

CULTURAL FEAST

Book Fair

Occasion: Independence Day
Venue: The Liberation War Museum, 5, Shgun Bagicha
Date: March 22-31, from 10am to 8pm

Exhibitions

Title: Traditional Boats of Bangladesh
Venue: Bangladesh National Museum
Date: March 19-April 06, 10am to 5pm and 39m to 7pm on Fridays

Title: Colour of SHAKO
Artists: 13 artists of the women artists association SHAKO
Venue: Bengal Gallery of fine Arts, House 27/5F, Road 27, Dhanmondi
Date: March 23-April 06, 12pm to 8pm

Title: C for Courage
Organiser: Central Kachi-Kanchar Mela
Venue: Kachi Kanchar Bhaban, 37/A, Segunbagicha
Date: March 18-April 01

Title: Opening Exhibit
Artist: Md. Tarikat Islam
Venue: Art & Soul Gallery, Road: 36 House 16, Gulshan
Time: March 25-April 4, from 12pm to 6pm.

16th National Art Exhibition
Artists: Eminent and promising artists of the country
Venue: National Art Gallery, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
Date: March 12-April 11, 1am to 7pm and 3pm to 8pm on weekends

Children's Art Exhibition

Organiser: Chanology Academy
Venue: Goethe-Institut, House 10, Road 9, Dhanmondi
Date: March 25-31, from 3pm to 8pm

Festival of Indigenous People

Venue: Plaza of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
Time: March 30-April 05, at 5pm

Musical Soiree

Organiser: Nazrul Sangeet Shilpi Porishad
Venue: Nazrul Institute, Road 28, Dhanmondi
Date: March 30, at 6pm

Hou Hsiao-Hsien

Retrospective

Organiser: Zahir Rahman Film Society
Venue: Goethe-Institut, House 10, Road 9, Dhanmondi
Time: March 30-31
Schedule
March 30
3:00pm What Time Is It There (2001)
5:00pm Good Men, Good Women (1995)
7:00pm Goodbye South, Goodbye (1996)
March 31
3:00pm Flowers of Shanghai (1998)
5:00pm The Puppet Master (1993)
7:30pm A City of Sadness (1989)

Japanese Film Festival

Organiser: The Embassy of Japan
Venue: Institute of Modern Language, University of Dhaka
Time: March 29-31
Schedule
March 30
4:00pm Sadako Story
7:00pm Noddo Jiman
March 31
4:00pm Little Elephant
7:00pm Ame Agaru

Erratum

In our yesterday's 'Q & A' interview with Mahmuduzzaman Babu, the song *Ani Bangla Gaan Gai* was mistakenly mentioned to have featured first on BTV instead of the erstwhile Ekushey Television (ETV). We regret the error.

Japan-Bangladesh Kite Exhibition

Soaring high ...

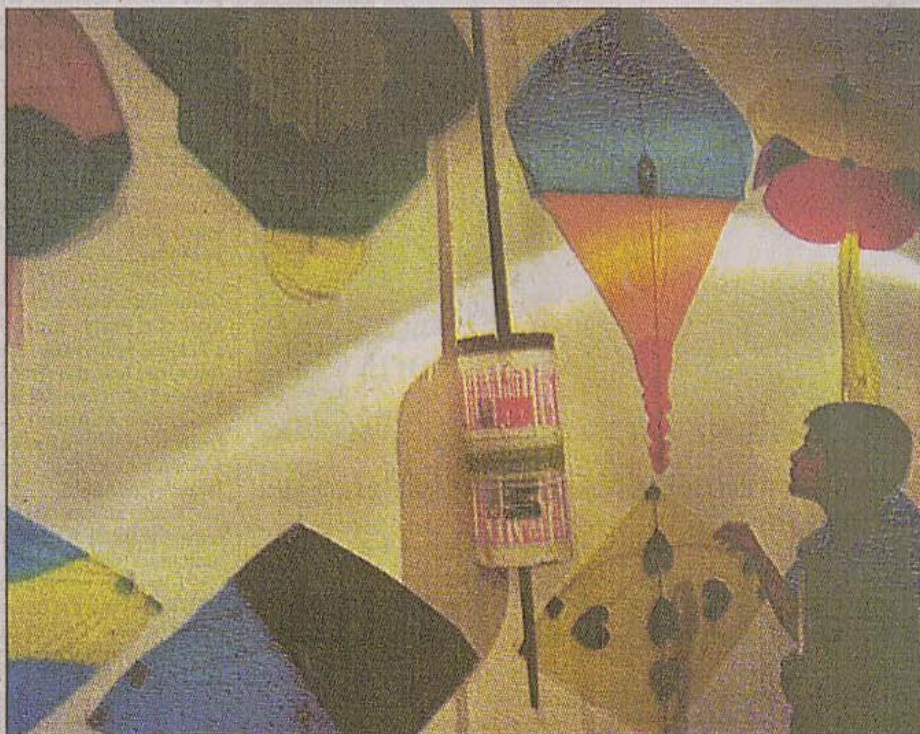
AFSAR AHMED

IMAGINE brightly coloured kites soaring in the skies as far as the eye can see. This used to be a common scene in towns and villages on Makar Sankranti and other days. In fact the kite fever, used to attract both children and adults. Everyone joined in this riotous celebration and the victory shouts reverberated from rooftops to the accompaniment of drums as adversaries' kites were cut down. Any kite in the sky was fair game!

However, the kite flying tradition is perishing by the day. To popularise this fulfilled heritage, a Tibet Japan-Bangladesh Kite Exhibition was held on March 28 at the National Museum Novera Hall. The two-day long exhibition, organised by the Dhakabashi Organisation, featured the delicacy and beauty of a good number of Bangladeshi and Japanese kites.

Inaugurated by Matsushiro Horiguchi, the Ambassador of Japan in Bangladesh, Enam Ahmed Chowdhury, Chairman of the Privatisation Commission and chief advisor of Dhakabashi presided over the programme.

The colourful Japanese kites with distinct characters gripped the spectators at the exhibition. As people say, the Japanese kites are among the most spectacular in the world, treasured as much for the aesthetic worth as for the pleasure they give as toys. The traditional kite consists of a light bamboo or wood frame over which is affixed paper painted with various bold motifs, ranging from faces of legendary war heroes to brilliant geometric patterns; in the hands of a skilled craftsman, the Japanese kite becomes a work of art. For instance, with the baggy sleeves and in a traditional attire, the *Yakkodako* kite from Tokyo, with a grotesque face putting out the tongue for exorcism, the *Noshirodako-Noshiro* kite from Akita, drawn only with tones of ink, the *Managudako-Yuzawa* kite from Akita, made in wooden frame instead of bamboo the *Tsugarudako* from Aomori and many more "airborne artwork" containing the traditional Japanese essence captured the eyes of the visitors.



A boy deeply engrossed with the kites at the exhibition

Apart from the Japanese kites, a good number of Bangladeshi kites, which are on the verge of extinction, were also displayed. Sona Mia, a popular kite-man who has not given up the hope of preserving this age-old tradition of airborne sport, came up with almost 20 various designs of kites. The umbrella look alike *Chhata Ghuri*, the beetle leaf shaped *Paandan*, having four tails the *Chumukhi*, *Gayla*, turtle-like *Kauhadar*, snake-shaped *Shap Ghuri* were not any the less captivating than their Japanese counterparts. "The kite symbolises the human body and the string attached to it is the soul, the person holding the string is the Almighty," said Sona Mia. According to him the major differences between Japanese kites and Bangladeshi kites is that the latter are lighter and do not always need a tail.

To Sona Mia, the secret of successful kite flying is in its string. And he has access to some of the best-kept secrets of making razor-sharp string with *Chun*, glass powder and red colour.

Visitors at the exhibition were eager to fly these beautiful airborne warriors, although they were only for display. Engrossed with the kites and holding the *natai* (the reel) in his hands, the eight-year-old Shuman didn't hesitate to express his desire to fly kites and "enjoy a real kite fighting!"

However, as people, say imagination is the highest kite that one can fly. Meanwhile one can only hope the old art of kite flying will continue to attract children and adults and reveal that the sky's the limit!

BAFA celebrates Independence Day

NOVERA DEEPTA

Eight-year-old Apon was excited about his performance at the programme that the music school, Bulbul Academy of Fine Arts (BAFA) had

organised. With an engaging smile, this boy in an angelic white costume said, "I will sing two patriotic songs with my friends in chorus."

BAFA arranged the special programme on the occasion of the Independence Day at the Shishu

Academy Sunday last.

The academy, founded by Muhammad Nurul Huda, celebrates its 50th anniversary this year. According to the principal of the academy, Rahiza Khanom Jhuma, "About 6,000 students in the three branches of the academy, take their basic lessons in music and dance which includes classical to modern music and dance as well as playing instruments like violin, tabla and guitar."

In the first session of the programme, Mayor of Dhaka Metropolitan City Sadek Hussain Khoka, Commissioner Kazi Abul Bashar, Commissioner Syed Lutful Haque and Treasurer Khaleda Habib, Secretary Amanullah Chowdhury and the Principal of BAFA spoke on the occasion. The discussion session was followed by the splendid performance by the students of the academy.

Seven little girls, resplendent in red saris and glittering ornaments, performed a dance piece with the Tagore song. After which, students of Dhanmondi branch of BAFA presented another dance piece with the patriotic number *Hajar bochor porey* by Sabina Yasmeen.

Finally all the students rendered the songs *Bangladesher shadinota lokkho praner dan* and *Purba digonety shurya utthechhey*. The boys in white pyjama-punjabees and the girls in red skirt and white tops: the uniform of the academy performed to a spellbound audience.



BAFA students performing at the event

Khalid Hassan Milu is no more

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Popular singer Khalid Hassan Milu passed away yesterday at Monwara Hospital. He was suffering from liver cirrhosis. He was admitted to the hospital for brain hemorrhage for the first time in 2001. He went to Bangkok twice for treatment and the Bangladeshi artists raised fund for his treatment in 2004. Despite all the he did not survive and passed away on last Monday midnight.

Born in 1960, Khalid Hassan Milu started his singing career in the 1980s. He has rendered about 5,000 songs so far, including popular modern songs and playbacks. His first album was *Ogo Priyo Bandhobi*, released in 1980. Among his 12 other solo albums *Protishodh Nio*, *Neela*, *Shesh Bhalobasha*, *Ayna* and *Manush* are noteworthy. He began to lend his voice for playbacks from 1982 and performed songs in about 250 films, including *Shajani o shajani*, *Anek shadhonar porey*, *Je prem and others*. His last album was a duet with Manir Khan. He received the National Film Awards in 1994 and also many other prizes, including BACHSHASH awards.



Milu (L), with Hanif Shanket, in his last TV appearance in Ityadi

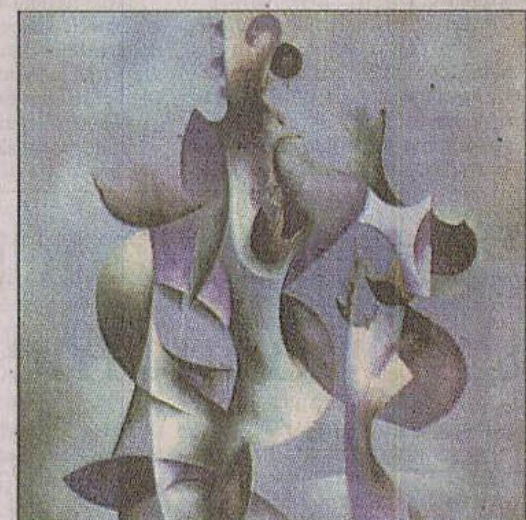
Bangladeshi artist making waves in Canada

FAYZA HAQ

Rakeeb Hassan, now residing in Canada, on a visit to Dhaka, says, "When I left Bangladesh, I first went to Kenya where I studied fine arts, stayed for nine years and had four solo exhibitions. Then I had four shows in London, Edinburgh, Lancashire and Manchester. I then had shows in France and Switzerland and migrated to Canada, opening my studio at Montreal."

Asked if it was easy to set himself up as an artist in Montreal, Rakeeb says that he was committed to his work and he got the help of those around him. He was determined to stay and learn from his surroundings in Canada and so he pressed on. "I want to learn more about modern art and the aboriginal art of North America. My recent exhibition at Gallery Gora at Montreal established my success," Rakeeb says.

Going back to his Kenya experience, he says that he was always interested in African art. "I believe that it influenced artists like Picasso and Jean Cometti," says Rakeeb. The French Cultural Centre exposed him to more of the beauty and originality of primitive art. "I did workshops going from village to village and learnt more about African art for almost decade," he recalls. When the Royal Overseas League sponsored him in England he



Jongleur

moved on there. As Canada is a country of immigrants, Rakeeb says, there is a fusion of various cultures. There is some frustration among the immigrants but Rakeeb tries to stay clear of this. Going back to his African experience, Rakeeb says, at first, when he had not got his admission to study he did a solo show of 35 paintings and these were all sold, giving him the encouragement that he needed. These paintings were symbolic like *Homeless* that contained owls on a tree bearing human faces. He has had some experience as a magazine illustrator earlier in Bangladesh. Gradually he moved from the symbolic to the figurative, dealing mostly with nature. He also ventured into the abstract as in *Metaphor of the babab* (babab being a common African tree). There is, then the *Jongleur* painting, which deals with travelling singers. In *Oiseau fatigue des pleurs sur la mer* we see a bird floating in the oil-polluted waters of Montreal. *Roots* refers not just to plants but to man's background. Rakeeb changes his style according to his subject and mood. The Montreal exhibition combined the figurative with the abstract.

Rakeeb's poetic sensibilities lend his works a kind of romantic lyricism while his social consciousness keep them firmly rooted in the reality of time and space.



Oiseau fatigue des pleurs sur la mer

Aparna Sen's new work -- 15 Park Avenue

To cinematic works such as *36 Chourangee Lane* (1981), *Paroma* (1984), *Sati* (1989), *Yugani* (1995) and *Paromitar Ek Din* (2000) and the successful *Mr and Mrs Iyer* (2002), famed film director Aparna Sen has added a new movie -- *15 Park Avenue*.

The film stars Rahul Bose, Shabana Azmi and Aparna's daughter Konkona Sen Sharma.

The story depicts two sisters. Konkona plays the role of the disturbed younger sister, while Shabana essays the part of the older



A scene from the movie

half-sister. Rahul stars as Konkona's fiancé.

Rahul is cast as an upper middle class conservative executive who, according to the actor, is not in touch with "his feminine side".

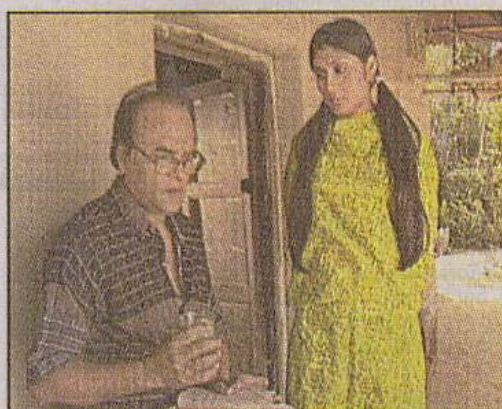
Konkona is upbeat about her role. In her words, "I feel at home within my mother's unit where the crew is very affectionate."

With all the ingredients of success -- an interesting storyline, a brilliant cast and a reputed director - the film is likely to make waves.

Source: Internet

TV GUIDE

PICK OF THE DAY



Bayoscope On ATN Bangla at 9:00pm
Drama Serial
Cast: Bonya Mirza, Litu Anam, Khayrul Alam Shabuj



Sunsik Celebrates In Living Colour by Persona
On Channel i at 9:35pm
Fashion Show

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 (Bangla) at 7:15 am, 9:00am, 2:00pm, 7:00 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, 11pm.
News (English) 8:20am, 7:00pm.
Telecast of BTV News (Bangla and English) at 11:30 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 5:30pm, 7:30pm.
Tara News (Bangla) at 8:30 pm, 11:30 pm.
Tara News Bangladesh (Bangla) at 8:30 pm.

BBC WORLD

Every hour on the hour

CHANNEL I

09:30 Shongbad Potrey
Bangladesh and Public Reaction
10:45 Sports Time
12:00 Chitri Pelam
12:30 A J Dupurey O Cityceli Tarokathon
01:00 Ebong Cinema Gaan
01:25 Public Reaction
01:35 Bangla Feature Film
03:45 Bangla Gaan
04:15 Special Programme
04:45 Sa Re Ga Ma
05:30 Special Programme
06:00 Music Plus
06:30 Gillette Sports Programme
07:55 RC Travel On
08:25 Drama Serial: Kichhu
09:35 Drama Serial: Din
Choley Jay
10:00 Drama Serial

ATN BANGLA

10:30 Onnondishali
11:05 Drama Serial: Shukhinagar
Apartment
12:15 Drama Serial: Shimaniy
Gaaney Shurey
12:50 Tanunney
01:25 Motamot
02:30 Drama Serial: Nil
Akasher Nichey
03:15 Drama Serial: Nana
Ronger Din
03:50 Drama Serial: New
Files
04:25 Cinema Cinema
05:10 Education Zone
06:20 Manoshi
08:00 The Sword of Tipu
Sultan
08:30 Drama Serial: Knowab
09:00 Drama Serial:

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10:30 Health Show
12:20 Amar Computer

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