

THE LARGEST SELLING ENGLISH MONTHLY MAGAZINE

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SHE REGD: SS-30

Published each month by Zuhra Karim, 10/A West Street, Defence Housing Authority, Karachi.

Printed by Quick Process

Plot # 20, Sector 25, Korangi Industrial Area,

Karachi, Pakistan.

Cell: 0300-8253771

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DENGUE ON THE RISE AGAIN

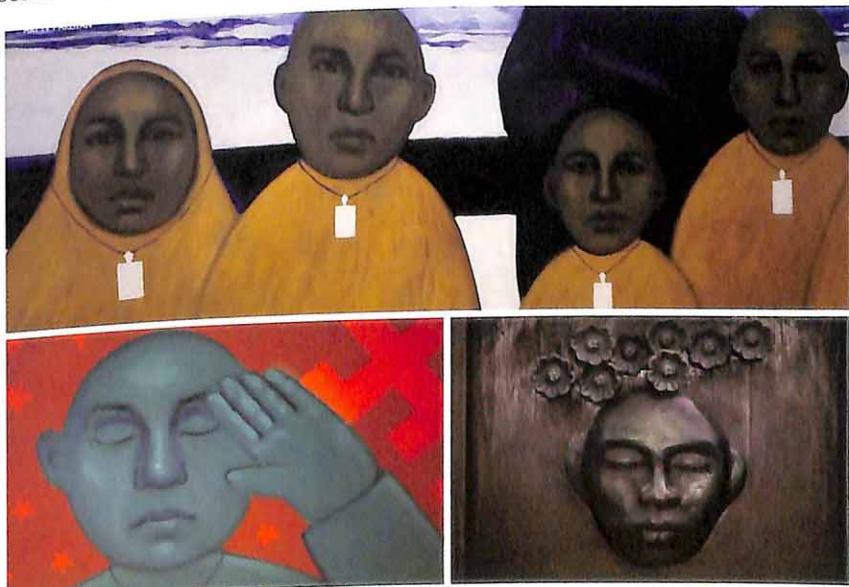
Recent rains, stagnating water and deplorable sanitation conditions in Karachi have given rise to a plethora of problems but the biggest cause of concern for Karachiites has become combatting dengue, which is spreading at an alarming rate. The number of cases in the metropolis alone account for more than 90% of the cases reported from Sindh and the numbers are soaring by the hour.

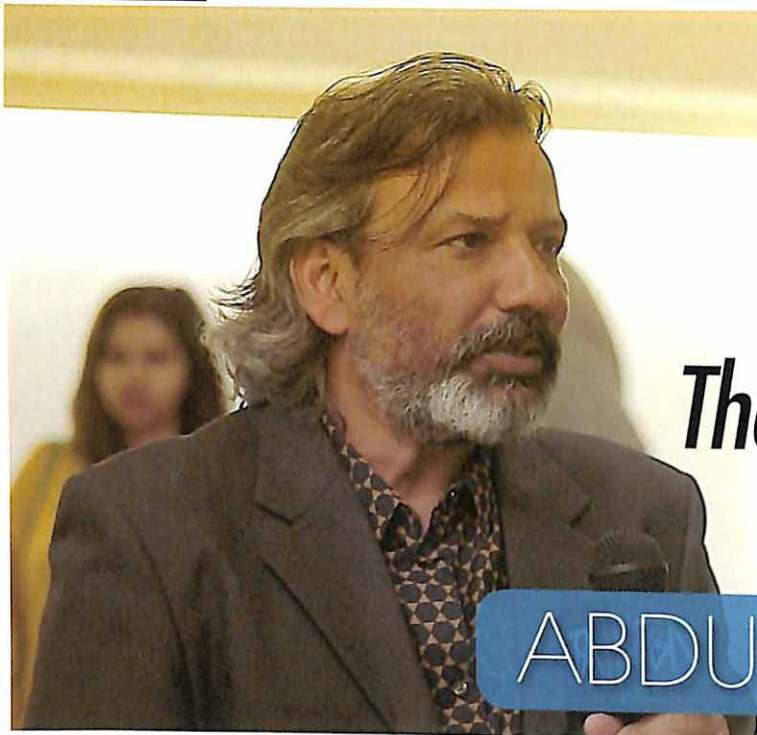
In all of Pakistan, more than 12,000 cases have been reported this year, with over 3500 cases from Sindh and Punjab each, with Karachi and Rawalpindi taking the lead and the numbers will have significantly risen by the time this article goes in print as the conditions show promise of worsening. So far, 23 people have died from the fatal Dengue Hemorrhagic Fever (DHF) – the most severe form of the disease in the country.

In Karachi alone, areas inundated in stagnating rain water and garbage dumped on roadsides have become breeding grounds for the disease. Relatively drier areas have rain and sewerage water collecting in potholes and open gutters, and the mix is giving birth to this deadly menace.

The mosquito-borne viral infection has been categorized as a global public health crisis and is a major epidemic in Pakistan. The fact that urban areas and major cities have become hotspots shows there is little being done by the government to control the outbreak. While the government claims to have conducted anti-dengue spray campaigns and thorough fumigation sessions, there has been negligence in dengue surveillance and many residents have said officials have yet to visit their vicinity.

While Pakistan has made considerable progress in controlling and containing dengue fever in recent years, the current outbreak is testimony to our city's inexcusable sanitary conditions exacerbated by the rains for which the government, Waste Management Board and local bodies need to employ concentrated effort and help curb this menace. For their part, the citizens need to be prepared and take precautionary measures, since the breeding season will not end before December.





The Human Experience through The Eyes of

ABDUL JABBAR GULL

ART TV Pakistan interviews famous sculptor Abdul Jabbar Gull about his life and spiritually-inclined art.

Origins and Family

"I belong to Mirpur Khas, it is a small city in interior Sindh. Most of our family members are involved in the furniture industry. My father had a small workshop, which was used for multiple tasks such as wooden work, metal work or body making of buses and trucks and many more."

Interest in Art

"How and when I developed interest in arts is quite an interesting question and most of the time my answer to it is ever since I gained my senses. I have, somehow or the other, always been involved in arts. I was in the 6th or 7th grade when I went to a cinema painter and told him of my interest

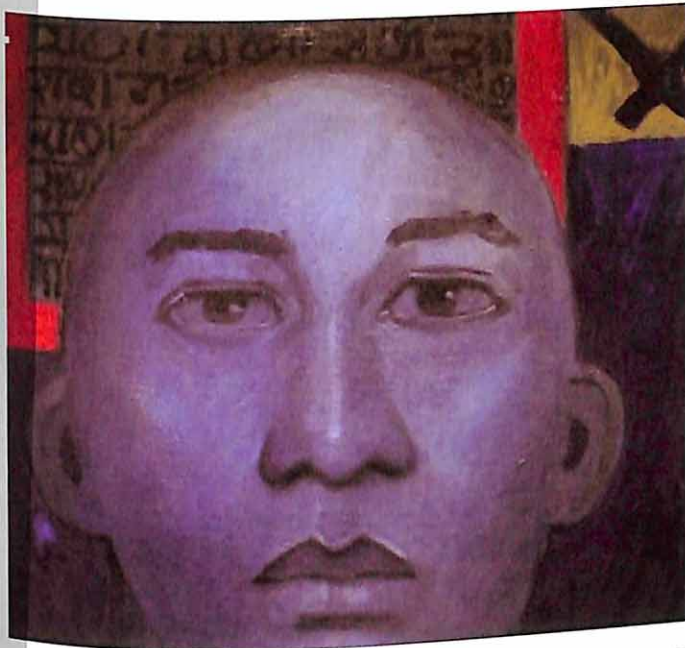


in painting and how I want to pursue it. He asked me to bring my sketch book and start working with him the very next day. So, I think from class 8th or 9th, I was a professional cinema hoarding painter."

Memories from NCA

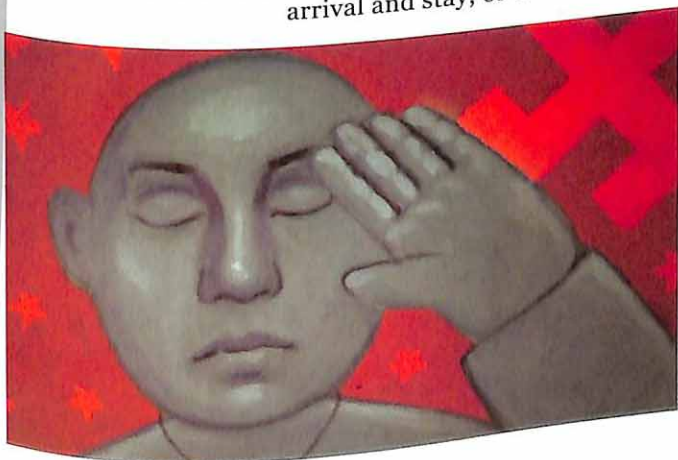
"When I came to know that NCA (National College of Arts) is the institute where Arts is taught properly, I applied and got admission but since I did not know

the details at that time, I took admission in designing and advertising. But after completing my 3rd year, I switched to fine arts, which is what I wanted to do all along. It was a quite bold decision and many people asked me why I was doing this and jeopardizing my future, wondering what will happen. Anyway, I took Sculpture and made a portrait head from clay. The experience fascinated me, I felt it was quite challenging. I then did my thesis in sculpture and for some reason I have always been interested in human forms."



A Little About Ordinary Souls

"Ordinary Souls is one of my series. There are two or three series which are done in specific form. I like explaining it as living in two type of worlds, one physical and the other being spiritual. In the physical world, you interact with open eyes and you have a certain physical appearance, whereas in the inner world your eyes are closed and you don't talk. You stay quiet but there is a dialogue within yourself with the Divine and you ask several basic questions and look for the answers. It is a symbolic representation of everything in it; closed eyes and a shaved head is symbolic for spirituality like when you go to perform Hajj with a shaven head. It is our belief that if we perform Hajj with pure sincerity, we are cleansed from our sins and are renewed, as though we were just born. These are my Ordinary Souls, people who are so pure. People with shaved heads are a symbolic representation of those innocent people whose basic questioning has not yet started, they do not know of their arrival and stay, or of being manipulated by the external forces."



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