

CULTURAL FEAST

National Zainul

Festival 2004

Schedule

December 12-January 07
Special Exhibition of Zainul Abedin

Time: 11am to 7pm on weekdays and
3:00pm to 8:00pm on Fridays

Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts,
275/F, Road 27, Dhamondi,
Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy and
Bangladesh National Museum.

Exhibition

Title: Bandhan

Artists: (Bangladesh) Qamrul Hasan,
Aminul Islam, Qayyum Chowdhury,
Debdas Chakraborty, Hashem Khan,
Samarit Roy Chowdhury, Monirul
Islam, Rafiq Nabi, Nitin Kundu,
Mahmudul Haque, Abdus Shakoor,
Firda Zaman, Ranjit Das, Maksudul
Ahsan and (India) FN Souza, MF
Husain, KG Subramanyam, Jogen
Chowdhury, Sanat Kar, Uttam Kumar
Basak, Adity Chokravarti

Venue: Shilpangan, House 25, Road
5, Dhamondi

Time: December 30-January 8, from

10am to 1pm and 5pm to 8pm

Cultural and Discussion
Programme

Occasion: 87th birth anniversary of
Shawkat Osman
Organiser: Shwanan recitation group
Discussants: Shamsur Rahman, Prof
Anisuzzaman, Bulbon Osman, Yafes
Osman
Venue: Liberation War Museum,
Shegunbagicha
Time: January 3, at 4:30pm



TRAB Awards
The Television Reporters
Association of Bangladesh (TRAB)
will announce and distribute the
TRAB Awards 2004 on February 1,
2005 at the Grand Ball Room of Pan
Pacific Sonargaon Hotel says a
press release. Selected by a special
jury board, cultural personalities
will be awarded for their perfor-
mance in television, films, music,
commercials, Jatra, theatre and
dance.

Tête-à-tête

'Man and nature are inter-related
in my art works'--Jolly

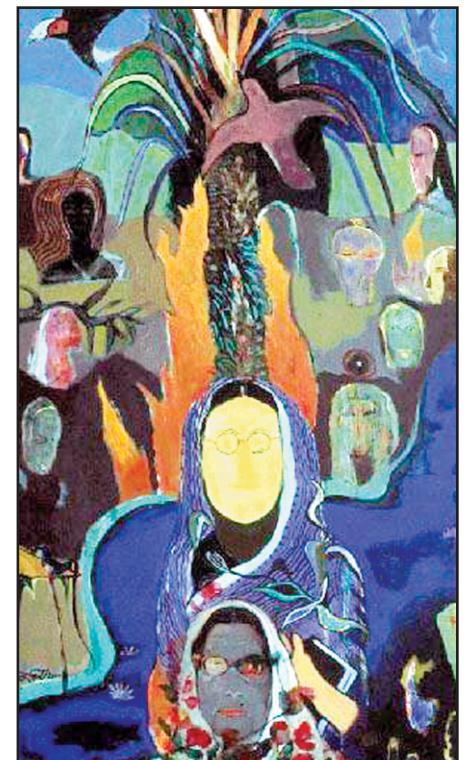
ERSHAD KAMOL

DILARA Begum Jolly is a dedicated proponent of feminist issues on the canvas. Each of her colourful paintings is an individual story--depicting the daily life through which she symbolically delivers her messages. A first glance at her bold acrylic bright-coloured lines may seem to portray the joyous lifestyles of human beings. However, behind each of Jolly's strokes, is a depiction of the inner sadness of women.

Explaining the metamorphosis of her art, Jolly says, 'In my early works, I was explicit. I used to deliver messages on gender inequalities. In those works, my canvas narrated only the darker side of a woman's life because of the discrimination in a male dominated world. However, I felt a change after my exhibition in 1992. In my paintings post 1993 onwards, I thought I was portraying only the dark side of life. So I decided to change my style. I have decided to deliver my messages through a colourful canvas which depicts real life authentically with its mixture of joy and sadness. I always try to portray the inner feelings of human beings through bright colours like violet, blue, and others on my canvas.



Krishna-Pakka 1, acrylic on canvas



Udbhash-1, acrylic on canvas

'Man and nature are inter-related in my works. Nature has its own rhythm and life. For instance, after being distracted by the gusty rain, nature again shines when the sun returns. Our life is also somewhat the same. That is why I think my canvas should depict complete life not a part,' she adds.

The plight of women is the leitmotif of Jolly's work. However, she does not claim to be a feminist. In her words, 'It is not that my sole objective is to portray the sufferings of women. I try to focus on social issues. Sometimes I feel that in the present chaotic scenario of society, no mother wants to give birth to a baby. This theme has been symbolically portrayed in a series of popular paintings called *Memories of the Past*, *Krishanapakka*, *Sita* and *Diba Ratir Kabya*.

In the *Memories of the Past* series, Jolly has made a parallel myth of the ancient fortuneteller Khana. Being jealous of her philosophical work, her in-laws cut Khana's tongue. In the *Memories of the Past* she finds the same story of oppression in the society.

Any viewer at a first glance at the colourful flying birds and fairies on her *Krishanapakka* series may interpret it as a joyful picture of life. However, the female pale faces of burnt sienna with deep blue eyes tell an opposite tale. In fact, her *Krishanapakka* depicts how bad days can be interspersed with joyous elements.

Sita is another interesting venture by Jolly. In this series, she has also created another

parallel myth of legendary *Sita*. In *Ramayana*, after being rescued from Ravan's captivity, the innocent *Sita* had to prove her purity. In Jolly's interpretation of the epic, she is a victim of social injustice. Even her husband Rama, did not stand up for her.

Jolly, in her *Sita* series has symbolically portrayed thousands of contemporary *Sitas* who are the victims of such unfair treatment. In the series, the female has been portrayed like a statue in burnt sienna, in the embrace of a god. This depiction symbolically indicates that a female nothing else but a pawn in the society who has no view of her own.

Diba Ratir Kabya is the most mature of Jolly's works. Each canvas of this series is an individual novel. She says, 'I cannot write a novel like Syed Waliullah's *Laalshah*, but I can paint. As a painter, I write novels on my canvas where the acrylic colours are ink and my brush is the pen. I think, my *Diba Ratir Kabya* series

can mirror social issues.'

So far Dilara Begum Jolly has taken part in solo and group exhibitions at home and abroad. For her superb work, she has won prestigious awards like Honourable Mention 12th National Art Exhibition by Shilpakala Academy in 1996 and others.

More power to Jolly's brush so that she can continue as a champion of women and social issues.

The unrecognisable Travolta

AP, Los Angeles



John Travolta is almost unrecognisable when he's first on the screen in the drama *A Love Song for Bobby Long*. His hair is white, and his face is drawn and beaten.

Travolta said he worried that if he didn't look that way, he wouldn't be believable, 'and that's more frightening to an actor than looking good.'

In *A Love Song for Bobby Long*, Travolta plays a former literature professor whose life has taken an alcohol-fuelled nosedive. He sits on the front porch of a dilapidated house outside New Orleans, drunk all day on cheap vodka. Scarlett Johansson also stars in the film.

Travolta, nominated for best actor Oscars for *Pulp Fiction* and *Saturday Night Fever*, said he doesn't have to live the experiences of his characters to be credible on the screen. 'I was never a heroin addict or a hit man, either,' the 50-year-old actor told.

NSD drama festival begins

Bangladesh theatre goes to India

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

A 16-day long drama festival titled Bharat Ranga Maha-Utsav, among the most prestigious theatre festivals of the subcontinent, begins from January 5, in Delhi, India. The festival is a joint venture of NSD (National School of Drama) and the Ministry of Cultural Affairs of India. The festival will run simultaneously at eight venues.

Besides Bangladesh, theatre troupes from Germany, Japan, China, Nepal and host India will also participate in the festival.

The Centre for Asian Theatre (CAT) will represent Bangladesh. CAT will stage the Bangla version of Eugene Ionesco's absurd comedy *The Lesson*, directed by Mejrema Reuter. Mejrema, a Croatian, was



The Lesson, a CAT production to be staged at the festival

seas.

Kamaluddin Nilu, the General Secretary of CAT, said, 'This is the third time we are participating in the NSD drama festival. Earlier in 2002, we staged *Bhela Shundori* and in 2004 we staged *The Mission*. We will stage *The Lesson* on January 7, at Kamani Stage in Delhi. *The Lesson* is translated by Saidus Saqlain, Sabina Sultana, Rokeya Rafiq Baby and I will perform in the play.'

Another eminent theatre activist, Azad Abul Kalam is also participating at the Bharat Ranga Maha-Utsav. He is one of the directors of *Babarnama*, a play on the autobiography of Mughal Emperor Babar.

Directors from five countries-- Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Nepal and Sri Lanka-- have been selected as the directors for *Babarnama*, which is a project of Japan Foundation Asia Centre (JFAC). Azad Abul Kalam said, JFAC has worked to introduce contemporary Asian Theatre to the Japanese audience.

Through the collaborative creation of a theatre piece, each participating director has been given the chance to gauge the particular problems of their native lands through a universal perspective and to discover the achievement of today's theatre. As Mughal Emperor Babar was the ruler of the subcontinent and wrote a wonderful autobiography, *Babarnama* has been selected for JFAC current project.'

Babarnama will be staged on January 7 in the NSD festival.

'As the host nation will have to bear a part of the production cost, *Babarnama* will not be staged in Bangladesh,' added Azad.

an active theatre personality in Dhaka and has since settled over-

seas.

Yakub, a dedicated Nazrul singer

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Yakub Ali Khan, a popular Nazrul singer, is one of the members of the newly formed Nazrul Parishad. The organisation aims to present the original compositions of Nazrul and carry out research work on the songs of our National Poet.

Yakub started his music career when he was a student of class eight. He says, 'I learnt the basics of music from Purnachandra Sutradhar and then I learnt classical music from Prabir Chattarjee at Mymensingh. When I came to Dhaka, I got admitted at the College of Music and there I studied classical and Nazrul songs.'

'We were tutored by Ustad Bari in Majumdar and Narayanchandra Basak at the college level. Sheikh Lutfar Rahman and Khalid Hossain taught us Nazrul songs. After completing my music study I have trained from Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy.'

Music teaching is a profession for the enlisted television and radio Nazrul singer Yakub. He says, 'I follow the *Kirana gharana* (trend) in classical songs. Amongst the 33 genres of Nazrul's songs, I prefer the classic-based songs-- basically *Thumri*, *Kheyal*, *Ghazal*. The rich lyrics in *Kabyagiti* inspire me greatly. I make it a point to teach my students these forms of music.'

'Nowadays, authentic lyrics as well as tunes for a number of Nazrul songs are a matter of concern.'



non-governmental organisation, Nazrul Parishad has been formed very recently. But I think that people in the cultural field should work closely together attentively to give a boost to Nazrul Sangeet.'

In Bangladesh, Yakub enjoys the works of Nazrul singers, such as Shabnam Mushtari, Ferdous Ara, Khairul Anam Shakil and Abhijit Saha.

He stood first in the classical-Nazrul music competition arranged by Shilpakala in 1979. At present he is busy with the recording of his new CD on Nazrul songs.

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) at 11:30 pm.

CHANNEL-I
News Headlines (Bangla) at 7:15 am; 9:00 am; 7:15 pm; 9:00 pm; 10:30; 12:15 pm.
Telecast of BTV news (Bangla and English) at 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 ATN news (Bangla and English) 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.

tv
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 TV 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 Bangladesher Hridoy
Hotey
09:00 Satellite Programmes
12:15 Shabdapotro Pata
Theke
12:30 Shasthya Tathya
01:05 Musical Programme
07:00 News Headlines, Share
Market, Weather
Forecast

09:30 Special Programme
10:25 Tekrif Theke Tetulla
10:30 Magazine Programme
12:05 SATELLITE
PROGRAMMES

09:45 Triyoti Matra
Uchcho Shikkh Desh
Bidesh
11:30 TVC Sky Shop
12:00 Chithi Pelam
12:30 Aj Dipurey O Citycell
13:00 Tarakalokhon

01:00 Ebong Cinemar Gaan
01:30 Bangla Feature Film
03:45 Sa Re Ga Ma
05:30 Children's Programme
06:00 Music Plus
06:30 Banijo O Aronhit
07:50 Drama Serial: Keboli
Raat Hoye Jay
08:25 Sunsilk Opshora
09:35 Drama Serial: Shomprana Rangin
10:00 Career Show

11:30 The Witches of
Eastwick
14:55 Training Day
14:15 Training Day
14:45 Aneka Raat
14:45 Star MOVIES

08:40 Hart's War
09:00 Taaza Hits
10:45 Target (A.K.A. Falcon)
12:15 Aneka Raat
2:00 Putul Naach

04:25 SAARC Programme
10:05 Nil Paher Gaan
10:30 Dhakar Cinema
12:30 Drama Serial: Jhut
Jhamela
03:05 Shanshkrir Saltamani
03:40 Drama Serial: Akashay
04:25

ATN BANGLA

10:30 Training Day
9:30 Cinema Stories III Ep
2:00 Visions of the Future

9:05 The Paradise Virus

10:45 Target (A.K.A. Falcon)

12:15 Skeletons

9:10 Khuda Gawah

1:30 Pyasa - Triple Aar

4:10 Maya

4:45 Dushmani

8:30 Hapeeqat

11:45 Aaj Ki Aurat

8:30 Hello Dollie

9:00 Kumkum - Pyara Sa

7:55 Film Topper

12:15 Bandhan

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