

Exhibition

Crossing the boundaries

Sanchita Islam, a British-Bangladeshi artist, tries to explore the social setting of three countries through a combined display of her works on art, video and photography at the gallery of Alliance Francaise de Dhaka

AZIZ AMIRUL

EFFORTS of a British-Bangladeshi artist seem to give a fresh thrust in the world of Bangladeshi art as Sanchita Islam holds a solo exhibition at the gallery of Alliance Francaise in Dhaka.

The show titled 'A Bit of Bangladesh Brought Home' presents a recipe of painting, photo and a video film much to the admiration of the art lovers of the city.

Glimpses of three cities -- New York, London and Dhaka, -- in the works of Sanchita reveal a crossing of borders and the vast migration of Bangladeshis to the metropolitan centres of the West.

Around forty acrylic paintings and photographs by Sanchita in the ongoing exhibition portray skyline of the three cities viewed

from rooftop by the artist. Sanchita, in the year 2000, sat at different spots in Dhaka, Sylhet, Barisal and Calcutta to capture the multi-layered skyline of these bustling cities.

'It provides me with a sense of freedom when I carry on with my works from the rooftop', says the artist.

'People watch me as a foreign girl if I work on the ground and this could be an important reason for the selection of rooftop as my working environment.

Moreover, I can have a birds-eye view of the panoramic setting if I take my position on a high location. 'Be it Brick Lane of London, Manhattan of New York or some suburban location of Bangladesh the considerably imprecise sites and their situations are almost similar when viewed from skyhigh angles.'

A meticulous motive of her not choosing the ground level as

base probably lies in the fact of avoiding close proximity of the common mass only to suppress the polar difference of social ordeal and customs of a variety of locations of the world. However, this matter of escapism turns out to be a bit intentional when one sees the video as Sanchita comes low down to the ground where an atmosphere is ruled by strict conventional lifestyle of the suburban and rural community of Bangladesh. None of her exhibits carries a caption; as such her idea is to keep those pieces untitled for the sake of maintaining a psychic parallel scenario between the sites of the three metropolitan centres.

Sanchita Islam often feels separated from her social surroundings, born and brought up in the British society yet having a lace of relationship in Bangla-



A sort of identity crisis looms in her heart when she



finds hard to cope being a Bengali in Britain while at the same time termed as a British citizen when stationed in Bangladesh.

She has so far finished a number of art projects here and she feels the importance of dispelling 'erroneous stereotypes' about Bangladesh in the media portrayals of foreign origin. Most of the issues and news items revolving Bangladesh go on projecting flood, violence and poverty though there are lots of positive themes to be illustrated about this country, as felt by Sanchita. One with possession of foreign culture often has to face harsh conditions in Bengali societies yet it makes Sanchita feel fascinated about the beautiful, though testing country of Bengal!

Sanchita is seen offering

pomegranate, a fruit of Bangladesh, to her grandmother in the 30-minute video film and at one point this very fruit become a vital link of communication between the representatives of two different traditions and generations she feels highly emotional as her grandmother loves 'the foreign girl' too much yet sees her as a 'strange creature' with the custody of an entirely opposite custom from that of a typical Bengali. Sanchita was sent to New York and Bangladesh by the sponsors from London Arts and the Tower Hamlets Film Fund to make the film involved with subjects of scattered Bengali communities.

Sanchita Islam, a postgraduate from London School of

Economics, has been carrying out a series of art projects in Bangladesh with sponsorship from the Peabody Trust, The London Print Studio and London Arts.

Sanchita, with thirty exhibitions of artwork and photography to her name, is also a writer and her first book on art themes is expected to hit the stands early next year. 'Pigment Explosion', an organisation of specialist live art and of is a successful branchchild of the London-based Barisal girl. She further holds the prestigious title of 'Miss Bengal' from a contest of expatriate Bengali pageants held in London way back in 1994.

The exhibition is open till December 29 from 5:00 pm till 8:00 pm daily.



RECOMMENDATIONS

Liberation War Museum

Liberation War Museum has chalked out a 7-day schedule of cultural programs to celebrate the 30 years anniversary of the Victory and Liberation of Bangladesh. The weeklong programs at the Museum's Cafe Theater includes:

December 24, Monday: Discussion on the book 'Bangladesh: War of Liberation' written by Maj. Gen. Imamuzzaman.

December 25, Tuesday: Musical program by CHAYANAUT at 5:00 pm

December 26, Wednesday: Patriotic songs by artist Mahmuduzzaman Babu at 5:00 pm

December 27, Thursday: Dance performance by Sharmila Bandhopadhyaya and her troupe at 6:00 pm

December 28, Friday: Tagore song by artist Shama Rahman at 5:30 pm

December 29, Saturday: Children's recitation by the group 'MUKTAKANTHA' at 5:00 pm

December 30, Sunday: Concluding program by UCPEP students School at 5:00 pm

British women filmmakers

Special session of films by British women filmmakers 'Chick Flicks' will be held at the British Council auditorium at 4pm and 6pm on December 24 (Monday), 2001 on the occasion of 7th Short & Independent Film Festival, Dhaka 2001.

Alamgir Kabir Memorial Lecture

Fourth Alamgir Kabir Memorial Lecture, organised as part of the 7th Short & Independent Film Festival, Dhaka 2001, on Film and Literature will be delivered by eminent writer Hasan Azizul Haq on December 24, 2001 at Sculptor Novera Hall, National Museum, Shahbagh at 10:30 am.

Film Festival

Organised by Bangladesh Short Film Forum, the 9-daylong 7th International Short and Independent Film Festival Dhaka 2001 is due to start from December 22 at the Central Public Library auditorium. 120 films from 32 countries will participate at the festival.

TV GUIDE

BTV

9:10 am Khabar
9:15 Aalor Pathay
9:35 Cartoon Film Totally Tuned In
10:00 The News
10:05 Sports programme
10:25 Drama of the week
11:30 Maner Katha
11:55 Devotional song
3:10 pm News headlines
3:20 Bengali feature film
4:00 Khabar
6:00 Khabar
6:10 Cartoon Ghost Busters
7:00 News headlines
7:05 Malancha
7:30 Drama serial Sukher Tari
8:00 News in Bengali
8:30 Drama serial Eai Megha Eai Raudra
9:00 News headlines
9:05 Drama
10:00 News in English
10:25 Film The X-Files
11:30 Khabar/The News
EKUSHEY TV
2:00 Ekushey Headlines
2:05 Ajker Potrikey
2:15 Bangla Film : Lat Saheber Meya
3:00 Ekushey Headlines
3:05 Bangla Film: Lat Saheber Meya
5:00 Circus Circus
5:30 E Shoptaher Bishsho
6:00 Ekushey Headlines
6:05 WWF Smackdown
6:55 Ekushey Headlines
7:00 Mukto Khobor
7:30 Ekushey News
7:58 Ek Minute
8:00 Mukto Cholochitro Mukto Prokash
8:30 Murchona
9:00 Ekushey News
9:05 Shukrobarer Natok: Noste Koste Jibon
10:00 News : Simulcast from BTV
11:00 Ekushey Late Night News
11:30 Ei Shoptahao
12:00 Ekushey Headlines

HBO

6:30 Pet Semetary
8:30 The Perfect Weapon
10:15 Reality Bites
12:15 Miracle On 1-880
2:15 The Brady Bunch
4:00 The Little Rascals
5:45 The Saint
8:00 Matilda
10:00 The Matrix
12:45 Band of Brothers 09: Why We Fight
2:00 Philadelphia
4:30 Reality Bites
STAR MOVIES
7:00 Thriller: Night Shadow
9:00 Thriller: On The QT
11:00 Drama : Nostradamus
12:15 Thriller: Do You Wanna Know A Secret
2:30 Drama: Resurrection Man
4:15 Drama: Maze
6:00 Comedy: Cool Runnings
7:45 Action : Street Crimes
9:30 www.youpicktheflick.com

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STAR PLUS

6:00 Sanskruti
6:30 Star Geetmala
7:30 Hum Saath Aath Hain
8:00 Aatma
9:00 Hit Filmlein Hit Sangeet
9:30 Fox Kids Daily
10:30 Small Wonder
11:30 Pal Chhin
11:30 Saahil
12:00 Shanti
12:30 Hit Filmlein Hit Sangeet
1:00 Hum Saath Aath Hain
1:30 Musafir Hoon Yaaron
2:00 Mirch Masala
2:30 Star Bestseller-Prayaas
3:30 Jubilee Plus
4:00 Kabhi Sauten Kabhi Saheli
4:30 Kalash
5:00 Meri Saheli
5:30 Hit Filmlein Hit Sangeet
6:00 Small Wonder
6:30 Fox Kids
7:10 Aaj Ki Baat
7:30 Gharwali Uparwali
8:00 Hum Saath Aath Hain
8:30 Kya Masti Kya Khuum
9:30 Khulija Sim Sim
10:30 Ssshhh... Koi Hai
11:30 Kahani Jurm Ki
12:00 Aaj Ki Baat
12:30 Gharwali Uparwali
1:00 Chalti Ka Naam Antakshri
2:00 Chhupa Rustam
2:30 Surabhi
3:00 Family Fortunes
3:30 Kalash
4:00 Tu Tu Main Main
4:30 Chhupa Rustam
5:00 Sonpari
5:30 Star Bestsellers
6:00 Talking Movieview
7:30 BBC News
8:30 Life

STAR WORLD

6:00 Happy Days
6:30 3rd Rock From The Sun
7:00 The Oprah Winfrey Show
8:00 Water Rats
9:00 Roswell
10:00 Temptation Island
11:00 The Oprah Winfrey Show
12:00 Maria Law
1:00 Media TV
1:30 The Bold & The Beautiful
2:00 Mork & Mindy

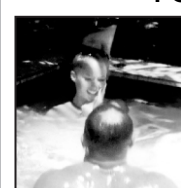
2:30

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 Nsync N' Timate Holiday Special
6:55 Star News Asia
7:00 Nash Bridges
8:00 Bugs
9:00 Friends
9:30 Nsync N' Timate Holiday Special
10:30 Nash Bridges
11:30 Bugs
12:30 Nsync N' Timate Holiday Special
1:30 Nash Bridges
2:30 It's Supernatural
3:00 Morris Cerullo
3:30 Exalted Word
4:00 Creflo Dollar
4:30 World News
5:00 Mission Impossible
5:30 Friends
6:00 Nsync N' Timate Holiday Special
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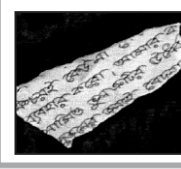
TODAY'S HIGHLIGHTS



STAR WORLD: 1:30 am. Temptation Island. The contestants go on their fourth dates, tensions flare between Andy and Kaya over dating Megan, and everyone gets nervous about having to choose their 'final date'.



EKUSHEY: 9:05 pm. Nastey Kastej Jiban. Friday drama Nastey Kastej Jiban revolves around trucker Mona. He is happily married with Jarina and a proud father of a daughter Mala. But a road accident rob the family of their happiness with Mona rendered cripple.



EKUSHEY: 8:00 pm. Free Cinema and Free Expression. First part of this feature series devoted to the upcoming 7th International Short and Independent film festival, Dhaka.

PICK OF THE DAY



The Matrix On HBO at 10:00 pm Neo, a software programmer by day and hacker otherwise, wakes up every morning to a world he knows only as a dream. And the one man that can show him reality is Morpheus who sends latex-clad cyber chick Trinity to hook up with the supposed chosen one. But before Neo is instantaneously turned into the most dangerous man alive, he must discover the answer to a mind-shattering question. What is the matrix?

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 World Business Report
11:00 BBC News
11:30 World Business Report
12:00 BBC News
12:30 World Business Report
1:00 BBC News
1:30 Top Gear
2:00 BBC News
2:30 Hardtalk
3:00 BBC News
3:30 Talking Movieview
4:00 BBC News
4:30 Life

ESPN

6:00 World Cup Mix
6:30 Sportscenter Hindi
7:00 Western Union World Football
7:30 Nba Action
8:00 Nba Basketball Houston, TX USA Los Angeles Lakers @ Houston Rockets
11:30 Sportscenter Hindi
12:00 Champions Trophy Sharjah, UAE 5th Odi, Highlights
1:00 Nba Action
1:30 Classic's Knockouts 1975 Heavyweight Bout Melbourne, Australia Joe Frazier @ Jimmy Ellis
2:30 Sportscenter Hindi
3:00 College Football Bowl Game 2001 Tangerine Bowl Orlando, FL USA
5:00 Zimbabwe Cricket The Coca-Cola Harare, Zimbabwe India @ West Indies 6th Odi, 1st Session

BBC NEWS

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 World Business Report
11:00 BBC News
11:30 World Business Report
12:00 BBC News
12:30 World Business Report
1:00 BBC News
1:30 Top Gear
2:00 BBC News
2:30 Hardtalk
3:00 BBC News
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4:00 BBC News
4:30 Life

SPORTS

Highlights
Sportsline Today
English Premier Football
League English Premier Football
2001/02 Birmingham, England Ipswich Town @ Aston Villa
National Sports Report
Pga Tour Golf Memorial Tournament Dublin, OH USA Final Round
Rally Racing Mai Indian National Rally Championship 2001 Mangalore, India Mangalore Rally
Asian Festival of Speed 2001 Asian Touring Car C/Ships Macau, Macau Round Fifteen and Round Sixteen
Sports Unlimited
Sportsline Tonight
Here We Go!
Football Asia
Tennis Masters Series
By Mercedes-Benz
Tennis Masters Series

SPORTS

Highlights
Sportsline Today
English Premier Football
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4:30 The Net
5:30 Pacific Blue III
6:30 Movie: Atomic Train
8:30 World's Most Amazing Videos II
9:30 CSI
10:30 Amazon
11:30 Sheena
12:30 World's Most Amazing Videos II
1:30 CSI
2:30 Movie: The Mask of Zorro
4:30 Movie: Atomic Train
6:30 AXN Speed India
7:30 Sheena
8:30 CSI
9:30 The Right Stuff
10:30 Survivor : Africa
11:30 Who Dares Wins II
12:30 Pacific Blue III
1:30 Sheena
2:30 Amazon
3:30 Planet Ex II
ZEE TV
6:30 Aalaap
7:00 Yoga For Life
7:20 Jagran
7:50 Zee Gym & Eat Healthy
8:20 News
8:30 Ardhangani
8:45 Yaadein Radio Ceylon Ki
9:00 Nickelodeon on Zee
10:00 Guldsta
10:30 Do Aur Do Paanch
11:00 Aaj Bhi... Ateet
11:30 Ek Nazar
12:00 Amanat
12:30 Sarhadain
1:00 Shri 420

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ZEE CINEMA

1:30 Nai Duniya Naye Log
4:30 Jungle Ka Beta
7:30 Diwala
7:30 Faraar (Amitabh Bachchan, Shrilata T)
1:30 Goleman (Govindo, Shiplo Shetty)
6:00 Sana Bewafa (Solmon Khoo, Chandni)
10:00 Lohpurush (Dhanmendo, Joya Prada)

1:25 Jhalak
1:30 Koi Apna Sa
2:00 Choti Maa Ek Anokha Bandhan
2:30 Gharana
3:00 Hindi Feature Film Ek Nazar
6:30 Nickelodeon On Zee Ek Nazar
8:00 Hip Hip Hurray
8:30 Sarhadain/Jai Santoshi Maa
9:00 Mujhe Dore Koi Khinchhe
9:30 Choti Maa Ek Anokha Bhandhan
10:00 Koi Apna Sa
10:30 Aaj Bhi... Ateet/ Mahabharat
11:00 Dollar Bah/ Mahabharat
11:30 Shri 420
12:00 Gharana

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6:00 Sana Bewafa (Solmon Khoo, Chandni)
10:00 Lohpurush (Dhanmendo, Joya Prada)

ZEE MUSIC

7:00 Aalaap
7:30 Tara Rum
8:30 Hit Pe Hit
9:30 Hit Pe Hit
10:30 Hit Mix
11:00 Dil Se
11:30 Zee Music Box
12:00 Zee Music Box
1:00 Hit Pe Hit
2:00 Jharokha
2:35 Fillers
3:05 Tara Rum
3:30 Tara Rum
4:00 Hit Pe Hit
5:00 Zee Music Box
5:30 Hit Mix
6:30 Artist of the Fortnight
6:30 Zee Music Plus
7:30 Hit Pe Hit
8:30 Dial M
9:30 Zee Music Box/ First Take
10:00 Sizzlers
10:30 Jharokha
11:05 Compact Disc
11:35 Phoren Maal
ZEE MGM
1:30 Crazy Legs
4:00 Love Bites
6:30 Rebecca's Daughter
9:00 Romeo and Julia
11:30 Thrown Momma from the Train
2:00 Miracle
4:00 Moonstruck
7:30 Rebecca's Daughter
9:30 Thrown Momma from the Train

ZEE ENGLISH

7:00 Family Pride
7:30 Heartbreak High
8:30 Living Single
9:00 Three's Company
9:30 Kate & Allie
10:00 Capitol
10:30 La Femme Nikita
11:00 Full House
12:00 Fresh Prince of Bel Air
12:30 Family Pride
1:00 Royal Canadian Air Force
1:30 Benny Hill Show
2:00 Three's Company
2:30 Friends
3:00 Seinfeld
3:30 La Femme Nikita
4:30 Living Single
5:00 Benny Hill Show
5:30 Heartbreak High
6:30 Fresh Prince of Bel-Air
7:00 Full House
7:30 Seinfeld
8:00 Three's Company
8:30 Fresh Prince of Bel-Air
9:00 Jesse
9:30 A Mind to Kill/Black Scorpion
10:30 Seinfeld
11:00 Friends
11:30 Full House
12:00 Fresh Prince of Bel-Air

ALPHA TV

7:00 Nayantara
7:30 News
8:30 Sur E Jharnadhara
8:30 Monniye
9:00 News
9:05 Bharat Bhraman
9:30 Ki Likhi Tomai
10:00 Bideshini Bodhu
10:30 Safliya
11:00 Nayantara/Asian Sky Shop
11:30 Ebar Jombe Moja
12:00 Jhara Samayer Upapakatha
12:30 Chena Mukher Shari
1:00 Ingeet/sian Sky Shop
1:30 Ek Akasher Niche
2:00 Pratibimb/Asian Sky Shop
5:00 Surer Ei Jharna Dharay
5:30 Dour
6:00 Alpha Khabor
6:25 Jhankar-Exposure
6:30 Chokher Bali/Football
7:00 Nayantara
7:30 Monniye
7:55 Jhankar
8:00 Pratibimba
8:30 Ek Akasher Niche
9:15 Chena Mukh Shari
9:45 Ingeet
10:15 Dai Baddha
10:45 Ek Palake
11:00 News
11:30 News
11:55 Ek Palake
12:00 Chokher Bali/Football