

Dhaka Day by Day

What Man has Done to Man

by Fayza Haq

Alli Imam, who has renovated Ahsan Manzil, believes that if the houses from Ruplal House to Ahsan Manzil could be redone along the Buckland Bund, it would provide attraction for numerous tourists. Ali Imam, who has been an architect for 15 years, has designed many buildings such as the National Museum of Science and Technology in Mirpur.

The architect, who fills his spare hours with oil painting believes that all over the world there is a move towards figurative works and that the abstraction of the 50s and 60s is gone. "During the Pakistan days art was too abstract, and not much was spoken about our society or political needs during that time. The rulers did not want the artists to express themselves honestly," he remarked. After Bangladesh was established some of the young artists have really been working very hard, and are all socially aware.

Alli Imam has a fascinating collection of paintings in his studio, which he plans to exhibit early next year. In one of his major paintings he depicts men sleeping on the pavements while their confused young wide-eyed relatives look on. There is the woman in the red who could be a homeless vagrant or a prostitute. In the background are the high rise buildings of the city. "This is true reflection of our society, what man has done to man," he commented. The swirls and sweeps of colours prevent the picture from being photographic.

In another piece he shows a girl crossing a risky bridge, once again with multistoried buildings in the background. "In Dhaka there is an exhibition of wealth on one side and dire poverty in another. There is, for instance the VIP road that camouflages poverty and ugliness from the foreign visitors," the artist remarked.

On yet another canvas the painter shows the lanes of Old Dhaka and dominating it is a University student or a working girl. The feeling of insecurity in the girl is apparent. On the road is a mask which is suggestive of a person she has been chased by or frightened with. Even the branches of the trees denote horror and unknown evil. There is terror in the large lotus eyes of the girl while she has her hand clasped to her heart to express overwhelming, untold fear. She has apparently no one in the world and feels insecure," the artist commented.

In the painting "Bishmoy" we see a horse staring agast at an angry red sky. The horse represents people who are struggling. The horse also symbolises the Moghuls who brought imperialism to the land. There is an old broken fort in the background. Lines cut up the picture. "The strated horse stands for the people who are confused by social and political conditions. They are full of fear and helplessness. For most people life is an endless and

meaningless struggle," the artist pointed out. One canvas that is optimistic shows women marching out to work. Some are in "saris" and some in "shalwar-kameez". They are carrying their tiffin. A special pink glow from the sky is seen around each face. "This symbolises the integrity of their work," the artist explained. "This scene was not to be seen 15 years ago. The girls are no longer objects of pity. They do not depend on someone else any more. They are to be admired. This is a sight near a garment factory to be seen twice a day," Ali Imam elaborated.

There is a picture of the Ahsan Manzil too. "Because of shortage of money it is not yet complete. When I used to work there the 'chowkidar' used to tell me many stories. Dancers were brought here from Delhi and Jaipur. They were often treated with contempt and even physically assaulted," the painter insisted. The artist's dancer was shown as fallen and in a faint. "They were not treated as human beings. If you gave them a little money you could have them at your command. This is just a flash of the feudal society of the past. I have portrayed Ahsan Manzil as more broken and shattered than it is now in reality," Ali Imam added.

Something quite fascinating in the collection is the portrait of the angry master. The artist claimed he knew him very well. "I have tried to capture his eccentricity. I have shown everything as wavy which is symbolic of his bad temper. The shaky background matches with the unpleasant nature. Everything from his hair and glasses to his wrinkles on his face are twisted," the artist explained.

It unconsciously recalled the work of Edward Munch.

The portrait of the "monkeyman" is indeed intriguing. In the background are the factories of Tongi and Tezga, where the monkey-man used to work at one time. "Human beings are shown to once have tricked him. He does not trust them any more. He has become eccentric, takes drugs and sings in the still of the night," Ali Imam explained. The picture had the psycho-realism of Gauguin's paintings.

Another interesting portrait shows a rickshawman who is surprised and embarrassed to see his customer. The woman is not necessarily a prostitute. But she is a woman who is out to capture the world with her physical charms and has no other asset to her credit except her beautiful physique and her ability to charm the other sex on a physical plane," the artist elaborated.

Inspired by Francis Bacon and Lucian Freud, Ali Imam has proved himself to be an artist with a powerful message and a style of his own.



Wealth on one side, poverty in another.



School girls brought out a procession in the city on Wednesday in observance of International Day of Peace.

'Peace key to success'

The "International Peace Day" was observed in the country Tuesday, as elsewhere in the world, with a call to strengthen efforts for peace in a world riven by conflicts and hostilities, reports BSS.

Seminars, symposia and other programmes organised on this occasion reminded all that tensions might have lessened in the international area in the recent past but peace continues to elude the human beings.

Speakers at the seminars also called for sparing no efforts for ensuring the basic necessities of the people — food, health, education and shelter — because only reduction of political tensions would not help establish peace.

Minister for Education and Culture Prof A Q M Badruddoza Chowdhury said in Dhaka Tuesday that the present government felt it to be its responsibility to build a happy and peaceful society for the future generations.

"Peace is the key to all success and prosperity and as such the present government would always remain in favour of peace and conscience," the Minister said while addressing function held in observance of the World Peace Day at the Guide House auditorium.

Organised by Bangladesh Girl Guide House, the function was chaired by Zeba Rashid Chowdhury, National Commissioner of the Association.

It was addressed, among others, by Kuresheda Begum, Deputy National Commissioner, and Ranger Natma. Prof Chowdhury said all of us want peace but wondered how many are working and thinking in favour of establishing peace.

The United Nations association of Bangladesh held a seminar marking the day at the United Nations Information Centre (UNIC), where the speakers expressed the hope that the quest for peace would continue on a greater scale till a healthy and happy society was established on a global scale.

Speakers, who included Acting UNDP Representative in Bangladesh Winston Temple, said efforts to secure a better world free from hostilities would continue and sincere endeavours are necessary toward that direction.

Assault on Nizami: DU teachers demand full report

By DU Correspondent

Dhaka University Teachers Association (DUTA) at a meeting Monday reiterated its demand for full publication of the probe body report on the May 27 incident on the campus in which Jamaat Leader Maulana Muttar Rahman Nizami was manhandled.

The DUTA said full publication of the report would remove misgivings over the incident and the role of teachers in maintaining congenial atmosphere on the campus.

It alleged that a section of the press, particularly Daily Sangram, Daily Miliat and Weekly Ujanda were engaged in propaganda against the teachers involving them in campus violence.

National Professor Shamsul Huq addressed a seminar organised in this connection by the Lions Clubs International, making a clarion call to make the world an abode of peace and save mankind from the curse of hunger, poverty, illiteracy and malnutrition.

The seminar, presided over by Shahjahan Khadem, Lt Governor of District 315B, was addressed, among others, by W Fischer, Deputy Resident Representative of the UNDP in Bangladesh, Humayun Zahir, District Governor, MG Morshed, MS Alam and Jehangir Kabir.

Professor Shamsul Huq, a former Foreign Minister, paid tributes to the United Nations for striving hard for the quest of peace. He said peace is more relevant for the Third World where hunger, illiteracy, poverty continued to deprive the people of peace and harmony.

The seminar at the United Nations Information Association, was presided over by Professor Innas Ali, President of the UNAB, and addressed, among others, by Prof Asaruddin, Prof A Selim, Prof Salahuddin Ahmed, Dr Joarder Abul Kasem and Secretary General of the association Syed Ahmad Hossain.

The speakers said efforts for securing peace have to be more sincere and devoid of hypocrisy so that peace does not remain a distant goal.

The observance of the day synchronised with the beginning of the 46th session of the United Nations general assembly at the UN headquarters in New York.

Call to uphold life, works of Nazrul

Education and Cultural Affairs Minister AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury Tuesday called upon the litterateurs and cultural personalities to uphold the life and works of National Poet Nazrul Islam, reports UNB.

Nazrul's talent is undiscovered even today and many of his works are yet to be published. Chowdhury said at a plaque unveiling ceremony at the Nazrul Institute auditorium in Dhaka Tuesday.

Chaired by Cultural Secretary I U Mallik, the function was also addressed by Finance

and Planning Minister M Saifur Rahman and Prof. Mantruzza-nam, Executive Director of the Institute. Badruddoza said Shahid President Ziaur Rahman was a great admirer of the poet and it is the moral obligation of the BNP government to uphold the literary works of Nazrul.

Finance and Planning Minister M Saifur Rahman said Nazrul's works may give correct directions to the nation if it is properly published and publicized.

Rahman said Taka 50 lakh will be sanctioned in the current fiscal for compiling, publication, editing and carrying out research works on Nazrul's literature, a handout said.

Obituary

AKM Shamsul Huda, a lawyer and businessman, died at his Uttara Office yesterday morning following a massive cardiac arrest. He was 57.

Eldest son of late Md Ishaq Uddin, a retired District and Sessions Judge, late Shamsul Huda was the founder of several schools, colleges and technical institutions. He was laid to rest at his family graveyard in Gouripur, Mymensingh last night.

He is survived by his mother, wife, older sister, brothers, sons and daughters and a host of relatives, friends and admirers.

Politicians urged to be involved in peace move

Bangladesh Peace and Human Rights Journalists Forum (BPHRJF) urged international community to be more active to establish a world free of war, tension and violence, says a press release.

BPHRJF opined that the question of peaceful world is a political question. So, it needs political solution. And to materialised peace all political parties and leadership should involve themselves in the process actively despite their differences of opinion.

Speakers told these at a discussion meeting arranged BPHRJF in observance of "International Peace Day" Tuesday afternoon at Forum office. The meeting was presided over by BPHRJF President Bablu Rahman and Shahidul Islam, Shamsul Hoque, Nazrul Islam, Meshbah Ahmed and Masudul Hasan participated in the discussion.

BPHRJF congratulated the nation and leadership on the historic success about the referendum on the form of governance. Now, endeavour should be made for development and peace in country, they demanded.

12th Amendment fails to achieve people's mandate: Freedom Party

Freedom Party Tuesday demanded of the Acting President and the Election Commission to declare void the 12th Constitution Amendment which "failed to achieve people's mandate" in the referendum, reports UNB.

It also demanded any announcement of date for presidential election through universal suffrage as per provision of the Constitution.

Addressing a press conference at party office, Freedom Party Co-Chairman Col (Rtd) Rashid urged the Acting President to constitute a judicial enquiry commission to probe what he said manipulation of the just-concluded referendum on the amendment, unanimously passed by the Jatiya Sangsad seeking switchover to parliamentary system.

Only five to seven per cent voters turned out in the referendum, of which about 5.5 per cent cast "no" vote and the rest for "yes", Rashid claimed. "The government tampered the result."

The government of Sha-

habuddin and Khaleda Zia are responsible for the vote "fraud".

Country's image was tarnished this time, which once got a boost through worldwide acclamation for successfully holding parliamentary election on February 27, Rashid said.

It has been proved during the by-elections and the referendum that voting cannot be fair under party government, and the administration cannot remain neutral in elections under party government, he said.

He asked if constitutional amendments require consent of two-thirds majority, why then there was no provision for 51 per cent voters' approval of referendum. The people expected much from BNP which, he alleged, had betrayed the nation.

Only a balance between presidential and parliamentary forms of governance can ensure stability in the country, he said.

A video record on referen-

dum was screened prior to the press conference to substantiate the FP contention.

The news conference was also attended by Co-Vice Chairman Major (Rtd) Bazlul Huda, Mia Abdur Rashid and Daily Millat Editor Chowdhury Mohammad Farooq.

Our staff correspondent adds: The Dhaka metropolitan unit of Freedom Party held several meetings and rallies in the city in protest against the attempt to snatch away the victory by rigging.

Muslim League

Muslim League in a statement expressed its dismay at the low turnout of voters at the referendum and said that the change from a presidential form of government to a parliamentary one has created a political problem in the country. "The results of the referendum is not only shameful for the nation but also unfortunate," the statement added.

JSD

Jatiya Shamajtantrik Dal in a statement said that as people from all strata of society did not participate in the referendum, it was turned into an election farce through the casting of false votes. The statement added that although the practice of holding fair and free elections were established in the 1990 elections the BNP government has destroyed that system once again.

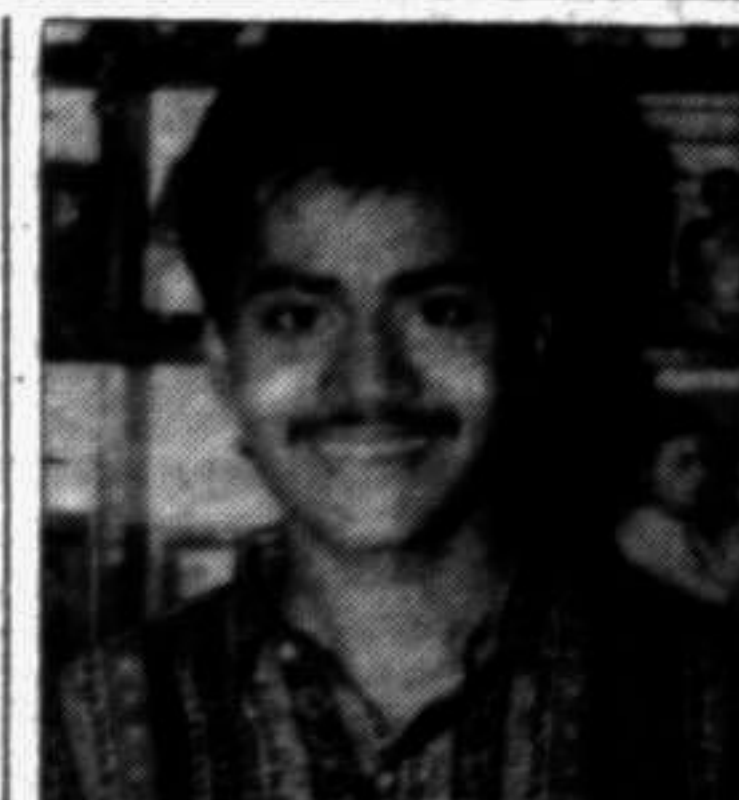
AL MP pledges to work for trial of Mujib's killers

Nur-e-Alam Chowdhury Lito, the youngest member of the present parliament, Tuesday promised that he would dedicate his all to advance the Awami League's movement for holding trial of the killers of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, reports UNB.

Lito, 27, son of ex-Awami League MP Hias Ahmed Chowdhury and grandson of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, was elected from Madaripur-1 in the by-election on Awami League ticket.

"My prime task as a Member of Parliament is to strengthen the hands of my aunt (Hasina) to ensure the trial of my grand father's killers," he told reporters after taking oath as MP at Sangsad Bhaban in the afternoon.

Giving his reaction as a new Member of Parliament, Lito said he feels proud of being elected as MP from his father's constituency.



Stands 5th in SSC Exam

By DU Correspondent

Shahnewaz Ahmed Shishir, a student of ST Joseph School in Dhaka stood fifth in combined merit list in the SSC Examination under Dhaka Board.

He scored a total of 964 marks with five letters.

Shishir is the only son of Taslimuddin Ahmed and Begum Shamsunnahar Ahmed. Shishir's only sister Turin Afroz Setu, stood first in the HSC Examination under same board in Arts group in 1988.

Wednesday

5.00	Opening announcement, Al-Quran, programme summary
5.15	Recitation from the Gecia
5.20	News in Bangla
5.30	Campus
5.55	Sports programme
7.05	Hijal Tamal
8.00	News in Bangla
8.30	Dance programme
9.00	Film-McGyver
10.00	News in English
10.30	Discussion
11.30	Khabar/ The News
11.40	Thursday's programme, verses from Al-Quran, National Flag and National Anthem
11.45	Close down

Weather

Thundershower likely

Rain or thundershower is likely at a few places over Rajshahi division and at one or two places over Dhaka, Khulna and Chittagong divisions during the next 24 hours ending 6 pm Wednesday, reports UNB.

Met office said day temperature during the period may remain nearly unchanged.

Mymensingh experienced the highest 17 mm rainfall on Tuesday. Bogra had 8 mm, Dinajpur 3 and Khulna 2 mm shower.

Sun sets tomorrow (Wednesday) at 6:00 pm and rises Thursday at 5:46 am.

Temperature and humidity recorded at important cities and towns on Tuesday were:

Cities/Towns	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	max	min	9 am	6 pm
Dhaka	32.8	26.2	83	74
Chittagong	32.8	25.6	76	75
Rajshahi	31.6	24.4	92	80
Khulna	33.8	26.5	84	95
Dinajpur	30.4	23.4	84	85
Barisal	32.5	25.6	82	92
Feni	34.1	23.9	85	76
Sylhet	33.0	23.3	84	78
Cox's Bazar	32.0	25.8	82	77

What's on today . . .

'Life' programmes on '88 flood victims
The anti-drug addiction organisation 'Life' has chalked out programmes to observe the third death anniversary of three persons including Dr Mohammad Shahriar today (Wednesday) who were killed in a boat capsized on their return to home after working at the flood-hit areas in 1988.
On this occasion, the organisation will lay wreaths at the graveyards of the late relief workers at Banani at 10 am, hold a discussion at the organisation's office at 11 am, and a special prayer for the peace of the departed souls at 5 pm at Baitul Ihtiram.
Life Chairman Quamrul Islam Sont in a statement Tuesday urged all the units of the organisation to observe the day.

Retired Govt Employees' Assoc
The annual milad mahfil of Bangladesh Retired Government Employees' Welfare Association will be held today (Wednesday) at 4.45 pm at the Masjid-e-Taqwa situated at Road No 22 (Old), Dhanmondi in the city.
Members of the association have been requested to attend the function.

Rotary Club of Dhaka South
The regular weekly meeting of the Rotary Club of Dhaka South will be held today (Wednesday) at 5.30 pm at the Hotel Purbani International in the city. Members have been requested to attend.

Rotary Club of Buriganga meet
The regular meeting of the Rotary Club of Dhaka Buriganga will be held today (Wednesday) at 5.30 pm at the Sonargaon Hotel in the city. Members of the club have been requested to attend the meeting on time.

Lions Club of Buriganga meet
The regular meeting of the Lions Club of Dhaka Buriganga will be held today (Wednesday) at 5.30 pm at the Dhaka Sheraton Hotel in the city.

Polytechnic teachers' procession
Polytechnic Teachers Association will bring out a silent procession from the premises of the Dhaka Polytechnic Institute today (Wednesday) at 9 and hand over memoranda to the Prime Minister and the Education Minister to press home its 10-point charter of demands.
The demands include: Payment of honourarium for the Polytechnic teachers for holding extra classes and introduction of BCS (Technical Education) recruitment rules.

. . . and tomorrow

Seminar on water supply, sanitation
The inaugural session of a national seminar on 'future strategies for the water supply and sanitation sector in Bangladesh' will take place at the Hotel Sheraton in the city tomorrow (Thursday) at 10 am.
Organised by the Local Government Division of the Ministry of LGRD and Cooperatives in collaboration with the UNDP and the UNICEF, the seminar will be inaugurated by the Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia as chief guest. Finance and Planning Minister Saifur Rahman, LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Abus Salam Talukder and State Minister Md Kabir Hossain will be the special guests on the occasion.

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