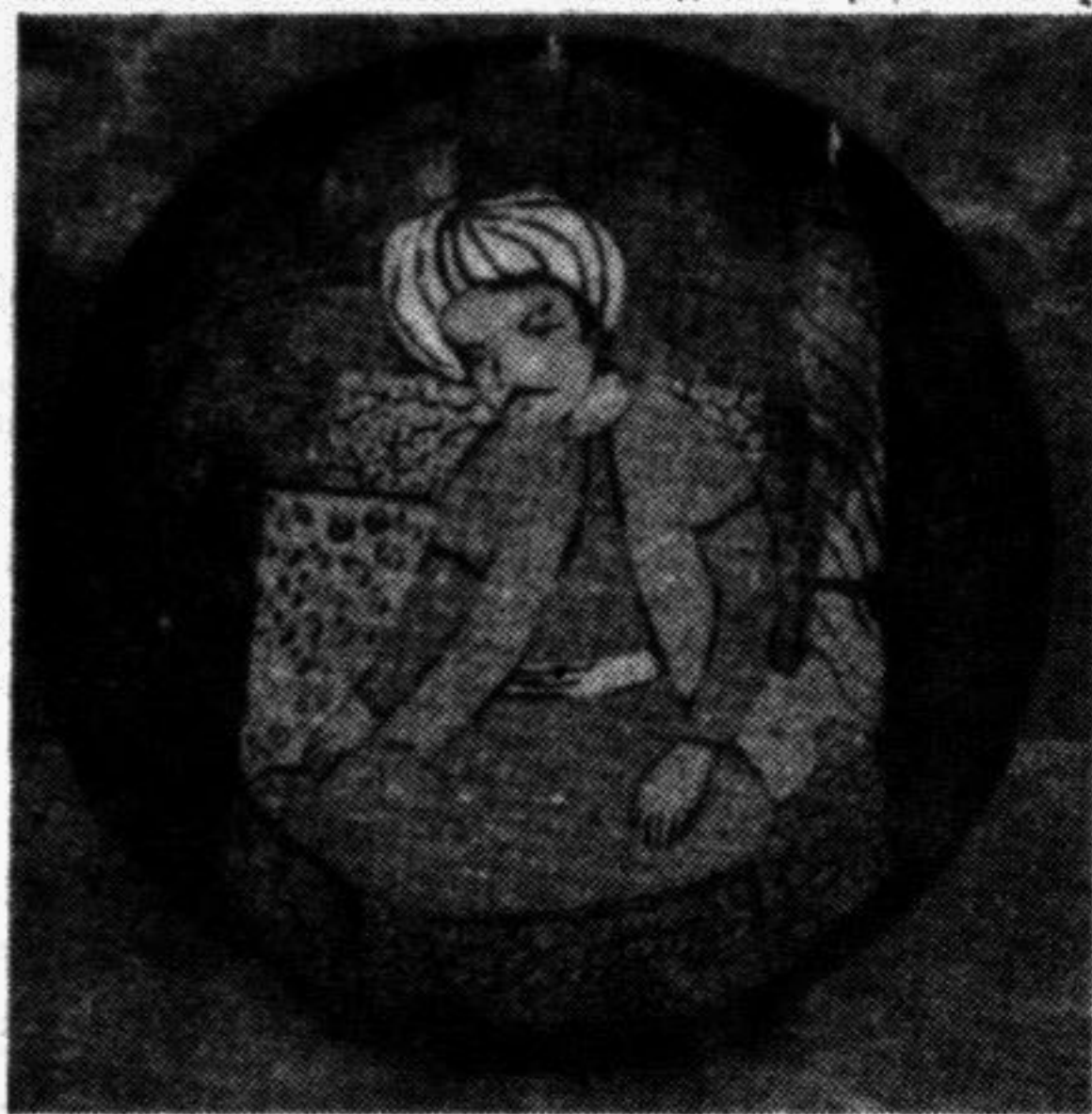


Dhaka Day by Day

The Sweet Smell of Success

by Fayza Haq

Samina Rahman, who recently had her exhibition of her painting and sculpture works with much fanfare at the Alliance Francaise has savoured the sweet smell of success that came her way rather easily. Whereas much more senior talented and overseas trained artists have



sometimes failed to draw patrons. Samina, with her connections and good looks got nine well-known financial and cultural institutions to back her week-long venture. Although monetarily well off and hardly concerned about her sale, five of her works found buyers within an hour of the opening of her exhibit.

The young artist, who puts in regular nine-to-five timing at a vegetable dye firm, where she works as a director-commercial artist, has a child of four to look after. As a socialite, her evenings are naturally full. Yet she somehow found time to do 28 water colour pieces on paper, five illustrations on clay pots, six sets of delineations in acrylic on clay slabs — fixed on barks of trees, and numerous clay busts.

On the clay tiles, which had been pinned on burnt and glazed strips of barks were figures of oriental lovers and waiting damsels on balconies. The human figures were mingled with geometrical designs that came by way of her inspiration from the Dhaka mosques. The emphasis was both on Muslim architecture and on everyday medieval Middle East mode of living. Long flowing rich cloaks, turbans, jugs and chandeliers were depicted in details. Flying carpets, clouds, flying birds, crescent moon, turrets of palaces and mosques, swirling clouds, shining jewellery and swaying bushes and trees were brought in. These were done in bright blue, orange, yellow and red — contrasted with black and white.

The scenes and items moulded with clay and cement were stirred up by the artist's

trips to USA, UK and her stay in India (Nilgris and Darjeeling as a student, while she did her "O" and "A" levels. This included an idyllic log cabin, covered with moss, with chimney, wooden benches and placid streams flowing alongside; a picnic set up under an apple tree;

a boat-house with canoes and shrubs at the back; a fairy-tale cottage with pale-blue tiled roof with hedges of pink roses leading up to it; a tree — stump with ducks swimming gleefully in a lake at the side; an 18th century table with candle, book and thick-rimmed spectacles; a chair from an American farming area with embroidered flowers at the back; Pandora's box and innumerable European type village scenes. These moulded pieces had enamel paint coating and were mounted on bases of plywood.

There were Easter eggs, made from clay, and painted over with scenes such as those from the Sunderbans with horned and spotted deer drinking along the river; women doing their daily chores in Bangladeshi villages, and "bauls" playing the "do-tara".

Five well-known Moghul emperors ranging from Babur and Akbar to Shah Jahan and Aurangzeb were also to be found painted on the back of clay vessels. Similarly one found varied delineations of exotic birds painted in pinks and oranges. The artist had been inspired by an aviary during her visit to Singapore.

Samina, who adores Wordsworth's nature poems on nature and believes strongly in the preservation of our environment in the natural form, has combined nature, animals and human beings in her water-colour on paper. Through them she aspires to present hopes, dreams and realities in our life.

The artist works only after her office routine and on week-ends. She is fortunate to have come so far after her limited toils and training, when other professional artists in Dhaka can often barely eke out a living.

Theatre's drama week begins March 21

By Staff Correspondent

Theatre, a leading drama group, will organise a week-long festival at the Guide House and the Mahila Samity auditoriums in the city during March 21-26 to mark the 1000th show of its productions.

The Theatre presented its 1000th production on February 26.

Noted playwright Syed Shamsul Haq will open the festival as chief guest while Syed Hassan Imam, Abdullah Abu Sayeed, Mamatazuddin Ahmed, M Hamid and Dev Proshad Devnath will also speak on the occasion.

On the opening day, Aranyak will present "Agoonmukha" while Natyachakra will stage "Bhaddaroke" on March 22. Theatre "Satghater Kanakori" on March 24, Dhaka Padatik "Bishad Sindhu" on March 25, Loknatyadal "Kanjush" on March 26, Rangpur Nagorik "Moynar Biye" and Theatre's "Juddha Ebong Juddha" on March 26.

One cr saplings planted in Rajshahi dist

RAJSHAHI, Mar 18: At least one crore saplings were planted in different parts of greater Rajshahi district during the last one year, reports BSS.

Official sources said that forest department of Barendra Multipurpose Development Authority (BMDA), Rajshahi City Corporation, district administrations government, semi-government and other organisation planted the trees to save the zone from desertification process in the region. With the plantation of trees the yearly average rainfall has slightly increased from 54.99 inches in 1985 to 64.78 inches in 1994.

Despite increase of rainfall the ground water level continues to go down in several parts of the region due to inadequate flow of Ganges water.

All the major rivers and their tributaries are drying up during dry season for which people had to suffer for pure drinking water from shallow tubewells.



The visiting Director General of International Islamic Relief Organisation and special envoy of Saudi Religious Minister Ali Abdullah Al Jiraisi called on Religious Affairs Minister Muhammed Keramat Ali at latter's office on Thursday. — PID photo

Seminar on dev of human resources

5 pc of national revenue in edn sector underscored

RAJSHAHI, Mar 18: Speakers at a seminar on development of human resource in Bangladesh underlined the need for spending at least five per cent of the total national revenue income in the education sector for achieving the target of 'Education For All' by the end of the century, reports BSS.

The seminar jointly organised by the Institute of Bangladesh Studies (IBS) and Bangladesh Economics Teachers' Association (BETA) was held at Senate Bhaban of Rajshahi University yesterday. Over one hundred economics teachers of different colleges of northern region and some noted economists of the country participated in the day-long seminar.

Vice-chancellor of Rajshahi University Prof M Yusuf Ali opened the seminar. Prof ATM Zahurul Huq, president Bangladesh Economics Teachers' Association presided over the inaugural session. Noted economists Prof Muzaffar Ahmed and Prof Solaiman Mondal chaired the other sessions of the seminar.

Prof FR Khan, Prof Abdul Kader Bhulya, Prof Amiruzzaman, Prof Mukhleshur Rahman, Prof Mahmud Shah Quraishi, Dr Abdur Rahman Siddiqui, Dr M Zainul Abideen, Prof Altaf Hossain and Dr Mahbubur Rahman took part in the deliberations.

World vision awards 243 poor students

By Staff Correspondent

The World Vision of Bangladesh, an international relief and development organisation, awarded 243 poor slum-dwelling students for their achievement in the 1994 SSC examinations, said a press release.

Director General of NGO Affairs Bureau M A Mannan distributed the prizes as chief guest at a ceremony at the Dharmarajika Orphanage School in the city on Thursday. James Hilton, World Vision's Executive Director, chaired the function.

Speakers said that overall development of socio-economic condition of the people of the country was largely dependent on the proper development of human resources through spreading education among the masses. They also stressed the need for changing the present basic education system in our country and underscored the importance of launching technical and modern scientific education system for the progress of the country.

Speakers said when India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka are spending more money in education sector for the development of their respective countries Bangladesh is spending only one per cent in education sector.

National development is not possible without proper development of human resources, they stressed.

The speakers urged the authorities to implement the Dr Quadrat-e-Khuda Education Commission report and underscored the need for proper management of educational institutions and implementation of universal primary education.

RMAF chief meets Biswas

The Chief of Royal Malaysian Air Force, RMAF Lt General Abdul Ghani Aziz, assured all cooperation in professional development of Bangladesh Air Force, reports UNB.

The visiting RMAF chief gave the assurance when he called on President Abdur Rahman Biswas at Bangabhaban yesterday morning.

Recalling the friendly relationship between the two countries which dates back far in history, the President said after independence of Bangladesh both the countries embarked upon a new phase of friendship and cooperation.

"Malaysia has always extended its support to Bangladesh during natural calamities and also supplied relief materials for Rohingya refugees," he added.

President Biswas said Bangladesh would like to continue mutual cooperation in the field of training.

Among others, Secretary to President Ataul Haq, Military Secretary to President Major General Sardar M Ali Hasan and Assistant Chief of Air Staff Air Commodore Jamaluddin Ahmed were present during the meeting.

"জনাবিক জানবে মিলি নাটকের যুগে"



Today's plays

Following plays will be presented on fourth day, today, of the eight-day first-ever National-children's Theatre Festival at the Shilpakala Academy auditorium in the city.

5 pm: Drama — Jutta Abishkar; Troupe — Secret Heart School, Jessore.

6.30pm: Drama — Aujan; Troupe — Shruti Nattiyadal, Narayanganj.

8 pm: Drama — Janjal; Troupe — Terjok, Jessore.

Besides, a symposium on drama training and video recording of yesterday's performances will be shown at the academy's auditorium from 10 am to 12 noon.

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