

Dhaka Day by Day

In Quest of a Raison d'Etre

by Fayza Haq

"Manush" was a studio theatre production at "La Galerie", Banani. It was written and directed by Mamunur Rashid and acted out by the Aranyak Naateya Dal. The plot had the story of an individual who was politically and socially conscious. A freedom fighter during the war of liberation, he was disillusioned after the war and was confined to a mental hospital, from which he escaped to be sheltered first by a fisherman and then by a prostitute Shandharani.

He got so involved in Shandharani that he decided to escape with her to the city. There he sought shelter with his younger brother, a professional terrorist. Overwhelmed by the emotional attachment of the two, the brother permitted them to stay in his house for a few days. Shandharani and the protagonist decide to get married but she missed her old life with its laughter and joy. Meanwhile the pimp who hovered around the heroine tracked her to the city with Johnny, the boy who served her, and took the help of a corrupt police inspector.



Dolly Zahur and Mannan Heera in "Manush"

In the last scene one saw Shandharani preparing herself for her new life, but caught up in the broil between the police inspector who wanted to drag her back to the life of shame, and the student activist who wished to save her from that fate. In an exchange of bullet shots the helpless ex-prostitute came to her glory end.

In a play that held up the corruption of our society, the standard of the acting was fairly good. It was fascinating how a tale that spread from a prison to a fisherman's boat and then moved on a prostitute's den before expanding further into the life in the city, was all presented with hardly any stage props, with only a divan to be seen. There were few dim lights and nets were thrown in to lend mystery. There was no distance between the actors and the audience. There was no such thing as an actual stage. Yet you had all the delights of a well thought out theatre production.

Talking to Mamunur Rashid, the brains behind the play, one realised that he had been working for the stage and TV for the last 20 years. "The play is about the ideals and dreams of the people," he commented. "Why do I like acting? How can I explain it is instinctive. None of us in the play have a proper schooling in acting. Everything has been on private effort and individual drive. It took us two months to produce this play and sometimes we practised the whole day. This is my tenth stage play, and I believe that one can be a good actor only through continuous practice," he said.

Dolly Zahur, who played Shandharani, has

been acting on stage since she was a child. She said she had a gap of 10 years on TV, since her son was born, although she continued on stage. Her favourite TV productions were "Shukher Upoma", "Shamprotik" and "Drishti Dan". "I really enjoyed being a prostitute. I have been a prostitute before on TV and a short film. I relish other roles too such as being a maid or a doctor. I like any role that is different from what I am in real life. You must understand the character in order to portray it well. Rehearsing lines well is also a must," Dolly said.

The assistant director Azad Abul Kalam, who also played "Johnny" with flamboyance, has done ten stage plays. He has been acting since

84, taking part in plays like Shakespeare's "Coriolanus" and Oley Sownky's works. "Imagination is the most important factor in acting. Next comes body language," Azad commented.

Mannan Heera, who was "Afaz" the pimp, said that his group, "Aranyak Naateya Dal" wanted to see what could be done with a small caste and a simple set in producing the play. Mannan, who has acted for 12 years

has written plays which have been acted in the form of street theatre. He had translated "Coriolanus" too. "It had an enormous caste and was very expensive. You can find similarities in the characteristics of the Bangladeshis and Coriolanus," he commented. Azrul Hakim played the younger brother of the hero, who was involved in student movements. "I enjoyed playing the role of the terrorist in the University campus," he remarked. With a master's degree in Political Science, he works in an advertising firm.

Fazlul Rehman, who had the dual roles of the fisherman who first aided the protagonist and then Momin Daroga, an ex-police inspector, has been acting for 15 years. He has taken part in 20 different plays. "I may play small parts but I think all parts are important. I enjoyed playing the innocent fisherman as well as the tout." His favourite pieces of acting were "Nankarpala" and "Shomoto". He is a banker by profession and says he will abandon this job if he can make a livelihood by acting. Syed Musharraf, similarly, played dual roles, that of a police and again a friend of the hero. He works as a medical representative for a living.

The theme of the play—man being under intense stress and strain—is quite topical. In the play the protagonist comes across different situations and looks for someone he can communicate with. In his quest through society he does finally get someone. But his dreams do not materialise. This bittersweet tragedy may have been a bit melodramatic but it was moving.

UNDP, UNFPA assistance assured

The administrator of United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), William Drapper, called on Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia at her hotel suite in New York on Friday and assured UNDP's full cooperation to the democratic government in Bangladesh for attaining its socio-economic objectives, reports BSS.

Drapper hoped that the bureaucratic inertia would be overcome by the present government and new projects would be undertaken for human resources development and poverty alleviation. Begum Zia thanked the administrator for UNDP's assistance to Bangladesh. She said the democratic government was addressing the situation created by the distorted priorities and corruption of the past autocratic rule.

Another report adds: The Executive Director of UN Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA), MS Nafta Sadq, has lauded the population programme of Bangladesh when she called on Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia at her hotel suite in New York Friday.

She assured the Prime Minister of UNFPA's continued assistance particularly in view of the good progress made in Bangladesh.

Begum Zia thanked the Executive Director for her organisation's assistance in such sector

Tk 100cr road construction project for southern districts to start soon

President Abdur Rahman Biswas Saturday stressed the need for increasing infrastructure facilities for achieving overall economic development of the country, reports BSS. He said development requirements were almost same in all areas of the country as it could not be achieved up to the desired level in the past.

The President was talking to a 10-member delegation of Greater Barisal Development Council at Bangabhaban. Council Chairman Habibur Rahman led the delegation.

President Biswas said the

present democratically elected government, which is accountable to the nation, had attached equal importance to development of all areas of the country.

Citing various development programmes of the present government, the President said establishment of the divisional headquarters and airport in Barisal and building a tourist centre at Kuakata were the priority programmes of the present government.

He said Taka 100 crore road construction programme undertaken by the present

government for the southern districts would start soon and after its completion the road communication among the districts would be developed and helpful for the country's progress.

The President said a co-ordinated development efforts should be pursued in all areas of the country both at government and private levels and urged all concerned to work together to achieve that goal. Earlier, the delegation members submitted a memorandum to the President.

USCR urges int'l community to pressurise Myanmar to stop persecution

The US Committee for Refugees (USCR) has called upon the international community, particularly the United Nations, to pressurise the Myanmar authorities to stop persecution of Rohingyas and political dissidents, according to diplomatic sources here Saturday, reports BSS.

The USCR call was given in a news letter released on Thursday last. The USCR, a NGO dedicated to ensure the protection of 16 million refugees round the globe, will

soon organise a briefing on the Rohingya refugee situation, the sources said.

The USCR in its news bulletin while pleading for support for Bangladesh in finding solution to the problem, highlighted the plight of the refugees.

It apprehended that the number of refugees fleeing Myanmar would increase substantially, further taxing the resources of those involved in the relief effort.

DUCSU 'Swadhinata Utsab' begins

A five-day "Swadhinata Utsab" (Independence Festival) organised by Dhaka University Central Students Union (DUCSU) got underway at the TSC premises of the university campus Saturday.

Works Minister Rafiqul Islam Mia inaugurated the festival by opening an Environment-Art Exhibition at the extension building of TSC Cafeteria.

DUCSU General Secretary Khairul Kabir Khokan, Assistant General Secretary Nazimuddin Alam and Social Entertainment Secretary Milon Mehedi were present on the occasion.

Happy Birthday To



Shammy
From: Abbu, Ammu

Happy Birthday To



Tammi Mamoni
Abbu, Ammu, Bhai

Happy Birthday To

Dearest Wasu (Owais Salam)

22.3.92

From: Humayun, Nanni, Kaiser, Erum, Fizza, Faizan and Farisa
7/A, New Baily Road, Dhaka

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.

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A mourning procession of Patriotic Democratic Front (PDF) brought out in memory of Raju in the city Saturday. — Star photo

Anti-Racism Day observed 'Rohingya refugees victims of racial discrimination'

Acting Foreign Secretary Farooq Sobhan in Dhaka Saturday said thousands of Rohingyas Muslims are pouring into Bangladesh from the Arakan province of Myanmar being victims of racial discrimination, reports UNB.

He accused the Myanmar government of pursuing a policy of discrimination deliberately against the Muslims that resulted in the "tragic expulsion of 200,000 people."

Speaking as the chief guest at a discussion on the "Elimination of Racial Discrimination" at United Nations Information Centre (UNIC) in the city he hoped that the United Nations would play a decisive role in settling the Rohingya refugee problem.

Bangladesh government has already approached the UN Secretary General to intervene in the issue for early repatriation of the refugees with dignity and safety.

United Nations Association of Bangladesh (UNAB) organised the discussion meeting in observance of International Day for Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

Welcoming the mandate of Wednesday's referendum in South Africa in favour of ending apartheid, the acting Foreign Secretary lauded the collective efforts of the international community to fight the racial discrimination. He hoped that the result of the referendum would help establish the cherished non-

Biswas hosts Iftar party to newsmen

President Abdur Rahman Biswas hosted an iftar party in honour of the Editors of different national dailies, news agencies, and senior journalists at Bangabhaban Saturday. Leaders of Bangladesh Council of Editors, BSP and BFUJ attended the iftar party, reports BSS.

President Biswas exchanged greetings with them.

JS Social Welfare Body meet held

A third Parliamentary Standing Committee on Social Welfare Ministry was held in Dhaka on March 18 with the State Minister for Social Welfare and Women's Affairs Sarwari Rahman in the chair, reports BSS.

ADB aided projects reviewed 36.75 pc of total fund utilised till Sept

Redundant official procedure of project scheming and awarding work contract besides low fund disbursement ratio are hindering smooth implementation of ADB-aided projects in the country, reports UNB.

This was evident at a high-level review meeting here on the Asian Development Bank (ADB)-assisted projects last week.

Held at the Economic Relations Division (ERD), the meeting reviewed recommendations of the Country Project Review Mission (CPRM) of ADB, which visited Bangladesh September 16-23 last year.

The meeting identified delay in contract awarding and auditing of financial statements, outdated contract payment procedure as serious bottlenecks in this regard.

The review meeting found that only 36.75 per cent of the total 255 million US dollar contract award under ADB-aided projects in the country was utilised till September last year.

Slow-pace tender processing was the main cause of delay in giving contract for project implementation, the meeting observed and thought the current drift would have very adverse impact on this year's disbursement.

Such delay has also caused cost escalation in some cases, posing extra burden on scarce resources, the meeting noted.

It also noted that submission of annual audited statement for the Bank-aided projects had shown "a deteriorating trend".

The review meeting urged the Office of Audit, Foreign-Aided Projects (OAFAP), to prepare an action plan to work out a time schedule with the line ministries and executing agencies for obtaining financial data from them.

The meeting further reviewed observation by CPRM of ADB on wide variations in contract payment procedures among government agencies concerning modalities of accepting consultant certification of contract billing.

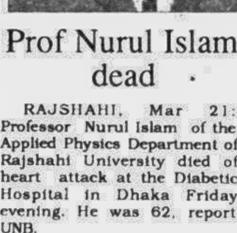
The meeting advised implementation, Monitoring and Evaluation Department (IMED) of the Planning Ministry for a reappraisal of the procedure to remove re-

dundancy in codal provisions slowing down payment and exposing the government to risk of claims.

The meeting noted with concern that annual disbursement ratio (DR) of loan from the pipeline was on the decline.

The DR for the last year was 16.3 per cent against 21.8 in 1990 and 22.6 per cent in 1989.

Prof Nurul Islam dead



RAJSHAHI, Mar 21: Professor Nurul Islam of the Applied Physics Department of Rajshahi University died of heart attack at the Diabetic Hospital in Dhaka Friday evening. He was 62, report UNB.

He was buried at the Rajshahi University graveyard after Zohr prayer today.

He left behind two daughters and two sons besides a host of relatives and friends to mourn his death.

Death condoled
The Employees Association of Bangladesh University Grants Commission Saturday condoled the death of the Director of Institute of Scientific Instrumentation (ISI), Prof M Nurul Islam.
In a condolence meeting held at the auditorium of the commission, the members of the association recalled the life and works of late Prof M Nurul Islam and said with his death the country had lost a noted educationist and dedicated scientific research worker.
The chairman of the commission Prof M Shamsul Huq, Member Prof Mohammad Ali and Prof Musharraf Hossain were present at the meeting.

Violence tarnishes teachers' image, says Hasina

Awami League President Sheikh Hasina Friday said despite her party's cooperation, the government has failed to crush terrorism on the campuses, reports UNB.

Hasina, also the Leader of Opposition in Parliament, made the remark at an Iftar Party she hosted for University teachers at her official Minto Road residence.

"It is clear as daylight that none can carry or use illegal arms without patronisation of the government," she said.

Expressing concern at the existing situation at different universities, Hasina said "we want terrorism-free campus". Unabated terrorism not only hampers higher education but also tarnishes the image of teachers, she added.

The Iftar Party was attended, among others, by Vice-Chancellor of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology Dr. Mohammad Shajahan, Prof. Salauddin Ahmad, Dr. Anisuzzaman, Dr. M. Akhtaruzzaman, Dr. Aminul Islam, Prof. Abdul Mannan Chowdhury, Dr. Ershadul Bari, Dr. Mashruzzaman, Dr. Mahtabuddin, Abdul Momin Chowdhury, Dr. Mohammad Shajahan, Dr. Bazlul Haq Khandaker, Dr. Rangalal Sen, Dr. Syed Ahmad Khan, Dr. AK Azad Chowdhury, Dr. Mansur Musa, Dr. Harunor Rashid, Prof. Nurul Islam, Dr. Abedin Siddique, Dr. Mashur Rahman, Dr. Moïn Chowdhury, Dr. Jaheda Ahmad, Dr. Begum Tahmidia, Dr. Rahela Banu and Dr. Rajib Humayun.

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Sunday

Morning Session
10.15 am Opening announcement
10.30 am 5th World Cup Cricket: South Africa vs England

Evening Session
5.10 News in Bangla
5.20 Recitation from the Bible
5.50 Mahey Ramzan
6.30 Chhara! Chhara! Lekha Para
7.05 Tagore songs
8.00 News in Bangla
8.30 Documentary: Probaha
9.00 Drama series: Oshin
10.00 News in Bangla
10.30 Chharyachhara
11.15 Khabar/The News
11.25 Monday's programme summary
11.30 Closing

Weather

No change in day temperature

By Staff Correspondent
Met office forecast Saturday that the rain or thundershower accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely to occur at one or two places over the Rajshahi division and the regions of Dhaka, Mymensingh, Tangail, Comilla and Sylhet during the next 24 hours.

Weather is likely to remain mainly dry elsewhere over the country Met office also forecast.

Day temperature is likely to remain nearly unchanged during the period.

The highest temperature on Saturday was recorded in Rajshahi 38.2 degree Celsius while the lowest temperature, in Sylhet 18.5 degree Celsius.

The sun sets today (Sunday) at 6.11 pm and rises tomorrow (Monday) at 6 am.

Temperature and humidity in some cities and towns of the country on Saturday were:

Cities/Towns	Temperature		Humidity	
	Max	Min	9 am	6 pm
Dhaka	31.5	23.3	80	64
Chittagong	30.4	21.8	77	78
Rajshahi	35.2	22.3	87	68
Khulna	32.6	22.0	87	68
Cox's Bazar	30.4	21.5	73	78
Sylhet	28.4	18.5	90	81
Comilla	30.5	-	75	75
Barisal	30.8	23.0	-	-
Dinajpur	32.5	20.5	-	-

ঢাকা সিটি করপোরেশন
নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলীর দপ্তর
অঞ্চল-৭ (মিরপুর)

আপনার পরিবেশ সুন্দর ও পরিষ্কার রাখুন
আপনার শিক্কে টাকা দিন

দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

নিম্নে বর্ণিত কাজের জন্য ঢাকা সিটি করপোরেশনের তালিকাভুক্ত সকল ঠিকাদার সহ পি, ডব্লিউ, ডি, রোড এন্ড হাইওয়েজ, এম, ই, এস সংস্থা সমূহ এবং সকল সরকারী, আধা সরকারী সংস্থায় তালিকাভুক্ত সকল শ্রেণীর ঠিকাদার গণের নিকট হইতে বালাদেশ নং-২৯১১ তে সীল মোহরকৃত নামে টেন্ডার আহ্বান করা যাইতেছে। আগামী ১৭/১২/৯৮খ্রিঃ তারিখ বেলা ১২-০০ ঘটিকার সময় পর্যন্ত বিত্তাণী কমিশনার, ঢাকা, জেলা প্রশাসক, ঢাকা এবং ঢাকা সিটি করপোরেশনের প্রকৌশল বিভাগ কর্তৃক টেন্ডার গহন করা হইবে। এবং ঐ দিনই বেলা ১২-৩০ ঘটিকার সময় উপস্থিত দরপত্র দাতা অথবা তাহাদের প্রতিনিধি গণের সম্মুখে (যদি কেহ উপস্থিত থাকেন) বেলা হইবে। শতকরা হারে দর অর্কে এবং কথায় উভয়ই লিখিতে হইবে। অন্যথায় দরপত্র বাতিল বলিয়া গণা হইবে। ঢাকা সিটি করপোরেশনের মেয়র মহোদয়ের অনুকূলে বালাদেশের যে কোন সিভিল ব্যাকের ব্যাংক ডাকট/পে-অর্ডারের মাধ্যমে বায়ারন টাকা হিসাবে দরপত্রের সহিত জমা দিতে হইবে। ঢাকা সিটি করপোরেশনের সকল অঞ্চলের নির্বাহী কর্মকর্তা ও নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলীর কার্যালয়ে এবং হিসাব বিভাগের পোশাকের নিকট টিকাদারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের বর্তমান অর্থ বৎসরের (১৯৯১-৯২) নবায়নকৃত তালিকা ভুক্তির দলিল প্রদানের সত্যায়িত ফটোকপি জমাদান পূর্বক (প্রতি সেট) নির্ধারিত মূল্যে নগদ অর্ধের বিনিময়ে (অফেরত যোগ্য) টেন্ডারের শর্তাবলী, সিভিল ইত্যাদি ক্রয় করা যাইবে। এতদসংক্রান্ত বিস্তারিত বিবরণ অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে ঢাকা সিটি করপোরেশনের অঞ্চল-৭ ও ৮ এর নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলীঘরের দপ্তরে জানা যাইবে।

কোন দরপত্র দাতা প্রাক্কলিত মূল্যে ৫% (শতকরা পাঁচ ভাগ) এর অধিক উর্দ্বা বা নিম্ন দর প্রদান করিলে উক্ত দরের ৫-পক্ষে দর বিবেচন সংযুক্ত করিতে হইবে। ৫% (শতকরা পাঁচ ভাগ) এর অধিক নিম্ন দর প্রদান কর্তা নিম্ন দরদাতাকে কার্যাদেশ প্রদানের সিদ্ধান্ত গহন করা হইলে সেক্ষেত্রে নির্ধারিত বায়ারন টাকার বিত্তন পরিমান টাকা জমা দিতে হইবে।

দরপত্র খোলার তারিখে দরপত্রের কোন দলিল পত্র বিক্রয় করা হইবে না। যে কোন বা সমুদয় দরপত্র কোন কারন দর্শনো ব্যতিরেকেই গহন বা বাতিল করিবার ক্ষমতা কর্তৃপক্ষের সংরক্ষিত থাকিবে।

ক্রমিক নং	কাজের নাম	প্রাক্কলিত টাকা	বায়নার টাকা	সময় সীমা
১।	পশ্চিম শেওড়া পাড়া হোঃ নং- ৩৭১, ৩৭২, ৩৭২/২ পর্যন্ত পানি নিষ্কাশনের জন্য পাইপ নর্দমার কাজ।	টঃ ৩৩,০৭৭/-	১৯৩/-	২০ দিন।
২।	মিরপুর ১ নং সেকশনের ডি ব্লকের ১নং রাস্তার মাটি ভরাট ও উন্নয়ন কাজ।	টঃ ৬,৫৭,৮৯৬/-	১৯,৮০০/-	৩০ দিন।

নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী
অঞ্চল-৭
ঢাকা সিটি করপোরেশন।

ডিসি/পি/সি/২৮৯/৯১-৯২
D-172