Dhaka Day by Day

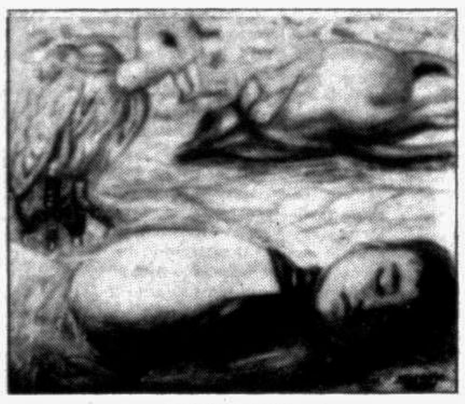
Pathos through paints

by Fayza Haq

Different people have reacted in diverse fashions in their effort and desire to help with the recent cyclone. Husne Ara Laila decided to hold an exhibition of her paintings at the Goethe Institute, and give the proceeds for relief for the victims of the disaster.

The artist is a self-taught painter, and has learnt what she has from books from the libraries, and any Art book that she could get hold of. With a masters in pharmacology, and with three young children to see to, it is amazing that she has been able to create 71 pieces within a period of four years. She keeps no servant and tutors her children herself. She does not even permit herself the luxury of a chauffeur.

The most remarkable piece of the exhibit was "Hurricane 91", which depicted a dead child with a bloated stomach along with a dead deer, and a vicious vulture hovering over the scene. Death and devastation were clearly delineated with simple grey and brown strokes. The ugliness and helplessness of the situation was clearly marked.



Hurricane 91.

Another oil, "Floods in Bangladesh" showed trees and houses sinking with people flocking for shelter. While human beings and animals were shown in a state of panic, some rescuers were also brought into the picture.

A similar theme was found in "Natural Calamities of Bangladesh" which brought in floods and cyclones in a semi abstract fashion. The cyclone was presented as an overwhelming twisting giant, in blinding yellow, orange and pink colours.

"A girl with a bowl" showed a hungry beggar girl with a battered and broken plate in her hand. She was shown with a backdrop of various other poor women.

The artist had other painful themes from the past. There was the "Black Night of 25th March", which had stacks of bleeding bodies .While a rainbow and a sunflower were brought into the picture, yet the overall impression was of fear, horror, agony and suffering.

The suicide of a woman, defiled by the occupying army, was shown in "The Rope". Once again the theme was that of unrelieved suffering. Skulls were included in the painting and also the Shaheed Minar. A light from the Minar wrapped the girl in a holy shroud.

Symbols of flowers were brought into "The widow of the Mukti Jodha". The dead husband was shown with impressionistic strokes. A more abstract creation was "Intellectual martyrs" and there the colours of the flag of Bangladesh, red yellow and green were used with abandon.The human eyes and limbs were there simply as suggestions.

The old theme of freedom was brought again in "Open Window." Shackles were shown as broken and the dove of peace had a vital position. The rest of the canvas was filled with symbolic squares and triangles.

The exhibition had pleasant and brightly lit up creations too. Yet due to the recent disaster one could only focus one's attention on subjects such as storms and cyclones. These were repeated on different canvases with varied colours and altered approaches. Sometimes the artist was impressionistic, as in the "River Storm". At other times she was purely abstract, as in "Cyclone".

No, the exhibition was not bleak or depressing. There were plenty of other entrees in bright colours and with pleasant everyday themes of joy and contentment. The painter did not dwell on the present shocking disaster only, as the exhibition was the culmination of her efforts for over four years in Bangladesh, since she returned from Saudi Arabia, where her husband had been posted.

Obviously this expose did not get her thousands of Riyals as did her earlier effort in Saudi Arabia, where she collected two lakh Takas through her paintings. Yet she sold a fair amount of pictures for her purpose.

"I believe women should do more than watch VCRs and go for shopping trips for saris or have coffee parties in their spare time. I've done some paintings and copper plates. I intend going ahead and completing my M.Phil in Microbiology," Laila commented about herself and her counterparts in Bangladesh.

Hasina visits Gazipur today

Awami League President and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina will visit the tornado-affected area of Gazipur today (Saturday), reports BSS.

The central leaders of Awami League will accompany Sheikh Hasina.

3 Biman flights to Ctg begin

Biman started operating three flights a day between Dhaka and Chittagong from Friday, reports BSS.

Biman flights to and from Chittagong remained suspended till May 2 following the devastating cyclone storm that battered the coastal districts including Chittagong. The Chittagong Airport also suffered heavy damage.

Chhatra Moitry confce May 25

The central conference of Bangladesh Chhatra Moitry will be held on May 25 and 26 due to cyclone and tidal surge, reports UNB.

Earlier, it was scheduled for May 15 and 16.

The decision was taken at an emergency meeting of the central committee, says a press release.

Book fair to continue till May 16

The book fair (Aarong), organised by the Bangla Academy at its premises, will continue till May 16, reports BSS.

The fair will remain opened from 10 am to 8 pm every day.

3rd year MBBS exm May 21

SSMCH Correspondent

The date of the second professional examination of Medical College under Dhaka University has been shifted to May 21, from May 12.

The Dean of the Dhaka, University, Prof. Nurus Samad Chowdhury disclosed this in the conference room of Dhaka Medical College for the students of Third year MBBS.

All greenery in Chittagong gone

It was 300 degree Celsius temperature in storm centre

CHITTAGONG, May 10: The greenery of Chittagong, the beauty queen of the east, is now a debris left by the April 29 devastating cyclone and tidal surge.

A BSS special correspondent who travelled by a Chittagong bound inter-city train from the capital today saw the effects of the fiery cyclonic storm right from the Feni river to the Banks of the Karnaphuli.

All the trees and greenery in an area of about 750 square miles were severely burnt by the fiery cyclonic storm which seems to be an unprecedented phenomenon.

Green leaves, the symbol of life, which adorned the trees till the other day with the advent of the spring, had been incinerated by the colossal disaster.

Met office sources told this correspondent that the heat at the storm centre on that fateful night was 300 degree Celsius. The heat wave of the storm centre was directed to and driven by the stormy wind towards the Chittagong coast.

Some eye-witnesses, who experienced and could well remember the happenings of the 1942 and 1960 cyclones and 1970 cyclone and tidal surge observed that they had witnessed an unusual phenomenon in the recent catastrophic cyclone.

They said, instead of plunging the cyclone hit area into darkness, as usual during a cyclonic storm at night, this time the entire horizon was clearly visible. "It appeared to be a day although the city was without electricity on that stormy night," they added.

In almost all the affected areas, even leaves of the palm and the coconut trees were burnt and turned grey.

Some hundred year old trees were uprooted and burnt at some historic places including the D.C. Hill where there was a five-hundred year old establishment of the Portugese.

Even eucalyptus, pil-pil and some other exotic species planted as part of the city beautification, were found standing bare or with burnt-leaves. The city dwellers believe they may have to wait at least 10 to 15 years to regain the pre-cyclone greenery of the port city.

Needless to say, such destruction of trees by the fiery cyclone would create serious ecological problems for a city with about three million inhabitants.

Simki rendering songs at a Bangla Academy function to raise funds for the cyclone victims — Star photo

PROGRAMME

Open function

Artist Nilufar Yasmin, Nina Hamid, Hasina Mamtaz, Ratna Basak and Kallani Ghosh will render songs at an open function at Bangla Academy premises this evening (Saturday).

BSEHR

A seven-day training course for journalists organised Bangladesh Society for Enforcement of Human Rights (BSEHR) begins today (Saturday) at its head office at Bijoynagar in the city.

Tk 40 lakh Swedish relief

Rangpur Dinajpur Rural Service (RDRS), operated by the Lutheran World Service, Geneva on Friday received 34 tons of relief materials worth Taka 40 lakh

Housewife burnt to death in city

DMCH Correspondent

Housewife was burnt to death over dowry in city on Friday.

Police recovered Rashida (25) from her husband's residence at Burir Bari under Lalbagh thana. There were signs of injury on her head and forehead.

Her husband Liton (33) had been putting pressure on her for the last 15 days to bring dowry.

Rashida's brother alleged that she would be often beaten. Liton is now absconding. Rashida's body was sent to Dhaka Medical College Hospital morgue.

A case has been registered with police.

Philippines embassy cancels programmes

The Philippines embassy in Dhaka has cancelled its National Day reception scheduled on June 12 owing to the tragic devastation caused by the recent cyclone in the coastal areas and offshore islands of Bangladesh, an embassy statement said Friday, reports BSS.

The Philippines Ambassador, Cesar C Pastores said the money, which was to be spent for the reception, would be diverted towards the Prime Minister's Emergency Relief Fund.

Besides, the Philippines sending 17,773 kilograms of medicines for the cyclone-affected people, Pastores said.

Quiz contest postponed

A quiz competition for school students, organised by National Book Centre of Bangladesh, scheduled to be held on May 13, has been postponed due to present natural calamity, says a Press release.

Musclemen on rampage

A new trade is on in the metropolis capitalising the miseries of the cyclone battered people, reports UNB.

Some musclemen are making brisk business in the name of collecting donations to help alleviate the sufferings of the cyclone victims.

Boys aged between 15 and 20 years are found collecting money at Shantinagar, Shahbagh, Mirpur road, Agargaon crossing and other points of the city stopping their vehicles and rickshaws. Even pedestrians were not spared.

"Give us only cash", they demanded threatening the passersby.

A garment factory owner at Shantinagar area of the city, on condition of anonymity, complained that a group of youths stormed his office asking for money

The youths "well-known mastans of the area" broke the glass of his table when he gave them Tk. 100 which fell far short of their demand.

Construction of 3 more Public Libraries in cold storage

By Shahzad Monju

The construction work of three more government Public Library buildings proposed to be set up in Laxmipur, Lalmonirhat and Panchagar district headquarters is yet to begin although the project's period is going to expire in June next.

The project involving Taka 348.85 lakh was launched over a period of four years in July 1987.

Official sources said that lands to set up the libraries were purchased at the beginning of the proposed project but the construction work has not started yet.

Earlier, the authorities dropped the plan of two other libraries in Narshingdi and Shariatpur District Headquarters due to fund constraints.

In 1984 Dhaka Divisional Public Library was transformed into the Central Public Library of the country. Three other Divisional Public Libraries in Chittagong, Khulna and Rajshahi, 55 district libraries and four branch libraries were brought under the administration of the Central Public Library.

During Ershad's regime, super structure of the country's government libraries was changed but the infrastructure remained static, sources said.

Several months after seizing power in 1982 former President Hussain Muhammad Ershad had abolished Bangladesh Parishad. The parishad along with its library activities was playing a positive role in promotion of books and increase in reading habit through holding seminar, symposium and discussion meeting. Four branches of the Parishad were working in the country at that time.

Later, a Martial Law committee (Enam committee) recommended formation of a Department of Public Library under which all branches of Bangladesh Parishad would run as libraries.

Although the Dhaka Divisional Public Library became the Central Public Library, facilities like fund and power were not available in time.

The Central Public Library had earlier requested the Cultural Affairs Ministry for creating 32 posts including eight first class ones to continue its normal functioning as Headquarter but the decision of the Ministry in this regard is yet to be received.

Forty five out of 55 libraries are running in private houses. Only three district libraries at Mymensingh, Sherpur and Gazipur have their own buildings.

No library can function in a private building, the library authorities and book experts opined.

The allocated budget for the Public Libraries is Taka 1,74,75,700 for the current Fiscal Year 1990-91. This budget is not sufficient for 63 libraries in the country, authorities viewed.

According to them, only to collect a good number of books for the libraries the allocation of budget must be increased.

The system of book collection of the Public Libraries through tender is being criticised by the book publishers, authors and others who are associated with the book promotion activities.

Members of the Publishers and Sellers Association despite their differences on the policy of book imports and exports and policy on protection of publishing houses hold the view that the tender system of buying books should not continue.

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

ACROSS

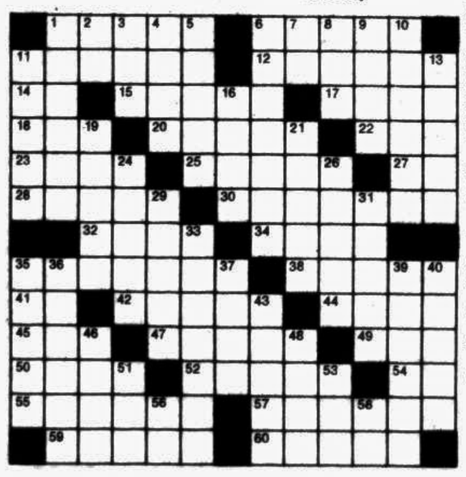
1 Throw
6 "Easy —"
11 More beautiful
12 Football team
14 Near
15 Retains
17 French resort
18 Plunge
20 Challenges
22 "— Miserables"
23 Goes astray
25 Musical sounds
27 Nilton symbol
28 Leaks through
30 Bears witness to
32 Filet of —
34 Soft drink
35 Renovate
38 "— on Sunday"
41 III x III
42 Bridges
44 Rockfish
45 G.I.'s add.
47 Bar legally
49 Excavated
50 Temporary shelter
52 Uncanny
54 Note of scale
55 "Fatal Attraction" star
57 Gladdened
59 Abounds
60 Streets marked by squalor

DOWN

1 Sarcasm
2 Roman 51
3 Irritate
4 Want
5 "The — Escape"
6 Feels indignant at
7 Negative prefix
8 Lair
9 Bad
10 Lately
11 Diminishes
13 Birds' homes
16 Malay canoe
19 Iron clothes
21 Surgical thread
24 Blemishes
26 Hebrew feast
29 Incline
31 Rescued
33 Pencil tips
35 Lasso
36 Master
37 Grafted: heraldry
39 Habituates
40 Ranted
43 Painful spots
46 Fairy-tale opener
48 Pellet
51 "— Fall Guy"
53 — de cologne
56 Printer's measure
58 Mack ID

Answer to Previous Puzzle

S	A	P	S		T	I	P		C	R	E	W
P	L	A	T		E	R	A		A	E	R	O
E	M	I	R		A	A	R		R	I	S	E
T	E	N	O	R	S		A	T	O	N	E	S
			N	E	E		D	I	M			
R	A	N	G	E	S		E	N	S	U	E	D
I	D	A								L	A	Y
A	S	P	I	R	E		T	E	R	E	T	E
			N	O	N		O	P	A			
M	A	N	T	E	L		R	I	T	T	E	R
A	L	E	E		I	S	T		H	A	R	E
D	E	E	R		S	E	E		E	L	I	A
E	N	D	S		T	A	S		R	E	E	L



Salimullah Medical College registration with UK body extended

By SSMCH Correspondent

The committee of the British General Medical Council (GMC) has extended the period of registration of Sir Salimullah Medical College for a further period of five years from 1990 to '95.

A team of senior doctors of Sir Salimullah College has also been invited together experience of medical teaching practice on the United Kingdom.

Dhaka Medical College and the Chittagong Medical College are also recognised by the General Medical Council.

CEPZ embankment work start soon

CHITTAGONG, May 10 : The construction work of coastal embankment near the Export Processing Zone (EPZ), airport and naval area, which were washed away by the cyclone, would be started soon, reports BSS.

The government wants to see the factories start their production and all possible measures including clearance of insurance claim and giving bank loan to the entreprenuers would be taken, Finance and Planning Minister Md Saifur Rahman said here today.

He was visiting the EPZ here accompanied by ERD Secretary Enam Ahmed Chowdhury, Chairman of NBR Nurul Hossain Khan and member of Planning Commission, Md. Sirajuddin.

The Finance Minister went round different factories of EPZ to see for himself the damage caused by the cyclone . He was informed that property worth of Tk about 200 crore were damaged in the EPZ.

The minister advised the factory owners to prefer constructing at least two storied building for protecting the property from the tidal surge which were being normal phenomenon in the country.

Later, the Finance Minister visited the damaged Chittagong Port where he told rehabilitation of the port, jetties ware-houses and other construction works will start immediately.

He said that immediate steps would be taken to start salvage operation of sunken vessels in the river Karnaphuly for clearing the canal for smooth navigation.

The minister appreciated the primary steps taken by the port authority and advised them to further expedite the work.

Later, the minister addressed the officials of the Chittagong customs and port authority.

Noted singers raise funds for cyclone victims

Artistes Shabnam Mustari, Simki Shams Faruki, Ferdous Ara and Bipul Bhattacharya on Friday evening rendered songs voluntarily at the open stage of Bangla Academy to raise fund for the cyclone victims, reports BSS.

In the beginning of the function, Bangla Academy Director General Prof. Mohammed Harun-ur-Rashid appealed to the people for donation for the affected people and said, "our concerted efforts will save the victims".

Singers Nilufar Yeasmin, Neena Hamid, Hasina Mumtaj, Ratna Bashak and Kalyani Gosh will render songs in the open stage of Bangla Academy today (Saturday).

Armed Forces' relief operation continues

Armed Forces' relief operations at the cyclone-hit coastal areas and off-shore islands are going on in full swing, says a ISPR Press release.

The Army personnel supplied three lakh 45 thousand pieces of ruti for the distressed people from morning till afternoon Friday. Out of these ruti, one lakh 30 thousand from Dhaka and Savar Cantonments were airdropped at different inaccessible areas. One lakh 15 thousand ruti from Chittagong Cantonment, 70 thousand from Comilla Cantonment and 30 thousand from Jessore Cantonment were sent to different destinations including Ushkhali, Sagoria, Hatia, Char Zahiruddin, Char Kukri Mukri etc, by helicopters.

Besides, Chittagong Area troops dispatched other relief materials including dry food, molasses, salt, match-boxes, medicine, and new clothes to Banskhali, Kutubdia, Sandwip, Sitakunda, Kumira and Maheshkhali areas.

Weather

Wind with hail likely

By Staff Correspondent

Rain or thundershower accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind with hail likely to occur at many places over Dhaka and Chittagong divisions and at a few places over Rajshahi and Khulna divisions. Day temperature likely to remain nearly unchanged.

Nor'wester squall warning : Nor'wester squall storm west north westerly speed 90 - 120 kilometre per hour or more likely to occur at one or two places over Dhaka division and regions of Rajshahi, Pabna, Bogra, Rangpur, Jessore, Kushtia, Noakhali, Comilla, Sylhet Chittagong Hill Tracts during next 24 hours commencing 6 p.m. on Friday .

The Sun sets today (Saturday) at 6.32 p.m. and rises on Sunday at 5.18 a.m.

Outlook for subsequent two days : Rainfall activities likely to decrease gradually. Estended outlook for another five days : Rainfall activities likely to increase.

Highest maximum temperature of 38.8 degrees Celsius was recorded at Rajshahi while lowest minimum of 18.3 degrees at Sylhet.

Temperature and humidity of some important towns and cities recorded on Friday were :

Town/Cities	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in Percentage	
	Max	Min	9 a.m.	6 p.m.
Dhaka	32.7	20.0	86	85
Rajshahi	38.8	26.6	78	58
Khulna	33.5	27.0	81	97
Barisal	31.7	23.4	82	88
Rangpur	29.6	22.9	91	80
Dinajpur	32.5	22.5	87	76
Sylhet	24.5	18.3	97	94
Satkhira	24.3	28.8	78	75

Notice Inviting Tender

Sealed cover tenders are invited in Bangladesh Form No. 2911 for the undermentioned work from enlisted 1st Class E/M Contractors of P.W.D. who possess valid ABC Contractor's license as well as supervisory license issued from Bangladesh Electricity Licensing Board. Tenders will be received in the office of the Executive Engineer, P.W.D. E/M Division-1/2/3/4/5/6/7/8, Dhaka, P.W.D. E/M Workshop and Wood Workshop Division, Dhaka and PWD Eden Building Division, Dhaka on 22-5-91 upto 12-00 Noon and the tenders will be opened on the same day at 12-30 P.M. in presence of the tenderers/ their representatives who may like to remain present.

Contract documents consisting of Bangladesh Form No. 2911, schedule of items, additional terms and conditions etc. can be seen and obtained from the office of the Executive Engineer, P.W.D.E/M Division-1/2/3/4/5/6/7/8, Dhaka, P.W.D.E/M Workshop and Wood Workshop Division, Dhaka and P.W.D. Eden Building Division, Dhaka during office hours on cash payment of usual charges (Non-refundable) upto 21-5-91. The tender forms may be purchased by the contractor himself or by his authorised representative on production of registration book.

Earnest money @ 2% of the estimated cost is to be furnished along with the tender in the form of CD/BD/PO/SDR from any scheduled bank of Bangladesh in favour of the Executive Engineer, P.W.D.E/M Division-VII, Dhaka.

Sl. No	Description of work.	Estimated cost	Earnest money	Time allowed for completion
1.	Providing partly internal Electrical Installation of Ward Block under the scheme of further development of RIHD, Dhaka.	Tk. 10,41,161/50	2% of the estimated cost.	3 (three) months

DFP (G) 5316-8/5
G-91

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER,
P.W. D. E/M Division-VII,
Dhaka.