## 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. These were not slipshod, makeshift, haphazard creations but carefully thought out collographs, with socio-political messages, and with styles and themes that captivated and fascinated the viewer straightaway. The works were certainly that of a person who thought deeply and who had tremendous expertise and finesse.

The work was the product of impressions of Bangladesh in five days, as was seen at "La Galerie", 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. Everything was shown as held under an umbrella. The message was that man and nature take refuge under one roof. Ritu had used printing ink, Chinese ink, water colours and oil paint with care and expertise. The blue, green, orange, brown and red that she had utilised were the life-giving colours. Her main hues were red, blue and green. Red stood for destruction, green for nature and blue as the holy colour of freedom, as the artist explained. The piece was both symbolic and impressionistic.

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



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

-Star photo

In No 10, there was the woman in the "burga" 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. The book was shown as white, to symbolise purity. The blue of the rug was to delineate how free she was. The face was simply a highly imaginative impression. "The squiggles around the main character and objects were to give atmosphere and to make the painting alive and vibrating, the artist added. "Life is not stagnant. There is movement all around," Ritu insisted.

In No 1, one found the "burga"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.

Ritu's favourite was No 2 which had the stalking tiger and the peasant straw hat dominating the picture. There was also the newborn child in the foreground. The skillfully drawn tiger symbolised the big political powers that were waiting to "gobble up the life in Bangladesh", as Ritu explained. The concept of life was camouflaged in the hat. The question that the painter had in mind was, are the powers giving or taking - are they destroying or creating? The picture included a home and sun, shown in abstraction and they symbolised serenity. The main colours used were yellow. To this was added the green for the ground and the red for the sunshine.

every other piece. Speaking about how she did her work Ritu explained that she made the plate with freehand 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-realistic 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 carnestness 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.

The General Assembly of the United Nations through a resolution in December 1954, recommended that a Universal Children's Day should be instituted in all countries, with effect from 1956, and assigned UNICEF the responsibility of promoting this day "for world wide fraternity and understanding among children."

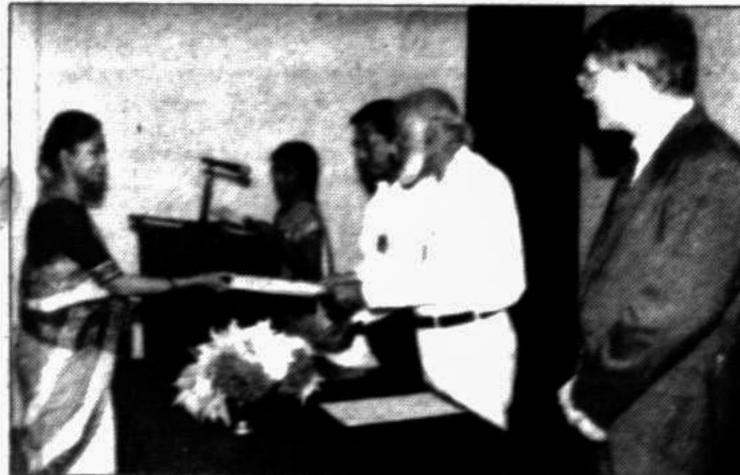
The purpose of the Day is to honour the children through special celebrations and to

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

State Minister for Culture Professor Jahanara Begum will be present at the function as chief guest.

UNDP Deputy President Wolfgang representative Fischer will speak as special guest. The meeting will be presided over by Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS) Chairman Dr. Ashraf Siddique.



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 (BATC) 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).



Sunday

Opening announcement, Al-Quran, Progranime summary Reading from the Bible 5.20 News in Bangla Jhilimili

5.30 Cartoon - Abbot and 5.55 Costello Sports Programme

Tagore songs 8.00 News in Bangla 8.30 Probaha 9.00 Drama Series - Oshin

News in English 10.00 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 . . . .

act of 1974.

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

Party Chairman Prof Noor Mohammad Kazi and other central leaders including Advocate Mujibur Rahman, Advocate Shah Alam, Sekandar Ali, Parveen Naser Khan Bhasani and also the like-minded party leaders will address the demonstrations, said a press release.

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.

Journalist Gias Kamal Choudhury will attend the seminar as the chief guest while BFUJ Secretary General Amanullah Kabir and an ex-MP Giasuddin Kader Choudhury will be the special guests on the occasion.

The seminar will be followed by staging of a drama titled 'Hartal November-1987' directed by Jamaluddin Zaman.

Discussion of 'Life'

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

These are the eighth day's programmes of the organisation's fortnight programme to create awareness among people against drug addiction. Faruk Ahmed, Abdul Hasnat Milton and others will address the discussion meeting while Life Chairman Kamrul Islam Soni will preside over.

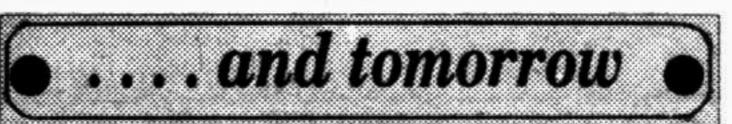
Seminar on blindness

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 CIRDAP auditorium at 17, Topkhana Road in the city.

Honourary Secretary of the Club has requested all the members to attend the meeting.



#### 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.

Leaders from various political parties along with the party leaders Maulana Mohammad Danial, Advocate Sk Sikdar, Kazi Aliul Islam Ukil will address the meeting. Party President Alhaj Abdus Samad Advocate will be in the

#### Mahanagar Puja Committee

Mahangar Sarbajanin Puja Committee has organised "Chandipath" and devotional musical soirce at the Dhakeshwari Temple premises at 6-30 am tomorrow (Monday) on the occasion of Durga Puja.

The Puja Committee has requested all irrespective of religion to attend the function, a press release said.

Leo Club meeting

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

- Compiled by NA

### 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 city Saturday. During the meeting with the Council leaders, the Information Minister assured them of sympathetic consideration of their rational and reasonable demands, an official press release said.

Council leaders Subal Datta (Convenor), Shaffur Rahman Dulu, Kazi Mahfuzul Haq, Hena Kabir, Sheikh Sa'adi Khan, Alai Hasan Khan, Ali Mozammel, Saiful Islam and Abul Kalam Azad -Mintu were present during the meeting.

## 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 Shailen Das Gupta, Chairman of the Left Front Committee of West Bengal, India.

#### BCL leader assaulted A Chhatra League (A-A)

leader was assaulted by rival activists in the Mujib Hall of Dhaka University Friday mid night, reports UNB.

The victim was named Ashraful Islam Poplu, Joint Secretary of the Fine Arts Institute unit of BCL and resi dent of the Mujib Hall.

In a written complain to the Proctor Saturday Poplu blamed group of JCD activists and outsiders for the assault and demanded punishment of those involved.

#### College teachers' memo to Education Minister

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

They discussed various problems facing the teachers, including pending promotion cases, said a press release of the Council.

The delegation led by Council President Moazzem Hossain Khan and Secretary General Ali Akbar Khan Doller submitted a memorandum to the Education Minister for realisation of a 14point charter of demands.

## Weather

## Moderate rain likely

By Staff Correspondent

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.

Sun sets Sunday at 5.41 pm and rises Monday at 5.52 am. Temperature and humidity recorded at important cities and towns on Saturday were :

Cities/Towns Temperature in degree Celsius humidity in percentage 6 pm 9 am Dhaka Rajshahi 32.5 25.0 Chittagong 97 32.5 25.3 Khulna 22.7 92 27.9 Bogra 97 31.5 Barisal 24.8 97 88 77 75 88 32.2 Comilla 24.0 28.3 24.2 Sylhet 31.8 24.5 Cox's Bazar Teknag 21.0 Mymensingh



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. - Star photo

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 found ing 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 Tanzina Tamanna Daisy, 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.

the children first of all, for taking the nation ahead," Dr Chowdhury said adding that the children of today would be

"We have to keep our eye on

# BNP resorting to undemocratic means: Mizan

Party Acting Chairman Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury Today blamed BNP government for resorting to what he called undemocratic practices to establish party supremacy, reports BSS. He said his party would re-

CHITTAGONG, Oct 5: Jatiya

sist all undemocratic activities through democratic means and strive for release of former President H M Ershad. Jatiya Party would observe Ershad Release Day on October

10, he said while addressing a public meeting in front of Chittagong City Corporation Presided over by Party Vice Chairman Mahbubul Huq Dulon, the meeting was also addressed by acting leader of JP Parliamentary Party

Moudud Ahmed, Secretary General Shah Moazzem Hussain MP, and former Foreign Minister Anisul Islam Mahmud. The meeting scheduled to be held at Laldighi Maidan could not be held there because of some tension in the

## Energy Minister visits Aman

area. City Jubodal and Chhatra

Dal held meetings and proces-

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.

sions demanding punishment to those who were associated with ousted Ershad regime. Police prevented leaders and workers of Jatiya Party and their rival from holding meet-

JI' leaders said the ruling party's undemocratic activities were exposed by not allowing them to hold their Laldighi meeting today.

ing at Laldighi Maidan today.

Earlier in the morning, JP held its Chittagong divisional conference at the J M Sen hall which was addressed by central leaders of the Party. Some important decisions including movement for release of former President Ershad were

taken at the conference.

helmsmen of the nation in fu-

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 mem-

bers of the organisation would be able to uphold the spirit of independence at home and Hundreds of children from

different units of the organisation crammed the auditorium. The programme heralded the patriotic song

"Dhanna Dhannye Pushpe Bhara, 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 boasts of litterateurs, journalists, educationists and sportsmen as its past members. The function was followed

by a colourful cultural pro-

gramme, which was partici-

pated by the child artists from Dhaka and Sylhet.

Besides, a number of artists from Sweden, Norway and Indonesia presented their cultural performance.

ডাঃ আশরাফীর ফ্রি লেকচার আত্ম-উন্নয়নে আশরাফী পদ্ধতি

হজনসহ আপনাকে সাদর আমন্ত্রণ প্রখ্যাত নেচারকিউর ফিজিশীয়ান ও টিভি উপস্থাপক ডাঃ ছিদ্দিকুর রহমান আপরাফীর ফ্রি লেকচারে।তিনি মেডিটেশন, প্রাণায়াম, যোগক্রিয়া, Relaxa tion-এর বিশ্বখ্যাত পছতি, Nature Cure Therapeutics, সাত্ত্বিক থাদাপক্তি, Positive Thought Culture त्रद त्वर-यन निराद्धार्गंत नाना श्वाफित त्रयनार गर्फ जूलारहन जाख-উন্নয়নের এক অব্যর্থ প্রশিক্ষণ অনুশীদনী কোর্স। সুঙ্ক অফুরস্ত দৈহিক মানসিক ভ আঞ্জিক শক্তির উম্মোচন বিকাশ, নিয়ন্ত্রণ এবং আপনার আকার্যবিত সাফশ্যক্ষনক জীবনের জন্য এ এক অপূর্ব কার্যকর পছতি। ধুমপান বা মদ্যাপঞ্জি ত্যাগ,ডাগের নেশামুক্তি,উড রক্ত চাপ, হুদরোগ, গ্রাঞ্চমা, ডায়াবেটিস, সায়ুপক্তির দুর্বপতা, পেটের শীড়া, অনিদ্রা, নান্যপ্রকার ভয়েসটিং ডিসিক্স ও মানসিক রোগসহ কোবিয়া, সাইকোসিস ডিপ্ৰেসন, বাদ্যে অনিহা/ অতিৱিক্ত তোজনাকান্ধা,তজন কমিয়ে বা প্ৰয়োজনীয় তজন বাড়িয়ে চমৎকার প্ৰিম ফিশার তৈরি সহ কঠিল রোগ নিরাময় ও প্রতিরোধে এই কোর্স ক্লিনিক্যালী পরিপূর্ণ কার্যকর, অব্যর্থ। দেহকে, মনকে ব্রোগমুক্ত ও শক্তিশালী করে অসীম কমতাধর হতে এই কোর্স আপনার জন্য এক ছাত্র ছাত্রীদের স্থৃতি, মেধা, চিত্তা, ইচ্ছা ও কর্মশক্তি বিকাশ এবং ব্যবসা, শিল্প-কারখানা পরিচালনা,

প্রশাসনিক ও যে কোন পেশাগত দক্ষতা বৃদ্ধির উপর পূর্ণ গুরুত্ব দিয়েই কোর্সটি প্রশীত–পরিচাশিত। অভিশ্ৰীয় (ESP) ক্ষতা বৃদ্ধি ও তৃতীয় নয়ন(Third Eye)উন্মোচনে Self-Improvement-এর এই কোর্স আস্ত্র–নিবেদিত। ফ্রি–লেকচারে ডাঃ আশরাফী আশনাকে অতি সহন্দ্র সরল ভাষায় কোর্সের বিভারিত পরিচিতি ও বিজ্ঞান ভিত্তিক ব্যাখ্যা দান করবেন।

ফ্রি লেকচারে আসন সীমিত। আসন সংরক্ষণ এবং লেকচারের সময় ৩ ডারিখ এর জন্য যোগাযোগ করুল আশরাফীস নেচারকিউর ক্লিনিক ১০, নিউ সার্কুলার রোড, মালিবাগ, ঢাকা। ফোনুঃ ৮৩৪০১৩

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