

Dhaka Day by Day

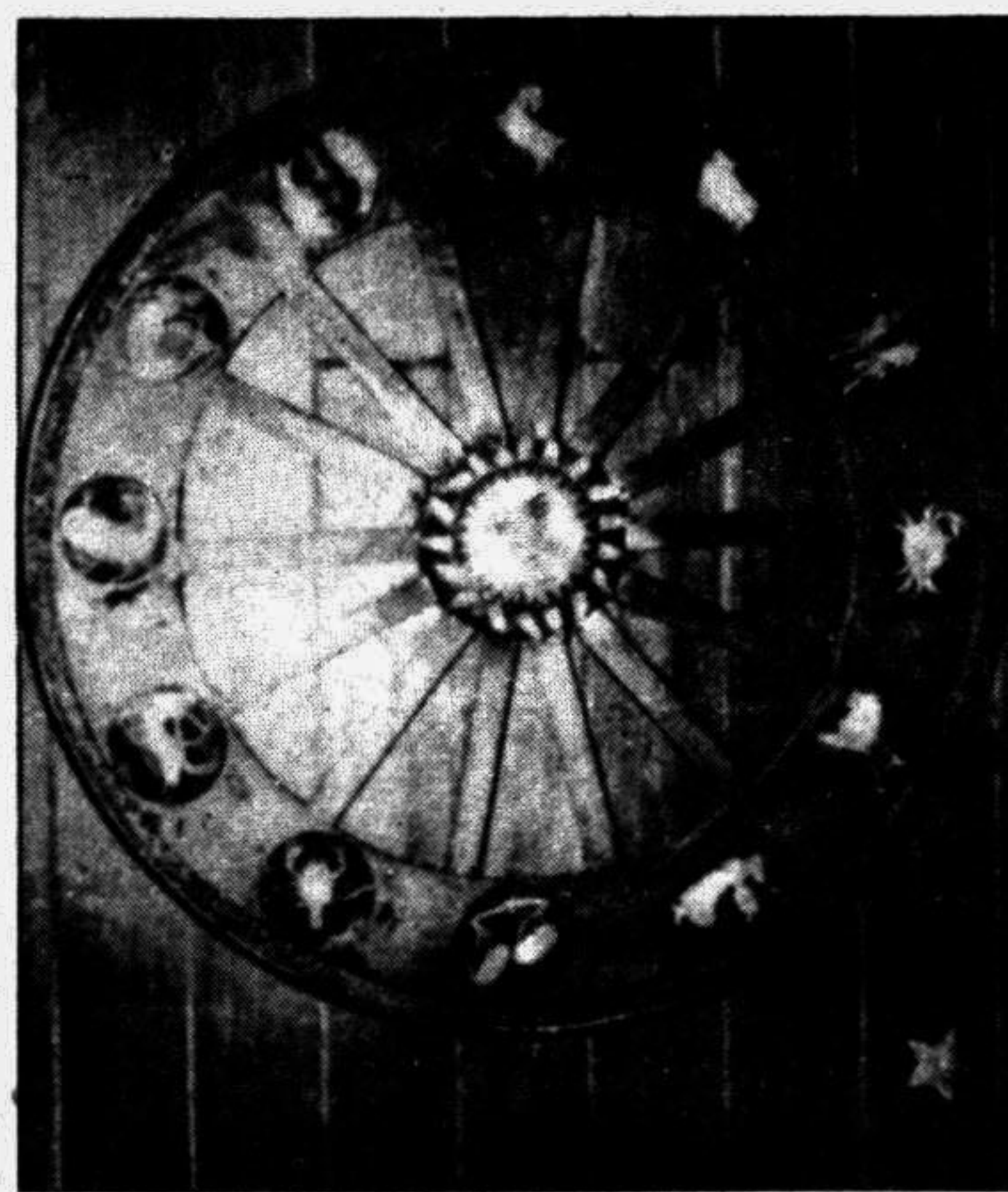
Sun and Wheel

by Aasha Mehreen Amin

Pale, subdued hues, shadows of figures and messages hidden within messages characterize the works of Shamsul Islam Nizami in his fifth solo exhibition held at La Galerie in Banani. Nizami's quiet, pensive mood is captured in all his works, whether it is in a clear, simple painting of storks looking for fish ('seeking') or a complicated composition made of clay and stone. There is no overt violence or anger in any of his works. Even paintings such as the one depicting the terrifying swirl of the recent cyclonic storm has a deathlike quietude. Another painting based on this terrible catastrophe shows the figure of an old man emotionally and physically fatigued by the storm, his weariness and misery reflected in his aimless walk.

The theme of this exhibition is 'Sun and

Wheel' and this is reflected through the wheel like structures and the pale crimson colouring in many of the paintings. The sun is the source of life and the wheel represents the life force. One very interesting piece 'The East' shows a saffron coloured wheel-like structure resembling a weathercock. The background shows distant hills fading into the horizon while a shy sun hides behind a veil of grey clouds, hovering over the wheel, its pale gold rays spreading over the eastern



Horoscope, Wood/Brass, Composed on Found Object.

skies. Parts of the wheel seems to have broken off giving the impression of its being not altogether complete. This seems to represent the fragmentation of the whole 'East (or Asia) itself while the continuity of the wheel shadows the links that join the different entities that make up this whole.

Nizami's extensive worldwide experience in art (he has held solo and group exhibitions in the Subcontinent, the Far East, Europe and Africa) is hinted at in various paintings. Scenes from a Manchester street at night, meadows of

Wakefield done in Yorkshire and Bratton Lake or a bearded figure amongst Egyptian Pyramids are examples of the artist's versatility.

The merging of the real with the mystical can be seen in paintings such as 'Newborn' which portrays a man and a woman holding their newborn child, a scene not unlike that of a baptism ceremony. Seeing my deep interest in this piece, the artist broke his silence and tried to explain the meaning behind this painting. It represents the entrance of an infant into the world and the joint responsibility of the father and mother to bring up this child in the best way possible. How well the parents perform this duty will determine the child's fate which includes his/her contribution to the world upon reaching adulthood.

These unique pieces of work are now on sale in La Galerie although the artist expresses a certain amount of reluctance in parting with such prized creations. Numerous art lovers, especially in the expatriate community have benefited from this exhibition by acquiring some of the paintings and ceramic pieces. Others like me find pleasure in just browsing through the gallery attempting to interpret the inner vision of the artist. To get a glimpse of Nizami's intense soul searching, his desire to comprehend the world on both real and philosophical levels, in itself a rare treat not to be missed.

APOLOGY

Due to a technical mix-up in the paste up of the page, the feature by S M Ali, titled "Please Get Off My Line" in our regular column "Dhaka Day by Day" published on Tuesday made a disjointed reading. Mr Ali plans to write a revised piece on the subject in due course.

Feature Editor

What's on today...

Award for best nursing

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia today (Thursday) distribute gold medals and certificates among 63 nurses of different hospitals of the country as recognition of their best nursing to the patients at a ceremonial function to be held at the Osmani Memorial auditorium in the city.

Each of the nurses will be given a gold medal along with a certificate and cash money varying from 500 to 1500 takas.

The award-giving ceremony will start at 10 in the morning. Health and Family Planning Minister Choudhury Kamal Ibne Yousuf and Health Secretary M Mokammel Haque will be special guests while Mrs Shahjazi Harun, Director of the Directorate of Service of Health Ministry, will deliver the address of welcome.

IDB training school opens

Lister Diesels, Bangladesh (LDB) opens its Diesels Engine Training School and an inspection of the factory production facilities at Fatullah Post Office Road in Narayanganj today (Thursday) at 11 in the morning.

Industries Minister Shamsul Islam Khan will attend as the chief guest on the occasion while the Agriculture Secretary KM Rabbani will be the special guest.

Seminar on industrialisation

Chemical Engineering Alumni Association holds today (Thursday) a national seminar on 'Industrialisation and its impact on environment in Bangladesh'.

Industries Secretary Shaful Alam will inaugurate the one-day seminar at the auditorium of Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation (BCIC) at Motijheel in the city at 8:30 am.

Vice-Chancellor of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) Prof M Shahjahan will be special guest on the occasion.

Dr Khalilur Rahman of Chemical Engineering Department, BUET, will present the key-note paper on the topic.

Leading environmentalists, representatives of industries and environmental organisations and the chemical engineering alumni from all over the country will attend the seminar.

Discussion on scientists' problems

A discussion meeting on the research and professional problems of scientists in Bangladesh will be held today (Thursday) at 9:30 am at the auditorium of Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (BARC) at Farmgate in the city.

Organised by Bangladesh Association of Scientists and Scientific Profession (BASSP) the meeting will be opened by the Education and Cultural Affairs Minister Prof AQM Badruddoza Choudhury.

BASSP chief Dr MA Wazed Mia, will preside over the function which is expected to be attended by a number of scientists.

Extended livestock project

The inaugural ceremony of the extended livestock project of Motiree Samaj Kalyan Sangha a voluntary socio-cultural youth organisation, will be held today (Thursday) at 3:30 pm at Dumburichala Primary School, Sripur, Gazipur. Mohammad Shahidul Alam, Director General of the Bureau of NGO Affairs Secretariat, will inaugurate the function as chief guest.

Winston temple, Deputy Resident representative AI, INDP and Mohd Abdul Latif, Director (Implementation) of the Directorate of Youth Development will be special guests. Sangha President Wali Mohammad will chair the function.

NAP (Bhasani) founding anniversary

The 34th founding anniversary of National Awami Party (Bhasani-NAP) will be observed today (Thursday). In observance of the day, the party will hold a discussion meeting at 4 pm at its central office at 295 Elephant Road in the city.

Party Chairman Nur Mohammad Kazi will preside over the meeting while central leaders will also address.

Publication of weekly "Chokh"

The publication ceremony of the weekly "Chokh" will be held today (Thursday) at 5 pm at the auditorium of National Book Centre in the city.

State Minister for Information Nurul Huda will attend the function as chief guest. Other guests include: State Minister for Jute Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadek Hossain Khoka, State Minister for Relief Lutfar Rahman Khan, BFUJ President Rezauddin Ahmed, Dhaka University Teacher Shakhawat Hossain and DUCSU General Secretary Khairul Kabir Khokon.

Jazz night at Alliance Francaise

Every Thursday night is Jazz night at the Cafe 37.2 of the Alliance Francaise. The night's programmes begins at 9:30 pm to 1 am.

Entrance is reserved only for the members and students of the alliance and their guests.

Rotary charter presentation

The charter presentation ceremony of the Rotary Club of Uttara will be held today (Thursday) at 4:30 pm at the Hotel Sonargaon.

Education and Cultural Affairs Minister Prof AQM Badruddoza Choudhury will grace the occasion as chief guest.

Puja committee meeting

Mahanagar Puja Committee has convened a meeting of all puja committees and other Hindu religious organisations of the city today (Thursday) at 5:30 pm at the Dhakeswari Mandir premises.

Joyanta Sen Dipu, General Secretary of the committee, has requested all concerned to attend the meeting.

Quiz for school students

A quiz for the students of Class V to IX on some prescribed books begins in the city today (Thursday).

Students of 19 city schools will participate in the competition's first phase today. Organised by 'Adhayan' the competition is being sponsored by the Delta Life Insurance Company Limited.

Eid reunion

Eid reunion and stipend distribution ceremony of Mahendiganj Upazila Samity in Dhaka will be held today (Thursday) at 4:30 pm at the auditorium of Institute of Cost Management and Accounting (ICMA), Nilkhet, in the city.

Jatiya Sangsad (Parliament) Speaker Abdur Rahman Biswas is expected to attend the function as chief guest. Justice Abdur Rahman Choudhury will be in the chair.

... and tomorrow

Alliance Francaise film show

"Garde a Vue", a French-language film with English subtitle will be screened tomorrow (Friday) at 6 pm at the Alliance Francaise (26, Mirpur Road, corner of Road No 3, Dhanmond) in the city.

Story: In a small town were everyone is preparing to celebrate the new year, two girls are found rapped and murdered. A notary who found the bodies is summoned to the police station by the inspector, who keeps him under watch. The tension and drama are excellently interpreted by the most talented actors. (starring Lino Ventura, Romy Schneider). Ticket for each Taka 15 only.

Juvenile literacy

A juvenile literacy conference will be held tomorrow (Friday) at 4 pm at the children's auditorium of Bangladesh National Museum in the city.

Organised by Kendrio Kanchi Kanchar Meia, the function will be attended by Poet Shamsur Rahman as chief guest. Journalist Fayz Ahmed will chair it.

Compiled by NA



Michael J Remington, Chief Counsel, US House of Representative called on Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia at her Secretariat on Wednesday.

PM's call to introduce Islamic economics at varsity level

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia on Tuesday called for teaching Islamic economics at university level considering its historical success and potentials, reports BSS.

Begum Zia said Islamic economics once created revolution in establishing social equality, economic justice and eradicating poverty and exploitation from the society.

Because of this historical success and considering the time and demand of the future, Islamic economics should be taught at university level.

The Prime Minister was addressing the inaugural session of a two-week international seminar on teaching Islamic economics at university level at Hotel Sonargaon in Dhaka.

The seminar is sponsored by the Islamic Research and Training Institute and the Islamic Development Bank of Jeddah and co-sponsored by the Islamic Foundation Bangladesh and Al-Baraka Bank Bangladesh.

The inaugural session was also addressed by Speaker of the Jatiya Sangsad Abdur Rahman Biswas, State Minister

for Religious Affairs Prof Abdul Mannan, Religious Affairs Ministry Secretary AZM Shamsul Alam and Islamic Development Bank representative Dr Monzer Kahf.

Khaleda, Remington talk legislative practices

The visiting Chief Counsel of the US House of Representatives, Mr Michael J Remington Wednesday called on Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia at her secretariat office, reports BSS.

During the meeting, they discussed the legislative practices in Bangladesh and the United States.

Mr Remington gave a resume of the American legislative practice to the Prime Minister.

Begum Zia stressed that there should be exchange of visits of parliamentary delegations between the two countries to share experience.

Mr Jon L. Summers, representative and Mr Nilan K Fernando, Project Manager of the Asian Foundation were, among others, present.

Ministers, diplomats and high civil officials attended the function.

More than ten experts on Islamic economics and other relevant matters from home and abroad would present papers in the seminar.

Begum Zia said, reawakening of religious and democratic values was taking its course throughout the world and instead of discrimination and division there was positive thinking for a socio-economic order to be based on justice.

The Prime Minister said from international perspective, most of the intellectuals believe that in this worldwide changing condition Islam, particularly Islamic economic system could play a vital role.

In the present world system, the poor, whether an individual or a nation, was becoming poorer and the rich richer, Begum Zia said adding "Allah is the real owner of all wealth. So, all men have universal rights in Allah's wealth".

The Prime Minister said Hazrat Muhammad (SM) set up a welfare state in Medina and established a social order in which all men's sustenance was ensured without hampering any fundamental democratic rights though that state was not so much affluent. She mentioned that as Allah is the creator and sustainer of all human beings, preservation of rights of all was ensured irrespective of caste and creed in that welfare state.

She said, today Muslim ummah has taken an attempt to regain its lost heritage. Begum Zia said even in the recent past, it was impossible to think of a banking system free from interest but now in many countries the banking system without interest had been running successfully.

The Prime Minister said the people of Bangladesh was deeply religious minded and they believe in the universal nature of religion. She said people of this country feel proud of the universal ideals and liberal tradition of Islam.

Begum Zia hoped that as a result of the achievement of this seminar measures would be taken to open Departments of Islamic Economics at universities of the Muslim world. She further hoped that the seminar on this important subject would not be the last one but more and more seminars would be organised in different countries to discuss various aspects of the subject.

Body to look into college teachers' problems soon

Education and Cultural Affairs Minister Prof. A Q M Badruddoza Chowdhury Wednesday called upon the teachers to make their teaching method attractive to make students more attentive to their studies, reports BSS.

He said, "if you can attract the students they will discard terrorism and malpractice in the examinations".

The Education Minister was addressing as chief guest the conference of Bangladesh Government College Lecturers' Association at the Eden University College auditorium in Dhaka.

State Minister for Education Principal M. Yunus Khan attended the function as the special guest.

Presided over by Kamal Ataur Rahman, President of the Association, the function was addressed, among others, by the Eden College Principal Prof. Jahanara Begum, and Omar Faruq, Secretary General of the Association.

Prof. Chowdhury said the standard of education in the country had reached a pitiable low and urged the teachers to play an effective role in recuperating it.

He stressed the need for closer relations between the teachers and the students.

Referring to the mass education programme, introduced by Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman, the Education Minister said this programme would be restarted soon. He sought active cooperation of the teachers in this sector.

Assuring the college teachers that their problems would be looked into sympathetically,

the Education Minister said a committee would be formed soon to take up the matter.

Principal Yunus Khan called upon the teachers to give all their mite in introducing a mass-oriented education policy initiated by the BNP government.

He said compulsory primary education would be introduced in the country side by side with the reintroduction of the mass education programme.

He said all should work together to remove the problems accumulated in the education sector.

'Lalan's songs influenced Tagore, Nazrul'

RAJSHAHI, July 24: A discussion on mystic poet Lalan was held at Bangla Department of Rajshahi University Sunday, reports BSS.

Jointly organised by Bangla Samity and Bengali Department the function was presided over by Dr Md Mojibuddin, Chairman, Bengali Department. Dr Ashraf Siddiqui a noted poet litterateur was the main speaker at the discussion.

A large number of teachers and students attended the function.

Dr Ashraf Siddiqui in his key note speech paid rich tribute to Lalan Shah and said that the songs of Lalan Shah greatly influenced Rabindranath Tagore and Kazi Nazrul Islam.

200 grams heroin seized : 2 held

RAJSHAHI, July 24: The law enforcing agency personnel seized two hundred grams of heroin from a bus on Bidpur road recently, reports BSS.

Official sources said the agency personnel also arrested two persons.

The goods have been deposited with the Narcotics Department.

Call to compile MO Gani's writings

Rich tributes were paid to the life and contribution of late Dr Mohammad Osman Gani, ex-MP and a former Vice-Chancellor of the Dhaka University, at a discussion meeting in observance of his second death anniversary and publication ceremony of his speeches on science and technology held in Dhaka on Tuesday, reports BSS.

Minister for Education and Cultural Affairs Professor AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury spoke on the occasion as the chief guest. He said late MO Gani as a Member of Parliament had contributed a lot to the flourishing of democratic values and culture of science and technology. He laid emphasis on upholding his ideals and contribution and compilation of his writings for future generation.

The discussion meeting was presided over by Dr Amirul Islam, ex-Vice Chancellor of Agriculture University.

UP members' Assoc executives

By Staff Correspondent Bangladesh Union Parishad Members' Association has formed a 51-member new executive committee with Kamaluddin Ahmed as chairman and Albert P Costa as Secretary General.

In a press release on Wednesday the association said that it was essential to recast the union members' body after the fall of autocratic ruler Ershad.

The 51 thousand members of the association would soon launch movement to realise their 10-point demand, the press release added.

Groynes to be built to protect Sirajganj

Majidul Haq, Minister for Irrigation, Water Development and Flood Control, told the Jatiya Sangsad Wednesday that necessary steps would be taken either through constructing groynes or some other appropriate ways for river control to stop erosion in various parts of Sirajganj district, including Kazipur Upazila, reports BSS.

Replying to a call attention motion on matters of public interest from Mohammad Nasim (AL-Sirajganj), the Minister said, a study project entitled "Brahmaputra River Control"

Shaheed Matiur's mother hospitalised

Begum Mobarakunnesa Samad, mother of Liberation War hero Flight Lieutenant Shaheed Matiur Rahman, Bir Shrestha, has been admitted into Combined Military Hospital with serious ailment, reports BSS.

Begum Mobarakunnesa's relations have requested people to pray for early recovery.

One of her sons, Mr Khorshed Alam, is the Principal Secretary of Finance.

Contraband skin seized

By Staff Correspondent Contraband animal skin were seized from a shop in Gulshan by police on Wednesday.

The seized items included the skin of a tiger, a python and three deers, police said. The goods were recovered from a shop at South Gulshan Super Market.

Lawyer expelled

Bangladesh Bar Council has expelled Advocate Abul Kasem, a member of Dhaka Bar, from practicing law for ten years for professional dishonesty, according to a Bar Council press release in Dhaka Wednesday, reports BSS.

The expulsion was made after hearing of the Tribunal Case No 5/86 of Bangladesh Bar Council, the press release added.

TV Thursday

5-00 : Opening, Al-Quran
5-15 : Recitation from the Gesta
5-20 : News in Bangla
5-30 : Eso Gaan Sikhi
5-55 : Cartoon film-Captain Planet and the Planeters
6-30 : Jibaner Alo
7-05 : Magazine programme
8-00 : News in Bangla
8-30 : Weekly drama
10-00 : News in English
10-25 : Parliament roundup
10-40 : Mini series: Kunti
11-30 : Khabar /The news
11-40 : Closing

Weather

Day temperature may rise

Rain or shower is likely at many places over Chittagong and Rajshahi divisions and at a few places over Khulna and Dhaka divisions during the next 24 hours ending 6 pm Thursday, reports UNB.

Met office said day temperature is expected to rise by 1-3 degree Celsius over the country.

Sandwip and Satkhira recorded 3 mm shower while Rajshahi 2 mm during the last

12 hours till 6 pm today.

Wednesday's maximum temperature in Dhaka was 32.8 degree Celsius and the minimum 27.2 degrees. Country's highest temperature 34.2 degree Celsius was recorded at Rajshahi and Srimangal while the lowest 24.9 degrees at Bogra.

Percentage of humidity was 78 in the morning and 72 in the evening.