

Dhaka Day by Day

The Warmth of Water Colour Washes

by Fayza Haq

"Pictures speak of life — its joy, sadness or failure. Through style, form and particular mode of expression, an artist speaks out his thoughts. Happiness and sorrow are woven into one's pictures," says Sayeeda Kamal, who had her solo exhibition at the Drk gallery recently.

"All my paintings are water colours and non-abstract. I have a weakness for the dream-like quality, the mystery charm and the force of water colour which provides me with the means to express my thoughts and feelings," she added.

"Nature reaches out to me in various ways, sometimes in a joyous and colourful splendour, and sometimes, in a pensive way unlocks doors to my memories comprising beauty, warmth, tenderness and even fragrance. My paintings are personal like a poem or a song — a mixture of painful and happy memories. I have brought in the land, trees, boats and rivers to depict the beautiful world around us," she continued.

"My life, with its pains and pleasures have resulted in my images. I hope that the brush that I have not used for so long will give the viewers some pleasure," she concluded.

Sayeeda had long kept herself engaged in teaching art and away from painting. A workshop that she attended at Boston brought her back to painting and in her works she has glorified nature, using delicate and sparse strokes, interlaced with layers of light washes.

"Shaymoli" depicts a brick house with a red rough path in front, with trees all around. One can see people moving inside the house. The painting is in soft washes of green, blue, beige and brown.

"Known House" is based on memories of walks taken at Wimbledon, England. The house is delightful with its violet flowers, the adjacent shrubs and creepers. The house is delineated with soft strokes of black and grey. The artist has concentrated on the path and the garden blooms. The sky, trees and pillars are also included in the composition.

"Sandy Pond Boston" depicts rocks in different shades of brown and black. The artist brings in the sea-blue water and the sky reaching the horizon. Weeds with flowers are delicately sketched in.

"Old Rocks, Greenland" brings in potholes

and the environment of the refreshing water and sky once more. There are mountains at the back in shades of white and blue, and birds fly in the forefront. It is a peaceful, idyllic scene, like the rest of the entries.

"Community Boat House Boston" depicts different types of sail boats for races. The boats are done in black, brown and grey. The surrounding willow trees are captured. Tall buildings at the back are also included in the composition.

"Emptiness" shows bare trees and this has been done from imagination and memories of her stay in USA. Since green to the artist is a symbol of life and the trees have no traces of it so she calls her piece by the title that she has chosen. It has light washes of beige, brown and maroon.

In "Doorway" the texture of the wood of the subject is accentuated. Arches, pillars and domes have also been brought in. There are trees and bushes in front. Brickwall and a soft blue-grey sky have also been included.

"Through the Window" again brings in rocks, plants and leaves. The creepers and potted plants are done in pale tones, while the flowers and a single plant are done in deep striking red.

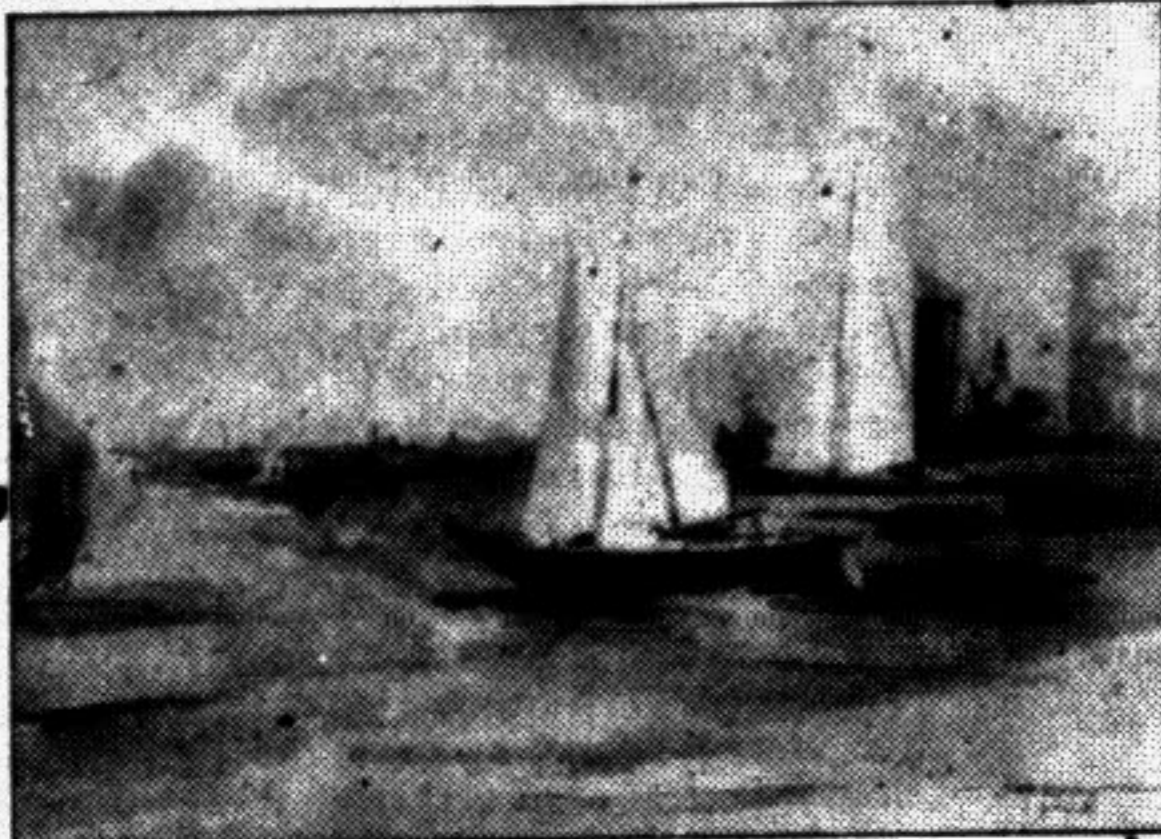
"Ajanta Recollected" shows a large blue elephant painted on the walls of a cave, with plants growing among the ruins.

"The Crossing" has a Bangladeshi boat with people in it. It is a creation in black, brown and red, with an orange and blue sky and gentle shadows in the water. The figures are sketched in. The shore in front is done in mixtures of ochre, yellow and brown.

"Seagulls" show birds in faint black against a backdrop of mauve, yellow, pink and orange sky. The sea is brought in smudges of blue and purple. The land is also brought into the composition.

A waterfall is brought in "Madhabkunda" in which the water is shown gushing forth down a hillside. Rock, sand and surrounding greenery are seen as a blend of blues, mauves and greens.

Sayeeda would do well to practise more and develop her style. It is a fact that water colour is a difficult medium to handle. While some of her works appear simplistic others are mature.



A large number of agitated rickshawpullers yesterday protesting in Motijheel Commercial Area against an alleged assault of a fellow-puller. — Star photo

Annual seed requirement stands at 500000 tons

The annual seed requirement of different crops in the country excluding seed potatoes and sugarcane is about 500,000 tons, it was told at a seminar on 'implementation of seed policy for development of seed industry in Bangladesh' in the city yesterday, reports BSS.

The seminar was informed that more than 95 per cent of this seed requirement was met by the seeds retained by farmers or bought from local markets while only five per cent was met by the public and private sector growers and agencies from local production and import.

Organised jointly by the Ministry of Agriculture and different government and non-government seed agencies, about 300 scientists, extension executives, seed growers and traders are participating in the two-day seminar held at the Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council auditorium (BARC).

Inaugurating the seminar, Agriculture, Irrigation, Water Development, and Flood Control Minister M Majid-Ul-Haq emphasised the need for development of quality seeds at cheaper price affordable by the poor farmers. He said the Bangladesh seed market could not be compared with that of the European market where

the farmers were given subsidy. He said our market could not be compared even with that of other countries in the region like India, Sri Lanka and Pakistan.

To meet the growing demand of quality seeds in the country the minister stressed the need for development of private sector seed industry and sought cooperation of different government and international agencies in this regard.

Presided over by the executive vice chairman of BARC Dr M S U Chowdhury, the inaugural session was also addressed by Agriculture Secretary M Akhtar Ali, Director General of Seed Wing A K M Tafsir Uddin Siddiqui and president of Bangladesh Seedmen's Society B I Siddiqui.

Suggesting genetic improvement of quality seeds for high yield Akhtar Ali said very less production of high quality vegetables, pulses and oil seeds had contributed in shortfall of these nutritional crops.

Dr M S U Chowdhury, in his presidential speech, said an improvement in agricultural output was only possible through improved seeds and genetic materials, besides appropriate management. He said diversity of genetic resources was also needed to

sustain the agricultural productivity already achieved by Bangladesh.

He said out of an estimated annual requirement of 1000 tons of vegetable seeds, the improved varieties constitute only 170 tons, which is about 17 per cent of the total requirement while the locally produced improved varieties are only 2 per cent of the requirement.

Suggesting urgent private sector intervention to meet the demand for HYV seeds and genetic materials the BARC chief expressed optimism at the large participation of the private sector in growing vegetable seeds, ornamental plants and in vegetative propagation of fruit trees.

Concern over salish violence

Ain O Salish Kendra, a legal aid and human rights organisation, has noted with concern that yet another attempt to impose punishment (of 101 lashes) under salish was planned by a vice principal of a mad-rasha and an Imam of the local mosque in No. 13 Aliparur Union, Begumganj Thana of Noakhali. This intended act of criminal violence was thwarted by the timely report in The Janakantha of January 17. In response to protests from women and human rights organisations the SP Noakhali intervened to stop the public lashing which was announced at the salish of Dulali, a young woman, who had conceived from a known person and had given birth to a child only 7 days ago, says release.

A subsequent report in Janakantha details that the accused has absconded, and the Union Chairman and others have decided that as a punishment the man who impregnated Dulali should be asked to marry her after obtaining permission from his first wife.

The press release also stated 'we would like to say categorically that such a settlement would be a gross miscarriage of justice. Polygamy is hardly a punishment for a man; instead to imprison Dulali into a forced marriage to a person who had already violated her, would be an act of further humiliation and violence, as well as inflicting pain on the unfortunate first wife.'

It further stated 'we would therefore urge all to protest against such unjust forms of salish. We demand that the government take immediate action to ensure that the local administration abide by the law of the land, under which such acts are a criminal offence; to prevent the abdication of responsibility of government officials and elected representatives, and to deter the Chairman and members of the Union Parishad from imposing arbitrary settlements. Further we call upon the members of the Parliament to take steps to make fatwas and other customary practices subject to the law of the land.'



Risij musical group yesterday performing on the TSC road island of Dhaka University to mark the Asad Day.

Asad's death anniversary observed

By DU Correspondent
Speakers at a discussion meeting yesterday called upon the students to be alert against imperialism and fundamentalism.

The Bangladesh Chhatra Maitree held the meeting at the road crossing at the TSC of the Dhaka University in observance of the 25th death anniversary of Asaduzzaman Asad.

Asad was gunned down in a procession during the mass upsurge in 1969.

The meeting was addressed by Rashed Khan Menon, MP, Mujahidul Islam Selim, Ahmad, Akhter Sobhan Masur with the Chhatra Maitree President Ragib Ahsan Munna in the chair.

Addressing the meeting, Rashed Khan Menon said that terrorism gripped the educational institutions and politics of the country.

He alleged that those who were in the top position in the power were sheltering terrorists. "We have to be alert against communalism", Menon added.

Criticising the government's economic policy, Menon said that the number of unemployed persons were increasing day by day in the country.

Mujahidul Islam Selim, in his speech, said that we could yet not materialise the dreams of Asad.

Ragib Ahsan Munna said that education became a business in the country.

He added that the government was not fulfilling the demands of the students community. Later, a cultural function was staged.

JS body meet on Communications held

The 24th meeting of the parliamentary standing committee on the Ministry of Communications was held yesterday at Sangsad Bhaban with Communications Minister Oli Ahmad in the chair, reports UNB.

The meeting expressed satisfaction over the increasing profit of Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation (BRTC) that stood at Tk 30.78 lakh last month (December).

Members of the committee Whip Abdul Karim Advocate of BNP, Mohammad Shamsul Huq, Advocate Mostafizur Rahman and Tajul Islam Mohammad Faruque of Awami League and Mohammad Golam Hossain of Jatiya Party attended the meeting.

Weather

No change in temperature

By Staff Correspondent

Dry weather with fair sky is likely to prevail over the country. Met Office forecasts, night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.

Country's highest temperature of 28 degrees Celsius was recorded in Teknaf and lowest of 7 degrees Celsius was recorded in Srimongal yesterday.

The sun sets today (Friday) at 5:37 pm and rises tomorrow (Saturday) at 6:43 am.

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

Cities/Towns	Temperatures in degrees Celsius		Humidity in percentage
	Max	Min	
Dhaka	26.7	13.0	67
Chittagong	26.0	12.5	67
Rajshahi	23.9	9.4	84
Khulna	25.5	10.5	76
Barisal	26.5	11.4	79
Cox's Bazar	26.5	14.6	67
Sylhet	27.0	11.2	61

BMDC introduces post-graduate diplomas

The inaugural function of the newly introduced post-graduate diplomas took place in the Bangladesh Management Development Centre auditorium on January 20, says a press release.

The function was presided over by the centre's director general-in-charge, A K M Nurunabi Chowdhury. The function was addressed by the directors of the centre. It was attended by the faculty members and officers of BMDC and the 220 participants who got enrolled in the year-long post-graduate diploma courses in marketing management, financial management and computer science respectively.

BMDC, a national institute engaged in management development of the managerial personnel working both in the public and private sector organisations, conduct various short-term training courses, render consultancy services and execute research programmes on management related issues.

Mosharraf attends polls rallies

Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Dr Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain urged the city dwellers to cast their votes for BNP's mayoral candidate Mirza Abbas to help implement the development programmes taken by the government, reports UNB.

The minister was addressing two election rallies at Dhalpur High School premises in ward-85 and Jatrabari Square of ward-86 in Demra Wednesday night.

The meetings were addressed, among others, by BNP mayoral candidate for Dhaka City Corporation Mirza Abbas MP, Deputy Minister for Health Sirajul Haq, Salah Uddin Ahmed MP, Prof Rezaul Karim MP, Kamruddin Yahya Khan Majlish MP and Advocate Abul Kalam.

Dr Mosharraf said Mirza Abbas had already proved to be an honest and dynamic administrator through his outstanding performance during his tenure as the mayor of Dhaka City Corporation.



Time	Programme
8.00	Opening announcement
	Al-Quran
	Programme summary
8.10	News in Bangla
8.15	Alor Disheri
8.40	Shikha Dikha
9.05	Cartoon show: The Amazing Spiderman
	Moper Mukurey: Ayomoy (11th episode)
10.05	Film show: Tarzan
11.25	Shasthya Katha
11.40	Film show: Border Town
12.30	Closing of morning session
3.00	Opening announcement
	Al-Quran
	Programme summary
3.15	Cartoon show: Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
3.50	Movie of the week: Terms of Endeavour
5.25	Sports programme
7.00	Open University
7.25	Malancha
8.00	News in Bangla
8.30	Comedy series: Perfect Strangers
9.00	Magazine: Upahar
10.00	News in English
10.30	Drama series: LA Law
11.30	Khabar/The News
11.40	Tomorrow's programme summary
11.45	Closing of the session

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