

# Dhaka Day by Day

## A Melange of Man and his Environment

by Fayza Haq



"Horror '71" by Masooma Khan

Masooma Khan, who has been a professional since the 70's and holds regular workshops for children throughout the year on Fridays, at Alliance Francaise, has tried to bring in her conception of the environment around her in Dhaka. This will be viewed at the exhibit, due to be inaugurated by the Information Minister, Mr Nazmul Huda, on March 5. This exhibition will also include the best works of her students. There will be about 50 entries in all.

"In Ridoye Ghobierey" she has tried to capture the emotions of the people of the youth. I have attempted to depict this in clear forms so that it is comprehended by the average viewer. I used bright green to depict joy. However, when I portrayed the city, I presented the congested life found there and the lack of sympathy of the people for their fellow men," Masooma said. It was colourful semi-abstract composition in blue, red and varied colours. Although the depiction was a colourful acrylic, there was a purposeful void in the middle.

"Worried Women and Nature" had arranged geometrical forms such as squares and rectangles. Bright blue, yellow, green and red hues were utilised to depict the peaceful nature around them. "I have tried to bring home the point that our women remain perplexed and oppressed, despite the fact that nature around them, specially in the rural areas, is a peaceful one," the artist explained.

"Horror '71" which was a large picture, 4 ft. by 5 ft., had three tiny screaming young birds in a nest. A sinister snake was poised over their heads, and this was obviously a symbolic piece. The artist wished to depict the fear of the Bengalis during the Pakistan Army occupation. This too was an impressionistic acrylic venture, in which the birds were in blue, while the twisted snake was a black and yellow venomous one. Tree leaves surrounded the nest.

Apart from the entree on the Liberation War, Masooma had continued to project the nature of Bangladesh, with green used in the leaves, fruits, flowers a butterfly and a bird in her piece "Youth." Meanwhile, the artist's creation called "Peace" depicted a dove that was shown as taking a flight. While the background was blue, the dove was depicted as white, by which the artist wished to convey the viewers that the prospects of hope for the world was increasingly at a low ebb. In her mind the artist had the Subcontinent, Middle East and Bosnia-Herzegovina crises.

In answer to the question of what Masooma felt about the state of art in Bangladesh, she replied, "What ever we do, in our country, we keep in mind our own culture and heritage, as found in the works of Kalidas Karmakar, Shahabuddin and Hamiduzzaman. This is because their subject matter and base of inspiration remains Bangladesh. They may not have gone beyond what the western artists have achieved, but we are experimenting and trying our level best."

Dwelling on the problems that Masooma

faced as an artist, she said, "the major frustration for any artist in Bangladesh is to find an adequate gallery for people to view, and the artists to make an sufficient income. 'La Galerie' remains too far for the average middle-class buyers and connoisseurs. Apart from the Shilpakala Academy, there are only the Goethe Institut and Alliance Francaise. There are hurdles for displays at the Shilpakala Academy. The Fine Arts Department, D. U. gallery is there too, no doubt, but the government has done little to encourage or inspire the artists. Bookings at the private galleries remain an almost insurmountable hassle. The artists have to stockpile materials, which is not easy," Masooma elaborated.

Discussing the problems she faced as a teacher she said, "Often children cannot obtain the colours in the market, as they may not be available, or they might be beyond the budget of the children's parents. The arrival and departure at the Alliance Francaise of the students have also to be coordinated. However, I enjoy my work with approximately 25 students, that I handle weekly 10.30 am till 12 pm. Incidentally, I began my teaching in '86 and each course comprises 3 months costing Tk 450.

About the pleasure that she obtained from her work Masooma has always found it interesting. "There is an ad. on TV on the 'magic-box' on '7-UP', and one of the young artists Abir, had done this in a comic manner. They will, for instance, make a huge bird cage, with pets in them and make the human beings tiny in proportion. This, I find, both interesting and amusing for the artist as a teacher. More than the human beings," the artist explained. This has been done by the young painter Annono.

The exhibit will also include the paintings by the children, whom the artist has taught regularly. They have brought in festivals, and images that they have seen during their holidays to the countryside of Bangladesh. They were all realistic works as their age range is five to fourteen years. The medium that they have used is water-colour and pastel, using bright hues of yellow, blue, green and red.

They have also depicted the countryside, showing farmers and fishermen. Eight-year old Abir has depicted the procession with masks brought out by the Fine Arts Department, D.U. The young artist has powerful strokes in his animal depictions. Meanwhile, Drybo has done some hills, which he saw at Chittagong. Shahid, meantime, has depicted the city. Nandini has painted the exchange of sweet-meats between houses during "Shabe Barat." Meanwhile Esha Sraboni had created a promising piece of the game of hide-and-seek. The students had all used acrylic and pastels.

Having studied to the Bachelor's Degree at the Fine Arts Department, D.U. in '72, Masooma has today established herself by her 9 solo exhibitions at private galleries, apart from being a successful teacher. She has also various national awards to her credit.

## BSP forms sub-committee to amend its constitution.

By Staff Correspondent

An extended meeting of Bangladesh Sangbadpatra Parishad (BSP) Sunday formed a sub-committee with Barrister Mainul Hossain as Chairman to bring about necessary amendments in the constitution of the parishad.

It was also decided that the election to the BSP will be held within six weeks of the amendments. The report of the sub-committee will be placed before the executive committee by March.

Other members of the sub-committee are Ahmedul Kabir, Mizanur Rahman Mizan, Anwarul Islam Boby, Mahfuz Anam, and Enayet Ullah Khan.

The meeting presided over by Barrister Hossain also expressed satisfaction at the parliamentary standing committee on Information Ministry had discussed the advertisement policy for the newspapers. But it also observed that the committee held only two meetings and could not arrive at any decisions over the advertisement policy.

The BSP also expressed its desire to present its position on the advertisement policy to the parliamentary standing committee.

BSP also demanded withdrawal of ban on government advertisement from Dainik Bhorer Kagoj and some other newspapers.

The meeting also condemned the recent attacks on the offices of United News of Bangladesh (UNB) and Banglabazar Patrika and demanded the punishment of the criminals.

## Khaleda greets ROK PM

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia has congratulated Hwang In Sung on his assumption of the office of Prime Minister of South Korea, reports UNB.

In a message yesterday, Begum Zia expressed her conviction that during his tenure the existing close and beneficial cooperation between the two countries would further be strengthened and developed.

## BSTI realises Tk 11 thousand fine during Feb

RAJSHAHI, Feb 28: Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institution (BSTI) realised fine amounting to Taka about 11 thousand from the illegal users of weights and measures in different parts and bazars of 10 thanas of the division through conducting five mobile courts and six police raids during the month of February, reports BSS.

A total of 51 cases were filed during the raids in Dinajpur Sadar, Parbatipur, Sariakandi, Manda, Ullapara, Thakurgaon Sadar, Pirganj, Joidhaka, Chapainawabganj Sadar and Gomastapur Thana of which 39 cases were settled realising the fine.

During the raids about 17 maunds of old bakharas, 104 illegal KG weight measures, 487 faulty scales and 13 yard sticks were seized.

## Fisheries Deptt

Fisheries Department has realised fine amounting to Taka over 25 thousand from the fishermen for disobeying fish preservation-law in sixteen districts of Rajshahi division during the year 1992.

A total of 931 cases were filed in this connection of which 400 cases were settled realising the fine. Three persons were also sentenced to jail for the offence.

Meanwhile, The Fisheries Department distributed fish loan worth Taka about six lakh in Rajshahi division during 1991-92.

## Weather

### No change in temperature

By Staff Correspondent

Weather is likely to remain mainly dry over the country during the next 36 hours commencing 6 pm Sunday, Meteorological office forecast.

Night temperature may remain nearly unchanged during the period over the country.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Little change. The sun sets today (Monday) at 6.01 pm and rises tomorrow (Tuesday) at 6.20 am.

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

| Cities/Towns | Temperature in degree Celsius |      | Humidity in percentage |      |
|--------------|-------------------------------|------|------------------------|------|
|              | Max                           | Min  | 9 am                   | 6 pm |
| Dhaka        | 29.0                          | 17.5 | 69                     | 58   |
| Chittagong   | 29.6                          | 18.2 | 78                     | 55   |
| Rajshahi     | 29.6                          | 16.0 | 66                     | 52   |
| Khulna       | 29.5                          | 16.0 | 70                     | 65   |
| Barisal      | 30.0                          | 16.4 | 74                     | 65   |
| Sylhet       | 29.0                          | 18.0 | 82                     | 61   |
| Cox's Bazar  | 30.8                          | 20.2 | 72                     | 61   |
| Dinajpur     | 27.7                          | 13.8 | 80                     | 50   |

The highest temperature recorded in the country yesterday was 31.5 at Teknaf and the lowest was 13.4 at Ishardi.



BCL (M-I) held a rally in front of Arts Faculty building of Dhaka University in observance of the Selim-Delwar day yesterday. — Star photo

## Probe into Parbatipur railway back-shop soon: JS body

The parliamentary standing committee on Ministry of Communications yesterday decided to conduct an enquiry into the whole gamut of the railway back-shop constructed at Parbatipur, reports BSS.

It also decided to seek expertise from Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) and other agencies as and when necessary for thorough investigations into the whole extent of the matter.

The decision was taken at a meeting of the committee held at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban with State Minister for Communications Mohammad Fazlur Rahman in the chair.

The meeting took the deci-

sion in view of certain complaints received on the construction of the back-shop.

Earlier, convenor of the Sub-committee on Parbatipur Railway Back-shop, Whip Mohammad Abdul Karim presented the report before the standing committee.

The members of the committee, Advocate Mostafizur Rahman, Mohammad Shamsul Huq, Abdul Wahab and Alhaj Mohammad Golam Hossain attended the meeting.

Secretary Railway Division Syed Shameem Ahsan, Secretary Road and Road Transport Division Syed Rezaul Hayat and senior officials of the ministry were present.

## Solution to CHT problems

### Participation of hill people stressed

Speakers at a seminar in Rangamati yesterday stressed the need of motivating the hill people to participate in the ongoing peace process for a solution to the long-standing Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) problems, reports UNB.

Tribal and non-tribal intellectuals, journalists, local elite, educationists and government officials participated in the seminar on "Role of Intellectuals and Journalists in Establishing Peace and Harmony in the Troubled Chittagong Hill Tracts."

AKM Maqsood Ahmed, President of the local Press Club and Editor of the Giridharan, presided over the meeting in the Chittagong Hill Tracts Development Board Rest House.

Parizat Kushum Chakma, Chairman of the Local Government Council, and Brig. Ahsan Nazmul Amin, Rangamati Region Commander of Army, and Mohammad Hasan, Deputy Commissioner, attended the seminar as chief and special guests respectively.

## Directive to improve civic services

The Mayor of Dhaka, Mirza Abbas, MP, yesterday gave directive to the personnel of the city corporation to gear up an improve civic services to the residents of the city, reports BSS.

The Mayor gave the directive to gear up the corporations' service to make the city clean, free it from the mosquito menace and also ensure hygienic facilities.

Addressing a coordination meeting of the Dhaka City Corporation's departments of conservancy, health as well as zonal officers, the Mayor asked for cleaning up the derelict ponds.

## Ensure collection of revenue, Hafiz tells registrars

Minister for Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Mirza Gholam Hafiz called upon the concerned officials to ensure due collection of revenue by curbing the increasing trend of under valuation of land in documentation of deeds, reports BSS.

He was addressing a rally of registrars and sub-registrars at the Registration Complex Bhaban at Tejgaon in the city yesterday.

Presided over by Dhaka district Registrar AKM Fazlul Haq Chowdhury, the rally was also addressed, among others, by State Minister for Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Barrister Aminul Haq.

Law and Justice Secretary Mirza Asaduzzaman Al-Faruk and Inspector General, Registration, Siddiqur Rahman.

Mirza Hafiz asserted that concerned rules would be amended to re-fix the highest fine for undervaluation of land from Taka five thousand to fifty thousand and so as to stop this kind of malpractice.

It was informed that so far about eighty thousand cases of undervaluation of land had been detected and paced before the competent authority to take necessary action against such malpractice.

He called for safeguarding the rights of the land owners by decelerating their deeds with care and caution. He also laid stress on upgrading the staff of sub-registrars to class one to give them incentive and inspiration.

## Student bodies observe death anniversary of Selim, Delwar

By DU Correspondent

Different student organisations yesterday observed the ninth death anniversary of Selim and Delwar who were crushed under a police van in an anti-autocracy procession near Fulbaria bus station in 1984.

H M Ibrahim Selim and Kazi Delwar, the two Chhatra League leaders were the final year students of the Department of History and Political Science of the Dhaka University respectively.

The pro-Awami League Chhatra League (M-I) brought out a procession and held a rally at the foot of Aparajco Bangla of DU in the morning yesterday to mark the day.

Speakers at the rally said that the dreams of Shaheed Selim and Delwar had not been fulfilled yet.

BCL (M-I) General Secretary Iqbalur Rahim urged the government to fulfill the students' 10-point demand.

The rally was addressed among others by Ataur Rahman, Ishaq Ali Khan Panna, KHM Liza and Iqbal Hossain Apu.

Earlier, the BCL laid wreaths to the Selim-Delwar memorial monument on DU campus.

Ganatantrik Chhatra Otkya (GCO) also held a rally in front of the DU Arts Faculty Building yesterday to observe the day.

The rally was addressed by its leaders Obayedur Rahman Chunnua, Mostak Alam Tulu, Aslam Khan and Kabirul Islam Chowdhury Rupom.

## New schedule of DU honours examinations

Dhaka University authorities have declared the new schedules of some examinations, reports UNB.

According to the new schedule the Traditional degree/honours examination (including Home Economics) of 1991 will be held on October 25, 1993. First part of MA examination (Traditional) of 1991 including Library Science and Home Economics will be held on October 27, 1993 and final part of Masters and Degree (Traditional) of 1990 including Library Science and Home Economics will begin on October 30, 1993.

Details of the examinations schedule will be announced later.

## DU 'Kha' group test Mar 4

The written test for admission to 1st year (Honours) 'Kha' group in Arts and Social Science of Dhaka University will be held on March 4 (Thursday), reports UNB.

The test will be held from 10 am to 12 noon. Seat arrangement will be hung on the notice board on March 3 at the Dean office.



A car damaged by a group of Sangrami Chhatra Samaj activists at Topkhana crossing yesterday. — Star photo

## Islamic Foundation project budget approved

A conference with regard to collection of Zakat Fund from the Zakat payee yesterday decided to adopt appropriate measures for motivating people for paying their Zakat to the Islamic Foundation Zakat Cell for helping the destitute, helpless and needy people of the society under the provision of the holy Quran and Sunnah, reports BSS.

Held at the conference room of Islamic Foundation, the conference was presided over by Minister of State for Religion Affairs Prof. MA

Mannan. The meeting approved a proposed budget for 1992-93 fiscal year amounting to Taka 21 lakh 13 thousand for running the projects undertaken by the Zakat Board of Islamic foundation. The projects are children hospital at Gazipur, ideal maktab at Haluaghat in Mymensingh, sewing project for the destitutes, Zakat fund scholarship for poor students, rickshaw distribution project, Rehabilitation of destitutes women project and new Muslim rehabilitation project.

## Corruption case against Rly engr

CHITTAGONG, Feb 28: Anti-Corruption Bureau, Chittagong region, filed a case yesterday against Zafar Sadeq Majumdar, a Sub Assistant Engineer of Bangladesh Railway (East Zone) for misappropriation of Taka 1,23,81,100, reports BSS.

According to the Anti-Corruption Bureau, Zafar Sadeq Majumdar misappropriated railway wooden slippers of various sizes in 74 items worth Taka 1,23,81,100 between January 1985 and Oct 88.