

# Dhaka Day by Day

## Ecstasy in Economic Lines

by Fayza Haq

It is always fascinating to study the doodles even by an average person. How much more fascinating it is to see the drawings of one of the established artists who is not with us any more!

The political and economic situation of the country has been such that it has not encouraged art and culture. Surrounded by religious intolerance and economic difficulties, it has always been a problematic task to study and practise art and culture in an ideal situation. Hence our artists have been defiant rebels right from the outset. Struggling against hostile surroundings to do aesthetic work, the artists involved themselves quite deeply in the crisis of the country. Quamrul Hassan, whose drawings were recently exhibited at 'La Galerie', was amongst the pioneers in the area.

In one of the drawings, a nude female figure is seen from the back. The hands, hips, thighs, bosom as well as the hair has been brought in with subtle dexterity. In the same piece there is another woman seen relaxing and this figure too has been done with the same mastery of strokes.

Among the drawings was an interesting sketch of a monkey sitting among the foliage of a village. This piece too is vibrating with life despite the few strokes in black. Although simple lines have been used, the details of the hair and eyes are eye-catching. The background of the leaves and branches is also striking.

In another drawing one saw an old man with cap, stick and flowing robes, and this too has been done with basic strokes. In contrast, within the same frame was a portrait of a young man. In a single stroke of the brush the details of the portrait has been completed.

There was a goat seen in another drawing and this is done in the least strokes that one could imagine. On top of this is framed the picture of a woman the details of whose face has been clearly delineated with a few lines.

One found in '54' a sketch of a bird which seems to be out of this world despite the extreme economy of the lines. It has two fledglings on its back.



There was a sketch of a woman feeding birds in 'No 64'. The woman's figure, clothes, jewellery and background of the farmer's hut has been glorified in the minimal possible lines.

'No. 62', done in '84 is another sketch of a bird. There is an unusual look in the eye and the formation of the beak. Despite the sim-

ilarity, it arrests the eye of the viewer. One saw a horse in 'No 78' whose hooves, tail, haunches, mane and face has been done with apparent ease. The rough strokes are indeed individualistic.

'No. 26' has two seated female nudes whose jewellery are highlighted as they are sun bathing after a bath.

Like Picasso, Quamrul Hassan does not confine himself to the creation of art in silence. This becomes clear from his works of '71, when he used the faces of ferocious animals as symbols. However, these were not included in the display.

Drawing has played an important role even in the paintings of the artist, as he combined folk art with modern techniques to develop a style of his own. The boldness, grace and confidence of his lines are surely nonpareil in Bangladesh.

The prolific drawings were the collection of Nayeem Gahar who hoped to collect enough by the sale to launch an independent weekly.



Planning Minister Zahiruddin Khan addressing a seminar on 'Identifying Sex Bias in the Allocation of Household Resources' organised by Centre for Development Research, Bangladesh (CDRB) at a local hotel yesterday. — Star photo

## 'No uplift can be realised without participation of empowered women'

By Staff Correspondent

Gender discrimination in the way households distribute resources among its members lead to higher female mortality rates, according to a paper presented at a seminar yesterday at a local hotel in Dhaka.

The seminar titled 'Identifying Sex Bias in the Allocation of Household Resources', focussed on the various types of discrimination against females in most households in Bangladesh.

The panel included A M Zahiruddin Khan, Minister for Planning who was also the chief guest, Dr. Jonathan Morduch, Professor of Department of Economics of Harvard University, USA, Asif Ahmad, a graduate of Harvard University and Dr. Mizanur Rahman Shelley, Chairman of Centre for Development Research, Bangladesh (CDRB) chaired the seminar.

In his inaugural speech, Planning Minister Zahiruddin Khan reiterated the vital role played by women in the development process. "No aspect of development, political, economic or socio-cultural can be effectively realised without the participation of empowered women," he said.

All sectors of human life and activities including education, environment, industry, population activities and nutrition are only complete when both men and women participate, he added. Zahiruddin pointed out that although more and more women are participating in the development process there have been very few studies that throw light into the situation of women in Bangladesh.

This was the first time that analysis of gender inequality had been made at the national level.

In the context of national planning and policy making the study would be very insightful, said the Planning Minister.

He further emphasized the need for education of women and programmes to enhance earning opportunities and credit availability for women in order to eliminate sex bias.

### 'Vested quarter out to sell country'

National Democratic Alliance (NDA) leader Anwar Zahid yesterday urged the people to make Bangladesh a country 'free of collaborators', reports UNB.

Addressing a rally at Dainik Bangla square yesterday afternoon, he said a vested quarter was out to sell the country to India and hoped that the patriotic people would crush the conspiracy against the country.

"We will chase them, hunt them and crush them to protect national sovereignty and independence," the NDA leader told the rally organised by Jatiya Jubo Command in observance of its countrywide "Identify the terrorists day".

Chaired by Jubo Command President BM Nazmul Haq, the rally was addressed, among others, by Freedom Party leader Major (Retd) Bazul Huda, Jamaat leader M Quamr-uzaman, KSP leader ASM Solaiman, Rafia Begum Kakoli, Golam Naser and Ishtiaq Ahmed Babu.

Anwar Zahid demanded of the government to release a press note about what they alleged the secret visit of Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina to India informing the people if she was involved in any conspiracy against the country.

He also vigorously condemned the comment of Maj Gen (Retd) C R Dutta at a recent meeting of Chhatra-Jubo Otkya Parishad that "Bangladesh will be turned into a graveyard if any Hindu is arrested while trying to establish the rights of minority".

Referring to the problems in Chittagong Hill Tracts, the NDA leader called the tribal people who crossed the country "not loyal to Bangladesh".

The main paper of the seminar justly written by Jonathan Morduch and Asif Ahmad drew important conclusions regarding sex based on sophisticated economic models developed by the two authors.

A lot of the data used had been provided by the Bureau of Statistics.

According to the paper, households spend less money on female children in terms of food, education, health care etc. Even in fertility decision there is sex bias, parents are more likely to stop, having children after having a boy rather than a girl, a male child being more desired than a female one. The survey that uses about 6000 households, shows that there are roughly 11 per cent more males in the survey than females, indicating a high level of excess female mortality. Dr. Morduch concluded that the paper could be used as a reference for future policy making.

The last part of the seminar included a discussion where the floor was open to the audience.

Women headed households and richer households were less discriminatory against females - these were two important conclusions of the discussion.

Dr Saimul Zaman from the audience, pointed out that understanding of the socio-cultural dimensions of the problem of sex bias were important, for example the question of 'who makes the allocation decisions?' Should be addressed, implying that it was the mother's decision.

As a rebuttal, Dr. Khaleda Salauddin said that it was the father who made all the decisions. Women being regulated by a patriarchal norm.

The seminar was organised by Centre for Development Research, Bangladesh, (CDRB) an independent non profit organisation for research, training and information on the process of development.

## Tree plantation campaign intensified

Dhaka District Administration has intensified tree plantation campaign in different places, reports BSS.

As a part of the programme Deputy Commissioner of Dhaka, Solaiman Chowdhury, inaugurated a tree-plantation function at Dhamrai Saturday.

Addressing a function on the occasion Chowdhury sought the cooperation of the people to make the programme successful. He stressed the need for maintenance of the planted trees. Among others, chairmen and members of the union councils under Dhamrai were present.

Similar plantation programmes are in progress in Dohar, Nababganj, and Savar police stations.

The Dhaka district administration has also organised meetings in different police stations for necessary care and maintenance of planted trees.

## JS body on fisheries meet held

The thirteenth meeting of Parliamentary Standing Committee on Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock was held at the Sangsad Bhavan yesterday, reports BSS.

Minister for Environment, Forest and Fisheries, and Livestock Abdullah Al Noman presided over the meeting.

Members of Parliament Sirajul Islam, Farida Rahman, Abdul Ghani and Haji Dr Abdul Latif Bhuiyan of BNP, Rawshan Ali and Abdul Zahur Mia of Awami League and high officials of the ministry and different organisations under its administrative control were present.



- 5:00 Opening announcement Al-Quran
- Programme summary
- 5:10 News in Bangla
- 5:25 Sports Programme
- 6:25 Moder Garab
- Moder Asha
- 6:53 Open University
- 7:25 Nazrul songs
- 8:00 News in Bangla
- 8:30 Programme on Population: Sukher Thikana
- 9:00 Folk songs: Bhara Nodir Banke
- 10:00 News in English
- 10:30 Comedy series: Murphy Brown
- 10:50 Disco Rally
- 11:30 Khabar/The news
- 11:40 Tomorrow's Programme summary
- 11:45 Closing

## Weather Temperature may rise

By Staff Correspondent

Due to active monsoon over Bangladesh, light to moderate rain or thundershower accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at many places over Chittagong, Barisal and Dhaka divisions and at a few places over Khulna and Rajshahi divisions during the next 24 hours commencing 6 am today (Monday).

Met office forecasts, moderately heavy fall is likely at places over Chittagong division during this period.

Day temperature may rise by one degree Celsius over the country.

The country's highest temperature yesterday of 33.5 degree Celsius was recorded in Rangamati and the lowest 22.3 degree was also in Rangamati.

Rainfall amount recorded during daytime yesterday in different places of the country were Rajshahi 21 mm, Khulna 19, Faridpur 9, Satkhira 4, Sitakunda 2 and Jessore 1 mm.

The sun sets today (Monday) at 6.45 pm and rises tomorrow (Tuesday) at 5.26 am.

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
Dhaka	Max 32.4, Min 25.6	9 am 85, 6 pm 73
Chittagong	32.5, 25.3	74, 80
Rajshahi	32.0, 25.7	90, 90
Khulna	32.8, 24.7	88, 78
Barisal	32.4, 24.5	85, 78
Cox's Bazar	31.5, 25.8	78, 85
Sylhet	32.0, 25.6	85, 82
Dinajpur	32.0, 26.0	85, 83

## Varsity, weapons can't co-exist: Prof Yunus

Prof Mohammad Yunus called upon the Dhaka University students to cleanse the campus of arms and terrorism and turn it into an invincible fortress of democracy to remould national politics, reports UNB.

"Politics of the country will get the scope of being re-oriented towards poverty alleviation if the university is freed from arms and violence," he told the students at an orientation programme of freshers at TSC auditorium last morning.

"If you want your own welfare as well as welfare of the people, eliminate terrorism from the campus and establish democracy at the university."

Presided over by Vice Chancellor Prof Emajuddin Ahmed, the function was also addressed by university Registrar Abu Javed Sikder.

The renowned economist advised them to create an atmosphere to instil confidence in the mind of people about the future. "What can we expect, how can we dream for the future of the country, if law is paralysed and democracy falls flat on its face on the campus of country's highest seat of learn-

ing?" He identified arms and terrorism as the root problem of the varsity and said establishing rule of law in the country would be easier if rule of law could first be established at Dhaka University.

Prof Yunus said the university campus should be a place absolutely free of fears, where everyone can move without fear. But it has now become a dreaded and "very risky zone" for them to step in even at broad daylight.

"Democracy and terrorism cannot go together. University and automatic weapons cannot co-exist — university is the seat for logic and free exercise of knowledge, not a place for occupying chairs to the strength of arms and lathi," said Prof Yunus, adding "It is impossible to ensure democracy in the country till arms stay here".

The Grameen Bank architect said there were huge problems facing the country and called upon the freshers to work for society after completion of their studies.

He specially urged the female students to join in jobs and inspire each other after higher studies for building society.

## One hacked to death in Khulna 21.3 kg tumour removed

KHULNA, July 25: A young man was hacked to death by unknown assailants at village Terokhada when he was returning home at about midnight on Saturday, reports UNB.

Police recovered the body of Zillur (22), a trader, from the field today.

A case has been filed. Police suspects the murder was the outcome of a quarrel over land.

JHENIDAH, July 25: A tumour weighing 21 kg 300 grams was removed from the stomach of a young housewife after operation today at the Maheshpur health complex, reports UNB.

Dr Mohammad Fazle Akbar of the health complex successfully operated upon Sonahar Bibi (23), wife of a farmer of village Gangedasapur.

Mother of 3 children, Sonahar had thought she was bearing another baby.

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## FIRST DEATH ANNIVERSARY OF MD. SALAHUDDIN FAROOQUE



He was such a winsome person that whoever met him once in his lifetime would miss him and mourn over his premature demise.

The first death anniversary of the Managing Director of Modhumita Group late Md. Salahuddin Farooque, eldest son of late Md. Sirajuddin, Founder of Modhumita Group will be observed tomorrow, the 27th July '93, after sohar prayer at Road No. 5, House No. 39, Dhanmondi R/A, Dhaka.

Relatives, friends and well-wishers are requested to attend the anniversary and pray for the salvation of the departed soul.  
 Begum Salahuddin Farooque, his daughters, brothers & sisters.



Major General (Retd) Anis Waiz addressing a seminar on 'Peptic ulcer diseases' at the Dhaka Medical College Gallery Sunday organised by BEXIMCO Pharmaceuticals. Sitting from left: Prof Z Mowla, Principal Dhaka Medical College, Prof Waliullah and Prof Nazmun Nahar of DMC Alumni Trust. — Star photo

## BIRDEM survey reveals 40 pc of rural people suffer from peptic ulcer

By Staff Correspondent

Forty per cent of the rural people are suffering from peptic ulcer diseases, according to a recent survey carried out by BIRDEM over four villages.

This was revealed by Prof. A K Azad Khan, Director of Research and Development, BIRDEM at a scientific seminar Sunday noon at the lecture gallery of Dhaka Medical College.

The seminar titled 'Peptic Ulcer' was organised by the Dhaka Medical College Hospital Alumni Trust and sponsored by BEXIMCO Pharmaceuticals Ltd.

The alumnus and the present medical students thronged at the gallery to listen to the papers presented by Prof Anis Waiz, Prof Sheikh Nesaruddin Ahmed, Prof Azad Khan and Prof Ataya Rabbi.

Prof Azad said that it was very important to determine who to treat for peptic ulcer diseases.

The speakers also shaded some new lights on the prevailing misconceptions about the disease.

"Patient should choose his own food according to his taste and digesting capability," Prof Nesaruddin said, adding there is no mandatory rule to avoid spices or heavy food."

Prof. Nesaruddin also noted the difficulties of using drug for the treatment of this disease, pointing out the rebound phenomena.

Prof Anis Waiz, while discussing the pathophysiology of the disease viewed that every-day novel factors are being traced as the factors of the disease.

Prof Ataya Rabbi informed the audience about the surgical procedures done in this country.

Earlier, Principal of the Dhaka Medical College Prof Zahurul Mawla, as a surgeon told that surgery was the best procedure to fight peptic ulcer.

The speaker later participated in a discussion session to meet the queries of the audience with Prof Waliullah in the chair.

Prof Farida Haq wrapped up the session thanking BEXIMCO for sponsoring the seminar under their ongoing nationwide Medical Seminar Series Programme.

## RCC to plant 15 lakh saplings in five years

RAJSHAHI, July 25: Rajshahi City Corporation has taken up a programme to plant 15 lakh saplings in different city areas within five years with a view to making Rajshahi a green city, reports BSS.

This was stated here Saturday by the City Mayor Mizanur Rahman Minu while opening the programme by plantings at the local Collegiate School Ground.

Speaking on the occasion he stressed the need for planting different types of fruit bearing trees as part of the country-wide tree plantation programme of the government for maintaining ecological balance.

Later a rally participated by government and semi-government officials, NGO

## BCL (M-I) sweeps CMCSU polls

CHITTAGONG, July 25: Awami League-backed Chhatra League (M-I) won a landslide victory in the Chittagong Medical College Student Union (CMCSU) election held peacefully today (Sunday), reports UNB.

BCL won all the 20 posts for the third time in the election, defeating its nearest rival Jatityabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD).

The newly elected VP, Pro-VP and GS are: Mohammad Faisal Iqbal Chowdhury (329 votes), Tariqul Iqbal (364) and Rabul Karim (349).

## BMDA to plant 12 lakh saplings this season

The Barind Multipurpose Development Authority (BMDA) has undertaken a programme to plant 12 lakh saplings of both fruit bearing and timber trees in the Barind project area during the current season, reports BSS.

According to an official source about four lakh saplings have already been planted in the area.

The project area comprises 25 thanas of Rajshahi, Chapainawabganj and Natore districts.

The BMDA has produced about 22 lakh saplings of Shishu, Mehgani, Arjun, Akashmany, Ntm, Mango and Jackfruit in its 26 nurseries in the project area. Of the total 12 lakh saplings are being planted under the supervision of the authority while the rest are being sold among the public at the rate of Tk two each.

As part of its activities to maintain ecological balance the BMDA has been planting saplings in the project area.