

RECOMMENDATIONS

Exhibition

August 17-28

Shilpagan Gallery has arranged a 12-day-long solo etching and drawing exhibition of artist Monirul Islam. The inauguration of the show will be held on August 17 at 5pm at the gallery and show will be open for the visitors daily from 10 am to 9pm.

August 18-28

An exhibition of artist Mostafa Kamal will start on 15th August at the Gallery of Alliance Francaise.

Musical Evening

August 21

A French musical evening will be held at the cafeteria of Alliance Francaise on 21st August.

Handicraft fair

September 05-06

Bangladesh Homeworkers Women Association (BHTWA) arranges a handicraft fair titled Homebased Women Workers Craft Mela at Dhanmondi Women Complex. Special arrangements will be made for an 'Interview Cell' where all visitors and dignitaries will be invited to interact with the women workers directly.

Cultural Show

August 18

Salvation International School holds its annual cultural programme at the Public Library Auditorium at 4:30 p.m. Professor Muzaffar Ahmad will grace the occasion as the chief guest.

Drama Lane

Bangladesh Mahila Samity
4 Natok Soroni,
New Baily Rd.

Group	Plays	Date
Padatik	Sojan Badhik	
	Ghat	17
Nattayan	Bhaboner	18
	Ghat	
Dhaka Sadak	Tahader	19
	Katha	
Dhaka Drama	Ami Gadhia	20
	Balchhi	
LokoNattayadal	Mazratra	23
	Manushera	
Samay	Bhager	24
	Manush	

Interview

Pleasures and perils of editing

Niaz Zaman speaks on "Under the Krishnachura"

FAYZA HAQ

SITTING in the Alliance Francaise library, recently, before the discussion on her book with literateurs, critics, publishers and the press, Niaz Zaman, the editor of "Under the Krishnachura", spoke about the content of her book. Zaman said, "This is a collection of stories, poems and plays. The inspiration for the book came at a meeting of SAARC writers' group to which I belong. We wanted to commemorate the 50th anniversary of 'Ekushey' February. I suggested that we could put together 50 years of Bangladeshi writings for this occasion. We had begun the work pretty late and there wasn't time to commission new translations." The meeting had taken place in July 2001 and there were only six months to go before 21st February 2002. Dr Rafiqul Islam, DG, Bangla Academy said that Niaz could use the translations that they had already published (Bangla Academy not only translates books from other languages into Bangla but also from Bangla into English). The academy, according to Niaz, has done a lot of work, translating poetry in particular. Her work was guided by the fact that plenty of material was available in the Bangla Academy library and publications.

What Niaz did was go through all the books that the Bangla Academy had, while she had a list of the famous major poets and looked for poems about "Ekushey" and other poems on other themes. "The poem had to appeal to me," Niaz said, "I looked at the names that I didn't know, while Bangla Academy does not publish unknown writers. My poetry selection was guided by the materials that were available. However, I did go beyond this, e.g. I used two poems by Khondkar Ashraf Hussain, my colleague in the English Department, DU." As regards the short stories, Niaz made a list of famous writers, and she was again helped by Dr Rafiqul Islam in this. As she is familiar with major Bangla writers, her list was acceptable to Dr Rafiqul Islam, while he suggested a few more. Talking with



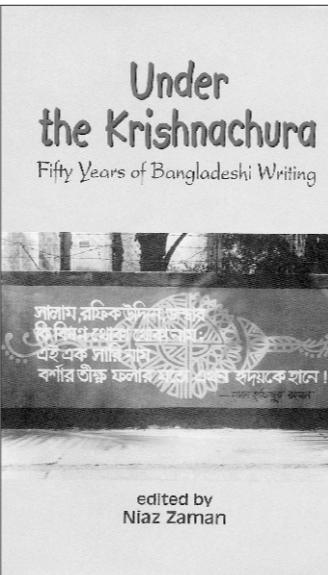
Niaz Zaman

UPL, her publisher, she said that she took their suggestion of including more writers. In fiction too, Niaz selected the writers whom she liked, not giving preference to women, as she had dealt with women's work at other times. As regards the drama selection, she has plays by a number of playwrights. "The problem with plays is that there are so many playwrights in Bangladesh that I had to leave out quite a few. But I had to include Munir Chowdhury. I also wanted to include Sayeed Ahmed, who has the distinction of writing in English as well as in Bangla. I have left out a lot of playwrights because otherwise the volume would have been too big." Some not so famous writers have been included partly because Niaz enjoyed reading their plays. In this book some of the not so famous writers have been included as they are different and interesting and make refreshing reading.

Talking about the writers in the book in general, Niaz said that there are about 41 poets, 25 short story writers and five playwrights in her book "Under the Krishnachura". She says, "In the drama section, all the writers that I wanted to include could not be fitted in and I wanted to bring the book out in 2002." Touching on how she had managed to do the crash programme of selection and editing, Niaz said with the poems she had no problem as they had all been translated; while in the

play section, she included Razia Khan's play, even though she is more famous as a short story writer and poet. Razia Khan had offered Niaz the play and the editor thought the treatment very interesting. "She has won an award for play writing long ago," Niaz reminded, "and this play had been published by the Bangla Academy, which was one of my criteria."

Niaz had a problem with the short stories as many of them had won awards and many of them have been translated, such as the ones by Shawkat Osman, Abu Rushd, Syed Waliullah and Munir Chowdhury. There was the dilemma as to which ones to select. As regards Waliullah, Niaz did not like the translation that she had come across. However, his wife had given Niaz another translation by two writers. Bangla Academy had also published a translation of this particular story. What she did was to



Cover jacket of the book Under the Krishnachura.

translate it once again. Half the short stories in the collection have been translated again, some of which Niaz translated herself, others being translated by other translators. Some of the translators were Niaz's colleagues, some being very young, such as the A

level student, who worked on the story by Jharna Das, doing the translation along with her mother. The editor, in particular, wanted a number of translators. If the story needed major editing, so as not to lose anything in the translation, after the first translator had gone through it, Niaz then worked on it and put her name along with that of the first translator. Another short story by Rizia Rahman remains one of the editor's favourite ones. Selina Rahman is again another such woman writer, having been published both inside and outside Bangladesh. Maqbul Manzoor and Rabeya Khatun, according to Niaz, are among the very readable fiction writers in "Under the Krishnachura". Niaz tried to restrict one writer to one genre but sometimes the literary worth was so powerful that she included their works in different sections.

Asked what pleasures and problems she had faced when editing the book, Niaz said, "One of the problems was that when I got a young translator, very often this translator could translate literally but he/she did not have enough literary flair to be able to convey the short story in a literary form, in which the work could stand by itself as a literary piece. As regards collaborative translation, in Bangladesh, only the major writers, who become famous for other reasons, get translated and are known abroad. As a consequence we have poor translations by people who know a lot of Bangla but not enough English. This is why I believe in collaborative translation in which the editor has to sometime polish up the English." If Niaz changed only 20 per cent of the work then the work went in the translator's name. If it was more than that, Niaz considered it a joint effort. Most of her translators kept to the deadline.

As her husband had died in 2001, the setback took Niaz, a professor in the English Department, DU, longer than she had expected to complete the book. She has a number of short-story books, and an anthology of women's writings, all printed by UPL, to her credit.

Workshop

Nrityanchal monthly Pathchakra begins

NOVERA DEEPIKA

DANCE school Nrityanchal has introduced a monthly *Pathchakra* for the students recently. Eminent personalities will come to the school and give their speeches for the students so that the little children will be able to gather knowledge about various subjects other than dance. The inauguration of this *Pathchakra* was held at the school and eminent artist and famous puppet --- Mustafa Monwar gave the inaugural speech on the art of dance.

The children welcomed the guests with the song *E Din Aji Kon Gharey Go Khuley Dilo Dar* and they were waving their hands with colourful scarves.

Chief guest of the programme Mansur Musa, the Director General

of Bangla Academy, said in his speech, "There is a rhythm in human beings. The nature has a rhythm too. Rhythm is all around the world. If I can't cope with this rhythm I am (rhythmless). To submit oneself to this rhythm is dance. When I was young I wanted to dance and sing but our parents were not so advanced like today's parents. They feared our studies would be hampered for these extra curricular activities. That's why I still wish to become small again to fulfil my desires."

Special guest artist Mustafa Monwar lighted the candles to formally inaugurate the *Pathchakra* and gave the inaugural speech, "Rabindranath Tagore said there are two types of books children has to read one is readable and other is non-readable. What the school

committed decides to be read in the school are non-readable and the other books like fairytales are readable. It's a great relief that Tagore didn't study in the schools if he did he may become a service holder and can't be a great poet."

He gave his speech on the art of dance and asked the children whether they feel joy to dance, all the children raise their hands and said yes they feel joy to dance. He also taught them that the most important rule of drawing picture is there is no specific rules at all. The children enjoyed the speech.

Among others the directors of the school Shamim Ara Neepa and Shibli Mohammad, and media personality Mohammad Jahangir also spoke at the occasion.

TV drama

Shewly Mala pays tribute to Nazrul

CULTURE DESK

NTV is going to telecast *Shewly Mala* (garland of shewly flower), based on a story by Kazi Nazrul Islam. Directed by Shahiduzzaman Selim, the play has been adapted by Ananta Hira. This is as part of the programme arranged by the channel to observe the death anniversary of our National Poet on 27th of this month.

The play presents, in flashback, Azhar, a barrister, returning home from England. Chess is his hobby. He goes to visit his friend Binoy, manager of a guesthouse at Shilong. He, however, does not enjoy playing chess with Binoy, as he is not a suitable partner for a good chess player like Azhar who played with some renowned players including Menchike, the women's world champion from England.

Binoy takes Azhar to a retired professor who is a very good player. There he meets Shewly, the daughter of the professor. Shewly is not only a good player but also a good singer. At the request of the professor, Azhar begins to live at their house. There he passes some very good days playing chess and listening to Shewly's



A still from the play Shewly Mala shows Jamaluddin Hossain, Intekhab Dinar, Joya Ahsan and Shamsul Huda.

songs. They come close to each other.

But as good days never last long, he has to leave because of his profession. Neither Shewly nor the barrister can express their love for each other because of the religious barrier. But the barrister never forgets her and remains unmarried for the rest of his life. In

Today is that day and the barrister does the same and remembers his beloved Shewly.

Intekhab Dinar plays the role of the barrister, while Joya Ahsan portrays Shewly. Other characters in the play are played by Jamaluddin Hossain, Shuvashish Bhownik, Kamal Bayazid, Shotodal Borua and others.

TV GUIDE

TODAY'S HIGHLIGHTS



HBO
Contagious
Boomerang
Dragonheart : A New Beginning
Box Office America
The Hunted
The Sangbadprotro : Universal Soldier : The Return
Cinema Secrets III : 7 Oscar Winning FX
In & Out
Twelve Monkeys
Young Sherlock Holmes
Ben-Hur
Street Show Danish Pathé Pathé
The Adventure of Sinbad
Drama Serial: Khun Alo Laglo Chakor
The War At Home
ATN Bangla News
Special Talk Show: Edanig
ATN Bangla News
Bengali Feature Film: Samer Ghor
Jackie Brown (Samuel L. Jackson)



MGM
Amos & Andrew
Greenwich Mean Time
Run Lola Run
Heart of Justice
The War At Home
Emilio Estevez, Charlie Sheen
Raging Bull
Prophecy II (Christopher Walken, Brittany Murphy)
The War At Home (Emilio Estevez, Charlie Sheen)
Business Bizarre
BBC News
Top Gear, Dreamspaces
Living With Gorillas
Out There
Living With Gorillas
Explorer's Journal
Adventure Challenge
Top Gear, Dreamspaces
Living With Gorillas
Out There
Top Drive
The X-Files
Focus Asia
Dharma & Greg
Satyajit Ray
Howzzat Rpt
Asche Tara Jomche
Bengali Feature Film
Tara News Headlines
Bengali Feature Film: Samer Ghor
Friday Spotlight Love
Harts
Friday Spotlight Love
Earth Report
BBC News
Prophecy II (Christopher Walken, Brittany Murphy)
Face To Face, Wheels
Night Safari Fish
Among The Tree Tops
Discovery Sunday
Wings Thunderbirds
Night Safari Fish
Great Britons, Britain's Best, Buildings
Chota Borr
Dhingashas
News
Shurer Jalsa (Sayed Abdul Hadi)
Cine Gaan
BBC News
Simpsons World
Popular Mechanics for Kids Electricity
Ultimate Guide: Submarines
Discovery Civilization Sacred Places I
Science Frontiers
Midwater Mysteries
Face To Face, Wheels
Night Safari Fish
Among The Tree Tops
History of Football Africa
Adventure Challenge

DISCOVERY
The Nightmare Before Christmas
Pretty Woman
Bridget Jones's Diary
The Indian Runner
Planet Of The Apes
Steven Spielberg Presents "Taken" - Episode 7
Friday Spotlight Love
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STAR MOVIES
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