

Dhaka Day by Day

A New Approach to Art

by Zesrina Haider

Art galleries are springing up all over the city showing a growing need for Dhakaites to forget themselves in a world that only artists can create. Gallery Tone is the latest addition to the numerous art galleries in Dhaka.

Opened only this June, this gallery has a distinctive character. First of all it is owned by a woman — Kanakchampa, a young Chakma artist with a vivacious, easy going manner.

Why another art gallery?

"I felt an urge to do this," says Kanakchampa, "to introduce our own artists to our people as well as to the world art market." She came up with this idea when she went to Florida (U.S.A.) to receive the second prize in abstract painting arranged by Miniature Art Exhibition.

Kanakchampa explained that during her visit she met with 75 artists from various countries and later went to visit famous art galleries within the US, Netherlands and London.

"In those days," says Kanakchampa, "I

talked with many owners and strongly felt the need of a modern art gallery in our country; I therefore, planned to set up a new one to satisfy the demand of art lovers and artists."

Gallery Tone has two Divisions of Fine Arts — the tone photography section and tone painting and art section. Kanakchampa deals mainly with the tone painting section while her husband Khalid Mahmood along with another artist Golam Mostafa manage the photography section.

Gallery Tone is unique in that it is the only gallery that includes a photography section. There is no doubt that art photography has been neglected through out this country. This section has been set up to improve the quality of professional photography. "The world photography market is much more demanding than ours," says Mahmood. He adds that because there is no particular buyers' circle the quality of professional photography is still quite poor. "We are willing to take steps," says Mahmood, "to improve our model and professional photography. If we can do it we will be able to compete with world

specially paintings, photography and drawings. The gallery offers exceptional facilities to interested artists. A young promising artist can exhibit his or her works at this gallery at a reasonable rent, with a 25 per cent commission from each painting sold, a rate much lower than other galleries.

Gallery Tone is also going to arrange a nationwide painting and photograph competition. Usually these type of competitions are organised only at the government level by the public art galleries and institutions. Kanakchampa mentions that gallery Tone will also arrange the exchange of different art works of Bangladeshi artists with those of foreign artists. "The exhibition of our artists will be held there and the art of foreign artists will be exhibited in Gallery Tone," says Kanakchampa.

With its innovative approach, Gallery Tone is the latest art venture in the private sector that offers great opportunities to young aspiring artists to get exposure in the international art market.



Kanak Champa — creating new opportunities in art

BSTI facilities to be enhanced

Industries Minister Shamsul Islam Khan yesterday emphasised the need for proper and expeditious standardisation of the Bangladesh-made industrial products and commodities to make those more acceptable in the local and international competitive markets, reports BSS.

The minister was addressing the fifth council meeting of the Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institution (BSTI) at its conference room here.

He said to raise the quality of Bangladesh products to national and international standards, BSTI infrastructural facilities would be further strengthened within the shortest possible time.

Later the meeting discussed policy matters and some decisions were taken regarding reorganisation of the institute, compulsory Certification Marks (CM) on six new commodities and the training of BSTI personnel.

Industries Secretary A H M Abdul Hye, FBCCI President Mahbubur Rahman, senior vice-president BCI Sharif M Afzal Hossain, Vice-Chancellor of Bangladesh Open University Dr M Shamsur Ali, member Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission (BAEC) Dr M A Wazed Mia, Professor of BUET Dr Sayed Fazle Rahman and Director General of BSTI Dr Azizur Rahman took part in the discussion.

IUB course for garments industry soon

The Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB) is planning to introduce a course on business management for those involved in apparel industry thus meeting the growing need for qualified managerial personnel in that sector, reports BSS.

Dr A Majed Khan, president of the university yesterday met Redwan Ahmed, MP, president of Bangladesh Garments Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) to explain the course and its potential benefit to BGMEA members.

The Extension and Continuing Education Centre (ECEC) which was set up by the university recently is going to introduce the course from early October.

The BGMEA executive committee members who were present during the meeting expressed satisfaction over IUB's plan to introduce two separate courses on production management and marketing management in near future.

Tree plantation at Planning Commission premises

The Planning Minister, Chief Election Commissioner and high officials of the Planning Ministry planted saplings at the Planning Commission premises here yesterday as part of the countrywide tree planting drive, reports UNB.

"Trees play a vital role in human life, enriching the air with oxygen by its very inherent mechanism," said Planning Minister A M Zaheeruddin Khan.

Khan planted saplings of Zakrenda and coconut and Chief Election Commissioner Justice Mohammed Abdur Rouf a Zakrenda sapling.

Planning Commission Member M Mokammel Haque, Secretary of the Economic Relations Division (ERD) Lutfullah-Hil Majid, Planning Secretary Dr Haroon-or-Rashid and Planning Commission Member Mesbah Uddin Ahmed also joined the plantation programmes.

The Planning Minister called for making the nationwide tree plantation campaign a success.

Two killed in road mishaps

By Staff Correspondent

Two persons were killed in separate incidents in and outside the capital yesterday.

Tapu, a rickshawpuller, aged 60 was crushed under the wheels of a speeding truck at Tantiabazar in the city Saturday night.

Our DMCH Correspondent adds: The body of a young girl was sent to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) from Daudkandi Comilla. The victim, Tahmina Akhter reportedly died in a road mishap, but no details were available.

Weather

Rain likely to continue

By Staff Correspondent

Due to active monsoon, moderate rain or thundershower accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely to continue at most places over Chittagong and Barisal divisions with moderately heavy falls during the next 24 hours commencing from 6 pm Saturday, Met office forecasts.

Rain or thundershower is also likely at many places over Dhaka, Rajshahi and Khulna divisions during the period, it adds.

Day temperature is likely to remain nearly unchanged during the period across the country.

The highest temperature in the country of 33.2 degree Celsius was recorded Saturday at Dinajpur and the lowest 22.3 degree Celsius was recorded at Rangamat.

The sun sets today (Sunday) at 6.26 pm and rises tomorrow (Monday) at 5.36 am.

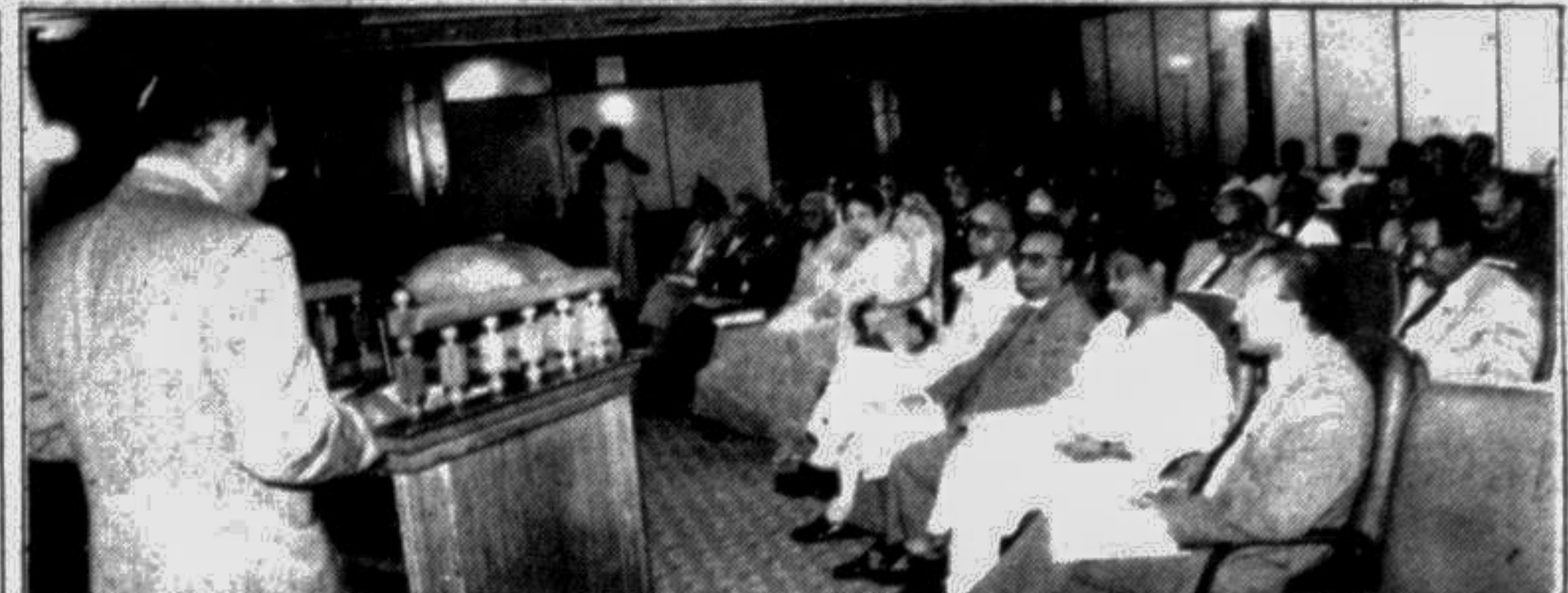
Maximum, minimum temperatures and humidity recorded at important cities and towns yesterday were:

Cities/Towns	Temperature in degree Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	9 am	6 pm
Dhaka	28.0	26.5	90	92
Chittagong	28.0	24.9	100	95
Rajshahi	32.1	27.0	90	90
Khulna	30.0	26.3	92	—
Barisal	28.4	25.3	98	97
Cox's Bazar	30.0	25.0	93	94
Sylhet	27.8	25.6	97	92
Rangpur	31.6	26.6	86	82

Tea for Nepalese flood victims

The despatch of 5,000 pounds of tea pledged for the victims of the recent floods in Nepal was completed Friday, reports BSS.

The last consignment was shipped to Kathmandu by Friday's regular flight of Biman, a Foreign Office spokesman said here yesterday.



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia and cabinet members attending the briefing session on Textile Sector at the International Conference Centre yesterday. The State Minister for Textiles Maj (Rtd) Abdul Mannan presented the briefing. — PID photo

Alternative energy resources to meet growing demand suggested

By Staff Correspondent

The Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Dr Khondaker Mosharraf Hossain yesterday suggested that the rural electrification cooperatives under the Rural Electrification Board (REB) should develop alternative energy resources to meet the growing demand of power.

He said that in the future the REB might be allowed to set up its own power generation plants as 85 per cent people were still denied the facilities of power.

The minister was addressing the concluding day of the two-day conference on Transmission and Development of Palli Biddyt Samities (PBS) at the

BARC auditorium.

"Whereas the power consumption per head in the developed countries is around 8,000 kilo watt per hour, the power consumption per head in Bangladesh is only 65 kilo watt," Dr Hossain said. He emphasised developing bigger energy infrastructure for the benefit of rural people who play the pivotal role in development.

Prestided over by REB chairman Brigadier M Enamul Haque, the function was also addressed, among others, by Energy Secretary Md Faizur Razzak, Member (training) of REB M A Wadud and the visiting team leader of the National Rural Electric Cooperatives

Association of USA Charles Overman.

The minister told the representatives of 41 electrification cooperatives, most of which are yet to reach break-even point, that they should reduce the amount of expenditure as the government would not be able to subsidise them for long.

He urged them to probe into the origin of system loss of the rural electrification which is around 15 to 20 per cent.

The Energy Minister disclosed that the government had taken decision for mapping out the boundaries of Power Development Board, Dhaka Electric Supply Authority and the REB.

Once the boundaries were identified, the minister pointed out, the REB would have a greater responsibility of supplying electricity across the country for which the REB should formulate proper plans and organise trainings to implement the programmes. Mosharraf added that during the last two years the government had approved six REB projects worth Tk 1,042 crore in foreign currency and Tk 652 crore in local currency would be invested.

Till June 1993, a total of Tk 1,829 crore had been invested in REB while, he added, the government had allocated Tk 100 crore from its Annual Development Plan (ADP) for REB's development.

Energy Secretary Razzak in his speech indicated that the Asian Development Bank (ADB) might sign a major agreement with Bangladesh on rural electrification late this year.

REB Chairman Enamul informed that since 1978 the REB had set up about 50,000 km of electric lines and it had about eight lakh customers.

Exhibition on paintings, books on Liberation War ends

By Staff Correspondent

The seven-day exhibition on paintings and books on the Liberation War at the La Galerie in the capital ended Saturday.

Awami League chief and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina and a number of Members of Parliament visited the exhibition.

Speaking at the closing function, Hasina thanked the Ekattorer Jatree for organising the exhibition at a time "when the government and a vested quarter are conspiring to distort the country's history."

She promised her support to those working to uphold the spirit of the War of Independence.

Ekattorer Jatree President architect Rabul Hussain and General Secretary Akku Chowdhury also spoke at the closing ceremony.

Some of the paintings were auctioned and a special screening of the "Ekattorer Jishu," a film on the Liberation War by Nasruddin Yusuf, was also held.

Turkish envoy meets Hasina

Turkish Ambassador Kutlu Ozvenec called on Awami League President and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina at her Sangsadd Bhaban office yesterday, reports UNB.

They exchanged views on political and socio-economic matters of bilateral interest.

Bye For Now



Chhanda
See You Soon
Friends in Dhaka

NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES

The containerised cargo ex. M.V. ALLI, MIRACLE V-23096 from Kobe, Yokohama, Nagoya, Hong Kong, ex. M.V. DANUBE V-08428 from Rotterdam, ex. M.V. HENRY HUDSON BRIDGE V-0067B from Long Beach, ex. M.V. NEEDLOYD JAWA V-3106 from Sydney, ex. M.V. MARONITA V-02AB from Karachi, Dubai, ex. M.V. OCEANUS OSAKA V-29531 from Hong Kong, ex. M.V. RAJA BHUM V-89 from Jakarta have been relayed to M.V. OPTIMA V-845 Imp. Rot. No. 652/93 is due to arrive Chittagong on or about 21-8-93 from Singapore.

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'Realise ideals of Tagore, Vivekananda, Nazrul'

By Staff Correspondent

Speakers at a discussion on "Swami Vivekananda, poet Rabindranath Tagore and Kazi Nazrul Islam" Saturday called for imbuing their ideals and restoring human values in the society.

All conflicts, animosities and injustice in the society could only be removed if people followed the ideals of the three great men, they said.

Vivekananda Shikha-o-Sanskritik Parishad (VSOSP) organised the Vivekananda-Rabindra-Nazrul Utsav 1400 that began from Saturday at TSC auditorium of the Dhaka University.

Eminent poet Begum Suha Kamal inaugurated the three-day celebration while chief of the Ramkrishna Monastery and Mission Swami Aksharanandji Maharaj attended the opening function as the chief guest.

Dean of the DU arts faculty, Professor Aminul Islam, vice-president of the Jagannath Hall Students Union, Shubhash Sinha Roy, Farukh Ahmed and Akhsh Kumar Bhowmik spoke on the occasion.

President of the VSOSP Prof Paresch Chandra Mandal chaired the inaugural function. Opening the function, Begum Suha Kamal observed it was time that the youth forces should rise for dispelling the evils from the society.

She said that Swami Vivekananda spread the message of love and humanity among the people. Nazrul by his poems gave a serious blow to the highly conservative society while Tagore showed his immense capability as a social organizer, besides being a poet.

"We once lived in a society

which was based on faith... It is a very difficult time now. It behoves the youths to learn many things through which they would be able to contribute to the development of the society," Suha Kamal added.

Swami Aksharanandji Maharaj, in his speech, pointed out that the in-built system in the society which gives birth to worthy human beings was now on the verge of collapse for lack of fundamental education.

Swami Vivekananda in his life protested against all kinds of discrimination and dreamt of one society based on love, sympathy and fellow-feeling, he said adding that a society could never prosper without lofty ideals and goals.

Maharaj urged all to be imbued with the ideals of Vivekananda, Nazrul and Tagore to remove all conflicts and build a peaceful society.

Prof Aminul Islam expressed his concern over the alarming growth of violence and terrorism in all spheres of life.

"All these could be removed only if we could believe in the message of these great men — humanity," he commented.

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Sunday

- 5:00 Opening announcement
Al-Quran
Programme summary
- 5:10 News in Bangla
- 5:20 Recitation from the Bible
- 5:25 Sports programme:
Cricket
- 6:10 Maaeder Janya
6:45 Open University
7:15 Tagore songs
- 8:00 News in Bangla
- 8:30 Probaha
- 9:00 Film : Raven
- 10:00 News in English
- 10:30 Sur O Bani
- 11:30 Khabar/The News
- 11:45 Closing