

Dhaka Day by Day

Dancing, Glancing, Romancing

by Fayza Haq

When I saw Seena Mahapatra dancing on stage some weeks back, I failed to realise her in-depth perception of the standard of dancing in Bangladesh. Smiling with her full lips, and charming you with her lotus eyes, she spoke to me in her artistic living room in Dhanmandi. She talked with poise and knowledge and yet with no intentions of bombast.

Analysing the circumstances and the environment of dancing today, Seena says that what is missing is 'guru-shishya-parompora', that is the teacher-student relationship tradition. "Unless you have a proper teacher you cannot learn anything in its true form. Here in Dhaka, the teacher is a student who has simply completed the course," she says.

Seena, as a result, does not have a high opinion of BAAFA or any other mushrooming dancing school in the city. "What will he teach when his own knowledge is inadequate? I find the boys and girls from BAAFA so technically imperfect," she feels.

Seena believes that no one aims at perfection in Dhaka. She complains that "their main aim is to go on stage or on TV. As for mastering the art or taking delight in its nuances — people couldn't care less."

"The dancer herself has gone through an initial course of six years. Yet she believes that she is still in the learning stage. 'Wherever I am, I go back to my 'guruji' and spend at least one month, trying to attend all the workshops.' Although she has reached a certain mature stage in dancing she believes that often she develops a fault and there is still so much to master. 'Everytime I go back I believe I'm learning something afresh.'"

Seena is not quite contented with the manner in which BTV presents some of its dances. There is too much of naive story telling and little of the intrinsic symbolism and action. "They are trying to tell a story but are they able to convey it in the true authentic dance form?" she asks.

She says that generally they are performing the dances based on songs or to the accompaniment of the Nazrul Geeti. But they do not have adequate expressions. The expression is called the 'abhinay' while the movements are the 'mudras'. Here they fail to use the right 'mudra' for the necessary action. The dancer should master how to express love, affection, hatred, anger, happiness, boredom and such states of mind through their gestures, she insists. "Through the eyes alone you can express the totality of life," she continues with her

large liquid eyes, more wide-apart than ever, with the intensity of her feelings.

Once again Seena, who has taught about hundred students in her three years' stay in Dhaka, blames the teachers: "Anything colourful on TV is accepted by the audience. Who is there who knows dancing so well in Bangladesh that he can impart the depths of dancing to the students in the manner that is fitting?" she asks with vehemence.

As a teacher Seena has come across many talented boys and girls but they all want the easy way out, she complains. "You cannot go into the depths of the art in a lackadaisical, pell-mell, lazy manner. They would like to do a lot but fail to put in the necessary perspiration," she comments.

Speaking about choreography, Seena believes that instead of making a poor combination of different dance forms Bangladeshis should adhere to their folk dances and explore that field.

She was impressed by the "Nakshikatha" dance drama and had good words for the recent performance of the "Chitrangada" in which one of the lead dancers was her student.

Seena does not believe that the "kathak" which is often recognised as a

"kotha" dance of the Moghul princes anything very different from the temple dances of the rest of India. "The kathak" is one of our richest form of Indian classical music. In India through our song, dance or any other form of art we worship the deities. The "kathak", she informs, was originally a temple dance too. However the devotionism is absent when presented in the cinema form today.

She is naturally annoyed by the way dances are crammed into Hindi films today. "The dances are now simply to fill the gaps in the narrative. In the older film there was always a purpose for a dance or a song," she says. Seena however has great admiration for some of the dancers like Vajrantimala and Hema Malini. Speaking of actresses, she does not consider Sri Devi a dancer at all.

A "filling in the sandwich" herself between two sisters, Seena is a devoted mother of two children, and must keep enough time for entertaining her diplomat husband's friends and colleagues. Coming from Orissa, Bangladesh has been her "extended home as Orissa and Bengal belong to the same belt." The dirt and grime of Dhaka does not intimidate her in any way. "It's the same story there," she says, with a spontaneous, understanding smile.



Seena seen in one of her Orissa specialities

Bangla Academy seminar on Ayub today

By Staff Correspondent

Bangla Academy will hold a seminar on 'Abu Sayeed Ayub' — a noted litterateur, critic, at its Seminar Room on Tuesday at 5 p.m. a press release said.

Prof Sayed Monjurul Islam will read out an article while Azfar Hossain and Abedin Kader will take part in discussion.

Gauri Ayub will be present at the function as special guest.

Mastans' rampage in Faridpur-1 alleged

By Staff Correspondent

Mr Abdur Rauf Mia, member of the Parliament from Faridpur-1 constituency, in a statement issued in Dhaka on Monday said the mastans of the defeated candidate were terrorising the people of the area.

He said if such terrorism is not checked immediately, transition to democracy will be hampered.

He also thanked the Awami League workers and the people of Alifadanga, Boalmari and Madhukhali for giving their mandate for him.

Faultless population count directed

Acting President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed today called the countrymen for extending cooperation in collecting correct census data to co-ordinate national efforts towards progress and improving standard of living, reports UNB.

In a message on the eve of country's third population census, Justice Shahabuddin said the census should be correctly done to properly exert the state efforts for successful materialisation of people's hopes and aspiration in independent Bangladesh.

The national development plans are bound to be imbalanced if there are lapses in the enumeration, he said, adding this will impede national development and welfare of the people.

Pharmacists left to the backyard, drug quality suffers

by Shahzad Monju

There is one pharmacist for one lakh 80 thousand people in Bangladesh, a survey report of Pharmacy Council of Bangladesh has said.

The survey was conducted by a subcommittee of the council before the council inspected the pharmacy section of Jahangirnagar University on January 26

last. The report also revealed the ratio of doctors and nurses in the country. There is one doctor for 5,400 people and one nurse of every six thousand.

A total of 1,310 'A' grade pharmacists are in the country. Of them, 20 pharmacists hold Government

job while the rest are working in different national and international pharmaceutical companies.

Even this number of pharmacists in the country are deprived of their rights that have been guaranteed by the World Health Organisation (WHO) in health care system. Pharmacy Graduates' Association (PGA) complains.

It explains that according to WHO, the physicians and pharmacists should work together and the role of pharmacists in advising doctors and health-care professionals should be developed in community care and hospitals.

But pharmacists in Bangladesh are unable to come into direct contact with the patients. In the western world, 92 per cent of the graduate pharmacists are working in the retail and hospital pharmacies.

There are two pharmacy departments in the country.

Only 55 graduate pharmacists come out a year out of the Pharmacy Department of the Dhaka University. This year extra 10 pharmacists will also come out from the Jahangirnagar University, which opened such courses four years ago.

These newly-graduate pharmacists do not get job in accordance with their demand because, many of the pharmaceutical companies do not allow them to do job with proper facilities. President of the Bangladesh Pharmaceutical Society (BPS) Prof. A. K. Azad Chowdhury told The Daily Star.

Many of the drug industries usually appoint pharmacists, giving small salary and few facilities. BPS has alleged. But Drug Manufacturing Owners' Association has denied the allegation.

One owner of a drug manufacturing company told The Daily Star on condition of anonymity that salary and other facilities always depend on the capability and profit of a company so that salary and facilities to the pharmacists should be raised in keep with Bangladesh context.

General Secretary of the PGA Dr. Reza-ul-Jalil, also a teacher of the Pharmacy Department of Dhaka University, told this correspondent there is not sufficient number of pharmacists in many essential institutions including Drug Testing Laboratory, Central Drug Storage and Arms Forces Medical Service.

Different pharmaceutical councils including PGA, BPS and PCB have stressed the need for creating more jobs of the pharmacists to keep the health of the people safe.

If only one pharmacist is appointed in every section of the hospital in division, district and upazila levels to evaluate the quality of drugs supplied by different companies, many jobs will be created, they opined.

A WHO report, published in the Pharmaceutical Journal on September 8 last year suggested that a pharmacy representative in national medical administration is essential to promote the

potentials of the profession and to provide the assurance that policy considerations, such as, resource allocation, will be attuned to the requirements.

The report also said that the Pharmaceutical Affairs Section of each country's Ministry of Health has equal prominence with other sections of the Ministry.



Anniversary of Mashiur's death today

The 12th death anniversary of Mashiur Rahman Jadu Miah, former senior minister in Ziaur Rahman's government, will be observed today (Tuesday), reports UNB.

The Mashiur Rahman Smriti Sangshad has chalked out an elaborate programme to observe the day in a befitting manner which includes placing of floral wreaths at the mazar of the late politician at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, distribution of food among the destitute and milad mahfil on Tuesday.

A seminar will be held in this connection at the National Press Club on Thursday (March 14). Vice Chairman of BNP Badruddoja Chowdhury and vice Chancellor of Dhaka University Professor Moniruzzaman Miah will attend the seminar.

Bhashani Smriti Sangshad has also drawn up separate programmes to pay homage to late Jadu Miah. Their programme includes mazar ziarat, a discussion meeting and a milad mahfil at Purana Paltan office of the Sangshad on Tuesday, says a press release.

Donation

Acting President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed has sanctioned an amount of Taka four lakh from his relief and welfare fund for the treatment of Faruq Mazhar Raju, a student of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET), reports UNB.

Mazhar was seriously injured in the same incident in which Dr. Milon was killed. Earlier, the Institute of Engineers sent him to Bangkok for treatment but he had to return home before being fully cured due to financial constraints.

Programme Rotary Club meet

The regular weekly meeting of the Rotary Club of Dhaka will be held today (Tuesday) at 5 p.m. at Dhaka Sheraton Hotel, says a press release.

High turnout of women voters impresses EC

The European Community and its member-states warmly congratulated the People's Republic of Bangladesh on the way in which the parliamentary elections of February 27 have been held, reports BSS.

This was conveyed in a message handed over to the Foreign Affairs Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmad at his

office on Monday by the Netherlands Ambassador in Bangladesh on behalf of the Resident Ambassadors of the 12-member states of the European Community.

The European Community in their message expressed their deep satisfaction with the successful achievement of the objectives set by the interim government to hold

free, fair and impartial elections in a peaceful atmosphere. They said, the observer of the European Parliament has similarly expressed his admiration for and satisfaction with the preparations and the conduct of the elections.

The European Community and its member states stressed the importance of the elections in the transition towards democratic and representative government. They have been impressed by the popular enthusiasm, the high participation of women voters

500-taka counterfeit currency in circulation

By Staff Correspondent



Counterfeit 500-Taka Bangladesh currency notes are now in circulation in the country. The forged notes have been produced so neatly that the general members of the public can easily be deceived.

One such 500-Taka counterfeit note was sent to the Star office by a person who got it during his visit to Cox's Bazar.

As per law, anybody found possessing a counterfeit note is held responsible. Criminal

proceedings are drawn against the possessor after a case is lodged with the police station, a bank official told the Star. The punishment is ultimately awarded by the court, he added.

Another banker expressed doubt that forging of notes were probably done in largescale by unscrupulous persons for use during the last parliamentary polls in the country. Powerful gangs are always behind such activities, he asserted.

Ansar body submits memorandum to Shahabuddin

Bangladesh Civil Service (Ansar) Association has recently submitted a memorandum to the Acting President requesting him to resolve various anomalies in the service of Ansar and VDP department, reports UNB.

In its memorandum the association alleged that retired and ousted army personnel are being frequently incorporated in the Ansar and VDP department ignoring the service rules.

Service rules provides for appointment of in-service army and police personnel on deputation, it pointed out.

Government rules for appointment and promotion are hardly being followed in the department and cadre service officers are often ignored in case of promotion, the memorandum alleged.

Blood group test at TSC tomorrow

Bangladesh Student Welfare Organisation will organise a special blood grouping programme under nutrition and health project in Dhaka tomorrow, reports UNB.

Dhaka University VC, Prof. Moniruzzaman Miah will inaugurate the day-long programme at TSC at 10 a.m. APSU leaders will also be present, said a press release.

Students, who want to check up their blood group and donate blood to save patients, have been invited to the function.

TV Programme Tuesday

5-00 Opening and recitation from Al Quran
5-20 News in Bengali
5-30 Cartoon film
5-55 Shikhhagun: Educational programme
6-20 TV debate
7-05 Nazrul Songs
8-00 News in Bengali
8-45 Drama Series: Ayamaya
10-00 News in English
10-30 Mini Series: The Last Outlaw
11-30 News
11-45 Closing

Weather

Gusty winds likely

By Staff Correspondent

Rain or thundershower with temporary gusty winds likely to occur at one or two places over Rajshahi, Chittagong, Mymensingh and Tangail. Weather is likely to remain dry elsewhere. Day temperature is likely to rise by one to three degree Celsius over the country.

Day temperature remained nearly unchanged over the country on Monday except Mymensingh, Tangail, Sylhet, Rajshahi and Ishurdi where it rose by two to three degree Celsius.

The highest temperature of 35 degree Celsius was reported from Ishurdi on Monday.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Little change.

Extended outlook for another five days: Rainfall likely to increase.

Temperature and humidity of some cities recorded on Monday:

City/Town	Max	Min	Humidity	6pm
Dhaka	31.8	23	53	53
Chittagong	31.5	22.5	83	80
Rangpur	32.6	18.9	70	58
Sylhet	29.8	19.6	88	75
Rajshahi	35.6	23	59	48
Khulna	33.6	19.5	62	49
Cox's Bazar	32.5	22	80	77
Barisal	33.6	22.6	73	58
Jessore	35	21.5	72	—

Maximum temperature of some international cities on Monday:

City	Temp	Humidity
Beijing	9	Degree Celsius
Hong Kong	26	"
Singapore	31	"
Colombo	31	"
Delhi	30	"
Calcutta	34	"

Bangladesh Jute Research Institute Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Manik Miah Avenue, Dhaka-1207.

Memo. No. 28/Adm/TRW, Part-II/90/

NOTICE

This is to inform Mr. Abul Kashem, S.O. of TRB, BJRI, Dhaka, in reference to his letters dated 9.9.90 and 1.11.90 that he was sent to Laval University, Canada for undertaking some specific project responsibilities for two months from 6.6.90. It was specifically mentioned in the terms of his deputation that he would stay in Canada upto 3.8.90 and return to Bangladesh by 4.8.90. But he failed both in performing the deputed task and to return to the country by specified time. It has been reported that in contravention of rules he left for U.S.A. from Canada. Consequently upon his illegal desertion the BJRI has lost credibility to an International Organisation like IJO. The Executive Director, IJO, has therefore, requested the Director General, BJRI to replenish the cost of Mr. Kashem's Air ticket and the amount of US \$ 2,500 taken as advance by Mr. Kashem from IJO.

Mr. Kashem deputed to represent the country as a Scientist to work in an International Project has utterly failed in discharge of his duties. This is a serious breach of contract and violation of the service rule.

Mr. Kashem, as known to us, has been staying in USA for more than 6(six) months without any permission of the appropriate authority. Thereby he has committed serious offences under Govt. Employees Service Rule (Discipline and Appeal) of 1985. His acts clearly amount to misconduct and desertion as per provisions of the said rules.

Mr. Kashem is, therefore, asked to join to his duties at BJRI, Dhaka within 15 days of publication of this notification and also to make deposition as to why appropriate disciplinary actions will not be taken against him in respect to the offences he committed. In case of his failure to comply with this notification the matter will be dealt unilaterally.

This notification has the approval of the Director General, Bangladesh Jute Research Institute.

To
Mr. Abul Kashem,
Scientific Officer
Jute Research (Tech.)
B.J.R.I.
DFP (G) 2784-10/3
G-07

Deputy Director (Est. & Com.)
Bangladesh Jute Research Institute.

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

ACROSS

- Vigor; force
- Pinches
- Stitch
- Horse's neck hair
- Kind of collar
- Period of time
- Above
- At present
- Tall structures
- Yellow ochre
- Indefinite number
- "The Burning"
- Prepare for print
- Piece of cut timber
- "William — Overture"
- Cushion
- Evil
- Female deer
- That man

DOWN

- Insipid
- At home
- Talks foolishly
- Exist
- Possess
- Wire measure
- Move from side to side
- Seven days
- Lair
- Skilful
- Roman bronze
- "Favorite"
- Pedal digit
- Sell to consumer
- Copeck
- Pronoun
- Sudsy brew
- Pitch
- Tip
- Deface
- Ornamental knob
- 72-Dawn goddess
- 3 Males
- 4 Stair post
- 5 That thing
- 6 Vessel
- 7 Supercilious person
- 8 Sowed
- 9 Go astray
- 10 "The Week"
- 11 Ponder
- 16 Preposition
- 18 Damp
- 20 Brim
- 22 Vacillates
- 25 Flap
- 27 Four qts.
- 29 Tennis stroke
- 30 Horsley of "Paradise"
- 32 Obstruct
- 34 Condensed moisture
- 36 In what manner?
- 37 Female sheep
- 39 Proposition
- 40 Mournful
- 43 Tied
- 46 Obtain
- 48 New Zealand parrot
- 50 Famed
- 52 Unfair blows
- 53 Trial
- 55 Poses for portrait
- 57 Neon symbol
- 59 Male sheep
- 60 Guido's high note
- 61 "Salem's"
- 63 Consumed
- 67 Greek letter
- 69 Maiden loved by Zeus

Answer to Previous Puzzle

FAD SPRAY ART
ICE TRIBE DOE
TEA RIPE MOTE
LIENS LO
RA SAC PALACE
APE MITIGATES
SAVE PIN REDS
PREVALENT SEE
STRIPE ARE DD
LT SCENE
DENS TOLA KEY
ORE CARED ETE
MAW DRESS SAT

