

Dhaka Day by Day

The Quintessence of Qamrul

— Fayza Haq

To mark the occasion of Ekushey February Shilpakala Academy opened a three week long exhibition of Qamrul Hassan's paintings yesterday (Wednesday).

Speaking at the inauguration, Begum Sufia Kamal praised the artist not only for being a successful painter but for being a revolutionary who served the cause of the masses. She recalled his generosity and kindness since the Partition days. Professor Iajuddin Ahmed, also speaking that morning, dwelt on Qamrul's undying courage since the fifties.

Of the 180 paintings that were on display one admired the famous 'Annihilate these Demons' which had the unforgettable caricature of Yahaya Khan with its animal viciousness and cruelty. The eyes and ears were depicted as shocking red while the lips and tongue were oozing with blood.

On the more pleasant and palatable vein, there were endless delectable delineations of village women of Bangladesh. There was the overwhelming beauty of the sketch in stark black and white. It had a voluptuous nude with all its imitable charm.

There was the soft brown and beige creation of the mother and the child. Once again female breasts feminine arms, tantalising lips and seductive eyes were on focus.

One came across the lady reading her love letter with all the leisure at her hand. Blue, red, yellow and green strokes were used in harmonious juxtaposition.

There was too this well-loved painting with three figures of women carrying water from the village pond — all covering their faces with conventional shyness and expected modesty. They were depicted in the artist's typical bold curves and confident lines. The reds and blues of the 'sari' stood out well against the pale chrome yellow of the skin.

The single woman carrying a vessel at the entrance of the exhibition hall was once again a mastery of easy, confident strokes. The painting abounded in joyous yellow ochres and vibrant burnt orange.

The painting of the boatman struggling against the rain and the current of the river was superb in

the presentation of the human muscles, set against the wild waves of the turbulent river.

The piece bearing two figures, a man and a woman, was symbolic of mankind's dependence on nourishment and his need to struggle. While the strokes were geometrical and the lines reminded one of the Cubists, the setting and subject were purely local and authentic to the last touch of paint.

Apart from the subject of politics and lyric depiction of women, and the natural preoccupation with the socio-economic situation of the people around him, the artist had the time and patience to go in for unusual delineation of the animals and birds of Bangladesh. There were numerous delineation of cows done in scintillating cohesion of yellows and reds. These were brought into the scene in context of the human beings. They had the combined effect of Surrealism and Cubism. The scarlets and greens were entwined with pulsating vigour.

Qamrul's cranes, shown searching for fish, were not for mere decoration or for simply a glimpse of the reality. The birds searching for their meal in the tall grass had an impressionistic effect — without departing from reality. Similarly the peacocks had once again a geometrical representation. The wild jungle setting was aptly suggested by the mysterious green and blue backdrop.

The painter's jackals and elephant were depicted with equal skill and imagination. The simple strokes seemed a miracle from some mysterious magical stronghold of the gods.

Qamrul Hassan was born in Bardhaman, India, in 1921. He had numerous solo exhibitions including ones in Rangon, Rawalpindi, London. He has participated in various group exhibitions including ones in Hong Kong, Dresden, Fukuoka (Japan), Malaysia and cities in India. The artist has many gold medals to his credit including Independence Day Award 1979. His paintings are there in Yugoslavia and other private collections abroad.

In Dhaka we get exhibitions of young and established artists. It is not often that we have the pleasure of viewing a recognised master's works.



The village woman's charms in a few deft strokes

Plea to make juveniles aware of Ekushey

The prize giving ceremony of the 'fair Bangla hand writing competition 1991' organized by the National Museum on the occasion of the Ekushey February was held Tuesday at the Museum auditorium.

Prof Iajuddin Ahmed, in his address, said the juveniles must be informed of the Language Movement of 1952 and its significance so that they could be inspired in materializing the ideals of the martyrs of the Language Movement.

Twenty four participants of three groups have been awarded in the competition which was participated by 2300 students from different schools of the city.

Afroza Akhtar of Shaheed Anwara School received the first prize in the 'Ka' group, while Shaon Malek of Wills Little Flower School and M Ziaul Huq of Nikhet High School were awarded first prizes in the 'Kha' and 'Ga' groups respectively.

US notes human rights progress

American Ambassador William B. Milam, commenting in Dhaka on Wednesday on the recently issued US State Department annual report on human rights, stated that the report covered calendar year 1990, and thus did not include progress that had occurred in Bangladesh following accession of the interim government, says USIS press release.

Among the actions of the interim government, noted the Ambassador, was release of a large number of detainees following a review of the Special Powers Act.



The Bulbul Academy of Fine Arts artistes rendering songs at the National Press Club on Wednesday in observance of Ekushey. — Star photo

No Ekushey Padak for science, regrets Shahabuddin

The Acting President, Mr Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed, distributed 'Ekushey Padak-1990' to the recipients at a simple ceremony at Bangabhaban in the city Wednesday, reports BSS.

The recipients of the award are: Shaukat Ali (Literature), Abdul Ghani Hazari-posthumous (Journalism), Prof. Lutful Haider Chowdhury-posthumous (Education), Devdas Chakravarty (Painting), Begum Rahija Khanam Jhunu (Dance) and Khoda Baksh Shai-posthumous (Music).

Speaking on the occasion, the Acting President paid tributes to the martyrs of the Language Movement and congratulated the recipients of 'Ekushey Padak' saying that their basic contributions in different fields had enriched the nation.

Justice Shahabuddin said this year's Ekushey February is shining with a special feature as it is coming in the wake of a successful movement for the establishment of democracy in

the country. Justice Shahabuddin said 'Ekushey Padak' was confined to literature, education, journalism, art, dance and music but, he added, he would have been happy had there been an Ekushey award for basic contribution in the field of science and technology. He said the nations nurturing innovative power in science and technology were earning greater success and leading the world.

PROGRAMME

Ahmadiyya Jamaat

Bangladesh Ahmadiyya Muslim Jamaat will observe the day of 'Musleh Maud' tomorrow (Friday) at Darul Tabligh premises, 4, Bakshi Bazar road in the city at 2.30 p.m.

Anti-drug seminar

A seminar on anti-drug decade of the United Nations will be held tomorrow (Friday) at 9 PM at Hotel Purbani International under the auspicious of Bangladesh Interreligious Brotherhood Association.

AMIE exams Apr 27

The examination committee of the Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh decided in a meeting held on February 12 that the A.M.I.E Section 'A' & Section 'B' examination will now be held on April 27 instead of March 9, 1991, says a press release.

The time-table of the examination will be announced later on.

Isale Sawab

The 60th annual holy Isale Sawab Mahfil of Pir Kebla al-Haj Maulana Shah Sufi A.F.M. Wahid will be held at Kasemabad Darbar Sharif, Mirpur, Dhaka today (Tuesday), says a press release.

CAB discussion on Ekushey

A discussion meeting on "Mother tongue and consumer's rights", organised by Consumers' Association of Bangladesh (CAB), will be held today at 3 pm at South Badda Jagaroni Sangsad premises to observe 'Ekushey February', says a press release.

Dr. Rashedul Hasan, Prof. of Marketing Department, Dhaka University will be chief guest.

BSCIC meet on Ekushey

A discussion meeting will be held at the seminar room of BSCIC (Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation) on Saturday at 2 pm, to observe 'Ekushey', says a press release.

Poetry recitation festival from Feb 23

A three-day poetry recitation festival jointly organised by the Deutsche Welle Listener Club, Bangladesh and Meghdut Abriti Sangsad in cooperation with the Goethe Institute, Dhaka will begin on Saturday (February 23) at the auditorium of the German Cultural Centre, Dhanmondi in the city, says a press release.

Weather

Sky to be cloudy

By Staff Correspondent

The highest maximum temperature was recorded at Teknaf at 33.5 degrees Celsius and Met office forecast dry weather all over the country with partly cloudy sky at some places, for the next two days.

There will be little change in weather during the next two days and no appreciable change was forecast for another five days.

Night temperature was above normal by one to four degrees Celsius in Dhaka, Sylhet, Hatiya, Sitakunda, Satkhira and below normal by one to four degrees Celsius over Chittagong, Rangpur, Dinajpur, Chandpur, Kutubdia, Khulna, Rajshahi and Rangamati on Tuesday.

Lowest minimum temperature at 12.2 degrees Celsius was recorded at Srimangal. Sunset today (Thursday) at 5.57 and sunrise tomorrow (Friday) at 6.27.

Temperature and humidity recorded at major cities and towns of the country on Wednesday were:

Cities/Towns Temperature in Celsius Humidity in percentage

	Max	Min	9 am	6 pm
Dhaka	30.3	17.4	55	43
Chittagong	31.2	17.0	56	51
Khulna	30.8	16.4	73	47
Rajshahi	30.4	12.4	55	51
Dinajpur	28.5	12.8	56	34
Barisal	30.5	16.0	68	65
Srimangal	-	12.2	77	-
Cox's Bazar	32.5	18.5	55	55

Minimum temperature recorded in major cities of the region on Wednesday were:
Karachi 10 degrees Celsius New Delhi 9 degrees Celsius
Colombo 19 Beijing 0 (zero)

C' wealth observers to prepare report

The Commonwealth observers group will concentrate on all aspects of the elections and prepare a report on the fairness of the polling. Mr. Dato K. Pathmanaban, leader of the group, said in Dhaka on Wednesday, reports BSS.

He told a press conference that the group was an independent one and its judgement about the elections here would in no way represent the views of any Commonwealth country or the Commonwealth Secretariat.

Ten of the 12 members of the group, including its leader, arrived in Dhaka on Wednesday. Two other members will arrive Sunday.

He said the members split into groups, would try to be in the countryside and much talked about constituencies where from Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina, BNP chief Khaleeda Zia and deposed President H. M. Ershad are contesting.

"All the groups are independent and there could be some kind of coordination," he said when asked about the presence of several such

groups during the polls. The members of the group who arrived on Wednesday are: Mr. Roger Barltrop, a member of British Diplomatic Service, who retired in 1990, Sir Barry Holloway, former Finance and Education Minister of Papua New Guinea, Mr. Hasan Babacar Jallow, former Attorney General and Minister of Gambia, Mr. W. T. Jayasinghe, former Foreign Secretary of Sri Lanka, Mr. Noel Bancroft Lee, former Director of Elections, Jamaica, Mr. Val Maccomie, a senior member of Barbados Diplomatic Service, Mr. Soorujnandun Moosun, chief Electoral Commissioner in Mauritius, Justice Siva Selliah of Sri Lanka and Barry Thner, a former member of Canadian Parliament.

Two members, arriving Sunday, are Mr. Francis Bugotu, Permanent Representative of the Solomon Islands to the United Nations, and Mr. George Foulkes, a Labour Party member of the British Parliament.

The leader, Mr. Pathmanaban, a senior civil servant and a former Deputy Minister, is from Malaysia.

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

ACROSS

- 1 Harvest goddess
- 4 Picture
- 9 Plaything
- 12 Falsehood
- 13 Ardent
- 14 Metric measure
- 15 City of the Broncos
- 17 Names
- 19 Helped
- 21 Part of RSVP
- 22 Diner sign
- 24 Mr. Taylor
- 26 Empty
- 29 Beer mug
- 31 At this time
- 33 Fish eggs
- 34 Therefore
- 35 Hit
- 37 Hindu cymbal
- 39 Let it
- 40 Terminate
- 42 Hairpiece

44 Oregon city

- 46 Act
- 48 Virus
- 50 Prohibits
- 51 Baby's napkin
- 53 Wooden shoe
- 55 Carnivorous mammal
- 56 Vocational business
- 61 Torrid
- 62 Leases
- 64 Mineral
- 66 Loop
- 67 Mr. O'Neil

DOWN

- 1 Ancient
- 2 - a la mode
- 3 Lawmaking body
- 4 Give food to
- 5 More unusual
- 6 Griffith ID
- 7 Shea

Answer to Previous Puzzle

S	H	A	I	R	N	O	S	E	V	I	E
H	A	I	R	I	N	T	O	I	N	T	E
E	S	T	O	P	S	A	N	I	E	T	
T	O	E	S	T	E	S	T	E	M	S	
T	E	M	E	R	I	T	I	T	O	E	
E	X	A	C	T	R	E	D	R	O	C	
D	I	T	E	T	A	N	U	S	G	O	
S	T	R	U	N	N	E	V	E	R		
E	M	E	D	U	C	A	T	E	D		
S	T	A	I	N	S	T	E	T			
T	O	R	O	R	I	S	T	L	E	S	
O	I	L	D	I	A	L	L	O	R	E	
P	L	Y	E	A	S	E	T	N	A		

ভাষা আন্দোলনের অমর শহীদদের শ্রদ্ধাভরে স্মরণ করি

দেশের জন্মলগ্ন থেকেই আমরা সকল প্রকার ব্যাংকিং সেবার মাধ্যমে জনগণের অর্থনৈতিক উন্নয়নে নিবেদিত।

আমাদের শাখা ও করেসপন্ডেন্ট সমূহ দেশে ও বিদেশে আপনার যে কোন ব্যাংকিং প্রয়োজন মেটাতে সক্ষম।

রূপালী ব্যাংক লিমিটেড
উত্তম সেবার নিশ্চয়তা

ভাষা শহীদদের স্মরণে আমাদের প্রয়াস হোক

একটি সৃষ্টি, স্বনির্ভর, গণতান্ত্রিক জাতি গঠনের মাধ্যমে মহান ভাষা শহীদদের স্বপ্ন বাস্তবায়ন করা

বীমা - নিরাপত্তার প্রতীক।
আর্থিক নিরাপত্তা বিধানের মাধ্যমে জাতি গঠনের অক্লান্ত প্রয়াসে নিবেদিত আমরা

পিপলস ইন্সুরেন্স কোম্পানী লিমিটেড
বীমা শিল্পে একটি বিশ্বস্ত নাম