

## Music

# Portraying the Rights of Children

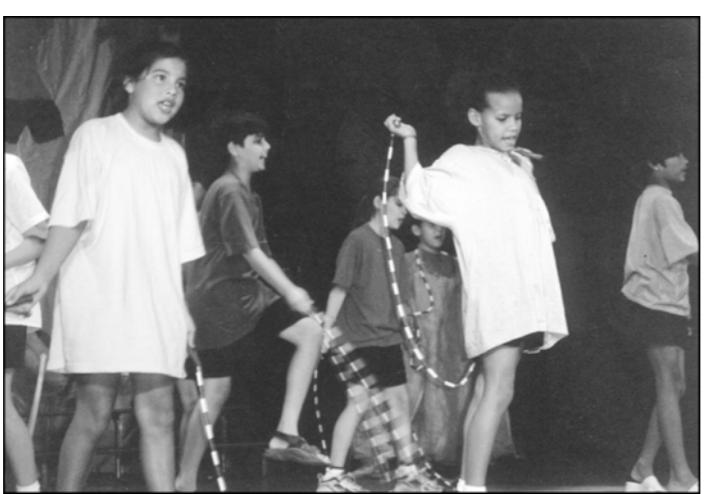
AIS/D presents "The Next Generation"

TAWFIQUE ALI

It was wonderful to see the children speaking for children's rights in a convincing fashion. It was the pupils of grade KG through 5 of American Int'l. School, Dhaka, who dramatically spoke of their rights as children through performing a musical play 'The Next Generation' at the school auditorium on May 24 in the evening.

Meemie Kemper, creator and director of the play, said, "We made them feel for the children like them over the world and voice what they think of their distress and rights."

This year, the United Nations celebrated the 10th anniversary of the 12 Rights of Children with the 'year of the child.' Meemie said, "I was interested in finding out what children had to say about their rights. Young AIS/D students were encouraged to express their feelings concerning the 12 Rights. Over 260 pieces of writing were submitted. I compiled 90 of the students' stories, poems and essays, representing 18 nationalities. I created



Right to play "Children have the right to play, every single night and day..."

convention in 1991 in which Bangladesh is one of the first 22 signatory countries. The UN convention on Child Rights assures that all the children of the world are entitled to the right to grow in freedom. Any child is entitled to social security, healthy food, basic education and

humanitarian societies, is a common phenomenon. More particularly, those parts of the world, which are grimly ridden with abject poverty, experience frequent violation of children's rights at every stage of their childhood. In the world's under developed countries like ours, children helplessly fall prey to the curse of poverty and the idea of children's rights appear to be a luxury making child rights demand a far cry. Poverty is the foremost curse, which renders children both mentally and physically crippled.

Next is the curse of mindless warfare that devastates their lives from the outset. Child trafficking in many countries of the world, particularly in the South Asian region, is a mockery at the status of children rights. Though entertained in the UN convention, frequent denial of child rights is a usual scenario in the South Asian poor countries, African civil war stricken countries, Bosnia, Kashmir and many more. Bangladesh poses a very sorry figure in this respect. Though the children's rights convention maintains that children must not be subjected to child labour or forced labour, child labour and begging is a cruel fact in today's world.

The play opened with the scene in which Bangladeshi children are seen begging in the street instead of going to school. This scene portrayed Bangladeshi children homeless and working in the factories. They were mostly vagrants and went uncared, deprived of the hearth of family life. Again it was a

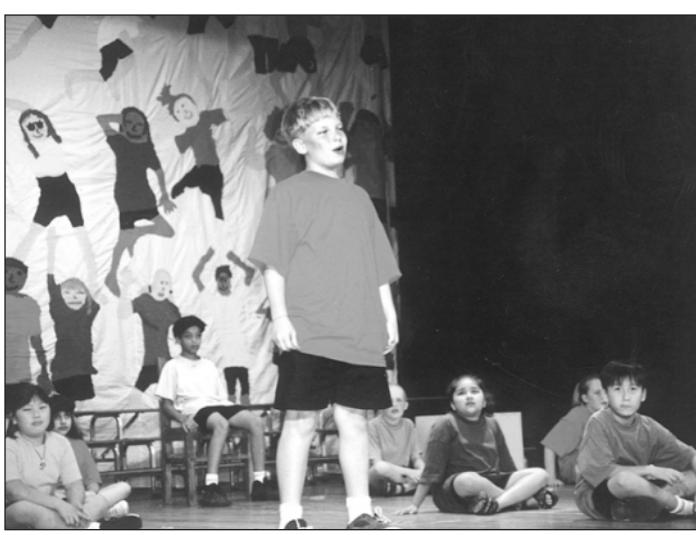
depiction of a life of disgrace, humiliation and neglect.

Throughout acting out twelve scenes portraying twelve children's rights, the children performers spoke of each individual right in a rather amusing but effective manner. The first scene reflected the right to play through the music 'The 12 Rights of Children'.

Next came the right to education, which acted out in pantomime in a silk factory. After that was the song 'May There Always Be Sunshine, They Have No Family of Their Own, Protection With No Family' speaking for the children's right to protection in any case.

In the fourth scene they sang 'Somewhere Over the Rainbow' for right to be a citizen of their homeland. In the fifth scene it was a touching music 'If I were in charge of the world' to show their promise and commitment for the wellbeing of the children. This scene depicted children's right to health care. The sixth scene presented the song 'Clean Water'.

In the scene named 'If Every Child Had Healthy Food', they presented right to protection from abuse. Tenth was the right to freedom of expression. Eleventh was children's right to respect. They claimed every child should have right to be respected and showing respect to others would make the world a better place. In the last scene they sang 'Dear Diary'.



Right to health care. "if I were in charge of the world here's what I would do..." (Daylan Derksen)

music with the assistance of Jean Haynes and wrote 'The Next Generation', a musical presentation of kids speaking out for the rights of children. Children do have a voice, and as one child put it, "Kids deserve to be heard."

The UN adopted the Child Rights

health care. According to the convention, children must be exempted from atrocity and ferocity of war and conflict irrespective of their nationalities.

But it is regrettable that dire violation of children rights throughout the world, except some affluent



Right to Healthy food "Healthy foods" poem

Some of the young performers, when asked, namely Taheea Khan, Emily, Nina, Haley, Amanda and June said that they enjoyed the acting on the stage since "every body concerned helped us." When asked whether they could understand the play's theme, they said, "We have seen many such ill-fated and under privileged children, denied of their rights, in different countries including Bangladesh."

Meemie Kemper, a 1st grade teacher at the AIS/D, is doing her M.Ed at Plymouth State College in the USA. Meemie said, "I am thrilled with the performance and the message. It was not merely a show but conveying a message also. The incredible thing about this show was that it was truly a kid-centered endeavour. Words of the play were of the children. The kids in the play have learned a lot about the rights of children. They had developed empathy for the needy children of the world and had realized both the potential and need for change. They truly believe: 'The next generation will be better than this'."

Though belonging to the most affluent societies of the world, these children appeared to have compassion for the ill-fated ones, at least on principle.

## Exhibition

# Fiery feelings expressed with brushstrokes

## Abu Salim's paintings on the Liberation War

MUNEERA PARBEEN

ALKING into Drik Gallery earlier this month was quite an overwhelming experience. It was like walking into a fiery zone, with colours of flames almost bursting out of the paintings hung on the wall.

Abu Salim, in his latest collection titled 'Days of '71' that was on display at the gallery recently, used fiery shades of red and yellow to bring his work to life.

His paintings of nature and human beings in the context of the Liberation war depicted scenes that we are all so familiar with. The fiery colours depicted the rage and the intensity of the feelings that these scenes evoke in us. The paintings



on display at this exhibition showed the use of these loud colours in bold strokes. The scenes depict essentially scenes from the war.

In '25th March', the artist used red, yellow and black to depict the beginning of the barbarous Pak aggression on Bengalees. The colours rightfully caught the outrage, impact and shame of the attacks of the night.

In 'Mother and Child', Salim showed a mother fleeing with a child hanging on to her bosom. The features of her face were not visible at all in this painting. And yet the expression of fear in the entire picture reminded one easily of the terrors that the women of the country went through during each day of the war, especially those who had to

run helter-skelter every moment for some degree of safety. Again the use of shades of red and yellow with a dab of black captured the mood of the story it depicts.

The story of the 'Prisoner', in which a man was seen, tied up, somewhere, awaiting some fate unknown to us this was altogether another well known scene of the war when thousands of innocent men were tied up and taken away, never to be seen again.

The artist had used his brush and paints very effectively in each of these compositions. The colours he had chosen were also appropriate in the sense that he had concentrated on the devastating nine months during which the people of Bangladesh were tortured and hurt in every

## RECOMMENDATIONS

### Contemporary Art of Bangladesh - Trends

Organised by the High Commission of India, a ten daylong exhibition titled 'Contemporary Art of Bangladesh - Trends' is being held at the High Commission of India Cultural Centre.

The exhibition will remain open from 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. till June 2.



### Bonsai Exhibition

The 4th solo exhibition of Bonsai by Arham-ul-Huq Chowdhury is being held at the Bengal Gallery (Bengal Shilpalya, 275/F, Road 27 old, Dharmamandi).

The exhibition will remain open to all from 12:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. everyday till May 31.



### Paintings for the Liberation War Museum

A painting exhibition by Kanak Champa Chakma and Khalid Mahmood Mithu is being held at the Saju Art Gallery in Gulshan. The artists donated all these artworks for Liberation War Museum's fund raising.

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

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## TV GUIDE

### TODAY'S HIGHLIGHTS



EKUSHEY: 3:30 p.m. *Kena Kata*. This week's shopping guide includes a feature on 'Door Step'. Apart from this there will be info on Internet connection rate, time table of Dhaka's markets, on-line shopping and many more.



EKUSHEY: 8:30 p.m. *Rangdhanur Range*. Binita and Shuchita are two sisters. They go to Chittagong for their cousin's marriage. They meet young businessman Shakhat at the airport. Shakhat likes Binita, but she does not respond because of her haunting past.



STAR WORLD: 10:00 p.m. *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*. Fear Itself! On Halloween, Buffy and her friends find themselves trapped inside a haunted house... complete with real-life bats, zombies and a terrifying demon from beyond.



STAR WORLD: 11:00 p.m. *Angel. I Fall To Pieces*: Angel aids a woman being stalked by deranged surgeon who is literally coming apart.

### PICK OF THE DAY



#### Meet Joe Black

On HBO at 10:00 p.m. A profound and bitter story, it sets a question weather love can exist under the most extreme of circumstances. Joe Black, a messenger of death has to deliver the father of the women who falls in love with him to the pearly gates.

### ZEE MGM

9:00 Consuming Passion  
11:30 Reborn  
2:00 The Ambulance  
4:30 Eleventh Commandment  
7:00 Beauty And The Beast  
9:30 Consuming Passion  
11:30 Reborn

### ZEE ENGLISH

6:30 Benny Hill Show  
7:00 Capitol  
7:30 Music Zone  
8:00 Late Show With David Letterman  
9:00 Three's Company  
9:30 Here's Lucy  
10:00 Dave's World  
10:30 Homicide Life On Street  
11:30 Full House  
12:00 Capitol  
12:30 All My Children

### ZEE MUSIC

6:00 Zee Music Plus  
7:00 Alap  
7:30 Tararan  
8:30 Hit Pe Hit  
10:30 Hit Mix

### ZEE CINEMA

2:30 Krishna Leela- Feature Film  
5:00 Shesh Prashna  
5:30 Half Chocolate/Disney  
6:00 Alpha Khabar  
6:25 Jhankar  
6:30 Foot Ball  
7:00 Swapnoneel  
7:25 Jhankar  
7:30 Ki Likhii Tomai  
7:55 Jhankar  
8:00 Nayanara  
8:30 Ek Akasher Niche  
9:00 Saregama  
10:00 News Bulletin  
10:05 Ek Palake  
10:10 Ingeet  
10:40 Ek Palake  
10:45 Foot Ball  
11:20 Alpha Khabar  
11:45 Ek Palake  
11:50 Mahanagar  
12:20 Surer Ei Jhama Dhara

### ZEE TV

6:15 Yaadon Ke Pal  
6:45 Old Is Gold  
7:00 Bhakti Geet  
7:30 Jagran  
8:00 Morning Zee  
8:30 Nickelodeon On Zee  
9:00 Nickelodeon On Zee

### ALPHA TV

6:00 Bhalobasha  
9:00 Kuch Lamhe Kuch Nagme  
9:15 Super Hit Hamesha  
9:45 Movie Fare  
10:00 Locket  
1:00 Cine News  
1:15 Madhyantar  
1:30 Zahreel  
5:00 Darpan  
5:15 Directors Diary  
5:45 Film Time  
6:00 Shaitan Ilaka  
9:45 Chapatli Chat  
10:00 Top of the Tops  
10:30 Andha Kanoon

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### ESPN

6:00 Baseball The Road To Omaha (Selection Show)  
12:30 Hit Ya Fit  
1:00 TSN

1:30 Kahanii Ghar Ghar Ki  
2:00 Sanskruti

2:30 Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi  
3:00 Shagun  
3:30 Shanti  
4:00 Meri Saheli

4:30 Kaahin Kissi Roz  
5:00 Hit Ya Fit  
5:30 Kuchha Papad Pucca Papad

6:00 Small Wonder  
6:30 Fox Kids-Daily  
7:30 Sanskruti

8:00 Tu Tu Main Main  
1:30 The Bold & The Beautiful

9:00 Kahaanii Kissi Roz  
10:00 Ji Mantri

10:30 Kahaani Ghar Ghar Kii

11:00 Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi  
11:30 Aaj Ki Baat  
12:00 Shagun

12:30 Moleworld  
10:00 LPGA Golf LPGA Coming

11:30 Now & Then, Here & There/Curious Play

12:00 AMA Motocross Glen Helen, CA USA

12:30 US Women's Open Golf Champs US Women's

1:00 Ripley's Believe It or Not

10:30 Grander Musashi RV/Starship Troopers

11:30 Now & Then, Here &

12:30 STAR