

Dhaka Day by Day

Hugs, Not Drugs

by Fayza Haq

Ali Akbar is a young artist who has tried drugs himself and has ultimately given it up. In his exhibition at the Alliance Francaise he tried to show the ugly and evil effects of drugs in all its possible aspects. He had also brought in other social evils that plague our society, and for which there appears to be no remedy.

The themes of most of the exhibits comprised the taking of drugs. The lizard and the scorpion were used as symbols of evil. Although the drugs had been shown as decisively harmful, "I don't hate the users but I would like to teach people to learn to stop taking drugs. I want to drive home the point that they give you pleasure for a short time only and then you are back in the same rut of everyday mundane existence," the young artist explained about his work.

Ali Akbar insisted that his media was inexpensive. "It is oil on paper. I have been selling them through personal contacts and the galleries." It had cost him Tk 35,000 to have the exhibition. The Alliance helped him out with Tk 10,000 and the use of a free gallery.

The artist had planned to have the exhibition much earlier. But the political situation of the country, with the curfews and the "hartals", along with the Middle East war prevented him. By the time he went into display he included the theme of the cyclone disaster and donated a considerable amount towards the national devastation.

The 24-year old painter, who loves travelling, has been to Jeddah and has spent a year doing landscapes there. With the proceeds of his work he travelled on to Japan, Hong Kong and Bangkok, doing sketches of fascinating scenes from South East Asia. He managed to tour India as well, making interesting drawings of what he saw for two months.

The young artist learnt the basics of painting for three years at the Fine Arts Institute at Dhaka, and then branched off to do his own individual work. "Just going through the institute is not enough. The artists have to be backed by a positive patronage. Only then can art flourish in the country," was his belief.

"Addict 1" had the distorted image of a drug addict. Numerous colours were used. The image of the average everyday face was broken up, and a mosaic of colours was used. The result was decorative rather than depressing.



ADDICT

"Hanging Generation" had faces and bodies twisted beyond recognition, dangling precariously from ropes. The message was that young people have an unreliable and dangerous existence. It was neat and picturesque despite the seriousness of the intrinsic theme.

"Effect of Drugs-1" and "Effect of Drugs-2" were heaped with abstract wild chaotic colours that the drug addict envisages when he takes morphine, pathedrine, grass or Mandrax. The huge used were so bright and luminous, with vibrant reds and blues, that the paintings could easily have symbolised some other subject or theme.

The chasing of heroin was shown in actual graphic details on a piece of grey cloth in the "Torn Out Generation." The heroin and the pipe were included in the delineation. The lizard was there as the symbol of ultimate evil. A pattern of hearts was cut into the rag and this stood for the disappointment that is caused by the taking of drugs.

The painting "Drugs" had a face with an X-ray of ribs. Superimposed was the image of the pathedrine being injected. This creation, unlike most others, had a chilling impact. "Hooked by drugs" was a water colour which depicted a face with multicoloured dots and dashes. The face was distorted beyond recognition, and was considerably frightening.

Another theme that obsessed the artist was the fate of the prostitutes. Raw green had been used on the subject in "Spotted Green-1" as a symbol of nature, which, for the artist, was something pure and holy. The tortured feelings of the gay girls were shown in black and white in the backdrop. There were printed words and portraits of people in the foreground, which symbolised the empty talk and bombasts to help the wretched plight of the women. "Spotted Green-11" reflected the same feelings, only different figures, colours and angles were used.

Just as the pieces on prostitutes reminded one of the creations of G. S. Kabir, so "Astrology" brought to mind the etchings and paintings of Kalidas Karmakar. Images of footprints and handprints were combined with different colours and patterns. Morbid lizards and scorpions were very much in the scene. The artist himself admitted admiration for a much older painter, S. M. Sultan.

CAB joins campaign for smoke-free skies

By Staff Correspondent

Consumers Association of Bangladesh (CAB) will join the campaign to prohibit smoking on international airline flights, says a press release. The campaign will be launched to-day (Friday) in dozen of major cities around the world.

The CAB said in its press release it supports the call for smoke-free skies worldwide.

The goal of the smoke-free skies worldwide campaign, the press release notes, is to

demonstrate international support for a prohibition on smoking on airlines and to secure an agreement by the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) based in Montreal, Canada to set a standard for smoke-free international flights.

Twenty eight nations already prohibit smoking on some or all domestic flights and at least 51 major airlines have either partially or totally

prohibited smoking on airlines for health and safety reason.

CAB urged government to firmly support the establishment of a smoke-free standard by ICAO. The Smoke-free skies worldwide campaign is being launched in conjunction with the World Health Organisation's No Tobacco Day on May 31 this year. The day is devoted to encouraging tobacco free public places and public transportation.

Illias Chowdhury's death condoled

By Staff Correspondent

A discussion meeting was held at Banglar Bani Bhaban (building) to condole the death of Illias Ahmed Chowdhury, Chairman of the Editorial Board of the daily on Thursday. Editor Sk Fazul Karim Selim, MP presided over the meeting which was addressed, among others by Awlad Hossain, Tariq Sangkar Nandi, Dilip Chatterjee, Amir Hossain and Aziz Misir.

Friday

Morning Session
8-00 Opening and recitation from Al-Quran
8-40 News in Bangla
8-15 Cartoon film: The Yearling
8-40 Natun Kuri : Children's Programme
10-00 News in English
10-05 Documentary: Voice of the Planet
11-15 Moner Mukure
12-05 Close Down

Evening Session
3-00 Opening and recitation from Al-Quran
3-12 Recitation from the Triptitaka
3-15 Alor Dishari
3-40 Mother and Child's Health
4-10 Film : The Chronicles of Nararata
4-40 Jiban -O Projukti
5-20 News in Bengali
5-30 Sports Programme
7-05 Modhu Chanda
8-00 News in Bangla
8-40 E-Shaptaher Natak (weekly Bengali Drama)
10-00 News in English
10-30 Reports on Relief activities
10-40 Film : L.A.Law
11-30 Khabar/The News
11-45 Close down

DU degree (pass) exams from Dec 4

The Degree (Pass and Subsidiary) examinations of 1991 under Dhaka University will begin on December 4, a university press release said on Thursday, reports BSS.

The final part masters examinations (traditional system) of 1988 of the university will begin on October 29 while the first part masters examinations (traditional system) of 1989 will start on October 27.

The degree honours examinations (traditional system) of 1989 will start on October 26.

Jamaat leader among 4 missing in boat capsized

CHITTAGONG, May 30: Four persons, three of them minors, were missing when a country boat sank near Sandwip steamer ghat yesterday, reports BSS.

According to an official source here today, a country boat carrying about 30 persons sank in the Sandwip channel while it was proceeding towards a BIWTC vessel. Most of the passengers of the boat swam to safety while Pashi Dutta, (10), Priyonka, three and a half years old, Tani, one and a half years old and Dr Mustafa Baizid were missing. The three minors were the daughters of one Swapon Dutta while Dr Baizid was a local Jamaat leader.

The source said that an official inquiry committee was formed to probe the incident.

Mayor visits water-logged areas

The Mayor of Dhaka, Mirza Abbas, visited the water-logged areas of north Jatrabari, City Polli-one, WASH colony and other adjoining localities, reports BSS.

The local people complained to the Mayor that water logging was caused due to some faulty works by WASA.

He assured them that the grievances caused to the city dwellers due to water logging would be raised in the inter-ministerial meeting to be held on Saturday for finding out a solution to the problem.

PROGRAMME

Discussion on Manik Miah

By Staff Correspondent

A discussion will be held at 5 pm today (Friday) in observance of the death anniversary of Tofazzel Hossain Manik Miah, former Editor and founder of the Ittefaq, at Food and Nutrition building of Dhaka University.

Begum Selina Rahman MP, Prof Abul Kashem Fazul Huq, Advocate Abdus Salam Talukder, member Bar Council, Nazimuddin Alam, Assistant General Secretary of DUCSU and Advocate Fakaruddin, Editor, Matamat will take part in the discussion.

Uditi Club

Uditi Club will hold a special general meeting to discuss the system of formation of its new executive committee today (Friday) at 6 pm at its office, a press release said.

All members, counselors and well-wishers of the club have been requested to attend the meeting.

Death condoled

A condolence meeting was held at Bangla Academy on Thursday with its Director General Harun-ur-Rashid in the chair to mourn the death of journalist and writer Moulana Mujibur Rahman. The meeting prayed for the salvation of the departed soul and expressed sympathy to the members of the bereaved family.

Weather

Nor'wester likely

By Staff Correspondent

Light/moderate rain/shower with a few moderately heavy falls at places accompanied by temporary gusty wind/Kalbarishaki (Nor'wester) squall likely to occur at many places over Dhaka and Chittagong Divisions and at a few places over Rajshahi and Khulna Divisions. Day temperature is likely to remain nearly unchanged over the country.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Little change. Extended outlook for another five day: No marked change.

The sun sets today (Friday) at 6:42 pm and rises on Saturday at 5:11 am.

Maximum temperature of 37.0 degree Celsius was recorded at Satkhira while minimum of 22.0 degree was reported from Mymensingh and Bogra.

Temperature and humidity of some important towns on Thursday were:

Town/City	Temperature in Celsius	Humidity (%)
	Max	Min
Dhaka	33.5	24.5
Chittagong	33.8	26.5
Rajshahi	34.7	25.5
Khulna	35.5	26.7
Rangpur	29.0	23.2
Dinajpur	29.5	24.0
Barisal	32.5	22.5
Sylhet	30.2	-
Bogra	32.8	22.0
Jessore	36.2	27.0



Members of Jatiyatobadi Chhatra Dal holding a procession in city on Thursday in observance of death anniversary of Shaheed Ziaur Rahman.

SC to hear appeal on Presidential poll July 1

Around the Court

By Staff Correspondent

The Appellate Division of the Supreme Court fixed July 1 for hearing of the direct appeal preferred against the judgement of a Division Bench of the High Court Division that rejected on May 7 the writ petition of Mr. M. Saleem Ullah, Advocate seeking mandamus upon the Election Commission (EC) and the Chief Election Commissioner for holding election to the offices of President and Vice-President within 180 days ending on June 4 in term of Clause (2B) of Article 123 of the Constitution of the Republic.

The High Court Division rejected the petition but issued a certificate under Article 103(2)(a) of the Constitution as the case involved a substantial question of law as to the

interpretation of the Constitution. The High Court Division found the office of the Vice-President not to be vacant within Article 123(2B), and therefore the election for the offices of President and Vice-President will have to be held within 180 days prior to October 22, 1991, the day of the expiry of 5 years term of the President under Article 123(2) and (2A) of the Constitution not within 4.6.1991, the date of expiry of 180 days from 6.12.90 under Article 123(B) of the Constitution.

Full Court comprising Mr. Justice M H Rahman, performing the functions of the Chief Justice, Mr Justice, Mr Justice A T M Afzal, Mr Justice Mustafa Kamal and Mr Justice

Latifur Rahman fixed the date on Thursday on hearing the counsel for the petitioner and Additional Attorney General.

Mr M I Farooqui, counsel for the petitioner in his brief submission said that EC would remain under Constitutional mandate, even after the expiry of June 4, to hold election on the principle of vacancy having occurred on December 6, 1990 (when both the offices fell vacant) subject to condonation of delay by the Hon'ble Court.

Mr M I Farooqui was instructed by Mr MG Bhuiyan, Advocate-on-Record and Mr Abdul Wadud Bhuiyan, Additional Attorney General by Mr B Hossain, Advocate-on-Record.

DUCSU workshop on drama, music from tomorrow

By DU Correspondent

Dhaka University Central Students Union (DUCSU) will begin a ten-day workshop on drama, music, recitation, dance and playing of musical instrument separately from June 1.

Prominent trainers on the subjects will conduct the workshop.

One held for attempting to rob businessman

By Staff Correspondent

Shahid Ali (25) of Karaniganj was arrested on Thursday for alleged involvement to rob a businessman at a bank in the city.

While the businessman was talking to the Manager of the Bangabandhu Avenue Branch of Janta Bank he reportedly tried to take the bag containing Taka one lakh and was caught after a chase.

BIBM course concludes

A 12-day long "advanced course on bank management", organised by the Bangladesh Institute of Bank Management (BIBM) ended on Thursday, reports BSS.

The course was specially designed to increase the overall management capability of the banks by imparting training to the participants to acquire and develop necessary skills of the state of the arts of modern banking.

Fourteen officers from different banks and financial institutions attended the course, a press release said.

ABM Mahbulul Amin Khan, Director, BIBM presided over the concluding session

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G-161

Gun recovered
By Staff Correspondent
Gulshan police on Thursday recovered one country made gun.
Police challenged two rickshaw passengers near Taitala shooting range in the city. They fled leaving the gun.

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

ACROSS
1 Brag
6 Easily broken
11 Paleness
12 — to the core
14 Landed
15 Got up
17 Processed
18 Artificial language
19 Long, wearily
20 River island
21 Neon symbol
22 Soupy —
23 Cry of Bacchanals
24 Stumbled
26 Schemes
27 Declared
28 Word of sorrow
29 Not hollow
31 Sowed
34 Sign

Answer to Previous Puzzle
35 Well-grounded
36 Behold!
37 Legal matter
38 King of Jades
39 Sugar — Leonard
40 Overhead railway
41 Renovate
42 Surfeit
43 Follows first
45 Football team
47 Lock of hair
48 Challenged

DOWN
1 Having less hair
2 Mixture
3 In music, high
4 Therefore
5 Legged,
6 Toads
7 Gypsy — Lee
8 Consumed
9 That thing
10 Foreign —
11 Coloring
13 Memoranda
16 Donna or Rex
19 Savory
20 Nautical vessel
22 Country of Europe
23 African antelope
25 Small islands
26 Tartan pattern
28 Permitted
29 Painful spots
30 Egg dish
31 Peel
32 Raised the spirit of
33 Senior member of group
35 Sells
38 Chickens
39 Praise highly
41 — vs. Wade
42 Indian weight
44 Credit abbr.
46 "— Law"

