

Dhaka Day by Day

Of Human Joys and Sorrows

by Fayza Haq

Tandra Das looked unassuming with her plain cotton 'sari' and her tightly drawn plaited hair. But when she talked she was full of high notions about symbolisms and abstractions. When faced with a piece that was a simple mass of chocolate square surrounded by a border of custard colour, I asked her for her interpretation of this pure non-figurative piece, and she replied it was for me to interpret.

Tandra did have decisive notions about her paintings which were exhibited at the Alliance Francaise gallery. "No 2" was a collage of mixed media. It had oil, enamel and spray. A black and gold border of a "sari" was used to form the edging of the painting. "I don't want to forget my heritage", Tandra stressed.

In one section of the painting there was a crowd of characters and these represented happiness. Dominating the whole was the mother goddess in blue holding a golden child, which were all done in a simplified form. There were lines and brick-like designs to enhance the composition of the piece the artist chose to call "The Folk".

"War And Peace" depicted the notion of how different people could live together in perfect harmony. There were writings in Japanese, English, Tamil and Bangla to show the coming together of different cultures. "All cultures should be respected and be given their due place", the artist insisted.

There was a woman's figure in front in bright orange. This symbolised the progressive woman although she looked like a stiff clay doll. Green swirling dots brought in the theme of environmental consciousness. There was also the "chakra" to denote home comforts and power. The footprints depicted in the collage stood for respect for the elders. This was certainly an overwhelming piece and needed decisive interpretations.

"The year 1991" had a woman's image in loud pink and mauve. There was a huddle of skulls in the foreground which signified trouble. There was a bird hovering in the background and this too had a geometrical and simplified presentation. Three dark oblong faces were shown and they brought in the theme of struggle.

The subject of the wind, beating against the leaves and branches of trees during the cyclone was brought in "Flapping Of Winds". Here the artist was concerned with nature. The painting was bordered with pink cloth to denote men's intuition. Along with the trees and plants was a

vignette of an interior of a house with a woman in red and this again symbolised progress. There was a quaint golden elephant, as if picked up like some morsel of Moghul art, and put in the forefront to add an interesting motif to the composition.

There were more scenes from the cyclone in black and grey, with trees and meadows, depicted in simple deft strokes.

About "The Essence Of Drama II" Tandra said "I want to stress my oriental past even though I use the pastel western colours." Thus the "sari" border had been used in this display too. It showed fragments of human body, which the artist felt was sufficient to denote the presence of the figure of a human being.

"Essence of Drama III" had the poet Nazrul Islam in mind. It was done with a few economic black and orange strokes and one would have to look hard to recognise the portrait of the celebrated figure.

A depiction of a parody of life was found in "Life III". The faces were made melodramatic and exaggerated on a blue background. A black and white broder was put simply to experiment with texture.

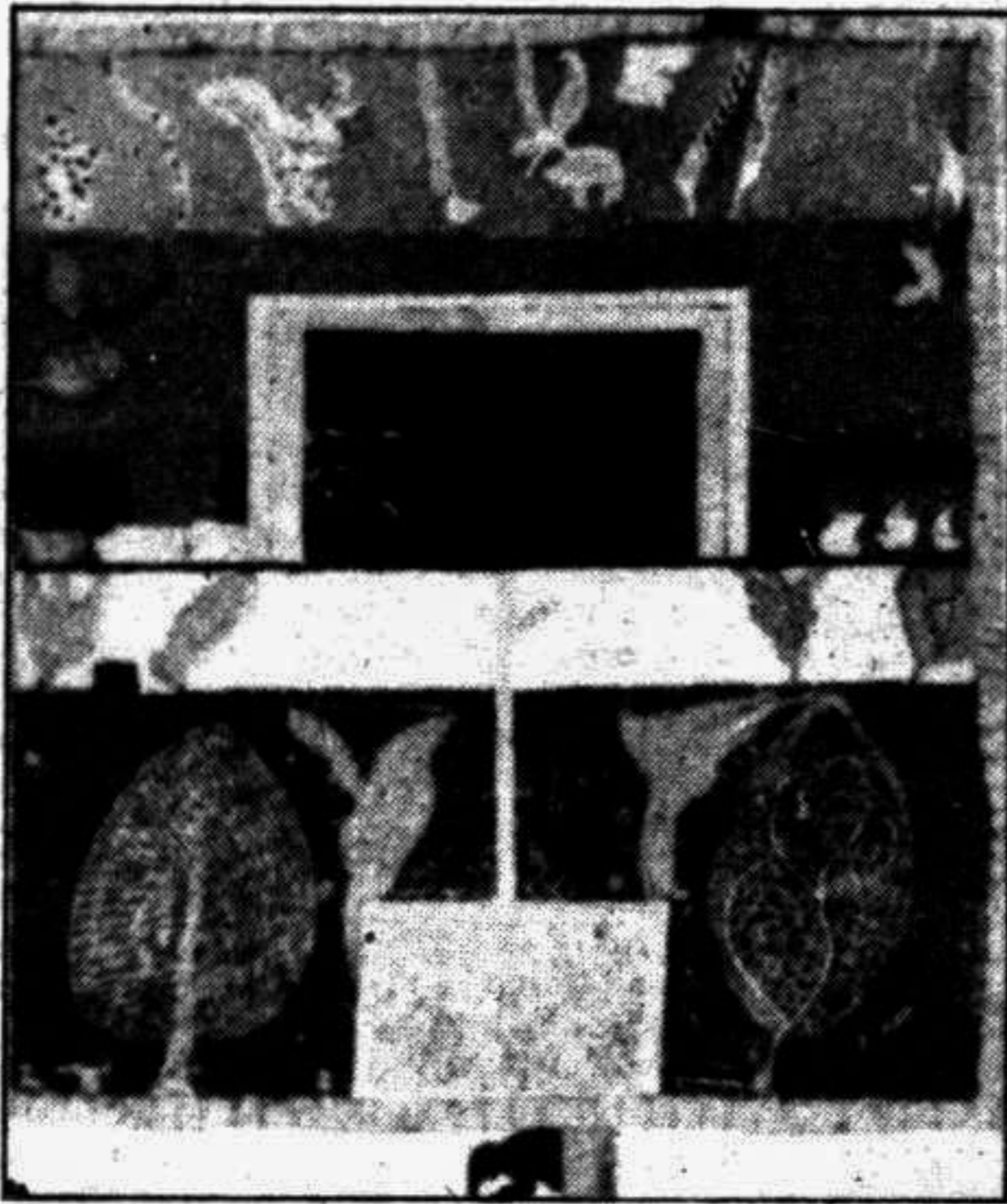
A more abstract and experimental piece was found in "Interior". This was a mystifying and non-figurative creation in gaudy green and shocking orange. Oil had been mixed with sand to get the effect of sculpture.

The inside of a room was cleverly presented in "Interior". There was an idyllic presentation of a bed, rug, dressing table, desk, wall paintings and human beings — all juxtaposed in harmonious blue, green and brown. The sombre effect that pervaded all the paintings did not entirely leave this scene either.

Working people were brought in "Das" with their blue and black faces. "We all wish to strive and make our lives happy," commented the artist. A thread was shown tying up all the images and this symbolised human endeavour.

Tandra, who is born in Chittagong in '56 has a Master's degree in Art History from Baroda, India. For three years she has been a lecturer at the Institute of Fine Arts, University of Dhaka.

Like most artists in Bangladesh, she feels the dearth of art materials. "Even when I want to work in oil I have to resort to water colour or collage and economise drastically," she said. She is lucky to have an artist for a husband who encourages her artistic pursuits.



Flapping of Winds. by Tandra Das.

536 illegal power connections snapped

Two electricity courts of Dhaka Electric Supply Authority (DESA) Tuesday in a special drive disconnected 536 illegal commercial connections at Mirpur Mazar Cooperative Market, according to a DESA press release, reports BSS.

Of the illegal connections, 150 had illegal extension lines with duplicate source at Mirpur Mazar Cooperative Market.

During the drive, the DESA realised fine amounting to Taka 10,000 (ten thousand) from five persons. In all 45 cases have been filed against the illegal power consumers, the press release added.

IBA Alumni Assoc installation tomorrow

The IBA (Institute of Business Administration) Alumni Association will hold the installation ceremony of its newly elected office-bearers on Thursday at Sonarganj Hotel at 3.30 pm, reports UNB.

Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman will attend the function as the chief guest and Pro-Vice Chancellor of Dhaka University Prof Wakil Ahmed as special guest.

IBA Director Dr Rahim B Talukdar will conduct the oath of office to the members of the executive committee, a press release of the association said.

The function will be followed by a cultural programme.

20 injured as buses collide

At least 20 people were injured, two of them seriously, when a mini-bus and a BRTC bus collided at Fatullah on Dhaka-Narayanganj Highway Tuesday afternoon, reports UNB.

The seriously injured passengers were rushed to the Narayanganj hospital and the rest were released after first aid.

The Dhaka bound minibus (Dhaka Cha 4241) was almost completely damaged when it collided with the BRTC bus coming from the opposite direction.

The collision occurred near Dapa Idankpur at Fatullah at 3 pm, eyewitnesses said.

The driver of the mini-bus absconded.

ESCAP Executive Secy calls on Chief Whip

ESCAP Executive Secretary SAMA Kibria Tuesday called on Chief Whip of the Jatiya Sangsad, Khondakar Delwar Hossain, at his Sangsad Chamber in Dhaka, reports BSS.

Kibria, during his meeting with the Chief Whip, exchanged views on Parliamentary issues and other matters of mutual interests.

Task Force report on economy submitted

Former Adviser Rehman Sobhan Tuesday handed over to Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman the reports of the Task Force on different sectors of the country's economy prepared during the last caretaker government, reports BSS.

Dr Mahmood Hussain, Dr Wahiduddin Mahmood and Moniruzzaman who were convenors of some of the Task Forces were present on the occasion.

Twenty nine different Task Forces with about 300 experts were constituted during the caretaker government to study the problems of different sectors and prepare reports recommending their possible solutions.

Weather

Night temperature may fall

By Staff Correspondent

Met office forecast Tuesday that dry weather would prevail over the country during the next 36 hours commencing 6 pm Tuesday.

Night temperature may fall by one to three degree Celsius during the period.

No appreciable change in weather will be noticed in next two days.

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

Cities/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	9am	6pm
Dhaka	28.1	19.5	57	61
Chittagong	29.4	19.5	71	72
Rajshahi	28.5	16.0	63	87
Khelnai	29.0	17.5	82	87
Barisal	29.0	18.0	82	86
Dinajpur	27.0	14.5	80	72
Mymensingh		16.5	75	
Srimangal	27.6	15.4	82	87
Cox's Bazar	30.0	22.6	92	68
Rangpur	27.5	14.4	78	77

Sunset at Dhaka on Wednesday at 5-11 pm and sunrise Thursday at 6-17 am.



Leaders of CPB, NAP, Gano Azadi League and Samyabadi Dal announcing formation of a new political front at a joint press conference at the National Press Club Tuesday. Story on Page 1.

CUCSU call to free varsity from grip of terrorists

CHITTAGONG, Nov 19: The Chittagong University Central Students Union (CUCSU) today demanded arrest of the killers of Farooq, ouster of terrorists from the campus and withdrawal of cases against CUCSU leaders, reports BSS.

It also demanded punishment to those who attacked the residence of the vice-chancellor and his family members on Monday.

CUCSU Vice-President Mohammad Nazimuddin made the demands at a press conference at the press club here. General Secretary Mohammad Azimuddin and some other leaders were also present on the occasion.

Narrating the situation prevailing in the university, the CUCSU leader said, the university had remained a hostage at the hands of the Islamic Chhatra Shibir for a quite long time. It called upon the concerned authority to free the university from the grip of what he called terrorists.

The CUCSU leaders also announced a programme to observe the anniversary of Major Jajil's death observed.

The second death anniversary of valiant freedom fighter and JSD leader Major (Retd) MA Jaji was observed Tuesday, reports UNB.

To mark the day, Major Jaji Smriti Sangsad and its different units placed wreaths at the mazar of the late leader.

The Sangsad's programme also included feeding of the destitute at Mirpur mazar of the late freedom fighter after Jehr prayer and milad mahfil at 2/9 Nawab Habibullah Road at Shahbag after Asr prayer.

The milad mahfil was attended, among others, by Lt. Gen. (Retd) Mir Sawkat Ali, MP, Air Vice Marshal (Retd) Sadaruddin Ahmed, JSD leaders Hasanul Haq Inu and Kazi Aref, Barrister Korban Ali, PIRGOSII Secretary Ohiduzzaman.

JCD leader stabbed in Ctg

CHITTAGONG, Nov 19: A local leader of Jatiyataabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) was stabbed by armed miscreants in the city on Tuesday, reports UNB.

Seriously injured Mohammad Shahabuddin was rushed to a private clinic.

Obituary

Arefatul Zannat, wife of former Secretary and Divisional Commissioner of Dhaka Khan-E-Alam Khan, died in Dhaka Sunday night at her Dhanmondi residence. She was 55, reports BSS.

Khan left behind her husband, one son and five daughters. Family sources said she was suffering from liver cancer.

The Namaz-e-Janaza of the deceased was held in the afternoon at Lalmitia Jame Mashjed. She was laid to rest at Banani graveyard.

Cabinet meet held

The regular weekly meeting of the cabinet was held at Bangabhaban Tuesday with Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia in the chair, reports BSS.

Ministers and state ministers-in-charge of different ministries and divisions attended the meeting.

Principal Finance Secretary, Cabinet Secretary, Secretary to the Prime Minister's office and concerned secretaries were present.

DCC employee dismissed

Dhaka City Corporation Authority recently dismissed Mohammad Abdur Rahman, Work-Assistant of Engineering Department, Zone No.7 for cheating and misconduct, a Corporation press release said in Dhaka on Tuesday, reports BSS.

The authority also suspended four others for negligence of duty and misbehaviour. The suspended persons are Sub-Assistant Engineer Mohammad Nazrul Islam of Engineering Department Zone 9, Work-Assistant Mohammad Abdur Razzak of Engineering Department Zone 5, Work-Assistant Mohammad Manzurul Islam of Engineering Department Zone 6 and Electric Lineman Shawkatullah of Engineering Department Zone 4.

Death condoled

Janata Bank Jatiyataabadi Officers Kalyan Samity held a condolence meeting here Monday at the unnatural and untimely death of Ali Ahmed, Manager, Janata Bank Chawkbazar Branch, reports BSS.

The meeting prayed for the peace of the departed soul and expressed deep sympathy for the members of the bereaved family.

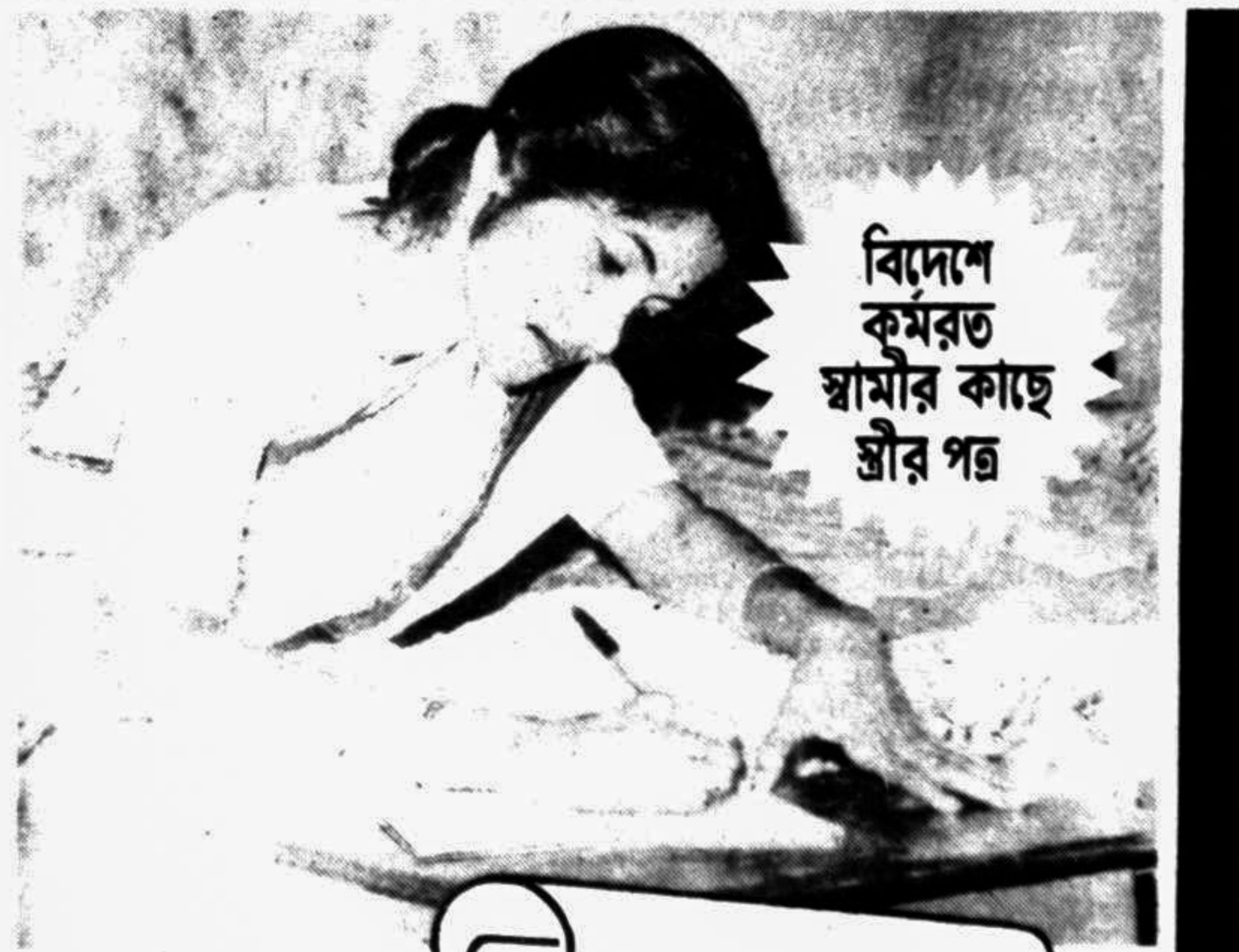
Life Partner Wanted

A middle aged widow wants a reliable, dependable LIFE PARTNER above fifty. Please write details with telephone number to GPO Box No. 2484, Dhaka-1000.

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বিদেশে কুমরত স্বামীর কাছে স্ত্রীর পত্র

ওয়েব আর্নার ডেভেলপমেন্ট বৃত্ত

সরকার বিদেশে কর্মরত বাংলাদেশী ওয়েব আর্নারদের কম্পায়ার জন্য ৫ বছর যেখানে এই ওয়েব আর্নার ডেভেলপমেন্ট বৃত্ত বাজারে ছেড়েছেন। ১,০০০, ৫,০০০, ১০,০০০ ও ২৫,০০০ টাকা কুমরতের এই বৃত্ত বিদেশে অবহিত সকল বাংলাদেশী ব্যাংক এবং সেখানে যে সব ব্যাংকে এক, সি, একাউন্ট খোলার ব্যবস্থা আছে সেইসব ব্যাংকে কিনতে পাওয়া যায়। এই বৃত্ত লাভ চক্রব্যুত্থিয়ারে ১৬%। ৬ মাস অন্তর লাভ উঠানো যায়। না উঠলে উক্ত চক্রব্যুত্থি হারে লাভ পাওয়া যায়। সরল হারে এর পরিমাণ দাঁড়ায় প্রায় ২৩%। এ ছাড়া এক সপ্তে ২৫,০০০ টাকা ও তার অধিক বিনিয়োগের জন্য রয়েছে ৩০% থেকে ৫০% পর্যন্ত মুদ্রা-বৃদ্ধির সুবিধা (Death risk benefit)

কেবলমাত্র বিদেশে কর্মরত বাংলাদেশী ওয়েব আর্নার ও বাংলাদেশে তার বেসিক/সিনিয়র বেসিকিক মুদ্রায় সমপরিসায় অর্থ প্রদান করে যত দুই এই বৃত্ত কিনতে পারেন। এই বৃত্তে বাটানো টাকা এবং অধিক লাভ সবটাই আয়করমুক্ত।

জাতীয় সংসদ পরিদপ্তর

What's on today....

Rotary Club of Dhaka Mid-Town

The 687th regular weekly meeting of the Rotary Club of Dhaka Mid-Town will be held today (Wednesday) at 5.30 pm at Dhaka Sheraton Hotel. Today's guest speaker Rtn. Shahadat Hossain, President of Rotary Club of Dhaka North will give a talk on Rotary Foundation.

Regular weekly meeting of Rotary Club of Dhaka North-West will be held today (Wednesday) at 5.30 pm at Hotel Sonarganj.

Institution of Engineers

The certificate awarding ceremony of a training course organised by the Institution of Engineers on "Construction Management" will be held today (Wednesday) at 4.15 pm at the Seminar Room of IEB.

Barrister Rafiqul Islam Mian, Minister for Public Works will attend the function as the chief guest.

Rotary Club of Dhaka Buriganga

The regular meeting of the Rotary Club of Dhaka Buriganga will be held today (Wednesday) at 5.30 pm at Hotel Sonarganj.

All members have been requested to attend the meeting in time.

Publication ceremony

The publication ceremony of a journal, "Finance and Banking" will be held today (Wednesday) at 4 pm at the auditorium of the Academic for Planning and Development at Nilkhet.

Organised by the Finance Department of Dhaka University, the ceremony will be attended by Finance Minister Saifur Rahman as the chief guest while Vice-Chancellor of Dhaka University Prof Maniruzzaman Miah will be special guest.

Islamic Foundation

Islamic Foundation of Bangladesh has organised a discussion meeting on "Practice of Islam in private life" today (Wednesday) at 4.15 pm at the auditorium of the foundation.

Principal Nurul Karim will address the meeting while Mufazzal Hossain Khan, Director of the department of Preaching of Islam and Culture, will be in the chair.

... and tomorrow

BATESKOP conference

The second national conference of T&T Board CBA Organisation BATESKOP begins in Dhaka tomorrow (Thursday).

After inauguration of the conference at 2.35 pm Thursday at Ramna Telephone House Compound, a rally will parade the city streets. Inaugural meeting will begin at 4 pm at Ramna Telephone House Compound which will be attended, among others, by the central leaders of Samik Karmachari Ojha Parishad (SKOP).

National Book Centre of Bangladesh

The thirteenth National book fair, organised by the National Book Centre of Bangladesh will begin tomorrow (Thursday) at the Osmani Memorial Auditorium in the city.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia will inaugurate the book fair at 4 pm.

TV Wednesday

- 5.00 Opening announcement, Al Quran, Programme Summary
- 5.10 News in Bangla
- 5.30 Tarunna
- 6.00 Sports programme
- 7.05 Programme of new artists
- 8.00 News in Bangla
- 8.30 Dance
- 9.00 Film show: MacGyver
- 10.00 News in English
- 10.30 Dristhikon
- 11.30 Khobar/The News
- 11.45 Close Down.