

Dhaka Day by Day

Little Ache for the Artistic

by Fayza Haq



Abu Naser Siddique: Dreamland

The Bangladesh Photographic Society had its annual exhibit, with unparalleled fanfare and pomp, recently, at the Alliance Francaise. Although the walls of the gallery were duly decorated with endless photographs with varied themes done by numerous photographers yet one felt that enough had not been accomplished from the artistic point of view.

One is only too aware that our local shutterbugs do not have the capital to go in for reels of films and experiment. In the West and the Far East the situation is quite different. One is also conscious of the fact that the camera operators have little time to pause and think over artistic compositions, after their hectic jobs at newspapers, magazines and advertising agencies.

What one saw at the expose was not necessarily universal or timeless. Often the pictures were scenes from the recent political turmoil in December and little else. While one does not underestimate or brush aside this theme one felt a photographer had to depict more than what one witnesses in newspapers every day to win medals and honourable mentions.

Some of the photographers were simply out to please the eye with the obviously decorative or stir the emotions by the maudlin and the sentimental. There were hardly any entrees which an average thinker, with some notion of composition and focusing of the camera, could not have captured himself. This, however, is not to say that the exhibit was not welcomed.

"Age" by Shoyeb Faruq, which won a gold medal, in the colour section, depicted a grandfather resting with a couple of teenagers. The composition, in green and brown was not unattractive, but one failed to find anything profound in either the theme or the technique. It was a good, clear picture, but had little experimentation or any artistic or nouveau angle.

Murtaza Toufiqul Islam's "Struggle" which had won a silver medal, again in the colour division, depicted men at work making wheels for carts. The blue and white effect of the smoke against the brown skin of the labourers was a fairly good piece of work.

"I never ends" by Enamul Karim Nirjhar, which won the bronze medal had the shadow of a photographer with his equipment at work. The composition was interesting but nothing

overwhelming. In fact the mass of the brown or road bored some viewers.

The gold medal in black and white entrees had been bagged by Abdul Hamid Kotwal's "Rest". It delineated someone resting on a mat, with the hands and feet folded in repose. While the theme and composition was welcomed the photo was nothing to write home about or get excited over.

Mohammed Kamaluddin's "Griefstricken" had a silver medal to flaunt. The subject was certainly serious and contemporary. It presented a woman lamenting at the roadside scene where a martyr had been recently killed. Sure, it delineated political struggle and human suffering, but numerous other entrees in the exhibition did the same and they were passed by unnoted.

Mohammed Wasimuzzaman's "Joy", which won an honourable mention, was a collage of celebrating University students during the recent turmoil. The smiling face superimposed on the jubilating students made some attempt at experimentation. Salim Hasan's "Peace" too won an honourable mention, and it brought in an actual dove sitting on a placard with the peace sign of a dove. It appeared static.

Mohammed Gholam Mustafa's "Storm" was another acclaimed piece. It showed an old man struggling with his umbrella and a basket of eatables. The surrounding trees brought in the effect of the storm to some degree. Once again one failed to go into ecstasies over it.

Abu Nasser Siddique's "Dreamland" which brought in streeturchins contemplating on a film poster pleased the mind, as did Saluddin Azeze's entree showing half clad boys playing with spectacle frames. The joie de vivre in the face of the poor children reminded you that money cannot buy you love nor happiness. Akhtaruzzaman's "Untitled" showed naked boys enjoying themselves at some public park. Ratan Kumar's "In the light and Shade" was a careful play of shadows. Ashfaq Amin's "Rest" and Rozario's "Waiting" were also both laudable entrees.

Even though there were limitations in the expose yet it must have fascinated many viewers who had come to the gallery merely to please themselves with some picturesque scenes. The timing of the Ramzan, however, cut down the flow of the photo enthusiasts.

The BCUTA also demanded immediate re-opening of the institutions.

The statement strongly condemned the incident of harassing Prof. Abdul Mannan, former Vice Chancellor of Dhaka University and said if the incidents continued in such way uncertainty would prevail in all the educational institutions of the country.

Qulkhwani

By Staff Correspondent

The Qulkhwani of Mohammad Ali Khan, a retired Sub-Divisional Health Officer, will be held tomorrow (Tuesday) at the city residence of his son Tapan Khan. Staff Reporter of the New Nation.

DU Poetry Festival Apr 3

Dhaka University Spring Poetry Festival '91, organised by Dhaka University Shahitya Sangsad and Muktamam in co-operation of DUCSU, will be held on April 3 at the Battola of the Arts Faculty premises of the University, a press release said on Sunday, reports BSS.

The festival will be inaugurated by prominent writer Abu Rushd while Vice-Chancellor of the University Prof. M. Manruzzaman Miah will be the chief guest.

Women MP's to take oath today

The oath taking ceremony of the newly elected women Members of Parliament (reserved seats) will be held today (Monday) at 11:30 am, reports UNB.

Chief Election Commissioner Justice Mohammad Abdur Rauf will administer the oath at number one committee room in east block of the Sangsad Bhaban.

Entry to Sangsad Bhaban restricted from April 4

The entry of general public has been restricted into the Sangsad Bhaban area from the beginning of the session on April 4 till its closing without valid passes, reports BSS.

The restricted boundaries of the Sangsad Bhaban are: Manik Mia Avenue to the south, Mirpur road to the West, Crescent Lake to the North and Sangsad Avenue to the East.

Stranded Pakistanis' peace rally April 4

Stranded Pakistanis General Repatriation Committee (SPGRC) will bring out a peace procession here on April 4 at 10 am to press home their demand for early repatriation to Pakistan, reports UNB.

In a press statement the committee appealed to Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia "to fulfil her election pledge and use her power, and ideal relationship with Pakistan to expedite the repatriation".

Team to explore job opportunities in ME soon

State Minister for Labour and Manpower Rafiqul Islam Mia on Sunday stressed the need for early solution to various problems in manpower export sector, reports BSS.

He was addressing a meeting of the representatives of Bangladesh Association of International Recruiting Agencies (BAIRA) in the conference room of the Ministry of Labour and Manpower.

Sending of a high-level delegation to the Middle East and other countries to find out employment opportunities for Bangladesh worker was also discussed in the meeting. Islam urged all concerned to solve the problems of payment of advance ticket fare and reducing the present ticket fare of "Saudia" through discussion. BAIRA President Al-haj Akram Hossain attended the meeting.

Later, an eight-member delegation of Bangladesh Employers' Association met the State Minister. Islam urged the employers for taking steps to generate more jobs.

Terms unacceptable, MCCI tells World Bank team

World Bank suggestion to stop concessional lending to industry faced strong opposition from representatives of the country's private sector for the second day, reports UNB.

Representatives of the Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI) conveyed to a visiting World Bank delegation that the private sector would not accept the Bank's suggestion, terming it contra-industrialisation.

Without adequate incentives, they argued, the indigenous industry would never develop and the country would become a market of foreign goods.

The World Bank delegation

led by its senior industrial economist Phan Van Thuyet had an hour-long debate with the trade body this morning.

The Bank, in an effort to justify its suggestion, referred to dismal performance of the industrial sector despite enjoying various concessional lendings.

The chamber representatives, however, argued that the country's private sector had begun to flourish only a decade ago and its performance could not be properly evaluated within such a short span.

A similar World Bank bid to persuade the private sector failed Monday when leaders of the country's leading cham-

bers strongly opposed its suggestion.

The World Bank insists on deleting all references relating to concessional lending from the industrial policy and let the banks determine the interest rates themselves.

The World Bank which has also been pursuing withdrawal of the holiday suggests tariff as the only protection. The tariff at present must not exceed 100 per cent, the Bank further suggests, and would have to be brought down gradually to 50 per cent.

The World Bank will have a meeting tomorrow (Monday) with the Bangladesh Chamber of Industries on the same issue.

Plea to implement 'medical asstt scheme'

By Staff Correspondent

Representatives of Bangladesh Diploma Medical Association called on Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yousuf, Minister for Health and Family Planning, at his office on Saturday.

Yousuf assured them of solving the problems of Medical Assistants on the basis of national policies, said a press release on Sunday.

The representatives present in the meeting were Dr. Akram Hossain, Dr. A Kuddus Tarafdar, Dr. Yousuf Ali, Dr. Rezaul Ambia Dalal, Dr. Habibul Islam, Dr. Mostaq Ahmed, Dr. Shafiqul Islam and Dr. Sultana Taslima Akter Banu.

Bangladeshi artistes enthral Nepali audience

A Bangladesh cultural troupe, now on a visit to Nepal, presented a musical soiree at the Royal Academy auditorium in Kath Munda on March 27, reports UNB.

The artistes of the 20-member team presented national and folk songs besides few Nepali songs and dances in the Bangladesh evening, said a press release.

The function was organised by Nepal Bangladesh Association for Friendship and Culture.

Nepalese Prime Minister Krishna Prashad Bhatta Roy, Congress central leader

Sobhan elected BCPFA president

By Staff Correspondent
The biennial general meeting of Bangladesh-China People's Friendship Association was held on Sunday at Purana Paltan, a press release said.

A new executive body was formed in the meeting. Dr. Mirza A. Sobhan and S.A. Sikder were elected president and secretary general respectively.

The meeting also formed a 11-member council of patrons and advisory council. Besides, a 64-member national council was also formed.

Gonesh Man Singh, Bangladesh Ambassador in Nepal, Syed Mohammad Hossain and other dignitaries were present on the occasion.

In his inaugural speech Prime Minister Krishna Prashad hoped the visit of the Bangladesh team will be significant for exchange of cultural heritage and traditions between the two countries and strengthening the existing friendly relations.

The team is led by Ziaul Islam Chowdhury.

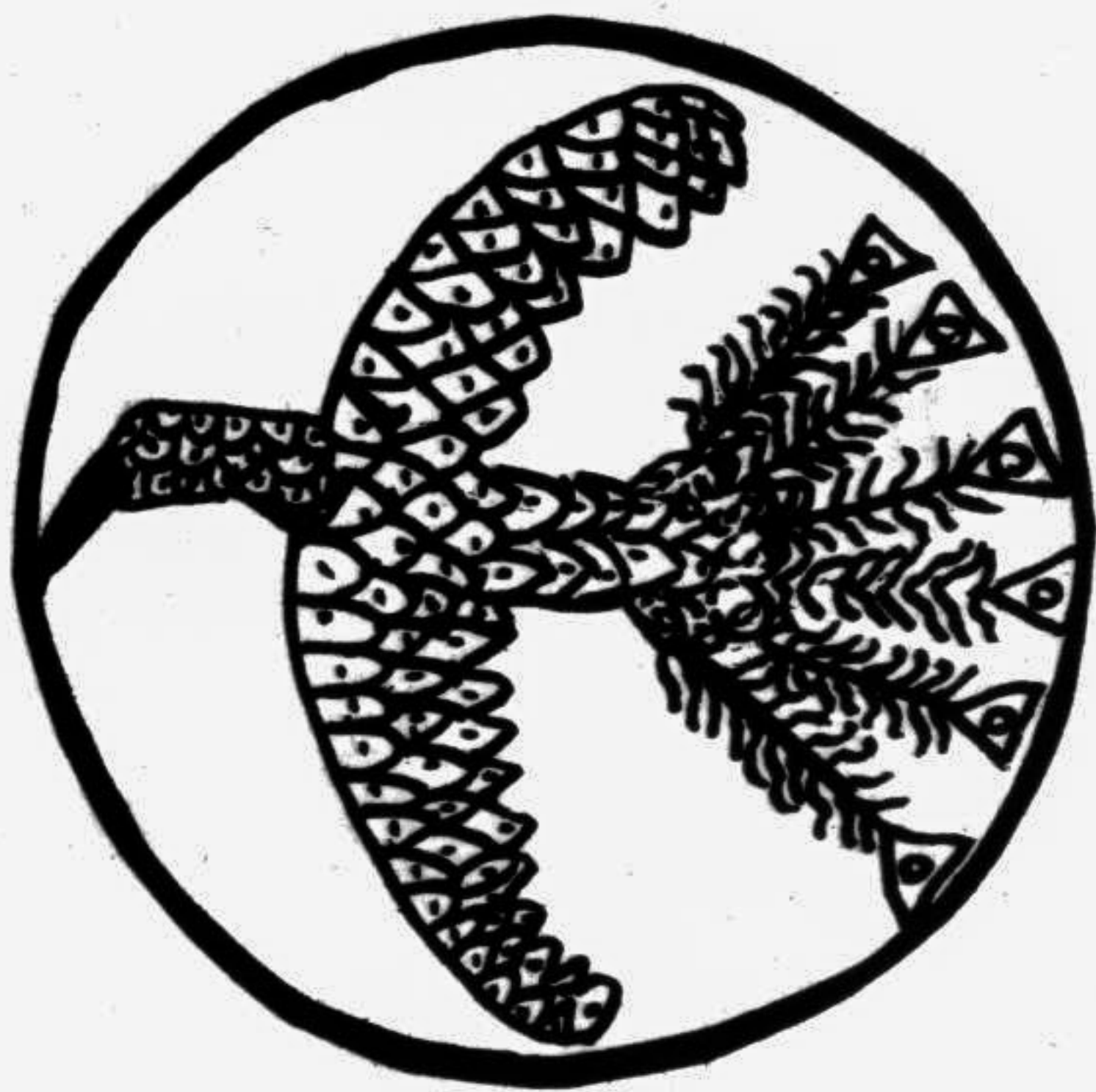
Nepalese national media gave wide coverage to the cultural show, the release added.

Qulkhwani of Nafia tomorrow

Qulkhwani of Nafia Kamal Ghazi will be held on April 2 at 5.30 pm at her father's residence at 5/A New Circular Road, reports UNB.

All her relatives, friends and well wishers are requested to attend.

Nafia, a brilliant student of Dhaka University, was killed in a tragic road accident at Mouchak square on March 29.



A 'conference of birds' in city

The students of Ecole Francaise de Dhaka at Gulshan produced a fascinating play called "The Conference of the Birds" on Saturday at their school. It was based on the writings of the twelfth century mystic poet Fariduddin Attar. The first translation into French was made in the thirteenth century by a Persian scholar Garcin de Tacy.

The story of the play consists of how a hoopoe bird gathers all the other birds for a conference. She tells them of the existence of a king called the Simorg and convinces the other birds to go in search for this king.

The nightingale, who prefers the rose, and the owl, who loves the ruins, are reluctant to join the birds. These birds are shown as passing a desert and seven valleys. All the plumaged creatives plague the hoopoe with questions. Next they meet the hermit and the bat who dwell on their own lives.

The seven valleys that the birds cross are the valleys of love, knowledge, research, nothingness, unity, stupor and death.

This symbolic play ends by showing how the king Simorg tells the birds that greatness and goodness is within them. The birds, which stood for human beings, had only to turn inwards and they would find the answer to why happiness sometimes arises out of suffering.

It took 40 students two months, under the able guidance of M. Royer, the principal, to master the play.

Although some of the children were barely more than mere toddlers, they acted out their parts with poise and dexterity. Nothing went amiss. There were a few teenagers who had the important parts and their standard of acting too was superb.

The language and the music, along with the exotic sliding backdrops almost lulled



Monday

- 5-00 Opening and recitation from Al-Guran
- 5-15 Recitation from Geeta
- 5-20 News in Bengali
- 5-30 Cartoon film: Flash cargo
- 5-55 Mahe Ramzan
- 6-30 Sports programme
- 7-05 TV Debate
- 8-00 News in Bengali
- 8-30 SAARC programme Binmaya
- 9-00 Bulbul: Narul Sangeet
- 10-00 News in English
- 10-25 Series film: Troma Coutre
- 11-15 Khabar/The News
- 11-30 Closing

Weather

Rain likely

By Staff Correspondent

Rain or thundershower with temporary gusty winds is likely to occur at one or two places over the regions of Rangpur, Dinajpur, Bogra, Mymensingh, Tangail, Comilla and Sylhet. Weather is likely to remain mainly dry elsewhere. Day temperature is likely to rise by one to two degrees Celsius.

The sun sets today (Monday) at 6.14 pm and rises on Tuesday at 5.50 am.

Rain or thundershower occurred at many places over Chittagong division, at one or two places over Khulna division. Weather remained dry over Rajshahi and Dhaka divisions. Day temperature remained nearly unchanged over the country except Dhaka, Sylhet, Rajshahi, Ishwardi and Satkhira where they fell by 2 to 5 degrees Celsius.

Rainfall recorded at Chandpur 3 cm, Sitakunda 2 cm, Sylhet, Comilla, Feni, Sandwip and Chittagong 1 cm each.

The highest temperature of 38.3 degrees Celsius was recorded at Jessore. The lowest temperature of 21.0 degrees was recorded at Mymensingh.

Outlook for subsequent two days: little change. Extended outlook for another five days: no marked change.

The temperature and humidity of some cities on Sunday:

City	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity(%)	
	Max	Min	5am	6pm
Dhaka	33.5	2.5	85	80
Chittagong	32.5	24.3	78	72
Cox's Bazar	32.0	25.0	72	77
Rajshahi	33.0	24.0	92	68
Khulna	33.0	25.9	83	69
Sylhet	27.6	21.8	98	97
Dinajpur	27.0	22.5	80	68
Barisal	33.4	25.8	83	71

Terrorism in campus: teachers for stern action

By DU Correspondent

Bangladesh College University Teachers Association (BCUTA) in a statement Sunday demanded stern action against the person involved in terrorism in the educational institutions including Dhaka Medical College.

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

ACROSS

- 1 Chopin
- 4 Worship
- 9 Price
- 12 Depleted
- 13 Seagull
- 14 Collection
- 15 Maud
- 17 "My Little Chickadee"
- 19 Newspaper
- 21 City train
- 22 Jug
- 25 TV's Morris
- 27 Charity
- 31 Van Dyke
- 32 Special
- 34 Near
- 35 Psyche

DOWN

- 1 That woman
- 2 Exist
- 3 Hit lightly
- 4 Landed
- 5 Leaders
- 6 Ancient city
- 7 Ump's counterpart
- 8 Great Lake
- 9 Hindu
- 10 In addition
- 11 Aerialism
- 16 River island
- 18 Gladden
- 20 Small rug
- 22 Pamphlet
- 23 Helicopter blade
- 24 River in Siberia
- 26 Volunteer
- 28 Xiti & ill
- 29 Engine
- 30 Nightly sound
- 32 Time gone by
- 33 After charges
- 35 Correct manuscripts
- 39 Concerning
- 40 Exclamation
- 41 Note of scale
- 44 Chinese pagoda
- 46 Mountains of Europe
- 48 Spell -
- 49 Lit with lever
- 50 Affirmative vote
- 51 Lar
- 52 Actor
- 53 Wallach
- 54 Carpet
- 55 Guido's high note
- 56 Series of games
- 59 That thing

Answer to Previous Puzzle

CAMP	ASP	SLAP
AREA	LEA	PINE
LIAR	ARC	IOTA
MADDER	KERNEL	
ON	PADE	
BEAN	DIGESTED	
AWL	SIREN	AGE
RELEASES	PROW	
ANTS	MA	
BADGER	NURSES	
ARAL	AGO	TERM
NINE	COO	EASE
ELKS	TAN	DREW