

Dhaka Day by Day

Playing with Perspectives

by Fayza Haq

Ever since Rokeya Sultana has come into the limelight a decade ago, art enthusiasts in Dhaka have gone overboard about her naive style and her strongly feminist views. She combines skill and imagination with daring and panache. She says what other Bangladeshi women painters are saying but her tone is more subtle and her style more beguiling than most others. Her colours remain soft and her lines ecstatic even when her message may be a bitter sweet one.

In her recent exhibition at the Divine Art Gallery the artist has rejected the formal concept of the visual form following the masters such as Matisse and Kandinsky who inspire her. Thus on a painting we see the house one eighth the size of the people in the composition. A rickshaw is seen going through the sky in another. The moon is seen amidst plants and birds on the earth along with plants, birds and animals in the next. The design of the moral order is not maintained. The normal concept of man and nature is not there and yet one does not feel the element of disharmony. The effect is soothing and gentle. Although Rokeya is not hung up on "isms" she admits to aiming for a surrealist cum expressionistic effect. Decorative motifs also creep in to make the pieces more pleasant for the viewer. However these are not contrived — rather, they are an extension of the subject and the natural environment.

Her recent trip to Bhopal (India) has had strong impact on her deep-seated penchant for primitive art. "The style appeals to me as does all primitive art such as that of Australia, Africa and India. I like to play up the emotion and the soul of my subjects — whether they are human beings or elements of nature," the artist says. When painting her numerous "Madonna" pieces, Rokeya is preoccupied with a mother's pain and concern for her female child — which is often neglected even today, specially in the Third World. "Yes, the son is pampered but the father often fails to know the girl child intimately. It is up to the mother to see the girl through childhood and puberty days." In

the mother image, incidentally, the artist also brings forward the theme of the toiling country of Bangladesh.

Rokeya's Madonna that dominates the exhibition, like her earlier one, is not the stereotyped Roman Catholic Mary, mother of Christ image. Her Madonna is seen riding a rickshaw, walking on a footpath in a village and crossing a city street. The subject is meant to symbolize a new country that has seen evil days since '71. Her journey is a perilous one — reaching up to happiness and satisfaction. In order to make this difficult journey acceptable to the human eye the artist brings in the sapphire sky and the opal moon. The path that she has to trudge is rough and overwhelming but she is determined to reach her destiny. The subject stands for all womanhood striving to establish itself in a male dominated world, where women are still wrongly stoned to death as was done in Sylhet.

Rokeya prefers to keep her lines and colours simple as she is strongly influenced by contemporary Western art, among other factors in her style. Hence we see dots and lines forming a major part of her creations. She believes that these are integral style of a self-taught artist. "I want to capture more than the conventional perspectives taught year after year in the classrooms. Paintings must bring in more than the camera can capture. This might appear simple to do but this is not so in reality. There is lyricism even though the normal everyday perspective is played havoc with. More than anything else, the paintings must appear spontaneous and fresh," the artist sums up her work.

Her recent display includes themes of childhood memories and festivals in old Dhaka, along with the driving force of championing women's cause.

Rokeya, who has won numerous awards overseas, such as in USA and India, has participated in over 25 important international exhibitions. This is her fifth solo exhibition. She is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Print Making at the Institute of Fine Arts, DU.



International Dance Council organised a press conference in the city yesterday on Anisul Islam Hiru's experiences in the International Summer Ballet held recently in Austria.

Rag programme at JU ends

By JU Correspondent

The Jahangirnagar University (JU) campus wore a festive look as the outgoing students organised a five-day long festival to mark the ending of their final academic year.

The festival ended with a dinner for the outgoing students held at the JU central cafeteria yesterday.

The festival of the students of 19th batch called "rag programme" began on Friday with "Baul Songs" and campfire at the central cafeteria premises on the campus.

A drama "Ekatturer Pala" was staged by the Dhaka Theatre at the JU amphitheatre. Other programmes included blood donation, band music, colourful procession, charity football and cricket match.

Probe into Parabat derailment

The government inspector of railways will begin on Saturday a two-day enquiry into the derailment of Sylhet bound Parabat express train near Rashidpur Station in the afternoon of October 25, which caused five deaths, reports BSS.

The railway inspector will conduct the enquiry at the Srimangal Railway Station from 8 am to 4.30 pm on Saturday (November 4) and from 8 am to 2.30 pm on Sunday (November 5).

Intending passengers and eyewitnesses have been requested to help the government inspector with necessary information.

Happy Birthday to Sakeeb M. Ahsan

April, Ammu, Papa Nanabhai

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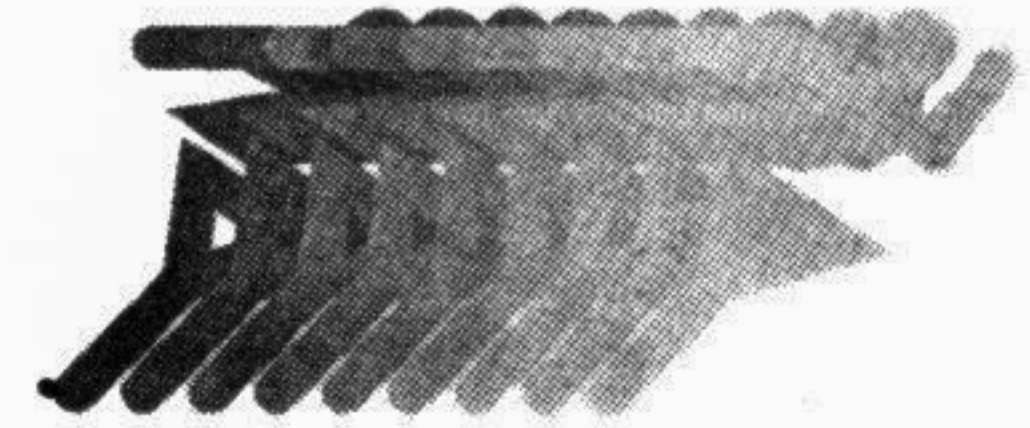


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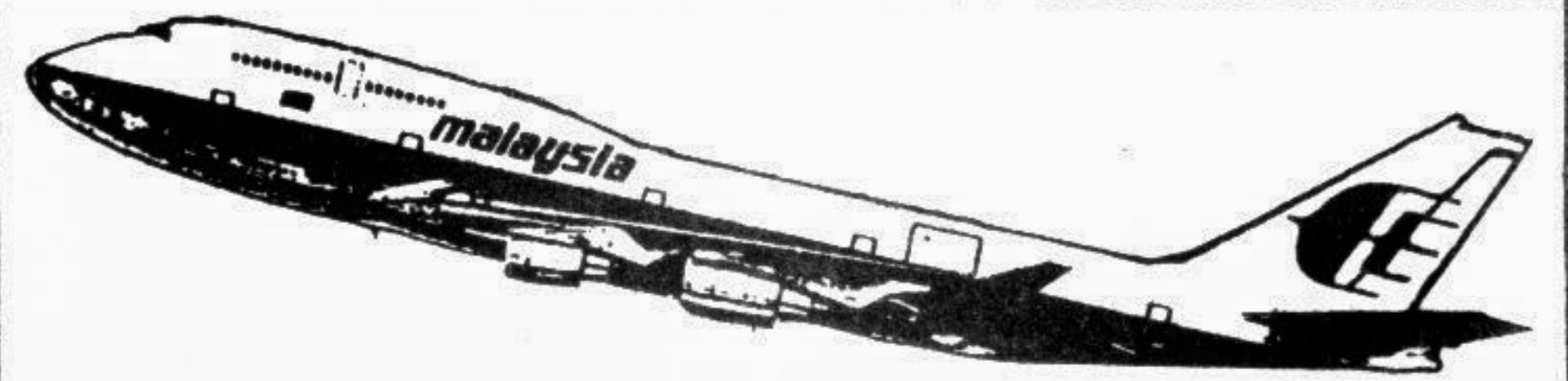
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Weather

Light rain forecast

Light rain or drizzle may occur at one or two places over Dhaka, Chittagong, Khulna, Barisal and Sylhet divisions in the next 12 hours till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

Met Office said weather may remain dry with partly cloudy sky over Rajshahi division during the period.

Weathermen expected slight fall in night temperature over the country.



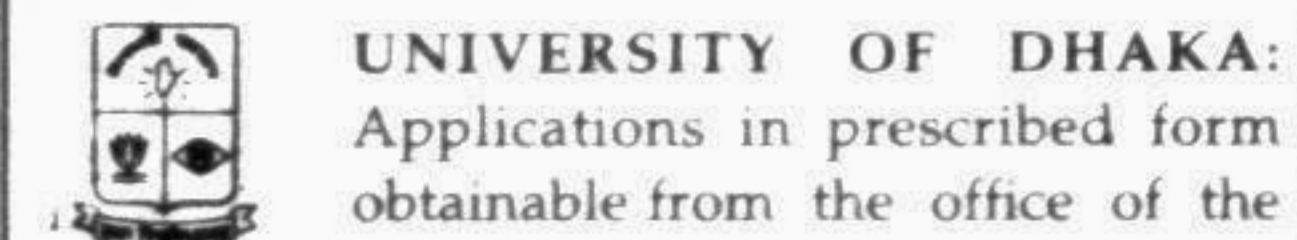
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D-1072

What's on today....

BGMEA 'Samabesh': A 'samabesh' of the garment factory owners will be held. Venue: Engineers Institution auditorium. Time: 10:30 am.

Rotary meeting: A joint meeting of RC of Dhaka Buriganga, RC of Dhaka Midtown and RC of Dhaka North West will be held. Venue: Sonargaon Hotel. Time: 6 pm.

CIRDAP seminar: The two-day seminar on Monitoring Adjustment and Poverty (MAP) in Bangladesh will begin. Venue: CIRDAP office, Chameli House. Time: 10 am. State Minister for Planning, Dr Moeen Khan will inaugurate.

Discussion programme: The Bangabandhu Smriti Sangrakhan Parishad will host a discussion on 'Election Under Caretaker Government'. Venue: Jatiya Grantha Kendra auditorium. Time: 4 pm.

Ganotantra Onushilon Kendra: The body has arranged a press conference. Venue: Sung Garden, Bijoy Nagar. Time 12:30 pm.

Film show: Screening of two films and a discussion programme on contemporary German films will be held. Venue: Goethe Institut. Time: 6 pm.

Science lecture: The National Museum of Science and Technology (NMST) will host a talk on 'Earthquake in Bangladesh: Ways to Reduce Casualty'. Dr Jamilur Reza Chowdhury will give the talk. Venue: NMST auditorium. Time: 4 pm.

Rotary Club of Shyamoli: The regular weekly meeting of the club will be held. Venue: Sheraton hotel. Time: 5:30 pm.



নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলীর কার্যালয়

বাণিজ্যিক পরিচালন বিভাগ, ডেসা, নরসিংদী

দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং বাপবি/নর/ডেসা/৯৫/ই-১২/১০০৬ তারিখ ১১-১০-৯৫ ইং মোতাবেক বাণিজ্যিক পরিচালন বিভাগ, ডেসা, নরসিংদী দপ্তরে অফিস কার্যক্রমের সরবরাহের জন্য ঢাকা বিদ্যুৎ বিতরণ কর্তৃপক্ষ/বালাসেপ বিদ্যুৎ উন্নয়ন বোর্ডের টি-২ ফরমের শর্তানুসারে এক বিদ্যুৎ উন্নয়ন বোর্ড ও ডেসার তালিকাভুক্ত প্রকৃত ঠিকাদার মাল্যমাল সরবরাহকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিকট হইতে সীলমোহরকৃত বায়ে দরপত্র আহ্বান করা হইতেছে। বিস্তারিত দরপত্র ফরম ও তফসিল প্রতি সেট ১০০/০০ (একশত) টাকা মূল্যে (অফেরতযোগ্য) আগামী ৮-১১-৯৫ ইং পর্যন্ত প্রতি কর্মদিবসে মহা-ব্যবস্থাপক, গ্রাহক সেবা দপ্তর, ডেসা, শান্তিনগর, ঢাকা, তত্ত্বাবধায়ক প্রকৌশলী, গ্রাহক সেবা, ডেসা, নরসিংদী এক অংশী বাবে, নরসিংদী বাজার শাখা হইতে পাওয়া যাইবে। দরপত্র ক্রয়ের পূর্বে তত্ত্বাবধায়ক প্রকৌশলী, গ্রাহক সেবা, ডেসা, নরসিংদী ও নিম্নস্বাক্ষরকারীর পূর্বনুমোদন লইতে হইবে একে আগামী ৯-১১-৯৫ ইং কোলা ১২-০০ ঘটিকা সময় পর্যন্ত উপরে বর্ণিত চারিভিক এর অফিসমূহে দরপত্র পূহিত হইবে। ঐদিনই ১২-০০ মিঃ সময় উপস্থিত ঠিকাদারের অথবা তাদের অনুমোদিত প্রতিনিধিদের যদি কেহ উপস্থিত থাকেন, সম্মুখে দরপত্র খোলা হইবে। দরপত্রের সহিত উদ্ধৃত দরের ২.৫০% হারে বায়নার টাকা যে কোন তফসিলভুক্ত ব্যাংক হইতে ডিডি/ব্যাংক ডাফট অথবা পি-অর্ডার আকারে অতিরিক্ত পরিচালক (হিসাব) আঃ হিঃ নং (দপ্তর) ডেসা, ঢাকা এর অনুকূলে জমা দিতে হইবে অন্যথা দরপত্র বাতিল বলিয়া গণ্য করা হইবে। উল্লিখিত ব্যাংকে যে নিম্নস্বাক্ষরকারী যে কোন প্রকার কারণ দর্শাতে ব্যতিরেকে সর্বনিম্ন অথবা যে কোন দরপত্র বাতিল বলিয়া গণ্য করার পূর্ব কৃত্যতা সঙ্গতরূপে করবেন।

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