

Metropolitan

Dhaka Day by Day

Essence of Excellence

by Fayza Haq

Shilpakala Academy held an exhibition recently of nine established artists: S M Sultan, Mohammad Kibria, Aminul Islam, Murtaja Baseer, Abdur Razzaque, Qayyum Chowdhury, Syed Jahangir, Debdas Chakrabarty and Kazi Abdul Baseer.

There were S M Sultan's painting of village life with muscles and torsos larger than life. The men and women which he depicted appeared faultless and active. He had used vegetable dyes mixed with earth colours. His works were rich, colourful, flamboyant and deep. His "First-Plantation" with the rippling muscles of the farmer and the buxom angels on top created an idyllic setting and this was perhaps his most impressive work.

There was Kibria's blending of western techniques which included landscape and na-

Abdur Razzaque's works were there too. He is proficient in graphics, sculpture and painting. Being a nature lover his artistic activity is based on nature. He said that in depicting a flower one should not only bring the beauty of flower but also the fragrance. His aim was to provide the essence of nature and not just reproduce it. His oil "Pond" had been done in mixtures of beige, burnt sienna and blue.

The works of Qayyum Chowdhury had also been taken from close observation of nature and from the field of everyday life. His oil "My Village-16" was an impressionistic creation bringing in trees, houses, animals, birds and people with a definite impact.

Syed Jahangir dealt with nature, people, colour and shapes. He has produced innumerable paintings and sketches which are in the



ture. His colours were alive as they were organic, fresh and new. He made geometrical creations with his squares, cubes, lines, shapes and space. There was an intellectual content and he was concerned with the existential truth. "Full Moon" in oil showed a woman relaxing with the moon above her. This was a celebration of life.

There were the works of Aminul Islam with his abstract symbolic forms of flags and glass. An indefatigable experimenter in the media he developed new modes in water colour, oil, acrylic, paper, cardboard and even jute. His "Sphere" was an exotic creation in vibrant red, orange and pink combined with blue.

Murtaja Baseer, in his earlier works had had birds and women as his favourite symbols. Now, instead of placid colours he used loud ones. It is said that few artists are as well informed about cinema, art and literature as he is. In "Spring," done in oil, he had a woman painted in vivid oranges and yellow, with touches of blue and black.

homes of connoisseurs. His "Signal No 10" in oil was an admirable creation with blue, beige and the orange streaks of lightning.

Debdas Chakrabarty dealt with man's sufferings and agonies with bright colours. He combined the six different seasons in his experimentation. He was also concerned with man's joys and sorrows. His oil "Memories of Liberation War" was an abstract delineation in vivid colours and black.

There were the works of Kazi Abdul Baseer who once dealt with sights and sounds of village life like harvesting, fishing and bathing. He understood the richness of nature, the various sights, sounds, smells and taste. From impressionism he shifted to semi-cubism and today one saw abstractions in which one wondered at the colour balance. In "Composition-5" in oil one found a gentle creation in shades of ochre, burnt sienna and brown.

The exhibition was an excellent reminder of the high standard of works and the persistent struggle of senior artists in Bangladesh.

Ashura inspires us to fight injustice: Matin

Home Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury Thursday called for upholding the Islamic values of truthfulness, justice, equality, tolerance and democracy in the national life, reports BSS.

The minister was addressing a discussion on significance of the 10th Muharram organised by Jatiyatabadi Madrasa Chhatradal at the Islamic Foundation auditorium here.

The Home Minister said, the month of Muharram is the month of salvation and sacrifices and the teachings of the holy Ashura inspires us to fight injustice and immorality.

He urged all, especially the student community, to follow the ideals and philosophy of Islam to establish an exploitation free society.

Presided over by the acting president of Jatiyatabadi Madrasa Chhatradal Rafiqul Islam, the function was addressed, among other, by Deputy Minister for Shipping A B M Zahidul Haq, general secretary of Jatiyatabadi Chhat-

radal Najmuddin Alam, BNP student affairs secretary Majibur Rahman and relief affairs secretary N I Khan.

Chittagong

Ashura, the 10th of Muharram was observed in the port city and elsewhere in the district with solemn devotion and traditional enthusiasm.

Different socio-religious organisations observed the day through elaborate programmes which included milad mahfil, Quran khwani, Nuran Jalaha, discussion meetings and commemorative processions and special prayers.

Narayanganj

In Narayanganj highlights of the day's programme included milad mahfil, was mahfil, special prayers, feeding to the destitute and tazia procession.

About 20 tazia processions were brought out from different parts of the town including Narayanganj Rally Bagan, Deobhog, Bandar Rally Bagan and Ekrampur Colony.



Islami Shasantantra Andolon brought out a procession in the city yesterday condemning the repression on Muslims in Bosnia. —Star photo

Help the poor, Mostafiz urges well-to-do

Foreign Minister A S M Mostafizur Rahman Thursday called upon the affluent section of society to serve those who were living below the poverty line, reports BSS.

"The down trodden people needs the help of the well-to-do section to survive in this densely populated country," he said while addressing as the chief guest the second installation ceremony of Rotary Club of Jahangirnagar, Dhaka at a local hotel.

Rtn A H M Nurul Huda and Rtn Ishlaque A Chowdhury, outgoing and incoming presidents of the club, presided over the ceremony held in two sessions.

It was also addressed by Textile Secretary A H M Mufazzal Karim as special guest and Rtn Magfir Uddin Ahmad, district governor.

The Foreign Minister said Rotarians could play a vital role in this regard and called upon them to spread their humanitarian activities.

He appreciated the welfare activities undertaken by the Rotarians and said their effective participation would greatly supplement the government

programmes for development to improve the life of the commonman.

"Programmes like poverty alleviation, primary health care and universal primary education can be effectively implemented with the active participation of Rotarians," he said.

'Motivate people to plant more trees'

KHULNA, July 2: Khulna City Corporation Mayor Sheikh Taybur Rahman has called for motivating the people to plant more trees for making the country's afforestation programme a success, reports UNB.

"Trees are indispensable for life, to protect nature and ensure ecological balance" he said while inaugurating the tree plantation drive of Khulna district at the local Zia Hall premises on Thursday.

The function was also addressed by City BNP president M Nurul Islam and Conservator of Forest M Salamat Ali.

Waive VAT says, KCCI chief

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, July 2: The president of Khulna Chamber of Commerce and Industries (KCCI) urged the government to waive VAT imposed on the bills of the contractors.

Talking to The Daily Star Wednesday KCCI president S M A Rob said that different departments used to estimate cost of a project adding 10 to 12 and a half per cent as profit of the contractors. The departments deducted 3 per cent as income tax from the final bills, he added.

The KCCI president observed that if the government again deducts 7 and a half per cent as VAT from the same bills then the contractors will suffer financial loss.

Moreover, he observed that the contractors purchase construction materials like cement, M S rod and bricks on payment of VAT.

Rob therefore questioned the propriety of imposing VAT twice.

IRNA MD leaves

Fereyduh Verdinjad, Managing Director of Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) and chairman of the Non-Aligned News Agencies' Pool (NANAP) left Dhaka Thursday ending his three-day visit to Bangladesh, reports BSS.

During his stay here, Fereyduh called on Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia and Information Secretary Nooruddin-Al-Masud.

He also visited Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS) and discussed with its Managing Director and Chief Editor D P Barua about strengthening of news exchange between BSS and IRNA as well as participation of BSS in the NANAP network among the Non-Aligned countries.

AAPSO slates US attack on Iraq

Professor Antuzzaman and Dr Syedur Rahman, President and General Secretary of Bangladesh Afro-Asian Peoples Solidarity Organisation (AAPSO) yesterday expressed their shock at the news of US attack on Iraq, reports BSS.

In a statement they strongly condemned the loss of life and property caused by such an assault on Iraq.

Noman elected Eco-Asia '93 vice-chairman

Minister for Environment and Forest, Fisheries and Livestock Abdullah-Al-Noman was unanimously elected vice-chairman of the Environment Congress for Asia and the Pacific (co-Asia-93) at the opening session Wednesday of two-day conference, held in Chiba, Tokyo, according to a message received in Dhaka, reports BSS.

Discussion on economic situation

Entrepreneurship at individual level, minimising dependency on state, is needed for the uplift of the national economy as well as keeping pace with the competitive world, reports BSS.

This was observed by the speakers in a discussion on economic situation in Bangladesh and the role of media arranged by the Institution of Mass Communications (IMC) at its office at Shahbag here.

Weather

Rain likely

By Staff Correspondent

Weather forecast for the next 12 hours commencing 6:00 am today (Saturday) says, moderate rain shower accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely to occur at a few places over Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi divisions and one or two places over Khulna, Barisal divisions.

The Met Office forecasts, day temperature is likely to remain nearly unchanged over the country.

The country's highest temperature yesterday 33.8 degree Celsius was recorded in Satkhira and the lowest 22.2 degree was recorded in Rangamat.

Major amounts of rainfall recorded during the day time yesterday across the country are Dhaka 54mm, Tangail 36mm, Iswardi 30mm, Rangpur 15mm, Rajshahi and Bogra 12mm.

The sun sets today at 6:50 am and rises tomorrow at 5:16 pm.

The maximum and the minimum temperature and humidity recorded in some of the major cities and towns of the country yesterday are:

Cities/Towns	Temperature in degree Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	9 am	6 pm
Dhaka	32.2	25.8	86	92
Chittagong	32.8	25.0	76	78
Rajshahi	30.0	24.6	98	85
Khulna	33.3	28.0	80	77
Barisal	32.4	25.5	89	86
Cox's Bazar	32.0	25.0	75	85
Srimangal	32.0	25.0	75	85
Dinajpur	29.4	25.2	97	82

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