

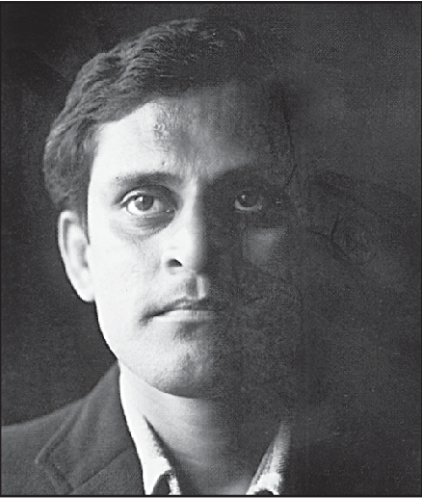
Glories of ancient temples

Babu Ahmed's photographs uncover our rich cultural heritage

HARUN UR RASHID

PHOTOGRAPHER Babu Ahmed considers the whole of Bangladesh to be a museum. And he has used the medium of photography to illustrate the country's rich cultural heritage, exemplified by its grand monuments. The focus of his work is to uncover the miserable negligence of these monuments through the years.

Babu's present exhibition at Bengal



Shilpalaya puts up photographs of a hundred temples scattered across the country. All these temples, built between the 16th and early 20th centuries, once had glorious moments, vibrant with religious rituals performed by devout followers. Exquisite terracotta embellishments, inimitable architectural innovations added to that glory.

At present, however, almost all these temples are facing serious threat. Most of them have been discarded long ago. Trees have overgrown on them, causing damage to the plaster, pillars and other parts of these graceful architectural wonders.



Kalinarayana Temple, Joydevpur, Gazipur; a *Pancha Ratna* type temple built circa late 19th century

The exhibition was inaugurated by the German Ambassador to Bangladesh, Dietrich Andreas. Director and Representative of UNESCO Bangladesh, Wolfgang Vollman, was also present at the event. Vollman said that the UNESCO will publish a book containing 35 photos by Babu Ahmed, which will convey the rich cultural tradition of Bangladesh to other countries of the world.

Babu's exhibition is more of documentary type rather than art photography. It presents the principal kinds of temples found in the country like *Ek Chala* (one roof), *Do-Chala* (double roof), *Char Chala* (Quadruple roof), *Ek Bangla* (single hut), *Jor Bangla* (twin hut), *Ek Ratna* (single minaret), *Pancha Ratna* (five minarets), *Naba Ratna* (nine minarets) and one-storeyed and two-storeyed temples. The photographs are accompanied by brief

information about the names of the temples, their builders and the time of their construction.

Among the most ancient temples is the Mathurapur Deul of Madhukhali, Faridpur, built in about the 16th century by Sangram Singh, a Kshatriya General of the Mughals. Intricate terracotta works have given an elegant look to the cone-shaped building with a small entrance on one side.

Built in a comparatively nearer past, in 1810, is the Nova-Ratna temple at Sujanagar, Pabna, is in ruins with overgrown shrubs and trees. Now desolate, the temple was built by Zamindar Gurugovinda Chowdhury of Tantibad, Sujanagar.

Jora Siva Temple (built in 1820) of Muktagachha, Mymensingh, is another such temple with trees grown on its cornices and roof. Queen Bimla Devi built this twin temple

dedicated to Hindu God and Goddess Siva and Kali.

Babu Ahmed, a former photographer of the *Dainik Prothom Alo* and the *Dainik Sanbad*, has been taking photos of such monuments since 1988. Of the thousands of monuments that bear marks of our cultural heritage, Babu has so far captured 500 through his camera.

Titled *Bangladesher Shoto Mandir* (One Hundred Temples), this is Babu's 3rd exhibition. His other displays were *A Glimpse of Bangladeshi Heritage* in 2002 and *Mughal Muslim Architecture* (Part 1) in 2003.

The young photographer dreams of creating mass awareness about the need to protect the cultural heritage of the country.

The exhibition runs until August 10.



Mathurapur Deul, Madhukhali, Faridpur; built circa 16th century

An evening with Farida Parveen

ELITA KARIM

Orchestra, the event management company, came up with yet another of its musical ventures. At the All Community Club located in Gulshan 2, this company arranged an evening with the gifted singer, Farida Parveen, titled *Achin Pakhi*.

From the start, it was clear that the audience was in for music that enriched both the soul and mind. The evening began with a total of seven numbers from Badrunnessa Dahlia, a television and radio artiste. She warmed the crowd with popular numbers like *Ey sundor sarnali shondha*, *Jale bhasha poddo aami*, *Bashi shune aar kaaj nai*, *Jhinuk photo* and many more. The audience enjoyed the series of golden oldies, which also made the wait for the folk-legend much fruitful.

Farida Parveen stepped on stage next, much to the delight of the spectators. The hall was adorned in white with lit candles. Farida enthralled the crowd with all-time favourites like *Aami apar hoye boshe achi*, *Barir kache arshi nogor*, *O amaar desh, o amaar prem*, *Paare ke jaabi*, *Khanchar bhetor achin pakhi*, *Jaat jaat gelo*, *Barir kache*, *Teen pagole* and many other numbers



Farida Parveen rendering Lalou songs, with Gazi Abdul Hakim on the flute

leaving the audience asking for more.

Her interesting quips in between her songs made the evening more delightful, not to mention the anecdotes and her many experiences gathered in all these years. She reminisced about the time when she along with a few other artistes from Bangladesh had toured over the subcontinent, enthralling the foreign audience with the essence of folk music from her land. Pride was seen glowing on her face

The story of Tagore's lost belongings

SAKYASEN MITTRA, Kolkata

A new team will take over the investigation of the unsolved theft of litterateur Rabindranath Tagore's Nobel prize from his home inside Visva Bharati University. Currently investigations are being carried out jointly by officials of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and West Bengal police. But in view of the little headway the probe has made, authorities have decided to replace the present CBI sleuths with a new team, government officials indicated here recently.

On March 25, security staff of Uttarayan, Tagore's home inside Visva Bharati University in Shantiniketan town, discovered that at least 50 of his memorabilia, including the Nobel gold medal he won in 1913, were missing. Two gold bangles and a sari of the poet's wife Mrinalini Devi, a ring belonging to his father Devendranath, some ornaments, silver utensils, several rare paintings and articles made of ivory were also found missing. Several people were

detained, many suspects questioned, criminal hideouts raided, antique dealers tapped and a rupees one million reward announced for information on the theft - but did not yield any result.

Investigators are unsure of the motive behind the theft but don't rule out the involvement of university staff. Investigations into the theft revealed new scandals at the university, including a racket that gave jobs to people with fake educational certificates. Dilip Sinha, the previous vice chancellor of the university, was arrested for passing off as genuine fake certificates of a teacher at the university. Sinha and the teacher, Mukti Deb, are now under arrest.

But the probe into the Nobel theft appears to have run into a wall. University authorities have asked the Sweden-based Nobel award's committee for a replica of the medal. The authorities have also decided to throw open the Uttarayan complex to visitors. This complex was closed after the heist. It houses a museum of Tagore's memorabilia.

CULTURAL FEAST

Exhibition

Bangladesher Shoto Mandir (One Hundred Temple)
Photographer: Babu Ahmed
Venue: Bengal Shilpalaya, 275/F, Road 27, Dhanmondi
Time: August 01-10, 12pm-08pm

Arts and Crafts from Switzerland
Organiser: Embassy of Switzerland in Bangladesh
Venue: Bangladesh National Museum, Shahbagh
Time: July 30-August 10, from 10 am to 5 pm

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

Second Solo Print
Artiste: Ishihara Makoto
Time: August 02-07
Venue: Zainul Gallery of the Fine Arts Institute, Dhaka University

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

Nagarik Natyasampradaya to stage -- Raktokarabi

To observe the death anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore, Nagarik Natyasampradaya will stage Tagore's play-- *Raktokarabi* directed by Ataur Rahman on August 6 at Mahila Shamity Stage. It is a fundraiser effort for the flood victims.

Flood Aid Concert by Rupokatha

Rupkatha, an event management company run by a few enthusiastic young people, will be organising a concert at the Winter Garden, Hotel Sheraton. The funds collected from this concert will be donated to the flood victims spread all over the country. While talking to the organisers of this event, Sujon and Robin said that this is the first charity concert that they are organising. 'We have organised many musical events and concerts. This is the

first time that we are organising a charity concert,' they said. 'Every penny from this event will be donated to the various agencies, which are working towards rescuing the flood victims from their despair and developing their lives for the better.'

Big names like NagarBaul, LRB, Warfaze, Dalchut, Artcell and Black will be performing in the concert. Tickets have been priced at Tk 250. The concert will be held on August 6 at 3.00 pm.

Swapnadal observes Hiroshima Day

On August 6, Swapnadal, a theatrical group has arranged a programme at the Experimental Theatre Stage at Shilpakala Academy to remember the victims of the Nuclear Bomb during the Second World War in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan.

To observe the day, Swapnadal will stage a play-- *Tringshoshatapdi* (thirtieth century) by Badal Sarkar at the Experimental Theatre Stage at 7 p.m. A photography exhibition on the victims of the atrocity will also be held at the same venue.

Lebanese singing star Nancy Ajram performs on stage, recently, during her concert at the Roman Theater in Carthage as part of her Tunisian tour.

US rock guitarist Steve Vai performs during a concert at the Hong Kong International Trade and Exhibition Centre (HITEC), recently. Vai, who was once a member of US legend Frank Zappa's band as well as 1980s rockers Whitesnake, is currently touring with his band in Asia and Australia -- heading next to Beijing.

TV GUIDE

PICK OF THE DAY

Sphere
On HBO at 6:45 pm
Genre: Sci-Fi / Thriller
Cast: Dustin Hoffman, Sharon Stone

Keboli Rat Hoye Jay
On Channel i at 7:50 pm
Drama Serial
Cast: Hridi Haque, Swapna Ferdousy, Mahfuz Ahmed

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 8:55 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. 9:00am. 7:15 pm. 9:00pm. 10:30, 12:15 am.

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

ATN BANGLA

News (Bangla) at 7:00 am. 10:00am. 2:00 pm. 7:00 pm. 10:00 pm, 11:00 pm.

Telecast of BTV News (Bangla and English) at 11:30 pm.
Latest News (Bangla) at 9:00 a.m. 10:00 am. 11:00 am. 1:00pm. 3:00 pm. 4:00pm. 6:00 pm and 8:00 pm.

ntv

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

News (Bangla) 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

CHANNEL-i

09:30 Shongbad Potrey
Bangladesh and Public reaction
Tritiyo Matra

11:00 Agora Shopping Guide

11:30 Kichhu Megh Kichhu
Roddur

12:00 Chithi Pelam

12:30 Aaj Dupurey and
CityCell Taroka

01:00 Khathon

01:30 Ebong Cinemar Gaan

02:00 Public Reaction

02:00 Drama

04:30 Dekhar Gaan Shonar
Gaan

05:00 Sa Re Ga Ma

05:35 Jonopoder Khobor

05:45 Musical Programme

06:10 Music Plus

06:45 Aamar Chhobi

07:50 Drama Serial: Keboli
Raat Hoye Jai

08:25 Drama Serial: Sharey
Teen Tala

09:35 Drama Serial: Upohar

10:00 Close Up Hit Wave

08:00 Aajker Shokal
Chenashur

08:30 Sports World

09:00 Museum Around the
World

10:05 ShaplaKuri

10:30 Dhakar Cinema

01:25 TVC

02:30 Drama Serial: Sporsher
Bairey

03:05 Kichhu Katha Kichhu
Gaan

03:45 Drama Serial: Shaola

04:25 Gambhira

04:25 Mahilangan

05:20 Shubhoshondhya

06:50 Ain O Jibon

08:20 Drama Serial: Ronger
Manush

08:50 Drama: Ghatona
Prashanggik

11:25 Dindarpan

10:00 Fully Fatafati Fantasy

11:30 Tele Shopping

12:00 Syllebusey Nei

12:30 Sri Ramkrishna

1:00 Filmi Furti

2:00 Taka Na Sona

2:30 Tarpor Chand Uthlo

3:00 Swapner Rang Neel

4:00 Baro Eka Lage

4:30 Filmi Furti

5:00 Ghare O Baire

5:00 Serial Yug

6:30 Taka Na Sona

7:00 Sri Ramkrishna

7:30 Tarpor Chand Uthlo

8:00 Antakshari

8:30 Serial Swapner Rang
Nil

10:00 Baro Eka Lage

10:30 Live Doshtai

10:15 Strange Frequency 3

12:00 Three Kings

2:15 Cent Stage

4:30 Necessary Rough-
ness

6:45 Sphere

9:30 The Fast and The
Furious

11:45 D-Tox

10:15 Strange Frequency 3

12:00 Three Kings

2:15 Cent Stage

4:30 Necessary Rough-
ness

6:45 Sphere

9:30 The Fast and The
Furious

11:45 D-Tox

10:15 Strange Frequency 3

12:00 Three Kings

2:15 Cent Stage

4:30 Necessary Rough-
ness

6:45 Sphere

9:30 The Fast and The
Furious

11:45 D-Tox

10:15 Strange Frequency 3

12:00 Three Kings

2:15 Cent Stage

4:30 Necessary Rough-
ness

6:45 Sphere

9:30 The Fast and The
Furious

11:45 D-Tox

10:15 Strange Frequency 3

12:00 Three Kings

2:15 Cent Stage

4:30 Necessary Rough-
ness

6:45 Sphere

9:30 The Fast and The
Furious

11:45 D-Tox

10:15 Strange Frequency 3

12:00 Three Kings

2:15 Cent Stage

4:30 Necessary Rough-
ness

6:45 Sphere

9:30 The Fast and The
Furious

11:45 D-Tox

10:15 Strange Frequency 3

12:00 Three Kings

2:15 Cent Stage

4:30 Necessary Rough-
ness

6:45 Sphere

9:30 The Fast and The
Furious

11:45 D-Tox

10:15 Strange Frequency 3

12:00 Three Kings

2:15 Cent Stage

4:30 Necessary Rough-
ness

6:45 Sphere

9:30 The Fast and The
Furious

11:45 D-Tox

10:15 Strange Frequency 3

12:00 Three Kings

2:15 Cent Stage

4:30 Necessary Rough-
ness

6:45 Sphere

9:30 The Fast and The
Furious

11:45 D-Tox

10:15 Strange Frequency 3

12:00 Three Kings

2:15 Cent Stage

4:30 Necessary Rough-
ness

6:45 Sphere

9:30 The Fast and The
Furious

11:45 D-Tox

10:15 Strange Frequency 3

12:00 Three Kings

2:15 Cent Stage

4:30 Necessary Rough-
ness

6:45 Sphere

9:30 The Fast and The
Furious

11:45 D-Tox

10:15 Strange Frequency 3

12:00 Three Kings

2:15 Cent Stage

4:30 Necessary Rough-
ness

6:45 Sphere

9:30 The Fast and The
Furious

11:45 D-Tox

10:15 Strange Frequency 3

12:00 Three Kings

2:15 Cent Stage

4:30 Necessary Rough-
ness

6:45 Sphere

9:30 The Fast and The
Furious

11:45 D-Tox

10:15 Strange Frequency 3

12:00 Three Kings

2:15 Cent Stage

4:30 Necessary Rough-
ness

6:45 Sphere

9:30 The Fast and The
Furious

11:45 D-Tox

10:15 Strange Frequency 3

12:00 Three Kings

2:15 Cent Stage

4:30 Necessary Rough-
ness

6:45 Sphere

9:30 The Fast and The
Furious

11:45 D-Tox

10:15 Strange Frequency 3

12:00 Three Kings

2:15 Cent Stage

4:30 Necessary Rough-
ness

6:45 Sphere

9:30 The Fast and The
Furious

11:45 D-Tox

10:15 Strange Frequency 3

12:00 Three Kings

2:15 Cent Stage

4:30 Necessary Rough-
ness

6:45 Sphere

9:30 The Fast and The
Furious

11:45 D-Tox

10:15 Strange Frequency 3

12:00 Three Kings

2:15 Cent Stage

4:30 Necessary Rough-
ness

6:45 Sphere

9:30 The Fast and The
Furious

11:45 D-Tox

10:15 Strange Frequency 3

12:00 Three Kings

2:15 Cent Stage

4:30 Necessary Rough-
ness

6:45 Sphere

9:30 The Fast and The
Furious

11:45 D-Tox

10:15 Strange Frequency 3

12:00 Three Kings

2:15 Cent Stage

4:30 Necessary Rough-
ness

6:45 Sphere

9:30 The Fast and The
Furious

11:45 D-Tox

10:15 Strange Frequency 3

12:00 Three Kings

2:15 Cent Stage

4:30 Necessary Rough-
ness

6:45 Sphere

9:30 The Fast and The
Furious

11:45 D-Tox

10:15 Strange Frequency 3

12:00 Three Kings

2:15 Cent Stage

4:30 Necessary Rough-
ness

6:45 Sphere

9:30 The Fast and The
Furious

11:45 D-Tox

10:15 Strange Frequency 3

12:00 Three Kings

2:15 Cent Stage

4:30 Necessary Rough-
ness

6:45 Sphere

9:30 The Fast and The
Furious

11:45 D-Tox

10:15 Strange Frequency 3

12:00 Three Kings

2:15 Cent Stage

4:30 Necessary Rough-
ness

6:45 Sphere

9:30 The Fast and The
Furious

11:45 D-Tox

10:15 Strange Frequency 3

12:00 Three Kings

2:15 Cent Stage