CULTURE

Dhali Al Mamoon's powerful visual art

HARUN UR RASHID

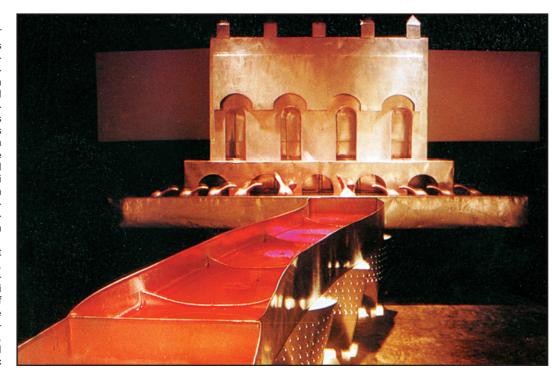
RTIST Dhali Al Mamoon's assertion 'Water is Innoassertion vyater cent!' may sound outrageous especially at this time when many parts of the country are still under water after the heavy downpour of last week. However, his mind-blowing installation of this title will remain a milestone as an increasingly popular art form. The long-awaited display was opened at the Nalinikanta Bhattashali gallery of the National Museum on September 18 for the Dhaka audience. Earlier in April it was inaugurated at the Alliance Française in Chittagong

The 'multi-disciplinary visual art project', as Mamoon calls his work, presents a metaphorical expression of the effect of the Kaptai barrage on the ethnic community of the Chittagong Hill Tracts. The installation depicts different connotations of the natural element, water, in the sociopolitical and religious levels of these ethnic people's life. And to do this Mamoon has used a number of art mediums like painting, sculpture, photography, film, and sound, and text, kinetic movements and even

The barrage was built in the 1950s with a multi-purpose end in view: besides producing hydroelectricity, the dam was supposed to control floods in the region and irrigate a vast area of cultivable lands. Ironically, except for serving its primary purpose, it has failed in the other fields: the adjacent areas have been victim to heavy deluge since the very beginning of the dam's operation. And these effects have gradually dislodged the inhabiting ethnic groups. Also, the electricity has remained unavailable to

these people The central artwork at the display

ULTURAL FEAS



Water is Innocent!: Red water submerges the replica of the Chakma Rajbari

is a presentation of the loss of an ethnic heritage, the Chakma Rajbari (palace). The huge water body created by the dam has completely submerged most of the Chakma establishments. Mamoon takes the Rajbari as the symbol of that lost heritage and used it in his installa-The galvanised-tin-made replica is presented as being halfmerged in red water. Mamoon's use of red water strikes at the very conscience of the audience. Pots made from watergourd shell, which are used by the Chakmas to bring water, have been placed in the water. The whole effect is the bizarreness created by the dam.

However, entering the gallery one would be first affected by the sounds of a video documentary being screened there. The documentary shows the vast body of water in the Kaptai Lake, while the sounds of slightly obscured Tibetan chant create an aweinspiring feeling in the mind of the spectators. It appropriately corresponds to the terror of water's destructive all-engulfing aspect. Internationally acclaimed filmmaker Tareque Masud said at the inaugurating session, 'Mamoon's use of documentary in this installation will remain an exemplary work

A group of paintings show the rituals of baptism by a priest. Beneath the paintings Mamoon has placed a few cross-shaped

troughs while red water spills across the paintings in the troughs. Mamoon opines that converting the ethnic people into other religions have been another form of brutal colonialism, which is an aggression on the ethnicity of these people.

Mamoon's 'understanding and capability of working in different mediums of visual arts and cinematic forms are comprehensibly evident here.' savs Abul Mansul regarding this recent project. 'The motive of the work is to reconsider the issue at hand or to re-examine the questions inherent in it,' says artist Dhali Al Mamoon

Zeenat to Graduate soon

Title: Wim Wenders Retrospective Organiser: Zahir Raihan Film Society Venue: Goethe-Institut Dhaka Date: 19-21 September

September 20 3.00pm: Lisbon Story 5.00pm: Nick's Film 7.00pm: Paris, Texas

September 21 3.00pm: Until the End of the World 5.40pm: The End of Violence 7.45pm: The Million Dollar Hotel

The retrospective features films made by 'New German' filmmaker Wim Wenders (Born, Dusseldorf, Germany,

Exhibition

Visual Art

Title: Water is Innocent! Artist: Dhali Al Mamur Venue: NK Bhattashali Gallery, National Museum Time: September 18-24 from 03pm to PALLAB BHATTACHARYA. New Delhi

She was the sizzler of the 1970s in Bollywood. But time has not withered her appeal and she is back in the news and remains close to the world of acting, be it the big screen or the theatre. That is the story of actress Zeenat Aman who has daz-

zled the silver screen with films like Hare Rama Hare Krishna and Shalimar and lending her lips to hit songs like Dum Maro Dum, Aap Jaisa Koi Nahin and Laila O Laila. Aman is now ready to take the stage with the first Indian adaptation of the super-hit Hollywood movie of 1967 *The*

Graduate, starring Dustin Hoffman and Anne Bancroft. The stage performance of The Graduate will see Aman

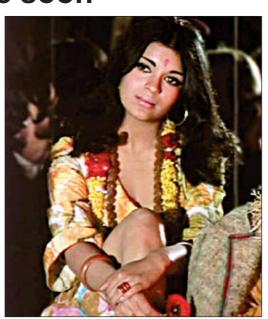
in the role of Mrs Robinson, played in the film by Bancroft, a middle-aged woman who seduces young graduate Benjamin Braddock essayed by Hoffman in the movie. The stage production will start in Mumbai in October. The Graduate had also been successfully produced

the stage in the Broadway with Jerry Hall role of Mrs Robinson. Asked on her reaction to the seduction scenes in the

play, Zeenat Aman, said Divya Palat, who is directing the stage adaptation of The Graduate in Mumbai, had assured her that the scenes would be dealt with due In theatre, says the actress, there is no re-take and whatever you do right or wrong it is there. In cinema, the

challenge is different. The actor has to sustain the emotion of the role he or she is playing till the shot is over to the satisfaction of the director, adds Aman. When Zeenat Aman, after a long hibernation from

cinema staged a comeback to movie with Bhonal Express and Kaizad Gustad directed Boom recently, it



was another instance of Bollywood re-discovering the acting potential of an old-timer in line with Sharmila Tagore, Tanuja, Jaya Bachchan and Moushumi Chatterjee.

Away from films, Aman is enjoying the role of a single $mother and \, her \, 18 \hbox{--} year \hbox{--} old \, son \, is \, studying \, films \, in \, London.$

Street-theatre with aplomb

Four young French performers in town

Quatre symphonie pour valise, a delectable street theatre show by four young performers from Limoges and Toulouse (France), was held on September 17. The delightful and expert street-theatre performers were Gaelle Chabrol. Anais Longieras, Elsa Coeffe and Caroline Guilout The setting for the performance, the Alliance Française open-air auditorium had the audience holding their sides with laughter. This included both the adults and children present .The theatre enthusiasts were from different echelons of Dhaka, and included expatriates.

The stage was covered with a turquoise and white striped tarpaulin covering. One of the chopped trees in the sitting area had been draped with matching twisted layers of cloth. Idyllic floral motifs were found on the two sides of the setting. There were two spotlights. Necessary music was piped in. Despite the fact that three of the part-time performers were lost on the way--(before the performance) both the children and adults were laughing merrily and clapping with delight at each segment of the performance. The costumes included simple but flamboyant blouses, trousers, top hats and ribbons. The twirls and swirls of the pencil make- up, the accessories were minimal.

One swashbuckling member of the audience was brought on stage, while the four performers danced, mimed and walked along the aisles. The juggling and the rhythm of the performance had such a rapport that the ad lib participation of the local audience merged with the acting. The audience hung on till beyond 8.30 p m, waiting impatiently just to congratulate the troupe. The performers, took no respite and spoke with The Daily Star(TDS) about their origin, experience and memories of their visits to different places where they had performed.

The four performers, speaking to TDS, were outspoken and to the point. Gaelle Chabrol, with Anais Longieras their leader, explained that their performance was aimed at deprived chil-



Performers seen at an enchanting evening

dren in a workshop in future in Dhaka, to celebrate the week of Children's Rights, sometime in future. The steady rains in Dhaka had arrested final future planning. They had been requested by Pascal Janovjak, the Deputy Director, AF to give a performance for the audience that day. The young performers, who ranged from college and university students, said that they loved the heavy downpour in Dhaka. Their leader was Anais, the professional street- theatre per-

The four young ladies said that they performed in France in the same manner, going along the streets of France, not minding any bad weather or odd response as they had been trained to act at any cost. They acted both with adults and children in France, and here they had worked with 20 street children, at a boys' hostel in Dhaka. 'We worked each day for hours with the 20 children, and we taught them the art of theatre and circus, which they are already exposed to. We hope to present a show in which the children will perform,' said one of the per-

Asked how the troupe had come together and if they faced any difficulties while performing they said, 'In France, ten years ago, the four of us had got together to create street-theatre for children, calling ourselves, Un trefle a quatre femmes. When we were much younger, as girls we practiced with Gaelle, our leader. It didn't matter that three of us were lost along the way to Alliance Francaise as we are trained to perform with self-confidence under any circumstances.'

The street theatre show brightened one's spirits despite the dull weather and the humdrum

'Road movies' of Wim Wenders are screened

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Wim Wenders is the well known contemporary German filmmaker. At the same time, he is the most 'American' of all the 'New German' filmmakers. He grew up in the late 1960s as a filmmaker, though he had previously studied medicine and painting. The 'New German Cinema' began in the early years of the 1960s as a reaction to the prevailing practice of making films that dealt with melodramatic and sentimental themes. In the year 1962, at the Oberhausen Short Film Festival, the young film enthusiasts and would-be filmmakers declared, 'The old cinema is dead, we believe in the New'. That was the beginning of the 'New German Cinema'. Wim Wenders belong to the second generation of this film movement. To this second generation also belong Rainer Werner Fassbinder, Werner Herzog, Volker Schlondorff, Hauff. Wenders was born on August

14. 1945 in Dusseldorf. He grew up in the post-war Germany in the American atmosphere. As a result, his films refer to American themes quite often. His sensibility was developed by the American comedy films of Mack Sennet, Buster Keaton and Charlie Chaplin (these film footages he inherited from his father along with a 9.5mm film projector) and the German ver-

sions of Walt Disney comic strips. He studied filmmaking at the newly founded Munich Film School. His early short and experimental films contain long takes with almost no camera movement. His graduation film Summer in the City was shot on 16mm black and white film. His collaboration with Austrian novelist and screenplay-writer Peter Handke and cinematographer Robby Muller along with an ensemble cast produced some of the finest films in the history of German cinema. His important early films are The Goalkeeper's Fear of the Penalty (1971), Alice in the Cities (1974). False Movement (1974). Kings of the Road (1976). His 10-year long 'trip' to America

NTIL THE END OF

11:00 Kvunki Saas Bhi

11:30 Kahiin To Hoga

12:00 Kaahin Kissi Roz

STAR WORLD

Anyway

Friends

Miami Vice

The Simpsons

Just Shoot Me

Still Standing

Yes Dear

10:30 The World's Scariest

On Tape 1

12:30 Alias (Season Iii) 20

On Tape 1

11:30 Rescue 911 71

Explosions Caught

Rescue 911 72

Worst-Case Scenario

The World's Scaries

Explosions Caught

Becker

10:30 Boston Public

11:30 Baywatch

That 70s Show

Home Improvement

2:30

3:30

4:30

5:00

5:30

6:30

7:00

7:30

8:00

8:30

9:00

9:30

10:00

AXN

12:00

1:30

Kabhi Bahu Thi

Oprah Winfrey

Bold And Beautiful

Hollywood Squares

Whose Line Is It

Bear' at Berlin), Hammett (1983), Paris, Texas (1984, winner of 'Golden Palm' at Cannes). Anxiety and alienation along with 'wanderlust' are frequent themes in his work. The 'wanderlust' or the love for the road usually comes from a male point of view and it gives his films extra significance. He is the finest exponent of 'Road Movies', films in which we

lisbon story

A Film by Wim Wonders

produced films like The American

Friend (1977), Nick's Film Light-

ning over Water (1980), The State

of Things (1982, winner of 'Golden

see the central characters always on the move. He is popularly, and more appropriately, called the maker of 'road movies'. The name of his production house is the 'Road



German film maestro Wim Wender

Movies Productions'.

Some of his critically acclaimed recent films are: Wings of Desire (1987). Until the End of the World (1991), Lisbon Story (1994), Beyond the Clouds (1996, made jointly with world renowned Italian filmmaker Michelangelo Antonioni), The End of Violence (1997), Buena Vista Social Club (1999) and The Million Dollar Hotel (2000). Wim Wenders is the honorary president of the European Film Academy. Zahir Raihan Film Society is

screening nine of his famous films at the Goethe-Institut Dhaka on 19-21 September, 2004.

TV GUIDE

PICK OF THE DAY

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

News Bulletin

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. 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, 11:00am.1:00pm.3:00 pm 4:00pm.6:00 pm and 8:00 pm.

News Headlines (Bangla) at 10:00

am. 12:00 am. 6:15 pm. 9:30 News (Bangla) 7:30 am. 2:00 pm. 5:00 pm.7:30 pm.10:30 pm.

Telecast of BTV News (Bangla and

TARA BANGLA

NewsHeadlines(Bangla) at 5:30 pm Tara News (Bangla) at 8:30 pm.

CHANNEL-i

9:45	Tritiyo Matra
1:30	Kathamrito
2:00	Chithi Pelam
2:30	Aaj Dupurey
1:00	Ebong Cinema
	Casa

01:30 Public Reaction Bangla Feature Film: Achena Manush 04:00 Banglar Gaan

Janapoder Khobor Aalokito Bangla-06:10 Music Plus Banijyo o Arthoniti Drama Serial: 07:50

Sa Re Ga Ma

Keboli Raat Hoye 08:25 Drama Serial: Bijli Boarding Film Show: Beast

Master 10:00 Drama Serial: Amader Chhoto Nodi

ntv 08:30 Gombhira 09:00 Khabor Deshey Deshey 09:30 Expedition to

Animal Kingdom Natoker Gaan 10:30 Dhakar Cinema

02:30 Drama Serial: Tin 03:05 Right Click 03:40 Drama Serial: Chena Dukkha Achena Shukh

04:25 Putul Naach

05:20 Aapnar Jigyasha

6:00 Second 9:30

12:00 Rock Star 2:00 Titanic Town 4:00 The Skulls II Tales from the Crypt 11: Split Proof of Life Black Hawk Down 12:15 On Deadly Ground

Leap of Faith

Rock Star

10:15 The Incredible

Shrinking Woman

06-20 Shubho Shondhya 06:50 Crime Watch Drama Serial: Sporsher Bairey

09:40 Drama Serial: Chena Dukkha Achena Shukh 11:20 Dindarpan

ATN BANGLA 10:30 Annordrishti

08:50 Sunsilk Opshora

11:15 Drama Serial: Baba 11:50 Law Based Programme 12:30 Bangla Feature Film: Love in Simla

03:45 Uro Cola Saat Rang 04:20 Flying House 05:10 Matir Subas 05:45 Islami sawaal o iawab 06:20 Shobar Jonya

08:00 Shongshar Jibon Drama Serial: Nesantik 09:00 Sushtha thakun

10:35 Katha Mala **HBO** 8:15 Striking Distance

What not to Wear 1:00 1:30 Baby Stories Kitchen Chemistry 2:00 2:30 **Detective Stories** 3:30 Will Discovery 4:30 Mystery Hunters 5:00 Truth or Scare 5:30 Bazaar Great Castles of 6:00 Europe 6:30 Ushuaia Nature 7:30 Will Discovery 8:30 Amazing baby Videos

Amazing baby

Monster House

Videos

10:00 Unsolved History

9:00

9:30

DISCOVERY

12:30 Perfect Man

Keboli Raat Hoye Jay

On Channel-i at 7:50 p.m.

Cast: Doli Zahur, Mahfuz, Sweeti

Genre: Drama Serial

11:30 New Detectives STAR MOVIES

Black Knight 10:30 Reality Bites Shark Attack 3:Megalodon 1:40 Man From Elysian Fields 3:25 Looking For Rich-

5:15 Groundhog Day 7:00 Bollywood Queen 8:30 12 Monkeys 10:45 Reality Bites 12:30 Mister Johnson STAR GOLD

Kuch Hit Kuch

Superhit

Baazi

9:50

9:55

12 Monkeys

On Star Movies at 8:30 p.m. Genre: Action/ Thriller/ Sci-fi Cast: Brad Pitt, Bruce Willis

1:25 Kuch Hit Kuch Superhit 4.00 Diljale 4:30 5:00 4:40 Kuch Hit Kuch Superhit 5:30 4:45 Papa The Great Kuch Hit Kuch 8:25 6:00 Superhit Jhooth Bole Kawwa Kaate

12:00 Dadagiri STAR PLUS 1:00 Kasautii Zindagi Kay 1:30 Kumkum - Pyara S

Bandhan 2:00 Bhabhi 2:30 Kesar 3:00 Kabhi Aaye Na Judai 3:30 Kyunki Saas Bhi

Fox Kids Bandhan Boom

> 9:00 9:30 Hog Chand 10:30 Kahaani Ghar Ghar

Kahiin To Hoga Kaahin Kissi Roz Zindagi Milke Bitayenge Hit Filmein Hit Sangeet- 20 M Maal Hai To Taal

Shaka Laka Boom 8:30

Dekho Magar Pyaar Kasautii Zindagi Des Mein Nikkla

Kabhi Bahu Thi

Kumkum - Pyara Sa

2:30

7 Days (Season Iii) 3:30 12 5:30 Global Adventure 3 U.S. Seals Ii: The 6:30 Ultimate Force 1 8.30 24 (Season 2) 19 Fear Factor (Season 9:30 lv) 23 10:30 3 Ninjas: High

Noon At Mega Mountain 1 12:30 Fear Factor (Season Iv) 23 Alias (Season Iii) 20

2:30 ANIMAL **PLANET**

12:30 On the Edge 1:30 Secret World of Gardens 2:30 Animal Planet 3:30 Animal Doctor 4:00 Emergency Vets 5:00 Breed all About It

Alaskan Malamutes 5:30 Planet's Funniest Animals 6:30 Planet's Funniest Animals

Amazing Animal 7:00 Videos Crocodile Hunter 8:30 3) New Zoo, A 9:30

11:30 TV with Teeth Mamba

1:30 Croc Chronicles Wildlife Diary 2:00 2:30 Built For The Kill 3:30 Frontlines Of Con-

5:30

9:30 Built For The Kill 10:30 Frontlines Of Construction 11:30 Sears Towers **ESPN** 12:30 Champions League Extra Uefa

9:00

struction

Dogs With Jobs

Planet Wild 6.30 7:00 Toyota World Of Wildlife National Geographic 7:30 Special 8.30 Croc Chronicles 9:00 Wildlife Diary

Havden Turner's

Wildlife Chall

5:30

6:00

Cricket Show 3.00 Final Score 3:30 English Premier Football League

English Premier

Football League

Middlesbrough (R)

Arsenal Vs Bolton

Wanderers

Liverpool Vs

The most Extreme Diaries The (Season

Mad Mike and Mark Year O Guad Bike 10:30 Animal Planet Showcase

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

Sears Towers

English Premier League Highlights Sportscenter **Uefa Champions** League Magazine Shows 9:30 **English Premier** Football League

Sportscenter India (R) 12:00 Sportscenter Asia

STAR SPORTS