

Dhaka Day by Day

Painting that is not Everyone's Cup of Tea

by Lamis Hossain

Masud Ul Alam is not for subtlety. Upon entering his exhibition at the National Museum, you are greeted by three large canvases splashed with bold strokes and bright colours which look like the masterpiece of a seasoned graffiti artist.

One of his oil on canvas pieces entitled "movement" consists of an assortment of vivid red, orange, blue and neon yellow squiggles on a white background. The strokes are short and curvy, seemingly packed with enough energy to burst out of the canvas. The differences in the sweeps of his brush are more apparent if examined closely. The blue lines, for example, looked like scribbles from a child's crayon. His work is also characterised by the use of tonal variation. A single red curve is actually the result of a gradual progress for a light red to a vivid red tone.

A painting entitled "Yellow, Green and Blue" uses shades of these colours which seem straight from upholstery of 1970's furniture. Several pairs of smoky black parallel lines section the canvas. Random swipes of black and the blended and blurred yellow and green culminate in dizzying motion.

Most of Alam's other pieces are more sober than "Movement" or "Yellow, Green Blue." His oil on canvas, "Composition", is dominated by a large ash blue blot dripping in the foreground. A yellow yolk peeks through the blue. The background is covered by ash, black and blood red colours which would be at home in a horror tunnel ride at an amusement park. Some of the red blots with faint circular lines resemble giant thumb print impressions. Root like etchings grow out of the black patches. This texturing on thick layers of paint is also a prominent part of his other oil works on display.

Apart from his oil on canvas pieces, Alam also displays his explorations with prints and collage at the exhibition. However, Alam's three categories of work seem to have very little in common. His prints seem like the brainchild of an entirely different artist altogether. Masud Ul Alam is described by critic Bulbul Osman as an "abstract expressionist" who has embraced the blot and stain process or "tachisme".

The artist studied in Bangladesh and then left for Bulgaria. He later worked under the supervision of American painter Richard Pousetter Dart. He also studied print making at New York University under Krishna Reddy. His education under different masters may explain the wide contrast in his work.

The shades used in his prints are subtle blues, browns and moss green. "Composition", which looks like an aerial view of finger lakes and parks, is made of white spaces lightly dotted with black on a grass green background, with a few areas of light blue.

"Untitled" presents two horizontal rectangular blocks separated by an empty white space. The lower area is left mostly blank except for the impressions of a thin coiled rope unravelling from the faint marks of a square cloth. The reddish rope links the two rectangles like an umbilical cord. The rope and cloth stains feature in his other prints as well.

"Wind 2" on the other hand, closely resembles Alam's oil paintings. Hazy blots of vivid red, and ink blue float above and below, while lightning or root like streaks fill the rest of the piece. "Wind 2" takes you to the eye of a storm.

Alam's collage work is not as impressive as his prints. "Life 1" which seems straight out of a teenager's room is somewhat more witty and energetic than the others. Alam juxtaposes a speckled toad with a wide eyed electric blue woman whose red lips are parted in horror, while her hair stands on end. A rainbow coloured looped pencil leaps out in the foreground, a mountain biker takes off into the air while a lioness stares directly at you. Mauve, blue and red are blended into the background.

Most of Alam's pieces feature movement of some sort. His oil on canvas pieces are characterised by both optimistic and violent energy, while his prints shape action of a quieter kind. Both his prints and oil paintings seem to take their inspiration from nature, whether it be storms or a quiet lake.

Alam's work is not everyone's cup of tea. His oil on canvas pieces may take a while to endure themselves to the Bangladeshi viewer. But his prints should be ready to carve out a comfortable niche in the market.



The Muktiyoddha Kalyan Trust brought out a procession in the city yesterday protesting handing over of the organisation to private ownership. — Star photo

Need for national water policy underscored

Vice-Chancellor of the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology Prof M Shahjahan yesterday underscored the need for a national water policy to fulfil the objectives of the integrated water resources development, reports UNB.

Inaugurating a workshop on Applied Mathematics in Water Resources Engineering, he said the policy option and analysis should precede and accompany the formulation of a separate national water plan.

A unified system for collection, storage, retrieval and analysis of data should also be established, he told the experts in water management who are participating in the five-day workshop.

Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) and Delft University of Technology of the Netherlands Linkage Project organised the workshop in the seminar room of Water Resources Engineering Department at BUET.

The BUET VC said there is a need to give due importance to social, economic and environmental aspects, particularly in the areas of desertification, salinity intrusion, erosion, sedimentation and the coastal eco-system.

He also laid emphasis on working together of the various disciplines engaged in the

integrated water resources development in the country.

Prof Shahjahan observed that the concept of planned development and integrated water resources management was still largely absent as its economic and efficient use is not a major concern.

The situation, however, has been changing with population expansion, spread of improved health services, increased use in irrigation for more food-grains and diversion of upstream water, he said.

For solving these problems, he said, use can be made of physical models and also the mathematical models, which were being developed on the basis of theoretical considerations and observations of the physical processes in nature and in physical models.

Bert Diphoom, First Secretary at the Royal Netherlands Embassy in Dhaka, said different mathematical models could be useful tools to identify and analyse the problems in water resources engineering and management.

Head of Water Resources Engineering Department Prof Mohammad Fazul Bari, Coordinating Resident Engineer of the project MCLM Van Merlo and project director Prof A Hannan also addressed the function.

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to
Tawfique
love,
Nanu, Choto Nana,
Akik and all Cousins

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Habibullah Khan
National Project Director

Integrated plan underway for coastal management

Minister for Environment and Forest Akbar Hossain yesterday said Bangladesh was committed to develop an appropriate and integrated plan for coastal zone management as the inevitable threat of sea level rise due to global warming posing a big alarm for the country, reports BSS.

He was speaking as chief guest at the inaugural session of a training workshop on "vulnerability of Bangladesh to climate change and sea level rise" held in the SPAARSO auditorium at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar here.

The minister said, while making vulnerability assessment, due importance should be given to physical, biological, social and economic systems of the coast and its natural resources.

Sponsored by the Ministry of Environment and Forest and

organised by Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies (BCAS) the inaugural session was also addressed by the Netherlands ambassador Robert E Vornis, director of Coastal Zone Management Centre in the Netherlands Robbert Misdroop, Secretary of the Environment Ministry Amir Ul Mulk and BCAS Executive Director Dr Saleemul Huq.

Around 25 senior planners from government and non-government agencies are participating in the 13-day workshop.

The Netherlands ambassador said, his government was preparing for country studies on water management and coastal zone issues under the framework convention for climate change in which Bangladesh will also be included.

Hill students' rally today

The Pahari Chhatra Gano Parishad and Hill Women Federation will jointly hold a rally and a meeting in the city today, says a Greater Chittagong Hill Tracts Hill Students' Council press release.

The rally will be held at 10 am, and the meeting at 3:00 at the Noor Hossain Square to reiterate their demands for cancellation of three hill district bodies and for autonomy with constitutional guarantee.

PIB workshop begins

A week-long workshop on investigating reporting for editors of regional newspapers began at the Press Institute of Bangladesh yesterday, reports UNB.

Director General of PIB Dr Mohammad Towhidul Anwar inaugurated the workshop.

Tk 50cr dev plan of Ctg USTC

CHITTAGONG, Jan 21: The University of Science and Technology Chittagong (USTC) which came into being in 1992 has taken up a five-year development plan at a cost of fifty crore taka to be implemented in phases.

Chairman of the construction committee of the university M A Salam told BSS that some projects of the five year plan had already been implemented, while some others were under process. He said that the Institute of Applied Health Science (IAHS) which was established in 1989 had been brought under USTC, and all the projects of the institute were implemented simultaneously along with the university development plan.

Salam said that the academic and the library buildings of the university and a 135-bed hospital of the Institute of Health Science had already been completed while works on the male and female hostels would start soon.

Meet on Tripitak translation

CHITTAGONG, Jan 21: The first meeting of the editorial council for translation of the Tripitak into Bengali and its publication under the auspices of Buddhist Religious Welfare Trust was held at the Chittagong Buddhist Temple auditorium here on Thursday last, reports BSS.

According to a trust press release today, the meeting was chaired by president of the Bangladesh Buddhists Association and one of the trustees Rakkhal Chandra Barua.

Other members of the editorial council Prof Tapanjyoti Barua, Dr Sumangal Barua, Dr Sukumol Barua, Dr Rebatpriya Barua, Dr Pintu Mutsuddhi and Nirmal Kanti Chakma were present at the meeting.

The meeting expressed gratitude to the government for taking initiative for welfare of the Buddhist community by establishing the trust.

Prize distribution ceremony

CHITTAGONG, Jan 21: A prize distribution ceremony under the auspices of Chattogram Sahityangan was held at the Enayetbazar Buddhist temple auditorium here yesterday, reports BSS.

The function was presided over by president of Bangladesh Bouddha Samiti Rakkhal Chandra Barua, and addressed among others by managing director and chief editor of Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS) D P Barua as chief guest, eminent juvenile writer Sukumar Barua, chairman of Akher Surjodoy Readers' Forum Abdul Gani, Jinanda Sraman and Sujana Barua.

BJMC takes part in trade fair in Calcutta

Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation (BJMC) for the first time, took part in the 8th Industrial India Trade Fair held in Calcutta, according to a message received here Friday, reports UNB.

The fair was organised recently by Bengal National Chamber of Commerce and Industry in collaboration with the government of West Bengal.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Executive Engineer
Local Govt Engineering Department
Patuakhali

Memo. No. LGED/XEN/PATUA/95/77 Dated: 19-01-95

TENDER NOTICE

Tender No. 4/94-95, RDP-16

Sealed tenders are hereby invited in Bangladesh Form No. 2911 from the enlisted class-'A', special category and pre-qualified (Renewed for the FY. 1994-95) contractors of LGED for the undermentioned work under DANIDA Assisted Rural Development Project-16 and will be received by the undersigned, Executive Engineer, LGED, Barguna and the Project Director, RDP-16, 6/7, Block-A Lalmatia, Dhaka-1207 up to 13.00 hrs on 31-01-95 and will be opened by the respective officers on the same day at 14.30 hrs in presence of the tenderers or his/their authorised representatives who like to attend the opening.

Earnest money shall have to be furnished along with the tender in the shape of Demand Draft/Pay Order @2.50% of his/their quoted rate from any scheduled bank of Bangladesh in favour of the Executive Engineer, LGED, Patuakhali. Tender document may be seen and obtained from the office of the undersigned Executive Engineer, LGED, Barguna and the Project Director, RDP-16, 6/7, Block-A, Lalmatia, Dhaka-1207.

- Rate shall be quoted itemwise both in figures and words and analysis of rates shall be furnished along with tenders, otherwise the tender shall be liable for rejection.
- Contractor shall submit time schedule alongwith the tender otherwise the tender shall be liable for rejection.
- Contractor shall have to pay VAT and Income Tax. Tenderer may obtain further information on the tender form and inspect the tender documents at the office of the undersigned Executive Engineer, LGED, Barguna & as well as the Project Director, Rural Development Project-16, 6/7, Block-A, Lalmatia, Dhaka-1207.
- No tender document will be sold on the date of opening of the tenders.
- The authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason thereof.

Sl No	Name of the work	Cost of schedule	Completion time
1.	Improvement of Bauphal-Chandrapara Road (FRB) by WBM pavement from chainage 2000M to 4050M under Bauphal thana. Contract No. Pt. 02.01.02.	Tk 2500/-	120 days

Executive Engineer
Local Govt. Engineering Department
Patuakhali

Weather

No change in temperature

Dry weather is likely to prevail over the country in the next 12 hours till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

The Met Office forecasts night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country during the period but is likely to rise gradually in the following week. Weathermen predicted little change in the next 2 days.

Country's minimum temperature 7.0 degrees Celsius was recorded at Sri Mangal and Ishurdi and the maximum 26.8 degrees at Cox's Bazar.

The sun sets today at 5.37 pm and rises tomorrow at 6.42 am.

The maximum and minimum temperatures and humidity recorded yesterday in the some major cities of the country were:

City	Temperature in degrees Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Min	Max	6 am	6 pm
Dhaka	9.7	25.4	70	52
Chittagong	12.5	25.5	76	63
Cox's Bazar	14.5	26.8	64	81
Sylhet	10.0	23.3	88	64
Rajshahi	7.6	23.8	80	70
Rangpur	9.5	22.8	88	65
Khulna	11.0	25.2	85	71
Barisal	10.5	25.4	89	73

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
স্বাক্ষরিত চিকিৎসা ও পরবেশা ইনস্টিটিউট
শাহবাগ, ঢাকা।

সং-আইপিজিএমআর/প্রশা/৯৪-৯৫/২৭০ তারিখ: ১৯-১-৯৫ইং

পুনঃ দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

১৯৯৪-৯৫ অর্থ বৎসরে তত্ত্বায়ত্র প্রকল্পের অধীনে প্রকল্পের উন্নয়ন, তেজগাঁও, ঢাকা-এর অধীনে নিম্নবর্ণিত পত্রের তালিকাভুক্ত প্রকৃত ব্যবসায়ী/প্রকল্পকার/সরবরাহকারী/আমদানীকারকদের নিকট হইতে এমএসআর মালামাল সরবরাহের জন্য সীলমোহরিত পত্র সরবরাহ আহবান করা হইতেছে। প্রত্যেক পত্রের বিপরীতে বর্ণিত টাকা (অফেরতযোগ্য) পরিচালক, আইপিজিএমআর, ঢাকা-এর অনুকূলে "৩৬-বাড়া জনসংখ্যা নিয়ন্ত্রণ" বাজেটের অধীনে চলাবোলে মাঝামাঝি করা প্রদান করিয়া উহার একটি কপি অত্র প্রতিষ্ঠানের হিসাবরক্ষণ শাখা ও তত্ত্বাবধায়ক-এর বাস্তবিত্ব সহকারী নিকট হইতে আগামী ২৯-১-৯৫ইং তারিখ পর্যন্ত প্রত্যেক কর্মসিবেসে দুপুর ১-০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত জানা প্রদান করিয়া নব্বয় সিডিউল সমূহ হাতে হাতে সরবরাহ করা হইবে। সরবরাহ আগামী ৩০-১-৯৫ইং তারিখ দুপুর ১১-০০ ঘটিকার মধ্যে যুগ্ম-পরিচালক-এর অফিস কক্ষের সামনে রাখিতে বাস্তবিত্ব শর্তাধীনে অনুমতি প্রাপ্ত হইবে এবং ঐ দিনই দুপুর ১১-০৫ মিঃ সময়ে নব্বয়সিডিউলের সামনে যদি কেহ উপস্থিত থাকেন। যুগ্ম-পরিচালকের অফিস কক্ষে সরবরাহ বাস্তবিত্ব হইবে।

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