# Dhaka Day by Day

# The Magic of Story Telling

by Fayza Haq



Cathy in workshop for English teachers in USIS on December 1.

With only a few minor props and the occasional accompaniment of local musicians towards the end, Cathy Spagnoli held her audience spellbound at the American Centre. Cathy, who once held her listeners agog with her storytelling of "Ramayana", in USA, for three hours, has 300 to 400 stories in her repertoire. Having studied drama and music, she has been a professional since '80.

What made her take up story telling? "I was born into a family that had a lot of story telling. I was lucky that I had a father who was a journalist and told true stories, that fascinated me endlessly. My aunts came from the old country in Italy and they had stories of their country and the problems they faced in USA. It was when I went to India, when I was 20, that I saw quite a bit of drama and theatre. After college I taught the deaf and this is where I learnt the sign language. After having studied drama and music, I went back to India in '75 and spent two years touring Asia and teaching drama and music in places like Tibet. " Cathy narrated.

"During this time I found a fascinating Tamil Nadu artist, whose father had found him a prospective bride. I went back to the artist colony in S. India after some time and got married to the same artist who I found was still single. During this time I saw more story telling. When I moved to India in '78 I got very exposed to Indian story telling where one person holds the village for eight hours. Some of the people telling these stories were teachers, historians, journalists and they were helping the development of the country through the stories. Some used music, some drama, and some painted scrolls. They had many ways to tell, and many things to tell, Cathy continued.

"About 12 years ago I got my first big grant for story telling. Since then I have been supporting my family through story telling as Paarmasivam Samanna, my husband, is a sculpture and his earnings are varied," she added.

What is important in story telling? Cathy replied, "It is important to pass on the heritage. It is a bridge to other cultures and times. It is important to help explore ourselves to cope with fears, hopes and dreams through story characters. It is imaginative and creative. The children's power to visualie and imagine images help. With the video and TV we have taken away a part of their power to visualise things. Stories give that back. The stories, by themselves are simple. The listener has to put so much of himself to complete the experi-

How does she sustain the interest of the listener? The story teller answered without hesitation,"I weigh my programmes. For younger children, I have lots of participation

Works Minister Rafigul

Islam Mia Wednesday stressed

Farewell

leagues at the BSS office yes-

Minister (press) in Bangladesh

High Commission in New Delhi

and he is leaving here today to

presided over by BSS unit

chief of the DUJ, Ihsanul

Obituary

med former Member Director

of the Bangladesh Agricultural

Research Council (BARC), died

of a massive heart attack

yesterday, his family sources

said. He was 65, reports UNB.

hind his wife, four daughters

Mosleuddin Ahmed left be-

Krishibeed Mosleuddin Ah-

The farewell ceremony was

join his new assignment.

Karim Helal.

and a son.

Anam has been appointed

terday evening, reports BSS.

like sing alongs and chant alongs, apart from making them make action with their hands. I involve all ages with the sign language, where they help me with the story telling. Sometimes I use my visual props. I haven't used so much in this trip. Gestures, props and songs help but basically you have to have a good story. You have to tell it well and tell it with energy and warmth. I never found an audience that doesn't respond. It is really amazing to see the power of the story telling even in USA with its cable TV. You can have 300 children and have them listening wide eyed."

Dwelling on the history of story telling Cathy commented," In USA the native Americans have passed on their traditions orally. We've seen terrible loss and destruction within their community. There have been groups coming from other countries and they have a rich tradition such as the Jews, Italians, Mexicans and the African Americans. There is then the southern mountain stories, where you picture the man on the rocking chair telling you his tall tales and moving you on. But we do not have the variety and depth of the Subcontinent, where you have, for instance, one man who tells a story with three musicians backing him and you have one where someone asks questions and someone answers. The varicty that you find in India, Bangladesh, Pakistan and Sri Lanka is a lifetime study. It is rich and exciting."

Does she feel that the TV and video are marring children's education? Cathy answered, "The video can do wonderful things but it often doesn't. I don't have a TV set in my own house. I see an amazing difference in my son Manu's imagination compared to that of his classmates. He does not have media images that their children draw on."

Cathy has performed in private parties. schools, colleges, universities, refugee groups, self-help organisations, churches, temples, prisons, nursing homes with patients with brain injury ,as well as business and rotary

Would she advise others to go into story telling as a career? "Like any art it is insecure. We have to make ends meet by trading story telling to meet the doctor's bills, to buy baby furniture , clothes, and books, and to get the car fixed. My son pays a sixth of the normal tuition fees as I do some storytelling at his school," she says with a smile.

What is her impression of the Subcentinent where she has been spending quite a bit, of time?"I admire the courage and perseverance of the people. They are indeed gracious and hospitable in this part of the world," Cathy commented.

#### Biswas, Khaleda greet Kolingba, Frank

President Abdur Rahman Biswas has felicitated Le General d' Armee-Andre Kolingba, President of Central African Republic on its National Day, reports BSS.

In a message of felicitations to General Kolingba, President Biswas also expressed his best wishes for his good health, happiness and long life and the continued welfare and prosperity of the friendly people of the Central African Republic on its National Day.

In another message Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia has felicitated M Edouard Frank, Prime Minister of Central African Republic.

Begum Zia expressed her best wishes for his good health, happiness and long life.

#### Sheikh Moni's anniversary of birth today

By Staff Correspondent

The 52nd birth anniversary of Sheikh Fazlul Haque Moni the founder of Awami League's youth front Awami Jubo League, will be observed today (Friday).

Both the factions of Jubo League have chalked out elaborate programmes in observance of the day.

The day's programmes include: placing wreaths at the grave of late Sheikh Moni, garlanding his portrait and hold ing of discussions.

The mainstream of Jubo League will hold a discussion meeting at the AL central office at Bangabandhu Avenue at 10 am. Central leaders of Al. and Jubo League will address

Nurul Majid Humayun, President of his faction of Jubo League, will preside.

Meanwhile, the Montu-led segment of Jubo League has organised its discussion meeting at the Dhaka District Sports Association (DDSA) auditorium at 3 pm. Mostafa Mohsin Montu will chair the function which will also be addressed by Barrister Amirul Islam as the chief guest.

#### SCF central body executives

By Staff Correspondent

Samajtantrik Chhatra Front (SCF) at its sixth council yesterday formed its new central committee with Belal Chowdhury as president and Joyjit Barua vice-president.

The front also elected Rajekuzzaman Ratan as General Secretary, Abu Bakar Mostak Alam Tulu Organising Secretary, Mahbubul Alam Shawpan, Department Secretary, Nasiru ddin, Treasurer, Saifur Rahman Tapan, Publicity Secretary and Mahbubur Rahman, Assistant Secretary.

#### Dr Ariyaratne in city

Dr A T Ariyaratne, founder and President of Sarvodaya Shramadana Movement of Shri Lanka, arrived Bangladesh yesterday to commemorate 20th anniversary of International Voluntary Services Inc here, says a press release.

His works, embodied in the Sarvodaya Movement, serves as an example of potentials for each of us to be in the service of humanity.

#### Nitun Kunda hospitalised

Nitun Kunda, a national award recipient on painting, was admitted to Suhrawardy Hospital yesterday with a massive heart attack, family sources said, reports BSS.

#### Minister for Industries he opined. Addressing the Shamsul Islam Khan yesterday function M Michel Penaud, called upon the country's Charg d' Affaires of France in Bangladesh said the project is the successful outcome of the relations between Bangladesh

সন্তাস মূলক অপ্রাধ দমন আইন স

अकन काला आरेत वाजिल कर्राट

काल अखाका जात्कालत शिष् एवा

Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal brought out a procession in the city yesterday demanding repeal of

Help develop mass health,

all black laws including the Anti-terrorism Act.

health scientists and physi-

cians to put in their best ef-

forts for the development of

He said the government has

given due emphasis on health

sector and necessary patroni-

extended to conduct research

ing as the chief guest at a sem

inar on Spirulina, a micro-

scopic plant having potentiality

to combat various diseases, at

research with the financial

and technical assistance of

French government, BCSIR has

now initiated to produce the

algae on commercial and semi-

Islam said this would help a

great extent to fulfil one of the

country's basic needs where a

large number of people are

suffering from various diseases.

The step would also generate

hopes among the ailing people,

Appreciating the initiative

After four years of extensive

Alliance Française here.

commercial basis.

yesterday.

Speakers at a condolence

meeting here yesterday paid

rich tributes to Alhaj Shamsul

Huda for his contribution to

the profession of journalism in

various capacities, reports BSS.

by the journalists and other

employees of Bangladesh

Sangbad Sangstha (BSS) where

late Huda served many years as

news editor prior to his join-

ing to the then Morning News

need for compiling all writ-

ings of Huda to keep his con-

tributions living to the com-

The meeting stressed the

The meeting was attended

The minister was address-

mass health, reports BSS.

works in this field.

and France. He assured further cooperation of his government for the development of the prosation and assistances will be

Explaining the prospects of Spirulina, Prof Shah Mohammad Abu Zafar of Pharmacology Department of IPGMR said it is a wonderful gift of the nature as protective food which has enormous medicine value.

He said studies both at home and abroad have provided clear evidences that Spirulina can effectively combat hypertension, heart ailment, diabetes, artheritis, ulcer and anemia.

Taking of Spirulina also reduce blood pressure, cholesterol level in blood and beautifies the skin, make body slim and generate energy for work.

Zafar categorically mentioned that no evidence has vet been found that Spirulina

- ISPR photo

Held with BSS unit chief

Ihsanul Karim Helal in the

chair the meeting was ad-

dressed by Hasanuzzaman

Khan, A S M Habibullah,

Haroon Habib, Ataur Rahman,

Swapan Kumar Saha, Afajuddin

Shamsul Huda was a profes-

sional journalists who during

his later part of life took col-

umn writing as means of his

livelihood which is a very

The speakers observed that

and Azizul Islam Bhuiyan.

hard task in Bangladesh.

Chief of Army Staff Lt General Muhammad Noor Uddin

Khan seeing-off the Turkish Land Forces Commander

General Muhittin Fisunoglu at Zia International Airport

Tributes paid to

Shamsul Huda

Shamsul asks scientists

M George Bonnin, a consul tant of Bureau of Studies and Consultancy of Culture of Micro-Algae (BSCCMA) that provides the technology regarding Spirulina to Bangladesh said over the centuries it has been taken by the different communities in Africa in the form of regular food item.

#### To Let

A four storied building. Each of 1500 SFT. At Uttara Sector 9 Road No 2, Plot 12. Please contact 864327 (O) 412770 S-343

### **Happy Birthday**

# Daddy

And Happy Anniversary to my loving parents

From your loving daughter

#### IN MEMORIAM WHO PLUCKED THIS FLOWER? THE MASTER



Joshua Aaron Hawkins 3rd Death Anniversary. In ever loving memory of our darling grandson who went to his eternal home this day, December 4, 1989, whose memory we shall always cherish. Gone but not forgotten.

**GRANDMA & GRANDPA CECI & NICK NANABHAI** 

#### Modern Flat for To-Let

A modern flat on first floor of a three storey redbrick house, overlooking Gulshan West Lake, having three bed rooms, one study, large living room, spacious dining place, three balconies, kitchen with nice fittings, separate room and other facilities for domestic aide, ready for immediate occupation. Please contact at site House No 20, Road No 26, S-340 Gulshan. Phone 893674

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An extensive renovation has transformed the hotel into a leading one with added facilities.

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cated at Ganakbari, Savar. the need for more research on Works Minister visited the modern science and technol-Institute of Nuclear Science ogy for the socio-economic development of the country, reand Technology Research Reactor, Institute of Food and ports BSS. Radiation Biology, Institute of The minister was speaking Electronics and Material to the scientists and the ex-Science and the Institute of perts while he was visiting the Computer Science.

'More research on

science, technology

a must for uplift'

Lauding the performances of our scientists, the minister said Bangladeshi scientists Mofakkharul Anam, News working in the foreign coun-Editor of the Bangladesh tries had carned reputation for Sangbad Sangstha (BSS), was accorded a farewell by his coltheir brilliant research works.

institutes of Atomic Energy

Research Establishment lo-

Referring to the importance of technology in the modern world the minister said a developing country like Bangladesh has no alternative for economic emancipation of the common people without using modern technology inevery respect.

The minister urged the scientists and the researchers to reach the fruits of modern technology to the common people and put in their best efforts for the welfare of the people and the nation as well.

During the visit, the minister was accompanied by Dr M A Mannan, Chairman, Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission, Johann George Haider, Dr K A Hassall, IAEA experts, Dr Ramaluddin, Dr A Rab Mollah and Dr Serajul Islam.

#### Milad mahfil

A milad mahfil was held at the official residence of Food Minister Shamsul Islam here vesterday evening in observance of the 11th death anniversary of his mother Bastrunnesa, reports BSS.

Bastrunnesa was the wife of late Al-Haj Osman Ghani of Vikrampur.



Friday Morning Session

Opening announcement

Al-Quran Programme summary News in Bangla Alor Dishary 8.15 Cartoon: Teenage Mutant Ninza Turtles SAARC cricket match: India vs Pakistan

#### **Evening Session**

Closing of cricket match 5.00 News in Bangla 5.10 Cartoon: Return of the Dogtanian Programme: Sports Foetball Malancha News in Bangla 8.00 Comedy series: Perfect Stangers Drishtikone News in English

Deepta Chetana

Khabar/The News

Saturday's programme

Film: LA Law

Closing

10.50

11.30

11.50

11.55

Temperature in Cities/Towns Degree Celsius 9 am Min Max 77 15.8 26.0 Dhaka / 18.0 74 Chittagong 27.1 100 15.9 Rajshahi 25.7 16.0 26.5 Khulna 19.5 28.0 Cox's Bazar 15.8 27.0 Sylhet 15.7 24.0 Dinajpur 16.6 26.6 Barisal

### Weather

### Weather to remain dry

By Staff Correspondent

Light rain may occur at a few places over the Chiftagong division and the regions of Dinajpur, Rangpur, Bogra and Mymensigh, Met office forecast Thursday.

Weather is likely to remain mainly dry with temporary partly cloudy sky elsewhere over the country during the next 24 hours commencing 6:00 am today (Friday). Night temperature is likely to remain nearly unchanged

over the country. Weather is likely to improve within two days, according to weather report.

The minimum of 13.8 degree Celsius was recorded at

Srimangal yesterday while the maximum of 28.4 degree Celsius was reported from Teknaf... The sun sets today (Friday) at 5:11 pm and rises tomorrow

(Saturday) at 6:27 am. The maximum and the minimum temperature and humidity of some of the major cities and towns of the country yesterday were:

Humidity in Percentage 6 pm 80 90 76

## Notice of RHD Inviting Tender

Tender Notice No. Name of work

Estimated cost

Earnest money

Time allowed Eligibility of contractors

Name of Offices of availability of tender documents

Name of Officers to receive & open of tender bids

Last date of receipt of tenders 10. Date & time for opening of bids

DFP (G) 20676-28/11

Tk 3,18,300/-.

12/Rd-III of 1992-93. Construction of Flexible pavement at part of 4th KM of Bhaberchar-Gazaria Road under Bhitikandi Road Sub-Division during 1992-93.

Tk 6,366/-. In favour of EE (RHD), Dhaka Constn Road Division-III in Bank Draft from any scheduleK bank/Protirakhya Sanchay Patra/5year Bangladesh Sanchay Patra & Bonous Sanchay Patra.

30 (Thirty) days.

"A" to "E" Class.

Office of the Executive Engineer(RHD), Dhaka Constn Road Division-I/II/IV/Preliminary Engineering Division, Dhaka Zone, Room No 422, Sarak Bhaban, Dhaka & Sub-Divisional Engineer (RHD), Bhitikandi/ Mograpara/Road Sub-Division-III, Dhaka/Shibpur Road Sub-Division. Office of the Superintending Engineer (RHD), Dhaka Road Circle, Dhaka and Executive Engineer (RHD), Dhaka Constn Road Division-III and Sub-Divisional Engineer (RHD), Bhitikandi/Mograpara/Road Sub-

Division-III, Dhaka/Shibpur Road Sub-Division. Up to 12-30 PM on 10.12.92. At 12-45 PM on 10.12.92 at the Office of the receiving officers.

Md Mahabubur Rahman

Executive Engineer(RHD) **Dhaka Constn Road Division-III** 

Shimrail, Narayangonj.