

Dhaka Day by Day

Putting Mind in Miniature

by Fayza Haq

The exhibition of miniature works recently held at Gallery Tone had brought together admirable works by 23 artists. Never before in Dhaka had one seen such a splendid display of miniature paintings and sculpture. It presented the works of both senior and young artists.

Qayyum Chowdhury had dealt with flowers, fish, trees and animals. They were done with light touches of blue, yellow and orange oil pastel. Each image was done with tremendous precision.

Rafiqun Nabi's "Autumn" and "Kingfisher" brought in human beings, cows, sheds, women at work and birds at rest. The colours, beige, brown, blue and green were put on delicately, and often simply suggested forms. The strokes were light and fairy-tale like and full of optimism. A lot of concentration went into the figures and forms.

Mahbubul Amin in "Memory '71-1" depicted a mother thinking of her dead son. The colours of orange, brown and purple around the figures stood for life around. The other two works by the same artist brought in dead bodies and freedom fighters in grey and blue shades, with backdrops of vivid colours, bringing in the sky and the countryside.

Jamal Ahmed had done a number of human figures depicting the not so well off in our society, with their umbrellas or "sharenda". The artist had worked on the muscles and expressions on the faces of the subjects with remarkable effect. The abstract grey and white background offset the figures.

Kanakchampa Chakma, on a piece of paper one inch by one and a half inches, showed "Jumbhi", the skilled woman who works on fields as well as the traditional looms. The woman's clothes, basket and background of the sky and ground were done in exquisite details. "Hilly Life" was a poetic depiction of a woman returning to her house after her day's work. Despite the limited space, one could clearly see the details of the hills, water, boats and clothes being hung out to dry, which were done with strokes of beige, blue and other gauche colours.

Khalid Mahmud Mithu in "Rhythmic" brought in a "sharinda", a piano, and a "tabla" with a light inscription that said "The country is alive because of its songs". The artist had combined figurative work with abstraction. In the smallest picture in Bangladesh, half an inch by half an inch, Mithu had depicted a burning cigarette with matches around it. It was meant to warn

people about the dangers of smoking. All the artists' works were in mixed media.

Nasreen Begum's "Still Life-A" was a delicately arranged gathering of "patabahar" leaves done in shades of brown, red and yellow, held in a jug. In the background was a window done in abstract. "My stress is not so much on the subject but on the play of light and shade. I followed the Oriental style but I have changed the traditional theme," the artist said. "The Story of a Leaf A, B, and C" were symbolic of life with its numerous crises. The details of the landscapes brought in both branches and ground. In the watercolours done on special paper, the artist had taken infinite care to present the details. One could see that Nasreen Begum is gradually moving away from her usual human figures.

Ranjit Das in his "Environment" paintings depicted wind in the form of semi-abstract. The dots and lines represented dust and the element of tension when strong breeze flows. He had used spatula, brushes to bring in the sprays and needle to scrape on the paints—yellow, red, vermilion and blue. Ranjit said, "I often work on a small canvas before moving on to a larger one. The work is not purely abstract. I have dealt

with storms and winds as they are an integral part of life in Bangladesh. Apart from the wind I have also tried to portray both sunlight and dull weather. Environment is a global problem."

Shunil Howald's mixed media and oil "Music" showed an "ektara" on a wooden door. The background was an abstraction of blue, orange and red. The combination of light and shade was a promising one. His "Festival" series brought in elephants, monks, and a temple with impressionistic strokes.

Shaiduzzaman Shipli, in his welded copper works termed all his pieces as "Rest". His themes were the lives of the pushcart people and boatmen. The sculptor had got pieces from broken ships in Old Dhaka. The boats and pushcart were modern and looked beautiful with the combination of different shades of bronze.

Masooda Kazi's depiction of a cat sleeping on a sofa with heaps of pillows on a tiny piece of paper was admirable. She had brought in the rest of the room—the windows, and walls. The artist had done a number of cats in white, blue and grey in her other entries.

With wall space getting limited, and people desiring to own originals, the miniature works were a perfect answer. One marvelled at the strain that had been involved in each of the works.



A four-day workshop jointly organised by Asian Mass Communication Research and Information Centre (AMIC) and Development Features was inaugurated at a local hotel yesterday. S M Ali, Editor of The Daily Star inaugurated the workshop as chief guest. Also seen is Virgilio Labrador, Head of Seminars and Institutional Development Programme, AMIC.

— Star photo

'2 Trust newspapers eat up lion's share of govt ads'

By Staff Correspondent

Newspapers of the country mainly depend on government advertisements yet only two government Trust newspapers get most of the Tk 80 million government advertisements.

A baseline survey on newspaper circulation and advertising in Bangladesh reveals that although the private sector spent Tk 430 million for advertisements annually, the print media received only Tk 34.4 million.

This was disclosed in a workshop on "Newspaper Circulation and Advertising Development" organised by Development Features and Asian Mass Communication and Research Information Centre (AMIC) in the city yesterday.

The four-day programme, inaugurated by Editor of The Daily Star S M Ali as the chief guest at a city hotel, was also attended, among others, by executive director of Development Features Saleem Samad, AMIC representative Virgilio S Labrador and Sanjoy Ghosh of City Desk Communication, India. A number of representatives from different newspapers and magazines were present on the occasion.

"Newspaper management is the darkest area of the industry," S M Ali said and added that the management side should be discussed more seriously and frequently as most of the newspaper managements in the country were very weak.

Emphasising on the need for training of newspaper staff dealing with financial matters, S M Ali also said, "We should come up with concrete suggestions and should continuously carry on more studies and seminars."

The survey, carried out between January and May this year by Syed Mahboob Alam Chowdhury and Saleem Samad shows that government advertisements brought the Trust newspapers—Dainik Bangladesh and Bangladesh Times—around 62 lakh and 42 lakh taka respectively in those five months while the most circulated newspaper Dainik Ittefaq earned only Tk 24 lakh during the period.

"Some newspapers are not being sold at the newsstands," said Saleem Samad, "yet they get good government advertisements."

The survey also revealed weak circulation policies in most newspapers.

"The hawkers' union is considered a mafia gang by all the newspapers, because it dictates the circulation," said Saleem. "The hawkers decide where they would circulate a newspaper or which newspaper they would simply throw away."

The circulation and advertisement officers in the newspapers do not feel the need of de-

New Chief Executive of Standard Chartered Bank



Mr. Stephen M. McCarthy has arrived in Bangladesh to assume the duties of the Standard Chartered Bank's Chief Executive in Bangladesh in replacement of Mr. Roger L. Wright.

Mr. McCarthy has 25 years banking experience with the Group and has held Management positions in the Groups Office worldwide particularly in the Far East.

Int'l Peace Day tomorrow

Bangladesh as well as one hundred and eighty-four member states of the United Nations will observe the International Day of Peace tomorrow, says a press release.

The day, which is annually observed in accordance with a resolution adopted by the General Assembly in December 1981, coincides with the inauguration of the regular session of the General Assembly which begins every year on the third Tuesday of September.

Professor M Inna Ali, president, UNAB will preside over the function.

Standard Chartered seminar tomorrow

By Staff Correspondent
Standard Chartered Bank will organise a seminar on "The control of treasury operations" at Sheraton Hotel tomorrow (Tuesday).

Designed for the foreign exchange dealing and control officials of the commercial banks, the seminar will be inaugurated by the Governor of the Bangladesh Bank, Khorshed Alam.

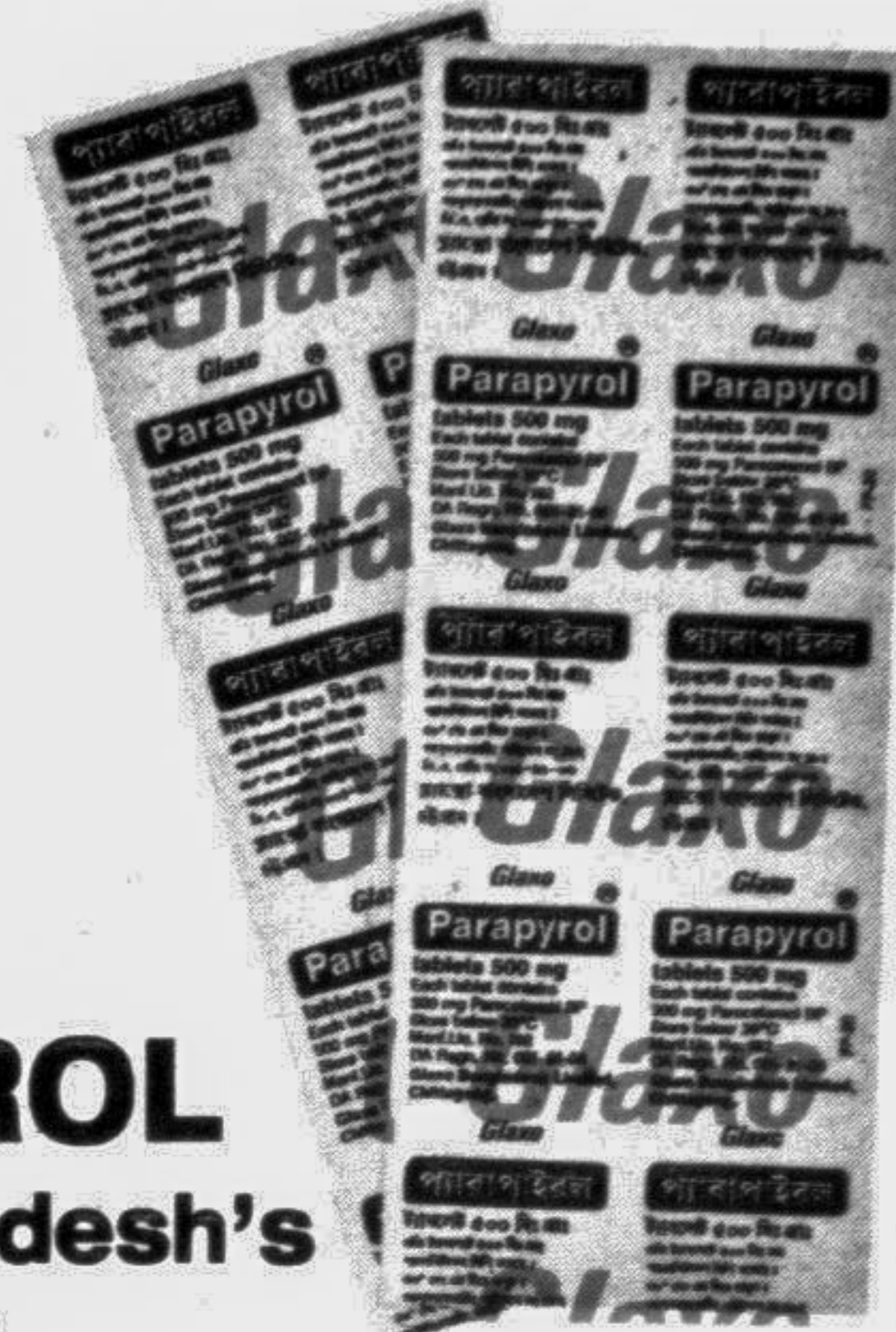
It will also be addressed by representatives from the Foreign Exchange Dealers Association of India (FEDAI), Chartered Bank's senior treasury officials from global treasury in London.

Ajker Kagoj newsmen submit memo to Speaker

A group of journalists of the Ajker Kagoj met Speaker Shaikh Razaque Ali at his chamber at Sangsad Bhaban yesterday and submitted a memorandum to him demanding an inquiry into the attack on the paper's office, reports UNB.

The memorandum said that a group of miscreants carried out the bomb attack on the paper's office injuring 5 journalists and members of the staff.

The memorandum demanded an inquiry into the matter and punishment of those responsible for it.



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The Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) brought out a procession in the city yesterday demanding trial of the killers of its leader Ratan Sen. — Star photo

2654 cases pending for 15 years, JS told

Law Minister Mirza Gohar Hafez yesterday told the House that 2,654 cases were pending for last 15 years while another 2,400 cases for 10 years in the High Court division of the Supreme Court, reports UNB.

There is no such pending cases in the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court, he said replying to a question from Md Shahiduzzaman of the Awami League.

Replying to another question from Munsur Ahmed (AI), the law minister said 2,18,053 cases were pending in the courts of judges and assistant judges till July, 1993.

Of these cases, 1,39,338 were pending in the assistant judge courts while 78,715 in the judge courts.

The highest 11,886 cases in assistant judge courts were pending in Chittagong while 5,684 cases in judge courts, also pending in Chittagong, the minister said.

23 flood control projects in ADP

Some 23 flood control projects have been incorporated in the 1993-94 Annual Development Programme, Irrigation and Flood Control Minister Majid-ul Haq told in parliament yesterday.

Replying to Mirza Azam of the Awami League, he said the projects will be implemented in 39 districts.

The districts are: Comilla,

Naogaon, Natore, Narail, Magura, Patuakhali, Satkhira, Netrokona, Barguna, Bhola, Habiganj, Rajshahi, Faridpur, Madaripur, Mymensingh, Sirajganj, Khulna, Dinajpur, Panchagarh, Moulvibazar, Kurigram, Rangpur, Cox's Bazar, Chittagong, Sunamganj, Joypurhat, Jessore, Gaibandha, Bogra, Noakhali, Barisal, Tangail, Sylhet, Feni, Nilphamari, Gazipur, Chandpur, Nawabganj and Dhaka.

Some Tk 5,386.00 lakh has been allocated in the ADP for 1993-94 for these projects.



BTV Monday	
5.00	Opening announcement
5.10	Al-Quran
5.25	Programme summary
5.30	News in Bangla
5.35	Sukher Thikana
5.40	Magazine: Arshad
5.45	News in English
5.50	Comedy series: Murphy Brown
5.55	Musical programme: Disco Rally
6.00	Khabar/ The News
6.05	Tomorrow's programme
6.10	Closing

Akbar visits Environment deptt head office

Forest and Environment Minister Akbar Hossain said yesterday a new environment policy would be introduced in the country after amending the traditional policy, reports BSS.

Weather

No change in temperature

By Staff Correspondent

The sky will remain cloudy over the coastal regions of Bangladesh and partly cloudy elsewhere during the next 12 hours commencing 6 am today (Monday).

During the period, light to moderate rain or showers accompanied by temporary gusty wind may occur at many places over Barisal division and at a few places over Chittagong, Khulna divisions and the regions of Faridpur and Dhaka. The weather is likely to remain nearly dry elsewhere in the country.

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

The country's highest temperature yesterday of 35.8 degrees Celsius was recorded in Bogra while the lowest 23.3 degrees was recorded in Chittagong.

The sun sets today at 5.57 pm and rises tomorrow at 5.47 am.

The maximum and the minimum temperatures and maximum and minimum relative humidity recorded in some of the major cities and towns of the country yesterday were:

Cities/Towns	Temperature in degrees Celsius	Humidity in percentage
	Max	Min
Dhaka	34.8	26.6
Chittagong	31.5	23.3
Rajshahi	34.3	26.6
Khulna	35.3	27.2
Barisal	34.6	27.4
Cox's Bazar	30.8	26.0
Sylhet	35.6	26.0
Dinajpur	35.0	26.3

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