

**Dhaka Day by Day**

**Conflicts of the world laid bare in silence**

by Fayza Haq



Laurent Decol at the Shilpakala Academy — Star photo

Life is neither good nor bad: that is the message of most of the entertainment offered by Alliance Francaise. One got the same impression seeing the fascinating mime show of "The Sad Story of Timoleon Mangus". This was performed by the well-known French mime, Laurent Decol, at the Shilpakala Academy recently.

The mime artist, who studied under Marcel Marceau, 15 years ago, told the story of an individual grappling with the conflicts of the world around. Thus we saw him performing various roles, such as being a street artist, a rock musician, and finally a bank robber. He managed to get the audience completely involved in his work, and even got into the act with some cameramen who were trying to leave early towards the end of the performance.

Decol, who is influenced greatly by Chaplin and Keaton, has worked with Shakespeare and Moliere too in the mime form. He is also an actor and director of a small stage in France. Decol feels that people should not be overwhelmed with Marceau. He feels Murnmen Chanz from Germany is just as good, new and funny. He believes that mime is a lot better in Berlin and London than in Paris.

Decol, who has travelled to China, Sri Lanka, Nepal, India and East Africa, feels that in the Subcontinent the audience "has too much of respect for what it sees on the stage and so stifles the laughter. People appear to be scared of laughter. In Africa it is the opposite of Asia. The viewers there simply guffaw."

The mime artist, sitting at the Sheraton bar, explained that the mime form had come down from the ancient Greeks and the Romans. The French themselves had picked it up from the Commedia del Arte in Italy, he informs. "Gaspard Debureau began the modern mime at the turn of the century and Marcel Marceau came 25 years after that. Mime in the present form is often against establishment and oppressive power," he elaborates.

"What is fantastic about mime is that it is understood everywhere," reminds Decol. "The Chinese and Indian music is a little difficult to appreciate for the western audience just as jazz and rock might be too much at first for the

common man in the streets of the Subcontinent and the Far East. Each gesture is understood and it beats all bar of language and culture. If I act out a scene from Moliere in Dhaka, who will come to see me or understand me? On the other hand, I can reach out to thousands anywhere in the world with my mime."

Talking about entertainment in Europe he says he prefers the old movies of Renoir, Marcel Carne and Jean-Luc Goddard. He had high praises for Isabella Adjani as an actress and for Jacques Doulon as a producer. But he prefers Italian films by Fellini, Pasolini and Visconti. Although he has great admiration for De Nero and Marlon Brando, he does not have a penchant for the average Hollywood production.

As for the French theatre, he says that it has good directors in the form of Patrice Chereau and Georges Lavaudant but he prefers Jerome Dechamp. "His work is very near mime and is very provocative. Ten years ago people thought he was crazy but now they have to queue up to get a ticket", Decol tells us.

Dwelling on Samba, which is the latest craze in France, Decol says dance is related to mime and hopes to choreograph some dance someday like Maurice Bejard.

Giving his impression of Dhaka, he narrates how people in France get the notion that Bangladesh is a country of poverty and overpopulation, whereas stepping into the city, he says, he finds it cleaner and even more hospitable than the cities in India. Like most Europeans he is enchanted by the warmth of the people and their eagerness to correlate. He finds the Ramna Park, amongst other things, a pleasant outlet for the city populace.

Decol conducted a workshop of the arts and techniques of mime at the Shilpakala Academy from 3rd to 8th April. He found the 28 students interesting and eager to learn.

Back in France, Decol plays cards (Poker) and drums to keep himself entertained. He loves watching old movies of Chaplin, Keaton and Brando. He has a girl friend in Germany called Carola Litton, who does special effects for makeup for movies.

**Call to raise internal savings**

Finance and Planning Minister Md Saifur Rahman on Tuesday called upon the Customs, Tax, and Excise officials to make all-out efforts for increasing the revenue earnings and curb the smuggling with iron hand, reports BSS.

The minister was addressing the Customs, Tax, Excise

and Savings officials at a meeting held at the NEC auditorium of the Planning Ministry in Dhaka Tuesday.

Secretary of the Internal Resources Division (IRD) and Chairman of the National Board of Revenue Nurul Hossain Khan, heads of Customs, Tax, Excise and Savings depart-

ments were present.

Saifur Rahman said the officials of the IRD and its subordinate officers would have to ensure the maximum internal resources mobilisation to make the country's economy self-supporting and economically solvent.

He said one sovereign state could not run on maximum foreign aid dependency to meet the requirements of the country's development and revenue budget. He said the country needs more revenue to finance and implementation of different people and production oriented development programmes.

In this regard Saifur Rahman urged the officials to contribute with sincerity and devotion in making the country economically self-reliant.

The Finance and Planning Minister said the avenues of revenue earnings should be expanded and a favourable environment would have to be created so that the tax payers should not face any problem in paying taxes to the government.

**CROSSWORD PUZZLER**

**ACROSS**

- Barter
- Kind of wave
- Loops
- "House"
- Andy's
- Society
- As far as
- Obstruct
- Fracas
- Consumed
- That thing
- Evergreen trees
- Mimic
- Fictitious tale
- Asterisks
- 5-shaped molding
- Indigent
- Carries
- Seizes, in a way
- War god

**DOWN**

- BLT ingredient
- Space
- Beast of burden
- C-F linkup
- Prime character
- Stories
- Arrow poison
- Underworld god
- Early morn
- Second of two
- Lowest point
- Clayey earth
- Toward shelter
- Underground excavations
- Armadillo
- Gardenside and LaWanda
- Coral island
- Roadside
- Notes
- Not hollow
- Most indigent
- Pounds down
- Prayer
- Steep, rugged rock
- Harvested
- Surflets
- Twists
- Hastened
- Handle with
- Fem. holy person
- Vehicle
- Concerning
- Greek letter

**Answer to Previous Puzzle**

OPS CANAL SEA  
SIT ADORE NEW  
STAPLE TAMALE  
TEMPT PAR  
TRUE TAP YEAR  
WIELD GAL DIE  
TO SOT LEA DE  
STY GOD IMPEL  
YSAR NIT PASS  
NEE MALLS  
BAKERS BEETLE  
ICE ROLLS OAT  
DEE SWEET RYE

**International airport in Ctg soon**

Communications Minister Oli Ahmad has said rendering service for the common man and ensuring their welfare were the aims and objectives of the BNP Government, reports BSS.

He was speaking as the chief guest at an Iftar party, organised by Chittagong Samity in Dhaka Monday.

"The Chittagong Airport will be upgraded into an international one soon," he added.

Presided over by former Deputy Prime Minister Jamal Uddin Ahmed the function was also addressed by State Minister for Forest, Environment, Fisheries and Livestock Abdullah al Noman.

Other leaders of the Samity also spoke on the occasion.

Special prayers were offered for the peace of the departed souls of renowned industrialist and former minister, A K Khan, language soldier Principal Abul Kashem and renowned journalist Abdullah al Sagor.

Oli Ahmad said infrastructural development was the prerequisite for the socio-economic development of the country.

"The roads of greater Chittagong district would be constructed gradually," the minister assured.

**New Five-Party Alliance chief**

The Convener of Bangladesh Samajtantrik Dal, AFM Mahbulul Huq, has been made the Convener of the Five-Party Alliance, reports BSS.

It was decided Tuesday at a meeting of the central committee of the alliance, a press release of the alliance said.

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**Egyptian envoy calls on Hafiz**

Egyptian Charge de Affaires Mr Saifullah Mostaffa Moser called on Law and Justice Minister Mirza Golam Hafiz at his office Tuesday, reports BSS.

**Report on Scimitar tomorrow**

By Staff Correspondent

Public Enquiry Commission on Haripur Petroleum agreement will publish the final report on Thursday at 3 pm in the Supreme Court Bar Association, says a press release.

The commission investigated the petroleum agreement between the government and Scimitar. It tried to find out the personal gains by the agreement.

**R&H Chief Engr retired**

The Government has sent MA Bari, Chief Engineer of the Roads and Highways Department to retirement from his job in public interest with immediate effect, an official handout said in Dhaka Tuesday reports BSS.

**Shahana Begum's death condoled**

By Staff Correspondent

A condolence meeting was held at the death of singer Shahana Begum organised by Bangladesh-China Friendship Association on April 7, says a press release.

The meeting presided over by Professor Hamida Ali decided to bring out magazines, arrange song contest and other programmes in the memory of the late singer, the release added.

**Weather**

**Rain with hails likely**

By Staff Correspondent

Rain or thundershower with hails at places accompanied by temporary gusty/squally wind likely to occur at a few places over Dhaka and Chittagong divisions and at one or two places over Khulna and Rajshahi divisions. Day temperature is likely to remain unchanged.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Weather likely to improve. Extended outlook for another five days: Weather likely to deteriorate. The sun sets today (Wednesday) at 6.18 p.m. and rises on Thursday at 5.42 am.

Maximum temperature of 36.2 degree Celsius was recorded on Tuesday at Rajshahi and minimum of 19.4 degree at Mymensingh.

Day temperature rose by 2 to 5 degrees over the country except Peri, Hatiya, Sandwip, Kutubdia, Chittagong, Rangamati, Cox's Bazar, Teknaf and Khepupara where they remained nearly unchanged.

Chief amount of rainfalls recorded are: Chandpur 13 mm, Dhaka 12 mm, Barisal, Patuakhali 9 mm each, Sylhet 6 mm, and Faridpur 5 mm.

Temperature and humidity recorded Tuesday at major cities and towns:

Cities/Towns	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in Percentage	
	max	min	9 a.m.	6 p.m.
Dhaka	31.6	21.7	87	71
Chittagong	32.7	24.0	73	71
Rajshahi	36.2	23.0	57	65
Khulna	35.2	24.4	80	71
Cox's Bazar	32.0	23.4	73	71
Sylhet	27.0	21.0	100	77
Dinajpur	32.5	21.4	72	73
Barisal	34.0	20.4	90	98
Rangpur	30.4	22.4	76	84

**TV Wednesday**

5-00	Opening and recitation from Al-Quran
5-15	Recitation from Geeta
5-20	News in Bengali
5-30	Mahe Ramzan
6-30	Anu Paramanu (Science Programme) Presented by Dr Farida Khatun Hijal Tamal (Folk songs)
7-00	Documentary film News in Bengali Probaha (Programme on current affairs)
7-25	Macgyver
8-00	News in English
8-30	Sengsad report (Analytical discussion programme)
11-15	Khabar/The News
11-30	Closing



A procession was brought out by Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ) on Tuesday to press home its demands for reinstatement of journalists of the Dainik Desh and the Bangladesh Observer and payment all dues of journalists of the Dainik Dinkal and the Nava Avijan. —Star photo

**National Book Development Council yet to be set up**

By Shahzad Monju

A National Book Development Council (NBDC) proposed by United Nations Education, Science and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) for a planned programme of book production and distribution as part of national programme has not yet been set up in the country since liberation.

The quality of books has remained low and the number of readers and published in the market has not increased largely due to this, the representative of UNESCO Jell and Abul Hasan opined after two inspection in 1974 and 1980.

The experts of UNESCO at a meeting in Tokyo in 1966 advocated the establishment of National Book Development Council to bring together government and private sectors concerned with book industry.

In 1972 UNESCO reached a conclusion on the establishment and operations of NBDC's in Asia at the regional seminar in Manila.

Most of the Asian countries including neighbouring India and Pakistan have established book development councils following the UNESCO's pro-

posal.

The structure of a National Book Development Council would vary from country to country and reflect the economic and political situation of the country where it was established.

In Bangladesh different ministries and government sectors are responsible for different aspects of the Book Industry. Book research and book research oriented organisations such as Bangla Academy, book fairs or exhibitions and other promotional activities largely dependent on the Cultural Ministry. The Ministry is also responsible for the development of libraries outside educational institutions. But libraries of schools and other educational sectors including National Curriculum and Textbook Board (NCTB) are under Education Ministry.

The Commerce Ministry deals with importation and exportation of books. It has made some rules and regulations on import and export for two years terms from 1989 to 91. But these procedures (rules and regulations) are imple-

mented by custom officials who work under finance exporting and importing then they will report it to the office of the Chief Controller of Imports and Exports (CCIE). The office will go to take action.

However, as these organisations and sectors under different ministries are influenced directly or indirectly by Finance Ministry through financial allocation.

Although the ministries are involved with each other but they work independently and there is no bridge for successful communication in this regard, which delayed establishment of a National Book Development Council.

No book co-ordination council has been set up, and as a result, the desired development in books has been possible, a common view of book experts including book publishers and sellers of Bangladesh. They are sharply divided on the Policy of Book imports and exports, book production and distribution and policy on protection of publishing houses.

**Shahabuddin's address to JS welcomed**

the Acting President will be taken into consideration in right earnest by the legislator.

**Slum gutted in city**

Twelve poor families were rendered homeless and properties worth about TK 65,000 damaged when fire completely gutted a slum in Malibagh Bazar in Dhaka Tuesday, reports UNB.

Fire Brigade sources said the fire originated from a gas burner in the slum kitchen and soon engulfed the entire enclave.

Windows and wall of three pucca buildings surrounding the slum were also damaged before fire fighters arrived and extinguished the fire.

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Dr. Rafiqur Rahman, President of the Supreme Court Bar Association, while talking to this correspondent has welcomed the address of the Acting President acknowledging the struggle for restoration of democracy and independence of the judiciary by the advocates. He also welcomed the statements with regard to the appointment of the Judges and separation of judiciary to maintain the rule of law in the country. He expressed that the address of

the Acting President will be taken into consideration in right earnest by the legislator.

**Newspapers holiday**

The newspapers offices will remain closed on April 15 on account of Bangla New Year and on April 16, 17, and 18 subject to the sighting of moon on the occasion of holy Eid-ul-Fitr, a BSP press release said Tuesday, reports BSS.

So, there will be no publication of newspapers on April 16, 17, 18 and 19.

Any newspaper may be published for one day under its own arrangement during the Eid holidays, the BSP press release added.

**Shahabuddin's address to JS welcomed**

**Independence of judiciary shattered: Lawyers**

Supreme Court Correspondent

The lawyers have welcomed the address of Acting President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed to the Jatiya Sangsad on April 5 highlighting the unconstitutional provision of the Constitution and the steps taken by the undemocratic government of the last few years that had shattered the independence of the judiciary.

The Bar has welcomed the candid statement of the Acting President who is also the Chief Justice of Bangladesh that the Judges of the Supreme Court are being appointed without consulting the Chief Justice.

They recalled the passage from 8th Amendment Judgement of Justice Shahabuddin to point out that selection of a person for appointment as a Judge in disregard to the question of his competence and his earlier performance as an advocate or a judicial officer may bring in a "spineless judge" in the words of President Roosevelt. The members of the Bar hope that the Parliament would soon move a constitutional bill to ensure independence of Judge. They also express that the

strength of Judges must be raised to 50 to bring it at par with the strength of Calcutta High Court.

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**Foundation for minorities demanded**

Bangladesh Hindu Bouddha Christian Otkka Parishad Tuesday demanded withdrawal of Hindu Welfare Trust (Amendment) Bill, 1991 that was introduced in the Jatiya Sangsad Monday, and establishment of Hindu, Bouddha and Christian Religious Foundation like the Islamic Foundation, reports BSS.

The Parishad, in a statement, called for introducing a bill for constituting Hindu, Bouddha and Christian Religious foundation to preach and promote these religions for establishing equal religious rights and status for all.

If the Hindu, Bouddha and Christian Welfare Trust, created during the last regime, was not dissolved and a new bill was not introduced, the Welfare Trust would be treated by the members of these communities as "insulting and disgraceful".

**Ration shops holiday**

The ration and employers shops under the Dhaka rationing area will remain closed on April 13 on account of holy Shab-e-Qadr, on the Eid day and the day after the Eid on the occasion of holy Eid-ul-Fitr, an official handout said in Dhaka Tuesday night, reports, BSS.

People who will not be able to draw their ration items on these days can draw the quota in any working day of the week, the handout added.

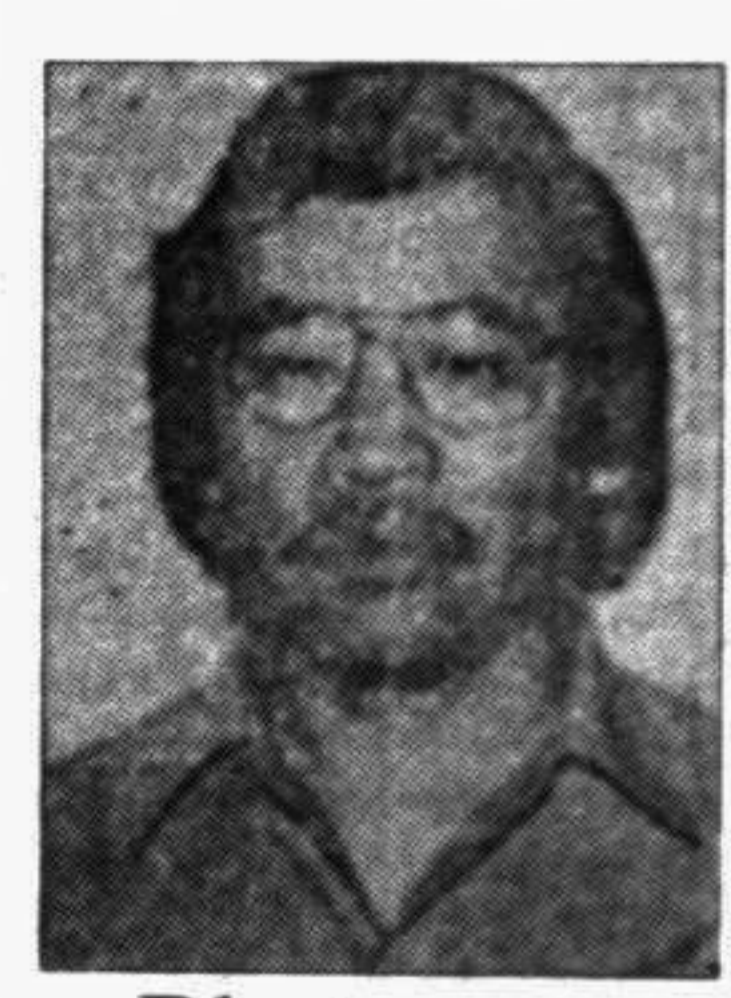
**Bhutanese FM arrives today**

By Staff Correspondent

The Bhutanese Foreign Minister, Lyonpo Dawa Tsering is due to arrive here today (Wednesday) for a three-day visit. He will be leaving for Bangkok on Saturday.

During his stay here, Mr Tsering is expected to meet with the Bangladesh Foreign Minister, Mostafizur Rahman and hold informal talks with senior officials here on matters of mutual interest. He is also expected to make a courtesy call on Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia to convey to her the felicitations of His Majesty the King of Bhutan to the Bangladeshi leader.

Mr Tsering who has served in several senior positions in his government was appointed to his present position in 1972. He is said to be one of the longest serving foreign ministers in Asia. He is a familiar figure on the international scene, especially in the UN activities.



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