

Metropolitan

**Dhaka Day by Day**

**An Exuberant Animal Fantasia**

by Fayza Haq



Ratty, Mole and badger conspiring to save their friend Toad.

Who has not revelled in reading and watching "Peter Pan", "Treasure Island", "Wizard of Oz", "Little Women" or "What Katy Did"? Kenneth Grahame's "The Wind in The Willows" falls into this category of creations that you never get tired of watching, even in your adult years.

"The Wind in The Willows" which is well-loved children's story in English is built on a number of story letters from Grahame to his precocious young son. In the story are four main characters who have given the ability and shortcomings of human beings. The setting is an English fanciful dream from the past, which perhaps is simply a figment of the imagination.

A Milne did the original stage adaptation of the book in "Toad of Toad Hall". John Morley has produced a new musical interpretation which remains faithful to the original book, and at the same time he has put a universal atmosphere over the entire performance.

Faith Handley, the director and co-producer for this "Dhaka Stage" production, has been working with her team of twenty-four children, a handful of energetic teenagers, and a number of confident and enthusiastic adults since August this year. She has had to guide them through the acting, singing and dancing.

And what a treat the play was — a treasure-trove of light fantastic adventures and unadulterated fun, as it opened last night at the American International School auditorium. As you sat back in your seats, cut off from the humdrum of life, and the more serious pressures of economic, social and political nature, you felt you were a child once again — when happy hours would never end.

You were transported into the pristine world of willow trees and grassy banks, while an innocent horse capered around, Gypsies came and danced, and young lovers were seen with their harmless quarrel.

The world consisted of "Toad Hall", "Mole's House," and "Otter" and "Ratty's Home, the "Badger's" place, and the "Gypsy Camp." The script was fascinating, the acting earnest, and the direction and setting effective. You were completely submerged and overwhelmed in the simple but touching story of the adventures of the good-hearted but reckless "Toad" and his friends, as they fend off the wily ways of the "Chief Weasel" and his entourage of young, boisterous and volatile "Ferrets" and "Stoats".

The costumes and makeup transformed the young children into "Rabbits" and "Field-Mice" too. They danced and sang their own portions with almost as much zest as the young villains. Here Michael Jackson's "Bad" came in and added to the energy and dynamism of the play.

**HERE and THERE**

**Bandhab**  
Bandhab, a benevolent association for social advancement, on Monday accorded a reception to Bangladesh Drugs Resistance Committee General Secretary, Syed Rashid Alam and Kamrul Islam Soni, the Chairman of Life, an anti-drug organisation, for their outstanding contribution to the country's campaign against drug abuse.

**Credit for Women**  
Bangladesh Institute of Bank Management Monday organised a day-long workshop on "Credit for Women". Presided over by the former Defence Secretary Salauddin Ahmed, the workshop was participated by representatives of the World Bank, Bangladesh Bank, Commercial Banks, Planning Commission, Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies, Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation and NGOs.

**Lawyers' forum**  
Leaders of Lawyers Concern, a forum of young lawyers, Monday expressed their solidarity with the decision of the Lawyers Coordination Council to boycott courts.

In a statement, Concern Convenor, A F M Riazur Rahman, Rumel and Joint Convenors Advocate Shakhawat Uddin Ahmed and Advocate Mahbul Haider Ali Chowdhury alleged that the government remained silent on abolition of the upazila courts despite appeals of the lawyers community.

**Solidarity Day**  
Speakers at a discussion meeting on the National Solidarity Day said that shipah revolution on November 7

**Record paddy harvest in cyclone-hit areas likely**

CHITTAGONG, Nov 11: Record paddy harvest is expected in the cyclone and tidal surge battered areas of Chittagong and Cox's Bazar districts in the current season, reports BSS.

According to Agriculture Extension Department sources here, the favourable weather and timely supply of agricultural inputs to the farmers brightened the prospect for good harvest of paddy during the season.

The sources said that in Chittagong district, 4,64,540

acres of land were brought under Aman cultivation and the production of paddy would be around 3,95,500 metric tons.

The farmers preferred to cultivate High Yielding Varieties like BR 10, BR 11, Pajam, Rajashahi and Kazalshahi in this season.

Among the 14 upazilas of the district paddy production would be better in Mirsharai and Fatikchhari, the sources added.

In Cox's Bazar district, a total of 1,62,610 acres of land were brought under cultivation

and the production of paddy was estimated at 1,63,244 metric tons. Here also farmers cultivated High Yielding Variety of paddy.

Chakaria upazila may top the list of good harvesters among the seven upazilas of the district.

The harvesting has already been started in some places.

The Agriculture Extension Department sources also said that the joy of farmers knew no bounds as they are having very good harvest after the devastating calamity.

**KSP demands white paper on CHT situation**

The President of the Krishak Sramik Party, ASM Solaiman, Monday demanded a white paper on the Chittagong Hill Tracts situation, reports BSS.

In a statement in Dhaka, he said the so-called "Shanti Bahini" was carrying out its violent activities in the Chittagong Hill Tracts with the direct help and assistance of a neighbouring country.

Solaiman said, it was an "undeclared war" against Bangladesh in the Chittagong Hill Tracts and added that the entire nation was concerned at the situation there.

He deplored that the big political parties and alliances were maintaining silence over the issue

**Gold, Dollars worth Tk 7 lakh seized at ZIA**

The Customs at the Zia International Airport Monday seized gold, undeclared dollars and one VCP worth Taka seven lakh from the baggage of a passenger who flew in Dhaka from London by Bangladesh Biman, according to a press release of the customs intelligence and investigation directorate, reports BSS.

Acting on a secret information, the customs officials checked the baggage of the passenger while passing through the green channel. The investigation resulted in the recovery of five gold bars, four pieces of gold bangles, 15,600 undeclared Dollars and one VCP.

**SC Bar President receives British law books**

The British High Commissioner, Colin Imray, on Monday presented Dr Rafiqur Rahman, President, Bangladesh Supreme Court Bar Association, with law books worth \$6,000 (Taka 4 lakh) from Great Britain.

The British books will be used by the 1,300 members of the Bar Association and form a valuable link between the legal professions of Britain and Bangladesh, says a press release of British High Commissioner.

**Plea to hold trial of killers of '71 war heroes**

Eminent lawyer and former President of the Supreme Court Bar Association Advocate Shamsul Huq Chowdhury Monday demanded of the government to hold trial of the killers who had murdered the heroes of Bangladesh Liberation War, reports BSS.

Addressing as the chief guest, the 19th Founding Anniversary of Bangladesh Juba League at Bangladesh Avenue, Advocate Chowdhury said it was necessary to try the killers of the country's leaders who led the nation to freedom to establish rule of law.

Juba League, which was founded by late Sheikh Fazlul Huq Moni on November 11, 1972, observed the Day by hoisting national and party flags in the morning, placing wreaths at the portrait of the Bangabandhu and offering fatiha at the grave of Sheikh Moni, who was killed on 15 August, 1975.

Advocate Chowdhury pointed out that the present government was an elected government and voted to power through a free and fair election. But he said, excepting the replacement of Gen Ershad, nothing much has changed. He said the government had not yet repealed the Black Laws like the Special Powers Act which was their pledge to the people.

He said many pledges of the ruling party before the people during the anti-autocracy movement had not yet fulfilled, including the conversion of radio and TV into autonomous bodies.

**College teachers' problems to be solved**

A five-member delegation of the BCS General Education Association called on the Education Secretary M. Mostafizur Rahman in Dhaka on Monday, reports BSS.

An association press release said that during the meeting, the delegation members discussed with the Education Secretary various matters including removal of disparity in seniority and promotion, sectional promotions at all levels including 20 per cent reserved posts, creation of rest of the posts on the basis of staff pattern and inclusion of principals and professors in the warrant of precedence.

The Education Secretary assured the delegation that proper steps would be taken to solve their problems, the press release said.

Principal Rashida Begum, General Secretary of the association Abu Yusuf and Treasurer Dr Golam Resul were among others, who called on the Education Secretary.

Advocate Chowdhury gave a clarion call to all political parties to cooperate with each other to curb campus terrorism without further delay. He said it is the national consensus that the universities should be freed of arms.

Advocate Chowdhury welcomed the decision of Sheikh Hasina to suspend the activities of her party's student wing in Dhaka University. He said the main responsibility to ensure peace in the educational

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**US Navy band leaves Dhaka**

The sixteen-member US Navy band left Dhaka Monday morning ending their goodwill visit to Bangladesh, says an ISPR press release.

During their stay in Bangladesh the US Navy band took part in joint concerts with the Bangladesh Navy in Dhaka and Chittagong.

They were seen off at the airport by senior officers of the Naval Headquarters and officials of the US Embassy in Dhaka.

**Students urged to consolidate democracy**

State Minister for Cultural Affairs Prof Jahanara Begum has called upon the students community to be imbued with the spirit of the National Revolution and Solidarity Day to consolidate the present democratic system, reports BSS.

She said all patriotic citizens of the country should follow the sense of direction given by Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman to strengthen independence and sovereignty.

Prof Jahanara Begum was addressing as the chief guest a meeting in Dhaka Sunday which was organised by Saltmullah Medical College Unit of Jatyatabadi Chhatra Dal on the occasion of the National Revolution and Solidarity Day. Unit president Ehsanul Haq Inu presided over the meeting while Begum Ahsanullah, MP, and other Chhatra Dal leaders addressed it.

**Chhatra Shakti**

About 100 female students of Mirpur Girls' Ideal Laboratory Institute under the leadership of Mahmuja Khatun of Chhatra Kendro on Monday joined Bangladesh Chhatra Shakti, said a press release.

A meeting held on this occasion was presided over by Nazmunnahar Swapna while NDP leader Mesbahuddin Ahmed Sabu attended as the chief guest.

Among others, Chhatra Shakti Convenor Mamunur Rashid and other leaders Advocate Ruhul Amin Shelly and Alamgir, Ripon and Aminul were present at the function.

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**Sramik Mukti Andolan**

Bangladesh Krishak Sramik Mukti Andolan held a discussion meeting on the National Solidarity Day.

Speaking at the function, the General Secretary of Andolan, Advocate Foyez Ahmed said the people of the country have become hostage to the government-sponsored terrorism.

Speakers at the meeting demanded compensation for the family of the martyrs

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**Weather**

**Dry weather likely**

A well-marked low has been formed Monday morning over the East Central Bay and adjoining South-East Bay and Andaman Sea, reports UNB.

Met office says that it may concentrate into a depression and move initially in a north westerly direction.

Weather is expected to remain mainly dry during the next 24 hours till 6 pm today (Tuesday).

Today's maximum temperature in Dhaka was 30 degree Celsius and the minimum 19.5 degrees. Country's lowest temperature 15 degree Celsius was recorded in Mymensingh.

Percentage of humidity was 75 in the morning and 63 in the evening.

The Sun sets today (Tuesday) at 5:14 pm and it rises tomorrow (Wednesday) at 6:12 am.

**Tuesday**

5.00 Opening announcement, Al Quran  
Programme summary

5.10 News in Bangla

5.30 Cartoon film: The Challenge of the Gobots

6.00 Educational programme

6.30 Programme on mothers

7.05 Nazrul Sangeet

8.00 News in Bangla

8.30 Drama series: Granthikan Kabe  
News in English

10.00 Film show: War and Remembrance

11.30 Khabar/The news

11.45 Close Down