



Shilpakala theatre opens to public in December

AVIK SANWAR RAHMAN
The Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy will open its experimental theatre hall to the audience in the first week of December. "Last moment adjustments have been made and it is now ready to be opened to the public," said Ahmad Nazir, the director general of the academy. To find out any faults with the hall before its opening, the academy staged a drama named 'Sea Morog' recently. "We detected some flaws and those have been fixed," said an official of the National Drama Theatre Construction Project. The authorities are determined to finally inaugurate the experimental theatre hall as eight years have already passed after the foundation stone of the Jatiya Natyashala (National Drama Theatre) was laid in December 28, 1995. According to the original project plan the Natyashala would be a seven storied build-

ing on 1,04,000 square feet with a conventional proscenium auditorium accommodating 750 people, an experimental theatre hall for 300 people, and an open-air amphitheatre. There will be other facilities like administration and technical rooms, make-up room, theatre museum, library, seminar hall, rehearsal room, fitness room, audio video lab, photography lab, costume, sets and props stores. The construction work was supposed to be completed in two phases. But fund crisis has hampered the original plan and adjustments were being made. "The estimated expenditure of the first phase of the Natyashala is Tk.36 crore. Its deadline was June 2004, but we are completing it earlier than schedule," said the Nazir. In the experimental hall, the artists will be able to perform any form of drama. It has been built as an open thrust theatre hall. The stage and the gallery are designed to move

according to the demand of the drama. "The conventional Proscenium form requires the stage in front of the audience. The thrust form needs a stage which is used for our traditional 'Jatra' and the arena form needs a gallery encircling the stage," explained a project official. The experimental hall has computerised lighting facilities, acoustic sound system and central air conditioning. The facilities have been designed to provide better service to the theatre groups and to promote quality drama. "The maintenance cost of the hall per day will be Tk. 12,000. Part of the cost will be covered by the revenue earning from renting the facility which has been fixed at Tk.4,000 per show," said the academy's DG. "We have to manage the rest of the money with earnings from the main auditorium. The main auditorium is expected to be completed by January next year which is also ahead of the deadline," he added.



The Mahakhali flyover speeding ahead towards completion.

Mahakhali flyover nears finishing tape

SOHEL ISLAM
After some uncertainty and a lull in activity, construction work of the Mahakhali flyover has gained momentum significantly over the last four months and is on course to be finished on time. Construction began on December 6, 2001 and the projected completion deadline is June 2004. But newspapers had earlier reported that the flyover could be delayed by at least six months due to mismanagement and irregularities. "Although there were some irregularities in the project even a few months ago, hopefully we have put them behind us. I am confident that construction will be completed within the scheduled time," said executive director of Dhaka Transport Coordination Board (DTCB) Quamrul Islam Siddiqui. The flyover that stretches 1.01 km is expected to reduce the notorious traffic snarl-ups on the Airport Road. The Roads and Highways Department (RHD) is implementing the project. Back in March this year, 20.49 per cent of the total work was completed while the projected progress during

that period was set at 29.98 per cent. Naturally, there were cries of concern regarding how long it might actually take to finish the flyover. But the DTCB executive claimed that they have successfully launched a catching up campaign. "We are now only 6.44 per cent behind schedule. Because of the concerted effort from all concerned, we have completed 51.97 per cent of the entire work. With the completion date approaching, we are hopeful of making up for the remaining lost ground and open the flyover for traffic in June," said Siddiqui. "Out of 400 segments, 135 have been completed. With the rainy season over, the fixation of segments will get momentum," added Siddiqui. The encouraging news of the flyover will bring extreme relief to the commuters as construction work is seriously hampering traffic movement in the area. During peak hours, long traffic jams are a regular feature. Although the cantonment authorities have allowed civilian traffic movement through military areas to ease the congestion at Mahakhali, traffic queues have become common there too.

RICKSHAWS RULE ROAD



A tangle of rickshaws blocking the road next to Matsa Bhaban has become a regular midday traffic phenomenon.

Caller ID system may help curb crime

SABRINA KARIM MURSHED
Caller identification mechanism in fixed line phones will help curb crime, especially kidnapping and extortion believe law enforcers and city dwellers. Ransom, toll collection and issuance of threats over telephone has become so rampant in the city that it has made it increasingly necessary for the receivers to identify the caller's number. "I had a phone call from an unknown person demanding a certain amount of money. He threatened to abduct my family members if I don't pay the amount," said a high official of a reputed private company. A doctor living in Uttara received a similar anonymous call but the strategy was a bit different. The man on the

other side of the phone asked him to 'satisfy' the need of some youths he was going to send to the doctor's house. "I contacted the local police station but the police officer I spoke to surprisingly said that I should listen to the caller," the doctor, not wishing to be named, told Star City. "The police officer suggested that I should yield to the demand of the extortionists," he added. However, the duty officer of Uttara police station dismissed such claims and said that they were regularly dealing with such complaints. "We suggest people who are being harassed over phone to file complaints with Bangladesh Telegraph and Telephone Board (BTB) mentioning the time of the call. That enables the BTB

to trace the caller's number," he said. Not all the people who receive such calls come to the law enforcers, said Ashraf Huda, Commissioner of Police. "With our own mechanism, we are able to track the criminals in almost all the cases when complaint is lodged with us. However, some people get scared and prefer to pay the money to the extortionists without even informing us," said Huda. The police commissioner believed that introduction of caller line identification system will help them a lot in reducing such crimes where telephones are used as tools. All the 1.6 lakh telephones installed in the city by Canadian Company Nortel Networks provide caller line identification protocol, (CLIP) system, informed chairman of BTB S.A.T.M. Badrul Haque. The telephone exchanges of Mirpur, Gulshan, Uttara, Motijheel and Moghbazar are now providing the facility said Haque. "May people are not aware of it but telephone subscribers of those exchanges can have the CLIP system free of any additional charge just by fixing a telephone set that has in-built system of displaying the caller's number," he said. Earlier this year, the BTB had planned to introduce CLIP system for all the other exchanges in the city but they could not implement it due to lack of response from international telecom equipment vendors, the chairman said.

marketprice

Dhaka New Market, Dhaka

CEREALS
Rice (HYV) Aman Medium kgs 19.00
Rice coarse (HYV) kgs 14.67
Rice Chiniguri (Aromatic) kgs 37.00
Wheat Grain (Local White) kgs 11.17
PULSES
Masuri Dal (Deshi) kgs 45.33
Masuri Dal (Imported) kgs 38.00
Khesari Dal (Deshi) kgs 23.00
SPICES
Onion (Deshi) kgs 33.00
Onion (India big) kgs 26.00
Garlic Deshi (common) kgs 37.00
Garlic Big (Imported) kgs 31.00
Ginger (Deshi) kgs 31.33
Ginger (Imported) kgs 44.00
Turmeric kgs 82.67
Turmeric (India) kgs 85.00
Chili Green kgs 55.00
Chili Dried (Deshi Bogra) kgs 87.33
Chili Dried (Imported) kgs 95.00
VEGETABLES
Potato (Holland) kgs 13.67
Bitter Gourd kgs 22.00
Barbati Green (Long bean) kgs 22.00
Cauliflower Average Size kgs 11.33
Cabbage Average Size kgs 9.33
Local Bean Green kgs 22.00
Lau (Water Gourd) kgs 17.67
Pataalkgs 13.00
Brinjal (Long purple) kgs 19.00

Pumpkin (Sweet) kgs 11.00
Papaya Green kgs 7.00
Radish White kgs 11.00
FRUITS
Banana Sagar (Medium) 4 pcs 10.00
Apple (Australia) kgs 65.00
Coconut pcs 16.00
FISH
Ruhi (Deshi) kgs 118.33
Hilshakgs 165.00
Rangpur Municipal Market, Rangpur
CEREALS
Rice (HYV) Aman Medium kgs 12.70
Rice coarse (HYV) kgs 11.50
Rice Chiniguri (Aromatic) kgs 35.40
PULSES
Masuri Dal (Imported) kgs 42.80
Khesari Dal (Deshi) kgs 22.40
SPICES
Onion (India big) kgs 24.40
Garlic Deshi (common) kgs 45.80
Garlic Big (Imported) kgs 30.80
Ginger (Deshi) kgs 21.60
Turmeric kgs 67.00
Chili Green kgs 37.60
Chili Dried (Deshi Bogra) kgs 97.00
Chili Dried (Imported) kgs 97.60
VEGETABLES
Potato (Holland) kgs 11.60
Bitter Gourd kgs 16.80
Barbati Green (Long bean) kgs 12.40
Cauliflower Average Size kgs 15.40

Cabbage Average Size kgs 12.40
Tomato Ripen (Imported) kgs 33.60
Local Bean Green kgs 21.60
Lau (Water Gourd) kgs 10.80
Pataalkgs 10.80
Brinjal (Long purple) kgs 16.00
Pumpkin (Sweet) kgs 10.80
Papaya Green kgs 5.40
Radish White kgs 10.80
FRUITS
Banana Sagar (Medium) 4 pcs 4.40
Apple (Australia) kgs 60.80
FISH
Ruhi (Deshi) kgs 144.00
Hilshakgs 162.00
Chingri Small kgs 124.00
FERTILIZER
Urea (Local) kgs 6.00
TSP (Imported) kgs 14.00
Comilla Chaka Bazar, Comilla
Masuri Dal (Deshi) kgs 45.00
Masuri Dal (Imported) kgs 38.20
Khesari Dal (Deshi) kgs 21.40
SPICES
Onion (India big) kgs 25.40
Garlic Deshi (common) kgs 36.00
Garlic Big (Imported) kgs 27.20
Ginger (Deshi) kgs 38.00
Ginger (Imported) kgs 45.60
Turmeric kgs 77.00
Turmeric (India) kgs 62.00
VEGETABLES

Papaya Green kgs 9.20
FRUITS
Banana Sagar (Medium) 4 pcs 8.80
Apple (Australia) kgs 73.00
Apple (India) kgs 58.00
Apple (Pakistan) kgs 70.00
Rajganj Bazar, Comilla
SPICES
Chili Green kgs 70.00
Chili Dried (Deshi Bogra) kgs 94.00
VEGETABLES
Potato (Holland) kgs 13.40
Okra kgs 21.20
Barbati Green (Long bean) kgs 53.00
Cauliflower Average Size kgs 53.00
Cabbage Average Size kgs 20.80
Pataalkgs 19.20
Brinjal (Long purple) kgs 22.00
Pumpkin (Sweet) kgs 14.00
Papaya Green kgs 9.20
FRUITS
Banana Sagar (Medium) 4 pcs 9.00
Apple (Australia) kgs 72.00
Apple (India) kgs 52.00
Apple (Pakistan) kgs 68.00
Coconut pcs 9.20
FISH
Ruhi (Deshi) kgs 172.00
Hilshakgs 200.00
Chingri Small kgs 145.00
Khulna Sadar Bara Bazar, Khulna
CEREALS

Rice (HYV) Aman Medium kgs 12.80
Rice coarse (HYV) kgs 13.20
Rice Chiniguri (Aromatic) kgs 35.80
PULSES
Masuri Dal (Deshi) kgs 44.00
Masuri Dal (Imported) kgs 42.80
Khesari Dal (Deshi) kgs 22.60
SPICES
Onion (Deshi) kgs 30.80
Onion (India big) kgs 23.60
Garlic Deshi (common) kgs 35.60
Garlic Big (Imported) kgs 30.40
Ginger (Deshi) kgs 34.40
Turmeric kgs 70.00
Chili Green kgs 29.20
Chili Dried (Deshi Bogra) kgs 79.00
Chili Dried (Imported) kgs 92.00
VEGETABLES
Potato (Holland) kgs 14.00
Bitter Gourd kgs 27.60
Okra kgs 14.00
Barbati Green (Long bean) kgs 12.00
Cauliflower Average Size kgs 19.20
Cabbage Average Size kgs 14.20
Tomato Ripen (Imported) kgs 42.40
Local Bean Green kgs 19.60
Lau (Water Gourd) kgs 8.80
Pataalkgs 12.00
Brinjal (Long purple) kgs 12.80
Pumpkin (Sweet) kgs 10.20
Papaya Green kgs 5.00
Radish White kgs 12.00

FRUITS
Banana Sagar (Medium) 4 pcs 8.80
Apple (Australia) kgs 60.00
Apple (Pakistan) kgs 50.00
Orange (India) 4 pcs 15.20
Coconut pcs 12.00
FISH
Ruhi (Deshi) kgs 130.00
Hilshakgs 190.00
FERTILIZER
Urea (Local) kgs 6.50
TSP (Imported) kgs 14.00
FERTILIZER
Urea (Local) kgs 6.00
TSP (Imported) kgs 14.60
Jessore Sadar Bazar, Jessore
CEREALS
Rice (HYV) Aman Medium kgs 13.30
Rice coarse (HYV) kgs 12.30
Rice Chiniguri (Aromatic) kgs 34.60
PULSES
Masuri Dal (Deshi) kgs 45.00
Masuri Dal (Imported) kgs 43.00
Khesari Dal (Deshi) kgs 23.20
SPICES
Onion (India big) kgs 23.60
Garlic Deshi (common) kgs 38.40
Garlic Big (Imported) kgs 31.20
Ginger (Deshi) kgs 36.60
Turmeric kgs 73.20
Chili Green kgs 26.00
Chili Dried (Imported) kgs 100.00

VEGETABLES
Potato (Holland) kgs 12.00
Bitter Gourd kgs 29.20
Barbati Green (Long bean) kgs 16.40
Cauliflower Average Size kgs 24.80
Tomato Ripen (Imported) kgs 46.00
Carrot Medium Size kgs 28.40
Local Bean Green kgs 22.40
Lau (Water Gourd) kgs 12.40
Brinjal (Long purple) kgs 11.20
Pumpkin (Sweet) kgs 10.60
Papaya Green kgs 4.60
Radish White kgs 10.80
FRUITS
Banana Sagar (Medium) 4 pcs 6.80
Apple (Australia) kgs 62.00
Orange (India) 4 pcs 22.00
Coconut pcs 9.60
FISH
Ruhi (Deshi) kgs 128.00
Hilshakgs 164.00
Chingri Small kgs 88.00
Barisal Sadar Bazar, Barisal
CEREALS
Rice coarse (HYV) kgs 12.70
Rice Chiniguri (Aromatic) kgs 35.40
PULSES
Masuri Dal (Deshi) kgs 42.80
Masuri Dal (Imported) kgs 38.80
Khesari Dal (Deshi) kgs 22.80
OIL & OIL SEEDS
Mustard seeds kgs 36.80

SPICES
Onion (Deshi) kgs 30.80
Onion (India big) kgs 24.80
Garlic Deshi (common) kgs 42.00
Garlic Big (Imported) kgs 30.80
Ginger (Deshi) kgs 40.80
Turmeric kgs 77.00
Chili Green kgs 44.00
Chili Dried (Deshi Bogra) kgs 94.00
VEGETABLES
Potato (Holland) kgs 12.40
Bitter Gourd kgs 24.80
Barbati Green (Long bean) kgs 16.80
Cauliflower Average Size kgs 22.80
Cabbage Average Size kgs 12.80
Local Bean Green kgs 20.80
Lau (Water Gourd) kgs 9.40
Pataalkgs 12.80
Brinjal (Long purple) kgs 14.40
Papaya Green kgs 7.40
Radish White kgs 12.40
FRUITS
Banana Sagar (Medium) 4 pcs 6.40
Apple (Australia) kgs 62.00
Apple (India) kgs 52.00
Coconut 4 pcs 40.80
FISH
Ruhi (Deshi) kgs 134.00
Hilshakgs 194.00
FERTILIZER
Urea (Local) kgs 6.40
TSP (Imported) kgs 13.40