

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

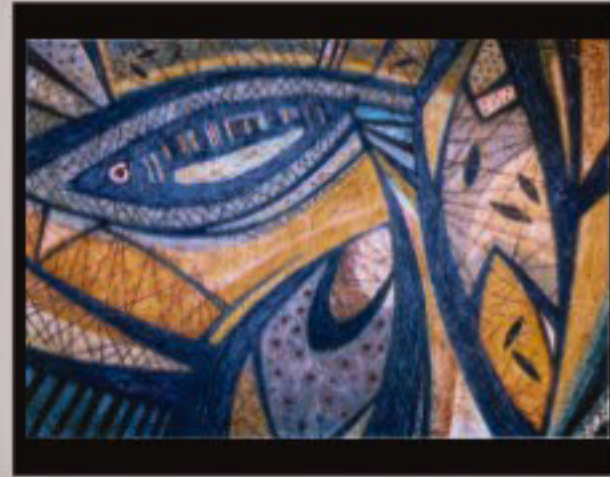
Solo Art Exhibition

Artist: Masuda Kazi
Title: Small is Beautiful
Venue: Gallery Kaya, H-20, R-16, Sector-4, Uttara
Date: June 4-15
Time: 11am-8pm



Group Art Exhibition

Venue: Saju Art Gallery, D.C.C Market, Gulshan-2
Date: May 7-June 6
Time: 10am-8pm



Solo Photography Exhibition

Title: Soulscapes- Ontor Bhumi
Photographer: GMB Akash
Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, H 275/F, Rd 27 (old), Dhanmondi
Date: June 1-10
Time: 12-8pm



Theatre

Play: Ahom Tamoshay
Troupe: Pubali Cultural Centre, Feni
Venue: Experimental Theatre Hall, Shilpakala Academy
Date: June 11
Time: 7pm



Window to the soul

GMB Akash's solo exhibition at Bengal Gallery



(Clockwise: from top) Images from "Survivors," "Lonely Home" and "Born to Work" by GMB Akash.

KARIM WAHEED

Incorporeal or earthbound, integral to conscience or an autonomous existence -- metaphysical arguments over the soul continues. As people are deprived and depraved, do souls get used, abused and exploited? GMB Akash, whose photographic vision has been internationally recognised, doesn't go anywhere near these arguments, rather his latest exhibition explores souls in likely and unlikely places -- in flames of a pyre; in a muted, congested, yet lonely home for the elderly and the poorly lit room of a prostitute.

The exhibition, aptly titled "Soulsapes," is now open at Bengal Gallery in Dhanmondi, Dhaka and will continue till June 10.

Akash is the first Bangladeshi to be selected for the World Press Photo Joop Swart Masterclass (in 2002). Last year's Travel Photographer of the Year award further cemented his reputation as one of the most insightful photojournalists at work today.

The collection of images at the current exhibition narrates six stories, spanning

Bangladesh, India and Nepal. In Akash's words: "In the beginning it feels like forbidden territory... You, the photographer, are there at a factory, an old home or a brothel with your simple black bag, eying everything around you as you are eyed by the people. The first few days I don't take pictures because they would not be good... But there is always that moment when it feels completely natural to open that bag... Then I take out my camera... There is consent. People don't accuse me, or reject me or pose in unnatural ways... Then I click away, and it feels like a conversation."

Amirul Rajiv is the curator and editor of "Soulsapes".

On May 25, 2009, Cyclone Aila hit Bangladesh. More than 400,000 people were reportedly isolated by severe flooding in coastal regions. Numerous villages were either completely submerged or destroyed. Families became homeless overnight. "Survivors" is the story of indomitable will to outlive the after-effects of a disaster that took everything away from the people of Shyamnagar, Satkhira district in Bangladesh.

"Born to Work" brings to light images of childhood lost. A boy, probably 8 or 9 years old, aluminium dust smeared on his face, hands hidden inside two big pots, looks straight into the soul of the camera or the soul of the one operating it. In Bangladesh, 17.5 percent of children between the ages of 5 and 15 are engaged in economic activities. Many of them work in unsafe conditions.

They are treated as pariahs, live in the fringes of society, silently endure all kinds of abuse like they have no soul. Many of them are underage, and receive no pay because they are bonded workers. Most of the girls who work in a brothel were either born there, or were sold off by their relatives when they were between 8 and 10 years old. As if condemned to a life of sex slavery wasn't painful enough, many of these girls are now given steroid by their madams/ pimps to make them look older and curvaceous to prospective clients. Each brothel in Bangladesh has its own micro infrastructure of grocery stores, tea stalls, hairdressers and doctors. The only connection between these women and the world outside are the men who come to the brothels. "Life for Rent" is the story of sex workers in Bangladesh.

Since June 2005, over 5,000 farmers have killed themselves in India. Detailed research identified a variety of causes that boiled down to this: India has been transforming rapidly into a primarily urban, industrial society and many farmers did not know how to survive in the changing economy. Such stresses pushed many into a corner where suicide became an option for them. "Suicide Cotton Farmers" includes images (shot in Maharashtra) of desperation; of a farmer's corpse being carried away; of a daughter left in inescapable desolation by her father, a cotton farmer, who seemingly tried to escape through death.

"Lonely Home" takes the viewer to the Pashupati Briddhashram (old age home) in Kathmandu, Nepal. All of the photos are dark -- abandonment and impending death loom large.

Death becomes the protagonist in "Burning Ghat". Images show blazing funeral pyres on the ghats (steps leading down to the river Ganga) in Varanasi. Bodies are cremated non-stop, day and night. It is believed, if one dies in Varanasi, (s)he breaks free from the cycle of rebirth.

In the process of trying to look into souls, Akash has achieved something notable. He has produced images that are very likely to stir the viewer's soul.



A treasure trove of Nazrul memorabilia

Weeklong exhibition at Bangali Shomogro Museum



An issue of Dhumketu (bottom) and other Nazrul memorabilia at the exhibition.

MAINUL HASSAN

A weeklong exhibition on National poet Kazi Nazrul Islam, titled "Anjali Loho Mor..." is currently on at Bangali Shomogro Museum on Elephant Road in Dhaka.

Information Minister Abul Kalam Azad inaugurated the event early yesterday. In his speech, Azad, who was the chief guest at the inauguration, praised the organisation for holding such an event that showcases a rare collection of Nazrul's works.

Among others, Professor Emeritus Sirajul Islam Chowdhury, veteran media personality Atiqul Haque Chowdhury and Nazrul researcher Professor Mohammad Abdul Qaiyum were present at the event.

Among the featured items at the exhibition are manuscripts of Nazrul's songs in the poet's handwriting. The songs are "Charasho Nesha Chaturu Nesha," "Ami Multani Gaan Gai," "Pradip Nibhiye Dao," "Katha Kau, Kau Katha" and "Shundor Tumi Ashibey Bolia".

A copy of Dhumketu, the famed political magazine of which Kazi Nazrul Islam was the editor, is a prized item featured at the exhibition. The issue was published on December 27, 1922, from Calcutta (Kolkata). The first issue of Dhumketu was published on August 12, 1922, with blessings from Rabindranath Tagore, who Nazrul looked upon as his mentor. Due to the political nature of the magazine, copies of Dhumketu were proscribed and an arrest warrant was issued against Nazrul on November 8, 1922.

On December 15, 1929, Nazrul was given a reception at the Albert Hall in Kolkata. Acharya Profullo Chondro Roy presided over the meeting. The chairman of the reception committee was S. Wajed Ali and the main



speaker was Subhash Chandro Bose. A copy of the Sangbaradhona Smarak presented to Nazrul that day has been put on display at the exhibition; a rare document, according to the organisers.

A copy of "Kabyo Ampara" by Kazi Nazrul Islam, published in 1933 by Karim Bux Bros, Kolkata, is also on display.

A section of the exhibition features writings on Nazrul and his works by Budha Dev Basu, Kazi Abdul Wadud, Sikandar Abu Zafar.

"This exhibition is part of our effort to pay tribute to Kazi Nazrul Islam and his work. As our National Poet he deserves much respect from us," said Tarik Rahman Shourabh, executive director, Bangali Shomogro Museum.

The exhibition will continue till June 11, informed the organisers.

Ranbir Kapoor on "Raajneeti" and more

Ranbir Kapoor is entering politics...on-screen though. The Bollywood heartthrob is eagerly waiting the release of "Raajneeti," his first serious film. "Raajneeti" has been directed by acclaimed helmer Prakash Jha.

In a recent interview Ranbir talked about the much-awaited film, a rumour regarding his reluctance to work with Shah Rukh Khan and more. Excerpts from the interview:

Should people watch "Raajneeti" because of Prakash Jha or Ranbir Kapoor?

Ranbir: In this film there is action, romance, drama, emotion, comedy, tragedy... and there is Katrina Kaif. Do we need any other reason for watching the film!

You have come out of your typical look in the film...

Ranbir: When Prakash Jha wrote this character he had a certain idea that this is the way the character should look. He told me that it's not



about looking glamorous.

This guy (my character) studies abroad... Prakash Jha wanted me to wear glasses. He is not into politics but from a political family. I didn't want to look serious in the film... the specs are making me look like that.

Media buzz says Nana Patekar pestered you a lot on the sets of "Raajneeti". True?

Ranbir: Not at all. Nana Patekar was never after me on the sets. Sometimes there were misunderstandings due to miscommunications, but we used to sort it out through talks. That is a common thing between people who are close to each other. By the way, let me tell you, he cooked the most amazing dishes like batar, jungle chicken and keema for us on the sets.

This is your second film with Katrina. There's been rumour of your relationship with her...

Ranbir: Katrina is a very, very dear friend. The entire team of "Raajneeti" is really

proud of what she has done in the film.

Did you refuse to work in a Karan Johar film because it also had Shah Rukh Khan in it?

Ranbir: Not at all. It will be my honour and privilege if I get an opportunity to work with him (Shah Rukh Khan). I have no problem working with Shah Rukh Khan or any star.

So, are you approaching directors on your own, or offers are coming to you?

Ranbir: No, I can't speak for myself; I have never done that. Like I said, it must be blessings from my family and the good fortune that I got to work with such big filmmakers, I have not approached anyone.

But if I were not a part of "Raajneeti," after watching the film I would have gone to Prakash Jha and said, "Why the hell did you not cast me?"

Source: Internet

বিশ্ব জয় করে এখন বাংলাদেশে...

আমেরিকা থেকে এই প্রথম বাজারে এলো বিশ্ববিখ্যাত

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