

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 Intl. 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 thought of their distress and rights."

This year, the United Nations celebrated the 10<sup>th</sup> 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 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

WALKING 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 of 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

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



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

way possible. With these bright colours and bold strokes the artist was able to capture his feelings appropriately on the canvases.

The artist's love for children was also clear in this exhibition as many of his subjects were children.

The exhibition was a collection of paintings that linger long in the memories of those who had a look at it.

This was the artist's sixth solo exhibition. He has earlier had exhibitions in the country as well as in Yugoslavia and Poland. He also won awards in two exhibitions, one in Poland and the other at Shelaidah Kuthibari.

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 Shilpalaya, 275/F, Road 27 old, Dhanmondi).

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 Chandra 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 to all from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. till May 31.

TV GUIDE

<div><div>BTV</div><div>3:20 Open University 3:45 Documentary 4:00 Khabar 4:05 Cartoon: Burney and Friends 4:30 Ta Ta Thoi Thoi 5:00 School Debate 5:45 Dharma O'Jiban 6:00 Khabar 6:20 Shashatathya 6:35 Shondhamaloti 7:00 News Headlines 7:05 Agradoot 7:30 Special on World Tobacco Free Day 8:00 News in Bengali 8:30 Drama Serial: Sparsha 9:00 News Headlines 9:05 Magazine Show: Adda 9:30 Karishma 10:00 Monihar 10:30 News in English 10:55 Panch Akasher Tara 11:30 Khabar / The News 11:45 Closing</div><div><div>EKUSHEY TV</div><div>12:00 Ekushey Midday 12:20 Bangla Film: Notun Prithibi 2:40 Ekushey Headlines 3:00 Drama Serial : Na 3:30 Kena Kata 4:00 Bauliana 4:30 Expedition to the Animal Kingdom 5:00 Circus Circus 5:30 Drishti 5:50 Aaker Potrikay 6:00 Ekushey Headlines 6:05 Classic Cartoons 6:30 Chardike 7:00 Supernatural 7:30 Ekushey News 8:00 English Series: Peter Benchley's Amazon Drama: Rongdhonur Rong 9:00 Nazrul Songit 10:30 BTV News 11:00 Ekushey Nightly News 11:30 E Shoptaher Bishsho 12:00 Ekushey News Headlines</div><div><div>ATN</div><div>5:30 Islamic Prog. 7:00 Health care prog. Sustha Thakun 7:35 Film song's prog. Surchobi 8:05 Drama serial : Lokeshor Loknath 8:40 Film Magazine : Daiiwood Bichitra 9:15 Discussion prog. "Ekhattarer Soinic Magazine Prog: "Agamir Tarka" 9:50 Mega Serial 'Vidroho' 11:00 Bengali feature film : Rajmata 6:32 Islamic prog. 'Sundor Jeebaner Jannee' 7:10 Film prog. 'A Shaptaher Chohoi' 7:50 Drama serial : Obinatree 9:00 Galazy I T Amousment 9:35 Reporting prog. : Prekha Pot 10:10 Musical prog: Band Show 10:45 Bengali feature film : Jeler Maye Roshni</div></div></div></div>	<div><div>STAR GOLD</div><div>10:30 Woodland Bollywood News 11:00 Geet Bahar 11:30 Bandini (Nutan, Ashok Kumar, Dharmendra) 3:00 Woodland Bollywood News 3:30 Anuraag (Ashok Kumar, Nutan, Vinod Mehra) 7:00 Geet Bahar 7:30 Lamhe Pyaar Ke 11:00 Woodland Bollywood News 11:30 Milap (Shatrughan Sinha, Reena Roy)</div><div><div>HBO</div><div>7:00 Almost Heroes 9:00 Greedy 11:15 Problem Child 1:00 The Pelican Brief 4:00 The Seventh Sign 6:00 Showdown in Little Tokyo 7:45 Losing Isaiah 10:00 Meet Joe Black 1:30 Almost Heroes 3:30 The Pelican Brief</div><div><div>BBC WORLD</div><div>6:00 BBC News 6:30 World Business Report 7:00 BBC News 7:30 Asia Today/Asia Business Report 8:00 BBC News 8:30 Asia Today/World Business Report 9:00 BBC News 9:30 Asia Today/Asia Business Report 10:00 BBC News 10:30 Top Gear 11:00 BBC News 11:30 Reporters 12:00 BBC News 12:30 Hardtalk 1:30 BBC News 1:30 Talking Movies 2:00 BBC News 2:30 Rep Polar 3:00 BBC News 3:30 Hardtalk 4:30 Holiday 5:00 BBC News 5:30 Rep Polar 6:00 BBC News 6:30 Face to Face 7:00 BBC News 7:15 World Business Report</div></div></div></div>	<div><div>7:30 Top Gear 8:00 BBC News 8:30 Rep Polar 9:00 BBC News 9:30 Asia Today 10:00 BBC News 10:15 World Business Report 10:30 IT India Tomorrow 11:00 BBC News 11:45 World Business Report/World Sport 12:00 BBC News 12:30 Hardtalk 1:00 BBC News 1:30 Click Online 2:00 BBC News 2:30 World Business Report 3:00 BBC News 3:30 Life ex Panorama 4:00 BBC News 4:30 Asia Business Report/Asia Today 5:00 BBC News 5:30 Asia Business Report/Asia Today</div><div><div>STAR WORLD</div><div>6:00 Murder Call 7:00 The Oprah Winfrey Show 8:00 Home Improvement 8:30 Happy Days 9:00 The Drew Carey Show 9:30 Whose Line Is It Anyway? 10:00 Ally McBeal 11:00 The Oprah Winfrey Show 12:00 The Practice 1:00 Fashion TV 1:30 The Bold &amp; The Beautiful 2:00 Mork &amp; Mindy 2:30 Happy Days 3:00 Baywatch 4:00 The Simpsons 4:30 Home Improvement 5:00 STAR News Asia 5:30 Friends 6:00 Buffy The Vampire Slayer 6:45 STAR New Asia 7:00 Angel 8:00 Millennium 9:00 Friends 9:30 Star News 12:00 Shagun</div><div><div>AXN</div><div>6:30 Grander Musashi RV/Starship Troopers 7:30 Now &amp; Then, Here &amp; There/Curious Play 8:30 Big Sky II/Stan By Your Man 9:30 Ripley's Believe It or Not 10:30 Grander Musashi RV/Starship Troopers 11:30 Now &amp; Then, Here &amp;</div></div></div></div>	<div><div>Ravan (Vikram, Smita Patil) 12:30 Hit Ya Fit 1:00 TSN 1:30 Kahani 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 Kissii Roz 5:00 Hit Ya Fit 5:30 Kuchha Papad Pucca Papad 6:00 Small Wonder 6:30 Fox Kids-Daily Sanskruti 8:00 Tu Tu Main Main 8:30 Ma Shakti 9:00 Kaahin Kissii Roz 9:30 Kora Kagaz 10:00 Ji Mantriji 10:30 Kahaani Ghar Ghar Kii 11:00 Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi 11:30 Aaj Ki Baat 12:00 Shagun</div><div><div>There/Curious Play 12:30 Amazon/Escape 1:30 Ripley's Believe It or Not! 2:30 VIP II/Ride of the Valkyries 3:30 Movie: Operation Delta Force V: Random Fire 5:30 Who Dares Wins/Grander Musashi RVs 6:30 Starship Troopers/Now &amp; Then, Here &amp; There 7:30 Curious Play/Who Dares Wins 8:30 Core Culture 9:30 Beastmaster II/TBA 10:30 Movie : Stephen King's Sleepwalkers 12:30 Profiler III/Burnt Offer-</div></div></div>	<div><div>ings 1:30 Movie: Stephen King's Sleepwalkers 3:30 Beastmaster II/TBA 4:30 Profiler III/ TBA 5:00 Big sky II/Stand By your Man</div><div><div>STAR MOVIES</div><div>8:30 Comedy: What Rats Won't Do 83 10:15 Drama: The Outsiders 87 11:45 Action: Silent Justice 93 1:30 Action: Of Limits 86 3:00 Thriller: Brokedown Palace 97 4:45 Action: Terminator 2 129 7:00 Thriller: The Sixth Sense 103 8:45 Thriller: Guilty As Sin</div></div></div>	<div><div>107 1:00 Sea Change 2:00 Danger Bay 3:00 Nairobi Affair 5:00 Sesame Street 6:00 Rose Against the Odds 8:00 Champagne Charlie 10:00 Sea Change 11:00 Frame Up 1:00 Danger Bay 2:00 Sesame Street 3:00 Clifford 3:30 The Cat In The Hat Takes A Nap 4:00 Road to Avonlea 5:00 Time and Tide 7:00 Blue River 9:00 Home Fires Burning 11:00 Free of Eden</div><div><div>HALLMARK TV</div><div>1:00 Sea Change 2:00 Danger Bay 3:00 Nairobi Affair 5:00 Sesame Street 6:00 Rose Against the Odds 8:00 Champagne Charlie 10:00 Sea Change 11:00 Frame Up 1:00 Danger Bay 2:00 Sesame Street 3:00 Clifford 3:30 The Cat In The Hat Takes A Nap 4:00 Road to Avonlea 5:00 Time and Tide 7:00 Blue River 9:00 Home Fires Burning 11:00 Free of Eden</div></div></div>	<div><div>Open Golf Championship Southern Pines, NC USA Preview 7:30 B3 Bikes, Blades &amp; Boards B3 Stop 3 Boards Louisville, KY USA 8:30 Sportscenter Hindi NBA Playoffs Conference Finals Eastern Conf Finals Game 9:00 Sportscenter Hindi NBA Playoffs Conference Finals Eastern Conf Finals Game 11:30 PGA Tour Golf Kemper Insurance Open Potomac, MD USA Final Round 12:30 US Women's Open Golf Champs US Women's</div><div><div>Open Golf Championship Southern Pines, NC USA 5:30 Sportscenter Hindi NBA Playoffs Conference Finals Eastern Conf Finals Game 9:30 Sportscenter Hindi NBA Playoffs Conference Finals Eastern Conf Finals Game 11:30 PGA Tour Golf Kemper Insurance Open Potomac, MD USA Final Round 12:30 US Women's Open Golf Champs US Women's</div></div></div>	<div><div>The Npower Test Series London, England Pakistan England 1<sup>st</sup> Test, Day 5 Highlights 3:50 ECB International Cricket The Npower Test Series Manchester, England Pakistan England 2<sup>nd</sup> Test, Day 1, 1<sup>st</sup> Session 6:00 Extreme Magazine Yoz Magazine 6:30 ECB International Cricket The Npower Test Series Manchester, England Pakistan England 2<sup>nd</sup> Test, Day 1, 2<sup>nd</sup> &amp; 3<sup>rd</sup> Session 11:00 Sportsline Tonight 11:30 Sports India 12:00 Sportsline Tonight</div><div><div>11:35 Phoren Maal ALPHA TV 6:30 Bhalobasha 7:00 Jeebon Rekha 7:30 News Bulletin 8:00 Aalaap 9:00 News Bulletin 9:05 Bharat Bhromon 9:30 Apna Der Janya 10:00 Chena Mukh Achena Manush 10:30 Bhristi Megher Akash 11:00 Swapnoneel 11:30 Gihassajja 12:00 Bahari Ahaar 12:30 Lookochuri 1:00 Ingeet 1:30 Ek Akasher Niche 2:00 Noyantara</div></div></div>	<div><div>2:30 Krishna Leela- Feature Film 5:00 Shesh Prashna 5:30 Half Chocolate/Disney 6:00 Alpha Khabor 6:25 Jhankar 6:30 Foot Ball 7:00 Swapnoneel 7:25 Jhankar 7:30 Ki Kishi Tomai 7:55 Jhankar 8:00 Noyantara 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 Khabor 11:45 Ek Palake 11:50 Mahanagar 12:20 Surer Ei Jhama Dhara</div><div><div>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 10:00 Guldsta 10:30 Filmi Chakkar 11:00 Highlight Zee 11:15 Chatpati Chat 11:30 Ek Nazar 12:00 Basera 12:30 Sangini 1:00 Dastaan 1:15 Jhalak 1:30 Manzilein Apani Apani 2:00 Chandan Ka Palna Resham Ki Dori 2:30 Amanat 3:00 Gharana 3:30 Yeh Dil Kya Kare 4:00 Kaisa Kahoon...? 4:30 Aanchal Ki Chaon Mein 5:00 Nickelodeon (Cat Dot) 5:30 Nickelodeon/Legends 6:00 Ek Nazar 6:30 Banegi Apni Baat 7:00 Hip Hip Hurray 7:30 Ek Nazar 8:00 Devrani Jethani 8:30 Babul Ki Duayain Leti Ja 9:00 Amanat 9:30 Chandan Ka Palna Resham Ki Dori 10:00 Samander 10:30 Yeh Dil Kya Kare 11:00 Kaisa Kahoon...? 11:30 Manzilein Apani Apani 12:00 Gharana</div></div></div>
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