ebizia 1:00 World News 1:30 CNN 2:00 World Sport 2:30 World News 6:00 World News 6:30 Biz Asia 7:00 World News 7:30 World Beat 8:00 World News 8:30 The Artclub 9:00 Style South Asia 10:00 World News

11:00 Business 11:30 CNN Indiatocom 12:00 World News 12:30 Ebizia 1:00 World News 1:30 CNN 2:00 World Sport 2:30 World News 6:00 World News 6:30 Biz Asia 7:00 World News 7:30 World Beat 8:00 World News 8:30 The Artclub 9:00 Style South Asia 10:00 World News

11:00 Business 11:30 CNN Indiatocom 12:00 World News 12:30 Ebizia 1:00 World News 1:30 CNN 2:00 World Sport 2:30 World News 6:00 World News 6:30 Biz Asia 7:00 World News 7:30 World Beat 8:00 World News 8:30 The Artclub 9:00 Style South Asia 10:00 World News

11:00 Business 11:30 CNN Indiatocom 12:00 World News 12:30 Ebizia 1:00 World News 1:30 CNN 2:00 World Sport 2:30 World News 6:00 World News 6:30 Biz Asia 7:00 World News 7:30 World Beat 8:00 World News 8:30 The Artclub 9:00 Style South Asia 10:00 World News

11:00 Business 11:30 CNN Indiatocom 12:00 World News 12:30 Ebizia 1:00 World News 1:30 CNN 2:00 World Sport 2:30 World News 6:00 World News 6:30 Biz Asia 7:00 World News 7:30 World Beat 8:00 World News 8:30 The Artclub 9:00 Style South Asia 10:00 World News

11:00 Business 11:30 CNN Indiatocom 12:00 World News 12:30 Ebizia 1:00 World News 1:30 CNN 2:00 World Sport 2:30 World News 6:00 World News 6:30 Biz Asia 7:00 World News 7:30 World Beat 8:00 World News 8:30 The Artclub 9:00 Style South Asia 10:00 World News

11:00 Business 11:30 CNN Indiatocom 12:00 World News 12:30 Ebizia 1:00 World News 1:30 CNN 2:00 World Sport 2:30 World News 6:00 World News 6:30 Biz Asia 7:00 World News 7:30 World Beat 8:00 World News 8:30 The Artclub 9:00 Style South Asia 10:00 World News

11:00 Business 11:30 CNN Indiatocom 12:00 World News 12:30 Ebizia 1:00 World News 1:30 CNN 2:00 World Sport 2:30 World News 6:00 World News 6:30 Biz Asia 7:00 World News 7:30 World Beat 8:00 World News 8:30 The Artclub 9:00 Style South Asia 10:00 World News

11:00 Business 11:30 CNN Indiatocom 12:00 World News 12:30 Ebizia 1:00 World News 1:30 CNN 2:00 World Sport 2:30 World News 6:00 World News 6:30 Biz Asia 7:00 World News 7:30 World Beat 8:00 World News 8:30 The Artclub 9:00 Style South Asia 10:00 World News

11:00 Business 11:30 CNN Indiatocom 12:00 World News 12:30 Ebizia 1:00 World News 1:30 CNN 2:00 World Sport 2:30 World News 6:00 World News 6:30 Biz Asia 7:00 World News 7:30 World Beat 8:00 World News 8:30 The Artclub 9:00 Style South Asia 10:00 World News

11:00 Business 11:30 CNN Indiatocom 12:00 World News 12:30 Ebizia 1:00 World News 1:30 CNN 2:00 World Sport 2:30 World News 6:00 World News 6:30 Biz Asia 7:00 World News 7:30 World Beat 8:00 World News 8:30 The Artclub 9:00 Style South Asia 10:00 World News

11:00 Business 11:30 CNN Indiatocom 12:00 World News 12:30 Ebizia 1:00 World News 1:30 CNN 2:00 World Sport 2:30 World News 6:00 World News 6:30 Biz Asia 7:00 World News 7:30 World Beat 8:00 World News 8:30 The Artclub 9:00 Style South Asia 10:00 World News

11:00 Business 11:30 CNN Indiatocom 12:00 World News 12:30 Ebizia 1:00 World News 1:30 CNN 2:00 World Sport 2:30 World News 6:00 World News 6:30 Biz Asia 7:00 World News 7:30 World Beat 8:00 World News 8:30 The Artclub 9:00 Style South Asia 10:00 World News

11:00 Business 11:30 CNN Indiatocom 12:00 World News 12:30 Ebizia 1:00 World News 1:30 CNN 2:00 World Sport 2:30 World News 6:00 World News 6:30 Biz Asia 7:00 World News 7:30 World Beat 8:00 World News 8:30 The Artclub 9:00 Style South Asia 10:00 World News

11:00 Business 11:30 CNN Indiatocom 12:00 World News 12:30 Ebizia 1:00 World News 1:30 CNN 2:00 World Sport 2:30 World News 6:00 World News 6:30 Biz Asia 7:00 World News 7:30 World Beat 8:00 World News 8:30 The Artclub 9:00 Style South Asia 10:00 World News

11:00 Business 11:30 CNN Indiatocom 12:00 World News 12:30 Ebizia 1:00 World News 1:30 CNN 2:00 World Sport 2:30 World News 6:00 World News 6:30 Biz Asia 7:00 World News 7:30 World Beat 8:00 World News 8:30 The Artclub 9:00 Style South Asia 10:00 World News

11:00 Business 11:30 CNN Indiatocom 12:00 World News 12:30 Ebizia 1:00 World News 1:30 CNN 2:00 World Sport 2:30 World News 6:00 World News 6:30 Biz Asia 7:00 World News 7:30