

## A World of Beauty and Harmony

by Fayza Haq

Dhaka has seen plenty of delightful oriental art creations by Nasreen Begum. At the recent Divine Art Gallery exhibit the colours appear more subtle than ever before, her figures more stylised. There is new force and charm that combine her images of nature and reality. The wash technique method that she uses makes her work look like pristine prints. She has added powder colour and Chinese ink. The artist says limiting her work to oriental figures made her work too confining — now that she is experimenting, the rigidity is avoided.

Nasreen draws images from her surroundings and transforms them into a world of her own. Due to the diverse forms and the scintillating colours the creations are pulsating with life. The artist steers clear of abstractions but some of her work appears semi-abstract as she moves towards expressing her inner self and gives vent to her secret feelings

and thoughts. Her motifs are so neat and her colours are so soothing that despite the theme of disharmony in many of her paintings one feels transformed into a world of peace and beauty with delicately painted clay toys of childhood, transparent wings of a grasshopper and exotic delicately flowered cactus.

The theme of the door has been included in many of the paintings — in order to succeed one has to cross many thresholds and face many challenges. The problems of domestic and professional life are focused in "Uncoordinated Life" series. Toys that Nasreen got from her recent trip to Chittagong are used as symbols showing how children suffer from frictions in marriage.

The bird on the back of horse stands for a child who is torn between the two separated parents. The bird is sometimes seen here and at times at other places showing the lack of permanency and the pervading confusion in the mind of the child. The cactus in the background represents the inevitable struggles of life. The

pale beam breaking in from the wall stands for hope and optimism.

In another piece of the same series, shadows hover over the toys. This shows the tormented soul and mind of the artist and the dropping leaves that cover the piece stand for the numerous days that pass with their problems and care. Behind the suffering child and its mother is the barrage of family members with their endless questions and criticism. The threads in this painting and others stand for the delicate scale on which many marriages stand.

In the cactus series the artist is out to show that life is a combination of difficulties and joys. The thorns of the cactus are combined with flowers and heart patterns. The plants are subtle and soothing shades of green brown and grey.

In the grasshopper series the wings of the insect are stylised and shown as many beautiful intertwining patterns. The pulsating greens, oranges and yellows could have been taken from the wings of a butterfly or exotic paradise flowers. Nasreen has always concentrated on flowers, insects and other aspects of nature.

One of the paintings of the "Memory" series shows a woman pondering over her past. The walls in the background are shown as slowly crumbling as one gradually forgets the past. The raindrops in the backdrop add to the romantic setting. The architecture of an old town is mingled with the memories of another such entry with the same theme. While the woman's face and figure are blurred in one place it is clear and highlighted in another.

Out of the frustrations and failures in her life the artist builds a world of beauty and harmony.

Nasreen, who has her masters from the University of Baroda, Gujarat, India has participated in group exhibitions in places like Delhi, Moscow and Toronto. This is her third solo attempt.



Mourners commemorating the October 15 victims of Jagannath Hall yesterday. — Star photo

## DU commemorates Oct 15

By DU Correspondent

The Dhaka University yesterday observed mourning day to commemorate the victims of the tragic Jagannath Hall incident.

Earlier in the morning the Vice Chancellor led a mourning procession from Aparajeo Bangla which was attended by a number of students, teachers and employees of the university and placed floral wreaths at the hall memorial.

Black flags were hoisted at the important buildings of the university while the university flag flew at half-mast.

Jagannath Hall students' Union arranged an exhibition of the portraits of those killed in the incident which drew a large number of visitors.

A resolution adopted in a meeting of the council chaired by its president advocate Shamsul Huq Chowdhury termed the existing parliament "illegal and ineffective."

The meeting also resolved that the law and order situation had never deteriorated as it is now since independence of the country.

In another resolution the council said "the government has lost its legitimate right to stay in power and has been in power by force". "This has created the political impasse".

The meeting also expressed deep concern over the devastations caused by the recent flood and urged the government to declare the flood-hit northern areas as disaster areas.

The meeting was addressed by among others, Advocate Gaziul Huq, A F M Mesbahuddin, and Ojayer Farooq.

## Lawyers' Council for polls under caretaker govt

By SC Correspondent

Bangladesh Lawyers' Coordination Council yesterday urged for dissolution of Parliament and holding of general election under a neutral nonpartisan caretaker government headed by the Chief Justice.

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