

Dhaka Day by Day

A Lawyer Lays on Paints With a Point

by Fayza Haq

Itrat Amin is a self-taught Sunday painter, and yet she managed to have a solo exhibition of 44 paintings at the Institute of Arts and Crafts. The result spoke of Itrat taking her hobby quite seriously.

"I am lawyer by profession and one may wonder how this profession can go side by side with painting. To my mind, there is no conflict between the two. The legal profession gives one a deep insight into the society and its people. A lawyer has an important role to play in the creation of a healthy society and in the protection of the legitimate rights of its people. For the unfolding of creative faculties so much is needed for a richer fuller life, one should have freedom of mind, freedom and liberty. Any attempt to disturb such pace is resisted by the lawyers. The vision of an artist is not much different from that of a lawyer. An artist is committed to the creation of a healthy society. Every work of art has a message full of meaning. While an artist highlights beauty and joy, he also uses his brush to depict the darker side of life. His protest against injustice, suppression and oppression finds expression in his pieces of art, Itrat remarked.

"The study of man in relation to nature interests me deeply. I like to depict his heritage, culture, hopes and aspirations, happiness and sorrows, ups and downs through the canvas of colours with as much realism as possible. I have always been fond of red, green and yellow," the artist confessed.

"My love of Bangladesh and its people, my tribute to those who laid down their lives in the War of Independence, my admiration for those who are struggling so hard for their existence, my deep appreciation of the courage and fortitude with which they are facing natural calamity and disasters have a profound influence on my paintings. Our history, customs and traditions, social life, scenic beauty are also reflected in my work. The lot of disadvantaged and underprivileged women is of great concern to me. Hence the emphasis on the life of Bengali women folk in my paintings," Itrat added.

"I firmly believe in the saying 'Art is the best way of addressing humanity,' art speaks for itself, its language is universal and its appeal transcends national boundaries," the artist continued.

"No 42" showed a pensive young woman pondering over a balcony. A lot of brown, red and black was used while the strokes were quick and impressionistic. "No 43" depicted a village woman doing the hair. The woman was clad in simple green and blue 'sari' and her skin was swarthy. The simple village jewellery were highlighted with yellow.

"No 44" had a drummer playing to heart's content, with a dark tribal woman bending down and dancing to his accompaniment. The artist had used blue, brown, red and green. "No 4" depicted a woman seen from the back and side. She was a city woman and apparently middle-aged, yet there was beauty in the manner in which she sat and looked into space with her dreams and hopes.

"No 1" showed fisherman and his son making way through the forest, proceeding to the river to carry on with their daily work. A lot of brown and yellow ochre was used to depict the human beings and the nature around. "No 6" had village women in red and yellow. Their shyness and simplicity were captured well, while the drapery of the 'sari' had been done effectively. The background of the village was also brought in.

"No 7" showed a flute player in the village under a tree. From behind the tree could be seen the face and the body of a female admirer, charmed by the playing of the pipe. The peaceful village background was brought in. "No 12" showed women dancing, while men were playing with drums and flute. It had an air of gaiety and spontaneity. The colours used were once again dark, although the women's 'saris' and flowers in their hair were bright. The artist had captured the action and emotion with simple strokes.

There was an extravagance of still life too, as in "No 36" with the pumpkin, brinjal, green vegetables and a bowl. "No 35" had bananas, orange, apple and once again a bowl. "No 34" had a bottle of wine and a glass. All these would have been decorative enough in a dining room.

Itrat's work showed what an individual can achieve with a one's own perseverance and dedication. The show might have suffered if compared to the professional artists' works, but here one was dealing with something quite different. It was amazing how a busy working woman could find time to labour over her canvas for hours, and produce something that gave delight to the viewers and also gave them something to think about.

The Deputy Commissioner A H Abul Kashem met the members of the injured and crippled freedom fighters' families at the Circuit House here. Improved diets were served in all hospitals, orphanages, jails and other children welfare centres. Special prayers were offered in mosques, temples, churches and monasteries seeking peace and progress of the country.

Commissioner of Chittagong Division Alhaj Omar Farooq took the salute at the march past.

Farooq, in his brief speech paid glowing tributes to the supreme sacrifices of the martyrs and called upon all to work unitedly with the ideals of the shaheeds for building a happy and prosperous Bangladesh.

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Information Minister Barister Nazmul Huda has stressed the need for forging consensus on major national issues without wasting time in unnecessary debates to make the hard-earned independence meaningful, reports BSS.

He was speaking as chief guest at a function arranged by Bangladesh Film Development Corporation (FDC) at its auditorium here Wednesday in celebration of the Victory Day. Among others, Shahidul Haq Jamal, MP, also spoke on the occasion.

Termining Victory Day, the DU English Deptt Alumni Society get-together Dec 25

The annual get-together of the English Department Alumni Society, Dhaka University, will be held on December 25, Friday, at 3:00 p.m. at the Institute of Fine Arts (Shahbagh), says a press release.

All ex-students are cordially invited to attend.

Narcotics control programme ends

Two weeks training programme on narcotics control organised jointly by Department of Narcotics Control and France Government concluded yesterday at Alliance Francaise, Dhaka. A M M Nasrullah Khan, Director General, Deptt of Narcotics Control distributed certificates among the participants as chief guest on the concluding function.

M Michel Penaud, Charge d'Affaires of France Embassy was present on this occasion as a special guest. A. Meheut, permanent delegate of France Embassy at Dhaka presided over the session.

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Chehnam

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Machine Tools Factory

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strike in front of Jatya Press Club on January 3 to press the government accept their demands.

The announcement of the action committee was made following a hunger procession by the workers of the factory and cross section of people in Gazipur on December 15.

Kranti

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The members of the organization also blamed the political parties for the upsurge of fundamentalist forces again in the country.

The meeting presided over by Dr Ahmed Rafique was also attended by Mahbulul Alam Chowdhury, and others.

Henry's Heritage

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