

# Dhaka Day by Day

## Flights of Fancy in Steel and Brass

by Fayza Haq

The recent exhibition of Hamiduzzaman Khan at "La Galerie," Banani, convinces you that there are artists and thinkers in Dhaka who are very much abreast with what is happening in the rest of the world. Seeing his modern metal creations you would think you are in New York or Paris.

Everyone in the city is acquainted with Hamiduzzaman's "Mishuk" that decorates the traffic island at Shahbag point. The sculptor who has worked in metal, stone, plaster and cement, has many of his creations scattered on the grass behind the Sculpture Department building.

Hamiduzzaman won the Best Sculptor Award in 1976 in the National Sculpture Exhibition at the Shilpakala Academy. Later his work was taken to decorate the Olympic Park in Seoul in connection with the World Olympic Games at Seoul. Among his admirable achievements is "Sangsaptak", a memorial to the Liberation War at the Jahangirnagar University Campus. "The Family of Birds", made of brass sheet and pipe, stands at the Bangabhaban while "Attack" is found in Jalalabad Cantonment. "Muktijuddha" is found in the Bangla Academy premises while "Jagrotto Bangla" has been put in the Zia Fertilizer Factory.

Besides these, his sketches have been collected by the World Bank headquarters, Washington DC.

The sculptor, who is known for his dramatic designs, flawless execution, and his accent on dynamism, is renowned for the economy of his composition, straight vertical lines and overwhelming curves. His sculpture pieces blend well with nature and the surrounding scenario of his work.

The artist had begun his career as a painter. He worked in oil, watercolour and experimented with local dyes and pigments. Hamid got involved in a road accident for which he had to go to England for treatment. On his way to UK his ship stopped at Cape Town and Dakar, where he got down to study African sculpture. Later in England he had ample scope to learn about the world masters. While doing his higher education at Baroda, India, Hamid was also captivated by Indian sculpture.

Hamid, however, has not given up his first love, painting. Although this remains somewhat unremarkable, or at least not of the standard of his sculpture, yet his style is distinctive and his own. His canvases are small but if you concentrate on them you are struck by the same quality as you find in his sculpture. They are undoubtedly neat and bold.

Hamid's "Composition in Brass" is one main tube with other pipes leading away from it, as if growing out of it. The concept of a growing tree or a developing movement is the thought behind the structure. Cubes are found throughout this piece, and Hamid says he is in-

spired by the square thatched roofs of our villages. The cubes meet at a point. For the artist this symbolises eternity. "I find tremendous power in cubes. They are to be found in mosques and temples too," the sculptor believes.

"Movement 31" is of steel. Hamid would have liked it to be 25 feet high and to be used in a plaza. "The diversity and power of the pattern, taken once again from a cube, can best be appreciated when the sun, wind and rain play on the massive geometrical structure," he comments. About "Movement 30", the sculptor says: "If it were 20 feet big only then would the inner energy have been appreciated." To an average viewer this looks like a large massive bird in the abstract. It recalls modern Japanese sculpture, which Hamid admires so much.

"Movement 32", in cement, is extremely simple to view and reminds you of the Stonehenge. It has two colours, pink and white, to enhance the form. "I wanted to show how the surface can be changed. If I could have enlarged this I could play on the texture," says Hamid.

"Cube 37" is an interesting creation with steel plates which are held together to give the impression of a massive apple. Cubes go in with the curves to complete the figure. The geometrical pattern in the centre is there to break the rounded effect. "I hope I can give lyrical feelings to my metal creations. For three years I have been experimenting with pure form. I dream of making my next exhibition on a much larger scale and having it in a garden," Hamid confides.

While the main theme of the exhibition is expression of line and form, in "Couple" the artist has brought in male and female figures, shown with the stark simplicity of African art. "Blue image" in mixed media, has swirls, squiggles, and zigzagging lines in blue and red. "I have tried to play with colours as a child would," the artist comments.

"Composition 21" which is once again a mixed media, appears to be a piling of wooden planks. The play is on lines and shapes. Horizontal and vertical lines, in simple black and white fill the sheet in "Composition 16". "The stress is on the flow of the lines," the painter elaborates.

"Shimmering Forms-2" has the subject of light dancing on water. The artist has used four separate canvases and pieced them together. The subject is further split into countless tiny cubes in shades of blue and white.

Commenting on the life of an artist, Hamid says he is glad to have a regular job as a teacher as well as free living quarters. More important than anything else, he is lucky enough to have a wife who is an artist too, and does not think he is eccentric when he indulges in his flights of fancy in his metal creations.



Movement, Brass

## Air, Navy chiefs decorated with rank badges

Chief of Naval Staff Rear Admiral Muhammad Muhaiminul Islam NCC BN and Chief of Air Staff Air Vice Marshal Altaf Hussain Choudhury NDU PSC were decorated with their rank-badges at a simple ceremony at the supreme command headquarters in Dhaka on Wednesday morning, reports BSS.

Acting President and Supreme Commander of the armed forces Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed was present on the occasion.

Chief of Army Staff Lt Gen Muhammad Noor Uddin Khan and the Air Chief decorated the rank-badges to Rear Admiral Muhammad Muhaiminul Islam while Air Vice Marshal Altaf Hussain Choudhury was decorated with the badges by the army and the navy chiefs.

The Chief of Naval Staff and Chief of Air Staff were promoted to the rank of Rear Admiral and Air Vice Marshal respectively with effect from Tuesday.

Acting PSO to the Supreme Commander Brig M S A Bhuiyan was present.

Later chiefs of three services called on the Acting President and stayed with him for some time.



## PROGRAMME Shilpakala Academy workshop

Certificate giving ceremony of a week-long workshop on "Acting and Direction" arranged by the Shilpakala Academy will be held today (Thursday) its auditorium at 7 pm.

The first Director General of the Academy and a renowned educationist Dr. Mustafa Nur-ul Islam will attend the ceremony as chief guest and distribute certificates among the participants.

A programme on the workshop will also be staged after the prize distribution ceremony, said a press release.

## Rotary Club

The 19th regular weekly meeting of the Rotary Club of Uttara will be held today (Thursday) at 5-15 pm at "Chiling Restaurant," Sector-4, Uttara, Dhaka. Asif Selim will speak on "Higher Studies in USA."

## CPB seminar

The Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) has organised a seminar on "Reality of national economy and the proposed budget" to be held at the Engineers Institute auditorium in Dhaka at 5 pm today, reports UNB.

Those who will take part in the discussion include Dr. Muzaffar Ahmed, Dr. Abdul Gafur, Dr. Wahiduddin Mahmud, Dr. Dev Pray Bhattacharya and M M Akash.

They are expected to discuss the pros and cons of the recently announced national budget for the next fiscal in the light of current economic situation in the country.

## Diabetic Assoc team leaves for Washington

A five-member delegation from Bangladesh Diabetic Association has left for Washington to participate in the 14th international diabetic conference beginning June 23, reports UNB.

Sponsored by the International Diabetic Federation, the delegation is led by founder member and medical director of Comilla Diabetic Association Dr Zobeida Hannan.

proforma. He also instructed them to make proper utilisation of merit and manpower of Water Development Board in designing projects.

State Minister for Irrigation Ansar Ali Siddique, Secretary of Irrigation Ministry, M A Malik, Chairman of Water Development Board Dr ATM Shamsul Huda and the representative of Planning Commission and External Resources Division also spoke in the meeting.

## Mustafiz accredited to Finland

The government has decided to concurrently accredit Ambassador Mustafizur Rahman, at present Ambassador of Bangladesh to USSR, as Ambassador of Bangladesh to Finland, a foreign office press release said in Dhaka on Wednesday.

## Weather

### Gusty wind likely

By Staff Correspondent

Weather forecast valid till 6 pm (Thursday) says rain or thundershower with a few moderately heavy falls accompanied by gusty wind likely to occur at most places over Chittagong and Khulna divisions and at many places over Dhaka and Rajshahi divisions. Day temperature is likely to rise by one to two degree Celsius over the century.

Heavy rainfall warning: Heavy to very heavy falls likely to occur at one or two places over Khulna and Chittagong divisions during the next 36 hours.

Meanwhile, rain or thundershower occurred at most places over the country on Wednesday. Chief amount of rainfall recorded are: Cox's Bazar 6 cm, Chittagong 5 cm, Barisal, Bhola 4 cm each, Dhaka 1 cm.

Day temperature fell by two to six degree Celsius over the country except Comilla, Sylhet, Rangpur, Chittagong, Dinajpur, Bogra where it remained unchanged.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Little Change. Extended outlook for another five days: Rainfall activities likely to decrease in the southern area.

The temperature and humidity of some cities on Wednesday are:

City	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity	
	Max	Min	9 am	6 pm
Dhaka	31.2	24.4	77	85
Chittagong	30.5	24	87	94
Rangpur	31	x	84	73
Sylhet	28.7	22.5	97	89
Khulna	33.7	23.2	73	x
Jessore	33.6	22.2	x	x
Cox's Bazar	29.8	22.5	91	86
Rajshahi	32.8	22.5	89	x



Fourth class employees of Government brought out a procession in city on Wednesday demanding implementation of Pay Commission report. — Star photo

## Tk 1.37cr phone bills lying arrear with 215 ex-Ministers, MPs

Star Economic Report

Telephone bills amounting to over Tk 1.37 crore are lying as arrear with 215 former ministers and Members of Parliament (MPs) for the period 1986-1990.

Sate Minister for Telecommunications Md Shamsul Islam told the House replying to a question of Jamal Abidin Faruq of BNP on Wednesday.

The major defaulters among the former Minister and MPs Rezwanaul Haq Chowdhury - Tk 5 lakh, Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury - Tk 4.90 lakh, TIM Fazle Rabbi - Tk 4.38 lakh, ATM Wali Ashraf - Tk 4.25 lakh, Ibrahim Bin Khalil - Tk 4.24 lakh, Dewan Nurunnabi - Tk 4.12 lakh, A. T. M. Giasuddin - Tk 4.10 lakh, Didarul Alam Chowdhury - Tk 3.64 lakh, A. K. M. Alimullah - Tk 3.54 lakh and Hafizur Rahman - Tk 3.77 lakh.

This amount is excess of Tk 30,000 fixed for annual telephone allowance given to each telephone subscriber with rank and status of Ministers and MPs.

Replying to another question of Nurul Islam Moni, State

Minister Shamsul Islam said the number of applicants for telephone lines was nearly one lakh 22 thousand till April this year.

He said new connections could not be given due to lack of exchange capacity.

In Dhaka alone, the Minister said, about 50 per cent of 26,000 digital lines were installed so far. The remaining lines are expected to be given by June, 1992.

At present, the number of telephone subscribers in the country is 2,15,677. Replying to another question of Nurul Islam Moni, the Minister said the government has reduced installation and transfer charges of telephone lines.

The installation charge of digital telephones had been reduced to Taka 20,000 from Taka 30,000. He said the installation charge for analogue ISD telephone had been brought down to Taka 40,000 from Taka 75,000 and that of digital ISD telephone to Taka 50,000 from Taka 1,00,000.

He said the shifting charge

for both analogue and digital telephones has been reduced to Taka 2,500 from Taka 5,500. He said the Government had no plans at the moment to cut down the charge of phone calls.

In reply to a supplementary question from Chief Whip of the Government party Delwar Hossain, the State Minister said there was a possibility to extend the digital telephone line to the old part of the capital city. He said the matter will be considered if and when anyone wants digital telephone from that area.

He said steps are being taken to stop the calls for wrong numbers entailing the subscribers extra bill for it.

He said the Government would see to it that telephone bills are issued every month regularly.

## Saifur explains budget proposal to BNP MPs

By Staff Correspondent

The BNP Parliamentary Party yesterday discussed the budget proposal of Finance Minister Saifur Rahman in a meeting held at the Committee Room No. One of Parliament House.

Finance Minister Saifur Rahman clarified the budget before the parliament members and highlighted the positive points of the budget including the measures regarding tax proposals.

Among other things the import duty on soyabean was also discussed. In the proposed budget the import duty on soyabean has been increased from 38 per cent to 40 per cent.

The Finance Minister made it clear that on the other hand the sale tax on soyabean would be reduced with the introduction of the Value Added Tax (VAT), which would come down to 15 per cent from the existing 20 per cent.

As such, he added, the price of soyabean should decline by three per cent.

He further said that the tariff on electricity would not be increased owing to the rise in the excise duty on gas by five per cent. He said that the energy ministry would contain the increase in the production cost of electricity.

## 9 businessmen arrested

A mobile court of Bangladesh Standard and Training Institution has arrested nine businessmen and realised fines from two others on charges of adulteration and cheat in weighting in different city markets, a press release of the institution said in Dhaka Wednesday, reports BSS.

The court conducted the drive in the market areas of Kotwali and Lalbag thanas Tuesday, the press release said.

Directorate of Defence Purchase  
Ministry of Defence  
New Airport Road  
Tejgaon, Dhaka-15

## TENDER NOTICE

1. Sealed tenders from bonafide manufacturers/suppliers (not necessarily to be enlisted in DGDP) are hereby invited for the purchase of the following items in local currency for the Bangladesh Army.

- (A) Empty oxygen cylinder 100 cft (2.83 cubic metre)-30 (thirty).
- (B) Empty oxygen cylinder 200 cft (5.66 cubic metre)- 140 (one hundred forty).
- (C) Empty acetylene cylinder 100 cft (2.83 cubic metre)- 170 (one hundred and seventy).
- (D) Empty nitrogen cylinder 200 cft (5.66 cubic metre)- 65 (sixty-five)

(2) The said tender will be opened at 10 a. m. on 31st July, 1991. Tender schedule with necessary terms and conditions may be obtained during office time (0830 to 1 p.m.) up to July 25, '91.

ISPR-37 (Miscellaneous) 732  
DFP (G) 7183-15/6  
G-242

Major  
On behalf of Director General

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## Science fair at St Joseph High School

The three-day annual science fair and arts exhibition of St Joseph High School began Wednesday at the School premises amid much enthusiasm, reports BSS.

Simultaneously, a competition of scrap book on "Rajiv Gandhi", "April 29 devastating cyclone and tidal surge" and "the recent Gulf war" was also arranged.

The exhibition and fair was formally inaugurated by Brother John Rozario CSC, Head Master and General Supervisor of the fair at a colourful ceremony.

Atomic Energy Commission Chairman Dr M A Manjan will be present as chief guest on the prize distribution ceremony to be held at 5-30 pm on Friday.

## BUET students union polls July 18

Elections to the Central Students Union and Hall Unions of the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) will be held on July 18, reports UNB.

Students in possession of valid identity cards will be eligible to cast their votes, said a BUET press release.

## CROSSWORD PUZZLER

ACROSS

- 1 Footwear
- 5 Burden
- 9 Ocean
- 12 Verse
- 13 Sippy - Lee
- 14 Priest's vestment
- 15 Equally
- 16 Unfasten
- 18 Armed conflict
- 20 Father
- 22 Actress
- 24 French resort
- 27 Transfixes
- 29 Lease
- 31 Boston Red

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

DIE	REAP	PUB
TROT	EASE	ELA
OE	ALP	KEEPER
WAN	EEL	LOP
SMEE	LAP	NESS
YAD	TEA	RUE
AL	REPEATS	PE
SEA	WAR	EAT
HATS	NAG	WALL
TOP	LOW	BEA
TREBLE	AES	AM
HUN	ARIL	HONE
END	TANS	ENS

DOWN

- 1 Health resort
- 2 Entertaining generously
- 3 Faroe Islands whirlwind
- 4 Large rightness
- 5 bird
- 6 Command
- 7 "Just the Ten of --"
- 8 Stitch
- 9 Hindu garments
- 10 Spanish
- 11 Hebrew month
- 17 New Testament abbr.
- 19 Article
- 21 One opposed
- 23 Break suddenly
- 25 Musical instrument
- 26 Intemperance
- 27 Oral conference
- 28 Band worn around waist
- 30 Sour
- 32 Disturbance
- 35 Unusual
- 38 Tidy
- 40 Kind of tide
- 43 Weaken by sudden exertion
- 45 Kind of beer
- 46 -- with: takes the part of
- 51 Sun god
- 52 Greek letter
- 56 Burning --
- 58 Hindu cymbals
- 60 -- Daneon
- 61 "The Duke's Hazard"
- 62 Greek letter
- 64 Irish ID
- 66 O'Connor ID

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33
34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44
45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55
56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66
67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77