

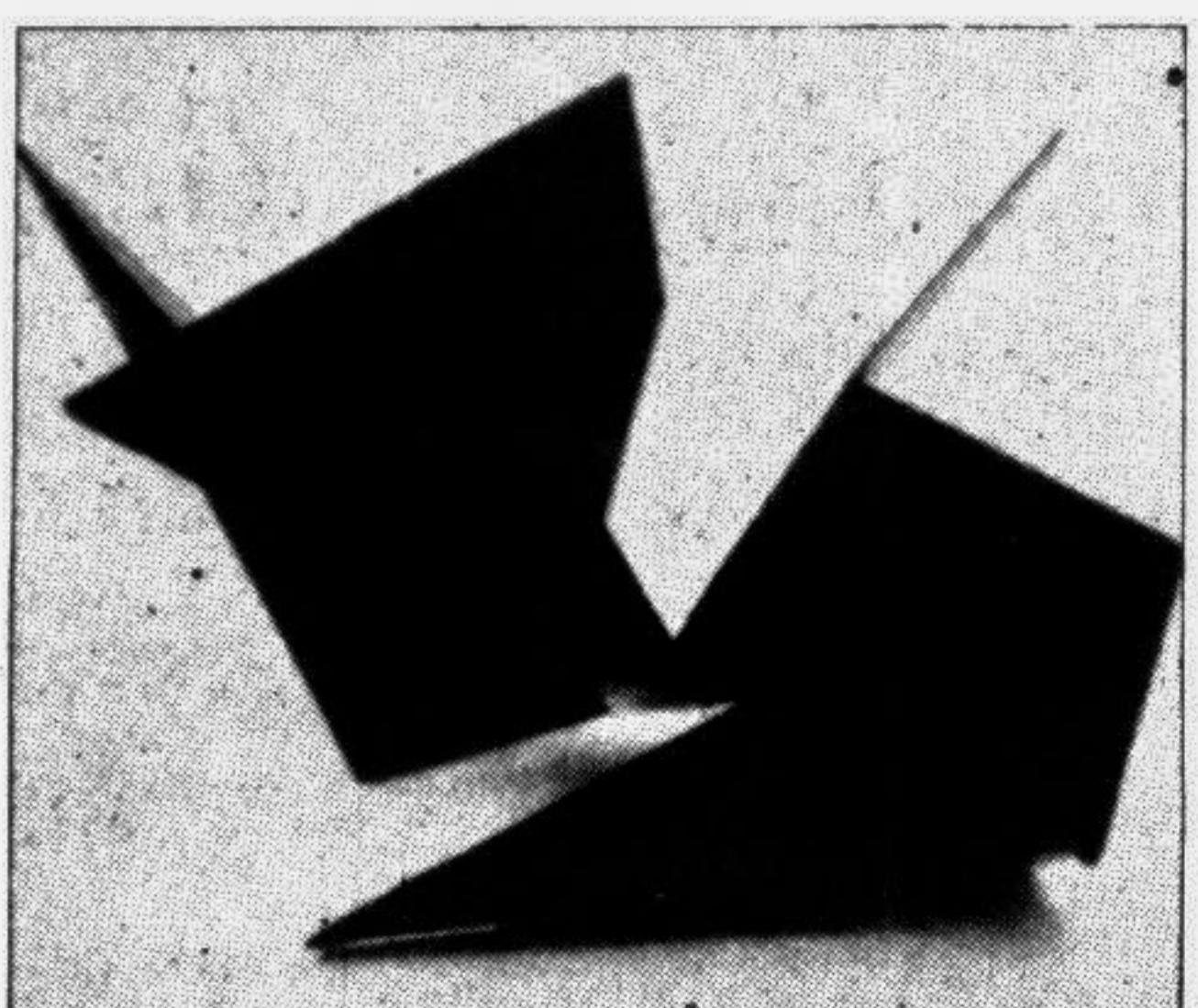
Dhaka Day by Day

Bold Rhythms in Abstracts

by Fayza Haq

Hamiduzzaman Khan who had his exhibition recently at the Drik gallery says about his creation, "My past work bore elements of realism, but at the moment I feel free experimenting more in abstract forms. This has come mostly in relation to my environmental paintings and sculptures where I try to relate my work more to the surroundings and landscape which I see around me."

He adds, "We are plainland people and the landscape around us consists of flat green plains stretching as far as the eye can see. As such, I try to create some tension movement in the forms I construct. This I do in two ways. First, since I see a cyclic rhythm in nature, in which circular shapes blend into the background, I try to create tension by using angular geometric shapes especially the triangular ones, so that the sharp edges stand up against the backdrop. Second, I try to bring about a contrast with



colour. In my paintings and sculptures in startling red, yellow and blue, which stand out in the background of our evergreen land. In this way they can also be more visible at a distance."

Hamid adds, "By using triangular form, the sculptures and paintings are also given a sense of height which is important for someone viewing it from a flat surface. In this way the painting helps to connect the viewer both in terms of his horizon and the zenith. By aspiring towards a pure form, I let my paintings and sculptures be interpreted freely by the viewer so that the viewer may locate himself in relation to the form and thereby create his own individual space for interpretation. At the same time, the presence of colour and responses to it helps his interpretation to have emotion."

As a sculptor, Hamid is famous in Bangladesh for his daring designs, excellent execution, his dynamism of bold curves, angular figures and the masterful economy of composition. His sculpture pieces go harmoniously with the surroundings. Hamid began his career as a painter working with oil, water colour, local pigments and dyes. An accident forced him to go to England for treatment. His trip to U.K. took him to Cape Town and Dakar where he studied the local African sculpture. When in England, he went to art museums and galleries and saw for himself

masterpieces and famed contemporary works. This led him to study sculpture in India in '74. While in India, he excelled as a student and his exhibits were admired. This helped him in his search for a medium that would express his visions of grandeur.

Hamid does not take to traditions without trying to adapt them to his own ideas. Even when he does water colour or an oil painting his style is his own, taken from sculpture. His paintings are a variation on line and form.

His, squares are meant to be "the windows of the world" lifting the ordinary to the world of imagination, while his sweeping curves are "insight into problems" to which, however, he offers no solution. The play of light and shade is there in all his work. When he brings in vivid colours to his canvas, this is to express happiness and contentment.

Hamid believes in finding his materials for creative work among his own surroundings. His work which is both universal and local, is timeless.

His sculptures are all outdoor ones, in which the sunlight and ground come together. He would have liked his pieces to be thirty feet by one inch sheets but for that he needs sponsors which he does not have. He believes that in the skyscrapers and their plaza there is plenty of space for sculpture, but this has not been introduced in our country. He maintains that they would have added life to the parks and vast buildings. His works are often inspired by boat, flower or bird motifs.

He says, "Earlier people believed that realistic sculpture was a done thing. When people see my modern work they ponder over them and try to comprehend them. The simplicity that I have introduced into my work is gradually being understood and appreciated. Welding and cutting of metal has gone on for years in Dhaka. Today fabrication of sculpture from steel is popular and contemporary."

In his recent exhibit Hamid has paintings, prints and small sculpture pieces, in which he experiments with rectangles, triangles, circles, lines and dots. His sculptures are more lyrical than before, bringing in more curves than angles.

Biswas, Khaleda greet Sultan of Brunei

The President Abdur Rahman Biswas has felicitated the Sultan of Brunei Darussalam, Haji Hassanal Bolkiah, to mark the national day of his country today, reports BSS.

In a message to the Sultan he said, "On the auspicious occasion of the national day of Negara Brunei Darussalam, the people and the government of Bangladesh join me in extending to your majesty and through you to the people and the government of Negara Brunei Darussalam our heartfelt greetings and felicitations."

In another message the Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia has felicitated the Sultan of Brunei Darussalam Haji Hassanal Bolkiah on the occasion of the national day of his country.

In a message of felicitation to the Sultan, Begum Zia expressed the confidence that the traditional bonds of friendship, cooperation and understanding existing between the two fraternal countries will be further strengthened in the years to come to the mutual benefit of the two peoples.

Shaheed Day observed in missions abroad

Shaheed Day was observed with due solemnity in all Bangladesh missions abroad Monday, according to messages received here, reports BSS.

National Flag was hoisted at half mast, discussion, special prayers were offered for the eternal peace of the language martyrs. Milad mahfils and cultural functions were also held.

A number of missions also brought out souvenir on the occasion.

The Shaheed Day was observed by Bangladesh missions in Riyadh and Jeddah.

The salient features of the programme were hoisting of the national flag at half mast at the chancery, discussion highlighting the significance of the day, special prayer for the souls of the martyrs of the language movement, Liberation War and various democratic movements.

Bangladesh Embassy School in Riyadh also arranged special programmes in observance of the day.

The "Ekushey February" was observed at the Bangladesh Embassy in Tokyo in a befitting manner.

The programme started with the hoisting of the national flag at half mast by Ambassador Mahbubul Huq at the embassy premises. A one-minute silence was observed followed by munajat for the martyrs of the historic language movement.

A discussion programme was also organised in the embassy where the Ambassador highlighted the significance of the day and mentioned that a renewed vow should be taken to uphold the spirit of the language movement.



Rajshahi

RAJSHAHI, Feb 22: The Ekushey February (Martyrs Day) was observed in the city on Monday with paying rich tributes to the martyrs of the Language Movement, reports UNB.

Different political, socio-cultural and juvenile organisations observed the day through various programmes including placing of floral wreaths at Shaheed Minar. *Pravat Ferry*, discussion, cultural function, painting competition.

National flag was hoisted half mast atop all government, public and private buildings.

Newly elected Mayor of Rajshahi City Corporation Mizanur Rahman Minu and Divisional Commissioner M Aminul Islam, among others, placed floral wreaths at Rajshahi College Shaheed Minar at midnight.

4.30 Opening announcement Al-Quran
4.45 Programme summary Sports programme: Wrestling
5.10 News in Bangla
5.20 Population programme: Agamee
5.45 Discussion on Ramadan: Mahe Ramadan
6.00 Cultural programme: Nibandan
6.55 Open University
7.25 Tagore songs
8.00 News in Bangla
8.30 Biswa Parkrama
9.05 Film show: The A-Team
10.00 News in English
10.30 Programme with selected songs: Geete Bichitra
11.15 Khabar/The News
11.25 Tomorrow's programme summary
11.30 Closing of session

Weather

Thundershower likely

By Staff Correspondent

Rain or thundershower accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely to occur at many places over Dhaka division and at some few places over Chittagong, Rajshahi divisions and at one or two places over Khuina, Barisal divisions.

The Met Office forecasts, night temperature may fall by two to three degrees Celsius over the country during the next 24 hours commencing from 6:00 am today (Wednesday).

The country's highest temperature of 32.4 degrees Celsius was recorded in Rangamati and the lowest of 15 degrees Celsius was recorded in Sylhet yesterday.

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

Cities/Towns	Temperatures in degrees Celsius	Humidity in percentage
	Max	Min
Dhaka	22.0	18.2
Chittagong	29.0	18.0
Rajshahi	22.1	17.3
Khuina	26.5	20.6
Barisal	28.2	20.0
Cox's Bazar	30.2	17.0
Sylhet	19.0	15.0
Dinajpur	24.4	17.3
	9 am	6 pm
	88	81
	61	65
	94	85
	82	68
	95	68
	62	79
	92	100
	89	74

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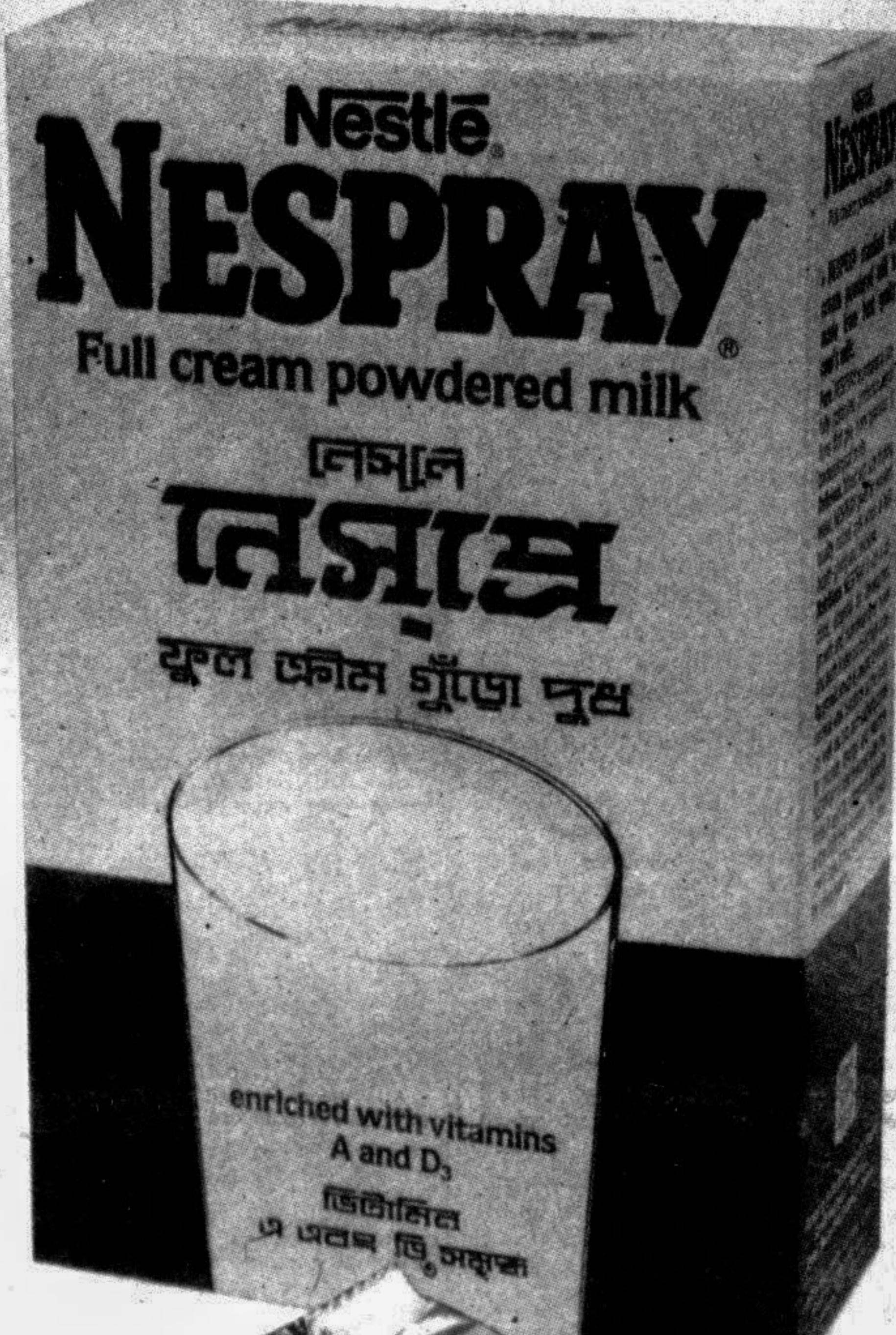
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