

Dhaka Day by Day

Esho Hey Baishakh, Esho Esho

by Parveen Anam

With the eternal song ringing out in the early morning of the first of Baishakh, the first day of the Bangali New Year, it is time yet again to welcome and to renew.

And the Bangalee welcomes his new year, as always, with love in his heart and joy in his eyes. For that one day of the year, he forgets his differences and rubs shoulders at the Ramna 'Battala', singing out the old year and singing in the new.

For the Bangalee, the year ends in a fiery day in April with the sun beating down mercilessly during the day and the storms sweeping away everything in its path. And yet, his love with the new year is immortal. Dressed in all his finery, sitting out in the open, with the clouds desperately collecting overhead, heralding the 'Kalbaishakh' the Bangalee sings in the new year. The hot, dusty storms are of course followed by the merciful showers in the late evenings and the passionate storms seem to blow away all that is old, dreary and doleful.

The trip to the Ramna 'battala' is almost a pilgrimage for the Bangalee. Old and young, men women and children, come in their thousands, to listen to the melodious, haunting music echoing out over the greenery even as the sun rises over the horizon, bringing with it for the beleaguered Bangalees a lot of misery. But this one morning, all that is behind him. He refuses to think of anything

that is not beautiful and romantic. The 'rajanigandha' adorns the dark tresses of the women as they sing with abandon and not a dark thought finds place in the beauty of the moment.

The old shrugs off its mask to make way for the new; 'Pahela Baishakh' is the promise of life renewing itself perpetually. The nostalgia for the past which temporarily overwhelms us at times, has no place on this glorious morning amongst all the music and beauty. The year holds shocks and hurts for all of us, no doubt, but as we sing along with everybody else, there is only joy in our hearts. For this is the element of the Bangalee. His gentleness and love for music is evident on the first day of the Bengali New Year, as he takes the day off, to sing and partake in the day's festivities.

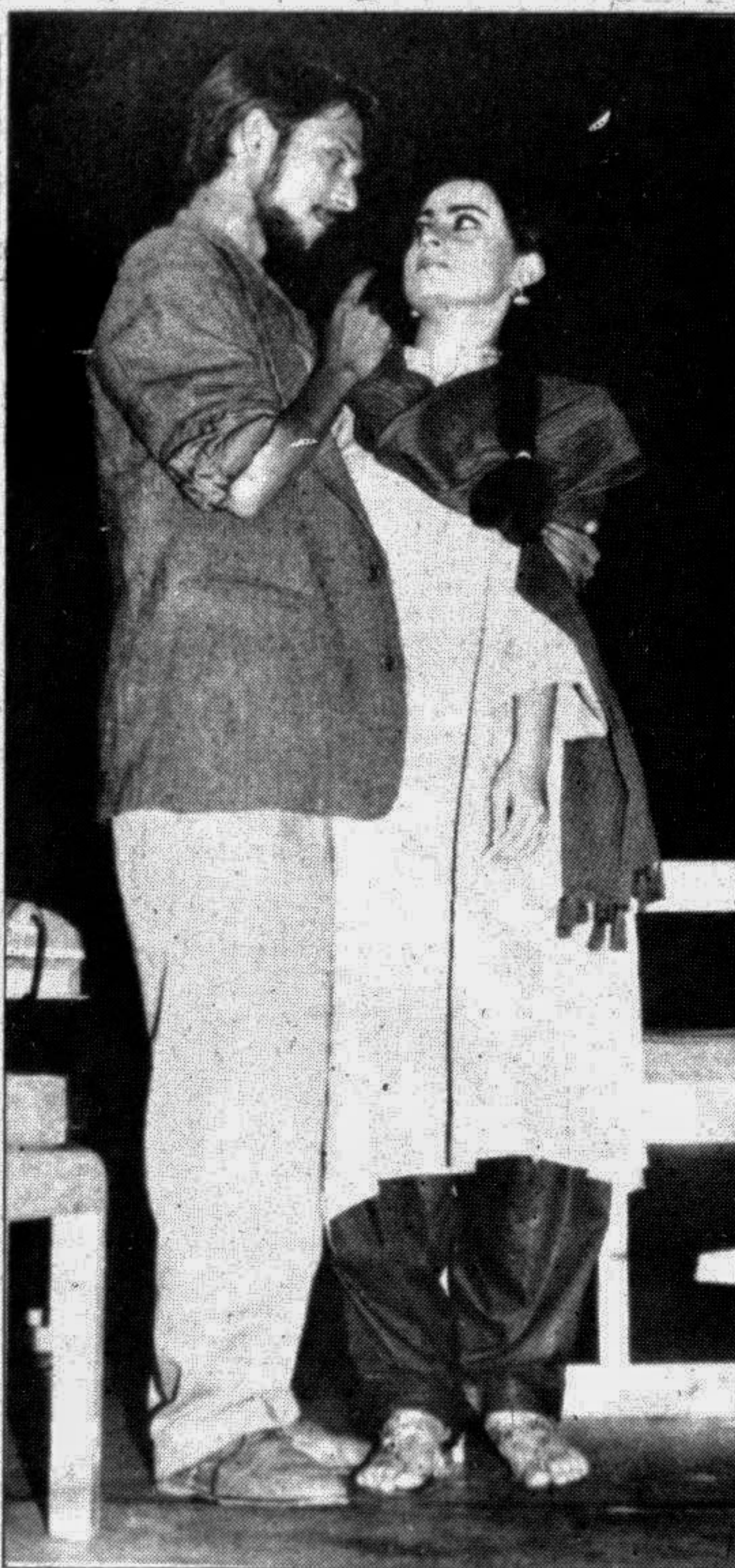
One musical soiree after the other makes the day an endless one of pleasures. We saunter from one place to another, in sheer happiness and delight. Delight in ourselves, in our eternal music. In our eternal hope for a better land.

Some friends will have a spread of Bangalee delicacies for each other and amongst merrymaking and much bantering, all will share whatever there is. It is time to love, a time to laugh, this first day of Baishakh. It enriches and it gives, it teaches the Bangalee yet again his strength in his deprivations and humility in his success.



Welcoming the New Year

—Star photo



A sequence of Nandan's drama 'Kanyadaan' staged at the British Council auditorium yesterday.

—Star photo

Premiere show of 'Shankhanil Karagar' held

The premiere show of the much awaited full length feature film 'Shankhanil Karagar' was held at the Naaz Cinema hall here yesterday morning on the occasion of its first commercial exhibition, reports BSS.

It is the first venture of the Ministry of Information, Department of Films and Publication and Bangladesh Television based on famous novel 'Shankhanil Karagar' written by Dr Humayun Ahmad, well-known television serial director and producer Mustafizur Rahman directed the film, his first venture on the wide screen.

Inaugurating the show, convener of the executive sub-committee on the Trustee Board of Muktiyoddha Kalyan Trust Wing Commander (ret'd) M. Hamidullah Khan MP said this film was really a representation of good novels written by Bangladesh writer.

He mentioned CNN and BBC programmes now being shown through Bangladesh Television and said still BTV programmes particularly dramas were of prime choice of the viewers.

In his presidential address, Information Secretary Nuruddin Al-Masood said Shankhanil Karagar was a sincere effort of the government for encouraging making of good films in the country.

He said the government had already sanctioned grants for three films to uphold the trend of producing good films in Bangladesh. "We are hopeful that a positive trend would be set to produce better films in future," he said.

The Information Secretary said Shankhanil Karagar had already earned appreciation in the country and also brought laurel from international arena.

Council of Editors forms 21-member ad hoc committee

The existing executive committee of Bangladesh Council of Editors was dissolved at a meeting of the committee held yesterday with council chairman Sanaullah Noori in the chair, reports BSS.

The existing committee was dissolved as sequel to constitutional question regarding validity of the committee which was not elected within the stipulated time.

A 21-member ad hoc committee was formed in the meeting with Chowdhury Mohammad Faruque of Dainik Meilat as convener and A Q M Joydul Abedin of Dainik Shakti as member-secretary had been entrusted with the responsibility of holding the election of the executive committee within 180 days.

The other members of the ad hoc committee are Messrs Sanaullah Noori of Dainik Dinkal, Anwar Hossain Manju of the Dainik Ittefaq, A M M Bahauddin of Dainik Inqilab, Sheikh Fazul Karim Selim of Dainik Banglar Baani, D P Barua of BSS, Mahbub Anam of Bangladesh Times, Atiqul Alam of The Morning Sun, Mizanur Rahman Mizan of Dainik Khabor, Abul Kashem Majumder of Dainik Samachar, Mohammad Khaled of Dainik Azadi (Chittagong), Liakat Ali of Dainik Purbanchal (Khulna), Mozammel Haq of Dainik Kartoa (Bogra), Humayun Kabir Balu of Dainik Jammobhumi (Khulna), Mustafizur Rahman of Dainik Probashi (Barisal), Abul Hossain Mir of Dainik Thikana (Faridpur), Ekramud-wolah of Dainik Kallyan (Jessore), Abdur Rashid of Dainik Bangladesh Barta (Kush-tia), Prof M A Wahab of Dainik Rupashi Bangla (Comilla) and Mohiuddin Ahmed of Dainik Purabi (Jessore).

Weather

Kalbaishakhi likely

By Staff Correspondent

Weather forecast for the next 12 hours commencing 6 am today (Saturday) says, rain or showers accompanied by temporary kalbaishakhi and squalls are likely to occur at many places over Dhaka, Chittagong and Barisal divisions and at one or two places over Rajshahi and Khulna divisions.

The Met Office forecasts, day temperature is likely to remain nearly unchanged over the country.

The sun sets today (Saturday) at 6:23 pm and rises tomorrow (Sunday) at 5:30 am.

The country's highest temperature yesterday of 32.0 degrees Celsius was recorded in both Cox's Bazar and Teknaf and the lowest 18.8 degrees in Sylhet.

The maximum and the minimum temperatures and relative humidity recorded in some of the 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	23.7	20.2	88	91
Chittagong	27.2	20.3	71	95
Rajshahi	29.9	22.4	78	-
Khulna	30.6	23.5	81	79
Barisal	27.4	20.8	83	91
Cox's Bazar	32.0	22.0	70	77
Sylhet	29.0	18.8	89	68



Visitors at the solo exhibition of paintings by Anwar Hossain at the Zainul Gallery of the Institute of Fine Arts, Dhaka University yesterday.

—Star photo

44 arrested on various charges

Police rounded up 44 people from different parts of the city in last 24 hours on various charges, reports UNB.

Of the arrested, six were wanted criminals, two were held under the Arms Law and four for stealing.

All the arrested people were produced before court.

BISS seminar

The discussion on Pakistan's Threat Perceptions in the Post-Cold War Era: Continuity and Change scheduled to be held at the auditorium of the Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies (BISS), today has been cancelled for unavoidable reasons, says a press release issued by BISS.

Matiur Rahman Chowdhury's arrest condemned

Different organisations condemned the arrest of Editor of the Bangla Bazar Matiur Rahman Chowdhury and demanded his immediate release, reports UNB.

These organs included Coordinating Council for Human Rights in Bangladesh (CCHRB), Sangbadpatra Hawkers Kalyan Buhumukhi Somabaya Samity and Sangbadpatra Agents Association.

Terming the arrest as a direct attack on freedom of press and right to express opinion, CCHRB said "any corner aggrieved by any press report, has the right to take shelter of law but it should not bypass the Press Council." They also demanded immediate release of Matiur Rahman.

Besides, Sangbadpatra Hawkers Kalyan Buhumukhi Somabaya Samity and Sangbadpatra Agents Association, in separate statements, condemned Matiur's arrest and demanded his immediate release.



Saturday

4.30	Opening announcement
	Al-Quran
4.45	Programme summary
	Children's programme:
	Moner Kotha
5.10	News in Bangla
5.25	Cartoon: Peterman and the Pirates
6.00	Tarunmoya
6.30	Ongkar
7.00	Banharat
8.00	News in Bangla
8.30	Masti-o-Manush
9.00	Orarun
10.00	News in English
10.30	Drama series: Dynasty
11.30	Khabar/The news
11.40	Todhorow's programme summary
11.45	Closing

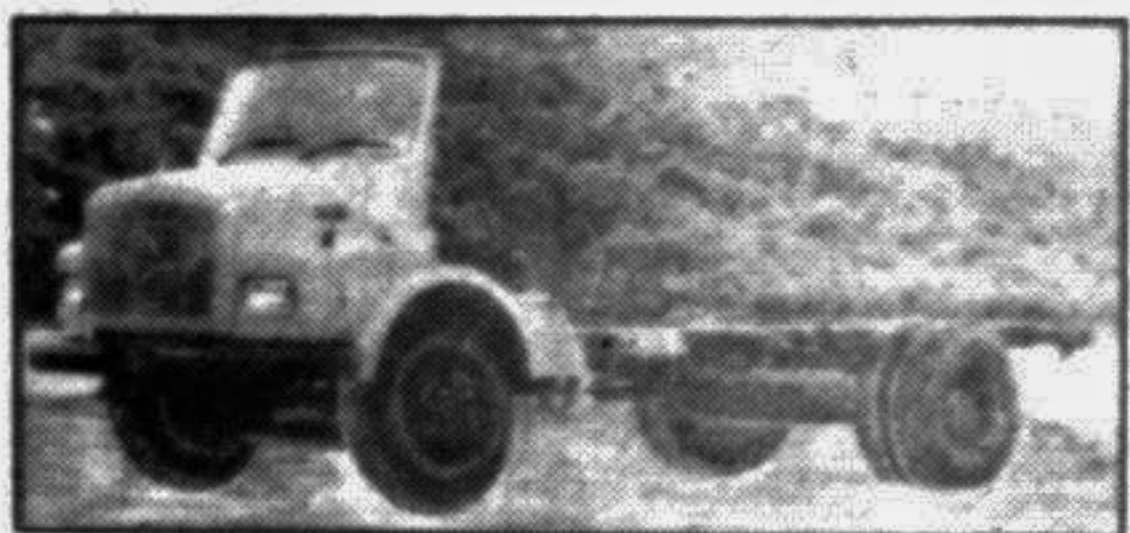
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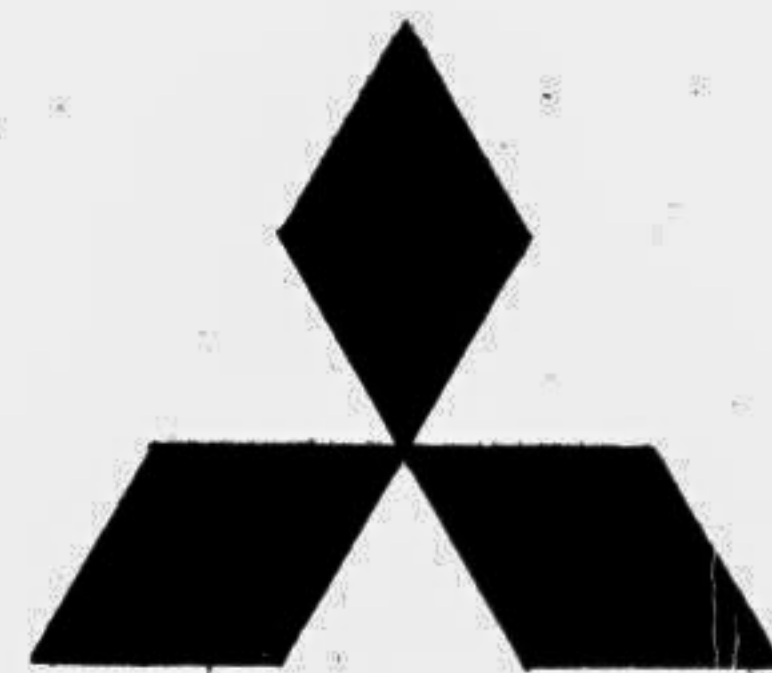
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