



CULTURALFEAST

Live Musical Performance at



Kozmo

With the surrogate band
Venue: Kozmo Lounge, Bikala Tower, Plot 74, Road 5/A, Sat Masjid Rd, Dhammendi
Date: July 20
Time: 6pm

Photographic Presentation

Organiser: Drik Gallery
Photographer: Manoucher Deghati (Iran)

Venue: ULAB Auditorium, House 56, Road 4/A, Dhammendi

Date: July 18

Time: 6:00pm

Musical Soiree

Organiser: Chayanat Shangskriti Bhawan
Venue: Chayanat Shangskriti Bhawan

Date: July 19

Time: 7pm

Organiser: citibank
Venue: Radisson Water Garden Hotel

Date: July 20

Time: 5pm

Theatre Festival

Title: Nobo anonde jago aji nobo robikirone

Organiser: Mohakal Natya Samprada

Venue: Experimental Theatre Stage, Bangladesh Shilpkala Academy

Play: Projapoti

Troupe: Natyakendro

Date & Time: July 18, 7pm

Play: Koinna

Troupe: Prachyanat

Date & Time: July 19, 7pm

Play: Rupoboti

Troupe: Subochon Natya Sangsads

Date & Time: July 20, 7pm

Play: Joldas

Troupe: Dhaka Podatik

Date & Time: July 21, 7pm

Play: Meraj Fakir Ma

Troupe: Theatre

Date & Time: July 22, 7pm

Play: Nokshi Kantha

Troupe: Bangladesh Theatre

Date & Time: July 23, 7pm

Play: Tripura Rajar Upakhan

Troupe: Durbar Natya Gosthi

Date & Time: July 24, 7pm

Play: Rarang

Troupe: Aranyak Natyadal

Date & Time: July 25, 7pm

Solo Print Exhibition

Artist: Rashid Amin
Venue: Shilpangan Art Gallery, House 26, Road 3, Dhammendi

Date: July 10 to July 24

Time: 12am to 9pm

17th National Art Biennale

Khalid Mahmood Mithu on his award-winning work "Justice"

ERSHAD KAMOL

MANY artists through their innovative works have criticised the flawed polity of contemporary Bangladesh. Khalid Mahmood Mithu has addressed the trend of political practice for the sole purpose of making quick bucks, through his 'video-installation' based work, *Justice*. The installation has won the AB Bank Award at the 17th National Art Biennale organised by the Department of Fine Arts, Ban-

gladesh Shilpkala Academy.

At the centre of the video-installation is a toilet, decorated with Taka. The floor is covered with newspapers clippings featuring news on extortion, surrounded by wheat -- supposed to be used as relief for the poor. On top of the setting a video is projected on a TV screen. The video shows an individual sitting on the toilet covered with money.

On his work, Mithu says, "The toilet as well as shirt, trouser, sunglasses, shoes and even the undergarment of the model in the video-installation, are all covered with money. Corrupt politicians in Bangladesh have attained so much wealth by conning the masses that at times they're unsure how to spend the money. The floor, with the newspaper clippings and relief materials, represents the mass."

Why does he call it "Justice"? Mithu responds, "It's sarcasm; trying to draw attention to the injustice. The essence of the modern art forms, like video-installation, is to create an enigmatic effect on the viewers so that they're compelled to think."

Why has he chosen video-installation as the medium? Mithu



Justice, the video-installation by Khalid Mahmood Mithu

says, "The whole world is on the lookout for new and edgy mediums. Apt use of medium is a key factor to demonstrate an artist's talents. Video-installation is used quite frequently by artists all over the world. Besides I'm also a documentary-maker. Naturally I have a

weakness for the medium." Khalid Mahmood Mithu has completed his MFA from the Institute of Fine Arts. Apart from being a painter, Mithu has also made a name for himself as a documentary-maker and photographer.

In Focus

Riverine passages by boat

AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh

Once upon a time sailing boats on the rippling waters of the big rivers in the country were a common sight. In fact the scenic beauty of riverine Bangladesh put it on the world map. Unfortunately today, boats with big sails, known as *Gairna Nauka*, are rarely visible.

Senior citizens, however, have vivid memories. Ninety-five year old Sobrab Hossain Sarker, son of Hazi Babar Ali, of village Char Gobindpur, adjacent to Gayanar Ghat has his own viewpoint. To quote the trader who used

such sailing boats, "We had to stay in the boat for days together to reach Narayanganj, Munshiganj, Bikrampur, Taltala in Dhaka division to ferry our commodities. Sometimes we had to make our way by train but in many cases the boatmen took us with them for their security."

Here's a trip down memory lane: Driven by the wind, these boats used to navigate their way on the rivers crisscrossing Bangladesh. This was the only form of transportation for many rural denizens to ferry their goods. These boats used to travel to Mymensingh with coconuts,

betel nuts and earthen pots from Noakhali, Barisal and Pirojpur, mostly in the rainy season.

Muscular and stout boatmen were engaged rowing these boats, carrying passengers on long routes. In the course of these journeys the boats became temporary homes to the boatmen.

As the Brahmaputra and many other rivers, including Dholka, Kangsha, Mogra, Shomeshwari and Khrirun run through the greater Mymensingh region, traders would use the boats to send their goods from remote areas of the district to other destinations. In the days of the British and Pakistan regime, when the Brahmaputra river was at its height, hundreds of people from rural Bangladesh would make their living through *haat* or bazaars at different points.

The *ghaat*, some 2 kms from the district town, was named after a sweet shop owner called Gayan Dey Sarker. Later the *ghaat* earned recognition as a major trade centre. Though an array of shops and hotels were set up here for the benefit of traders, today there is no sign of the *ghaat*.

Cut to the hard reality of the present: Many *ghaats* have faded into oblivion, a fall out of the long years of massive silting in the Brahmaputra river. With the dredging of the major rivers properly, river routes -- an easy and comparatively cheap transport system -- can survive.

There are some saving graces: Though the sailing boats are rarely seen today, people in the *haat* areas of Netrakona and Kishoreganj districts still rely on engine driven boats to cross the waters. Visitors are enchanted by the sight of boats decorated with coloured paper and the boozing of huge drums on occasion of marriages.



PHOTO COURTESY: FLICKR.COM

ON AIR

PICK OF THE DAY

Jege Theko
On ATN Bangla at 8:00pm
Drama Serial
Cast: Joy, TinniUgly Betty
On Star World 9:30pm
TV Series
Cast: Eric Mabius, America Ferrera

BTV

11:15 Drama Serial: Shongshaptak

09:20 Drama Serial: Shagor Konya

11:30 Talking Point

12:00 GrameenPhone Lead News

CHANNEL-i

09:30 Shongshaptak Potrey

Bangladesh

01:30 Musical Programme

02:15 Hijo Tomal

03:05 Shudhu Alapcharita

Cartoon: Bananas in Pyjamas

03:30 Shukhi Poribar

04:00 Computer

04:30 Amader Ranna

05:05 Sisimpur

05:30 Mithoskria

06:40 Shondha Maloti

07:00 Mati O Manush

07:30 Shujbar Jonno

Cinema

08:30 Protidin Bangladesh

08:35 Drama Serial: Alo Bash

03:05 Talk show: Microcredit

04:00 Swapno Loker

Chabi

09:30 Aler Pather Jatri

10:30 Prothom Antora

11:00 Shur Lohori

ATN BANGLA

10:30 Talk show: Aktel

11:05 Baddi Bejey

12:15 Amar Computer

01:30 Gane Shure Taruney

02:30 Notun Chhobir Gaan

03:10 Drama Serial: Bhalobashar Rang

03:45 Shristi Shuker

Ullashay

11:30 Ekanyo Barti

12:00 GrameenPhone Ajker

Thoko

ntv

08:45 Drama Serial: Bohemian

CHANNEL-i

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