

## 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 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 vermilion canvas has been divided into many-sized squares.

"Rickshaw-1" is another semi-abstract that brings the hard labour of our rickshawpullers. The strenuous life of the poor labourer is expressed on the face of the subject. The gaudy rickshaws with their vibrant green and vermilion 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.



Mona Lisa and My Time

Ranjit who is inspired by the sculptures of Ajanta and Ellora, as well as that of classical renaissance and other European masters has combined the beauty of the two worlds in "Metamorphosis of Nudity of Ingres". The figure is in brown and red instead of the original pristine white. Blocks of brown and swirls of yellow and umber in the backdrop make the piece appear modern.

The conflict of Durga with Oshur is brought in waves of grey and white in "War and Peace", denoting the struggle between good and evil in our society. Against the background of abstract grey, blue and white strokes are brought in Botticelli's Venus in an impressionistic way to symbolise peace.

The impressionistic representation of Mona Lisa is surrounded by ugly and distorted faces in "Mona Lisa and My Time". The artist comments, "Daily I read of how women are suppressed and tortured. The concept of woman is no longer the beautiful thing of joy which it used to be once upon a time."

"Power of Nature" deals with the natural calamities and the havoc that is wrought on living creatures. A white horse is seen in a state of frenzy while a homeless woman is seen in the forefront, sitting and begging. The swirls of white and the circle of green brings in wild devastating storms to the mind. Most of the canvas is in shades of white, with touches of ochre, red and verdant green.

The struggle of the life of Nelson Mandela is brought in "One Who Leads". Mandela's dream of the victory of the black people in South Africa is presented in the semi-abstract creation with a portion of the portrait surrounded by powerful strokes and splashes of muted colours which recall the leader's years of imprisonment.

There is a great deal that is hinted and suggested in "Rohinga" which is yet another semi-abstract dealing with contemporary issues. The artist delineates the homeless and unwanted with the minimum of strokes.

In his paintings Ranjit is striving to get the gist of human feeling and perception. To do this he combines realism with abstraction, along with geometrical forms. His purpose is to create the inner world of human feelings. He combines illusions with the obvious, thus giving his viewers something to ponder over. A painter with a purpose, Ranjit is precise and mature.

Ranjit, who has his Masters from Baroda, has participated in six solo exhibitions and 16 group displays. He has won nine national and international awards.

### '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. Badiul 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.

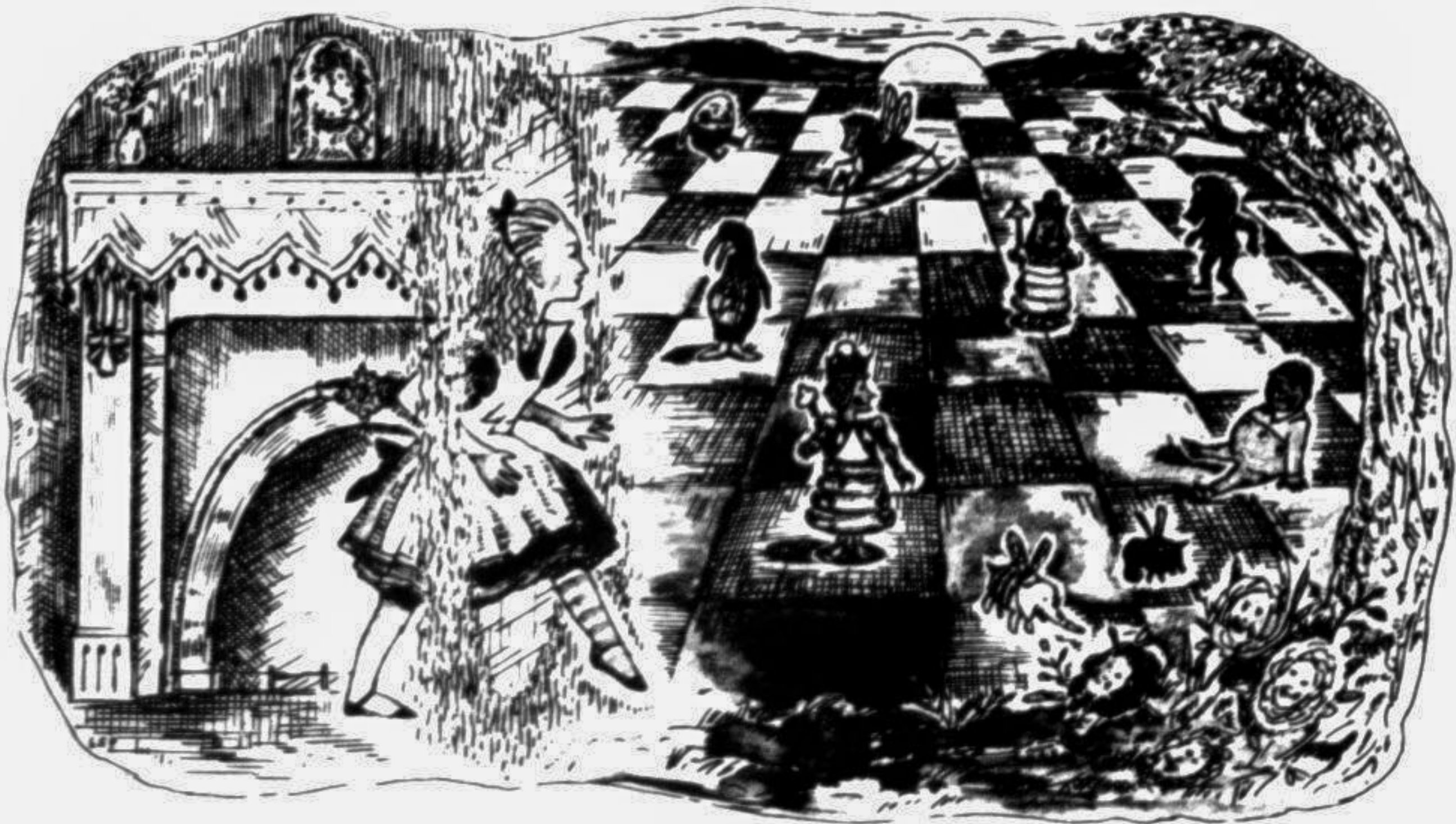
The minister said, agriculture has been made one of the compulsory subjects at secondary level for making education production oriented. He called upon the college teachers to put in their best efforts for improving the standard of education and making it pragmatic and developed one.

### Happy Birthday ADIN



ABBU & AMMU

## OPEN YOUR EYES TO ANOTHER WORLD



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

Like Alice, you may be puzzled by the world of imaging. But you know imaging is much more than just a technology — it's a whole new way of managing information in the workplace.

Wang OPEN/image takes you in the direction you need to go by capturing those documents in electronic form — eliminating your paper bottlenecks.

### GET A FREE PREVIEW TODAY!

Call today, for your **FREE Demo Diskette** and more information on OPEN/image at Wang.



**TECH VALLEY COMPUTERS LTD.**

WORKING FOR A BETTER TOMORROW

139, LAKE CIRCUS (3RD FLOOR), MIRPUR ROAD, KALABAGAN, DHAKA - 1205, BANGLADESH  
PH. 816942, FAX. 880-2-816943, TLX. 642550 UECL BJ

# WANG®

## SYFANZ

(Savings Scheme from ANZ Grindlays Bank)



SYFANZ - For those rainy days in everybody's life.

SYFANZ - You save a little every month for a lump sum at the end.

To know more about SYFANZ, just walk into any ANZ Grindlays branch and meet our friendly and professional staff.

Say "Yes" to Good things in Life.

**ANZ Grindlays Bank**

WITHOUT ~~POWER~~

YOU CAN NOT WATCH

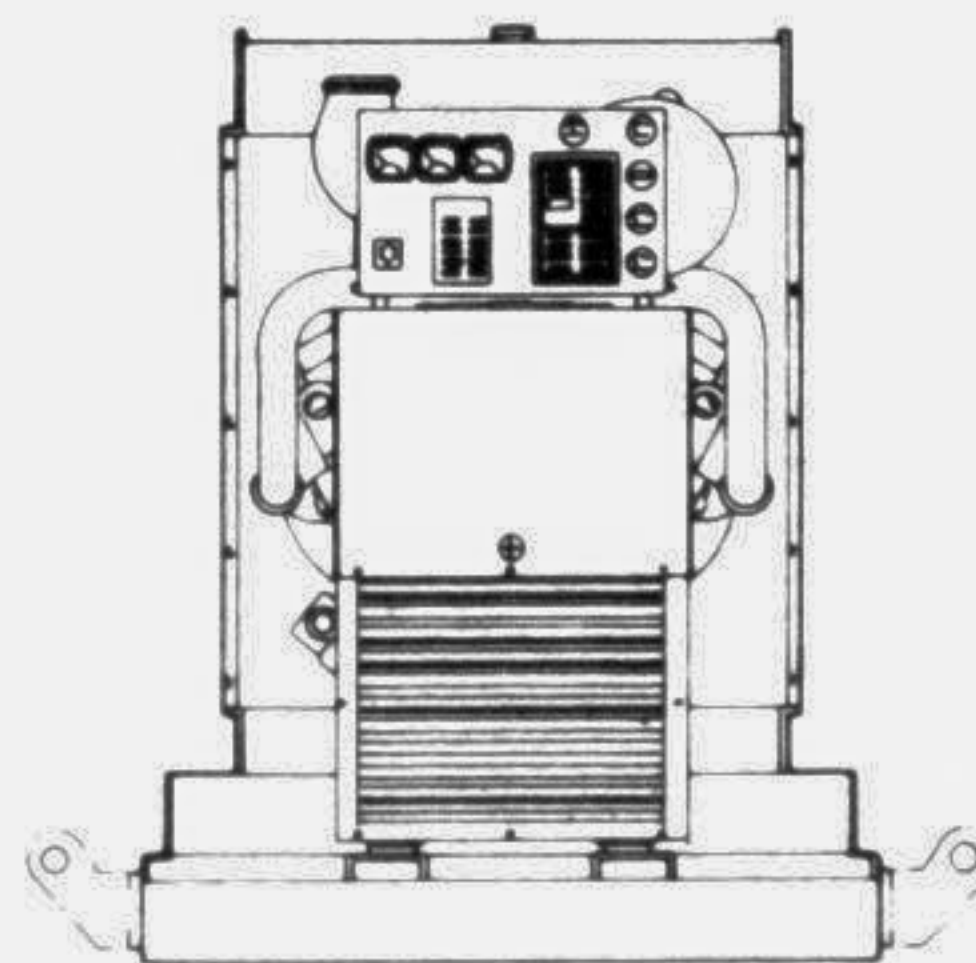
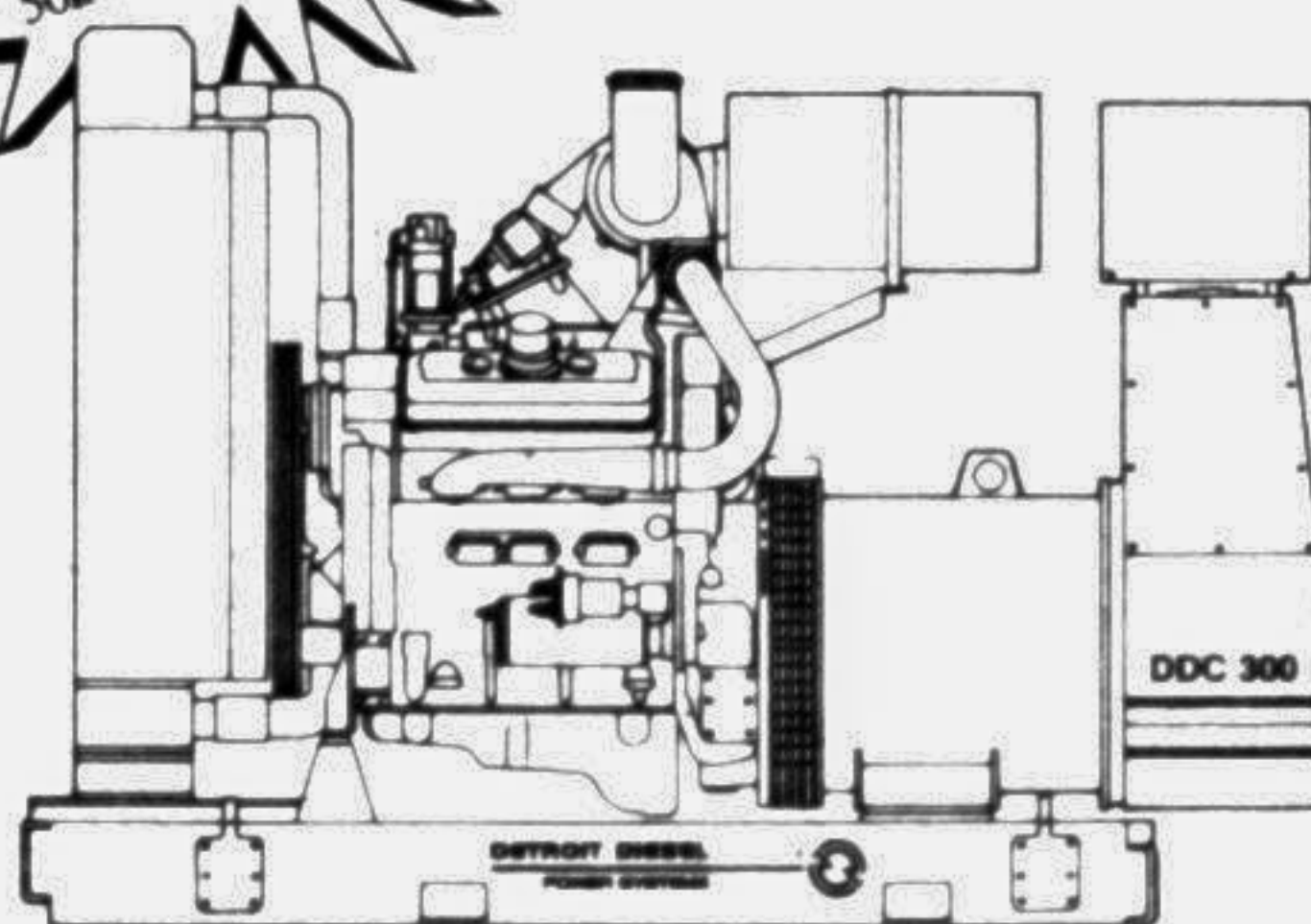
WITHOUT ~~POWER~~

YOU CAN NOT RUN YOUR FACTORY

**WE PROVIDE THE POWER**



**DETROIT DIESEL CORPORATION**



## DETROIT DIESEL

The Right Choice for Power Generation

### ADVANTAGES :

- FAST RESPONSE TO LOAD
- LOW FUEL CONSUMPTION
- LOW OPERATING COST
- LOW NOISE LEVEL
- EASY MAINTENANCE
- SERVICE AND PARTS BACKUP
- TROPICAL WEATHER TESTED
- USED IN BANGLADESH SINCE 1940 AND THEREFORE VERY FAMILIAR MECHANISM

DISTRIBUTOR IN BANGLADESH :

**M. Rahman & Co. Ltd.**

305 BORA MAGHAZAR, DHAKA - 1217, BANGLADESH

TEL : 402751, 409832 FAX : 880-2-834931