

Dhaka Day by Day

A Novel Programme for Budding Playwrights

by Raffat Binte Rashid

Writing a play is not such a difficult task, at least for those who can think. Sit down with a pen and paper, stare a few minutes at the azure sky and words and sequences just flow in.

Once submitted, the play becomes the director's headache from then on. Whether the play is properly performed, or the stage set is what was visualized by the playwright or not, is not something to be bothered about. All you want to see is your ready-made play on the screen, of course with the credit.

But this happened years ago. Now with everything changing and modernizing, a playwright's involvement in the process of making or rehearsal is as important as any performer on the set. To introduce this strategy to young, amateur playwrights of Bangladesh, Mary Cooper and Shamim Azad from London are here in Dhaka to share their experience and help

is praiseworthy", she thinks. "Basically a three-day workshop is not much, it is like a short course, yet we will try to bring out each writer taking part in the workshop," says Mary Cooper a free-lance lecturer and teacher on playwriting. "At the end of the course each participant will produce a work of their own with their own ideas, a full fledged play will come up in a workshop style" she says.

"I have been wanting to come to Bangladesh and know its people for a long time," Cooper says explaining her association with the Bangladeshi community in the United Kingdom.

"I have even made a play with a Bangladeshi background, it's about a young Bangladeshi girl coming to Britain and marrying an English man. I tried to explain her capacity for adjustment. In fact it is not very easy to imagine another culture and land until you visit," Cooper explains.

"My visit here is very interesting as it will help me to understand my friends and people more. Basically it is the rural Bangladesh that I have visualized and that is where I have my preconceptions, but I am trying to be open minded," she says with a thoughtful smile.

Cooper began her writing career as a journalist before starting to write plays. She has written extensively for the young people and for the 'Theatre in education' project. Azad is presently working in Tower Hamlets as a primary school teacher. A playwright, poet, novelist, she is also a resident writer of Half Moon Young People's Theatre and an overseas correspondent for *Worldly Bichitra*.

Azad's second play *Bhela* (The Raft) a bilingual play is scheduled to run in June. "The idea of raft came to me while I was in a workshop of my first plays", she recalls.

The play is for children aged between 9 to 11 years old. It is about a *Dadi* (Grandma), *Sadek* visiting from England, *Kalim* a village boy and *Kanchi* the snake. They are trapped on the branches of a single tree and to survive they must find ways to reconcile their differences and learn to respect each other's ways of life.

"Tickets are already sold for the play. I must say that it was the style and formula with which I worked that has benefited me and I am more than glad to help amateur writers like me here, through this workshop," Azad adds.



Mary Cooper and Shamim Azad.

A three-day workshop started from April 20 at the British Council premises for this purpose. Another two days (April 24, 25) workshop has been organized in Sylhet by Shandhani Nattyo Chakro, Sylhet.

Cooper and Azad were invited by the Group Theatre Federation, their visit being partly sponsored by the British Council, Dhaka and Bangladesh Biman.

"The main focus of the workshop is to popularise education theatre in Dhaka," informs a British Council official.

Cooper has been involved in the 'theatre in education' project for many years, though Azad is just introduced to this very recently. She has only two plays to her credit.

"Play writing is a new experience for me but it is something I enjoyed thoroughly," Shamim Azad believes. "The reason for this is the way I was introduced to it. It was totally different and definitely interesting," she recalls her experience while writing *Kola Pata Bhut*, a bilingual play which has a Cooper & Azad tag.

"At every step of the rehearsal I was involved even at set designing, the whole thing was a series of workshops, where each day the pieces as the puzzle was solved and rightly placed until finally the whole play took shape."

"It is something that doesn't happen here and just to promote this and help the young writers to be more creative and innovative, this arrangement by the Group Theatre Federation



President Abdur Rahman Biswas handing over gold medal to Prof A K Azad Khan for his contributions in the health sector at the fifth annual conference of the Association of Physicians of Bangladesh at a local hotel in Dhaka yesterday. — PID photo

Assoc of Physicians' annual confce opens

President Abdur Rahman Biswas yesterday called for making a concerted health movement for creating awareness among the people about health care system, reports BSS.

He was inaugurating the fifth annual conference of the Association of Physicians of Bangladesh at Sonargaon Hotel in Dhaka yesterday.

Presided over by Prof Mohammad Tahir, the function was also addressed by Health and Family Welfare Minister Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yusuf, Deputy Minister for Health and Family Welfare Muhammad Sirajul Haque, Director General of Health Services Prof Mohammad Nurunnabi, secretary general of the association Prof Tofael Ahmed and Prof Sheikhha Nesaruddin Ahmed.

President Biswas said that national development could not be expected without creating awareness about health care.

President Abdur Rahman Biswas stressed the need for spreading education and said that booklets on health had to be made readable to the people. He said that health care system had to be incorporated more in the school curricula. He said the mothers should also have to be made conscious about health care.

President Biswas later handed over gold medal to Prof A K Azad Khan for his contributions in the health sector.

Biswas visits ailing Fazlur

President Abdur Rahman Biswas yesterday visited State Minister for Social Welfare Fazlur Rahman, now being treated at BIRDEM Hospital, reports UNB.

Biswas stayed with the state minister for sometime and enquired about the progress of his treatment from the attending doctors.

US DV-1 visa guidelines

Following are the procedures to be followed by Bangladeshi applicants for the US DV-1 visa, as released by the USIS yesterday.

The Envelope: Applications must be typed or clearly printed and mailed to the following address:

DV-1 Program
National Visa Center
Portsmouth, NH 00210
USA

Typed or clearly printed in the English alphabet in the upper left hand corner of the front of the envelope must be the country or area of which the applicant is a native. Typed or clearly printed below the country must be the same name and mailing address of the applicant as are shown on the application form contained therein. Failure to include this information will disqualify the application.

Example: Bangladesh
Abul Chowdhury
Shafiq Motorworks
Village — Biral
Post Office — Rajnagar
Rajshahi

Size of envelope: The envelope in which each application is mailed must be between 6 inches and 10 inches (15 cm to 25 cm) in length, and between 3 inches and 4 inches (9 cm to 11 cm) in width.

The Application: There is no application fee or special application form. The request for registration in the lottery must furnish the following information on a plain sheet of paper. All answers must be typed or clearly printed in the English alphabet.

A. Applicant's full name
Last name, first name and middle name
(Underline last name/surname/family name)
Example: Chowdhury, Abul Haiy

B. Applicant's date and place of birth
Date of birth: Day, month, year
Example: 15 November 1961
Place of birth: City/town, district/county/province, country.
Example: Biral, Rajshahi, Bangladesh

C. Name, date and place of birth of applicant's spouse and children, if any

The spouse and child (ren) of an applicant who is registered for DV-1 status are automatically entitled to the same status. To obtain a visa on the basis of this derivative status, a child must be under 21 years of age and unmarried. Do not list parents, as they are not entitled to derivative status.

D. Applicant's mailing address
The mailing address must be clear and complete, since it will be to that address that the notification letter for the persons who are registered will be sent. A telephone number is optional.

E. Applicant's native country if different from country of birth.

You are considered a native of the country in which you were born. You may also claim the country of birth of your spouse. You may claim the country of birth of either of your parents if you were born in a country in which neither parent was a native or resident at the time of your birth.

The press release also mentioned that selection in the DV-1 does not mean an automatic visa. Selection indicates that the applicant will be considered for DV-1 visa.

Submission of more than one application will disqualify the person from registration. A husband and a wife may each submit one application for registration. Applicants may prepare and submit their own request for registration, or have someone act on their behalf.

The law and regulations require that every applicant must have at least a high school education its equivalent or, within the past five years, have two years or work experience in an occupation requiring at least two years training or experience.

Documentary proof of education or work experience should not be submitted with the application, but must be presented to the consular office at the time of formal immigration visa application.

Applicants are subjected to all grounds of ineligibility specified in the Immigration and Nationality Act and there is no special provision for the waiver of any grounds of visa ineligibility other than those provided for and act.

At the National Visa Center all mail received will be separated into one of six geographic regions and individually numbered. After the end of the application period, a computer will randomly select cases from among all the mail received for each geographic region.

Within each region, the first letter randomly elected will be the first case registered, the second letter selected the second registration, the press release added.

It makes no difference whether an application is received early or late in the application period.

When a case has been registered, the applicant will immediately be sent a notification letter which will provide appropriate visa application instructions.

A total of about 90,000 persons, both principal applicants and their spouses and children, will be registered. Under the law, persons registered following the DV-1 application period are entitled to apply for visa issuance only during the fiscal year 1995 (from October 1994 through September 1995).

There is no carry over of benefit into another years for persons who are registered but who do not obtain visas during FY-1995, the press release added.

Chehlum

The chehlum of late Musammat Halima Khatoon, wife of Alhaj M A Karim and mother of Md Rezaul Karim, Vice-Chairman, Bangladesh Jute Association (BJA) will be held after Jumma prayers tomorrow at deceased residence 16, College Street, Dhanmondi, Dhaka, says a press release.

Mubinur's body arrives

The body of Mubinur Rahman Chowdhury, a Bangladeshi scientist, who died in the United States five days ago, was flown in Dhaka yesterday by a British Airways flight, reports BSS.

Dr Chowdhury left behind his wife and two minor daughters, who were living with him in the United States.

The body will be taken to Sylhet where he will be buried at the Manikpur graveyard after Juma prayers today.

Merrill calls on Matin

The US Ambassador to Bangladesh David N Merrill called on the Home Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury at his office yesterday, reports UNB.

During the call on they discussed various bilateral issues of cooperation.

Law and order situation in the country, repatriation of Rohingya refugees, narcotic smuggling and human rights issues were also come up in their discussion.

BTB Friday

- 8.00 Opening announcement
- 8.10 Programme summary
- 8.15 News in Bangla
- 8.35 Religious programme: Alor Disher
- 8.35 Film show: Border Town
- 9.20 Comedy series: Major Dad
- 10.00 News in English
- 10.15 Film show: Tarzan
- 10.30 Programme on health: Prescription
- 11.00 Live telecast of the Australasia Cup final between Pakistan and India.
- 7.00 Open University
- 7.25 Malancha
- 8.00 News in Bangla
- 8.30 Comedy series: Perfect Strangers
- 9.00 Drama of the week: Ekatarat Shur
- 10.00 News in English
- 10.30 Drama serial: LA Law
- 11.30 Khabar/The News
- 11.40 Tomorrow's programme

Contradiction

By Staff Correspondent

The Daily Star on Wednesday carried a news 'JU Students Allege Harassment by Guardian' on its back page. The news was based on a written statement issued by one Khorshed Anwar on behalf of the students of the Pharmacy Department of Jahangirnagar University at a press conference on the campus regarding the reported elopement of two Pharmacy students — Sachchu and Shameema — and subsequent harassment of some teachers, students and guardians by the girl's father.

In the statement, the students had also said that Shameema's uncle Colonel Sayeduzzaman had lodged a kidnapping case with the Savar police.

However, Colonel Sayeduzzaman came to The Daily Star office Wednesday night and denied the students' statement, saying that in fact, it was the girl's father, Major S M Rafiqui Alam of Bangladesh Rifles (BDR), who had lodged the case.

First class first

Md Kamrul Hasan Bablu has secured first class first position in the M Sc final examination in 1989 (held in 1993) in Geology Department (Thesis group) under the University of Dhaka, says a press release. He is the eldest son of Md Tokaddes Husain and Nurunnahar Husain of Vill-Shigram, Thana-Muhammedpur, District-Magura.



Deputy Leader of the House Professor Badruddoza Chowdhury yesterday is seen among winners of the song, painting, recitation, dance and drama competition for children organised by the Shishu Academy to welcome the 1401 year of Bangla calendar. — Star photo

Weather

Kalbaishakhi likely

By Staff Correspondent

Rain or showers accompanied by the temporary *Kalbaishakhi* squalls is likely to occur at many places over Barisal-Chittagong divisions, at a few places over Dhaka, Rajshahi divisions and one or two places over Khulna division with hail during the next 12 hours commencing from 6 am today (Friday).

The Met Office forecasts no appreciable change in day temperature is likely.

The country's highest temperature yesterday of 36.6 degrees Celsius was recorded in Ishwardi and the lowest of 19.1 degrees in Feni.

The sun sets today at 6.23 pm and rises tomorrow (Saturday) 5.31 am.

Rainfall recorded in different places of the country during the day time yesterday are: Dhaka-48 mm, Majdicourt-46, Tangail-41, Sylhet-24, Comilla-19, Barisal-15 and Srirangal-3 mm.

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	9 am	6 pm
Dhaka	32.0	20.0	80	88
Chittagong	31.7	21.0	77	80
Rajshahi	36.0	24.0	73	84
Khulna	34.5	20.0	78	72
Barisal	33.0	22.2	82	100
Sylhet	26.5	20.5	83	84
Cox's Bazar	31.5	24.0	71	85
Dinajpur	29.7	21.8	79	66

A-LEVEL ADMISSION GOING ON

Subjects offered: Accounting, Economics, Physics, Chemistry, Biology and Maths (Applied and Pure).

Highly qualified and experienced teachers to guide throughout the course.

Well equipped laboratory facilities for science practical. Seats are limited. For further information contact Principal,

GREEN GEMS INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL (from play group to A-Level)

Tele: 506205. Road No-3, House No-34, Dhanmondi R/A.

S-200

CAREER OPPORTUNITY IN SINGAPORE ARCHITECTURAL TECHNICAL OFFICER

The Job: To plan and prepare working drawings, manually or by computer for building projects, presentation materials which include drawing of perspectives, making of models and any other duties as assigned.

Qualification: Degree in Architecture or Degree in Civil/Structural Engineering with at least two years of relevant experience.

CLERK-OF-WORKS

The Job: To assist in the supervision of building projects, upgrading and rectification works in existing estates which includes checking quality and standards of contractors' work, monitoring materials used on site and progress of contractor's work and any other duties as assigned.

Qualification: Degree in Civil Engineering with at least two years of relevant experience.

Successful candidates can expect to receive an attractive remuneration package which include fringe benefits. They are to sign a 2-year contract (renewable).

Qualified candidates are to write in with detailed description of personal, education and work experience and enclose photocopies of educational certificates, work testimonials, passport and 4 photos to reach us by latest 30 April 1994.

Director

Garamont Agencies Pte Ltd
17B Trengganu Street
Singapore 0105

(Shortlisted candidates will be notified to attend an interview and to take a drafting test to be conducted in Dhaka in early May 1994.)

S-198

UPL likes to say it with books

Happy New Year

NEW YEAR OFFER OF 20% DISCOUNT ON THE FOLLOWING BOOKS VALID UNTIL 15TH MAY 1994

- James J. Novak**
Bangladesh: Reflections on the Water Tk. 200.00
- Hasan Zaheer**
The Separation of East Pakistan The Rise and Realization of Bengali Muslim Nationalism Tk. 400.00
- G. W. Chowdhury**
The Last Days of United Pakistan Tk. 300.00
- Rehman Sobhan**
Agrarian Reform and Social Transformation Preconditions for Development Tk. 400.00
- Aminul Haque Farazi**
Bangladesh Peasant Migration and the World Capitalist Economy Tk. 275.00
- Stanley A Kochanek**
Patron-Client Politics and Business in Bangladesh Tk. 375.00
- Geoffrey D. Wood**
Bangladesh: Whose Ideas, Whose Interests? Tk. 360.00
- Mishbahuddin Khan**
History of the Port of Chittagong vol. 2 Tk. 450.00
- Gramen Bank**
Participation as Process-process as Growth Tk. 150.00
- Muhammad Shamsul Haq**
Bangladesh in International Politics Tk. 400.00
- Rehman Sobhan**
Bangladesh: Problems of Governance Tk. 400.00
- Muhammad Anisur Rahman**
People's Self Development Tk. 400.00
- Lawrence Ziring**
Bangladesh: from Mujib to Ershad Tk. 220.00
- Clare E Humphrey**
Privatization in Bangladesh Tk. 295.00
- Rehman Sobhan**
Rethinking the Role of the State in Development: Asian Perspectives Tk. 400.00
- Mohammad Anisur Rahman**
The Last Moment: Dreams with a nation born through fire Tk. 275.00
- M. Inas Ali**
Revealing the Glory of God Tk. 110.00
- Mohammad Keramat Ali**
The Message: Selected Verses from the Holy Qur'an Tk. 275.00
- Syed Noor Hossain**
Japan Not in the West Tk. 350.00
- Niaz Zaman**
Princess Kalabati and other Tales Tk. 250.00
- Rahim B. Talukdar**
Management of Change in South Asia Tk. 660.00
- M Asaduzzaman & Kristern Westergaard**
Growth and Development in Rural Bangladesh Tk. 400.00
- Róza Hajnóczy**
Fire of Bengal Tk. 450.00
- Atiq Rahman et al**
Environment and Development in Bangladesh (in 2 vols.) Tk. 1000.00
- Harun-er-Rashid**
Geography of Bangladesh Tk. 500.00
- Dil Afroze Quader**
Learning in Deprivation Tk. 235.00
- Kamal Siddiqui et al**
Social Formation in Dhaka City Tk. 250.00
- Rehman Sobhan**
From Aid Dependence to Self-Reliance: Development Options for Bangladesh Tk. 275.00
- Firdous Azim Niaz Zaman**
Infinite Variety: Women in Society and Literature Tk. 350.00
- Kamal Siddiqui**
Local Government in Bangladesh Tk. 250.00
- Catherine H. Lovell**
Breaking the Cycle of Poverty: The BRAC Strategy Tk. 175.00
- M M Haq and N Islam**
Machinery Manufacturing in Bangladesh Tk. 250.00
- Bangladesh Planning Commission**
Food Strategies in Bangladesh: Medium and long term perspectives Tk. 425.00
- Abul Ahsan**
SAARC: A Perspective Tk. 450.00
- Zillur Rahman Khan**
SAARC and the Superpowers Tk. 275.00
- F. H. Khan**
Geology of Bangladesh Tk. 390.00
- Kaiser Haq**
A Happy Farewell Tk. 100.00
- International Theatre Institute**
The World of Theatre Tk. 100.00
- William Radice**
The Retreat Tk. 120.00
- Abdullah Al Mamun**
The Kokilas Tk. 100.00
- Eirik G. Jansen**
Sailing against the Wind Tk. 850.00
- Ashraf Siddiqui**
Bhombal Dass (The Uncle of Ijpa) Tk. 110.00
- Niaz Zaman**
The Art of kantha Embroidery Tk. 500.00

University Press Limited
Red Crescent Building 114 Mitijheel Dhaka-1000 Bangladesh
Tele: 642460 BHL BJ Fax 880-2-833212
Cable: DUNIPRESS Phones 861208 255789

A proud address- JIBAN BIMA TOWER

at 10, Dilkusha C.A. Dhaka centrally air-conditioned: an ideal place for your office accommodation.

A few floors still vacant for letting out

Please contact: Asstt. General Manager Engineering & Estate Division



JIBAN BIMA CORPORATION
Head Office
24, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka.
Phones: PBX 259052-54

USA IMMIGRATION VISA (GREEN CARD) 1994 LOTTERY

The United States Government will issue 55,000 immigrant visas by lottery in 1994.

- Apply with the following:
- Name and address
 - Country of birth/date of birth
 - Education/Employment History
 - Name of spouse/place and date of birth
 - Names of children/place and date of birth

Service Fee:
Individual : US\$35.00
Family : US\$50.00

Fee shall be made in U. S. Dollars and in the following method:
Money Order, Cashier's Cheque, International Money Order, International Draft or Cheque drawn in a USA bank.
Send application details / fee for evaluation and servicing to:

Law Offices of Theresa Gibbons-Odom
1001 Fourth Avenue Plaza
Suite # 3200 Seattle, WA 98154, USA
Phone : (206) 623-1460
Fax : (206) 623-1964, (206) 782-7890