

Dhaka Day by Day

More Than Philosophical Big Talk

by Fayza Haq

Kalidas has done it again. He is holding an exhibition of his latest creations at the 'La Galerie' on October 31st, prior to his departure to USA and Japan for exhibitions there.

There are 30 abstracts on paper pasted on wood. These vibrant and mystifying creations are a series on the theme of the image of the crying soul. The way he has used the textures, you get an embossed effect. "I love the ups and downs of surface," Kalidas comments. The squiggles in the forefront stand for the turbulence in the lives of the people of Bangladesh. The agony and pain of the floods and cyclones have been transmitted on paper with bold, dramatic colours and lines.

The red in the paintings symbolise bloodshed, the black stands for sorrow, while the few strains of gold represent hope and prosperity. The blue stands for the water and the green for the land. "Every art work is a reflection of the artist. I think my life is taking a more abstract form, so my painting has also taken that turn," the artist comments.

In one of his dramatic pieces he has used shells, which were once used as money in early civilisations. Combined with that is a collage of talismans to include the religious belief of the people. There is then the Islamic crescent moon highlighted by beads. There is also the square of the square of the Buddhist patterns. The theme that the artist has in mind is that you grow from a point, develop from a fetus, live your life as a grown person and then you die, completing a life circle.

On the handmade paper that he has made himself Kalidas has used sand, jute, bits of burnt paper, all put together with rice glue. There are folk motifs included in the painting because the artist believes that homely craft like 'alpana' and 'nakshikatha' are a part of the daily life. The long chain of sand is to symbolise man's attempt to improve his lot.

In another piece the red is used heavily. This stands for emotion. The black again is for the pain and suffering. The patterns and designs on the paper are not premeditated. Burnt paper is used for the effect of fascinating texture.

One entree has handmarks, and cut circles and triangles. On the paper has been superimposed a plait of jute. The brown, black and white make a subtle composition. This purely abstract piece has literally holes and triangles cut into them for unusual effect. The death of a child is blended in the theme. "Our lives have complexities", is the remark of the artist about his piece.

Another item has stones, footprints, hollows and triangles. The hollows found in the creation as well as the triangle are ancient sexual symbols used by the artist. The over

whelming brown and grey stand for the ruined fields after the storm.

A massive triangle and circle, with their sensual overtones is all one finds in one piece. The triangle is once again the symbol of a woman. The glow of the gold stands for spirituality.

Embossed circles on white with varied subtle textures are repeated in a piece. There are bits of burnt paper which stand for the human head and neck. This piece represents what is going on in the country. "We have democracy which speaks of happiness among the masses. The single gold and red disc stands for security and success," the artist elaborates.

"My work is a reflection of my feelings towards my environment, society and country. It is more than a 'symbolic expression'. It is more than some philosophical big talk. When there are natural calamities and environmental disasters, the elements have a reaction on me. When I saw the cyclone pictures on the TV and

newspaper there was a violent effect within me. Abstract images developed in my mind. These took shape, colour and form within me. I have the complete image in my mind before I begin painting," Kalidas says about his work.

"The strong desire to create hammers within me. I cannot sleep. I work for 20 hours a day for two weeks at a stretch. I never make a lay-off before I paint. I don't care if the people like my painting or not. I don't paint to pander to an audience. My dealers in Europe, America and Japan handle the sale," he continues about his creations.

In the last two decades Kalidas has been drawing and painting with many mediums. He has been handling pen and ink, water colour, gouache, drawing mixed media and metal collage with junk and scrap from automobiles and machinery parts. He has also used burnt cloth, books and wood taken from the liberation movement. He has done pure oil on wood and canvas on metal.

Kalidas went to Warsaw and specialised in dry point, intaglio and etching process with aquatint and sugar aqua. When he went to Japan recently, he incorporated the French multi-colour etching technique with the Japanese wood block. He also got fascinated by the 'Washi' paper art. At present he is concentrating on gouache and mixed media using paper pulp and other materials.

It may be mentioned at this point that the 'Atelier 71' which Kalidas had established, and which trained and stimulated dozens of young graphic artists, is being organised at a new venue at Shegun Bagecha this month. The 'Atelier 71's has become well known for being a place where the artist can experiment, create and reject, and where the artist enjoys tremendous freedom.



KALIDAS KARMAKAR: 'A strong desire to create hammers within me.'

Continued Swiss aid for democracy, uplift assured

Switzerland — the world's oldest democracy today greeted Bangladesh for transition to democratic dispensation with the restoration of parliamentary form of government, reports UNB.

The felicitation was conveyed to Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia by New Delhi-based Swiss Ambassador to Bangladesh Jean Pierre Zehnder who called on her Saturday morning.

Switzerland recently celebrated its 700 years of democracy.

Zehnder, on his first visit to Dhaka congratulated Begum Zia for her party's victory in the February elections and assured continued Swiss assistance for democracy and development.

Officials said, they dis-

cussed expansion of bilateral trade and cooperation, particularly the scope for increased Swiss import from Bangladesh of jute and readymade garments.

The Prime Minister apprised the envoy of the recent catastrophes in the country and her government's rehabilitation programmes in the affected areas.

She said the government attached priority to mass education including adult literacy and laid emphasis on raising the status of women in the society.

Begum Zia thanked the Swiss envoy for his government's support to Bangladesh in difficult times and assured her government's unstinted support in carrying out his responsibilities here.

HERE and THERE

Link Road Materialising Committee

A 17-member committee of 'Gulshan to Pragati Swaran Link Road Materialising Committee' was formed here Friday.

According to a press release of the organisation, Dr Mohammad Ziauddin and Abul Hashem were made President and General Secretary respectively of the committee.

Lalon Parisad

The Central Committee of Lalon Parisad accorded a reception to Indian music personality Somnath Chatterjee at BIBA Auditorium in the city on Friday.

Dr Ashraf Siddiqui was the chief guest at the function which was presided over by poet Sabir Ahmed.

Dewan Mohammed Azraf, Dr. Begum Jahan Ara, Maksudul Huq, and Afzal Huq among others attended the reception.

Muslim Brotherhood Association

The World Muslim Brotherhood Association organised a seminar on Friday in observance of its sixth founding anniversary at Johnson Road.

President of Bangladesh Peace Mission, Alhaj Major (Retd) Afsaruddin was the chief guest at the seminar while Advocate Nurul Huq Majumder was the special guest.

It was presided over by Association President Joydul Abedin.

Centre for Rabindra Studies

A discussion on 'Rabindranath and Raktakarabi' was held at the Centre for Rabindra Studies on Friday.

Jointly organised by the Centre for Rabindra Studies and Institute of Visual Arts, Rozina Begum presented the key-note paper at the discussion.

Prof Khurshid Jahan, Golam Kibria, Mahbuba Begum Hena, Riak Mahbub and Ahmed Rafiq took part in the discussion.

DPRK Envoy meets Panni

The Ambassador of Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) to Bangladesh, Kang Dal Son, called on Deputy Speaker Humayun Khan Panni at his office in Sangsad Bhaban Saturday morning.

The Envoy stayed with the Deputy Speaker for sometime and discussed parliamentary affairs and other matters of mutual interest.

TV Sunday

- 5.00 Opening announcement, Al Quran
- 5.15 Programme summary
- 5.20 Reading from the Bible
- 5.30 News in Bangla
- 5.30 Jhilmili
- 6.00 Educational programme: Can You Do It?
- 6.30 Sports programme
- 7.05 Tagore songs
- 8.00 News in Bangla
- 8.30 Probaha
- 9.00 Drama series: Oshin
- 10.00 News in English
- 10.25 Parliament roundup
- 10.40 Chhayachhanda
- 11.30 Khabar/The News
- 11.45 Close down

Obituary

Muhammad Lutfar Rahman Khan, a retired Establishment Secretary of the erstwhile East Pakistan Government, died of a heart attack at Suhrawardy Hospital here Friday. He was 82, reports BSS.

Khan, hailed from Barukhali village of Nawabganj Upazila under Dhaka District, left behind his wife, one son, one daughter, and a host of relations to mourn his death.

Open market sale of salt from today

by Staff Correspondent

The Government has decided to start open market sale of salt in different parts of the city to reduce prices for the hardpressed consumers.

The Regional Office of the Trading Corporation of Bangladesh will deploy six

mobile trucks to sell salt at Taka 6.20 per kilogram at New Market, Kawran Bazar, Sh-antinagar, Malibagh, Press Club, Secretariat, Mohammadpur and Bangladesh Bank points of Dhaka from today (Sunday).

The TCB regional office has

already begun selling salt at fair prices at the Press Club and Secretariat points.

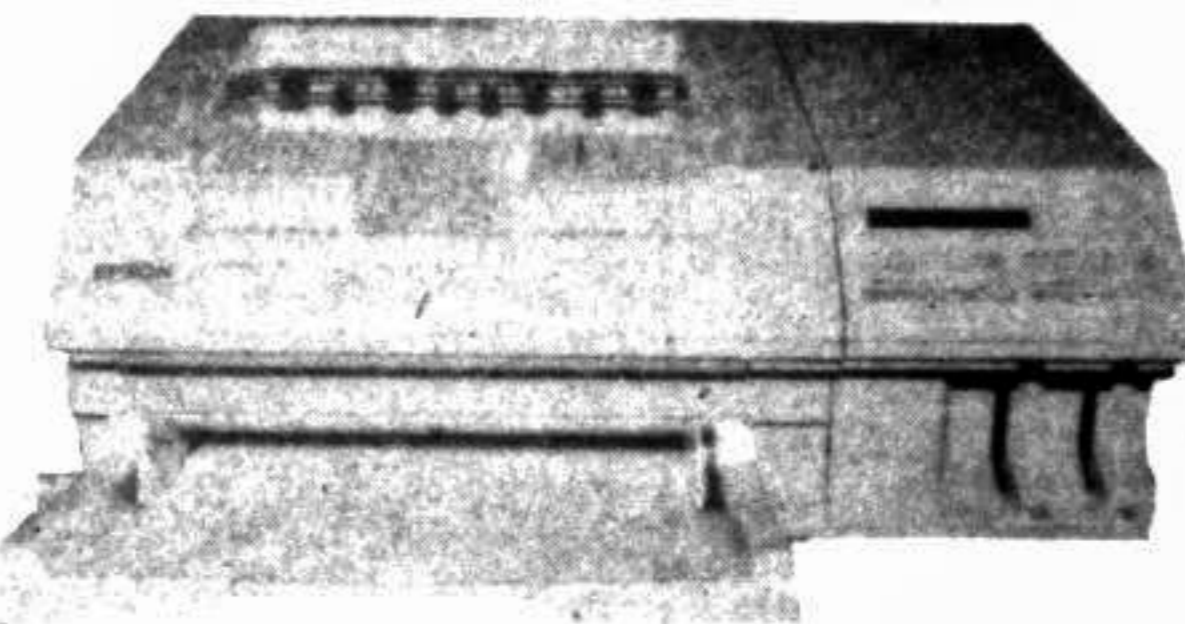
According to Latif Khan, Senior Executive of the TCB, there is no cause for any speculation on shortage of salt as there is adequate stock with the TCB.

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