

Dhaka Day by Day

Women Power Behind the Canvas and Colours

by Fayza Haq

Fifty-five women participated in the all women exhibition at the College of Arts and Crafts. All the entries were neat, decorative, and had a delightful feminine touch. The coming together of the works of so many women proved how active women were in this scene of colours and canvas.

One of the most soothing pieces at the exhibit was Kono Chapa Chakma's "Women and Nature", in which she dealt with the dreams and hopes of the tribal women. She has tried to depict how pure a woman is by comparing her to nature.

Farida Zaman had her pencil and water-colour creation with the subject of the fishermen. This was slightly surrealistic with the fisherman looking like a fish himself.

The play of lines was absorbing. Her other water-colour was based on the cyclone of 91. The delineation of birds were combined with fish, with a black engaging net. There were dots in the sky, which is typical of Farida's work.

Rokeya Sultana had used tempera in her "Aktjuki-1". Here children were seen playing with abandon. The lines and colours were put in a simplistic way. The blues oranges and greens were a delightful idyll. "Aktjuki-11" was also in tempera. Once again we saw the figures of children in a city as seen through the eyes of a child. Although all grey, black and white, it had a pleasant dream-like effect. Rokeya takes a simple idea and elaborates it in a child-like manner. The use of bright dots brightened the picture.

Shamim Shikdar had on display a primitive style in oil. The colours used on the canvas were ochre, black and red and were like illustrations on saw in caves of ancient times. Sand was mixed with the paint.

"This Life" by Nasreen Begum was a delightful water colour presenting a portrait of a woman with flowers and ferns. It had an ethereal, dream-like effect. Nasreen had brought in the finesse of oriental art in her work.

"Image" by Naima Haq was oil on paper. It was a simple and pristine landscape with plenty of yellow and green. While one took delight in the neat, cubistic landscape one could also detect figures in the apparently simple splash of colours.

It was the colours that attracted the viewer in Masuma Khan's piece. She had symbolised the beautiful life of mankind with flowers, butterflies and leaves in mixed media. It certainly lifted the heart of the viewer.

Rowjatul Jannat Champa had used different textures in the water colour media in "Kalo Chand." With the use of symbolism the artist had depicted how a girl's sensitive and beautiful feelings were destroyed and eventually her life was ruined. The artist had used cubistic forms. On one square she had brought in the image of a shy, beautiful woman, hidden away from the world.

The concept of progress for women was the thought behind Rowshan Huq Dipa's creation. Here portraits of women were shown in a bold, dynamic way. The wings of an eagle were depicted to show power. The painting was a conglomeration of faces, breasts and coloured nails. One realised that the piece had been done with tremendous speed.

Atiya Islam's "Day - dreaming" showed a man with a lot of money — denoted by the rich couch he was reclining on — having lecherous dreams about a half-clad woman. In "Moner Aena" showed a "huzur" talking about religious matters, and wearing a mask of purity and yet obsessed with the obscene figure of the semi-nude woman. Both were in tempera, with rich reds, browns and greens.

"The City", by Morsheda Arjoo Alpona, had figures of human being and a bright moon. It was an abstract delineation. It had used a lot of brown, blue, white and orange to recreate the chaotic existence in our cities.

"Greed" by Afroza Begum Rina was a symbolic piece. A dog was shown as pouncing on a helpless woman. It was a riot of gaudy colours — pink, green and blue. It showed well how women were dominated in our society.

Dipty De's "Aenacy Porajido Ridoey" showed suicide. It depicted how women were driven to suffer as they had no other recourse.

Tandra Das's "Destruction of Nature" was an interesting collage with patterns of cloth, sequins, with her own portrait sketched in. There was very little green — you had to literally hunt for it.

The importance of nature was brought in Mahmuda Akhter Moni's "Institute Area" which was a depiction of early morning with crows and massive trees.

There was some terracotta and woodwork too as those by Ivy Zaman, and Lalarukh Selim.

The exhibition did a good job of highlighting what women painters were doing in the city. It brought together a variety of techniques and a range of talents.



Viewers seen at the all women's art exhibition at the College of Arts and Crafts.

Seminar on changing environment 'Over-bank flooding enriches soil with nutrients'

Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain Sunday said over-bank flooding in Bangladesh kept balance with river bed rise and maintained the equilibrium of aquatic bio-ecosystem, though it caused immense misery to the people, reports BSS.

He said over-bank flooding also enriched the soil with nutrients and flushed off toxic materials.

Speaking at a seminar on 'Changing Environment During Last Three Million Years' the Minister said experience of past construction oriented flood control measures showed that it could not produce any long lasting fruits.

He said alternative people oriented viewpoint for better flood management activities were getting attention and canal digging programme of

the present government was one of them.

Prof Ronal Paeppe of Free University, Belgium gave an academic lecture on the topic as the main speaker. Vice-Chancellor of Dhaka University Prof Moniruzzaman Mia and General Secretary of Bangladesh Geological Society M Moinal Huq also spoke at the seminar. Society President A K M Abdullah was in the chair. Organised by the Geological Society the seminar was held at the Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (BARC) auditorium in Dhaka.

Dr Mosharraf Hossain said the past three million years history of Bangladesh was mainly the delta building history by the mighty river systems of the Ganges, the Brahmaputra and the Meghna. Emphasising the need for unravelling the near past three

million year's geological history of Bangladesh he said this history was affected by the worldwide short and long recurring sea level fluctuations.

He said in Bangladesh, human originated geomorphic features were so closely inter-mixed with the natural features that they were sometimes difficult to identify properly. But he said, it was essential to separate the two features to develop proper models.

These models would help develop a probabilistic environmental model that would guide find out the causes of various hazards, take preventive mitigational and curative measures and forecast impacts of natural and man made activities on the environment, he added.

Plea to make Azam's trial a success

Lieutenant Colonel (Retd) Kazi Nuruzzaman, leader of the committee for realisation of the ideals of the Liberation War and resistance to the killers and collaborators of 1971 has called upon all concerned to come forward to make the trial of war criminal Golam Azam at the public court a success.

He has also called upon the railway authorities, owners of buses and motor vehicles and transport workers to help people coming from the different parts of the country to attend the public trial of Golam Azam scheduled to be held on March 26.

He was addressing a public rally yesterday afternoon at Mirpur. Presided over by Sheikh Awal, Convenor of the Mirpur Youth Command of the Resistance Committee, Nuruzzaman was speaking as chief guest.

He said, the people of the country has been united after a long time to retaliate the Jamaat's oppression against the freedom-loving people of the country.

Meanwhile, a number of socio-cultural and political organisations have expressed their solidarity with the Resistance Committee's endeavour to try Golam Azam, a war criminal, at the People's Court on March 26.

Ganotantri Party, through a press release issued yesterday, asked all its rank and file through out the country to at-

be encouraged.

Today's programme The Dhaka city unit of the committee for Realisation of the Ideals of Liberation War and Resistance to the Killers and Collaborators of 1971 will bring out a procession in the city at 11 am today Monday. It will start from the Jatiya Press Club.

At 12 noon workers and professionals of various banks, insurance companies, BIWTC, Biman, BJMC, BFIDC and other sector corporations will gather at the Sapla Chattar in Motijheel.

They will also bring out separate procession expressing solidarity with the committee.

Ganotantri Chattri Oikya will organise a gathering in support of the public trial of Golam Azam in front of the National Press Club at 11 am which will be addressed by its central leaders.

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Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman receiving North Korean External Economic Affairs Minister Chong Song Nam at the Zia International Airport yesterday. (Story on page 7) — PID photo

Tk 1.5 cr more UN donations for Rohingyas

The United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) has donated Taka one and half crore to the Ministry of Relief for the Rohingya refugees, and official handout said Sunday, reports BSS.

The donation is a part of assistance to the government of Bangladesh by the UNHCR for helping the Rohingya refugees.

Darjoush Bayandor, chief of UNHCR's Dhaka office, formally handed over a cheque for the amount to the Additional Secretary In-charge of the Ministry of Relief M A Hakim at his office Sunday.

UNHCR has earlier donated another Taka one crore to the Relief Secretary for the same purpose.

This money will be used for constructing sheds, drains, latrines and sinking tube-wells at the Rohingya refugee camps.

Nurul Momen's death condoled

Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Dr Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain Sunday expressed deep shock at the sudden death of Nurul Momen Khan, Secretary of the Ministry of Youth and Sports, reports BSS.

In a condolence message Dr Mosharraf Hossain said Khan was a brilliant civil servant and the country lost an illustrious son in his death.

The minister prayed for the peace of the departed soul and expressed sympathy to the members of the bereaved family.

Govt, opposition urged to work together

Speaker Shaikh Razzak Ali Sunday underscored the need for mutual tolerance and democratic behaviour among all to protect the hard-earned democracy and giving it an institutional shape, reports BSS.

"If we fail to do so, the fate of democracy will be at stake and a third force will emerge," he said as the chief guest at a discussion held at the auditorium of the German Cultural Institute in Dhaka Sunday afternoon.

He urged both the govern-

ment and the opposition parties to work together for giving democracy an institutional shape and initiate a democratic process for the welfare of the future generations.

The discussion was held in connection with the exhibition of a documentary video film titled "Ganotantr Lagi" (For Democracy), which was based on the democratic struggle during the last nine years of autocratic rule. Promitti Probha, a video film production house of the city organised the exhibition.

Weather

Rain with gusty wind likely

By Staff Correspondent

Rain or shower accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely as one or two places over the regions of Rangpur, Pabna, Bogra, Dhaka, Mymensingh, Tangail, Comilla and Sylhet during the next 36 hours commencing 6 pm Sunday.

Weather will remain mainly dry elsewhere over the country.

Day temperature will remain nearly unchanged during the period.

The sun sets in Dhaka today (Monday) at 6-11 pm and rises tomorrow (Tuesday) at 5-59 am.

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

| Cities/Towns | Temperature in degree Celsius | Humidity in percentage |
|--------------|-------------------------------|------------------------|
| | Max | Min |
| Dhaka | 31.8 | 24.2 |
| Chittagong | 29.8 | 22.6 |
| Rajshahi | 36.7 | 17.0 |
| Khulna | 33.2 | 22.7 |
| Barisal | 31.6 | 23.4 |
| Cox's Bazar | 30.0 | 22.3 |
| Sylhet | 29.5 | 19.8 |
| Dinajpur | 34.8 | 23.0 |

World Meteorology Day today

World Meteorology Day will be observed today (Monday) throughout the world including Bangladesh with due enthusiasm, reports BSS.

Bangladesh Meteorological Department has chalked out an elaborate programme to observe the day in a befitting manner.

The theme of the day is "Weather and Climate Services for Sustainable Development". It is chosen by the World Meteorological Organisation for year 1992.

The day's programme in Dhaka will begin with an inaugural function followed by a technical seminar at the Head Office of the Bangladesh Meteorological Department at Agargaon in the morning.

Exhibition of meteorological equipment and charts will also be held from 11 am to 3 pm for the members of the public.

DU 'Kha' Unit admission test March 25

The admission test of 'Kha' unit for first year Honours course of Dhaka University will be held on March 25 (Wednesday) at 10 am, reports UNB.

The list of seating arrangement will be available at the office of Dean, Arts Faculty tomorrow (Tuesday).

Monday

- 5.00 Opening announcement Al-Quran, Programme summary
- 5.10 News in Bangla
- 5.20 Recitation from the Geeta
- 5.25 Cartoon
- 5.30 Programme on World Meteorology Day
- 5.50 Mahey Ramzan
- 6.30 Address by Pakistani Ambassador on the occasion of National Day and documentary.
- 7.05 Debate
- 8.00 News in Bangla
- 8.30 Janamat
- 9.00 Katha O Sur: Songs
- 10.00 News in English
- 10.30 Film: Highway to Heaven
- 11.15 Khabar /The News
- 11.25 Tuesday's programme summary
- 11.30 Closing

ETI President calls on DU VC

The visiting President of the Earth Technology Institute (ETI) of the Free University of Brussels Prof Roland Paeppe, met with Vice-Chancellor of Dhaka University Prof M Maniruzzaman Miah at his residence on Sunday, reports UNB.

They discussed on the academic programmes of the respective universities and signed a memorandum of understanding relating to exchange of academic staff, researchers and students.

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