Anoka Faruqee's 1st solo painting show begins

Star Report A four-day exhibition of paintings by Anoka Faruqee began at Gallery 21 yesterday, with Grameen Bank chief Muhammad Yunus inaugurating the Chicago-based Bengalee artist's first solo in Bangladesh.

"I have known Anoka for a long time, and I am delighted to be associated with this exhibition". Yunus said during a brief but crowded inaugural ceremony in the garden of Gallery 21 on Dhanmondi's Satmasjid Road.

Anoka Faruqee may have been an unknown talent in the art circles of Dhaka, but her first solo in Bangladesh titled "Interiors" is likely to change all that. The unusual style, child-like execution of figures and decorative designs of the works on display look tailormade to trigger a range of reac-tions, from the appreciative to the dismissive.

The style of the 26-year old Anoka's earlier works appear a throw back to an older time, with themes picked out of everyday life and experiences. Her flat, one-dimensional paintings from the early '90s bear decorative touches of various kinds, with liberal use of floral motifs and geometric patterns.

There is an underlying cur-rent of wit and humour, with depiction of passengers at Howrah railway station in Calcutta or her mother asleep on the sofa with a TV remote control still in hand. But in all these works, there is a conscious effort to couch the realism in a surrealistic aura, with the use of flat perspective.

"I am not interested in making realistic representations". Anoka says. "I want to create paintings with their own rules and splendour".

Splendour there is in abundance in her later works, dating from the mid-90s to the present, where she probes the possibilities of decoration as painting themes. These works delve deep into the world of spirituality, searching for inspiration in Islamic decorative principles and tile designs.

She sees abstraction as the purest form, because that is form without representation. She sees Islamic art as the "main mover of abstraction" because of the religion's embargo on depiction of human and animal figures.

Her year-long residence at Shantiniketan in 1995 exposed her to a world of Moghul and Persian miniature art, as well as the school of Abanindranath Tagore. But it was the decorative aspects of miniatures and tile designs of Islamic art that influenced her.

Through the later part of the 90s she has tried to develop her signature style, combining and balancing the concepts of the East and the West. Some of the end products may look far too decorative for comfort to the aesthetic, but Anoka would reject the criticism, saying that she uses decoration as a different model of abstraction.

Born in the USA, Anoka took her Bachelor of Arts in painting from Yale University. before completing her Masters of Fine Arts at Tyler School of Art at Temple University of Pennsylvania. She is currently working as an Assistant Professor. School of the Art Institute of Chicago.

Public Library auditorium to be renamed after Shawkat Osman

State Minister for Youth Sports and Cultural Affairs Obaidul Quader yesterday announced that the National Museum would preserve the relics and articles used by late litterateur Shawkat Osman while the Public Library auditorium would be renamed after him, reports BSS. "We have also decided to

publish his works from the Bangla Academy," he said at a memorial meeting organised at the National Museum auditorium to mark his the 82 birth anniversary.

The State Minister said even in his old age, Shawkat Osman took to the street on several occasions to express what he be-

Held under the auspices of Shawkat Osman Parishad, the function was chaired by Prof Mustafa Nurul Islam, and addressed, among others, by Poet Shamsur Rahman, National Professor Kabir Chowdhury and journalist Shantosh Gupta.

Poet Shamsur Rahman said Shawkat Osman not only earned respect as one of the country's best novelists and litterateurs, but also earned love of those who knew him because of his personal affection for others.

Poet Shamsur Rahman recalled that unlike many others the late litterateur used to study and encourage the works of new

writers. Prof Kabir Chowdhury termed him as a renaissance man saying during his long life. he proved himself not only to be a modern man but also a pioneering figure to lead his soci-

One hacked to death in Khulna

KHULNA, Jan 2: A young man was hacked to death in the city's Fulbari Gate area this (Saturday) evening as a sequel of past enmity, reports UNB.

Police said a group of youths hit Kachi (25), son of Abdus Salam of Dighirpar area of the city, with sharp weapons on his shoulder and head at about 7:30 pm following an altercation with him.

Kachi was rushed to Khulna Sadar Hospital and died there at about 8:10 pm.

Construction of Bhairab-Ashuganj Bridge to start soon: Zillur

KISHOREGANJ, Jan 2: The government will soon start construction of Bhairab-Ashuganj bridge on the river Meghna and the World Bank financed Bhairab Town Protection Embankment as part of the fulfilment of the hopes and aspirations of the people, reports

This was disclosed by the Minister for LGRD and Cooperatives Zillur Rahman while addressing two public meetings here today. Minister for Water Resources Abdur Razzak, State Minister for Energy and Min-eral Resources Prof Rafiqul Islam, local leaders of Awami League, Juba League and Kr-ishak League also addressed the meetings.

Zillur Rahman said the government was now implementing an epoch-making programme all over the country to bring about a positive change in the national life. "Such programme was never seen in Bangladesh over the last 21

He mentioned construction of the Bangabandhu Bridge, signing of the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) Peace Treaty, the Ganges Water sharing agreement, launching allowance for

Perfect Textiles opened a new sales centre and showroom

of its products at Mamtaz Plaza in Dhanmondi yesterday.

The textiles' displayed its special Eid collection of sarees

-Star photo

2 killed in road

accidents in

Sirajganj

people were killed in two road

accidents in the district yester-

day, police said today, reports

over by a Nagarbari-bound tank

lorry near Goramara bridge un-

der Raiganj thana on the Bogra-

boy. Ripon, was crushed under

the wheels of a truck at Balsha

Both the vehicles escaped.

Six hurt as

extortionists

clash in Ctg

toll extortionists were injured

in an exchange of gunfire over

collection of tolls at Kadamtali

bus stand here today, reports

two rival groups of toll extor-

tionists were locked in a quar-

rel over collection of tolls from

received bullet injuries

stand.

Double Mooring police said

CHITTAGONG, Jan 2: Six

Nagarbari highway.

in Ullapara thana.

SIRAJGANJ, Jan 2: Two

One Raisuddin, 37, was run

In another accident, a minor

at the centre.

Bandarban dist

hospital doctors

go on strike

100 patients have left the dis-

trict sadar hospital as doctors

today went on strike for an in-

definite period protesting as-

sault of one of their colleagues

by hospital employees Friday

employees of the hospital as-

saulted an attending physician

accusing him of negligence of

duty that led to the death of one

Humaun Kabir (55) in the hospi-

tal at about 9 pm Friday. They

claimed the patient died before

doctor on duty came one and a

half hours late. Kabir, the pres-

ident of district professionals

association, died at about 10:30

death of Kabir Friday night was

brought under control with in-

tervention of the Deputy Com-

missioner.

The situation following the

The doctors of the hospital

A committee was formed to

A group of people today

brought out a procession in the

town protesting alleged negli-

probe into the death of Humaun

said they will not return to duty

until punitive action is taken

against the employees respon-

sible for the incident.

gence by the doctors.

pm unattended by any doctor.

But the employees said the

admission to the hospital.

Striking doctors said unruly

night, reports UNB.

BANDARBAN, Jan 2: About

the employment bank and successfully facing the century's worst flood which were bearing testimony of the present government's strong commitment to serve the people.

Rahman said the Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and BNP chief Begum Khaleda Zia had now become jealous about the historic successes of the present government in a short span of time. "Begum Khaleda Zia is now trying to di-vert the successes of the present government as so-called failures by pursuing propaganda in the country," he said.

Zillur Rahman said the gov-ernment established by the support and confidence of the people could never be toppled by banking on the shoulders of autocrat and razakars.

"BNP tried all possible ways to create an artificial issue with a view to launching so-called movement to let out anarchy and indiscipline against the government led by Bangladesh

Awami League," he said. The LGRD Minister said the people as a whole were now united against any kind of neg-ative politics and the Leader of the opposition would get the result of her own brand of politics

in future elections. "The people will give due answer to the intransigent attitude of the leader of the oppositions and also her alliance with the antiliberation forces and the autocrat in the next parliament

elections," he said. Water Resources Minister Abdur Razzak said Begum Khaleda Zia would not be able to score any plus point by her conspiracy against the Awami League led government as the people were now witnessing what benefit they were getting from the present regime.

"The amount of positive work done by the present government for the welfare of the people was never even thought of during the regimes of Begum Khaleda Zia and General Ershad," he told the meetings held at Khalapara ground and Tinpatty Bazar here.

The minister directed the Water Development Board (WDB) to take up emergency work to protect already threatened national power grid near the Bhairab Bazar and also the launch ghat of the Meghna river nearby.

The WDB chairman M Shamsul Huq was also present at the meeting.



Part of Kaptan Bazar Rd has been occupied by small traders to set up a thriving Kutchabazar. This has proves a big problem to users of the road everyday. -Star photo

Work on Tk 6.75cr water project in Kushtia begins BHERAMARA, Kushtia, Jan 2: The work on a Tk 6.75 crore project for supplying arsenic and iron-free water in Kushtia municipal areas commenced

Funded by Asian Development Bank, the project includes setting up of a 36-km-long pipeline, water-lifting tubewells, iron removal plants, arsenic detector units, construction of overhead tanks and household connections.

The project was inaugurated at the pourasabha auditorium at a simple ceremony where the municipality chairman, Anwar Ali, was present as the chief

work on the project, being supervised by the Department of Public Health Engineering (DPHE), is scheduled to be completed by the year 2000.

Silent procession

RAJSHAHI University, Jan 2: A silent procession was brought out on the campus today to protest the foiling a programme of Fine Arts Department by a group of unruly students on December 29, reports

were also submitted to the vicechancellor of the university by different organisations in this connection today.

Sources said four students -Plaban, Raja, Jamil and Kajol - of the department allegedly ransacked the dais erected in connection with the programme organised on the occasion of Shilpacharya Zainul Abedin's birth anniversary on December 29.

They also assaulted general secretary of Fine Arts Association Raihan Kabir, the sources

The protesters marched to the administrative building and held a meeting before submitting the memoranda.

carried out post flood work'

grammes, reports BSS.

Addressing the coordination meeting on relief and agricultural rehabilitation of Sylhet, the minister said the success of the government regarding tackling of the floods and post-flood rehabilitation has been acclaimed at home and abroad. As a result, he said, the country received increased relief help from abroad.

He said the government has properly implemented the rehabilitation programmes proving wrong the remarks of certain opposition party. Samad asked the officials to supervise

Later, the minister attended a condolence meeting in memory of freedom fighter and journalist of Biani Bazar Abdul Matin Chowdhury.

Ctg district coordination body meets CHITTAGONG, Jan 2: Labour

and Employment Minister M A Mannan today asked the officials concerned to immediately complete unfinished work of the under-construction bridges. culverts and roads in all thanas of Chittagong district, reports

Reviewing the progress of work of the rural infrastructure development project at the district coordination committee meeting at the local Circuit House, the minister pointed out that development of infrastructures in the rural areas would greatly help alleviate rural poverty, strengthen rural economy and create new employment opportunities. Strengthening of rural economy would also help achieve higher national growth, he added.

The coordination meeting, presided over by Labour Minister M A Mannan, was attended by the deputy commissioner of Chittagong, police superintendent, additional deputy commissioner (Gen) and Thana Nirbahi Officers.

3 bodies recovered

Police recovered bodies of three people, including two women, from different parts of the city yesterday, reports UNB. The bodies of Takdir Hos-

Popy, 16, were sent to DMCH for The body of Takdir, an SSC examinee of Ahmedbagh High School in the city, was found

sain, 16. Morsheda, 20, and

floating on a pond at Maniknagar in Sabujbagh thana. Family sources said Takdir went to TSC area of Dhaka University on Thursday to collect money from his friend Galib, a resident of Maniknagar, whom he lent the money earlier.

Takdir has been missing since Police arrested Galib in this connection.

Morsheda, a worker of Bengal Newtex Garments, died after falling from the fifth floor of the factory at Mugdapara yesterday morning.

Popy, wife of one Rafiq, allegedly committed suicide by hanging herself in her house at Dholaipar area on Friday

Orientation course held

An orientation course was held at Shams Hall, National Scout Bhaban for the contingent leaders of Jamboree '99 yesterday, says a press release. The 6th National Scout

Jamboree will be held at Bangladesh National Scout Training Centre, Mouchak, Gazipur from 5-11 February. At least 110 contingent leaders from all over the country attended the course. Manzoor Ul Karim, Chief National Commissioner, Bangladesh Scouts, Md Abdul Quyyum Thakur, National Commissioner (Admin) & Chairman, 6th National Bangladesh Scout Jamboree organizing committee '99, Habibul Alam, Bir Pratik. National Commissioner (Programme), Md. Shah Alam, National Commissioner (Training) and other Deputy National Commissioners & senior scouters exchanged views with the participants.

Call to build up non-communal Bangladesh

Acting president of Bangladesh Puja Udjapan Parishad, engineer Profullah Kumar Hawladar and general secretary advocate Subrata Chowdhury yesterday called for building up non-communal Bangladesh according equal dignity to all religions and practising tolerance irrespective of caste and creed, reports BSS. In a statement, they de-

scribed the comment of the Leader of the Opposition in Parliament, Begum Khaleda Zia on December 31 at an Iftar party sponsored by local BNP at Balur Math under Lalbagh Thana that, "they do not come when invited to attend Iftar party, but they visit temple festivals," as provocative and sad and tantamount to hurt the religious sentiments.

Elections to teachers representatives in RU Syndicate today

RAJSHAHI, Jan 2: Elections to the teachers' representatives in the Syndicate, Academic Council and Planning and Development Committee, and to the Deans of Rajshahi University are being held tomorrow, reports UNB.

Two panels - BNP and Jamaat backed White and pro-Awami and left-leaning party supported Yellow - are contesting the elections.

A total of 35 candidates - 17 from White and 18 from Yellow are vying for the 18 posts. White panel did not file any candidate for the Dean post of Law Faculty. Other faculties for which Dean elections will be held are : the Arts, Social Science, Science, Geology and Business Studies faculties. The White panel candidates

Deans: Prof M Mokhlesur Rahman, Prof ATM Obaidullah, Prof MA Razzak, Prof Mohammad Zaman and M Amanullah. Syndicate: Provost M Shamsul Álam Sarkar, Prof M Abdul Quadir Bhuiyan, Associate Prof

M Delwar Hossain, Assistant Prof M Selim Reza and Lecturer M Abu Reza Tuhin. Academic Council: Associate Professors KBM Mahbubur Rahman, M Mahbub Hasan and M Sayedur Rahman and Lecturers M Zahid Hossain, M Shah Imran and M Shariful Islam. Planning and Development Committee: Prof M Abdullah Haroon.

Yellow panel candidates are: Deans: Prof Sarwar Jahan, Prof M Mohsin Ali, Prof M Anisur Rahman, Prof ABM Zohirul Huq. Prof M Anisur Rahman and Prof M Habibur Rahman.

Syndicate: Provost M Abdul Halim, Prof Chowdhury Zulfikar Motin, Dr M Habibur Rahman, Assistant Prof M Nazrul Islam and Lecturer M Boraf Ali.

Academic Council: Associated Prof Chittaranjan Misra, Dr M Mujibur Rahman, Dr M Abdur Razzak, Assistant Prof M Golam Farooque, Assistant Prof M Abdul Bari and Lecturer M Sadequl Arefin.

Committee: Prof Kazi Tobarak Hossain.

Meanwhile, election to the teachers association announced for tomorrow has been suspended due to unavoidable circumstances.



CID police arrested a robber and recovered six 303 rifles, 240 rounds of bullets and 19 chargers from a raid in city's Kadamtali area, in connection with the robbery in a launch 'MM Zamzam' in Gajaria thana of Munshiganj on Wednesday. -Star photo

HERE and THERE

Sylhet Division Dev Council

The 80th birth anniversary of Gen (Retd) M A Rob, Bir Uttam, second in command of the Bangladesh Liberation army and the then chief of staff, was observed in the city Friday in a befitting manner, reports BSS. Sylhet Division Development Council (SDDC) held a discussion and a milad mahfil

followed by Iftar at its central office to mark the day. The speakers urged the government to celebrate and observe the birth and death anniversaries of veteran freedom

fighter late Rob in the sate hon-

Among others, the acting SDDC president Ershad Uddin Ahmed, one of the sub-sector commanders in the Liberation War, Mahbubur Rob Sadi and journalist Hasan Shahriar

took part in the discussion. Chhatra League

A representative meeting of Bangladesh Chhatra League (Dhaka North) was held at its central office here

With BCL North president N Saifullah in the chair, the meeting was addressed, among others, by its Executive Committee president Bahadur Bepari, general secretary Ajoy Kar Khokon, joint secretary Liakat Sikder and North unit secretary Akkasur Rahman alias Akhi. The leaders urged for mak-

(Saturday), reports UNB.

ing the meeting at Paltan Maidan marking the 51st Founding Anniversary of Chhatra League on Monday a success.

Indian sarees worth Tk 1 lakh seized, 3 held

NAOGAON, Jan 2: Police ar rested three youths along with huge Indian sarees worth over Tk one lakh from in front of police station in Sadar thana yesterday, reports UNB.

Police raided a microbus at 12 noon and found the contraband. They arrested the three youths travelling in the microbus who were identified as Alamgir and Mujibur of Chapainawabganj and Mohsin of Shariatpur district.

5 held in city in separate incidents

By Staff Correspondent Police arrested five people and recovered goods and phensidyl from their possession in separate incidents in the city on Friday.

The arrested were identified as Shajahan, 27, Enamul Hug alias Raju, 18, Liton, 29, Nazrul Islam alias Raju and Elias.

Police in a raid at the Bailtala slum and Mohammadpur area and arrested Shajahan, Raju, Liton and Nazrul and seized one Baby Taxi. Three bags were recovered from the vehicle with valuables including camera, watch, ladies bag, money bag, police said. The muggers had snatched the goods from a vehicle at Asad Gate on

the same day, they added. In another raid at Ganktali area police arrested one Elias and recovered 70 bottles of imported phensidyl from his possession at about 8-35 pm. Separate cases have been

lodged in these connections.

DU teacher

dead

Zamrul Hasan Begh, a young

Planning and Development

lecturer of Bangla Department of Dhaka University, died of heart attack at his residence on Friday night. He was 31, reports

> He left behind his wife, son, mother, and a host of relatives and admirer to mourn his

His namaz-e-Janaza was held at the University Central Mosque premises yesterday morning. The body of late Begh was sent to his village home at Biyala in Basail thana of Tangail district.

Hasan Begh, a house tutor of Surva Sen Hall, joined the Bangla Department of DU in October, 1998.

Before his joining at the Bangla Department he was an Assistant Professor of Bengali Language Department of the Modern Language Institute.

Obituary

Syeda Sharful Ara Mukaddesa Khatoon, sister of late poet Farrokh Ahmed died of old age ailments in the city on Friday. She was 88, says a press release

She is survived by three sons, two daughters and a host of relatives. Her third son Sultan Ahmed is the news editor of Daily Inqilab. Her elder son Dr Muniruzzaman, professor of Statistics, Dhaka University was killed along with three other family members on March 25, 1971 when Pakistani forces attacked Dhaka University campus.

Syeda Sharful Ara was buried at Mohammadpur graveyard. Her Qulkhwani will be held at the residence of her youngest daughter at 43, New Paltan Line, Azimpur on Mon-

JS body on Ministry of Law holds meet

day after Asr prayers.

Members of The Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs yesterday described as unsatisfactory the progress of work of the Law Commission, reports BSS.

At a meeting held with the committee chairman and parliamentary advisor to the prime minister, Suranjit Sengupta in the chair, they stressed the need for solving problems of the law commission and increase its manpower to make it more dynamic and efficient to meet the hopes and aspirations of the people.

The members of the committee also decided that the Law Commission reports be discussed in detail in the parliament session to help build a dynamic judicial system and ensure speedy trial of cases.

Committee members Minister for Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Abdul Matin Khasru, Advocate Md Rahmat Ali, Advocate Sheikh Md Nurul Huq. Barrister Rabia Bhuiyan. Barrister Muhammad Jamiruddin Sircar, Barrister Md Aminul Huq and Md Khalequzzaman attended the meet-

Law Secretary Aminullah and concerned officials also at-

tended the meeting.

years since 1975," he said.

the old people, establishment of

Friday, reports APB.

The pourasabha sources said

on RU campus

Three separate memoranda

added.

'Govt has sincerely

Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad yesterday said that the government has proved its administrative skill through successful implementation of post-flood relief and agricul. tural rehabilitation pro-

illegal drug dealers at the bus the remaining tasks sincerely. At one stage, they exchanged gunfire as a result of which six Police arrested seven persons in this connection.

3 14 - 12 --27.2

A rally was brought out in the city yesterday marking the third founding anniversary of "Biggan Chetona." —Star photo