

# Dhaka Day by Day

## The Tranquilising Indian Art Display

by Fayza Haq

For someone who may have been totally disgruntled with the world and was disenchanted with it as well, the Indian Art exhibit at the Shilpakala Academy was a soothing experience.

It was an exhibition of drawings, paintings, graphics and sculptures by twenty-one Indian artists. Nilima Sheikh, who had arrived with the group of artists from India, and was born in New Delhi in 1945, had one of the most exquisite displays. This was an oil on canvas creation, and one could envisage whatever one wanted from it.

Nilima does not believe in "isms"; she refuses to compartmentalise art into "isms". The painting reminded you of what you had read about, in the various scriptures, and how you imagined heaven to be — if you believed in a world above, and beyond, and a life hereafter. The browns, yellows and greens appeared to delineate trees, rivers and expanses of land.

Sanat Kor, who was another member of artists who had arrived from India, (and who spoke to 'The Daily Star') had a fascinating painting about women on bulls, with hovering angels guarding above. Jovial, well versed in philosophy, politics and extremely aware of environmental problems not only in Calcutta, where he resides — but the world over, his paintings presented a beautiful image of his country. This could have been interpreted as something even international. In fact, it reminded me of Paul Klee's work. I learnt, speaking the artists individually, that Klee was a favourite among many of the contemporary artists in India, as he is in the cultural scene, both in the East and West.

It was a pity that in one's tight schedule one failed to spot Jogen Chowdhury's work. He was, apparently, the leader of the group that had arrived from our neighbouring country. Yet one could not spot him in the brochure of the exhibition. I had heard him speak at the symposium that was included in the offering by the Indian Council for Cultural Relations on December 5. He appeared to be intelligent, suave and sensitive, going by his speech at the symposium — which had been arranged by the

Shilpakala Academy, with the co-operation of the Indian High Commission.

Kartick Pyne, born in Calcutta in 1931, had a tranquillising piece with birds of various species and hues. The interesting part of the composition was that there was a tree in the background — which appeared almost too heavy in hues, and there were peacocks of various colours and patterns in the front and centre. Yet nothing appeared out of place. The creation was remarkably balanced and the colours, though dark, did not depress one, in any way. If one

believed in rejuvenation and contemplated on beliefs and philosophy — such as those of Buddhism and Hinduism — one could not help being delighted by the presentation. The solid looking sculpture by Bipin Goswami, was a depiction of an Indian gentleman — or so one conjectured — as there was no way to speak to the artist and get more details. The facial features appeared that of an elderly gentleman. He was sitting on a "mora" and the end of his "dhoti" was placed in front. The person depicted was an individual of strong personality, going by the artist's presentation.

The woman pumping the well, depicted by Bikash Debnath, was another heavy creation in golden colour. As one is not allowed to touch displays flown in from abroad, it was difficult to access how much of it was metal and what proportion of it was of other ingredients. It was a good depiction of daily life in India, or anywhere else in the world. Elderly women, of certain social strata, have to do housework, no matter what her mood may be. Life must continue.

The women viewing from the balcony by Bikash Bhattacharjee was intriguing, imaginative and realistic. The women reminded one of the works of Gauguin and Matisse. Their faces were of a golden hue, and they had their hair tied up. The work was more photographic than impressionistic.

Twenty-one Indian artists were represented in this exhibition. This display will remain open for approximately three weeks. I believe that none of the viewers, cosmopolitan, or otherwise, will be disappointed with this show.



A creation by Kartick Pyne at the Shilpakala Academy Indian art exhibition.

## Turkish military team in city

A two-member delegation from Turkish Combined War Colleges Command led by its commandant, General Ibrahim Turkgenel arrived Dhaka yesterday on a five-day goodwill visit to Bangladesh, reports BSS.

The members of the team were received at the Zia International Airport by the Commandant of Defence Services Command and Staff College and senior armed forces officers.

During their stay in Bangladesh, the members of the goodwill delegation will call on President Abdur Rahman Biswas, chiefs of staff of the three services and other high officials including the Defence Secretary.

The team will lay wreaths at Dhaka Cantonment and visit military and civil institutions and places of interest in Dhaka, Chittagong and other places of the country.

## Directive to make canal digging plan a success

Law and Justice Minister Mirza Golam Hafez Monday directed the district administration to put in their maximum efforts for successful implementation of Canal Digging Programme initiated in the country, reports BSS.

Addressing a cross section of people at Nilphamari Circuit House the Law Minister said that the government of BNP would mobilize all possible resources to build up rural development infrastructure for economic emancipation of rural people.

Keeping this in view, the government has undertaken pragmatic steps like Canal Digging, Mass Literacy, Compulsory Primary Education, and re-organisation of local government bodies to fulfil the hopes and aspiration of common people, he said.

Mirza Golam Hafez asked the local administration to discharge their responsibilities with utmost sincerity for peaceful holding of the coming Union Parishad elections.

## Obituary

Ahmed Mustafa Kamal, ex-tena planter, eldest son of late Dr A Z Chaudhuri of South Bhadeswar, Sylhet died on December 23 at his Uttara residence following a massive cardiac attack. He was 53.

He left behind his wife, two sons, ailing mother, brothers, sisters and a host of relatives to mourn his death.

He was buried at Banani graveyard.

# DU passing through a crucial period, says VC

By Staff Correspondent

Vice-Chancellor of Dhaka University Prof Maniruzzaman Miah said Monday that the University was passing through a crucial period caused by violence on the campus.

Despite all odds, Dhaka University is still the best place for the students to build themselves up as the nation's worthy citizens, the Vice-Chancellor told freshers of the Social Science Faculty at the Teacher-Student Centre (TSC) of the University.

The DU is an ideal field for free thoughts and it offers many facilities for academic and extra-academic activities although the institution is facing many problems and limitations at the moment, Prof

Miah noted. Welcoming the freshers of the Sociology, Political Science, Economics, Public Administration and International Relations Departments, the VC advised them to learn self-control as they were free from the control by their parents in the campus.

'I tried to present the students a DU where they would be able to engage themselves in sports and cultural activities along with their studies', Prof Miah claimed and regretted that campus violence became the biggest obstacle to all the efforts by the authorities in this regard.

The VC was optimistic that joint efforts and sincerity of all

concerned could rid the university of the curse of violence. 'If we can eliminate violence from the campus, we can also eradicate session jami', the VC said.

He also sought cooperation from the freshers in completing their courses on time and requested them to be friendly with each other.

Chaired by Mehrunnessa Chowdhury, Director of the Centre for Students Counselling of the University, the orientation programme for the newcomers was also addressed by Dr Meghna Guha Thakurata and Mohammad Babul Akhter on behalf of the faculty teachers while Sajjadul Islam spoke on the freshers' behalf.

## JS body on Rules and Procedure meets Jan 9

The sixth meeting of the Jatiya Sangsad Standing Committee on Rules of Procedure will be held at 11 am on January 9 in Standing Committee room No-1 of the Sangsad Bhaban with Speaker Sheikh Razzak Ali in the chair, reports BSS.

All members of the committee have been requested to attend the meeting.

The members of the committee are: Deputy Leader of the House Dr Badruddoza Chowdhury, Deputy Speaker Humayun Khan Pannal, LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdus Salam Talukder, Chief Whip Khondaker Delwar Hossain, Information Minister Barrister Nazmul Huda, State Minister for Law and Justice Aminul Haque, Sudanghu Skhar Haldar, Md Rahmat Ali, Advocate Fazle Rabbi, Md Latifur Rahman and Suranjit Sen Gupta.

## BSEC employees' problems to be solved

The leaders of the Bangladesh Steel and Engineering Corporation Employees and Workers Federation called on Industries Minister Shamsul Islam Khan at his office on Monday, reports BSS.

They discussed matters relating to their 12-point demand. The industries Minister gave them a patient hearing and explained the government's view points on their demands.

The minister said that the present government was committed to establish free market economy in the country and execute all industrial development programmes in this regard. He assured all possible help from government side for the welfare of the workers and employees of the BSEC. He said legitimate demands of the workers federation would be fulfilled within the limited resource of the government. He sought all cooperation from workers federation in this regard.

General Secretary of the Bangladesh Jatiyabadi Samik Dal Nazrul Islam Khan, Chief Adviser of the Federation Mostafizur Rahman, General Secretary of the Federation M A Wahab Mridha and labour leader AKM Nazrul Islam were present.



National Professor Shamsul Haque addressing a seminar on the occasion of the police week at the police headquarters auditorium in the city.

## BIBM workshop concludes

A 3-day long workshop on 'Financial sector reforms — loan classification and provisioning', organised by the Bangladesh Institute of Bank Management (BIBM), concluded in Dhaka on Monday, reports BSS.

This was the first workshop out of 37 workshops to be conducted by the institute in the calendar year, 1992.

A B M Mahbul Anin Khan, Director General, BIBM, presided over the concluding session of the workshop and gave away the certificates to the participants.

## Computer training for youths underscoring

State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadique Hossain Monday underscored the need for spreading computer education throughout the country to help accelerate development efforts, reports BSS.

Speaking at a seminar on 'Education on computer' in Dhaka in the evening, the State Minister said we need to increase computer literacy because computer has made a revolution in the field of development globally.

The seminar, held at the Lions Foundation Bhaban, Agargaon, was organised by the Leo Club of Dhaka Green Peace.

Lions Districts Governor Humayun Zahir attended the seminar as the special guest while President of the Leo Club AM Mohaimin presided.

Engineer Mahmudur Rahman was the key-note speaker on the occasion. Sadique Hossain underscored the importance of im-

parting computer training to the youth in a massive scale.

Later, the State Minister inaugurated the computer training centre of the Leo Club. Lions District Governor Humayun Zahir donated two computers to the centre.

# Engineers urged to work for environmental balance

Fisheries, Livestock, Environment and Forest Minister Abdullah Al-Noman Monday said, engineers would have to play pioneering role in the nation building activities, reports BSS.

He was inaugurating a seminar on 'Engineering for Disaster Mitigation' organised in the series of functions being held in connection with the 36th Annual Convention of The Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh, at the Engineers Institute in Dhaka.

Presided over by Dr M Anwar Hossain, President of the Institution, the function was addressed, among others, by Ruhul Matin and Golam Mohiuddin. Prof Jamilur Rahman Chowdhury of BUET presented the key-note paper on the subject.

Environment Minister said in recent years Bangladesh has

become easy prey to various types of natural calamities like flood, cyclone, tidal bore, drought due to geographical location. Although man cannot completely win over the natural disaster, its velocity and loss of life and property can be reduced through the application of technological expertise, he added.

Referring to the post-disaster period, the minister said the engineers could play a vital role to mitigate the sufferings of the affected people through successful implementation of the rehabilitation programmes including restoration of electric and water supply, telephone system, roads and transport. He recalled the best services of the engineers in the rehabilitation work after the disastrous cyclone of April 29 last year.

Noman said Bangladesh is

an agricultural country and we have to live with the natural calamities. He called upon the Engineer Community to continue their efforts to evolve ways and means that will enable people to live with the calamity.

Terming environmental degradation as one of the main causes of high velocity and frequency of natural disaster in Bangladesh, Noman urged the engineers to work hard for preservation of environmental balance in the country which will help minimise the natural disaster. He said the problems of environmental hazards faced at present by the developed countries due to their rapid development work ignoring environmental issue, would affect Bangladesh if we fail to take proper care of it at present.

## DUCSU will set up two sculptures in memory of martyrs

DUCSU will set up two sculptures in and around the Dhaka University campus in memory of the martyrs of historic Mass Movements, reports UNB.

One of the sculptures will be constructed at the Dhaka Medical College premises in memory of Shaheed Asad who sacrificed his life in the 1969 mass upsurge.

The other, styled 'Ganatantrik Bangla', will be erected in the DU mall area for those who laid down their lives in the 1990 anti-autocracy uprising.

DUCSU General Secretary Khairul Kabir Khokon announced the decision at a press conference at the DUCSU Bhaban on Monday.

The conference was held on the eve of opening of DUCSU Collector Centre today (Tuesday) the student union recently set up the collection centre near Madhu's Canteen for conservation of university's documents and photographs on DUCSU activities, life-sketch of its former leaders and valuable information of the glorious history of student movements.

Khokon, who is President of the Collection Centre, said they would also introduce DUCSU medal and start recognition to meritorious students of the university every year.

He called upon the former leaders and students of the university to deposit any information or documents they possessed to the DUCSU museum for the future generation.

The press conference was also addressed by DU Senate member Fazul Huq Milon and Moniruzzaman Monir, General Secretary of the Museum Tuhin Malik, DUCSU AGS Nazimuddin Alam, Transport Secretary Jahangir Alam, Cultural Secretary Milon Mehedi, members Rafiqul Islam Jaglu, Shahiduddin Chowdhury Anee and Gopal Chandra Das.

## Awal elected ISOA member

Mohammad Abdul Awal, Managing Director of Bangladesh Bulk Carriers Limited was elected an executive committee member of the Islamic Ship Owners Association (ISOA) at its 10th meeting in Jeddah recently, reports BSS.

The ISOA, established to ensure co-ordination and co-operation in the field of maritime transport and cargo, is a specialised affiliated organ of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC).

## TV Tuesday

- 5.00 Opening announcement, Al Quran, Programme Summary.
- 5.10 News in Bangla.
- 5.20 Recitation from the Gesta.
- 5.30 Cartoon: The Challenge of the Gobots.
- 6.00 Shikshangon: Educational programme.
- 6.30 Mayeder Janya.
- 7.05 Nazrul's Song.
- 8.00 News in Bangla.
- 8.30 Drama series: Project No 202.
- 10.00 News in English.
- 10.30 Film: War and Remembrance.
- 11.30 Khabar/The news.
- 11.40 Wednesday's programme and
- 11.45 Closing.

## Reza Chy laid to rest

Hussain Reza Chowdhury, a retired Section Officer, was buried at Shaheed Buddhijibi Graveyard at Mirpur Monday afternoon, reports BSS.

Reza Chowdhury, who was also the Secretary of Haqqani Anjuman, Bangladesh died of a heart attack on Saturday night. Earlier, his namaz-e-janaza was held at Baitul Mukarram national mosque after Zohr prayer.

He was the son of late Alhaj Wahed Reza Chowdhury, a former Zamindar of Ulania, Barisal and brother of noted writer and journalist Abdul Gaffar Chowdhury.

His qukhwan will be held on Thursday at 4 pm at 14/3 Lake Circus (Kalabagan Road).

## What's on today . . .

### Engineers Foundation '66

A get-together of the Engineers' Foundation '66 will be held today (Tuesday) at 1 pm at the Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh (IEB).

Publication ceremony of 'Manab Jati Sapakshe' The publication ceremony of the book 'Manab Jati Sapakshe' written by Prof Muhammad Abu Talib will be held today (Tuesday) at 4.30 pm at the auditorium of the Bangladesh Institute of Broadcasting Art (BIBA).

Principal Dewan Mohammad Azraf will attend function as chief guest while poet Sabir Ahmad Chowdhury will be present as the special guest.

### Rotary Club of Ramna

The regular weekly meeting of the Rotary Club of Ramna will be held today (Tuesday) at 5.30 pm at the Hotel Sonargaon.

Dr Hafizur Rahman will talk on 'environmental imbalance in Bangladesh' as the guest speaker.

### Shikshak Oikya Parishad

Bangladesh Shikshak Oikya Parishad has convened a press conference today (Tuesday) at 3 pm at the National Press Club to discuss about the problems in the education sector.

### Bangladesh Chhatra Federation

The second council of the Bangladesh Chhatra Federation Dhaka University unit will be held today (Tuesday). It will also organise a discussion in the afternoon at the TSC island on the occasion of its council.

The discussion will be participated by Badaruddin Umar, Anu Muhammad, Dr Ahmad Sharif, Shah Atul Islam, Faizul Hakim, Sardar Faruq, Jahangir and Belal Chowdhury.

### National Workers' Federation

The first national conference of the National Workers' Federation will be held today (Tuesday) at 10 am at the auditorium of the Dhaka District Sports Association.

NDP Chairman Anwar Zahid will attend the conference as chief guest while President of Jatiya Samik Federation Abul Bashar will be present as the special guest.

## Weather

### Night temperature may rise

Dry weather will prevail over the country during the next 36 hours commencing 6 pm Monday, Met office forecast.

The sky will remain partly cloudy over Chittagong division. Night temperature may rise by 1-2 degree Celsius over Chittagong and Dhaka divisions and will remain nearly unchanged over Rajshahi and Khulna divisions.

Temperature and humidity recorded at important cities and towns on Monday were:

Cities/Towns	Temperature in degree Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	9 am	6 pm
Dhaka	21.8	11.7	74	59
Chittagong	22.8	12.7	87	68
Rajshahi	22.2	7.2	80	87
Khulna	22.8	8.7	86	79
Barisal	22.8	9.6	88	76
Cox's Bazar	23.0	12.6	79	72
Srimangal	22.0	11.2	91	79
Mymensingh	-	10.3	88	-
Dinajpur	22.7	7.6	90	69

The lowest temperature was recorded in Rajshahi. The sun rises at 5.27 a.m tomorrow (Wednesday) and sets at 6.43 p.m. today (Tuesday).

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.

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