

Spirit of Ekushey Lives On



Dhaka Day by Day

# Vivacious and Vociferous

by Fayza Haq

A sample of traditional street drama, presented by Narayanganj Sangskritik Jot, produced and directed by Bhawani Shankar Rai, went down well with the large audience that had collected at Shahid Minar early this week.

The prologue, epilogue, and the intermittent forceful commentary, were presented by Hassan Tawhid, from Jhularam College; this was done effectively and powerfully.

The enthusiastic and energetic participants of the play included Harun-ur Rashid, who played the part of Golam Azam; Shuni Sharmeen, who acted as Jahanara Imam; and Mamun Masud, as well as Parvez, who were included in the riotous group. Ripon played the role of the "razaakar", Karul Alamgir, Shapan, Liton and Sumon, acted as students. Mazad, meanwhile, played the role of the discontented and vociferous farmer, while Biplob acted as the hapless and confused policeman.



A scene from the play by the Narayanganj Sangskritik Jot presented recently at Shahid Minar.

With the trees around Shahid Minar turning a deeper shade of green, and the women viewers dressed in the traditional yellow of the first day of "Phalgun", one did not lose one's cool, even though "Golam Azam" made volatile speeches "against the man who gave the first call for freedom" during '71, and even denigrated two important personages of the country.

In the prologue itself, the Babri Masjid demolition, and the riots and looting that followed, were mentioned vehemently. "We have not yet won the right to use our own language, as we see fit. There is no peace in the country, nor any freedom of the press, or free flow of information via the radio or TV, even though it is necessary," said Tawhid, playing the part of "Shetro Dhar," and who also presented the epilogue, as well as the intermittent commentary.

Poetry recitation was included in the prologue. This was by Nirman Mandal, and he presented a fiery speech on how Bangladeshis still dream of "the silver fish and the poems and songs of Rabindranath Tagore and Nazrul Islam." He added that we were, furthermore, encouraged by the "Bhatiali" songs, and the hopes in the hearts of the Bangladeshi womenfolk.

More poetry recital followed, with an extract

from Shukanto Bhattacharjee. The message, "We will know how our world is being ruined" was "thrust home".

Next, drumming on a "dhol" ensued by a young man in a white "lungi" and singlet, the "dhol" being held by the striped red "gamcha". This stirred up the pulses of the viewers, as it was meant to.

The play brought in a character in a trouser to the limelight. He declared boldly and forcefully, "We demand justice!" another dramatist persona, in a "lungi", "gamcha" around his waist, and a shirt, repeated the same theme of rancorous feelings.

A third character had this to say, "They make laws but they break them and we are compelled to retaliate with firearms. A fourth actor added, "We will not stand betrayal."

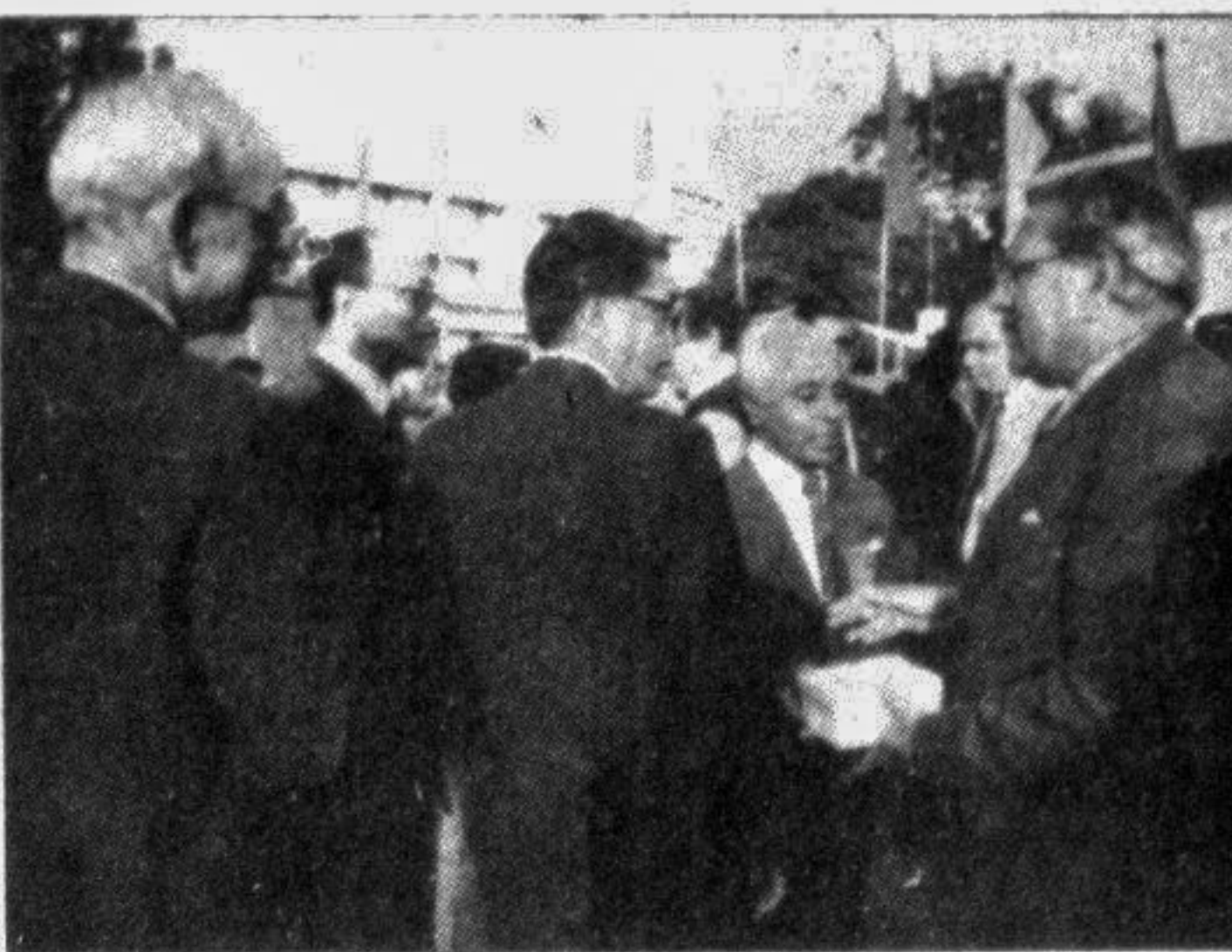
The actress who portrayed Jahanara Imam, in a white "sari", with the careful "ghonta," in blue geometrical patterns, mumbled and dithered, and was almost incoherent, specially with the hubbub of the parley of some of the onlookers.

The actor who played the part of Golam Azam, coolly asked, "Why was there no trial if you really had the guts?" He added, that the people who egged on the discontented people of the country were mere "children" themselves. "Why must you wrap yourself in politics?" was his rhetorical question.

The manner of presentation of the dialogue remained unconvincing for the hot-headed, rebellious students, farmers, and the city workers of the poorer strata of society, who formed the majority of the characters.

High hysterics ensued, although combined with logical and relevant arguments which persisted ad lib. The belligerent and hostile majority of the characters declared to Golam Azam, and others who formed their targets, "You tell us to hush up, but we shall never do it until we have gained what we shall never after."

The fitting epilogue to the play stated, "We will not abandon our struggle for the liberty to use our own language, as and when we see suitable." Ominous drumming concluded the play.



A get-together of the Dhaka University Alumni Association was held at the Shilpakala Academy auditorium recently. A large number of former students of the university and distinguished guests attended it.

## JU students to observe token strike today

By JU Correspondent  
Students of the Jahangirnagar University will observe a token strike today (Monday) in protest against the killing in the Rajshahi University premises on February 6.

Classes and examinations will remain suspended as part of the strike programme called by All Party Students Unity (APSU) and Jahangirnagar University Central Students Union (JUCSU).

## JU admission Application forms to be available from March 10

Application forms for admission to first year Honours classes in 1992-93 session of Jahangirnagar University will be distributed from March 10 to April 3, reports UNB.

The forms will be available at Tk 100 each from the select branch of Agrani Bank, says a JU press release.

Applications will be received at the concerned unit offices till April 5 during office hours.

## Weather

### Weather to remain dry

By Staff Correspondent

Rain or shower accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely over the regions of Rangpur, Bogra, Pabna, Mymensingh, Tangail and Comilla during the next 36 hours commencing 6 pm yesterday.

Meteorological office said weather may remain mainly dry elsewhere over the country.

Night temperature may rise by 1-2 degree Celsius during the period.

On Sunday 11 mm of rain was recorded in Srimangal. The sun sets today (Monday) at 5-54 pm and rises tomorrow (Tuesday) at 6-31 am.

Temperature and humidity recorded in important cities and towns yesterday were:

Cities/Towns	Temperature in degree Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	9 am	6 pm
Dhaka	30.5	21.1	81	56
Chittagong	27.0	18.4	86	72
Rajshahi	32.4	17.7	82	45
Khulna	32.6	20.0	86	49
Barisal	30.5	21.0	95	84
Cox's Bazar	27.5	18.0	82	79
Sylhet	27.0	18.5	98	75
Dinajpur	29.0	15.4	76	70

## Privileges of JS members discussed

The 19th meeting of the standing committee on special privileges of the Jatiya Sangsad was held yesterday with Speaker Shaikh Razaque Ali in the chair, reports BSS.

The meeting discussed in threadbare the various aspects relating to the special privileges of the members of Jatiya Sangsad and took some important decisions.

The members of the committee: State Minister for Law Md. Aminul Haq, Tofael Ahmed, Shahjahan Siraj, Md Matfur Rahman Nizami and Abu Yusuf, Md Khalilur Rahman attended the meeting.

The leader of the Opposition was represented at the meeting by Md Rahmat Ali.



## Kamrun's solo painting show tomorrow

By Staff Correspondent

The week-long first solo painting exhibition of Kamrun Nahar begins tomorrow (Tuesday).

Madame Hestia Soemakno, a contemporary Indonesian painter and wife of the Hon'ble Ambassador of Indonesia in Bangladesh will inaugurate the function at 5 pm.

In all, 37 pieces of Kamrun's Oriental Works in Water Colour and Batik will be on show at La Galerie, 54 Kemal Ataturk Avenue, Banani, Dhaka.

The exhibition will remain open from 9 am to 8 pm everyday till February 22.

Kamrun received her BFA from the Institute of Fine Arts, Dhaka University in 1980. She is at present working as a Senior Designer for a leading advertising firm in Dhaka. Her husband is a journalist. She is mother of a daughter and a son.

## Training course on taxation begins in Seoul March 22

A 12-day training programme on taxation for policymakers in the developing member countries of Asian Development Bank will be held in Seoul, the capital of South Korea, from March 22, according to a message received in

Dhaka yesterday, reports UNB.

Three policymakers from Bangladesh, China and the Philippines will attend the programme. Resource persons from the Republic of Korea will also participate in it.

now

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### The Fourth Management Training Program In Japan for Bangladeshi Entrepreneurs

Yokohama, 27 Sept-8 Oct 1993

Managing Directors, Directors and Proprietors of small and medium scale industries in the private sector are invited to apply for the above training program. The number of participants is limited to 24 only. A selected participant will have to bear about 30% of the total cost involved. The remaining 70% will be borne by the Association for Overseas Technical Scholarship (AOTS), Japan.

For prospectus and application form, please contact the following organizations:

- Bangladesh AOTS Alumni Society (BAAS)**  
Block-A, 3rd Floor, Aziz Cooperative Housing Complex, 72, Purana Paltan Line, Dhaka-1000  
Tel : 413566
- Chattagram AOTS Alumni Society (CAAS)**  
Osman Court, Ground Floor, 70 Agrabad C/A, Chittagong -4100  
Tel : 500456, 502983

The last date to receive application is 18 March, 1993.

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15, Agrabad C/A, Chittagong. Phone. 504792 Fax 885 31 504017

The next step was to send out applications for the research fellowship. And believe me it took some doing. Hunting for addresses. Electric-typing each application. Photocopying all the certificates. And stamps, stamps, stamps. Posted each envelope personally. Settled down to a long wait. The postman became Man of the Year. But every evening found an empty mailbox. Until a moment ago. "It's Harvard, no less!" I think I deserve a Gold Leaf now.

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