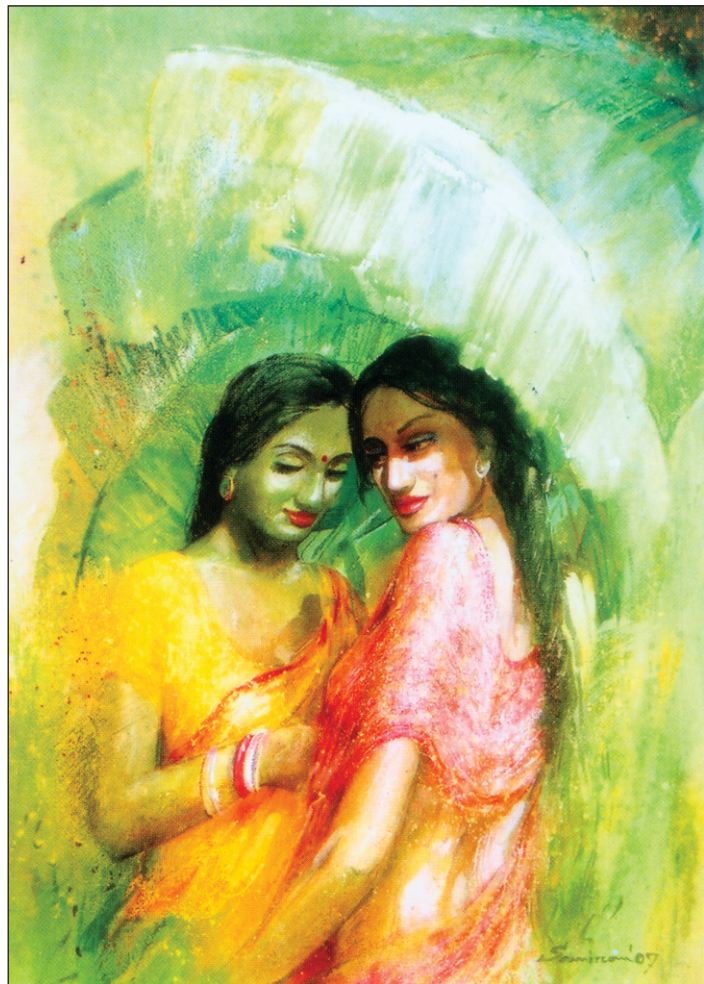


Of beauties and beasts

Samiran's 12th solo



Artworks by Samiran Chowdhury

FAYZA HAQ

If one goes in for realism, Samiran Chowdhury's recent exhibition at Saju's Art Gallery was a veritable feast of colours and forms. His chalk drawings of bulls and battle scenes were creations full of vigour and action. His scenes from nature were also moving.

Samiran painted and drew as a child, encouraged by his father, even though it was not a subject at school. He joined the Institute of Fine Arts DU in 1980, and there got the guidance of teachers like Mahbubul Amin, Rafiqun Nabi, Abdus Shakoor and Abdul Baset. Aside from his class work he did other paintings which he sold to the



galleries. Samiran says he loves doing portraits from his imagination. "I can't possibly expect to get models with perfect features and figures," he comments. Most of his works were in mixed media, using water-colour, acrylic and oil pastel, his favourite being water-colour. Asked about the problems he faces as an artist, Samiran says that while

people are ready to praise, he does not get sufficient monetary reward. As for session jams as a student, he says that although it meant that it took him more time to get his degree, yet he got a longer period of training, for which he is grateful. Samiran's greatest interest are women's figures with exquisite features and body proportions. In

one of his paintings he showed a woman coming out of a bath, with long dripping hair and a scanty diaphanous sari. Another was a tribal Pakistani woman with delicate features, heavy jewellery and embroidered clothes. This was inspired by a recent trip to Pakistan, where he had his exhibition. A couple of female friends were seen sharing secrets under banana trees, and this too glorified women's beauty.

Based on the Liberation War, he made many drawings in charcoal with flags, rifles and soldiers, some including passing dogs, joining the fray, to lend interest. Pakistani soldiers were shown as captured. Fighting bulls had been added to the exhibition to present his forte in drawing. These sketches have in mind Zainul Abedin's drawings of cows. Doves too had been included in his repertoire and this was done in mixed media. Samiran says he has always been intrigued by the figures of bulls, dogs and goats.

A portrait of Bangabandhu, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, done in black and white, with red and green of the national flag in the background, was a rich addition to the collection. The shaking of the forefinger and the tossing of the front locks -- while giving a fiery speech had been carefully captured.

Fishermen with only "lungi" and "gamchha" were shown drawing their nets, early morning, before the sun was out. Behind them were boats, houses and hills.

Yellow flowers, seen in a garden, with a lot of texture work in white were there to be seen too.

Samiran's favourite artists are Michaelangelo, Da Vinci, Botticelli and Raphael. Among the modern painters, he admires Van Gogh and Picasso most of all.

A natural born singer Tête-à-tête with Alam Ara Minu

NADIA SARWAT

Radio, TV, films, music albums -- Alam Ara Minu's songs are everywhere. Possessing versatility and melody, the enlisted artiste in both radio and TV, has so far released 30 albums, of which 10 are solo and playback for over 100 films.

In a recent interview with The Daily Star (TDS), the singer shares certain aspects of her career and more. Excerpts from the conversation:

TDS: Your introduction to music...

Minu: Music fascinated me since I was a child, although there was no musician in my family to guide me. My father was a music enthusiast and taught me how to play the harmonium. Soon I was participating at school functions and competitions, without any formal training. I managed to win many of these competitions. Then I auditioned at radio and television and never had to look back.

TDS: The turning point in your career...

Minu: I believe it was my performance in the TV show *Geeli Bichitra* in 1989. I was the first singer in the first episode of the programme. The song was *Tara bhora ratey*, composed by Ayub Bachchu. The song was also featured in my debut album (released in the same year) and became quite popular. Ayub Bachchu himself performed the song in an album afterwards.

TDS: Which genre of music do you prefer?

Minu: Well, I always wanted to be a versatile singer. Music comes naturally to me and I enjoy singing all kinds of songs.

TDS: Favourite composers...

Minu: I take a song as a song, and as a professional I don't differentiate among music directors. If



Take a song as a song, and as a professional I don't differentiate among music directors.

it's a good composition and offers variation, I'm ready to work, even with newcomers. I regret that I didn't get enough opportunities to work with several acclaimed music directors but many of my songs composed by upcoming music directors were well accepted by the audience.

TDS: Your take on live performance...

Minu: I love singing on stage! So far I have not had any negative experience. The audience has always been appreciative, both at home and abroad.

TDS: Interesting incidents...

Minu: One particular incident comes to mind: I was invited to perform at a stage show in Qatar, along with Rizia Parveen and

Palash. Well, I contracted cold and could hardly speak. I wanted to back out but the organisers insisted that I perform. Having no other option since I had already taken an advance, I decided to lip sync, which I never do at live shows. However, I was afraid that if the audience called for an encore I would be exposed! Fortunately the musicians got into the act, and the show ended well. Rizia and Palash were very amused and said, "Minu, we knew you sing well, but we didn't know you can act too!"

Alam Ara Minu has recently finished recording her latest solo album *Dokhiner Janala* which is set to be released on the occasion of Eid-ul-Fitr.

TV Watch

Drama serial "Astey Astey" on Channel i

Cultural correspondent

Drama serial *Astey Astey* is an innovative production. The serial is aired live on Channel i every Thursday and Saturday at 11:30pm.

Through the serial, Channel i intends to change the concept of TV

plays among the audience. Hitting issues including everyday news, this serial is already making a buzz.

Shahidul Alam Sachchu, one of the two directors of the serial, said, "We are trying to incorporate the theatrical style of acting in a TV play. Every episode fea-

tures issues that often become headlines in newspapers, and is aired live. If the audience likes it and the artistes and crew remain supportive, we have a plan to convert the serial into a daily soap."

Because it is a live performance, it does include all the gaffes the artistes and the director make. Designed by a former movie poster designer, the set of the series includes only a painted curtain in the background.

The cast includes Humayun Faridee, Fazlur Rahman Babu, Saberi Alam, Shireen Bakul, Nusrat Yasmin Tisa, Shahed, Mir Sabbir, Bonya Mirza, Srabonti, Tinni, Hillol, Sazu Khadem, Shahidul Alam Sachchu and others.

Shymal Bhaduri, Rubel Shankar, Azad Abul Kalam, Pantha Shahriar and Sumanta Aslam are in the panel of the scriptwriters. Amirul Islam is the other director of the serial.



The Graduation Ceremony of Playpen O'Level 5th batch was held recently at Emmanuelle's Banquet Hall, says a press release. The event featured dance sequences and songs performed by the senior section students. The Graduation Certificates were awarded by Sabera P Harun, principal and Honorary roll certificates were given by Shahriar Quader, vice principal of the school. The programme was attended by students, parents, coordinators and teachers

Shekhar Kapur back with "The Golden Age"

After many abortive attempts to make a film in the last six years, filmmaker Shekhar Kapur has returned with a pulsating, gorgeous looking and solidly acted film that has propelled him into the Hollywood A-list again. There was a strong Oscar buzz for the \$80 million historical drama *Elizabeth: The Golden Age*, which premiered at the 32nd Toronto International Film Festival held recently.

The humiliating failure of his previous film *Four Feathers*, which cost over \$60 million and grossed less than \$45 million worldwide is forgotten, now that *The Golden Age* could become one of the bigger successes of the fall season.

The film also marks A.R. Rahman's debut in a Hollywood film. *The Golden Age* is being distributed by Universal, and will open worldwide in mid October. It has raised high hopes of an Oscar nomination for Cate Blanchett, who reprises her Oscar nominated role in Kapur's *Elizabeth* released in 1998. Just as *The Golden Age* premiere was on the way, Blanchett received another career boost. She won the award for best actress at the Venice film festival for her role in Todd Haynes's *Bob Dylan biopic I'm Not There*.

Kapur talked at length about how *The Golden Age*, which chronicles the unfulfilling romantic life of the 16th century British monarch, is still relevant

to contemporary times. He also said the film spends quite some time showing the Catholic Spanish kingdom -- which seeks to dominate the continent -- is driven by religious bigotry. The film deals with the efforts of Spanish king Philip II to overthrow Elizabeth and replace the Protestant England by Catholicism.

"It was one of the greatest eras in human history," Kapur said. "It produced playwrights such as William Shakespeare; Francis Drake became the first Englishman to circumnavigate the globe, and Francis Bacon set up new scientific methods of enquiry. But there was always a threat of war and bloodshed; religious fundamentalism was causing havoc across Europe."

"Fundamentalism and tolerance are issues that face us so clearly now, especially in a post-9/11 world," he said, adding that he was very keen that the script showed the consequences of religious bigotry.

Kapur repeated the story from his previous interviews saying that getting Cate Blanchett agree to play Queen was his biggest challenge. She has been rejecting his cajoling and pressure for over six years, he said.

Blanchett has said that for many years, she felt she could not bring anything new to playing Elizabeth.

But when she finally saw the script last year, she decided she would play the title role. While there was quite a bit of focus on power struggle in the first film, she said at the press conference, she also felt there was a new Elizabeth to be delivered in the new film.



Cate Blanchett in *Elizabeth: The Golden Age* She became convinced, she said, after reading the script that there were 'endless possibilities with Elizabeth because she's endlessly fascinating.'

Source: Internet

ON AIR

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

News Bulletin

BTB
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, 9:15pm, 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.

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 10:00am, 12:00am, 4:00pm.

Rtv
News (Bangla) at 10:15pm, and 12:15am

ntv
News (Bangla) 7:30am, 12:02pm, 2:00pm, 7:30pm, 10:30pm, 1:00am

ETV
News (Bangla): 1:00pm, 3:00pm, 5:00pm, 7:00pm, 9:00pm, 11:00pm

BTB
08:15 Musical Programme
08:40 *Bishwa Bichitra*
11:15 Documentary Programme

12:40 *Lok Lokalay*
01:00 Special Programme
01:30 *Mati O Manush*
02:15 ICC World Twenty 20 Championship

05:30 *Hridoye Mati O Manush*
05:35 *Mahe Ramjan*
06:10 ICC World Twenty 20 Championship

09:15 Drama Serial: *Shesh Pristhath Dekhun*
10:30 ICC World Twenty 20 Championship

ATN Bangla
09:15 Drama Serial: *Amader Nurul Huda*
10:30 ATN Commentary BOX

11:05 Drama: *Tamar Bish*
12:15 Talking Point
01:30 *Prapok*
02:40 Baul Charity Show 2007

04:20 Islamic Programme
05:00 *Gram Gonjer Khobor*
05:10 *Khotomey Quran*
05:30 Islamic Programme

06:20 *Hamd Nath*
06:30 Three Stooges
08:00 Drama Serial: *Out Door*

08:40 Drama Serial: *Soyid Barir Bou*

09:20 Drama Serial: *Prothom Shokal*
11:30 Drama Serial: *Doll's House*

Channel-i
08:30 *Shokaler Gaan*
09:30 Selected Programme

11:05 *Apollo Tele Prescription*
11:30 *Hridoye Mati O Manush*
12:30 *Citycell Taroka Kathan*

01:05 Tax Helpline
01:15 *Ebong Cinemar Gaan*
01:30 Selected Programme

02:40 Drama Serial: *Prinobash*
03:05 *Chance 50-50*
04:05 *Shonni Agami*
04:30 *Muktijudho Protidin*

05:20 *Shrostar Shakhkhhor*
05:30 Islamic Programme
06:20 *Cookery Show*
06:30 South Asian

07:50 *Mega Serial: Bhober Haat*
08:20 Selected Programme
09:35 Drama Serial: *Ajbot*
11:30 Drama Serial: *Ekanyo Borti*

12:00 Selected Programme

ETV
08:00 *Ekusher Shokal*
01:30 *Drishiti*
02:00 Music Cafe

03:30 *Chirontoni Mukto Khobor*
04:00 Musical Programme

04:30 *Ekusher Shondhya*
05:45 *Nishikutum*
07:30 Drama Serial: *Chena Manusher Pachali*

08:30 *Onirbaan*
10:30 Musical Programme: *Spondon*
11:45 Reporter's File

Channel 1
08:40 *Shuprobhat Bangladesh*
09:30 *Chokh Mele Dekhi*
10:30 Bangla Feature Film

03:30 Drama Serial: *Ghor Phera*
04:00 *Gaaner Kotha Kothar Gaan*

04:30 *Shondhi Khoney*
05:15 Islamic Programme
06:45 *Itihasar Path Dhorey*

07:00 *Cookery Show*
08:15 Drama Serial: *Godhuli Belay*
09:00 *Amar Nayokera*

09:30 Musical Programme
11:00 Music Music

Banglavisision
08:35 *Shubho Shokal*
09:05 Drama Serial:

09:30 *Shesh Odhyay*
10:00 *Bangla Feature Film*

02:30 *Mohanogor*
02:40 *Bachelor Dompoti*
03:15 *Nodi O Jibon*

04:15 *Citycell Diner Sheshey*
05:30 Islamic Programme
06:35 Sportsvision

08:25 Drama Serial: *Mohanogor*
09:05 *Apnar Agami*
09:45 Drama Serial: *Swapno Chura*

STAR MOVIES
08:20 *Lord Of War*
10:15 *The Living Daylights*
12:30 *The Abyss*

03:20 *Metro*
05:25 *Ice Age 2*
07:00 *Garfield: A Tail Of Two Kitties*

08:30 *Grandma's Boy*
10:00 *Two Moon Junction*
11:30 *Shattered Glass*

01:15 *The Ticket*

STAR WORLD
08:30 *30 Rock*
09:00 *Two & A Half Men*
09:30 *Kyle Xy*
10:30 *Brothers & Sisters*

11:30 *Day Break*
12:30 *Beauty And The Geek*
1:30 *Life As We Know It*

02:30 *In Justice*
03:30 *Ncis*
04:30 *Boston Legal*
05:30 *Hollywood Shootout*

06:00 *Travel Asia*
06:30 *Koffee With Karan*
07:30 *The Simpsons*
08:00 *Malcolm In The Middle*

08:30 *In Justice*
09:30 *Koffee With Karan*
11:00 *Criss Angel Mindfreak*
11:30 *The Unit*
12:30 *Monk*

History
08:30 *Sauna Belt*
09:15 *Global Pendant*
09:30 *Eye on History (D-Day)*

10:30 *October Fury*
11:30 *A Crooked Man*
12:30 *Gold*
01:30 *London's Lost Cities*
02:30 *Nabisco Race For Buyout*

03:30 *Thunderbird*
04:30 *Man Who Predicted 9/11*
05:30 *9/11 Hijackers*
06:30 *Sadat*
10:30 *War on Terror: A year in review*

11:30 *The Day the Towers Fell*
12:30 *Lawrence of Arabia*

DISCOVERY CHANNEL
09:30 *Discover India*

10:30 *Colours of India*
11:30 *Baby Story*
12:00 *Mean Machines*

12:30 *Future Weapons*
01:30 *Wild South America*
02:30 *Truth About Food*
03:30 *Looking for India*

04:30 *Raw Nature*
05:30 *How Do They Do It?*
06:00 *Million 2 One*
06:30 *Asia Rising*
07:30 *Raw Nature*

08:30 *Discovery's Biggest Shows*
10:30 *Bird-Month*
11:30 *Mummy Autopsy*

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC
08:30 *Dive To Tiger Central*
09:30 *The Living Edens*
10:30 *Monsoon Railway*

12:30 *Greece*
01:30 *Revolutionary Rhythms*
02:00 *Hot Salsa : Cuba*
02:30 *The Wolfman*
03:30 *Air Crash Investigation*

04:30 *Get Outta Town*
05:00 *Jassel, Ingrid, Hogan*
05:30 *Big Bang*
06:00 *Loggerhead & Green Turtle*

06:30 *Millau Bridge*
07:30 *The Living Edens*
08:30 *Outsmarting Terror*
09:30 *Iranian Embassy Siege*
10:30 *Death Of The Sun*
11:30 *One Way Ticket*
12:30 *Bird of Prey*

Radio Foorti
07:00am *Hello Dhaka (Apu)*
11:00am *Amar 98.4 (Nusrat)*
03:00pm *Dhaka Calling (Sakib)*
07:00pm *Seven Eleven (Sadia)*
11:00pm *Late Night Show (Shuvo)*
03:00am *Back to Back music*

ESPN
09:30 *Icc World Twenty20 (Cricket)* South Africa Vs Bangladesh

10:30 *Icc Cricket World (Cricket)*

11:30 *Sportscenter India (Sport News)*

12:30 *Cricket Taking Guard - Icc World T20 (Cricket)*

01:45 *Icc World Twenty20 (Cricket)* Wanderers, South Africa Super Eights

03:20 *Icc World Twenty20 - Mid Wicket (Cricket)*

05:45 *Icc World Twenty20 (Cricket)* Cape Town, South Africa Super Eights

07:20 *Icc World Twenty20 - Mid Wicket (Cricket)*

09:15 *Link Shows (Cricket)*

09:45 *Icc World Twenty20 (Cricket)* Cape Town, South Africa Super Eights