

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Story of Stitches: The Art of Nakshi Kantha

Exhibition celebrating 30 years of Aarong
Venue: Plaza, National Art Gallery, BSA
Date: July 16-29
Time: 11am-7pm, (Fridays 3pm-7pm)



Classical Music

Artists: Hanpada Sutradhar (vocal), A. K. Chakravarti (vocal) and Mritunjay Das (flute)
Organiser: Shudho Sangeet Proshar Goshthi
Venue: SEL Centre, 29, West Panthopath
Date: July 31
Time: 7pm



Solo Painting Exhibition

Title: Perception II
Artist: Subrata Das
Venue: Alliance Francaise, 26, Mirpur Road, Dhanmondi
Date: July 25-August 6
Time: 9am-12pm and 5pm-8pm (Saturdays 5pm-8pm)



Anniversary Programme

28th anniversary and Nazrul Joyanti
Organiser: Benaka Institute of Fine Arts
Venue: National Theatre Stage, BSA
Date: July 27
Time: 6:45 pm



Transferring knowledge through images

FAYZA HAQ

Maruf Hasan Abhi, who recently had his photographic exhibition at the Zoom gallery of Alliance Francaise, says that the changes of environment, such as erosion of river banks, migration to the city and air pollution fascinate him. A student of medicine, he feels that photography is a great means of transferring knowledge to the people. Maruf says that urbanisation, in the name of civilization, is fast changing the atmosphere around us. The exhibition is a record of socio-economic transformation of cities and their surroundings.

Maruf feels that if there should be development it should be in a more planned way. Man and other living creatures around, he points out, are being adversely affected by the industrial changes so that in "Homeless" we see a

flock of birds perched on electric wires, instead of trees and their branches. Again, says Maruf, as farming people are moving to the city to work as labourers, slums are cropping up.

"Cannibalisation of rural living" shows how sand and earth are being dug up from the rivers to fill up vacant land for dwellings, and in that manner water bodies are being destroyed. The black earth in front of the photograph symbolises the life of the rural people. "Full circle" also shows how water bodies are fast disappearing.

"Birth of building blocks" depicts the brick kilns which make the masses of bricks that fill the city to a crumpling point. The use of monochromatic colours in the photograph depicts the cruelty of urbanisation. "The lost autumn" has been brought in to show the changes of our seasons, so that for example, in the rainy



The Lost Autumn (top) and Obituary of rural occupation-- The changing lifestyle of rural people (below)

season there is less rain. The sky behind the massing of high-rise buildings is blue and orange. In another image, "Infrastructure" the black line of the electric wire brings a demarcation in the erstwhile happy and innocent blue sky of the rural areas, where electricity is being brought in.

Birds are the habitats of green woods but in "Homeless" we see them perched in a long line on electrical wires lining the roads. Here the chopping down of trees to usher in urbanisation is being condemned. "Revenge" depicts the breakdown of a bridge. When

bridges are built, says Maruf, the normal flow of the river waters is arrested. The photograph depicts a broken bridge, broken riverbanks and the revenge of the sea.

"Captive employment" shows how an old man is forced to work during urbanisation. "Forced migrants" depicts how fishermen and farmers come to the city to seek employment.

Maruf says that he's into photography, as he was keen on it since his childhood. He has done two courses in photography. As a student of medicine, he found that in order to make the health issues known internationally through WHO and UNICEF, photographs are essential, and so his renewed interest in photography.

Tony Dias making his big screen debut

JAMIL MAHMUD

A familiar face on small screen, Tony Dias, is set to make his big screen debut. Tony will be seen in Nargis Akhter's soon-to-be released feature film *Megher Koley Roud*. The actor informed that the film is set to be released on August 1 in five theatres in Dhaka including Star Cineplex, Balaka and Madhumita.

Apart from Tony, the film also features film actors Riaz and Popy. The film depicts a love triangle among Akash (Riaz), Rodela (Popy) and Nijhum (Tony). Nijhum and Rodela study in

Kualalumpur. Akash and Nijhum are childhood friends. Akash reunites with Nijhum in Kualalumpur after living in London for a few years. After meeting Rodela, Akash falls for her. Nijhum is also in love with Rodela. The film moves ahead delineating the joys and agonies in three lives. The late Pranab Ghosh did the music for the film.

According to Tony, "*Megher Koley Roud* is not my first film. *Poush Masher Piriti*, also directed by Nargis Akhter, is my first film but that is yet to be released."

About his film debut, Tony said, "I always wanted to work in cinema that is decent and provides

wholesome entertainment. When Nargis Akhter approached me, I accepted the offer right away."

"I don't want to act in lot of films, but rather a few selected good projects," Tony said.

Megher Koley Roud has been shot mostly in Malaysia. About his co-artists in the film, Tony said, "We had a lot of fun during the shooting. Riaz and Popy are both accomplished film actors. Both of them were very helpful as co-artists."

Tony has an optimistic vision about his film debut. He said, "I'm hopeful about the success of *Megher Koley Roud*. I hope my performance in the film lives up to the expectations of the audience."



Popy and Tony Dias in *Megher Koley Roud*

Bengali movies in peril

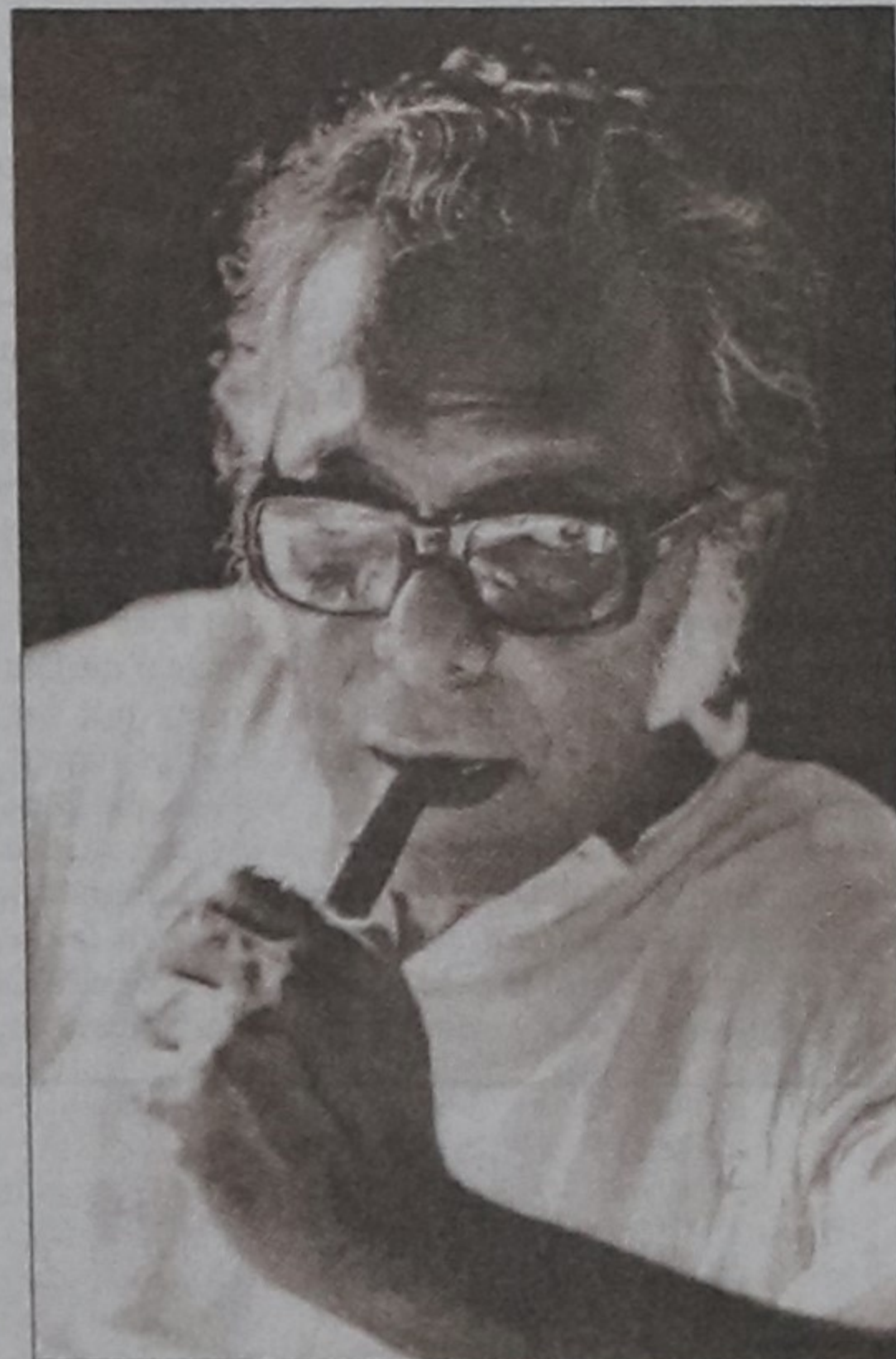
ERSHAD KAMOL, from Kolkata

Not only in Bangladesh, the Bengali movie is also in a state of peril in India, which frustrates the directors, actors and even the audience. Coming to the on going Nakshi Kantha Film Festival, organised by Kolkata based Eisenstein Cine Club and Bengali Film Lovers Society in association with Bangla Telefilm Club, in which Impress Telefilm Limited produced seven Bengali films are screened, seasoned Indian film directors and actors expressed their regret for the stagnant Bengali movie industries of India and Bangladesh.

Seeing the ongoing standard scenario of the Tollyganje based movie industry in Kolkata, many renowned actors and directors are not maintaining any relationship with the film industry. Which is why the people of Kolkata, who were once proud of their movie industry, are now after Hindi and English movies. As a result in most of the movie theatres in Kolkata, Hindi and English movies are screened.

Eminent film director Mrinal Sen said, "The scenario of the Bengali movie industry is very poor."

For many years noted actor Madhobi Mukharjee does not perform in any movie. Why? She replied, "The current trend of the industry is not suitable for artistes like me. I cannot work in the industry, which has lost its values. Which is why I've given up working with these people."



Mrinal Sen

Eminent director Goutam Ghose's voice is even harsh. He said, "Most of the directors of Kolkata are making nothing but blind copies of Malayalam based soft porno movies. It does not reflect our socio-cultural heritage."

"And I know the current Bangladeshi film industry is also in poor condition", he added.

However, claiming the budget has increased many popular actors such as Hritu Parna Sengupta and Tapas Pal said that the current Kolkata based movies are popular in the district towns in West Bengal and other Bengali speaking provinces in India. They admit, nevertheless, that the current Tollyganje based movies are less popular in Kolkata.

When eminent film director Tarun Majumder was asked to comment on the observation of the popular actors he said, "It's not true all. People always go for good movies. Their comment is confusing and is a kind of misinterpretation of the taste of the people of district towns."

"Seeing the poor scenario of the current movie industry I don't make movies in these days", he said.

Mulder, Scully believe in "X-Files" audience

AP, Los Angeles

Some Mulder and Scully fans were doubtful when the title for the new movie based on their favourite TV show was announced: "The X-Files: I Want to Believe."

How, the sceptics wondered, could the two former FBI agents be anything but true believers after years of encountering aliens, monsters, ghosts and everything else that might go bump in the night?

But so-called X-Files want to believe in this franchise that started way out on the fringes and eventually brought the creepy and paranormal into the mainstream. The feeling among its creators is mutual.

"We want to believe in the audience," said David Duchovny, who reprises his role as Fox Mulder, the guy with boogymen on the brain, co-starring with Gillian Anderson as his soul mate and doubter, science-minded Dana Scully.

Devoted as fans might be, it's a leap of faith for "The X-Files" to return after such a long absence in an era when so many franchises compete for audiences' attention and sequels tend to come every two or three years.

It's been a decade since the first "X-Files" movie and six years since the series went off the air after nine seasons.

The keepers of "The X-Files" figure the long wait has only fired up fans even more for a new adventure. In an interview with *The Associated Press* alongside Duchovny, Anderson and producer Frank Spotnitz, series creator Chris Carter described the reception he got at a fan gathering in Chile, where he had no idea the show had such a following.

"It was wild and warm and enthusiastic. They had an expo where they re-created Mulder's desk," said Carter, who also directed the new movie and co-wrote it with Spotnitz. "It was just amazing to be sitting there eating

sunflower seeds (Mulder's favourite snack) at Mulder's desk in Chile."

Anderson recalled a similar reaction when they appeared earlier this year at New York Comic Con, a fan convention.

"The response that we got from the audience was almost, it was crazy. That was kind of the beginning of my realising, people do still care," Anderson said. "I also think it's gotten passed down through



David Duchovny and Gillian Anderson in *The X-Files: I Want to Believe*.

the generations to kids of people who first watched it on TV."

"The X-Files" debuted in 1993 and quickly won a loyal cult audience. Strong word of mouth gradually drew more and more fans to the weird show with its ongoing story arc about alien visitations to Earth and clever stand-alone stories that one week might deal with life-sucking bugs unleashed from old-growth timber, and another week might touch on monstrous humans resulting from genera-

tions of inbreeding.

At the heart was Mulder, a brilliant FBI agent convinced his sister was abducted by aliens. Nicknamed "Spooky" by derisive colleagues, Mulder handled the X-Files, cases involving unexplained phenomena the bureau would prefer to sweep under the rug.

Scully, a medical doctor, was assigned as Mulder's partner, mainly to debunk his work, but she eventually became his comrade in

still writing fan fiction 15 years later.

The 1998 big-screen film was immersed in the show's dense alien mythology. "I Want to Believe" is patterned after the stand-alone episodes, requiring little prior knowledge of Mulder and Scully.

Drummed out of the FBI as the series wound down, Mulder has been living in exile, collecting news clips of strange happenings

ghoulish medical experiments worthy of Frankenstein.

"Chris had a Border collie when we started and I had a half-Border collie, and I always thought of Mulder like a Border collie. He needed a job, so when you see him at first, he's like a Border collie who's a lapdog," Duchovny said. "It's not right. And the movie's a little bit about him getting his job back. That's where his heart is."

His heart also clearly remains with Scully. They spar just like old times, but they share the most explicit moments of affection in their 15 years together, though still restrained by Hollywood romantic standards.

Many fans always wanted to see Mulder and Scully in an all-out love affair, but Anderson said it was wise for Carter and Spotnitz to steer the show clear of that.

"They ended up playing the parents of the fans who thought they knew what they wanted, but if they had gotten what they wanted, I think they would have been sorely disappointed," Anderson said. "It would have had a negative effect on the series. But what was given to them was so electric and so long-lasting that it helped to carry through all the way to the end."

Cast and crew are game for more "X-Files" movies if fans still believe strongly enough to convince distributor 20th Century Fox that the audience is there.

Now that Mulder has his foot back in the door at the FBI, the alien mythology that obsessed him on the job could be resurrected for a future film, Carter said.

"There's a looming date in 2012 which is part of the literature, if you will, on a Mayan calendar. It's supposed to be when the aliens do something," Carter said. "We've mentioned that date a number of times in the series, so it's something that we certainly would be looking at. I'm not sure exactly how yet, but if there is a next movie, we would consider doing it then."



Goutam Ghose