

Dhaka Day by Day

In Quest of A Raison D'etre

by Fayza Haq

In his second solo exhibition, G.S. Kabir has once again displayed a variety of sketches and a vibrant choice of colours. This display was recently held at La Galerie at Banant. The painter had gone out in quest of finding the reason for his existence. 'Who am I and what am I doing here?' were Kabir's persistent questions, as was remarked by M.S. Degallia, the French Ambassador. Lonesome and in search of happiness, the artist painted a world of dark hues and frightening blacks.

Kabir's images were crammed with the theme of ugliness and disappointment of life, although he had not brought in the subject of the hypocrites and prostitutes, as he did so obviously last time. His use of dark colours brought in pessimism. All through his compositions there were criss-crossing lines denoting confusion and conflict. Grey and black dominated his work and yet the creations were not entirely gloomy as there was always the hint of the pink or red to relieve the eye.

"My love", one of the boldest of his creations, had garish combinations of greys, blues and blacks. The woman in it was depicted almost as a caricature rather than the conventional idyllic delineation of one's treasured feelings. Like many of the figures in his earlier exhibition, she was almost an object of fun and derision.

Although there was plenty of silver and white to relieve the gloom and various mystifying swirls of reds, yet the theme of chaos and confusion was very pertinent in the backdrop. Even the smile on the woman's lips seemed one of mockery.

"Image -1" showed a modern urban existence with all its squalor. The paints were laid on so thick that they had a three dimensional effect. There were the broken windows, the shattered panes and the beat-up door, apart from the grimy walls. It was a true portrayal of many parts of our modern metropolitan existence.

Kabir's "Known-Unknown" was once more done on imitation leather with harsh cement-



Couple : Oil on paper

ages and hues. The artist wished to point out that people had to be constantly in a state of hustle and bustle to make ends meet. There were endless splashes and swirls of reds and blues.

The series entitled "Emotion" had each of the pieces charged with conflicting feelings of love and hatred. Wire-like lines and splotches and swirls of vermilion dominated the images, and relieved the sense of despair, want and need.

For a change, impression of images were brought in "Joy" and "Doll", although they were more Surrealist and Impressionistic than anything else. Bars, circles and sweeps dominated the red and green images that were overpowered by the grey outlines.

Kabir's "Positive Disregard" was a massive silver abstraction on black. Circles, squares and lines relieved the monotony of the extensive use of silver. Dramatic black and scarlet lines held the gigantic composition together.

In displaying his emotions and experiences, the artist created a fascinating world of mystery and gloom, interspersed with occasional happiness.

Diarrhoea claims 37 lives in Rajshahi

Rajshahi, May 1 : Diarrhoeal diseases have so far claimed 37 lives most of whom are children. Besides, 249 others have also been attacked by diarrhoea in the district during last three weeks, Civil Surgeon office said.

Meanwhile, water-borne diseases have broken out in an alarming proportion in seven upazilas of the district, sources said. The affected upazilas are: Pabna, Durgapur, Puthia, Tanore, Bagmara, Boalia and Godagari.



5:00 Opening and recitation from Al-Quran
5:15 Recitation from Geeta
5:20 News in Bengali
5:30 Eso gun shikhi
5:55 Cartoon film : Captain Planet
6:30 Mass education programmed
7:05 Music programme
8:00 News in Bengali
8:30 Movie of the week : Elvis
10:00 News in English
10:30 Remaining part of the film
11:30 Khabar/ The News
11:45 Closing down

Officials asked to gear up food movement

The Ministry of Food Tuesday directed the concerned officials to gear up food movement in the cyclone-affected areas for combating food crisis on an emergency basis, reports BSS.

The directive was given at a meeting of the ministry held to review the overall situation and possible measures to be taken to cope with the cyclone aftermath.

Weather

Light rain likely

By Staff Correspondent

Light or moderate rain/shower accompanied by gusty wind is likely to occur at a few places over Chittagong and Khulna Divisions and two places over Dhaka and Rajshahi Divisions till Friday morning. Meteorological Department says.

The day-temperature till Friday is likely to remain unchanged.

The highest temperature on Wednesday recorded in Rajshahi was 39.6 degree Celsius while the lowest temperature recorded in Sylhet was 20.5 degree Celsius.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Little change

Extended outlook for another five days: Weather likely to improve.

The sun sets today (Wednesday) at 6:28 pm and rises tomorrow (Friday) at 5:23 am.

Temperature and Humidity recorded in some Cities and Towns on Wednesday was:

Cities/Towns	Temperature in Celsius	Humidity in percentage
Dhaka	24.8	34.2
Rajshahi	26.0	39.6
Khulna	27	35.7
Patuakhali	32	na
Jessore	38.2	na
Rangpur	28	21.8
Comilla	32	22.8
Sylhet	26.7	20.5
	Maxi	Min
	9am	6pm

Essay contest

By Staff Correspondent

Hilful Fuzil Sangsad will arrange an essay competition on the life of Hazrat Muhammad (S), role of youth organisation against drug and role of youth in establishing democratic society, says a Press release.

The competition will include three groups-Ka, Kha and Ga. School level students upto Class X will be treated for Ka Group. College level students upto HSC for Kha group and graduates and masters level students for Ga group.

The interested students are requested to contact Hilful Fuzil Sangsad, 35/4, Kazi-rbagh, Wari, Dhaka.

Executive Engineer,
City P.W.D. Division, Dhaka.

Alleged murderers arrested

The Sutrapur thana police have arrested two persons connected with the Chandan murder case, according to a DMP Press release in Dhaka Tuesday night, reports BSS.

The police arrested the accused killer Majnu from his village home at Dohar on April 27. They also arrested another person connected with the murder case on April 21. He has confessed the murder in the court, the press release added.

Discussion on Lokman Fakir

A discussion and a musical soiree was held in Dhaka Tuesday in memory of the eminent lyricist, composer and music director late Lokman Hossain Fakir, reports BSS.

Presided over by Khan Ataur Rahman, the function was attended by Chairman of the Board of Directors of Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha Dr. Ashraf Siddiqi.

The meeting decided to give Lokman Hossain Fakir memorial prize to a lyricist every year.

The discussion was participated by Shaidul Islam, Omar Faruk, Afazuddin Fakir, Kazi Abu Zafar Siddiqui, Mukul Chowdhury, Hamidul Islam, Kazi Rosy, Gazi Abdur Razzak, Salauddin and Mansur Zoardar.

The musical soiree based on the songs of Lokman Fakir was participated by Subir Nandi, Bipul Bhattacharjee, Ziaul Hasan, Shah Rina Sultana, Hasan Matir Rahman, Dilara Begum Ninas and Delwar Hossain.

New ordinance for BUET demanded

The Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology Teachers Association has demanded a democratic ordinance for the university, according to an association press release.

Voting unanimously in favour of the demand, a meeting of the Association said election of the Vice-Chancellor, Deans and heads of the department should be held under the democratic ordinance.

The meeting held on April 29 with Prof. Jastimuzzaman, President of the Association, in the chair, also demanded to have an elected Pro-Vice-Chancellor, it also favoured inclusion of student, officer and employee representations in the Senate.

The association is preparing a draft of the ordinance and it will soon meet the Parliament members in this connection, the press release said.

Certificate giving ceremony

The certificate giving ceremony of a Training Course for journalists organised by the Bangladesh Society for the enforcement of Human Rights will be held at a local hotel today (Thursday).



Garments workers holding a May Day rally in front of the National Press Club to express their solidarity with the working class.

—Star photo

All laws against workers' interests to go

Laid-off industries to be reopened : Khaleda

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia said in Dhaka Wednesday that the present government would take necessary measures against all laws contrary to the interests of the workers of the country. Addressing a discussion on May Day organised by the Labour Directorate at the auditorium of the Institution of Engineers, the Prime Minister said "my government will give sympathetic review to the just demands of the labourers and find out realistic solutions to their problems."

State Minister for Labour and Manpower Rafiqul Islam Mian, Labour Secretary Nuruddin Al-Masud, Labour Director D.A.F. Chowdhury, Vice Chairman of Tripartite Advisory Parishad (Labour) Pratappuddin Ahmed, President of Bangladesh Employees' Association Latifur Rahman and Additional Labour Director M.A.S. Talukdar also spoke on the occasion.

A special prayer was offered on the occasion for the peace of the departed souls of the cyclone victims and seeking divine blessings from the Almighty Allah to give the nation the strength to overcome the crisis.

Begum Zia called upon the labourers to stand by the side of the affected people in the cyclone-hit areas and help the government in mitigating their sufferings.

The Prime Minister said the present government had already taken initiatives to reopen the laid-off industries. She said, if necessary a new people-oriented labour policy would be introduced to realise the new steps.

The Prime Minister said there was no alternative, but to increase production for achieving development of the country. If necessary, two or three shifts have to be introduced in the mills and factories for increasing production, she said.

She said there was no short-cut route to development. The road to development is always difficult, laborious and time-consuming. The Prime Minister said her government would certainly take all possible measures to reach the benefits of production to the working people.

Begum Zia said the work-

ers, especially the industrial labourers, would have to play a pioneering role in making the economic base of the country stronger.

She said, "you must work together to make the economy strong and protect the independence of the country."

She said the independence and sovereignty would become meaningful only when the country is economically self-reliant.

She said the present government wants to establish a relation of friendship with the workers of the country. It also want to see that brotherly affection prevails among the workers and employers. She said peace and stability were prerequisite for industrial development.

Begum Zia expressed her belief that the May Day would work as an inspiration for improving life and family welfare of the working class and increasing production in mills and factories. It is necessary to maintain good relations among the workers and employers and make production system proper and welfare oriented to realise the spirit of May Day, she said.

Journalists observe May Day

Country's journalist community Wednesday expressed great shock at the loss of life and property in Monday night's devastating cyclone, reports UNB.

Journalists at a rally at the Jatiya Press Club on the occasion of historic May Day observed one-minute silence paying respect to the departed souls of those who lost their lives in the cyclonic catastrophe.

It also paid tributes to the memory of those who made supreme sacrifices at Hay Market in American city Chicago on this day in 1886, to defend rights and working condition of the workers.

Presided over by Riazuddin Ahmed, President of the Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ), the rally was addressed, among others, by BFUJ Secretary General Amanullah Kabir, DUJ President Zahirul Haq, General Secretary Ruhul Ameen Gazi and Joint Secretary MA Aziz, former BFUJ Secretary General Syed Zafar, former DUJ Vice-President Masud Nizami, DUJ Publicity Secretary Debar Hossain and Office Secretary Kazim Reza.

In his presidential speech, Riazuddin Ahmed explained significance of May Day in our national life.

He called upon all members of the community to take a fresh vow imbued with the spirit of the historic day for realising legitimate rights of journalists and ensuring freedom of press.

Expressing great concern at the present unstable condition in the country's newspaper industry, Riaz called for launching a fresh and continuous struggle against victimisation of union members and representatives.

"Laws empowering the management to serve simple termination notices are absolutely detrimental to the interests of the employee," he said.

The BFUJ President assured the rally that an action programme would be announced soon seeking resolution of multifarious problems facing the press and pressmen.

8-hr working day yet to be implemented : SKOP

ees and workers, he added.

The rally also demanded arrest of price hike of essentials, withdrawal of lay-off on different mills and factories, stopping termination and harassment of workers.

The SKOP leaders, addressing a rally organised in front of the Jatiya Press Club in the afternoon in observance of historic May Day, hoped the democratic government established after a long struggle would materialise the "just" demands of workers and employees.

Addressing the rally, Abdul Wahid, Joint Secretary of Jatiya Sramik Jote, said the autocratic government of Ershad didn't concede to the demands of the workers and employees.

The rally observed although the toiling people of the world had achieved 8-hour working day through long struggle culminating in the 1886 Hay Market sacrifices, it was yet to be fully implemented in Bangladesh.

The present government is also yet to announce the pay commission report and the wage commission for employ-

ees and workers, he added.

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The rally over, a procession was brought out, which paraded Gulistan, through Fulbari and dispersed at Zero Point.

A cultural show was arranged in the evening to mark the day.

SKOP leaders Nurul Islam, Abul Bashar, Muklesur Rahman, Shirin Akther, Yakub Ali Bhuiyan, Pratappuddin, among others, were present at the rally.

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CROSSWORD PUZZLER

Answer to Previous Puzzle

