

Dhaka Day by Day

Expressing the Beauty of Things on Canvas

by Gemini Wahhaj

Water colours, oil paint, egg shells, and plaster of paris all play an important part in Asila Tula Afrida's work. The artist held her first solo exhibition at the Russian Cultural Center from January 7 to 10 featuring such varied work that it was impossible to believe all the displays were by the same person.

Her most striking work was a collage called 'Oppressed Womanhood'. At the center of the frame stood a woman's figure. A red eye, a blue accusing finger, and an explosive pointed at her from the left. A huge spiral symbolised the confusion of society, and from within this charged out a bull (Man?), heading for the woman. A fleshy hand reaching for the woman, black sunglasses showing willful blindness and the newsprint picture of a man's face blindfolded by a blue cloth completed the male-dominated society facing woman. The woman herself posed provocatively in various newspaper cuttings, forced to sell herself as a commodity — or was she rebelling against society? On the right of the figure a woman's pink lips, red lips and a drooping green eye looked helplessly on the rest of the picture.



Oppressed womanhood

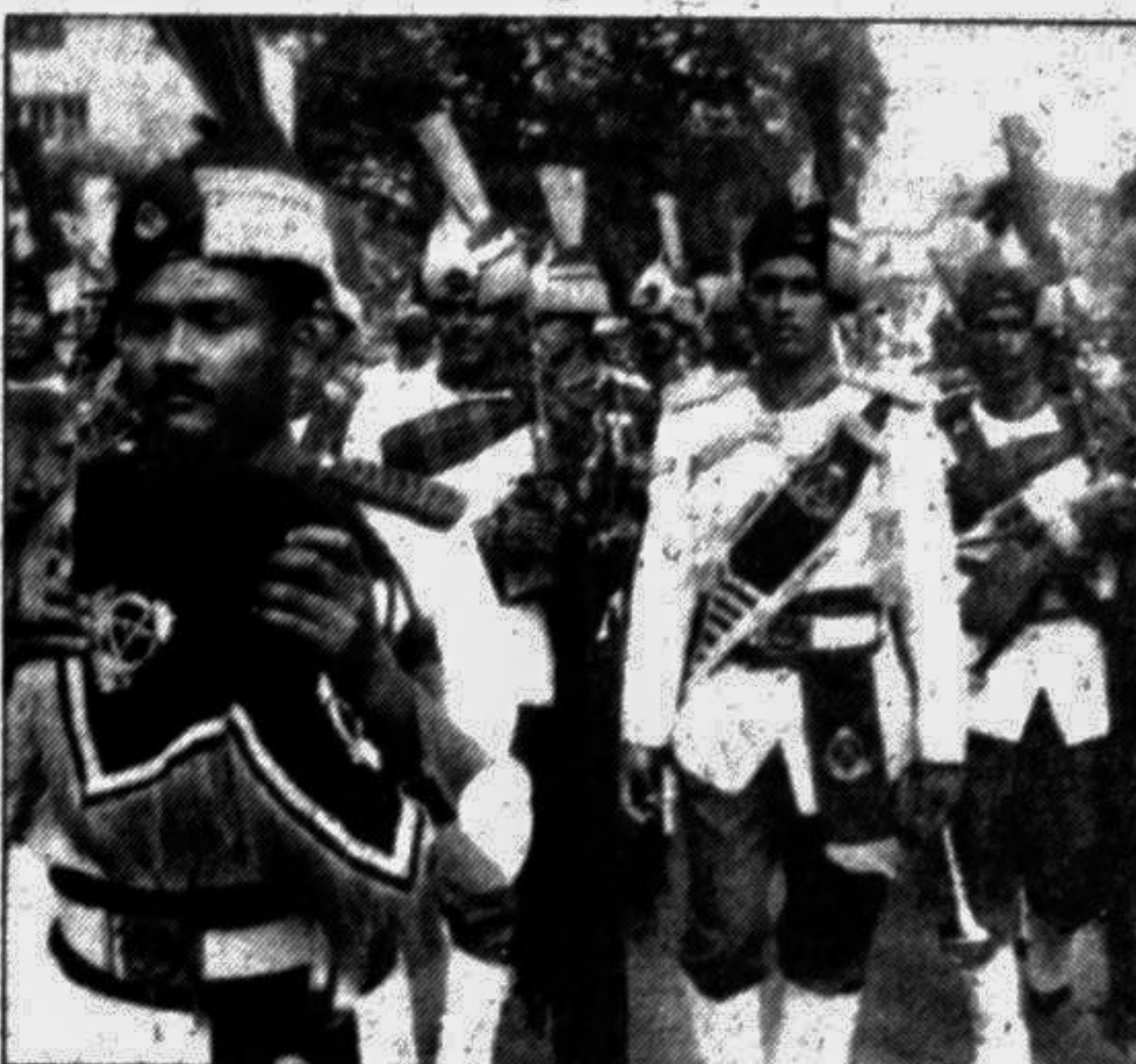
red border in Mother Love, but perhaps refreshingly so.

Lida's most experimental work was done in egg-shells pasted onto a board. The most successful of these was Rhythm — of a pair of hands that seemed to almost dance on the tabla. Three sculptures, in plaster of paris, were also part of the exhibition. An embryo sat with its head bowed and its umbilical chord still dangling, somehow expressing in all the nakedness of its plaster of paris coating, dejection and hopelessness. This exhibit was called I Don't Want to be Born.

The artist said she went into the depths of Old Dhaka to buy the plaster of paris for her sculptures. She was the only woman around, and the men repeatedly advised her to leave. It was very dangerous, he said.

Most of Lida's work was colorful, as if she were colouring a picture book like a child. She says in her brochure handout, "I do not claim to be an artist, just a worshipper of beauty. Things of beauty... urge me to paint in response. ... I try to hold my fleeting ideas on canvas using colours and brushes."

The artist started to paint when she was a lonely housewife in the Middle East, using anything she could find, even car paint. Later she completed a four-year diploma course from YWCA, Dhaka. Lida now teaches art in three schools, where she works with children of various ages. Perhaps that is where her paintings get their almost childlike delight in the splash of colour and depiction of scene.



Participants of a walkathon organised by the Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) on the occasion of its bicentennial celebration in the city yesterday. — Star photo

Walkathon

A colourful walkathon was held in the city yesterday morning as a part of bicentennial celebration of Bangladesh Rifles (BDR), says a press release.

The walkathon started from "Bicentennial Gate" at Peelkhana and ended at Osmany Park through Shahbagh Avenue, High Court and Jatiya Press Club.

Home Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury led the walkathon. The Director General of the Bangladesh Rifles Major General Mohammad Anwar Hossain, BP, psc and former Director General, BDR Officers, JCO's and other ranks of BDR personnel took part in the walkathon.

Environmental seminar at NSU begins today

The Institute of Development and Environmental Studies of the North South University (NSU) will hold a two-day symposium on Environment and Sustainable Development with a Special Reference to Bangladesh" at the NSU main campus beginning today, says a press release.

Pierre Landel-Mills chief of the World Bank Resident Mission will deliver the keynote speech at 10 am today.

Three papers on the sustainability of agriculture will be presented in today's session.

Noted economists and environmentalists of the country including Prof Muzaffer Ahmed, Dr Wahiduddin Mahmud and Dr Saleemul Huq will participate.

84 arrested on various charges

Police rounded up 84 people including 15 fugitives from the city on different charges during the last 24 hours ending yesterday morning, reports UNB.

Among them, seven were arrested on charge of burglary, one for robbery, two under Special Powers Act, 11 under CrPC and 37 under DMP ordinance, says a DMP press release yesterday.

Tree plantation inaugurated

By Staff Correspondent
The IG gate VOA (Voice of America) Fan Club yesterday opened its three plantation programme at in Bangladesh Bank Colony High School in the city.

The function, held at 4 in the afternoon with club president Mohammad Nasir in the chair, was attended by Shaifur Rahman, local listener coordinator of the VOA as chief guest.

Joint Director of Bangladesh Bank, Aktaruzzaman, businessman Anwar Hossain and joint general secretary of Dhaka district VOA Fan Club Azharul Islam spoke on the occasion.

Biswas condoles death of Prof Sajjad Hossain

President Abdur Rahman Biswas yesterday expressed his deep shock and sorrow at the sad death of Dr Syed Sajjad Hossain former Vice-Chancellors of the universities of Dhaka and Rajshahi, reports UNB.

In a condolence message President Biswas paid tributes to Dr Hossain's contributions to teaching of English language and literature as the head of the department of English in the Dhaka University and as a professor in the King Abdul Aziz University of Saudi Arabia, his contribution of a chapter on Bangladesh in the Encyclopaedia Britannica earned applause of the educated section of the people.

President Biswas conveyed his heartfelt sympathy to the members of the bereaved family and prayed for peace of the departed soul.

Weather

Dry weather likely

Weather is likely to remain dry with partly cloudy sky over the country during the next 24 hours till 6:00 pm today, reports UNB.

The Met Office says night temperature may fall by 1-2 degree Celsius across the country.

In its outlook for tomorrow weathermen predicted further fall in night temperature.

Giving extended outlook for another four days Met office says that there would be little change.

Country's lowest temperature 10.2 degree Celsius was recorded at Ishardi and the highest 28.4 degrees at Teknaf.

The sun sets today at 5:32 pm and rises tomorrow at 6:44 am.

The minimum and maximum temperatures and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius	Humidity in percentage
	Min	Max
Dhaka	15.0	23.1
Chittagong	16.0	24.4
Rajshahi	11.2	20.0
Khulna	15.0	23.2
Barisal	13.6	23.0
Sylhet	15.6	25.3
Cox's Bazar	18.8	26.5

Withdrawal of minimum tax law demanded

Bangladesh Tax Lawyers' Association (BTLA) yesterday demanded withdrawal of the minimum tax law, calling it "illegal and inhuman," reports UNB.

The demand was made by BTLA, the national forum of tax lawyers and practitioners, at a meeting held at its auditorium

in the morning. The provision for minimum tax of Tk 1200 was made in the last national budget.

The tax lawyers demanded cancellation of Article 84 of the Tax Law and bring the Tax Settlement Commission's verdict under the jurisdiction of

the Appellate Tribunal. The meeting also called for tax rebate on savings certificates and bringing the salaries of government officials under the purview of income tax. The BTLA meeting also decided to hold its next annual general meeting at Kushtia in March.

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A WIDE RANGE OF AMERICAN PRODUCTS AND SERVICES WILL BE ON DISPLAY
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DMP urges people to abstain from blasting fireworks

Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) yesterday urged the city dwellers to abstain from blasting fire-works in order to maintain the sanctity of Holly Shab-e-Barat and to observe it peacefully, reports UNB.

As per police ordinance blasting of fireworks is a punishable crime and legal action will be taken against those who will engage themselves in such illegal activities, said a DMP press release.

IN MEMORIAM

ON THIS DAY
WE REMEMBER YOU
MORE THAN EVER
— FAMILY & FRIENDS
OF A. QASEM



The Jamaat-e-Islami Bangladesh brought out a 'padajatra' (street march) in the city yesterday reiterating its demand for elections under a caretaker administration. — Star photo

NEW ARRIVALS AT DHAKA BOOK FAIR
(BIJOY SARANI)
OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS
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UNIVERSITY PRESS LIMITED
latest publications
Come to **UPL Pavilion**
Friday, Saturday and Sunday 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Bangladesh Council of Scientific & Industrial Research
Tender & Re-Tender Notice
Sectt/Engg/112/79-91/P-1(832) Dated: 28-12-94
Sealed tenders are hereby invited from the Bonafide Suppliers/Makers/Stockists for the following works:

Sl. No.	Name of works	Cost of Tender documents
1.	For BCSIR Labs Chittagong Labs: (a) Supply of Tractor 50 HP as per schedule (re-tender).	TR. 500/-
2.	For BCSIR Labs Dhaka Labs: (a) Making & supplying of Plastic Sign Board as per schedule. (b) Supply of wooden furniture for various units as per schedule. (c) Repairing of wooden furniture for various units as per schedule. (d) Supply & installation of Voltage Stabilizer as per schedule (re-tender).	Tk. 100/- Tk. 100/- Tk. 100/- Tk. 30/-

Tender documents may be purchased from the Cashier of BCSIR Sectt., Dhaka on cash payment (non-refundable) up to (23-1-95) which may be dropped in the Tender Box kept in the office chamber of Superintending Engineer, BCSIR Dhaka on or before 12-00 Noon up to 25-1-95. The tenders will be opened on the same day at 12-15 PM in presence of Tenders/representatives (if any).
Other necessary information may be collected from the office of the Superintending Engineer, BCSIR, Dr. Kudrat-E-Khuda Road, Dhaka-1205.
DPP-540/91/1 BCSIR Dhaka.
Q-76

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