

Dhaka Day by Day

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 flowering 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 a 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 drooping 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.

On October 15, 1985 at least 41 students, officials and employees were killed when the roof of the hall auditorium collapsed while they were watching the popular drama serial, Shuktara.

Prof Emajuddin Ahmed, the Vice Chancellor of the university, said that most of the injured of the incident had been rehabilitated and the rest would be rehabilitated soon.

He was speaking at a memorial meeting at the TSC auditorium in the evening. Jagadish Chandra Shukla Dash, provost of Jagannath Hall, Dr Lalit Mohan Nath, chairman of the Department of Physics, DUCSU GS Khairul Kabir Khokon, Jagannath Hall Students' Union VP Shuvash Singh Roy addressed the meeting.

The VC announced that a memorial auditorium be constructed soon in the Jagannath Hall premises.

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 blood donation programme was also organised by the hall authorities.

Special prayers and munaajat were offered at the central and different hall mosques and at Jagannath Hall for the salvation of the departed souls.

Rally on White Cane Safety Day

The Assistance for Blind Children (ABC) and Rotaract Club of Mohanagar North West yesterday jointly observed the World White Cane Safety Day, says a press release.

A rally was brought out from the National Museum at 7:30 am and ended at the Jatiya Press Club.

State Minister for Civil Aviation A Mannan led the rally.

Among others, Rtn Iqbal Ansari Khan and ABC president Munira Khan participated in the rally.

Hossain made ANSAB member

By Staff Correspondent

Dr M Gul Hossain, a scientist at Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (BARC), has been made member of the board of directors of the Asia Network for Small-scale Agricultural Biotechnology (ANSAB), says a BARC press release.

Dr Hossain has been the Bangladesh Coordinator for Kathmandu-based ANSAB since the Network was launched in 1992.

ANSAB is engaged in conducting 'Lab to Land' drives for small-scale agricultural biotechnologies in Bangladesh, China, India, Indonesia, Nepal, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam.

JCD Feni dist committee

The incumbent committee of Feni district unit of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) will continue to be in office till the next term, says a JCD central committee press release, yesterday.

The decision was taken at a workers' meeting of the district unit.

Fazul Haq Milan, president, JCD central committee presided over the meeting.

Among others, JCD leaders Shahiduddin Chowdhury Anny, Moniruzzaman and Nasiruddin Ahmed Ashim were also present at the meeting.

Obituary

A F M Enamul Haq, deputy secretary, Ministry of Commerce died of heart attack at PG hospital in the city Saturday night. He was 48, reports BSS.

He left behind his wife, a son and two daughters. The namaz-e-janaza of the deceased was held at Bangladesh Secretariat mosque yesterday. He will be buried at his family graveyard at Sonagazi thana under Feni district.

IR study on city problems

A seven-member research group of International Relations Department, Dhaka University is working on a project titled 'Rajdhani Dhaka: Amra Kemon Achhi' (Capital Dhaka: How We are Doing), says a press release.

The members of the group, all of whom are students of the department, intend to find out various problems of city life and their solutions, through direct public opinion.

Those interested have been requested to send their opinions by October 31 to, Research Work, Rajdhani Dhaka: Amra Kemon Achhi, C/o Dr Imtiaz Ahmad, associate professor, Department of International Relations, Dhaka University.

Erosion affected people's rights week Oct 20

The Week for the Rights of the River Erosion Affected People will be observed in the country from October 20 to October 26, says a press release.

This was decided at a day-long seminar of the Nadi Shikasti Gono Adhikar Forum on Strategy and Future plan held at the WVA auditorium in the city on Saturday.

Programmes of the week will include submission of a memorandum to the Prime Minister demanding rehabilitation of 35 lakh erosion hit people of the country. A press conference will be held at the Jatiya Press Club October 26.

PNP rally in city

The Progressive Nationalist Party (PNP) organised a rally in front of the Jatiya Press Club in the city yesterday, says a press release.

The rally was organised to drum up support for the opposition called 96-hour country-wide hartal. The rally also demanded that next polls be held under a neutral caretaker government.

The rally was addressed, among others, by Shawkat Hossain Nilu, Mustafizur Rahman and Nazrul Islam Bhuiyan.



The Jamaat-e-Islami Bangladesh brought out a procession in the city yesterday in support of the 96-hour hartal called by the mainstream opposition parties. — Star photo

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Application in plain paper stating name, father's name Present Address, Permanent Address, educational qualifications, age and experiences is invited from bonafide Bangladeshies (Male/Female) for appointment as lecturer in Economics and Commerce subject under the following terms and conditions :

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- English Medium background will be preferred.
- Candidates are required to be fluent in spoken English.
- Must be capable of teaching 'O' level and 'A' level classes.
- Candidates having any 3rd Class/Division in educational career need not apply.
- Muslim candidates must have adequate knowledge of Islam and must be practising Muslim.

Application with attested copies of Certificates along with one copy of recent passport size photographs should reach the following address within 10 days of the publication of notice.

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BTMC Bhaban Tender Notice

General Manager (Procurement), BTMC Bhaban, 7-9, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka invites sealed Tenders for Import of Raw Cotton of 1995-96 Crop on C&F Chittagong basis under Cash/Any Other Suitable Source to be closed at 2.00 PM and opened at 2.05 PM in presence of Tenderers, if any as follows:

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4	522/2/31(95-96)	1-1/32"	4000	15.11.95	28.11.95	March '96	Tk 500/-

Tender documents with detailed specifications, information, terms and conditions will be available on all working days from 9.00 AM to 1.00 PM from Chief Accountant, BTMC, BTMC Bhaban, 7-9, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka and from General Manager, BTMC Shipping Office, 79, Agrabad C/A, Chittagong on Cash payment. No Tender documents will be sold on the closing date of the respective Tender.

The authority reserves the right to accept/reject any Tender partially or fully without showing any reason.

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