

Discussion

# A painter of serenity

## A discussion commemorates S M Sultan to mark the artist's seventh death anniversary

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In the afternoon of October 10, 2001, a discussion meeting to mark the seventh death anniversary of renowned painter S M Sultan was organized by Shilpakala academy. The occasion was presided over by Abdullah al Mamun, DG of the academy and an eminent actor. The chief guest on the occasion was famous artist Syed Jahangir. An essay entitled 'S M Sultan and Realism' was presented by art-critic Mainuddin Khaled. Professor Syed Manzoorul Islam, Professor Bulbon Osman, and Professor Syed Azizul Haq attended the discussion.

Mainuddin Khaled began his speech defining realism, not by giving a steadfast definition but by giving out a general idea of realism. The pivotal concern of the essay was to identify the aspects of realism that we encounter in the works of Sultan. To do this the chief spokesman constantly alluded to the works of art from ancient Greece to the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

In the painting of Sultan what is seen again and again is the relentless struggle of man against nature. There are men pulling the boat against the tide, there are women scouring their garment at the bank of a river. There are scenes of men working in the field sowing seeds or plants or scything full-grown crops. So what comes at the surface are man and the work of man and the work of man in the close give and take relationship with nature here is the mother earth which always responds to the fertile sweat of the farmer with crops. So the labor given to is answered. But the job of the farmers is not so easy. Of course, the crop is a hard won award. To Mainuddin Khaled these pictures of hard working farmers and the landscape



Art critic Moinuddin Khaled reading the keynote paper titled "Artist S M Sultan and Realism" at a discussion meeting organised by the Department of Fine Arts, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy on the occasion of the artist's 7th death anniversary on October 10, 2001. Sitting from left to right: Subir Choudhury, Director, Department of Fine Arts, Abdullah Al-Mamun, Director General, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy and artist Syed Jahangir.

around them are the realistic aspects of Sultan's work. The speaker quotes the painter himself where the painter draws our attention to the characters of the farmers in his paintings that have wrinkles on their forehead. Gradually, in the later paintings of the artist the wrinkles on those foreheads increase the reason behind is that the farmers are post war farmers--in

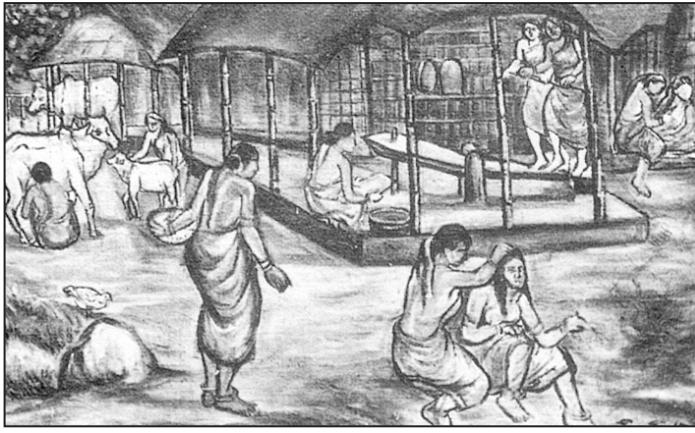


1971 he has seen his son to be killed and daughter to be raped. The muscels of the farmers are supple and they struggle in their own way with the coarse planet this is a protest and it is of

a different language their eyes are lighted with a different glow strange and unfamiliar.

Mainuddin Khaled points out that if we look at his oeuvre of Sultan and divide them in decades, then we will notice the growth of the painter. Sometimes Romanticism occupied him, then the gale of his art was overtaken by a new leading tradition, the neo-classicism, but as the time went by the paintings became suffused with characters familiar to the mythological and biblical figure the eternal Adam turned up and overtook the canvas, but this was never the last thing in his art; the easel of Sultan was again overtaken by the tradition of the European Renaissance art where figures reminding us of Michaelangelo and Rafael started trading over the terrain of his art. Amazingly in the world of Sultan change seems to be a natural phenomenon during last days of his life Van Goghian post-impressionism engulfed him.

Mainuddin Khaled says that though allegory occupies a vast portion of Sultan, 'naturalism



was never extinct. It is remarkable that though his painting experienced an aura of different traditions his identity is visible in the natural scenario of Bangladesh occupying a large portion of his painting. The men and women in his painting have always had brown complexion, perhaps because Sultan believed that they are of a Dravidian background. The society portrayed in his pictures is closely connected and the families are joint-families.

Professor Syed Azizul Haq appreciated the thesis for its depth and structure. He pointed



towards some contrary facets of the piece saying 'in one of the pages of his essay Mainuddin pointed realism by showing the closeness of the paintings with

the Norwegian dramatist, who wanted to take a man near the smelling gutter to make him understand realism. Professor Manzoorul claimed that the paintings of Sultan represent a serenity, which does not conform to the naturalism stated above. He also said that the characters in the art of Sultan represent the subaltern people of Bangladesh whose lives are a sum-total of ceaseless struggle. This struggle might not be only physical; 'their desire to surpass their condition may be psychic battle'.

In his speech Dr Syed Manzoorul Islam, writer and art-critic, takes the attention of the audience towards a term 'naturalism' used in the essay. Even the cave sketches may be called naturalistic the term naturalism, by and large, states the nature of an individual. " Does

the naturalism of Sultan conform to the naturalism of the English poet Tennyson who said: 'Nature is red in tooth and claw'? Or the concept of Ibsen,



the Norwegian dramatist, who wanted to take a man near the smelling gutter to make him understand realism. Professor Manzoorul claimed that the paintings of Sultan represent a serenity, which does not conform to the naturalism stated above. He also said that the characters in the art of Sultan represent the subaltern people of Bangladesh whose lives are a sum-total of ceaseless struggle. This struggle might not be only physical; 'their desire to surpass their condition may be psychic battle'.

Professor Bulbon Osman said that, the realism talked about might be taken in one way or the other or in both the ways. The two ways could be realism as a subject matter in Sultan or the style of Sultan entwined in reality here the piece needs a little enlightenment. He consented with Professor Manzoorul Islam that the piece was prepared in a hurry.

Artist Syed Jahangir focused on the fact that the nature in Sultan is calm, we do not see the cruel face of it. Like the struggle of the village people, love, dance, music, jatra are also part of village life Sultan never painted them. 'The man Sultan sometimes talked about an imaginary woman, he named her Radha and fall in love with her; but she is absent in his

painting' he added. Abdullah al Mamun spoke about the lucidity of the essay. 'It is written using, as less jargons as possible, this will enable the art enthusiasts to know about Sultan. The shades in his painting are so colorful in range that it is difficult to define Sultan using a particular term' he remarked.

S M Sultan was born in Narail, Bangladesh in the year 1923, and died in October 10, 1994.

His major solo exhibitions includes: Shimla, India (1946), Lahore and Karachi, Pakistan (1948-49); Institute of International Education (New York), Y M C A, Washington D C, Boston, Chicago International House, the University of Michigan and London (1950); Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy Gallery (1976), German Cultural Center, Dhaka (1987). In London's Hemstead Victoria Embankment he participated in a joint-exhibition With Picasso, Dali, Braque and Klee.

Sultan was awarded the highest civilian of the country the Ekushey Padak in 1982 and the Shadhinata Poroshkar in the year 1993.

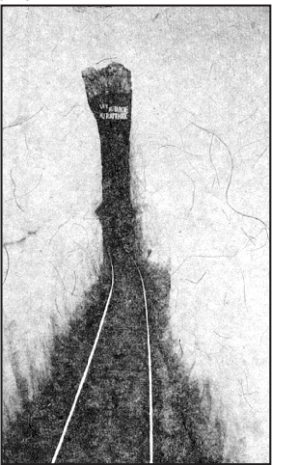
In the year 1969 he established "Kurigram Fine Art Institute" at Narail in Jessore; in 1973 he established another fine arts institute in Jessore named "Charupith".

RECOMMENDATIONS



The Mummy Returns

This Hollywood blockbuster runs at the country's premier cinema hall Modhumita from tomorrow. The Mummy Returns is the sequel of The Mummy and have all the ingredients of its earlier one. With its spine-tingling adventures against breath-taking landscapes, The Mummy Returns is sure to thrill cine buffs. Hordes of canine bodied Anubis warriors-literally hounds from hell-bound across the Sahara in attack formation while carnivorous pygmy mummies ambush their pray in the jungles of the Nile.



Graphic prints show

Noted French artist Jean-Michel Alberola's solo exhibition of graphic prints is now being held at the French cultural centre, Alliance Francaise, at Dhanmandi.

Six Seasons

Shilparag Gallery at Dhanmandi (House#15, Road# 27 old) presents an exhibition on the theme six seasons. Leading artists of the country have captured in their canvas the rich variety of our seasons and their ambience. The month-long show will continue till October 14 everyday from 11 am to 8pm.

# TV GUIDE

## TODAY'S HIGHLIGHTS



**STAR WORLD:** 8:00 & 11:30 pm. *Bugs*. In a desert burial chamber of an ancient Bactrian king and his daughter demonstrate to General Maliq the incredible power of a new explosive called Red Mercury. Maliq will trade priceless Bactrian artefacts in exchange for the explosive.

**EKUSHEY TV:** 9:00 pm. *Antardaha*. Ganga is a shoemaker. His wife works as a midwife. Jageswar, who is better known as Jaga, is the Gang's only son. Meritorious Jaga is the apple of his parents who dreams that one day their son would become a police inspector. But Jaga madly love a Muslim girl.

## PICK OF THE DAY



**Tales From The Crypt: Demon Knight.** On HBO at 10:00 pm. America's favourite horror host the Crypt Keeper has finally made it to the silver screen in his first feature-length tale of terror, *Demon Knight*. It is the latest triumph for the ghastly storyteller who began his afterlife on the pages of the classic E.C. comic book by William Gaines (creator of *Mad Magazine*) before finding a new home on BHO's award-winning series.

### BTV

- 9:10 am Khabar
- 9:15 Aalor Pathay
- 9:30 Cartoon Ghost Busters
- 10:00 The News
- 10:05 Sports programme
- 10:30 Monar Mukuray
- 11:30 Manar Katha
- 12:00 Programme on computer learning
- 3:20 pm Bengali feature film
- 4:00 Khabar
- 6:00 Khabar
- 6:10 Shukhi paribar
- 7:00 News headlines
- 7:05 Malancha
- 7:25 Drama serial Sampriti
- 8:00 News in Bangla
- 8:30 Drama serial Eai Megha Eai Raudra
- 9:00 News headlines
- 9:05 Magazine Utsab
- 10:00 News in English
- 10:30 Film The X-Files

### EKUSHEY TV

- 2:00 Ekushey Headlines
- 2:05 Ajker Potrikay
- 2:14 Ekatturer Ei Dine
- 2:15 Classic Cartoons
- 2:40 E Shoptaher Bishsho
- 3:00 Ekushey Headlines
- 3:05 Bangla Film : Moha Ganjam
- 3:10 Cilette World Sports Special
- 6:00 Ekushey Headlines
- 6:05 WWF Smackdown
- 6:55 Ekushey Headlines
- 7:00 Mukto Khorob
- 7:30 Ekushey News
- 7:58 Ek Minute
- 8:00 Virgita Takdam Takdam
- 8:00 Shukrobarer Natok: Ontordaho
- 10:00 News : Simulcast from BTV
- 10:30 Music Hour: Star Search-2001

### ATN

- 5:30 Islamic Prog. : Sundor Jeebaner Jannae
- 7:00 Cook Prog: Ranna Banna
- 8:05 Song Prog: Gun Sudo Gun
- 8:45 Drama Serial: Gurjon
- 9:20 Film Magazine : Anuvobe Shadkalo
- 9:55 Reporting prog : Prekha Pot'
- 10:35 Interview prog: Agamir Din
- 11:30 Islamic Prog. : Sundor Jeebaner Jannae
- 11:15 Bengali Film : Monafeq
- 6:07 Child's Prog: Cholo Gan Gai
- 6:45 Viewers Request Prog: Matamat
- 7:00 ATN Bangla News Headlines
- 7:35 Drama Serial: Ultram
- 8:10 Reporting Prog : Tona Probaha
- 8:45 Magazine Prog : Tasmery Kechukhkon
- 9:20 Drama Serial: Gueanda Kahani
- 10:00 ATN Bangla News
- 10:35 Drama: "Bo-Jo-Ha-Ro-Lo"
- 11:05 Bengali Film: Premier Kasom

### CHANNEL-i

- 6:20 Surjer Sawpno
- 7:00 Rythm
- 7:40 Drama: Mama Bhagner
- 8:00 Din Protidin
- 8:20 Suvo Muktir Gane
- 9:00 Drama(S). Agunthoke (Strenger).
- 10:10 Addar Table
- 10:40 I Music
- 11:20 Surjer Sawpno
- 12:00 Rythm
- 12:40 Drama: Mama Bhagner
- 1:20 Suvo Muktir Gane
- 2:00 Drama (S). Agunthoke (Strenger).
- 3:00 Tel Film: Patro Lekoke
- 6:00 Reciting From Holy Quran
- 6:10 Konika Bondophadhi Sarone
- 6:40 I Music
- 7:15 Channel I Sangbad
- 7:20 Sur Toronger Mela
- 8:00 Fkpop Show
- 8:30 I tele Quise. (Ques)
- 9:00 Channel I Sangbad
- 9:15 Drama(S). Nay Khono Tikhana
- 9:30 I tele Quise. (Result)
- 10:00 Quize: 60 Sec.
- 10:01 Drama : Jekhane Simantho, Part-1
- 10:30 Channel I Sangbad
- 11:00 Bangla Cinema: Khe Aporadhi

### BBC WORLD

- 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 Click Online
- 11:00 BBC News
- 11:30 EUR DIR
- 12:00 BBC News
- 12:30 Hardtalk
- 1:30 Top Gear
- 2:00 BBC News
- 2:30 Life
- 3:00 BBC News
- 3:30 Hardtalk
- 4:00 BBC News
- 4:30 Talking Movies
- 5:00 BBC News
- 5:30 Life
- 6:00 BBC News
- 6:30 IT: India Tomorrow

### BBC News

- 7:00 BBC News
- 7:15 World Business Report
- 7:30 Talking Movies
- 8:00 BBC News
- 8:30 Life
- 9:00 BBC News
- 9:30 Asia Today
- 10:00 BBC News
- 10:15 World Business Report
- 10:30 Hardtalk India
- 11:00 BBC News
- 11:30 World Business Report/World Sport
- 12:00 Hardtalk
- 12:30 BBC News
- 1:00 BBC News
- 1:30 Future Fantasi, QED, Clarkson
- 2:00 BBC News
- 2:30 World Business Report
- 3:00 BBC News
- 3:30 Correspondent ex supporting Roles
- 4:00 BBC News
- 4:30 World Business Report/Asia Today
- 5:00 BBC News
- 5:30 Hardtalk

### HBO

- 6:30 Witch Hunt
- 8:30 The Beast of War
- 10:45 Donnie Brasco
- 1:30 Steel Magnolias
- 4:00 One False Move
- 6:00 ED
- 8:00 New Alcatraz
- Tales From the Crypt: Demon Knight
- 12:00 Witness
- 2:15 The Beast of War
- 4:30 Steel Magnolias

### STAR GOLD

- 10:30 Amul Bollywood News
- 11:00 Geet Bahar
- 11:30 Azaad (Dharmendra, Hema malini)
- 3:00 Amul Bollywood News
- 3:30 Shaheed (Dilip Kumar, Kamini Kaushal)
- 7:00 Geet Bahar
- 7:30 Shaandaar Shukrawaar

### SUN

- 7:00 The Oprah Winfrey Show
- 8:00 Water Rats
- 9:00 Buffy the Vampire Slayer
- 10:00 Angel
- 11:00 The Oprah Winfrey Show
- 12:00 Millennium
- 1:00 Media TV
- 1:30 The Bold & The Beautiful
- 2:00 Mork & Mindy
- 2:30 Happy Days
- 3:00 Baywatch
- 4:00 The Simpsons
- 4:30 3rd Rock From The Sun
- 5:00 Star News Asia
- 5:30 Friends
- 6:00 World's Wildest Police Videos
- 6:45 Asia News
- 7:00 Nash Bridges
- 8:00 Bugs
- 9:00 Friends
- 9:30 World's Wildest Police Videos
- 10:30 Nash Bridges
- 11:00 Bugs
- 12:30 World's Wildest Police Videos
- 1:30 Nash Bridges
- 2:30 It's Supernatural
- 3:00 Morris Cerullo
- 3:30 Exalted Word
- 4:00 Creflo Dollar, Changing Your World
- 4:30 World News
- 5:00 Outback Adventures

### STAR PLUS

- 6:00 Sanskruti
- 6:30 Star Geetmala
- 7:30 Kuccha Pappad Pucca

### 8:00

- Papad
- Hit Ya Fit
- Aatma
- Fox Kids Daily
- Small Wonder
- Kabhie Kabhie Mere
- Ghat Mein Bhuchal
- Aata Hai
- Saahil
- Sansar
- Hit Ya Fit
- Tu Tu Main Main
- Kuchha Pappad Pucca
- Papad
- Mirch Masala
- Star Bestseller- First Kill
- Shanti
- Meri Saheli
- Kalash
- Kabhie Kabhie Mere

### 9:00

- 5:30 Ji Mantriji
- 5:00 Son Pari
- 5:30 Star Bestsellers
- 5:30 Hit Ya Fit
- 6:00 Small Wonder
- 6:30 Fox Kids
- 7:00 Ghanwali Uparwali
- 8:00 Chhupa Rustam
- 8:30 Kya Masti Kya Khoom
- 9:30 Khuli Ja simsim
- 10:30 Sshhh... Koi Hai
- 11:30 Aaj Ki Baat
- 12:00 Jubilee Plus
- 12:30 Ek Main Aur Ek Tu
- 1:00 Chalti Ka Naam Antakshri
- 2:00 I Love My India
- 2:30 Chhupa Rustam
- 3:00 Shrimati Sharma Na Kehi Thi
- 3:30 Kalash
- 4:00 Tu Tu Main Main

### 10:00

- 4:30 Ji Mantriji
- 5:00 Son Pari
- 5:30 Star Bestsellers
- 5:30 Hit Ya Fit
- 6:00 Small Wonder
- 6:30 Fox Kids
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- 3:30 Kalash
- 4:00 Tu Tu Main Main

### 11:00

- 6:00 [V] Jungli Jukebox
- 1:00 [V] FDFS
- 1:30 [V] Hit Machine
- 2:30 [V] Hotline
- 3:30 Very [V]
- 7:30 [V] Hit Machine
- 8:00 PO [V]
- 9:30 [V] Jungli Jukebox
- 10:00 [V] FDFS
- 10:30 Club [V]
- 11:30 [V] Hit Machine
- 1:30 [V] Saturday Stack
- 6:00 Yaadon Ke Pal
- 6:30 Aalaap
- 7:50 Zee Gym & Eat Healthy
- 8:20 News
- 8:30 Ardhangini
- 8:45 Yaadein Radio Ceylon Ki
- 9:00 Nickelodeon on Zee
- 9:30 Nickelodeon
- 10:00 Guldasta
- 10:30 Shri 420
- 11:00 Ek Tukda Chand Ka
- 11:30 Ek Nazar
- 12:00 Woh Haseen Pal
- 1:00 Hamare Tumhare
- 1:25 Jhalak
- 1:30 Koi Apna Sa
- 2:00 Choti Maa Ek Anokha Bandhan
- 2:30 Gharana
- 3:00 Anurodh-Feature Film
- 6:00 Ek Nazar
- 6:30 Nickelodeon On Zee
- 7:00 Nickelodeon
- 7:30 Ek Nazar
- 8:00 Hip Hip Hurray
- 8:30 Ek Tukda Chand Ka
- 9:00 Mujhe Dore Koi Khinchhe
- 9:30 Choti Maa Ek Anokha Bandhan
- 10:00 Koi Apna Sa
- 10:30 Aaj Bhi... Ateet
- 11:00 Dollar Bah

### 12:00

- 6:00 Yaadon Ke Pal
- 6:30 Aalaap
- 7:50 Zee Gym & Eat Healthy
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- 10:00 Koi Apna Sa
- 10:30 Aaj Bhi... Ateet
- 11:00 Dollar Bah

### 1:00

- 9:15 Tara Rum
- 9:45 Movie Fare
- 10:00 Dii Diwana-Feature Film
- 1:00 Chatpali Chat
- 1:15 Madhyantar
- 1:30 Lal Badshah-Feature Film
- 5:00 Darpan
- 5:15 Making Of A Legend
- 5:45 Film Time
- 6:00 Daddy-Feature Film
- 9:15 Cine News
- 9:30 Ikke Pe Ikka
- 10:00 Indrajeet-Feature Film
- 1:45 Tara Rum
- 2:15 Kuch Lamhe Kuch Nagme
- 2:30 Do Footoosh-Feature Film
- 5:30 Chehren
- 6:00 Music Plus
- 7:00 Aalaap
- 7:30 Tara Rum
- 8:30 Hit Pe Hit
- 10:30 Hip Hip Hurray
- 11:00 Dil Se
- 11:30 Music Box
- 12:30 Music Box
- 1:00 Hit Pe Hit
- 2:00 Jharokha
- 2:35 Pyaar Mohabbat Etc
- 3:05 Tara Rum
- 4:00 Hit Pe Hit
- 5:00 Music Box
- 5:30 Hit Mix
- 6:00 Artist Of The Fortnight
- 6:30 Music Plus
- 7:30 Hit Pe Hit
- 8:30 Dial M
- 9:30 Music Box
- 10:00 Sizzlers
- 10:30 Jharokha
- 11:05 Compact Disc
- 11:35 Shabab
- 1:05 Music Box
- 1:30 Jharokha
- 2:00 Hit Pe Hit
- 3:00 Dil Se
- 3:30 Tara Rum
- 4:30 Phoren Maal
- 5:30 Sizzlers

### ALPHA TV BANGLA

- 6:00 Sheshprashna

### HALLMARK

- 12:00 Till Murder do Us Part
- 2:00 Katts and dog
- 2:30 Katts and dog
- 3:00 Till Murder do Us Part
- 5:00 Sesame Street
- 6:00 Daisies In December
- 8:00 And Never Let Her Go
- 10:00 Sea Change
- 11:00 Cupid & Cate
- 1:00 Sliders Season II
- 2:00 Sesame Street
- 3:00 Clifford
- 3:30 Caillou
- 4:00 Sea Change
- 5:00 Star Trek : Voyager
- 6:00 Sliders Season II
- 7:00 The Yearling
- 9:00 Star Trek : Voyager
- 10:00 Obsessed
- 10:00 Side By Side