

# Highlighting rickshaw art

TAKIR HOSSAIN

Creative and artistic designs were used in wooden doors, rectilinear door frames, rectangular and vertical patterns, windows, home decoration, furniture and more. Birds, animal forms, foliage and different parts of nature were used on the timber in the past. The tradition had been on the wane for some time and by now it has become quite hard to find the existence of such craftsmen. It is widely known that woodcarving is a time consuming and labour intensive work. The medium has been practised in the Craft Department of Faculty of Fine Arts, University of Dhaka. But the genre of art did not acquire the spirit it was expected to.

Fortunately, a few enthusiastic artists are now trying to rejuvenate the medium. ABM Rokon-Uz-Zaman Sohel is one of them. He graduated from the Faculty of Fine Arts, University of Dhaka. He has learned many delicate methods and techniques of woodcarving from



Artworks by Rokon-Uz-Zaman.

some of his dedicated teachers like Abdus Shakoor Shah and Faruk Ahmmmed Mollah.

Sohel's solo art exhibition titled "Journey by Rickshaw" is now on at Zainul Gallery, Faculty of Fine Arts (FFA), University of Dhaka. The exhibition was inaugurated on October 4. Professor Shahid Akhter Hossain, Pro Vice Chancellor of Dhaka University was present as chief guest. Professor Matlub Ali, Dean of FFA, presided over the programme. Professor Abdus Shakoor Shah, former chairman, Department of Crafts, FFA; Nazib Mohammad, associate professor and Faruk Ahmmmed Mollah, assistant professor of the Crafts Department, among others, were present at the inaugural session.

It is significant that there was no strong theme in customary woodcarving before in our country. Since the '90s, the panoramic beauty of rural Bengal and young couples became significantly noticeable in woodcarving. The woodcarvers raced to the contest of the painters, who work in two dimensions. Nowadays,

woodcarvings have taken a prestigious place beside paintings. Woodcarvings also decorate doors and walls in a very artistic way. Art galleries and art shops have successfully made an impact on collectors' tastes with their collection of woodcarvings. Against a background of such reality, Sohel has practiced this medium. His woodworks are a testimony to the fact that even after the trees have died, there is a possibility of the renewal of life.

Sohel gives an artistic life to his creation. Observing trees, the artist easily comprehends how the branches can be used through his works. The texture of wood creates an eye-catching quality. His works replete with semi-urban people, birds, beads, peacocks, blossoming flowers and foliage, speak of rural and pastoral Bengal. Human forms are often merged with urban and semi-urban setting. The artist has been trying to acquire skills in sketching. His colours and forms keep telling us about Bangladesh and its varied traditional aspects.

It is very important that the artist has been greatly



influenced by rickshaw painting. Rickshaw painting is one of the indigenous forms of art that is unique to this region. His lines are influenced by folk culture, but he has a distinct style of his own unlike other traditional craftsman. Sohel's subjects range from movie stars to depictions of village life and colourful cityscapes to pictorial interpretations of social issues to flora, fauna and animals.

Sohel has a fondness for making masks and he has tried to make a personal hallmark through the genre of art practice. Masks have been used since ancient times for both ritualistic and everyday purposes. A mask reveals many aspects of a society. The masks at the exhibition have been fashioned only out of wood. The styles are primitive, tribal, modern, ancient African, Asiatic and at times, unfamiliar. They are not identical and each expresses a unique look. The masks on display express longing, bliss, woes and jubilation.

The exhibition ends on October 10.

## GROUP ART EXHIBITION

# Journey of the Wind



(From left) Anjan Chowdhury, Shiro Sadoshima, Syed Fahim Munaim and Mehboob Chowdhury at the inaugural ceremony.

A CORRESPONDENT

Society for Promotion of Bangladesh Art (SPBA) and Shilpoprobaha (quarterly Art Magazine of SPBA) has organised a week long group art exhibition of 30 contemporary artists of Bangladesh. Citycell is the sponsor of this exhibition. The inaugural ceremony of the exhibition, titled "Journey of the Wind" was held at Dhaka Art Centre on October 4 and will continue till 11th October everyday (from 3pm-8pm).

Shiro Sadoshima, Ambassador of Japan in Bangladesh inaugurated the exhibition. Jahanara Abedin (widow of Zainul Abedin) was the guest of honour at the opening ceremony. SPBA chairman, Anjan Chowdhury; Citycell CEO, Mehboob Chowdhury; members of the board of governors of SPBA Syed Fahim Munaim; Syed Nasim Manzur; Shahab Sattar; Anis A. Khan along with other reputed artists were also present at the programme.

The participants at the exhibition are: Shahabuddin Ahmed, Abul Barq Alvi, Mohammad Eunus, Jamal Ahmed, Nasrin Begum, Syed Hasan Mahmud, Ahmed Shamsuddoha, Shishir Bhattacharjee, Sheikh Afzal Hossain, Nisar Hossain, Wakilur Rahman, Kanak Champa Chakma, Kuhu, Rafi Haque, Maksudul Ahsan, Rashid Amin, Komor Mustari Shapla, Mohammad Iqbal, Javed Jalil, Aloptoghin Tusar, Anukul Majumdar, Maksuda Iqbal Nipa, Khondokar Nasir Ahmed, Ashrafur Hasan, Amjad Akash, Shahid Kazi, Laki Osman, Tareq Amin, Farah Najmun, Dipok Ranjan Sarkar and guest artist Canadian artist Maik Uddok.

## Bidit Lal Das critically ill

Shwadhin Bangla Betar Kendra artiste Bidit Lal Das is critically ill, says a press release. He has been suffering from lung diseases for the last 12 days and has been admitted to Square Hospital. Das' family, friends and well-wishers have sought prayers from all.

Noted singer-composer Bidit Lal Das is also a well-known folk singer of Sylhet region. Das is the president of Bangladesh Sangeet Shangathan Samannay Parisad Sylhet divisional branch.

He has composed several well known songs including "Sadher Lau", "Sylhet Prothom Ajan Dhvani", "Pran Kande Mon Kanderey", and several others.

The authorities concerned have been urged to confer on Bidit Lal Das the highest state honours.



# Jibon-dhuli on the roll

A CORRESPONDENT

The mahurat of Tanvir Mokammel's latest silver screen feature "Jibon-dhuli" was held at the Bangladesh Film Institute auditorium on October 2. At the programme, the acclaimed director introduced the cast and crew of the film to the media.

"Jibon-dhuli" will feature acting talents like Shatabdi Wadud, Ramendu Majumdar, Tobibul Islam Babu, Rahmat Ali, Wahida Mallik Jolly, Chitralekha Guha, Pran Roy, several members of the Group Theatre, as well as some 'Dhakis' or rural drummers.

Uttam Guha has worked as the chief assistant director and the art director for the film, while the music has been directed by Syed Sabab Ali Arju. Costumes were done by Chitralekha Guha and camera works were orchestrated by Mahfuzur Rahman Khan.

Thirty other former and current students of Bangladesh Film Institute will also work as crew members for the film.

The shooting for "Jibon-dhuli" will be held at 10 different locations, including Noyar Haat, Brahmanbaria, Nasirnagar and Khulna's Boitha-ghata and Chuknagar.

The movie, which is being made with a government grant, will feature Shatabdi Wadud in the role of a Dhuli. Jyotika Jyoti will play the role of the Dhuli's wife.

## PAINTING COMPETITION

# Girl Child Day in Thakurgaon

QUAMRUL ISLAM RUBAIYAT, Thakurgaon

A painting competition for girls was held on Tuesday morning to mark Girl Child Day at Thakurgaon Zila Parishad auditorium. Thakurgaon Shishu Academy, with the assistance of district administration, organised the event.

Over 100 girls from different educational institutions took part in three groups in the competitions.

The topics of the competition were "Jemon Khushi Aako", "Amader Biddyaloy" and "Girl Children Rights" for Ka, Kha and Ga group respectively; Judges selected nine children for awards.

The speakers said that girls have the same rights as boys and parents should treat them at par. Equality of men and women ensures development of society as well as the country, they added.

Several other organisations held similar programmes to mark the day at different places in the district.

Earlier on Monday, Additional Deputy Commissioner Md. Shah Alam inaugurated a week-long programme to mark 'Child Rights Week' at the same event.

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ETV	11:30 Ekushey-er Business	11:00 Biz Time
04:30	Documentary: Jibon Brittey	11:30 Bangla Feature Film
06:30	Desh Jurey Oporadh	09:05 Drama Serial: Jonani Harmony
12:05	Porikroma	09:35
	Ekushey-er Raat	
Boishakhi TV		Fox Movies
04:00	Shorashori Doctor	10:00 Homeland
08:35	Fashion Haat	07:00 The International
09:20	Drama Serial: Ognipoth	09:00 Dylan Dog: Dead of Night
11:00	Reporters Dairy	10:50 The Resident
BANGLAVISION		12:25 Cruel Intentions 3
01:05	Bangla Feature Film	Z Studio
06:05	Ebong Class-er Bairay	10:45 Gothika
08:15	Drama Serial: Ladies First	01:30 13 Going on 30
11:25	Business Vision	05:55 The Chronicles of Riddick
Rtv		08:35 The Water Horse
12:35	Bangla Feature Film	11:00 Psycho
08:15	Drama: Capsule 500mg	Star World
09:50	Dhrupadi Kahini	01:30 Master Chef Australia
12:05	Shimana Periey	06:30 Grey's Anatomy
Desh TV		09:30 Glee
06:30	Sanskritir Sharadesh	10:30 Once Upon A Time
09:45	Tribute to Legend	11:30 Two And A Half Men
	Hemanta Mukherjee	National Geographic
12:30	Total Sports	Channel
		11:30 Banged Up Abroad
		01:30 Air Crash Investigation
		04:30 World's Weirdest
		10:30 Alien Deep

ATN BANGLA	Boishakhi TV
09:20pm DB	08:00pm Boro Barir Chhoto Bou
10:55pm Scandal	BANGLAVISION
CHANNEL i	09:05pm Long March
07:50pm Noorjahan	Rtv
ntv	09:05pm Oloshpur
08:15pm Aghaton Ghaton	Desh TV
Potiyoshi	07:45pm Saatkahon
ETV	Maasranga Television
09:30pm Tattu Ghora	08:00pm Sat Sawdagor

BTB	Boishakhi TV
News (Bangla) at 12pm, 2pm, 5pm, 8pm,	News (Bangla) at 10am, 2pm, 7pm,
News (English) at 10am, 4pm, 10pm,	News (English) at 9am, 6pm,
ATN BANGLA	BANGLAVISION
News (Bangla) at 11am, 12pm, 2pm, 7pm, 10pm,	News (Bangla) at 10am, 2pm, 7:30pm, 10:30pm.
News (English) at 9am, 6pm,	News (English) at 1pm, 3pm, 6pm, 9pm,
CHANNEL i	Rtv
News (Bangla) at 2pm, 9pm, 10:30pm,	News (Bangla) at 1:45pm, 6:45pm, 10:45pm.
ntv	Desh TV
News (Bangla) at 2pm, 7:30pm, 10:30pm,	News (Bangla) at 2pm, 7pm, 9pm, 11pm.
ETV	Maasranga Television
News (Bangla) at 1pm, 3pm, 5pm, 7pm, 9pm, 11pm,	News (Bangla) at 7pm, 1am.

ATN BANGLA	Rtv
01:00am Onno Drishti	11:30pm Our Democracy
CHANNEL i	Maasranga Television
12:30pm Taraka Kothon	12:02am Shamprotik
ntv	Desh TV
Ei Shomoy	11:45pm Shoja Katha
ETV	CHANNEL 24
10:10pm Media Gossip	12:05am Modhyrater Muktabak
Boishakhi TV	Gtv
12:00am Zero Hour	