

## 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 characteristic 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 canvas 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 *Janakantha* -- 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

Kristi 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 (Sangskriti 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.

Kristi 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 Kristi Huke perform at National Museum

PHOTO: STAR

## Paris comes to Mumbai to honour Lata Mangeshkar



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

## Ono hopes Lennon anniversary to be a day of healing

AP, New York

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

every year, let's make December 8th the day to ask for forgiveness from those who suffered the insufferable," writes the former Beatle's widow, who signs the letter Yoko Ono Lennon.

Ono urges readers to take responsibility for failing to intervene on behalf of victims around the world.

"Know that the physical and mental abuse you have endured will have a lingering effect on our society," she writes in a portion of the letter directed to victims. "Know that the burden is ours."

Ono was with Lennon when he was gunned down as he returned home from a recording studio on December 8, 1980. The shooter, Mark David Chapman, remains in New York's Attica state prison. His fourth request for parole was denied last month.

## 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 pm 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.



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

Yoko Ono is calling for the anniversary of the death of her husband, John Lennon, to become a day of worldwide healing.

In a full-page advertisement appearing in Sunday editions of *The New York Times*, Ono urges readers to mark the anniversary by apologising to those who have suffered because of violence and war.

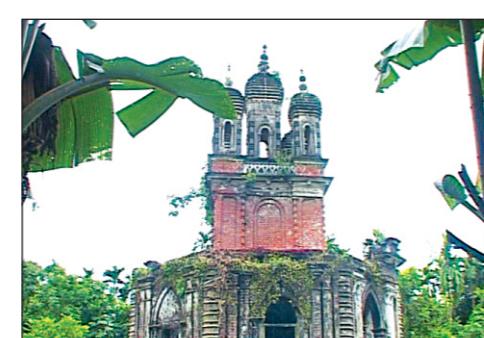
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## TV GUIDE

## PICK OF THE DAY



Purakirtir Bangladesh  
On ATN Bangla at 5:10pm  
Documentary Programme  
Host: Zillur Rahman



GoldenEye  
On Star Movies at 7:00pm  
Genre: Thriller/Action  
Cast: Pierce Brosnan, Izabella Scorupco

<b>BTV</b>	08:10 Desher Gaan	09:45 Bangladesh Public Reaction	09:50 Grameen Phone	10:00 Trityomatra	10:15 Amar Chhobi	10:30 Ajay Dupurey O	10:45 Public Reaction	10:50 Ebong Cinemar Gaan	11:05 Shangbadpote Bangladesh	11:30 Amar Shai Gaan	12:30 Ebong Classer Bairey	09:00 Desher Pathay	09:30 Aisa Des Hai Mera	10:00 Thodi Khushi Thode	10:30 Vaidehi Drama	11:00 Khauffaak Thriller/ Horror	11:00 Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi	08:00 Seinfeld
	08:20 Bishwa Protidin	09:50 Grameen Phone	10:00 Trityomatra	10:30 Amar Chhobi	10:45 Public Reaction	11:00 Ebong Classer Bairey	11:30 Shangbadpote Bangladesh	12:00 Ebong Classer Bairey	12:30 Amar Shai Gaan	13:00 Ebong Classer Bairey	14:00 Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi	08:30 One Tree Hill	09:30 Ghost Whisperer	10:30 Commander In Chief	11:30 Desire: Table For Three			
<b>ATN BANGLA</b>	08:30 Open University	09:50 Grameen Phone	10:00 Trityomatra	10:30 Amar Chhobi	10:45 Public Reaction	11:00 Ebong Classer Bairey	11:30 Shangbadpote Bangladesh	12:00 Ebong Classer Bairey	13:00 Amar Shai Gaan	14:00 Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi	15:00 Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi	09:00 Licence To Kill	09:30 Eight Days To Live	10:30 The Glass House	11:30 Going Global	12:30 Be The Creature	03:30 Hollywood Science	
	08:40 Musical Programme	09:50 Grameen Phone	10:00 Trityomatra	10:30 Amar Chhobi	10:45 Public Reaction	11:00 Ebong Classer Bairey	11:30 Shangbadpote Bangladesh	12:00 Ebong Classer Bairey	13:00 Amar Shai Gaan	14:00 Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi	15:00 Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi	09:30 Secret World of Bats	10:30 Fire on Board	11:30 Paris Train Crash	12:30 Going Global	01:30 Be The Creature	03:30 Hollywood Science	
<b>CHANNEL 1</b>	08:40 Shukhi Poribar	09:50 Grameen Phone	10:00 Trityomatra	10:30 Amar Chhobi	10:45 Public Reaction	11:00 Ebong Classer Bairey	11:30 Shangbadpote Bangladesh	12:00 Ebong Classer Bairey	13:00 Amar Shai Gaan	14:00 Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi	15:00 Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi	09:30 Nat Geo Junior	10:30 Hollywood Science	11:30 It's Real?	12:30 Hollywood Science	01:30 Wild Discovery	03:30 Hollywood Science	
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<b>CHANNEL-i</b>	09:00 Shukhi Poribar	09:50 Grameen Phone	10:00 Trityomatra	10:30 Amar Chhobi	10:45 Public Reaction	11:00 Ebong Classer Bairey	11:30 Shangbadpote Bangladesh	12:00 Ebong Classer Bairey	13:00 Amar Shai Gaan	14:00 Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi	15:00 Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi	09:30 Nat Geo Junior	10:30 Hollywood Science	11:30 It's Real?	12:30 Hollywood Science	01:30 Wild Discovery	03:30 Hollywood Science	
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<b>CHANNEL-1</b>	09:20 Shukhi Porib																	