

Profile

Rafiqun Nabi: In search of truth and beauty

FAYZA HAQ

RAFIQUN Nabi, the internationally acclaimed master artist, sitting at the Bengal Gallery, asked to dwell on Athens, where he had his overseas education in his youth, said, that ancient Greece, once the hub of world culture, is still breathtaking and inspiring.

The city had a lot to do in inspiring him to accomplish the excellent prints that he has been doing over the decades. Confident and bursting with joie de vivre – although then up to his neck with his last awe inspiring solo -- he spoke forcefully



Struggle, woodcut, by Rafiqun Nabi

on various aspects of fine arts, including his halcyon days at the Athens School of Art.

Speaking on Greece, Nabi said that philosophy, mathematics, medicine, literature, fine arts, architecture and every other aspects of western culture, had its roots in Greece. Nabi went there after the Liberation War (1973) through a Greek government scholarship. He was full of wanderlust, and high hopes of learning from the European museums and art scenario, studying under the famed print-maker, Gramatopolulos, who excelled in wood-cuts (the most complex genre in print-making).

Nabi learnt the know-how of gigantic woodcuts which require a steady stream of elbow grease. Its essence, however, is unique, says Nabi.

Coming back to Dhaka, he made prints that were unconventional and inspired our younger generation of artists. Asked to comment on the student-teacher relationship in his days with that which is found today, he says that nowadays there is some gap in this and one does not find the congenial scenario of yesteryears. "Teachers like Zainul Abedin, Safiuddin Ahmed, Quamrul Hassan, Anwarul Haque and Khwaja Shafiq Ahmed taught us more than the academic aspects of art: There was a much greater rapport. There was then the fervour of creating a new nation. The Art College, as it was known then, was a seat of culture, without doubt. Each teacher had his forte, and every one of them was charismatic. Nevertheless, the students of the Fine Arts Institute, DU, today have a fairly good time."

Dwelling on how Bangladesh compares with the rest of the sub-continent in the field of fine arts, Nabi expostulates that although we are a relatively small nation, we have not been surpassed by any, as we have our own way of exploring forms, textures, colours etc. "The names like that of Mohammed Kibria and Shafiuddin Ahmed are nonpareil. Within our periphery we are not outdone by any artist from any other neighbouring country, I



The Net, another woodcut work by the artist

believe. The Indian artists have more financial backing and exposure, I admit, but our artists have excelled in their respective mediums too."

As for Nabi's readership in cartooning -- there has surely been no other critique of the socio-political life in Bangladesh over the years. As regards his mastery over numerous mediums in painting, no other artist today has more subtle, incisive, and dramatic strokes or choice of hues.

Within the frame of Cubism Nabi expresses himself in Expressionism. However, his vision remains uniquely optimistic. "This is my compromise," He comments. He is a winner of numerous awards and accolades, both at home and overseas. He has been the director of the Institute of Fine Arts and is currently a professor of drawing and painting.

CULTURALFEAST

Theatre

Title: Jugabandi
Troupe: Bangaranga Natyadol
Venue: Mahila Samiti Stage
Date: September 22
Time: 7pm

Solo Art Exhibition

Title: Contemporary Art Exhibition of 7 Countries
Countries: USA, Germany, Nepal, Italy, Greece, Malaysia & Bangladesh
Venue: National Art Gallery, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, Segunbagicha
Date: September 21-25
Time: 10 am to 4 pm



A journalist turned actor-singer

Hasan Masood on his transition

NADIA SARWAT

He is a journalist by profession, but after the film *Bachelor* (2004), he became an overnight celebrity. If Mostafa Sarwar Farooqi's *Bachelor* has set a new trend in visual media, Hasan Masood is obviously the one to stir the audience with that trend. The movie also features his performance as a singer. This multi-faceted talent recently talked to *The Daily Star* (TDS). Excerpts from the conversation:

TDS: How did a journalist become an actor?

Masood: I was approached by Mostafa Sarwar Farooqi to play the role in February 2003. Acting in films is quite time-consuming and I was working at *The Daily Star* at the time. I spoke to the editor Mahfuz Anam who encouraged me take on the offer and accommodated with granting me a recreation leave for the entire year. Shooting started right away. The film was released a year later on February 1, 2004. Incidentally, I joined BBC the same day.

TDS: Why do you think the character 'Hasan bhai' is so popular?

Masood: Perhaps it is because people can easily relate to the character. I don't really act, I more



or less 'react'. I try to become the character I play, understand him, and react the way he would, given the situation.

TDS: Your first acting experience was not stressful?

Masood: Absolutely not. **TDS:** Do you think it's necessary to have formal training in acting?

Masood: That's obviously very helpful. There are several different styles and forms, such as acting in

theatre, film, television and radio. Formal acting classes help to understand these forms, but it's not a must. Quite a few of world's greatest actors had no institutional training. I think it's important to learn with every role.

TDS: Have you considered taking acting as a fulltime career?

Masood: (Smilingly) Well, no. I am quite content with my career as a journalist. I enjoy acting a lot, but I

am proud to be a journalist above all. These two professions are very different from each other, and I don't want to lose my identity as a journalist. Acting will remain a part-time indulgence until I retire from journalism.

TDS: You have released your first music album...

Masood: I've been singing from an early age and I'd completed a 5-year course on Nazrul Sangeet from Chhayana. *Hridoy Ghotito* is my first album, released on Valentine's Day last year. Marjuk Russel wrote all of the 10 songs, Sanjeev Chowdhury composed the tunes and Bappa Majumdar arranged the music. I would also like to pursue singing, even though it's difficult for me to make time.

TDS: Of all the roles you've played, which one is your favourite?

Masood: Has to be the lead character of the drama serial *Taxi Driver* which was aired on Channel 1 some time ago. The serial is being rerun now. The characters I was doing became a bit stereotyped after *Bachelor* and I think I overcame that with this role.

TDS: Future plans regarding acting?

Masood: I'd like to play some negative roles now.

Kanthasheelan's recitation programme at the Public Library

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Recital organisation Kanthasheelan arranged a programme titled *Biponyo Manusher Pashey Darai* last evening at the Shawkat Osman Memorial Auditorium, Public Library. The programme was organised in aid of the flood victims. Recital artistes Meer Barkat, Golam Sarwar, Mohammed Nasiruddin, Zahirul Haque Khan, Azharul Haque Azad, Rais-ul-Islam, Naila Tarannum Chowdhury, Jharna Sarker, Azhar-un-Nabi Rana and Murtoza Sharif Pulak rendered performances in the event. The money earned through the programme will be given to the flood victims.

The evening started with Azhar-Un-Nabi Rana's rendition of the poem *Neelkantha* by Premendra Mitra. This was followed by Murtoza Sharif Pulok's three recitations: *Rajputtur* by Rabindranath Tagore, *Na Ram na Ganga* by Nirendranath Chakrabarty and *Jonoiko pradhan shikkhoker uddeshyey lekha Abraham Linkoner chithhi* compiled by eminent litterateur Selina Hossain. His presentation of the last poem on Abraham Lincoln attracted the audiences.

Jharna Sarker moved the audience by her superb recitation of the poem *Foti Pagli*, taken from Neelima Ibrahim's most celebrated publication, *Beerangana Balchhi*. The soulful performance of Jharna, especially narrating the blood chilling torture by the Pakistani military, dumbfounded the audience.

Mohammed Nasiruddin rendered poems from Nirendranath Chakrabarti, Buddhadev Basu, Mohitlal Majumdar and Shamsur Rahman.

Naila Tarannum's recitation, Bertolt Brecht's



An artiste performs at the programme

Mariferar and *Ami ei shei meye* by Shuvadas Gupta were appreciated by the spectators.

Zahirul Haque Khan recited from Sabyasachi Deb's *Karna* and Ram Basu's *Bhashon*. The programme ended with Golam Sarwar's presentation of *Neel Upahar*, a translation by Sunil Ganguly from the origin of Octavio Paz's poem.

Eid-special publication for children

"Rangeen Phul" launched

Publication house Oitijhya's Eid-special treat for children, *Rangeen Phul*, was launched at Poet Sufia Kamal Auditorium, National Museum recently, says a press release.

National professor Kabir Chowdhury, litterateur Abdus Shakur, Bashir Al Helal and chief executive of Oitijhya, Arifur Rahman Nayeem were present at the programme.

Kabir Chowdhury said, "I felt an excitement after receiving this issue of *Rangeen Phul*," Abdus Shakur said in his speech.

Chief executive of Oitijhya, Arifur Rahman Nayeem explained the objectives of publication,



Professor Kabir Chowdhury (2nd from the left) at the book launching ceremony

saying, "Very little is published for the children on the occasion of *Eid* in our country. Though this is aimed at children, it should appeal to adults as well."

Dhrubo Esh is the art director and cover designer of *Rangeen Phul*. This collection includes write-ups by 107 writers.

"Muktijuddho Protidin": Daily show on Liberation War

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

The daily programme *Muktijuddho Protidin*, aired on Channel-i, reached its 180th episode recently. The programme, highlighting the Liberation War, began on March 7 this year and is expected to run up to December 16. Day to day events and major combats during the war are brought into light in the programme.

A team of researchers -- led by Major (ret'd) Shamsul Arefin -- including Wasim Ahmed, Shahidul Hasan Lincoln and Mustafa Ratan, was formed three months ago for conducting the necessary exploration.

Eminent cultural personality and Freedom fighter Nasiruddin



Anchor Nasiruddin Yousuff
Yousuff hosts the show pro-

duced by Raju Alim.

Renowned individuals who have actively participated in the war are interviewed in the programme. Unheard stories and eyewitness accounts are narrated. So far, Selim Al Deen, Abdur Razzak, Tofael Ahmed, Rokeya Sultana, Mamunur Rashid, Rashed Khan Menon, Murtaja Baseer, Dr. Atiur Rahman, Mayeedul Hassan, Aminul Haque Badshah, Badruddin Umar, Ayesha Khanom, Raisul Islam Asad, Abdul Gaffar Chowdhury, KM Shafullah and Sultana Kamal have appeared in the show as guests.

Muktijuddho Protidin is aired daily at 4:05pm.

ON AIR

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 a.m, 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.
News Headlines (English) at 8:05pm

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

BTV

08:45 Esho Gaan Shikhi
11:15 Documentary
Programme: Nobo Digonto

11:30 Shukhi Poribar
12:30 Ma O Shishur Kotha
01:00 Quiz Quiz
01:30 Mati O Manush
02:15 Sisimpur
02:40 Bangla Feature Film
05:05 ICC World Twenty 20

09:15 Drama: Smile Care
10:30 ICC World Twenty 20

ATN BANGLA

10:30 ATN Commentary
Box
11:05 Shath Din
12:15 Bangla Feature Film
03:45 Shobar Jonno
04:20 Khotomey Quran
05:00 Gram Gonj: Khobor
06:20 Hamd Nath
08:00 Mega Serial: The New Sobuj Opera

Mega Serial: Laal
Neel Beguni
09:20 Mega Serial: Ek Jonomey
11:30 Drama Serial: Doll's House

Greenphone
Lead News

CHANNEL i

09:30 Selected Programme
11:05 Selected Programme

12:30 Citycell Taroka

01:05 Tax Helpline
01:15 Ebong Cinemar Gaan

01:30 Selected Programme
Fashion Show
04:05 Muktijuddho Protidin
04:30 Eid Anondo
05:20 Sroshitar Shikhhokor
05:30 Islamic Programme
06:10 Cookery Show
06:25 Swapnil Agami

07:50 Mega Serial: Bhober Haat
Hridoye Mati O Manush
09:35 Drama Serial: Mon Chhutey Jay

11:30 Drama Serial: Astey
Astey
12:00 Grameenphone
Ajker Shangbadpotro

Rtv

09:05 Wrestling
09:30 Children's Programme
Protidin

10:30 Gopsop
Musical Programme
12:15 Drama Serial: Ebong Rohoshyer
Golpo
01:00

01:30 Wrestling
02:30 Children's Programme
Protidin
05:20 Alokmo Mahe
Ramjan

06:00 Protidin
06:35 Tarzan
11:00 Look at Me

CHANNEL 1

PICK OF THE DAY

New Zealand v Pakistan
On BTV at 5:05pm
Semi Final
Live from Cape Town

10:30 Fusion for Baul 11:00 Drama 12:05 Tele Film 02:00 Cookery Show 03:30 Drama: Parul Shomachar 05:15 Fusion For Baul 06:45 Iltihasher Path Dhorey 07:00 Cookery Show 08:15 Drama Serial: Ghor Phera 09:00 Amar Nayokera 09:30 Shondhikhoney 10:50 Rupantoror Golpo 11:30 Tarzan Kothar Gaan	ETV 08:00 Ekusher Shokal 08:30 Desh Jurey 01:30 Drishti 02:00 Bangla Feature Film 05:30 Ei Shoptaher Bishwa 05:45 Ekusher Shondha 07:30 Shoptah Ghurey Deshjurey 08:30 Musical Programme 11:45 Reporter's File BANGLAVISION 11:40 Media Bhubon 01:00 X-Crime 02:30 Vokab Drama Serial:	03:15 Kachhey Durey Banglavision Cafe 04:15 Citycell Din-er Sheshay 04:30 Ebong Classer Bairey 05:30 Islamic Programme 06:25 Cookery Show 08:25 Drama Serial: Shesh Odhay 09:05 Amar Ami 09:45 Drama Serial: Bachelor Dompoti 11:20 Raat Biraatey STAR MOVIES 08:50 Ring Of The Nibelungs - Ep. 1 11:55 Teen Wolf	01:30 Final Cut Jerry Maguire 03:05 The Ringer 05:20 Rundown, The 07:00 Starship Troopers 2: Hero Of The 10:25 The Animal 11:50 Red Sonja STAR PLUS 09:30 Saans 10:00 V Trailers - Star Plus 10:30 Ducktales 11:00 Timon And Pumbaa 11:25 Bolly V - Star Plus 11:30 Sonpuri 12:00 Karishma Ka Karishma
----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

12:25 Bolly V - Star Plus
12:30 V Trailers - Star Plus
12:55 Bolly V - Star Plus
01:00 Shaka Laka Boom Boom
01:55 Bolly V - Star Plus
02:00 V Trailers - Star Plus
02:25 Bolly V - Star Plus
02:30 Kasauti Zindagi Kay Kasturi
03:00 V Trailers - Star Plus
05:00 Bolly V - Star Plus
05:25 The Hero - Love Story Of A Spy
05:30 Nach Baliye 3
08:30 Prithviraj Chauhan
09:30 Baa Bahoo Aur Baby Star Voice Of India
10:00 Kasturi
12:30 Bolly V - Star Plus

STAR WORLD
09:30 Ncis
10:30 The Bold And The Beautiful
12:30 Desperate Housewives
03:30 Malcolm In The Middle
04:00 My Name Is Earl
04:30 Yes Dear
05:00 Monk
06:00 The Office (Us)
06:30 Ghost Whisperer
07:30 Tna Xplosion
08:30 Kyle Xy
09:30 Ugly Betty
10:30 Day Break
11:30 Brothers & Sisters
12:30 Kyle Xy

NATIONAL

GEOGRAPHIC

09:30 Greece
10:30 Outsmarting Terror
11:30 Iranian Embassy Siege
12:30 Bus 174
02:30 Jassel, Ingrid, Hogan
03:00 Wildbeest
03:30 Birth Of The Earth
04:30 I Didn't Know That
05:00 Kenos, Mentor, Prince
05:30 Big Bang
06:00 Dugongs
06:30 Chicago Air Crash
07:30 Turkey
08:30 Science Safari
09:30 Hot Science From India
10:30 Revolutionary Rhythms
11:00 Tango: Argetina
11:30 Al Qaeda Calling
12:30 Kamchatka

DISCOVERY CHANNEL
09:30 Discovery Spotlight
11:30 Mythbusters
12:30 Extreme Engineering
01:30 Predator on the Move
02:30 Discovery's Biggest Shows
04:30 Wild South America
05:30 Mythbusters
06:30 I Shouldn't Be Alive
07:30 Wild South America
08:30 Discover India
09:30 Asia Rising
10:30 How Do They Do It?
11:00 Million 2 One: Episode 1

Radio Foorti
7:00am Hello Dhaka (Apu)
11:00am Amar 88.0 (Nusrat)
3:00pm Dhaka Calling (Sakib)
7:00pm *Fuad Live (Fuad)
11:30am Back to Back music

THE HISTORY CHANNEL 09:30 Eye On History (D-Day) 10:30 Guts & Bolts 11:00 Goodyear Blimp 11:30 Yes Prime Minister S1 12:00 A Close Encounter 12:30 Affair With Married Woman 01:30 Leyte 02:30 Reincarnation 03:30 Ink 04:30 October Fury 05:30 Death Of Marilyn Monroe 06:30 Marilyn And Me 08:30 Fall From Grace 10:30 Oscar Polo 11:30 Marco Wilde 12:30 Marilyn And Me
