

Delving into the charms of rural Bengal

■ Mokhlesur Rahman's solo exhibition in New Delhi ■

TAKIR HOSSAIN

Mokhlesur Rahman is one of the most creative printmakers of our country. After a hiatus, the artist is having a solo exhibition in New Delhi, which begins today.

Luminosity and simplicity are the characteristics of Rahman's prints. His enigmatically resonant prints are cerebral and profound. His images are pensive and implore the viewer to ponder.

Rahman is one of the very few in Bangladesh, who are working on this expensive and arduous medium. He has been working with this medium for a long time. Rahman has unfolded his creative wings and tried to create an individual path in our contemporary art scene. He has flourished in printmaking with great zeal. Though the medium is complex and time consuming, the artist could overcome these limitations with his immense efforts and devotion.

Rahman delves in romanticism and nature of rural Bengal. Lush greenery, flora, fauna, mustard fields, moonlit nights, the unique shades nature takes on in the six seasons and the unparalleled beauty of Bengal appear in his works intimately and vibrantly. Rahman works in wood, and paints on its fibre. He finds texture hidden in fibre. The fibre's uneven state helps him to



create something more attractive and appealing. The artist tries to articulate his personal sufferings: liberty, adoration and despair are supremely painted on the surface of fibre. His works are marked by intelligent use of lines and texture. The lines are sometimes broken or appear as scribbles.

Shafiuddin Ahmed, Mohammad Kibria

and Rafiqun Nabi are prime figures in the woodcut medium in our country. Rahman is one of the capable followers of these eminent artists.

Mokhlesur Rahman's fifth solo exhibition is being held at Dhoomimal Gallery, New Delhi. The exhibition ends on December 29.



Prints by Mokhlesur Rahman.

New heights for Nepal film festival

BBC NEWS, Kathmandu

A tree is toppled. A missile is fired. A mountaineer makes a dangerous ascent. A Buddhist nun waves her scarf exuberantly in the wind; mountain animals stare at the camera; there are images of violence, weeping and laughter.

The signature "jingle" to the Kathmandu International Mountain Film Festival (KIMFF) shows that it is not only about the genre of "mountain film."

In this, the only mountain film festival east of Suez and the only one in a developing country, mountains are central to the 66 movies and loosely connected with others. Nearly all, however, are linked to mountain countries and 18 nations are represented.

The festival, now eight years old, has just been playing to big audiences in the Nepalese capital.

"What we really want to do is also inform, educate, make the Nepali public aware about issues around the world and in Nepal and how it affects them here," festival director Ramyata Limbu told the BBC.

Suma Josson's "I Want My Father Back," looks at suicides among cotton farmers in central India faced with falling prices for their crop and rising input costs as biotechnology companies enter the sector.

"It's really moving and amazing stuff," says Nepalese filmmaker and critic Diwas KC of this movie.

"What the film has really succeeded in showing is the kind of knowledge that the farmers have... more so than the companies that dominate their profession."

Mountains themselves provide a spectacular backdrop for many of the films from places including Montenegro, Croatia, Germany, Lapland, Switzerland and Canada.

Ramyata Limbu says films from other mountain communities can be revealing for the Nepalese audience -- covering themes such as changing lifestyles or the demise of shepherdism.

There are also two notable Himalayan films from the Nepali director Tsering Rhyar Sherpa. In "Karma," the nuns of a remote nunnery face a dilemma when the venerable abbess dies.



One of the prize winners, "Karma".

"It could be about global warming, about tourism, economic resources, how people in mountains use them."

Nepal itself provided 18 of the films, including the one selected for the festival opening -- a new short feature called "Threshold."

It describes the encounter between two women from opposite ends of Nepal's complex society: Saraswati, from the socially ultra-conservative lowlands and Trishna, from Kathmandu and educated. They meet for a day as Trishna, a census worker, visits Saraswati's home.

The filmmaker, Deepak Rauniyar, says Saraswati is like a typical woman in traditional lowland society.

"Inside the threshold, inside the house, there is no meaning for her. She won't count herself as a member of the family. She says: 'I'm not a family member, I can't talk.'"

There is a real buzz about the annual festival, whose audience is mainly young and Nepali. The crowds are biggest for the local films but many international ones are also showcased.

"The Day After Peace," is the remarkable story of how an annual international peace day, September 21, gained UN recognition thanks to a British filmmaker and campaigner, Jeremy Gilley.

The film is one of several in a special section on human rights, two of which deal with Nepal's civil war, which ended only two years ago, and the suffering it continues to inflict.

Special prayers and expensive ceremonies are needed to ensure her proper reincarnation. So they want to get back a large sum the nunnery has lent to a mysterious businessman, Tashi.

For a poor country, Nepal has a lot of filmmaking going on, much of which inspires Diwas KC.

He highlights "Changa," by Pooja Gurung, which is about a young child who wants to fly a kite; and "Sindhu Pokhrel's Palash," in which an actor severely disabled with cerebral palsy plays a man watching young women from his city-centre window.

"This exploration of the sexuality of the disabled person is just amazingly done and is something that you don't usually see being undertaken," explains Diwas.

He feels that Nepal's big political change two years ago, when massive street demonstrations heralded the demise of the monarchy, created ferment in filmmaking.

"People went out and recorded stuff. And since then people have been coming out with independent work in a fashion that has never happened before," he says.

KIMFF has now become a competitive festival, and 20 of the films were judged by a three-member jury from Nepal, Australia and India.

The first three prizes went to "I Want My Father Back," "The Day After Peace" and "Threshold."

The festival, it seems, is going from strength to strength.



All programmes are in local time.
The Daily Star will not be responsible for any

On Air

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 am, 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, 8:30pm, 7:30pm, 10:00pm, 12:30am.

BANGLAVISION
News (Bangla) at 7:30am, 1:30pm, 5:00pm, 7:15pm, 10:30pm.
News Headlines (Bangla) at 10:00am, 12:00am, 4:00pm.
News (English) at 6:00pm.

Rtv
News (Bangla): 2:30 pm, 4:30 pm, 6:30 pm, 8:30 pm, 10:30 pm, 12:30 am.

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.

11:00 Election Hour

12:00 Grameenphone Lead News

CHANNEL i

09:45 Public Reaction

09:50 Grameenphone Tritio

11:05 Medha Bikash

11:30 Amar Chhobi

12:05 Musical Programme: Sa Re Ga Ma

12:30 Talk Show: Citycell Taroka

01:05 Ebong Cinemar Gaan

01:30 Musical Programme: Sa Re Ga Ma

02:30 Hridoyer Gaan

03:05 I Sports

03:30 Bol Ebong Bol

04:05 Study @ UK

04:30 FCT Business Talk

11:30 Drama Serial: Chhayabithi

12:00 Grameenphone Aker

ETV

08:30 Ekush-er Shokal

09:35 Drama Serial: Ghatak

10:02 Ebong Amra

10:30 Amar Gaan

10:30 Ekushey Business

02:30 Drama Serial: Tun Tuni

03:30 Tomi Mian Recipe

04:02 Total Music

04:30 Shomali Shadakalo

05:30 Sports Plus

05:45 Ekusher Shondha

07:45 O Bondhu Amar

08:30 Drama Serial: Akey

09:30 Shunyo Dash

09:30 Drama Serial: Tomtom

10:50 Financial Bulletin

12:10 Ei Shomoy

01:05 Japan Video Topic

02:30 Drama Serial: Khoma

03:15 Music Express

04:10 Ispahani Janar Achhey

05:25 Bolar Achhey

05:35 Ithasher Ei Din-ey

06:10 Apnaar Jigyasha

06:45 Shubho Shondha

06:45 Frankly Speaking

07:15 ntv Deshey Deshey

08:15 Drama Serial: Eit Kaath-er

09:00 Kaacha

09:00 Glamour World

09:45 Drama Serial: Neer

11:35 Talk Show: Ei Shomoy

CHANNEL 1

10:40 Bangla Feature Film

02:00 Premey Premey

03:30 Drama: Mayur Bahon

04:00 Top News

BANGLAVISION

08:00 Shubho Shokal

09:00 Banglavisoin Cafe

10:10 Obhibashir Ghamer Taka

10:40 Amar Ami

11:03 Cinebit Shadakalo

11:35 Apnaar Agami

12:30 Shamol Bangla

02:00 Daily Soap: Mohanagar

02:30 Amader Rannaghar

03:03 Voter Lorai

04:20 X Crime

05:15 Musical Programme

05:45 Citycell Din-er Sheshey

06:20 Ebong Class-er Bairey

06:50 Deshjurey Vote

08:15 Daily Soap: Mohanagar

09:05 Gaanlalap

11:25 Voter Lorai

ZEE STUDIO

08:30 Out Of Reach

HBO

08:30 She Creature

10:00 The Lake House

12:00 Hollywood One

On One 21

12:30 Jaws 2

02:45 The Making Of Wallace &

Gromit: The Curse Of The

Were-Rabbit

03:30 The Thirteenth Floor

05:30 Year Of The Dog

07:30 The Lake House

09:30 Dreamgirls

12:00 The Bourne Ultimatum

STAR MOVIES

08:10 Employee Of The Month

09:55 Guardian, The

12:15 Aztec Rex

1:45 Dead Fish

03:05 Grosse Pointe Blank

04:55 Men Of Honor

09:30 30 Rock

10:00 Scrubs

10:30 La Femme Nikita

11:30 Whistler

12:30 Jimmy Kimmel Live

01:30 Monk

02:30 The Ellen Degeneres

03:30 Fashion House

04:30 Cold Case

05:30 La Femme Nikita

06:30 Whistler

07:30 Friends

08:30 Seinfeld

09:00 Whose Line Is It Anyway?

09:30 30 Rock

10:00 Scrubs

10:30 Heroes

11:30 Jimmy Kimmel Live

12:30 Friends

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC CHANNEL

08:30 Dangerous Encounters

09:30 Against All Odds

10:30 Creative Vision- NGC

11:30 What Would Happen If...

12:30 Inside The Forbidden City

01:30 Big Cat Challenge

02:30 Naked Science

03:30 Street Monkeys

04:30 World's Deadliest Animals

05:30 Big Bang

06:30 Marine Machines

07:30 World's Deadliest Animals

08:30 Raplor Force

09:30 Pajious Journeys

10:30 Super Pride

11:30 I Didn't Know That

12:30 World's Deadliest Animals

THE HISTORY CHANNEL

08:30 Creative Vision

10:30 Shogun

11:30 Creative Vision

11:45 Body Armour

(BA31108)-30 Mins

Deep Purple 06

04:30 U2 - Joshua Tree

02:30 Mahapahrata

03:30 Cortes

04:30 Biography

05:30 Around The World In 80

Treasure

06:30 Lords Of The Mafia

Bhanwar

08:30 Shogun

09:30 Lords of the Mafia

Colours of War

10:30 Bhanwar

11:30 Lords of the Mafia



Jyotsnakaal
On ATN Bangla at 9:20 pm
Drama Serial
Cast: Abul Hayat, Bipasha Hayat, Tauquir Ahmed



Radio Forth 88.0 FM

07:30am Hello Dhaka

10:00am Music Junction

12:00pm My Time

01:00pm No Tension

04:00pm Dhaka Calling

09:30pm Night Rider

01:00am Back to Back

Music

Radio Today 89.6 FM

07:15am Good Morning

Dhaka