

Colour of youth, graffiti of youth

HARUN UR RASHID

THE emerging periods have seldom been 'happy times' for different trends of art. 'Expressionism', 'Impressionism', 'Surrealism', 'Cubism'--just name any of them, all were subjects of sour criticism and rejection when they came into being. However, all these practices later proved to be the products of genius experimentations. One such genre of painting is 'graffiti', which rose in the West in the face of an extremely antagonistic atmosphere. The harsh tone has, however, become somewhat understated in many countries and graffiti is now being considered an artistic expression.

Young photographer Sajal Khaled is currently holding an exhibition of images of such colourful and 'youthful' graffiti he has seen in Germany. Colourful because graffiti is always a display of bright and burning colours like red, blue and yellow. And youthful because, painted generally by youths--mostly teenagers, graffiti

depicts the thoughts and artistic innovations, protests and rages, hopes and dreams of the young generation.

Rightly titled *Colour of Youth*, the exhibition at the Goethe Institut was supposed to be inaugurated by Dr Humayun Azad. But the saddening demise of this versatile writer and linguist lead to a change. Renowned photographer and ornithologist Enam-Al-Haque opened the exhibition.

Having originated from the Latin word *graffito*, meaning 'illustration', graffiti is originally a calligraphy-based art form, which demonstrates popular sentiments about different issues.

In the early 1950s, some Hispanic bands in Los Angeles and Mexico used to write the names of their groups on walls. The 1970s saw the use of the method for political purpose, namely demonstrating propaganda of political parties. From this practice arose a method called



The calligraphy in graffiti has acquired 3-dimensional effect over the years

'Pochsca' in Paris by spraying paints on paper-cut letters. It was during this period that spray paint was invented which made graffiti more popular because of its swiftness.

In the 1980s, the letters in graffiti began to acquire 3-dimensional effects--an aspect that made the display more attractive. The attraction was further enhanced in the 1990s as graffiti began to incorporate figures of humans and other objects.

Grffiti is quite like the writings on walls in our country. The differences between the two are: the walls in Bangladesh mostly display political slogans or election related propaganda, while graffiti depicts views on more universal topics. Again, while ours are mere calligraphy, graffiti entertains more graphical aspects like

objects and human figures.

Despite the artistic nature of graffiti, the harshness towards this new art trend, however, came to such extremity as to brand it as an act of crime--more precisely, an act of 'vandalism'. The reason was that the graffiti artists--mostly in their adolescence--used public as well as private properties, such as the walls of sidewalks, houses and subways.

The situation has, however, changed much at present. The German government now often commissions artists to paint graffiti at select places. Sajal's photographs show one such five-storeyed building in Dresden wearing a huge graffiti work on its façade.

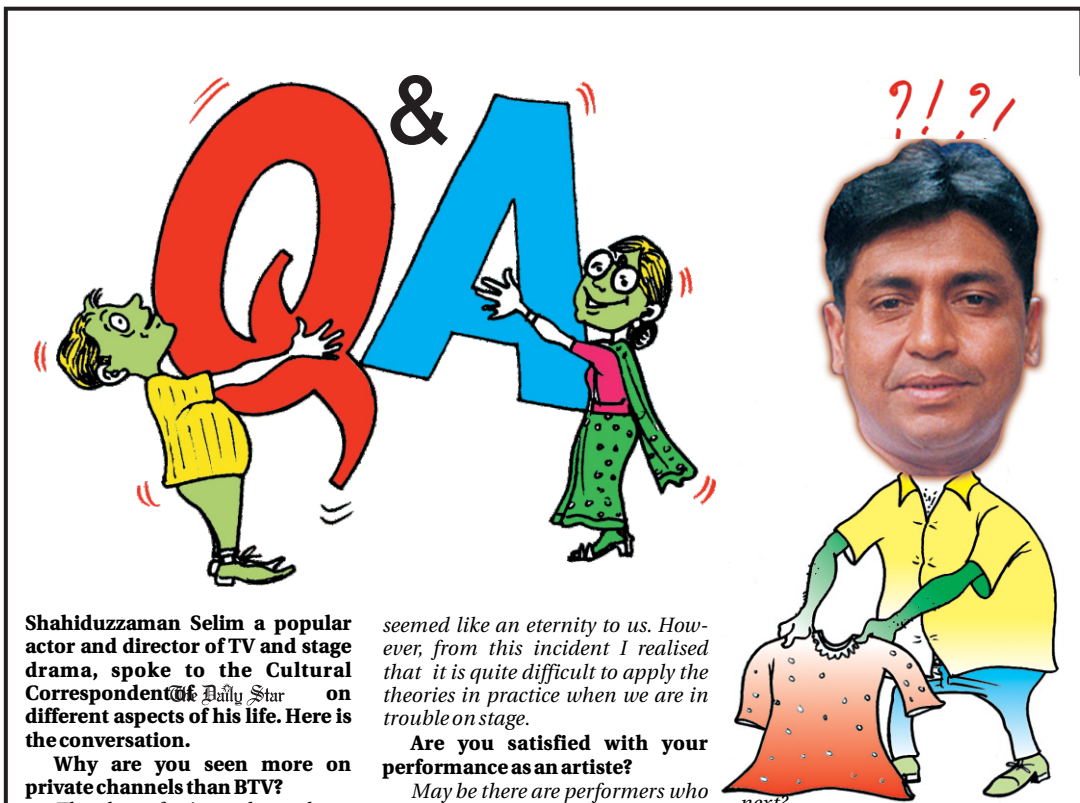
Grffiti generally expresses popular views on issues varying from world

politics to Internet hazards. One such graffiti on political personalities features the 'ugly faces' of former Iraqi president Saddam Hussein and the US president George W Bush.

Grffiti is often influenced by what it is painted on. Sajal's photograph depicts one such graffiti painted on an electrical power room. It displays various electrical gadgets like heater, sewing machine and television--all of which are run by electricity.

Sajal's endeavour is no doubt welcome, as he brings this curious art form to Bangladesh viewers for the first time. The 24 photographs, however, seem few in number. Also the photographs are not large enough to clearly reveal the aesthetic value of this graffiti.

The exhibition runs till August 24.



Shahiduzzaman Selim a popular actor and director of TV and stage drama, spoke to the Cultural Correspondent of the Daily Star on different aspects of his life. Here is the conversation.

Why are you seen more on private channels than BTV?

The plays of private channels are well organised and carefully crafted. The technical quality and the high production values are absent in the government-owned channel. It is not that I don't want to work for BTV, but apparently there is a lack of co-ordination. And quality is an element of the past.

What is your most memorable experience on stage?

We studied one of Stanislavsky's theories about maintaining the pace of a play in case any artist forgets the dialogue, does not get any cue or fails to come on stage in time. But it was different in practice. For instance, in a sequence of the drama Kirtankhola, actress Rita Abdullah was supposed to come on stage after I delivered a dialogue. But somehow, she didn't show up. Along with my co-artists, I stood still for about a minute. Meanwhile, I was trying hard to remember those theories of Stanislavsky to bring back the concentration on stage. Finally, she came on stage after a minute which

seemed like an eternity to us. However, from this incident I realised that it is quite difficult to apply the theories in practice when we are in trouble on stage.

Are you satisfied with your performance as an artiste?

May be there are performers who would reply in the positive. But, frankly, I am not yet satisfied because of a different reason. I don't think I have any God-gifted quality as an artiste. What I do is out of sheer practice and perseverance. I feel that I don't have the spontaneity like other good actors. I have a feeling that I can't perform even one tenth of what I really wanted to.

What is your philosophy of life?

My major goal is to lead a peaceful family life. I am content with whatever I have.

Any weird experience in outdoor shooting?

We have to maintain different bags of costume for different plays. When we go outside we take the necessary costumes from these bags. Once, I had to rush to a shooting spot carrying whatever I could lay my hands on. I brought out my costume, which was supposed to be a Pajama Panjabee but to my utter surprise I found that instead it was my wife's costume bag. Guess what happened

next?

Breakthrough performance

I have a good number of breakthrough performances. I believe the artistes have turning points in their careers when they might change track. I think my performances in Joniki Jwale, Zero Point, Bidirno smritir album, Dipto bashona, Tar rahashyamoy hashi, Housewife and many more are the most noteworthy.

Dream role

I played the famous character of freedom fighter, Rumi in the play Ekatturer Dinguli by litterateur Jahanara Imam, which was my dream role. I played the role of a physically challenged boy in the play Katha Chhilo that was adapted from the Oscar-winning movie Rainman. In the play Hathodai I played the character of Shylock in Shakespeare's The Merchant of Venice. All of these plays were my breakthrough performances.



Grffiti often voices against war

Pratiti's musical concert on rainy days

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

CULTURAL organisation, Pratiti arranged a cultural programme *Badal Meghe Madol Baje* to celebrate the monsoon. The programme, held at the Shishu Academy auditorium recently, depicted rain and the onset of the monsoon through songs, dances and recitation.

The singers of Pratiti, led by Mansura Begum, gave a passable performance. The ladies in blue sarees and the men in ash panjabees reflected the effects of the rainy season portrayed superbly on the back screen. The microphones were also decorated with jasmines. However, the background lighting of the stage needed care.

Songs like *Badho to jhulonia*, *Shrabono jhulaley* and *Hridoye mondirlo* remained in the memory as they were presented in an innovative way. The song *Aji jharo jharo mukhoro badol diney* was rendered in a slow pace by Mansura Begum, but simultaneously when sung in chorus it was in a fast rhythm.

The recitation of Bhaswar Bondyapadhyaya with his baritone voice enthralled the audience. But some felt that it was a run of the mill performance by him.

With the song *Khoro bayu boy bege*, the dancers of Nrittayanchhan led by Shibli Mohammad and Shamim Ara Neepa performed. The sound effects of storm and waves in the background were appreciable. While the dancers performed in dim light their white *ornas* (scarves) had a fluorescent effect in the



Artistes of Pratiti rendering a chorus

dark background. Their dynamic movements with boisterous steps were artistic.

It is always a great pleasure to watch talented

dancers like Shibli and Neepa on stage. However, young talents should be given a chance to perform in the lead roles so as to avoid monotony.

Tutul's painting exhibition for the flood affected

ERSHAD KAMOL

A fortnight long solo painting exhibition titled *Painting for Flood Aid* by Tutul Ahmed is on from August 10 to August 23. The venue is the UNICEF Gallery at Hotel Sheraton Annex.

In the exhibition of 18 canvases, Tutul, an ex-student of the Institute of Fine Arts, tells the story of the downtrodden people who live in sub-human conditions. Through some bright colours like red, yellow, blue, black, burnt sienna, gouache and green, Tutul has successfully presented the tormented inner life of the silent majority of the country. In each painting, he has created the environs with abstract motifs surrounding the visible silent silhouette background.

The interrelationship between man and nature is very important in Tutul's work. In his canvases, he has reflected the unexpressed emotion of man through the nature elements. Tutul has used both water colour and oils for his painting.

The most interesting canvases in the exhibition are *Red Sky Series* and *Childhood Series*. In the three pieces of the *Red*

*Sky Series*, Tutul has created a red sky, a yellow moon and a gouache landscape in three different expressions. Through the symbolic red sky, Tutul's work depicts that if we express all of our thoughts on this evil society, even the sky will become red -- a colour symbolically representing danger.

In the *Childhood Series*, the canvas--*Childhood-1*, Tutul has used simple soft colours for a beautiful small house. However, for the frame of the house he has used bright burnt sienna colour. *Childhood-2* also represents the happy childhood memories of a downtrodden man who has hit on hard times.

The other painting series were *Images*, *Nature*, *Moon*, *Man* and *Nature*. In each painting he has tried to reflect the emotion of the city dwellers in natural surroundings. Through some warm as well as bright colours he has portrayed the elements of nature on the canvases.



One painting from the Red Sky series

TV GUIDE

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.

ATN BANGLA

News (Bangla) at 7:00 am, 10:00 am, 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, 1:00 pm, 3:00 pm, 4:00 pm, 6:00 pm and 8:00 pm.

ntv

News Headlines (Bangla) at 10:00 am, 12:00 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

BTV

07:30 Bangladesh Hridoy Hotey Olympic  
12:15 Shongbad Potrer Pata Thekey  
12:30 Shashya Tothya  
01:05 Magazine Programme: Shopta Dinga  
02:05 Khelte Khelte Computer  
02:30 Hijaal Tomal  
03:05 Shukhi Paribar  
03:35 Gito Bitan  
04:00 Nitol Tata Football  
06:10 Aabohoman Bangla  
07:05 Bhalo Thakun Shushya Thakun  
07:30 Mortal Combat Conquest  
08:25 Protidin Bangladesh  
08:35 Athens Olympic 2004 highlights  
10:35 Kamon Aaachhen

CHANNEL-i

09:30 Shongbad Potrey Bangladesh and Public reaction  
09:45 Trityo Matra  
10:45 Sports Time  
11:30 Close Up Jake Box  
12:00 Chithi Pelam  
12:30 Aaj Dupurey and CityCell Taroka kathon  
01:00 Ebonj Cinemar Gaan Public Reaction  
01:30 Bangla Film: Gariber Ahonkar  
04:00 Banglar Gaan  
04:30 Poribesh Ponikroma  
05:00 Sa Re Ga Ma  
05:35 Jonopoder Khorob  
05:45 Gaaner Opare  
06:10 Music Plus  
06:45 Gillette World Sports  
07:55 RC Travel On  
08:25 Drama Serial: Kichhu Megh Kichhu Roddur  
09:35 Drama Serial: Din

Choley Jay Drama Serial: Gunai Bibi  
10:00

ATN BANGLA

10:30 Talk Show: Annodrishti  
11:15 Drama Serial: Betu Niranjan  
11:50 Musical Programme  
12:30 Bangla Feature Film: Mohon Mala  
03:45 Uro Cola Saat Rang  
04:20 Shapla Shaluk  
05:10 Motamot  
05:45 Islamee Sawal O Jawab  
08:00 Gondhoraz Samsung  
08:30 Drama Serial: Khwab  
09:00 Drama Serial: Shu Patrer Shondhane  
09:30 Drama Serial: New Files  
10:30 Face to Face Live

ntv

08:00 Aajker Shakal  
08:30 Kobitalaap  
09:00 Shongbad  
09:30 Expedition Animal Kingdom  
10:02 Zoo Adventure  
10:30 Aarshinagar  
11:00 Transworld Sports  
12:02 Circus Lights  
02:35 Sporsher baire  
03:05 Band Music  
03:45 Drama Serial: Shyaola Fardi  
04:25 Drama Serial: Apanar Jigyasha  
06:20 Shubho Shondhya  
06:55 Sports World  
08:15 Siddika Kabir's Recipe  
08:50 Kichhu Katha Kichhu Gan  
09:40 Drama Serial: Shyaola Dindarpan  
11:25  
TARA BANGLA  
2:00 Taka Na Sona  
2:30 Tarpor Chand Uthlo  
3:00 Swapner Rang Neel

PICK OF THE DAY



Shu Patrer Shondhane

On ATN Bangla at 09:00 p.m.

Genre: Drama Serial

Cast: Bulbul Ahmed, Jahanara Ahmed, Meem

Begum Momotaz Hossain's script depicts the family life of a retired Superintendent of Police (SP) named Anwar Hussain. His widowed elder sister and a servant live with his family. A university student named Lovely comes to stay with them. From this point onwards, the plot of the play takes a new twist. Harunur Rashid directs the new serial.

4:00 Baro Eka Lage  
4:30 Filmi Furti  
5:00 Chare O Baire  
6:00 Serial Yug  
6:30 Taka Na Sona  
7:00 Sree Ramkrishna  
7:30 Tarpor Chand Uthlo  
8:00 Antakshari  
8:30 Swapner Rang Neel  
9:00 Baro Eka Lage  
10:00 Live Doshtai

20: Strung Along  
The Gathering Storm  
4:00 Kkusum  
4:30 Ayushmaan  
5:00 Ham 2 Hain Na  
6:00 Heena  
6:30 Naam Gum Jayega  
7:00 Ghar Ek Mandir  
7:30 Kuchh Jhuki Palkein  
8:00 Disney Hour  
8:30 Chaitbustars  
9:00 Boogie Woogie  
9:30 Hum 2 Hain Na  
10:00 Ayushmaan  
10:30 Kkusum  
11:00 Jassi Jaissi Koi Nahin  
11:30 Ye Meri Life Hai  
12:00 Aahat  
12:30 Music Mantra  
13:00 Tele Shopping Network  
13:30 Saaya

Whose Line Is It Anyway  
Miami Vice  
The Simpsons  
Home Improvement  
Friends  
Just Shoot Me  
Ed  
The Practice  
N.Y.P.D. Blue  
Baywatch

Kumkum - Pyara Sa Bandhan  
Shaka Laka Boom Boom  
Dekho Magar Pyaar Se  
Kasauti Zindagi Kay  
Sanjivani - A Medical Boon  
Kahaani Ghar Ghar Ki  
Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi  
Kahiin To Hoga  
Kaahin Kissi Roz

the Russian Front  
The Fastest, Tallest, Biggest Motorcycle  
Lightning  
Cars Extreme Machines  
Supercars  
Casino Diaries: The Professional  
For Women Only  
Berman & Berman  
Postpartum  
Future Perfect  
Destination Future Space  
Exploration

Animal Athletes  
The Most Extreme Jumpers  
Vets in Practice  
Better out than in  
Emergency Vets  
Tough Decisions  
Emergency Vets  
Thunderbolts  
Breed all about it  
Pug  
Elephant Trilogy  
Amazing Animal Videos  
Season  
Wildlife Specials  
Tiger Hunted Majesty  
Animal Planet Reveals  
Takugama  
Animal Planet Reveals  
Becoming Wild

Animal Athletes  
The Most Extreme Speed  
Wildlife Specials  
Lion  
Harsha Unplugged  
Cricket Gold (R)  
Windsurfing  
Pkra  
Fuerteventura  
Grand Prix  
English Premier Football  
League  
Watersports  
Programing Hot Water (T)  
Extreme Programming

World Pool Championships 2004  
2004 Senior Open Championship  
Highlights  
Lpga Golf  
Streetball: The 2004 And 1 Mix Tape Tour (T)  
Asian X Games  
English Premier Football League  
Streetball The 2004 And 1 Mix Tape Tour (L)  
Sportscenter India (L)  
Goalst (T)  
West Indies Tour Of England  
Npower Test Series 3<sup>rd</sup> Test Day 5 Highlights (R)  
Samsung Superskills Final-

TEN SPORTS

WWE: Smackdown  
European Tour Weekly  
86th PGA Champs : Day 4  
Legend 04: Shoaib Akhtar  
European Tour Weekly  
WWE: After Burn  
Copa America Highlights  
German Football H/Ls  
In quest of another world of record  
Golf Highlights  
WWE: After Burn