

RECOMMENDATIONS

Exhibitions

January 13-February 12
Saju Art Gallery is holding the 50th Grand Group Art Exhibition of reputed Bangladeshi artists with 128 art works by 87 artists at the gallery premises (F/40-41, DCC, North Super Market 2nd Circle, Gulshan). The display will remain open for all from 10 am to 8:30 pm everyday except Fridays.

February 8-20

A solo photography exhibition by renowned portrait photographer Nasir Ali Mamun will be inaugurated by poet Shamsur Rahman at the Goethe-Institut, on Sunday, February 8, at 5pm. The exhibition will remain open till February 20, from 2pm to 8pm. Venue: House 10, Road 9(new) Dhanmondi R/A.

March 1-31

A month long photo and book exhibition dedicated to the International Women's Day will be held at the library of the Russian Cultural Centre.

Painting and recitation competition

February 21
A painting and recitation competition for children dedicated to the International Mother Language Day will be held at the Russian Cultural Centre at 10 am.

Bertrand Blier Retrospective

Zahir Raihan Film Society will screen four films made by renowned French filmmaker Bertrand Blier at the Alliance Francaise auditorium at Road No. 3, Dhanmondi as per schedule given below:

9 Feb., 5pm: *Cold Cuts*
7pm: *Stepfather*
10 Feb., 5pm: *Thank You, Life*
7pm: *My Man*

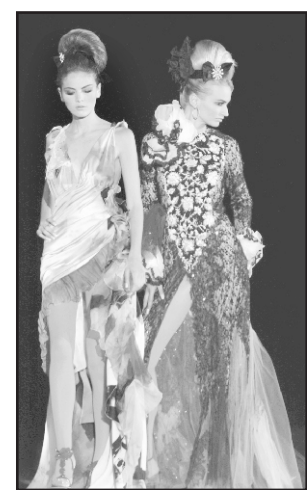


PHOTO: AFP
Models display creation by Christian Lacroix as part of the Spring/Summer 2004 collection during Dubai's fashion week, held on the sidelines of the affluent Gulf emirate's one-month shopping festival.

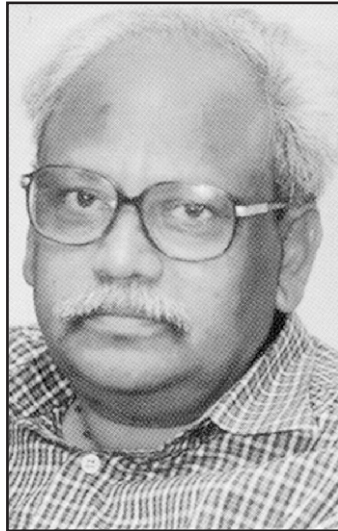
Interview

The lighter side of life

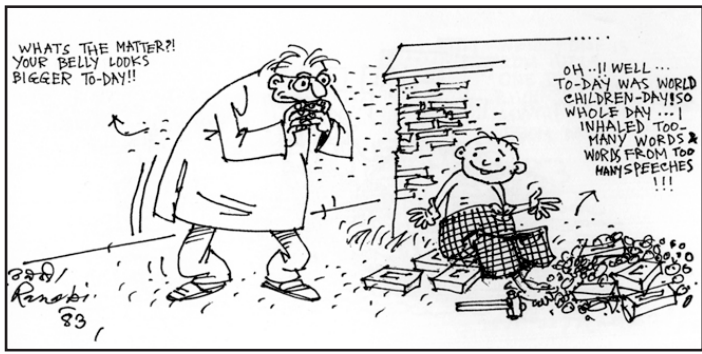
Rafiqun Nabi talks about cartoons

FAYZA HAQ

TALKING about a recent workshop on cartoons in India, Rafiqun Nabi says, "This concentrated on the South East Asian region like India, Pakistan, Nepal and such places. The subject was freedom of the press and this was held in Bangalore in the Maxmuller Bhaban and was organised by the Goethe Institut. We worked in our different ways, some dealing with politics and others based their work on socio-political themes. There were eight main cartoonists. This was definitely different from other workshops on cartoons or prints such as the ones I had attended at Montenegro or Bangkok, and we discussed various aspects of cartoons, such as how far to go in criticism Franziska Becker



Rafiqun Nabi



sixties which ushered in the need for cartoons. I started making posters for the processions specially during the month of February. There were the 'little magazines' too. Kalam Mahmud, whose drawings were good and whose wit was sharp, and I from the Art College, began doing cartoons from the 60s.

Before us artists like Quamrul Hassan had worked on cartoons too. Zainul Abedin too had gone into this line. Abul Kashem, a senior artist had tried his hand in this too. Artists, like Jamil, who has now gone overseas, worked on the subject of romance and this too was enjoyable. Subas Dutt of the films, also began his career as a cartoonist. Mustafa Manwar worked under the penname of 'Montu'. As these artists had other involvement they did not take cartoons all that seriously. I joined up with the Observer group, working for Chitrali and Purbodosh. My cartoon

the language too. Going to Greece in 1973 for printmaking put a break in my career as a cartoonist. Coming back to Bangladesh, under economic pressure and persuasion of the newspaper owners I began my 'Tokai' series which became popular.

"As I do the 'Tokai' cartoons I was strangely enough called to Mexico as a judge, where they dealt with the issue of exploitation of children in countries like Brazil and Bangladesh, when the children are pushed into labour instead of being sent to school. This too enriched my experiences."

Asked to touch on his woodcuts for which he is famous, Rafiqun Nabi says, "This has been in our culture for centuries and had been used for book illustrations and mastheads of newspapers. In Greece, I learnt to do woodcut in big proportions and in multicolours under my teacher, Gramatopoulus. Today, young artists



A simple portrayal in pen and ink of Tokai has a deep-seated satirical tenor, both in terms of social and political milieu.

from Germany and I had been the main speakers. Punnapa from India had also a hand in conducting the sessions. Cartoonists are witty people and the programme was consequently an enjoyable one. One learnt a lot from the exchange of ideas. We learnt of different perspectives and backgrounds of how to present a serious aspect of life in a light way."

Speaking of how he had gone

into cartoons, Rafiqun Nabi says, "As a student in school I was attracted to drawings in illustrated classics and comics for young readers. This went hand in hand with the prints of the works of artists like Nanda Lal, Jamini Roy and Ramkingkor. The daily newspapers also came up with cartoons as Aziz's works in 'The Morning News'. Thus I was exposed to cartoons quite early in life and was fascinated by them. There were a lot of upheavals in the

drawings are based on news or some incident. On request I do direct political cartoons too such as the ones on Bush and Saddam. I try to bring in the environment such as the elements of price hike and mosquitoes. Birds, animals and humans all come under this criterion.

"To execute the conceived idea takes a lot of time and thought. I have to think of characters, situations and captions. Some are obvious while the others are subtle. There is play with

like Mokhlis and Anis are doing good work in this media. Before them, Abdus Sattar and Quamrul Hassan had done wonderful work in woodcut."

Apart from woodcut, Rafiqun Nabi works in all mediums including water colour, oil and mixed media. Today, he is a professor of Drawing and Painting at the Institute of Fine Arts, DU.

Film/Don

Westward Ho! Ash chases global dreams



ASHWARYA Rai may become a non-resident Indian, or NRI, soon that is if everything moves according to her plans. Don't fret, Ash isn't packing her bags and shifting to the West for good, to tie the knot with an NRI. Her move to foreign pastures is only for a good part of the next year.

The popular actress has reportedly allocated the period from March to December 2004 for Hollywood projects that she may bag. With two agents on the job, one each in the US and the UK, Ashwarya hopes to grab a couple of plum assignments in the West. If that happens, we may get to see less of the ex-Miss World in India as her foreign assignments will take her to other parts of the world. That also explains why Ash, of late, has not been signing new films in Bollywood.

Source: Hindustan Times

Around the wo



PHOTO: AFP
Actors perform a costume parade celebrating Venetian merchants' ancient links with the old Silk Road and paid homage to its most famous son Marco Polo, on San Marco square in Venice. Venice kicked off its famous carnival with a festival of eastern delights featuring street theatre, parades, concerts and exhibits on an "Orient Express" theme.

Music musin

Conversation with Lucky Aakhandh

A gifted music composer

ERSHAD KAMOL

'MY ancestors came from Iran. The Aakhandhs are basically followers of Sufism who educate people with songs and poems. My father had a deep passion for music and my initial training started in the family. But I have no mentor in music as such. I have learnt the "major key" and "minor key" concepts all by myself,' says Lucky.

The man who introduced diversity in music composition during the late-'60s, in the traditional *Aadunik Gaan* (modern music) is Lucky Aakhandh. Along with his brother Happy Aakhandh and friends, he contributed greatly to the musical arena of our country.

Lucky is now busy with his newly established music-studio. He is composing songs for himself as well as for others. In doing so, he is facing many problems that many composers in Bangladesh usually do. "Financial problem is the major hurdle" says Lucky. "Very few people in Bangladesh like to give logistic support for creative work. However, many of the producers do not want to promote the talented and are often motivated by jealousy."

Moreover, the production companies force the composers to create a

in the country. As a result, any album might become popular nowadays.' He adds, 'Earlier, a music composer didn't have to face these types of problems. They had enough time to concentrate more on quality productions.'

Lucky is very much realistic about the present scenario of the music sector in Bangladesh. He says, 'Publicity is very important for an album to gain popularity. Media has a very important role to play in this aspect. I believe, my most popular composition *Aabar Elo Je Shondhya* has got enough popularity as it was used in a film and in many TV plays. *Kobita Porar Porar Eshayche, Mamunia, Eyi Nil Monihaar, Aagey Jodee Jantaam* are a few of my compositions which gained popularity as well. But, I feel that I have composed equivalent tunes in other songs also. However, those have not been so much popular, as these songs have not been telecast regularly. The rate of telecasting should be reduced to promote the singers and the makers of videos.'

He thinks that due to lack of knowledge in music, very few music composers can properly handle 'fusion' in music, in the sub-continent. To enrich his practical knowledge in music, Lucky aims to go to Canada within a short time. He says, 'I like to know more about the modern technologies



Lucky Aakhandh

and a music school. I have already started my project and I'd like to promote the young talents through my work. Firstly, I would like to work on folk songs, Tagore songs and Nazrul songs, which have a philosophical touch in the lyrics. I believe if I can blend some western instruments with these rich lyrics and tunes the result will be something special. And it will not be like what the typical band music composers are doing in Bangladesh. I think Metal and Rock music do not go well with our culture.'

In world music, Lucky considers the Russians to be the richest. He also appreciates the Germans, Latin Americans, and Spanish. He thinks the Americans are not doing anything remarkable yet.

Lucky's favourite composers are R D Burman, S D Burman, Nawshad, Sali Chowdhury, Hemanta Mukhyapadhyay, Scottish composer Al Stewart, Yaani, Govi from Germany, Billy Jewels, Santana and Spanish Arriack.

Two remarkable awards that Lucky has won—one as the champion in the 'Aadunik Gaan and Classical Music Competition' in '69 and the other as the best music director for his composition in the film *Guddi*—still inspire Lucky Aakhandh to create more, despite all types of obstacles.



Lucky Aakhandh performing with his band.

popular album somehow or the other. They do not bother about the quality of the composition. Usually, these producers cannot justify the value of the songs properly, nor can they specifically say which will be a hit. Quality albums as such are released seldom

that have been introduced in music. I think Canada can be a suitable place for me to fulfill my desire. I will come to Bangladesh quite often to add something new to the rich musical heritage of Bangladesh. Before going to Canada, I'd like to establish a music-studio

Event

Mishti Katha launched
To promote Safe Motherhood as well as to prevent violence against women, Sublime Media launched the 90-minute film *Mishthi Katha* directed by Abu Sayeed and written by Masum Reza, says a press release. UNFPA gave the financial support for the production of the film.



TV GUIDE

All programmes are in local time. The Daily Star will not be responsible for any change in

* News Bulletin

BTV
News Headlines(Bangla) at 9:40 am.12:10 pm. 2:00 p.m. 3:10 pm. 4:00 pm. 7:00 pm.
News(Bangla) at 8:00 am 1:00 pm.5:00 pm.8:00 pm.
News (English) at 3:00 pm. 10:00 pm.

Late Night News(Bangla and English) 11:30 pm.

CHANNEL-i
Breakfast News 07:15 am. 9:00am
News(Bangla) at 7:15 pm, 9:00, 10:30, 12:15 am.
Telecast of BTV news(Bangla and English) at 11:30 pm.

ATN BANGLA
News(Bangla) at 8:00 am. 12:00 pm. 7:00 pm. 10:00 pm, 11:00 pm.
Telecast of BTV News(Bangla and English) at 11:30 pm.

ntv
News Headlines(Bangla) at 5:02 pm. 6:30 pm. 9:45 pm. News (Bangla) 7:30 pm.10:30 pm.

TARA BANGLA
NewsHeadlines(Bangla) at 5:30 pm. 7:30 pm.
Tara News(Bangla) at 8:30 pm. 11:30 pm.

Tara News Bangla-desh(Bangla) at 9:30 pm.
BBC World
Every hour on the hour

BTV
07:35 *Suprobhat Bangladesh*
08:30 Programme From BTV Archive
09:15 *Anya Bhobon*
12:15 *Sangbad Potrer Pata Thekey*
01:05 *Annanda Jarna*
01:30 *Shilpo O Shahityo*
02:05 *Captain Planet*
03:05 *Drama Serial: Lekha Pora*
04:05 *Bangladesh Open University Prog.*
05:05 *Dolon Champa*
06:10 *Share Market*
07:00 *Weather Forecast*
07:05 *Shishu Kishore Natya Guchchho*
08:30 *Contemporary Drama*
09:30 *Drama Serial: Janak*
10:35 *Magazine Prog: Rongdhanu*

ATN BANGLA
15:15 Talk Show: *Annodistee*
10:50 *Documentary Film*
12:40 *Uro Cola Saat Rang*
01:20 *Bangali Feature Film: Bir Judhha*
02:20 *Cartoon: Meena*
04:20 *Talk Show: Annodistee*
07:40 *Drama Serial: Tobuo Bhalobashi Tumakey*
08:15 *Drama Serial: T-Rexer*
08:50 *Drama: Roodon*
10:30 *Talk Show: Kath Mala*

CHANNEL-i
09:45 *Tritiya Matra*
11:30 *Drama serial: Sarey Tin Tala*

12:00 *Chithi Pelam*
12:30 *Ekayaborti*
01:00 *Ebong Cinemar Gaan*
02:00 *Feature Film: Nach Nagina Nach*
06:10 *Music Plus*
06:45 *Drama Serial: Dhangar*
07:50 *Drama Serial: Sey keno Emon*
08:25 *Drama Serial: Shunya Theke Shomudrey*
09:35 *Drama Serial: Boomerang*
10:00 *Drama Serial*

ntv
08:00 *Ajker Sakal*
08:30 *Recitation Prog. Kabitalab*
08:30 *Khabor Deshe Deshe*
09:00 *Ei Shomoy*
09:30 *Dakar Cinema: Abishkar*
10:02 *Potrikar Khabor*
01:00 *Game Show: Key Korbey Bajmat*
02:30 *Drama Serial: Tin Purush*
03:30 *Fashion Talks*
04:00 *Right Click*
04:30 *Drama Serial: E Somoy Osomoy*
05:02 *Potrikar Khabor*
05:25 *Shapla Kuri*
06:32 *Shubho Shondhya Gallery*
06:52 *Drama Serial: T-Rexer*
08:00 *Swandhaney*
08:30 *Drama: Roodon*
09:10 *Talk Show: Kath Mala*
09:50 *Drama Serial: Amader Golpo*
11:15 *Itihasar Ei Diney*
11:20 *Din Darpan*
12:00 *Talk Show: Ei Shomoy*

TODAY'S HIGHLIGHTS



HBO:9:30 pm. Ben-Hur. Genre: Drama. **Charlton Heston.** Wealthy prince Judah Ben finds himself stripped of royalty and riches after being framed by a friend Messala for an attempt on the governor's life. The murder weapon? A brick that accidentally falls from his house during the governor's welcoming parade. Quickly losing his princely roots and condemned to the galleys, Judah watches in vain as his mother and sister are thrown in prison. He vows to find his freedom, and with it, vindicate himself from this hideous injustice.

HBO: 7:30 pm. Exit Wounds. Genre: Action / Thriller **Steven Seagal, DMX, Isalah Washington.** Orin Boyd is a Detroit cop who doesn't follow rules. After he saved the Vice President by violating every order he received he is transferred to one of the worst precincts in the city. There



HBO

10:00 *The Nude Bomb*
12:00 *Miracle Of The Cards*

2:00 *Fright Night*
4:00 *Sugar & Spice*
6:00 *Jimmy Neutron, Boy Genius*
7:30 *Exit Wounds*
9:30 *Ben-Hur*
1:45 *Space Cowboys*

STAR MOVIES

10:15 *Captain Corelli's Mandolin*
12:30 *First Blood*

2:00

3:30 *Hard Cash*
5:05 *Night Of The Living Dead*
7:00 *Lost In Yonkers*
8:45 *The Touch*
10:30 *The Curse Of The Jade Scorpion*
12:10 *Skeletons Born Romant*

MGM

9:00 *Pinnocchio*
11:30 *Casualties*
2:00 *Tapdole*
4:30 *The Buddy Factor*
7:00 *Jackie Brown*

PICK OF THE DAY



The Curse of the Jade Scorpion

On STAR MOVIES at 8:45 pm.

Genre: Comedy / Crime / Drama / Myster
John Tormey, John Schuck, Woody Allen
CW Briggs is a veteran insurance investigator, with many successes. Betty Ann Fitzgerald is a new employee in the company he works for, with the task of reorganizing the office. They don't like each other - or at least that's what they think. During a night out with the rest of the office employees, they go to watch Voltan, a magician who secretly hypnotizes

9:30

Romantic Mondays:
Romantic Monday:
Love & Rage (Gretta Scacchi Daniel Craig)
11:30 *Everyone Says I Love You* (Julia Roberts Drew Barrymore)

DISCOVERY CHANNEL

1:00 *Great Country Inns:*
Richmond Hill Inn
1:30 *Baby Story: Baby Berger*
2:00 *Diet Busters*

2:30

New Detectives: To Kill Again
Wild Discovery:
Alligators with Nigel Marven
4:30 *Let's Dance and Eat: Ramona in Trinidad/Vacht in Trinidad*
5:00 *Popular Mechanics for Kids: Life Savers Travellers: Fiesta*
5:30 *De Yamor: Otavalo, Ecuador*
6:30 *Adventure Crazy: A Blast down under Treks in a Wild*

3:00

Kabhi Aaye Na Judai
Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi
4:00 *Kahaani Ghar GharKii*
4:30 *Kahin To Hoga*
5:00 *Kaahin Kissii Roz*
6:00 *Hum Saath Aath Hain*
6:30 *Fox Kids*
7:30 *Kumkum - Pyara Sa Bandhan*
8:00 *Shaka Laka Boom Boom*
8:30 *Krishna Arjun*
9:00 *Kasautii Zindagii Kay*
9:30 *Des Mein Nikkla Hoga Chhoti*
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3:30

Animal Planet
4:00 *Wild Rescues*
4:30 *Emergency Vets: The Jensen Episode*
5:00 *Breed all about it: Spinone Italiano*
5:30 *Amazing Animal Videos*
6:30 *Planet's Funniest Animals*
7:30 *Predators: Natural Born Killers*
8:00 *Supernatural: Close Encounters*
8:30 *On the Edge: Cambodia: Snakes on the Menu*
9:30 *On the Edge: Wildlife Inferno*
10:00 *On the Edge: Ironbark Burning*
10:30 *Animal Planet Showcase: Baghdad Zoo*
11:30 *Predators: The Ultimate Predators*
12:00 *Supernatural Superstars*

STAR GOLD

9:00 *Mahaveera*
12:30 *Chori Chori*
4:30 *Ek Tha Raja*
8:00 *Staroons Countdown*
8:30 *Betabai*

STAR PLUS

Supernatural: Supernatural Superstars

7:30 *World: The Alps*
8:30 *Wild Discovery: 25 years of survival*
9:30 *Classic Discovery: Alexandria: The City of the Dead*
10:30 *Battlefield*
11:30 *Detectives: Big Horn*
12:30 *World's Best: World's Best Thrill Parks*
1:30 *FBI Files: The Dixie Mafia*

3:00 *Kabhi Aaye Na Judai*
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STAR WORLD
2:30 *Oprah Winfrey Show*
3:30 *Bold And Beautiful*
4:30 *Hollywood Squares*
5:00 *Whose Line Is It Anyway*

3:00 *Kabhi Aaye Na Judai*
3:30 *Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi*
4:00 *Kahaani Ghar GharKii*
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5:30 *Knight Rider*
6:30 *The Simpsons*
7:00 *Home Improvement*
7:30 *Friends*
8:00 *Just Shoot Me*
8:30