

Rafiqun Nabi

Mirroring contemporary Bangladesh

ERSHAD KAMOL

RAFIQUN Nabi, one of the leading artists of the country, turns 64 today. Nabi, a professor of Department of Drawing and Painting, Institute of Fine Arts, was born November 28, 1943 in Chapai Nawabganj. He is an artist of experimental realism with his own distinctive style. In his medium he has combined the chief motifs of the subcontinent with his unique lines. The fluid characteristic of watercolours and the power of 'lines' on woodcut have been applied amazingly by Rafiqun Nabi.

Going back to the past, Nabi asserts that he has had a fascination for art since his boyhood. To quote him, "I used to draw regularly. In 1954, my father took me to the 'All Pakistan Painting Exhibition', which was held at the then 'Bardhaman House', currently known as Bangla Academy. This experience sowed the seeds for my growth as an artist. Realising my passion, my family decided that they would send me to the art college after I completed matriculation.

"I got admitted to the then College

of Arts and Crafts, which is now known as Institute of Fine Arts, University of Dhaka and completed my Bachelor of Fine Arts and Master of Fine Arts. Later I joined the institute as a faculty. In 1973-76 I studied printmaking in Athens School of Fine Arts under the Greek Government's Post Graduate Scholarship. I believe 'creativity' is an inborn quality. My academic learning introduced me to various media as well as developed my aesthetic sense."

Romanticism and impressionism are mingled in his presentations in various media such as watercolours, acrylic and woodcut. In his predominantly figurative works, what he usually does, he has devoted himself simultaneously to using lines and colours in observing the material world. Nature here always provides 'sequels' (transition over a period) of changing colours. In the backdrop of vibrant nature; interrelationship between human beings, animals and birds is a major characteristics of Nabi's canvases. He seizes the rhythmic expressions of the flora and fauna of a transitory moment with the vibrant use of



Fishermen at rest (top) and Fatigue by Rafiqun Nabi

watercolours.

On his style Rafiqun Nabi says that as drawing is his strength his canvases are figurative. He further said, "The subject of the canvases leads me to select the colour as well as composition. And I've no fascination for any particular colour."

Why does he mostly use watercolours as his medium? Nabi maintains, "It's not because of my fascination for the medium, rather it's handy and needs less arrangement compare to the other media. Moreover, I like to continue in this medium, as one loses his or her mastery on a medium after a long

break."

Apart from the eternal drama of nature, contemporary events are also portrayed in Nabi's works. His popular cartoon-character *Tokai* functions as a spectator of the disorders of the society. Through *Tokai*, he satires the contemporary politics and follies. Says Nabi, "Initially I thought that cartoons as a medium had not developed in the country. That's why I used to draw cartoons. In 1978, I got an offer from the then weekly *Bichitra*. And I developed the characterisation and composition of the character of *Tokai*. I continued *Tokai* series in

weekly *Bichitra* and simultaneously in *Dainik Bangla*. When both of the newspapers went off market, I stopped the series.

"At that stage I became frustrated and decided not to continue the series; rather I dedicated myself totally to paintings. However, the inception of the weekly *2000* gave me new hope and I re-started the series."

In 2004, Rafiqun Nabi celebrated the silver jubilee celebration of the popular cartoon series. Commenting on the success of the series, Nabi says, "*Tokai* is continuing in two newspapers -- weekly *2000* and the daily *Janakantho* -- which proves its success."

Despite his years of experience, Nabi still perceives himself young. Nabi says, "When an artist starts feeling old, he or she cannot continue his or her creativity. I'm still a youth in my mind. And I like to paint a lot as well as hope to present the follies of the contemporary society through my *Tokai* series."

For his wonderful contribution, Nabi has won acclaim. He is the winner of several prestigious awards including *Ekushey Padak* (1993), Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy Award (1989) and Promoters Prize Inter Graphic-80, Berlin, Germany.

The *Daily Star* wishes the seasoned artist many happy returns of the day.

To mark the occasion, the Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts is holding a celebration, attended by artists and cultural personalities. A documentary on the biography of the artist will be screened at the programme

Musical

Jazz performance by Norwegian quartet Kirsti Huke

MAHMUDA AFROZ

Kirsti Huke Quartet, a popular Norwegian jazz band, performed at the Shaheed Ziaur Rahman auditorium of the National Museum on November 26. The two-day programme which ended on November 27 was organised by the Royal Norwegian Embassy in cooperation with the Centre for Education, Creative and Performing Arts (Sanskriti Kendra), Dhaka.

At the inaugural session, Norwegian Ambassador Ingebjorg Stofring took the opportunity to congratulate Dr Muhammad Yunus, of Grameen Bank fame and the people of Bangladesh for

the Nobel Peace Prize Award 2006. "Cultural exchange, cultural diversity and freedom enhance our societies, promote understanding, friendship and peace," she added.

The evening saw top diplomats, the business community and cultural personalities enjoying the catchy numbers performed by the group. In a jam-packed auditorium the ambience on stage was perfect, the repertoire a clean acoustic format. One after another the band performed old tunes from yesteryears, taking the audience down memory lane. *The old country, Don't worry about me, To watch over me, I will wait for you* to name but a few.

Kirsti Huke Quartet is an internationally acclaimed band formed with the intention of maintaining the jazz vocal tradition from the '50s and '60s. The lead singer Kirsti Huke is a household name in the Norwegian jazz scene, performing with a playful and rooted approach to jazz standards as well as pop and rock songs in a quartet setting. "Some of my fellow band members have performed in Bangladesh previously. The audience is excellent and I would also like to come back and perform," she exclaimed. Steinar Raknes on the bass, Vigleik Storaas on the piano and Erik Nylander on the drums complete the quartet.



The band Kirsti Huke perform at National Museum

PHOTO: STAR

Paris comes to Mumbai to honour Lata Mangeshkar

When the French government conferred its most prestigious civilian honour the Legion d'Honneur on Indian Nightingale Lata Mangeshkar she had only one reservation. And it had something to do with air travel.

Lata in her inimitable shy way, expressed her inability to make the long journey to Paris to collect the award.

But was the French government deterred? Not the least! In an unprecedented move, the authorities in Paris have decided to fly down to Mumbai to confer the Legion d'Honneur on Asia's most prized jewel in music.



Says a source close to crooner, "It's truly an unheard-of honour. To actually have a foreign government

fly down to confer the honour on the recipient shows how much Lata Mangeshkar has achieved as an artiste."

The function to be held in Mumbai on December 13 is expected to be attended by numerous Bollywood dignitaries.

Lata Mangeshkar is the second super-icon from Bollywood to be conferred with the Legion d'honneur this year. Earlier this year Amitabh Bachchan received the same honour.

Source: Internet

Drama serial 'Lottery' on Rtv



Suraiya Ratri and Hillol in a scene from the play

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Lottery, a drama serial will be telecast tonight at 8:50 on Rtv. Tarik Anam Khan, Suraiya Ratri, Azizul Hakim, Hillol and others act in the serial—a comedy about an ambitious and fortunate man.

The story: A man lives in a house as a caretaker. The house belongs to a man who is overseas. The caretaker dreams of winning the first prize in a lottery. One day his dream comes true. In anticipation of the windfall, he goes on a splurge by buying up big fish, mutton and other culinary delights.

There is, however, a hitch: When he goes to claim his award, he learns to his disappointment that while the lottery number is all right, there is a problem with the lottery series. Meanwhile, he receives a letter saying that the house owner will never return to Bangladesh. The property, the hero discovers, is his for the taking.



PHOTO: STAR

Artistes of Bonhishikha, a cultural organisation, perform at a programme held on November 26 to celebrate the organisation's 1st anniversary. Bonhishikha promotes traditional Bengali culture and heritage. Eminent theatre personalities Aly Zaker, Nasiruddin Yousuff and National Professor Kabir Chowdhury spoke at the occasion

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. (To be telecast on all Bangla channels).

CHANNEL-i
News (Bangla) at 7:15 am, 9:00am, 2:00pm, 7:00pm, 9:00pm, 10:30pm, 12:15 am.

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
Latest News (Bangla) at 9:00 am, 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.

CHANNEL 1
News (Bangla) at 8:00am, 12:00pm, 2:30pm, 6:30pm, 7:30pm, 10:00pm, 12:30am

BANGLAVISION
News (Bangla) at 8:00am, 2:00pm, 6:00pm, 7:15pm, 10:30pm.
News Headlines (Bangla) at 9:00pm
News Headlines (English) at 9:05pm

RTV
News (Bangla) at 7:00am, 3:00pm, 7:15pm, 10:00pm.
News Headlines (Bangla) at 10:30am

BTv

08:10 Desher Gaan
08:20 Bishwa Protidin
08:30 Open University
11:15 Shukhi Poribar
11:40 Musical Programme
12:30 Maa O Shisur Kotha
01:30 Mati O Manush
02:15 Children' Programme
02:40 Cartoon
04:30 Band Show
05:05 Probash Mela
05:30 Shei Sur Shei Gaan
06:40 Geet Bitan
07:00 Oi Nutune Ketan Urey
09:25 Ashe Pasher Manush
10:25 Teknaf Theke Tetulia

ATN BANGLA

10:30 Anyodishti
11:05 Drama Serial: Nire Tar Nil Dheu
11:35 Three Stooges
12:15 Amar Computer
01:30 Shur Chhobi
02:30 Shamooki
03:15 Drama Serial: O Amar Chokhu Nai
03:45 Children' Programme
05:10 Purakirtir Bangladesh
05:45 Islamic Programme
06:20 Aynar Shamney
07:50 Drama Serial: Jollad
08:20 Drama Serial: Ferari Siren
08:50 Drama: Shoyombar Shobha
10:40 Talk Show: Protidin

CHANNEL-i

09:30 Shongbad Potrey

Bangladesh

09:45 Public Reaction
09:50 Grameen Phone
Tritiyomatra
11:05 Cricket Online (live)
11:30 Amar Chhobi
12:30 Aaj Dupurey O Citycell Tarokakothon
01:05 Ebong Cinemar Gaan
01:30 Shanghabdoptr Bangladesh
01:45 Public Reaction
02:40 Humayun Ahmed's Selected Drama
04:05 Amader Gaan
04:30 Sharif Melamine Shangitmla
04:50 Sa Re Ga Ma
05:30 i Sports
06:00 i Speed
07:50 Talk Show
08:20 Drama Serial: Ferari
09:35 Rup Rohoshyo
10:00 Drama Serial: Shada Rang Er Swapno
12:00 Grammephon Aiker Shanghabdoptr

CHANNEL 1

08:40 Shuprobha Bangladesh
09:30 Chokh Mele Dekhi
10:30 Bangla Feature Film
03:30 Drama Serial: Daar Kak
04:00 Gaaner Khata
04:30 Bioscope
05:15 Shukh Tara
06:00 Saaj Bela
06:30 Top News
06:45 Ithasher Path
07:00 Dhorey Nongor

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