

Dhaka Day by Day

Suffering of the Soul Caught by the Lense

by Fayza Haq

Tanvir, the young innovative photographer, who had his exhibition at the Alliance Francaise, was full of promise in his solo venture. There was dormant symbolism and impressionism in his work where every leaf or human figure stood for something beyond the obvious. He appeared to have a good grasp of the play of light and shade. He used natural light in an imaginative manner and transformed the simple things in life as something dramatic or poetic. Even his framing was done in an ingenious way.

In his "Window" he created four lines for a frame from which one could view the day labourers working on the embankment near Lal-bagh. "We see them from a far. We don't want to get involved with them and their struggle. Thus there is a definite difference between us, the bourgeoisie and the have-nots."

From Shakhrebazar he got the shot of his "Life cycle" where he showed only a part of the "shakha" being decorated with a file, and a wooden pole. "Mankind will struggle and will be repaid only for part of his work in a place like Bangladesh." This simple theme was poetically delineated. The constantly recurring subject of pride of labour was presented with care and precision.

Talking about "The End of the Road", the photographer commented, "I used black and white because it leaves a lot to the imagination and is not exactly what one sees in life. The processing, films and chemicals are not easily available whereas you have a greater option with colours. Again, we get only one type of paper." In this picture we could see a man sitting with his hands helplessly held over his head, in complete resignation. "Nowadays the old are no longer with the joint family. When old and unemployed you still need companionship but the infirm and aged are gradually being abandoned by our society where we have no old homes for them to take shelter in."

In "Horizon" the photographer has delineated the end of life. "When a man retires he feels his ultimate achievement is zero like the empty basket carried by the farmer. One is only recognised and praised after one's death when all the praise in the world does you little good," Tanvir commented and elaborated on his work.

A child was shown caught up in the problem of life that he had not created himself in "Imprisoned". This little urchin was seen behind enormous and bewildering chains and

locks. Similarly in "Me and my Fate" he has shown a small child selling potato chips. "She did not create this situation in which she will have to accost the rich. Someone has thrust the situation on her and she is caught in the web of peddling her ware at a tender age in life," Tanvir commented. The picture was taken on Patanga beach. The well-to-do merry-makers were also seen on the scene. The sea and the sky were beautifully captured with subtle colours. This was one of the rare colour photographs on display.

The scene shifted to Kamalapur station in "Dhaka". "Many people in 'mufasssil' areas are told to go to Dhaka to earn their fortune. It is an empty dream. There is progress and development around but not everybody can benefit from it," the photographer elaborated.

In "Crucified" the angle of the picture has been taken in such a way that the combination of circles on the floor ended up looking like a cross. The man seen in the picture was a vendor carrying poles and sacks, almost as if he was shouldering a crucifix.

Two starkly naked children were seen in "Stranded". It appeared that they had no one to care for them and as if they had no one of their own. To emphasise the feeling of loneliness a lot of space had been left in front.

"Those were the Days" was shot at the Osmania Memorial last Ekushey. The picture was that of a cutout on a hardboard with actual yellow and green leaves in the backdrop. "The peaceful scene that we see belong only to story-books. In reality there is no true peace," was Tanvir's comment.

"Creation" in Dhanirai had clay moulds in which metal was being poured in. The lean, dexterous and hard-working artisan was creating items of good quality. "Yet he does not enjoy a good standard of living. I felt I must capture his efforts and dedication," elaborated the photographer.

The rickshawpuller caught in the rain and drenched through was depicted in "Shelter". This was once again a rare colour picture. The soft green and the blue of the rickshaw made it appear attractive and different from many of the portrayals of need and hunger in the other entries.

When an artist has a decisive message to give, and portrays the reality of every existence, as Tanvir did, one is convinced that photography too is an art to study and admire. The departure from scenic beauties and mere decoration was laudable indeed.



As fate closes in...

Bhutanese trade team arrives in city

An eight-member Bhutanese delegation led by Minister for Trade and Industry Lyonpo Om Pradhan arrived in the city Saturday on a five-day visit to Bangladesh, reports BSS.

Commerce Minister M K Anwar received the delegation at Zia International Airport.

During its stay, the delegation will explore possibilities of further increasing the volume of trade between the two countries.

Besides, the members of the delegation are expected to call on President Abdur Rahman Biswas and Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia.

Attack on EUCSU leader condemned

By DU Correspondent

The students of the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) Saturday condemned the attack on EUCSU leader Ashikur Rahman Khan Asif and demanded immediate action against the attackers.

Asif, third year student of Marine Engineering Department, was stabbed allegedly by Najmul Huq Khokon, 4th year student of Civil Engineering.

Seven hundred and forty-eight students of the university in a joint statement yesterday mentioned that Khokon, was engaged in a pre-planned terrorist act on the BUET campus for last few months.

Besides this, the BUET students held a rally protesting the terrorist activities on the campus yesterday.

Vice Chancellor of BUET, Professor Mohammed Shajahan assured the students of necessary steps against the trouble makers on the campus soon.

Stagnation in exports threatens foreign exchange reserve

The World Bank has warned that the country's current healthy foreign exchange reserve will erode rapidly unless the current stagnation or decline in traditional exports is reversed, reports UNB.

"Unless the recent trend of stagnation or declining export earnings in most traditional sectors is reversed Bangladesh's foreign exchange reserves could dwindle rapidly," said a recent Bank report.

Country's export earnings in first seven months of the current fiscal fell short of the target by about 71 million US dollars. Except garments, almost all major export items failed to fetch their targeted income.

Improvement in Bangladesh's balance of payments position is only a temporary phenomenon...Imports will grow again once the economy starts picking up, said the World Bank report.

The country's foreign exchange reserve now hits an all-time high of 1200 million US dollars plus, and the situation is attributed mainly to fall in imports in recent months.

According to Bangladesh Bank, the balance of payment position is likely to show a surplus by about 849 million US dollar this year.

Power supply suspension

Power supply will remain suspended tomorrow (Monday) from 9 am to 4 pm at Khilbaritek Nurachala, Shahzadpur, Narsingdi Sadar thana area partly, Raipura thana, Narsingdi PDS-2 area, on Tuesday at same hours at Bangladesh Jute Mill, Ghorasal Bazar, Palash thana area, Shibpur Monohardi-Belabo thana area, National Jute Mills, Charsindur, on Wednesday and Thursday at same hours at Bridhaa area, says Press release.

Ganja seized

CHITTAGONG, Mar 7: Detectives of the Drug Control Directorate found 21 ganja tree at Malipara (Battali) here Saturday, an official source said, reports BSS.

The Detectives also recovered nine kilograms of dry ganja and some cigarettes with ganja from the spot. No one could be arrested in this connection.

Dr Razee gold medal for LLM students

Dr Aleem-Al-Razee Smriti Sangsad will award a gold medal to the student who has secured the first class first position in last LLM examination of Rajshahi University, reports UNB.

This was decided at a meeting of the Sangsad here yesterday.

The "Dr Razee Memorial Gold Medal" will be distributed at a seminar on "Dr Razee as an Educationist" to be held on March 14 at Jatiya Press Club on the occasion of the 7th anniversary of his death.

Justice K M Sobhan presided over the meeting which was attended, among others, by Barrister Dr Ahmed Hossain, Advocate Shamsul Haque Chowdhury, Advocate Zamiruddin Ahmed, Prof K A A Qamruddin, Prof Mufakkarul Islam, Begum Shireen-al-Razee, Amanullah Khan and Enayeturrahman Khan.

BDR gives prizes to Bir Shrestha families

Director General of Bangladesh Rifles has distributed prizes among the members of the families of Bir Shrestha belonging to Rifles recently marking the observance of BDR week, reports BSS.

Those who received the prizes are: Mukundnessa, mother of Shaheed Lance Naik Munshi Abdur Rauf, Fazila Khatoon, second wife and Golam Mustafa and Hasina Begum, son and daughter respectively of first wife of Shaheed Lance Naik Nur Mohammad.

DESA Sramik Union declared CBA agent

Labour Directorate of Government has declared Dhaka Electric Supply Authority Sramik Karmachari Union Registrations No. Dhaka A 1795 as the CBA Agent of DESA, says a press release.

DESA's CBA election was held on February 26. Kazi Mosharrar Hossain and Md Abul Hossain led Dhaka Bidyt Sarbarah Sramik Karmachari Union Registration No. 1795 supported by BNP won the CBA election. Immediately after the election on February 27 the DESA met the CBA leaders and exchanged views on mutual matters.

100 MPs support trial of Golam Azam

One hundred opposition parliament members Saturday extended support to the decision of "national committee for elimination of killers and collaborators of 1971" to hold public trial of Jamaat-e-Islami chief Prof Golam Azam on March 26, reports BSS.

In a joint statement issued in the city, they said Prof Azam opposed the Liberation War and indulged in activities against the country's interest from abroad till 1978.

Efforts to establish democracy will suffer unless there is public trial of Prof Azam, they maintained.

The signatories to the statement include leader of

2000 join BNP

Renowned industrialist and founder of Rayed Union College M A Mannan and former union parishad chairman Abdul Mannan along with their two thousand followers have joined Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) at a simple ceremony here on Friday, reports BSS.

They expressed their willingness to join the BNP to Jute Minister A S M Hannan Shah at Rayed Union College ground at Kapasia in Gazipur.

The Jute Minister welcomed the newly joined members of the BNP and urged them to work under the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia.

Weather

Day temperature may rise

By Staff Correspondent

Rain or shower is likely in one or two places over Chittagong division during the next 36 hours commencing 6 pm Saturday, according to Meteorological office.

Dry weather will prevail elsewhere over the country. Day temperature may rise by one to two degrees Celsius during the period over the country. Met office also forecast.

Weather may deteriorate during subsequent two days.

The Sun sets today (Sunday) at 6:05 pm and rises tomorrow (Monday) at 6:13 am.

Temperature and humidity recorded in important cities and towns on Saturday were:

Cities/ Towns	Temperature in degree Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	9 am	6 pm
Dhaka	31.4	22.2	80	41
Chittagong	28.6	21.5	79	85
Rajshahi	32.0	17.1	45	39
Khulna	31.9	20.5	77	51
Barisal	32.4	22.5	62	42
Cox's Bazar	28.2	22.0	86	88
Sylhet	30.5	20.8	89	40
Mymensingh	29.5	18.2	80	42
Dinapur	-	15.0	55	-
Madaripur	32.7	21.2	82	71



Visitors at an art exhibition to mark the International Women's Day at the Institute of Fine Arts in the city yesterday.

Plea to build Bangladesh as ideal place for women

President Abdur Rahman Biswas called for taking vow to build the Bangladesh as an ideal place of women's welfare in expressing solidarity with the International community.

Hasina's message on Women's Day

Leader of the Opposition in the parliament and Awami League Chief Sheikh Hasina in a message Saturday on the eve of the International Women's Day called for taking realistic programme for the development of the country's womenfolk, reports BSS.

Sheikh Hasina in her message stressed implementing the UN charter for establishing the rights of women in all spheres.

She said that it was the duty of the government to generate employment for women with befitting wages and at the same time ensuring their social security.

The Awami League Chief pointed out that it had become essential to amend and update the existing laws to stop repression against women.

Sheikh Hasina said the womenfolk, being the half the size of the total population should also be involved in the process of development as an auxiliary force.

reports BSS.

In a message on the eve of International Women's Day, President Biswas stressed the need for mass awareness about the welfare of women.

President Biswas said the overall welfare of society was not possible without the welfare of the neglected, deprived and oppressed women folk.

He said many a woman falls a prey to disparity and negligence due to illiteracy and social prejudices. At the same time many a mother is suffering from ill-health and diseases due to giving birth to many children, he said, adding that efforts have to be made for

building a healthy nation by saving them from such a situation.

Prime Minister

In another message Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia called for anchoring the socio-economic condition of the women by establishing their social rights and ensuring security on the basis of national consensus.

The Prime Minister said, "By changing the condition of the women, side by side with women's emancipation, he will be able to stand with our heads high as an independent nation in the world."

Biswas takes iftar with Orphans

President Abdur Rahman Biswas had his iftar with a group of orphans at Bangabhaban Saturday evening on the first day of holy Ramzan, reports BSS.

President personally inquired the welfare of the orphans who came from different 'shishu sadans'. He also offered the maghreb prayer with them.

Social Welfare and Women's Affairs Minister Tariqul Islam was present.

Moazzem takes oath as Auditor General

Khandaker Moazzem Uddin Hossain Saturday took oath as the Auditor and Comptroller General of Bangladesh, reports BSS.

Chief Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed administered the oath of office at his official residence at a simple ceremony Saturday morning.

The outgoing Auditor and Comptroller General Golam Kibria, Finance Secretary Nasimuddin Ahmed and other high officials of the Finance Ministry were present on the occasion.

IFPRI DG talks food policy with Planning Minister

Just Phaland, Director General of International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), Saturday called on Planning Minister Zahiruddin Khan at his office in Dhaka, reports BSS.

They discussed various issues related to food price policy and food procurement policy with particular emphasis on a comprehensive food policy.

During the discussion, the Minister advised the IFPRI Director General to include salt within the policy framework of IFPRI, turning it as a very essential and sensitive food item of the country.

The development of agriculture, agricultural credit, diversification of crop and other related issues were also prominently came up in the discussion.

Dr Sheikh Maqsood Ali, member, Planning Commission was present during the meeting.

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Sunday

Special session on 5th World Cup Cricket

- 5.15 Opening announcement Al-Quran Programme summary
- 5.30 World Cup Cricket Pakistan vs South Africa
- Evening Session
- 5.00 Opening announcement Al-Quran Programme summary
- 5.10 News in Bangla
- 5.25 Chharai Chharai Lekha Para
- 5.50 Mahe Ramzan
- 6.30 Sports programme (Cricket)
- 7.05 Tagore songs
- 8.00 News in Bangla
- 8.30 Probah
- 9.00 Drama series: Oshin
- 10.00 News in English
- 10.30 Shantap: Conversation
- 11.30 Khabar/The News
- Monday's programme summary
- 11.45 Closing