

FAZLUR RAHMAN BABU

A seasoned artiste

Fazlur Rahman Babu, a prominent actor, recently spoke to The Daily Star's Shilpi Mahalanobish. Here is a glimpse of the artist's work and life.

The beginnings I am from Faridpur. I was a member of Baishakhi Natya Ghosthi in Faridpur. In 1983, I came to Dhaka and joined Aranyak Natyadal. My first drama on television was in 1989. The play was Mritu Khudha of Kazi Nazrul Islam. As for my stage performances, I have been acting in every production of Aranyak since 1983. However, I did not act in some of the first shows of Shankranti.

On popularity I am losing my real name behind the name of the protagonist, Jaimal of the drama serial Ekannoborti. I always try to give memorable performances.

Identification with drama characters I am very simple in real life. I still travel in buses and rickshaws now and then. Many people are surprised to learn that I do not have a car. When I walk with an umbrella, a curious pedestrian is likely to question if I am the same guy they saw on TV. I enjoy this form of recognition. I have come very close to people through my acting. Besides, working with Aranyak has given me the opportunity to meet the original hard-



Actor Fazlur Rahman Babu

working people of our country. I have had a closer look at their life-style. Possibly this is the reason that I have been able to portray them effectively through my characters.

Quality of package drama There has certainly been a decline in quality. Nowadays, a number of people who are working in this medium have no idea about the art form.

Role as singer I was interested in singing since I was a child.

However, I did not practise singing seriously. When I joined Aranyak, I realised that for acting one has to know singing also. So I have learnt its basics.

Films I have acted in a film Shankhonaad of Abu Sayeed. I was supposed to act in Tawkir Ahmed's Joy Jatra, but I could not do it because I had to go abroad for a stage show of Aranyak.

Awards I have not received many awards. However, I have got the love and appreciation of my audience. Isn't that the greatest gift for an artiste?

Other work I work in a bank. My colleagues help me out and, therefore, I can continue with my acting career.

Children and their interests I have two daughters. Whether they work in the same media is completely their own choice. If they are interested, I will not stop them.

Interest in direction I would first like to establish myself as an actor.

Future plans I want to carry on as a good actor in future.



Dhaka Drama Festival 2004

Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation (June 17-July 23)

REVIEW

Shat Ghatir Kanakori

A focus on pervasive corruption in the polity

Momotazuddin Ahmed's popular play Shat Ghatir Kanakori, a satire on the evil politics of Bangladesh, was staged by Theatre (Arambagh) at the Experimental Theatre Stage on July 2.

Shat Ghatir Kanakori presents the struggle of a mother and her seven sons who symbolically represent Bangladesh and its citizens. Momotaz's script focuses on the

destruction of Bangladesh during the Liberation War and the deterioration in the polity on account of the unprincipled leviathan rulers after the Liberation.

Ali Jha, the leviathan ruler who wields power from behind the curtain, is symbolic of the rulers in Bangladesh. To serve his narrow

political ends, Ali Jha deceives the intellectuals, students, artists and poets of the country who are represented by seven sons in the play.

In Shat Ghatir Kanakori, Momotazuddin Ahmed has zeroed in on corrupt educators, the Pakistani collaborators, defiled intellectuals, Pirs (religious leaders with considerable followers) as the conduit of the Leviathan to practise its oppression.

Director Momotazuddin Ahmed's political satire follows the European technique. The introductory choreography represents the enslavement of the citizens by the politicians. However, more choreography could be incorporated in the play.

Jamil Ahmed's symbolic set design, containing stairs, is helpful for the characterisation. His light design is simple but effective.

With the exception of Afroza Banu, the senior artistes disappointed the viewers by their poor performance. The actors tended to fumble during dialogue delivery—a jarring note in the play.



The mother with her three sons in the play Shat Ghatir Kanakori

Of realism, abstraction and expressionism

Art Collector, a new gallery at Uttara, holds maiden exhibition

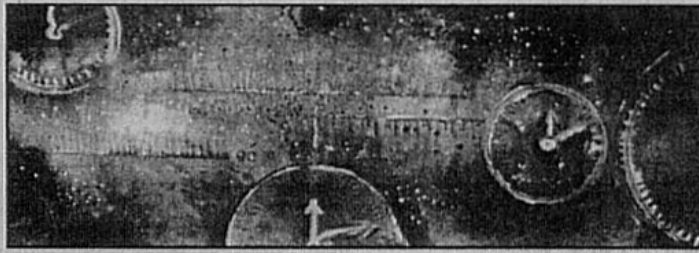
AZIZ AMIRUL

Vibrant colours of green, yellow and deep orange intermingle with dull shades as richly vegetated rural landscapes spring up on canvases with distinct backgrounds of dark clouds in some faraway skyline of the countryside.

Most of the art works feature such portrayals at a group show being held at Art Collector, a newly installed gallery at BNS center of Sector 7 at Uttara in the city.

Human figures, natural greenery, daily lives of busy urban and suburban communities and architectural set-ups of buildings and bridges crop up in works of Adnan Sufian, one of the six participants. Quite an intricate use of light monochromatic shades including green, blue and yellow come up in Adnan's works.

Artist Rashed Kamal portrays a typical Bengal as he emphasises on the day-to-day rituals of the rural common man, nature's influence upon mankind, man-made environmental hazards, and urban heritage sites that need urgent attention for repair and restoration. 'Bright orange and yellow predominantly reign in my works, which repre-



An artwork of Iftekhar Khan

sented the inner joys of the human mind, 'reveals a beaming Rashed. To put up a contrasting effect, he uses dark shades where the subject of space and lucidity fill the canvases.

The works of artist Sadek Ahmed also represent realistic topics of nature and human life. The simple portrayal of landscapes and old, historical sites bring out the straightforward nature of the artist who loves to fiddle with both bright, as well as dull shades.

'Dark, heavy clouds represent the grimness and irate power of Mother Nature while vivid, lively compositions depict the softness of a fresh morning in my works,' says artist Ahkmul Haque. Densely overcast skies in shades of grayish black and fluttering green leaves and broken twigs provide a rich contrast in Ahkmul's works, most of which bubble with life against the dreary presence of concrete buildings.

A realistic figure of a horse blends with the surrealist abstraction of the human consciousness in the pen drawings of artist Zakir-Us-Salam. The young talent tries to depict a kind of expressionism through the symbolic looks of eyes whilst the bold, robust semi-abstract figure of the horse represent speed and strength besides other emotional qualities of worldly creations. Circular patterns of deep black etched streaks around the main subject further boost the vigor and agility of the running horse in a semi-realistic surrounding.

A completely different theme appears in the mixed media works of artist Iftekhar Khan whose series Revolution 1 to 4 depict a dark, frozen surrealist world of space and time, the gradual development of the human civilisation and a much deserved peaceful and serene realistic world. Presence of circular clocks represent the ever flowing time span of the cosmic dimension from which the human mind constantly fantasises to break free yet fails only to return within the looping circle of the chaotic reality.

The exhibition remains open from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily till July 16.



A painting by M Zakir-Us-Salam

Eye-catching nick-nacks

Terra-cotta ornaments incorporating Bangali flavour

ELITA KARIM

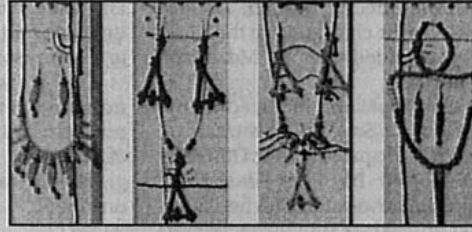
The first solo exhibition of terra-cotta ornaments was recently held at the Zainul Gallery, Institute of Fine Art, University of Dhaka. Designer Shohidul Hasan seemed to have incorporated the essence of the Bangla culture in these ornaments, which was apparent in the design and choice of colour.

Hasan's designs comprised several necklaces, brightened up with combinations of red, black and blue. Some of them were also strung together with apple seeds on black threads and wires. Earrings were definitely a delight to look at, especially the geometrical shapes, namely triangles, hooked up with red and green.

Clay bangles were also found at the exhibition brightened up with the coloured, which would definitely look trendy if worn with a blend of east with west.

A significant number of spectators were seen at the exhibition, purchasing the clay designs.

Shohidul Hasan is currently a student of the Master's student in Department of Ceramics at the Institute of Fine Art, DU. His ambition and an approach to experiment with designs and colours led him to participate at a group exhibition held at the TSC Auditorium, organised by Creative Line in 2003. He plans to hold more such fairs in the near future, displaying yet another set of his designs.



Mickey and Minnie Mouse, who play Altair the Cowherd and Vega the Weaver, wave to spectators from a float to celebrate Tanabata or the Star Festival at the Tokyo Disneyland on July 01 for the special event Star Festival Greeting, to be carried until July 07. In Japanese legend the two lovers, the stars Altair and Vega, who are separated by the Milky Way on most days of the year, meet just once a year on July 07.

Theatre practise in Bangladesh has become stagnant

Momotazuddin Ahmed

Renowned playwright Momotazuddin Ahmed is not pleased with the present scenario of theatre in Bangladesh. He says, 'I believe that for an artiste, art is the combination of his ideal, politics and approach to life. In the drama arena we are losing our strength, as everything is now becoming money orientated. As a result, the theatre practise in Bangladesh has become stagnant. Very few quality plays have been produced during last five years. Most big groups are either reproducing their old plays, or staging a popular one year after year. Moreover, due to the crisis of the theatre hall, professionalism cannot be introduced in Bangladesh.'

'Viewers always go after plays in which star performers are the main cast. Theatrical groups also do not like to take any risk by casting new artistes in big roles. Moreover, new comers prefer working in the electronic media where they can earn money. That is why, I think, theatre in Bangladesh is not developing at the same rate as it did in the early days,' Momotaz added.

Talking about his play Shat Ghatir Kanakori, Momotaz said, 'I wrote Shat Ghatir Kanakori in 1989. In the play I have used Ershad, the then autocrat ruler, as the symbol of the leviathan ruler. While writing Shat Ghatir Kanakori I was influenced by the famous plays in



Bangla literature like Neel Darpan, Jamider Darpan and Nabanna. In the play I have tried to depict that there may be changes in rulers in Bangladesh, but the ruling system remains the same. The play has been well received by the audience.'

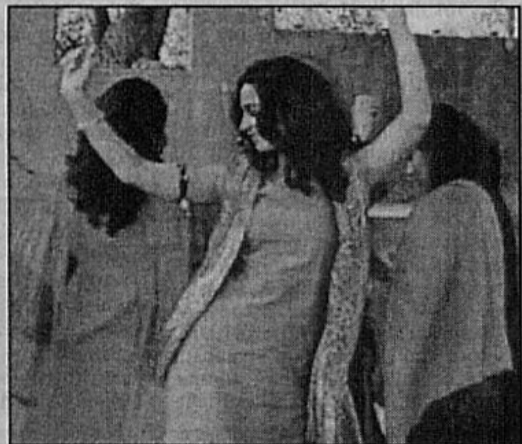
ERSHAD KAMOL

Schedules (July 04-July 07)

Table with columns for dates (July 04, 05, 06, 07) and details of plays, playwrights, directors, and venues.

TV GUIDE

PICK OF THE DAY



Monsoon Wedding On Star Movies at 7:00 pm Genre: Comedy/Drama/Romance Naseeruddin Shah, Lillete Dubey, Shefall Shetty, Vijay Raaz A story set in the modern upper-middle class of India, where telecommunications and a western lifestyle mix with old traditions, like the arranged wedding young Aditi accepts when she ends the affair with a married TV producer. The groom is an Indian living in Texas, and all relatives from both families come to New Delhi during the monsoon season to attend the wedding. The four-day arrangements and celebrations will see clumsy organisation, family parties and drama, dangers to the happy end of the wedding, lots of music...

Table with columns for channels (BT, ntv, CHANNEL-i, ntv, TARA BANGLA, BBC WORLD) and their respective program schedules.

Table with columns for channels (BT, ntv, CHANNEL-i, ntv, TARA BANGLA) and their respective program schedules.

Table with columns for channels (Drama Serial, ntv, ATN BANGLA, TARA BANGLA) and their respective program schedules.

Table with columns for channels (E To Nai Suchu Gaan, ntv, ATN BANGLA, TARA BANGLA) and their respective program schedules.

Table with columns for channels (Anatomy, ntv, ATN BANGLA, TARA BANGLA) and their respective program schedules.

Table with columns for channels (Major Saab, ntv, ATN BANGLA, TARA BANGLA) and their respective program schedules.

Table with columns for channels (20 M, ntv, ATN BANGLA, TARA BANGLA) and their respective program schedules.

Table with columns for channels (Jouneys in Asian Cuisine, ntv, ATN BANGLA, TARA BANGLA) and their respective program schedules.

Table with columns for channels (Euro 2004 Week 3, ntv, ATN BANGLA, TARA BANGLA) and their respective program schedules.

Table with columns for channels (#2(R), ntv, ATN BANGLA, TARA BANGLA) and their respective program schedules.

Table with columns for channels (Tour De France Tour De France 2004 Highlights, ntv, ATN BANGLA, TARA BANGLA) and their respective program schedules.