

Dhaka Day by Day

Feeling the Pulse Through Abstracts

by Fayza Haq



Nilufar Ahmed at one of her painting exhibitions in Tokyo.

SHE does not have a wisp of hair out of place or a tiny fold of her delicate "sari" out of position when she serves you morning tea. But being an impeccable hostess, a devoted mother and an affectionate wife is not all there is to Nilufar Ahmed. She has 200 paintings to her credit.

Nilufar's creations are not the naive work of simply a self-taught housewife. She has studied at the Karachi Art Institute, and then attended painting classes at St. Joseph's School. When her husband, who is a well known banker, was posted in London, she went to Chelsea College in '79, and Morley College in '80. There she specialised in drawing, sculpture, and casting in plaster, resin, glassfibre, cement and wax.

As she travelled to Washington D.C. and to Japan with her husband, her horizons widened and she indulged in bolder experiments. Nilufar, who started her career in '56 now concentrates on abstracts in oil, acrylic, and spray painting.

Does she believe that the average viewer in Bangladesh can appreciate abstracts? Nilufar feels that if you contemplate on any subject matter deeply, you are bound to understand and appreciate it. She insists that more can be expressed in abstracts and symbolisms than in realistic works. "Abstracts convey more than realisms can ever do. This is specially so when you have a political theme. Zainul Abedin became famous because he criticised the British government's action. What he portrayed was famine in his poignant sketches. He pointed out that the situation in Bengal was just not a case of shortage of food.

"Similarly there is a hidden meaning behind Amrul Hasan's last painting 'Desh Aaj Biswa Behar Khoporey' which had a snake, a fox and the face of a man who was the victim of autocracy. Picasso's 'Three Musicians' and the 'Girl Before the Mirror' again depicted more than what you could visually locate. The days of realism are on the wane. People expect and deserve the depth that symbolisms and abstracts can give them," Nilufar commented.

Talking about the condition of art in Bangladesh she said, "The number of painters are certainly increasing and people show more interest in their work than before. Since the time Zainul Abedin began the Art College, there has been considerable improvement on the state of art."

The artist does not work regular hours but paints or sculpts as the mood takes her. She often starts work at about 11 pm and works for hours into the night. She felt that was the time that she could best concentrate.

Nilufar had the first exhibition of her works at the Nazrul Academy, Karachi, in '56. This was a group show. She had something more

ambitious at the Cathy Gallery in Washington D.C. in '82. She had her second solo exhibition in the same city in '84. She next participated in two group shows in Tokyo in '87 at Gallery Centrepoint. In '88 she sailed into her solo venture at the United Nation's Gallery in New York. She exhibited her works for the first time in Bangladesh in '88.

Although she lives in Washington, she had specimens of her work at her residence in Gulshan, where she holidays occasionally. Her "Beginning of Life" in oil symbolised the emergence of anything new such as the birth of Bangladesh. The strips of silver in the painting reminded you of the naval chord. The use of red and black brought in the image of birth all the blood and pain.

A specimen of her work from Tokyo was "Rhythm" which was spray painting on Oshi paper. The harmony of the pink and black lines against the grey was soothing and decorative, like most of the artist's other works.

Scattered leaves of roses went in to form "Joy", another abstraction on canvas. It could well have been a cloud of pink feathers. The product was obviously the work of a contented person.

"Ullash" had Nazrul's famous words "Aaj srishit shukher ulashy" in the background in grey. Otherwise the painting was an abstraction of black, blue, and grey dots, lines and squiggles.

"Rising of Japan" had been done on three separate canvases. The red circle symbolised the successful nation. The bright colour used in the adjacent canvases also represented prosperity. The multicolours used stood for the various aspects of life.

Another interesting piece was her "Horizon From The Window" which brought in triangular geometrical forms. They represented trees, birds, aeroplanes and many other objects. Thus a view from the window gave you access into infinity.

Nilufar had some absorbing calligraphy and sculpture too in her house. She is also an expert in Ikebana.

She has used one of her paintings "Dogwood" to decorate the cover of her son's wedding invitation card.

Despite her frequent and long absences from the country, she manages to run a handicraft school in Shantinagar called "Uddyam" where 50 students are taught screenprinting, blockprinting, cutting and sewing. She hopes to expand it when she comes to Bangladesh for good.

The artist has two children, Ramina, who is a computer expert in USA and Ruben, who is a banker in Abu Dhabi.

What's on Today & Tomorrow

Seminar on Constitution

The visiting Colombo University teacher Adristina will address a seminar on 'the contemporary constitutional flourishing' at the Central Law College in the city today (Tuesday) at 4.30 pm.

The seminar will be organised jointly by the South Asian Law Teachers' Association and the Asia Foundation.

Dr Z I Chowdhury President, Bangladesh Law Teachers' Association requests all concerned to attend the seminar.

Govt employees' meet

The National Working Committee of Bangladesh Government Employees' Combined Council will hold a meeting at the council's office at the Bangladesh secretariat today (Tuesday) at 4.30 pm.

The meeting will discuss its three-point demand and future course of action.

Eid-reunion

Anuprash, an organisation of the poets, will arrange an Eid-reunion today (Tuesday) at 3 pm at the House No 3, Sector No 7 of Uttara residential area in the city.

All the members of the organisation have been requested to attend the programme.

Chhatra Union

The Dhaka University unit of Bangladesh Chhatra Union will hold a meeting at the university's Madhu's Canteen tomorrow (Wednesday) at 4.30 pm.

The meeting will discuss the prevailing campus situation and its next course of action. — NA

Hearing on presidential polls adjourned for 4 weeks

By Supreme Court Correspondent

The hearing of appeal against rejection of writ for presidential polls was adjourned for four weeks on the prayer of Additional Attorney General by the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court on Monday.

The petitioner, Salimullah filed a writ petition alleging that the election to the post of the President and Vice-President must be held under the constitutional mandate within 180 days commencing from December 6, 1990 when both the offices of the President and Vice President fell vacant.

A Division Bench of the High Court Division rejected the plea summarily on May 7 but issued the certificate as prayed for under Article 102 (2A) of the Constitution.

M I Farooqui assisted by M G Bhuiyan, advocate on record, appeared for the appellant while Abdul Wadud Bhuiyan, Additional Attorney General assisted by B Hossain, advocate on record, appeared for the Election Commission.

Seminar on Budget July 10, 11

By Staff Correspondent

A seminar on 'Budget '91' organised by the Jatiya Bitarka Mancha will now be held on July 10 and 11 instead of earlier schedule of July 2 and 3, a press release of the organisation Monday night said.

Venue of the two-day seminar would remain unchanged at the Teacher-Student Centre of the Dhaka University.

Barrister Amirul Islam, Dr Selim Jahan of the DU, Dr Debaprio Bhattacharjee of the BIDS and journalist Najimuddin Mastan will present papers at the seminar.

Hasina visits Iqbal Sobhan

Chief of Awami League and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina Monday visited Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury, a former President of Dhaka Union of Journalists who was injured in a road accident recently, at his Ring Road residence in Dhaka, reports BSS.

She was accompanied by the Editor of the Dainik Al-Amin, Alhaj Mohammad Moqbul Hossain.

Import policy realistic: BCI

Star Economic Report

Bangladesh Chamber of Industries on Monday termed the import policy for 1991-92 as 'realistic' and 'encouraging.'

While expressing its initial reaction to the biennial import policy for 1991-92, the BCI members at a meeting with A M Subid Ali, President of the chamber in the chair, observed that allocation of 55 per cent of the fund to industries, withdrawal of the ceiling for importing capital machinery upto Tk 10 lakh and withdrawal of the rules to take permission from the office of the chief controller imports and exports for importing old and reconditioned machinery worth Taka 35 lakh were welcome. This will help encourage the investors.

The BCI members, however alleged that the sufferings of the people would increase because of the "discriminatory" treatment under the policy for powdered milk, imported in tin container and in poly-thene bag. This will raise the price hike of tinned powder, the BCI feared.

The BCI President expressed its concern over the import of finished goods saying that it was not desirable to import the goods which were produced in the country in inadequate quantity.

N'ganj Chamber

Narayananj Chamber of Commerce and Industry President Alhaj Md Fazlur Rahman in a statement on Monday hailed the import policy as pragmatic.

He commanded the policy for procedural simplification giving incentive to the new entrepreneurs, reducing different kinds of fees, and withdrawal of quota on the import of old clothes.

He also lauded the steps announced under the policy to create a fund from a portion of duty imposed on powder milk to import quality milking cows for distribution of the same among the farmers without interest and on easy terms. This, he said, will help develop the country's livestock sector.

Tk 950.66 cr earned from fish export

State Minister for Fisheries Abdullah al Noman told the Jatiya Sangsad Monday Bangladesh has earned Taka 950.66 crore by exporting 45,058 tonnes of fish abroad during 1988-89 and 1989-90 fiscal, reports BSS.

In a written reply to a question of Nurul Islam Moni (Ind-Barguna), the State Minister further informed the House that during first seven months of 1990-91 fiscal the earning from fish export was Taka 348.89 crore from 16,730 tonnes of fish.

Replying to a question from Javed Ali (AL-Netrakona) Noman told the House that plan had been taken to increase fish production to 12.06 lakh tonnes from the present production of 8.47 lakh tonnes during the fourth five-year plan period (1990-95) for meeting fish deficit in the country.



Six terrorists were arrested and huge arms were recovered after a brief gunbattle with police at Kalayanpur slum area in the city on Monday

Police-terrorist gunbattle in city: 5 held, arms recovered

By Staff Correspondent

Five persons were arrested and a huge quantity of arms were recovered after a brief gunfight with police at a Kalyanpur slum area on Monday.

Police sources said that upon receiving secret information a team of Dhaka Metropolitan Detective Branch police raided a baste in Kalyanpur under Mirpur thana around noon. An armed gang opened fire on the police force.

Detective Branch police with help of Mirpur police retaliated and finally forced the gang to surrender.

Five persons were arrested and three handguns, a large quantity of ammunitions, 13 crackers and a huge quantity of chemicals for making bombs were recovered.

The arrested persons were identified as: Masud, the gang leader, and Badal, Aslam, Swapal, Palash and Munir.

Police accused the gang of being involved in various crimes, including murder, dacoity, hijacking and also being involved in terrorist activities on the Dhaka University campus. A case was filed in this connection with Mirpur police.

In another incident, Mirpur police recovered a stolen motor-cycle with the registration number Dhaka Metro A-02-6796 from Shaorapara and arrested two persons in this connection.

Mirpur police also arrested two illegal toll-collectors from near Mirpur section-10 on the day.

Mohammadpur police recovered two stolen personal computers from Lalmatia and arrested three persons in this connection on Monday.

The Dhaka Metropolitan Police arrested 123 persons in connection with various crimes during the last 24 hours.

Call to reconsider building of Ram Temple

Faridabad Probin Majlish, an organization of senior citizens, on Monday called upon the newly installed Uttar Pradesh state government of India to build Ram Mandir in place of Babri Masjid, reports BSS.

Probin Majlish President Shishir Das Gupta, Vice-President Rabindra Narayan Sen Chowdhury, General Secretary Mir Anwar Hossain and Treasurer Anil Kumar Dey, in a joint statement, said the decision of the Uttar Pradesh government would undoubtedly hurt the sentiments of the peace loving people of India and a religious minority community of the country.

The Probin Majlish functionaries also called upon the government of Bangladesh and central government of India to take stern measures against all kinds of communal activities.

1.72 lakh cases pending in Asstt Judges' courts

Law and Justice Minister Mirza Ghulam Hafiz Monday informed the Jatiya Sangsad that 153 posts of Assistant Judge in the country were vacant, reports BSS.

The number of Assistant Judges now working was 303, he said during the question hour.

Replying to Ebadur Rahman Chowdhury (JP-Moulvi Bazar), the Minister said trials in those courts where the posts were vacant were being held through circuit duty from the adjacent upazilas and district headquarters.

He said the number of under trial cases in the Assistant Judge's Courts of the country till April 30, 1991 was

1,71,958.

In reply to another question, from Tabibur Rahman (AL-Jessore) the Law Minister said the government was actively considering to shift the upazila civil courts to the district headquarters in phases.

In reply to a supplementary, he said a government order would be given this month in this regard. He said government would consider the possibility of keeping the civil courts in the detached upazilas.

Replying to another question of the same member, the Law Minister said new Public Prosecutors (PP) and Government Prosecutors (GP) had been appointed where the

tenure of the previously appointed PPs and GPs had expired.

He said these appointments were made according to rules on the basis of the reports of the concerned District Judges and Deputy Commissioners and in consultation with them. The process for appointment of new PPs and GPs in the rest of the places had also been started, he said.

Replying to a supplementary from Shahjahan Straj (JSD-Tangail), the Minister said the previously appointed PPs and GPs were lacking requisite qualifications and honesty. He said investigations were being made in this regard.

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

ACROSS

- 1 Competent
- 5 Opening
- 6 Disease of cattle
- 12 Go by water
- 13 Anger
- 14 Metal
- 15 Finish
- 16 "Growing"
- 18 Enamel
- 19 Near
- 20 Workman
- 21 That thing
- 23 As far as
- 24 Build
- 26 Public
- 28 Regions
- 29 Beverage
- 30 Those holding office
- 32 Wheel togh
- 33 Obscure
- 34 Mine vein
- 35 Unusual

DOWN

- 1 On the briny
- 2 Ridiculed lightly
- 3 Cover
- 4 Spanish article
- 5 Taylor/Dean/Hudson film
- 6 Dry
- 7 Write
- 8 Roman 51
- 9 Anglo-Saxon money
- 10 Vies
- 11 Aware of
- 12 wds
- 16 Moocains
- 17 Location
- 20 Listen to
- 22 Tartanum symbol
- 25 Peruses
- 26 "Nightmare" Street
- 27 Zealous in prayer
- 28 Time gone by
- 29 Succor
- 31 Diocese
- 33 Plunge
- 34 Shelley
- 36 Four-bagger
- 37 Republic of Hispaniola
- 39 Agave plant
- 40 Mediterranean island
- 41 Goddess of discord
- 42 Shade
- 44 Unruly child
- 45 Spoken
- 46 Tumbled
- 48 Devoured
- 50 African antelope
- 51 Individual
- 53 Printer's measure
- 54 Hypothetical force

Answer to Previous Puzzle

SIPE TAB AMAS
POET USE NAPE
ATTAIN DAGGER
RAINS PENDS
RAMS SORE
WE STAND TWO
WE ABA OF
LEG OMEGA BET
ROMP STAR
LEAVE TRIAD
ORDERS MIDDLE
LIEN HOE OGGEE
LESS YET REED

Weather

Gusty wind likely

By Staff Correspondent

Weather forecast valid till 6 pm of Tuesday says rain or thundershower accompanied by temporary gusty wind likely to occur at many places over Dhaka, Chittagong and Khulna divisions and at a few places over Rajshahi divisions. Day temperature likely to remain unchanged over the country.

Meanwhile, rain or thundershower occurred at many places over Dhaka, Chittagong and Khulna divisions and at a few places over Rajshahi divisions. The maximum temperature of the day was 34.8 degrees Celsius at Jessore.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Little change. Extended outlook for another five days: Rainfall activity likely to increase.

The temperature and humidity of some cities on Monday were:

City	temperature in Celsius		Humidity	
	Max	Min	9 am	6 pm
Dhaka	32	27.2	85	86
Chittagong	29.8	26.5	86	80
Rangpur	33.3	26.8	90	95
Khulna	33	27.2	84	86
Sylhet	30.5	24.5	82	97
Jessore	34.8	27	X	X
Cox's Bazar	31.4	25	85	90
Barisal	31	25.6	88	80
Rajshahi	33	27	91	92

Norquest
The Modern Pill for Today's Woman

AUCTION NOTICE

Sub Judge's Court, Jhenidah, Money Suit No. 6/88
Decree holder — Sonali Bank, Jhenidah Branch

versus
Decided debtors—Messrs Saptabarna Weaving Factory for proprietors

1. Md. Lutfar Rahman, S/o-Md. Mujibur Rahman Molla
2. Md. Mujibar Rahman Molla, S/o-Late Delbar Molla, Vill-Dayapur, P.O. Khord Raigram, Upazila-Kaliganj, Dist-Jhenidah

It is hereby notified for general information that to recover the decree holder's dues of Taka 1,15,198/50 (One lakh fifteen thousand one hundred ninety-eight and paisa fifty) only with interest and expenses till the date of auction the immovable property under right of possession of the debtor mentioned in the schedule below will be auctioned in public at the Jhenidah District Judge's Court compound on 31-7-91 at 11 a.m. Intending buyers are informed to participate in the auction by attending the court compound on the day at 11 a.m.

Schedule of Property

District	Upazila	Mouza	C.S. Khati	SA Khati	Dag No.	Approximate price
Jhenidah	Kaliganj	Dayapur JS-75	41	55	569-33	out of .66
					701-06	.. .13
					676-07	.. .14

46 1/2 decimals Tk. 6,90,000/=

Md. Sanaulah
Advocate Jhenidah
for Sonali Bank
Jhenidah Branch
Upazila & District-Jhenidah

S.B. —Jan/16/172/91
DFP(BA) 5267-27/6
G-263