

RECOMMENDATIONS

Photography

November 17 December 02

Dr. Pierre Claquin holds a solo photography show titled, 'Surviving Dreams: The struggling circuses of Bangladesh', at the gallery of Alliance Francaise de Dhaka in the city that remains open from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. everyday.

Art Show

November 29 January 10

A group art exhibition of four young artists is being held at the American International School at Baridhara in the city and remains open daily throughout the day.

Apparel display

November 22 December 6

An exhibition of dresses and apparels take place at ARIAL Centre (Rd. 7), Dhanmondi in the city. The show is open from 10:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. daily and is open to all.

Surya Utsav

December 29 January 02

Bangladesh Astronomical Association arranges one of its annual events, Surya Utsav (Sun Festival) as the organisation aims at showing the participants, several exciting matters including the first sunrise of the year 2003, cultural ceremony of the indigenous people of the area, Keokradang at Bandarban district, Piitha festival and observation of the night sky through telescope. Interested persons are requested to register names within November 30 at the office of Bangladesh Astronomical Association 1/3, Block-E, Lalmita, Dhaka Ph: 0171-187555.

Exhibition

Claudio Cambon's dynamic photos depicting even "leaves of grass"

"Ship-breaking" images at Gallery Chittrak; part of "Chobi Mela"-II

FAYZA HAQ

ONE can never be weary of the feasts of the current international festival of photographs arranged by "Drik" and is found scattered all over Dhaka. In "Chittrak" alone are two exhibits, one being that of Claudio Cambon (from USA)'s "Ship-breaking", in startling black and white. This is to be seen in the second inner section of "Chittrak" gallery, Dhanmondi.

The thought-provoking intro to the photographs runs thus: A biology of steel: a story of the life, death, and rebirth of an American merchant vessel throughout her working life: sailors who worked on her throughout the decades, specially those who sailed on her last voyage from Louisiana to Chittagong, the longshoremen, who load her last cargo, 43,000 metric tons of grain, a gift from the US to the government of Bangladesh; the longshoremen who unload her; and the breakers who beach and demolish the ship in order to recycle her many materials as a part of this country's struggle to create a modern existence for itself. The ship emerges as a touchstone to many people around the world; she forms a chain of connection which reminds us that we are all connected, no matter what boundaries of culture, and economy appear to stand between us.

In one of the images we see a young cow that is about to be sacrificed, while onlookers naturally gather around it. They are in "lungis" and trousers, some wear caps, and have the backdrop of the palm trees and houses. In front are bits of mud and some blades of grass. Also in the focus is someone smoking in the foreground, along with another in a flowered bush-shirt, looking on with the rest of the gathered group. There is the clear sky at the back, which completes the graphic tale of human means of existence and their apparent curiosity in whatever is going around them—in a black, white and gray composition.



We move on to "New York" which focuses on the ship itself peering from its top to examine the massive black hull. It has workers hanging from the top of the once living portion; below are seen tug boats; at the side, back and in front are barges placed on the gray ripples of waves. In another picture we see people loading against a part of a panel of the ship, which forms a part of the dramatic and human encompassing subject. Here we get a good glimpse of the ship along with its backdrop of the sea and the sky, and the necessary tiny images of Bangladeshi workers in and around it, at Chittagong's port.

In another photo we see about seven people struggling with all their might— seen against a slice-like section of the ship. The ship-breakers remind you of SM Sultan's depiction of Bangladeshis sans the exaggerated muscles and enormous bodies that belonged to Sultan's dream of the powerful Bangladeshi labour class people. SM Sultan had brought in farmers and boatmen at times while here we see the thin ship-breakers instead -- but working with all their might -- something which might have

inspired even Leonardo da Vinci, had he been in this century and this exact spot. Some of the men in the photo wear caps, some are bare-headed; and in their checked "lungis"— some of them being hitched up— along with shirts with stripes, with checks and patterns, they are working with all their might. They have caked dry sand on their feet as they struggle with a long pile of twisted iron rods, taking them to their point of destination. In the background is the supervisor with a cap on the head, clad in a shirt and trousers. We see more men sitting or standing on the ladder and parts of ships. One also spots a trailing pole included in the lens frame.

There is yet another picture of struggle and strife of the same ship-breakers but this photo is taken from another angle so that one doesn't see the eyes of the workers; here are seen their backs and only one individual faces the camera, even though he is seen looking away from it. They are apparently struggling with a part of a boat, which in turn, is a part of the ship. In Claudio Cambon's next dramatic display in his black and white ambitious extravaganza we spot a man in a



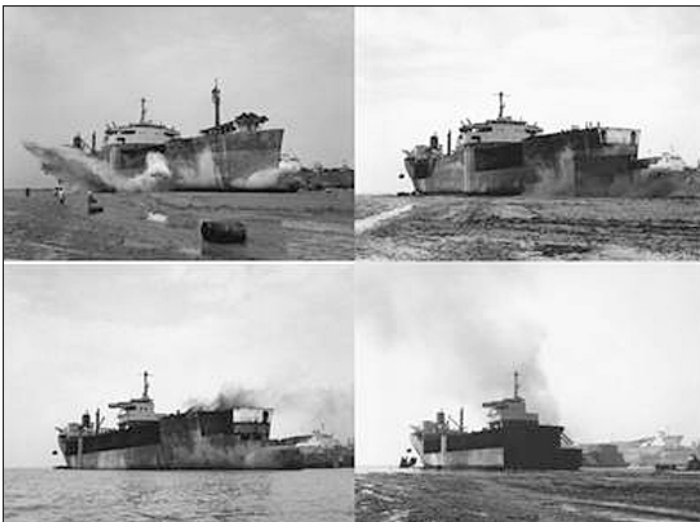
flowered shirt and sarong facing the camera, while the rest of his companions look ahead. The workers are naturally in differently patterned sarongs, some in slippers, others bare-foot—as they toil to carry forth a part of a machine—which was once an integral part of the ship that they had taken apart.

We then move on to the depiction of a bare-breasted man in jeans, the waist of which has been tied with a rope. He is seen merrily resting on a pile of more coiled and much larger ropes, that almost remind one of giant coils of cobras or boa constrictors, taken from India or South America, and seen in some nightmare world of HBO channel on TV. However, the purpose is not to shock but depict the difficult life of the shore-men. At his side is a great drum which reads "Fire Stajior No 1...".

In the focus are details of the ship— part of the subject -- parts of machinery and poles. The impact is surely a dramatic one -- more so because of the limitation of colours to a simple choice of black and white -- which enhances the element of charm and drama, if once uses the camera with dexterity and imagination.

A child, smiling despite the heat, is seen in another photo, supporting a part of a refrigerator, which was once perhaps an integral part of the ship in question in Claudio Cambon's exhibition. A cap, a flowered shirt; the gray of the sea beach in the backdrop, along with the scattered intermittent images of sea-weeds, small piles of sand as much as the child's feet caked with sand— seen against a boat, found against a cloudless pale sky in the backdrop --all go to create a scene of contentment and harmony, despite the integral daily hassle of struggle and strife.

In yet another entry at "Chittrak", in Cambon's collection, is seen a man with his hitched-up sarong, walking serenely, carrying some luggage and making his way through the dry part of the seacoast. One can see the vast expanse of the sea in the distance, the well-trodden tracks on the beach and the open sky. Cambon's pictures also includes one of just a single hanging chain which tapers to the bottom -- It is part of the ship that is being pulled apart to make way for newer elements.



It is surely amazing how an American photographer is drawn to something as mundane as ship-breaking at Chittagong; and could tell its tale in sharp images that make one realize the difficult tasks of the Bangladeshi workers. By the clever and careful use of romanticization, he has waved a magic wand over a Chittagong port ship-breaking scenario, and has transformed human beings and machine parts of a ship— which to most might appear mundane and blasé -- but to Claudio Cambon there is a vital message that is both local and universal. This is remarkable feat and one's hat is off to him. From this, surely, our own local photographers— specially those of the younger generation, learning at "Pathshala", "Alliance Francaise"— along with the photo journalists already working for the various newspapers and journals, could get inspiration. No doubt, there is the debate over whether black and white might be a trick to enhance the dramatic element needlessly. However, in Claudio Cambon's work one is reminded of the nostalgic prints of the past, with which the western photography enthusiasts

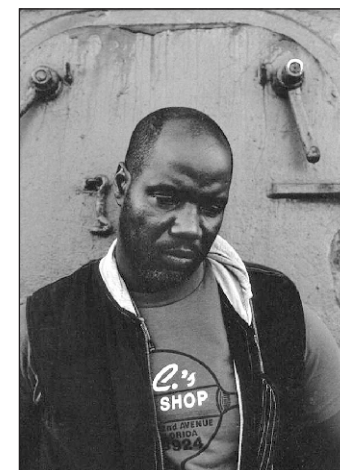


PHOTO CREDITS: CLAUDIO CAMBON / DRIK

and local experts are enamoured with. These include, for instance, Dr Pierre Claquin (who participated in "Chobi Mela -II" with his moving circus based photographs); Anwar Hossain (who resides in France, but sometimes holds exhibitions at Dhaka); and Dr Shahidul Alam of "Drik", who have showcased numerous successful displays at home and overseas.

TV GUIDE

BTV	12:00p.m. Opening	12:10 News headline	12:15 Patriotic songs	1:00 News	2:00 News headline	3:00 News (English)	4:00 News headline	4:50 Mahe Ramzan	5:00 News	6:00 News	7:00 News headline (English)	7:05 Weather	8:00 News (Bangla)	9:00 News headline	9:30 Bangla-r mukh	10:00 News at ten	10:25 News feature	11:15 Khabar / The News	11:45 Closing						
CHANNEL-i	7:00a.m. Prothom Sur	9:30 Music Plus	10:50 Drama serial	11:25 Drama serial	12:00p.m. Drama serial	1:00 Tasmeri Film World	1:50 Bangla feature film	4:30 Songs	5:00 Hamd O' Naat	5:30 Islamic discussion	5:45 Teer Monohar Iftar	6:10 Music Plus	6:45 Eid shopping	7:15 Channel I News	7:45 Telequiz	7:55 Film	8:25 Drama serial	9:00 Channel I News	9:30 Shongbadpotrey Bangladesh	9:40 Telequiz	10:00 Band show	10:25 Quiz	10:30 Channel I News	11:15 Band songs	12:00a.m. Channel I News

BBC	00:00 BBC News	00:30 World Business Report	00:45 Sport Today	01:00 BBC News	01:30 HARDtalk (r)	02:00 BBC News	02:30 Top Gear	03:00 BBC News	03:30 World Business Report	04:00 BBC News	04:30 Asia Business Report	04:45 World Business Report	05:00 BBC News	05:30 Asia Business Report	05:45 Asia Today	06:00 BBC News	06:30 World Business Report (r)	07:00 BBC News	07:30 Asia Today (r)	07:45 Asia Business Report	08:00 BBC News	08:30 Asia Today (r)	08:45 World Business Report (r)	09:00 BBC News	09:30 Asia Today (r)	09:45 Asia Business Report	10:00 BBC News	10:30 HARDtalk	11:00 BBC News	11:30 World Business Report	12:00 BBC News	12:30 World Business Report	13:00 BBC News	13:30 World Business Report	13:45 Sport Today	14:00 BBC News	14:30 Fast Track (r)	14:45 Holiday (r)	15:00 BBC News	15:30 Simpson's World (r)	16:00 BBC News	16:30 Asia Today	16:45 World Business Report	17:00 BBC News	17:30 HARDtalk (r)	18:00 BBC News	18:30 World Business Report	18:45 Sport Today	19:00 BBC News	19:30 Top Gear (r)	20:00 BBC News	20:30 Asia Today	21:00 BBC News	21:30 HARDtalk (r)	22:00 BBC News	22:30 Mastermind India	23:00 BBC News	23:15 World Business Report
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HBO	06:30 a.m. Devil's Prey	08:15 The Huntress	10:00 Escape From L.A.	12:00 p.m. Heart And Souls	02:00 Demolition Man	04:15 Night Visions Ep 09 : Rest Stop / Afterlife	05:15 Cinema Secrets II Ep 8 : High Wired	05:45 Cabin By The Lake	07:45 The Net	10:00 Psycho (1998)	12:00 a.m. Wayne's World 2	HALLMARK	01:00a.m. Witness Files	03:00 Macshayne: Winner Takes All	05:00 Sesame Street - Episode # 57	06:00 The Railway Children	08:00 Gas Food Lodging	10:00 The Young Riders: Season 1	12:00p.m. Young Riders, The - Season 1 - Pilot	01:00 Touched By An Angel Vii (25 X 1hr)	01:00 The Face On The Bar Room Floor	02:00 Sesame Street - Episode # 57	03:00 Scholastic Clifford Come Back, Mac/Boo	03:30 Caillou - Episode # 25	04:00 Flipper (66 Episodes X 1hr) A Helping Hand	05:00 Early Edition - The Cat	06:00 Star Trek: Voyager - Episode # 40 Tuvix	07:00 Never Tell Me Never	09:00 Early Edition - Phantom At The Opera	10:00 Star Trek: Voyager - Episode # 41 Resolutions	11:00 My Louisiana Sky	STAR MOVIES	12:30a.m. Exorcist III	02:30 Moms On Strike	04:15 A Low Down Dirty Shame	06:00 Replicant	07:45 Playing Mona Lisa	09:30 Another Stakeout	11:30 Midnight Heat	1:15p.m. Closer You Get, The	3:00 When Danger Follows You Home	4:45 Dead Poets Society	7:00 Cookies Fortune	9:00 A Low Down Dirty Shame
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ESPN	01:00 Uefa Champions League 2002/03	12:30 Sportscenter Bristol, CT USA (L)	13:30 Pool World Pool Masters 2002 (T)	14:30 Formula One Boat Racing 2002	03:30 Goals! (T)	04:00 X-Games The Asian Xtour Presented By Toyota Taipei, TAIWAN Event Highlights(R)	04:30 Lpga Golf Mizuno Classic Japan, JAPAN Final Round Highlights(T)	05:30 Pakistan Tour Of Zimbabwe Nissan International Series Harare, ZIMBABWE	17:00 Uefa Champions League 2002/03	19:00 Cricket Programming Super Selector (L)	19:30 Spanish League Highlights 2002/03	20:00 Sportscenter Hindi (L)	20:30 Sachin Tendulkar Programming Sachin Speaks On World Cup Stars (T)	21:00 Goals! (R)	21:30 South Africa Cricket Standard Bank One
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TODAY'S HIGHLIGHTS

HBO: 12:00 p.m. *Heart and Souls*. Through an unfortunate coincidence which places Thomas' birth at the same time as the deaths of the four ghosts, Thomas finds himself stuck with them until they can fulfill their unresolved dreams.

HALLMARK: 11:00 p.m. *My Louisiana Sky*. A twelve-year-old girl is thrown into a terrible conflict about leaving the people she loves for an exciting new world, of which she yearns to be a part. Young Tiger Ann Parker can only fantasize about the world she sees on television from the small backwater Louisiana farm where she lives with her grandmother and mentally disabled parents.

STAR MOVIES: 7:00 p.m. *Spy Kids*. Gregorio and Ingrid are the two greatest secret agents the world has ever known: masters of disguise, maven of invention, able to stop wars before they even start. Working for separate countries, they are sent to eliminate their most dangerous enemy...each other.

PICK OF THE DAY

Psycho
On HBO at 10:00 p.m.
Marion Crane commits the ultimate crime, by robbing her employer in a desperate attempt to change her life. Her crime will not go unpunished, and she? She certainly find her life changed, irreversibly. By checking into the Bates Motel, she also makes the ultimate mistake.

STAR WORLD	00:00 Charmed	01:00 Ally Mc Beal	02:00 Cheers	02:30 Creflo Dollar Daily	03:00 Kenneth Copeland Ministries	03:30 The Simpsons	04:00 World News	04:30 Suddenly Susan	05:00 Hollywood Squares	05:30 The Brady Bunch	06:00 Cheers	06:30 Oprah Winfrey Show	07:30 Bugs	08:30 Charmed	09:30 Ally Mc Beal	10:30 Oprah Winfrey Show	11:28 Star Asia Travel	11:30 Titus	12:00 Two Guys And A Girl	12:30 Suddenly Susan	13:00 The Bold & The Beautiful	13:30 Hollywood Squares	14:00 The Brady Bunch	14:30 Baywatch	15:30 The Simpsons	16:00 Cheers	16:30 Starnews Asia	17:00 Frasier	17:30 Roswell	18:25 Asianews Upd	18:30 Dark Angel	19:30 Body Human li	20:28 Star Asia Travel	20:30 Frasier	21:00 Roswell	22:00 Dark Angel	23:00 Body Human li
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STAR PLUS	00:00 Film Toppers	00:05 Shagun	00:30 Hit Filmein Hit Sangeet	01:00 Telebrands 101 - 150	01:30 Kasautii Zindagi Kay Chupa Rustam	02:30 Kaahin Kissi Roz	03:30 Shanti	04:00 Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi	04:30 Saans	05:00 Hit Filmein Hit Sangeet	05:30 Bhabhi	06:00 Star Geetmala	07:00 Shaka Laka Boom Boom	07:30 Aatma	08:30 Hit Filmein Hit Sangeet	09:00 Fox Kids	09:40 Hit Geet
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STAR NEWS	00:00 Star News English	00:30 Star News	01:00 Star News	01:30 Star News	02:00 Business News	02:30 Star News Hour	03:30 Sports Tonight	04:00 Star News	05:00 Star News	05:30 Star News	06:00 Star News Hour	07:00 Breakfast News	08:00 Breakfast News	09:00 Star News	09:30 Star News	10:00 Star News	10:30 Star News	11:00 Star News	12:00 Star News	12:30 Star News	13:00 Star News	13:30 Star News	14:00 Star News	14:30 Star News	15:00 Star News	15:30 Star News	16:00 Star News	16:30 Star News	17:00 Star News	17:30 Star News	18:00 Star News	18:30 Star News	19:00 Star News	19:30 Star News	20:00 Star News	20:30 Samachar	21:00 Star News English	21:30 Business News	22:00 Star News Hour	23:00 Star News English
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STAR GOLD	02:15 Hit Geet	02:30 Hit Filmein Hit Sangeet	03:00 Deep Jalta Rahe	06:15 Hit Geet	06:30 Geet Bahar	07:00 Tum Haseen Main Jawan	10:00 Telebrands 51 - 100	10:30 Hit Filmein Hit Sangeet	11:00 Hogi Pyar Ki Jeet	14:00 Geet Bahar	14:30 Hit Filmein Hit Sangeet	15:00 Heer Ranjha	18:15 Hit Geet	18:30 Hit Filmein Hit Sangeet	19:00 Kismet	22:00 Bollywood Beats	22:30 Flashback	23:00 Hit Filmein Hit Sangeet	23:30 Armaan
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NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC	00:00 Into The Flames	01:00 Dogs With Jobs S3	01:30 African Wildlife	02:00 Red Storm	03:00 Hit Science	04:00 Raiders Of The Lost Gold	05:00 Into The Flames	06:00 Dogs With Jobs S3	06:30 African Wildlife
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