

# Dhaka Day by Day

## Assimilating Cultures on Stage

by Aasha Mehreen Amin



Bennewitz (far left) with other delegates at a seminar organized by the International Theatre Institute.

One of the greatest achievements of the International Theatre Institute (ITI) has been to bring together people from diverse cultures and ideologies in a way no political body could ever have done. The recent delegation to Dhaka of theatre playwrights, directors and communicators from over 15 countries to attend a three-day seminar arranged by ITI, is a clear proof of this international cooperation. Fritz Bennewitz, the German director who directed Shombhu Mitra in Galileo is an ardent advocate of using theatre as a medium of merging and integrating cultures for mutual benefit.

As a member of the German International Theatre Institute Centre, Bennewitz has proposed a closer long term relationship between the International Theatre Institutes of Bangladesh and Germany. This is not a casual visit to Bangladesh, says the first German and second foreigner to receive the prestigious Sangeet Natak Academy Award of India, adding that his role here is more that of a communicator rather than a director.

Bennewitz will be in Bangladesh in January, February and March to jointly produce a play with representatives of Dhaka theatre workers. Says the German director earnestly, "final selection has not been made. I can never impose any play. I want to introduce something totally new to Bangladesh — a play written by a contemporary playwright reflecting on the situation of Eastern Germany before the collapse of the system. The preference may go to a Brecht play that has not been done in Bangladesh. I know Bangladesh has produced quite a number of Brecht plays very successfully — Galileo, Mahogany etc — there aren't many left."

As an authority on Brecht, Bennewitz has played a significant role in bringing the Brecht concept of theatre and merging it with the theatres of Asian countries. In 1970 Bennewitz came to India to conduct a production oriented workshop on Brecht and in 1971 met the famous actor and director from Bombay, Vijay Mehta, with whom he produced a Marathi version of Brecht's *The Caucasian Chalk Circle*. This was not just an adaptation, exclaims Bennewitz excitedly, "It was a total integration and assimilation of the play into another foreign culture."

This may lead to other projects in Latin America, Philippines, and Sri Lanka but India has been the steady home of such prominent experience, adds the silver haired director. At home in Germany, Bennewitz has done similar experiments. In 1973 he introduced for the first time a whole Indian team of a director, a composer, Choreographer and designer to produce in Germany, classic Indian plays with East German actors. The actors received standing ovations says Bennewitz, not because of any artistic brilliance but because "of the genuine acting from the very guts."

If cultural exchange is a two way street, why hasn't Tagore been projected in the West? Bennewitz says that Tagore is very well-known in Germany especially in literary circles although his plays are rarely performed. "But once" he says, "When we had the first Indian student at our theatre I asked him to do an Indian play with our actors and the choice was Tagore's 'Post Office' which later went to the Berlin festival in 1971." Bennewitz admits that the present generation of Germany is much less exposed to Tagore than his own but reminds that the then East Germany was the first country to recognize Bangladesh in '71. "One line", says Bennewitz, "is very known to you — 'Amar Sonar Bangla...' — the first line of your anthem and the first line of a poem by Tagore."

As a 68-year old former East German, Bennewitz is sceptical about the new unified Germany "The wall has come down" he says, "and the so-called socialist system has collapsed. But the alienation between the East and West is higher now than any wall can be. The old frontiers are gone but now there are new frontiers of hatred and competition. How does it influence the theatre — this is what we interested in when we talk of cultural identity and development."

The theatre he adds, cannot offer solutions, it is made to raise vital questions which need to be resolved in reality. Cultural exchange, says the resident director of the German National Theatre of Weimer, is expressed beautifully by Mahatma Gandhi who said, I want to live in a house with open windows where the fresh winds can blow in from all directions but I don't want to be blown off my feet.

## Japanese trade team due today

A 13-member trade and investment delegation of Japan will arrive here today with a view to promote bilateral trade and joint venture investment, reports UNB.

The delegation of Nishio Chamber of Commerce and Industry, led by its Chairman Kohei Kajikawa will meet the members of Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI) on December 3.

They will discuss various issues relating to trade promotion, joint investment and economic cooperation between the two countries.

During their stay in Bangladesh they are likely to meet with the Ministers of Industries, Commerce, Labour and Textile, Chairman, Bangladesh Export Processing Zone Authorities, Chairman, Board of Investment and Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry signed a memorandum of understanding with the Nishio Chamber of Commerce and Industry on February 3, 1990 to promote trade and business.

## Fisunoglu meets Noor Uddin

The Turkish Land Forces Commander General Muhiittin Fisunoglu who is now on a goodwill visit to Bangladesh called on Chief of Army Staff Lt General Muhammad Noor Uddin Khan at the army headquarters yesterday, according to an ISPR press release, reports BSS.

General Fisunoglu stayed with General Noor Uddin Khan for some time and discussed matters on mutual interest. The Turkish Ambassador to Bangladesh Ahmet Ermisoglu was also present on the occasion.

The Turkish Land Forces Commander also called on Chief of Naval Staff Rear Admiral Mohammad Mohaiminul Islam at the Naval headquarters at Banani. He remained with the admiral for some time and discussed matters on mutual interest.

## Begum Fisunoglu visits Officers' Ladies Club

Begum Neriman Fisunoglu, the wife of the Turkish Land Forces Commander General Muhiittin Fisunoglu, visited the Officers Ladies Club at the Dhaka Cantonment yesterday, an ISPR press release said, reports BSS.

She was received by the Chief Patron of the club Begum Sophia Khan and the President of the club Begum Tahera Salam.



The Turkish Ambassador in Bangladesh Ahmet Ermis Oglu called on Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia at her office yesterday. — PID photo

## Turkish envoy presents poetry book to Khaleda

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday received the present of a book of poetry written by Turkish poet Yunus Emre and translated in Bengali by the Bangla Academy, reports UNB.

The book was handed over by the Turkish Ambassador Ahmet Ermis Oglu when he called on the Prime Minister at her office yesterday afternoon.

During the discussion, Begum Zia pointed at the new industrial policy of the government and mentioned the opportunity of joint venture projects in Bangladesh.

## Nationalisation of Homeopath Medical College demanded

Homeopath practitioners yesterday demanded of the government to immediately accept their 8-point charter of demands to make the homeopathy a more effective medicare system, reports UNB.

The practitioners under the banner of "Association for Bangladesh National Homeopathy Unity" at a press conference urged the government to formulate a concrete policy for development of homeopathy treatment.

The demands of the association include: nationalisation of Bangladesh Homeopath Medical College along with 100-bed homeo hospital, formation of homeopath council for registration of doctors, introduction of pay scales for homeo practitioners, establishment of one homeo medical college with adjacent hospitals in each division and awarding certificates to DHMS by the Homeo Board.

Addressing the conference F M Abu Taher, General Secretary of the association said government can not achieve its target of 'Health for

all by the year 2000' only depending on allopathic ignoring homeo treatment.

Recalling the contribution of late President Ziaur Rahman in developing homeo-treatment, he said that no further development was made later in the sector.

"Government allocates crores of taka for allopathic treatment, but nominal amount needed for the existence of homeo-system is not given," he alleged.

Terming homeopathy as the most successful medicare system, Taher said about 60 per cent of our total population depend on it.

He also criticised the Homeopathic Board for its dilatory attitudes in awarding certificates to the pass out physicians.

The conference was attended, among others, by Dr K Alam, Principal of Homeopathic Medical College, Dr Syed Ali Reza, Dr Abdul Kader, Dr Abdur Rahman, Dr Motaher Hossain Sikder and Dr Mamunur Rashid.

## Tk 110 cr Dutch aid for health projects assured

Bangladesh will receive a grant of about Taka 110 crore from the Netherlands under an agreement signed between the two countries here yesterday, reports BSS.

The grant will be utilised for financing projects concerning health and population control.

## Iranian envoy meets Zahir

The Iranian Ambassador in Bangladesh, Ganje Doost, called on the Planning Minister, A M Zahiruddin Khan, yesterday at his office here, reports BSS.

The Ambassador spent some time with the minister and discussed matters of common interest with special emphasis on the greater welfare of Makkah and Medina, an official source said.

**NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES**  
The containerised cargo ex. M.V. GENOVA V-07396 from Keelung, ex. M. V. KASUGA V-23444 & ex. M. V. LA-SEINE V-26244 from Rotterdam have been relayed to M. V. NGS EXPRESS V-0592 Import Rotation No. 912/92, is due to arrive Chittagong on or about 1-12-92 from Singapore.  
Consignees are requested to take delivery of their cargo from FCL containers within 5 days free time from the date of landing and if cargo not cleared within 45 days will be guided by Customs Act.  
**BIRDS BANGLADESH AGENCIES LTD.**  
103, AGRABAD COMMERCIAL AREA, CHITTAGONG.  
AS AGENTS: MITSUI O.S.K. LINES LTD. TOKYO.  
PHONES: 503317, 50068/88.

**Dhaka WASA Tender Notice**  
পানির অপচয় ও দূষণ রোধে হিদ্রমিক সার্ভিস পাইপ তৎক্ষণিকভাবে পরিবর্তন/মেরামত করুন  
Tenders are invited from Dhaka WASA enlisted 1st, 2nd & 3rd Class Mechanical & Electrical (B/C category) contractors with necessary experience for the work making of essential materials used in 2 cusec turbine pump set at an allotted cost of Taka 78,645/-. Tenders will be received up to 12-00 Noon on 7-12-92 and opened on the same day at 12-30 hours in presence (if any) of the tenderers or their representatives.  
Schedule of tender will be available at the office of the Chief Accounts Officer of Dhaka WASA, WASA Bhaban, 98 Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka & all MODS zone offices of Dhaka WASA. Other detailed descriptions will be available from the office of the undersigned.  
**Address**  
Hatkhola Road, Dhaka  
WASA-P. I. -405/92  
DFP (G) 20507-25/11  
G-1548  
**Iqbal Hossain Bhuiyan**  
Executive Engineer  
FM Division  
Dhaka WASA

## Tourism highly labour intensive: Mannan

State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism Abdul Mannan Tuesday urged the private promoters to invest in the tourism industry for its overall development in the country, reports BSS.

He was speaking as the chief guest at the foundation laying ceremony of "Water Front Restaurant", a part of the proposed long-term fantasy park project of Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation (BPC) at the Zia International Airport

## Global awareness to combat AIDS stressed

CHITTAGONG, Dec 1: Participants at a seminar held here today underlined the importance of education the people about the consequences of the deadly disease AIDS, reports BSS.

"Community consciousness and taking of preventive steps as well as global awareness are essential to check the spread of the disease, they pointed out.

Held under the auspices of Community Medicine Department of Chittagong Medical College in observance of the World AIDS Day, the seminar was presided over by principal of the college Prof Mohammad Nurunnabi.

Prof Sayeda Nurjahan Bhuiyan, Prof Shobhagata Chowdhury, Prof Mahbub Kamal Chowdhury, Prof M A Mannan Sikder, Dr Mohammad Sultanul Alam, Prof Shahadat Hossain, Prof Borhanuddin Ahmed and Dr Pravat Chandra Barua were among others who participated in the seminar.

Dwelling on the consequences of the AIDS, they said there is no right kind of treatment for the disease at the moment so the people should be equipped with knowledge about the disease and its prevention, they advised the people to lead a clean life in order to save themselves from the deadly disease.

lake area. The Minister said the present government was very keen to utilise tourism industry as a means of economic growth of the country.

New tourist facilities were being created to add momentum in this sector while steps were being taken for improvement of the standard of the existing facilities, he added.

The Minister advised BPC employees to render improved services in order to create a favourable image of the corporation as well as that of the country.

In this connection, he mentioned that tourism was highly labour intensive compared to the volume of capital investment and could create job opportunities for unemployed people.

Habibur Rahman, Secretary of the Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism who attended the function as a special guest pointed out that the announcement of the national tourism policy of the country reflected the keen desire of the present government to develop the tourism sectors.

BPC Chairman MAR Talukder who also spoke on the occasion said that a new momentum had already gained in the tourism sector under the pragmatic policy of the present government.

**BTV**  
Wednesday  
5:00 Opening Announcement  
Al-Quran, Programme summary  
5:10 News in Bangla  
5:20 Recitation from the Geeta  
5:30 Sports programme  
6:30 Open University  
7:05 Nibedon  
8:00 News in Bangla  
8:30 Bishwa Parikrama  
9:00 Film: The Fall Guy  
10:00 News in English  
10:30 Mukhomukhi  
11:30 Khabar/The News  
11:40 Thursday's programme summary  
11:45 Closing



State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism Abdul Mannan unveiling the plaque of the foundation stone of 'Water Front Restaurant' of Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation at Zia International Airport yesterday. Also seen in the picture: Habibur Rahman, Secretary, Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism and M A R Talukder, Chairman, Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation.

## Janaza of Alhaj Shamsul Huda held

The body of Alhaj Shamsul Huda, a veteran journalist and well-known columnist, who died here Monday night was taken to his village home Khaturia in Domar of Nilphamari district for burial, reports BSS.

Earlier, two Namaz-e-Janaza of the deceased were held at the new colony in Mohammadpur and Jatiya Press Club premises.

**Press Workers Federation**  
Another report adds: President of Bangladesh Newspaper Press Workers Federation Mosharrar Hossain and Secretary General Bazul Rahman Milon yesterday condeoled the death of eminent journalist Alhaj Shamsul Huda. In a statement, they said Shamsul Huda served the nation till his death through his strong pen.

## Weather

### Dry weather to prevail

By Staff Correspondent

Dry weather is likely to prevail over the country with partly cloudy sky during the next 24 hours commencing 6 am today (Wednesday).

The Met office forecasts, night temperature is likely to fall by one to two degree Celsius during the period over the country.

The minimum of 13.7 degree Celsius was reported from Dinajpur yesterday (Tuesday) and the maximum of 28.5 degree was reported from Satkhira.

The sun sets today Wednesday at 5.11 pm and rises tomorrow Thursday at 6.25 am.

The maximum and the minimum temperature of some of the major cities and towns of the country yesterday were:

Cities/Towns	Temperature in degree Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	9 am	6 pm
Dhaka	26.4	18.4	82	77
Chittagong	23.2	19.0	89	98
Rajshahi	26.6	14.6	80	83
Khulna	27.6	18.9	87	75
Cox's Bazar	24.5	19.8	90	90
Sylhet	26.0	16.8	76	70
Dinajpur	26.6	13.7	76	77
Barisal	24.8	18.0	92	86

## Tender Notice Number-7/1992-93

Group No	Name of the work with location	Estimated Cost	Earnest Money	Time Allowed	Eligibility of Contractor
1.	Construction of steel Pedestrian bridge over Singair Khal at Patigram in polder No 4 (Gopalganj) under SSFCDI Sub-project under Gopalganj O & M Division, BWDB, Gopalganj during 1992-93.	2,75,969/-	6900/-	60 (Sixty) days	Enlisted 'D' class contractors of BWDB during the year, 1992-1993
2.	-do -do- over Televita Khal at Jadupur -do-	3,18,562/-	7965/-	-do-	-do- -do-
3.	-do -do- over Nizra Khal at Barakadia -do-	3,18,562/-	7965/-	-do-	-do- -do-
4.	-do -do- over Natul Khal on South Bank of Road -do- (Bridge No-4)	3,18,562/-	7965/-	-do-	-do- -do-
5.	-do -do- over Ratul Khal on -do- -do- (Bridge No-5)	3,18,562/-	7965/-	-do-	-do- -do-

- Token Earnest Money : 1% of the estimated cost.
- Last date and time of receiving the tender : Up to 12.00 Noon of 14-12-92.
- Opening date and time of tender : 12.30 PM of 14-12-92.
- Where tender documents will be available : Sonali Bank, Gopalganj Branch, Gopalganj/WAPDA Branch, Dhaka/Goalchamat Branch, Faridpur and office of the Executive Engineer, Rajbari/Madaripur O & M Division, BWDB.
- Last date of selling the tender : Up to 13-12-92 office/Banking hours.
- Name of the office & address where tenders will be received : Office of the Superintending Engineer, Faridpur O&M Circle, BWDB, Faridpur/Office of the Executive Engineer, Gopalganj/Rajbari/Madaripur/Dhaka O&M Division-2 O&M Division, BWDB.

**Executive Engineer**  
Gopalganj O&M Division  
BWDB, Gopalganj.  
PANI-211/92-93  
DFP(G)-20481-25/11  
G-1541