

## Dhaka Day by Day

### Allegory in Intriguing Etchings

by Fayza Haq

Dhali Al-Mamoon, 35, in his recent art show at 'Artia', bases his etching aquatints on the myth of Behula, with 'breaking and reconstructing' of the images of the myth. The folk tale, as is well known, builds upon the heroine losing her husband on her wedding night, and then praying to a snake goddess, while sailing on a *bhela* with her husband's corpse, and finally achieving rejuvenation for him, with her prayer receiving a favourable response.

Having returned from Berlin, after a six months scholarship, Dhali, who once concentrated on painting, switched to etchings. "Etching is traditionally rigid. My images are water-based. I wish to continue the fluidity into my etching works which is not an easy matter. I use the zinc plate as if it were paper and apply the acid on it directly. Earlier, when I worked with paints I dealt with concrete images, but now I put great stress on the depiction of emotions, and I try my level best to retain spontaneity in my work despite my technique," the artist explained about his work.

The entire exhibition carries the same theme of the Behula folklore. In "Etching-5" he dedicates his work to the death of writer, Suhoril Chowdhury in Chittagong, while the artist was studying in Berlin. The *bhela* of the myth is put in a semi-abstract manner, in the centre of the composition, while images of river plants and waves in different shapes, sizes and hues cover the rest of the paper. The effect is subtle and tranquilizing, as well as intrinsically poetic.

In "Etching 19" the *bhela* is given a more fascinating shape, while further colours have been added to it, the browns and greens subtly blending with the pale orange squares. The surrounding environment of water, with wriggling snakes and curling flowers has been included to depict, once again the artist's preoccupation with the age-old concept of a well beloved romance of the subcontinent. As the figures have been spaced apart, and the strokes applied with zest, the impact is a serene one. If one compares this to the depiction of the same myth, which had been displayed earlier at the same art gallery, one found it far more subtle and sophisticated.

In "Etching 12", one finds *Behula* and *Lakhai* (or *Lakhindar*) presented as grey and white sweeps and splashes, with flamboyant strokes

of brown, buoyant tiny circles and oblong shapes, against the dark backdrop. Imagination may not have run riot, but it certainly played an important part in the presentation.

One finds the heroine of the myth placed in the *bhela* in "Etching 21", as an almost intriguing conglomeration of scratches to a passing art lover — this being in the artist's repeated favourite brown and turquoise. The subject is surrounded soothing water plant images which complemented the theme. The contrast of colours and the opaque spaces, left in between the object, lends serenity to the composition.

The water plants in the artist's theme occupy a major part of the space of "Etching-8". These are presented in a neat idyllic manner while the *bhela* is placed with shadows and a premeditated soft texture. A darkened oblong line is juxtaposed at the right, to hold the composition together, and give the tones a variety.

The winged horse with the female head (*Borrah*) which carried the mythical lovers to

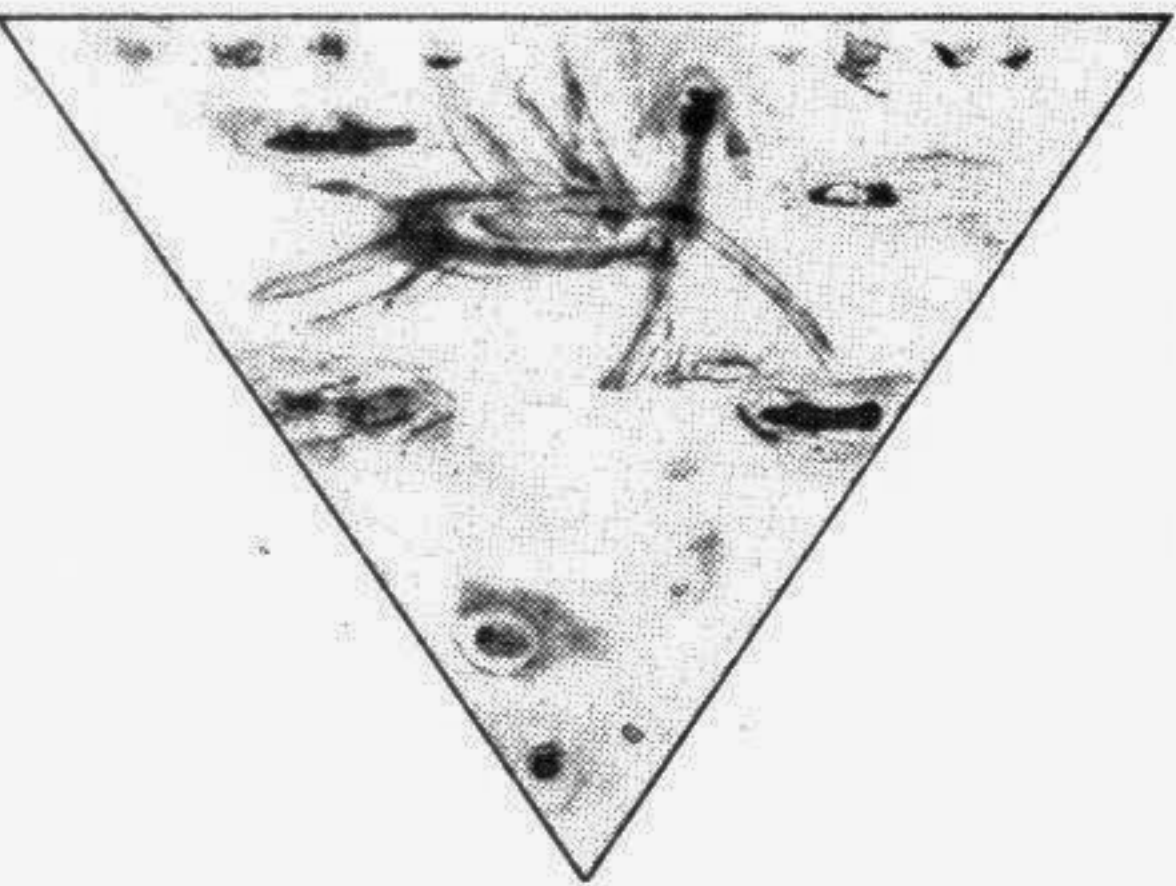
peace and contentment, in the mind of the artist, is highlighted in "Etching-30". The several heavenly objects (suns and moons) are placed around the subject, along with semiabstract presentations of nature — both terrestrial and underwater.

Speaking about his stay in Berlin, the artist said he was highly inspired by his visits to the art galleries there, along with those in

Paris, Copenhagen and New York. About his German teacher Professor Helmut Otto, Dhali said that he found him extremely inspirational and understanding, and this urged him to work from 9 am to past sunset, every day. Most of the 38 pieces that were on exhibit had been done while the artist was studying overseas.

When asked why he worked with etchings, the artist explained that he originally obtained the scholarship for silk-screen printing, but later switched to etchings, as the earlier technique did not fascinate him long.

Dhali did his Masters from Chittagong University before leaving for Germany. This is his second solo exhibition in Dhaka, while he has held solo displays earlier in New York and Berlin. His works are included in Fukuoka Art Museum in Japan. The artist is an Assistant Professor of painting at the Department of Fine Arts at the Chittagong University.



Etching-30



BNP Chairperson and Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia laying wreaths at the mazar of founder Chairman of BNP President Ziaur Rahman in the city yesterday on the occasion of 16th founding anniversary of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party. — Star photo

## BNP won't accept anything anti-democracy: Saifur

Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman yesterday said that the government is ready to discuss anything, including caretaker government issue, to ensure free elections but would not accept things that might destabilise democracy, reports UNB.

"I will not accept anything that goes against the democratic process," he said addressing a discussion meeting at Shilpakala Academy in the city.

Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) arranged the discussion on "Politics of Development and BNP" to mark its 16th founding anniversary.

Criticising the Opposition's parliament boycott, the Finance Minister said, "They want to destroy democracy...it is not possible to establish democracy by toppling an elected government."

He said the concept of caretaker government was not at all democratic, it would be harmful for democracy. It will not work out to have a caretaker administration every time when a government will be needed to change, he added.

The meeting attended by Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia was also addressed by BNP Secretary General and LGRD Minister Barrister Abdus Salam Talukdar, Planning Minister Dr Moyeen Khan, Chief Editor of Financial Express Rezauddin Ahmed, Pro-Vice Chancellor of National University Dr Mahabubullah and Director General of BIDS Dr SL Reza.

BNP Vice Chairman LK Siddiqui presided over the meeting attended by ministers, MPs and workers of BNP and its other front organisations.

The Finance Minister said the success of the present government proved that it was following the right path of development and financial reforms.

He said the government which started its journey from zero now reached to a stable economic condition, expanding its development activities in every sector.

Saifur said, "We are following the way shown by late President Ziaur Rahman, the founder of the party. We are trying to build up a self-reliant

nation which was the dream of our leader."

Barrister Salam Talukdar said the government was alert against any move to restore autocracy and hamper the way of development.

"Parliament should be the centre of all politics and development planning. And politics without development is meaningless," he said.

## Khaleda greets Vietnamese PM

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia has felicitated VO Van Kiet, Prime Minister of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam on its national day, today, reports UNB.

In a message, the Prime Minister hoped that the relations between the two countries will be developed.

## Chinese envoy meets Sircar

Charge d' Affaires of Chinese embassy in Dhaka Liu Yunzhi called on Education Minister Barrister Zamiruddin Sircar at his office in the city yesterday, reports UNB.

They discussed matters of mutual and bilateral interests, says a PID handout yesterday.

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Please note BA144 on 2nd September will depart at 2015 hrs instead of 2055 hrs. Arrival at London will still be 0515 hrs. Check in for this flight will commence from 1700 hrs.

BA145 on 2nd September will arrive on schedule at 1540 hrs.

BA2173/94

## CONSULTING SERVICES

### Call for Expression of Interest

A large national marketing company with international connection wants to construct a multi-storied (15 storied) building on a 10 (ten) katha plot in Banani Commercial Area, Kamal Ataturk Avenue, Dhaka. Reputed Architectural and Engineering firms who are interested in designing and supervision of construction of the building are invited to apply to GPO Box # 2983 by September 15, 1994 giving the following particulars:

1. Name of the Firm with full address.
2. List of the Owners/Partners/Directors of the firm.
3. List & bio-data of architects, engineers and other technical persons currently employed in the firm.
4. List and value of the projects completed.
5. List and value of projects in hand (on going).
6. Bank references.

The cover should be marked "Offer for Consulting Services".

## Tk 27.75 cr British grant for BRAC

BRAC will receive a British government grant worth Taka 27.75 crore for running and expanding its non-formal primary education programme in the country, reports UNB.

An agreement to this effect was signed in the city yesterday between Britain's Overseas Development Administration (ODA) and BRAC.

British High Commissioner in Dhaka Peter J. Fowler and BRAC Executive Director F H Abed signed the agreement on behalf of their respective organisations at the BRAC head office.

Speaking on the occasion, the high commissioner said that the British government is convinced that one of the primary needs in Bangladesh is primary education, including improvement in its quality and method.

Fowler recognised the priority which the Bangladesh government has given to primary education.

He welcomed the quality and approach to primary education under BRAC's education programme, saying that the new method introduced by BRAC has been lauded as a model for others.

Thanking the British government, BRAC Executive Director F H Abed said that ODA of Great Britain is a major donor to BRAC's rural development programme. The new grant would help expand and strengthen BRAC's primary education programme.



Morning Session		
8:00	Opening	
8:10	News in Bangla	
8:15	Akor Dhabari	
8:40	Look and Learn	
9:00	Khelar Jagor	
9:30	Film show: Batman	
10:00	News in English	
10:05	Moner Mukure	
11:15	Film show: Tarzan	
11:40	Programme of Health: Prescription	
11:55	Muram: Folk songs	
Evening Session		
3:00	Opening	
3:15	Cartoon film: Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles	
3:40	Bengali feature film	
5:10	News in Bangla	
5:25	Sports programme	
7:00	Open University	
7:25	Musical programme: Malancha	
8:00	News in Bangla	
8:30	Comedy series: Perfect Strangers	
9:00	Magazine programme: Antarganga	
10:00	News in English	
10:30	Drama serial: Law and Order	
11:30	Khabar/The News	
11:15	Closing	

## Tk 1305cr for energy sector this fiscal

Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Dr Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain said the government has utilised over Taka 1735 crore, including project aid, in energy and mineral resources sector in the last fiscal, reports UNB.

He said a sum of over Tk 1305 crore will be invested in energy and mineral resources sector in the current fiscal year.

The minister was addressing the foundation laying ceremony of a multi-storied housing project, a residential complex for Petro-Bangla officials at Banani in the city yesterday.

Energy and Mineral Resources Secretary M Faizur Razzak and Director (planning) of Petro-Bangla also spoke on the occasion.

Outlining the success of the present government in energy

and mineral resources sector, Dr Mosharraf said that this sector has utilised 105 per cent of the annual development programmes (ADP) during the last fiscal securing top position.

The growth rate achieved in energy and mineral resources sector in the last fiscal was 13.4 against the target of 12, he said adding that the annual growth rate in this sector has been fixed at 14.4 for the current fiscal year.

Later, Dr Mosharraf laid the foundation stone of the housing project.

Under the project, two multi-storied building in the first phase will be constructed at a cost of Tk 5 crore. The construction of the two buildings will be completed by June 1996 where 60 officials will be accommodated in 60 apartments.

## Hanif returns today

By Staff Correspondent

Dhaka City Mayor Mohammad Hanif will return home today after his visit to the USA and the United Arab Emirates (UAE), a press release of the Dhaka City Corporation said yesterday.

The mayor left the country to attend a conference on 'International Colloquium of Mayors on Social Development' held at the United Nations headquarters in New York on August 16.

On the way back home, Mayor Hanif performed Umrah in Makkah and later visited the UAE.

## US embassy to be closed Sept 4

The American embassy, the United States Information Service (USIS), the USIS library and the Student Counselling Service will be closed on September 4 in observance of Labour Day, an American national holiday, says a USIS special release.

Labour Day is observed annually in the United States on the first Monday of September in recognition of labour's contribution to the nation. It is a day of special significance to the organised labour movement, and it is observed as a federal and state holiday throughout the United States.

## Weather

### Light rain likely

Light to moderate rain or thundershower is likely at many places over Khulna, Barisal and Chittagong divisions and at a few places over Dhaka and Rajshahi divisions during the next 12 hours till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

Met office says day temperature may remain nearly unchanged during the period across the country.

Meantime, Mymensingh experienced the highest 37 mm rain yesterday.

Country's highest temperature 35.0 degree Celsius was recorded at Dinajpur and the lowest 23.4 degrees at Mymensingh.

Sun sets today (Friday) at 6:16 pm and rises tomorrow (Saturday) at 5:41 am.

Maximum and minimum temperatures and humidity of some major cities recorded yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	31.7	25.8	72	73
Chittagong	32.6	24.8	77	81
Rajshahi	33.0	25.6	80	75
Khulna	29.4	25.0	88	85
Barisal	30.2	24.8	82	85
Sylhet	34.0	27.0	81	72
Cox's Bazar	31.0	24.8	87	82

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