

Dhaka Day by Day

Where Diplomacy Mingles with Art...

by Nancy Wong



"Crow Tamer": John L. Doyle; 4-Color Lithograph, 32"x29" Loaned by C.R. Davidson's, Inc.

All countries take pride in showing off their people's achievements, whether they be in the form of their manufactured goods (by way of trade fairs and periodic promotions) or handicrafts or performing arts.

Among the most imaginative effort of this kind seems to be the works of art on display at US Ambassadors' residences abroad. What is probably unique here is the "Art in Embassies Programme" sponsored by the US service wing, the State Department. As a result of this humanistic approach in diplomacy, the beautiful residence of the US Ambassador to Bangladesh, William Milam, is further enhanced by a superb collection of contemporary American paintings and graphics depicting the rich fabric of the country's potpourri of diverse races, cultures and some of its glorious scenic landscapes — both in abstract and impressionistic terms. At the same time, this kind of "permanent exhibition" in a lived-in environment shows that art need not be for art's sake alone nor be confined to the walls of stately museums.

Apart from these paintings from the "Art in Embassies Programme" and some on loan from the artists themselves, there are some splendid pieces owned by the Ambassador himself, leading viewers to acknowledge his distinctive taste as an art collector.

Tastefully displayed at strategic spots and cosy corners of the airy and elegantly furnished residence, dramatic paintings by native Americans such as Kevin Red Star (a Crow Indian from Montana) and Amado Pena (of Yaqui and Hispanic origin) arrest the visitor's attention and compel her/him to stop and gaze in thoughtful reflection and admiration.

Kevin Red Star (what an evocative name!) deals exclusively in topics relating to his Crow culture and he delights in delving into the past of his tribe's heritage and their struggle in coming to terms with the modern world. His portrait of "The Visiting Young Dancer Come to Our Camp" is striking in its stormy yet harmonious blend of colours, the dancer's flamboyant costume and one can easily visualise this gay young blade leaping into the midst of a merry gathering around a crackling campfire in the cold, bleak desert night and dancing his way into everybody's hearts, scattering joy and cheer with every movement.

In slightly different vein, but on similar subjects, Amado M Pena, Jr. executes his works in

hand-coloured etching. His trade mark is that of showing his subjects in profile form, and the mixture of rather sombre shades of brown in "Patrones del Valle" seems to depict a stoic, courageous people trying to eke out a living among a harsh yet majestic backdrop of the vast, endless and barren desert with its susceptibility to dust storms. The profiles Pena draws appear quite sad, full of resolve with an unmistakable mixture of pride and grave dignity.

Amy Burnett, born and bred in the American Northwest, reflects her natural environment in her paintings. An extraordinary woman of many diverse interests (having earned four College degrees, being the first woman in the state of Washington to be licensed as a plumber as well as having a part-ownership of a winery), her style is a mixture of the abstract and the conventional. "Hunter Faded Time Circle" is an intriguing example of deer images shown through the lenses of the predatory hunter's cold, calculating eyes. Executed in muted shades of blue, mauve and black, it would make an appropriate campaign poster for the World Wildlife Conservation Society.

Works done in etching is the staple of Brigitte Hanf, an artist one would associate with the school of abstract imagery. "Tiger" from Ambassador Milam's private collection brings to mind William Blake's immortal poem, "Tiger, Tiger Burning Bright." One can almost see the majestic beast's eyes glittering in the dark, fierce and compelling. Etched in a crouching position, ready to pounce, the viewer almost expects the tiger to jump out of the frame.

A number of abstract landscapes done in oil are the works of Marija Pavlovich McCarthy, a Washington painter of Yugoslav origin. They show a delightfully harmonious blend soothing colours and such is its subtle ambiguity the viewer can exercise her/his imagination to determine whatever natural forms she/he wishes. "Trees" however, is quite specific and represented in vibrant autumnal colours.

The range of paintings is rich not only in its variety of subjects but also in the composition of the artists themselves. They represent a wide cross section of the different ethnic groups which make up American society and its multifarious culture which contributes so much to the wealth of the United States.

US optimistic of investment possibilities in Bangladesh

Investment experts of the United States of America James D Berg and Robert Bakley have expressed optimism on possibilities for investment in Bangladesh, reports BSS.

Berg, Acting President and Chief Executive of Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC) and Bakley, Assistant Deputy Administrator at the agency for International Development Bureau for Private Enterprise (AIDB) said this at a recent "world net symposium" on "Investment versus foreign assistance", according to USIS sources here yesterday.

The Dhaka penlists at the TV interview were Ziaul Huq, former President of the Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI) and A H M Moazzem Hossain, Deputy Editor of the Daily Telegraph.

Berg noted that officials at OPIC, the Commerce Department, the Agency for International Development, the Small Business Administration and other government agencies regularly work together to understand what American companies can do profitably overseas, and evaluate investment opportunities.

Answering a question from Hoq on how Bangladesh could attract foreign investment, Berg said, "there is a lot that

we and others can do to help Bangladesh achieve its goal of increasing inward foreign investment."

Bakley noted that while Bangladesh needs its labour intensive industries, it should focus on its vast, inexpensive natural gas resources. "In theory, Bangladesh could provide all the fertilizer for the rest of the world," he said. Bakley was referring to the Karnaphuli Fertilizer Company (KAFCO) in this respect.

Both US experts, who study global trade and investment explained that the spread of democracy in closely tied to the increasing acceptance of free-market principles.

"I think history will show... that as the night follows the day," economic liberalization will follow democratization, James Berg told participants in Dhaka, Colombo and Calcutta.

Representatives from Colombo were Saman Kelegama, research fellow at the Institute of Policy Studies and economic correspondent of the weekly "Sunday Island," Ravi "John", a television journalist and newscaster. From Calcutta, Dr Saugot Margit, Associate Professor of Economics at the Jadavpur University joined the live one-hour television symposium.



NARI

THE PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS OF NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR RESOURCE ASSOCIATION (NARI) INVITE YOU TO A FESTIVAL OF FOOD AND HANDICRAFTS ON FRIDAY, 16 APRIL, 1993, AT GULSHAN CLUB AT 10-00 AM TO 6-00 PM.

Shikalbaha Bridge opens in Ctg

CHITTAGONG, Apr 15: The 380-foot Shikalbaha Bridge under Patiya thana here was opened to traffic yesterday, reports BSS.

The three-span 24-foot wide bridge was constructed in 36 months, two months ahead of schedule, at a cost of Taka 4 crore 56 lakh on Patiya-Anwara-Banskhali road.

Communications Minister Oli Ahmed inaugurated the bridge at Bhellar Par under Patiya Thana.

The Communications Minister said, the bridge, a long-felt demand of the local people, will play a very vital role in improving the economy of the area. The bridge a part of Asian highway as well as Chaka-Cox's Bazar highway, is yet another manifestation of BNP-government's will and sincerity to work for the people, the minister said.

Z I Chowdhury's death anniversary

By DU Correspondent
The first death anniversary of Dr Zahurul Islam Chowdhury, the former Dean of the Faculty of Law of the Dhaka University, will be observed today (Friday).

To mark the day the Department of Law of the University will hold a day-long Qurankhwan and milad mahfil after Asr prayer today.

Dr Islam was the teacher of the International Islamic University in Malaysia and former Dean of the Rajshahi University.

10 Taka prize bonds draw results

The 109th draw of 10 Taka Bangladesh Prize Bonds has been held here yesterday at the conference room of the Commissioner office, Dhaka Division, Dhaka. The Commissioner, Dhaka Division presided over, says a press release.

First prize of Tk 50,000... 2237223. Second prize of Tk 10,000... 250958.

Four prizes of Tk 1,000 each bearing nos : 036370, 097422, 198064 and 458135. Four prizes of Tk 500 each bearing nos : 043029, 136392, 177146 and 395503.

Ninety prizes of Tk 100 each bearing nos : 000852, 002485, 003290, 004313, 014285, 027535, 052652, 056351, 061420, 062213, 062938, 064779, 067277, 072056, 083847, 086389, 088891, 094141, 096360, 104855, 110941, 126539, 129162, 132063, 144249, 149014, 151021, 167193, 171563, 180148, 185021, 200564, 210902, 212751, 221194, 241188, 245749, 247429, 250203, 255769, 261649, 271597, 277363, 281053, 283979, 287836, 292770, 295911, 296836, 302430, 313587, 327253, 333608, 338844, 339739, 346400, 350283, 360142, 365518, 368621, 372541, 373561, 383712, 384853, 390319, 393074, 397425, 399060, 404115, 409018, 410682, 419523, 427341, 431767, 438143, 447068, 452045, 454168, 459052, 463773, 465754, 471868, 473755, 474136, 475393, 475718, 479349, 484726, 487313, 493626.

Tk 47cr WFP aid for Rohingyas

The World Food Programme (WFP) will provide a total of 33,591 metric tonnes of food items including rice, pulses, edible oil, sugar and salt worth about Taka 47 crore for the Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh under an agreement signed here yesterday,

reports BSS. This is a part of the WFP's commitment to the Bangladesh government for the April-December period this year under the fourth memorandum of understanding, a press release of the Ministry of Relief said here yesterday. Relief

secretary and the chief of WFP's Dhaka office signed the agreement on behalf of the respective sides, the press release said.

Sircar made ICPED chairman

Education Minister Barrister Jamiruddin Sircar has been elected Chairman of Commission in the first International Congress on Population Education and Development being held now in Istanbul in Turkey, reports BSS.

The commission will deal with strategies for the development of educational programmes.



Morning Session
8:00 Opening announcement
Al-Quran Programme summary
8:10 News in Bangla
8:15 Alor Disharec
8:40 Wild Life on One
9:20 Candid Camera
10:00 News in English
10:10 Moser Mukure: Tin Adhuy
11:20 Shikha Deckha
11:40 Danny Wilson's Family Collection

Evening Session
3:00 Opening Session
Al-Quran Programme summary
3:10 Cartoon: Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
3:40 Bengali film: Biraha Byatha
6:35 Wrestling
7:00 Open University
7:25 Malancha
8:00 News in Bangla
8:30 Perfect Strangers
9:00 Updhar
10:00 News in English
10:30 L.A. Law
11:30 Khabar/The News
11:40 Tomorrow's programme summary
11:45 Closing

HERE and THERE

ADAB meet held

A meeting organized jointly by the United Women's Forum (Oikya Baddha Nari Samaj) and ADAB was held on yesterday at the ADAB Conference Hall. Detailed and critical analysis of the situation of women was discussed at the meeting. The meeting was chaired by Ms Khushi Kabir, Vice-Chairperson of ADAB.

Bangladesh Paribar Parikalpana Samity

A country-wide competition of sketching posters was held Thursday at 20 greater districts of Bangladesh under the

joint auspices of Bangladesh Paribar Parikalpana Samity and UNFPA.

Artiste Prof Abdur Razzak inaugurated the competition at 10 am at the central office of the samity at Naya Paltan as chief guest.

Dhaka Taxes Bar Assoc

Dhaka Taxes Bar Association held a discussion here on Monday to welcome the Bengali New Year 1400 at the association hall room.

The discussion was attended by noted writer Shaukat Osman as the chief guest while eminent scientist Dr Abdullah Al Muti Sharfuddin was the special guest.

Weather

No change in temperature

By Staff Correspondent

Weather forecast for the next 24 hours commencing 6 am today (Friday) says, rain or thunder shower accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind may occur at one or two places over Dhaka Division and the regions of Rajshahi, Bogra, Pabna, Kushtia, Jessore, Noakhali, Comilla and Sylhet while weather will remain dry elsewhere over the country.

The Met office forecasts, day temperature is likely to remain nearly unchanged over the country. The maximum temperature of the country 33.9 degree Celsius was reported from Rangamati yesterday.

The sun sets today (Friday) at 6:21 pm and rises at 5:36 am tomorrow (Saturday). The maximum and the minimum temperature and humidity recorded in some of the major cities and towns of the country yesterday were:

Cities/Towns	Temperature in degree Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	9 am	6 pm
Dhaka	31.6	23.6	80	68
Chittagong	30.6	21.4	77	73
Rajshahi	32.0	21.4	95	77
Khulna	33.6	23.3	78	58
Barisal	32.6	21.5	85	86
Cox's Bazar	30.5	21.8	77	70
Sylhet	30.2	20.2	69	65
Dinajpur	31.5	21.5	75	68



CRICKET CHAMPIONSHIP 1993

Quarter Final

See the elegant strokes, the sweeping fours, the staggering sixes. The drum beating, trumpeting finish! Witness all the running between wickets in the battle for a place in the semi-finals between the Big 8.

Fixture

Chittagong DSA Vs. Kushtia DSA
Sylhet DSA Vs. Narayanganj DSA

Venue : Dhanmondi Cricket Ground
Date : April 16, 1993

Venue : National Stadium No. 1
Date : April 16, 1993



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