

RECOMMENDATIONS



Sculpture exhibition

August 12-28
A sculpture exhibition of artist Ferdousi Priyobhashini continues at Bengal art gallery at Dhanmondi in the city. The exhibition runs everyday from 12:00 to 8:30 p.m.

Architectural designs' show

Aug. 17 Sept. 09
Louis I. Kahn (1901-1974), an American architect, who had designed Sher-e-banglanagar, the National Capital Complex in Dhaka, left behind a great legacy in heritage. An exhibition goes on at the National Museum at Shahbagh in the city to reveal the unfolding drama of the design and construction of Sher-e-banglanagar. Timetable: 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (Saturday to Wednesday), 3:30 to 7:30 p.m. (Friday). The show is closed on Thursday.

Cartoon exhibition

August 16-22
DRIK and UNMAD magazine host an exhibition of cartoons illustrated by famed cartoonists of the country at the DRIK gallery at Dhanmondi in the city. The exhibition is open to all from 3:00 to 8:00 p.m. daily.

Digital photography

August 21-24
Titled 'My Life, My Future', a digital photography exhibition starts at the auditorium of British Council in the city on August 21 at 5:30 p.m. that includes works of Youth Forum participants coordinated by Tanvir. The exhibition continues everyday from 10:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. till August 24. Professor Abdullah Abu Sayeed, President of Biswa Shahitya Kendra attends the opening ceremony as Chief Guest.

Interview

Controversial and iconoclastic installation works

Mahbubur Rahman and Tayeba Begum Lipi's joint exhibit at Alliance Francaise

FAYZA HAQ

TAYEBA Begum Lipi and Mahbubur Rahman's installation exhibit opened at Alliance Francaise on the 17th August to present something that one had surely never experienced before. The ideas presented at the display were controversial and iconoclastic. The display certainly provided ample food for thought. Asked for the reason behind holding the installation, Mahbub and Lipi say, "This is something new and you have a lot of freedom to work in this. The two-dimensional and three-dimensional work that we see, i.e. sculpture and painting is similar to this but here we can work with a lot of mediums. In this you can include various streams of thoughts. There is a connection in our joint display as we are a husband and wife team. For a long time we have been planning to set up a display together. We are both protesting against hypocrisy and religious fanaticism in our society and those of others."

Talking about whether the viewers will understand and appreciate their work and their desire to awaken the socio-economic awareness Mahbub and Lipi say, "This depends on the type of viewers who come as they all have their own varied tastes. This is a new approach and a long with our work there will be a short briefing in the catalogue so that they will be able to communicate with our work. We have explained that we want to move away from conventional painting and sculpture. This is a far cry from studio work. Here there is not only the fact that painting and sculpture are being combined but non art materials are also being used. Consequently we realize that any material can be art material. Here you see an Eid cattle market with the animals not only displaying hooves but wooden human feet projected in simplified forms. They are mounted on wooden structure and wear tinsel and garish paper garlands. They are stuffed with straw to give them a shape."

Lipi adds, "At the same time at another end of 'La Galerie', we see women clad in dark 'burqas' with masks of bearing resemblance to



"Pretend" by Mahbubur Rahman

the myself. They are shown as dumbly gazing at three realistic oil portraits done of myself. These huge portraits done up to the shoulders are done at different angles of the face and done with different colours to land interest and variation. Here I'm showing that we over react to the confines of our religious dictates and hesitate to go beyond them and think for ourselves. There are some negative elements in religion such as hypocrisy, rituals etc. These are there not only in our religion but in every religious belief and its following. I criticized our own religion first as I want to study my own environment and social set up. Why should there be a 'naqab' over my face? Why can't I be more progressive? I find no logic behind covering our women in dark 'burqas' which could perhaps be applicable to other societies elsewhere but not ours, as the dark colours of this apparel tend to attract more of the sun's heat in our country. This is a borrowed culture from the Middle East and we can well do without the 'hijab' or the

'naqab' as they are unhygienic for our weather. Our women are normally covered from head to foot and that should be adequate for the requirements of decency. The women here are toys so that my portion of the installation is called 'Toys watching toys'. Eastern women remain tied to the shackles of social inhibitions."

Mahbub explains the reasons behind presenting a section of a cattle market. "In our urban society we used to wait for the arrival of the cow during the Eid ul-Azha festival but the ironic part is that when our elders sacrificed this animal, for which we had developed attachment, we hated the idea of cutting and chopping up this animal in the name of religion. I felt that we did it because our other family members and neighbours did this was kowtowing to outdated religious beliefs. In old Dhaka, where I originate from, the Hindus and Muslims lived together and we normally performed the sacrifice within the premises of the house and washed off the blood



"Toys are watching toys" by Tayeba Begum Lipi

as soon as possible. Now we see blood all over the lanes and outside the houses and even the smell of the blood is revolting to many of us. This has become a habit over the years and people even go about smeared with blood on that occasion.

"To me this appears fanatical and pointless. We don't have to literally interpret our religion. It seems cruel to cut up so many animals on one single day and points to simple blind faith in something that the people do not really comprehend or analyze. Most of the cows come from India where this animal is regarded as a deity and this too is paradoxical as this is done perhaps for pure economic reasons."

Talking about their possible patrons, Mahbub says, "We do not concern ourselves needlessly about the sale of our items but if anyone appreciates our work we are naturally grateful to the collector. For this reason we have not printed a price list. We, in our personal lives, do studio work for our existence. However, we are not gearing our

work for sale as the basic motivation. We do not do any commissioned or commercial work. There is no strong communication with that strata of society which will buy our work readily. We stress on imagination, feelings, hopes, desires, fears of the common people and political, economical and social incidents. For us the sale drive is secondary. We believe that we are very lucky to be able to survive in our own fashion. Through our work we get the opportunity to go abroad such as going to Germany, Ireland, Indonesia etc to do studio work or residency. Our work is expressionistic and we are not out to please the viewer but express our thoughts, beliefs and feelings no matter how idiosyncratic this might appear to some viewers, who might be just looking for something to decorate their drawing and dining rooms."

Touching the problems that they faced in order to complete their installations works, Mahbub says, "As we live among the common work and have a circle of friends, the

materials we use are within our reach. We collected the skins from the butchers and got them tanned at Hazaribagh, stuffed them with straw to give the animal shapes some realistic dimensions, with wooden frames to support them. Some of them have hooves while they sometimes also have human feet like endings as I have a private fascination for this form. Also, when I do my work, in order to show the barbarity in mankind, I bring in animal forms. I do not, in any way, wish to dishonour animals at any time. I have tried to give some human elements in my delineation of animals too. Also I feel comfortable mixing and mingling animal elements with those of human beings. These cows, are living creatures, and should not be slaughtered en masse in the name of religion. We have used naphthalene to remove the smell of the skins. We have planned this for almost six months now."

Dwelling on if their life as artists was a comfortable one, Lipi says, "It is always difficult for artists in

Bangladesh to survive unless they have access to foreign buyers and patrons in the form of industrialists. Our subjects are different and we never bother our heads about pleasing the buyers. Overseas, artists such as us are supported by studios and the government as in India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Germany, UK, other European countries and USA. There are organizations that support just alternative art such as 'Khoj International' in Delhi where I had participated in one of the projects. We get no financial family backing either though they lend us mental support. They have their own lives to lead so they cannot help us. Again, they expect us to be like others and have children and get immersed in normal bourgeois life. We cannot expect the family to comprehend why we are going in for something controversial."

Asked if the installation work have a large following, Mahbub says, "In the large exhibits, as during the Asian Biennale Bangladesh, they do not give ample room for local artists. Again, in the educational institutes, students are taught to use established materials only. There is not enough stress on new experimentation. I began in 1994, while it was towards the end of 1990s that the young ones came up with installations. Wakilur Rahman and Kajol made some attempts in Bangladesh some time back, but they live abroad. We tend to depend on the government and established organizations to lend us support. Artists are afraid of failure and have not organized art run space."

During the opening, Mahbub took 30c.c. of blood from his own veins, poured it into one animal figure, "slaughtered" the animal in a motion and then scattered rose leaves above it. The cow had the traditional wedding 'dupatta' while he had donned a bridegroom's 'pagri'. In one of Lipi's groups of "burqa"-clad women the voice of the sacrificed animal in a video of the sacrificial scenes was projected.

Exhibits such as this is certainly thought provoking. One welcomes more of this progressive and alternative art work.

TV GUIDE

EKUSHEY TV	12:00pm Ekushey Mid-day	12:30 Deshjure Chalchitro	1:00 Ekushey Headlines	1:05 Expedition to the Animal Kingdom	1:30 Documentary Programme: Japan Video Tropic	1:50 Classic Cartoons	2:10 Surer Prodeep	2:40 Drishti	3:00 Ekushey Headlines	3:05 Drama Serial Amader Kotha	4:00 Dehotore	4:30 Expedition to the Animal Kingdom	5:00 Circus Circus	5:50 Akjer Potrikey	6:00 Ekushey Headlines	6:05 Classic Cartoons	6:30 Charidike	6:55 Ekushey Headlines	7:00 Kena Kata	7:30 Ekushey Shangbad	7:30 Ekushey News	8:05 Drama serial: Chorkata	8:30 Pakhira Ghore Fera	9:00 Natok: Tritio Shotta	10:00 News: Simulcast from BTV	10:30 When Century Was Young	11:00 Ekushey Late Night Shangbad	11:30 Ekushey Business	12:00 Ekushey Headlines
ATN BANGLA	05:30 Islamic Prog	7:00 Surchohi	7:35 Bhan Bashe Manuser Sebbon	8:00 ATN Bangla News	8:25 Ghotonar Napathee	9:00 Sutorang	9:35 Music Time	10:10 Kayokjon Aparade	10:50 Khaukon Suna	12:00 ATN Bangla News	6:07 ATN Music	6:45 Bakul Bechanu Pathe	7:00 ATN Bangla Evening News	7:35 Mohine	8:10 ATN Computer Projukte	08:45 Drama: Ekjon Neyamatulla Abong Kayekjon	10:00 ATN Bangla News	10:35 Kayokjon Aparade	11:15 Proterud	11:30 ATN Bangla News									

ALPHA BANGLA TV	7:00 Shyaola	7:30 Aalaap Bengali Spl	8:00 Purobi Bangla	8:30 Gaan Unltd	9:10 Bharat Bhraman	9:30 Sat Kahan	10:00 Saregama	11:00 Bideshini Bodhu	11:30 Gaan Unltd	12:00 Chokh	12:30 Chena Mukher Shari	1:00 Nayanantara	1:30 Ek Akasher Niche	2:00 Pratibimba	2:30 Shahadharmini Bangla	5:00 Gaan Unltd.	5:30 Ingit	6:00 News in Bengali	6:30 Bideshini Bodhu	7:00 Shyaola	7:30 Bishesh	8:00 Sangbad Data	8:30 Ek Akasher Niche	9:10 Chena Mukher Shari	9:50 Chokh	10:30 News in Bengali	11:00 Ingit	11:30 Nayanantara	12:00 Shyaola
CHANNEL-i	7:10a.m. Music Plus	7:50 I Focus of the week	8:20 Drama	8:50 Gaaner oparey	9:20 Drama	9:50 Documentary	10:20 Roving I	10:50 Music Plus	11:30 I Focus of the week	12:00p.m. Drama	12:30 Gaaner oparey	1:00 Drama	1:50 Bangla feature film	5:05 Documentary	5:35 Weekly review	6:10 Music Plus	6:50 I Sports												

7:15 Channel I News	8:00 Drama	8:30 Drama	9:00 Channel I News	9:30 Shongbadpotrey Bangladesh	9:45 Mobile quiz	10:00 Benson & Hedges star search	10:30 Channel I News	11:15 Concert	12:00a.m. Channel I News																
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 pm BBC News	12:30 World Business Report/Sport	Today	1:00 BBC News	1:30 Click Online	2:00 BBC News	2:30 Hardtalk	3:00 BBC News	3:30 Earth Report	4:00 BBC News	4:30 Asia Today/World Business Report	5:00 BBC News	5:30 Hardtalk
HBO	6:30am Inferno	8:30 The operator	10:15 Tremors	12:15 Hangman	2:15 Liar Liar	4:00 Commandments	5:45 Psycho																		

TODAY'S HIGHLIGHTS	HBO: 5:45 p.m. <i>Psycho</i> . A remake of director Alfred Hitchcock's 1960 thriller about a young woman, who, while on the run after stealing \$40,000 from her boss, is brutally murdered in the shower of a motel she is staying in one night. As police investigate her disappearance, we learn more about the motel's psychotic owner, Norman Bates. Director Gus Van Zant's film is a shot-for-shot remake of the original.	STAR MOVIES: 9:30 p.m. <i>Fight Club</i> . Based on the debut novel by recent University of Oregon graduate Chuck Palahniuk about a confused young man in the not too distant future. With no family or close friends, he frequents cancer and disease support groups as a way to bond with others, pretending to be terminally ill or feigning various other infirmities to fit in. Sick of his dead end, white bread, white collar corporate career and disgusted with the empty consumer culture that his generation has been doomed to inherit, he and a very devious friend named Tyler Durden create a new club where young men come to relieve their frustrations by beating each other to a pulp.	
PICK OF THE DAY	Krull On HBO at 10:00 p.m. After his bride is spirited away during their wedding ceremony, valiant Prince Colwyn, in this fantasy plot, sets off to rescue her from her monstrous captor, the Beast, with the help of a five-pronged weapon imbued with magical powers.		
7:45 Extreme Measures	11:30 Meri Saheli	9:30 Kehta Hai Dil	1:00 Caroline In The City
10:00 Krull	12:00pm Shanti	10:30 Kahaani Ghar Ghar Kii	1:30 The Bold & The Beautiful
12:30 Snow Falling on Cedars	1:00 Kaahin Kissii Roz	11:00 Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi	2:00 Hollywood Squares
3:00 Liar Liar	1:25 Film Toppers	11:30 Kaahin Kissii Roz	2:30 Family Ties
4:45 Extreme Measures	1:30 Kahaani Ghar Ghar Kii	12:00 Film Toppers	3:00 Baywatch
STAR MOVIES	2:00 Bhabhi	12:05 Aaj Ki Baat	4:00 The Simpsons
7:30 Panic	2:30 Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi	STAR GOLD	4:30 Cheers
9:30 Men Of War	3:00 Shagun	7:00am Geet Bahar	5:00 Star News Asia
1:30 Tank Girl	3:30 Kasautii Zindagii Kay	7:30 Lalkar	5:30 Frasier
3:30 Bound By Honour	4:00 Kumkum	11:00 Bollywood Beats	6:00 JAG
7:30 Movies With Style: Enemy Of The State	4:30 Kabhii Sautan Kabhii Saheli	12:00 Gunga Jumna	6:55 Star News Update
9:30 Hollywood Action Night: Fight Club	5:00 Kora Kagaz	3:30 Geet Bahar	7:00 The Pretender
12:00 Late Night Innings: Jumanji	5:30 Hit Filmlein Hit Sangeet	3:30 Mehboob Ki Mehndi	8:00 Law & Order
STAR PLUS	6:00 Small Wonder	7:30 Bollywood Beats	9:30 JAG
7:30 Hum Saath Aath Hain	6:30 Fox Kids Daily	7:30 Mangal Masti-Rampur	10:30 The Pretender
8:00 Aatma	7:20 Aaj Ki Baat	11:00 Sher Khan	11:30 Law & Order
9:00 Hit Filmlein Hit Sangeet	7:25 Kya Film Kay Geet	STAR WORLD	7:30 Breakfast News English
9:30 Fox Kids-Daily Hit Geet	8:00 Kalash	7:00 The Oprah Winfrey Show	8:00 Breakfast News Hindi
10:10 Hit Geet	9:00 Kasautii Zindagii Kay	8:00 Da Vinci's Inquest	8:30 Breakfast News English
10:25 Kya Film Kya Geet	10:30 Small Wonder	9:00 King of Queens	9:00 Breakfast News Hindi
11:30 Small Wonder		9:30 Dharma & Greg	10:00 Breakfast News Hindi
		10:00 Boston Public	11:00 Breakfast News Hindi
		11:00 The Oprah Winfrey Show	12:00pm Every-body Loves Raymond
		12:00pm Every-body Loves Raymond	12:30 Becker

12:00pm Star News Hindi	12:30 Star News English	1:00 Star News Hindi	1:30 Star News English	2:00 Star News Hindi	6:30 Bollywood News	7:00 Star Bazaar Hindi	7:30 Saat Baje Hindi	8:00 Star Khel	8:30 Tonight At 8	9:00 Star Samachar	9:30 Star News English	10:00 Star Business News	10:30 Star Newshour	11:30 Star News English	12:00am Sports Tonight																	
CHANNEL [V]	7:00 [V] Hit Machine	8:00 [V] Back To Back	8:30 [V] Jumpstart	9:30 [V] Hit Machine	10:00 [V] Back To Back	10:30 [V] Hit Machine	11:00 [V] Back To Back	11:30 [V] Hit Machine	12:00pm [V] Zabardast Hits	12:30 [V] Jungli Jukebox	1:00 [V] FDFS	1:30 [V] Hit Machine	2:00 [V] Zabardast Hits	2:30 [V] Back To Back	3:00 [V]Zabardast Hits	3:30 [V] Back To Back	4:00 [V] Hit Machine	4:30 [V] Hotline	5:30 [V] Top 5 @ 5	6:00 [V]ideo War	6:15 [V] Hit Machine	6:30 Very [V]	7:30 Ctrl [V]	8:00 [V] Zabardast Hits	8:30 [V] Back To Back	9:00 [V] Zabardast Hits	9:30 [V] Jungli Jukebox	10:00 [V] FDFS	10:30 [V] Hit Machine	11:00 [V] Late Night [V]	11:30 [V] Rewind	12:00am [V] Back To Back
NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC	6:30 Wild	7:30am Nat Geo Max	8:30 Scientific American Frontiers	9:30 People & Places																												

10:30 Dogs With Jobs	11:00 Human Edge	11:30 On The Edge	12:30pm N G Specials	1:00 Wild	2:30 Nat Geo Max	3:30 Sci-files	4:30 People & Places	7:30 Human Edge	6:00 Mission Wild	6:30 Dogs With Jobs	7:00 Earth Pulse	7:30 On the Edge	8:00 Wild	9:30 Nat Geo Max	10:30 Sci-Files	12:00 People & Places													
ZEE ENGLISH	7:00 Family Pride	7:30 Heartbreak High	8:30 Benny Hill Show	9:00 Three's Company	9:30 Kate & Allie	10:00 Gregory Hines Show	10:30 The Sopranos	11:30 Full House	12:00 Fresh Prince of Bel Air	12:30 Veronica's Closet	1:00 Royal Canadian Air Farce	1:30 Benny Hill Show	2:00 Three's Company	2:30 Friends	3:00 Seinfeld	3:30 The Sopranos	4:30 Suddenly Susan	5:00 Mad About You	5:30 Heartbreak High	6:30 Full House	7:00 For Your Love	7:30 Seinfeld	8:00 Three's Company	8:30 Fresh Prince of Bel Air	9:00 Suddenly Susan	9:30 Veronica's Susan	10:00 Mad About You	10:30 Seinfeld	11:30 Homicide-Life on the Street
ZEE TV	7:00 Yoga For Life	7:20 Jagran	7:50 Zee Gym & Eat Healthy	8:20 News	8:30 Ardhangini	8:45 Yaadein Radio Ceylon Ki	9:00 Nickelodeon	9:30 Nick on Zee	10:30 Hum Paanch	11:00 Hudd Kar Di	12:00 Saanjhi	12:30 Tu Kahe Agar	1:00 Love Marriage	1:30 Koi Apna Sa	2:00 Kammal	2:30 Gharana	3:00 Lorie	6:30 Nickelodeon On Zee	7:00 Nickelodeon	8:00 Kitne Kool Hain Hum	8:30 Kammal	9:00 Justjoo	9:30 Nilaam Ghar Bid Boom	10:00 Koi Apna Sa	10:30 Love Marriage	11:00 Tu Kahe Agar	11:30 Gharana	12:00 Yeh Dil Kya Kare	
ZEE MUSIC	7:30 Sizzlers	8:00 Zee Music Box																											