

Dhaka Day by Day

Of Tranquillity and Harmony

by Fayza Haq

Ibrahim, who had his solo exhibition at the Alliance Francaise, was born and brought up within the city of Dhaka. "That is why I have the longing for the countryside with its trees and paddy fields. As I am a man who does not contemplate too deeply, I don't dwell on the jungles, deep in the heart of the 'mufassil' areas," the artist commented about his works.

"Many Bangladeshi artists have sent the samples of their work abroad and have won prizes. Even though prizes are not everything yet the recognition is important," the oil-painter remarked about the state of art in Bangladesh.

He said that he did not follow any particular artists, but that he admired Matisse for his simplicity, and Van Gogh for his dynamism. "But that is not to say that I would want to ape them. Similarly I admire Kibria and Rafiqunabi in Bangladesh, but I insist on having a vision and style of my own," the artist pointed out to me.

Ibrahim's wife has encouraged him too in concentrating on the solo exhibit, while putting aside all other commercial work. "She wanted me to do something creative," Ibrahim explained.

In his oil air-brush, he has captured nature, human life, animals and the theme of love in particular. "Our life is so complicated. Why should I bring in the pain and fatigue of everyday life in my works? I want my viewers to forget the humdrum of life for a while, as they view my works. I dwell on harmony, tranquillity and romantic feelings," the artist elaborated.

He has used a lot of blue of the skies, and the greens of the trees. "I try to feel and not understand, as a famous painter once said," the artist elaborated.

"Expectation" has a woman waiting for her lover, or her child, or perhaps for a letter. "I have used a lot of orange and yellow to usher in a feeling of happiness," Ibrahim explained. The figure appeared as if hewn out of stone.

"Death of Love" portrayed a man who was dead, with other people hovering over him. "Whenever an incident occurs there are three different views about the matter," the artist said. The white highlights set off the orange and blue, which predominate the piece. The dead man was seen in a wash of burnt-senna and carmine. "I was not literally concerned with the death, but the death of love, in my picture," the artist elaborated.

"After reading Begum Jehanara Imam's book of '71, I was so moved by the nine months that she suffered. Yet she was no pessimist. Keeping my reading in mind I did the painting of 'Days of '71'. Keeping the book in mind, I have brought in the scarlet to repre-

sent the torture and holocaust. Yet I have included beautiful greens and the clear sky, to usher in the dreams of better days," Ibrahim explained.

"Expectation-3" had a woman with a lyrical and romantic backdrop. The lines were clear. Everything was soothing including the fields, the sky, and the brilliant yellow blossoms near the figure.

"Obhiman" was the theme in "Sensitive Moment". "A woman was annoyed and ready to depart," the painter explained. It was a semi-abstract with turquoise blue bubbles in the background, which held the composition of pinks and reds. The delicate outlines in white also helped in projecting the figures and the theme. The blue ushered in romance while the reds brought in feeling of discontentment and frustration.

Crows were portrayed in "Love" as in the case of cats in an earlier entree. The crows were blue and statuesque. They were not simply photographic but dramatic and dynamic.

The work was both interesting and decorative. "Incapable" was Surrealistic, with the idea that a lot of people do not always use their heads. The figure was presented without a head and a semicircle held it together.

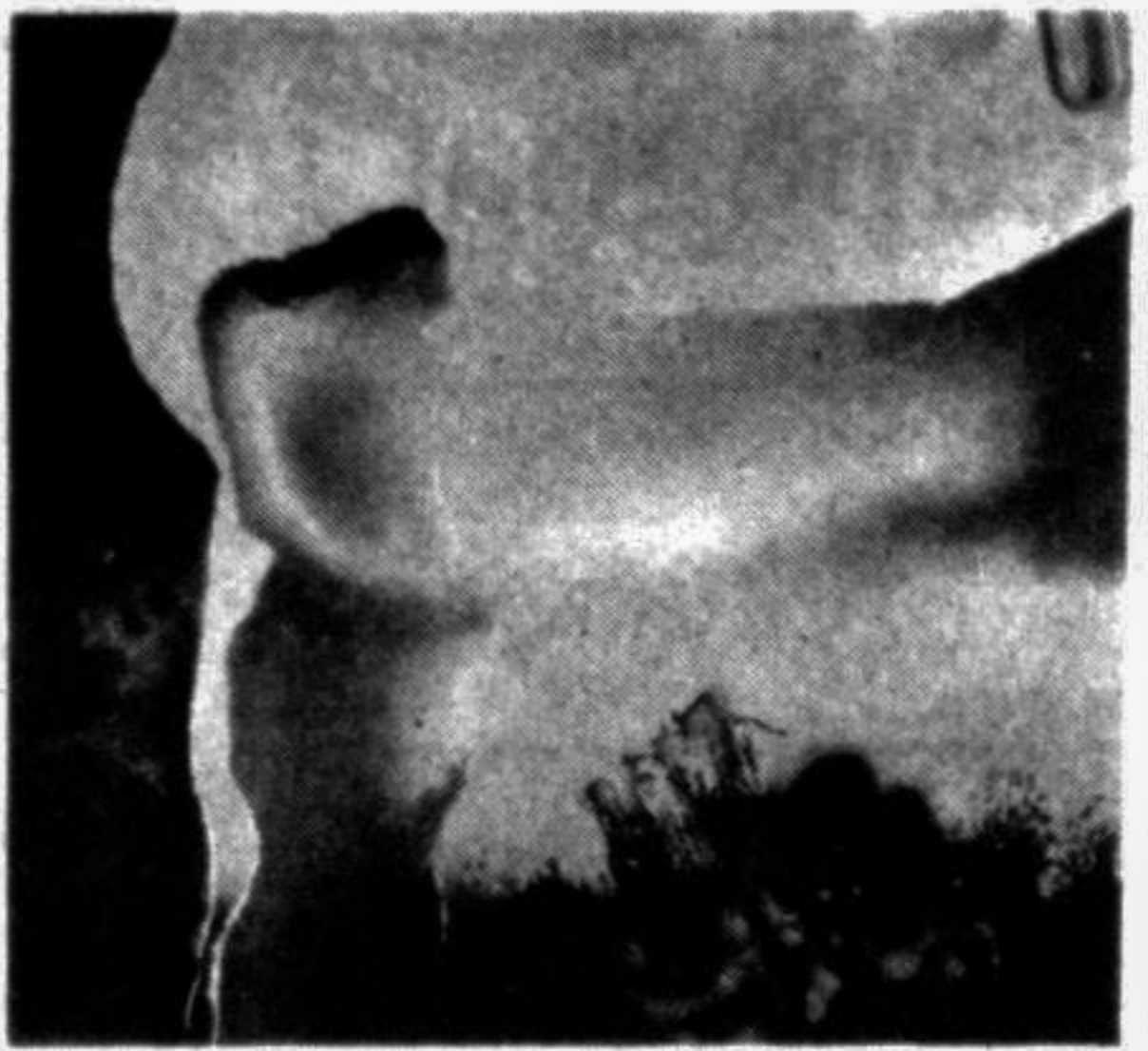
"Sensitive Moment-3" had the figures of a man and a woman juxtaposed. This was done in a stylised way, as was the case of all the figures of the entrees at the expose. "The couple were deeply in love with each other only a moment ago, but then came a conflict and impasse," the painter elaborated about his work. Despite the subject of discontentment, the artist did not wish the viewers to be frightened away from the scene.

Trees had been brought in from the countryside in "Nature-7". The sky and the land almost appeared to meet. It could be seen as a semi-abstract. Yet the artist had precise subjects such as the barren trees in his composition. "I didn't want to indulge in realism," the artist insisted.

In Ibrahim's "Faces" series, of which there were 11 entrees, the artist had studied the faces of various people. In some he avoided the eyes and noses, while in others he retained them to an extent. These were mixed medias.

A lot of people have criticised the artist for not using the brush or the spatula. "It is the feelings that matter and not the technique. I enjoy the air-brush and I can best portray my ideas in that way. Yet I had to practise a lot before I could gain control," Ibrahim elaborated about his techniques.

"Realism is of little consequence today with the introduction of the camera work, which can even include what appears like brush strokes," Ibrahim concluded about his display.



Amendment to Acting Control Ordinance under study

There are about 124 jatra and 16 circus parties in the country as per information received from 52 Deputy Commissioners. State Minister for Cultural Affairs Prof Jahannara Begum told the Jatiya Sangsad Wednesday, reports BSS.

Answering a question from Nizamuddin Khan (BNP-Manikganj), the State Minister said 4,644 men and 1,657 women were working with the jatra and circus parties.

The figures from 12 districts regarding jatra and circus parties were still awaited, she said.

The programmes of jatra were controlled under certain conditions, she said.

Amendment to the Acting Control Ordinance was under consideration of the government. Prof Jahannara said replying to a question from Shamsuddoha (CPB-Nilphamari).

JS body discusses special privilege of MPs

The sixth meeting of the Jatiya Sangsad Standing Committee on privilege was held in Sangsad Bhavan Wednesday with its Chairman Speaker Shaikh Razaque Ali in the chair, reports BSS.

The committee discussed certain matters relating to the special privilege of the members of parliament.

The members of the committee who attended the meeting were Leader of the Opposition, Sheikh Hasina, the Chief Whip, Khondaker Delwar Hossain, the Minister of State for Law and Justice, Mohammad Aminul Huq, Tofael Ahmed, MP, Shahajan Siraj, MP and Abu Yusuf Mohammad Khalilur Rahman, MP.

The State Minister for Relief, Lutfor Rahman Khan, was also present at the meeting on invitation.

Postage stamp on shaheed Jaglu

Bangladesh Post Office will issue a commemorative postage stamp of Tk 2 denomination of February 8 on the occasion of fifth death anniversary of Shaheed Mirza Abu Raihan Jaglu, reports BSS.

A first day cover valued Tk 5 will also be issued and special canceller will also be used.

Remodelling of land acquisition laws stressed Action plan to get benefit from agri, flood control sectors soon

Agriculture, Irrigation, Water Development and Flood Control Minister M Majid-ul-Haq Wednesday urged for better utilization of soil and water resources to get maximum benefit in the related sectors, reports UNB.

An action plan will be taken soon for achieving better output from the irrigation and flood control sectors, he said while speaking as chief guest at a workshop on "Land Acquisition and Resettlement Issues Findings and Recommendations" at a local hotel here.

He urged the officials and planners to ensure people's participation in all development works and added that bureaucracy should work

within democratic framework. The Minister stressed on the need for restructuring the age-old land acquisition laws which, he said, were not conducive to the present context as those were enacted by the then colonial rulers.

The workshop was sponsored by Ministry of Irrigation, Water Development and Flood Control in association with Swedish International Development Agency, Multi-Disciplinary Action Research Centre (MARC) and an international consultancy agency HIFAB.

Secretary of Ministry of Irrigation and Flood Control M Asafuddinwah, chief engineer of Flood Plan Coordination

Organisation M H Siddiqi, Additional Secretary at the Ministry Dr ATM Shamsul Huda, senior research fellow of BIDS Dr Monwar Hossain and Swedish Ambassador Carl Olof Cederblat spoke on the occasion.

About 90 representatives from home and abroad participated in the day-long workshop.

M Asafuddinwah said unnecessary land acquisition should be avoided and proper compensation to the owners of the land acquired must be en-

sured. The litigation relating to land acquisition should be disposed of at the district level, he opined.

A study on the subject prepared by MARC and HIFAB suggested dissemination of important information on land acquisition and related matters.

Besides, stressing the need for changing or improving other matters like compensation estimation and disbursement, the study further suggested local level participation.



Fashion Show at Sheraton today

A Fashion Show will be held today (Friday) at 7.30 pm in the Ball Room of Dhaka Sheraton, says a press release.

Noted artistes of the country will take part in the show. The function has been organised for orientation of varieties of fabrics of '92.

The purpose of the show is to make indigenous textiles more attractive and popular.

The Fashion Show will be sponsored by Sundarban Air Travel, the press release added.

Schaefer calls on Speaker

The visiting German Deputy Foreign Minister, Helmut Schaefer, called on Speaker Shaikh Razaque Ali at his office in Sangsad Bhavan Wednesday morning, reports BSS.

Schaefer stayed with the Speaker for some time and exchanged views with him on parliamentary affairs. He was briefed on the steps so far taken by the parliament to give democracy a permanent institutional shape in Bangladesh and the role of the MPs in the implementation of the national policies and development projects.

Bilateral issues and other matters of mutual interest were also discussed at the meeting.

Chief Whip Khondaker Delwar Hossain was present during the meeting.

French navy frigate arrives

CHITTAGONG, Feb 5: A frigate of the French Navy 'Protet' arrived in Chittagong Wednesday on a six-day goodwill visit to Bangladesh, reports BSS.

During the visit, the Commanding Officer of the ship will make courtesy call on the local Area Commander of the Bangladesh Army, the Commodore Commanding Chittagong, the Commodore Commanding BN Flotilla, Air Officer Commanding of the local air base and Mayor of the Chittagong City Corporation.

Other activities of the ship will include visit to the sailors training complex at Kaptai, friendly football, basketball and volleyball matches with the BN Flotilla teams and receptions in honour of the visiting ship by Bangladesh Navy.

The ship is scheduled to leave Bangladesh on February 10.

Body recovered

KHAGRACHARI, Feb 5: Security forces recovered the body of a youth, abducted by the outlawed Shantibahini gunmen, from a hill forest at Kumaripara in Ramganj upazila Tuesday afternoon, reports UNB.

Bangla Academy plans to open folklore centre soon

By Staff Correspondent

Bangla Academy plans to open a centre for folklore studies shortly. For documentation and research of the country's traditional art and culture.

Speaking at a press conference in the capital, the Director General of Bangla Academy Prof Mohammad Harunur Rashid Wednesday said that the Academy was also considering to confer M Phil, and Ph D degree on folklore under the supervision of Dhaka University.

The officials of the Folklore Department of the Academy have already recorded some 80 songs by 35 noted folklore artistes of the country, he said. Sponsored by a Norwegian

voluntary organisation Norad, there has been audio-visual recording of the songs from Sylhet, Rangpur, Sunamganj, Kishoreganj, Netrokona, Sreemangal, Jhenidah, Kusthia, Meherpur, Khulna, Satkhira, Bagerhat and Sundarbans, he added.

Prof Rashid said that preparations have been taken to hold the Ekushey Book Fair '92 that begins tomorrow (Friday).

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia will formally inaugurate the fair as the chief guest while State Minister for Culture Prof Jahannara Begum will attend as special guest.

The month-long book fair will remain open for public ev-

eryday from 3 pm to 8 pm. The book fair will begin at 11 am and will continue till 8 pm on Fridays.

The Director General of Bangla Academy said that some 350 stalls including 184 book stalls have already set up at the venue of the fair which has been expanded from TSC area of the university to the Doyal Square for accommodating larger number of visitors this year. A 30 ft gate has been opened for public entrance smoothly. He said adding that female students' brigade comprising DUCSU leaders and activists of different students organisations, have been formed for maintaining discipline during the book fair.

94.6 pc children suffer from malnutrition

Minister for Health and Family Welfare Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yousuf told Parliament Wednesday that 94.6 per cent children from 6 months to 6 years of age suffered from malnutrition, reports BSS.

The minister quoted a sur-

vey of Bangladesh Statistical Bureau for the information to answer a question in this regard from Nurul Islam Moni (Ind-Barguna).

He said the government had been implementing various programmes to save the people from malnutrition. Those

include children nutrition centre, community nutrition and nutrition surveillance activities.

To a question from Abul Hasan Chowdhury (AL-Tangail), the minister said the government had taken special programmes of appointing 250 medical officers at union level and 1,000 more family welfare investigators and setting up one family welfare centre in each union to strengthen the family planning programmes.

Five more medical colleges to be set up

The government will set up five medical colleges at Dinajpur, Bogra, Khulna, Faridpur and Comilla, Minister for Health and Family Welfare

Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yousuf told the Jatiya Sangsad on Wednesday, reports BSS.

He was replying to a question from Mirza Golam Azam (AL-Jamalpur).

Replying to a question from Mohammad Abdul Awal Mia (AL-Khustia), the minister said 25 posts of Professors and 40 posts of Associate Professors were now vacant in the country's medical colleges.

He further said steps would be taken to fill up these vacant posts.

To a question from Nizamuddin Khan (BNP-Manikganj) Chowdhury said 141 patients get admitted daily on an average in the Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

There are now 46 cabins and 81 seats in the Dhaka Medical College Hospital, the minister said, adding the government was considering to increase the number of cabins and seats in the hospital.

Weather

Dry weather likely

By Staff Correspondent

Met office Wednesday forecast, light rain/thundershowers likely to occur at one or two places over Khulna Division and weather likely remain nearly dry elsewhere over the country till 6 pm today (Thursday).

Night temperature likely to fall by one to two degree Celsius over northern part of the country and likely to remain nearly unchanged elsewhere over the country, Met office forecast.

The highest temperature, 28.7 degree Celsius, was recorded in the country at Teknaf Wednesday while the lowest 9.8 degree Celsius was at Srirangal.

Maximum temperature recorded in Dhaka Wednesday was 25.5 degree Celsius and the minimum was 14.6 degree Celsius. The percentage of humidity recorded in Dhaka was 72 at 9 am and 52 at 6 pm.

The sun sets today (Thursday) at 5.48 pm and rises tomorrow (Friday) at 6.38 am. Temperature and the percentage of humidity recorded in some cities/ towns were.

Table with columns: Cities/Towns, Temperature (Max, Min), Humidity (9 am, 6 pm). Rows include Dhaka, Rajshahi, Chittagong, Khulna, Barisal, Bogra, Sylhet, Khepupara.



President Abdur Rahman Biswas is seen with recipients of award for significant contribution to Family Planning and Social Marketing at the award giving ceremony of the Social Marketing Company held at a local hotel on Sunday. Seen in the photo (from left to right) are: W R Goldman, USAID; M Mokammel Haque, MOHFW; Alamgir M A Kabir, FPAB; M Chowdhury, SMC; Nazmul Huq, DGFP and RL Ciszewski, PSI.

Advertisement for 'It's new just for you' featuring a woman's face and text about a new column for individuals and organizations.

Advertisement for Tokyo Exhibition & Eid Festival '92, including details about the event and contact information for SWARUP PRIVATE LTD and ITEX LIMITED.

Advertisement for 'ফ্রি লেকচার: আত্ম-উন্নয়নে আশরাকী পদ্ধতি' (Free Lecture: Ashrakhi Method for Self-Improvement) with details about the course and contact information.

Advertisement for Chittagong Port Authority (Stores Division) Office of the Controller of Stores, featuring a Tender Notice with a table of goods and prices.