

Dhaka Day by Day

Anguish And Hope

by S. Degallaix and S.M. Islam

Ifikhar Uddin Ahmed belongs to this important group of young Bangladeshi painters who are now in their thirties and are keen to demonstrate their social concern by their works.

Although he is barely thirty years old, and he received his graduation at the Institute of Fine Arts of Dhaka only five years ago, Ifikhar Uddin Ahmed can boast of a long career with more than ten years of exhibitions, at home as well as abroad.

To the best of my knowledge, this young artist has, from the very beginning, focused his works on depicting daily life in Bangladesh, expressing a feeling of anguish and loneliness which is to be found among quite a number of painters.

Symbolic forms like that of the wheel render the incapability of fate while the day to day's events recall the tragic dimension of life-distorted rickshaws after a collision, petty workers with weary eyes, women subject to insane and brutal desires, destitute or imprisoned people — illness, death and solitude are ever present in the inspiration of Ifikhar Uddin Ahmed.

The techniques used however, introduce more diversity and colours of hope in paintings which range from detailed realism to colourful abstraction. The delineation of the canvas in squares or vertical strips is a way to multiply sequences, insights and often to exacerbate the breaking of the puzzle which constitutes life. The subjects are well centered on the canvas to stop the mind wandering away from the intended message, while the design is steeped in a greyish or bluish haze which distorts it and gives the vision of a blurred distanced world.

Although the gloomy and pessimistic vision prevails in the figurative works, the abstract compositions denote a different attitude of mind. The various hues of red become more present and give their colour to simple geometrical figures whose shapes and upward orientation are evidence of the vitality and the resilience which make the temper of the artist.

His look on society, on his country, is free from complacency but at the same time full of sympathy and strong attachment.

By his love for his land and his people in spite of the hardships of life the young painter strongly belongs to this nascent Bangladeshi school of painting which is enjoying a growing and well deserved reputation.

Ifikhar Uddin Ahmed graduated from the Institute of Fine Art of the Dhaka University in 1983 with specialisation in drawing and painting, and subsequently earned his Masters degree in the same field from the same institution. He now calls himself a free lance artist, although the term does not do full justice to his years of

sustained effort to carve out a place for himself in the contemporary art scene in Bangladesh. It also does not express his deep commitment to his craft, which certainly is more than what a free lance artist usually displays.

A first look at his paintings would tell us that Ifikhar is different from many of his contemporaries. His difference however, does not lie with his use of abstraction or semi abstraction, or in the way his colours interact with each other to produce a startling effect that eloquently expresses his theme for these have been characteristic of many other painters of Bangladesh. What distinguishes Ifikhar's painting however is the way he somehow conveys the totality of his vision without any distortion. His forms, geometric abstractions, the rhythmic patterns that his dynamic figures created on his crowded canvas may seem to repeat themselves in painting after painting, but looked at more closely, they seem to display a rich variation of speed, tone and combination.

Even when landscape is his subject, Ifikhar imparts enough dynamism in each painting to enable his studies to approximate the eternally changeable life that goes on in nature. Ifikhar begins to work with a vision that initially forms itself in bare outlines, but solidifies as he progresses. His vision has to do with humanity, with civilization and progress, and, most importantly, his country. His human figures — both men and women — are steeped in history. They inhabit a world where only personal integrity and a commitment to the cause of civilization can sustain them.

History is a favourite subject with Ifikhar; time is another; and one of the motifs that recurs in his paintings is the wheel — something that symbolizes both history and time. It is only to be expected, in the context of his larger, historical vision, that Ifikhar's painting will take us to an encounter with our own time.

Contemporary civilization seems to have kept the artist preoccupied. His much-used symbol now is the rickshaw, that bizarre transport that is neither primitive, nor modern, but is a moving statement on the contradictions in our civilization. The rickshaw for Ifikhar symbolizes Bangladesh as the country is poised precariously between the future and the past. On one side, there is progress, on the other, fixity. If one looks carefully, Ifikhar's rickshaws seem strangely immobile, as if they are unable to find out their sense of direction.

The same cannot however, be said about Ifikhar. He has already found his own voice, his own medium and, most importantly, the ability to translate his vision into a rich combination of colour, form and figure.



Committee on public undertakings meets today

The 17th meeting of the Parliamentary "Committee on Public Undertakings" will be held today (Thursday) at the Sangsad Bhaban, an official source said, reports BSS.

Mia Mohammad Mansur Ali, MP, Chairman of the committee, will preside over the meeting.

The members of the committee have been requested to be present at the meeting.

Public Accounts

Another report says: A meeting of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Accounts will be held tomorrow (Friday) at 10 am at the Accounts Committee room of the Jatiya Sangsad.

The meeting will be presided over by the committee chair LK Siddiqui.

The committee members are Akbar Hossain, Syed Manjur Hossain, Md Shahjahan Omar, Anwarul Hossain Khan Chowdhury, Redwan Ahmed, Md, Shahjahan, Md Abdul Gani, Meshbauddin Khan, Akhtaruzzaman Chowdhury, Md Asaduzzaman, MM Nazrul Islam, Rashid Khan Menon, Dr TIM Fazle Rabbi Chowdhury and Moulana Md Sakhawat Hossain.

Directive to motivate people in canal digging

The first meeting of the Canal Digging Programme in Bhola and Pirojpur districts was held in Barisal on Wednesday, with State Minister for Irrigation, Water Development and Flood Control, Mosharraf Hossain Shahjahan in the chair, reports BSS.

The state minister directed the local leadership to motivate people for taking up massive programmes in this connection.

Shahjahan laid importance on the excavation of derelict and dried up canals at different upazilas and unions on priority basis of Bhola and Pirojpur districts.



Justice Ranadhir Sen dead

Justice Ranadhir Sen, a retired judge of Appellate Division of the Supreme Court, died of cardiac failure at the Suhrawardy Hospital, yesterday (Wednesday) afternoon, family sources said, reports BSS. He was 68.

Justice Sen was admitted to the hospital on December 22 with cardiac respiratory problems.

The body of the Justice has been brought to his Sobhanagh residence and it will be sent to his home town Sylhet for cremation.

Justice Sen left behind his wife, one son, one daughter and a host of friends and admirers.

President shocked

Meanwhile, President Abdur Rahman Biswas on Wednesday expressed his profound shock and sorrow at the death of Justice Ranadhir Sen.

The president, in a message of condolence, said at the death of Justice Sen, the country has lost an experienced jurist. His devotion and sincere endeavours in ensuring the rule of law will be ever remembered, he said.

Mr Biswas prayed for the salvation of the departed soul of Justice Sen and conveyed sympathy to the members of the bereaved family.

Weather

Moderate rain likely

Moderate rain or shower is likely in most parts of the country during the next 36 hours commencing 6 pm Wednesday, Met office forecast.

A moderate cold wave will sweep the country during the period, Met office also said. Night temperature may fall by one to three degree Celsius. Temperature and humidity recorded at important cities and towns on Wednesday were:

Cities/Towns	Temperature in degree Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	9 am	6 pm
Dhaka	18.2	16.4	96	94
Chittagong	26.8	18.3	-	80
Khulna	21.3	16.0	80	100
Rajshahi	17.6	14.4	-	100
Dinajpur	17.8	15.4	-	93
Mymensingh	27.5	16.3	96	96
Srimangal	17.6	16.3	97	91
Cox's Bazar	27.2	7.5	68	79
Birjail	22.7	17.2	77	88
Sylhet	16.8	14.3	-	88

The lowest temperature was at Sylhet. Sunset in Dhaka on Thursday at 5-19 pm and sunrise Friday at 6-40 am.



Dhaka City Hotel Workers Union brought out a procession on Wednesday demanding trial of the killers of Kanchan, a waiter of 'Khai Khai' restaurant.

JS body on Indemnity Ordinance meets tomorrow

A meeting of the Special parliamentary committee on the Indemnity Ordinance (Recall) Bill has been convened tomorrow (Friday) following persistent demand from Awami League.

Committee sources said on Wednesday Law Minister Mirza Golam Ilaiz, who is Chairman of the 15-member body, had called the meeting at 6 pm at Sangsad Bhaban.

Deputy Leader of the Opposition in parliament Abdus Samad Azad expressed the hope that the next meeting would be able to prepare a report unanimously on repeal of the Indemnity Ordinance and send-it back to the House for consideration.

Parliament goes into winter session on January 4.

Talking to UNB by phone Azad said there had been no contradiction among members of the committee regarding abrogation of the ordinance which blocked the trial of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

In the last meeting held on November 5, Samad Azad said, important leaders of the ruling party who are on the committee showed positive attitude to the issue.

In reply to a question, he said there are two procedures in repealing the ordinance, promulgated on September 26, 1975. The ordinance itself can be repealed by simple majority in the House, or the relevant parts (Indemnity parts) of the 5th Amendment to the Constitution can be amended by a two-thirds majority.

The Awami League leader said the Indemnity Bill was moved in the house on August 8 on the basis of consensus and a special parliamentary committee constituted the same day to scrutinise the bill within a month.

He said Law Minister Mirza Golam Ilaiz, Deputy Leader of the House Prof Badruddoza Chowdhury and leaders of other opposition groups had spoken in favour of the bill at that time.

Recalling the Law Minister's categorical assurance, Samad hoped the government party would play a positive role in rescinding the ordinance to give the hard-won democracy an institutional shape and ensure rule of law in the country.

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DU Economics Dept Alumni Assoc polls postponed

By DU Correspondent

The Annual conference and election to the office bearers of the executive committee of the Dhaka University Economics Department Alumni Association scheduled to be held tomorrow has been postponed till the middle of February.

Time and place of the conference and election would be announced later, a press release said.

Computer Society election held

General Election to the Executive Body of the Bangladesh Computer Society was held at Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) in Dhaka on Wednesday, reports UNB.

According to official results, M Anisur Rahman Khan was elected President and Abdul Jabbar and Prof Rafiqul Islam Sharif Vice Presidents.

All of them were elected unopposed. Syed Mahbubur Rahman was elected General Secretary, obtaining highest vote of 166 in the election. However, Khondoker Golam Mawla, who was elected member of the new executive body followed him with 152 votes.

Other office bearers are: Treasurer — Md Rehid Siddiqui, Joint-Secretary — Md Nazmul Haque and MM Nuruzzaman, Members — Khondoker Golam Mawla, SM Zul Kadir, Aziz Ahmed, Hamidur Rabbani Bhuiyan, Md Badiuzzaman, Sheikh Abdullah Mahmud Hassan, Md Omar Faruque, Md Anwar Hossain, Md Sohrab Uddin and ATM Harun.

Election Commissioner Prof Shamsuddin Ahmed officially announced the results in the afternoon.

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NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES

The containerised cargo ex. m. v. "Ocean Sirius" V-36010 from Kobe, Nagoya, Yokohama, ex. m. v. "Genova" V-01/244 from Genoa, ex. m. v. "Vega" V-31A from Karachi, ex. m. v. "Merkur Delta" V-905 from Semarang have been relayed to M. V. "INFINITY" V-548, Import Rotation No. 898/91 is due to arrive Chittagong on or about 27/12/1991 from Singapore.

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What's on today.....

Rainbow Film Society

The inaugural function of the six-day programme taken up by the Rainbow Film Society on the occasion of its 14th founding anniversary will be held today (Thursday) at 8.45 am at the German Cultural Centre at Dhanmondi.

The Rainbow Padak '91 will also be distributed at the function.

Barrister Moinul Hossain will attend it as chief guest.

Bangladesh Junior Chamber

The Inaugural function of the 20th national convention of Bangladesh Junior Chamber will be held today (Thursday) at 10 am at the Hotel Sheraton.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia will attend the function as chief guest while Mirza Abbas, Mayor of the Dhaka City Corporation will be present as special guest.

Diploma Engineers' Assoc

The two-day conference of the Diploma Engineers' Association of the Water and Power Development Board will begin today (Thursday) at 9 am at the WAPDA auditorium.

Dr Khandakar Mosharraf Hossain, Minister for Energy and Mineral Resources will attend the function as chief guest and State Minister for Irrigation, Water Development and Flood Control Mosharraf Hossain Shahjahan as the special guest.

Bangladesh Gram Theatre

Bangladesh Gram Theatre has organised a training course for the "Gram Theatre Journalists" today (Thursday) at 11 am at the auditorium of the Community Development Library at Shangkhar.

Fayez Ahmed, Convenor of the Sammilito Sangskritik Jote will inaugurate the course as chief guest.

Seminar on Traffic Jam

A seminar on "Traffic jam and road-accident" will be held today (Thursday) at 5 pm at the Hotel Sonargaon under the auspices of Lions Club of Dhaka Progoti.

Communication Minister Col (Retd) OI Ahmed will attend the seminar as chief guest.

Dhaka Metropolitan Police Commissioner M Ashraful Huda and Prof Mosharraf Hossain will attend the function as the special guests while Deputy Police Commissioner Quazi Nazrul Islam will present the keynote paper at the seminar.

Asiatic Society of Bangladesh

A seminar on "Philosophical thinking in Bangladesh" will be held today (Thursday) at 10 am at the seminar room of the Asiatic Society of Bangladesh.

National Professor Abdur Razzak will attend the seminar as chief guest.

Conference of the drama-workers

A two-day conference of the Gram theatre female drama-workers will begin today (Thursday) at 12 am at the auditorium of the Mahila Samity at Baily road.

Noted actress Ferdousy Majumdar will inaugurate the conference as chief guest.

Purnima Basar

The annual literary meeting and 4th founding anniversary of the Purnima Basar, a literary and cultural organisation, will be held today (Thursday) at 4 pm at the Green-Wood Kindergarten School at Mirpur.

Principal Dewan Mohammad Azraf will attend the function as chief guest while Poet Sabir Ahmed Chowdhury and News Editor of Radio Bangladesh Mohstuddin Ahmed will be present as the special guests.

South Asian Archaeological congress begins Dec 28

The three-day fourth South Asian archaeological congress will begin in Dhaka on December 28, reports BSS.

Foreign Minister ASM Murtazur Rahman will inaugurate the function as the Chief Guest while Works Minister Rafiqul Islam Mia will be the special guest.

State Minister for Cultural Affairs Prof Jahanara Begum on Wednesday said that delegates from SAARC countries would attend the Congress to find out areas of regional cooperation for preservation and protection of archaeological heritage. Experience gained in any SAARC member nation in this specialised field can be shared, she said.

The Minister said, we can mutually assist one another in the field of archaeological exploration and excavation of ancient sites, documentation of antiquities and preservation of historical sites and monuments.

Referring to the archaeological excavations conducted during the last two decades at a number of sites like Mainamati, Comilla, Bhasu Bihar and Mahasthangarh in Bogra, Arun Dhap and Sitakot in Dinajpur, Bharat Bhayana in Jessore and Halud Vihar in Naogaon, Prof Jahanara said such activities had been useful in getting proper information about the archaeological wealth of those areas.

TV Thursday

- 5.00 : Opening announcement. Al Quran, Programme summary.
- 5.10 : News in Bangla
- 5.20 : Reading from the Geeta
- 5.30 : Jiboner Alo
- 6.00 : Live telecast of SAF football competition between Bangladesh and India from Colombo
- 8.00 : News in Bangla
- 8.30 : Drama of the week
- 10.00 : News in English
- 10.30 : Drama Series : Twin Peaks
- 11.30 : Khabar/The news
- 11.40 : Friday's Programme
- 11.45 : Closing