

Metropolitan

Dhaka Day by Day

Women's Inner Turmoil

by Fayza Haq

Nasreen Begum's recent solo exhibition of water colours at Gallery Tone projected the problems of women through symbols. In this endeavour the painter has departed from her conventional Oriental Art works so that one found a great deal of depth in these creations.

In the "Door of a New Life" series, one of the entries showed a door with a butterfly, decorative hangings at the door, and pots of flowers in the doorway. One found large foot prints in front. The sun and the moon have been brought at the back. This was done in colours of brown, red and yellow. The artist had the traditional marriage ceremony in mind, which she believed was a crucial factor in the lives of women. Before marriage women's lives are dictated, but it is even more so after the marriage, Nasreen believes. The new life is a challenge for women. The foot prints and butterfly were symbols, just as was the door, that pointed the way to a new life. Women enter marriage, the artist believes, with endless hopes and dreams. What actually happens in the married life is something women have to discover and work out themselves, Nasreen said.



In another piece in the same series the artist had the shape of the "kula" which formed the door in shades of black and brown, touched up with semi-abstract patterns. What the artist has wished to express is that women, after marriage, find it enormously difficult to do something of their own, specially if it is outside the confines of domestic life.

In the same series was another door, with flowers or trees, but there were patterns on the door. For a woman to achieve any success she must make tremendous efforts, as she enters new phases of life. This was the feeling the artist wished to convey. The green door had red handles while the surroundings had experimental textures. Nasreen has modernised her Oriental Art technique so that her works would truly symbolise contemporary life, and her paintings would bear relevance to present day life.

In one of the pieces of the rainy season series, Nasreen has painted a black gate, all

around which were barbed wires. The house itself had bars on the door. The composition was semi-abstract. Squares of pink and blue were brought in for harmony of the composition. Despite the dominance of the gray the presentation was optimistic indeed.

In "Story of a Leaf" series, Nasreen has used a leaf to symbolise women's life. In one of the paintings of the series, the leaf was first shown as light green, next a deeper shade of green, later yellow, and finally brown. There were ants and an exotic butterfly included in the composition.

In another depiction, one could see a leaf being eaten up by a red and black bug, with a decorative surrounding representing nature. A bird was included in semi abstract on top. The background was white and green while one found grey and brown in the foreground. In the leaf series, the artist depicted the inequalities in a woman's life. The bug was shown as attacking it before it was mature. Nasreen portrayed the many responsibilities and burdens women have to face early in life. Often life is cruel to them but they have to live with their fate, she believes.

In a flower depiction a bug was once again found to be destroying the beautiful pale blossom with its dark centre and brilliant cluster of the pistil. This was again a symbolic work.

In "The Lady and Nature" series there were repeated delineations of a woman representing women in general. "Since the heart and the mind of the woman are beautiful, her external appearance is attractive too," the artist explained. The stars in the sky marked the dots in the "saree", while her hair curled to the shoulders. The subject was shown standing in an arch, borrowed from traditional Moghul painting. Chittagong hills were brought in the background, like the rivers in the region.

In the "Garden" series, the painter showed vegetables with stakes, and blossoms. The sky, ground and plants formed neat compositions.

In her 61 paintings, Nasreen has tried to interpret her understanding of life, with a marked feminine angle.

Khaleda, Mostafiz greet PM, FM of Canada

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday felicitated Jean Chretien on his assumption of the office of Prime Minister of Canada following the impressive victory of his party in the recent elections, reports BSS.

Begum Zia, in a message to Chretien, said Bangladesh looked forward to working closely with him in further strengthening the friendly ties and excellent cooperation existing between the two countries and in pursuing the common objectives of promoting peace and stability in the world.

She wished him success in the new office, good health and happiness and continued peace and well being of the friendly people of Canada.

Mostafiz
UNB adds: Foreign Minister ASM Mostafizur Rahman yesterday greeted Andre' Ouellet on his appointment as the Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Trade of Canada.

In a message to his new counterpart of Canada, Mostafiz said "I look forward to working closely with you to further strengthen the existing friendship and cooperation between the two countries."

The Foreign Minister wished Andre' health and happiness and continued peace, progress and prosperity of Canada.

Revolution Day programmes in Ctg

CHITTAGONG, Nov 6: National Revolution and Solidarity Day will be observed in the city and elsewhere in the district tomorrow in a befitting manner, reports BSS.

Political parties, trade unions and socio-cultural organisations have planned elaborate programmes which include discussion on the significance of the day, meetings and processions.

Chittagong City South and North District BNP will hold a public meeting at Laldighi Maidan which is expected to be addressed. By Fisheries and Livestocks Minister Abdullah Al-Noman.

City branch of Jamaat-e-Islami will hold discussion at its Dewanbazar office on the significance of the day.



A seminar on the 'Role of Abul Mansur Ahmad in Literature, Journalism and Politics' was held at the National Book Centre auditorium in the capital yesterday. Seen seated in the picture (from L to R) Syed Ahmed, Advocate Nurul Haq Majumdar, Ershad Majumdar, Mahub Anam, Abdul Latif Pahlwan, M A Mohaiman and Mainul Hasan. The Nawab Saimullah Academy organised the seminar.

Seminar on Farakka held in Khulna

KHULNA, Nov 6: Speakers at a seminar here demanded the country's due share of the Ganges water to save millions of people from possible natural catastrophe, reports UNB.

The seminar on 'Impact of Farakka on Bangladesh' was held at the BMA Bhaban auditorium Friday evening. They said India unilaterally withdrew water by constructing the Farakka barrage in its own interest, ignoring international water laws.

The seminar has addressed, among others, by Mayor Sheikh Tayyab Rahman and Vice Chancellor of BUET Dr Shahjahan.

Commemorative stamp on Tourism Month released

The Bangladesh Post Office issued a commemorative postage stamp of Tk 10 denomination and a First Day Cover valued Tk 5 on the occasion of Tourism Month '93 yesterday, says a PID handout.

A special canceller was also used and a leaflet was issued. Ministry of Post and Telecommunications Tariqul Islam formally released the stamp.

Repeal of 'black laws' to take time: Biswas

President Abdur Rahman Biswas yesterday said 'different black laws, will be repealed if they deserve amendment but it will take time, reports UNB.

Speaking at a reception at the Barisal Bar Association, the President also said separation of the judiciary from the executive, as demanded, was under process.

Opposition parties are demanding separation of the judiciary and repeal of all 'black laws', arguing that it was a commitment laid down in the joint declaration of three alliances before the ouster of autocracy in the 1990 mass uprising. Presided over by President of the Bar Association Advocate Nurul Islam Lal Mia, the function was also addressed by its General Secretary Golam Abbas Chowdhury Dulal.

Earlier inaugurating a power supply programme in the morning, President Biswas said the main objective of rural electrification is to alleviate poverty and remove illiteracy through enhancing income generating activities of the deprived rural masses.

Electricity is the only key to development, but most rural people are deprived of modern

lifestyle and production technology due to lack of power supply. Biswas said inaugurating the electrification scheme of Palli Bidyut Samity-1 at suburban Ruptali.

He told the function that realising the importance of electricity in development efforts, late President Ziaur Rahman had extended power supply to countryside by establishing the Rural Electrification Board in 1977.

"The present government is striving to ensure power supply to all homesteads in villages by the year 2000," he said and urged the concerned not to misuse the resource.

Addressing the function, Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Dr Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain said the present government was putting in its efforts to help reach power to remote villages through areawise electrification.

Ruling party MPs Mujibur Rahman Sarwar and Selima Rahman and Awami League MP from Mehendiganj Mohiuddin Ahmed also spoke.

The Awami League lawmaker resented that power had not yet been given to his constituency even after repeated request to the authorities.

Call to be vocal against religious leaders

By Staff Correspondent

One hundred and one female students of the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) in a statement yesterday called upon all to be vocal against the decrees, often being issued by the religious leaders bypassing the laws of the land.

The statement said that in most cases the innocent women are the victims of such decrees (Jatua). Noorjahan of Sylhet, Firoza of Sakthira, Parvin of Kasba and Noorjahan of Faridpur were among the worst victims of such decrees, which the religious leaders issued using the religion as a tool, it added.

The progressive intellectuals including Dr Ahmad Sharif and Taslima Nasrin and the progressive student organisations are also coming under their attacks, they said, adding that the main motive of these people is to destabilise the democratic system of the country.

The BUET students, however, demanded punishment of those who are issuing such decrees.

Moyeen Khan returns

State Minister for Planning Dr Abdul Moyeen Khan returned here Friday after attending the 'annual forum' and international council meeting held in New York under the auspices of the International Council of the Parliamentarians for Global Nation (PGA), reports BSS.

Happy Birthday
(8th November)
To

JAMIE
From:
Sena & Sheahan Bhai



Anandham, a leading musical group of the country, held a musical session entitled 'Pancha-Bhaskar' — a selection of songs by Tagore, Nazrul, Atul Prasad, D L Roy and Rajanikanto — at the Institute of Engineers' auditorium yesterday.

Uphold spirit of War of Independence : Salam

LGRD Minister and BNP Secretary General Barrister Abdus Salam Talukdar yesterday called upon the patriotic people of the country to uphold the spirit of the War of Independence of 1971, reports BSS.

He said late president Ziaur Rahman had inspired the entire nation both in 1971 and in November 7, 1975.

Barrister Talukdar was addressing a discussion as chief guest here in the afternoon at the Shilpakala Academy auditorium organised by the Jatiyatabadi Samajik

Sangskritik Sangstha(JASSS) marking the "National Revolution and Solidarity Day." Food Minister and City BNP President Lt Gen(rtd) Mir Shawkat Ali Bir Uttam, Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) Secretary General Amanullah Kabir, Supreme Court Bar Association President Kazi Golam Mahub, Dhaka University Sociology Department Chairman Dr Anwarullah Chowdhury and JASSS leader Imran Saleh Prince also spoke. JASSS Convenor Zahid Hossain Chhunu presided.

Speakers at another discussion yesterday organised by Zia Parishad at the Institute of Diploma Engineers, said, November 7, the National Revolution and Solidarity Day is the symbol of national sovereignty and entity.

They said the nationalist forces must forge unity with the spirit of the day to protect the people's rights and consolidate the democratic process from any conspiracy.

Speaking on the occasion noted educationist Prof. Yazuddin Ahmed said, November 7 is an inseparable part of the national life. "If we are enlightened with the significance of the day nobody can snatch away the rights of the people or hinder the country's democratic process," he said.

Presided over by President of Dhaka city unit of Zia Parishad Anwar Hossain, the discussion was addressed, among others, Prof Ataur Rahman and Prof Qumrul Ahsan Chowdhury of Dhaka University. Chairman of Zia Parishad Kabir Murad.

Sunday
5.00 Opening announcement, Al-Quran Programme summary
5.10 News in Bangla
5.25 Cartoon: Tom and Jerry Kids Show
5.50 Population programme: Jiboner Janneya
6.20 Open University
6.55 A special programme on National Revolution and Solidarity Day: Durjoy Durber
8.00 News in Bangla
8.30 Band Show
9.05 Film Show: The Sword of Tipu Sultan
10.00 News in English
10.30 Tagore Songs
10.55 The Wild Swans
11.30 Khabar/The News
11.40 Tomorrow's programme summary
11.45 Closing

Weather

No change in temperature

The sky will remain partly cloudy over Chittagong, Barisal, Dhaka divisions and elsewhere over the country, weather may remain mainly dry with a clear sky over the country.

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

Country's highest temperature of 32 degrees Celsius was recorded in Bogra and lowest of 19 degrees Celsius was recorded in Iswardi yesterday.

The sun sets today (Sunday) at 5.16 pm and rises tomorrow (Monday) at 6.09 am.

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

Cities/Towns	Temperature in degrees Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	9am	6pm
Dhaka	30.4	20.8	71	74
Chittagong	30.7	21.0	79	72
Rajshahi	29.7	19.3	83	85
Khulna	31.6	21.5	78	-
Barisal	30.2	20.8	77	92
Dinajpur	29.8	19.5	72	77
Cox's Bazar	31.4	22.0	77	77

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY
A major NGO entering a challenging new phase of operation is seeking to appoint a top-level senior executive to be based in Dhaka head office. The position carries wide-ranging responsibilities including policy and programme development, strategic management of key projects, liaison with field-based project staff, external liaison and fund-raising.
Applicants should possess:
- excellent academic and professional qualifications, at Masters level or above;
- proven management experience including at least 8-10 years in senior management within a large NGO (or related work);
- deep knowledge and practical experience of rural development including good appreciation of current development theory and practice;
- exceptional analytical and communication skills including excellent written and spoken English;
- a strong, dynamic and energetic personality, willingness to adapt and innovate, dedication to poverty-alleviation and the role of NGOs, and an open, co-operative and consensual approach to working with colleagues, between the ages of 35-50.
The job requires frequent field visits to northern Bangladesh. The postholder will report to the Director.
An attractive remuneration package will be offered to the successful candidate.
Suitable applicants should submit their CVs plus photograph accompanied by a one-page summary of the personal and professional qualities they would bring to the position to: RDRS, PO Box 618, Dhaka 1000 by 20th November '93.
WOMEN CANDIDATES WILL BE GIVEN PREFERENCE
Canvassing in any form, direct or indirect, will disqualify applicants

Congress on Forensic Medicine ends
The 2-day long 1st National Congress on Forensic Medicine and sciences organised by the Medicolegal Society of Bangladesh concluded yesterday, says a press release.
Delegates from home and abroad attended the congress which is the first of its type in Bangladesh.
The academic programme included scientific sessions on Law, Medicine and Forensic Sciences.
President Abdur Rahman Biswas, inaugurated the congress on November 4.
The theme of the Congress was "Forensic Medicine and Sciences for the Protection of Society."
The concluding session was held yesterday which was addressed by Prof PK Chattopadhyay and others. Prof M Muzaherul Haq, Congress Chairman and President of the Medicolegal Society, in his speech congratulated the delegates and participants for attending the Congress. He stressed the need for international cooperation in this field to bring peace in the society by preventing crime.

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