

Dhaka Day by Day

The Spiritual Ecstasy of a Temple Dance

by Fayza Haq

Bharat-Natyam is one of the most graceful, sophisticated and subtle dance-art in existence," said Leela Samson, the visiting dancer, commenting about her art. She pointed out that the form of dance went back to the Rig-Vedic hymns. She insisted that evidence of this could be found in literary, sculpture and historical records.

Leela asserted the Bharat-Natyam was a complete art. "It is, at the same time, the art of stage, drama, music, poetry, a colour and rhythm." The message that the dance imparts, she insisted, was not simply for the senses or some form of external enjoyment. "The dance is to reach out to the soul of the dancer and the perceiver," she commented. "As this form of dance is a spiritual expression," she said, "it cannot be performed perfectly without reverence for technique or for spiritual life."

Music is the food for the soul. As a dancer, a performer has at her command various methods of expression, Leela said. "These are the movement of the limbs, which is the gesture or the 'hastas'. There is then the 'tala' or rhythm as is presented by the feet. Musicians add poetry in the song form. The most important part in the dance is the 'bhava' or the expression."

handsome qualities of Lord Siva and begged him not to be different towards the dancer. A 'Vernam' is the most demanding piece in the Bharat-Natyam repertoire.

In 'Ashtapadi' in 'Rase Harimitha' in 'Raag-Mishra' in 'Taal Adi' on that evening's performance, the subject was once again the amorous entanglement between Radha and Krishna. In her heart Radha felt that "He whose body is dark and hair adorned with many-coloured peacock feathers resembled a blue cloud. His gestures and glances comforted even me, who is full of annoyance for him."

Speaking at a workshop on Thursday, Leela gave tips and instructions to young Bharat-Natyam dancers. She advised that they should begin practising with the head. They should learn to strengthen their muscles, she insisted. Most of the Bharat-Natyam dancers, Leela elaborated, rest on the knee. The leg must take the weight, she insisted. "You should open up from the groin," she said firmly to the gathered students and enthusiasts of dancing.

"The exercises should be clean and should have no problems. There should be the rotating of the hips. Waist bends are a must. It is said that boys are good and yet this is not necessarily the case in the east," Leela added.

She insisted "You must exercise a lot. A dance calms you like yoga but many of the dancers have the problem of stamina too. They don't have the guts to work without someone correcting and guiding them daily," she added.

At a press conference on Friday, Leela said that it was difficult to blend the modern and traditional dances. "You can create something different, as in the case of Uday Shankar. You have to decide if you want to be a puritan or you want to create," she commented.

She added that in the case of western ballet, there is a lot of physical injury for the ballerina, specially those who perform in the classical style.

Does she find a clash between her own Christian religion and the intrinsic Hindu dances that she performs? "As an artist religion is of little consequence. We appreciate Beethoven in the east even though western music is housed in Christianity. I believe in all religions," she remarked.

Leela, who is an important exponent of Bharat-Natyam, began dancing from the age of ten, at the Kalakshetra, founded by Rukhsmini Devi.

The dancer has performed in places like the European cities, Japan, Mexico, China and USSR. She was awarded the 'Sanskriti' in '82 and the 'Padmashri' in '90. Talking about the audience in the west, Leela felt that they did not naturally accept the eastern traditional dance except in places such as Vienna and Spain, as they did in Bangladesh or in Japan.

She is the author of a book 'Rhythm of Dances', and has written several articles. Leela has been teaching in Delhi since '75. Leela is a bachelorette, and spends her spare time in cooking and reading.

Leela, in her performances, was accompanied by vocalist Vasanthy Krishna Rao, R. Sriganesh or who was the 'mridangam' player, Narayan Mani, who played on the 'veena', Prapanchan Mukhya Prana who performed on the flute, and Deepika Nagaraj who was the 'nattuvangam'.



Leela Samson

Leela pointed out to us that India is abounding in stories that actually express all types of human experience. Bharat-Natyam, she said, was a way of expressing emotions and sentiments. "A recital explores all the aspects of a story, specially through the emphasis on 'shringara'—which is the essential erotic sentiment. The 'atma' or the spiritual essence or the individual soul is portrayed as seeking union with the 'paramatma' or the universal soul. This is portrayed through the longings of the heroine for union with her beloved—the Lord and Creator."

The programmes of Bharat-Natyam that is now in vogue, have been re-edited by the famous Tanjore Quartette brothers who were famous at the time of King Sarfoju II (A.D. 1798 to 1832) of Tanjore, she informed. Though 2000 years old today, Leela said that it is a growing art and has never been stultified or stagnant. Leela added that the basic ideals and principles have remained almost unchanged although its repertoire and manner of presentation has been changing over the years to adjust to the changing conditions and the concept of art.

A programme of Bharat-Natyam, today—the dancer explained—usually consisted of 'alaripu', 'jathiswaram', 'shabdham', 'vernani', 'padam', 'shloka' and 'tillana'. However, she added that these were not the essential items that can be presented in Bharat-Natyam. Leela insisted that any song which gave scope for the exposition of 'nrittya' at its best, could be used.

Whatever the spiritual drive behind the dance of the Bharat-Natyam, Leela said, it is the same source, that lent the spiritual impetus to most classical South Indian music and architecture. Being aware of this, she said, one was not mazed about the fact that Bharat-Natyam is a 'temple dance', because wherever it is presented, it ushered in the atmosphere of the temple.

The repertoire at the National Museum on Wednesday include 'Vernani' in 'Rupamu Juchir'. It had 'Raag-Todi' and 'Taal-Adi'. In this 'Vernani' the dancer spoke of the supreme

Laws to be enacted to protect rights of people'

Minister for Law and Justice Mirza Golam Hafiz Friday said the present government was making all-out efforts to establish a corruption free social order for sustaining development process initiated in the country, reports BSS.

He said an independent judiciary would be developed in the country for ensuring security of life and property of the citizens. "Necessary laws will be enacted to protect the rights of the people," he added.

Mirza Golam Hafiz was addressing as the chief guest the installation ceremony of Bangladesh Law Association in Dhaka. State Minister for Law and Justice Aminul Haq also addressed the function as the special guest.

The ceremony was presided over by immediate past president of the association Abu Zahid Sento. It was addressed, among others, by president of

Bangladesh Supreme Court Bar Association Dr. Rafiqur Rahman, Dean of the Faculty of Law of Dhaka University Dr. Ershadul Bari and a member of Bangladesh Bar Council Serajul Islam.

Mirza Golam Hafiz said the common demands of the people would be implemented and called upon all to extend their all-out cooperation to the efforts of the present government to give democracy an institutional shape.

Terming rule of law as the pre-requisite for sustaining development, he said rule of law must be ensured through its judicious application in the greater interest of the country.



Air Vice Marshal Altaf Hossain Chowdhury receiving Chief of Pak Air Staff Air Chief Marshal Farooq Feroze Khan NI(M), SBT at Zia International Airport on Friday.—Photo ISPR

News casters' AGM held

The 4th Annual General Meeting of Bangladesh Sangbad Pathak Samity (Radio and TV News Casters Association) was held in Dhaka Friday, reports UNB.

The meeting was presided over by Aminul Haq, President of the organisation. Besides reviewing and adopting the proceedings of the 3rd Annual General Meeting, the meeting held detailed discussions on various organisational aspects of the association.

The financial statement of the organisation for the period January-December, 1991 was also placed and adopted at the meeting.

Preparatory body for Khelaghar Asar confce

A preparatory committee for the national conference '92 of central Khelaghar Asar has been formed with Prof Ali Ashgar, Abdul Aziz and Kanu Chakrabarti as its chairman, convenor and joint convenor respectively, reports BSS.

A press release issued here Thursday said 11 sub-committees have also been formed in this regard.

PDF urges govt to consider professionals' demands

The Patriotic Democratic Front (PDF) has called on the government to consider sympathetically the demands of different professional groups including the teachers of the non-government educational institutions.

The PDF Convenor Sree Pankaj Bhattacharya in a statement Friday also demanded effective steps of the government to resolve crisis caused by the current movement of the teachers, employees of the nationalised commercial banks and the transport workers through fruitful negotiations.



Ikebana, the traditional and methodically combined flower show of Japan was held Friday at the VWA auditorium in the city.—Star photo

Rose Festival winners

Azmat Ulla, a member of Bangladesh National Rose Society, was adjudged the champion and another member, Mousaddek Hossain Polash, the runners-up in the rose festival held at the Dhaka Club premises Friday, reports BSS.

The society's member Tipu Sultan secured the third position.

Among the society's associate members, National Botanical Garden and Bangladesh Rifles became joint champions while Mahmuda Khalil Choudhury of Dhaka Club Group won the first prize.

A k Firoze Ahmed, wife of the President of Dhaka Club Limited, distributed prizes among the winners.

Wage earners' investment in productive sectors sought Steps taken to resolve problems of sick industries: Biswas

President Abdur Rahman Biswas Friday urged the industrialists and businessmen to play an effective role in accelerating the pace of economic progress to make independence meaningful, reports BSS.

He was addressing as the chief guest a ceremony in observance of the 25th anniversary of the Sylhet Chamber of Commerce and Industry at the chamber premises in Sylhet. Biswas said the members of the business community should come forward to evolve import alternatives and set up export-oriented industries to achieve progress.

He stressed proper utilisation of the country's limited resources and potentials to make the nation self-reliant. President Biswas lauded the contributions of different chambers in assisting the government to determine its economic policies including the national budget and import and export policies.

He also said the government had taken measures to detect the problems of sick industries and resolve those as per recommendations of the

chambers. Presided over by M A Munim, President of Sylhet Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the function was also addressed by Khandaker Abdul Malik MP, M A Razzak Chowdhury, Vice-President of Sylhet Chamber and Ibrahim Ali.

The President called for united efforts to bring people's economic emancipation. To achieve this goal, he laid stress on the reduction of foreign dependence, mobilization of domestic resources, reduction of import and increasing export.

Biswas urged the exporters to take initiative for expanding export market. The President said efforts had to be made to create free economic atmosphere in the country for establishing free market economy and fair competition.

But free economy did not mean indiscipline, he said, adding that the need of the hour was to maintain discipline and fair competition.

Biswas asked the members of the business community to prepare themselves to com-

pete in the international market.

Referring to Bangladesh Wage Earners contribution to the country's economy, Biswas called for investing their earnings in productive sectors like setting up of mills and factories.

The setting up of new mills and factories would help create employment opportunities, he said.

President Biswas, was pre-

sented with a chamber crest at the function, he himself also presented crest to some members of the chamber for their contribution.

Earlier, on his arrival in Sylhet on a two-day visit, the President was accorded a warm welcome by the people who gathered spontaneously.

He also performed Ziarat at the Mazar of Hazrat Shahjalal (R) and offered his Juma prayer at the Mazar mosque.

Rose-lovers flock to festival to relish beauty, fragrance

Rosarians and rose-lovers of the city Friday crammed into the Rose Festival-92 at the Dhaka Club premises to have the beauty and fragrance of 'The queen of all flowers', reports BSS.

The atmosphere in the festival compound became serene with the pleasant presentation of roses and movement of beautiful children and girls in front of the rose-stalls.

Rose of different classes—Hybrid tea, Floribunda, Miniature and Polyantha—with various colours like pink,

red, orange, yellow, white, blue, mauve, lilac, blend, striped and bi-colour are put on splendid display in the day-long festival.

Mayor of Dhaka City Corporation Mirza Abbas MP inaugurated the festival, jointly organised by Bangladesh National Rose Society and Dhaka Club Limited.

Besides a number of individuals, Bangladesh Rifles (BDR), Botanical Garden and Dhaka University Vice-Chancellor's Garden participated in the festival.

Opening the festival, the Mayor of Dhaka said the rose is the symbol of beauty and it has found a place of pride and honour in the hearts of all.

He said in our religion (Islam) the flower occupies a significant place as the prophet (Peace be upon him) used to love flower. "If you have one penny buy food and if you have two pennies spend one penny for food and another for flower" the Prophet advised.

The President of the Rose Society, Brig. (ret'd) M. Atiqur-Rahman, in his brief speech, stressed the need for importing selected varieties of rose through government patronage for their culture and acclimatisation so that in the long run adequate foreign currency could be earned through exporting flowers like the neighbouring countries.

Dhaka Club President A. K. Firoze Ahmed and Secretary of the Rose Society S. A. Khan also spoke.

Freedom Party blames govt for compromising with conspirators

Freedom Party Friday blamed the government for, what they said, compromising with those conspiring against the country's independence, reports UNB.

At a joint meeting of the party's different bodies, Party Chairman Col. (ret'd) Syed Farukur Rahman called upon the people to resist the enemies of the country.

A two-day meeting of the party's central executive committee, central advisory council, regional executive committee, regional advisory council and district units began at its central office Friday.

Saturday	
5-00	Opening announcement, Al Quran, Programme Summary
5-10	News in Bangla
5-20	Recitation from the Triptak
5-25	Sports World
6-00	Drama Series—Alice in Wonderland
6-30	Mati-O-Manush
7-05	Banshari: Folk song
8-00	News in Bangla
8-30	Probaha
9-00	Anirban
10-00	News in English
10-30	Drama Series—Dallas
11-30	Khabar/The news
11-40	Sunday's programme summary
11-45	Closing.

Weather

Rain with gusty wind likely

By Staff Correspondent

Rain or thundershower accompanied by temporary gusty wind along with hails at places is likely to occur at one or two places over Rajshahi, Dhaka and Khulna divisions and the regions of Comilla, Noakhali and Sylhet while weather will remain mainly dry elsewhere over the country till 6 pm today (Saturday), according to Met office.

Night temperature likely to remain nearly unchanged over the country.

The highest temperature, 28.3 degree Celsius, was recorded Friday in the country at Teknaf while the lowest, 10.5 degree Celsius was recorded at Srimangal.

The maximum temperature recorded in Dhaka Friday was 27 degree Celsius while the minimum was 16.4 degree.

The percentage of humidity recorded in Dhaka was 64 at 9 am and 90 at 6 pm.

The sun sets today (Saturday) at 5:49 pm and rises tomorrow (Sunday) at 6:36 am.

The temperature and the percentage of humidity recorded in some major cities/towns Friday were:

Cities/Towns	Temperature		Humidity	
	Max	Min	9am	6pm
Dhaka	27	16.4	64	90
Chittagong	27.2	15.5	74	67
Rajshahi	25	11.4	87	100
Khulna	27.2	14.5	94	96
Sylhet	25.5	13.5	46	60
Tangail	25.5	13.6	85	81
Rangpur	23.3	12.3	85	69
Bogra	25	14	80	99

It's new just for you

The Daily Star is pleased to introduce a new column where individuals and organisations can publish Birthday and Anniversary Greetings, Congratulatory and Condolence Messages, Get-Well/Good-Luck Wishes, Birth/Death Announcements, In Memoriam, etc. at nominal charges.

For booking details, please contact:
Advertisement Manager
 Phone: 245063
 PABX: 245061-2 & 246023-4. Ext: 20

HIGH TECH PROJECTS

FOREIGN TECHNOLOGY WITH PLANT & MACHINERY TRAINING & SERVICES OFFER PRO SMALL AND MEDIUM SCALE ATTRACTIVE PRO-JECTS IN THE FIELD OF BULK DRUGS MOSTLY IMPORTED INTO BANGLADESH IN LARGE QUANTITIES () ENTREPRENEURS. COMPANIES LOOKING FOR DIVERSIFICATION AND INVESTMENT IN HIGH TECH FIELDS OF LARGE TURNOVER MAY CONTACT WITH DETAILED BACKGROUND, INVESTMENT CAPABILITIES ETC. TO.

SUNITA IMPEX PRIVATE LTD.

Export House Recognised by Govt. of India
 36A, Bentineck Street, Calcutta-700 069 (India)
 Phone : 28 1986/7, Telex : 021 4982 SNTA IN
 Fax : (91-33) 28 3664

BFCC
Biman Flight Catering Centre
 Zia International Airport, Kurmitola, Dhaka, Bangladesh
 Ref : BFCC/FIN/105/92/48 Dated : 28.01.1992

Tender Notice No. 03/92

Biman Flight Catering Centre (BFCC) invites sealed Tenders from the experienced bonafide Suppliers/Contractors for entering into contract with BFCC for one year for the following Job/Work:

Sl No.	Particulars	Tender schedule selling period	Timing & date of dropping tenders	Timing & date of opening tenders
01.	Food/grocery items supply	From 04.02.1992 to 17.02.1992	18.02.1992 0930 hours to 1100 hours	18.02.1992 at 1200 hours.

Schedule of Tender along with other terms and conditions may be obtained on application in the official letter head pad along with Experience Certificates from reputed organizations during office hours on payment of Tk. 200.00 (Taka Two hundred) only non-refundable for each set of Tender schedule, from office of the Manager Finance, BFCC, Zia International Airport, Kurmitola, Dhaka. It may be noted here that prices of all the items in a schedule to be quoted, otherwise the Tender will be rejected.

The sealed Tenders to be dropped in the Tender Boxes of BFCC kept in the following places:-

- BFCC Security Room, Zia International Airport, Kurmitola Dhaka.
- Main Gate of Biman Administrative Building, ZIA, Kurmitola, Dhaka.
- Biman Printing Press, Farm Gate, Tejgaon, Dhaka.
- Reception Counter, Biman Bhaban, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka.

Photocopy of valid Trade Licence, Income Tax Clearance Certificate, Experience Certificate, and Earnest Money for Tk. 25,000.00 (Taka Twenty five thousand) only in the form of Bank Draft/Pay Order from any Scheduled Bank duly pledged in favour of BFCC, must be enclosed with each tender, otherwise the dropped Tender will be treated as cancelled.

BFCC Management reserves the right to accept or reject any/all Tenders and change the Terms and Conditions, extend the date of dropping/opening of Tender and increase or decrease the quantity of items without assigning any reason.

DFP (BA) 763 - 2/2
 G-126
Dy. General Manager, BFCC