

Dhaka Day by Day

Bright-eyed from Beijing

by Fayza Haq

Twelve young graphic artists had their successful exhibition only recently at the Goethe Institute. Rashid Amin, a 24-year-old artist freshly returned from Beijing, too had something to show the world. Rashid is barely past the learning stage yet his block, white and grey lithos, pencil sketches, woodcut and some watercolours were thought provoking and a delight for the eye.

Using simple lines and even simpler colours in his solo exhibit he has created visions in harmony that brought in new styles while presenting age old themes and subjects. Rashid has not tried to be too innovative but within the confines of the woodcut and litho he has created a world of idealism and harmony.

Rashid's 38 pieces, at the Goethe Institute, which have been the product of three years in China, spoke of harmony and peace. "Life was pretty harmonious and gentle despite the one single student rising in '89. Living and studying in Beijing was like dwelling in some countryside described by some Romantic poet, if one were to compare this with student life in Dhaka."

Rashid speaks of his teachers as extremely sincere, affectionate and understanding. "I could not have progressed to the point that I have without their constant encouragement and careful guidance."

The artist found the inhabitants of Beijing unusually open and helpful. "They had all the consideration in the world for me as a foreigner who had a lot to learn and a long way to go to adjust."

"At first I missed the spicy food back home. Yet within months I got used to the traditional Chinese food, which I assure you is quite different from that which is served in our Dhaka Chinese restaurants. The Bangladeshi concoction has an invariably a more spicy flavour to cater to Dhaka tastes," the artist says with a smile.

The graphic artist, who is only too aware of the hardships he might face once he returns permanently to work in Bangladesh, expects to operate from the Artiller 71, or the workshop

set up by the Fine Arts Institute. This is although he is aware of restrictions at the Institute which confines the use of the press to only the students and teachers. "To open a workshop of my own would involve an astronomical price, which is well beyond any average means," Rashid elaborates.

Full of promise and hope, the woodcuts and lithos were soothing, decorative and even informative. At times they were thought provoking and near revolutionary. In "Confined to the Room" he had women with long sweeping hair and outstretched helpless arms. The creation was both symbolic and impressionistic. The simple black lines played visual tricks with each eye contact.

"Three appearances" had a conglomeration of pitch dark lines delineating three faces with dramatic gravity. The litho had minimum strokes and decisive shapes.

"Primitive" had the age old theme of hunters with wild animals in the background. The subject remained simple but effective and meaningful.

"The Five Faces" were lithos that had been done differently in three varied ways. Sometimes the grey dominated. At times it was the black that permeated through the images, and yet again in the last attempt it was white that pervaded the theme. Delineated with simple strokes the faces depicted dignity and strength of character.

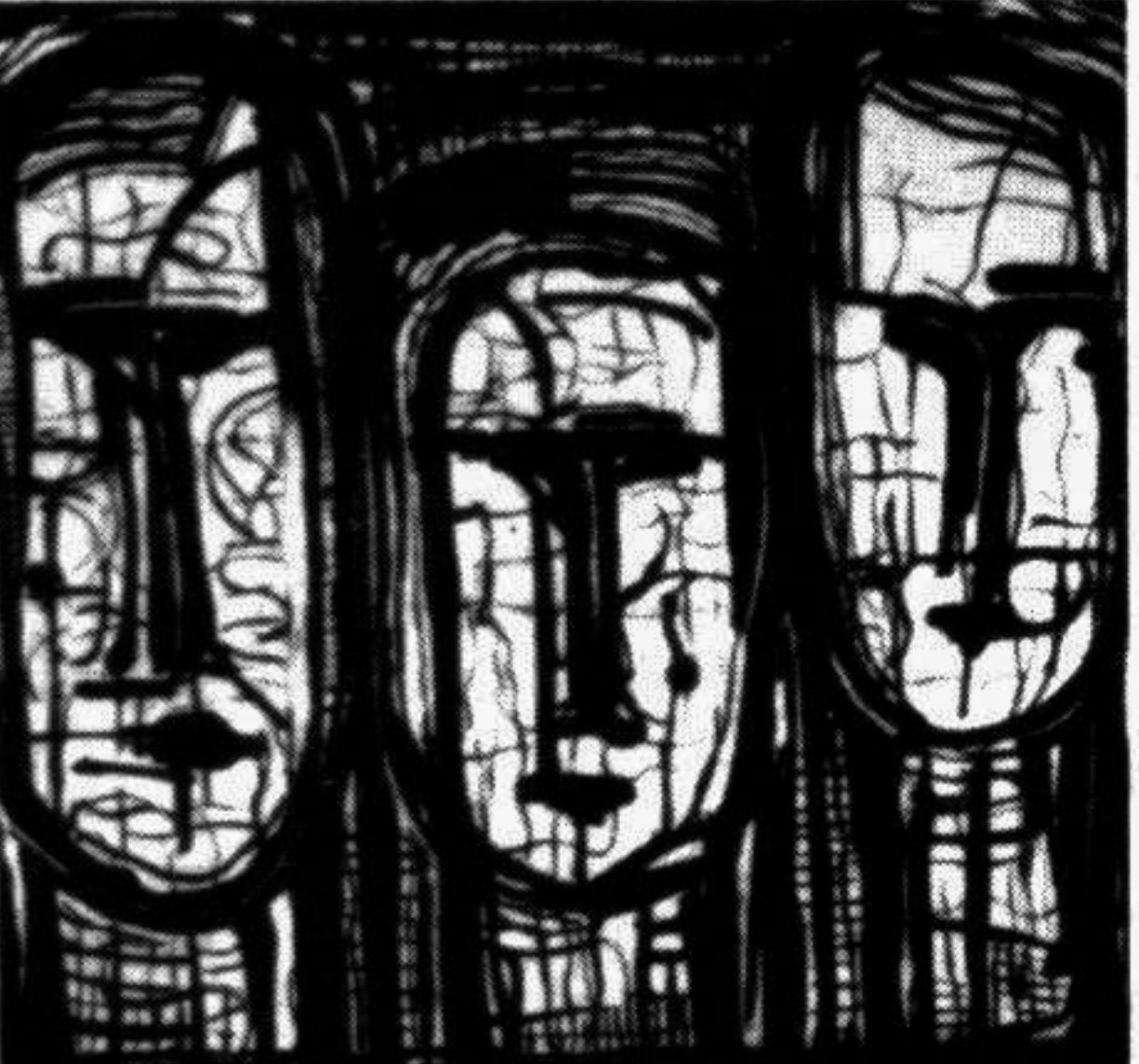
"A girl with a bird" had the exotic symbol of freedom and a smiling girl's face to set off the theme of liberty. Similarly, the woodcut "Dream" had a collection of drifting ethereal clouds and a bright girl's face to represent hope and expectations.

The artist's collection was complete with watercolour landscape, once again ushering in the theme of tranquillity. Outstretched languishing nudes added variety to the display.

Rashid may not have been too ambitious or stylised but for his years his achievements were worth a view and the patronage of the lucky few with funds to back their tastes.



Five faces



Three appearance

T & T Board steps to collect poll results quickly

Bangladesh Telephone and Telegraph Board Sunday took some special measures for collection of results from remote areas and reach those to the Election Commission, an official handout said, reports BSS.

The measures include setting up of a central control cell at the board's main office and four sub-control centres at different telecommunication regions of the country. Besides, similar sub-control cells have been opened at every district headquarters including the domestic trunk exchange at Dhaka.

The T and T Board has also set up some digital telephones at the Control Room of the Election Commission to enable the Returning and Assistant Returning Officers to send the election results quickly and directly. Besides, some digital telephones and hot lines have been set up in the broadcasting centres of radio and television so that election results could be announced quickly.

The Board has installed telecommunication facilities at the media centres at Hotel Sonargaon and Hotel Sheraton for the journalists covering the national election.

Special Saudi envoy in city

A special envoy of King Fahd Bin Abdul Aziz of Saudi Arabia arrives in Dhaka today (Monday) to apprise Bangladesh government of the latest situation in the Gulf.

Foreign Affairs Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed told UNB Saturday the State Minister for Cabinet Affairs of the Kingdom was expected to carry a message from the Saudi King for Acting President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed.

The Saudi Minister is scheduled to call on the Acting President Tuesday morning.

The Saudi envoy is also expected to call on Fakhruddin Ahmed the same day in the afternoon before leaving Dhaka.

He will be here possibly on the first leg of his urgent tour of different South Asian and the Pacific countries, in the wake of the decisive phase of Gulf war.

Strike at BARI observed

By Staff Correspondent

A day-long strike was observed at Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute (BARI) at Gazipur on Saturday at the call of Agricultural Research Scientists' Welfare Association.

The scientists, staff and agricultural workers refrained from work from 9 am to 4 pm on the day in support of their demands for the implementation of inquiry committee report of the Ministry of Agriculture, transfer of present Director General and punishment to corrupt persons against whom allegations have been established through the ministry's enquiry report.

The scientists urged the government to immediately implement earlier decisions of the Agriculture Ministry and postpone meeting of the Board of Governors.

Dhaka wears festive look, cassettes run riot

Dhaka city is agog with intense electioneering for the impending Parliamentary polls which are going to be held under a neutral and non-party government for the first time in independent Bangladesh.

With riotous and lavish display of banners, posters, graffiti and wall writings, Dhaka metropolis having a total of

18 lakh 36 thousand 886 voters in eight constituencies wears a festive look. Erection of a large number of arches has added colour and pageantry matching with the enthusiasm and exuberance of the people who are expecting to exercise their right of franchise freely and fearlessly this time under the changed

circumstances following the victory of the people in relentless struggle for democracy.

Illumination of many of the arches often juxtaposed side by side with multi-coloured bulbs has lent the city of seven million a carnival atmosphere.

A BSS correspondent who went round different areas

came across scores of slogan-chanting processions, in old as well as new city from where 146 candidates are in the race to capture eight seats. In the competition for wall posters, hanging of banners and erection of arches, Bangladesh Awami League and BNP are going neck-to-neck followed by Jamaat-e-Islami Bangladesh and Zaker Party. Posters, banners and arches depicting "boat", "paddy sheaf" and "scale", election symbols of Awami League, BNP and Jamaat present a common sight in the capital.

Makeshift election camps have sprung up all over the city. Taped speeches of Bangladesh Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and Shaheed Ziaur Rahman are being constantly played from these camps in addition to patriotic songs and songs composed in favour of Awami League and BNP which appeared to be ahead of others in the polls campaign. The arches of Jamaat-e-Islami display domes of mosque and "scale", its election symbol. Posters and banners of other parties are also in evidence though on a lesser scale compared to Awami League, BNP and Jamaat.

The entire city is pervaded with hectic election atmosphere. Campaign by major parties in particular in the form of slogan chanting processions, holding of street corner meetings and house-to-house visits seem to have orchestrated in various parts of the city.

Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina, BNP chief Begum Khaleda Zia, Acting Ameer of Jamaat-e-Islami Abbas Ali Khan, Awami League leaders Begum Sajeda Chowdhury, Dr Kamal Hossain, Muzaffar Hossain Paltu and Dr Mostafa Jalal Mohtuddin, BNP leaders Lt Gen (Retd) Mir Shaukat Ali and Mirza Abbas and CPB leader Saifuddin Ahmed Manik are prominent among the 146 candidates contesting the election from eight constituencies of Dhaka Metropolis. Sheikh Hasina and Begum Khaleda Zia are contesting from two seats each of Dhaka city.

The two constituencies in the metropolis from which Sheikh Hasina is contesting are: Dhaka-7 (Sutrapur-Kotwali) and Dhaka-10 (Tejgaon-Ramna). Begum Zia's constituencies are: Dhaka-5 (Gulshan-Cantonment) and Dhaka-9



Hectic electioneering by the BNP activists with photos of Khaleda Zia pasted in their chests in city on Sunday.



BOATS ON CITY ROADS — The Awami League supporters, holding aloft 'boat' seen making final appeal to voters to cast ballots in favour of AL candidates. The poll campaign officially concludes today (Monday).

Khaleda condoles Mansur's death

Begum Khaleda Zia, the Chairperson of BNP and leader of 7-Party Alliance Saturday night expressed her profound grief at the death of Abul Mansur Ahmed, a member of the Standing Committee of BNP and a former Jatiya Sangsad member from Trisal, reports BSS.

Begum Zia, in her message of condolence, said the country had lost an eminent social worker and BNP a devoted worker.

The BNP chief expressed her sympathy to the members of the bereaved family and prayed for the peace of the departed soul.

Book fair ends before schedule

By Staff Correspondent

Bangla Academy on Sunday closed the Ekushey Book Fair one day before the schedule closing date due to political crises in the book fair.

Supporters of one political party did not like selling of some books in the Oasis Book Stall and threatened thus to withdraw these books, from the fair. These books are, Apriyo Kaha, written by Chowdhury Mohammad Faruque, 'Ershader Utthan Patan' written by Elahi Newaz Khan and 'Etihasar Katgaral Awami League'.

Employees of Oasis Book Stall said that some young men ransacked their stall after the continuation of selling of these books. They also asked for security to the authority of the Academy to continue their selling.

Bangla Academy authorities tried to solve the problem in different meetings with student leaders, but these meetings failed to come to a decision on this matter and asked the authorities to close down the fair.

Some book stall owners alleged that they had to face a lot of problems in this hasty decision. Some of them were informed if the decision at noon and they had to closing their stalls by evening.

Nibedita Sangeet Niketan students presented songs in observance of the language day at Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy in the city says a press release.

The songs were composed by Syed Rezaur Rahman, Mathub Ali, Anup Bhattacharya and Selim Ashraf.

Workers Party to project peasants, workers

President of the Workers Party of Bangladesh and a leader of Five-Party Alliance, Abul Bashar on Saturday said if elected to the parliament, they would fight for enacting a law to bring about radical change in the national economic infrastructure to change the lot of the common man, reports BSS.

He was addressing a big public meeting at Charbagh under Luxmipur district. Messrs Shah Alam, Sirajul Islam, and Shaifullah, among others, spoke in the meeting. Bashar said the Workers Party, a component of the Five-Party Alliance had already placed its future economic programme before the nation in its election manifesto where reforms for rural economy had been stressed. He said the Workers Party had given priority to the interests of the poor.

ILO to help improve skills in Bangladesh

By Staff Correspondent

The International Labour Organisation has taken initiatives to help the LDCs including Bangladesh in the region formulate training policies so that they can upgrade their existing training systems and improve skills for handling advanced technologies. Increasing importance is being attached to the formulation of national policies on training for advanced technologies. Increasing importance is being attached to the formulation of national policies on training

for advanced technologies and development of skills in the region.

Sources said several countries in the Asian and Pacific region, irrespective of their level of economic and social development, are introducing advanced technologies and implementing explicit technological policies with regard to absorption, diffusion and development of advanced technologies. However, in many of these countries, such policy formulation process requires

assistance in its development. These countries are facing difficulties in designing and implementing training policies, adapting training systems and carrying out programmes to meet the demand for skills for advanced technologies.

The ILO's Asian and Pacific Skill Development Programme (APSDEP) will launch national surveys on the training needs in advanced technologies. The survey findings in the form of policy guidelines are expected to assist the member-countries in the formulation and introduction of the requisite training policies. ILO/APSDEP has noticed a strong desire in these member-countries to exploit the potential of advanced technologies and develop skills. Given assistance, they can formulate training policies and expand training facilities to meet the demand for new skills and knowledge arising from introduction of advanced technologies.

Withdrawal of Iraqi, Allied forces demanded

One hundred thirty eight intellectuals of the country on Saturday demanded withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Kuwait and all foreign troops from the region, reports BSS.

In a statement in Dhaka they termed the Gulf war as 'war of crime against the war of injustice'.

They are also critical of the Security Council resolution which gave mandate for war. They said the United Nations is an organisation for establishing peace throughout the world.

Among others, the statement was signed by Poet Shamsur Rahman, Prof Anisuzzaman, Dr. Nilima Ibrahim, Justice K.M Sobhan, Poet Syed Shamsul Huq, Journalists Ataus Samad, Gias Kamal Chowdhury, Hasanuzzaman Khan, Mir Nurul Islam, 'Shahjahan Meah, Swapan Shaha, Faiz Ahmed and Kamal Lohani, Ramendra Majumdar, Shamsul Huq Chowdhury, Dr. F.R Mahmud Hasan and Dr. Sheikh Afzal Hossain.

Weather

Gusty wind likely at two places

By Staff Correspondent

Light rain/thundershower accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely to occur at one or two places over the regions of Rangpur, Dinajpur, Mymensingh and Sylhet. Weather may remain mainly dry elsewhere over the country. Night temperature is likely to remain nearly unchanged over the country, according to Met office.

Complex westerly low persists over Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal and adjoining Bangladesh. Seasonal low lies over south Bay.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Little change. Extended outlook for another five days: No marked change.

The Sun sets at Dhaka on Monday at 5.59 pm and rises tomorrow (Tuesday) at 6.24 am.

Temperature and humidity recorded at major cities and towns on Sunday were:

Cities/Towns	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity (%)	
	Max.	Min.	9 a.m.	6 p.m.
Dhaka	31.7	20.2	74	48
Chittagong	31.2	17.5	78	65
Khulna	33.1	16.8	89	-
Rajshahi	31.8	15.6	74	55
Cox's Bazar	32.0	-	-	81

The maximum temperature was recorded at 33.5 at Jessore and the minimum at 15.6 degrees at Rajshahi and Rangpur.

The minimum temperature recorded in the major cities of the region on Sunday were:

Cities/Towns	Temperature	Unit
Hong Kong	13	degree Celsius
Bombay	22	"
Bangkok	22	"
Calcutta	21	"
Beijing (-)	9	"

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

ACROSS

- Winged
- Madness
- Garland
- Sea soldier
- Note of scale
- Book of photographs
- Ms. James
- Demon
- Sufferer from Hansen's disease
- Fern relative
- Vehicles
- Evaluates
- Concerning
- Type style
- Cut
- Haul with effort
- Nevada city
- Gratifies
- Manifests affection

41 Chinese distance measure

42 Pertaining to punishment

44 Musical symbol

45 Wine cup

47 Foot pedlar

49 Depot: abbr.

50 Baked clay

52 Royal

54 Hebrew month

55 Brand

57 Avoids

59 Backless seat

60 Rentier's document

DOWN

- Beast
- Law
- Girl's name
- Narrate
- Piece of hot coal
- Instrument for measuring electric current
- Astaire ID
- Anger
- Insect eggs
- All
- Priest's vestment
- Relieved
- Javanese
- Concise
- Carouse
- Leather belt
- Spanish title
- Artist's stand
- Wanders
- Hospital
- Real estate maps
- Boundaries
- Rescue
- Landed property
- Pierces
- Landed
- Talk
- Nationally
- The self
- Meadow
- Olsen ID
- Stack ID

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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