

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Musical Soiree

Title: Songs and Poems of the Four Winds
 Artists: Sharmila Roy
 Venue: Alliance Francaise de Dacca, 26, Mirpur Rd, Dhanmondi
 Date: January 5
 Time: 6:30pm



Group Drawing Exhibition

Title: Rhythmic Lines
 Venue: Asiatic Gallery of Fine Arts, Nimtoli, Ramna
 Date: January 3-15
 Time: 12pm-8pm



Solo Art Exhibition

Title: Stimulated Luminescence
 Artist: Juneer Kibria
 Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, H 275/F, Rd 27, Dhanmondi
 From January 5-14 at 12-8pm



Photography Exhibition

Condolence for the people of Gaza
 Organizer: Iranian Cultural Centre
 Venue: ICC, H 54, Rd 8/A, Dhanmondi
 From December 30-January 9 at 9am-5pm



Documentary Al-Badar screened at LWM

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Cultural organisation Pathkrit arranged a screening of the documentary "Al-Badar" at the Liberation War Museum on January 2. Based on atrocities committed during the Liberation War, Al-Badar, is directed by Fakhru Arefin Khan. Eminent personalities attended the film screening.

The 61-minute documentary is the debut work of Fakhru Arefin Khan, who also did the research for the documentary.

The documentary traces the course of war crimes, committed in Sherpur district during the Liberation War. An interview of Mohon Munshi, who claimed to be an eyewitness to the killings in a camp in Sherpur, underscores the theme of the documentary.

Mohon Munshi claims that he was the caretaker of the house of Surendranath, where the Pakistan army collaborators and killing squad Al-Badr killed several civilians during the Liberation War.

Arefin interviews 15 personalities, including several eminent persons, in his documentary. He also uses some important paper cuttings and exclusive footage of atrocities dating back to the Liberation War from different sources.

After the screening, eminent personalities shed light on the documentary. The director answered several questions from the audience. They all demanded the trial of war criminals at the earliest.

The documentary has been produced jointly by 1971 Foundation and War Crime Facts Finding Committee.



A scene from the documentary.

Mohakaal Natya Sampraday recently staged their new production "Ahom Tamoshaye" at the experimental Theatre hall, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy. Written by Anon Zaman and directed by Azad Abul Kalam, this is the 24th production of the theatre troupe. Through the protagonist, narrative style and use of symbols, the experimental play, "Ahom Tamoshaye" depicts the bleak, turbulent reality of the contemporary times.



PHOTO: MUMIT M

Leeches attack delicate Aishwarya while shooting for Ravana

The shooting of Mani Ratnam's "Ravana" has been one adventurous journey for Abhishek Bachchan and wife Aishwarya Rai Bachchan. There were scary snakes, leeches and wild animals in a Kerala jungle, just waiting to pounce on the intruders filming for upcoming film. The beautiful Bachchan Bahu became the target of jungle leeches. According to sources, Ash was bitten on the very first day of the shoot.

"One day, Ash started bleeding from her leg, and that's when the crew realised she was attacked by a leech. After that, Mani Ratnam asked everyone to carry salt with them, since it repels leeches," says a source to a news daily.

The cast and crew faced the most gruelling adventures of their lives in the forest thickets. According to a source, "The shoot of the film would start before dawn, sometimes at 3 am. The jungles we shot in were so dense that sunlight would rarely break through even during the day. Artificial lighting was used even during daytime."

Apart from leeches, deadly snakes also infest the jungles. "There were seven to eight foot long snakes that would be present on the sets. Mani had got a local snake catcher who would protect the crew from any poisonous reptiles."

Mani Ratnam is also shooting for the Tamil version of the film which stars Ash opposite south actor Vikram.



Aishwarya

Painter Kibria turns 80

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Mohammad Kibria is the pre-eminent modern painter in contemporary art of Bangladesh. He has been painting, printmaking, collage, mixed-media for over six decades. His immense contribution to the Bangladesh art over the decades has earned him international acclaim as well.

On January 1, this introverted painter turned 80. On the occasion, Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts organised a birthday celebration programme at its premises on January 2. The celebration started with a musical soiree by Surtirrho. Fans and people from different sections of society greeted the painter with flowers and placards.

Chairman of Bengal Foundation; Abul Khair Litu conferred on Mohammad Kibria and his wife Anjum Kibria a celebratory robe. Former finance minister Abul Mal A Muhi; former minister Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir; director general of Bengal Foundation, Luva Nahid Chowdhury; director of Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, Subir Chowdhury; Hashem Khan; Rafiqun Nabi; Mahmudul Haque; Abul Bark Alvi; Borhanuddin Khan Jahangir and others wished him and spoke on the occasion.

Mohammad Kibria was born in 1929 at Birbhum of West Bengal in India. He graduated from the Government School of Art, Kolkata in 1950. Kibria moved to Dhaka in 1951 and then he started his career as a



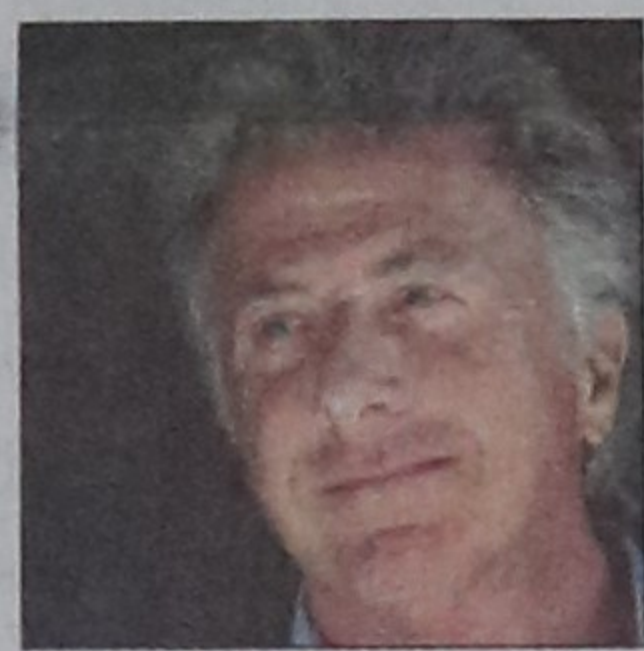
Four score years: Amidst admirers Mohammad Kibria (C) on his 80th birthday.

PHOTO: MUMIT M

school teacher at Nawabpur High School. In 1954, he joined at the Government College of Arts and Crafts as a teacher (current name Faculty of Fine Arts). After five years, he received a scholarship from the Japanese government and studied on painting and

printmaking. After returning from Japan, Kibria started a new journey with non-objective and non-figurative works. The works inaugurated a new dimension and have influenced many artists in Bangladesh.

Dustin Hoffman pledges to live to 100



Veteran actor Dustin Hoffman has vowed to touch the 100-age bracket so that he can fulfil his promise to celebrate his youngest son's 50th birthday.

The 71-year-old revealed that he had an understanding with all his kids that he would be there to eat the cake on their half-century birthdays.

"I have a pact with my kids. My youngest is 21 and I said, 'I want to be there for your 50th birthday,' which means I have to be 100," Contactmusic quoted the Oscar-winner as saying.

The six-time Golden Globe Award-winner further insisted that it would be long before he waved goodbye to his career.

He added: "I'm not retiring. I'm against the concept. You retire from a job you don't like, but you never retire from your work."

ANI

Bangladesh through Dutch eyes

Marjan Van Lier's take on underprivileged children

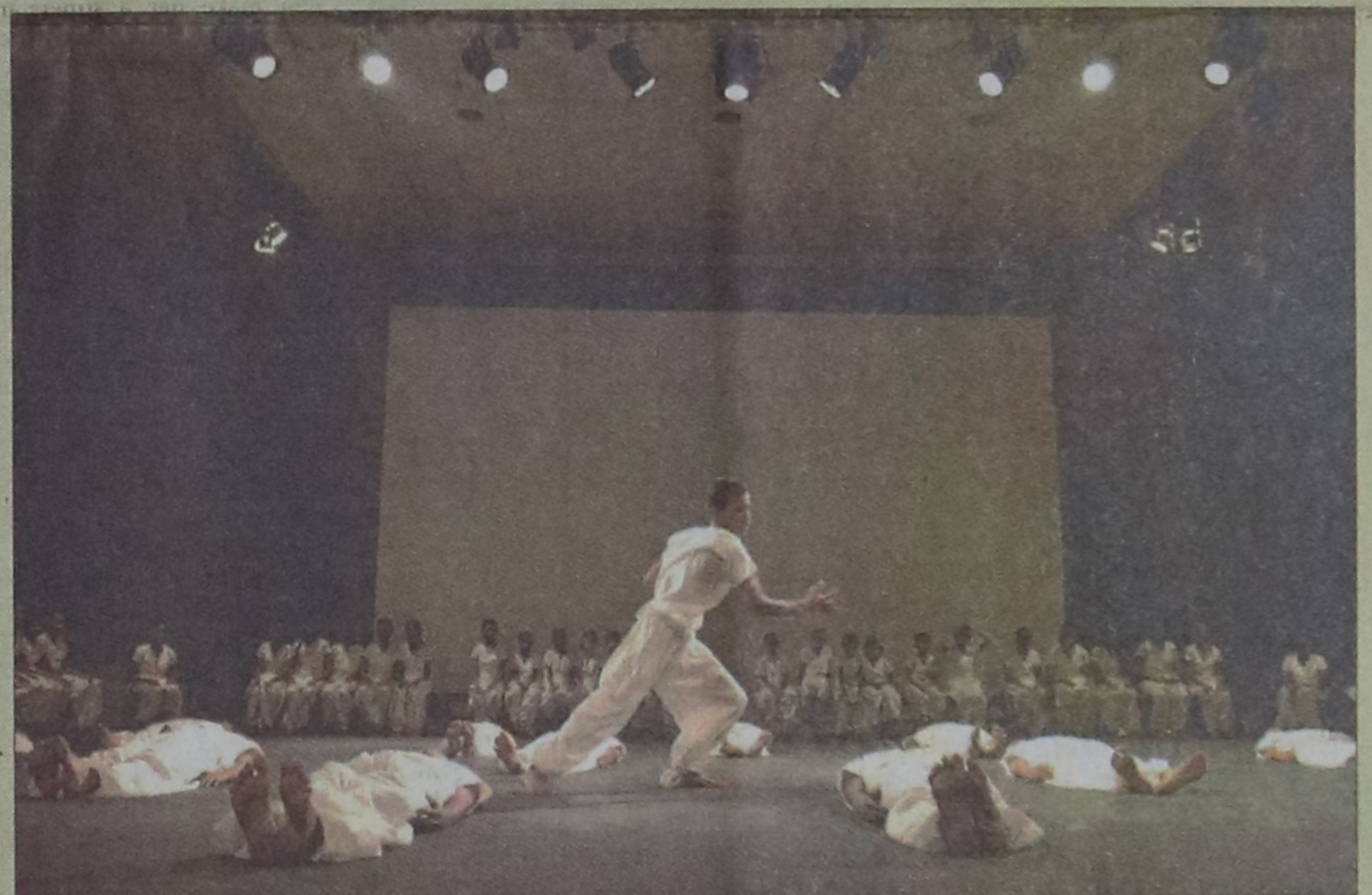


PHOTO: AMIRUL RAJIV

Creativity in action--encouraging the underprivileged.

JAMIL MAHMUD

In 2006, a management consultant of a Dutch microcredit firm, visited Bangladesh to attend a conference. The visitor, Marjan Van Lier, fell in love with Bangladesh because of its hospitable people. Simultaneously she witnessed the plight of homeless people, especially the children. This realisation propelled her into action.

Back in the Netherlands she managed to rope in several artists of renowned Dutch dance organisation Netherlands Dans Theater (NDT) to work for the well being of these talented yet underprivileged children. In cooperation with local non-government organisation Padakkhep and Hotel Sheraton, NDT ran a two-year ballet dance programme with 70 underprivileged children. The project ended with a gala performance at Hotel Sheraton in January last year.

Recently, 56-year-old Marjan visited Bangladesh along with two NDT artistes, Paul Lightfoot and Sol Leon. Her visit was to gauge the progress of the children. "If you compose something from the deepest corner of your heart, then you surely want to look back at it. My recent visit is to witness the changes in the lives of these children," said Marjan.

Her recent visit also includes some upcoming programmes for the homeless children. In cooperation with Hotel Sheraton, Marjan arranged a three-day workshop at Hotel Sheraton from December 30 to January 1. Around 20 students, mostly from upper-middle class families, attended the workshop.

"The objective of the workshop is to raise awareness about the lives of underprivileged children and sensitise people on such sensitive social issues," said Farhan Kabir, who attended the workshop.

The 20 students will work with Marjan on her upcoming projects. She informed that if everything goes all right then the programmes would begin in April. Marjan will emphasise on painting and photography this time.

During her previous visits, Marjan found some talents among the homeless children who are interested in painting. Marjan said, "During my previous visit, I found some children were really creative in photography and painting but they were neglected. I thought if they get a good grounding in these areas it will help them grow up."

"I found some children aged between six and eight, who live by grinding stones, but are very much talented," she added.

Marjan loves Bangladesh. At the same time social inequities make her sorry. She thinks only the younger generation can rebuild a proper Bangladesh.

"I love Bangladesh because of its soft-hearted people. I love its people because of its beautiful language. We visited a slum the other day to watch the children. But the places were so filthy that Paul and Sol wanted to paint the place."

"I think only the younger generation can build on the dream of Bangladesh. That is why I want to work with them," concluded Marjan.



Marjan Van Lier