

## Metropolitan

## Dhaka Day by Day

## Disenchanted with Society

by Fayza Haq



A Blind City

Abdus Salam, a self-taught young artist, displayed his anger and frustration with present society in his recent painting exhibition at the Alliance Francaise. In "nightmare" two figures were shown striding across the city — one black, the other blue and yellow. The city was shown in broken forms and bars of blue at the back, along with squares of grey and black and mottled red. Much of the elements in the composition were geometric. The final effect was surrealistic.

In "A Street" an acrylic on paper, like the earlier composition, the artist has shown beggars in green with stripes, in black and in mauve, they were thin and emaciated like pieces of sticks. In the meantime, one could see other people, green and fossilized, wasting time and hanging around joints, doing nothing. In the same composition was a girl rushing to work. The artist tried to add depth by repeating rectangles all over the composition. The entire piece was in rectangles of brown, green and orange.

One found fire in the background as a symbol of civilization arising from a Stonehenge like modern architecture in "A Blind City". There was a figure on the front dressed in black, doing very little. At the back was a massive blue tower with wires hanging out and a huge black owl sitting on it. The bird was the silent observer in the city where there was little progress. In front there was a stick like figure, the leader, incapable of doing anything useful. At the back was modern civilization shown in ruins. There was a patch of green as a symbol of nature that had not been allowed to develop. To the right of the composition was a huge gramophone the music from which tried to make the people forget the lack of achievement. The only one moving in the surrealistic composition is a little girl in white, in the forefront, and she represented hope of the future generation. This oil on canvas was four feet by eight feet.

In "Middle Class in My Time" brought in the basic structure of the middle class. It showed

the father like a character out of an Egyptian carving, with a stick in his hand, ready to punish his three emaciated sons, who looked confused and tortured. There was a black void which symbolized the uselessness of their lives. The mother was seen sitting helplessly and watching the entire scene. She was sitting silently and had nothing to say as the artist believed that the middle class woman had little say in a family.

"Social Scene" depicted a woman stabbing her husband, as he had been unfaithful to her. On top of the composition, was a man in black, beating his wife, done in pink and orange. He was apparently not satisfied with his wife with her role as a partner in life. In between the two scenes was a gang of hoodlums with guns and swords, who roam the city and create havoc. To the right was seen a girl in blue with one leg tied, and she was represented as full of defecation. At the bottom was another woman depicted in brown and she too was shown as depressed and helpless. Somewhere in the centre was shown the story of the father who could not treat his children properly. All the scenes were in separate cubes and in different colours.

"De Construction" was inspired by a French philosopher. It delineated people rushing towards a modern building, which was enclosed with ancient series of corridors. There were bars preventing the people from entering easily. In front there was a mesh of grey, blue and black. And this was supposed to be a nightmare.

In "Plumule" the artist depicted two figures — a man and a woman but they were positioned far apart and in an unusual manner. The artist wished to change the conventional representation of couples.

Abdus Salam felt that there were a lot of inequalities and wrong doings in our everyday life and wished to protest against them in his oils and acrylics, like many young painters in the city.

## Memorial meet on Osmani held

The Bangabir Osmani Social Service and Research Centre held a memorial meeting yesterday on the last day of the month-long programme in observance of the 75th birth anniversary of General M A G Osmani, a national leader and Commander-in-chief of the Bangladesh Armed Forces during the Liberation War, reports BSS.

Presided over by Syed Asghar Ali, secretary general of the sangsads, the meeting was addressed as chief guest by Mujahidul Islam Selim and as special guest by chief of the Jatiya Janata Party Sheikh Asad.

Advocate Abul Khatir Siddiqui, Abdur Rashid Mollah and Sheikh Abul Kalam also spoke.

Selim, in his speech, said that late General Osmani possessed many qualities and deplored that the anti-liberation forces were raising their ugly heads today at a time when the hero of the Liberation War was not today.



Jean-Michel Lacombe (L), Ambassador of France in Bangladesh, pinning on the Officer of the Order of Arts and Letters medal to noted playwright Sayeed Ahmed on Monday at a function at the ambassador's residence. Sayeed Ahmed has been honoured by the French government for his contribution to the arts and literature.

## Donation for US flood victims appreciated

Bangladesh's contributions of 100,000 dollars to the American Red Cross for the flood victims in the mid-west region of the United States received wide coverage in the US press and electronic media Monday according to a message received here, reports BSS.

In a special story, the Washington Times said, "Bangladesh is a poor country, with a big heart. The Bangladesh Embassy on Friday presented a cheque for 100,000 dollars to the American Red Cross to help with relief efforts mid-west flood victims.

Ann Stingle of the American Red Cross said, "This is a really important message to Americans. We are so often called on to respond to disasters. This shows other countries care about us, too."

The American public radio in a news round up highly appreciated the gesture made by the people of Bangladesh to show their friendship and solidarity with the people of American mid-west in time of their natural calamities. The contribution might be modest but its significance is great. Different US TV channels also covered the cheque presentation ceremony.

While submitting a memorandum to the President, de-

## Maintain professional standard, Biswas tells paramedics

A 12-member delegation of the Bangladesh Paramedics Association Central Committee, led by its president Aktaruzzaman, called on President Abdur Rahman Biswas at Bangabhaban yesterday, reports UNB.

President Biswas advised them to maintain their professional standard and discharge their duties with utmost sincerity, integrity and devotion for helping the ailing people.

Talking to the delegation,

President Biswas said that government had been trying to ensure health for all by the year 2000. As an integral part of country's health system, they are to play a significant role in reaching medicare to the people, he added.

President said proper diagnosis and treatment of patients largely depend on the accuracy of various tests conducted by them in the laboratories. Without accurate results of tests, correct treatment of the patients would be impossible. Biswas added.

While submitting a memorandum to the President, de-

gate members mentioned about some of their problems including higher pay-scale and promotion.

President Biswas assured them of advising the concerned authorities for sympathetic consideration of their problems.

Among others, Mohammed Nazrul Islam Chowdhury, Mohammad Mokaddes Hossain, Mohammad Mazedur Rahman, Mohammad Bazlur Rahman, Mohammad Bashiruddin, Mohammad Mizanur Rahman, Mohammad Mohiuddin Ahmed, Mohammad Firoj Ahmed, Mohammad Ibrahim and Mohammad Giasuddin of the paramedics association were present on the occasion.

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