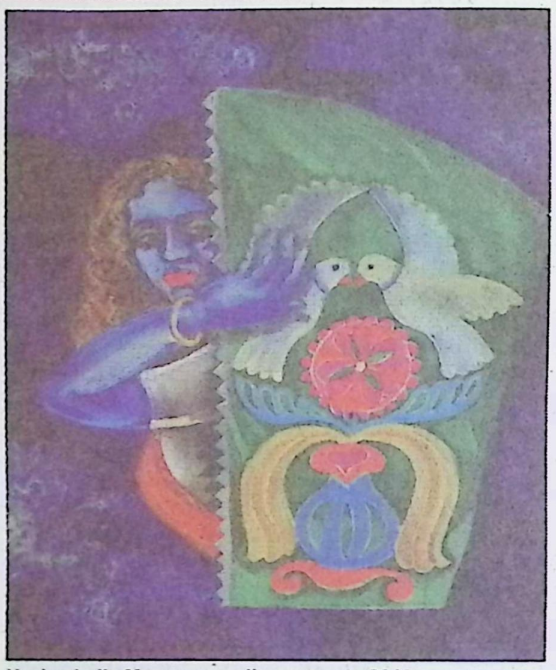
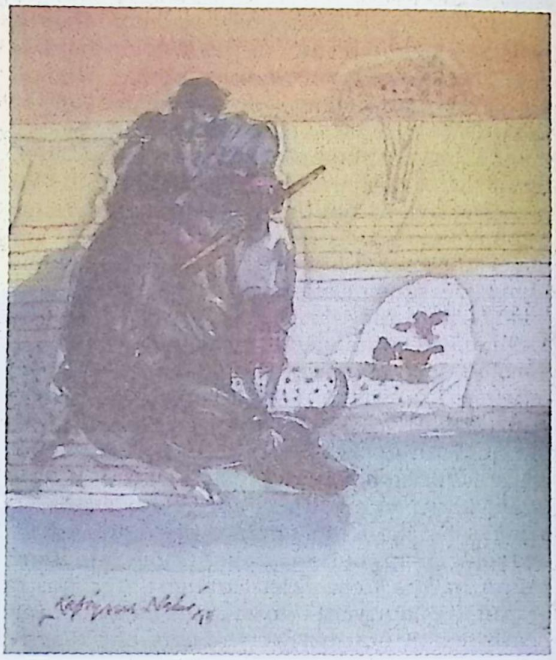


Nazlee Laila Mansur, acrylic on paper, 2013.



Rafiqun Nabi, acrylic on paper, 2013.

Artistic Tryst in Tokyo

FAYZA HAQ

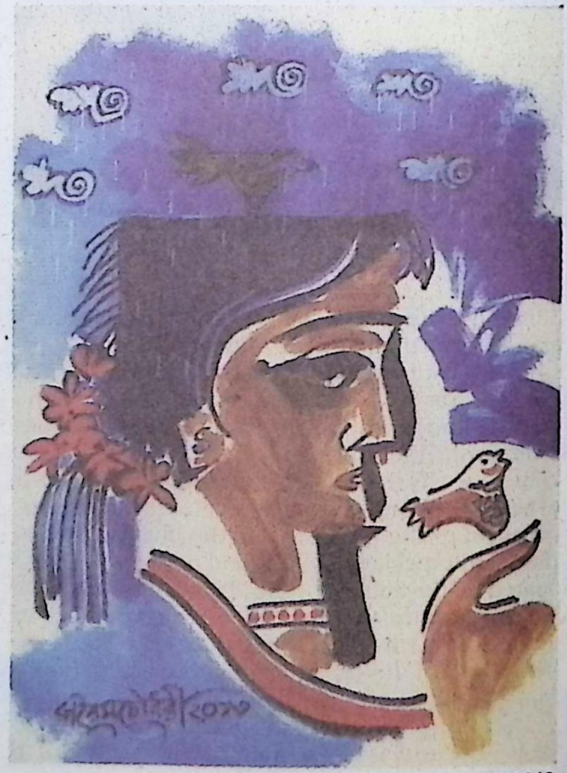
This was not the first time that artists like Rafiqun Nabi went to Japan—he had been there twice before about 10 years ago. This time however, it was an official visit and a large number of the most renowned artists of Bangladesh were represented.

"We took 35 paintings to Takamasu, a particular island near Tokyo" says Rafiqun Nabi about the international triennial that showcased works of Bangladeshi weavers, rickshaw painters, *shora* painters and Gazir Pot artisans. The Chakma , Murong gave thrilling performances as did Shibli and Nipa and their troupe, delighting the audience with invigorating *kathak.*

Senior artists Chandana Mojumdar and Shahadat Hussain gave *sarodh* performances. The grand *mela* had handicrafts of all kinds from Bangladesh and entertaining shows by the band 'Lalon'.

The importance of this flamboyant event was evident from the fact that two ministers Finance Minister Abul Muhit and Abul Kalam Azad the Minister of Culture also graced the occasion.

Art, being the most rich and representative of Bangladeshi culture, it was not surprising that so



Qayyum Chowdhury, acrylic on paper, 2013.