

Spirit of Ekushey Lives On



Dhaka Day by Day

An Assail at 'Two Cheers for Democracy'

by Fayza Haq



A scene from the play 'Aei To Amra' presented at Shahid Minar.

Brevity is said to be the soul of wit. One wondered how far the maxim was true, when one watched the play 'Aei To Amra' at the Shahid Minar. The play was directed by R. Alam, and produced by 'Shonglap Group Theatre.' Hassan Arif, in charge of the committee, presenting all the programmes at Shahid Minar, held his head with dismay at the two-hour delay in the schedule.

The gap between the play and the time of commencement of the entire programme for the evening was cleverly covered up with speeches by well-known personages of Bangladesh.

Mamunur Rashid, the well-known TV actor, said 'those who work in the TV have no time to realise what they are involved in. Plays should be previewed before being presented. If the authorities wish to change facts through the news media, they will fail to do so. 'Uthan Natok' will continue to support the cause of the masses of the country; and our rights shall eventually be accepted.'

Jamaluddin Hussain from TV, said in his fiery speech, 'For years TV and radio have struggled for freedom. False reports about the glory of the 'Mukti Joddhas' were given, and the history of our country, Bangla films should be encouraged while Urdu films are being screened at certain sections of the city, and this is not the right tactics to combat the influx of Hindi films.'

Fazl Ahmed, in his piece said, 'The poetry recitation and the plays presented by the radio and TV are inadequate. To declare independence one matter and to maintain it is another. History cannot be made by a few words on TV or radio alone, and the 'Ekushey' struggle must gather up momentum.'

Tariq Enam Khan, in his turn, warned, 'We shall speak out clearly, and we have scripts of plays in our archives, which can prove that the history of the country has been denigrated.'

Next, 'Uddichi Bangladeshi Shilpa Gosthi' sang 'Amar Bhayer Rakter Rangano Ekushey February.' This was followed by a recited of

poetry by 'Bodh.' In this, extracts from an essay 'Mondir O Masjid' by Kazi Nazrul Islam, and other extracts, there was criticism and ridicule of certain sections of the nation's population. The reciters read out a mélange of pieces in which the words 'Bhoi Ho!' and 'La ilaha' were utilised. The portrayal of the present state of the country was undoubtedly bleak.

The same group also sang 'Mukti Jodha Nei Ki Deshey, 'Jaara Danga Korey, Manush Maarey,' 'Aye Desher Durdeen Jomcchey' and various other songs, in the vein, mentioned earlier.

'Sharita Abruti Chakra' filled up the rest of the gap, before the play with their recitations of 'Ekey Ekey Key, Akhon Notun Kotla Lekho.'

The play itself, 'Aei To Amra' was performed with alacrity, yet, the crowd, even the urchins seated nearest the Shahid Minar, giggled at their faux pas. Their ambition and purpose were laudable. Yet, if the play could not capture the interest of the audience, the performance was surely lacking in something, somewhere. There was no lack of enthusiasm or meaningful dialogue, yet here was a performance which clearly lacked finesse.

The actors and actresses included Jahangir Alam, who was the 'matbor'; Amanat Hussain, who acted as the 'mollah'; Ridoy Raaj, who played the part of the 'lathial'; Bilquis Rahman who acted as the Hindu 'damsel in distress', called 'Boshonto'. The other dramatists personae were Ridoy, Iqbal and Arif, who played the part of the 'students'. Tajul-ul Mamun was the 'master', meanwhile, Noyon, Ferdous, Aslam, Babul, Helal, Rahim and Aslam were the followers of the 'matbor'. Shaheen Abdullah played the role of the 'father', and 'Jewel' that of the cousin 'Keshop'.

It is a pity that the standard of the plays, presented at the Shahid Minar, have not been maintained. This is despite the known causes, which should surely have been coordinated with finesse, for fitting functions to celebrate 'Ekushey'.

\$ 600 m grant pledged for rural electrification

Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Dr Khondaker Mosharraf Hossain, who is now on an official tour in USA, said yesterday that rural electrification programme in Bangladesh has gained world-wide interest, compliment and financial support, according to a message received here, reports BSS.

He said seven international development agencies have committed to provide nearly 600 million US dollars as grant and loans for implementation of rural electrification programme of Bangladesh.

The Energy Minister was presenting introductory remarks on Bangladesh rural electrification programme at the annual general conference of US National Rural Electrification Cooperative Association (NRECA) which began in Dallas on Monday.

A total of 264 countries having rural electrification network attending the conference. Dr Mosharraf Hossain, fo-

cusings the present progress and future prospect of rural electrification programme in Bangladesh said it has stirred the imagination of our people and it is proven essential component in our long term social and economic development.

The Energy Minister said a total of over 10 per cent rural area of Bangladesh covering 11,300 villages had so far brought under rural electrification network in Bangladesh. He said the USAID-REB-NRECA partnership had achieved the most successful transfer of institutional and operational technology in the history of Bangladesh.

Rural electrification under Rural Electrification Board (REB) has been formulated in 1977 following the model of US rural electrification network. NRECA prepared the feasibility study for rural electrification in Bangladesh and still eight of NRECA experts has been providing technical services.

British envoy presents books to Speaker

British High Commissioner in Bangladesh Colin Imray yesterday presented three copies of a book on 'Parliamentary Practice' to the Speaker Sheikh Razzak Ali, reports UNB.

The book, by Thoms Erskine May, is a source of reference in matters pertaining to the law, privileges, proceedings and usage of the British Parliament.

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BUET admission test begins today

By BUET Correspondent

The test for admission into 1992-93 academic session of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) begins today at 9 am at the University.

Architecture and Planning Faculty's test will be held tomorrow at the same time.

A total of 4,718 candidates are vying for 560 seats of which 4 are reserved for the tribals, in eight departments under five faculties.

In seven departments of four faculties 3525 candidates will compete for 510 seats while in Architecture Faculty as many as 1193 competitor will contest for only 50 seats.

Results of the test will be published on February 28.

Renovation of Ghorasal UFFL completed

Ghorasal Urea Fertilizer Factory Ltd (UFFL), an enterprise of BCIC, has completed its renovation scheme at a cost of Tk 386 crore and switched over to Advanced Cost and Energy Saving Process (ACES), reports UNB.

With the completion of modernisation and expansion works, the capacity of the factory will be increased from 3,40,000 metric tons to 4,70,000 metric tons, said a BCIC press release yesterday.



Wednesday

- 5:00 Opening announcement
- 5:10 Al Quran
- 5:25 Programme summary
- 5:30 News in Bangla
- 5:35 Sports programme
- 6:00 Desh O Biggan
- 6:30 Open University
- 7:05 Banafal
- 8:00 News in Bangla
- 8:30 Writer Tale Tale
- 9:00 The Fall Guy
- 10:00 News in English
- 10:30 Muktochhara
- 11:30 Khabar/The News
- 11:40 Thursday's programme summary
- 11:45 Closing

Weather

Dry weather likely

By Staff Correspondent

Rain or shower accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely over the region of Rangpur, Bogra, Mymensingh and Sylhet during the next 36 hours commencing 6 pm Tuesday.

Weather is likely to remain mainly dry elsewhere over the country with partly cloudy sky.

Night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country during the period.

The sun sets today (Wednesday) at 5-55 pm and rises tomorrow (Thursday) at 6-30 am.

No rainfall was recorded over the country on Tuesday.

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	31.5	21.2	78	46
Chittagong	28.1	20.5	82	79
Rajshahi	31.9	15.2	82	51
Khulna	33.4	19.0	82	56
Barisal	31.6	21.2	97	78
Cox's Bazar	28.3	21.0	82	82
Sylhet	27.0	18.4	91	78
Dinajpur	27.0	16.5	94	76

203 neo-muslims get Islamic Foundation aid, JS told

Some 203 neo-muslims were given financial help under the Islamic mission programme sponsored by the Islamic Foundation, the parliament was told yesterday, reports UNB.

Replying to Khademul Islam of Awami League, State Minister for Religious Affairs Prof. MA Mannan said poor and destitute neo-muslims are provided with limited monetary support under the Islamic mission programme.

Prof. Mannan told Haji Rashed Mosharrar of Awami League that a total of 1149 officials and employees are working in the revenue and development sectors of the Islamic Foundation.

The Foundation, he said, incurred a loss of Tk 8.12 lakh in fiscal 1991-92. Besides, Tk 713.46 lakh was spent on implementation of 7 projects.

Kohinoor Chemical Company (Bangladesh) Ltd Short Press Tender Notice

Sealed quotations in two envelope system are hereby invited by the Managing Director, Kohinoor Chemical Company (Bangladesh) Limited, 349-350, Tejgaon Industrial Area, Dhaka for supply of 1100 Kgs. Light Magnesium Carbonate BP/USP on site delivery basis against Short Press Tender Enquiry No PD-II/KCC/224 & 299/275 (L) dated 14-2-93. Tender documents will be available at Tk 25.00 (Non-refundable) per set from (1) BCIC, 30-31, Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka (2) BCIC Branch Office, 6, Agrabad Commercial Area, Chittagong and (3) Kohinoor Chemical Company (Bangladesh) Ltd, 349-350, Tejgaon Industrial Area, Dhaka-1208. Tender will be received up to 11.00 AM on 7-3-93 and opened immediately thereafter. No Tender documents will be sold on the date of opening of Tender. Earnest Money 1% Minimum Tk 1,000/-.

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