

RECOMMENDATIONS



Mobile Arts Exhibition

January 10-14

Bangladesh Shilpa Kala Academy has organised a 5-day long mobile art exhibition at various educational institutions since January 10 as part of its 'Project for Expansion of Art-activities throughout Country.' The present exhibition is going on at Udayan Higher Secondary School. The exhibition continues through January 14.

Concert

Antar Showbiz in collaboration with Close Up has organised a concert titled 'Rock Brigade' on January 17 at Army Stadium, Dhaka. Leading bands and solo artists such as LRB, DHAKA, Chime, NOVA, Banglar Baul, Prometheus, Edges, Aurtherhoin, Pantha Kanai, Conopy, Dalchut, Tishma, Shumon and Sub Conscious will perform at the concert.

15th National Fine Arts Exhibition 2002

The 15th National Fine Arts Exhibition 2002 is being held at the Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy. The exhibition will run through January 27 everyday from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. and from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Fridays.

Exhibition

The oil on canvas paintings by Kazi Sahuuddin Ahmed is on at the National Museum till January 14th.

Counter Space

A solo exhibition by Wakilur Rahman, who resides in Germany, begins at Gallery "Chitrik" from today at 5:30 p.m. It will be open everyday from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. till January 21.

Documenta

Presenting our fishermen with a fresh angle

Jamil Shafi's "Fishermen of Bangladesh"

FAYZA HAQ

SHOWN recently before a few diplomats and other dignitaries at a private screening was the almost 20 minute documentary of Jamil Shafi's "Fishermen of Bangladesh", with himself and AKM Ashrafi as the cameraman and Jantu Chakma as the editor. There was the background of music of

ing blasé about the film which is in colour and which moves swiftly with one scene to another delineating different aspects of the life and living of the fishermen, which is to catch fish from Tetulia to Teknaf. The commentary is written by Shafi too.

Shafi, 33, got involved with film making by beginning with photography which he learnt from the Elementary School of Photography with Mujib Rahman at Alliance Francaise in 1985 and then had more training in that at Bangkok. He began as a freelancer working for TV Asia. He had done travel items for them including areas in Bangladesh and India. He brought in scenic beauty in places like Cox's Bazaar's seashore and its scenic beauty, although he was unable to take any pictures of the Buddhist temples there; Paharpur (dealing mostly with statues); Moinamoti Museum; Kolbari (old Buddhist statues found inside Moinamoti). In India he covered Darjeeling, Kalimpong, Gum and other neighbouring areas concentrating on the waterfalls, both natural and artificial.

Having learnt the facts of operating a camera from Mujib Rahman, being his first student, he went on experimenting on his own. At first he had used Yashika and Riko in the mid 80s but now he is using Nikon. The people who inspired him were Anwar Hossain, who now lives in Paris, and Papiya Seth from UK and she too advised him to carry on with his camera work. Jaibul Anam Abdulla also encouraged him.

Talking about the documentaries he has made, and has in mind to make in the near future, Shafi said, "The one you saw and have completed so far is about the Bangladeshi Fishermen ('Joley Jibon' as called in the Bangla version) and the ones which I'm in the process of compilation is 'Cry', 'Pain' and 'Walking with the Season', the first dealing with arsenic contamination in Bangladesh. In the documentary on the Bangladeshi fishermen the overall presentation was to depict how the local fishermen take out their boats, that are not all that strong, struggling against the waves, overwhelming bad weather

sell, yet they carry on with their work non stop and this surely deserves the attention of not only viewers in our country but all over the globe. The viewers should see the positive side of Bangladesh -- a nation of daring and constantly striving people. Rain or shine, cool weather or winter, they are constantly with their boats and nets to make a meagre living. Even a tornado does not stop them."

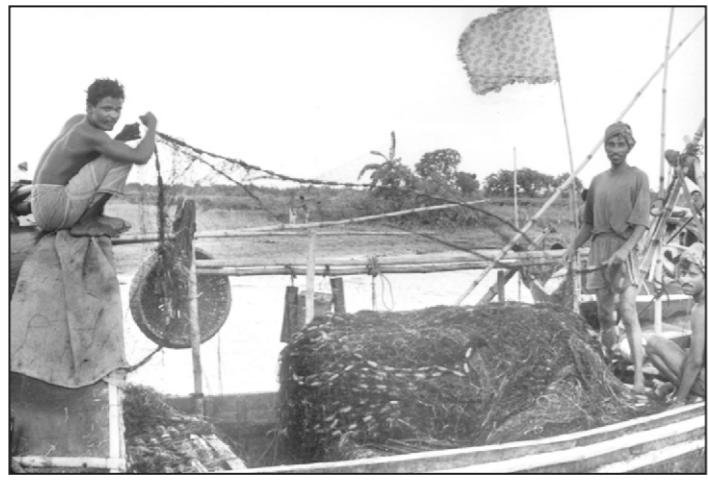
The reason why Shafi was not able to bring in the life of the fishermen's wives as well, was because of social and religious restrictions. Yet he did show how the children play with conch shells and other river creatures like shrimps and so get used to the sea and river life, when their fathers and uncles go for fish "drives". These little ones use small nets and do a fine job of being apprentice fishermen before they are old enough to set out on their own. Thus they overcome the fear of storms and river or sea water.

Asked if he had accompanied the fishermen on a separate boat or whether he was in the same boat as

the waves, overwhelming bad weather



Jamil Shafi



Fishermen seen in action going onward into the deep river fishing at the Jamuna River



Boats seen at sunset with the fishermen returning from their work in the Padma River

ahead, and passing their time, when there was not much action for them to concentrate on. It was their expression on their faces and their body and limb gestures that I wanted to study in detail. They are always under tremendous pressure as their struggle and strife are on a formidable measure but yet they go on with their dangerous task to gain something from the rivers and seas. The fishermen never go alone. If they go to the deep sea, they take at least four big boats, but if it is in the rivers they take, they go with nothing less than 30 boats in a single trip. From the shore to the distance they go in different numbers depending on the areas. When there is a minimum of four boats, this is due to limitation of skill, shortage of nets, and boats. Each group consists of at least 14 fishermen. As they go, they throw their nets, and when they return, they collect these same nets.

"Thus they go and come in following the same route. In the deep sea, they tend to get scattered with four large boats carrying over 50 fishermen. Even if they should

return, they collect these same nets.

Discussing the film makers who have influenced him, Shafi said, "I have studied Satyajit Ray, Renoir of the 'nouvelle vague' and Stephen Spielberg. I go to the cultural centres such as the Russian, Indian and specially the French as the atmos-

Sunderbans area such as the Mongla area, and places like Comilla, Chandina, the banks of the Meghna, Gomoti, Padma (including Aricha and Rajshahi sections), Bahadurabad, Cox's Bazaar, Mosheshkhal, Teknaf etc.

Touching on the problems that he faced while making the film, Shafi said, that the jerking during the shooting while sitting in boat was disturbing. Directing the boatman was another difficult factor, he said. "Sometimes, when he did not understand my instructions and changed the movement of his boat, I missed the angles that I wanted. Ashrafi, my assistant camera man too had to be guided correctly. We had our packed lunch and had no problems with food: getting the shots that I wanted satisfied me and I had little thought for food."

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Cannes Film one shown not so long ago arranged by Kobori, Abdullah and others. You might find it interesting to know that it is the Renaissance genius, Leonardo Da Vinci, who was also fascinated by the water, who inspired me to capture the expression on faces. It is Da Vinci, who is my guru."

Touching on the subject of his film on arsenic contamination, which he is already in the process of making, Shafi said, "I think it is a great threat to our people. I have made some footage on this devastating contamination and will compile it soon, hopefully. I have shown areas where out of 540 'thanas' 490 are affected. Out of these 240 are serious cases of this affliction. I have shown how the water from the tubewell plays a vital part in the lives of the people all over Bangladesh, specially in the rural areas. In the village of Samta, for instance, they are using the tubewell where there have been deaths in 90 per cent of the homes -- whether you take Sahrsha, or the northern areas like Khulna. I took shots in Comilla, Noakhali, Jessore, Kushtia, Meherpur, Tangail, Faridpur, Khulna etc. focussing on the affected people and their families."

Asked about the funding, Shafi said that he had so far used his own savings as a small businessman: he deals with import of Spanish saffron and toys. Talking about the seasons that he has chosen for work, Shafi said they had shot in summer and autumn. What he aimed at in his film on the Bangladeshi fishermen was expression and action, he added.

Shafi's hobbies include skiing, cooking, and listening to music. He has a small family of a wife called Kuasha and a little daughter named Shazin. He has come a long way from the amateur photographer of his youth, as the visuals, music, commentary and theme were all promising. He has a part of his extended family in USA but prefers to stay in Bangladesh and so do something productive for his country.



Impression of an anchor with its boat seen in the fore part. The area shown is Bahadurabad, Padma & Jamuna Rivers

be in larger numbers in the deep sea, they do not abandon their hopes or courage or get confused about their goal. There is no deep sea diving here but the little fisher people do collect oysters at times that may perhaps contain pearls."

Dwelling on the different areas that he had covered, Shafi said that he had covered rivers, the sea, the Short Film Festivals and the

sphere there is so congenial, even though every film that they show may not have a great message or technique. I believe that studying these great film makers is not an easy task and is time consuming too. Again, the good films do not

come often to Bangladesh unless it is during the film festivals such as

BTV

12.10pm News Headlines
12.15 Shubhechha Nin
12.30 Aker
Shangbadpatra
12.40 Health Bulletin
01.00 Khabar
01.05 Cartoon Show
01.30 Shobar Janyo
Shikkhya
02.00 News Headlines
02.05 Selected Programmes/
Rangdhonu
02.30 Open University
03.00 News
03.05 Shukhi Paribar
03.30 Live Telecast of SAAF Championship

Match: Afghanistan Vs Pakistan

04.00 News Headlines
05.00 Khabar
05.45 Live Telecast of SAAF Championship

Match: India Vs Sri Lanka

06.00 Khabar-Desh
Janapad

06.10 Nazrul-geeti
Programme: Shandhya Maloti

06.35 Programme of Chittagong Centre

07.00 News Headlines

07.05 Share Market Weather Bulletin

07.10 Drama Serial

07.30 Aporjan

08.00 Bangla News of 8'o clock

08.30 Drama Serial: Protikriti

09.00 Drama Serial

09.30 Ananda Ayojon

10.00 English News of 10'o clock

11.00 News Report

10.30 Magazine Show: Rin Jhin

11.00 Amader Ayin

11.30 Khabar/ News Headlines

CHANNEL-i

07.00am Prothom Shur

10.00 Music Plus

10.45 Drama Serial: Bashor

Ghar

11.20 Close Up-Juke Box

11.50 Drama Serial: Amader Graam Amader

Shefali

12.20pm Drama Serial: Dola

01.35 Bangla Feature Film:

Premier Naam

Bedona

05.35 Janapad-er Khabar

06.10 Music Plus

06.45 i Sports

07.15 Channel-i News

07.45 Ispahani-Tele Quiz (Questions)

HBO

6:30 Doorways
8:15 Crocodile
10:15 Instinct To Kill
12:00 The Last Seduction
2:15 Code Name Phoenix
4:00 Idle Hands
5:45 Swept From The Sea
8:00 Final Destination
10:00 A Simple Wish
11:45 Executive Decision
2:30 The Last Seduction
4:45 Idle Hands

14:00 Just Mohabbat
7:00 Dil Ka Dwar Khol
7:30 Amit Varsha
8:00 Sant Asaram
8:30 Chartbusters
9:00 Good Morning Disney
10:00 Music Mantra
10:30 Hum Pardesi Ho
11:00 Chamatkaar
11:30 Family No. 1
12:00 Hum Sab Ek
12:30 Heena
1:00 Kkusum
1:30 Papa Ban Gaye
2:00 Kutumb
2:30 Hubabu
3:00 Om Namay
3:30 Kkusum
4:00 Just Mohabbat
4:30 Chhoti Si Asha
5:00 CATS
5:30 Star Year
6:30 Disney Hour
7:30 Chartbusters
8:00 Music Mantra
8:30 Kabhi Biwi Kabhi
9:00 Kabhi Biwi Kabhi
9:30 Kkusum
10:00 Kutumb
10:30 Achanak 37 Saal
11:00 Aahat Dehshat
11:30 Hubabu
12:00 Chhoti Si Asha
12:30

14:30 Zabardast Hits
15:00 V Back To Back
15:30 V Hit Machine
16:00 V Hotline
17:00 Vtop5@5
17:30 V Hit Machine
17:45 V Hit Machine
18:00 Very V
19:00 Ctrl V
19:30 V Zabardast Hits
20:00 V Back To Back
20:30 V Zabardast Hits
21:00 V Jungli Jukebox
21:30 V Hit Machine
22:00 V Hit Machine
22:30 V Hit Machine
23:00 V Hit Machine
23:30 Sg0200
24:00 HALLMARK (Thirty minutes plus)
1:00 Victim Of Beauty
3:00 A Message From
5:00 To Dance With The White Dog
7:00 Scholastic
7:30 Caillou - Episode # 32
8:00 Sesame Street - Episode # 104
9:00 Case Of The White Chapel
10:00 My Life As A Vampire
11:00 My Life As A Fairy Tale: Hans Christian Andersen (2 Parts) - Part # 1
12:00 Hit Filmein Hit
13:00 Touched By An Angel VII (25 X 1hr) - Episode # 12 (10) Angel On My Tree
14:45 Kuch Hit Kuch Superhit
15:00 Sg1730n
15:25 Kuch Hit Kuch Superhit
16:00 Early Edition - Season III - A

17:30 V Hit Machine
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