

Dhaka Day by Day

Captivated By The Flamboyant Rickshaws

by Fayza Haq

People take months and years to collect materials for an exhibition. Ritu Singh, a visiting artist from Calcutta, here in the city for less than a fortnight, presented an exposition of ten large creations in five days.

The work was the product of impressions of Bangladesh in five days, as was seen at 'La Galeric', Banani. In one major piece there was the typical scene symbolising the eternal 'fakir'. There was the 'dheki', birds and Bangladeshi women seen in the traditional toy form.



Ritu Singh explaining one of her works to the French ambassador.

In No 10, there was the woman in the 'burqa' reading the Quran. 'I found it fascinating that women were sitting and praying in public. It was certainly a bold gesture in a conservative society. The women sat on a piece of cloth like a prayer mat,' Ritu elaborated.

In No 1, one found the 'burqa' clad woman once again. To this was added the intense and aggressive watching eye. The woman was portrayed as lost in her own world. The green colour at her side stood for her optimism and bold intentions.

A typical Bengali beauty, hiding behind a bamboo fish catch, was brought in No 5. She was in 'purdah' because of the catch. 'Even when there was freedom she was still in 'purdah' as it had become a habit and came to her as a second nature. The fisherwoman became coy as she saw people approaching. The bars in the foreground symbolised her home which she would never dare cross.

The swirling powerful sun on her head symbolised the freedom that she could have had. 'The message is that women are still very much behind men. They are not aware that they can achieve much more and be free of male dominations. In the cities of Bangladesh I do not see women pouring out as is seen in Calcutta,' Ritu elaborated.

A typical Bangladeshi rickshaw was brought in No 4. On it were the paintings of the Bangladeshi film heroes and heroines. The person sitting in the rickshaw was lost in the brilliant colours. 'The paintings in the rickshaws are so attractive that you cannot take your eyes off them. The enormous eye in the foreground symbolised the physical attraction of the gaily coloured rickshaws. The brown bar on top told you how your focus was entirely taken up by the rickshaws — one prettier than the other', Ritu explained. The colours were subtle and muted, yet pulsating with life, as in every other piece.

Speaking about how she did her work Ritu explained that she made the plate with free-hand drawing. 'I textured it with mixed media paints. I let it dry. Then I coloured the plate. Next I took the prints. Each one took half a day, so that in five days I had 10 prints.'

Ritu is a Neo-realist painter which is markedly different from realism. She has done big canvases in oil as well as mixed media. In '300 Years Of Calcutta' exhibition she had included 300 of her own paintings with impressions of Calcutta, bringing in the historical and social element.

She found the sketches by Zainul Abedin in the National Museum as 'out of this world.' She was also impressed by the paintings of the contemporary Bangladeshi artists. In addition, she also visited six galleries in Gulshan where she saw a lot of Indian style paintings.

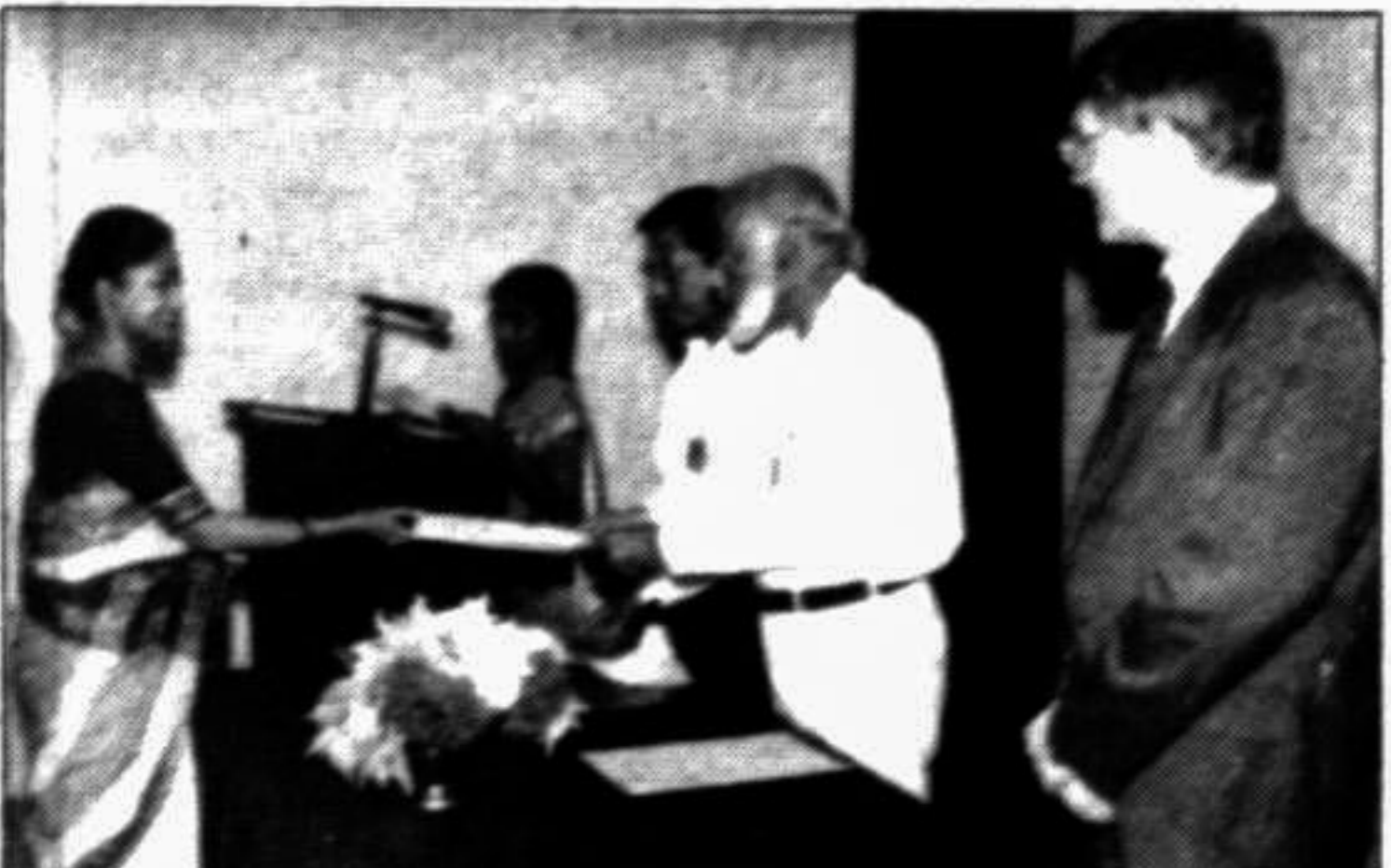
Ritu has had her works exhibited in London, USA, Moscow, Geneva, Stockholm, Budapest, Cologne, Peking, Tokyo, Amritsar, Chandigarh, Bombay, Delhi and Calcutta. She has represented India in the International Cambridge Group. She has had both solo and group exhibitions. She is the head of the Art Department at La Martiniere College for boys in Calcutta.

With her heart-shaped face, with its halo of jet-black hair, and her gentle but persuasive manner of speaking, Ritu would have won the heart of any art connoisseur with her earnestness and dedication.

Children's Day tomorrow

The Universal Children's Day will be observed in Bangladesh on October 7, reports BSS. The observance of the Day varies traditionally, and for Bangladesh it is on the first Monday of October, United Nations Information Centre press release said.

publicise important information about them. It is also meant to create awareness of the needs and rights of the children all over the world. To mark the Day, International Pen-Pals Club in cooperation with United Nations Information Centre (UNIC), will organise a discussion meeting at the centre premises on October 7 at 4.30 pm.



One of the successful participants of a special English course for Biman stewardesses, conducted by British Council, Dhaka receiving certificate at a simple ceremony at Bangladesh Airlines Training Centre (BATIC) Thursday.

Rangpur Samity body formed

Rangpur Zila Samity has formed a 39-member convening committee with Abdul Latif Mondol as convener in a meeting in the city on Friday, says a press release.

The meeting was presided over by Abdul Latif Mondol. A good number of inhabitants of Rangpur residing in Dhaka were present at the meeting. The newly formed convening committee will arrange and conduct the annual general meeting which is scheduled to be held on January 17, 1992.

All the inhabitants of Rangpur have been requested to contact its temporary office at 278/3, Elephant Road (1st floor).

Table with TV Sunday schedule: 5.00 Opening announcement, Al-Quran, Programme summary; 5.15 Reading from the Bible; 5.20 News in Bangla; 5.30 Jhilmili; 5.55 Cartoon - Abbot and Costello; 6.20 Sports Programme; 7.05 Tagore songs; 8.00 News in English; 8.30 Probaba; 9.00 Drama Series - Oshin; 10.00 News in English; 10.30 Rag Rang; 11.30 Khabar/The News; 11.40 Programme Summary for tomorrow, verses from the Holy Quran; 11.45 Closing.

What's on today . . .

Bhasani NAP demonstration National Awami Party (Bhasani NAP) has decided to hold a demonstration in front of the Bangladesh Secretariat today (Sunday) at 10 am in demand of repealing the Special powers act of 1974.

Bikash Theatre seminar Bikash Theatre will hold a seminar on 'theatre workers' role in establishing a healthy society' at the Central Public Library Auditorium in the city today (Sunday) at 4.30 pm.

Life, an anti-drug organisation, will hold a discussion meeting, distribute leaflets among students, screen video films at the Dr Fazle Rabbi Hall of the Dhaka Medical College today (Sunday) at 11 am.

Seminar on blindness The Inner Wheel Club of Greater Dhaka will hold a seminar on blindness today (Sunday) at 5.30 pm at the city's Sundarban Hotel.

Rotary Club meet The regular weekly meeting of the Rotary Club of Dhaka Cosmopolitan will be held today (Sunday) at 5.30 pm at the CIDRAP auditorium at 17, Topkhana Road in the city.

. . . and tomorrow

Gono Azadi League discussion Bangladesh Gono Azadi League will hold a discussion meeting on the occasion of the party's 15th founding anniversary at the Bishwa Sahitya Kendra auditorium in the city tomorrow (Monday) at 4 pm.

Mahanagar Puja Committee Mahangar Sarbajatin Puja Committee has organised 'Chandipath' and 'devotional musical soiree' at the Dhakeshwari Temple premises at 6-30 am tomorrow (Monday) on the occasion of Durga Puja.

Leo Club meeting The monthly meeting of the Leo Club of Dhaka Medical College will be held tomorrow (Monday) at the DMCC gallery. Leo members of different units have been requested to attend the function.

Radio staff artistes call off programme The Staff Artistes' Action Council of Radio Bangladesh called off temporarily their programme scheduled for Sunday following a fruitful discussion with Information Minister Najmul Huda at his office in the city Saturday.

BCL leader assaulted A Chhatra League (A-A) leader was assaulted by rival activists in the Mujib Hall of Dhaka University Friday night, reports UNB.

College teachers' memo to Education Minister An 11-member delegation of Bangladesh College Teachers Council Saturday called on Education Minister Barrister Zamir Uddin Sircar at his office, reports UNB.

Nari Samity leader leaves for Calcutta Mrs. Kohinoor Islam, a central leader of Bangladesh Nari Samity and a correspondent of the weekly Natun Bangla, left Dhaka Saturday for Calcutta on an invitation from Shafiqul Kabir, Chairman of the Left Front Committee of West Bengal, India.

Energy Minister visits Aman Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Dr Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain Saturday visited Amanullah Aman MP who is now under treatment at the Shaheed Suhrawardy Hospital, reports BSS.

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Poet Sufia Kamal addressing the 35th founding anniversary of Kanchi Kanchar Mela at Shilpakala Academy auditorium Saturday. Also seen (from right) are Dr Abdullah Al-Muti Sharafuddin, Dr Anisuzzaman, Prof Badruddoza Chowdhury and Rukunuzzaman Khan Dada Bhai.

Kanchi Kanchar Mela founding celebrated Govt urged to patronise juvenile organisations

Deputy Leader of the Jatiya Sangsad Prof AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury Saturday said that the present government was sincerely committed to making all-out endeavours to develop the latent talents of the children, reports BSS.

It is a national responsibility to nurture the juvenile organisations for the welfare of the state," Prof Chowdhury said while speaking as the chief guest at the 35th founding anniversary function of the Kendriya Kanchi Kanchar Mela, held at the Shilpakala Academy auditorium in Dhaka.

Chaired by poet Sufia Kamal, the chief patron of the organisation, the function was addressed by Mela Director Rukunuzzaman Khan (Dada Bhai), and associates Dr Anisuzzaman and Dr Abdullah Al Muti Sharafuddin and Tanzania Tamanna Datsy, spoke on behalf of the children.

Prof Chowdhury, stressing the importance of bringing up the children as worthy citizens said that the elders should come forward to mould the mind of the children in the spirit of the cultural heritage of the nation.

"We have to keep our eye on the children first of all, for taking the nation ahead," Dr Chowdhury said adding that the children of today would be

helmens of the nation in future. Dada Bhai, in his address of welcome, recalled the contributions of the members of the organisation toward different fields of national life. He stressed the importance of Government initiative for patronising the socio-cultural and juvenile organisations of the country.

Dr Anisuzzaman said children of our country had little scope for blossoming their aesthetic sense. Poet Sufia Kamal, in her presidential speech, said the organisation had lit innumerable lights since its inception.

She hoped that the members of the organisation would be able to uphold the spirit of independence at home and abroad. Hundreds of children from different units of the organisation crammed the auditorium.

The programme heralded with the patriotic song 'Dhanna Dhanny Pushpe Bhaba, Amarder- Ye Basundhara.' The Kanchi Kanchar Mela began its mission on October 5, 1956, with a rally of 15 to 20 children at Tarabagh in Tikatuly.

At present, there are 250 units of the organisation across the country with a membership of about 80 lakh. The organisation now boasts of litterateurs, journalists, educationists and sportsmen as its past members.

The function was followed by a colourful cultural programme, which was participated by the child artists from Dhaka and Sylhet. Besides, a number of artists from Sweden, Norway and Indonesia presented their cultural performance.

Advertisement for 'ডাঃ আশরাফীর ফ্রি লেকচার' (Dr. Ashraf's Free Lecture) on 'আত্ম-উন্নয়নে আশরাফী পদ্ধতি' (Self-Improvement through Ashraf's Method). It describes a 10-day course on relaxation, nature cure, and thought culture.

Advertisement for 'Marna Apartments' located on a 100 ft wide Rokyee Sarani. It features a vibrant red ceramic brick exterior and modern amenities. Contact: Marna and Company Ltd., 67 Tejjagon Industrial Area Dhaka-1208.

Weather

Moderate rain likely

Met office forecast on Saturday that light to moderate rain accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely to occur at many places over Chittagong and Rajshahi Divisions and at a few places over Dhaka and Khulna Divisions during the next 36 hours commencing 6pm Saturday.

Day temperature is likely to remain nearly unchanged over the country during the period. The Friday's low which are causing the rain was persisting over West central Bay and adjoining north West Bay. Monsoon is fairly active over Bangladesh, Met office said.

The highest 59 mm rainfall was recorded at Faridpur on Saturday which was 44 mm at Srimangal, 29 mm at Jessore, 17 mm at Rajshahi, 15 mm at Ishwardi, 13 mm at Chandpur, 8 mm at Mymensingh and 5 mm each at Dhaka, Kutubdia and Bogra.

Table with weather forecast: Cities/Towns Temperature in degree Celsius (max, min) and humidity in percentage (9 am, 6 pm). Locations include Dhaka, Rajshahi, Chittagong, Khulna, Bogra, Barisal, Comilla, Sylhet, Cox's Bazar, Teknag, and Mymensingh.