

## Metropolitan

## Dhaka Day by Day

## Distress Calls and Messages of Fear

by Fayza Haq

Ranjit Das, who had his recent exhibition at "La Galerie", paints with tremendous maturity, with his perception of modernity drawing from a social class. His paintings are like distress calls and messages of fear and anguish. His outstretched arms, hands and fingers and twisted mouths of his paintings speak of an oppressive environment. He expresses hopelessness and alienation through signs and symbols. The paintings, vigorous and meaningful, are full of dramatic intensity.

Ranjit's "Wave-1", a mixed medium, has white frothy waves mixed with grey and highlighted by black and red. Weather signals are brought into the composition with dexterity.

In "Human Landscape", the artist has



Mona Lisa and My Time

brought in human bodies floating in lashes of green, purple and white waves. This semi-abstract has interesting texture work and good contrast of vivid colours despite a dismal theme.

One sees a pearly disc of the moon surrounded by purple, pink and blue sky in "Moon and Landscape". The eerie feeling that one gets at graveyards is evoked by four black circles. Four bars of steps in the forefront lead one away from the gloom of the black circles to the hopeful disc of the moon.

"Temptation" has an exotic yellow and brown bird surrounded by dramatic lashings of white and purple which symbolise dreams, hopes and attractions of the average man. Two distorted faces, a red one to the right and another mauve one in the left backdrop stand for the mass of humanity. The rest of the black and vermillion canvas has been divided into many-sized squares.

"Rickshaw-1" is another semi-abstract that brings the hard labour of our rickshaw pullers. The strenuous life of the poor labourer is expressed on the face of the subject. The gaudy rickshaws with their vibrant green and vermillion are brought in sharp contrast to the tormented face. The rest of the paper is covered with swirls and lashes of oil, acrylic, poster and fabric colours. He has brought in the geometrical patterns not as a grammar but as a pleasurable game that gives him joy. "I am not out to please the viewer but to express my innermost feeling," Ranjit comments.

One sees the portrait of a "sanyasi" in a "mandir" in "Beggar". There is a superimposition of one image over another, the brown sketch in front being an enlargement of the brown and white sketch at the back. While studying at Baroda, the artist had struck up friendship with the "sadhus" and he recalls their life of constraints in this painting.

OPEN YOUR EYES  
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For some minutes  
Alice stood without  
speaking, looking out in  
all directions over the  
country — and a most  
curious country it was."

—Lewis Carroll  
Alice in Wonderland

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## 'Higher edn to be introduced in dist colleges'

Education Minister Jamiruddin Sircar has said the present government aims at reaching the opportunity of higher education to the doorsteps of the rural people through introducing honours and masters degree courses in the colleges located at greater district towns, reports UNB.

The Education Minister was speaking as the chief guest at the installation ceremony of the office bearers of Bangladesh Government College Professors Association and Bangladesh Government College Lecturers Association at Government Bangla College yesterday.

Presided over by President of the Association Prof. Kamal Ataur Rahman, the function was addressed by Vice President of Professors Association Prof. Shahmina Rahman, Principal of Bangla College Prof. Jahanara Hoq, Secretary General of Professors Association Prof. Badul Alam and Secretary General of Lecturers Association Altaf Hossain.

The Education Minister said, expansion of higher education will create effective manpower and high morality and thus help national development.

He said, the government has taken steps towards introducing a pragmatic and production-oriented education system for eradicating poverty.

The minister said, agriculture has been made one of the compulsory subjects at secondary level for making education production oriented. He called upon the college teachers to put in their best efforts for improving the standard of education and making it pragmatic and developed one.

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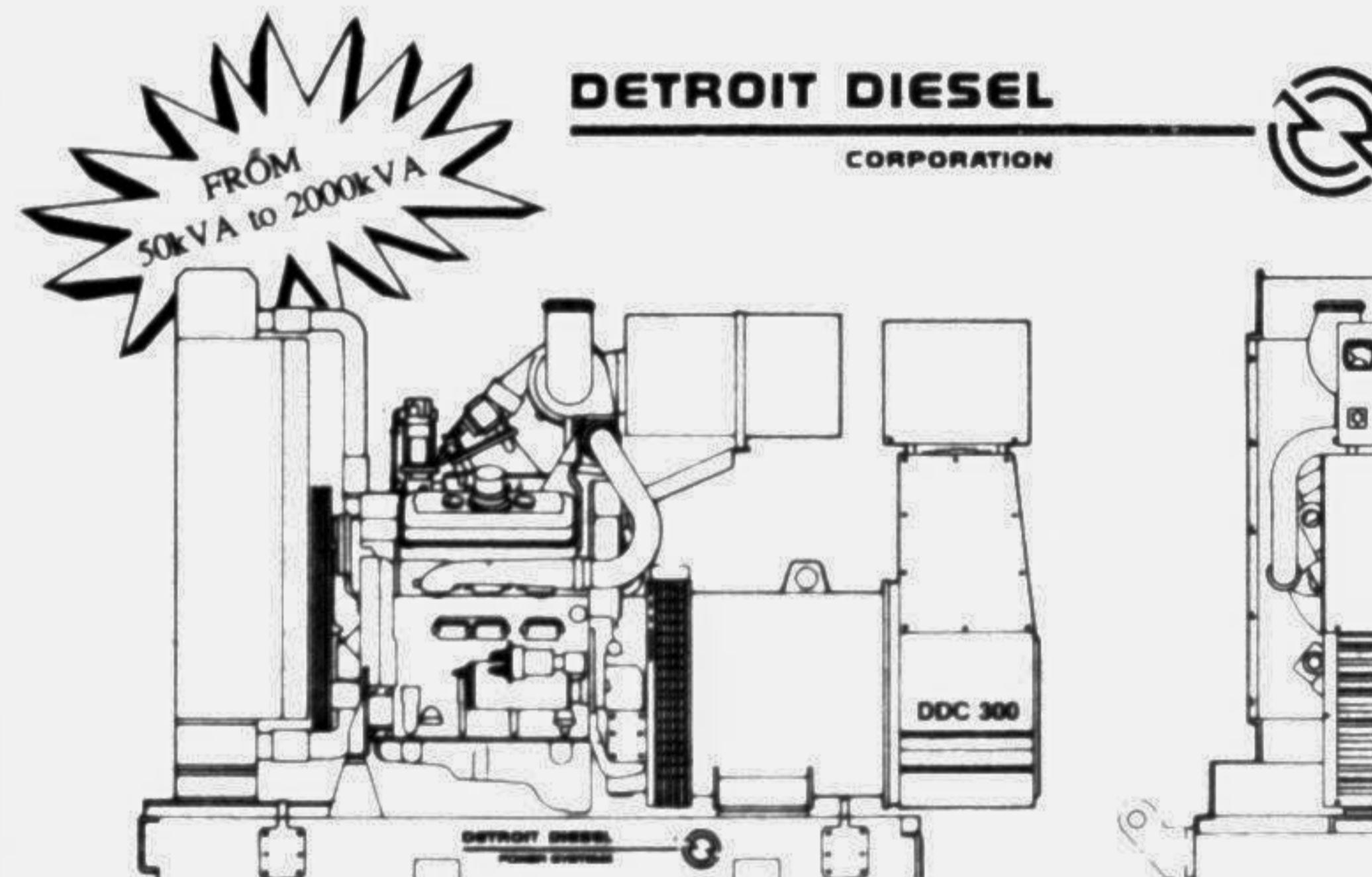
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