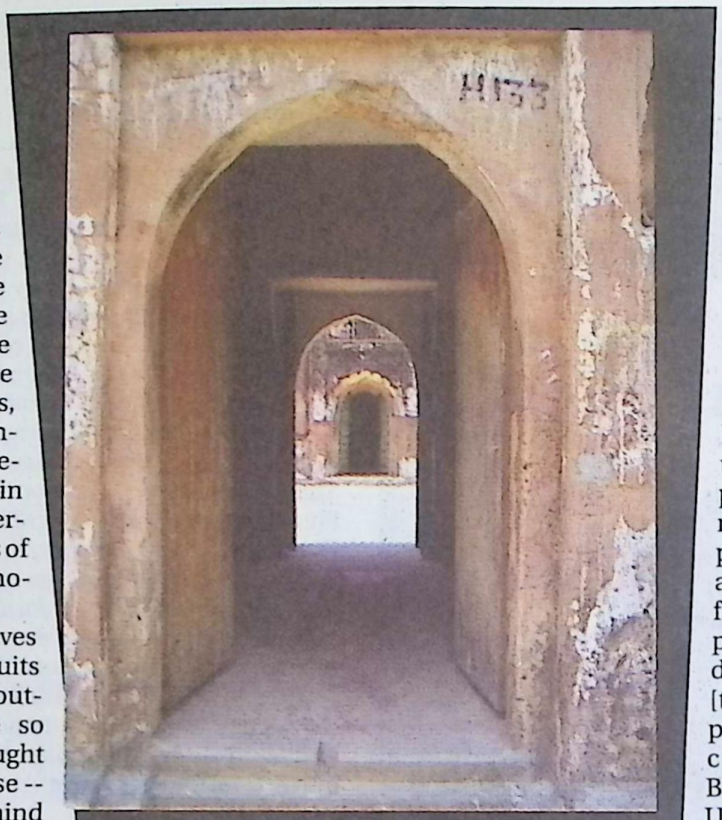


"Doors and Windows"

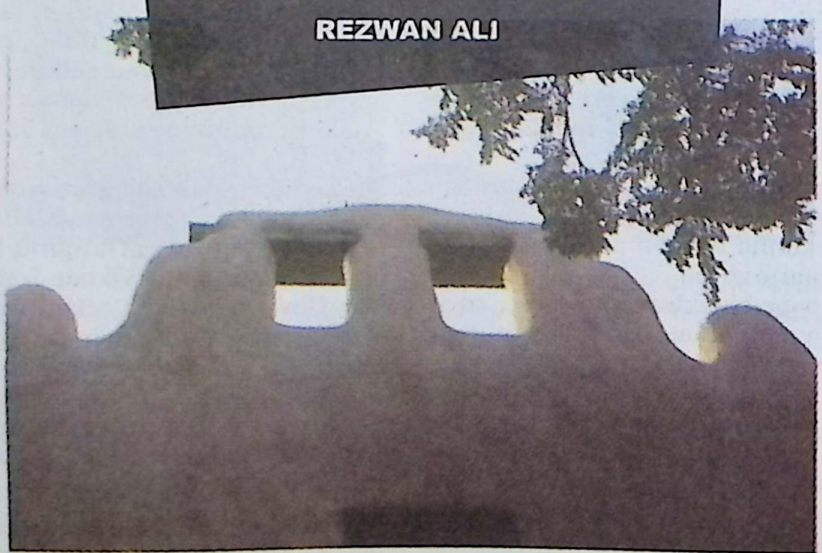
REZWAN ALI

The presence of doors and windows, or in essence, entrances and exits, is ubiquitous in all human societies from the megalopolises of today's world to prehistoric man's cave dwellings. They are found in every place human beings live; in the soaring skyscrapers of the modern world, remote village huts, shantytowns, middle class houses or condominiums, ancient archaeological excavation sites, in the mazes of public gathering spots and our mediums of transport such as automobiles, airliners and trains.

We spend our entire lives surrounded by these conduits between the indoor and outdoor, but very few give so much as a moment's thought to the meaning and purpose -- literal or symbolic -- behind what most people consider ephemera. For the most-part, we take these passages which provide a link between different worlds for granted.

Torsten Oertel, the director of the Goethe-Institut in Dhaka, along with the help of his colleagues Shameem Rasheed and Khademul Insan, also a photographer, organised the exhibition. Upon first hearing news of an exhibition of photographs of, "doors and windows," one might ask where the significance in such an exhibit lies. Upon entering the exhibition one realises that Oertel has captured images based upon a single theme without intending to make a specific artistic statement, but rather, leaving the viewer to make subjective value judgements. The collection of photographs was taken over the course of the past twenty-two years during Oertel's travels. The photographs included in the exhibition were selected by Rasheed and Insan. Mumtaz, another Goethe-Institut employee handled the logistics and installation of the exhibit. The work was presented in a playful manner, "like going through the passages as a journey," according to Oertel who feels, "the most interesting part of the process was deciding how to assemble [the photos]." There are photographs from various countries, including Bangladesh, Germany, Ukraine, Nepal, China, Corsica, USA, Cambodia and Belgium.

The photographs presented in the, "Doors and Windows," exhibit are titled with the name of the location where they were taken. Almost fifty photographs are on display in the gallery. Many of the photographs were fairly traditionalist in style, but others required close examination in order to determine what exactly was photographed.



Brussels, Belgium; this photo was taken from the inside of a small room with a welcoming atmosphere. In the rear is a large window which opens to a small garden area giving a