

# Dhaka Day by Day

## The Horror And the Holocaust

by Fayza Haq



The "Environmental exposition" at the DUCSU Hall was a new endeavour indeed. A few young artists had got together and created the chilling and bloodcurdling atmosphere of '71. One has seen paintings, etchings and even pieces of sculpture based on that theme. But this was something like walking into Madame Tussaud's in London. The horror and fear that the atmosphere created was more than Hitchcock's "Psycho" or any of the Sherlock Holmes productions. War movies one has witnessed cheaper by the dozen, but one has seen nothing of this kind in the city of Dhaka.

What was even more admirable about the exhibition was that it was the combined effort of a few young artists. This included Milan Mehd, Niamat Ilahi, Prallad, Mahmudur Rehman Shagar, Nadir and Praddat. These six young artists had put their heads together and presented to the viewers something overwhelming.

The entire display was in a single hall. There were no lights, it was so eerie that it beat a ghost story film or murder and mystery concoction in celluloid. The pillage the carnage, the brutal mass burials, the heartless and ruthless rapes, and the reducing of humanity to worse than animals was brought into the expo with a tremendous impact.

The young artists had used straw, sacking, actual bones and skulls, clay modelling of desecrated human bodies. Animals like dogs that gather like vultures over the scene were done in clay. Stone bits, rubble, pieces of wood and rubbish recreated the holocaust of '71 as one had never witnessed before in Dhaka.

One of the creations, showed hacked up portions of human limbs with ugly haunting skulls and rampant rubbish. It certainly recreated the devastation of the genocide twenty years ago.

There was another entire raped and butchered female bodies left without care or concern. Like the creation earlier, this too was done with clay, sticks, rags, bits of bricks and stones. The realism of the presentation was indeed overpowering. Nobody could witness the scene and forgive the Pakistani army personnel and the generals who had engineered the agony and havoc.

Perhaps what could parallel this scene and the ones before with what one has seen on the screen has and read in the books of the Nazi

cruelty during World War II. The agony and fate of the Jews, gypsies and any political unwanted persons at that time was brutally annihilated in a similar manner and left for the dogs or to be rolled over in mass graves as remembered from say "Winds of War", "Gone with the Wind" and "North and South" appeared fairy tales when one compared them to what one saw before one's eyes at the DUCSU Hall.

Even at the Madame Tussaud's room of horrors where one saw psychic murderers and cruel men from history, the feeling of fear and revulsion was much less. Having grown up with brothers and sisters much younger than me I have witnessed endless war films as they were fans of such movies. I cannot recall horror to parallel what I felt seeing in this exhibition.

The demonic and heartless Pakistani soldiers, led astray by the ruthless and foolish commands of the drunken and dissipated generals, who had little idea of the true situation in Bangladesh, were also delineated with fantastic depth and sensitivity. These soldiers were obviously been shown the wrong path and knew not what they did. But will there be someone to forgive them? The people of Bangladesh certainly do not. There is no question of forgiving and forgetting a wound so deep and vast.

The helpless and hapless carcasses of half naked or simply disemboweled people brought to mind the cruelty of the savage Huns in the Middle Ages. Grass, hay, and cloth once again presented this view with precision.

Since the last 12 years I have witnessed many paintings and sculpture pieces based on the theme, although never presented under a single unifying heading. I have always felt revolted at the documentary films about '71. But this exhibition was done with artistic sensibility. It was much more than taping of a few speeches or willingly presenting of video or film shots. Everything was done carefully and with great caution.

To merely have to create the mauled bodies or the hungry dogs took not only time and skill but also imagination and inspiration. The presentation with the darkness and occasional eerie lighting had a sensational effect.

All is fair in love and war they say. Yet could these atrocities, as the young artists had captured them, be ever wiped away or the traumatic memories be removed?

### Debashish greets Khaleda

CHITTAGONG, Mar 28: Debashish Roy, King of the Chakma Tribe, Chittagong Hill Tracts, Wednesday felicitated Prime Minister Begum Zia on her assumption of the office, reports BSS.

In a cable to the Prime Min-

ister, Debashish expressed the hope and prayed that Begum Zia would lead the nation to progress and prosperity and solve Chittagong Hill Tracts problems peacefully and equitably through negotiation.

## CROSSWORD PUZZLER

**ACROSS**

- Harvest
- Overdue
- Stretcher
- Husband of Gudrun
- Hebrew measure
- Flightless bird
- Coloring substances
- Three-toed sloth
- Fictional sleeper
- Hints
- Writing tablet
- Hindered
- Near
- Not together
- Existed
- "Nightmare"
- Street
- Agave plant
- Crafty
- Mire

**DOWN**

- Faroe Islands
- whirlwind
- Perform
- Lamprey
- Confirm
- Gold symbol
- Mollified
- Low, laceless shoes
- Isle
- Greek letter
- As far as
- Method
- Hindu cymbals
- Fairy tale opener
- Ireland
- Haggard heroine
- Have on one's person
- Narrow, flat board
- Music variety
- Airline info
- Former boxer
- Gripping instrument
- One defeated
- Milano ID
- Hyson
- Goddess of discord
- Chastise
- Send forth
- Gull
- deceive
- Freshwater reptile
- Stitch
- Note of scale
- Facts
- Heroic event
- Tantalum symbol
- Obstruct
- Furnish; provide
- Affection
- Reward
- Still
- Frocks
- Mexican dish
- Meadow
- Alternative word
- Above
- Covetous person
- Fondles
- Mormon State
- Pack away
- Washington
- Sesame
- Period of time
- Encountered
- Calcium symbol

### Answer to Previous Puzzle

A	G	O	A	B	S	I	R	E	N		
B	A	N	T	E	R	O	R	E	G	O	N
E	M	E	R	A	T	O	A	G	N	I	
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S	T	E	E	P	E	R	D	A	B		
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## Friday

### Morning session

- 8-00 Opening and recitation from Al-Quran.
- 8-10 News in Bengali
- 8-15 Cartoon: Adventures of the Galaxy Rangers
- 8-35 Documentary: Islamic Architecture of Bangladesh
- 9-30 Documentary: Perspectives
- 10-00 News
- 10-05 Sports Programme
- 11-05 Moner Mukure

### Evening session

- 3-00 Opening and recitation from Al-Quran
- 3-10 Alor Dishari
- 3-40 Movie of the week: Take Your Best Short
- 5-20 News in Bengali
- 5-30 Janamat: Programme based on population problem
- 5-55 Mahe Ramzan
- 6-25 Sports programme
- 6-55 Madhuchanda: Modern songs
- 8-00 News in Bengali
- 8-30 The Cosby Show
- 9-10 Bahurupi: Magazine programme
- 10-00 News in English
- 10-30 Drama serial: L. A. Law
- 11-15 Khabar / The news
- 11-30 Closing

## PROGRAMME today

### Performing Art Centre

Performing Art Centre will organise a discussion and cultural function at Biswa Shahitya Kendro auditorium today at 4 p.m. to observe the Independence Day, 1991.

Reazuddin Ahmed President, Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) will be the chief guest in the function.

### Village doctors' meeting

A meeting of the Palli Chikitsak Samity (Village Doctors' Association) will be held today (Friday) at 10 a.m. at 47 Dilkusha Commercial area (4th floor, Libralink), Dhaka-1000.

### Jamalur Chhatra Sangsad

A discussion meet on 'Mahe Ramzan—month of sacrifice and tolerance' will be held today (Friday) at 5 pm under the auspices of Jamalpur Chhatra Kalyan Sangsad in Dhaka at central Cafeteria of DUCSU Bhaban. The discussion will be followed by Iftar.

### JSP meeting

An extended meeting of Jatya Sramic Party (JSP) will be held on March 30 and 31 at 123, New Kakrail road (first floor), Shantinagar. On March 30 Acting Chairman of Jatya Party Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury will attend the inaugural function as chief guest while presidium member Sirajul Hossain Khan and Acting Secretary General A B M Shahjahan will be the special guest.

### French wheat grant

A consignment of 17.00 metric tons of wheat in bulk from the French Government as grant to Bangladesh is scheduled to arrive at Chittagong on March 30, says a press release.

## Weather

### Rain may occur

By Staff Correspondent  
Cloud of easterly direction swerved to east-south-easterly direction which foiled the chances of rain on Thursday afternoon, Met office said.

But met office forecast that the direction of wind may change at any moment and rain accompanied by temporary gusty wind may occur in Dhaka and Chittagong division and the region of Rajshahi, Bogra, Jessore and Kushtia. Weather is likely to remain mainly dry elsewhere over the country.

Day temperature will remain nearly unchanged. Only two millimeter rainfall were recorded in Comilla on Thursday.

Wednesday's low lay over Bihar, Orissa, Madhya Pradesh and adjoining Gangetic West Bengal. Seasonal low lay over South Bay.

Outlook for subsequent two days: No appreciable change. Extended outlook for another five days: Little change. Temperature and humidity recorded in important cities and towns on Thursday were:

Cities/Towns	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	max	min	9 am	6 pm
Dhaka	34.2	23.6	66	59
Chittagong	33.7	22.4	78	62
Rajshahi	36.4	21.0	73	59
Khulna	35.3	22.6	73	60
Dinajpur	34.6	22.0	58	43
Rangpur	32.7	18.0	64	48
Jessore	36.5	22.1	-	58
Srimangal	34.8	21.5	74	48
Sitakundu	35.5	23.4	62	59
Comilla	34.0	19.7	69	68

Sunset in Dhaka today (Friday) at 6:13 and sunrise tomorrow (Saturday) 5:54 Highest temperature recorded in important regional cities on Thursday were:

Colombo	32 degree Celsius	Karachi	37
Hong Kong	22	New Delhi	34
Bombay	32	Bangkok	34

# Body to reduce session jam in varsities

The government has constituted a high-level committee with Prof. Zillur Rahman Siddiqui as convener to recommend ways and means to reduce session jam in the universities, an official handout said in Dhaka Thursday, reports BSS.

The committee will give recommendations within three weeks to the government about possible measures to reduce session jam, find out causes of the jam, and formulate a plan to avert session jams at the educational institutions in future.

The members of the committee are: Prof. Iqbal Mahmud (Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology), Prof. Mozaffar Ahmed (IBA, Dhaka University) and Prof. Anupam Sen (Chittagong University). The Registrar of Shahjalal University of Science and Technology, Dr. Bazul Mobin Chowdhury, will act as the member-Secretary of the committee.

## JP legal aid body formed

By Staff Correspondent  
Jatiya Party has formed a "legal aid" committee to provide legal aid to detained party members including former President Ershad.



## Hearing of writ petition challenging Wage Board award Mar 31

The writ petition challenging the implementation of the Wage Board award for journalists and other employees will come up for hearing on March 31, reports BSS.

The petition will be heard before a Division Bench of the High Court Division comprising Justice Mohammad Abdul Jalil and Justice Kazi Shaftuddin.

## Senior Advocate Khondker Mahbubuddin Ahmed with Advocate Joyal Abedin are representing the Bangladesh Sangbadpatri Parishad (BSP), the petitioner.



Barrister Akhter Imam with Advocate Sk. Habib-ul-Alam, Advocate Md. Khalequzzaman and Advocate Mozammel Hque Mehdi are representing the respondents Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ), Bangladesh Newspapers Press Workers Federation (BNPWF) and Bangladesh Newspapers Employees Federation (BNPEF).

Abdul Wadud Bhuiyan, Additional Attorney General will defend the case on behalf of the Secretary, Ministry of Information and Chairman, Wage Board.

# A 'mela' with a purpose

BSCIC had a handicrafts exhibition at the Shilpakala Academy premises to celebrate Independence Day. The shopkeepers invited to participate ranged from those who normally sat in New Market to those who carried on their business in Baridhara and Gulshan.

The exhibition was of a humble nature. It invited the not so well to do and certainly did not lure those who lived in Dhanmandi or Banani. The prices of the items were extremely reasonable, but the quality of the products would not invite a passing fancy for the upper middle class.

It was interesting to note that what one finds in the occasional melas were presented with care and neatness. One normally finds these items anywhere from the Shishu Park near Shabag to New Market, Green Road and New Elephant Road.

In the brass and copper shop there were butterfly sets available for Tk. 110. A set of brass birds was there for the same price. Decorated jars could be bought for Tk. 175 while plain ones could be had for Tk. 150. A set of brass fish in a case was for Tk. 325 while the peacock sets were for Tk. 300. A pair of brass ducks could be had for Tk. 50. Tiny goblets and glasses in the

Sheikh Mujib and General Zia was crammed in between the toys and they could be had for Tk. 40.

Clay fruits and vegetable brought in the village atmosphere in yet another stall. Bitter gourds were for Tk. 4 mangoes for Tk. 4 and lichi bunches for Tk. 5 apiece. A set of "pan", "supari" and cigarette or a plate of biscuits, all done in clay, could be had for Tk. 5 to Tk. 6.

The "pradeep" holder in copper was for Tk. 200. An interesting combination of a copper and brass pen holder could be had for Tk. 300. A tiffin carrier of brass, costing Tk. 415, was another useful item if not exactly attractive. Pots for plants with engravings, also in brass, ranged from Tk. 300 to Tk. 400.

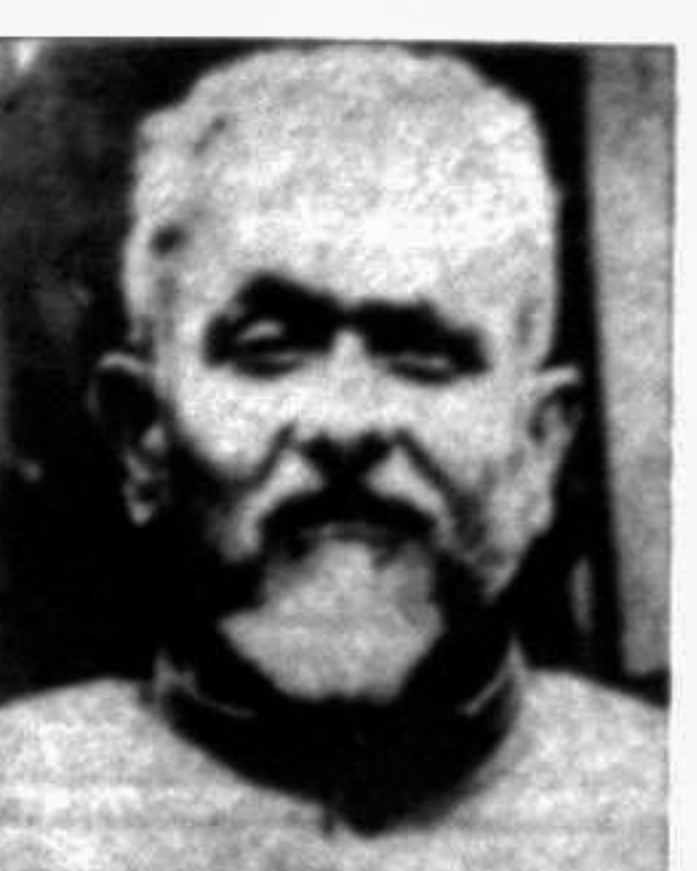
One had seen these items many a time simply going to and fro to office, passing New Elephant Road.

More cosmopolitan was the exhibit by Ruby Shilpi Kuti. It had dolls made by needy women at Mirpur. Thirty women had been employed for this small industry. These dolls varied from Tk. 30 to Tk. 300. The attempts were both eastern and western in outlook. Embroidered bags and wall pockets ranged from Tk. 35 to Tk. 60.

More quaint and the typically mela items were clay statues, horses and deer ranging from Tk. 12 to Tk. 60. Painted deer were available from Tk. 12 to Tk. 40. A set of wooden ducks in black and red and made from wood was for Tk. 15. A clay teaset with three cups was for Tk. 15. Meanwhile clay toys, tiny in size, ranging from cats to pen-guins, were to be had from Tk. 3 to Tk. 10. There was the westernised kissing couple for Tk. 120. Aluminium plaques of

Shetuli and Aarong has items of this type by the dozens. There was nothing new in them but they made the mela more colourful and varied.

Handmade cards were there for Tk. 15 to Tk. 25. They were done by art students and are normally available in New Market stalls. The same sold wood and aluminium plaques of Rabinranath and Nazrul as well as General Zia for Tk. 25. If you went in for a flag and ab-



## Anniversary of Ibrahim Khan's death today

By Staff Correspondent  
The 13th anniversary of death of Principal Ibrahim Khan will be observed today (Friday).

Different socio-cultural organisations have taken up programmes to mark the death of the noted educationist, writer and social worker of the sub-continent. Ibrahim Khan Academy and Ibrahim Khan Parishad will jointly hold a discussion at Kakoti High School at Dhanmandi in the city at 4 pm. Another discussion jointly organised by Ibrahim Khan College, Pilot High School and Madrasa will be held at Tangail. Similar programme has also been taken up at Karatia Sadat University College on this day.

Ibrahim Khan's eldest son Asaduzzaman Khan alias Suja Mia and daughter Begum Khaleda Habib will hold Milad Mahfil and feed the destitute at their respective residences in Dhaka in observance of the day.

## Discussion on Syed Abdus Sultan today

By Staff Correspondent  
Dhanmandi Shahitya Chakra will hold a discussion meeting late Syed Abdus Sultan at 373, Dilu Road, Maghbazar at 9-30 a. m today (Friday).

Begum Sufia Kamal will attend it as chief guest while Professor Kabir Chowdhury will preside.

The participants in the discussion meeting include Dr. Ashraf Siddiqui, Abu Rushd, Lutfur Rahman Sarker, Ramzan Ali Khan Majlis, M. A. Mohaimen, Abul Fazel Shamsuzzaman, Abdul Majid, Ali Hossain, Sadequa Shafuliah, Ilazera Nazrul, Golam Rabbani and Naira Aziz.

strict symbolic creation you paid Tk. 35.

The flower stall had sets of flowers which ranged from Tk. 115 to Tk. 200 and were made of cloth. A rose or tulip or cherry flower stick was for Tk. 10 each. Trailing plastic money plant leaves could be had from Tk. 25 to Tk. 35.

Leather items were there too. They included jewellery boxes, handbags, pencil holders, carry bags, picture frames and slippers. The prices were certainly less than what you found in the normal handicrafts shops along Mirpur Road and Green Road, leaving Gulshan aside.

Establishes were included like hot olive, plum and lemon pickles as well as guava and apple jelly for Tk. 25 to Tk. 27. There was a stall, that is normally found in Baridhara, and it sold cradles and chairs of jute for Tk. 60. Table mats were to be had for Tk. 25 for 13 pieces.

There was a bookstall too with novels and poems of someone called Dilara Khanum Dolly. She was selling audio cassettes of her songs too.

Modest as was the handicraft show it also included prints of famous Bangladeshi artists like Zainul Abedin and Sultan. Melas of such type bring back the simplicity to our lives that is vanishing so rapidly with the unavoidable mechanisation and modernity. People with limited budgets got a chance to buy nighties and "kurias" at reasonable rates without avoiding the hustle and bustle of Gousta or New Market.

—Fayza Haq.

## Jamaat urges to investigate cause of jail rebellion

By Staff Correspondent  
Maulana Mattur Rahman Nizami, Secretary General of Jamaat-e-Islami in a statement to the press on Thursday urged the authorities concerned to investigate the causes of recent jail rebellion.

Bangladesh Muslim League in a statement on Thursday condoled at the killing of eight prisoners in Comilla Jail. The statement issued by Md Ayenuddin, President of the Muslim League, Senior Vice President Kamruzzaman Khan and Secretary General MA Salam also demanded immediate of judicial enquiry into Comilla Jail incident.



Assistant Chief of Air Staff Air Commodore Shamsheer Ali is seen with the winners of BAF Qirat and Azan competition concluded at Dhaka Cantonment on Thursday.