

## Dhaka Day by Day

### What Environmental Plays have to Offer

by Fayza Haq

Ashish Khandokar has been interested in environmental plays as they are economical as well as educational. He is the first producer of environmental plays in Bangladesh with his 30-minute creation, 'Pratna' (which dealt with a Rayabazar killing by the Pakistan Army in '71). This was patronised by the Shilpakala Academy.

"Environmental plays create everyday action according to one's environment and cultural past. A playwright presents logical arguments through everyday existence," Khandokar explained about his work.

When asked about his studies in Delhi, Khandokar elaborated, "I was exposed not only to subcontinental culture but to that of a variety of South-East Asian ones, as well. I also learnt more about western theatre there. I learnt more about matters such as the Greek, Roman, Elizabethan, Restoration, as well as contemporary western theatre. I realised the seriousness that is involved in the best of works, the world over. My concept of the theatre thus became more serious." When asked to comment on what Khandokar had learnt from his recent trip to Britain, which he did via a scholarship from the British Council, "I was impressed by the contemporary British drama. In the cultural forum at the Royal Court Theatre, my concept of the world theatre widened and helped me to comprehend the seriousness involved in theatre production. I was exposed to contemporary British drama," Khandokar said.

Commenting on his own environmental theatre, Khandokar added: "I do my research work according to the space that I am given or I have selected. The play that you saw earlier at the FA Department, DU was 'Mohammed Amin'."

"In it, I attempted to bring in both the past and present political, social and psychological situation for the basic theme of the play. The difficulty that I faced with this play was the lack of financial backing. Tickets were sold as they normally are; but environmental plays being low cost ones, as they always are, collected only Tk 20,000, and this was not adequate for my future plans for the experimental theatre. The plot comprised incidents that took place within a span of seven days."

Asked to compare and contrast the environmental theatre in Bangladesh — for which Khandokar is putting in all his energy and mental faculties — and that found in Britain, he remarked, "We, in Bangladesh, are not truly experimental; we simply ape the west and are complacent about it."

Talking about his recent experience, while studying in London, he added, "The British environmental theatre has a searching quality. I was most intrigued by the Black theatre there, being from the East myself. This is primarily a political one, and done by 'coloured' British migrants. What also appealed to me there was the studio theatre."

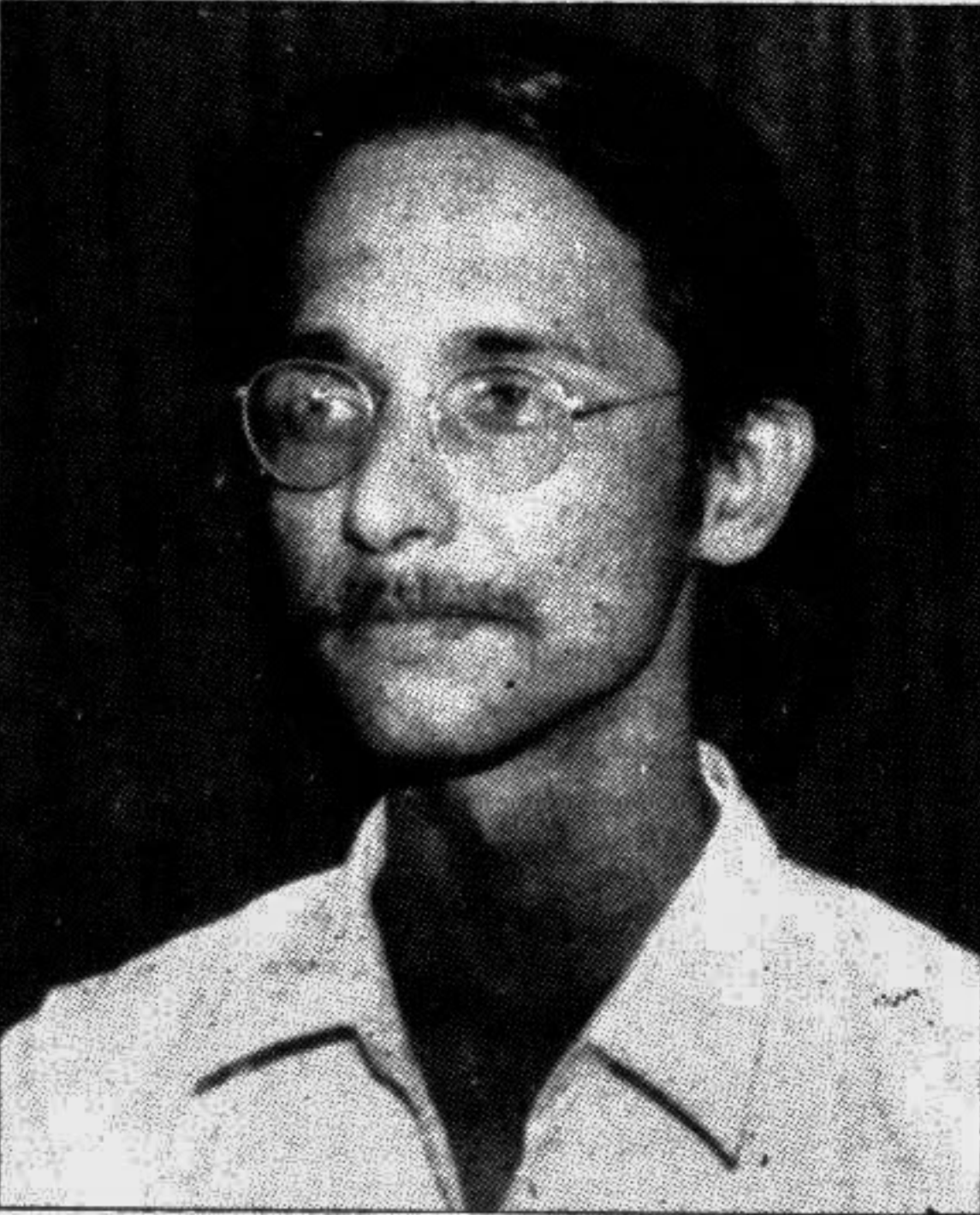
"In the UK, the environmental, historical, socio-political, scientific, and economic progress is very different from what one knows exists in Bangladesh. There is a philosophical and psychological difference between the audience there and here in Bangladesh. There are different gestures and methods of acting."

Asked if he enjoyed his work as a playwright and director, Khandokar replied, "I am proud of my educational works. My productions are based on actual characters and historical facts. Their ingenuity lies in the characters acting out a theme, sometimes, over an immense period of time, as in 'Modhur Canteen', which combined the nobility of the Moghul period of Nawab Sirajuddaulah with that of various regimes in Bangladesh, including that of the Ershad regime."

About his own environmental theatre productions, Khandokar added, "They give new ideas, if given the opportunity. However, for this we need some financial backing from patrons like rich industrialists. A research centre, which attempts to discover something through experiments, should be established in Bangladesh. We are not interested in simply presenting plays just for the sake of entertainment. We want to convey a meaningful message to individuals of the different generations of Bangladesh."

"Working professionally for four years gives me the hope for creating an environmental theatre department at some university in Bangladesh. This has not been done in any part of Asia. One finds it in places such as the New York University. We, in Bangladesh, have a lot to offer despite our limitations. If one works with a university, one's academic discipline improves as a theatre playwright and director. I am now contemplating on Environmental Journal Theatre (EJT) or the 'Protdiener Theatre', which is a mobile one. Actors there are meant to get press clippings and extemporise," Khandokar elaborates on his future plans and programmes.

Khandokar was born in '64, in Dhaka, and grew up in Gabbandha. His mother is a teacher and his father was a Marxist-Leninist political activist.



Ashish Khandokar.

— Star photo



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia releasing the commemorative postage stamp issued by the Bangladesh Post Office on the occasion of 12th Asian Games Hiroshima '94 at her office yesterday. The stamp is seen on the right.

— PID photo

### Commemorative stamp on Asian Games released

Bangladesh Post Office yesterday issued a commemorative postage stamp of Tk 4 denomination and a First Day Cover of Tk 5 on the occasion of 12th Asian Games Hiroshima, reports UNB.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia formally released the stamp at a simple ceremony at her office in the city in the morning.

Post and Telecommunications Minister Tariqul Islam, Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister A N M Eusuf, DG of Bangladesh Post Office M B Zaman, ADG Glasuddin Ahmed and other senior officials were present.

The stamp and first day cover will be sold simultaneously from all head post offices, including GPOs. The commemorative stamp will be later sold from all post offices.

### DCC to collect garbage by 5 pm everyday

By Staff Correspondent

The Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) will collect garbage of the city within 5 pm everyday as part of the anti-plague drive suggested by the National Committee for Resisting Plague.

The decision was taken at a meeting of the DCC Saturday with its executive officer in charge in the chair.

The DCC has already formed a task force to check possible outbreak of a plague in the city. The team will be in constant touch with the Health Ministry.

### Kuwaiti armed forces chief meets Biswas

The visiting members of Kuwaiti military team led by chief of staff Major General Ali Muhammad Hasan Al-Momen called on President Abdul Rahman Biswas at Bangabhaban yesterday, reports UNB.

Chief of Staff of Bangladesh Army Lieutenant General Abu Saleh Mohammad Nasim was present.

Talking to them, President Biswas said during the Gulf War Bangladesh responded promptly in favour of Kuwait because of friendship and common bond of the Muslim ummah. After the war, the Bangladeshi Army personnel engaged in Kuwait immensely contributed towards rebuilding the war-torn economy.

He hoped that with the passage of time, the existing friendly and cordial relationship between the two brotherly countries would further strengthen.

General Ali Al-Momen appreciated the cooperation of Bangladesh during the Gulf War.

### Meets PM

The Kuwaiti armed forces chief also called on Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia at her office in the city yesterday.

Major General Ali Muhammad Hasan Al-Momen praised the role of Bangladeshi Army in post-war reconstruction of Kuwait. He also lauded discipline of the Bangladeshi armed forces personnel.

The Prime Minister thanked Gen Momen for visiting Bangladesh.

## 641 teaching posts in 51 govt colleges created

Education Minister Jamiruddin Sircar said that government has already created 641 new posts in 51 government colleges for increasing teaching staff, reports UNB.

The minister was addressing a delegation of Bangladesh Government College Lecturers' Association at the conference room of the ministry yesterday.

Sircar said that government

has taken pragmatic steps towards improving the standard of higher education in the country.

The minister gave patient hearing to their 12-point demand, which included, introduction of selection grade for lecturers, upgrading of the posts of lecturers, lateral entry into ten per cent posts of assistant professors and professors.

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### International Finance Investment and Commerce Bank Limited

BSB Building (19th Floor)  
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### NOTICE

#### APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS

Notice is hereby given to all shareholders of International Finance Investment And Commerce Bank Limited that following nomination for appointment of Auditors in the 17th Annual General Meeting to be held on October 10, 1994 has been received.

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. M/s. Khan Wahab Shafique Rahman & Co.<br>Chartered Accountants<br>55, Dilkusha C.A., Dhaka | 4. M/s. K.M. Alam & Co.<br>Chartered Accountants<br>80, Motijheel C.A., Dhaka   |
| 2. M/s. Howladar Yunus & Co.<br>Chartered Accountants<br>67, Dilkusha C.A., Dhaka             | 5. M/s. M.M. Rahman & Co.<br>Chartered Accountants<br>54, Dilkusha C.A., Dhaka  |
| 3. M/s. S.F. Ahmed & Co.<br>Chartered Accountants<br>128, New Eskaton Road, Dhaka             | 6. M/s. M.A. Malek & Co.<br>Chartered Accountants<br>9-G, Motijheel C.A., Dhaka |

Jointly with

M/s. K.M. Hasan & Co.  
Chartered Accountants  
46, Dilo Road, Dhaka.

It may be noted that the existing Auditors M/s. A. Qasem & Co. have completed 3 (three) consecutive years as Auditors of the Bank and as such they are not eligible for re-appointment as per order of Bangladesh Bank vide their letter No. BCD (P) 748/3-548 dated March 31, 1991.

The Shareholders are requested to elect one Auditors singly or jointly from among the nominated firms for the year, 1994 in the ensuing 17th Annual General Meeting as per Article 160 (07) of the Articles of Association of the Company.

on behalf of  
International Finance Investment  
And Commerce Bank Limited.

Dhaka, October 03, 1994

Secretary

### BOU results out

Results of B Ed second and fourth unit examinations of Bangladesh Open University (BOU) were announced yesterday, reports UNB.

A total of 5313 candidates appeared in the second unit examination of whom 2789 were successful. Pass percent was 52.49.

### DUI meets today

An emergency meeting of the executive committee of Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ) will be held at 10:00 am today at the National Press Club, reports BSS.

All members of the executive committee have been requested to attend the meeting.

## KCC implements Tk 37 cr projects in 3 fiscal years

KHULNA, Oct 2: Eight projects at a cost of about Tk 37 crore have been implemented in the metropolitan area under Annual Development Programme of the Khulna City Corporation (KCC) in last three fiscal years, reports UNB.

It was stated in a meeting held in the KCC conference room today with Mayor Shaikh Tayebur Rahman in the chair for a review of the city development works. Secretary of the Ministry of Local Government Syed Alamgir Fafu Chowdhury, chief engineer of Local Government Kamrul Islam Siddiqui, two representatives of the World Bank and departmental engineers were present.

### Int'l folklore confce opens

Deputy Leader of the House Prof A Q M Badruddoza Chowdhury has called upon all to work for upholding the country's art, culture, history and heritage in world community, reports UNB.

Prof Chowdhury was speaking as the chief guest at the inauguration of a three-day international folklore conference and folk culture exhibition at the National Museum auditorium yesterday.

The projects included construction and repair of roads, construction of hats, bazars, drains and supermarkets.

A city development programme involving Tk 18 crore is under implementation this year, the meeting was told. The programme includes construction of two graveyards — one for women — development of the Collegiate School and main building of the city corporation at the corporation's own cost.

### Implementation of Comilla division matter of time

Housing and Public Works Minister Barrister Rafiqul Islam Mia has said implementation of Comilla division is a matter of time and decision of the government in this respect will be made available very soon, reports BSS.

The minister said this while speaking as chief guest at a discussion organised by the Comilla-Chandpur Brahmanbaria Samity at a city hotel Saturday night, according to an official handout.

The meeting was attended by Energy Minister Dr Khan daker Mosharraf Hossain, Shipping Minister M K Anwar

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Mr. Anisul Haq  
General Manager

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### International Tender Notice

Tender No: SDF/SB/106-1994

Dated: 3-10-94

Sealed tenders in two separate envelopes (one for offer and other for technical offer each in triplicate) are hereby invited by M/s. Star Dyeing and Finishing Mills Ltd. Patilbari Road, Narsingdhi from bonafide Suppliers/Manufacturers for supply of Machinery/Equipments as mentioned in tender schedule under SB own fund. The procurement procedures/supply procedure and terms and conditions are given in tender schedule. Tender schedule will be available during office hours on every working day up to 31-10-94 at a cost of 1000 by Pay Order or Bank Draft (non refundable) from above mentioned office. The tender will be received at the above address up to 10.30 AM on 1-11-94 and the envelopes containing technical offers will be opened on the same date at 11 AM at the above mentioned address. The tenderers or their representatives, if they so desire, may be present at the time of opening of the tender. The envelopes containing the price offers of the technical qualified bidders will be opened subsequently and the tenderers will be informed about time and place in this regard. The company reserves the right not to accept the lowest or incomplete tenders and to reject or accept any or all the tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.

S-522

### Weather

## Dry weather likely

The Met Office forecasts weather may remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky over the country and day temperature will remain nearly unchanged throughout the country during the next 12 hours commencing from 6:00 am today, reports UNB.

Temporary rain is also likely to occur at one or two places over Barisal and Chittagong divisions and regions of Dhaka, Khulna and Faridpur during the period.

The highest temperature of the country was recorded yesterday 35.4 degrees Celsius in Jessore and the lowest 30.7 degrees in Barisal.

The sun sets today at 5:44 pm and rises tomorrow at 5:15 am.

The maximum and minimum temperatures and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns are given below:

City/Town	Temperature		Humidity	
	Max	Min	6 am	6 pm
Dhaka	34.0	26.2	80	83
Chittagong	32.2	24.8	85	78
Rajshahi	34.4	25.6	80	67
Khulna	33.6	25.8	81	90

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