

Dhaka Day by Day

Feminine but far from Fragile

Fayza Haq

Zakia Ahmed's solo exhibition of oils at 'La Galerie' showed her progress from a promising artist in the late seventies, to a mature one today; with much to offer to the viewers. She has abandoned her detailed studies for semi-abstracts. Yet her eye for detail and her marvellous play of light and shade of old prevailed in all her exhibits.

All her paintings at the exhibit showed a remarkable mastery of the brushwork and a love for both nature and portraiture of women. Being a woman herself, she had tried to glorify the position of women, even if it were in the

form of simple countryside mother. Having studied in USA, while her husband was doing his Ph.D. in rice research, she improved her work by doing courses at the Colorado State University, in America. She had done her M.F.A from the Institute of Fine Arts, Dhaka in '83. Despite having to attend to her two young children, and a joint family,

Zakia has had the time, zeal, and determination to have put up the numerous oils — scintillating with their greens, yellow ochres, blues and heightened by lashes of white or black.

In 'Madonna' (oil on canvas) '92, the figure had been portrayed from the back, while a child was carried at the back. The love and affection of a mother had been shown with lashes of grey, green, and yellow ochre. The woman's pose had the details of stark realism, while aesthetic depth had not been forgotten. The back drop was a pristine and soothing cubistic creation, with splashes of green and white.

There was a portrayal of a woman again in 'Girl with a Yellow Scarf', which had been done with deft strokes. The artist had done it in sombre hues and had outlined it with black brush strokes. The woman's beauty was delineated with care and highlighted by yellow flowers. It had been more idyllic or picturesque than many of her other works. The painting aimed at heightening the importance of women in our society — a subject that has always preoccupied Zakia's mind since '81.

There had been a gorgeous presentation of seasonal flowers, which had been delineated with impressionistic strokes in 'Composition-1'. Yellow ochre, burnt sienna and cream comprised the subject. The creation was completed with green and burnt-umber, combined with black. The play of light and shade had been carefully manipulated. The forms and

the balance of light and dark hues has remained Zakia's primary style and theme in her creations.

"The subject is not important", the artist commented about her oil on canvas, '92, 'Waiting'. "It is the manner in which I have done my work that is vital," she said. The details of the clothes, face, hair, and the tree branch at the background, as well as the balcony and the pillar of the verandah were done in muted blues and white. The subdued hues had been contrasted with grey brown and touches of pink and green.

More meaningful and imaginative to some of the viewers was the painter's 'Hut-1', which had brought in the hardship of the people of the life in the outskirts of Dhaka. Sitting in the pleasant sections of the cosmopolitan city one tends to be oblivious about the difficulties of the 'mufassil' life, unless one encounters scenes such as these in art galleries, newspapers and magazines that are available. The colours that had been layered upon with apparent ease, but one realised that the red, brown, green and black had been combined with ingenuity, a mastery of the brush strokes, along with a vivid imagination.

The scene that had been depicted at night, in 'Huts-2', had a scene from the slums of Dhaka. The delineation had not been romanticised nor idealised; yet the composition with cubism and the semi-abstract creation in ochre, green and black delighted the viewer. Our women painters can certainly do an efficient job of pleasing the viewer — both mentally and emotionally.

The landscape with the houses, with the sky sweep in the backdrop in 'Colorado Night', '92 was a fascinating landscape, and left an indelible mark on the mind of the viewer as regards the beauty of the composition. 'No 20', meanwhile, was a seascape. The sky and the rocks had been done in a semi-realistic manner, while details of figures fishing, could be seen and they had been done in black, as one could spot them only in closer inspection.

Zakia, who has had six solo paintings, and numerous combined ones — at home and overseas — is one of the most successful contemporary woman artists; and she deserves every shred of credit for her recent impressive display at Banani. Incidentally, the artist is originally from Sylhet, and has had her early education in Pakistan.



Zakia Ahmed seen at 'La Galerie', at her painting exhibition.

JU students demand arrest of Menon's attackers

By JU Correspondent

Different students' bodies of Jahangirnagar University today (Tuesday) brought out processions on the campus demanding immediate arrest of the assailants of Rashed Khan Menon, MP.

The student groups are: The incumbent BNP-backed Jatyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), pro-Awami League Bangladesh Chhatra League BCL (M-I), Samajtantrik Chhatra Front (SCF) and Bangladesh Chhatra Union (BSU).

Starting from the central cafeteria all the rallies ended at the Arts faculty premises. All the student organisations condemned the assault of Workers Party leader Rashed Khan Menon, MP.

Alleging the fundamentalist forces for the assault the student leaders demanded ban on the politics of Jamaat Shibir. Politics of the Jamaat Shibir has not been allowed on the campus by the students community of Jahangirnagar University since the killing of a JCD leader, Md Kabir in 1988 by the Islamic Chhatra Shibir.

The rallies were addressed by Aminur Rahman Alam, General Secretary of JCD JU wing, President of BCL (M-I) Md Mahbullah, President of BSU Mozammel Hossain and President of SCF Kazi Afzal Hossain.

Be more active to nab hiding criminals: IGP

Inspector General of Police A S M Shahjahan yesterday directed the divisional and district police officials to strengthen the countrywide drive against criminals, reports BSS.

He said police should be more active in apprehending the absconding criminals and recovering illegal arms, an official handout said.

The IGP gave the directives while reviewing the crime situation of the country in the fortnightly meeting of the senior police officials at the police headquarters here.

"Police should arrest only the persons accused on various crimes and send them to courts for trial," he said.

Steps to solve teachers' problems assured 2000 vacant posts in govt colleges to be filled up

Education Minister Jamiruddin Striar yesterday sought cooperation of all in making the educational arena free from violence and terrorism, reports BSS.

Had there been no violence in educational institutions, stability in the society would have been attained and all citizens benefited, the Minister told a gathering of college teachers at the Institute of Engineers here.

The minister said Bangladesh could only keep its head high by educating all its citizens and in that pursuits teachers had to put in their all-out efforts.

The day-long conference of Bangladesh Government College Professors Association, was addressed, among others, by Principal Yunus Khan, State Minister for Education, Prof Dr Yezuddin Ahmed, Chairman, Public Service Commission and Momtaz Begum Secretary General of the Association. Kamal Ataur Rahman, President of the association was in the chair.

Describing teaching as a mission and not an occupation, the Education Minister said the present government was trying to solve manifold problems of the government college teachers accumulated during nine years of autocratic rule.

Citing steps taken so far including the promotion of teachers made recently, Striar assured the teachers that other problems would be resolved in future.

Sohel Amitabh wins award

Poet Sohel Amitabh has been conferred with 'Swabhabkobi Gobinda Das International Award' for the year 1991, a press release of the Award Committee said here, reports BSS.

The award carries Taka one lakh in cash and a citation. The award will be given in a ceremony on November 12 in Dhaka.

Researchers can help develop forest products'

CHITTAGONG, Aug 25: Minister for Forest, Fisheries, Livestock and Environment Abdullah Al-Noman today stressed the need for utilising the knowledge, obtained through researches, for national development, reports BSS.

Researches on indigenous forest resources could contribute towards standardisation of forest products, he added.

The Forest Minister was inaugurating a three-day training course on production and propagation of cane and bamboo technique at the Forest Research Institute, at Sholoshahar here this morning. Presided over by Director of the Institute Dr Mir Mohammad Hassan the inaugural function was addressed, among others, by City Mayor Mir Mohammad Nasiruddin as special guest, Strajul Islam, MP, and Chittagong University Forestry Department Prof Abdur Rahman.

Noman called upon the researchers to spread their knowledge among the common people of the country.

Pantha

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NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES

The containerised cargo ex. M.V. "MECKLENBURG" V-EM225 from Khorfakkan, La-Spezia, ex. M.V. "METZ ESPANA" V-2CE from Montreal and containers from Singapore have been relayed to M.V. "FONG SHIN" V-9226, Import Rotation No. 643/92 is due to arrive Chittagong on or about 27-8-92 from Singapore.

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Monitoring cell on health soon

The need for removing impediments to eye donation movement in the South Asia region was underscored by speakers at an international seminar here yesterday, reports BSS.

Speakers identified some of the obstacles which, they said, were hindering the movement. These are mass illiteracy, indifference, ignorance, religious and social taboos, media-mass

communication gap, absence of any formal law in the country to register natural deaths.

In his speech, Deputy Minister for Health and Family Welfare Strajul Haque said the government will soon open a monitoring cell to keep a close track of the health scenario of the country.

Renowned eye specialist Prof Mustafizur Rahman presided over the inaugural

session of the three-day seminar on Eye Banking, held at BIRDEM auditorium this morning.

Deputy Minister for Health and Family Welfare Strajul Haque, Barrister Moinal Hossain, ORBIS Administrator Jake Requard, three experts from India — Monoranjan Mazumdar, Dr Pradip Biswas, Dr H T Vora addressed the session.



This photograph of Ahsan Shahed Khan (inset) won the 'Japan Airlines Prize' at the 17th photo contest in Asia and the Pacific of Asian Cultural Centre for UNESCO (ACCU) held recently at ACCU headquarters, Tokyo.

Plea to publish addresses of tax offices

By Staff Correspondent

The President of Bangladesh Tax Lawyers Association, Shamsur Rahman and Secretary General M A Salam Talukder in a statement Tuesday urged the government to publish all the addresses of zone and circle offices of tax department in the newspapers to facilitate the tax payers.

They also demanded the formation of a separate cell under the National Board of Revenue (NBR).

BTV
Wednesday

5:00	Opening announcement
	Al-Guran
	Programme summary
5:10	News in Bangla
5:20	Recitation from the Geeta
5:25	Sports programme
6:30	Semachar
7:05	Fallah
8:00	News in Bangla
8:30	Sangbad Parikrama
9:00	McGyver
10:00	News in English
10:30	Mukhomukhi
11:30	Khabar/The News
11:40	Thursday's programme summary
11:45	Closing

Weather

Moderate rain likely

By Staff Correspondent

Temporary light or moderate rain or shower is likely to occur at many places over Khulna, at a few places over Chittagong and at one or two places over Dhaka and Rajshahi divisions during the next 24 hours commencing 6 am today (Wednesday).

The Met office forecast day temperature is likely to fall by one to two degree Celsius over Khulna and Chittagong divisions and remain nearly unchanged elsewhere over the country.

The chief amount of rainfall recorded in 12 hours in some places of the country yesterday (Tuesday) were: Dinajpur 66 mm, Khepupara 29 mm, Teknaf 7 mm, Sylhet 11 mm and Tangail 5 mm.

The maximum temperature of 34.4 degree Celsius was reported from Rajshahi and Khulna yesterday and the minimum of 26 degree was reported from Sylhet.

The sun sets today (Wednesday) at 6.22 pm and rises tomorrow (Thursday) at 5.38 am.

The maximum and the minimum temperature and humidity of some major cities and towns yesterday were:

Cities/Towns	Temperature in degree Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	9 am	6 pm
Dhaka	32.8	27.6	81	76
Chittagong	32.5	26.4	72	85
Rajshahi	34.4	27.4	-	97
Cox's Bazar	30.5	26.0	78	86
Dinajpur	30.3	25.5	87	95
Sylhet	30.4	26.0	97	89
Barisal	32.8	-	-	90

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