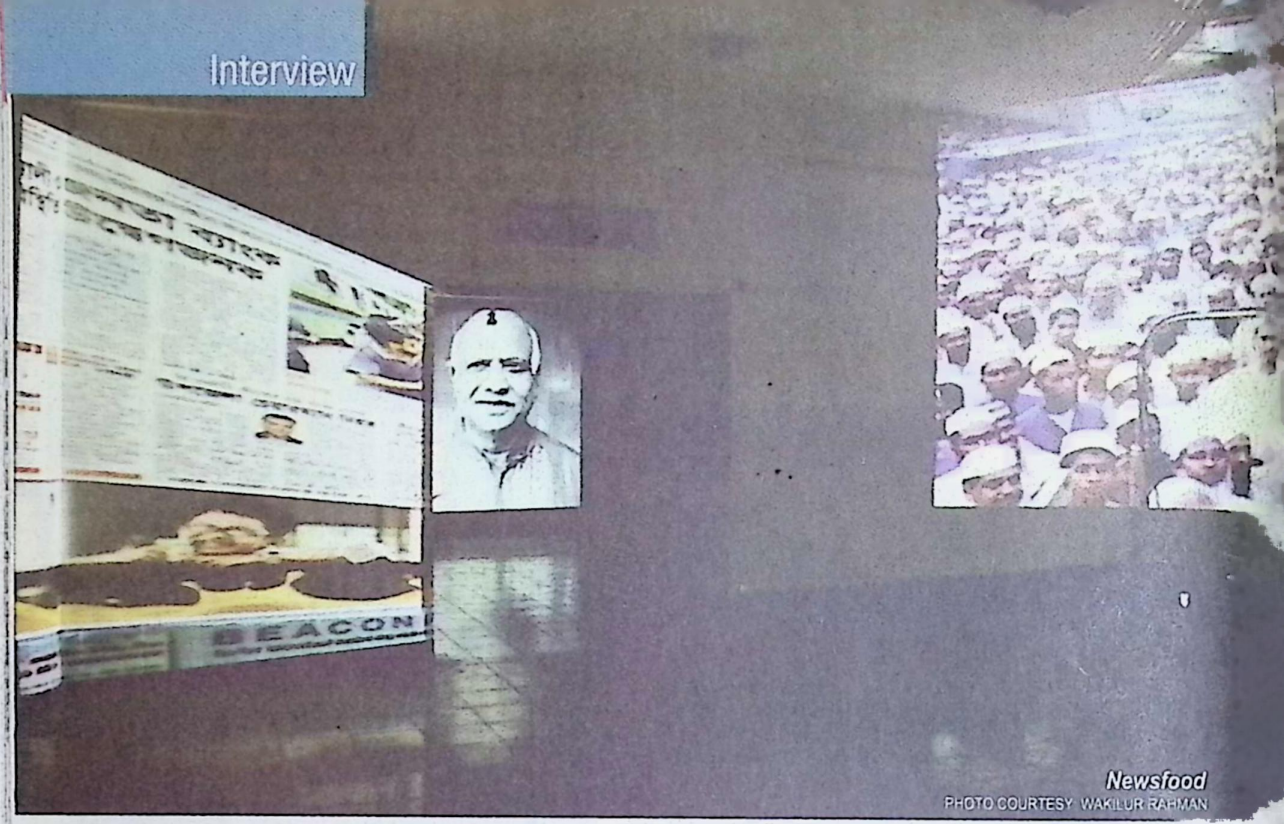


Newsfood
PHOTO COURTESY: WAKILUR RAHMAN

A Carrion Call for Simplicity

FAYZA HUQ

Performance art has become a popular artistic expression in many parts of world. In Bangladesh it has not been explored as extensively yet there is enough interest to warrant more examples of such experimentation. Wakilur Rahman's recent endeavour 'Newsfood' at the National Museum, has created quite a stir in the art scene. It was repeated in a new space in Chittagong and will hopefully be shown again in Bengal Art Lounge. The other name of the thought-provoking video is 'Khabarkhaddu'. It is an exhibition which deals with how a newspaper selects a piece of news and how it is produced, and how it is printed. It also contains footage of how the audience reacts. The edition of the 15th year of 'Prothom Alo' was used. Wakil, educated in China with Tawfiqur Rahman, the sculptor, took 14 projections after his research. In six parts he dealt with the pre-production system, the text and eight projections deal with the image. First he used the headlines, a complete newspaper including 24 pages and then divided the images under 'politics' 'daily life', 'portrait', 'environment', 'cultural life', 'sports' and so on.

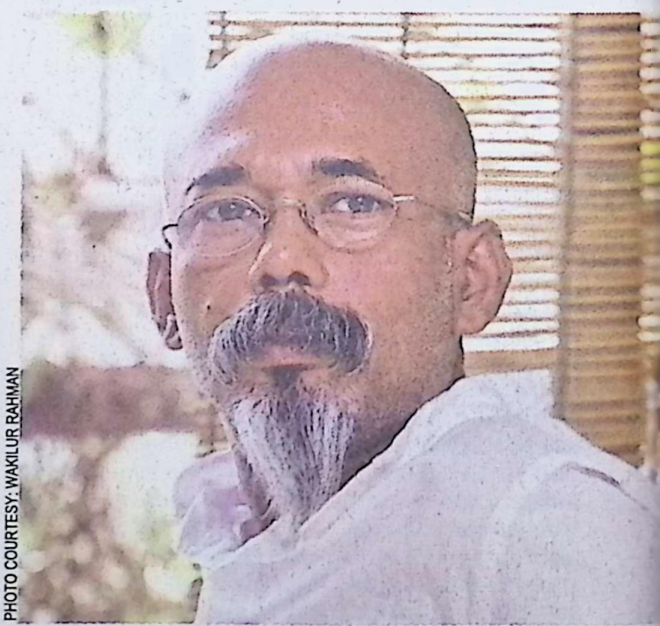


PHOTO COURTESY: WAKILUR RAHMAN

Wakilur Rahman

Wakil worked for one and a half months. With him were his assistants who worked in the paper's archive. Behind each image used in a newspaper there are about 40 or 50 images existing. But the newspaper chooses only one. However he went through the entire collection of photos and not