## Dhaka Day by Day

## On the Edge of Existence

By Fayza Haq

An exhibition of Matin Talukdar's ceramics and Chinese-style watercolour was recently held at the USSR Cultural Centre. Thirty ceramic pieces and 45 paintings were on display.

There is a vast scope for doing ceramic work in the country. Instead artists end up supervising the making of cups and saucers for commercial purposes in the factories," says Matin.

It would be a shame if skill that is learnt abroad, as in the case of Matin, is not properly utilised and appreciated in the country. As it is even artists who are appreciated at home go abroad and settle down there so that the nation loses a prized possession.

The ceramic glaze tech nique that the artist has learnt during his four-year stay in Beijing is not easily found in Bangladesh."The glaze is prepared by grinding stone and mixing it with water. This is applied with spray machine or brush strokes," says Matin The firing gets the glaze Stoneware is fired at 1200 degrees Centigrade and this is done in a kiln." A kiln costs two lakh Takas and it is impossible for the artist, who is just a lecturer in a local college, to afford A couple of exquisite ceramics on display at the Chinese language for a

the Soviet Cultural Centre. Making items like vases, dishes and figures like

lions, cats and fish is easy enough for Matin. It is the burning in the kiln that is an exorbitant affair. It is three years since he has returned from Beijing but he has not been able to do any work because of lack of financial support. As a lecturer at the Rajshahi Art College he lacks the machinery and instruments to carry out creative work. The students who work under him can only do sketches and work on clay. They cannot reach the final stage. There is no way to survive in ceramics but to go in for commercial work," comments Matin, who made only a limited sale at his recent exhibition at the USSR Cultural Centre, but had much

more success in an earlier display in Gulshan. "Sometimes I feel like giving it all up and going abroad to make a living, even if it is as a labourer,"

Matin confesses. His monthly salary is not paid regularly. The artist and his family are supported by money given by elders in the clan. "But I do not deny that I get a considerable amount of respect for being a teacher." Yet who can live on abstractions alone? Everyone longs for the tangible. The only way he dreams of surviving is by possibly getting a donation and starting a small project of his own.

Donations, however, are not easy to get by , It does not take him long to do the pieces. The fish took four days, the lions seven, and the cat only a day. The beautifully glazed vases in the

exhibit were done during a period of three months when he was assigned to a actory in Beijing.

Dwelling on his paintings Matin says, "You cannot put layers of paints as vou do in Bangladesh. In hina you have to finish in one wash. The special paper that is used smudges intensely."

He also learnt new techriques of balance of comosition. The writing in hinese on the painting itself is an art. Matin learnt

-Star Photo year. There is a great softness in the use of colours in the Chinese method and this had to be mastered over a period of time," he informs. Again, subjects such as prawns and baby birds are depicted large. Flowers and leaves too are shown as enormous.

The artist has been trying to paint Bangladeshi subjects in the Chinese style. Thus he has shown village scenes, tigers, cranes and bamboo in a novel way. At times he has combined subjects from photographs with settings in books and added a dash of his own imagination.

In cases of young and talented artists like Matin both the government and prosperous commercial houses should be generous in their support and patronage. This would make them feel wanted and stop them from rushing to rescue points abroad.



Pour persons were killed and ten others injured in a collision between a microbus and a minibus near City Corporation Office at Uttara Saturday (story page-1) -Star Photo

#### Dhaka elected FAO body chairman

Dr. Akbar Alt Khan, Economic Minister at Bangladesh Embassy in Washington D. C., has been been unanimously elected Chairman of the Consultative Committee on Surplus Disposal of the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) reports UNB.

Anderes Lundin, Commercial Counsellor of Sweden in USA, was elected Vice-Chairman of the committee.

This special committee was established by FAO of the United Nations in 1954.

The main responsibility of the sub-committee is to assess the impact of food assistance



### Sunday

5-00	Opening and recita-
	tions from the Holy
	Quran.
5-15	Recitations from the
ente esta	Bible.
5-20	News in Bengali.
5-30	Hashi Khushi : Chil-
and the state of	dren's programme.
5-55	Educational
	programme.
6-20	Sports programme.
7-05	Tagore songs

News in Bengali. Sampratik: Current Drama serial: Against the wind

10 00 News in English 10-30 Raag-rang: Classical 11-30 News in Bengali

## Weather

## Rain likely

By Staff Correspondent

Rain or thundershower was recorded at a few places over Dhaka division and at some places over Chittagong, Khulna and Rajshahi divisions on Saturday, Meteorological department says.

Similar rainfall is likely at a few places over Dhaka and Rajshahi divisions and the regions of Jessore, Khulna, Barisal, Comilla and Sylhet. Met Office has forecast dry weather elsewhere till Monday

morning. The night temperature is likely to remain nearly unchanged. Outlook for subsequent two days: dry weather expected.

Extended outlook for another five days: no marked change. On Saturday the night temperature rose by one to four degree Celsius at places over Bangladesh. The night temperature was above normal by two to seven degree Celsius from place to place. The lowest-temperature 13 degree Celsius -- was recorded in Dinajpur. On Saturday the westerly lying over Bihar, Orissa, West

Bengal and adjoining areas of Bangladesh become more marked and its associated trough extended to Assam across central part of Bangladesh the seasonal low lay over south Bay Mct Office said. Temperature and humidity recorded in important cities

and towns of the country on Saturday were:

Cities/towns	temperatur	e m Celstus	Humidity in percentage			
(10000) 304	max	min	9am	6pm		
Dhaka	27.6	19.4	78	. 72		
Chittagong	28.0	17.6	74	75		
Rajshahi	28.4	14.5	86	63		
Khulna	29.8	19.2	90	72		
Sylhet	31.8	16.3	96	86		
Jessore	29.0	18.0	547	<b>#</b> 3		
Barisal	27.6	19.4	97	. 76		
Dinajpur	27.0	13.0	88	80		
	temperature	recorded	in majo	r cities of the region		
on Saturda		500990506050505050	W.G. 20165992	C STANDER AND ENDERFORM AND COMPANY OF THE		
New Delhi		( <del>0</del> )	08 de	08 degree celstus		
Karachi		91	15 degree celsius			
Park College State College Sta	L =	76.7	142 127 - TESS (## 25 75 25 75 75 75 75 75 75 75 75 75 75 75 75 75			

(-05)degreecelstus

12 degree celsius Hong Kong 21 degree celsius Bankok Singapore 24 degree celsius Colombo 21 degree celsius Firearms, bombs freely used

## JCD-BCL workers clash: 20 injured

Rival students of Tejgaon College clashed with firearms. bombs and sticks Saturday injuring at least 20, three with bullet, reports UNB.

Police and hospital sources said eight students were admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital. Among them, Aslam and Dipu, identified as Chhatra League [II-A] workers, sustained bullet wounds.

Hospital sources stated as bad the condition of Aslam, a 2nd-year student. He suffered bullet wounds on his back.

The cause of clash, which spread violence to the entire Farmgate area, could not be known immediately.

Chhatra League sources claimed activists of pro-BNP Juliyatabadi Chhatra Dal atked their students sud

5 Short sleep

8 Male sheep

language 14 Lamb's pen

12 Above

13 Artificial

15 River in

16 Obtained

17 Fiber plant

22 Temporary

23 Greek letter

24 Tendons

32 Equality

37 Comely

40 Decay

41 Hurry

33 Flower parts

31 Exist

27 Hold back

18 Saturate

20 Seesaw

were used and several crackers exploded during the

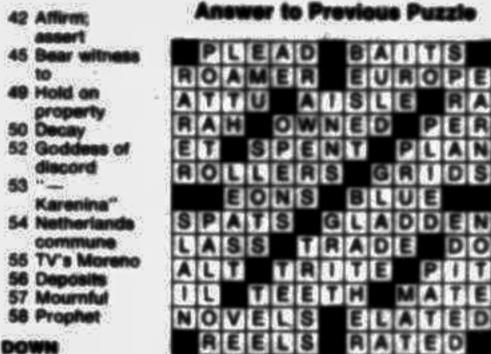
Witnesses said a group of students also went on a ram page outside the college campus and damaged about a dozen auto-tempos and other vehicles at Farmgate at about

10-30 am A brief clash also occurred between students and autotempo workers who were seen equipped with staves and iron

Police rushed to the seene and resorted to mild batoncharge to clear the area.

A group of students of the college, previously secluded from pus politics, brought out a procession in the Farmgale area to protest the

## CROSSWORD PUZZLER



58 Prophet DOWN 1 Maintain 2 Without end 3 Unaspirated 4 Frolic 5 "Harlem

49 Hold on

50 Decay

discord

19 Farm animi 8 Iterate 10 Small amoun 11 District in

21 Summer, in 30 Arid 34 Places for

37 Talked idly 38 Wheel track 42 Word of 43 Boundary

> 6 Great Lake 47 Location 48 Former 51 Harem room

United Feature Syndicate

#### 10 p.c DA for workers demanded By Staff Correspondent

National Revolutionary Front nominee for the Dhaka-4 (Deniral constituency Mr. Abul Hossain, a worker of Karim Jute Mill, Demra has demanded 10 per cent dearness allowance for all workers. Mr. Abul Hossain made this

demand in a electoral meeting at Demra on Friday.... He said, government had

created a disparity between the employees and workers by granting dearness allowance -

## 'Qamrul's work inspires people'

Acting President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed Saturday paid tributes to the unblemished memory of great artiste Gamrul Hasan, reports BSS.

In a message on the occasion of the third death anniversary of the artiste, the Acting President said this fearless genious was the voice against misdeeds, injustice and autocracy.

Justice Shahabuddin said the late artiste, who had always uncompromisingly stuck to principles, ethics and aesthet-

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ics, projected rural Bangladesh to the outside world through his creative art.

His bold brush inspired the people to rise against all kinds of indecency and falsehood and his artworks had inflamed the spirit of the freedom fighters during the country's liberation war, the Acting President said. Qamrul Hasan had actively

participated in the mass movement till the last day of his life, he said adding, let the ideals of this eclebrated artiste inspire us

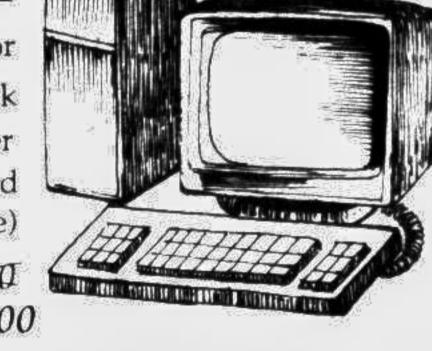
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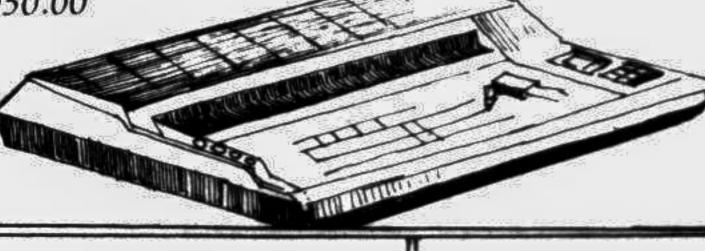
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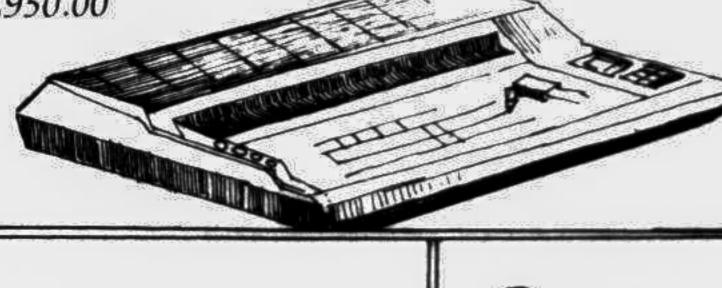
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