

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Solo Art Exhibition

Title: Myth, Memory and Motherland
Artist: Tarun Ghosh
Venue: Galleri Kaya, H 20, Rd 16, Sec 4, Uttara
Date: October 31-November 14
Time: 11am-8pm



Musical Soiree

Songs of Five poets
Organiser: Nandan
Venue: Ramesh Chandra Dutt Memorial Auditorium, Chhayanan Sanskriti Bhaban
Date: November 14
Time: 6:30pm



13th Asian Art Biennale '08

Organiser: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
Venue: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, Osmani Memorial Hall and National Museum
Date: October 21-November 19
Time: 11am-7pm (Fridays 3pm-8pm)

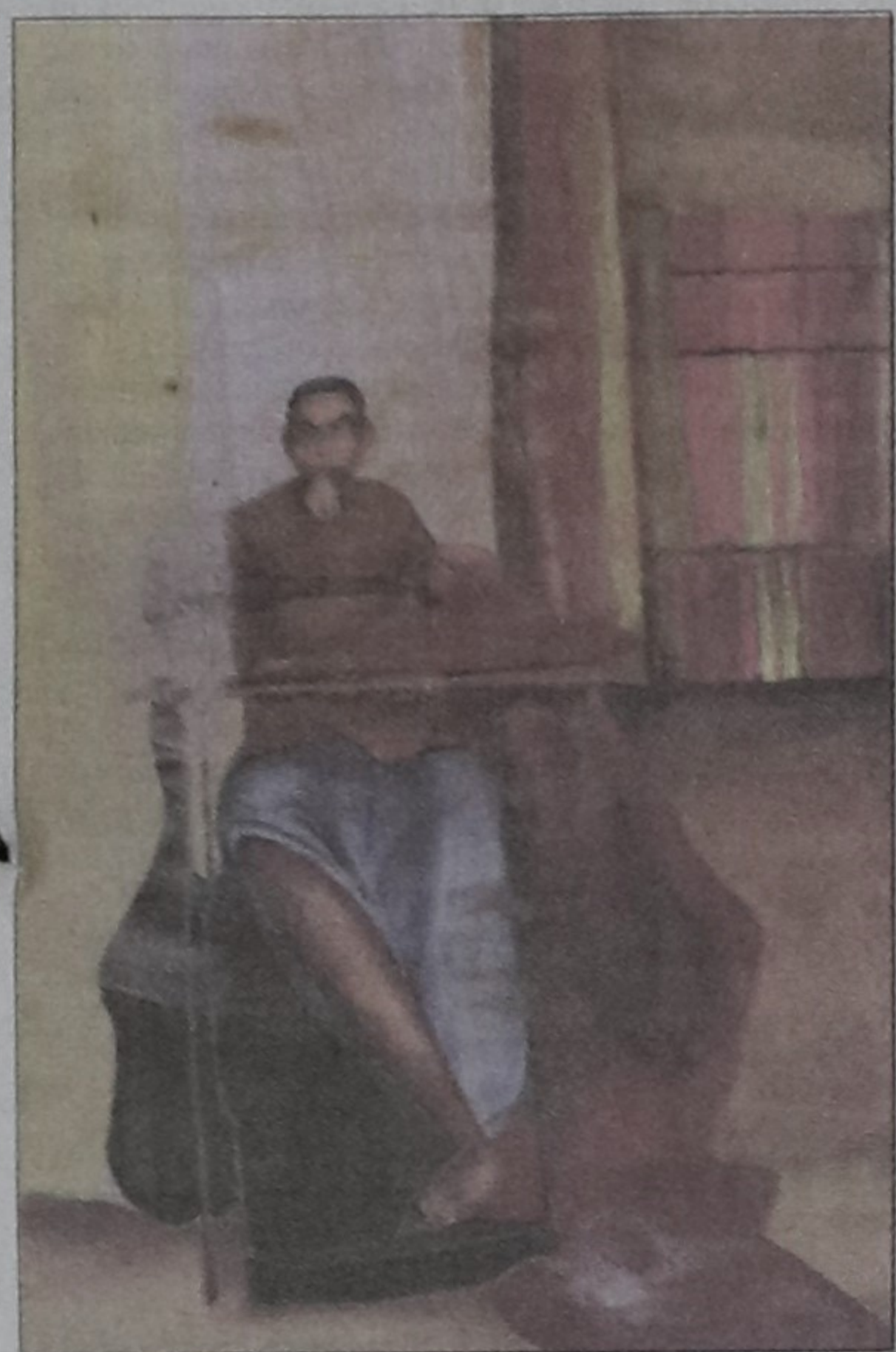


Solo Art Exhibition

Title: Expression of Life
Artist: Kamal Kumar Das
Venue: Zainul Gallery, Faculty of Fine Arts, DU
Date: November 10-15
Time: 12pm-8pm



Jhaal Muri Dhaka street culture in focus



From left: Paintings by Rokeya Sultana, Smita Srivastava and Kuhu.

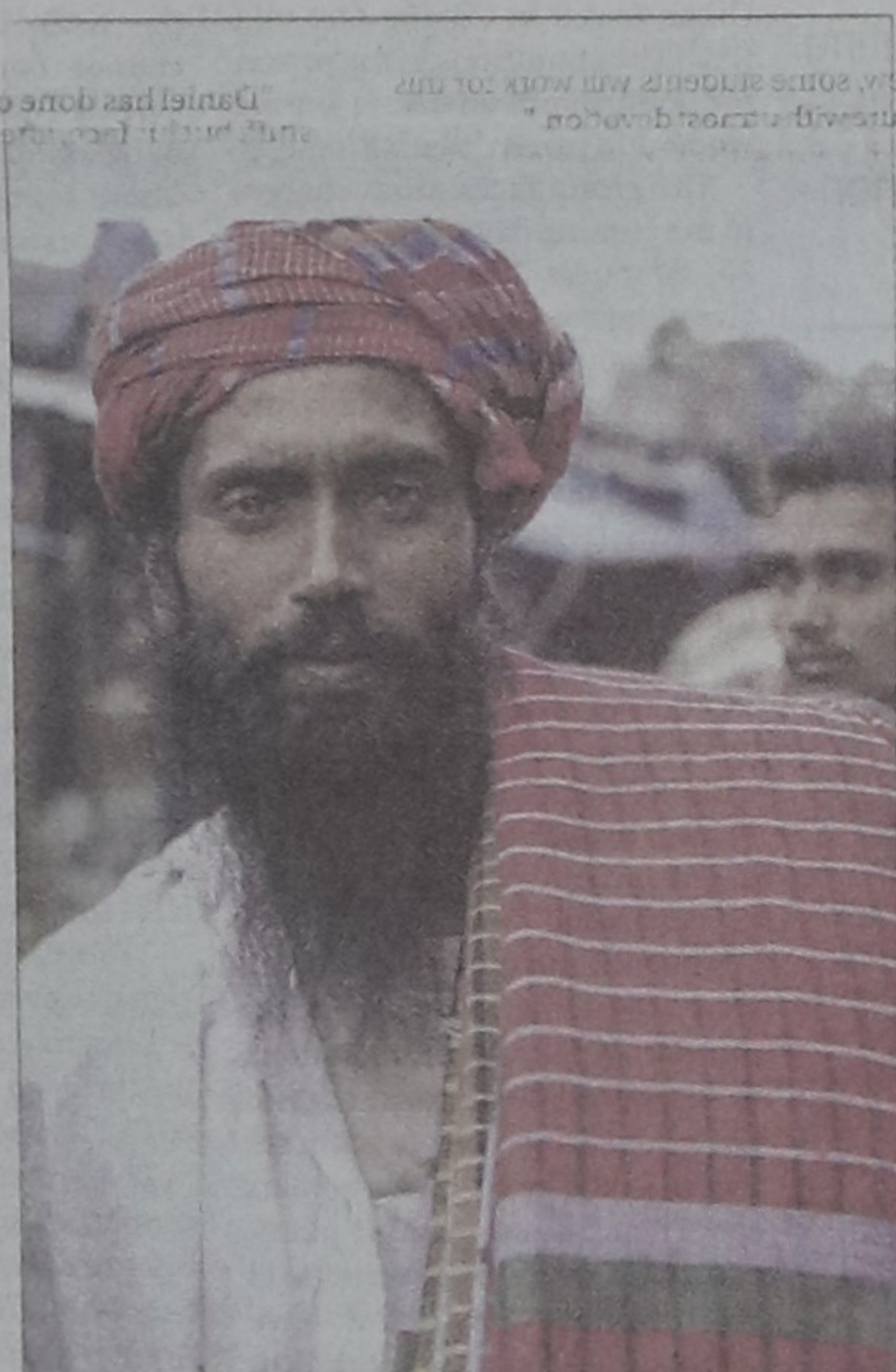
NIVEDITA RAITZ VON FRENTZ

It's been brewing for the last few months. Like-minded artistic friends, Anil Advani, Kuhu Plamondon, Rokeya Sultana, Smita Srivastava and Ujjwala Prabhu came together to try something new -- an artist's take on photos of Dhaka street life. The idea burgeoned from photographer, Anil's, So Fo Bo Mo (Solo Photo Book Month) project about six artists, compiled in a month. Rokeya suggested using photos as a reference from which to paint, the results being revealed only at the very end. "The idea was to choose photos and create a corresponding painting. Our interpretation and fantasy were transposed into the painting, while retaining the essence of the photo," she added. This hybrid photo/painting exhibition is the first of its kind in Bangladesh, not least as it combined Bangladeshi and Indian artists in a unique format.

Choosing street culture as the central theme, the artists wished to promote the positive side of Bangladesh. Scouring Dhaka for photo opportunities, from Katabon to Sadarghat, Taanti Bazaar to Ashulia, the pictures were a joint effort. Very aptly named after the quintessential Bengali street food, 'jhaal muri', a concoction of unlikely ingredients, with a deliciously explosive taste, the artists hoped to achieve a "mix (of personalities resulting in pictures) that would taste nice." Certainly, they seemed to have reached that goal.

Anil had expected some resistance from his subjects, but was pleasantly surprised at the attention the team attracted. "It was great fun to take photos as part of a group; it diverted peoples' attention away from the camera. They were curious about the destination of their pictures." He tried to capture the not-often portrayed sense of busyness in peoples' lives, rather than the negativity generally focussed upon. "People appeared to be satisfied, with a look of pride in their eyes." He has caught the clarity of light cleverly.

"Using a camera cuts the world short, putting it on a plate and restricting the imagination," revealed Kuhu. While using



Photograph by Anil Advani.

the photos as a tool, she recomposed her pictures to capture movements and motion. "I tend to look at subjects as objects of art, as compositions and colour layouts." She used the door motif (from one of the photos) to create a sculpture, and her trademark, textile art. Despite specialising in fine art, she is pleased at having been able to "use colourful riksha art to maintain the gaudiness of street art."

Ultimately, it was easy to appreciate the vibrancy and liveliness in Dhaka's street culture, according to Rokeya, who liked the idea of the group and was keen to see how foreigners viewed local street life. "People are happy with their lives; they don't need too many things. I wanted to highlight the dignity of labour." The exhibition took Rokeya down memory lane, as she experimented with street art as a student, giving her a chance to use "glorious, vibrant street colours in my paintings, something I find very attractive."

Once again, Anil's photo of the door both inspired and fascinated Smita, who was reminded of the "lattice work and exquisite grills of Kolkata, where I grew up. Walking about has opened my eyes to a lot of fun things on the streets, to get a real feel for the country." Her paintings drew from certain elements of the photos, extrapolated to give her individual interpretation as the pictures developed.

Taking pride in working with her hands, Ujjwala is naturally attracted to others who do so. "I've experimented with street art before, so this exhibition is part of a continued interest. Most artists paint live or from still life; naturally, there are as many interpretations as there are artists; so many personalities at work. I loved the project; photography and people make the best artistic combination."

The group intends giving the original photos to their subjects and a sequel to "Jhaal Muri" is also on the cards. The exhibition will remain open at the Radius Centre (Bay's Galleria, 57 Gulshan Avenue) until November 23.

The writer is a freelance contributor.

Tomar Doa-e Bhalo Achhi Ma

New serial on the plight of Bangladeshi workers abroad



A scene from "Tomar Doa-e Bhalo Achhi Ma."

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Highlighting the dilemmas of Bangladeshi workers abroad, the first episode of the new drama serial "Tomar Doa-e Bhalo Achhi Ma" will be aired tonight on ATN Bangla at 9:20pm. Written by Quazi Shahidul Islam, the play is scripted and directed by actor Mahfuz Ahmed.

The serial follows the lives of Gourango from Barisal, Sekandar from Pabna, Bulbul from Noakhali, Jewel from Manikganj, Rashid from Kushtia and Joinal from Dhaka. With a common aim to secure better livelihood, all six of them pay good money to go to different countries including Malaysia, Qatar and Singapore. Unfortunately, each of them endure severe hardship abroad,

left only with the hope to make it back home to their dear ones. The cast of the serial includes Ferdousi Majumdar, along with Tania Ahmed, Hasan Masud, Mosharraf Karim, Chanchal Chowdhury, Richi Solaiman, Dr. Inamul Haque, Shams Suman, Intekhab Dinar, Shatabdi Wadud and more. The serial will be aired every Thursday and Friday at the same time.

Jennifer Aniston breaks silence about Brad and Angelina

Jennifer Aniston wishes Angelina Jolie could have just kept her trap shut.

"What Angelina did was very uncool," Aniston declares in the December issue of Vogue magazine.

The snipe comes in response to how Jolie, 33, spilled intimate details about her love affair with Aniston's ex-husband Brad Pitt, 44, in a 2007 interview with the same magazine.

"There was stuff printed there that was definitely from a time when I was unaware that it was happening," says Aniston about how Jolie gushed about the excitement of seeing her then married "Mr. and Mrs. Smith," co-star Pitt everyday. "I felt those details were a little inappropriate to discuss."

Though Aniston obviously still has a sore spot for Jolie, she has nothing but kind words for Pitt, and says the two now enjoy a cordial relationship.

"We have exchanged a few very kind hellos and wishing you wells and sending you love and congratulations on your babies," Aniston told Vogue.

What Aniston really wants now is for everyone to stop feeling sorry for her. At age 39 the actress says she doesn't want a pity party.

"I actually feel I've been unbelievably lucky in love," Aniston says. "I don't feel like I'm sup-



posed to be any further along or somewhere that I'm not. I'm right where I'm supposed to be."

Right where she is supposed to be now includes continuing a close relationship with her most recent ex-boyfriend musician John Mayer, who is nine years her junior.

"It's funny when you hit a place in a relationship and you both realise, We maybe need to do something else, but you still really, really love each other. I deeply, deeply care about him; we talk, we adore one another. And that's where it is," the actress says.

Source: Internet

"Stories of Change" goes to Asiatica Film Mediale Festival in Rome

"Stories of Change," a 55-minute documentary by Kamar Ahmed Simon (director) and Sara Afreen (executive producer) is going to be screened at the Asiatica Film Mediale Festival in Rome, says a press release. The Documentary will be screened in the 'Documentaries in Competition' segment at the ninth edition of the festival, which will begin on November 15 and continue till 23 at various locations of the Italian capital.

"Stories of Change" is a documentary on five women (between the ages of 16 and 60) coming from different areas of Bangladesh, who dare to take on challenges in a society dominated by males. Resolute about their goals, these women never lose their confidence and move on forward. The documentary travels through



A scene from the documentary

Bangladesh -- through its hills, rivers and lanes and through generations -- following the narratives of a 16-year-old cricketer to a 60-year-old social activist.

The documentary is among 55 films selected from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, China, Phil-

ippines, Japan, Jordan, Hong Kong, India, Israel, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Singapore, Syria, Tibet, Sri Lanka, and Turkey. "Stories of Change" is one of the 16 films selected for the prestigious 'Documentaries in Competition' section.



PHOTO: MUMIT M

A scene from the play "The Bear" (written by Anton Chekhov, adaptation by Sirajur Rahman) directed by Mahfuza Khan, staged at the TSC auditorium, DU campus on November 11 as part of the ongoing Dhaka University 3rd Central Theatre Festival 2008. DU students also staged "The Stronger" (written by August Strindberg, adaptation by Kazi Muhammad Idris) directed by Sharmin Akhter last Tuesday at the festival.

Konkana's reel-life brush with Bush!

There is something that actor Konkona Sen Sharma has inherited from her actor-director mother Aparna Sen. It is perseverance to do better with every film, which makes her one of the most bankable names in Indian cinema today.

Be it with an offbeat role in a Hindi film or the more unconventional portrayal of today's woman in a Bengali film, Konkona has carved a niche for herself.

The actress is excited about her latest project, an English film titled "The President Is Coming," and her ongoing journey in Bollywood.

Going over "The President Is Coming," the actor says, "This film is produced by Rohan Sippy, so when he came to me and gave a brief on the film, I was completely bowled over. It didn't take much time for me to decide because I knew it was going to be a good film. Actually, I am happy and comfortable doing films in all the languages I know -- English, Hindi and Bengali."

"In the film, I play a left leaning Bengali novelist. The director of the film, Kunaal Roy Kapoor had earlier directed the play too. And most of the actors in the film were also part of the play."

"It's really an interesting story too. It is on US President George Bush's visit to India who wants to shake hands with a young Indian. So the US Consulate arranges for such a meeting, which has a number of young Indians who are crazy."

Talking about her selection of roles Konkona says, "So far I have gone by only one thing and that's



A poster of "The President Is Coming."

the script. If I like the script I decide to do it but at times the director and the role also makes a lot of difference. I have always liked and enjoyed doing films with good directors."

Among Konkona's high profile upcoming projects are Rituparno Ghosh's bi-lingual film "Sunglass," "Dil Kabbadi," "Wake Up Sid," "Luck By Chance" and "Right Ya Wrong."

Source: Internet