

# Niloofer's unique insight

Bangladeshi artist receives a nod in Japan

FAYZA HAQ

**N**ILOOFER Chaman, the talented Bangladeshi painter and maker of installations, is having a solo exhibition in the Contemporary Asian Artists Series organised by the Fukuoka Asian Museum, Japan. Niloofer is not always swayed by the current fads but rather listens to her inner voice. Bold forms and bright colours are her characteristics. They are seen within a frame of her penchant for story-telling.

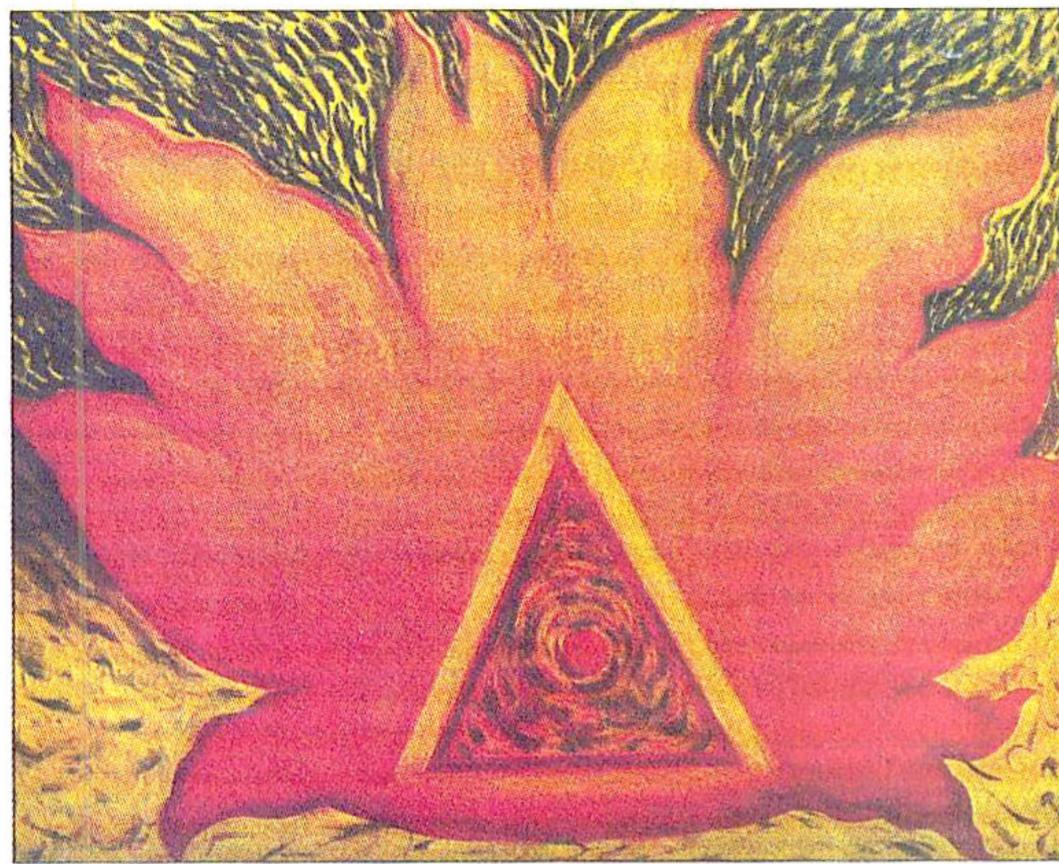
"In this exhibit," says Ishida Takehisa, director, Fukuoka Asian Museum, "Niloofer has followed the Chittagong School of Rashid Chowdhury via her drawings, paintings and three-dimensional artworks. She has not only exhibited but also conducted workshops."

The three-month long exhibition began on September 6.

In her *Midnight Drama*, pastel on craft paper (13 drawings) Niloofer deals with masked actors who prance on stage to present a quixotic world. Embracing and staring at each other, the drawings include geometric houses and the crescent moon.

*Shell and the Moody River*, acrylic oil on canvas, has a storybook title. With basic colours of yellow and cobalt blue, flecked with white and black and outlined with red, at times, the painting introduces misshapen seashells and lotus flowers. Niloofer is here inspired by Bangladeshi *nakshikantha* motifs and introduces humour of the artist's own brand.

In *Pakira-O-Pakhi Agunta Nibhia Ja*, presents a narrative in which humans pushed by anger



Artwork by Niloofer Chaman

call upon some imaginary birds to usher in the goddess of water, to bring peace by putting out the fire of chaos. It depicts the madness and arrogance of humans by the use of bright vermilion. The artist creates a three-dimensional effect

though the use of thick panels on the upper part of the work.

Niloofer's installation work brings in Bangladeshi folk art in collaboration with rickshaw painters and harks back to her grandmother's home with drawer filled

furniture all over.

A special attraction at the exhibition is a 200 feet long mural, painted by the artist and local children.

Experimental work remains the artist's forte. Niloofer's prowess as an artist is worth admiring.

## Celebrities on Eid

In conversation with Diti

NADIA SARWAT

A familiar face on the big and small screen, Parvin Sultana Diti, embarked on her acting career with BFDC's (Bangladesh Film Development Corporation) talent hunt competition, *Natun Mukher Shandhaney* in 1984. She was the first actress to be selected through this process. Her first film, *Daak Diye Jaye*, based on the Liberation War, was government-financed. Unfortunately the film never saw the light of the day.

Her first released film was Ajmal Huda's *Mithu's Ami-i-Ustad* (1985). So far, she has acted in over 100 films, including *Bhai Bandhu*, *Shud Ashol*, *Swarga Narak*, *Chandidas O Rajakini* and *Niyotir Khela*. Over the last nine years however, she has minimised her in cinema and focusing more on TV plays and hosting shows.

Talking to *The Daily Star* recently, the actress shared her views on Eid and what the occasion means to her.

"I enjoy cooking on special occasions like Eid. As always, my preparations began a day prior to Eid."

"For me, the day begins at the crack of dawn. I wake my children up; after they are dressed in brand new clothes, I send my son to the mosque. Usually I go to my parents on the second day of Eid. This year's Eid is different, as my only daughter had left for Canada last month to pursue higher studies. I always did my Eid-shopping with her and this Eid was difficult without her."



The actress who was born in Sonargaon, reminisced Eid growing up: "In my childhood Eid was

the best day of my life. The festivities would begin a week ahead and wouldn't end for another week. In

the course of the festival we would get new clothes. We used to hide our new clothes carefully lest anyone copied them."

Growing up, she was a bundle of mischief and fun. "Even after 4 or 5 days after Eid, I used to *salaam* elders to get more *salaami*. Even if the person concerned seemed unwilling to part with money, I'd be undeterred."

"With changing lifestyle, people now live in a stressful environment. No one has the time to enjoy Eid and other festivals as they did earlier. Today, Eid in the city means hanging out at the shopping malls and unusually quiet and empty streets."

The actress adds nostalgically, "In our time we used to buy clothes and shoes from stores on Elephant Road, ornaments from Baitul Muqarram and so on. Now that we have at least one shopping mall in every neighbourhood, the older shopping places have lost some of their appeal."

*Amader Rannaghari*, a cookery show hosted by Diti, aired on Bangla television is quite popular among the TV audience. Says Diti, "I have a lot of recipes for a variety of cuisines ranging from traditional *desi* to *Mughlai*, Chinese, and Continental."

Diti has taken part in several Eid-specific programmes. She has hosted a musical programme and a comedy show directed by Manoj Sengupta for BTV, as well as a film-based show for ntv. She also has acted in some tele-films and TV plays aired on Eid.

## CULTURAL FEAST



**Title:** People's Stand Against Poverty  
**Artists:** Twelve popular bands including Renaissance, Dolchit, Artoil, Ornob, Aurohoin and Bangla  
**Venue:** Rabindra Shorobor (beside the bridge on Rd. 8), Dhanmondi  
**Date:** October 17  
**Time:** 11:00 am

## Exhibition

**Title:** Shades of life  
**Artists:** 12 Women artists of Shakti  
**Venue:** Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, Bengal Shilpalya, House 275/F, Road 27, Dhanmondi  
**Date:** October 17-26  
**Time:** 12:00-6pm

## Afzal, Srabonti in TV play "Ekakitto"

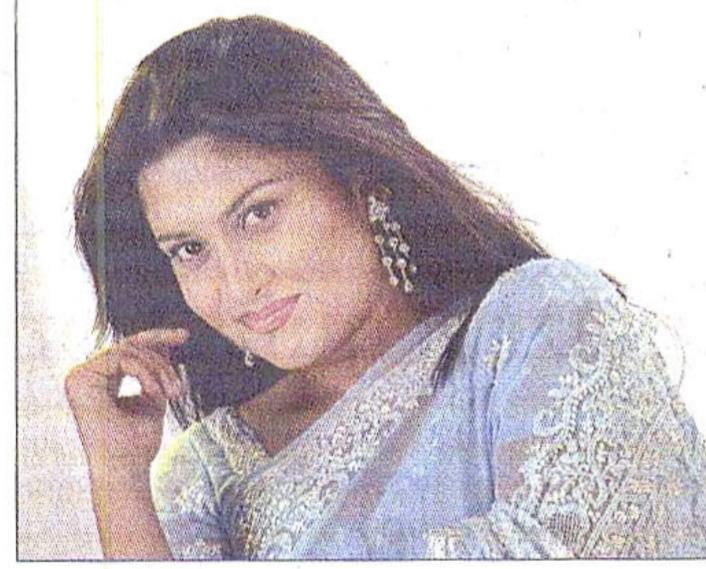
CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Afzal Hossain and Srabonti star in the Eid special play *Ekakitto*, to be aired on ntv tonight at 8:20pm.

The play follows a middle-aged affluent executive, working for a multinational company, who suddenly feels that he is lonely. This newfound realisation makes

his life a living hell. He seeks refuge from the situation and finally meets the woman who can offer him the much-craved company. The catch is he had been married to her for ten years, and they have been divorced for the last seven years.

The play is written by Dilip Chakraborty and directed by Monirul Islam Masud.



Srabonti will be seen in the TV play *Ekakitto* tonight

## SMALL SCREEN

### "Bechara" on Rtv tonight



A scene from the TV play

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Eid special play *Bechara* will be aired on Rtv tonight at 11pm.

Munir Khan Shimul, Sharmin Shila and Sanjida Preeti play the lead roles.

In this comic play an unemployed youth explores many innovative ways for his survival, but everything gets messed up.

The play is written and directed by Dibendu Udash.

## Discussion Problems and Prospects of Bengali Poetry

AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh

A seminar titled "Problems and Prospects of Bengali Poetry" was held recently at the local Muslim Institute auditorium. Poet Gausur Rahman presented the keynote paper on the subject. An exchange of views on the topic, "Copyright and the right of the writer" was also a part of the programme moderated by Poet Nurul Huda.

Prior to the programme, the 42nd birth anniversary of poet and columnist Gausur Rahman was observed. The function was organised by 'Kabita Banglar', a cultural organisation in Dhaka, with eminent cultural personality of the district. Professor Amir Ahmed Chowdhury Ratan in the chair.

Poet Nurul Huda, of Kabita Banglar and Poet Musarrat Karim felicitated Gausur Rahman on his birthday.

Gausur Rahman, born at Satpati, Netrokona in 1965, is an Assistant Professor, Bengali Department in Phulbaria Degree College.

Among others Ahmed Saif, Ashraf Mir, Professor Shaheed Khan, Professor ATM Shafiqul Islam, Mahmud Al Mamun, Swapan Dhar, Shahjahan Siraj, Mohammed Jamal Uddin and Arif Farid delivered speeches.

## "Goal" seeks to score in box office

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

What happens when Bollywood movie joins hands with one of the world's most popular football clubs? Well, they hope to laugh their way into the box office.

Based on the hope, the film *Dhan Dhana Dhan Goal*, starring John Abraham, has tied up with Manchester United Football Club in the hope of scoring a major box office hit when it is commercially released by the end of this month.

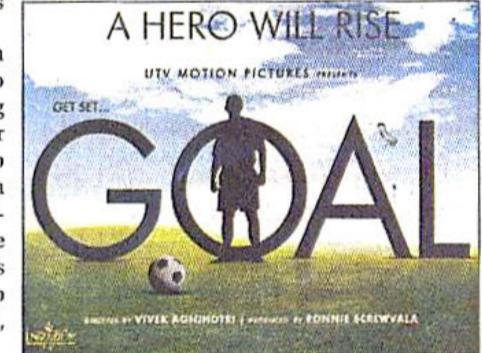
The story of the movie directed by Vivek Agnihotri revolves around a football club, which faces closure unless they start winning matches and Abraham plays the role of a footballer who is inspired by English Premier League Champions Manchester United.

Himself a soccer/ football fan and a supporter of Manchester United, Abraham, who was recently in Delhi to promote the movie, said it was great to be associated with the English club for *Goal* which also stars his partner and Bollywood on-screen sizzler Bipasha Basu.

Agnihotri said this was the first time that a football club would be associated with an Indian film. Manchester United's two star strikers - Wayne Rooney of England and Christiano Ronaldo of Portugal - will feature in the promo clip for the Bollywood movie.

*Goal* is the latest in a string of movies churned out by Bollywood whose films are seeking to branch out to new subjects like sports in view of demand for fresh stories by new audiences promoted by the mushrooming multiplexes across the country.

Recently, Hindi film *Chak De India* (Go India) featuring Bollywood super star Shah Rukh Khan, who plays the role of a disgraced player successfully turning the Indian women's hockey team into World Cup winners, proved a big hit.



## ATN BANGLA

10:30 Entertainment Show: *Entekhab Palta*  
11:30 *Nijeroy Khuljya Phin*  
Golden Moments

11:05 *Clip Shoplo Eid*  
12:05 Bangla Feature Film: *Jitmo*

03:40 Telefilm: *Griosholl*  
05:00 *Garm Ganjer Golpo*  
Special Programme

07:45 Drama: *Opumota*  
08:50 Drama: *Jhokhyer*  
*Dhion*

10:40 *Raat Nameshhey*  
*Dupurey*  
12:00 Gamephone Lead News

07:15 *Htv Deshey Deshey*  
07:45 *Uttam Ekkityo*  
Musical Programme

09:45 *Jugantoror Gaan*  
Drama: *Aha Ki Filmi*

11:15 *El Din*  
Rtv Exclusive

02:35 Telefilm: *Cholona Brishtitey Bhiji*  
Special Programme

05:30 *Swapan Buni*  
11:30 *Tha Fire Ball*  
12:15 Bangla Feature Film: *Saajgor*

09:35 Drama: *Hochot*  
11:30 Special Programme

12:00 *Gamephone Ajker*  
*Shangbadpotro*

06:00 *Wide Angle*

06:30 *Music Beats*

08:00 *Dhulio Meghey*

10:00 *Shor*

11:00 *Joyaitsa Bhrromon*

12:00 *Drama: Bechara*

12:00 *Dur Dosh*

05:30 *Citycell Diner*

07:20 *Shishay*

09:20 *Ganhey Ganey*

11:20 *Alapon*

09:15 *Dengur Dulgulity*

11:05 *Talk Show: Tarar*

05:30 *Star Song*

09:30 *Star Song*