

Metropolitan

Dhaka Day by Day

In Search of a Woman's Individuality

by Fayza Haq

Ibsen's "A Doll's House," a play that G.B. once dismissed as "plain as dishwater" has won worldwide acclaim over the years. "Putul Khela," an adaptation of the play, is staged by "Kanthashilon," a group that has an excellent record on promoting recitation. Staged at "Guide House" the play has a heroine who comes out as a promising actress although it is her debut. The play has been mentioned by many critics and the connoisseurs have considered it one of the successful ones of '93. This production has been praised for its good delivery of dialogue - something which is not always found in Dhaka productions. This is the first performance in Bangladesh of Ibsen's greatest play.

One of the reasons why "Kanthashilon" ventured to take up this complex play is because it is normally difficult to get a good script and the group managed

to have access to a

translation by Shambhu Mitra at the local market. Gholam Sarwar, one of the senior members of the group, further explains, "We wanted to convey a decisive message through this play. Social conditions have gone against the interest of women. It was time that the rights of women to go about as equal partners in society was held up." He adds, "As the characters are few we feel confident about handling the caste after rehearsals for four months." He continues, "The reason why we have dealt with a complex subject despite our lack of experience is because as an elocution group we have always dealt with serious subjects."

In "Putul Khela" Ibsen's "A Doll's House" has been set in our social setting through necessary transformation of characters and other details. The Chatterjee family is like any other, with its share of happiness and sorrow. The new job in the bank for the husband is both a source of joy and misery.

The play begins with a discussion between two friends Bulbuli or Bulu Chatterjee and Krishna Lahree. Bulu and Krishna introduce the other characters in course of their parley.

Krishna asks for a job from Bulu that her husband can provide. Krishna's own family is a broken one and she got a new lease of life from Tapan Chatterjee's offer of a job. While the two friends talk together, one gets the gist of how Bulu borrowed Rs 1 lakh, in the process of

which she had to use a false signature. Meanwhile Keshopoda, the villain of the piece comes to the house to plead his cause. He tries to blackmail Bulu in connection with the money she had once borrowed in her desperate need.

While Bulu tries to save Tapan, her home is broken. Her husband does not appreciate his wife's tremendous sacrifice for him. He is a male chauvinist who loves his wife all right, but refuses to treat her as his equal partner. To him her individual independent self does not exist. He would love her like children do their toys in their own terms. All her wishes must converge with those of his. This absence of recognition to her individuality by an egoistic husband is demeaning to a sensitive girl like Bulu. She wanted love on the basis of mutual respect, not just patronage.

Bulu, on the other hand, tries to fit into the image of the perfect wife. She has spent years trying to please a selfish father and then a husband of the same nature. She finally defies the dictates of social life, and feeling demeaned, and cheated walks out on him. She comes off as a brave woman who says goodbye to social security in order to maintain her individuality. Today when the question of women's lib is gradually gaining ground in Bangladesh, the theme of the play is very relevant and topical.

The stage props include a large photograph of the couple's children, cane furniture and four doors leading to inner chambers and outside. The door outside has a bell and the ominous letter box that contains the letters of the bank clerk Keshopoda and the family friend Dr. Roy. The lighting is adequate and includes spotlights and a candle light at times.

Golam Sarwar with a rich voice has hardly betrayed any sign that this is his debut stint with the big stage. Nafisa Tarannum Chowdhury, a student of only BA (final) pass course, has all the makings of a powerful actress. She has done enough justice to the lead woman character. We expect her to fulfil the promises she has shown. Jharna Sarkar is no less promising. Under the able guidance of Khaled Khan, himself a leading actor of the country, the actors and actresses have given a good account of themselves.



A scene from Putul Khela.



The nineteenth session of SAARC standing committee began in the city yesterday. Among others, the Chairman of the standing committee Foreign Secretary M R Osmany and SAARC Secretary General Y K Silwal are

— PID photo

CUJ condemns police attack on journalists

CHITTAGONG, July 27: Leaders of Chittagong Union of Journalists (CUJ) and Reporters' Standing Committee yesterday condemned the police attack on journalists at New Market square here today, reports BSS.

In a statement here tonight Aktherun-Nabi and Anjan Kumar Sen, president and general secretary respectively of the CUJ, Mohammad Belal and Helaluddin Chowdhury, president and member-secretary respectively of the Reporters' Standing Committee said when a group went to cover the meeting of all party students at New Market today, at least fifteen journalists from local and national dailies were beaten by the police.

CUJ has convened a protest rally at Chittagong Press Club tomorrow.

Artificial flower export fetches Tk 3.18 cr

The country has earned Tk 3.18 crore from export of artificial flower during the year 1993-94, reports BSS.

This was disclosed at the 31st meeting of parliamentary standing committee on the Ministry of Commerce, held at Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban with Commerce Minister M Shamsul Islam in the chair.

The Commerce Minister said for a sustainable economic growth, it was a must to promote and diversify our exportable items along with the traditional goods.

He underlined the need for all out effort to implement aggressive export policy as well as liberal trade policy.

Int'l trade fair in January

An international trade fair will be held here January 7-21 for the exposition of exportables, reports UNB.

This was disclosed in an interministerial meeting on organising the "Dhaka International Trade Fair-95," held Tuesday in the conference room of Commerce Ministry with Commerce Minister M Shamsul Islam in the chair, reports UNB.

The meeting elaborately discussed different aspects of organising the fair successfully with cordial participation of both government and non-government organisations.

The commerce minister said this trade fair could play an important role in boosting our exports as well as making our products competitive both in price and quality.

"The present government would provide all sorts of cooperation along with our private entrepreneurs in promoting and expanding our export market."

BTV
Thursday
4:30 Opening announcement
Al-Quran
Programme summary
4:45 Children's programme:
Rumjhun
5:10 News in Bangla
5:25 National TV School Debate
6:30 Eso Para Shikhi: Mass
Education
7:00 Jiboner Alo
7:20 Nazrul songs
8:00 News in Bangla
8:30 Drama of the week
8:30 News in English
10:00 Mini series: Melba
11:30 Khabar/The News
11:40 Tomorrow's programme
11:45 Closing

Indonesian cultural team may visit Dhaka next month

An Indonesian cultural team may visit Bangladesh in the third week of August under the auspices of diplomatic mission of Indonesia in Dhaka, reports BSS.

This was intimated by State Minister for Cultural Affairs Prof Jahana Begum while the ambassador of Indonesia in Dhaka, Hadi Wayarabi Alhadar, called on at latter's office yesterday.

BUET Health Complex bldg opens

Vice Chancellor of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) Prof Mohammad Shahjahan yesterday inaugurated the newly built Health Complex building, reports UNB.

The Complex, constructed at a cost of Taka 72 lakh, would be able to render modern health services to the teachers, students and staff of the varsity.



UNIVERSITI SAINS MALAYSIA

Established as the second University in the country, Universiti Sains Malaysia is located at Minden approximately 9.7 kilometres from the city of Georgetown, Penang. The University is based on the School System to Management. The University now invites application from suitably qualified candidates for the post of Professor/Associate Professor/Lecturer in any of the following fields:

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- ii. Computer Engineering
- iii. Power-Electrical Power
- iv. Control and Automation
- v. Microelectronics-VLSI Design

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- i. Political Sciences: Public Policy Analysis, Political Philosophy, Comparative Politics
- ii. Development Studies: Urban Studies, Islamic Development
- iii. Social Development/Administration: Generic Social Work, Social Work in Industry, Social Administration, Policy and Planning
- iv. Anthropology/Sociology: (Southeast Asia)

C. School of Mathematical and Computer Sciences

- i. Software Engineering
- ii. Programming
- iii. Artificial Intelligence
- iv. Object Oriented Databases

D. School of Chemical Engineering

- i. Process Control
- ii. Pollution Control
- iii. Reaction Engineering and Catalysis

E. Centre For Drug Research

- i. Analytical Chemistry/Pharmaceutical Chemistry
- ii. Clinical Pharmacology

F. School of Mechanical Engineering

- i. Manufacturing System and Technology
- ii. Thermofluids (Energy Studies)
- iii. Applied Mechanics (Condition Monitoring)

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Associate Professor From MYR 52032.00 to MYR 71532.00 per annum

Lecturer From MYR 22272.00 to MYR 52608.00 per annum

All currencies quoted above are Malaysian Ringgit (US\$ 1.00= MYR 2.60)

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Tenure: Selected candidates will be appointed on contract for three years initially and renewable for another three years if necessary. Selected candidates are expected to take up their appointment by.....

Application: Send full curriculum vitae, three references, copies of degree certificates and copies of some key publications to The Registrar (Personnel), Universiti Sains Malaysia, Minden, 11800 USM, Penang, Malaysia. All applications must be received in this office by..... If you do not hear from the University within four months of the closing date, please consider your application as unsuccessful.

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