

Musician, charcoal on paper, 45x30cm, 2001.

The Glory of the Common Man

FAYZA HUQ

More than a hundred paintings are included in Rafiqun Nabi's Retrospective at Bengal Gallery this December (7 to 19). It certainly should make the artist proud of his achievement, although like so many master painters of the world, he is not totally satisfied. The works include oil, acrylic, water colour, etching, charcoal drawing and his famous cartoon drawings.

It is perhaps his fastidiousness regarding his own works that has prodded him on to produce so many and such diverse works that have delighted and provoked his fans. It may have had something to do with Nabi's father, a policeman and a self-taught painter who constantly guided him and egged him on. He tried to influence him by his own taste of painters, beginning with Zainul Abedin. Nabi watched how he painted, as a child quickly adopting a passion that began to define his destiny.

For Nabi artists of any trend appeal to him. Asked about his liking for the modern artists, he says that there are many among his favourites. Fauvists and Cubists and Dadaists, naturally appeal to him. Impressionists, Expressionists, post-moderns are Constant influences. They all appeal to his sensibility. He also likes the experimentation of the present day artists.

Among the creations that cram the Bengal Gal-



Cattle, mixed media, 74x55cm, 2006.