

Dhaka Day by Day

No Dole Bludgers These

by Fayza Haq

Witty, warm and sensitive, with curly hair and glasses, David Brian Wilson showed slides of contemporary Australian artists and the work of the Aborigines at the Alliance Française.

"Australians are just waking up after a century or more of British conservatism—legally, economically and culturally," the artist said, commenting on the place of the Aborigines in the society Down Under. "That the aborigines have survived is miraculous. There aren't many of them left. Australians have a heritage of intolerance. The law and politics has been just a little bit ahead. There is a change in culture in Australia. There is a lot of unconscious prejudice that will take another generation to get over."

The painter added, "It is different with children. They don't really care about race or colour. In Bathurst, where I stay, the biggest child care centre has been initiated by a Koori woman. The law in New South Wales has introduced an anti-discrimination bill where it is now criminal to discriminate on the ground of those set out in the charter of the United Nations. The law has realised that society is slow and therefore makes it obligatory to implement the laws. This won't stop the prejudice but may help to change it."

Discussing Aboriginal art David remarked, "I have great admiration and affection for this because it is some of the first art that I saw as a child. So it stayed with me. I feel out of order talking about it because I don't belong to that culture. So I rely very much on explanations by the Koori people. As to what the Australian public thinks of it, they say all paintings are squiggles. There is only 5% of the Australian population interested in art or culture or ballet, although opera has an enormous, growing support."

Talking about the exploitation of the aboriginal artists by the go-betweens, the painter pointed out to me, "The exploitation of the artist by the gallery owners is not confined to the Aborigines. The average per cent charged by the gallery is between 33% to 45% commission—which is an obscenity. There are, however, two or three galleries in Sydney who charge 25%. As a painter I myself have been exploited. The fact that the Aborigines have been exploited is nothing new."

He added, "Aboriginal art is today being taken all over the world as in USA and Europe. I personally wouldn't use galleries. If a lot of painters did that it would make a difference in the commission."

If the Australians made an attempt to improve the living conditions of the Aborigines will they produce better work? "I don't think the Aboriginal people are aware of what is happening to them. They see a different way of using their culture to obtain money, buy property

under the lands right legislation. The land is taken from the white farmers and given back to the Aborigines," David replied.

Does he have the impression that many of the Aborigines are 'drunken, useless and living on the dole'? "Many Australians do just that. They also think that Asians are taking away their jobs. There is a definite feeling of resentment. There is no reason to believe that people anywhere in the world don't tend to be prejudiced," he replied.

What is his impression of the white Australian painters who bring in the gum trees, sheep and shed as their main themes? "That was a part of the ordinary culture of Australia. These painters felt that unless it was something you could recognise it really was not there."

Isn't the Australian art—until recently—very much a copy of what has been going on in Europe? David replied, a trifle ruffled up. "It is not a copy but an interpretation of what is going on in Europe because Australia is very isolated. Now that the ability to travel for wealthy Australians is there, and there is also the grant system for artists this allows them to go about and change their culture."

Is he contented with the way Australian art is progressing? "I'm sceptical of the direction of Australian art. Successful career belongs to a selected few. It takes 20 years to decide sometimes that they are not interested in a career and would not like to be a part of a movement that they do not agree with," David replied.

Does he think that Aboriginal art can be combined with new facilities and make something contemporary? "There is a lot of graphic work being done with Aboriginal art. In time this will affect the culture just as the eating habits have changed in the last 50 years due to the influence of the Italians, Chinese and the Malays. We no longer eat only boiled potatoes and chops. As for myself I've had chillies for thirty years as I once shared digs with a Goan colleague," he informed.

What was his impression of the Asian biennale—the Bangladeshi section of which he managed to see? "It was one of enormous energy and it reflected a society all in a contemporary language. The artists I really enjoyed are Khalid Mithu, Kanak Champa, and Hashi Chakrabarti."

Which are the artists he is influenced by? "Giotto, Rembrandt and Augustus John. Among the Australians I go in for William Dobell and Margaret Preston. I'm not interested in Sidney Nolan even though he showed Australians how to make symbols from the culture of the white Australia," he replied.

The difficulties he faced in his work include "being uninfluenced by fashion and being tempted to follow a successful career." His wife remains his greatest inspiration and support.



David B. Wilson: That the aborigines have survived is miraculous." Photo: Altaf Hossain/ DRIK.

Arrest of labour leader condemned

Bangladesh Workers Federation (BWF) and several other trade union bodies, condemning the arrest of labour leader Abdul Mannan. Thursday said the present government is not better than the ousted autocratic regime, reports UNB.

They demanded that Mannan be released, warrants against other trade unionists withdrawn and workers disputes settled through negotiations to do away with the 'repressive policies'.

In a joint press statement, leaders of the organisations said sudden arrest of the leader of Jute and Textile Workers Action Committee indicates that the policies of the present government was also to harass the trade union leaders.

They also criticised the government for what they called its inaction about workers' wages commission alongside the implementation of the pay commission's report, non-realisation of the 8 and 6-point demands of jute and textile workers.

'Parties won't gain by provoking terrorists'

Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman Thursday called upon all to rise above party interest and work for consolidation of the hard-earned democracy to carry forward the development activities, reports BSS.

A conspiracy is being hatched to undo democracy and the economic development programme undertaken by the present government, the minister said while unveiling the foundation stone plaque of the Monu Bridge in Maulvi Bazar.

Communications Minister Col (Retd) Oli Ahmed spoke on the occasion. Begum Khaleda Rabbani, MP, Azizur Rahman, MP, and Abdus Shahid, MP, were present.

The 136.44 meter long bridge will be constructed on the River Monu at an estimated cost of Taka 3.46 crore.

The Finance Minister said the BNP had virtually come to power for the last three months and any conspiracy to oust the present government would only affect democracy

and politics in the country. He said the political parties would not gain anything by provoking the programme of siege and the act of terrorism.

Saifur Rahman said the BNP government had been working round the clock to eradicate the problems created by the autocratic rule for the last nine years.

He said the government had already started development work to materialise the hopes and aspirations of the people.

Speaking on the occasion Oli Ahmed said the BNP's politics was aimed at promoting welfare of the people and building the nation.

He said the autocratic government of Ershad had ruined the country's economy and it required cooperation from all to carry forward the activities to rebuild the national economy.

Earlier, both the finance and the communications ministers addressed three rallies—one at Chunarghat in Habiganj and two at Srimangal and Rajnagar in Moulavi Bazar.

Birthday Greetings

December 6, 1991
Happy Birthday
to our beloved cousin
REYAN
Wishing you many happy
returns of the Day.
— Pial, Tamal, Shimul,
Babu, Mitul & Munmun.

Birthday Greetings

ANIKA 6:12:91
RAMEEZ 7:12:91
Both our heart of heart.
Wish you the best of everything
and many happy returns
of the day.
DADA, DIDA, BABA & MAA

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just for you*

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বাংলাদেশ নৌবাহিনী

এলেকট্রিকিটিভ, ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং, সাপ্লাই ও ইলেকট্রিক্যাল শাখায়
ক্যাডেট ভর্তি

আগনিও নৌবাহিনীতে ভর্তি হয়ে স্থায়ী কমিশন লাভ করতে পারেন

১। উপস্থিততা :
ক) বয়স (১লা ফেব্রুয়ারী '৯২ তারিখে) :
বেসামরিক প্রার্থী : ১৬½ হইতে ২১ বৎসর
সামরিক বাহিনী প্রার্থী : ১৮ হইতে ২৩ বৎসর
খ) শারীরিক মান (ন্যূনতম) :
উচ্চতা : ১.৬৮ মিঃ (এলেকট্রিকিটিভ শাখার জন্য)
: ১.৬৩ মিঃ (অন্যান্য শাখার জন্য)
ভজন : ৫০ কেজি
বুকের মাপ : ৭৬-৮৯সেঃমিঃ (৫ সেঃমিঃ সম্ভারণ)
গ) শিক্ষাপত্র যোগ্যতা :
পশ্চিম ও পূর্বাঞ্চল বিদ্যালয় কমপক্ষে ২য় বিভাগে এস এস সি ও এইচ এস সি। (সামরিক বাহিনীর প্রার্থীদের জন্য শিক্ষাপত্র যোগ্যতা : এইচ ই টি অথবা সেনা বা বিমানবাহিনীর সমতুল্য যোগ্যতা)
ঘ) বৈবাহিক অবস্থা : অবিবাহিত

২। অযোগ্যতা :
ক) সেনা, নৌ বা বিমান বাহিনী বা যে কোন সরকারী চাকুরী হইতে বরখাস্ত বা প্রত্যাহার হইলে।
খ) দুইবার আই এস এস বি'তে অকৃতকার্য হইলে।
গ) সেনা, নৌ বা বিমানবাহিনীর আশীল মেডিকেল বোর্ড কর্তৃক অযোগ্য বিবেচিত হইলে।
ঘ) যে কোন বিচারালয় হইতে লড়াও হইলে।

৩। মনোনয়ন পদ্ধতি :
ক) প্রাথমিক ডায়ারী পরীক্ষার যোগ্য প্রার্থীদের নিম্নবর্ণিত বিষয়ে লিখিত পরীক্ষা চট্টগ্রাম, ঢাকা, খুলনা এবং বগুড়া কেন্দ্রে অনুষ্ঠিত হইবে।
(১) আই কিউ টেস্ট (২) ইংরেজী (৩) সাধারণ জ্ঞান ও চলিত বটনাবলী (৪) অঙ্ক এবং (৫) পদার্থবিদ্যা
খ) আই এস এস বি'তে পরীক্ষা ও সাক্ষাৎকার।
গ) শারীরিক উপস্থিততা মেডিকেল বোর্ড কর্তৃক।
ঘ) চূড়ান্ত মনোনয়ন নৌ সেনার দপ্তর কর্তৃক।

৪। বিদেশে প্রশিক্ষণ :
মেখাবী ক্যাডেটদের বিদেশে প্রশিক্ষণের ব্যবস্থা করা হয়।

৫। বেতন ও ভাতাদি :
সরকার কর্তৃক নির্ধারিত অন্যান্য সুবিধাদিসহ সামরিকবাহিনীর বেতনক্রম অনুযায়ী বেতন ও ভাতা।

৬। আবেদনপত্র সংগ্রহের নিয়ম :
সোনালী ব্যাংক, নৌ সেনার শাখায় সফরী হিসাব নং ১৩০-এর অনুকূলে ৭৫.০০ (পঁাত্তর) টাকার ব্যাংক ডাকট অফেরতযোগ্য এর বিনিময়ে নিম্নে বর্ণিত ঠিকানাসমূহ হইতে আবেদনপত্র পাওয়া যাইবে।
ক) নৌবাহিনী সেনার দপ্তর, পিএস পরিনগর, বনানী, ঢাকা-১২১৩।
খ) নৌবাহিনী ভর্তি ও তথ্যকেন্দ্র, বিএনএস হাটী মহাসীল, ঢাকা সেনানিবাস, ঢাকা-৬
গ) নৌবাহিনী ভর্তি ও তথ্যকেন্দ্র, টাইগার পাস, চট্টগ্রাম।
ঘ) নেভাল অফিসার-ইন-চার্জ খুলনা, টাউন হাট/শপুর, খুলনা।
ঙ) স্টেশন হেডকোয়ার্টার, বগুড়া সেনানিবাস, বগুড়া।
চ) ক্যাডেট কলেজসমূহ : (কেবলমাত্র ক্যাডেট কলেজের ছাত্রদের জন্য)
ছ) ডাকযোগে আবেদনপত্র সংগ্রহ করিতে ইহলে পূর্ববর্ণিত ব্যাংক ডাকটের সাথে ৪/- টাকা মূল্যের অত্রবহৃত ডাকটিকেটসহ ২৩x১০ সেঃমিঃ সাইজের একটি খামে নিজের ঠিকানা লিখিয়া ডি পি এস অফিস, নৌসেনার দপ্তর, বনানী, ঢাকা-১২১৩-এ পাঠাইতে হইবে।

৭। আবেদনপত্রের সাথে যে সমস্ত দলিল আবেদ্যক :
ক) সম্মতি জোলা ৪ কপি পাসপোর্ট আকারের সত্যায়িত ছবি।
খ) শিক্ষাপত্র পরীক্ষার নম্বরপত্র ও সনদপত্রের সত্যায়িত কটোকপি।
গ) নিজ ঠিকানাসম্বলিত খাম (২৩x১০ সেঃমিঃ আকারের) এবং ৪/- (চার টাকা) মূল্যের অত্রবহৃত ডাকটিকেটসহ।

বিশেষ ট্রিটব্য :
(১) অসম্পূর্ণ আবেদনপত্র বাতিল বলে গণ্য হইবে।
(২) ভর্তি পরীক্ষার মাধ্যমে ইংরেজী ব্যতীত সকল বিষয়ে বাংলা ভাষা ব্যবহার করা যাইতে পারে।
(৩) ক্যাডেট কলেজের ছাত্রদেরকে ভর্তি পরীক্ষা হইতে অধ্যাবৃতি নেওয়া হইবে।

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ডিএকপি (স) ১৩০৯/১২-১

Photo show on mass upsurge begins

A two-day photo exhibition portraying different movements in the country began in Dhaka Thursday in celebration of the first anniversary of anti-autocracy mass upsurge, reports UNB.

The Dhaka University Journalists Association (DUJA) organised the exhibition at the TSC Cafeteria of Dhaka University. Photographs by Pavel Rahman of the Associated Press, Kazi Rounak Hossain of Dainik Bangla, Mizanur Rahman of Inqilab and Bayezid Akhter, a freelancer, are on display.

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