

Dhaka Day by Day

An Elevating Evening with Kanthashilon

by Neil Ray

Of the varieties of performing art, poetry recitation sessions are a somewhat late introduction in the country. Finding its origin in the late 70's, it has by the time undergone an early flourish unmatched by most other forms of art and recreation. The proliferation of reciting societies and individual or group performances together with the release of cassettes give the impression that a new breed of poetry lovers is going to take society by the storm. Well, some of the enthusiasm is likely to be misdirected and misplaced.

There are, however, quite a few organisations genuinely devoted to the promotion of poetry and development of the art of reading poetry. Kanthashilon is one such organisation that began its journey with the aim of cultivating the skill of flawless pronunciation. Gradually that organisation has ventured to try its artistic touch at carrying literature through sound to the audience. Drama in poetry (*kabya natok*), vocal drama (*shruti natok*), conventional drama — mention one and look it has left its distinctive mark almost everywhere. What is special about the organisation is that it never ceases to go for experiment and innovation.

Last week Kanthashilon arranged a recitation session where the cultural group once again gave a demonstration of its power and artistic skill. Altogether five artistes — two female and three male — performed at the British Council auditorium. It was an absorbing and elevating evening for all who attended there. All the performers recited five to six poems by poets ranging from the most familiar — such as Rabindranath and Jibanananda — to unfamiliar and less familiar names — one or two coming through translation. Some of the poems were a

revelation and the recitation punctuated by selected prose reading shows how thoughtfully they all have been in their selection.

After a brief introduction by Waheedul Huq — in which he particularly mentioned the rise of poetry and a generation of adores against a background of degenerated youth culture sponsored by a political bankruptcy of the time i. e. starting in the late 70's and the insoluble controversy whether poetry is for lone or group recitation — the recitation began with Nafisa Tarannum Chowdhury Kakali performing first. If recitation's main purpose is to give expression to the words of a poem, Nafisa had the acting forte in her favour. So had Golam Sarwar, the last of the performers. In between them Ezazuddin Ahmed Shanto, Nafisa Kamal and Md Nasiruddin did them nothing particularly discrediting. Just one slip of a word which was retrieved immediately, for Shanto and some pronunciation problem with 'tomar' — soft 't' sounded as strong 't' — and 'thos' (blame) pronounced as 'dos' for Nasiruddin in a session of about two hours are just the only blemishes.

On the plus side, all of them have scored heavily. Everyone of them had moments of excellence. But it was Nafisa whose recitation of a Sunil Gangopadhyaya poem rose to a level where the heart melts in tears and undergoes a spiritual baptism beyond religion. Each poem is a treasure trove awaiting a magical touch of an artist to divulge the hidden meaning in its true light — and perhaps shade. The performers of Kanthashilon did them justice not only by getting so many poems — some of them quite longish — by rote but also through an enviable expressive rendering.



Nafisa Chowdhury in her performing mood.

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Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Third Fisheries Project
Department of Fisheries, Matshya Bhaban
Park Avenue, Ramna, Dhaka
Memo No: TFP(Pro) 6597 Dated: 29 September, 1996

Reinvitation for International Bids

Lot No. 2F: Computers

The Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh has received a credit from the International Development Association (IDA) in various currencies towards the cost of the Third Fisheries Project and it is intended that part of the proceeds of this credit will be applied to eligible payments under the contract (s) for which this invitation for Bids is issued.

- Sealed Bids are hereby invited from eligible Bidders from IDA member countries for the supply and delivery of eight (8) computers, eight (8) printers, two (2) scanner, three (3) fax/modem, fifteen (15) LAN card, one (1) set LAN accessories, eight (8) UPS systems, twelve (12) different type of software's and eight (8) sets of associated cables at Matshya Bhaban, Park Avenue, Ramna, Dhaka, also for installation at Dhaka, Faridpur, Khulna and Rajshahi and for training in Dhaka.
- Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information in detail from and inspect the Bidding Documents at the Project Director, Third Fisheries Project, Room 605, Matshya Bhaban, Dhaka, Bangladesh.
- A complete set of Bidding Documents can be obtained by any interested eligible Bidder on the submission of a written application to the undersigned for a non-refundable cash payment of Tk 2000/- (Tk two thousand) only from Room No. 605, Matshya Bhaban, Dhaka during normal office hours up to 20 October, 1996.
- Complete Bids must be accompanied by a bid security of not less than 2% (two per cent) of Total Bid Price in the form of Bank Draft/Pay Order/ Bank Guarantee and must be delivered to the above office on or before 12.00 Noon on 21 October, 1996.
- The bidder should have 5 (five) years experience in the field of supply, installation and maintenance of computer.
- The local agent of any foreign bidder shall submit their agency certificate.
- The bidder shall submit work experience certificates from their employer(s) that they have experience of supply computer and its accessories to the Govt or Semi-Govt organization at least 3 (Three) contracts of minimum value Tk 5 (Five) lakh each during last five years.
- The bidder shall submit original document(s) of agency certificate and all the above experience certificates to Department of Fisheries at least 5 (Five) days before the date on which they want to purchase the tender documents.
- Bids sent by post or other means must reach within the date and time stated above and postal or other delay for whatever reason shall not be considered.
- Received Bids will be opened immediately after the deadline for closing in the presence of Bidders representatives who choose to attend the office of the Project Director.
- The Department of Fisheries does not bind itself to accepting the lowest Bid or to accept any Bid submitted in response to the invitation for Bids.

Md S I Khan
Project Director
Third Fisheries Project

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G-1153

Biased distribution of load-shedding in city alleged

By Staff Correspondent

Unplanned and disproportionate distribution of load-shedding in some parts of the city has aggravated miseries of people in the recent weeks. The city experience around 30 MW power shortage during peak hours everyday.

The timing of load-shedding remains unpredictable in Dhanmondi, Elephant Road, Paltan, Malibag, Maghbazar, Mohammadpur and some other areas, according to residents of these areas.

The pattern of load-shedding is also disproportionate, the residents alleged. A resident of Elephant Road area pointed out that load-shedding always took place from Kataban Market to Bata Crossing but not in other part of the area.

Similar complaints were also made by residents of Paltan and Tallabag.

If complaints are lodged with the local power sub-stations, they advise contacting higher authorities, some residents said.

An official of the Dhaka Electric Supply Authority (DESA), when contacted said 'there is supposed to be no bias in distribution of load-shedding. It is supposed to be equally distributed in all areas of the city.'

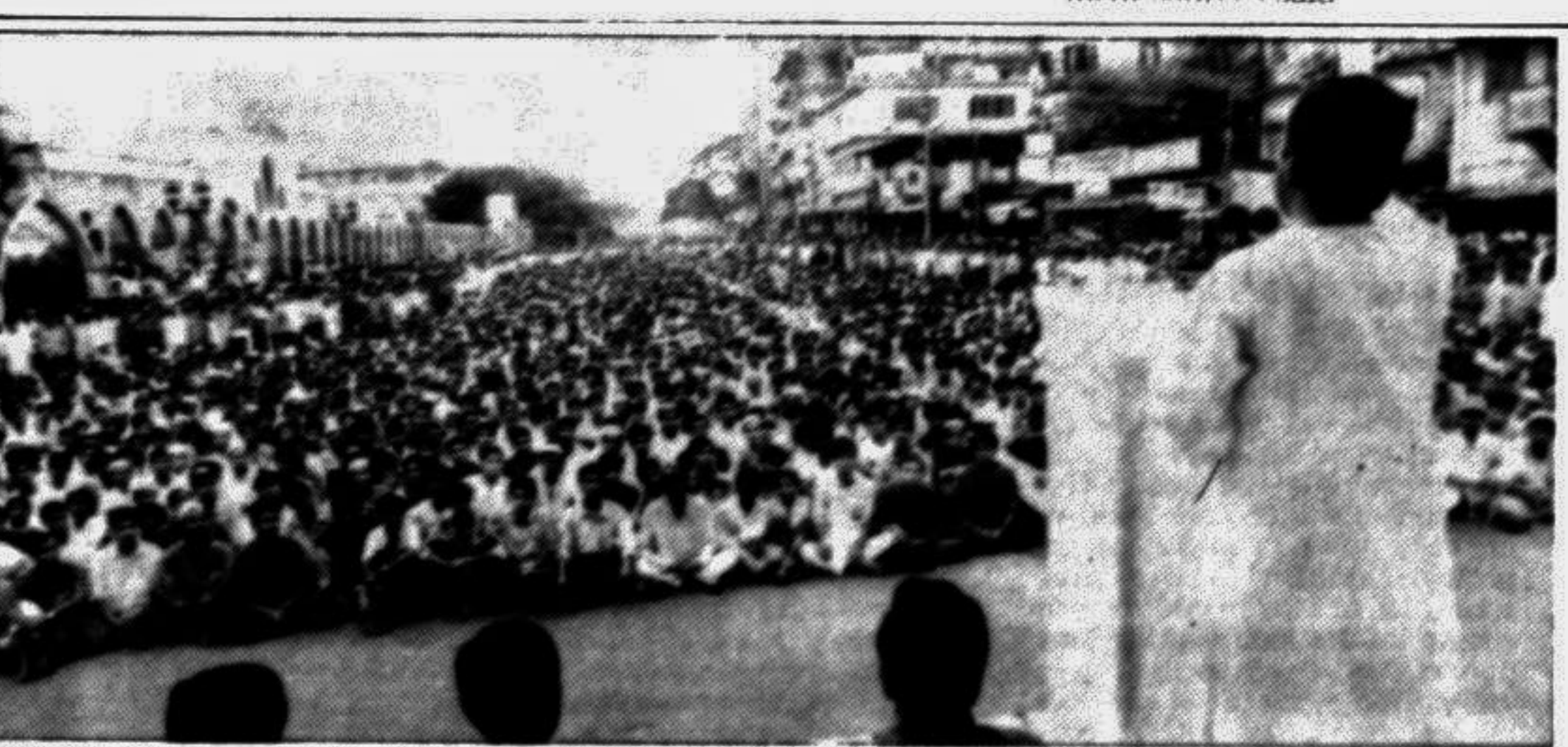
He further said that load-shedding was not totally unplanned as the Power Development Board regularly informed the DESA about the power shortage one day ahead.

Kanchi Kanchar Mela anniversary

Kendriya Kanchi Kanchar Mela, a children's organisation, celebrates its 40th founding anniversary today, says a press release.

The programme is scheduled to be inaugurated this afternoon by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at the Shilpakala Academy auditorium.

The programme includes a discussion session at 3:30 pm, to be followed by a children's cultural function at 4:15 pm, the release added.



Islami Chhatra Shibir staged a rally at North Gate of Baitul Mukarram mosque yesterday protesting recent attacks on its activists at Islamic University. — Star photo



Visitors at the Dhaka Sheraton Hotel 'autumn mela' which opened at the hotel premises in the city yesterday. — Star photo

What's on today...

Law Review seminar: Law Review, in cooperation with PRIP Trust, has arranged a seminar on "Ombudsman for Bangladesh: Problems and Prospects". Chief guest: Abdul Matin Khasru, State Minister for Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs. Venue: British Council auditorium, 5 Fuller Road. Time: 3:30 pm.

Children's art competition: Bangladesh Shishu Adhikar Forum has organised an art competition for disadvantaged children in observance of Child Rights Week '96. Venue: TSC, Dhaka University. Time: 9 am-11 am.

Symposium on child rights: Centre for Child Labour Elimination, Education and Rehabilitation, and Rural Assistance and Training Services will hold a symposium on "Universal declaration on child rights and role of Bangladesh". Venue: National Press Club. Time: 10 am. It will be followed by a cultural function by Kranti Shilpi Gosthi.

Painting exhibition: The first solo painting exhibition by Mohammad Fokhrul Islam will be inaugurated. Chief guest: Begum Zainul Abedin. Venue: Zainul Gallery, Fine Arts Institute, DU. Time: 5 pm. The show will remain open 12 noon to 8 pm till Oct 10.

Old Victorians reception: Old Victorians will accord a reception to freedom fighters, MPs and ministers who are former students of Comilla Victoria College. Venue: Engineers Institute auditorium. Time: 10 am.

Hanif tells students

Take part in politics during free time only

Mayor of Dhaka city Mohammad Hanif yesterday said the prime objective of students should be to acquire knowledge, reports BSS.

The mayor said students should take part in politics only during their free time, without disturbing their educational life.

Mohammad Hanif was speaking as the chief guest at a freshers' reception, organised by Bangladesh Chhatra League (S-P) Dhaka College Unit, held yesterday at the Dhaka College auditorium.

State Minister for Youth, Sports and Cultural Affairs Obaidul Qader addressed the function as a special guest.

Presided over by Chhatra League Dhaka College Unit president Alok Banik, the function was also addressed by former VP of Dhaka College Syed Kamrul Ahsan, ex student leader, Juruul Islam Maruf, Manjural Islam, Chhatra League president Enamul Haque Shamim and general secretary Ishaque Ali Khan Panna.

Development of tourism in Ctg stressed

CHITTAGONG Oct 3: Chittagong City Corporation Mayor A B M Mohiuddin Chowdhury today called for building up infrastructures for developing tourism industry in greater Chittagong, reports BSS.

Natural beauty and other facilities offer good prospect for developing tourism in this region of the country, he said.

Inaugurating a seminar on tourism at a local hotel, Mayor Mohiuddin also stressed the need for developing communications system and providing security and better amenities for tourists.

Speaker opens Sheraton autumn fair

Speaker Humayun Rasheed Chowdhury yesterday inaugurated the traditional autumn fair at Hotel Sheraton, organised in observance of the on-going National Tourism Month '96, reports UNB.

A total of 12 reputed handicraft and rural craft organisations have set up stalls in the 12-day fair at the hotel's main entrance.

The Speaker went round different stalls and showed keen interest in home-made goods including handloom products, wooden, brass, clay and earthen ware pots, and jute and leather articles.

The fair will continue till November 15 and will remain open between 10 am to 10 pm.

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Age : 30 years

Additional eligibility : The incumbent should be experienced in structural design in relation to specially low cost housing and sanitation works. He/She must be fluent in speaking and writing English.

Preference will be given and age will be relaxed who are experienced in ferrocement and MCR technology, working experience with the LGED, PHE, NGOs etc.

Application includes a detail C.V two passport size photographs, photocopies of all academic and experience certificates, a non-refundable Tk-300/- (Three hundred) bank draft/pay order from any branch of Rupali Bank. The bank draft/pay order must be sent to "Proshika Manobik Unnayan Kendra, Rupali Bank Malibag Chowdhury Para Branch". The date and number of bank draft/pay order must be mentioned on the application.

The closing date of application is 20, October, 1996. The application should be addressed to the Principal Coordinator (HRD) Proshika Manobik Unnayan Kendra.

Female candidates are encouraged to apply

Ref : HCL/96/107