

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 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 Dhanmondi. 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-shisha-porompora', 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 says.

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.



Seena seen in one of her Odissa specialities

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 "gurugee" 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 'abhiney' 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

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

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

Answer to Previous Puzzle

ACROSS	38	Talks foolishly
1	Vigor; force	41 Exist
4	Pinches	42 Possess
8	Stitch	44 Wire measure
11	Horse's neck hair	45 Move from side to side
12	Kind of collar	47 Seven days
13	Period of time	49
14	Above	51 Skillful
15	At present	54 Roman bronze
17	Tall structures	56 "Favorite" —
19	Yellow ochre	58 Pedal digit
21	Indefinite number	59 Sell to consumer
23	"The Burning" —	60 Oopak
24	Prepare for print	64 Pronoun
26	Piece of cut timber	65 Sudsy brew
28	"William — Overture"	66 Pitch
31	Cushion	68 Tip
33	Evil	70 Deface
35	Female deer	71 Ornamental knob
36	That man	72 Down goddess
37		73
38		74 Sow
39		75 Go astray
40		76 Qrt.
41		77 Tennis stroke
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TV Programme Tuesday

5-00 Opening and recitation from Al Quran

5-20 News in Bengali

5-30 Cartoon film

5-55 Shikhhagan: Educational programme

6-20 TV debate

7-05 Nazrul Songs

8-00 News in Bengali

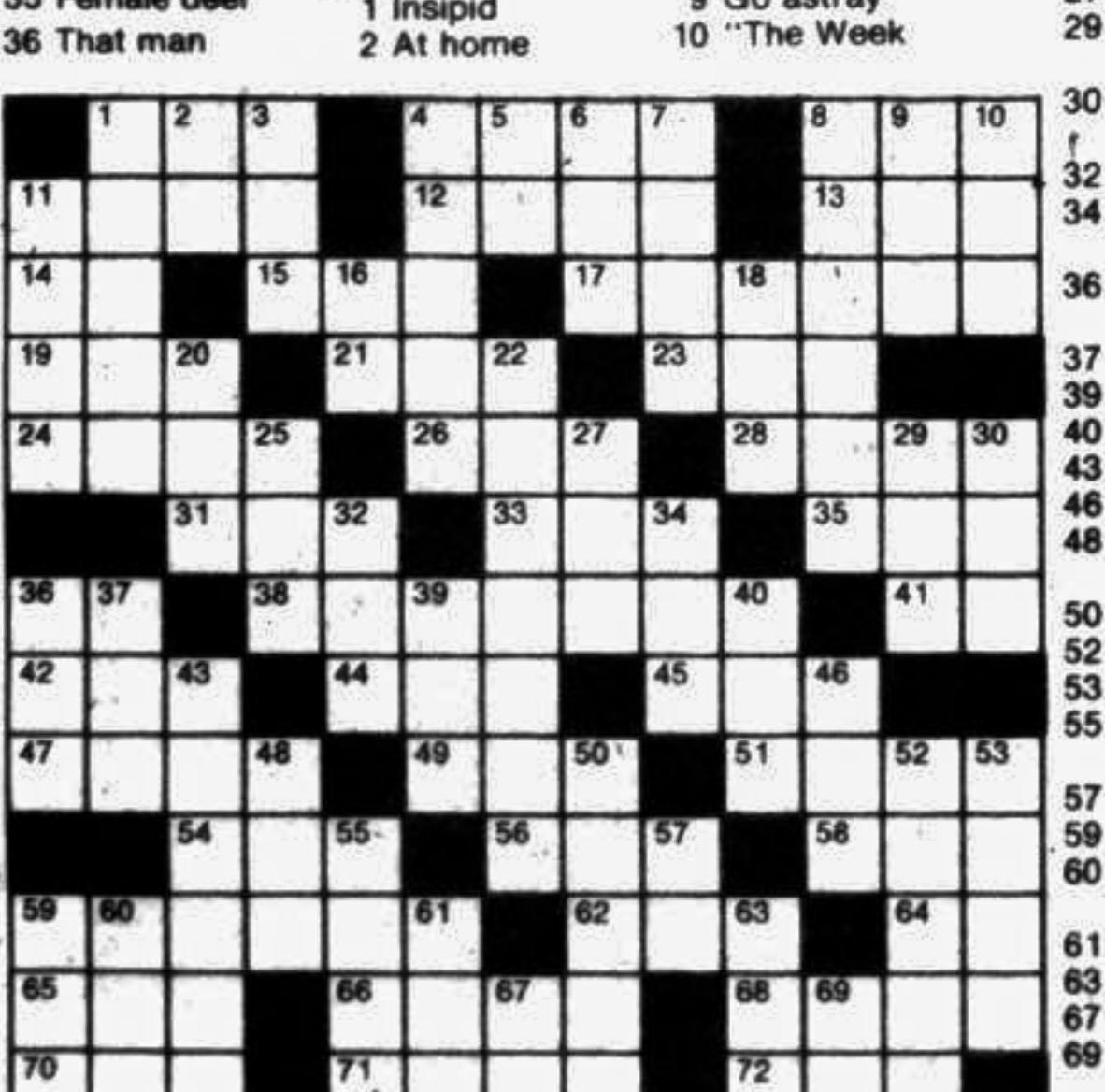
8-45 Drama Series: Ayamaya

10-00 News in English

10-30 Mini Series: The Last Outlaw

11-30 News

11-45 Closing



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Metropolitan

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 pm, 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

Md 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 Alfadanga, Boalmari and Madhukhali for giving their mandate for him.

Faultless population count directed

By Staff Correspondent

Acting President Justice Shah-abuddin Ahmed today called the countrymen for extending cooperation in collecting correct census data to coordinate 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 hampered if there are lapses in the enumeration, he said, adding this will impede national development and welfare of the people.

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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 Vajantimala and Hema Malini. Speaking of actresses, she does not consider Sri Devi a dancer at all.

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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, PGA 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