Dhaka Day by Day

Capturing Colour and Laughter

by Fayza Haq

Felicity Volk, whose exhibition of photographs opened at "La Galerie" on Saturday, is out to capture the fun and laughter that she can see around in Bangladesh and other Asian cities. Auburn-haired and bright-eyed, this tall, earnest young woman glows with praises about what she sees and preserves with her camera.

She has been taking photos for the last three years. Most of the photos she has displayed are portraits. She is interested in having this exhibition in order to show her positive impression of Bangladesh. "For me that is embodied in the people in the country." Felicity remarks.

She has not been involved in the art world before in a big way. It all began with a visit to India where she stayed with a friend who is a photographer, based in Delhi. He was working on a documentary, "Project Tiger". This awakened her interest in photography.

She has focused her attention on the people

taken to photography, believes that Bangladesh is very rich in drama, music and the visual arts She has seen plays and has witnessed 'sitar recitals. She has been to places like the Bulbul Academy and she finds the local music and dance very soothing.

Felicity, who has been here before during a nine months travel through Asia, began her trip in Singapore. Then she went to Thailand, Malaysia, Hong Kong, China, Taiwan, Indonesia, India and Nepal, apart from Bangladesh. She worked part-time to raise the funds while she was studying. It is her trip to Asia that got her interested in the east. "The Australians are normally Eurocentric in mentality", she commented.

What touched her most while she was taking the photographs was the willingness of the people to form a bond with the person taking the pictures, whom they did not know, even though it was for a second.



Felicity Volk with Bangladeshi children: 'The eye is the window to the soul.'

and the differences between the varied communities in the country. "Those distinctions are based on religious, social and ethnic factors, "the photographer explains. "What I want to capture in the photo is the individual spirit. I believe the eye is the window to the soul. At the moment I am interested in faces. Maybe in a year's time I may diversify." While she likes to be surrounded by nature her primary fascination is people - their feelings, thoughts and lifestyle," she said.

This exhibition has been motivated by the desire to present a positive side of the country and to encourage other people to see it. "Even in a marriage relation if the husband says to the wife. 'You're ugly, you're ugly' she will start to believe she is ugly. Likewise if the wife says to the husband 'you're useless' he will end up believing he is useless. The photos I took are of Old Dhaka, Kamalapur and Savar — in areas regarded as poor parts of the country. While I'm not seeking to romanticise or glamourise people's lives what I'm saying is that life can be simple and beautiful."

Felicity comments that the impression given of Bangladesh in the international media is very one-sided. She says that if the media insists that Bangladesh is so prone to natural disasters that nothing can be done, people start to believe it, and that is the way the people of Bangladesh see themselves too, she adds.

"If you point out the positive side to a person or a country there is greater pride in the national identity. Invariably the people I've met in Bangladesh, when I asked them what they think of their country they say. We are a poor nation'. I don't understand why they don't talk about the country's wealth in terms of artistic traditions, cultures and the strength of the human spirit to go on despite natural disasters," Felicity continues.

The young Australian diplomat, who has

Talking about the difficulties she faced as a photographer, she comments that here the problem is the crowd that gathers around while you are trying to photograph. "Everybody wants to be included in the photo". In places like Kathmandu and Pakistan the people are more used to foreigners.

Her preference in photography is the black and white quality. "I like the concentration on textures and compositions. Sometimes when you use colour the viewer's eyes are distracted from qualities like texture because of the impact of the colour within the frame. The simplicity of the black and white can enhance the message of the photographer," Felicity re-

She has used both black and white in her exhibition. She admits that there is too the challenge of the colour "because it requires concentration on the coordination of the colours."

Felicity believes that Bangladeshi photographers are "brilliant". She has in mind people like Anwar Hossain, Shahidul Alam and Khalid Mahmood Mithu. She says that their standard is equal to that anywhere in the world.

The brightest of the pictures in the exhibition are taken from the Hindu community. The children in the photos are presenting songs and drama. There are also delightful photos of a small naked child from the slums of Kamalapur. Similarly she has depicted the poor and defiant women in Lahore. She has also captured the turnaround period when people were demonstrating against Ershad's regime.

Using about 60 rolls of films, and mixing her Kodaks with the Fujis, Felicity has delincated a delightful environment of Bangladesh and some other Asian countries. The invitation card to the expose itself is a delectable piece

Fraternity Council to hold 2-day

function CHITTAGONG, Oct 19 : National Fraternity Council, Chittagong will hold a two-day function on November 1 and 2 here with a view to promoting good understanding and harmony among the members of different communities, reports

President to the Council, Begum Umratul Fazaland General Secretary, Mahbubul Huq told journalists Saturday that the two-day function will include, seminars and cultural functions to be held at the Musitm Institute Hall and Laidight Maidan. Eminent intellectuals and artistes from Dhaka and other places would participate in the seminar and the cultural functions, they

Sunday

4.00 Opening announcement, Al Quran 4.30 Federation Cup Football News in Bangla

Educational programme: Can you do 7.05 Tagore songs

News in Bangla Probaho Drama series : Oshin 10.00 News in English 10.25 Parliament roundup 10.40 Raag Rong 11.30 Khabar/The News

Weather

Dry weather likely to prevail

By Staff Correspondent

Weather forecast valid till 6 pm of Sunday says, it will remain mainly dry over the country. The day temperature will remain unchanged. The weather on Saturday remained dry. The highest temperature of the day was recorded from Jessore. The lowest temperature of 19.2 degree Celsius was reported in Dinajpur.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Little change. Extended outlook for another five days: No marked change.

The temperature and humidity of some cities on Saturday

Cities/Towns	Temperature		Humidity		
	max	min	9 am	6 pm	
Dhaka	32.2	22.4	64	75	
Chittagong	31.2	24	82	72	
Rajshahi	32.2	20	67	87	
Khulna	32.2	22.4	75	72	
Rangpur	31.3	19.9	78	80	
Sylhet	31	22.4	90	69	
Comilla	31.2	. 24	73	78	
Jessore	33	21.3	x	x	



Prof Jahanara Begum, State Minister for Cultural Affairs distributing prizes among blinds at a function organized by Rotaract Club of Mahanagar on Saturday.

Asian art exhibition begins Nov 1

The 5th biennial Asian art exhibition will begin in Dhaka November 1 under the auspices of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, reports UNB.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia is expected to open the month-long exhibition at the Osmani Memorial Hall at 10.30 am.

Works of well-known artists will be simultaneously displayed at Osmani Memorial Hall and Shilpakala Academy auditorium.

Birth anniversary of Fazlul Hug to be observed Oct 27

The birth anniversary of the late AK Fazlul Hug, the then Chief Minister of the British Bengal and the Golden Jubilee of Lady Brabourne College, Calcutta will be observed on October 27.

All former pupils of Lady Brabourne College have been requested to contact Jahanara Begum, General Secretary, Lady Brabourne College Old Students' Association, 6. Circuit House Road or Principal Central Women's College, Dhaka for details and registration by the October 24, says a press release.

UK Minister for Overseas Development arrives Oct 30

British Minister for Overseas Development Ms Lynda Chalker will pay a fiveday official visit to Bangladesh beginning October 30, official said Saturday, reports UNB.

During the visit, Chalker will review British assistance to Bangladesh and explore new areas of cooperation.

She is expected to call on Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, Foreign Minister ASM Mostafizur Rahman and Finance Minister Saifur Rahman.

Observers attach special importance to the British Minister's visit following an assurance given by Britain to continue assistance for economic development of Bangladesh.

The assurance came when British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd called on Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia in Harare on Friday.

He also invited Begum Zia to visit the United Kingdom. Britain is one of the major donors providing continued assistance to help promote the socio-economic condition of Bangladesh.

US Foreign Office official due Oct 30

US Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Tereseta Schaffer is likely to arrive in Dhaka on October 30 on a three-day visit to Bangladesh, officials said Saturday, reports

She will have talks with officials here to review different aspects of Dhaka-Washington cooperation in a move to bolster it in days ahead, they indicated.

Tereseta is expected to call on Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia and other minis-

Radio artistes meet Speaker

A delegation of the staff artistes of Radio Bangladesh, Dhaka called on Speaker Sheikh Razzak Ali in his office chamber at Sangsad Bhaban Saturday afternoon and congratulated him on his election the Speaker of Bangladesh Jattya Sangsad.

The Speaker thanked the artistes for their congratulation. Deputy Speaker Humayun Khan Panny was present on the occasion. The delegation included, Shubal Dutta, Begum Hena Kabir and Shaftur Rahman Dulu.

Textile team leaves for China, HK

A seven-member Bangladesh textile delegation led by State Minister for Textiles Abdul Mannan leaves Dhaka for China, Thailand and Hong Kong today (Saturday) for a two-week official visit to those countries, according to an official handout, reports BSS.

During its stay in China, Thailand and Hong Kong, the delegation will visit some textiles mills and exchange views with the respective counterparts about the development and progress of the textile industries of these countries.

The delegation includes high officials of the Ministry of Textiles and its organ corporations, representatives of different chambers of commerce and industries and other sectors of textile industries.

Plea to publish complete works, set up Farrukh Academy

Speakers at a discussion meeting on Saturday termed late Farrukh Ahmed as a poet of national heritage and Islamic resurgence, reports

The discussion meeting was held in observance of the poet's 17th death anniversary at the National Book Centre under the auspices of Tamaddun Majlis.

Eminent philosopher and Islamic thinker Principal Dewan Mohammad Azraf presided over the discussion which was participated by Poet Al-Mahmud, Poet Shahabuddin Ahmed, Poet Al-Mujahedee, Poet Abdul Mannan Syed and Hasan Igbal.

Touching different aspects of the works of Poet Farrukh, Dewan Principal Mohammad Azraf said Farrukh had depicted faults of the modern civilization truly by using figure of

State Minister for Com-

munications M. Fazlur Rahman on Saturday said that the

Government was committed to

implementing the Jamuna

bridge project and for this was

keeping close contact with the

donor countries and agencies,

ject officials at the office of the

Jamuna Bridge Authorities

that the rapid formation of

chars on the Jamuna would

soon make the ferry services

Textiles team

leaves for China,

Thailand, HK

textile delegation led by the

State Minister for Textiles

Major (retd) Abdul Mannan left

Dhaka on Saturday for a two-

week visit to China, Thailand

During its stay in these

countries the delegation will

visit some textile mills and

exchange views on the devel-

opment of textile industries of

Bangladesh, China, Thailand

and Hong Kong.

and Hong Kong, reports BSS.

An 11-member Bangladesh

The Minister mentioned

He was addressing the pro-

reports BSS.

speech in his epic poem "Sat Sagarer Majhi."

He urged the future posterity to uphold the universal ideals and humanism, that Farrukh preached through his writings.

Paying glowing tributes to the late poet, Poet Al-Mahmud 'said there was no scope for rejecting the great Humanist and Islamic thinker.

Those who are now ignoring the poet, would recognize him as a great epic poet in Bangali literature who upheld humanism. The love and fascination of "Sat Sagarer Majhi" would never be withered," he added.

Poet Al-Mujahedee, said like Nazrul and Iqbal, Farrukh was a great architect of the national heritage and Islamic entity.

He said as an epic poet in modern Bengali literature,

Construction of the bridge is

only the solution to road com-

munication with the northern

the project A.Z.M. Shamsul

Alam apprised the State

Minister of Different aspects

Mina Chowdhury

Mina Chowdhury, Chief

Purser, female affairs of Biman

Bangladesh Airlines died of a

massive heart attack at her

Dhaka residence Friday. She

Her namaz-e-janaza was

held at Baitul Mokarram

mosque Saturday after Zohr

prayers. It was attended by

State Minister for Civil Aviation

Abdul Mannan and Biman

Managing Director A H

She was burried at the

Mina Chowdhury joined the

Shaheed Intellectuals

then PIA in 1967. She left be-

hind three brothers, three sis-

ters and a host of relatives to

at her Dhaka residence at

Indira Road on tomorrow after

He qui khwani will be held

was 44, reports UNB.

Mofazzal Karim.

Graveyard at Mirpur.

mourn her death.

Asr prayer.

implementing the project.

The Executive Director of

costly.

different and

part of the country.

'Chars to make ferry

services costly'

Poet Farrukh was a successful composer of sonnet after Michael Madhusudhan Dutta.

Abdul Mannan Syed said it was Farrukh Ahmed who had bitterly criticised what was prevailing in the society during the sixties in the name of Islam.

Recalling his use at rhetoric and prosody in the style of punthi in his epic poem "Hatem Tai" Mr Mannan said his individual style was unparalleled even to his successors. The discussants also urged the

Government to fulfil the proposal, raised in the discussion, about publication of complete works of Poet Farrukh, establishment of a Farrukh Academy and naming the road where he resided as Farrukh Sarani.

Indian envoy meets Biswas

Indian High Commissioner in Bangladesh, K Srinivasan, Saturday called on President Abdur Rahman Biswas at Bangabhaban and handed over a letter of felicitation to him from the Indian President R Venkataraman, reports BSS.

In his letter, Venkataraman said Bangladesh and India were linked together by enduring ties through friendship and cooperation.

He said "as a close neighbour we have watched with admiration the significant steps taken to restore and strengthen democracy in Bangladesh." The Indian President also said "we are confident that under your new political system our mutual relations would be consolidated further".

Reciprocating the sentiment, President Biswas hoped that the relations between the two friendly democratic countries would continue to grow.

VACANCY

An international development agency invites applications for the position of Accounts Assistant. The candidate must have at least a Bachelor's degree in Commerce, Accounting or Management, must be fluent in written and spoken English, should possess word processing skills (Word Perfect and Lotus 1-2-3), and must possess at least 4 years, prior professional working experience.

Please submit resume addressed to Administrative Officer, GPO Box 666, Dhaka along with a recent passport size photo so as to reach him by November 4, 1991.

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