

Spirit of Ekushey Lives On



Dhaka Day by Day

Short, Simple and to the Point

by Fayza Haq



A scene from the play from Faridpur, staged at Shahid Minar recently.

Sitting on the steps of the Shahid Minar, enjoying the street theatre that the young actors from the 'mufassil' area had to present, one felt that democracy did indeed prevail in the country. This is going by the fact that the play from Faridpur, 'Shankarika Chakra Eboni Ithash' which one had witnessed, was meant to be slings and arrows directed at some important personage in the country. Such a play would surely not have been allowed to be presented, as an Ekushey festivity, two decades back, a decade ago, or even two years ago.

After all, what does 'Ekushey,' signify, if not the freedom of expression of the Bengalis in the country? This is what our family members and friends were shot at, in '52. 'Ekushey' remains a celebration of gaining the right to use our mother tongue as a national language, and the play from Faridpur did this with dexterity and alacrity. It had a standard, not matched by many of the sophisticated and well known productions of the group theatres of Dhaka, which one has witnessed on stage, and sometimes on the TV.

The play was short, simple, and to the point, as are many admirable theatre productions, even overseas. It was heart-warming to see how the actors, without settings, simple touches of essential make-up, and necessary use of accouterments, presented their play, and conveyed a message, which went down well with the audience.

The actors representing the farmers of the country, cried out to the antagonist, a bureaucrat, of how they wanted their rights back. They said that they had struggled for 21 years, while their brethren were doing the same in other villages, and the cities. Yet the

masses in the country were merely cking out an existence. They boldly demanded an adequate recompensation for their struggle.

The bureaucrat was helped by his fellow upper-class friend, who even placated him to listen to the protests of the farmers and the rest of the characters. To this, the antagonist replied that he would "cross any hurdle and vanish across the borders".

There were other participants in the play, representing those that were comparatively better off in the country, going by their 'kurta-pajama' garbs. Meanwhile, an actor, apparently symbolising the armed forces, asked if a 'lathi charge' should not ensue, in order to pacify the bureaucrat.

On to stage, next the stampeded the students, one whom said that he was a youth of 21, and yet he did not find the opportunity to study regularly. He, like all the other earlier characters, and his comrades, was disgruntled, and gave adequate and acceptable reasons for what they were protesting against. "The more you deny what has been done to the country, the more we will retaliate. You have sold our treasured history. The bureaucrats call themselves human beings, but they are nothing short of being monsters," was the student's comment.

In the finale, the father, one of the characters in the play, and his son, the student, who had "gone astray", were finally reunited, but each with bullet marks, with the son finally dying happily on his father's shoulders. This was no melodrama.

The play, produced by Bangladesh Theatre Federation was impeccable, with its Greek-like chorus 'Jagorey Bangali Ek Baar'.

Reception to Prof Kabir Chowdhury

By Staff Correspondent

The 70th birth anniversary of renowned teacher and essayist Professor Kabir Chowdhury was observed Tuesday in the capital.

Kabir Chowdhury 70th Birth Anniversary Observance Committee organised a civic reception on the occasion at 4 pm at the Bakultala of the Fine Arts Institute.

Professor Anisuzzaman, Faz Ahmed, Barrister Syed Ishtiaq Ahmed, Prof Zillur Rahman Siddiqui, Syed Shamsul Haq, Prof Khan Sarwar Murshed, Shawkat Osman and Abdul Quader Siddiqi spoke at the birthday reception to Prof Chowdhury.

Sufia Kamal presided over the function.

Earlier, Prof Anisuzzaman read out an address of honour to Prof Chowdhury.

Speakers at the reception paid their respect to the veteran teacher and called for imbibing his ideals for a better society.



Drishtipat Natya Sangsad staged 'Ghatak' at the Central Shaheed Minar yesterday. — Star photo.

Biswas opens Islamic Foundation Book Fair

Sacrifices of Language Martyrs to inspire nation for ever

President Abdur Rahman Biswas said here yesterday that the sacrifices of the Language Martyrs of 1952 would continue to inspire the nation in all the years to come. He also called upon all to contribute all their efforts to enrich the country's language and culture for the good of the people, reports BSS.

Inaugurating a fortnight-long book fair and programme of the Islamic Foundation on the occasion of the Ekushey

February here in the afternoon, the President said that Ekushey February was the most important milestone for the nation's march towards self-determination, which inspired the people to achieve independence in 1971. He said that true respect to the Language Martyrs could only be shown by extensive culture of the Bangla Language and its culture.

Presided over by Director-General of the Foundation Monsurul Haq Khan, the function was addressed, among others, by State Minister for Religious Affairs Prof M A Mannan and Secretary, Abdul Awal.

Paying tributes to the Language Martyrs — Barkat, Salam, Rafique and Jabbar — President Biswas said that the glorious struggle of the people of this land to ensure the rights of their own language and national independence should be the basic spirit for the nation towards ensuring national entity without fear or favour.

He said the cultural domain of Bangladesh could be enriched only through combination of the thoughts of the old and new generations. The President called upon the intellectuals and conscious sections of the society to help introduce Bangla in all sphere of national life. He advised to open the horizon of knowledge to the vast majority of the people on the basis of mother tongue and nourish intellectual ability of the nation through patronisation from both government and private sectors.

Biswas, UAE envoy exchange views

UNB adds: President Abdur Rahman Biswas expressed his hope that the relation and co-operation with the United Arab Emirates (UAE) would further be strengthened for mutual benefit of the people of two countries.

The President was exchanging views with the Ambassador of UAE in Bangladesh Ibrahim Jawad Al-Ridha, who made a farewell call on him at Bangabhaban yesterday.

'85 pc patients with broken limbs victims of road mishap'

By Staff Correspondent

President of Bangladesh Orthopaedic Society Professor KM Serajul Islam Tuesday disclosed that about 85 per cent patients with broken limbs were victims of road accidents.

He was addressing a press conference at the Jatiya Press Club on the eve of the seventh national conference of Bangladesh Orthopaedic Society.

The two-day conference which will be divided into two sessions — inaugural and scientific sessions — will begin on February 12.

'Steps taken for streamlining health admn'

Health and Family Welfare Minister Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yusuf yesterday called for dedicated and sincere efforts in building a sound healthcare system in the country, reports BSS.

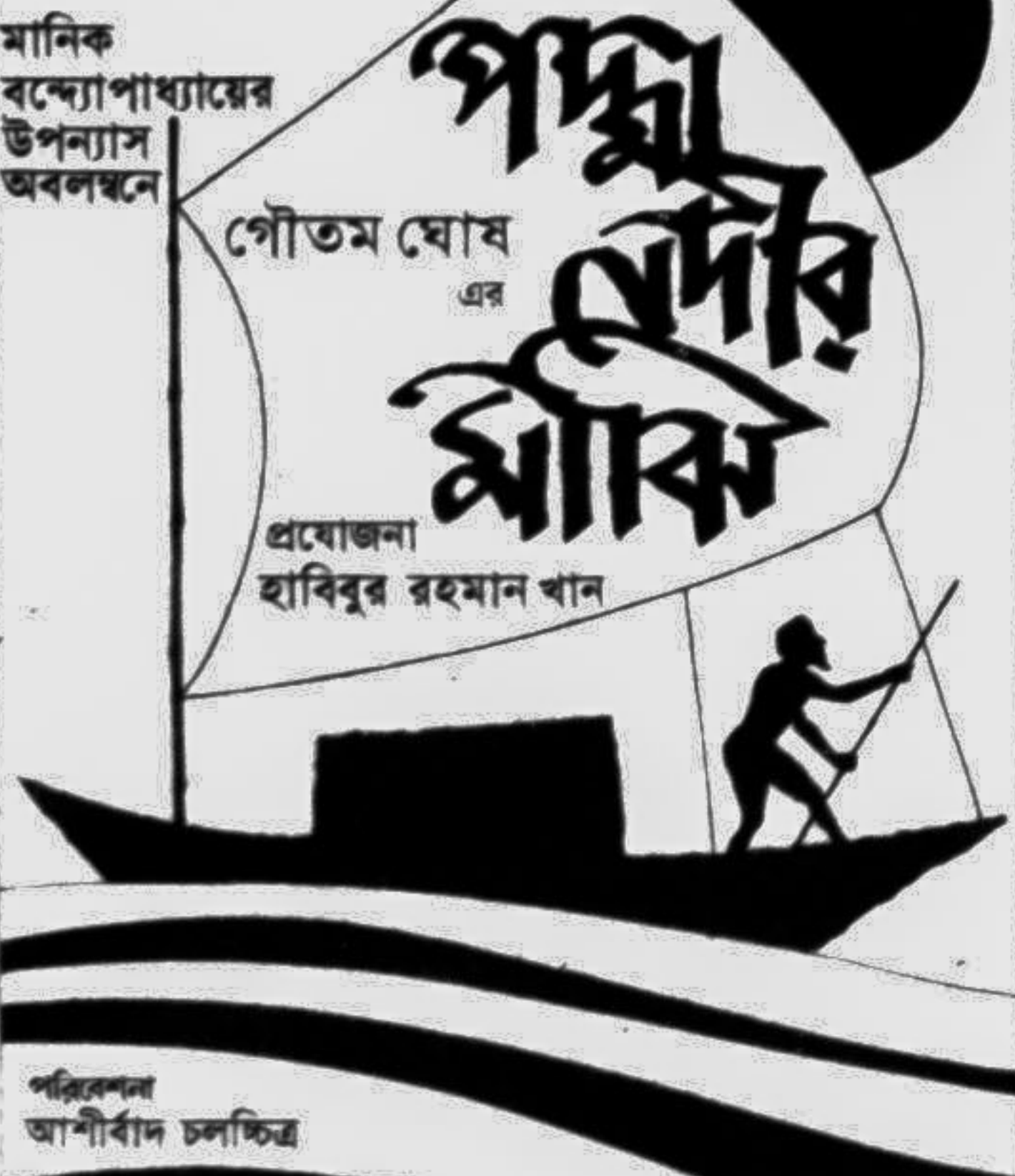
Addressing an installation ceremony of Dhaka Medical College Students Union he said

the present government has taken up steps for streamlining the health administration and medical services.

He said a comprehensive and detailed programme for the health sector, which remained neglected during the autocratic regime, will be undertaken.

Releasing 12th February In Dhaka, Chittagong

আশীর্বাদ চলচ্চিত্র (বাংলাদেশ) ও পশ্চিমবঙ্গ সরকার (জরত) এর যৌথ প্রয়াস



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What's on today

- Jalsa**
The 69th salana jalsa of Ahmadiya Muslim Jamat will begin today (Wednesday) at 4, Bakshi Bazar Road.
- UP chairman rally**
A rally of Union Parishad chairman will be held today (Wednesday) at 10 am at the Sher-e-Bangla Nagar export fair field.
- Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia will be the chief guest.
- Sociological round table discussion**
A round table discussion on social stratification among South Asian Muslims will be held today (Wednesday) at 10 am at Alliance Francaise.
- Dr KM Mohsin, Dean of the faculty of Arts, Dhaka University will preside.
- PDB sports programme**
The two day long inter-office athletic competition of Bangladesh Power Development Board (PDB) will be held today (Wednesday) at 10 am at Rajarbag police parade field.
- Energy Minister Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain will be the chief guest.
- PDF protest rally**
Patriotic Democratic Front will hold a protest rally against the Rajshahi University killing today (Wednesday) at 4 pm at NAP office premises.

Weather

Rain with gusty wind likely

By Staff Correspondent

Rain or thundershower accompanied by temporary gusty wind may occur at one or two places over Rajshahi division and the regions of Kushtia, Jessore, Dhaka, Tangail, Mymensingh, Comilla and Sylhet and weather will remain dry elsewhere over the country during the next 24 hours commencing 6 am today (Wednesday).

The Met office forecasts night temperature is likely to rise by one to two degree Celsius.

The minimum temperature of 11.4 degree Celsius was reported from Srimangal yesterday (Tuesday) and the maximum of 31.0 degree was reported from Cox's Bazar.

The sun sets today at 5.51 pm and rises tomorrow at 6.34 am.

The maximum and the minimum temperature and humidity recorded in 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	29.0	15.8	70	61
Chittagong	30.0	15.3	74	50
Rajshahi	30.0	13.5	67	66
Khulna	30.0	15.5	81	68
Barisal	29.8	14.6	96	77
Cox's Bazar	31.0	16.2	66	76
Sylhet	29.5	15.6	73	58
Dinajpur	27.2	15.0	82	71

IUBAT seminar February 12

International University of Business Agriculture and Technology (IUBAT) will organize a seminar on 'Problems and Potential of Regional Trade Agreements: Lessons from the European Community and North American Free Trade Association' on Friday, February 12 at 4:00 pm at the auditorium of Academy for Planning and Development, Babupara, Nilkhet, says a press release.

9,58,202 certificate cases under trial

There are 9,58,202 certificate cases under trial in the country. LORD Minister Barrister Abdus Salam Talukder said this in parliament yesterday replying to Hajj Rashed Mosharraf Hossain of Awami League, reports UNB. A break-up produced in the House shows that the highest number of 37,028 certificate cases was recorded in Kishoreganj.

NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES

The containerised cargo ex. M.V. MONT BLANC MARU V-14068 from Kobe, Nagoya, Yokohama, ex. M.V. OCEAN SIRIUS V-48B from Karachi, ex. M.V. PACIFIC BRIDGE V-45164 from Yokohama, Hongkong, Keelung, ex. M.V. ALL-DISCOVERY V-11341 from Los Angeles, ex. M.V. HANNOVER EXPRESS V-12303 from Busan, ex. M.V. GURU BHUM V-6505 from Port Keelung, have been relayed to M.V. ANDRIAN GONCHAROV V-06S193, Imp. Rot. No. 73/93 is due to arrive Chittagong on or about 8.2.93 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.

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3	Public Relations Officer	1	Graduate with minimum 5 years experience in relevant field
4	Construction Supervisor	3	H.S.C. with minimum 8-10 years experience in supervision in large construction projects.

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Interested qualified candidates are requested to apply with full Bio-Data, two recent passport size photographs, attested copies of all testimonials & certificates (including experience certificates) so as to reach G.P.O. Box No. 3157, Dhaka by 18 February, 1993 at the latest.

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