

Dhaka Day by Day

The Visual Music of Abstracts

by Fayza Haq

Mominul Reza, who recently had his exhibition at the Shilpakala Academy, is universal and contemporary in his style and themes. He is not tied down by the confines of Bangladesh, and his works are a far step away from the boats, full moon and bathing beauty idylls that one is confronted with so often in the city art displays.

"In my work such as the 'hanger' series," Reza says, "I wish to symbolise the uncertainty of life. There is a tremendous sense of loneliness when the hanger hangs by itself from the rope. Usually the kite stands for happiness. I show my kites in my series as flying between the sky and the ground, thus depicting hope along with problems. The 'swing' series brings in the uncertainty of life for a freelance artist like myself. The 'festival' series stands for happiness mingled with trouble and suffering. In dealing with landscapes I am working with colour and space. In order to enhance the concept of space I work with colours alone and avoid lines."

"Abstract Landscape - 3" is a part of a series that has used palette knife to lay on the dramatic red, yellow, black and white patches. There are no particular objects in mind. The painting is a structure comprising colours," the artist comments. "There should not be bindings of forms. The artist should be free to paint what pleases him. Those who want realism can go to other artists. In working with abstracts I endeavour to go on a higher plain and reach beyond the obvious. I consider abstract paintings as visual music and modern man should be ready for it. If a person cannot accept modern art, he does not belong to this age."

"Pond and Shadows of Trees" is an eye catching combination of lines and circles of different shapes and colours, laid on with a subtle touch. Within a square one finds an oval shape with black smudged shadows of trees forming an intriguing pattern. The view is an aerial one. "Hanger - 4" has startling raw cobalt blue and contrasting vermillion on white, representing a storm. Within the colours are the twisted white hangers. Despite the surrounding storm, the swinging and struggling hangers are trying to maintain their usual position, driven by the wind and rain. In "Still Life" the artist has a bottle, fruit, and cups piled on a table with a multi-

perspective quality which has been used by the Moghul miniatures of India and by Picasso, who used broken forms. "I study the form and the arrangements of still life. I attempt to present them in the simplest way. Subjects on this earth will remain the same. I am simply changing the arrangement of the form to bring a new pleasure. Picasso and Matisse's works all present still life but you get different pleasure from different presentations. A lot of artists talk about bringing social change through their work but I believe an artist can only make the viewer conscious of one problem or another, and no more. The job of the artist is to present something new in the visual form by his individual style. Otherwise why are photographers not as famous as artists?" the artist comments.

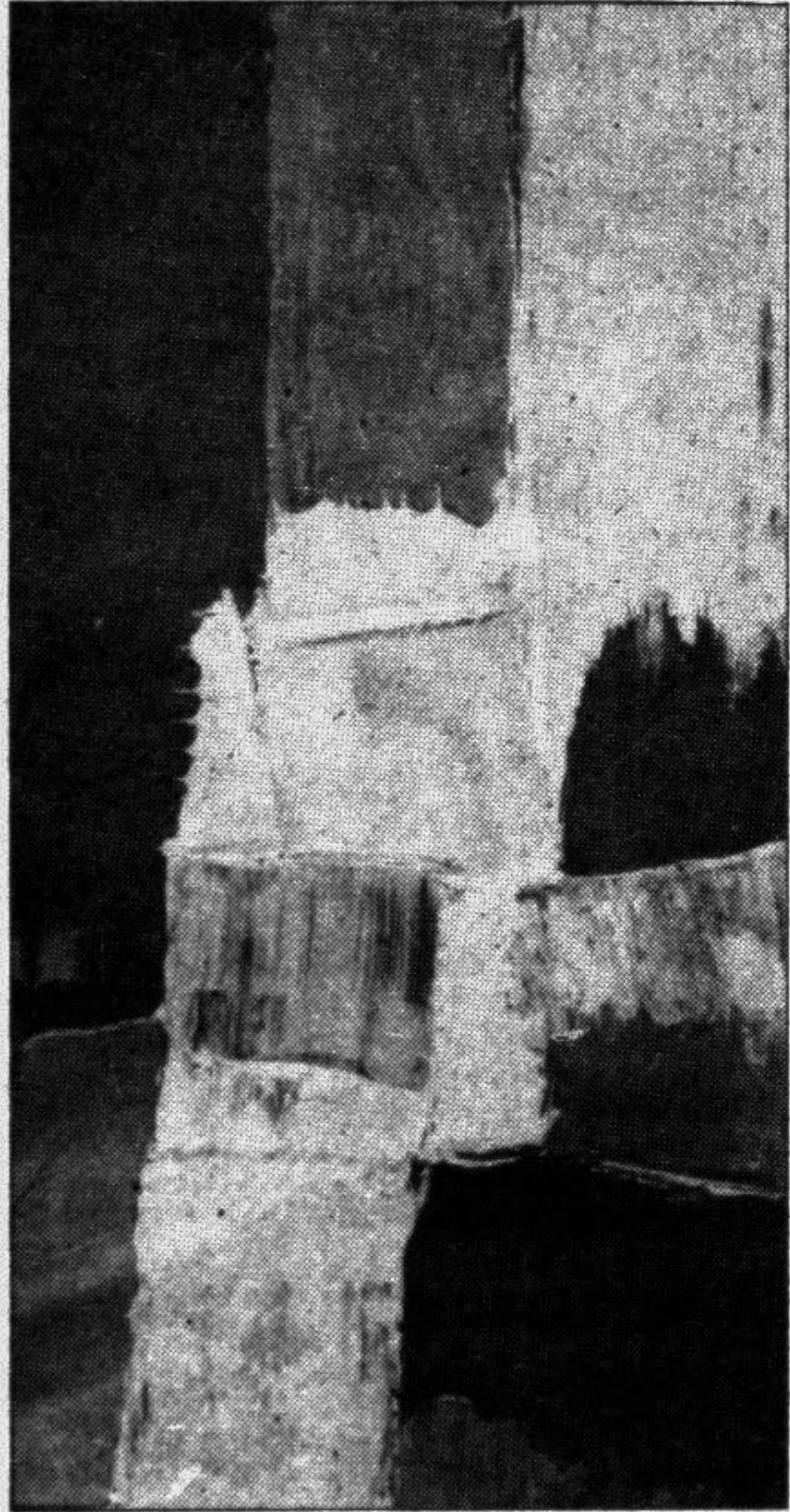
Reza remarks about his "Sleep" series, "I have thought of the female figure as a design. These are not academic drawings. When we sleep we have no control over the body." The simplifications are idyllic and imaginative while the rhythm of the lines in the voluptuous figures are poetic indeed.

"As a freelance artist, my life is uncertain. I am never solvent. My aim in painting is not to make a quick buck but to express my inner self. Sometimes I get enthusiasts and sympathisers but a dull sale does not discourage me or bog me down. What is important is to express one's individuality," Reza elaborates.

"Usually the artists his age do not go into abstracts as Reza has been doing for years," says artist Abdus Sattar, who had come to the show. "Often the forms by themselves are not meaningful but the artist tries to develop a meaning out of them. Reza is an artist who works for his own satisfaction and cares little for the praises of the onlookers. One has to be bold and determined to be able to do so."

Anjan, an art student also present there the same afternoon remarked, "I have admired Reza's work for a long time, specially the 'hanger' series, and now, his new felt pen drawings. I also admire the play of light and shade in his semi-abstract works like 'Red Light-1'."

If Reza's paintings were placed in such far off countries as France or Finland, they would not appear out of place. His oils and sketches, with simple objects symbolising inner truths of life, would find enthusiasts among many generations and regions.



Abstract Landscape

Telecom service with 16 dists restored

Telecommunications with 16 South-Western districts have been completely restored with rest of the country since yesterday afternoon, reports UNB.

Work of Madhyapara hard rock project begins in Aug

Energy Minister Dr Khondaker Mosharraf Hossain said a qualitative change of development has been ushered in the country following the realistic steps in developing the infras-

tructure of agriculture, health and communication, reports UNB.

The Energy Minister was addressing as chief guest the installation ceremony of the Executive Committee of Dhaka-based Daudkandi Janakallyan Samity at the Teachers Training College auditorium in the city.

Dr Mosharraf Hossain said work of Madhyapara hard rock project will begin next month while implementation of Barapukuria coal project, country's first coal mine, has already started from last month.

The Minister outlined some epoch-making steps of the present government in the field of agriculture, communication, education, health and industry and said that the present government have been transforming the long-cherished dreams of the Meghna-Gumti bridge, Barapukuria coal mine project and Madhyapara hard rock project.

Presided over by the newly elected President of the association Abdul Kuddus Sarker, the function was also addressed by former Minister Abdur Rashid Engineer, eminent eye specialist Prof Humayun Kabir, journalist Mohammad Shahjahan.

'BNP brings about revolution in rural dev'

Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman yesterday called for endeavour and perseverance to bring about overall development in the country, reports BSS.

"It is not the dearth of wealth but problem of distribution and utilisation of resources for development in the country," he told a function marking the silver jubilee celebrations of the Dhaka based Kulaura Thana Samity held in the auditorium of National Museum.

Presided over by the president of the Kulaura Thana Samity and Commerce Secretary A H Mofazzal Karim, the function was addressed, among others, by Ebadur Rahman Chowdhury MP, M A Matin, Shahana Kabir, Azizur Rahman, Abid Reza, MM Shaheen and Fazlul Basit Belal.

Dwelling on the development policies of the government, the finance minister said the BNP government had taken as the focal point of all development activities.

He said since the present government wanted a balanced development in all parts of the country, it had been carrying out massive development activities centering each thana.

The finance minister said the present BNP government since it came to power for the third time had brought about a revolution in rural development with the construction of socio-economic infrastructures.

He referred to the construction of roads and bridges, educational institutions, expansion of electricity supply, provision of nutritional and sanitarional facilities throughout the country and said by the next two years all thana linkage roads would be completed.

In the current fiscal year, the finance minister said, the government had taken up a Tk 11,000 crore annual development programme.

The finance minister said that social and rural sectors would continue to receive top most priority while implementing the development pro-

grammes.

He said the rural electrification programme would be intensified further for covering all the villages within a couple of years. In this connection, he pointed out that the government had earmarked adequate fund for expanding power supply facilities to all parts of the country.

The finance minister said side by side developing infrastructural facilities, the government had taken programmes for the provision of nutritional and sanitarional facilities to the people.

The function was rounded off with a cultural function participated by noted artists from Kulaura and Dhaka.

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Birth anniversary of Tajuddin today

By Staff Correspondent

The 69th birth anniversary of Tajuddin Ahmed, the first prime minister of the country's Mujibnagar government during the War of Liberation, will be observed today.

Tajuddin was born in Dardaria village of Kapashia thana under Gazipur district in 1925. After the 'dark night' of March 25, 1971, as the Pakistani military launched a barbaric attack on unarmed Bangladeshis, Tajuddin took refuge in India along with some of his party colleagues.

When Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was arrested by the Pakistanis, Tajuddin assumed leadership of the War of Independence.

He formed the then Swadhin Bangla revolutionary government with Awami League leaders in Mujibnagar.

Tajuddin remained prime minister till Mujib's return from Pakistan on January 10, 1972. Later he became the Finance Minister and continued till 1974.

He was arrested after the armed uprising of August 15, 1975 and shot dead along with three other national leaders in prison on November 3.

The Tajuddin Smriti Sangsad on the occasion has organised a children's painting competition today at the Arts Institute premises.

It will distribute prizes to the winners on Thursday.

The sangsad will place wreath at the mazar of the late leader today.

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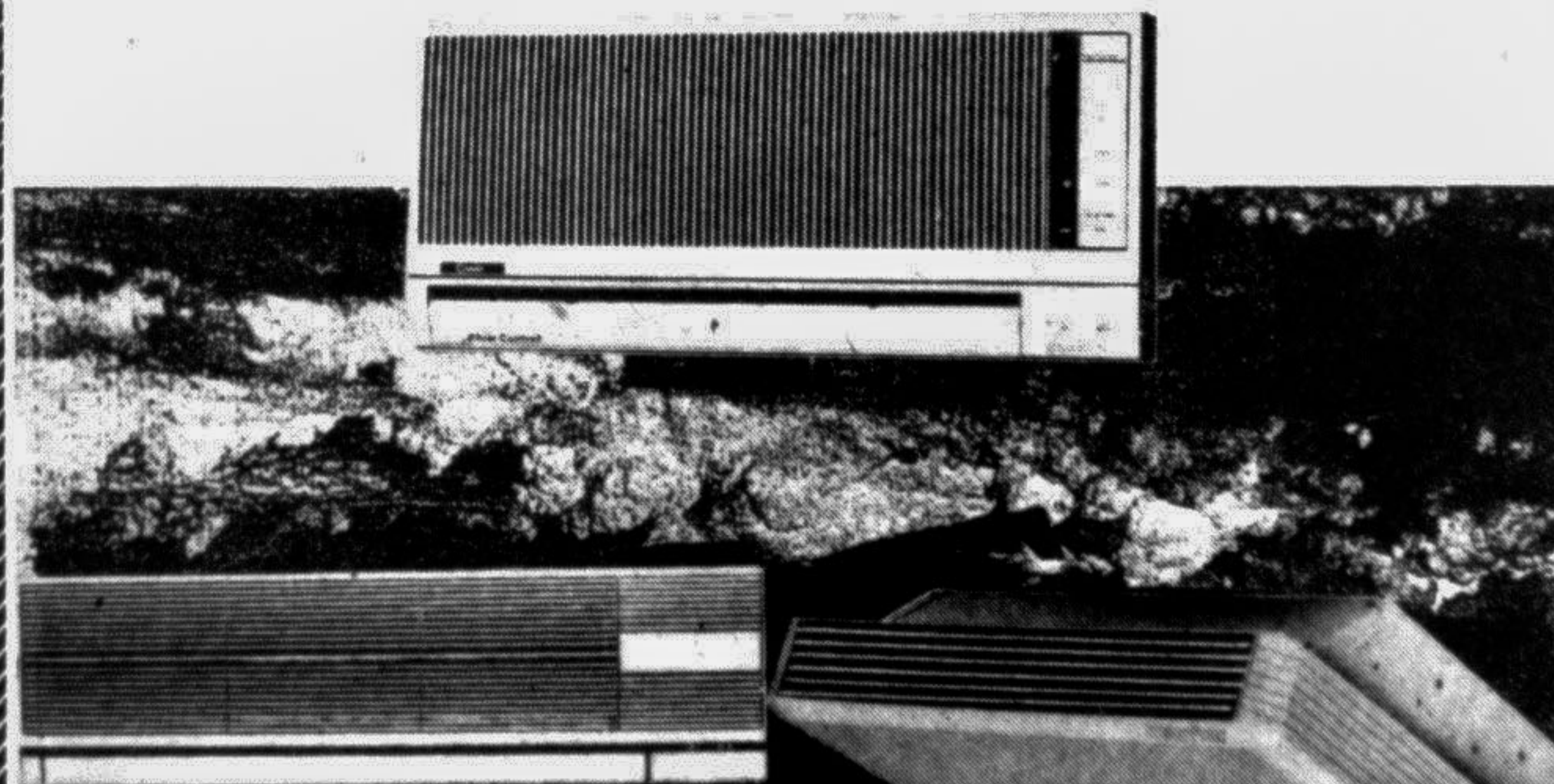
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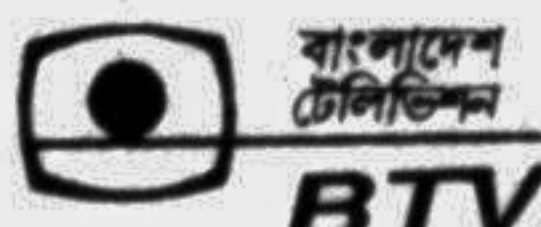
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Saturday

- 4.30 Opening announcement: Al-Quran
- 4.45 Programme summary: Children's programme: Moner Katha
- 5.10 News in Bangla
- 5.30 Live telecast of Beadmo Federation Cup football final
- 7.25 Comedy series: Major Dad
- 8.00 News in Bangla
- 8.30 Mafi O Manush
- 9.00 Parichay: Magazine programme
- 10.00 News in English
- 10.30 Drama Series: Dynasty
- 11.30 Khabar/The News
- 11.45 Closing