

Dhaka Day by Day

When Paintings Fail to Bring Home the Bread

by Fayza Haq

Abdul Matin Talukdar had a fascinating exhibition of watercolours at the Goethe Institut. What was eye catching and new in the display were the nudes. In the last two years the young Dhaka artists have not gone in for much figure work — and certainly not nudes — unless presented as minute sketches.

Figure 24 was a voluptuous piece, as moving as any made recently in the Subcontinent or Europe. The style was universal. Along with his favourite black the artist had used touches of brown and red to highlight his work. There was nothing shocking or vulgar about his piece. It appeared as natural as the trees and the wind that surround us. The young woman's long tresses formed a good setting for the face, breast and limbs. The curves of the body had been done with precise care and in fine details.

The paper had been crumpled after the drawing had been made in Figure 21. The artist had added colour and then opened up the paper. Here too the woman's figure was rounded and delectable as a Renoir piece. It was delightful even though viewed from the back. "I believe that if nudes merge with the background the effect is subtle," the artist added. When straightened out there were no crumples finally left on the paper. With the folds of the paper the texture that was formed added interest to the figure painting.

The artist had first done the outline with the brush in Figure 22. Sometimes the figure appeared dark and at others light. He had wetted the space of the figure with the brush before filling it with colours. Along with black the painter had used blue and green. At times he added touches of red.

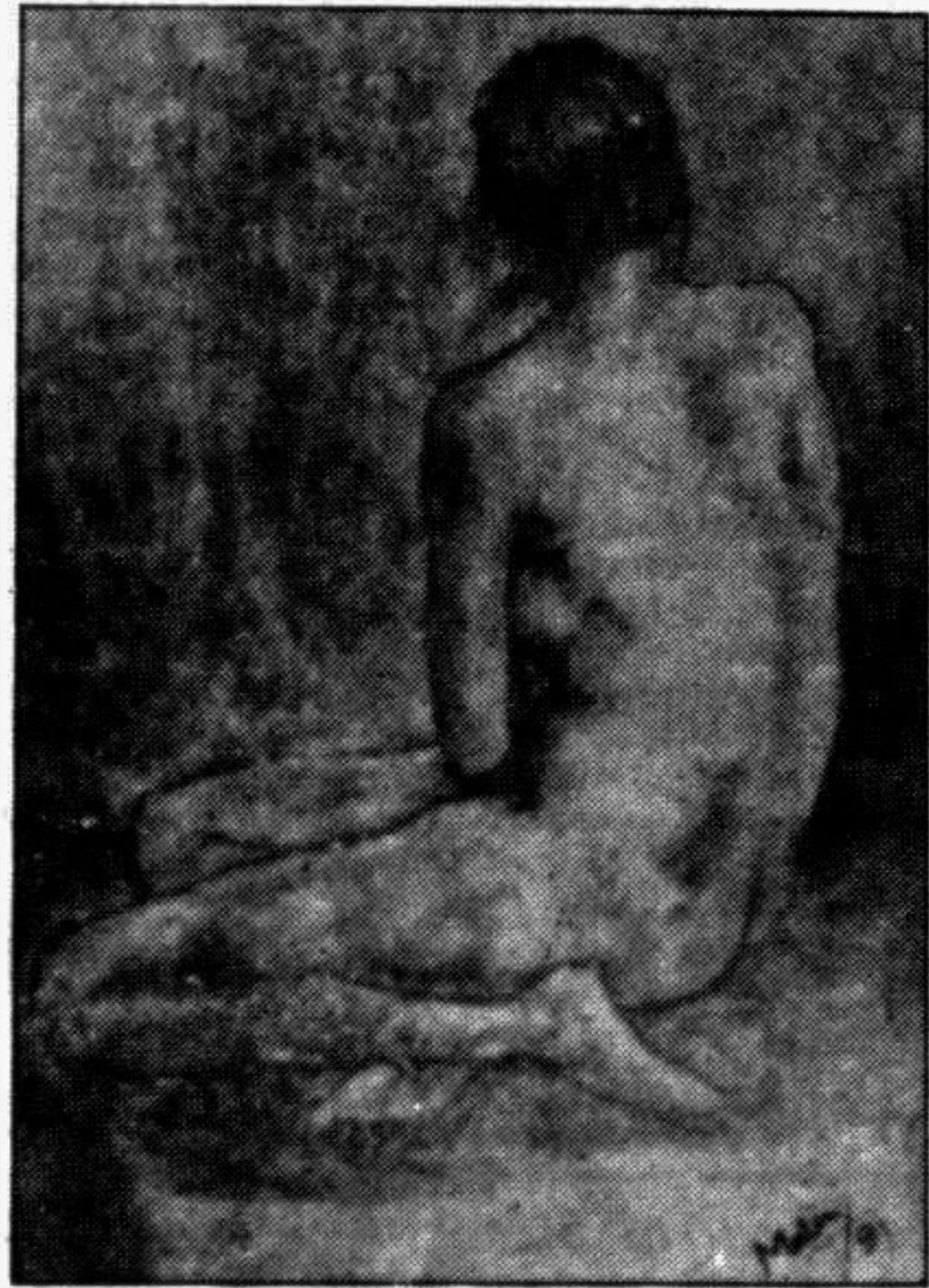


Figure Study

The face and body of the woman was completely turned away in figure 19. Yet it was perfectly delightful. "If I had kept the clothes on I would not have been able to express the beauty of the woman's body," Talukdar commented.

His "Dead Warrior" had the Liberation War in mind. The different colours in the background stood for various memories. "Dream of Freedom" showed a man lying down and indulging in flights of fancy. The human anatomy had been carefully delineated. The background had used a lot of red, blue and black.

The subject of the recent cyclone was brought into "Victims". The anguish, suffering and the despair of the cyclone had been shown with tremendous impact, although the artist had used only grey, black and yellow.

Talukdar had done many paintings of birds, flowers, and animals. The themes were nothing dramatic. The beauty lay in the fact that they were not entirely realistic. The leaves, birds and plants all had a smudged effect, which the artist had picked up from China, where he had obtained his bachelor's degree. The proportions of his flowers and birds were also unusual.

The painter prepares his material in a special way. He uses the paper he has brought back from China. A friend of his, on vacation in Dhaka, brought him 100 more pieces of this unique paper. "The trick is not to let it dry and not to move it while it is still wet. Next I apply flour and 'tuita' boiled together with a brush. I then place a paper at the back to give the original piece strength. I dry it on the wall and then cut it to size," he explained about his work.

As for colours, he has brought gallons of black paint with him, which he uses lavishly. His other paints are all foreign such as "Windsor and Newton", "Guitar" or "Panda". The artist first wets his paper with a thick Chinese brush. "When you work on the wet paper the painting has to be very swift," the artist stressed.

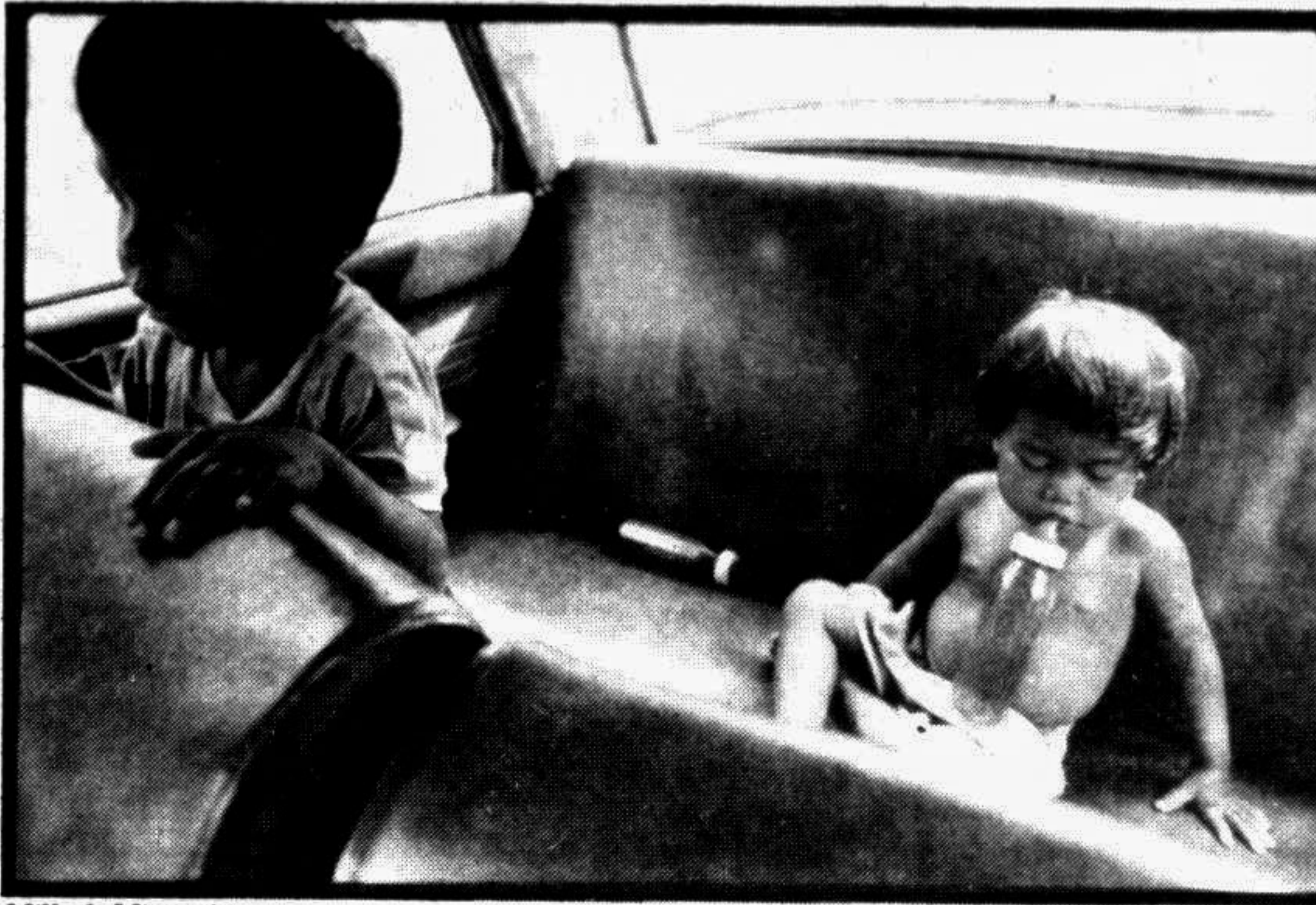
Talukdar or "Manju" as he is better known among his colleagues, hates to admit that he gains very little from his exhibits, as he feels that if he stresses too much on this, his students back in Rajshahi would get depressed and dejected, and would branch out to some commercial work that would bring quick returns.

"I am aware of the fact that painters, writers and poets in the past have had to suffer and struggle but this gives me little comfort," Talukdar commented.

Six months ago he had held another solo exhibition at the Soviet Culture Centre, but he had sold only five pieces. This time, despite Tk 10,000 spent by the Goethe Institut and Tk 8,000 which he spent himself on 500 catalogues alone, he has so far sold only two items.

There is no commercial job to be had in Rajshahi to supplement the Tk 1,500 which I get as my monthly salary. And that pay too is not regular. Since I have to rely on my father for a living, it is not easy at my age. My parents are constantly arguing with me to abandon this Fine Arts job and go in for something steady and paying," Talukdar confided with tremendous regret.

It would be a pity if artists with talent took to abandoning the country or took refuge in commercial work.



Milk & Migration

— the prize-winning photo

FM visits Moscow July 9

Possibility of garments exports may be explored

Foreign Minister ASM Mostafizur Rahman will pay a four-day official visit to the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) from July 9. It was officially announced in Dhaka on Monday, reports UNB.

The visit will take place at the invitation of the Soviet Foreign Minister A A Bessmertnyh.

Mustafiz, during his stay in Moscow, will discuss with his Soviet counterpart and other officials, matters relating to bilateral interests, particularly expansion of trade and economic cooperation, said a senior official of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

They will also exchange views on regional and international issues of common concern.

Additional Foreign Secretary A H Mahmood Ali told UNB that there exists a good market for Bangladeshi goods, specially garments in the Soviet Union.

Signed in the Soviet capital last year, the 19th Barter protocol, set trade target at 14 million pound sterling each way.

Bangladesh exports jute, jute goods, tea, leather, skins and garments to the USSR and mainly imports machinery and equipment from that country.

The balance of trade is in favour of Bangladesh.

Soviet Union provided assistance in establishing Ghorasal Thermal Power Station and G E M Plant in Chittagong.

The last high level visit took place in 1987 when the Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Rogachev visited Dhaka.

UZ Chairmen rally in city July 7

By Staff Correspondent

Bangladesh Upazila Parishad Chairman Samity on Monday ended its three-day protest meetings and demonstrations which were started all over the country from June 15 in protest against the government move to abolish the posts of Upazila Chairmen.

The samity decided to hold a grand rally of Upazila Chairmen in the city on July 7. Speakers in the protest meetings said that it would be an undemocratic move if the Chairmen who were elected by people are removed from their legal positions.

Awarded PhD

Begum Selima Khaleque, lecturer of Bengali, Adamjee Cantonment College, Dhaka, has been awarded the degree of Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D) of the University of Dhaka recently for her thesis entitled "Jasim Uddin-e Kabita: Alankar O Chitrakalpa (Rhetoric and Images in the Poems of Poet Jasim Uddin)."

Dr Mohammad Moniruzzaman, Professor and former Chairman of the Department of Bengali, Dhaka University, was her research supervisor. This is for the first time that research was undertaken on the Rhetoric and Images of Poet Jasim Uddin.

Dr Begum Selima is the wife of M A Khaleque Bhuiyan, Director Public Relations and Publications, Bangladesh T&T Board.

Parties patronise hooligans: CPB

By Staff Correspondent

Saifuddin Ahmed Manik, General Secretary of Communist Party on Monday criticised the budget placed by Finance Minister terming it as "Ershad style budget".

He said this budget would deteriorate living standard of people as it was what he prescribed by World Bank and other donor countries.

He was addressing a rally in front of its central office in the city on Monday organised on the occasion of 'demand day' of the party. Manik also demanded implementation of joint declaration of three alliances to establish an accountable government.

Demanding autonomy of television and radio he stressed the need for bringing back normalcy in the educational institutions.

Manik said terrorist activities by armed hooligans under the patronisation of different political parties should be stopped immediately.

The rally presided over by Maniruzzaman, General Secretary, Dhaka City Unit and it was also addressed by Habibuddin. Later a procession of the party paraded the city streets.

Hindu Parishad hails budget

Bangladesh Jatiya Hindu Parishad Monday hailed the national budget and said it was a pragmatic one in consideration of the present socio-economic and political situation, reports BSS.

President of the organisation Prem Ranjan Dev and Vice President Sudhin Roy Narayan in a joint statement said the expectation of the people was more on the present democratic government and the budget had shown positive direction in materialising the democratic spirit of the people.

Separate jails for convicts, under trial prisoners

The Government is considering the proposals for the construction of a prison for the convicted and security prisoners at Kashipur in Gazipur and another prison for the under trial prisoners at Tegbaria under Keraniganj Upazila in Dhaka by shifting the Dhaka Central Jail in those two places, Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia told Parliament on Monday, reports BSS.

Replying to a question from Mansur Ahmed (Al-Satkhira) Begum Khaleda Zia, who is also

in charge of the Home Ministry said the proposals would be implemented subject to the availability of necessary fund.

Answering a supplementary, the Prime Minister said the government also had in mind building a special prison for the political prisoners.

Replying to a supplementary from Workers Party leader Rashed Khan Menon on whether the present Dhaka Central Jail where leaders like Moulana Bhasani, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and many others had spent long times while fighting for the cause of the people would be converted into a museum, the Prime Minister said a decision on the issue would be taken by all parties together.



Death anniversary

The 10th anniversary of the death of Dr Muhammad Belayet Hossain a physician of Pabna will be held tomorrow (Wednesday).

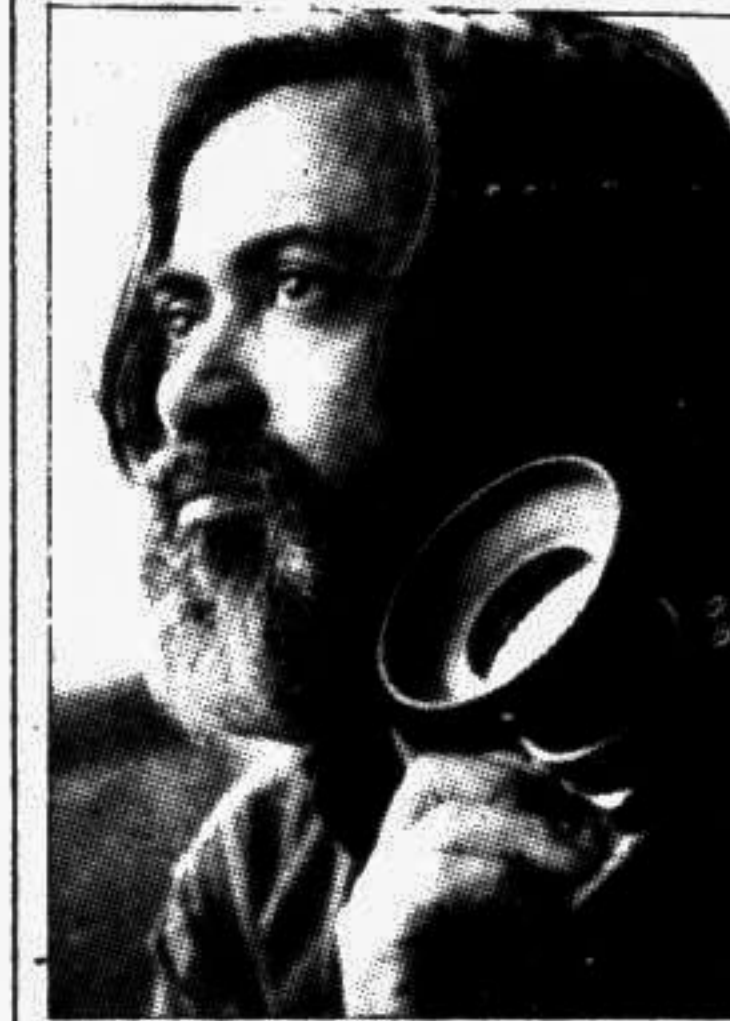
Dr Belayet Hossain obtained DTM from All-India Institute of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, Calcutta in 1936. He served as District Health Officer, Pabna. He was also an instructor of Public Health in the erst-while Village Aid Institute and National Development and Training Institute from where he retired in 1962.

A day-long programme includes Khatm-e-Quran, Milad Mahfil and a discussion meeting on the life and activities of Dr Belayet Hossain and feeding of the destitutes will also be held at his Sadhupara residence at Pabna while Khatm-e-Quran and Milad Mahfil will be held at the residence of his 2nd son Hossain Komol, Chief Sub-Editor of the Bangladesh Times at 10/C Begunbagicha, Dhaka, after Asr prayers.

Anwar Hossain bags gold for photography

Eminent Bangladeshi photographer Anwar Hossain has received the prestigious VFF gold medal in the VBF International Salon of Photography in Belgium recently.

He has been awarded this rare honour for his black and white photograph "Milk & migration, Malaysia" symbolising the eternal pain of Third World children. More than 200 eminent photographers from 25 countries participated in this exhibition.



Anwar Hossain

It is worth mentioning here that this is the 51st international award for Anwar Hossain, who is the Secy. Gen of Bangladesh Federation of Photography as well as the Vice-President of the Federation of Film Societies. Photo-artist Anwar Hossain has also been recently honoured for his photo-book "a journey through Bangladesh" and his contributions to world photography with the coveted titles ARPS from UK and AFIAP from Belgium and ASIIPC from India.

Fake Lt Col arrested

By Staff Correspondent

A fake Lt. Col was arrested on Saturday from a video shop in Rampura.

One Kewas Hossain came to a video shop at 356, East Rampura and wanted to hire a VCR by introducing him as a Lt Col.

Panther
The trusted condom of the dependable man



National Broadcasting Authority

Radio Wing

121, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue Dhaka-1000

SHORT TENDER NOTICE

Tender No	Description of Work	Price of Tender Form (non-refundable)	Earnest Money	Last date of receiving Tender
NBA/E-2/Radio/91-	(1) Construction of 2 collapsible gates — One at the main gate of the Principal building and one at the north face of corridor on first floor. (2) Extension of the southern wall of the main gate and construction of grille door including verandah. (3) Repair of 2 main gates.	Tk 50/- (fifty)	Total tender	27-6-91

The above tender will be received by the undersigned on the above mentioned date up to 10-30 (ten thirty) minutes and the tenders will be opened on the same day at 11-30 (eleven thirty) minutes in presence (if any) of the tenderers.

The prescribed tender form may be collected by depositing Tk 50/- (Taka fifty) through Treasury Challan under head "40— Radio, Information and Publication (Au - 34) Ka - Radio Miscellaneous Receipt 1990-91" and submitting the Treasury Challan to the undersigned everyday during office hours. No tender form will be sold on the date of opening of tender.

The authority reserves the right to accept or reject any tender or accept or reject part of any tender or all the tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever. No tender form will be sold or received by post.

DFP (G)-7157-13/6 G-234

Md Mafizur Rahman Regional Engineer for Director General

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

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- Japanese railway
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- Spoken
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ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

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- Wild hogs
- Military student
- Native of Scotland
- Mountains of Europe
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- Murphy of 11 Down
- Capital of Latvia
- Electrified service
- Wary
- Encountered
- Fragments
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- Domesticated
- Aqua, navy or royal
- March
- Veneration
- Openwork fabric
- Soak up
- Springfield's
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