

CULTURAL FEAST

Celebration of Independence Day

Organiser: The Liberation War Museum
Venue: The Liberation War Museum, 5, Shegun Bagicha
Date: March 22-28, at 5pm everyday

Schedule
March 22-31

Programme: Book Fair themed on the Liberation War

Venue: The Liberation War Museum, 5, Shegun Bagicha

Date: March 22-28, from 10am to 8pm

March 28

Closing ceremony of the Book Fair

themed on the Liberation War followed by musical session of Abhyuday Shilpi Goshthi and Ajit Roy.

Exhibition

Title: Traditional Boats of Bangladesh
Venue: Bangladesh National Museum

Date: March 19-April 06, From 10am to 5pm and 3pm to 7pm on Fridays

Title: Colour of SHAKO

Artists: 13 artists of the women artists association SHAKO

Venue: Bengal Gallery of fine Arts, House 275/F, Road 27, Dhamoni

Date: March 23-April 06, 12pm to 8pm

Title: For Courage

Organiser: Central Kachi-Kanchar Mela

Venue: Kachi Kanchar Bhaban, 37/A, Segunbagicha

Date: March 18-April 01

Title: The Walls of Dhaka

Artist: Bruno Rulif

Venue: Alliance Fraincaise, 26, Mirpur Road Dhamondi

Date: March 18-31

Title: Our Liberation War

Photographers: Students & teachers of Dhaka Photographic Institute

Venue: 400, North Kazipara, Mirpur, Dhaka 1216

Date: March 26-28

Artist: Aminul Islam

Venue: Shilpagan Gallery, House 25, Road 5, Dhamondi

Date: March 18-April 10, from 10am to 1pm and 5pm to 8pm

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

Connecting Futures Festival

Organiser: Zia Shishu-Kishor Shangathan

Venue: British Council

Date: March 25-29, at 5pm everyday

Schedule
March 28

Cultural show by Shahjalal University Cultural Groups and play by Democracy Watch

March 29

Cultural show by students of Dhaka University and Jahangirnagar University followed by musical programme

Children's Art Exhibition

Organiser: Charuloy Academy

Venue: Goethe-Institut, House 10, Road 9, Dhamondi

Date: March 25-31, from 3pm to 8pm (March 26-27 closed)

Children's Art Competition

Organiser: Chhotoder Patrika and Nityapuahar

Venue: Lichutola, Institute of Fine Arts, Dhaka University

Date: April 01, at 9pm

Exhibition

Title: Opening Exhibit

Artist: Md. Tariqul Islam

Venue: Art & Soul Gallery, Road. 36

House 16, Gulshan

Time: March 25-April 4, from 12pm to 8pm.

Exhibition of works of 13 artists

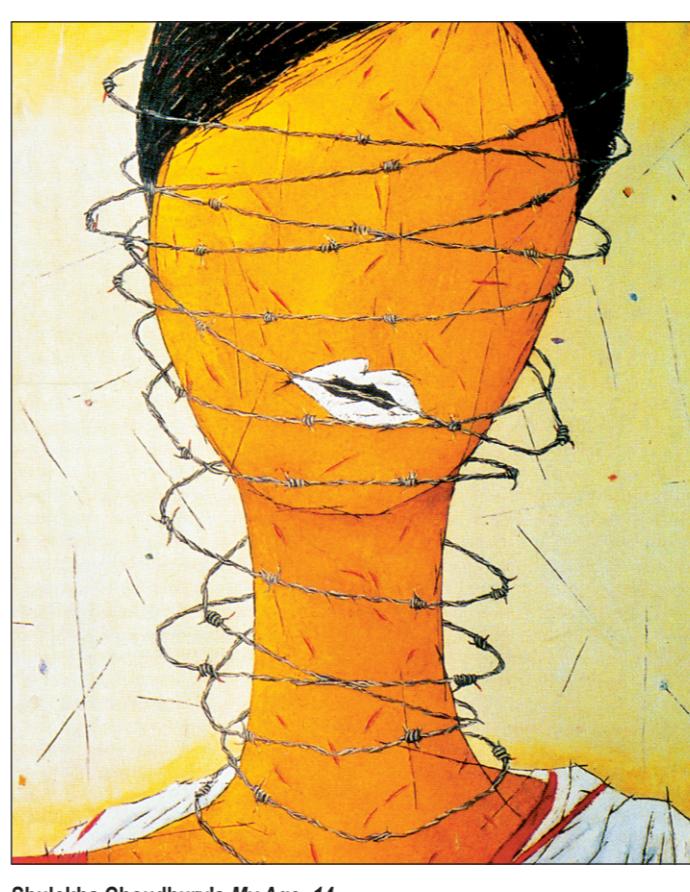
Shako's rhythm of colours

FAYZA HAQ

also brought in the distorted face of an acid victim.

Nasreen Begum, like others, had given three paintings for display. In *Green water* Nasreen has brought the scene of the back of luxurious hotels where a slum type existence abounds next to the opulent luxury. Here there is water logging and the water, not being able to escape, has become green and stagnant. The offices and hotels look splendid but behind them slums abound. On another paper, she brings in the scattered petals of the fiery *krishnachura* tree that fall so often on the roads and make them so picturesque. Unable to have the luxurious sights of the villages, she has dealt with the presence of nature in the city. She works on the scenes around the University quarters where she lives. With her feminine vision, Nasreen has made the ordinary extraordinary.

Farzana Islam Milky has brought in a distraught sex worker hoping to make the onlookers become aware of their plight of being dependent on male lust. The woman is staring blankly at a piece of wire that is jutting out and counting out her days. The

Shulekha Choudhury's *My Age -14*

woman's existence in *Waiting* appears futile and confused.

Kanak Champa Chakma has dealt with the theme of the tribal people once again. Her canvases have moved away from the realistic and are larger than before. Kanak says, "The compositions present women at work and also the Mro people celebrating a festival. One depicts an old woman weaving in the moonlight so that this is washed in blue light. In the other, I've used orange, contrasting it with black and white. I've used different types of strokes and textures than what I've used before."

Naima Haque, in *Cold Steel* reflects her feelings in her red and blue forms. Naima says, "The

colours and forms speak for themselves. One is like a flattened steel form of a woman and the other blue form is a reflection of my feeling of my position in society. The painting suggests the tension and fear that abound in our existence."

Kuhu's Girl with flower done in red, black and beige, is dramatic indeed. "I have a sitter and I draw. I enjoy my work. I don't put much thought into what I'm doing. I love line drawing and I focus on the lines," says Kuhu.

Trina Bohan Tyne, a guest artist from New Zealand, says that in doing the portrait of the flower seller she wanted to bring out her strength and dignity.

This exhibition too is one of Shako's success stories.

Farida Zaman's *Sufia in a rickshaw*

A new perspective

Relating to My Brother Nikhil

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

An uncommon story should be narrated in a distinct fashion and a new director Onir does exactly that. In *My Brother Nikhil*, the characters introduce themselves to the viewer, as if they were being interviewed and narrate the story of Nikhil, the protagonist, who died.

Loosely based on Robert Epstein and Jeffrey Friedman's documentary, *Common Threads: Stories from the Quilt*, *My Brother Nikhil* confronts us with the reality of HIV/AIDS with simplicity and straightforwardness. The beauty of the film lies in the fact that the emotion builds up gradually and the layers slowly envelop and grip you.

For a film of this genre to strike a note, it has to be embellished with compelling performances and a strong emotional quotient. *And My Brother Nikhil* is rich in both departments.

Editor turned director Onir's execution of the subject is laudable. The narrative focuses on the HIV/AIDS issue and the relationships induced by

the disease: father-son, brother-sister, lovers, without going overboard. One of its key accomplishments is that it clears the misconception that AIDS is a 'gay disease'. But the director scores distinctly marks in the last 20 minutes of the enterprise. The emotional sequences are sure to melt even the stone-hearted and the finale, although tragic, talks of hope, not despair.

My Brother Nikhil is perhaps the first Indian film that throws light on the gay relationship without making a mockery of one's sexual preferences. The issue is handled with utmost sensitivity and looks at relationships from a broader perspective. Clearly, Hindi cinema is coming of age and issues such as HIV/AIDS and gay relationships are being discussed with the same freedom and openness as any other issue.

My Brother Nikhil depicts the story of a man who suddenly falls from grace and is socially ostracised. His parents, friends and colleagues turn their backs on him. Suddenly, his whole world collapses. Nikhil is sent to a secluded hospital ward and kept in

solitary confinement. Reason: He has been tested HIV Positive.

Nikhil's father, who is unable to face social humiliation, abandons him. But Anu, Nikhil's sister defies her parents and stands by her brother. Another person who stands by Nikhil during this difficult phase is his friend and lover, Nigel.

My Brother Nikhil is punctuated with superior performances and topping the list is, without doubt, Sanjay Suri as Nikhil; a performance that deserves an ovation. Juhi Chawla as Nikhil's sister, is in complete form. There's no denying that her performance in this film would rank amongst the finest in her career.



A scene from the movie

Tv GUIDE

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

News Bulletin

BTV

08:40 *Bishwa Protidin*

09:00 *Satellite Programme*

12:15 *Shangbadpoter*

01:25 *Public Reaction*

01:30 *Shangbadpoter*

01:35 *Pata Thekey*

01:35 *Bangla*

01:35 *Bangla Feature Film: Mukti Chai (Diti, Rubel, Manna)*

03:50 *Special Programme*

04:20 *Sa Re Ga Ma*

04:45 *X-Music*

05:30 *Music Plus*

06:00 *Lehka Pora*

06:30 *Open University*

06:50 *National School*

07:50 *Debate Competition*

08:25 *Chhotoder Khabar*

08:45 *Shamakalin Arthoniti*

09:00 *Desh Janapad*

09:35 *Dolon Champa*

06:10 *Niritya Talei Talei*

07:00 *News Headlines, Weather forecast, Share Market*

10:00 *El Desh Ei Shomoy*

07:30 *Drama Serial: Akash*

08:25 *Bhora Megh*

08:30 *Protidin Bangladesh*

08:35 *Swadhinota Mohan Swadhinota*

09:00 *Drama Serial: Swapnoloker Deshey*

09:30 *Air O Jibon Animal Kingdom*

10:05 *Dhakar Cinema: Ashanti (Shabana, Alamgir, Natun)*

12:30 *Drama Serial: Pushpahar*

10:25 *Teknaf Theke Tatulia*

03:45 *Chawha Pawa*

12:05 *Satellite Programme*

05:20 *CHANNEL-i*

09:45 *Tritiyo Matra*

10:45 *Live Educational Programme*

11:30 *TVC Sky Shop*

12:00 *Chithi Pelam*

12:20 *Dhaka Guide*

12:30 *Aj Dupurey O*

06:50 *Shubho Shondhaya*

04:25 *Children's Programme*

05:10 *Mati Subash*

06:20 *Shobor Jonno*

08:00 *Drama Serial: Shukhnagar Apart-*

01:00 *Ebong Cenemar*

01:25 *Public Reaction*

01:30 *Shangbadpoter*

01:35 *Pata Thekey*

01:35 *Bangla*