

CULTURAL FEAST

Exhibition

47th Solo Exhibition
Artist: Jamal Ahmed
Venue: Jamal's Gallery, Husain Plaza, Dharmondi 15 (New)
Time: July 19-30, 11am to 6pm

5th Solo Painting Exhibition
Artist: Ifat Ara Dewan
Venue: Shilpangan, Road 5, House 25, Dharmondi
Time: July 23-August 01, From 10 am to 1pm and 5pm to 9pm

Abhijit 6th Solo Exhibition
Venue: Alliance Francaise, 26, Mirpur Road, Dharmondi
Time: July 30-August 15, From 9 am-4pm, 5pm-8pm

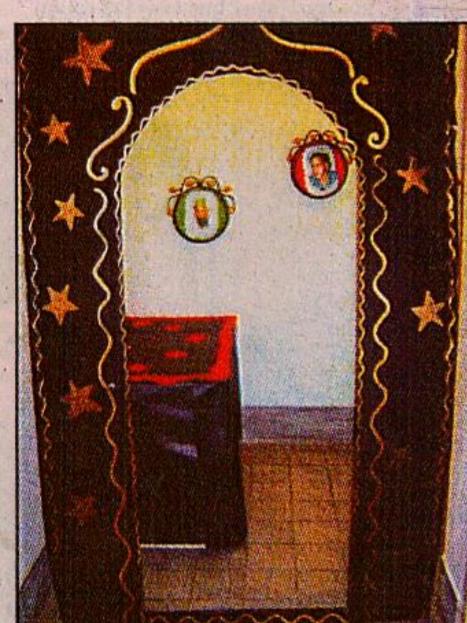
Books and Albums
Exhibition
Title: Day of National Flag of the Russian Federation
Venue: Library of the Russian Cultural Centre
Time: August 01-22

Solo Exhibition
Artist: Babul Ahmed
Venue: Exhibition Hall of the Russian Cultural Centre
Time: August 02-08

Musical Soiree
Title: Achin Pekhi
Performer: Farida Parvin
Organiser: Orchestra
Venue: All Community Club, Gulshan 2, Dhaka
Time: July 30, at 6:00 pm

Bristi Nisha Bhora
Shondhyabala
Organiser: Nandan, a cultural group
Venue: Bangladesh YWCA Bhaban, 3/23, Iqbal Road, Muhammadpur
Time: July 30, at 6:00 pm

Alternative art camp with a difference



History of civilisation by Kakoli

FAYZA HAQ

AZIZ Sharafi explained the motive behind the recent art camp recently held at Alliance Francaise, Chitrak and in an ongoing construction. To quote Sharafi, 'This is a camp for alternative process and thinking. In this, you will not find the traditional process to art. The artist tried to find himself within his environment, heritage and culture. He tried to find a visual language that related to oneself rather than basing it on academic or skills that one has learnt. Here one dropped western abstraction and realism and tried to understand one's own vision.'

This camp gave an opportunity for the exchange of ideas among artists and non-artists. This camp tried to find an approach towards self-realisation.'

Asked to elaborate about the camp, Sharafi said, 'There were architects and doctors working along with artists and actors. Thus the participants came from different disciplines who created art work according to their individual perspectives. Some people dealt with garments, others with architectural tools and so on. My own works were based on cooking and I used that for visual communication. I didn't cook with real food but with different materials and created different recipes out of different materials, like taking colours from an image to create a dish out

of it. I tried to go deep into the cooking process.'

Talking about how the people were to understand the working of the camp, Sharafi said that people had to read into the concepts of the artists which were written on the charts hanging in Alliance Francaise Gallery or at 'Chitrak'. The public could question the artists on their work.

When asked that the displays were rather complicated, Sharafi said that it was not an art show to enjoy at the surface level -- one had to penetrate the work and understand the intention of the artist. There were the works of well-known artists like Hamiduzzaman, who had done his installation in the 1970s (dealing with Urir Char). Wakilur Rahman, who lives in Germany, had sent a collection of photographs on the basis of Leonardo Da Vinci's concept of the human figure, while Aminul Islam's painting contained fragmented mirror pieces. There was also the work by Dhalil al Mamun. To this were added ideas dealing with the garment industry, movement against violence and cartoons.

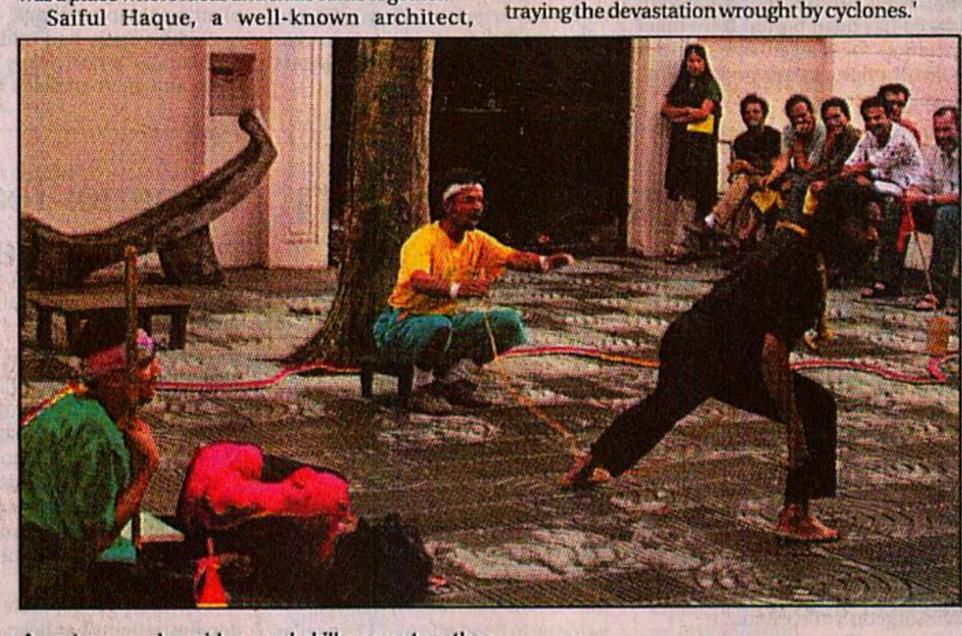
Sharafi said that the reason he wanted to hold the art camp was because when he left the art camp in the mid-1970s, many aspects of art remained unexplained. He searched for an alternative process in moving towards a more creative world rather than skill-based work. This camp, he said, was based on the concept of creativity, moving away from decoration and beautification. Here was a place where ideas and skills came together.

Saiful Haque, a well-known architect,

remarked about the project, 'This was an interesting opportunity to express feelings and thoughts within a short period of time. The idea behind the exercise was that each artist would work for a week, then the viewers would see and experience the piece of art. I myself have chosen to illustrate a space and its use in an area of the under-construction building near Chitrak. I called my work 'A wish list'.'

Nisar Hussain, one of the organisers of the camp, said, 'The art camps that have been held before in Bangladesh have been more like picnics. The artists met, ate, worked and came away. It was not clear why the camps had been held. In contrast, there was a definite vision behind this camp. People from different fields, who had artistic leanings found a space to express themselves. There was then an interaction between the people who took part. This included artists, actors and various other creative people. Among our objectives was to show that art was not an expensive affair that required a huge budget. There were 26 participants and they worked till July 23.'

'We all learnt from each other. The camp made the artist stop and think twice about what he was doing,' said Shishir Bhattacharya, the well-known cartoonist. Andrew Jenkins, from the Bangladesh Water Development Board, added, 'The concepts were very interesting and moving, especially the sculptural installation based on Urir Char, portraying the devastation wrought by cyclones.'



An art camp where ideas and skills came together

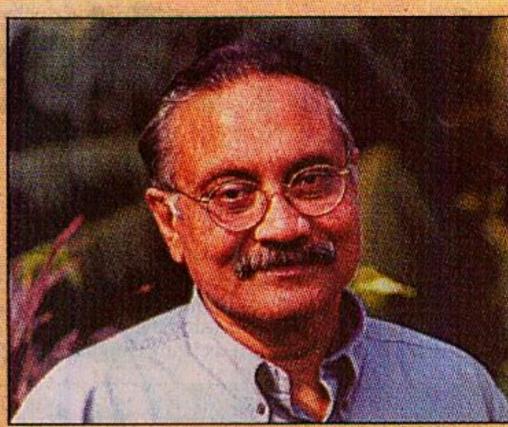


ILLUSTRATION: MUSTAFA ZAMAN

Actor, director, columnist, talk-show host, ad-maker, and, above all, a charming personality -- there seems to be no stopping Ali Zaker. His favourite role is that of actor and director. 'I love them as I did when I started,' he maintains. Managing his various occupations with ease, he found the time to talk to our cultural correspondent.

How would you describe your way of life?
I have a desire to develop and establish myself in theatre, writing and photography. What do you do in your free time?

I love to venture out into the rural parts of Bangladesh at least once or twice a week. I also go to my hometown in Brahmanbaria a whole lot.

Is the Bangladeshi film industry a disappointing case study?

Our predecessors focused on merely making money. Now, thankfully, the scene is changing. We have many youngsters educated in cinema making and associated with the whole process. The perspective of the audience today has also changed the demand for the whole scene, like Matir Moyna, which was well appreciated by many for viewing a slice of life from a period of history.

What is your dream role?

King Lear in a Bangla production. I have done Macbeth, Prospero from The Tempest, Galileo and many other major roles already.

Do you recall any weird experiences with a fan?

I remember when I was playing the part of Galileo in a play. I was narrating the speech where Galileo explained how science is discovering the truth through

disbelief and through investigation. I could feel the audience listening earnestly, with a pin-drop silence lingering in the whole hall. Suddenly, a chap from behind the audience screamed out 'Mama' referring to my character from the drama Bahu Bribhi. Then and there, the world stopped revolving for 30 seconds. This was a very weird and a painful experience I had and I will, in all likelihood, remember it for as long as I live.

What would you do if you were the leader of your clan or the Prime Minister of the country and had the chance to do something different?

Among the younger generation I would try to enhance the traditional values of love and respect for which we fought the Liberation War. How satisfied are you as an artist?

Still very dissatisfied. We have some of the best talents and competent people in terms of knowledge related to art and technology, but are still unable to come up with standard plays in any media whatsoever. We still have a long way to go, since we are still bound by merely one camera. We also face problems related to financing, which is why we cannot make use of our ideas, because someone might spend a lot of money for the sake of creating art, but won't get paid back.

Karisma in Nargis



The hot rumour is that Karisma Kapoor has been roped in to play the female lead in Zoya Akhtar's (Farhan Akhtar's sister) film, Nargis. This role was earlier offered to Madhuri Dixit but when things didn't work out, Karisma is said to have lapped up the offer. There is, however, no official confirmation on this.

Telefilm Bikeler Megh

A Conflict of urban life

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

The premiere of the telefilm *Bikeler Megh* was held at the Spectra Convention Centre of Gulshan on July 26. The writer of the telefilm is Mahbub Aziz and the director is Gazi Rakayet.

The conflict of urban life is well delineated in this telefilm. In Aziz's words, 'The telefilm does not use the narrative approach, rather it has been picturised with simplicity. From the starting to the end the same thoroughness has been followed.'

This is Rakayet's maiden work as a telefilm director. The plot of the telefilm encouraged me to make the film.' He further says, 'I tried to maintain the poetic flavor of the film. According to the director this is a well performed film.'

Shomai Kaiser and Intekhab Dinar in a scene from the telefilm

Among the foremost cast members of the telefilm are Shomai Kaiser, Intekhab Dinar, Ataur Rahman, Dilara Jaman, Wahida Mallik Jolly, Rahmat Ali, Samul Alam Bakul and Tonima Ahmed.

Tickets, valuing Taka 100 and 200, may be collected from Sagar Publishers and Theatre Corner at Baily Road, and Marmar at Aziz Super Market.

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

News Bulletin

BTV

News Headlines (Bangla) at 6:55 am, 12:10 pm, 2:00 pm, 3:00 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

News (Bangla) at 7:15 am, 9:00 am, 7:15 pm, 9:00 pm, 10:30, 12:15 am.

Telecast of BTV News (Bangla and English) at 11:30 pm.

Latest News (Bangla) at 9:00 am, 10:00 am, 11:00 am, 1:00 pm, 3:00 pm, 4:00 pm, 6:00 pm and 8:00 pm.

ntv

News Headlines (Bangla) at 10:00 am, 12:00 pm, 6:15 pm, 9:30 pm.

News (Bangla) at 7:30 am, 2:00 pm, 5:00 pm, 7:30 pm, 10:30 pm.

Telecast of BTV News (Bangla and English) at 11:30 pm.

TARA BANGLA

News Headlines (Bangla) at 5:30 pm, 7:30 pm.

Tara News (Bangla) at 8:30 pm, 11:30 pm.

Tara News Bangladesh (Bangla) at 9:30 pm.

BBC WORLD

Every hour on the hour



Shomai Kaiser and Intekhab Dinar in a scene from the telefilm

CHARITY

Prachyanat stages Gondar to raise funds for flood victims

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Theatre group Prachyanat has come forward to organise a fundraiser for the flood-affected people. The group will hold a stage show of its latest production, *Gondar*, at the Experimental Theatre Hall of Bangladesh Shilpkala Academy on July 30.

A translation of the absurd play *Les Rhinoceros* by Eugene Ionesco, *Gondar* is a sharp satire on the inhumanity of human beings. Ionesco shows in his play the irrational quality of the totalitarian social structure of France during the Second World War. The play shows this through a symbolic transformation of the people into rhinos.

Translated by Jahurul Haque, the play is directed by Toufiquul Islam Imron.

Tickets, valuing Taka 100 and 200, may be collected from Sagar Publishers and Theatre Corner at Baily Road, and Marmar at Aziz Super Market.



A sequence from the play Gondar

Save the Children-USA concert for flood affected

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

To improve the abysmal living conditions of flood-stricken children in the country, the members of event-management company SERSHA are organising a charity concert. The function is slated for July 30 at the concert hall of FuWang Bowling Club. Funds generated from ticket sales will be donated to save the Children-USA, an international aid agency.

Since 1972, Save the Children-USA has been implementing integrated community development programmes in Bangladesh, namely in Dhaka, Chittagong, Barisal, Khulna, Rajshahi and Sylhet divisions.

Through its various programmes the Bangladesh Field Office (BFO) ensure benefits to 20 million Bangladeshis. The focus is on the poor and disadvantaged population. The BFO is currently working on emergency flood disaster management programmes in different parts of the country.

The charity programme is a rock concert featuring popular mainstream rock bands along with new and promising musicians. Tickets, priced at Tk 150, can be collected from Jatra and Fahim's Music Store at Banani, Ratan Health Centre at Navana Towers and Hollywood CD shop at Rifle's Square.

TV GUIDE

PICK OF THE DAY



Siddiqua Kabir's Recipe
On ntv at 8:15 pm
Cookery show
Hosted by Sharmin Lucky



Unfaithful
On Star Movies at 10:15 pm
Genre: Drama / Thriller
Diane Lane, Eric Per Sullivan, Richard Gere

3:30 Wild Discovery Serengeti Today As seen on TV 12:00 Toyota World Of Wildlife 1:30 The 2004 Espy Awards Los Angeles Ca Usa (T)

4:30 Operation Junkyard 2:30 Extreme Latitude 3:00 Young Global Hot Shots 3:30 Spies That Fly 4:30 Seven Deadly Arts 5:30 From The Ground Up

6:00 Sea Stories 6:30 Dogs With Jobs S3 7:00 Toyota World Of Wildlife 7:30 National Geographic Special

8:30 Cheating Death 7:30 Extreme Latitude 9:30 Life of Formula One The Frontline 10:00 Young Global Hot Shots

10:30 Casino Diaries : Lady Luck 11:00 For Women only Berman & Berman Fidelity 11:30 Future Perfect Future Visions

STAR SPORTS 9:00 Indian Oil Asia Cup 2004 (Hindi) Colombo Sri Lanka 11th Odi (R) 4:00 Asian Cup 2004 Chengdu China Oman Vs Thailand

6:30 Extreme Programming Rip (T) 7:00 Max Power 2004 (T) 7:30 Sportsline (L) 8:30 Futbol Mundial (T) 9:00 MotoGP World Championship 2004 Donington Park Great Britain Highights(T) 10:00 European Tour Weekly

11:00 Indian Oil Asia Cup 2004 Colombo Sri Lanka 11th Odi 5:00 ATP Tennis 6:30 European Tour Preview(L) 7:30 Sportscenter India (R)

10:30 Smackdown 11:00 Game TV 11:30 ATP Tennis 12:00 Gillette World Sports 12:30 ICC Cricket World Cup 1:00 ATP Tennis 1:30 European tour Weekly 3:30 Airtel Greatest Games 4:30 Golf Highlights (T) 11:00 Indian Oil Asia Cup 2004 Colombo Sri Lanka 11th Odi 5:00 Golden Moments of Olympic Games

6:30 After Burn 7:00 ATP Tennis 7:30 European Tour Weekly 8:00 Sanjays Modern Masters 9:00 Golf Highlights The Barclays Scottish Open 11:00 Cricket Classic

10:30 Cricket Gold (T) 12:00 After Burn

11:00 Dogs With Jobs 11:30 Cricket Gold (T)

12:00 Dogs With Jobs

11:30 Dogs With Jobs

12:00 Dogs With Jobs

11:30 Dogs With Jobs