

## Dhaka Day by Day

### Of Eucalyptus and Paddy Fields

by Fayza Haq

There are more facets to Mrs. Asma Kibria than just being a charming hostess and a caring mother. She is an artist who has presented life in Bangladesh to the world outside by working simply and diligently during her spare hours.

Mrs Kibria is much more than a Sunday painter. She has worked from daybreak to midday to improve on her style and to present her compositions in a more delectable manner. It has been said about Mrs. Kibria's painting by

her work. Art connoisseurs will recall her array of eucalyptus trees which entered her canvas while her husband had been posted in Canberra.

She does not rush in for the gaudy but she loves her work to be throbbing with cheerful feminine colours such as lilacs and pinks. "Believe colour is life" was her considered observation.

Mrs. Kibria's style has been progressing, as she insisted vehemently herself. She no longer limits herself to the Impressionism.

She has ventured boldly into the world of the Abstract and the semi-abstract. She is not a bit wary of the uninitiated onlookers not comprehending her Abstract efforts? "I tell people you don't necessarily have to find a definite meaning in a painting. The same piece of art will have various meanings and hold memories of different sorts for individual viewers. Every picture does not have to tell an obvious story that could be spelt out and recorded."

As she changed her style and themes, what held her together were the "unifying factor of the brush strokes and knife works," she said.

Figure drawing excited her but it was Nature that sent her repeatedly to the canvas. In no way will she permit her paintings to stultify and stagnate despite her social and domestic chores and schedules.

The painter has held three solo exhibitions in Bangladesh in '72, '79 and '81. She has had three displays in Bangkok between '83 and '90. Canberra and Islamabad have viewed her canvases too. She has also ventured into group exhibitions at Geneva, Washington, Canberra and Bangkok.

A mother of two grown children, with 36 years of successful marriage behind her, Mrs. Kibria with her unassuming manner and gentle ways, is lucky enough to have a husband who backs her all the way. "I enjoy sharing the glory," Mr. S. M. Kibria beamed from the cane chair nearby. Even the subtle yellow ochre sari and muted bejewelled earrings spoke of her inherent feminine qualities and serenity.



A serene smile of confidence from Mrs. Asma Kibria - Star photo

### Railway Central Diesel Workshop to be installed

By Staff Correspondent

The construction of Central Diesel Workshop of Bangladesh Railway at Parbatipur at an estimated cost of about Taka 203.06 crore is likely to be completed by the end of the year.

The workshop is expected to begin its trial production from January 1992. The project taken with Taka 106 crore foreign exchange component also included construction of 201 units of residential accommodation, which has already been completed.

Till now the government has spent a total of Taka 66.60 crore for implementation of the project, according to a Bangladesh Railway press release.

At present, construction works of main workshop building, main stores building, administration building and some others are going on in full swing. So far purchase orders for 675 items of machinery and equipment have been placed.

Forty items have already arrived at the project site and another 432 items have been shipped.

On completion of the workshop will cater to the need of most essential heavy repairing and maintenance of diesel locomotives of Bangladesh Railway.

This will help increase availability of train engine for Bangladesh Railway substantially.

Secretary Railway Division and Director General of Bangladesh Railway, Nurul Momen Khan, recently visited the under-construction workshop of the railway.

### Plea to bring Siraj Sikder's killers to book

The Shaheed Siraj Sikdar Smriti Sangsad demanded of the government constitution of a neutral enquiry commission to bring into book the killers of Siraj Sikdar, reports BSS.

Addressing a press conference, the President of Smriti Sangsad, Dr. Nazmul Huq Sikder also demanded immediate arrest for interrogation of the on duty police officers of that period.

He referred to the statement made by the then Prime Minister Sheikh Mujibur Rahman as to "where was Siraj Sikder today" and said the Smriti Sangsad would file a case in this connection.

### Works of Teesta barrage end

Works of Teesta closure dam was completed on February 15, a BWDB press release said in Dhaka reports BSS.

With the completion of the closure dam the flow of the Teesta river will be diverted towards the barrage already completed in August 1990, the release said.

Another big component of the project is the canal with a 34 km main canal, with four thousand km canal system. The work of excavation of the main canal is going on in full swing and is expected to be completed by June 91. Work on some of the bridges and hydraulic structures has already been completed and the rest is scheduled for completion by December this year.

The remaining work of the Teesta barrage irrigation project include a 8-vnt 110 metre long canal regulator, 5 km drainage channels and 80 km flood embankments. These works will be completed by 1994-95.

Thirty three upazilas of the greater Rangpur, Dinajpur and Bogra districts will be directly benefited by the project. When completed, 2,36,000 acres of land of the area will be protected from floods while 15,12,000 acres will get drainage facilities and



Japanese parliamentary observers group seen addressing a Press conference to highlight their findings during elections. They termed the polls as fair. -Star photo

## Involvement of 50 pc women in youth programmes planned

By Staff Correspondent

A comprehensive programme has been undertaken to increase participation of women upto 50 per cent in the youth development programmes in order to facilitate their participation in organized activities leading to their physical, mental, social and economic development.

The programme is a part of a comprehensive plan for youth development under the Fourth Five-Year Plan.

According to the 1991 Census Report, youth constitutes more than 30 per cent of total population of Bangladesh with an increasing trend in shares of this group in total population.

About 85 per cent of the youth live in rural areas, overwhelming majority of them neither attend any academic institutions nor have much opportunity to learn skills suitable for productive activities.

Most of them are handicapped with severe poverty, limited education, training and employment and thus remain outside the main stream of development. Consequently they often develop regressive social attitude and values and suffer from deep frustration causing threat to harmonious social order. On the other hand, the vast potential, vigour and vitality of the youth can be turned into a great productive force if organized and mobilized properly.

In recognition of the fact that disciplined, properly organized and trained youth can take part and make significant

contributions to the development process, the government has placed due importance to youth development programmes in order to facilitate their participation in organized activities leading to their physical, mental, social and economic development.

The Ministry of Youth Development was created in December 1978 and subsequently the Department of Youth Development was established in 1981 to provide unified direction and coordination to youth development programmes.

### The beginning

Independent youth development programmes under the Ministry of Youth Development started first with the Two Year Plan (1978-80). During the Two Year Plan an amount of Tk 9.50 crore was provided for Youth Development Programmes, out of which Tk 7.01 crore was utilized and 36,200 unemployed were trained in different fields.

In the Second Five Year Plan (1980-85) an amount of Tk 26 crore was allocated for Youth Development Programmes. Out of which Tk 19.60 crore was utilised. Approximately 42,000 unemployed youth received training in different fields during this period and 2,999 trained youths started self-employment projects.

In the Third Five Year Plan (1985-90), an amount of Tk 17 crore was allocated for youth development activities. A new project entitled "Upazila Resource Development and Employment Project" (URDEP) aiming poverty alleviation among the youth through self employment was included since July 1988 outside the TFYP project portfolio. So far, 7 upazilas have come under this project in two phases. An additional amount of Tk 7 crore was allocated for implementation of this project. During the TFYP period, following projects were taken up for implementation:

- i. Skill Development Training for Unemployed Youth;
- ii. Support for Self-employment Activities for the Trained Youth;
- iii. Youth Motivation, Publication and Award; and
- iv. Upazila Resource Development and Employment Project (URDEP) Phase-I & II.

### Fourth Plan objectives

The major objective of the sub-sector development Programme during the Fourth Five Year Plan would be to organize and mobilize the Youth properly in order to enable them to participate effectively in national development. Some of the specific objectives of youth development programmes during the period would be as follows:

- i. to increase the participation of women upto 50 per cent in the youth development programmes;
- ii. to alleviate poverty among the youth through increased self-employment programmes;

grammes:

- iii. to equip the youths with working skill and suitable training in technical, vocational and professional fields; and
- iv. to organize youth groups and motivate them to assist community development through Voluntary Youth Organizations (VYOs).

### Major strategies

Since education and training is one of the basic needs for developing human capabilities, emphasis would be placed on proper education and training in various professions within the broad framework of human resource development during the plan period. In order to realize the objectives, effective measures would be taken to ensure cooperation and coordination among various ministries and strengthen NGOs involvement on a selective basis. More organized training of youth for employment would be under taken along with training programmes organized in cooperation with the private sector in order to meet the effective needs of the private sector. Training would also be imparted through educational institutions for transforming students as social workers and catalytic agents for desired changes. Within the above broad framework, the following strategies would be emphasized:

- i. programmes of group training for the unemployed youths in different trades and follow-up credit facilities for income generating activities;
- ii. 50 per cent women trainees in all training programmes to ensure adequate participation of women;
- iii. emphasis on modern and non-traditional areas of training with emphasis on optimal use of existing training facilities and creation of selected new facilities for enhancing training infrastructure;
- iv. training and credit programmes to motivate youths to take-up self-employment both in rural and urban areas and
- v. motivation of youths in community development.

### Khaleda hails liberation of Kuwait

Chief of Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) Begum Khaleda Zia on Thursday night expressed her deep satisfaction over the liberation of Kuwait, reports BSS.

Congratulating the people of Kuwait, the BNP chief called upon the Muslim nations of the world including the countries in the Middle East maintain mutual good relations among them, a party press release said.

### Poll campaign in Kushtia, Munshiganj in full swing

The campaign for parliamentary elections in Munshiganj-3 and Kushtia-2 constituencies, earlier postponed due to death of two candidates, were now in full swing, reports UNB.

The spectacular success of BNP in Wednesday's country-wide polls that gave them 140 out of 294 seats unofficially declared so far, has boosted the enthusiasm of its candidates here.

The BNP candidates here are now buoyed with renewed vigour and convincing belief to come out successful, said Abul Kashem, a lecturer of local Vikrampur Tongbari College.

Polls in Munshiganj-3 will be held Mar 14 which was postponed by Election Commission after the death of Islami Oikyo Jote candidate Alhaj Tofazzal Hossain on Feb 8.

The election in Kushtia-2 was deferred to Mar 28 following killing of JSD (Rab) candidate Marfat Ali by unknown miscreants.

BNP candidate Advocate Shamsul Islam, a former ambassador and advisor to Begum Zia on foreign affairs, faces a strong Awami League nominee Advocate Motabbir in Munshiganj-3.

Jatiya Party, emerging third in the Feb 27 elections, have come out in the open electioneering scenario. They were now busily campaigning for their nominated candidate, witnesses said.

### Jamaat working council meet March 7

By Staff Correspondent

The meeting of the Central Working Council of Jamaat-e-Islami will be held at 9 am on March 7.

Jamaat in a press release has requested its central working council members and secretaries to attend the meeting.

Abbas Ali Khan and Moulana AKM Yusuf, Acting Ameer and Nayeb-e-Ameer of Jamaat-e-Islami has felicitated Sheikh Jaber al-Ahmed al-Sabah, Amir of Kuwait and the people of Kuwait.

In a joint press statement on Friday the Jamaat leaders hoped that the people of Kuwait under the leadership of Sheikh Jaber would overcome the huge loss suffered due to the aggression by Iraq.



Members of SAARC Observer Mission after preparing their interim assessment on Election on February 27.

### Tajul's death anniversary

The All Party Student Unity (APSU) on Friday observed the sixth death anniversary of CPI leader Tajul Islam, reports UNB.

Tajul, a labour leader, was killed at Adamjee Jute Mills by armed hooligans on the day in 1985.

### Tolerance can help establish democracy

Acting President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmad in Friday said the real practice of the eternal values of Islam in personal and social life would bring unbounded welfare for

the country and the nation, reports BSS.

Islam teaches tolerance and politeness enabling us to adopt the way of truth and justice because Islam is the religion of peace and welfare, the Acting President said adding it would also make our march towards democracy.

He said we should be active in building our country and society and hoped that the Holy Shab-e-Barat would awaken in ourselves the sense of self-realisation, responsibility, dutifulness and tolerance with others.

The Acting President also wished that the Holy Shab-e-Barat would bring endless blessings of Allah for the distressed, orphans and the poor people of the country as we always seek the mercy of the Almighty.

Kindness to the living being is the holy teaching of Islam and keeping this in mind, we should devote ourselves more and more to the service of the distressed people, he said. The Acting President said the Holy Shab-e-Barat has brought the opportunity of gaining endless blessings of the Almighty Allah and he prayed to the Almighty for the gradual welfare and prosperity of the country and the Muslim Ummah on this Holy night.

### Boy killed in road mishap

By SSMCH Correspondent

One boy was killed on Thursday when a minibus hit a rickshaw near Sayedabad bridge on Dhaka-Chittagong road.

Emran Hossain (7) who was riding the rickshaw with his father died on the spot. A case has been registered with Demra police. The body was taken to Mitford Hospital.

### CROSSWORD PUZZLER

**ACROSS**

- 1 Enemy
- 4 Retail establishment
- 9 Church bench
- 12 Fed. agcy.
- 13 Put in harmony
- 14 The self
- 15 Rest
- 17 Custody procedure
- 19 Danish island
- 20 Mark left by wound
- 21 Beams
- 23 Recollected
- 27 Encouraged
- 29 Repetition
- 30 XVII x III
- 31 = Serling
- 32 Talk idly
- 34 Transfix

**DOWN**

- 35 Revise: abbr.
- 36 Capuchin monkeys
- 37 Writing tablet
- 39 Felt regret for
- 42 Rubber trees
- 43 Great Lake
- 44 Evaluate
- 46 Ringworm
- 48 Strikes out
- 51 Brick-carrying device
- 52 Lift
- 54 Also
- 55 Abstract being
- 56 Close
- 57 Goal

**Answer to Previous Puzzle**

A	S	P	S	F	E	E	A	R	A	L
D	E	A	N	R	A	T	M	U	S	E
A	D	D	F	E	R	A	L	E	S	S
M	I	S	E	T	S	A	T	E	R	
M	A	L	E	S	S	M	E	E	S	
P	E	R	I	L	G	A	P	A	S	E
S	N	I	P	S	U	P	A	S	O	R
I	T	S	T	I	N	T	I	E	R	S
E	L	A	N	R	I	D	S			
P	A	A	B	R	I	B	S	F	E	
A	N	A	L	E	A	V	E	E	L	L
C	O	N	S	E	R	V	A	T	I	V
E	N	T	E	E	E	L	F	A	D	E

**3 Attempted**

- 9 Ms. Bailey
- 10 Urge on
- 11 Sorrow
- 16 Nuisance
- 18 Transaction
- 20 Highlander
- 21 More unusual
- 22 Domicile
- 24 Wipe out
- 25 Type size
- 26 Eats a meal
- 28 Madrid-native
- 33 Ceremony's tablet
- 36 Withered
- 38 Musical instrument
- 40 Awaits settlement
- 41 Frock
- 45 Toward shelter
- 46 "— Sting"
- 47 Electrified particle
- 48 Noise
- 49 Vast age
- 50 Turf
- 53 Diphthong

