

National Art Exhibition

Showcasing artistic talent

FAYZA HAQ

THE National Art Exhibition is on once more at the Shilpakala Academy for the 16th time. The prize winning entries are thought provoking and mind boggling. These include the works of Mohamed Eunos, Ahmed Nazir, Jamal Ahmed, Sudipta Mallick Sweden and Bipul Shah. The successful prize winners include artists who have won acclaim earlier, with their excellent works, both at home and overseas.

Mohammed Eunos's work, *Restoration of civilisation*, that won the Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy Award, is a mass of gray and umber swirls and curls, that stand for the wreckage of civilisation, which has to be put together. The image looks like the back of a modern machine where the wires have been pulled out and have to be reassembled.

The Arab Bangladesh Award goes to Farouk Ahmad's *Composition-1* which has details of motifs of flowers with their stems and flower pots. These appear to have been pieced together as in a careful collage of burnt umber and yellow ochre set on white. The Bengal Foundation Award went to Ahmed Shamsuddoha with his *Civilisation*, which presents a handful of fruit-like images, complete with stem and leaves, resting on a sheet of paper.

The Dipa Haq Award went to Jamal Ahmed's *Gypsy girl*. This sketch of a woman, complete with ornaments, standing against her barge, done in a sketch is eye-catching indeed. The realistic work wins the heart of those who are blasé with



Gypsy girl by Jamal Ahmed

the everyday profusion of abstractions. Ahmed Nazir's *The war file-2* talks of degradation, death and ruination. It shows charts of pulse rates and X-ray images of the injured and dying during the 1971 holocaust. This won an honourable mention. Another such award was won by Sudipta Mallick, Sweden with his wooden masks *Sunk-1*, and Bipul Shah with his *Exercise in wreckage 1*. The sculpture

work of *Magic of life* by Md Mahmudul Hasan got the Grameen Phone Award

Abdus Sattar's *Three maidens* is a presentation of beautiful women with voluptuous figures and flowing garments in shades of yellow and brown. It reminds one of Chughtai's idyllic portraits. Abdus Shakoor's *Ballad and faces* has women's faces in shades of blue and black, framed by bars of scroll writing bearing folk poetry.

Sheikh Afzal's *Painting-1* depicts the delightful image of a seated woman in a pale saffron sari, tying up her hair. It has images of seated children in the backdrop.

Fareha Zeba's *Self confidence-1* has women's emancipation as its primary slant. Kazi Salahuddin Ahmed's *Urban Site-29* depicts the city in an aerial view, where the roads are serpentine black while the buildings are like bright geometrical shapes – crying out for attention and placed in a rectangular frame. Kuhu's *Anticipation* focuses on a woman waiting by the window, waiting either for a client (as the artist often deals with sex workers) or just her beloved coming home from work. Kanak Chanpa Chakma's *Fishing* ushers in the fog and mist in the Hill Tracts, with women trapping fish in the water with their baskets. The painting appears like stripes of black and midnight blue with traces of lines that give the details of the figures and the woods beyond.

Ivy Zaman's *Steps of life* is a creation with undoubted mystery and imagination, where one is confronted with blue footprints that circle a white dome. Another highly imaginative creation is the sculpture by Rajaiul Islam Lovelu, with its twirling, gliding and swirling lines of carved wooden figure depicting a maiden in the woods. Nazlee Laila Mansur's *Untitled* is a surrealistic creation with raw colours and conventional images mixed with her own creations in black and gray.

Clearly in 2005, artists are rediscovering themselves and fortifying their creative prowess with refreshing works.

Theatre

Nagarik presents Tagore's Trilogy

ERSHAD KAMOL

The Indian epic *Mahabharata* has spawned many adapted plays in Bangladesh. Nagarik Natyasamprad aya has added one more to the genre by staging Tagore's Trilogy, on March 12 at the Experimental Theatre Stage.

Is this really a trilogy? Ataur Rahman the director of the play said, "As the three plays have no continuous succession like other trilogies, in that sense it is not a trilogy. But all the lyrical-plays deal with same issue—the fall of morality in human beings. And Tagore has his own interpretation during the adaptation."

Nagorik's Trilogy started with *Karnakunti Shangbad*, in which Rajib De performed as Karna and Farhana Mithu played in the role of Kunti, mother of Karna. During the crisis when the Pandavas and Kauravs are face to face, the formers' mother Kunti comes to Karna, whom she had left to secure her reputation. During Karna's evening prayer, Kunti comes and tries to bring about a compromise between the brothers. Then a conflict arises between the mother and son. What is more important emotion or principle? Karna continues his heroism and rejects his mother's request. Rajib knows the tricks of performing in the lyrical-play written in verse form. His bold and spontaneous performance is perfect to play the role of a legendary character. On the other hand Farhana Mithu failed to maintain the high standards demanded for the role of Kunti.

To create the ambience of the first part of the trilogy, set designer Shaiful Islam has used replicated war tools like chariot, buckler, harpoon, arrow and others. Stagecraft settings of *Karnakunti Shangbad* by designer Shaiful departs from his own style. Here, he doesn't use any painted vertical element, but in the following two parts of the Trilogy: *Biday*



Aupi Karim and Gazi Rakayet in *Biday Abhishap*

Abhishap and *Gandharir Abedanhe* returns to his own style and uses painted vertical stagecraft.

In the second part of the Trilogy *Biday Abhishap* two popular TV stars, Aupi Karim and Gazi Rakayet play the roles of Debjani and Kach. Director Ataur Rahman could not create the necessary dramatic conflict for a situation when a woman is deceived by her beloved. When Kach refuses the love of Debjani, Aupi Karim as Debjani failed to express emotion. However, in the romantic scenes she performed quite well. On the other hand Gazi Rakayet needs improve his skills in a lyrical drama.

Gandharir Abedon, the final and

biggest part of the trilogy, introduces the conflict between truth and relationships. In this part, central character Gandhari, the Kaurava's mother, raises her voice against the injustice of her sons.

This part of the Trilogy is more interesting than the others. If all the performers of this part could give their best possible output, this part would have become a classic.

Light designer Nasirul Haque Khokon has tried to catch the mood and tempo of the play by using symbolic colour effect on the cyclorama.

Khaled Khan's music compositions were enjoyable.

CULTURAL FEAST

Exhibitions

Title: Bangladesher shilpakala: Bismritir Shatabarsha

Organiser: Adhuna Khulna Art College

Venue: Nalinikanto Bhattachali Exhibition Gallery, National Museum

Date: March 11-16

16th National Art Exhibition

Artists: Eminent and promising artists of the country

Venue: National Art Gallery, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy

Date: March 12-April 11, from 1am to 7pm and 3pm to 8pm on weekends

French New Wave Film Festival

Organiser: Zahir Raihan Film Society

Venue: Alliance Francaise, 26, Mirpur Road, Dhanmondi

Time: March 06-16

SCHEDULE

March 14

05:00pm And Now, Ladies and Gentlemen

07:00pm Death in a French Garden

March 15

05:00pm The Beautiful Troublemaker!

March 16

05:00pm Heart Beat

07:00pm First Name: Carmen

Play

Title: Trinsho Shatabdi

Group: Swapnodal

Venue: Experimental Theatre Hall, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy

Date: March 14, at 7pm

Children's Drama Festival

Organiser: People's Theatre Association

Venue: Shawkat Osman Memorial, National Public Library

Date: March 11-24

Up-close

Stringing a chaplet of tunes - Strings

KARIM WAHEED

TO most young music-lovers who follow the genre of subcontinental band music, *Strings* is a familiar name. *Faisal Kapadia* and *Bilal Maqsood*, who hail from Pakistan formed this pop-rock group in 1989. Although *Strings* has been in the musical arena for over a decade, this group shot to fame with their album "Duur", which was released in 2000. With the accomplishment of "Duur" and the albums that followed, *Strings* became popular in India. Their last album "Dhaani" and one particular song from that album "Najaney Kyun" elevated *Strings* to a new level of popularity. "Najaney Kyun" was used in the soundtrack of "Spiderman 2" when the blockbuster movie was released in India.

The duo of *Strings* are in Dhaka right now to perform at concerts arranged by Benson & Hedges. Here's *Strings* unraveled:

Why do you call yourselves Strings?

Faisal: Basically there is no specific reason. In 1989, when we were performing at a show, the MC asked us the name of our band and for some reason the word - *Strings* came to mind.

Strings is a 'pop-rock' band. Explain 'pop-rock'.

Bilal: There is an interesting reason why we call ourselves a pop-rock band. Before *Strings* was formed in 1989, I used to be a keyboard player. It was after I met Faisal in college and we decided to jam together that I began strum-

ming the guitar. Thus, I was always into mainstream pop and my roots lie there, and it was during the jamming sessions that I developed an interest in rock.

Faisal adds: When *Strings* was born, the only market in Pakistan was for mainstream pop, so we had to gradually condition the listeners

had no idea we were so popular in Bangladesh, to the extent that people know the lyrics of our songs."

What is your take on the band music scene in the subcontinent?

Faisal: I honestly think Bangladesh and Pakistan have similar-



PHOTO: FAIZUL A TANIM

Bilal (L) and Faisal of *Strings*

to rock, and this took a while.

You are performing in Dhaka for the first time. What do you think of the response you received from the audience?

Bilal: At the Ampfest on March 11, we received a warm welcome from the crowd. I was surprised to hear people singing along with us. I

ties in the trends followed in the band music scene. Popular bands and musicians in both countries compose original songs in our own languages, not in English. I feel, it's necessary to be original. *Strings* has never done cover versions of popular songs by other artistes or groups. At the Ampfest, before we

performed, I didn't get a chance to listen to most of the bands performing. But from what I've heard, the musicians here are doing a fabulous job.

Bilal: In India however, the trend is somewhat different. True to the core band or rock music in Hindi is not widely practiced. Most of the Indian rock groups would rather do cover versions of popular English songs.

How did Spiderman 2 sound-track happen?

Bilal: We were in India when Sony and Columbia were looking for an Indian rock band to do a song which would be added to the soundtrack of *Spiderman 2*, prior to releasing the movie in India. Sony and Columbia contacted us thinking that *Strings* is an Indian band. Initially they asked us to make a song. *Dhaani* hadn't been released in India yet, but they got hold of the album and heard the song *Najaney Kyun* and they thought it was the perfect song for the movie.

Would you compose music for films?

Faisal: We have been getting offers to do music for Indian films, but we haven't seriously thought about it. If we get an interesting offer, maybe we would.

Do you write your songs from personal experiences?

Bilal: Very much so. For instance, we went to this hill station in Pakistan and we were completely captivated by the magnificence of nature. If you listen to *Dhaani*, you'll notice that the songs have been inspired by nature. The word *Dhaani* itself means the fresh light green colour.



A two-day street drama festival concluded at Rajshahi University (RU) campus recently. The festival, organised by Shangshtok Theatre of RU, was the first production of the group. On the first and concluding day, they presented the play *Shang (Joker)* at the Folklore Department and the Central Shaheed Minar Mukta Mancha premises. Prior to this performance, a colourful procession paraded the main streets on the campus. A play was also presented on historic March 7.

PHOTO: STAR

Cultural organisation Panchashwar, organised a musical soiree titled *Tomari Tulona Tumi* at the Goethe-Institut Friday last, says a press release. Jointly organised by the German Cultural Centre, the programme artistes Shumon Chowdhury, Nasima Shahin, Farhana Akhtar, Shumon Majumdar, Jannat-E-Ferdousy and Mamun Zahid Khan rendered different songs by Ramnidhi Gupta, Rabindranath Tagore, Kazi Nazrul Islam, DL Roy, Rajanikanto and Atulproshad Roy. The latter part of the programme was a session of modern 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) 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

BTV

07:30 Shubhechha Nin

08:15 Programme From Btv Archive

08:40 Bishwa Protidin

09:00 Satellite Programme

12:15 Shangbadpotrer Pata Thekey

12:30 Shasthya Tathya

01:05 Lal Golap

02:05 Computer Round

02:30 Grantho Bhuban

03:05 Shuro Lahori

03:35 Shukhi Poribar

04:05 Lekha Pora

04:30 Open University

05:05 National School

05:45 Debate Competition

05:55 Chhotoder Khabor

06:00 Shamakalin Arthoniti

06:10 Desh Janapad

06:35 Dolon Champa

07:00 Special Programme On Jasinnudin

07:05 News Headlines, Weather Forecast, Share Market

07:05 Ei Desh Ei Shomoy

07:30 Drama Serial: Akash Bhora Megh

08:25 Protidin Bangladesh

08:30 Swadhinota Mohan Swadhinota

08:35 Drama Serial: Swapnoloker Deshey

09:00 Drama Serial: Pushpahar

10:25 Teknaf Theke Tatulia

10:35 Amar Gaaner Bhuvan

12:05 Satellite Programme

CHANNEL i

09:45 Trijiyo Matri

10:45 Live Educational Programme

11:30 TVC Sky Shop

12:00 Chithi Pelam

12:20 Dhaka Guide

12:30 Aj Dupurey O Citycell Tarokakothon

01:00 Ebong Cenemar Gaan

01:25 Public Reaction

01:30 Shangbadpotrey Bangladesh

01:35 Programme From Btv Archive

03:50 Banglar Gaan

04:20 Special Programme

04:45 Sa Re Ga Ma

05:30 X-Music

06:00 Music Plus

06:30 Banijio O Aurthoniti

07:50 Drama Serial: Poribar O Ekti Company

08:25 Apsora Sunsik

09:35 Drama Serial: Shampurna Rangeen Career Show

10:00 ntv

09:30 Ain O Jibon

10:05 Animal Kingdom

10:30 Dhakar Cinema

02:35 Drama Serial: Jhut Jhamela

03:15 Right Click

03:40 Medhabi

04:25 Khobor Deshey Deshey

05:20 Aapnar Jigyasha

06:00 Desher Khabar

06:20 Shubho Shondhaya

06:50 Khoborer Shondhaney

08:15 Sporsher Bairey

08:50 Selected Programme

09:40 Drama Serial: Anyarakom Dindarpan

11:20 ATN BANGLA

11:05 Annordrishti

11:35 Drama Serial: Ek Janamey

12:15 Pepsi Rock & Rhythm

02:30 Dekhi Nayan Mella

03:15 Drama Serial: Ghunpoka

03:15 Drama Serial: O Amar Chokkhu Nai

03:50 LG Dhurmdham Lottery Programme

PICK OF THE DAY

04:25 Children's Programme

05:10 Shonali Din

05:45 Islami Sawaal O Jawab

06:20 Poraner Gaan

08:00 Drama Serial: Shukhnagar Apartment

08:30 Drama Serial: Shimahin Shimanay

09:00 Sushtha Thakun Live

10:35 Katha Mala

12:20 Adibashi Janapad

04:00 Getting There

5:45 Not another teen movie

7:30 Dark Waters

9:30 Naked Gun 33 1/3 : The Final Insult

11:15 Batman & Robin

1:45 Tremors 3: Back to perfection

3:45 Barney's Great Adventure

5:15 The Naked Gun 2 1/2 : The Smell of Fear

STAR GOLD

9:25 Tahalka

1:30 Dil Chahata Hai

5:00 Raja Hindustani

9:30 Sarfarosh

STAR PLUS

4:00 Kahiin To Hoga

4:30 K.Street Pail Hill

5:00 Maan

6:00 Nargis

6:30 Adventures Of Mickey

Adnonald

7:00 Disney's The

8:00 Weekenders

8:00 Hello Dollie

8:30 Dekho Magar Pyaar Se

9:00 Kasautii Zindagii Kay

9:30 Des Mein Nikkila Hog Chand

10:00 Kkavyanjali

10:30 Kahaani Ghar Ghar Kii

11:00 Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bhi Thi

11:30 Kahiin To Hoga

12:00 K.Street Pail Hill

STAR WORLD

10:30 The Apprentice

11:30 The X Files

12:30 Parkinson

1:30 Magnum P.I.

2:28 Star Asia Travel

2:30 Oprah Winfrey

4:30 Hollywood Squares

5:00 Whose Line Is It Anyway

5:30 Ally Mcbeal

6:30 The Simpsons

7:00 That 70s Show

7:30 Friends

8:00 Newsradio

8:30 The King Of Queens

9:00 Everybody Loves Raymond

9:30 Grounded For Life

10:00 Frasier

10:30 The Casino

11:28 Star Asia Travel

11:30 Newsradio

12:00 Cover Story

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

12:30 Dogs With Jobs

1:00 Explorations

2:00 Built For Destruction

3:00 National Geographic Special

4:00 Dogs With Jobs S3

4:30 Backyard Science

4:45 Doc Eureka

5:00 Serious: Arctic

5:30 Ng Explorer

6:30 Explorations

7:30 Golden Baboons

8:30 Tales Of The Living Dead

9:00 Mummy Road Show

9:30 Riddles Of The Dead S3

10:30 Interpol Investigates

11:30 Taboo

ANIMAL PLANET

12:30 Pet Nation

2:30 On the Edge O'shea's Big Adventure

3:30 On the Edge Crocodile Hunter

4:00 On the Edge Ultimate Killers Deadly defenders

4:30 The Protectors Miami Animal Police Pit Bull Raid

5:30 Vets In the Wild Queen

6:00 Elizabeth National Park

6:30 Monkey Business

6:30 The Planet's Funniest Animals

7:00 Amazing Animal Videos

7:30 The Blue Planet

8:30 On Thew Edge O'shea's Big Adventure

10:00 On the Edge Ultimate Killers Man Eaters

10:30 Animal Planet Showcase

11:30 Pigs On The Run

11:30 The Whole Story Whole Story

DISCOVERY

12:30 Wild Discovery

12:30 Ferocious African Crocodiles

1:30 Discovery's Biggest Shows Virtual History: The Secret Plot to Kill Hitler

3:30 Night Safari Great

4:30 Siberian Grizzly

4:45 Coloured Lives

4:30 Mistresses, the Mistres And the Public,

5:30 Tuth or Scare Psychic Science

6:00 Baby It's You You & Me

6:30 Africa's Great Rivers

7:00 Olifants-River Of Treasurers

7:30 Amazing Baby Videos

7:30 Episode 12

8:30 Wild Discovery Killer Squid

8:30 Future Perfect

9:30 Horizon Hunt for the Aids Vaccine

9:30 Junkyard Wars Junkyard Wars 6 (Usa Commission) Flying Boat

10:30 Classic Discovery Real Olympics, the Death or Glory

11:30 FBI Files The Deadly Takeover

STAR SPORTS

9:30 Asian Tour : Thailand Open Highlights(R)

10:30 Spanish Football League 2004/05 (R)

12:30 The Golf Club (R)

1:00 Zimbabwe Tour Of South Africa 2nd Test Day 3 Highlights(R)

2:27 Zimbabwe Tour Of South Africa 2nd Test Day 4 1st Session(L)

4:30 Extreme Programming

5:00 Wild Spirits 2004/05 (T)

5:00 Zimbabwe Tour Of South Africa 2nd Test Day 4 2nd & 3rd Session(L)

9:30 Sportsline (L)

10:00 Uefa Champions League Magazine Shows (T)

10:30 Sportsline (R)

11:00 Hitz (R)

11:30 Fa Cup Highlights (T)

ESPN

10:30 Nba Basketball

10:30 Milwaukee Usa Dallas Mavericks Vs Milwaukee Bucks (T)

1:00 Champions Tour Golf Sbc Classic Valencia Usa First Round(T)

3:00 The Fa Cup - "Final Score" (R)

3:30 Spanish Football League 2004/05 (T)

5:30 Brazilian Football (R)

7:30 Fa Cup Highlights (T)

8:30 Sportscenter India (L)

9:00 Uefa Champions League Magazine Shows (R)

9:30 Australia Tour Of New Zealand 1st Test Day 5 Highlights(S)

11:00 Toyota Football Up Close (T)

11:00 Sportscenter India (R)

12:00 Sportscenter Asia (S)