

# Dhaka Day by Day

## A Teacher with a Convincing Message

by Fayza Haq

Bulbon Osman, a well-known local art professor at the Fine Arts Deptt. Dhaka University, held a satisfying display of his oilpaints, at Alliance Francaise last week.

In his favourite piece at the exhibition, was "Expectations '92." In which was a chair, with three sweeping hold bars, going upwards at the top of the canvas, while a boomerang shaped white line, and a red geometric vermilion line, balanced the composition. Explaining this piece Bulbon said, "Man wants a satisfactory status in society all the time. He endeavours for it, with all his might and wits. The chair stands for man, while the sweeping upward lines represent his ambitions. The reason why I like this oil best, is because the colours are buoyant and I adore bright scintillating hues," he elaborated.

In another piece, Bulbon presents the same theme of man's efforts to struggle and progress in life. The difference in this action and the one mentioned earlier, was the image formation and texture work. Bulbon has presented a woman, holding on to a globe. The background, a multicoloured one, delineated the universe. The subject had been reduced to a minimal form.

In this oil on canvas, Bulbon depicted his main theme at the exhibit: man; his dreams, hopes and aspirations and the repeated failures in his life. "Man is confined within the stultifying cages of society," the artist commented. "All the images, though apparently unrelated, go to comprise man's optimism. This entry too is a fairly subtle and selective creation." Elaborating women's conditions, the world over — considering that his subject was depicted as a woman — Bulbon said, "Women, since the beginning of mankind, have been oppressed in various ways — both socially and economically. Often they are reduced to being mere housewives, and must, therefore, lead a confined existence."

In "My Bengal," Bulbon has brought in sketched-in figures of Victorian windows, doors and staircases, which he did the last time. The window on the left, has been done in more details than the one almost in the centre of the composition. The reason why Bulbon has harked back to the British period in Bangladesh, was because he strongly believes that at that time people in our country were more contented. He explained the well-known economic theory of demand and supply. "Today

we have a problem of population control and job supply for people in Bangladesh."

The artist has brought in green in the background that symbolises his country, about which, he remains always concerned. The complex texture work in the painting depicts the somewhat perplexed state of mind of our people at the present juncture. Bulbon, however, is not totally pessimistic, as he has brought in soft, pale colours, juxtaposed with his loud ochre and vermilion tints.

"The state of law and order of the Victorian times was surely better than one we find today. Man, today, is certainly more worldly and preoccupied with ways of money-making."

The creation "Memory of a Butterfly," has the often-found theme of the oppressed woman in the artist's show. The anger and frustration in women's mind is depicted by the yellow and orange colour, used to outline the face, and the blue, seen partially in the hair, stood for women's paranoia, and pain. "It is often so, that we hope but are disappointed. In this piece I have brought in the butterfly, to represent the happy childhood of the subject, as well as her possible future contentment," was the artist's comment on the piece.

One found Bulbon's work "Homage to Sultan" quite interesting, as it broke away from his usual theme of the ways and means of bringing peace and joy to the world. Sultan, the reputed artist, who has won acclaim in Europe and Pakistan, in the past, has been depicted in the left of the composition. His influence on the people of Bangladesh and Pakistan, has been symbolized by sweeps of dark paints extending from the subject on to the left of the composition.

The four squares in "Eternal Bengal," brought in naivety, going by its style. It had a sun, a palm-tree, a hen, and a house with Victorian architecture.

The pale sky and the pink, green and orange, included in the composition, once again, stood for optimism. Bulbon's recurring element in all his paintings, despite his obsession with the tranquillity of the past.

Since Bulbon is basically a teacher, it is good to find that the artist's own creations can delight a passing viewer.

There were twelve oil on canvas works in the exhibition. It is a pity that only one got sold. Yet, this is understandable, going by the present situation in Bangladesh.



Members of the Lions Club District 315 in a drive to shade car headlights in the city yesterday. They are seen using black paint to shade one thirds of the headlights of a car which is mandatory under traffic rule. — Star photo

### What's on today . . .

**Chhayanot:** The Chhayanot, a cultural organisation, will hold its Saradotsab programme. Venue: Lichutala of the Institute of Fine Arts. Time: 6:30 am.

**Publication ceremony:** The publication ceremony of the book entitled "Banglar Musalmander Ethash" (History of Begali Muslims) by Abbash Ali Khan will be held. Venue: National Press Club auditorium. Time: 4 pm.

**Bangladesh Lions Foundation:** A seminar on "Plague, its prevention and treatment" has been organised. Venue: BLF auditorium, Lions Bhaban, Agargaon. Time: 9 am.

**Pinas Foundation:** The foundation will hold a lecture on 'Technology for Human Welfare'. Venue: Seminar room of the Asiatic Society, 5 Old Secretarial Road, Nimtali. Time: 5 pm.

**Dhaka Juba Foundation:** The foundation will hold a prize giving ceremony to mark the World Children Day. Venue: Auditorium of the Grantha Bhaban. Time: 4 pm.

**Rotary International:** A discussion meeting on "Plague — What Can We Do?" will be held. Chief guest: Prof A Q M Badruddoza Chowdhury. Venue: Rotary District Secretariat, 7-13, Satmasjid Rd. Dhanmondi. Time: 4:30 pm.



French Ambassador Jean Michel Lacombe and his wife Myriam seen at the Shishu Bhaban in the city on Wednesday.

### French donation for orphans

By Staff Correspondent

Relief goods worth about Tk 4.30 lakh, collected through an auction sale of French luxury items, were formally handed over by the French Ambassador to Bangladesh, Jean Michel Lacombe, to the Shishu Bhaban in the city and a convent in Mymensingh on Wednesday.

The ambassador accompanied by his wife Myriam Lacombe visited the Shishu Bhaban, a humanitarian organisation of the Missionaries of Charity run by Nobel Laureate Mother Teresa, to deliver the goods which included blankets, sweaters and milk food for the orphans.

Later they visited the Holy Family Convent run by the Salesian Sisters at Mymensingh town and donated the remaining last of the fund raised during the charity auction sale held in January.

### US Embassy to be closed Oct 9

The American Embassy, the United States Information Service (USIS), the USIS library and the Student Counselling Service will be closed on Sunday, October 9 on the occasion of Columbus Day, an American national holiday, says a press release.



Canadian High Commissioner Jan J Scott addressing the 3rd installation ceremony of the Lions Club of Dhaka Progoti Greater at Hotel Sonargaon yesterday. Also seen in the picture (from R to L) are: Lt Mohiuddin Ahmed, Additional Foreign Secy; Hasinur Rahman, Defence Secy; G L Bhowmik, Lt Dist Govr; Peter J Fowler, British HC and Abdul Mannan, State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism.

### New assignment for Syeduzzaman

M Syeduzzaman, former principal finance secretary and finance minister, has been invited by the president of the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) to a new assignment, according to a faxed message received in Dhaka yesterday.

He was invited to work on a group of selected persons from the IDB member states to advise the bank on its future operations.

The group, which is headed by Moeen Qureshi, former caretaker prime minister of Pakistan, will start its meetings on October 16 in Jeddah.

Syeduzzaman is expected to return Dhaka today from Kuwait.

### US teacher visits IUBAT

A Pennsylvania State University, USA teacher Dr Syedur Rahman, paid a visit to the International University of Business Agriculture and Technology (IUBAT) in the city recently, says a press release.

### Prize giving ceremony

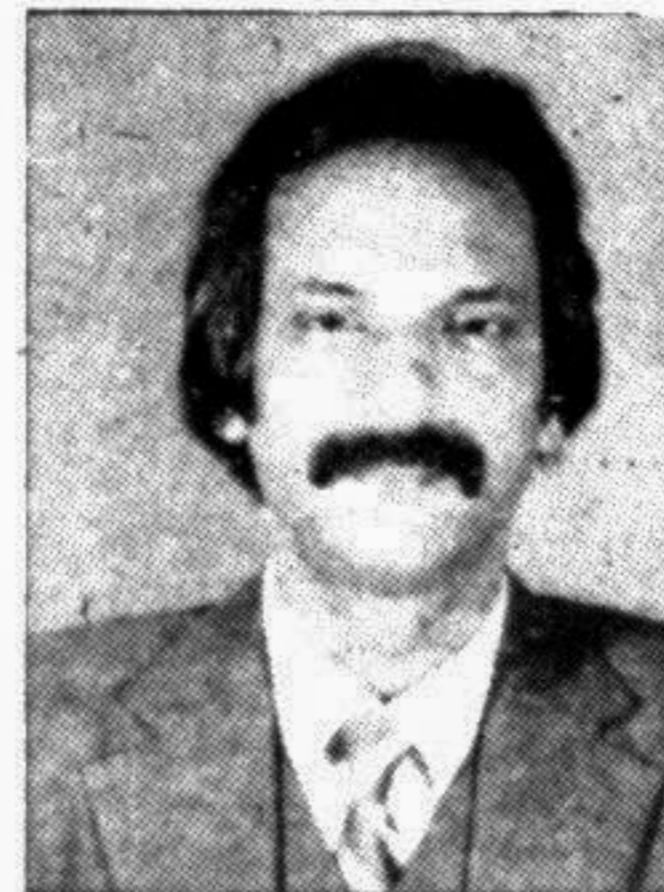
By Staff Correspondent

The inter-class debating competition and prize distribution of Willes Little Flower School, Kakrail was held on Tuesday afternoon at the school premises.

Chairman of the school Managing Committee Syed Hedayetul Islam gave away the prizes among the winners.

Teachers of the school Biman Kumar Das, Francis Sarker, Mamta Begum, member of the Dhaka Debating Club Hasan Ahmed Chowdhury, A K M Soheeb and councillor Rajib Ibne Islam also spoke at the function.

The headmaster of the school, Muhammad Shah Alam presided over the function.



### British award for Zamirul

Zamirul Islam, a young Bangladeshi artist recently won an award for his work 'The Third World' at this year's British International Miniature Print Exhibition held in Bristol, England says a press release.

The artist earlier bagged the second prize at the international miniature competition in Georgia, USA and the Best Artist award at the Tote National Miniature Competition in Dhaka. He is member of the Miniature Art Society of Florida, USA and the Australian Society of Miniature Art, Queensland.

Zamirul Islam is currently working as a senior artist with Adcomm, a leading advertising agency in the country.

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**Imitation Jewellery Plant for Sale**  
Land, Building & Some machineries of Imitation Jewellery are on sale in Collaboration with a Bank. Cost nearly two million Taka. Genuine party may ring 325355.

**107 arrested in city**  
Police rounded up 107 people from different parts of the city yesterday on various charges, a DMP press release said, reports UNB.

**শাখা স্থানান্তর**  
সমানিত গ্রাহক ও তত্ত্বাবধায়ীদের সহায় দৃষ্টি আকর্ষণ করা যাচ্ছে যে, গত ২৮শে সেপ্টেম্বর '৯৪ তারিখে আমাদের সুটিমাম শাখাটি বালিয়াকান্দি বাজারে স্থানান্তর করা হয়েছে।

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