

RECOMMENDATIONS

Eco Tourism Fair, Food and Cultural Festival

December 16-18 Dhaka Sheraton Hotel is holding a number of events at its premises during the Eco Tourism Month 2002...

Documentary Video

December 18 A documentary video, directed and produced by famed filmmaker, Razia Quadri, entitled, "Sun-darbone Bagher Shandhaney, is being screened at the Poet Sufia Kamal Auditorium at the National Museum at 5:45 p.m. The show is open to the invited guests only.

Visions-1

December 18-24 Alliance Francaise de Dacca will host an avant-gardist French exhibition titled, "Visions-1 new vision in fashion", which will present latest new forms of fashion photography...

Art Show

November 20-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.

Mexican Film Session

Zahir Raihan Film Society will screen films made by contemporary Mexican filmmakers at the Goethe Institut. The festival includes films that have won awards recently in Mexico and in other international film festivals.

December 18 Danzon (1991) by Maria Novaro at 05.00 p.m.

Amores Perros (Love's a Bitch) (2000) by Alejandro Gonzales Inarritu at 07.00 p.m.

December 19 Frida (2002) by Julie Taymor at 05.00 p.m.

And Your Mother Too (2001) by Alfonso Cuaron at 07.00 p.m.

Event

Writing on Roman experiences

Book launching by DS and UPL

Neeman A. Sobahan's "An Abiding City: Ruminations from Rome" was launched at "Etcetera", last evening. At the opening of the programme, Fahim Munaim, the Managing Editor of The Daily Star, said, "Neeman and I went to the same university; it has always been a pleasure to promote her writings, which have, in fact, increased the newspaper's circulation."

Speaking to the Daily Star, Neeman A. Subhan said, "I have not brought in an elitist point of view in my writings because I've met people from all walks of life, if you read my book, I've spoken about the Bangladeshi immigrant workers who have come into Rome; there are four articles about Bangladeshis in Rome."

Asked if her writings in the book were similar to "Antipasti" and other writings in the Star Weekend Magazine, Neeman said, "I had a column called 'Ruminations' which I wrote from Rome in the D.S.; then I had columns in the SWM called 'Antipasti Notes from Rome': they were basically personal columns. I spoke my experiences in life and the daily encounters. This book is a collection of the columns that I've selected, ones that are most relevant to my Roman columns. The reason why I make the difference is because I had a column called 'Ruminations' in the main pages of D.S."

Talking about whether she had any difficulty in gathering her materials for her writing and getting UPL to publish her book, Neeman said, "No, in fact there was very little gathering of material because the matter was already there. I had just to edit, rewrite and compile the matter. I was juxtaposing the matter in a different order. I've also written about my travels such as my letters from Russia, China etc."

The book is a fresh look at Italy and Rome from the perspective, not of a tourist but of a long time resident, albeit a foreign one. The charm of everyday Rome, the romance of history, the adventure of expatriate's eternal quest for home, the poetry of seasonal transformation, the eternal mysteries of relationships, the kaleidoscope of life in Italy in general and of one woman in particular, are some of the myriad themes in this collection of articles and poems.

Exhibition

Penetrating paintings & pencil works on pharaohs

Aadil Hoque's magnificent manifestation of history in colour at "Arial"

FAYZA HAQ

AT Arial Centre on 14th December was a superb solo display of paintings in water-colour, pastel, oil and crayon spanning several years of works, by Aadil Hoque, a 13 year-old autistic child. He had been schooled and looked after at Oxford, England for six years, and is now taking art lessons for a few months with a private tutor; he's now in Bangladesh for a few years and studying at the "Society for the Welfare of Autistic Children" (SWAC) at Mohammedpur. The exhibition marked his birthday and teachers, who often had autistic children of their own present at the premises, buzzed around the place making the occasion as jubilant and colourful as seldom before seen at an art exhibit opening—specially of one so young and earlier unknown.

Dr Rownak Hafiz, the pediatrician and consultant, who specially deals with Aadil's autistic problems at the SWAC, said, "Autism is a neuro development disorder; it occurs during the first three years of the life a child; there are multiple factors responsible for autism and these are yet undiagnosed. The cause for the problem in one child differs from that of another. The problems of behaviour of such a child are a triad: imbalance in communication, lack of socialization, and lack of imagination. I can't quite comprehend myself where Aadil got his talent for such vibrant and dynamic paintings. One in every ten such child has some talent and I guess painting is Aadil's; his environment and the dedication of his mother and the guides at Oxford must have helped. In other mentally handicapped child there is development in extreme levels, i.e. emotional, motor and social developments. In autism there is uneven development. As regards Aadil's art, I think he has some inner drive that is almost unimaginable as he is so prolific an artist too. There is depth and inexplicable beauty in his works. I'm dealing with him for 18 months and I'm amazed at what appears like the works of a child prodigy."

Choudhury added, "Moreover, he has done many other subjects too, although his ancient Egyptian painting based works are the best. Mind you, he has not copied but put in his own simplified and then amalgamated forms and themes—which are certainly not pale imitations of any nature of what might be seen in the illustrated pages of history books. He has created imaginary scenes putting in many elements in different angles and colours, which are not to be found anywhere else. The manner in which he has drawn and painted is different from any other child his age, as he has used acrylic, water-colour, oil paints, using both paper, canvas and even clay vases for his bases, in more than a hundred entries in the exhibition. The works span five to six years, and they are definitely admirable for their maturity. It is his choice of colours and the careful compositions that have appealed to me most of all. Choudhury said, furthermore,

renowned artist who teaches at the Institute of Fine Arts, DU, speaking about Aadil, said, "Seeing the exhibition, I've come to the conclusion that Aadil is totally devoted to his work when he paints. His restless autism does not affect his work: he works with his whole mind and heart. Nobody will believe that a 13 year-old child has done such mature works. His paintings express many thoughts and emotions spun around ancient Egyptian history, a subject that obviously fascinates him. When one repeats his them, it is not neces-

sarily depicting a limited scope or imagination. His work on ancient Egyptian culture is naturally something that has appealed to him enormously. I'm sure that if he were similarly exposed to other cultures, they too would compel him to paint with inspiration, dedication and imagination. I believe his counsellors should take him to other sights such as the local 'melas' which might give him the impetus to widen his horizon. As it is, he has done together sketches and paintings too, influenced by artists such as Van Gogh but giving the lines, hues and subjects his own vision and approach."



Mentuhotep 11 and the ba bird, Ink and pencil on paper

The manner in which he has presented his figures on paper or canvas is marvelously accurate, maintaining his own touch and sensitivity. He has even brought in impressionism and fragments of cubism in his delineation. You would hardly find an exhibit of a child with such a vast number of entries or depth in the presentation. Children do sometimes exhibit, but they are usually group shows. The application of the paints and the beautiful and matured nature and his immense and clear imagination are certainly something to see and admire at lib."

In "Queen of the night, holding a magic flute" (acrylic on canvas) one sees the royalty decked in clothes of exotic shades, the form is not a copy but has an Egyptian flavor and air. The setting and ambience are historical too but presented with moulding from Aadil's own imagination. The theme maybe borrowed but it is presented in the artist's own style. The scarf on her head, the



Mut, Taharqua and Amun by the Nile, Ink and pencil on paper

architecture from Egypt. The servants are seen playing musical instruments. Nature is subtly brought in too, such as the trees and birds seen carefully juxtaposed with the human figures. These have a gentle wash of blue in the backdrop. "Osiris and Isis", "Amun, Tutenkhamun and Ankesenamun" and "Rameses on his chariot" (acrylic on ceramics), seen as motifs on flower vases, are again ancient history in inspiration, though done in an impressionistic manner (which are certainly no copy from the French Impressionist school). Montu, Mentuhotep and Mut" (acrylic on ceramic) brings in another royal personage who has a red face, black wig which gives the impression of an adult viewing the ancient papyrus and hieroglyphics. There is the entourage of the courtiers behind him. The gold, red and orange naturally stand for symbols of royalty.

"Amun, Taharqua and Amun by front. The tints are deep but bright and vibrant by choice. Royal personages, seen in motion, fauna and flora to complement them are brought in buoyant colours throughout the works that reveal an optimistic creator, as Aadil speaks through his paintings. Here, Choudhury commented, "One sees a superb play of colours and lines and also a tremendous power of concentration in viewing images, big and small", as in every other art work of the young artist. The perspective too has been done with lyricism with the combination of women and flowers in front and more birds and the king to the left of the composition. "In each and every one of Aadil's work, imagination has played a vital role," Choudhury said.

Similarly, in "Mentuhotep-11 and the ba bird" (ink and pencil on paper) we find another pharaoh with his striped and scalloped long dress in striking oranges, brown, blue and purple in stripes and designs. Below

is the boat with its royal emblems in yellow and its body done in sapphire rectangle, with bow-shaped endings, with intricate motifs. The bottom of the boat is a royal purple. The waves of the Nile with its purple lotus flowers and a portion of a flying bird with a female face is brought to the right to complete the composition of harmony and peace of days gone by.

Aadil's mother, Dr Leedy Hoque, originally a geriatrician (who has spent an enormous amount of time and "tendresse" nurturing her son, and had gone overseas because of him) said, "In his art, Aadil is single minded. Back in March, when I suggested after-school activities with a sport teacher, he cried out, 'I want and art teacher!'. That is how Serjul Islam became Aadil's tutor. Aadil will choose his own subject, medium and surface, regardless of what may be suggested to him. When I purchased several meters of canvas material thinking it would be sufficient for several paintings, he rejected it and did his 'Creation of nature and people', completed over a month of April this year. Although fiercely independent in his art, at the same time he observes, he reads and, at times, accepts. He loves to experiment and will move on effortlessly to a new style every now and then. His style changes and evolves even through the course of a single canvas."

Md. Serjul Islam, Aadil's tutor added, "I have taught him for about nine months. He is a devoted student; he gets my guidance when he finds any problems but he also works on his own. He is imaginative, hard-working at present; although right in the beginning he wanted to do exactly as he pleased. However, under me, he realized that he could expand his vision and creativity. Today, he's always trying to do something new and I find it a pleasure to come to tutor him twice a week at Dhanmondi, coming all the way from Pallabi."

There may not have been cakes and ale at the exhibition but there was a flow of viewers who feted Aadil on his exhibition, which began on his birthday, and the ambience with tea and snacks was warm and indeed enjoyable.

TV GUIDE

Table with TV channels and programs: BTv, ATN BANGLA, CHANNEL-i, HBO, STAR MOVIES, CHANNEL V.

Table with TV channels and programs: ATN BANGLA, HBO, STAR MOVIES, CHANNEL V.

Table with TV channels and programs: ATN BANGLA, HBO, STAR MOVIES, CHANNEL V.

TODAY'S HIGHLIGHTS: STAR MOVIES: 7:00 p.m. Bullet Proof. Rock Keats and Archie Moses are the best of friends and have spent the past year together performing various small time criminal acts...

Table with TV channels and programs: ATN BANGLA, HBO, STAR MOVIES, CHANNEL V.

PICK OF THE DAY: On HBO at 10:00p.m. Robert De Niro has a ball satirizing all the gangster roles he has ever played, particularly "The Godfather". The basic premise is what if one of gangland's Dons suddenly started having anxiety attacks because of past problems...

Table with TV channels and programs: ATN BANGLA, HBO, STAR MOVIES, CHANNEL V.

Table with TV channels and programs: ATN BANGLA, HBO, STAR MOVIES, CHANNEL V.

Table with TV channels and programs: ATN BANGLA, HBO, STAR MOVIES, CHANNEL V.

Table with TV channels and programs: ATN BANGLA, HBO, STAR MOVIES, CHANNEL V.