

Dhaka Day by Day

From Ashtrays to Exotic Murals

By Fayza Haq

Light-eyed soft spoken Shahadat Hussain, who held his exhibition at "La Galerie", certainly knew his technique of ceramics, having been trained at Leicester, UK. He explains his pieces in methodical details, clarifying his techniques with confidence and accurate know-how.

Although he took great pride in his pottery work of vases, ashtrays, and figurines, it was his mural works that were most impressive. All of them were done with ceramic tiles, glazed or painted over, as the artist desired. These mural pieces were of ceramics but gave the effect of impressionism, Cubism and Realism mingled together.

Sometimes he went in for dark glazes as in the case of "The Three Musicians" or the creation of a bullfight, inspired by incidents he recollected at Mymensingh. In the pieces about the "baults", the artist had used dark ochre, burnt sienna and black. It had the "tabla" player, "bechala" player and the flutist, in a neat composition. The background of the sky was brought in soft grey.

The bullfight composition reminded one of the works of Picasso, as the artist has used geometrical motifs and the spirit in which the piece had been done recalled the many heads of bulls in the Spanish master's works, as in "Guernica".

The herons in "The Birds" was a picturesque piece which the artist had created by glazing, firing and painting over his work, with subtle dexterity. The artist explained that he used items varying from crushed bricks and crushed glass to water colour finishing.

In the portrait of a lady, it was his friend in England who had posed as the model. He also said that he made his creations more decorative than symbolic as he had to make a living. Both he and his sweet, charming wife Nasreen—who teaches at "Little Jewels", are self-sufficient. This was a welcome change from the run of the mill artists and their wives who constantly dwell on their problems of making ends meet.

Shahadat was frank to the point that he did some of his murals from photograph, although most of the time he used live models. He

blushed explaining his pieces on the Ramna Park scene, where he had painted men sleeping on the benches. Who are these people? "I simply paint what I see. I do not question," he remarked. "Are there really unclad teenagers on the roadside on the streets of Dhaka, early in the morning, lazily having a towel-rub, after a bath?" On this point, his silence spoke volumes.

The artist had used dark colours such as red, black and blue, as in the bull-fight piece or the one on the musicians, or even the Ramna Park scene. He admitted that he was keen to get his works sold off, no matter if he had to make, to some extent, compromises on the qualities of his works. However, his vision was

not quite optimistic. This was easily comprehended by his love of dark hues, which he used both in his murals and his pottery work. "Life is hard, life is real", he commented.

What Shahadat took great pride in were his ceramic pottery creations. There was an ashtray for instance, which had the effect of a corrugated iron sheet roof with self-drilled holes in them. He explained that in many of the middle class in Dhaka, such ashtrays were being contrived by the younger generation for their own personal use.

The artist also took pride in his elephant creation, which was inspired by Japanese and Chinese pottery—where the real image is exaggerated and elaborated. It was in bright yellow with a medley of other colours thrown in.

The vase with the calligraphy work, in which the artist took immense pride, looked like a globe with Arabic calligraphy done on it, when viewed from a distance. Similarly another vase had the effect of a basket made with vermicelli, so fine was the creation. Yet another vase had patterns on it in turquoise blue and white, and had the elegance of Greek sculpture.

It was a refreshing change to find a young artist, who is well-trained, outspoken, and who knows how to run both his work place and home with efficiency. Shahadat has had solo exhibitions earlier—in Bangladesh and UK.



Shahadat Hussain at work with the ceramic creations.



Prof A Q M Badruddoza Chowdhury, Deputy Leader in parliament and Chairman of the National AIDS Committee, inaugurating the technical session on AIDS at World Health Organisation's conference room here yesterday.

All returnees must face AIDS Test : B Chowdhury

Participants in a technical session on prevention of AIDS in Bangladesh yesterday called for a multi-sectoral target oriented programme to check the outbreak of the killer disease, reports BSS.

Though AIDS is not yet a notifiable disease in Bangladesh, a unified national efforts should be activated at the earliest particularly to inform, educate and motivate the groups like prostitutes, drug abusers and sailors, the technical session was told.

Organised by the World Health Organisation (WHO) at its conference room, the technical session was attended by leading physicians, and experts on AIDS, representative of donor countries and agencies and members of the national AIDS committee.

Inaugurating the session, the Deputy Leader of the Jatiya Sangsad and Chairman of the National AIDS Committee, Prof A Q M Badruddoza Chowdhury called for creating mass awareness through multi-sectoral approach against the danger of AIDS.

Referring to the commitment of the government, Prof Chowdhury said: "We want AIDS does not exit in Bangladesh."

Giving a brief resume of the progress in the action-oriented programmes against AIDS, Prof Chowdhury stressed the need of the provision of a free test for suspected AIDS virus carrying persons, promotion on the use of condoms

and setting up clinics. All returnees from abroad, mainly from AIDS prone countries like Thailand, India, Africa and other American and European countries should have a test, he suggested.

The WHO representative in Bangladesh, Dr A N A Abeyesundere, national focal point on AIDS and Director, Medical Education and Manpower Development, Prof A K Shamsuddin Siddiquey, National Consultant on AIDS, Dr Mohammad Mustafa Kamal, UNDP Programme Officer Ms.

Malia Ali and WHO Consultant, Global Programme on AIDS E Jesuthasan spoke on the occasion.

In his introductory speech, the WHO representative Abeyesundere referred to the global strategy and action programme for the control of HIV plus AIDS.

In 1986, Abeyesundere said, it was estimated that five to ten million were infected with HIV worldwide. By the year 2000, it is estimated that 40 million will be infected with HIV.

HERE and THERE

DESA

Dhaka Electric Supply Authority (DESA) disconnected 158 defaulting consumers and 3150 illegal consumers lines on July 27 and 28.

DESA also realised Taka 50 lakh from the defaulting consumers of Dhaka and greater Dhaka areas.

PSI seminar

The Public Services International (PSI) Co-ordinating Committee organised two Separate 3 days joint seminars on "Trade union leadership" from July 25 to 30. The seminars were held in Hasan Court Building, Motijheel.

JL Bhan, PSI Representative for South East Asian Region Coordinated the seminars assisted by Md Zafrul Hasan, Secretary, Bangladesh Coordinating Committee.

SCF

Samajtantrik Chhatra Front (SCF) Thursday brought out a procession and held a rally on the Dhaka University campus NSU, US varsities collaboration planned

The work for starting the academic session of North South University (NSU) from January, 1993 has been progressing well.

According to a press release yesterday, NSU's President, Muslehuddin Ahmad, just returned from US ending his fruitful talks with University of Illinois (Urbana-Champaign), George Washington University, Kansas State University etc to have joint collaboration agreements.

Committees have been set up with experts from Bangladesh and also from the US universities for working out the curricula on Economics, BBA and Computer Science—the three disciplines to be started initially by NSU.

Arrangements have also been made for recruitment of several teachers from the US. NSU is making efforts to bring back Bangladesh professors who are teaching in different universities in US, the press release adds.

Arrangements have also been made for setting up an International Advisory Committee headed by a very Senior Professor of Harvard University.



Anniversary of Poet Mozammel Haque's death tomorrow

By Staff Correspondent

The 16th anniversary of death of Poet Mohammad Mozammel Haque will be observed in the country tomorrow (Saturday) in a befitting manner.

The poet died on August 1 in 1976. Different socio-cultural organisations including Bangla Academy, Islamic Foundation, Poet Mozammel Haque Foundation and Poet Mozammel Haque Solidarity Council will hold elaborate programmes to mark the day.

Poet Haque was born in Bholra on September 9, 1885. He specially contributed the Muslim renaissance in the undivided Bengal.

Weather

No change in temperature

By Staff Correspondent

Light to moderate rain or shower is likely at a few places over Khulna, Chittagong and Rajshahi divisions and at one or two places over Dhaka division during the next 36 hours commencing 6 pm Thursday. Meteorological office forecasts.

Day temperature is likely to remain nearly unchanged over the country during the period. Outlook for subsequent two days: Little change. Extended outlook for another five days: Rainfall activities may increase.

Rainfall recorded on Thursday in Sylhet was 24 mm, Comilla 13 mm, Ishurdi 7 mm, Khulna and Sitakundu 4 mm each and Khepupara 1 mm.

The sun sets today (Friday) in Dhaka at 6.43 pm and rises tomorrow (Saturday) at 5.28 am.

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

Cities/Towns	Temperature in degree Celsius	Humidity in percentage
	max	min
Dhaka	32.6	27.1
Chittagong	31.7	24.8
Rajshahi	34.3	27.1
Khulna	32.3	26.3
Barisal	32.4	26.6
Cox's Bazar	31.0	25.0
Sylhet	34.3	26.6
Jessore	34.5	26.5

Shun violence for progress: Saifur

Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman yesterday iterated his call for maintaining healthy political atmosphere shunning the path of confrontation and violence to win the battle for economic progress and prosperity, reports BSS.

The Finance Minister also appealed to all quarters, particularly the opposition to work unitedly on the basis of a national consensus to remove the economic ills left by the nine-year autocratic regime. He was addressing as chief

guest the annual general meeting and scholarship awarding ceremony of Dhaka University Jalalabad Chhatra Kalyan Samity at the Shishu Academy auditorium.

Rahman said that the basic infrastructure for development process was law and order and added all of us should carry on combine efforts to maintain it for replacing poverty by prosperity.

He said the backwardness in education was responsible for the country's economic backwardness, unemployment, population boom and added that the present government had attached top priority to education.

The Minister said Taka 100 crore would be spent this year for the development of the primary and secondary education while programmes had been taken for creating employment of 20,000 people.

The Finance Minister underscored the need for setting up of a large number of primary and secondary schools by the year 2015 and huge investment in education sector for its development.

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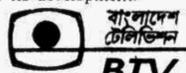
"Damaged Car for Sale"

Sealed tenders are invited from the interested parties for the purchase of damaged Jeep No. Dhaka-Metro-Bha-6757 and Car No. DHAKA-METRO-BHA-8182. The vehicles are available for inspection at M/s. Kuddus Motor Works, H-21/7 International Airport Road, Mohakhali Amtali, Dhaka (Ph. 601964) on week days between 10 am to 6 pm. Separate tender shall have to be submitted for the Jeep and the Car accompanied by separate Pay Orders in favour of Reliance Insurance Limited @ 10% of the tender value. The tenders must reach Reliance Insurance Limited BSB Building, 11th Floor, Dhaka by 5 pm on 6.8.92. The Company reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without showing any reason.

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Dhaka.



Friday

Morning Session

- 8.00 Opening announcement
- 8.05 Al-Quran Pro-gramme summary
- 8.10 News in Bangla
- 8.15 Anna Nuran
- 8.40 Cartoon: Mutant Ninja
- 8.50 Tariles
- 9.10 Campus
- 9.30 Film show: The Spectacular World of Guinness Records
- 10.00 News in English
- 10.05 Moner Mukure: Sang-saptak
- 11.15 Children's Drama Series: The Girl from Tomorrow
- 11.45 Survivors
- 12.17 Programme summary
- Summary of the evening session Closing

Friday Evening session

- 3.00 Opening announcement
- 3.05 Al-Quran Pro-gramme summary
- 3.12 Recitation from the Tripitak
- 3.15 Alor Dishari
- 3.40 Movie of the week
- 5.10 News in Bangla
- 5.15 Sports programme
- 7.05 Malancha
- 8.00 News in Bangla
- 8.30 Eurotops
- 9.00 Abosor
- 10.00 News in English
- 10.30 Olympic highlights
- 11.40 Khabar/The news
- 11.50 Saturday's programme summary
- Closing
- 11.55

ICB declares dividend

Investment Corporation of Bangladesh (ICB) has declared dividends on its six mutual funds and unit fund, reports UNB.

The rate of dividends are 31, 22, 19, 18, 11 and 6 per cent on first, second, third, fourth, fifth and sixth ICB mutual fund respectively and at the rate of Tk 16.70 per unit on ICB fund for fiscal 1991-92, said a press release yesterday.

Official calls on Mannan

Dr Ifthakur Mannan, a senior official of the Employment Strategies branch of International Labour Organisation (ILO) Geneva, Switzerland, called on Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, Minister for Labour and Manpower at his office in Dhaka yesterday, reports BSS. During the meeting they discussed matters of mutual interest.

Happy Birthday

To

Shawon
From: Abbu, Ammu

Happy Birthday

To

Shovon
From: Abbu, Ammu

QUL KHANI

Gul Khani of the Managing Director of Modhumita Group Late Md. Salahuddin (Farooque), the eldest son of Late Md. Sirajuddin, founder of Modhumita Group, will be observed today, the 31st July, 1992 after Maghrib prayer at Road No.-5, House No.-39, Dhanmondi R/A, Dhaka. Relatives, friends and well-wishers are requested to attend the Gul Khani and pray for the salvation of the departed soul.

Wife of Late Md. Salahuddin, his daughters, brothers & sisters. Tel: 502680.

EDUCATION IN BRITAIN

Mr David Game, of the DAVID GAME COLLEGE GROUP, will visit Bangladesh August 7-10 to interview and inform students about the following courses in the UK:

- * "A" levels, Foundation Courses & GCSE
- * Degree Courses in Law & Accountancy
- * Management, Marketing & Accountancy (ABE, CIM, CIMA, AAT)
- * Hotel Management (AHMA)
- * Travel & Tourism (IATA)
- * Computing & Secretarial Studies
- * Art, Fashion and Design

Interviews at The British Council, Dhaka on Fri 7, Sat 8 & Sun 9th August 1992 Everyday 10 am to 1 pm & 3 pm to 6 pm.

For an appointment telephone (Sat-Wed): Mr M A Wadud at 240105-6, 243161 (9am-5pm)

The British Council

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