

## 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. Onc 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.

Faiz 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

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poetry by "Bodh." In this, extracts from an essay "Mondir O Mosjid" by Kazi Nazrul Islam, and other extracts, there was criticism and ridicule of certain sections of the nation's population. The recitors read out a melange of pieces in which the words "Bhoi Hoi" and "La llaha" were utilised. The portrayal of the present state of the country was undoubtedly

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

"Sharita Abriti Chakra" filled up the rest of the gap, before the play with their recitations of "Ekey Key, Akhon Notun Kotha

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 Ilusssain, 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 "Ekushev

Sylhet

Dinajpur

## \$ 600 m grant pledged for rural electrification

Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Dr Khondaker Mosharraf Hossain, who is now on a official tour in USA, said yesterday that rural electrification programme in Bangladesh has gained worldwide 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-

BUET admission

test begins

today

By BUET Correspondent

Bangladesh University of

Engineering and Technology

(BUET) begins today at 9 am at

Faculty's test will be held to-

are vying for 560 seats of

which 4 are reserved for the

tribals, in eight departments

will compete for 510 seats

while in Architecture Faculty

as many as 1193 competitor

Results of the test will be

will contest for only 50 seats.

Wednesday

News in Bangla

Desh O Biggyan

Open University

News in Bangla

The Fall Guy.

Muktodhara

Nritter Tale Tale

News in English

Khabar/The News

Thursday's programme

Sports programme

A! Quran

Opening announcement

Programme summary

5.00

10.30

11.30

11.45 Closing

published on February 28.

morrow at the same time.

under five faculties.

Architecture and Planning

A total of 4,718 candidates

In seven departments of four faculties 3525 candidates

the University.

The test for admission into 1992-93 academic session of

cusing 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 elec-trification in Bangladesh and still eight of NRECA experts has been providing technical services.

## 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 pres release yesterday.

## 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

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.

#### NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES

The containerised cargo ex. M.V. DRESDEN EXPRESS V 09402 from Hamburg, Rotterdam, ex. M.V. MONTE ROSA V-22202 from Southampton, ex. M.V. GREAT RIZAL V-30404 from Fos, Barcellona have been relayed to M.V. NGS. RANGER V-4493, Imp. Rot. No. 101/93 is due to arrive Chittagong on or about 17-2-93 from Singapore. Consignees are requested to take delivery of their cargo from

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## INDEPENDENT UNIVERSITY, BANGLADESH

(The national charter under the Private University Act, 1992, has been applied for)

## ADMISSION NOTICE

Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB) is a new venture of higher education in the private sector. It's MISSION is to achieve the goals of higher education and of sustainable economic growth in the country through a two-way relationship between community and University. There is the universal demand on education to raise the level of skills in employment in order to support modernization and increase cultural understanding to achieve a better quality of life.

The IUB GOAL is to produce high quality graduates and post graduates within the local environment with immediately applicable knowledge and skills to provide leadership in the country's economic and social development.

The CURRICULUM prepared by eminent national and international experts, aims to equip the student with middle management skills for entrepreneurial option or to pursue higher studies and research at any top class university in the world.

Based on national assessments of higher education needs in the country IUB offers Bachelor of Science Honours degrees in BUSINESS STUDIES, COMMUNICATION and ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT and different specializations within each of the above.

Organized on the American plan and adapted to the British University honours degree model, the IUB Honours is a combination degree of subject specialization and elective courses in Arts and Humanities. The latter is expected to broaden understanding and encourage intellectual curiosity and to stimulate leadership quality in the student.

Calendar 1993

IUB has two regular sessions - Winter and Autumn Semesters - of 17 weeks each, and a summer session of six weeks during July and August. This year the Winter Semester starts on 3rd March and continues till 8th July. There will be no Summer Session instead students might be required to take remedial courses during the summer.

#### Admissions

Any one of four documentation will establish basic minimum admission standards:

- Proof of successful completion of Higher Secondary Certificate Examination in First Division with either Physics or Mathematics of Bangladesh Secondary Education Boards.
- General Certificate of Education (GCE) of any of the matriculation boards of the UK in 6 subjects of which at least 2 in Advanced Level with grades B.
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- Diploma from American High School with accompanying transcript of courses satisfactorily completed with grade B or High School Equivalency Certificate.

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Applicants are advised to send to the Admission Committee the official scores on standard examinations such as American College Testing Program (ACT), or Scholastic Aptitude Tests (SAT), and Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL). If not taken, the applicants will be required to take ACT or SAT and TOEFL in order to complete their admission requirements.

Confidential letters of recommendation from teachers and administrators in the applicant's secondary school are called for as evidence of good character and aptitude.

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Applicants may collect forms and Prospectus from the IUB (Business Office) at 119F, Road I, Banani, Dhaka, on payment of Taka 350/00 (Taka three hundred and fifty) to be paid in cash or Postal Order in favour of Independent University, Bangladesh, between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. except on Fridays and public holidays. Successful candidates will have the above charge deducted from their admission fee. Completed applications may be filed in person or through GPO Box 459, Dhaka-1000.

The last date of receipt of Application: Wednesday 3rd March 1993.

M. Khalilur Rahman Secretary General

# Weather <br/> 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 to-

morrow (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: Humidity in Cities/Towns Temperature in degree Celsius percentage 9 am 6 pm Dhaka 21.2 20.5 Chittagong 28.1 Rajshahi 31.9 15.2 51 Khulna 56 78 19.0 21.2 Barisal 31.6 Cox's Bazar 21.0 28.3

18.4

27.0

27.0

D-120

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### 203 neo-muslims get Islamic Foundation aid, JS told

Some 203 neo-muslims were given financial help under the islami mission programme sponsored by the Islamic Foundation, the parltament 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 Mosharraf 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 713.48 lakh was spent on implementation of 7 projects.