

Dhaka Day by Day

Disappointment and Desolation

by Fayza Haq

"Paintings today are not there to simply capture the apparent beauty but to delineate the reality around us," says Khalid Mahmood Mithu, who recently had his exhibition of abstracts and semi-abstracts at Gallery Tone.

His "Stop Deforestation" in mixed media shows a number of tree stumps with a backdrop of faded brown. With it are displayed actual stripped barks of wood, the skull of a deer, a stump of a tree, and a little potted sapling.

The subject of environment is brought in once again in "Chanting Evergreen" which shows a "baul" singing. In the background is a diagonal strip of a beautiful green landscape while in the foreground is a dried and dead black lifeless tree. The black scratches on the grey, orange and white background brings in the theme of repeated destruction of nature in our present day life.

"The Lost Green" shows a green face of a child. The red in the background is there deliberately to destroy the effect of the green. The white canvas at the back stands for the emptiness in the life of the child as it grows up. A band of blue and white with black trees represents the element of nature which the child will find as he grows up. Spray gun has been used to get the effect of a confused and spoilt nature.

The constant toil of people are shown in three figures in black in "Search of Light". The figures are seen against a dark purple background. Towards the left are figures in pale colours. To the left are more figures in bright colours. Between the scene of optimism and the portrayal of struggle is a fine red line symbolising the need for further struggle and bloodshed before ultimate aims are obtained.

"Unfinished Poetry" brings in a broken pencil to the right of the painting symbolising the death of a young poet. In the background is a collage comprising a poem dwelling on fears of the heart and is dedicated to the poet's girl friend. To balance this piece is a supporting scrap taken from a newspaper. A piece of photograph is poised along with the writings. The edges of the photograph are burnt as the girl's life has been destroyed. Bullet holes are brought in to represent the pain in the life of the girl. The piece contains blue and red hues

mixed with grey and white. In the experimentation with texture, ink has been combined with the paint to form bubbles.

An eye is put on a pedestal as in a sculpture show in "World Vision", with suggestions of male and female faces in the grey and beige background representing the lack of tranquility in the lives of the average person. The red cross in the centre relieves the monotony of the dull hues and confirms the negative approach of people. An envelope and a pencil in the right brings in the private situations that are hidden away in our lives.

The subject of the death of our folk culture is brought in "Song of a Broken Dream" which has a shepherd boy playing the flute. Even the moon in the painting is depicted as cracked. In the foreground is a splash of white with thick paint while in the backdrop are a variety of

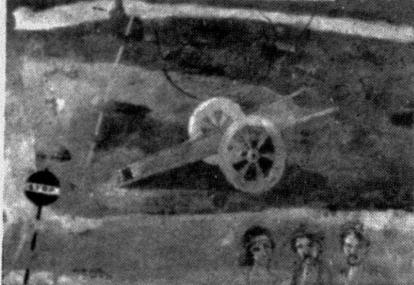
grey combined with blue and yellow. Actual country musical instruments, a "dotara" and a flute along with the beaded necklace of folk singer are hung up around with the display.

The disharmony and upheaval in the lives of the poor day labourers are delineated in "Day of Strike". The desolate faces of the workers are seen in

the foreground. The signboard with the words "Stop" stands for the paralysing of life. The push cart in the middle with its grey background brings home the situation with a gravity as it is on a standstill. In a third portion of the painting a black circle represents the feelings of the workers.

"A Page from History" is a pure abstract, which shows the political crisis that stretches from the British period to the present time. In the black frame in the foreground are silhouettes of the memories of the past. Instead of having idyllic recollections of the past there is now nothing to reminisce about is the message of this image. A bold red line covers the canvas and ends in a dot of paint and this depicts the bloodshed in our lives.

Mithu, who is also known for his photography has had his exhibitions included in displays in USA, Europe and China. He is a promising contemporary painter, who has won numerous awards and taken part in a number of solo and group exhibitions at home and overseas.



Joan Halmes, President of Global Hunger Project called on President Abdur Rahman Biswas at Bangabhaban yesterday. (Story on page-6)

Bid to kidnap DU girl

Montu Group blames BCL (M-I)

The Bangladesh Chhatra League (Montu Group) has accused the pro-Awami Chhatra League of attacking and trying to kidnap one of its female leaders, reports UNB.

Fajilatunnesa Bapri, a final year student of the Law Department of the Dhaka University and Women Affairs Secretary of the Chhatra League (Montu), has been in hospital since the bid to kidnap her on Wednesday.

Addressing a rally in front of the DUCSU Bhaban, BCL (Montu) leader Abu Taher urged the authorities to arrest the accused and punish them.

He also blamed the pro-Awami League Chhatra League (M-I) for unleashing terrorism on the campus.

Classical music programme held

By Staff Correspondent

Musician Azad Rahman in a unique effort organised a classical musical programme on Bangla Kheyal yesterday evening at the National Museum to mark the Bangla new century and *Pahela Baishak*.

The programme was participated by Azad Rahman, Rumana Nusrat, Kazi Mousumi, Nafisa Azad, Riyahen Lopa, Tanu, Nahid, Shanta and others.

Museum Director General and Secretary to the Prime Minister Dr Kamal Siddiqui was also present on the occasion.

Bangladesh Lalit Kala launched

Bangladesh Lalit Kala, an English half-yearly journal, published by the National Museum, was formally launched in the city yesterday, reports BSS.

Education Minister Barrister Jamiruddin Sircar attended the function as the chief guest at the National Museum auditorium. Mokhesur Rahman, acting Additional Secretary of the Ministry of Cultural Affairs, was the special guest.

Dr Nazimuddin Ahmed, presided while Dr Harunur Rashid, former secretary A K M Zakaria and Director General of the Museum Sheikh Akram Ali spoke on the occasion.

The National Museum has organised a three-month-long programme to mark the advent of the Fifteenth Century and the Bengal new year. Launching of the journal was part of the programme.

Launching the journal, the Education Minister expressed the hope that the journal would continue to be published by the National Museum to cater to the needs of the people.

Barrister Sircar described the journal as a very rich publication and thanked the authors for their contributions.

Body formed to settle dispute over boundary demarcation

A Parliamentary Sub-Committee was formed yesterday to settle the dispute over inter-district boundary demarcation line of Narayanganj and Brahmanbaria, reports UNB.

The committee will also supervise the disputed area and find out the ways of solving the problems. The sub-committee was advised to submit a report on the issue within seven days.

This was disclosed in the 12th meeting of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Ministry of Land, held at Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban with State Minister for Land M Kabir Hussain in the chair.

JU hall under lock and key

By JU Correspondent

The administrative works in the M H Hall of Jahangirnagar University came to a complete standstill yesterday following a protest by the students demanding resignation of the M H Hall provost.

The students kept all the offices of the hall under lock and key Saturday.

The Vice-Chancellor of the university urged all the student leaders of the hall to meet him at his office at 11:00 am today to discuss the situation.

Some ballottee hajj pilgrims withdraw applications

Some ballottee hajj pilgrims yesterday said they had withdrawn their applications to protest "discrimination and step-motherly treatment" of the authorities, reports UNB.

They accused the authorities of discrimination in distributing accommodation to the ballottee pilgrims for their stay in Makkah during this year's hajj.

Addressing a press conference at Jatiya Press Club in the morning, Mohammad Nuruzzaman Biswas, ballottee pilgrim, said they had deposited money for "A" grade accommodation during the hajj.

But he alleged that they were denied their chosen grade due to partiality of the authorities.

Biswas said they had deposited Tk 16,000 last November in the first phase for "A" grade accommodation but were given "B" grade accommodation.

He argued that those who had deposited the money in the first phase should not have been included in the lottery because the government rented the houses with their money.

Among others, President of "Tahaffuz Haramain" Committee Maulana Sadek Ahmed Siddiqui, Maulana Mizanur Rahman, Juktibadi, Maulana Abdul Haq Faridi, Maulana Qari Abdul Halim and Bayezid Biswas were present at the press conference.

Biswas, Khaleda greet Mugabe

President Abdur Rahman Biswas has felicitated Zimbabwe President Robert Gabriel Mugabe on the occasion of the Independence Day of that country, reports BSS.

In a felicitation message to President Mugabe, President Biswas expressed his confidence that the bonds of friendship and cooperation that so happily exist between the two countries would be further consolidated in the years to come to the mutual benefit of the two peoples.

He said, "I wish your excellent good health, happiness and long life and the friendly people of Zimbabwe continued peace, progress and prosperity."

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia also greeted Zimbabwean President Robert Gabriel Mugabe.

In a message to President Mugabe, Begum Zia expressed her firm conviction that the existing bonds of friendship and cooperation between the two friendly countries will be further strengthened in the years to come to the mutual benefit of the peoples of both the countries.

Fine arts show begins June 10

The 10th fine arts exhibition of young artists will begin June 10 under the auspices of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, reports UNB.

Art works in all the media, to be adjudged best in the exhibition, will be given *Nabin Shilpi Charukala Puroshkar* 1994 (Young Artists Fine Art Award 1994). Three best awards will also be given in three media.

Young artists of 21-35 age group of the country have been asked to reach their recent works (1992-94) to the Fine Arts Department of the Shilpakala Academy during office hours from May 2 to 5.

An artist can submit three recent art works (art, graphics and sculpture).

63 held in city

Police rounded up 63 people on various charges yesterday from different parts of the city, reports UNB.

All the arrested, who included 12 wanted criminals, were produced before the court.

Obituary

Rafiqul Alam, son of late Ahmed Karim of village West Badarpur, PS Sudharan, Noakhali, died of a cardiac arrest at the Noakhali Sadar Hospital yesterday. He was 65, says a press release.

He was the Area Manager of Jiban Bima Corporation, Noakhali. He also worked as a local correspondent of the *Dainik Barta*.

He left behind four daughters, two sons, six brothers, three sisters and a host of friends and relatives to mourn his death.

Late Rafiqul Alam was the brother of Atiqul Karim, senior sub-editor of *The Daily Star*.

Shahina Karim died at PG Hospital Saturday. She was 32, says a press release.

Shahina — who is the daughter of M A Majumder, general manager of Chand Textile Mills and wife of Bakhtir Karim — had been suffering from blood cancer.

The quikhwani of the deceased will be held after *Aar* prayers at 5/G, Siddeswary Eastern Housing apartment tomorrow.

Dr Mubimur Rahman Chowdhury, chairman and associate professor, Department of Physics and Computer Science, University of Selma, Alabama, United States, died of leukemia Saturday, according to a message received here yesterday, reports BSS.

A very promising Bangladeshi scientist Dr Chowdhury died at the age of 41.

Dr Chowdhury left behind his wife and two minor daughters who are living in the United States. He is the younger brother of Saifur Rahman, director general, Bureau of Anti-Corruption.



Visitors looking at an art work by Selina Chowdhury Mili at the opening day of her 10-day long solo painting exhibition at the Gallery Tone Saturday. Ambassador of France in Bangladesh Jean-Michel Lacombe inaugurated the show. — Star photo

Weather

No change in temperature

By Staff Correspondent

Rain or thundershower accompanied by temporary gusty and squally wind may occur at one or two places over Dhaka and Chittagong divisions during the next 12 hours till 6 pm today (Monday).

Met Office said weather may remain dry elsewhere over the country while day temperature will remain nearly unchanged throughout the country.

The country's highest temperature was recorded 36.5 degrees in Jessore and the lowest 20.5 in Sylhet.

Sun sets today (Monday) at 6:21 pm and rises tomorrow (Tuesday) at 5:34 am.

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

Cities/Towns	Temperatures in degrees Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	9 am	6 pm
Dhaka	35.4	25.3	75	66
Chittagong	32.5	26.0	78	98
Khulna	36.4	25.9	79	80
Rajshahi	33.2	25.2	43	80
Barisal	35.0	25.5	83	77

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Sl No	Category of Loan	Name & address of borrower	Description of goods	Place where the goods are store
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BTV

Monday

4:30	Opening announcement Al-Quran
4:45	Programme summary Documentary programme: Growing Up
5:10	News in Bangla
5:25	Sports programme: Football
6:30	Prottasha
7:00	Open University
7:25	Nazrul songs
8:00	News in Bangla
8:30	Population programme: Shukher Thikana
9:00	Gharae Birae
10:00	News in English
10:30	Comedy series: Murphy Brown
10:45	Musical programme: Disco Rally
11:30	Khabar/The News
11:40	Tomorrow's programme summary
11:45	Closing

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