

# Dhaka Day by Day

## Enjoying the Adrenal Rush

by Fayza Haq

The staging of Shakespeare's 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' by 'Dhaka Stage' from December 7th to 10th at the European Community Delegates House, will surely be a delight for theatre lovers going by the optimism expressed recently by the director and the main performers. They were full of enthusiasm and confidence and determined to give the viewers their money's worth.

Paul Smith, the director, who once ran the drama division of the British Council in Britain, got well acquainted with drama at that time, and when he began his Ph.D. on Shakespeare. He said, "This is the first large play in Dhaka and like all comedies the characters are distinctive. Every role has very strongly marked characteristics like pride, stupidity or sentimentality. The costumes, stage and rest of the paraphernalia have all been done by the members of the play. The music is specially composed by Robert Shrubshell. Using the violin, flute and oboe we have tried to make the music as engaging as we can. The play is about theatre and the comedy that arises is funny. It brings in four experiences: dreaming, falling in love, experiencing a play and experiencing life itself. I chose this play because it is enjoyable, popular, and we wanted to do something outdoors in this pleasant time of the year."

Tim Bridges, who plays "Bottom," remarked, "The personality I play is very similar to me; it is like type casting. 'Bottom' is an egocentric and larger than life character. As far as I am concerned, this is Shakespeare's most entertaining and most interesting play. The poetry is exquisite and the humour is accessible to everybody. It is not crude as slapstick but it is very universal humour. As far as the spectacle and costume are concerned, it is a visual feast."

Meg Timmins, who plays "Titania," talking about her role commented, "One would think of fairies as tripping on the light fantastic toe. However, the director wanted someone of the Margaret Thatcher type. I have directed large scale musicals for children in Africa and Bangladesh. What I find the nicest thing is that all the actors are doing something different by day and then there is the warm camaraderie, and people have a chance to let their hair down."

Bill Hurlbert who plays "Oberon," commented, "It has been interesting for me to act with the amateurs again. It has also been satisfying to do something as large as this. It has been a community effort and everybody rehearses in his free time. For an amateur production it is good. We have choreographers, music composers and professional musicians. A number of people, 128 in all, have put their hand in it. Bill has acted before in New York and other places in the USA."

Steve Chandler, who plays the duel role of "Thisbe" and "Francis Flute," said, "This is my first big play since I have left school. I am enjoying it as it is funny and ridiculous as I am playing the part of a woman. I planned to help backstage and auditioned for a laugh and was offered a part. Considering that it is the work of two months only of amateur actors and a lot of first time actors, it is going very well."



A scene from a rehearsal of A Midsummer Night's Dream

Tony Felts, who plays "Peter Quince," one of the comic mechanics, said, "I am enjoying the role. There is a lot of enthusiasm among the members and although people think that Shakespeare is only for intellectuals it can also be very good entertainment in the twentieth century when presented well. To me acting is completely new as I am a scientist. I think this is a nice way of doing something with a group and contributing to everyone's pleasure, especially the audience."

Amitava Tripathi, who plays "Egeus," and has done quite a bit of amateur acting, confided, "If I were not a diplomat, I would have been a stage artist. Most of us are amateurs and are busy in our own ways. The reason why I chose the role was because it was not a long one despite being interesting. It is different from others as here is one man who is, to begin with, not happy with things as his daughter is in love with a man not of his own choosing."

Bill Tuck, who plays "Theseus" and has acted in amateur groups in ten different countries, commented, "You have to get all the words right on the nose as it is Shakespeare and much harder than any of the previous experiences that have been comedies and farces." Elaine Bigelow, who plays "Hippolyta," said about her part, "It is supposed to be the palest character that Shakespeare ever wrote but it need not be because there is so much that you can do with it. I have few actual lines to speak but 80 per cent of communication is body language."

Dan Connelly, who plays "Demetrius," commented, "I enjoy the adrenal rush involved in acting — there is nothing to match it. I play a complete scoundrel three fourths of the play and then I change because of the magic juice. The audience is often afraid of Shakespeare and in many respects it is a different language. It is very difficult to learn the lines. It is up to the actors to translate that language by using movement, posture as well as speaking the lines into a language that the audience will appreciate and understand."

Viveka Kumari, who plays "Hermia," remarked, "I hated my part at first because I initially found it boring but gradually I found it fun. As production manager, I was neglecting my role for a while."

The Dhaka audience, starved of good play production, is bound to lap up this effort of over a hundred people. And it is not often that Shakespeare is produced in its original form.



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia speaking as chief guest at the inaugural session of the 5-day international parliamentarians' conferences on 'democracy and development' and 'population, poverty and life styles' at the Sonargaon Hotel organised jointly by the New York-based Parliamentarians for Global Action and Khan Foundation, Dhaka. Below: A section of local and foreign delegates at the conference. — Star photo

## Kuwait assures employment of more Bangladeshis

President Abdur Rahman Biswas yesterday told a Kuwaiti minister that Bangladesh workers were badly affected by the Gulf War and all of them should go back to Kuwait to realise their outstanding dues from previous employers and settle other matters, reports UNB.

He also hoped that Kuwaiti government would continue to employ Bangladeshi nationals for their development activities. President Biswas was exchanging views with a nine-member delegation led by Jama An Faleh Al-Azmi, Minister for Awqaf and Religious Affairs of Kuwait, which called on the President at Bangabhaban.

The minister appreciated the support and cooperation of Bangladesh to Kuwait during the Gulf War and assured that they would engage more Bangladeshi manpower. Existing brotherly relationship between the two countries would also be strengthened further in coming years, he said.

The new development projects submitted to Kuwait by Bangladesh will be considered with sympathy for financing out of the Kuwait Fund for Economic Development, he further said, adding "It is our responsibility to help the Muslim brethren and strengthen the Muslim ummah."

the keen interest shown by the Ameer of Kuwait and his government for the welfare and development of Bangladesh and thanked them for extending co-operation and assistance for various development projects in Bangladesh.

He praised the role of Kuwait Joint Relief Committee for operating humanitarian projects in Bangladesh, including the Kuwaiti General Hospital to be set up at Uttara.

Bangladesh is very much concerned about the serious conditions of the Muslim minorities are now facing in different parts of the world, including Bosnia Herzegovina, Biswas said. He also referred to the problems of Rohingya Muslims sheltered in Bangladesh.

The President conveyed his greetings to the Ameer and the Crown Prince of Kuwait.

Secretary to the President Ataul Haq and Mohammad Al-Nazran, Ambassador of Kuwait in Bangladesh, were present on the occasion.

## Biswas, Khaleda greet King, PM of Thailand

President Abdur Rahman Biswas has felicitated King Bhumibol Adulyadej of Thailand on the Occasion of his birthday and National Day of Thailand today, reports UNB.

In a message of felicitation Biswas said "the government and the people of Bangladesh join me in extending to your majesty and through you to the government and the people of Thailand our warmest greetings and felicitations on the auspicious occasion of your majesty's birthday."

He hoped that the existing bonds of friendship and cooperation between the two countries will be further strengthened in the years to come to the mutual benefit of the people of the two countries.

President Biswas wished the King good health, happiness and long life and for the continued peace, progress and prosperity of the friendly people of Thailand.

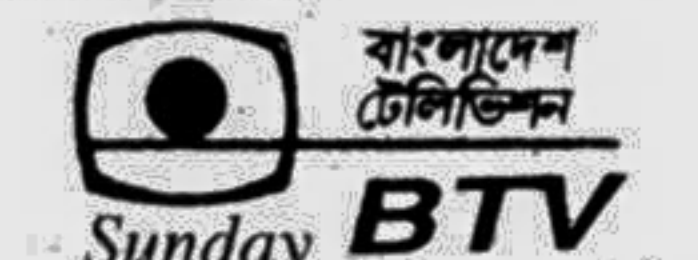
In another message Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia greeted Chuan Leekapi, Prime Minister of Thailand on the occasion of his Majesty's birthday and National Day of Thailand today.

In a message of greetings Begum Khaleda Zia said "I have great pleasure to convey to your excellency our sincere greetings and warm felicitations on the happy occasion of his Majesty's birthday."

## Eskaton Sabuj Sangha cultural evening Dec 7

Eskaton Sabuj Sangha will organise a grand gala cultural evening of leading artistes at the Institution of Engineers on December 7, says a press release.

Artists expected to participate — Kumar Biswajit, Tapan Chowdhury, Shakila Zafar, Baby Nazneen, Sameena Chowdhury, Dilruba Khan, and Hanif Shankeet. Cards will be available at Ranuka Department Store, Honey Loaf, Kintuki and Mr Burger.



- 5.00 Opening announcement Al-Quran
- 5.10 News in Bangla
- 5.35 Cartoon: Tom
- 6.35 And Jerry Kids Show
- 7.15 Open University
- 7.40 Rabindra Sangeet
- 7.45 Documentary film on SAF Games
- 8.00 News in Bangla
- 8.30 Special programme on PM's recent visit to Nepal: Himalayer Deshe
- 9.05 Drama series: The Sword
- 10.00 Tipu Sultan Discussion on Suhrawardy's anniversary of death
- 10.55 Surlaharee
- 11.30 Khabar/The News
- 11.40 Tomorrow's programme

## Weather

### Temperature may fall

By Staff Correspondent

The weather is likely to remain dry with partly cloudy sky over the country.

Met Office forecasts light fall in night temperature is expected.

Country's highest temperature of 30 degrees Celsius was recorded in Teknaf and lowest of 13.7 degrees Celsius was recorded in Dinajpur yesterday.

The sun sets today (Sunday) at 5:11 pm and rises tomorrow (Monday) at 6:28am.

The maximum and the minimum temperatures and relative humidity recorded in some major cities and towns of the country yesterday are:

Cities/Towns	Temperatures in degrees Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	9am	6pm
Dhaka	27.5	15.3	78	82
Chittagong	28.3	16.3	86	72
Rajshahi	27.5	13.8	80	81
Khulna	28.2	15.5	75	75
Barisal	28.0	15.8	94	87
Cox's Bazar	29.0	17.8	72	72
Sylhet	27.8	16.0	73	74
Dinajpur	27.7	13.7	85	80

## BSP, ad agencies meet held

Bangladesh Sangbadptra Parishad (BSP) held a meeting with the Association of Advertising Agencies in Dhaka on Tuesday to discuss common problems and to devise ways how to resolve them, reports UNB.

In the course of discussion it was pointed out that BSP now stood divided. The question, therefore, arises which faction of BSP should be recognised by the advertising firms.

The BSP members present in the meeting claimed BSP they represent was a legal and legitimate body and therefore it must be recognised by all concerned including add firms.

## Seminar on AIDS at RMC

RAJSHAHI, Dec 4: Speakers at a seminar on 'AIDS' underlined the need for creating awareness among the people for prevention of AIDS in the world at any cost, reports BSS.

The seminar was held at Rajshahi Medical College (RMC) auditorium today in observance of World AIDS Day.

Presided over by Professor of Pathology Department of RMC Moidul Islam, the seminar was addressed, among others, by RMC teachers Prof Samsuzzaman Chowdhury, Prof Anowarul Islam, Prof Rafiqul Islam, Dr Fazlur Rahman, Dr AKM Rafiquddin and Dr Abu Azhar.

## Obtained M. Phil.

Mrs. Hoane Ara Motahar has recently obtained M. Phil. degree in Management of Archaeological Heritage and Museum from the Department of Archaeology of Cambridge University, England. Her dissertation was entitled "Archaeological Heritage Management in Bangladesh". Previously, she did an M.A. in Public History (Cultural Resource Management) from the West Virginia University, U.S.A. Mrs Hoane Ara is a Deputy Keeper of Bangladesh National Museum. She is the wife of Syed Abu Motahar, a Development Specialist of USAID.

**বিক্রয়**

ধানমণ্ডি, পুলাশান ও ইকটিন গার্ডেনে সকল প্রকার আধুনিক সুবিধাদি সহ ১৩৯৪০-২৭৮৫ বর্গমিটার (১৪০০-৩০০০ বর্গফুট) এর এপার্টমেন্ট ও ভূসম্পদ।

কোন: ২৪০১১৭, ৮৬২১৮৪-৫

## MITSUBISHI TURBO FOR SALE

Mitsubishi Turbo Station wagon model later 1988, sunroofed in excellent running condition and loaded with all original factory fitted air conditioner, twelve track CD players and other accessories, vehicle available for inspection at SW (A) 26, Gulshan Avenue, Gulshan Model Town, Dhaka-1212. Only genuine buyers please contact at sight or Telephone numbers 607318, 606798, 600710. Attn: Mr Kamrul Ahsan. S-465

## NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES

The containerised cargo ex. M. V. XETHA BHUM V-22, ex. M.V. MAHA BHUM V-184 from Bangkok, ex. M.V. WANA BHUM V-202N from Jakarta, ex. M.V. ALLI MIRACLE V-28012 from Kobe, Nagoya, Yokohama, Hongkong, ex. M.V. MONT BLANC MARU V-2811 from Port Kelang and containers from Singapore have been relayed to M.V. EPONYMA V-EPM16N, Imp. Rot. No. 973/93 is due to arrive Chittagong on or about 4-12-93 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 liquidated by Customs Act.

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## Workshop on role pourashava

KHULNA, Dec 4: A two-day long Khulna and Barisal divisional workshop on the Role of Pourashava in Implementing EPI programme began here at BMDC auditorium today, reports BSS.

The workshop was inaugurated by Khulna City Corporation Mayor Shaikh Tayebur Rahman as the chief guest.

Presided over by Abdul Mukadr Chowdhury, Divisional Commissioner Khulna, the inaugural function was addressed, among others, by Jessore Pourashava Chairman Ali Reza Razu, Secretary Local Government Division Mushfiqur Rahman, Joint Secretary Ministry of Health and Family Welfare Dr Md Khalidullah, USAID representative of Urban EPI Project, Bangladesh and Representatives of WHO and UNICEF.

The workshop is being participated by the chairmen, secretaries, executive officers, administrators of pourashavas of Khulna and Barisal divisions.

## Attestation parade of BDR held

CHITTAGONG, Dec 4: The attestation parade of 46 batch recruits of Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) held at the Baitul Izzat Rifles Training Centre & School parade ground this morning, says a press release.

Communications Minister Oli Ahmed Bir Bikram reviewed the smartly turned out parade as chief guest and took salute. The Director General of BDR Major General Mohammad Anwar Hossain BP, psc was also present on the occasion.

He also said that from the beginning of Bangladesh the BDR earned the fame by protecting the border, smuggling, maintaining peace, law and order, serving the distressed at the time of natural calamities.

He gave away the BDR crest among the new Rifles soldiers for their outstanding performance in physical exercises, drills, shooting and bayonet fighting. Recruit Md Aktar Uzzaman Awal was adjudged as the all rounder.

## PSP delegation calls on Huda

A delegation of Purbanchaliya Sangbadptra Parishad (PSP) called on Information Minister Barrister Nazmul Huda at his Secretariat office yesterday, reports BSS.

Led by Convener of the parishad Moinuddin Kadery Shawkat, the delegation submitted a memorandum to the Information Minister.

The memorandum contain a 7-point demand which includes decentralisation of advertisement and ensuring representation of the parishad in different committees of the Information Ministry.

## Activities of Demra thana

### Jubo-Dal suspended

All activities of the Demra Thana Jubo Dal has been suspended from yesterday until further order at the directive of the central council of the Bangladesh Jatyatabadi Jubo Dal, reports BSS.



The JAGPA brought out a procession yesterday demanding a permanent solution to Farakka problem and rebuilding of the Babri Mosque. — Star photo