

Dhaka Day by Day

Spotlights and Encores

by Fayza Haq



Myriam Deband and Abul Kalam Azad in Moineaux's "The Police Superintendent is a good guy". —Photo: Enamul Haque.

Despite the raging of the Gulf conflicts and the recent tremendous upheaval in the country, the students of Alliance Francaise somehow found the time, inspiration and the place to practice and present not one play but three plays at one go.

This was not the first time the French institute had produced plays but they had always earlier translations from French into Bangla. Not many months ago there had been a poetry and playreading session, organised by the same students, and that too had been a delightful occasion. To have plays in fluent French, to entertain the French speaking community, deserved an accolade.

The Bangladeshi readers are used to Zola, Dumas, Beckett, Ionesco, Racine, Molire and such better known, novelists and dramatists. The young actors had chosen Roland Dubillard and Moineaux for their thespian efforts.

The two short plays included excerpts from "Classical Tragedy" and "Glorious Monsters". "Classical Tragedy" ridiculed the theatre going bourgeoisie French who like to flaunt their knowledge. The two theatre lovers on stage were left with the rhythm of the lines instead of the actual words to quote and exchange. The play scorned the hang-up of the middle-class gentry with their penchant for appearing to have more knowledge of culture and civilization than they possessed in reality.

The second play dealt with Sarah Bernard. The French treat great actors and superstars as "monsters". Two characters were shown discussing how ridiculous it was for an aging actress to go on performing even when her charms and ability had completely waned. The individuals recalled how the famous actress had to be carried on a wheelchair and people had to even speak her lines for her.

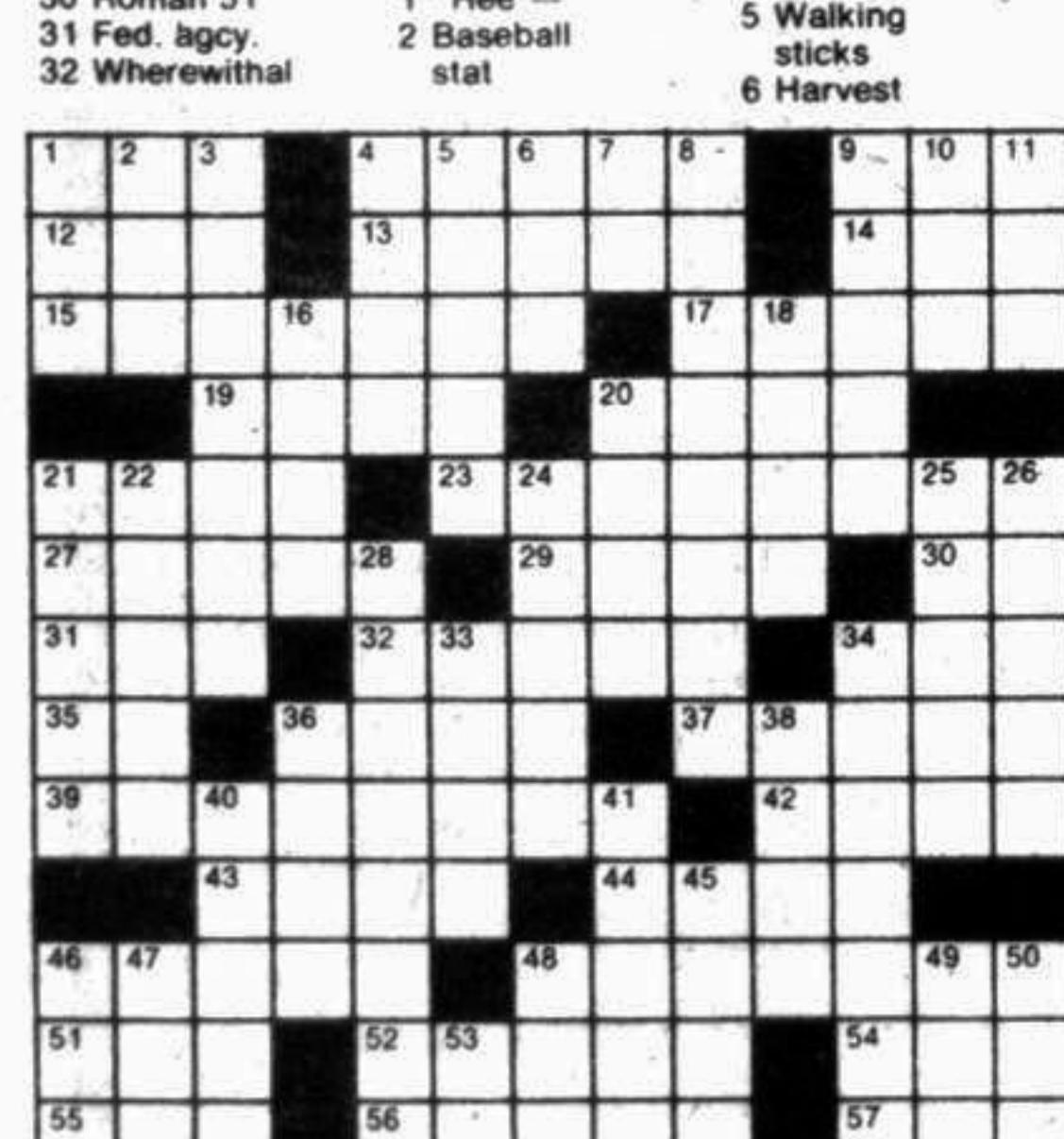
The last and most dramatic piece was "The Police Superintendent is a Good Guy" by Georges Moineaux. This was a humorous, action-packed, slapstick production about a police superintendent who was given no rest while he had to sort out the problems of various individuals who came to the police station with their grievances.

Abul Kalam Azad, who has often shown great interest in acting in plays at the Alliance Francaise confessed: "At first the lines were difficult to memorise. But after repeated practice the lines came to me naturally." He did not have anyone to help him with his part at home. Even the choice of the final play, which was a tremendous success, was his.

Abul Kalam Azad has acted before in "La Lecon". He believes: "It is important to have plays such as this so that people are more exposed to other cultures. It is commendable to be proud of our own literature but we should not close our minds to others, especially when we have something to learn from them."

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

Answer to Previous Puzzle



Kim greets Shahabuddin

President of Democratic Republic of Korea Kim Il Sung has warmly congratulated Acting President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed, and the people of Bangladesh on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of independence of the country, reports BSS.

Kim Il Sung expressed his conviction that the friendly and cooperative relations between the two countries will further develop.

Birendra greets Khaleda

King Birendra of Nepal has congratulated Prime Minister of Bangladesh Begum Khaleda Zia on her assumption of the office of Prime Minister of Bangladesh and wished her success in her new responsibilities, reports BSS.



Sunday

5.00 Opening and recitation from Al-Quran
5.20 News in Bengali
5.30 Nirjhar
5.55 Mahe Ramzan
6.25 Sports Programme
7.05 Tagore songs
8.00 News in Bengali
8.30 Discussion
9.00 Drama Serial: Oshin
9.50 Tomorrow's programme
10.00 News in English
10.25 Shilpa-Shahitya
11.15 News
11.30 Closing

Metropolitan

Art exhibition begins

by BUET Correspondent

The combined art exhibition of six young artists began at the Fine Arts Institute premises on Saturday.

The apprentice artists named Samiron, Produtt, Nazir Ahmed, S.M. Mahmudur Rahman, Md. Ali, and Aziz Ahmed arrayed as many as 30 works of paintings.

In them the artists divulged landscape, nature and love, peace, beauty of nature, human feelings, philosophy of life etc.

A large number of art-lovers gathered at the opening of the exhibition.

The 7-day long show beginning from March 23, will end on March 29.

The exhibition is open to all from 10 am to 7 pm everyday.

Heavy flow of rickshaws on city streets, flagrant violations of traffic rules and outmoded transports plying on the routes are largely responsible for unprecedented traffic jams in the city, transportation experts say.

Traffic jams at vital points of the city are leading to many problems including road accidents. Some experts earlier suggested constructions of flyovers at some strategic points where traffic jams are a regular phenomenon. But another group of experts differ to the extent that flyover can never be an answer to chaotic traffic situation.

Railway experts say a direct railroad from Kamalapur to Tongi could ease the traffic congestion as there will be no level crossings on the busiest roads. On the contrary, roads could be constructed on the existing railway tracks.

Meanwhile the present government has stopped the work on the construction of Ma-

hakhal and Banani flyovers which started sometime ago.

Taka 78-crore contract was awarded to construction firm last year for the job.

The government, in cancelling the work awarded during the ousted regime, said the project should not be implemented due to 'resource constraints' of the country. The previous government directed the Roads and Road Transport Division and the Law Ministry to suggest the locus standi of the Government in case the work is finally cancelled.

Meanwhile, various questions have surfaced in the minds of general public as to the nature of the controversial



Banani flyover project. — Star photo

Anarchy on city roads

By Shahiduzzaman Khan

deal. A decision was taken in August 1990 that the project in question will be a RAJUK project and RAJUK will finance the project from its own resources. It did not authorise the RHD to implement this project as a 'deposit work'.

The official procedure suggests that there has to be a Project Proforma (PP) to be approved by the Planning Commission and it must be included in Annual Development Programme (ADP). RAJUK did not take any steps in this direction, official sources say.

Meanwhile, RAJUK has expressed its inability to pay the contractors bill amounting to Taka 80 crore. The firm agreed to complete the project on a deferred payment basis. But the Ministry sources said it was not truly deferred payment since entire payment would have to be made in four years' time from the date of commencement of construction.

The Ministry sources say RHD advised the firm not to proceed with the work on December 11, 1990. The sources said the land on which the flyover was being built belonged to Dhaka Cantonment. This land was not acquired before the construction started. The Cantonment authorities raised objection to the 'illegal' occupation of the land for flyover construction. The project has not been included in the three-year rolling plan of the Fourth Five-Year Plan, the sources said.

Back in 1986, a decision was taken up to construct a number of flyovers in Dhaka city through Annual Development Programme. Initially, four flyovers were undertaken by the Planning Commission. At a preliminary stage, Japan, Belgium and West Germany wanted to fund the project.

The Japanese Government carried out a feasibility study in Dhaka city and found that construction of flyovers are not feasible at this stage. The study found that elimination of rickshaws from the city streets is not humanly possible unless alternative sources of income for huge number of rickshaw-pullers are arranged. On the contrary, Dhaka traffic was not so enormous which could expedite the construction of flyovers.

The truck drivers complained that traffic police were always harassing the truck drivers demanding "tips". Some even said that on such occasions like Eid-Ul-Fitr harassment by the traffic police will increase.

When Japan backed out, foreign assistance to this project became uncertain which was duly communicated by the Economic Relations Division (ERD) to the ministry concerned. Afterwards, it was decided to go ahead with the project depending on limited resources available locally. A proposal involving Tk. 7541.32 lakh was submitted to the Planning Commission again for consideration on July 26, 1989.

The deposed President Ershad approved the project with the note 'flyovers at Mahakhal and Banani can be constructed on a deferred payment basis as per design of the local contractors and as recommended by the Roads and Road Transport Division.'

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Ministry of Agriculture
Project Implementation Wing
Khamar Bari, Farmgate, Dhaka.

Memo No. Agri/PIW/E&R-II/Pro-1/88/45/ dated : 21-3-91

NOTICE INVITING RE-TENDER

Sealed tenders are hereby invited from the bonafide Suppliers for supply of overhead Project for Department of Agriculture Extension under Revised Second Extension and Research Project (IDA Credit No. 1215-BD).

The cost will be financed by the IDA, as such eligible goods and the suppliers must be from World Bank Member countries other than South Africa and Israel.

Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from Project Implementation Wing, Ministry of Agriculture, Khamar Bari, Farmgate, Dhaka.

Tender documents will be available for sale at a non-refundable price of Tk. 500/- (Taka five hundred) only during office hours on all working days from 24-3-91 to 28-3-91 at Project Implementation Wing, Ministry of Agriculture, Khamar Bari, Farmgate, Dhaka.

Intending bidders must submit Earnest Money @ 2.50% of his total quoted value in the form of Pay Order / Bank Draft of any scheduled Bank in favour of the Project Director, Project Implementation Wing, Ministry of Agriculture, Khamar Bari, Farmgate, Dhaka.

Tenders will be received at Project Implementation Wing, Ministry of Agriculture, Khamar Bari, Farmgate, Dhaka upto 12.00 Noon on 30-3-91 and be opened immediately thereafter on the same day in presence of the tenderers who wish to be present.

The Project Implementation Wing, Ministry of Agriculture reserves the right to reject any tender including the lowest tender and accept any tender in part or full and to waive any minor irregularity of a tender if the waiver is found to be in the interest of the Project to do so without assigning any reason whatsoever.

(Md. Jamaluddin)
Project Engineer,
Project Implementation Wing,
Ministry of Agriculture
Phone : 317795

DFP (G) 3298-21/3
G-29

Weather

Thundershower likely

By Staff Correspondent

Rain or thundershower accompanied by temporary gusty wind likely to occur at one or two places over Rajshahi, Dhaka, Jessor, Kushtia, Noakhali, Comilla and Sylhet region. Weather likely to remain dry elsewhere. Day temperature likely to rise by one to three degree Celsius.

Rain and thundershower occurred at one or two places over Rajshahi and Khulna divisions on Saturday. It was dry elsewhere. Day temperature remained nearly unchanged over the country except in Sylhet where it rose by two degree Celsius and in Rangpur, Rajshahi, and Tangail where it fell by two to three degree Celsius.

The highest temperature of 37 degree Celsius was recorded in Jessor on Saturday.

The sun sets on Sunday at 6:11 pm and rises on Monday at 5:58 am.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Little change

Extended outlook for another five days: Weather may improve.

Temperature and humidity recorded in some cities on Saturday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity(%)	
	Max	Min	9 am	6 pm
Dhaka	31.6	22	61	53
Chittagong	33.8	23.4	82	42
Rangpur	33.5	19.2	57	42
Sylhet	33	19.7	64	54
Khulna	32.5	19.5	58	46
Jessor	32.6	18.2	x	x
Cox's Bazar	35	24.5	72	x
Rajshahi	35.6	19.5	55	67

Maximum temperatures of some regional cities :

Comombo	32 degree	Bangkok	35
Calcutta	34	Beijing	12
11.15	News	Karachi	12
11.30	Closing		