

Dhaka Day by Day

Tensions and Upsurges

by Fayza Haq

Kajol held his 22nd solo exhibition at "Jojo" recently. In all his paintings he has dealt with the national flag as a symbol of hope. The artist wishes to express the opinion that all over the world the hope of unity is being desecrated and destroyed. Working with oil on paper and using paper collage he deals with international and ethnic wars. He has depicted animals in various postures in a style quite different from other artists. A touch of green in the surroundings can be seen in most of his works.

Kajol went to Denmark in '86, having married a Danish girl called Lis. "I had a lot of confidence in myself and was full of curiosity about the world. I was surprised to see the new forms of painting in Denmark. At first I went to school for six months to learn the Danish language. Next I set up a studio with eleven other artists coming from England, Turkey, France, Sweden, USA, Japan and Denmark. We were good friends although not as close as the friends I had in Bangladesh," Kajol comments about his early days in Denmark.

The Danish people felt that eastern art was very traditional whereas I, at first, felt that Danish contemporary art was too commercial. They used copper, steel, glass and stone to attract the viewer's attention. At first these forms and images did not appeal to me very much. This I took to be an intellectual shock rather than a cultural shock. Slowly I realised that they were specialising and I too became influenced by their work," Kajol adds.

"Differences crept in my paintings as I travelled through Europe, going to Poland, Czechoslovakia, France, Spain, Italy, Switzerland, Belgium, Holland, Finland, Norway and Sweden. I saw contemporary and traditional European art which to me opened up vast horizons. I studied the visions and styles of many artists which taught me a great deal. I learnt to express myself better," he continues.

Before he left for Denmark he had held two different exhibitions in Bangladesh, one which he called "Colony", and the other "Society and Social Living" in which he depicted society, their leaders and their psychological tensions. "I could not be very frank and was limited to surrealism," he comments about his work. "I dealt with our Dravidian roots and our mixing with the Aryans. I also showed the result of the coming of the British. While I dealt with the caste system, I delineated how a man could be a king, priest or a slave at the same time, depending on his motivations. Next I depicted the hypocritical and power hungry leaders. My last two exhibitions were dedicated to the victims of the world of violence. In the present exhibit, I showed the world crises over national flags," he elaborates.



Dancing tail-4, oil on paper and paper collage.

While in Denmark Kajol did profile portraits as he had done earlier, calling his exhibition "Women, Nature and Love". In this he depicted love, affection and sexual frustration. He held this same exhibition in Dhaka in '89 at the Fine Arts Institute and it was well received. He was not satisfied with showing his work in Europe alone. In '83 his works had been rejected by the Bangladesh Asian Biennale but he was determined to make his viewers in Bangladesh acquainted with his work. It was expensive for him to travel up and down Denmark and Dhaka but he had always been drawn to Bangladesh as this is where his roots lie.

Talking about his life and work abroad he says, "I was always interested in the psychology of society. Denmark is an interesting place to study psychological tension, which one finds all over the west. When people are in a train or bus, they are silent and suspicious of each other. Even in the parks and streets the situation is the same. I wanted to stay on in Denmark and study this phenomenon and capture this in my paintings."

In the present exhibition, which depicts blood covered animals with their dancing tails, Kajol has replaced the sun and has tried to evoke an evil atmosphere in society. "To keep the national flag intact people are undergoing a bloody turmoil. A liberated country is not necessarily forever free. This applies to the whole world and not to Bangladesh alone. Ever since the Second World War there has been unrest, turmoil and bloodshed in Africa, Ireland, the Middle East, the Far East, Latin America, India, Bosnia, Herzegovina and even Australia," Kajol elaborates about his most recent exhibition.

Talking about the problems he faces in Denmark, Kajol comments, "Being a foreigner I am not easily accepted but I have to integrate with the Danish culture. Of course, being in Europe makes your vision more international. Again, in Denmark there are a lot of qualified and talented artists and there is fierce competition. I feel like a small fish in a big ocean."

Kajol comes to Dhaka every Bangla New Year and works with the students of the Fine Art College to paint murals and "alpanas". "I always look forward to coming home," he comments.

BCL (M-I) stages sit-in in front of DU VC's house

Pro-Awami League Chhatra League staged a sit-in demonstration in front of the Vice-Chancellor's residence Friday evening demanding immediate resignation of VC Prof Emajuddin Ahmed and also shifting of the DUCSU polls date, reports UNB.

The BCL (M-I), over the last few days, have been pressing for shifting the DUCSU election date and the resignation of the VC of the Dhaka University. But the other student organisations are in favour of holding the election, as scheduled, on April 12.

Addressing a brief rally during the sit-in, the BCL (M-I) leaders alleged that the VC had come to power collaborating with the ruling BNP so that he could serve the interest of the government-backed Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal.

Akhter Hossain and Pankaj Devnath urged the students to make the March 27 student strike at the Dhaka University a success.

Before joining the sit-in, the BCL activists paraded the TSC area chanting slogans calling for the resignation of the VC and the success of March 27 strike.

Kidnapped young man rescued from DU campus

Detective Police rescued a kidnapped young man from the Dhaka University campus early Friday and arrested two alleged kidnappers, reports UNB.

Acting on a tip, police rescued Bellal Hossain, 30, from the veranda of the Curzon Hall about 1 am and arrested his kidnappers — Abul Bashir, 40, and Shanewaz, 30, — from the spot.

A police press release said Bellal, a sales assistant of Al-Noor Steel Complex at Kanchpur in Sonargaon thana of Narayanganj district, was kidnapped Thursday evening from the Abdul Gani Road in the city following a business dispute.

Drama staged

'Raju Nattam' organised a musical and dramatic performance on the occasion of Independence Day at the Guide House Auditorium on Saturday, says a press release.

Patriotic songs were presented by Nasrin Rahman, an artiste of Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendra.

A drama "Ovtiman Chandra" adapted by Lalim Huq and directed by Nasim Ahmed was also staged.

Weather

Thundershower likely

By Staff Correspondent

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely to occur at a few places over Chittagong, Dhaka and Rajshahi divisions and at or one or two places over Khulna, Barisal divisions.

Met Office forecasts, day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.

The country's highest temperature of 33.3 degrees Celsius was recorded in Iswardi and lowest of 16 degrees Celsius was recorded in Sylhet yesterday.

The sun sets today (Monday) at 6:13 pm and rises tomorrow (Tuesday) at 5:54 am.

The amount of rainfall recorded in some parts of the country yesterday were: Teknaf 45 mm, Kutubdia 47 mm, Cox's Bazar 69 mm, Sylhet 70 mm and Bhola 72 mm.

The maximum and 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	9 am	6 pm
Dhaka	31.3	21.0	76	89
Chittagong	27.4	20.1	87	70
Rajshahi	32.6	19.4	85	85
Khulna	33.2	23.4	71	-
Barisal	31.4	24.4	65	72
Sylhet	18.7	16.0	100	84
Cox's Bazar	32.0	20.9	94	76
Dinajpur	27.4	-	-	83

Discussion meet

The Bangla-German Samprati Association held a discussion meeting followed by a cultural function Saturday at the Bishwa Shahitya Kendra to mark the 24th Independence and National Day, says a press release.



Monday	
4:30	Opening announcement Al-quran
4:45	Programme summary Educational programme: Can you Do it?
5:10	News in Bangla
5:20	Sports programme: Football
6:05	Moder Garba Moder Asha
6:45	Open University
7:15	Nazrul songs
8:00	News in Bangla
8:30	Janamat
9:00	Bhora Nadir Banke
10:00	News in English
10:30	Comedy series: Murphy Brown
11:00	Musical programme: Disco rally
11:30	Khabar/The news
11:40	Tomorrow's programme summary closing announcement
11:45	Closing

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3 killed, 4 hurt in incidents

By DMCH Correspondent

At least three persons including a minor boy were killed and four others injured in separate incidents in the city and Narayanganj Friday.

Mohammad Abdur Rahim died in an accident while he was learning how to drive an auto-tempo at Gulshan around 2am.

A six-year-old Rajeeb died and his mother Rokhsana and aunt Farida Begum were injured when their auto-rickshaw collided with a truck at

Shampur, Narayanganj in the afternoon. The injured women were admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).

A teenage boy was found dead in the telephone room of the Eden Women's University College around noon.

Lalbagh police recovered the body of Dulal and reported that he had committed suicide, but the reason was not known. However, the body was sent to the DMCH morgue for

autopsy.

Dulal was a son of Khalilur Rahman, a night guard of the college.

Two young sisters suffered acid burns and were treated in the DMCH.

A group of youngsters threw acid at Selina Akhter 20 and Bubl 6, at their residence at Demra as Selina declined a proposal of marriage.

A case was registered with Demra police but no arrest was made.

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