

Dhaka Day by Day

In Search of a Utopia

by Fayza Haq

Abdus Salam, who had his fourth solo painting exhibition at the Alliance Francaise, had created a dreamland of the local buildings in oil on canvas.

Salam, who has never been to any full time course in painting, has nevertheless been a student of architecture. This has given him access to ideas in basic design, composition perspective and other essentials that go with painting.

When architects go in for urban planning they have the chance to learn about form, texture and design in painting, but few take the painting lessons as seriously as Salam has done. One is not quite sure what is dearer to his heart — his job as an architect or his passion for painting.

ing in the evening in the commercial area. The sky appeared black. The red and yellow colours stood for offices that were still operating through the evening. The painting was a conglomeration of geometrical forms of squares, oblongs and circles.

"Urbanisation-8" included an open verandah. There was light coming from the window panes. The basic body of the buildings remained brown and black. Greenish reflections could be seen from the adjacent trees.

"Urbanisation-30" was another mass of red brick creation. There were once again the shadows from the glass panels. Horizontal lines indicated different floors. "I love using brick in my designing and my professional work," Salam elaborated.



Painter Abdus Salam with visitors at the exhibition.

— Star photo

The painter is not a professional one as he does not earn his living by painting. Yet he is more serious than some professionals, since he picks up the brush and manages to hold solo exhibitions of his work ever so often. From the quality point of view, Salam has been accepted by the Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy in '75. Since then he has joined in every national and international show in Dhaka.

In his expose "Urbanisation" he has blended his two identities — that of an architect and a painter. He has found delight and joy in vertical forms, horizontal expansiveness, variation in texture and the splurge of colours. He has blended in the charm of steel frames and glasses, the nostalgia and richness of red bricks, as well as the variety of flat coloured walls. He has got his inspiration from arches, pillars, and oblong high-rise buildings. His palette included variations of brown and red. He has also blended in other cooler colours such as blues, violets and greens.

The final effect was that of a mosaic of dancing colours which were produced by the glass windows of the rooms that were lit up from within. Although the artist had usually dealt with horizontal surface — pertaining to perspectives of city forms — he had also gone in for aerial views.

While he had delineated the well-to-do sections of the society, at the back of his mind was also the concern for the world of the poor with their slums and squatter settlements. Although this has not come out prominently in his paintings, he has conducted research in those areas of the poverty stricken.

"Urbanisation-20" showed a high-rise build-

ing in the evening in the commercial area. The sky appeared black. The red and yellow colours stood for offices that were still operating through the evening. The painting was a conglomeration of geometrical forms of squares, oblongs and circles.

"Urbanisation-44" brought in bushes of flowers and plants along with balconies, arches and sunshades, all swept up in hues of red and orange.

Buildings were seen once again in "Urbanisation-34" but there the red and brown had been toned down. The emphasis was on yellow. There were in addition, reflections of light blue to add to the flat yellow.

Salam, who is specially influenced by Piet Mondrian and Ben Nicholson, said about his efforts, "It's more than just a hobby. I don't have any other entertainment. I don't spend on cards, smoking or drinking but save up for canvases, paints and brushes. I dream of a well-planned and beautiful city life. As an architect I plan residential houses, office buildings, schools, hospitals and other public utility structures. This has inspired me to do my semi-abstracts."

The architect cum painter added, "I am specially concerned that poor people of all incomes should be provided with dwelling units of at least two rooms. I am also anxious about the scarcity of land in the city. That is why vertical expansion is important, particularly for commercial purposes. There should also be a limitation that such can build only till 15 stories and not beyond that. My dream is that the city should be properly designed, planned and clean."

"Why must we wait for donor countries — why can't we remove the 'bastis' ourselves? There are so many political changes that even when concrete and appropriate suggestions are given nothing materialises," Salam commented.

Allowance for disabled demanded

The Chairman of Bangladesh Association of Disabled Homes, Orphanages and Libraries (BADHOL) urged the government to introduce a subsistence allowance for the disabled instead of enhancing the honorarium of the ministers and the members of the parliament, (MP), reports UNB.

The chairman expressed his grave concern over the inordinate delay in paying the capitation grant for the orphanages of the country and called for personal intervention of the Head of the Government to expedite the payment.

Addressing a rally at Gaziur Press Club on Friday the chairman also demanded to set up rehabilitation centres for the disabled in each of the district headquarters.

Presided over by Gopal

BDR urged to check smuggling

The Director General of Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) Mohammad Abdul Latif called upon the BDR personnel to remain ever vigilant to curb smuggling and protect the borders effectively, reports UNB.

He was addressing the officers, JCOs and jawans of the southernmost 25 Rifle Battalion at Nilidumur and 35 Rifle Battalion at Sathkhira during his visit to Khulna Sector on Wednesday and Thursday.

He urged the BDR men to discharge their duties sincerely to revamp the national economy and to uphold the image of their organisation.

The fame of the organisation will flourish more and we would be able to contribute in building up of national economy, if we discharge our duties with high morale and patriotism along with sincerity", he said.

The DG was accompanied by the Director Operations and Training Shamsuzzaman Chowdhury and the local Sector Commander.

Chandra Shaha, a disabled teacher the rally was also addressed among others by central leaders of the association including Moulana Abdul Hannan, SMA Razzaq, CBA and leaders Quaziem Ziaul Huq, Z A Molla of the Machine Tolls Factory and Diesel Plant Saru Miah and Abdul Mutalib.

Three killed in mishaps

By Staff Correspondent

Three persons died and another sustained bullet injuries in separate incidents in and around the city on Friday.

An unidentified middle-aged woman died on the spot after being struck by a Dhaka-bound passenger train near the Banani railway station at around 9 am Friday. A case was registered with Railway police in this connection and the body was sent to DMCH for autopsy.

In a similar incident, another unidentified middle-aged woman was run over by the Dhaka-bound North Bengal mail train near the Izzatpur railway station under Gaziur district Friday morning. A case was registered with Dhaka Railway police in this connection. The body was sent to DMCH for autopsy.

Shabujbagh police on Thursday recovered the body of an unidentified man from a pond near the Kali Bari in Purba Rajarbagh. An unnatural death (UD) case was registered with Shabujbagh police and the body was sent to DMCH for autopsy.

Our DMCH Correspondent adds: a young man was admitted to DMCH with bullet injuries Friday afternoon. Barkat Ali (24), a private degree candidate, was allegedly shot by a group of armed miscreants near his home at Nakhla para at around noon Friday. He sustained bullet injuries to his right leg.

A case was lodged with Tejgaon police in this connection.

Obituary

Syed Hashim Ali, retired Joint Secretary, Ministry of Food, died on Friday. He was 82.

His kulkhwani will be held on Monday (Oct. 28) at his residence at House No 1, Road No 12 (New), Dhanmondi after Asr prayer.

All his relatives, friends and well-wishers have been requested to attend the kulkhwani.

Kazi Mesbahuddin Ahmed, Chairman and Managing Director, Ali Jan Jute Mills, died on Friday at a city clinic at 12:30 pm. He was 64.

He was a Director and the Chairman of the Executive Committee of Uttara Bank Limited.

He left behind his wife, three sons, four daughters and a host of friends and relatives to mourn his death.

Gynaecologist dead

KHULNA, Oct 25: Dr AFS Badsha Mia, a renowned Gynaecologist of Bangladesh, died of brain tumour in London Kings Hospital Thursday, according to family sources. He was 62, reports BSS.

Dr Badsha Mia went to London last month for treatment. He left behind his wife, two sons and a large number of relations and well-wishers.

Saturday

- 5.00 Opening announcement, Al Quran, Programme Summary
5.15 Reading from the Tripitak
5.20 News in Bangla
5.30 Sports world
6.00 Documentary film Jiban and Prokusti
7.05 Bahari: Folk songs
8.00 News in Bangla
9.00 Songs programme
10.00 News in English
10.30 Drama series: Dallas
11.30 Khabar/The News
11.45 Close Down

What's on today...

Discussion on Sher-e-Bangla

Bangladesh Krishak Sramik Mukti Andolon will hold a discussion meeting in observance of the 117th birth anniversary of Sher-e-Bangla AK Fazlul Haq at the party's central office (26, Chamelibagh, Shantinagar) in the city today (Saturday) at 4 pm.

Party Chief Mohammad Sadek will address the meeting as the chief guest while its city unit chief Magbul Khan will preside over.

Bangladesh-Libya Brotherhood Assoc

Bangladesh-Libya Brotherhood Association will hold a discussion meeting to mark the 80th anniversary of Italy's occupation of Libya at the association office at 115, New Circular Road, Siddeswar in the city today (Saturday) at 4 pm.

All the executive and members of the association have been requested to attend.

Workshop on martial arts

A week-long workshop on martial arts begins today (Saturday) at 5 pm at the Royal School of Martial Arts under the auspices of the South East Asia Bando Association. Chief instructor of the School AK Eurer will conduct the workshop.

The certificate-giving ceremony of the work will be held at the hotel Abakash. State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadek Hossain Khoka will attend the ceremony and distribute certificate among the participants.

BFUJ President Reazuddin Ahmed will be the special guest on the occasion.

Deep-tubewell contractors

An emergency meeting of deep-tubewell construction contractor will be held today (Saturday) at 3 pm at the Great Wall Chinese Restaurant (19/1, Kakrail) in the city.

Atwar Hussain Trust Fund lecture

National Professor Atwar Hussain Trust Fund Lecture 1991 will be held today (Saturday) at 4.00 pm at the Auditorium of the Asiatic Society of Bangladesh at 5 Old Secretariat Road, Nimali, Dhaka 1000 under the sponsorship of the Asiatic Society of Bangladesh and the Board of Trustees for the National Professor Atwar Hussain Trust Fund.

Professor Rahman Sobhan will deliver lecture on "National Sovereignty, external dependence and the governance of Bangladesh."

Dr AM Sharafuddin, President of the Asiatic Society of Bangladesh, will preside over the function.

Science fair

The two-day science fair of Blooming Buds Preparatory School, Dhanmondi will start at 9 am today (Saturday). Mayor of Dhaka City Corporation Mirza Golam Abbas will inaugurate the fair.

The students of the school will participate in the fair. The fair will remain open for all.

ICDDR,B conference

The first annual scientific conference of the International Centre for Diarrheal Disease Research, Bangladesh (ICDDR,B) begins today (Saturday) at the Bangladesh College of Physicians and Surgeons at Mohakhali in the city. The three-day conference comprises plenary sessions, paper presentations, poster session and a display of ICDDR,B publications and documents.

Health and Family Welfare Minister Choudhury Kamal Ibne Yousuf is expected to inaugurate the conference as the chief guest.

Freedom fighters urged to focus exact history of '71

State Minister for Establishment Md Nurul Huda Friday called upon the freedom fighters to uphold the spirit of the Liberation War through instituting country-wide movement against terrorism and corruption to help establish progressive social system and economic development, reports BSS.

He was addressing as the chief guest the inauguration ceremony of the triennial conference of Dhaka district unit command of Bangladesh Muktiyodha Sangsad at 3-day visit, reports UNB.

The State Minister said, the freedom fighters liberated the country. But they were not properly evaluated so far due to the absence of democratic practices in the country. He said through implementing the ideals of great freedom fighter Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman, Prime Minister Khaleda Zia's government would change the lot of freedom fighters.

Huda said the freedom fighters should come forward to serve the country irrespective of their political beliefs and adjusting with the overall social condition. He opined that the freedom fighters should not involve themselves with such activities which could defame them. He called upon them to focus the exact history of the liberation war in uniting the countymen imbuing with the patriotism.

Medical service for Indian quake victims offered

The government of Bangladesh has offered the services of a medical team for the victims of recent earthquake in India, foreign office sources said in Dhaka on Friday.

Weather

Thundershower likely
By Staff Correspondent
Weather forecast valid till 6pm on Saturday says light rain or thundershower is likely to occur at one or two places over Dhaka and Chittagong divisions and the regions of Barisal, Patuakhali and Khulna. Weather elsewhere will remain dry.

Day temperature in likely to remain nearly unchanged. The maximum temperature of 33.2 degree Celsius was recorded at Sitakunda while the lowest temperature of 19.8 degree was reported from Dinajpur.

Table with columns: City/Towns, Temperature (Max, Min), Humidity (9 am, 6 am). Includes data for Dhaka, Chittagong, Khulna, Rajshahi, Rangpur, Sylhet, Comilla.

Bill to raise retirement age of govt employees to 60 likely

Supreme Court Correspondent

Two bills are likely to be moved in the Jatiya Sangsad for enhancing the age of retirement of government employees from 57 to 60 on Private Members Day.

The bill proposes substitution of Section 4 of the Public Servants (Retirement) Act 1974 (Act XII of 1974). The amendment will fix the re-

tirement age at 60 years and that the government or any authority authorised by the Government in this behalf may retire a public servant on full pension after completion of 25 years of service if he is found by the competent authority as unfit for continuation in service.

The other bill stipulates amendment of the Administrative Tribunals Act 1980 (Act VII of 1980) proposing 120 days limitation period for disposal of appeal, application or representation by the departmental authority.

The Section 4 (2) of the Administrative Tribunals Act, 1980 provides an opportunity for the departmental authority to dispose of any application, appeal or representation any time that may be suitable to them. There was no limitation for the disposal and without the decision of the departmental authority no application could be made to the Administrative Tribunal to redress the grievances of the aggrieved party.

Abdur Rab Chowdhury, MP (BNP) is expected to move the bill. He requested in a letter on October 18 the Law Minister Mirza Golam Hafez to take initiative to bring the bills on behalf of the Government.

Khaleda greets Waldheim

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia has felicitated Dr Kurt Waldheim, President of the Republic of Austria, on the occasion of the National Day of Austria, reports BSS.

She said, "the government and the people of Bangladesh join me in extending our warmest greetings and felicitations to your excellency on the happy occasion of the National Day of Austria."

"I firmly believe that the cordial, relations which so happily exist between our two friendly countries will be further consolidated in the years ahead."

The Prime Minister wished long life, good health and happiness of Dr Waldheim.

Begum Zia in another message felicitated Austrian Prime Minister Dr Franz Vranitzky on this occasion.

3 godowns gutted

By Staff Correspondent

Fire gutted three godowns in a market at Tongi Friday afternoon causing an estimated damage of Taka 4 lakh.

The fire which originated in a godown stocking raw cotton at the Nasimpur cooperative market spread quickly to two other adjacent godowns in the same market at around 3:30 pm.

Fire fighters rushed to the spot and managed to control the fire by about 4:30, according to the fire service. Fire officials are suspecting that the fire started from a lighted cigarette-butt. The damages to the three godowns are estimated to be around Taka 4 lakh.

Law to be reformed to keep pace with people's demand

Law and Justice Minister Mirza Golam Hafez Friday said the present government would build up a society based on equality and justice through establishing rule of law, reports BSS.

He was addressing as the chief guest a conference of law officers of the Attorney General's office at the Secretariat.

State Minister for Law and Justice Barrister Aminul Huq addressed the conference as the special guest.

Mirza Hafez said sustenance of peace and development would not be possible without establishment of rule of law. Keeping this in view, administration should be strengthened through sincere, honest and hard working officials.

He directed the concerned officials to give their opinion in legal matters without favour or fear.

The Minister said, if the Law Ministry and its departments could remain free from corruption, it would earn respect of the people. He said freedom of speech and the press are existing in the coun-

Japanese envoy meets Khaleda

The Japanese Ambassador in Bangladesh, Toshio Saiki, called on the Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, at her residence Friday evening, reports BSS.

The Ambassador stayed there for sometime and discussed matters of common interest.

WANTED SENIOR GYNAE CONSULTANTS FOR KUWAIT. THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH, STATE OF KUWAIT, IS IN NEED OF FEMALE DOCTORS SPECIALISED IN OBSTETRICS AND GYNAECOLOGY. THE AVAILABLE POSTS ARE FOR SENIOR REGISTRARS AND CONSULTANTS. CANDIDATES SHOULD HAVE AN MRCOG, FRCOG OR EQUIVALENT, WITH AT LEAST FIVE YEARS' EXPERIENCE AFTER OBTAINING THE SPECIALISATION DEGREE. PLEASE APPLY PERSONALLY TO EMBASSY OF THE STATE OF KUWAIT AT SE- (D) 5, 26 SOUTH LINK ROAD, GULSHAN ON ANY WORKING DAY BETWEEN 10 AND TO 1 PM BY THE 14TH NOVEMBER, 1991 ATTACHING ALL RELEVANT CERTIFICATES. D-119

SUZUKI RANGS. আকারেও যেমন বড় ইঞ্জিনও তেমন শক্তিশালী. সূজুকি জিএস১২৫. সূজুকি এএস ১০০. রিয়ান মটরস লিমিটেড. হ্যাংগং গ্রুপ অব কোম্পানী-এর একটি প্রতিষ্ঠান. ১৮/১৮৪, বেঙ্গলী টাওয়ার, ঢাকা-১১০৮ ফোনঃ ৩৬০৬৯৯