



A blessing and a curse

Page...5

REGULARS

- 3 **Editorial** : After the rains...
- 4 **Readers** :
- 5 **Leaders**:
- 8 **The Nation-Last Week**
- 9 **Around The World**
- 11 **Special Report** : The same old trappings
- 18 **Report** : Working children of Hard-to-Reach schools in Dhaka
- 20 **Culture News**
- 39 **Art & Culture Calendar**

COLUMNS

- 13 **Afsan Chowdhury** : What do SQ Chowdhury and M K Alamgir have in common?
- 14 **Barrister Harun ur Rashid**: Why did Hillary visit India and not Bangladesh?
- 16 **Dr Hasan-Askari Rizvi** :Anarchy and democracy

OTHERS

- 22 **Education** : Reforming primary education
- 24 **Feature** : Don't force me into marriage

- 26 **Fight against Terrorism** : The need for a sincere commitment
- 28 **Partition and its fallout** : Textbooks in Indo-Pak and their shaping of the nation
- 30 **International** : Territorial tussles in South China Sea



- 32 **Art** : Monica's intimate journey
- 34 **Exhibition** : Slices of everyday life in villages, cities
- 35 **Mission** : Following the Viva Palestina
- 37 **Poem** : All Alone in Silver Moonlight
- 38 **Press Releases** :



A blessing and a curse

Page...5

REGULARS

- 3 **Editorial** : After the rains...
- 4 **Readers** :
- 5 **Leaders**:
- 8 **The Nation-Last Week**
- 9 **Around The World**
- 11 **Special Report** : The same old trappings
- 18 **Report** : Working children of Hard-to-Reach schools in Dhaka
- 20 **Culture News**
- 39 **Art & Culture Calendar**

COLUMNS

- 13 **Afsan Chowdhury** : What do SQ Chowdhury and M K Alamgir have in common?
- 14 **Barrister Harun ur Rashid**: Why did Hillary visit India and not Bangladesh?
- 16 **Dr Hasan-Askari Rizvi** :Anarchy and democracy

OTHERS

- 22 **Education** : Reforming primary education
- 24 **Feature** : Don't force me into marriage

- 26 **Fight against Terrorism** : The need for a sincere commitment
- 28 **Partition and its fallout** : Textbooks in Indo-Pak and their shaping of the nation
- 30 **International** : Territorial tussles in South China Sea



- 32 **Art** : Monica's intimate journey
- 34 **Exhibition** : Slices of everyday life in villages, cities
- 35 **Mission** : Following the Viva Palestina
- 37 **Poem** : All Alone in Silver Moonlight
- 38 **Press Releases** :

Monica's intimate journey

Solo painting exhibition at Alliance Francaise, Dhaka

Takir Hossain

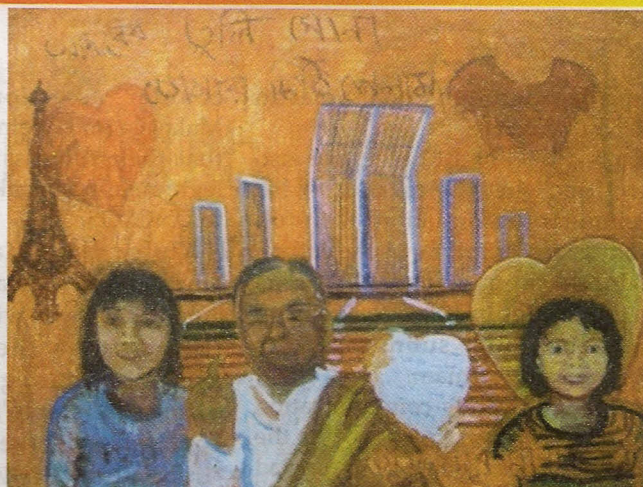
Monica Jahan Bose is not quite a familiar name in the Dhaka art circuit. Her first exhibition in Bangladesh, titled "Drowning: Is there time for Love?" is now on at Alliance Francaise, Dhaka.

The artist has lived in many countries and has acquired diverse experiences throughout her career. At present, she lives and works in Paris. Though she lives abroad, her umbilical cord with Bangladesh is still seemingly intact.

Monica is a figurative and objective painter. Her images pulsate with life, and are both provocative and dramatic. These elements make her works seem a part of our surroundings with all the conflicts and achievements. Her figures hint at many untold stories. Her thought process is seemingly eloquent and has a touch of contemplation.

The themes of her paintings range from the Language Movement to women's rights, illiteracy and fundamentalism. Her works plunge deep into Bengali culture and heritage. Bangla alphabets, women's tops, rickshaws, the Shaheed Minar and the map of Bangladesh are some recurring motifs in her paintings.

The motifs simplify her works, and help create a personal hallmark. She portrays common peoples' beliefs, notions and expressions. A noticeable aspect is many characters, each demonstrating individuality.



Monica is well aware of the present socio-economic and political scenario in Bangladesh. Her artistic mind is engrossed with people and their bliss, sorrows, contentment and visions -- all clearly projected in her works. Her works project development and progress as well.

The artist feels comfortable working on a large canvas according to her themes and composition. Her work is clarified by a powerful engagement with figures, objects and space -- with bold and sweeping brushstrokes. She plays with texture and illusion for the surface effects.

The paintings appear to chart the artist's own intimate journey through religious, linguistic and geographical boundaries, while also commenting on the role of these boundaries in our society.

The exhibition ends on August 5. 