

# Dhaka Day by Day

## 'Art Is No Chocolate Eclair'

by Fayza Haq

Shuvaprasanna, at 44, not only sports an impressive greying beard but heads a College of Visual Arts. The visiting artist from Calcutta, who had his flamboyant exhibition at 'La Galerie', believes that academic training is absolutely essential for artistic creation.

The artist follows his theory not only as the principal of his college, but also eminently in his own artistic work. He uses many techniques, over all of which he has a tremendous academic control. He has his oil-paintings, charcoal and pencil sketches, etchings and woodcuts.

His artistic approach remains a universal one. The artist considers himself a "citizen of the world" because the problem of the people that he projects are not "Indian" or "European" but is applicable the world over. The treatment of the artist must be a universal assessment, it is his belief.

The loneliness and helplessness of the people in this world, for example, is a vital theme for Shuva's pictures. These fundamental human problems are more important for the artist than say incidents of everyday politics. Art has been a way for agitating politically for a long time in West Bengal but Shuva is not attracted by this. However the painter wants his viewers to be involved in an argument or discussion via the visual world.

Even when he is portraying a flower he does not depict an idyll. He sees the flower as a symbol of transitoriness. Similarly his birds express characters which have a menacing effect on us. Again, when he paints houses he does not invite you to live in them. The gestures and the expressions of the adjoining figures manifest uneasiness and anxiety. A critic once called him 'a painter of death' but Shuva is certainly not that. His colours have a glowing transparency and the total impact is not to alarm but to stir.

In Shuva's paintings nothing is unplanned. There is little that is incidental. All the colours and forms are the product of contemplation and study.

The artist stresses on the "grammar of the painting" which relies on the theme. The theme also influences the texture.

The artist and his contemporaries do not get obsessed with what is "old" and what is "new", of what is "oriental" and the "occidental". He is certainly not westernised. He claims to be "an Indian by conviction and a Bengalee by passion."

The painter who says, "I don't feel I've left India coming to Dhaka. We have the same background." The work of artist in India and Bangladesh are an integral part of the present time, "has this to say about abstractions." No artist portrays the hundred leaves in a tree.



Amphibious, Oil on canvas.

Where we live there are so many lives to consider and so many facets to it that true abstraction is not suitable to our country. In Sweden or Canada, where human relation is limited and there is only that much of greenery, there is some sense in abstraction.

Dwelling on folk art Shuva comments, "If Paul Klee could take from primitive art and Picasso could borrow from African masks anyone can use anything. It is how you distil your art and express it."

"However we can never be like the true folk artists. We are cosmopolitan. Whatever political and social things take place we are aware of this. 'Guernica', for instance, has a universal appeal. There is no boundary to the artist's work. When you see the moon you find it beautiful but there are many perspectives to this," he adds.

Did he believe that there was a vast difference between Asian and European art? "Nature, society, environment, people and their culture are vastly different. As a result there is a marked difference," the artist insists.

Does he have any advice as regards art for the people of Bangladesh? "Art is a part of daily life. People painted even in the caves. If the bourgeoisie come forward and give a print or a painting for a wedding gift in stead of jewellery and 'saris' they would be a great boon for the artist, who needs patrons badly."

Shuva continues

"Society has not recognised the artist like it has the doctor or the engineer. The artist has to struggle against all odds. Of course, the pain and agony helps him portray the reality of existence. Art is no a piece of chocolate eclair even though it is not meant to be photographic or pessimistic."

The artist, who has been painting for 30 years has brought a selection of portraits of birds and animals. As he and his family were allowed 60 kilos, he could bring only a handful of his work. His entries were mostly etchings, acrylic, and mixed media. Dwelling on his Arts Acre, that he has created in India and Guntur Grass opened in '87 he narrates, "My dream visualised a new kind of art movement based on an active cooperation among artists. I dreamt of a creative community where life and art would flourish side by side in a rhythmical pattern. When I took the plunge, the foundation was laid. Impetus was supplied by a large number of friends and individuals. The inspiration and encouragement helped in establishing my dream. Today artists from our country and from distant lands come to the centre, stay in our guest house and engage in creative pursuits. Our gallery holds regular exhibitions too."

## Workshop at DU Chemistry Department

By DU Correspondent

A six-day 'National Workshop on Instrument Maintenance and Repair' will begin at the Chemistry Department of Dhaka University November 16.

The workshop will be inaugurated by Prof M Shamsul Huq, Chairman of the University Grants Commission at 9 am. Prof Maniruzzaman Miah, Vice-Chancellor of the university will also attend there.

The workshop will continue through November 21.

## BCS (Cooperative) executives

The annual general meeting and election of BCS (Cooperative) was held at the Samabaya Sadan in Dhaka Tuesday, an association press release said Wednesday, reports BSS.

Mesbahuddin, K M Farhad Hossain and Begum Shamsuzjahan were elected President, General Secretary and Treasurer respectively of the association.

Meanwhile the new committee at its first meeting Wednesday decided to take a number of concrete steps for the solution of the problems being faced by the members of the association, the press release added.

## JS Public Enterprises Body meet held

A meeting of the Public Enterprises Committee of Jatiya Sangsad was held Wednesday with its Chairman Mia Mohammad Mansur Ali in the chair, according to a Sangsad Secretariat press release, reports BSS.

The meeting discussed the organization of Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation and reviewed its imported equipment, inputs and distribution of the same.

Besides, the meeting also reviewed the internal audit report and the annual report including draft accounts of income and expenditures of the corporation and draft audit report of the Comptroller and Auditor-General.

The meeting took a number of important decisions, the press release said.

## Journalist team off to Delhi

A five member journalists delegation left Dhaka Wednesday for New Delhi to attend the South Asian Journalists conference beginning there today, reports BSS.

The members of the delegation are President of Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) Reazuddin Ahmed, Secretary General Amanullah Kabir, former President of the Jatiya Press Club Oias Kamal Chowdhury, President of the Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ) Zahurul Haque and General Secretary Ruhul Amin Gazi.

The journalist leaders will return home on November 20.

## TV Thursday

- 5.00 Opening announcement Al Quran Programme summary
- 5.10 News in Bangla
- 5.20 Reading from the Geeta
- 5.30 Jana Ajana
- 6.00 Cartoon film: Captain Planet and the Planeteers
- 6.30 Jiboner Alo
- 7.05 Antaranga
- 8.00 News in Bangla
- 8.40 Drama of the week
- 10.00 News in English
- 10.30 Film: Tender is the night
- 11.30 Khabar/The news
- 11.40 Friday's Programme Summary
- 11.45 Closing

## Cooperation of political parties needed for campus peace: Biswas

A ten-member delegation of the Bangladesh University Teachers Federation led by its President Prof Enamul Huq called on President Abdur Rahman Biswas at Bangabhaban on Wednesday, reports BSS.

The members of the delegation discussed with the President about the campus situation and other relevant problems of academic life in different universities.

While exchanging views with them, the President said that the success of the democratic system largely depended on the tolerance and mutual understanding among all shades of opinion.

The President, who is also the Chancellor of the Universities, said those who were creating terrorism on the campus and disrupting the normal academic life were not in fact students.

He said the persons responsible for creating such disturbances on the campus would not be able to succeed in achieving their ulterior motive of destabilising the democratic system introduced in the country.

Biswas said the problems faced by the nation had been multiplied during the autocratic rule. The present government is trying hard to solve the problems, he added.

The President pointed out that all out cooperation of the political parties were essential to restore congenial academic atmosphere.

The President reminded the teachers of their responsibilities in maintaining peace and order on the campus.

Among others, Dr Anwarullah Chowdhury and Prof Sadat Ali, President and General Secretary respectively

of Dhaka University Teachers Association, Dr Jastimuddin, Dr Aminul Huq and Dr Nazmul Ahmed of BUET Teachers Association, Prof Azizul Huq of Mymensingh Agricultural University were present at the meeting.

## Assassination bid on Abbas condemned

Presidents and General Secretary of 14 thana units of BNP of Dhaka Metropolitan Wednesday condemned the assassination attempt on city's one of the vice presidents and Dhaka City Mayor Mirza Abbas, reports BSS.

Presidents and General Secretaries of BNP units held a meeting Tuesday night with Salahuddin Ahmed MP, General Secretary of the City BNP, in the chair.

The meeting demanded arrest of the conspirators behind this assassination attempt. The meeting was addressed, among others, by Abdul Wadud Master, Kazi Abul Bashar, Ehsanul Huq Setu, Habibur Rahman Mandal, Saifuddin Milon, Alamgir Hussain and M Tariqullah.

## Garments workers demand Tk 1400 as minimum wage

Garment factory workers Wednesday demanded of the government to implement their five-point demand, including fixation of minimum wage - at Tk 1400, reports UNB.

"Workers are deprived of their due wages... We'll launch a movement to realise our demands", said President of Garment Workers Union President Sangram Prasad (GSKSP) Hanif Mukta at a news conference here in the afternoon.

Women and children, who make up about 85 per cent and 20 per cent of the country's garment factory workers, are at the mercy of the owners' whims and caprices, he said alleging that their rights were being denied.

GSKSP formed early this month comprising four garment workers' associations, also demands that the workers be issued appointment letters and allowed the right to do trade union activities.

The five-point demand also includes festival bonus, weekly holidays, housing and

medical facilities, overtime benefits, security to women workers, ban on textile imports and resumption of closed factories.

Among those present at the news conference were Bangladesh Garment Workers' Federation President Alam Reaz and General Secretary Tanvir Siraj, Garment Workers Union President Sangram Prasad (GSKSP) Hanif Mukta at a news conference here in the afternoon.

## Patuakhali BNP team meets Biswas

A thirty-member delegation of the Patuakhali BNP unit led by Syed Harun-ar-Rashid called on President Abdur Rahman Biswas at his residence Wednesday evening, reports BSS.

They stayed with the President for some time and discussed problems of their area.

## Weather

### Night temperature may rise

By Staff Correspondent

Weather forecast valid till 6 pm of Thursday says rain is likely to occur at one or two places over the regions of Khulna, Chittagong divisions. It is likely to be dry elsewhere. Night temperature may rise by one to three degree Celsius.

The lowest temperature on Wednesday was recorded at 15.8 degree Celsius at 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 Wednesday were:

City	Temperature		Humidity
	Max	Min	
Dhaka	29.2	20.4	71 62
Chittagong	29.8	19	89 83
Khulna	29.8	18.2	82 72
Rajshahi	29.6	15.9	64 86
Rangpur	30	16.2	84 89
Sylhet	30.3	17.5	69 75
Jessore	30.8	16.8	x x
Comilla	28.8	17.4	85 89



Rabita Secretary General Dr Abdullah Omar Nasseef arrived in Dhaka Wednesday on a three-day visit to Bangladesh. Education Minister Jamiruddin Sircar received him at Zia International Airport.

## Continued Rabita aid to Darul Ihsan Varsity assured

Education Minister Zamiruddin Sircar has underlined the need for spreading religious thoughts and teachings in all branches of knowledge, reports UNB.

He was speaking as the chief guest at the first certificate awarding ceremony of the Rabita financed Darul Ihsan University at Savar, near Dhaka city, on Wednesday afternoon.

The minister called for bringing about a radical change in the country's educational system which, he said, was yet to get rid of the legacy of the colonial rule.

"An efficient education system and high standard of education are the need of the hour", he said seeking cooperation from all concerned, particularly the scholars, in this regard.

Referring to the restoration

of democratic dispensation in the country, Sircar said the vices of the nine-year autocratic rule could not be overcome overnight.

In his presidential speech, Secretary General of the Makkah-based Rabita Dr Abdullah Omar Nasseef assured of his organisation's continued assistance to the University.

Bangladesh is a good place for propagating Islamic principles and ideals, and the University will contribute towards that end, said Dr Nasseef, who is also Chancellor of the University.

Two former Saudi ministers Shaikh Ahmad Salah Jamjoom and Dr Muhammad Abdullah Yemeni, speaking on the occasion, called for educating the children and the youth with Islamic teachings.

Dr Nasseef and the two

former Saudi ministers are members of the Darul Ihsan Trust which runs the University. They arrived here earlier in the day from Islamabad on a three-day visit.

They are expected to call on President Abdur Rahman Biswas and Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, besides visiting the Rabita hospital in Chittagong.

## Tk 15 lakh timber seized : 4 arrested

Timber worth Taka 15 lakh were seized and four persons arrested in a raid carried out Tuesday night in two trawlers in the river Buriganga, reports BSS.

The forest officials seized the trawlers for carrying valuable timbers having no valid documents.

Sources at the Bon Bhaban said a high powered team of forest officials under the guidance of Conservator of Forests Ali Akbar Bhuiyan conducted the raid and recovered 3000 feet of Garjon, Silkora and other valuable timbers.

Fatullah Police which helped the investigating team, later arrested four persons including the Serangs of the trawlers who were produced to the court on Wednesday.

The sources said the timber smugglers were active in Chittagong and Cox's Bazar districts and carrying on such organised theft of forest resources.

In a similar raid conducted in January this year, timber worth Taka one crore was recovered from different depots of Dhaka city, the sources added.

## A clarification

# Wangchuk accepted invitation to visit Colombo: envoy

The Sri Lankan High Commissioner in Bangladesh Alfred K. David in a clarification to the report published in The Daily Star on November 13 said the Bhutanese King Jigme Singhe Wangchuk had accepted an invitation from President Premadasa to attend the SAARC summit.

The clarification runs as follows:

The actual remarks made by me, in the course of a talk on 'The SAARC in Perspective' were as follows:-

The asymmetry of India in

## Dr Shahiduddin new DU Treasurer

By DU Correspondent

Dr Shahiduddin Ahmed, Professor, Department of Management, Dhaka University, has been appointed as the Treasurer of the University for four years.

Dr Ahmed passed B Com (Hons) and M Com in Management from the University in 1967 and 1968 respectively.

He joined the Department of Management in 1970 as a lecturer. Prior to his taking over the charge of Treasurer, he served as chairman of the said department.

## Obituary

By Staff Correspondent

Fatema Abedin, a doyenne of women education and women emancipation died on Monday at a nursing home in the city.

She was 75. Wife of founder General Secretary of Bangladesh Teachers' Association, Joyanal Abedin, she left behind one son, two daughters and hosts of friends and relatives to mourn her death.

Her chehnum will be held on Thursday at 259, Rayer Bazar.

Director of Agriculture Extension Department A K M Anwarul Kibria died of heart attack here Monday. He was 59, reports UNB.

Late Kibria was buried at the Mirpur Shahid Intellectuals graveyard. He left behind his wife, two sons, six daughters and a host friends and relations to mourn his death.

His kulkhwani will be held after Aar prayer today (Thursday) at his residence at U/7, Noorjahan Road, Mohammadpur.

Kibria was given President award for his outstanding contribution in the field of agriculture.

## Buddhists to celebrate Kathin Cheebar Dan tomorrow

"Shuvo Kathin Cheebar Dan Utsab", one of the main religious festivals of the Buddhist community, will be celebrated tomorrow (Friday), reports UNB.

Bangladesh Buddhist Federation has also arranged its national conference on the occasion at the Buddha Bihari in Merul Badda here.

President Abdur Rahman Biswas will be the chief guest in the day-long programme. Environment, Forest, Fisheries and Livestock Minister Abdullah Al Noman and State Minister for Religious Affairs Prof M A Mannan will attend it as special guests.

Buddhists from various parts of the country will attend the religious function and conference. Buddhist high priest Sangharaj Srimat Shilalankar Mohather will preside.

The programme includes hoisting of national and religious flags at 6 am, Buddha puja at 10 am, Pindadan at 11 am, inauguration of the conference at 3.30 pm and a cultural session in the evening.

## Reopening of BIT demanded

CHITTAGONG, Nov 13: The Teachers Association of Bangladesh Institute of Technology, Chittagong on Wednesday demanded of the authorities concerned to reopen the institute immediately, reports BSS.

P K Omar Farooq and Dr M A Sattar, President and General Secretary respectively of the Association, in a statement in Dhaka said frequent closure of the Institute would create session jam pushing the students to problems.

The leaders of the Association appealed to the government, teachers, students, guardians and political parties to extend their all-out cooperation to bring back normalcy to the campus of the Institute.

## Birthday Greetings

14th November, 1991

To:

Fatema Sobhan (Tina)

'Matiaburj'

67, Outer Circular Road

Baro Maghbazar, Dhaka.

Dearest Tina,

Happy Birthday. Wish-

ing you all the best.

From: From all of us at

7/A, New Bailey Road,

Dhaka.

## It's new just for you

The Daily Star is pleased to introduce a new column where individuals and organisations can publish Birthday and Anniversary Greetings, Congratulatory and Condolence Messages, Get-Well/Good-Luck Wishes, Birth/Death Announcements, In Memoriam, etc. at nominal charges.

For booking details, please contact : Advertisement Manager Phone : 246023-4, 863035

# Wanted

Applications are invited from intending candidates for filling the undermentioned posts in a reputed industrial enterprise at Chittagong.

1. Senior Quality Control Officer - 1 (one) : Diploma in Jute Technology from recognized institute with 3 (three) years practical experience or B.Sc. with 5 (five) years practical experience in jute mills. Age below 35 years.
  2. Senior Production Officer - 2 (two) : Diploma in Jute Technology from recognized institute with minimum 7 (seven) years practical experience in jute twine/yarn mills. Age below 35 years.
  3. Production Officer - 6 (six) : Diploma in Jute Technology from recognized institute with minimum 5 (five) years practical experience in jute twine/yarn mills. Age below 35 years.
  4. Sub-Assistant Engineer (Mechanical) - 3 (three) : Diploma in Mechanical Engineering from recognized institute with 3 (three) years practical experience in jute mills. Age below 35 years.
  5. Security Officer - 1 (one) : Bachelor Degree from recognized university and retired officer from Defence Department. Candidate having experience in industrial enterprise will be given preference. Age below 35 years.
  6. Compounder - 2 (two) : The candidate should be compounder or pharmacist passed with 3 (three) years practical experience. Age below 30 years.
  7. Imam - 1 (one) : The candidate should be Kamel passed Tajbid and skilled in religious Masla-Masael and possess 3 (three) years practical experience as Imam of a Jame Mosque. Age below 35 years.
- Intending candidates should apply with true copies of educational qualification and experience certificates and 2 (two) copies passport size recent photographs to Post Box No. 80, Chittagong by 25-11-1991. Applicant should write the name of post on the envelope.