

Dhaka Day by Day

Theatrical Ambrosia From America

by Fayza Haq

There is very little to see as regards stage props. There are two dilapidated worn out benches, a single chair and a telephone. Yet on the Shripakala Academy stage one witnesses driving through American cities, visiting the family many states away, conversation between mother and son from far flung places, a graveyard and an old home, amongst many other things.

The acting by Vana O'Brian and J. P. Phillips is amazing. They play their parts with dedication and conviction. They present "Driving Miss Daisy" which was critically applauded as the best film in 1990 and won the Academy Award for the Best Picture. In '87 too it had been the most successful off-Broadway hit. "Miss Daisy" is a chapter from Pulitzer Prize winner Alfred Uhry's childhood. The play has the story of an elderly Southern woman, much like his grandmother, the black chauffeur who drives her car for more than 25 years, and the friendship that develops between them as a consequence.

Daisy Werthan is an elderly Jewish widow living alone in 1950s Atlanta. She is called "Miss Daisy" by Hoke Coleburn, the hired chauffeur by the married son, much against Daisy's protests, after she has had a serious accident with a brand-new car. Independent and stubborn, Daisy who once came from a poor

develop unacknowledged love for each other. Alfred Uhry said, "The actors view this as a love story although obviously it is not like Romeo and Juliet. These were two people who came to love each other and had no means at all of telling each other. People asked me why I didn't write a scene where someone says, 'I love you' Never! It would never have happened. My grandmother was not huggy; she stood very erect, she was very smart and she had very high standards. Sentiment was never going to get in her way."

Vana O'Brian, Allen Nause and J. P. Phillips create magic in way of characterisation, humour and emotional strength. The play is optimistic and affirmative with a marvellous contrast between "Miss Daisy's" chilliness and Hoke's humour.

In "Love Letters", the two actors Allen Nause and Joann Johnson, sit side by side at a table, reading out letters between their characters who have known each other and have been writing to each other for 50 years, all through the vicissitudes of growing up, marriage, divorce and middle age.

Andy comes from a good but not a wealthy family, while Melissa's parents are very rich. In her letters she keeps teasing Andy about having a penchant for institutions where "he can be with the boys," while he joins the Navy and the



Vana O'Brian and J. P. Phillips in 'Driving Miss Daisy.'

family, and who taught at school before getting married, protests against Hoke's presence in her life. Her reasons for not having him around are her distaste for displaying wealth, which she refuses to admit having in the first place.

Hoke, decidedly younger than Daisy, tolerates her moods, willfulness and tantrums with his own mixture of clever country-bred persistence, and "bitter patience of the southern blacks before the Civil War era."

It is normal and natural that Hoke and Daisy become friends but Uhry is careful never to spoil the delineation of friendship with sappy, sugary sentiment. Although Hoke is depicted as making sacrifices for Daisy, he does not do this without her son making sacrifices too as regards his pay. Daisy considers asking Hoke to a dinner honouring Martin Luther King, risking conflict with her son to do so, but does not think of asking Hoke right from the outset.

The employer-employee relationship, as well as the difference between the blacks and the Jews stand in the way of a closer relationship between Daisy and Hoke. In the last scene there is strange hope in the midst of tears and death. Hoke, who is too old to drive, but is still salaried visits Daisy in her old home and feeds her Thanksgiving pie. The play leaves you feeling that you actually know the characters for years.

Thus you have the story of two dissimilar people, who begin their relationship among mutual mistrust, and gradually over many years,

US Senate. Meanwhile Melissa leaves behind her "crappy" boarding school days, and becomes a Wallsteeter. When Andy finally leaves Japan and his Japanese lady friend, he rushes into a marriage with someone else, while Melissa reacts with her absorption in her own preoccupation as a painter and her ensuing stories of a hopeless marriage and her loss of custody of her children. What could have been a career for her fizzles out into dilettantism. There are many pregnant silences in the reading.

Without any action or props or change of costumes, with only two people reading out, the audience is carried through a fascinating romance in the play by A. R. Gurney.

On the third day, at the BTV auditorium, one witness the "World of Carl Sandburg". A wonderful thing about Carl Sandburg is that he never considered himself a finished product. Yet after being a successful poet he became a journalist and a biographer.

"The World of Carl Sandburg" has been described as "playful, serious, childlike, wise and poetic." The four actors simply quote poems yet keep the audience alive with their theatricals and even have the sedate audience clapping to their songs.

The performances are a part of a tour by the Artists' Repertory Theatre of South Asian countries. The A. R. T. is a non profit company dedicated "to producing innovative, high quality and socially conscious theatre for Portland and the surrounding communities."

Application for new stock exchange submitted

Application for setting up a new stock exchange was submitted Sunday to the Finance Ministry, reports UNB.

The new stock exchange to be named as National Stock Exchange Ltd aimed at healthy and competitive growth of Bangladesh capital market, said a press release.

The applicants are: Mosharraf Hossain, Syed Siraj Uddawala, Shamsul Haque, Sal Reza and Prof Abu Ahmed.

CPB meets

By Staff Correspondent

A two-day Central Committee meeting of the Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) will begin at 10 am on November 2, at its central office said a press release.

A two-day meeting of the CPB Presidium will be also held at the party's office on October 31 and November 1. It will begin at 9-30 am on October 31.

Another press release of the party said, the date of the post-congress reunion of the CPB has been shifted from October 15 to October 25. The reunion will begin at 5 pm at the central office of the party.

All the leaders, workers and volunteers have been urged to contact the Congress Preparatory Committee Convenor Nuh-Ul-Lenin regarding their participation in the reunion.

Steps to lift China clay, lime stone from Sylhet taken

The Minister for Energy and Mineral Resources, Dr. Khondaker Mosharraf Hossain, Sunday night told the Jatiya Sangsad that steps were taken to lift China clay and lime stone from the Sylhet region, reports BSS.

The country has a total reserve of 2,000 million tons of coal, 142.14 million tons of pit coal, 145.70 million tons of lime stone and 0.477 million tons of China clay, the Minister said during the question hour while replying to Sardar Sakhawat Hossain Bakul (BNP-Narsingdi).



A Puja maandap in city. — Star photo

Thousands brave rains to visit Puja pandals

The six-day Sharadiya Durga Puja, the greatest festival of the Bengalee Hindu Community began on Sunday throughout the country amid religious fervour, reports BSS.

Reports from other cities and towns also reflected similar enthusiasm despite a depression over the North Bay.

Defying inclement weather and heavy downpours thousands of devotees in the capital were seen visiting the puja maandaps to offer prayer seeking divine blessings of the goddess Durga.

In the capital, Puja maandaps

have been installed at most of the temples and places of worship including the Ram Krishna Mission, Shankari Bazar, Tanti Bazar, Bangla Bazar, Farashganj, Bonogram, Rayer Bazar, Jagannath Hall of the Dhaka University and at Dhakeshwari Temple which is one of the biggest in the country.

The President and General Secretary of Mahanagari Sarbojanin Puja Committee, Messrs: PK Hawladar and Joyanta Sen in a message extended greetings of the Sharadiya (Autumn) festival to the people.

TV to highlight liberation war: Minister

'No specific policy yet to project political activities'

Parliament on Sunday night witnessed a lively debate over television programme as some opposition MPs asked if the state-owned Bangladesh Television (BTV) will be transformed into an autonomous organisation, reports UNB.

The debate started when Awami League member Syed Abul Hossain wanted to know from the Information Minister if the government has any specific policy for projecting programmes on the government-controlled media.

Information Minister Barrister Nazmul Huda informed the House that the government has no specific policy of projecting political

party's programmes over the state-run media.

A number of opposition MPs including Suranjit Sengupta, Abdur Razzak, Moudud Ahmed, Rashed Khan Menon, Mohammad Nasim and independent member Major (Retd) Hafizuddin took part in the debate.

Suranjit Sengupta and Abdur Razzak asked the Information Minister if the government would make BTV an autonomous institution according to the commitment made in the (November 19) joint declaration of the three alliance.

The Information Minister said that the government was preparing a policy for the government-controlled media.

Major (Retd) Hafizuddin

said the TV programmes were boring and in a note of sarcasm he wanted to know if the government would telecast armed violence on the campus to make TV programmes lively.

Replying to Mohammad Nasim, the Minister said that the government of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia would project the history of independence war and its heroes on the TV with objectivity.

Monday

- 5.00 Opening announcement Al-Guran
- 5.15 Programme summary
- 5.20 Reading from the Geeta
- 5.25 News in Bangla
- 5.30 Cartoon Film
- 5.55 Sports programme
- 6.30 Mass Education programme
- 7.05 TV debate
- 8.00 News in Bangla
- 8.30 Mother and Children's health
- 9.00 Shurer Bhuban
- 10.00 News in English
- 10.30 Film: Hot Pursuit
- 11.30 Khabar /The news
- 11.45 Closing

BDRCS hands over lottery prizes

The prizes of the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS) lottery draw were handed over to the winners at a simple function held at the national headquarters of the Society in Dhaka on Sunday, reports BSS.

The Chairman of the Society Major General (Retd) A F M Abdul Huq handed over the prizes to the winners at the function attended among others by Ekramul Ameen, Treasurer and Major (Retd) Ali Hassan Quoreshi, Secretary General of the Society.

The first prize worth Taka three lakh has gone to a lucky winner from Habiganj and the second prize worth Taka one lakh to another winner from Keraniganj, Dhaka. Both of them had bought the tickets from local bank.

Senegal President's special envoy in city

A special envoy of the President of Senegal arrives in Dhaka today (Monday) to invite Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia to the forthcoming OIC summit, reports UNB.

Senegal is hosting the sixth summit of the Organisation of Islamic Conference due in its capital Dakar December 9-12.

Foreign ministry officials said Sunday Alhaj Osmane Ali Oum Ngom, coming from Islamabad, would carry a message from his President Abdou Diouf for Begum Zia.

During his 4-day official visit, Osmane, Minister for Professional Training and Labour, is expected to meet Labour and Manpower Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan and other officials.

Rotaract Club programme on White Cane Day

By Staff Correspondent

Rotaract Club of Mahanagar North-West has taken a week-long programme starting from Monday to observe the World White Cane Safety Day.

The programmes include eye donation by the Rotaracts, holding of a rally and distribution of posters on October 15, and testing of eyes of Dhaka Badhir Sangha students and Women's Voluntary Association free school students. It will also hold a seminar on the social responsibilities to the blinds on October 18.

This was announced by the Club Secretary Rotarian Muhammad Monirul Huq Kazal on Sunday.

Cosmetics worth Tk one lakh seized at ZIA

Customs officials seized cosmetics worth about Taka one lakh from nine cabin crew of Bangladesh Biman at the Zia International Airport Sunday, customs sources said, reports BSS.

The customs personnel found the cosmetics while searching the baggage of the nine cabin crew members who came from London by Biman's 044-Flight.

Cosmetics worth Taka 19,200 were seized from crew ANM Faruq alone, the sources said

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| Title of the Course | Duration with Time | Course Fee/Venue | Course Coordinator |
|---|----------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Store Keeping & Stock Control | Nov. 3 - Nov. 14 9:00 - 1:30 | Tk. 1800/- Khulna | M. A. Rahman |
| 2. Disciplinary Action | Nov. 9 - Nov. 14 9:00 - 1:30 | Tk. 1800/- Khulna | Z. A. Khan |
| 3. Programming with COBOL | Nov. 9 - Dec. 18 5:00 - 8:30 | Tk. 3500/- Dhaka | M. Rahman |
| 4. Developing Mgt. Skills | Nov. 9 - Nov. 14 9:00 - 2:00 | Tk. 1000/- Khulna | Nituler Karim |
| 5. NGO Management | Nov. 10 - Nov. 20 9:00 - 2:00 | Tk. 1800/- Dhaka | Mustafa Kamal |
| 6. Workshop on Computer Model for Feasibility Analysis & Reporting (COMPAR) | Nov. 9 - Nov. 28 9:00 - 5:00 | Tk. 5000/- Dhaka | A. K. M. N. Chowdhury |
| 7. Financial Mgt. for Jr. Accounts Executives | Nov. 16 - Dec. 4 9:00 - 1:30 | Tk. 2500/- Dhaka | Asutosh Nath |
| 8. Cost & Mgt. Accounting | Nov. 16 - Nov. 28 4:00 - 9:30 | Tk. 1800/- Chittagong | I. C. Bardhan |
| 9. Personnel Management | Nov. 16 - Dec. 12 4:00 - 8:30 | Tk. 3000/- Khulna | A. K. M. Shahid & M. A. Rahman |
| 10. Training Needs Assessment | Nov. 17 - Nov. 27 4:00 - 8:30 | Tk. 1800/- Dhaka | Sonia Sharif |
| 11. Workshop on Project Appraisal & Evaluation | Nov. 30 - Dec. 10 9:30 - 5:30 | Tk. 2500/- Chittagong | Dr. S. Routh |

The above courses are suitable for different level of managers and executives of public and private sector organisations and NGOs. Nominations/applications are invited from the interested organisations and persons. For further information please contact the respective Course Coordinators either in person or over telephone: PABX: 325086-90 or 311216.

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VAN

Voluntary Assistance for the Needy (VAN) conducted an eye and tooth examination programme on Sunday at Daffodil Kintergarten.

About 200 students of the institution were examined and given free medicine.

Similar treatment were given to the habitants of nearby Kutubkhali slums, said a press release.

Dr. Abdur Razzak, Advocate Kamrul Islam, Rakibuddin, Amina Akter, Dabiruddin, Helena Akter, Shahedul Islam and Hasanul Kabir helped make the programme a success.

CUTA

A delegation of Chittagong University Teachers Association (CUTA) led by newly elected President Hamida Banu and General Secretary Dr. Iftekhar Uddin Chowdhury met with the Members of the Standing Committee of the University Teachers Association Federation at the BUET teachers club on Saturday.

They discussed the prevailing situation in the educational institutions particularly the situation of Chittagong University.

Federation President Prof. Enamul Huq Khan led the federation's side, said a press release.

Gana Azadi League

Gana Azadi League on Sunday expressed concern over the government's silence at the prevailing terrorism in the educational institutions.

At a press release by party President Alhaj Abdus Samad Advocate and Joint Secretary Kazi Wailul Islam urged the ruling and the opposition political parties to come forward to make the educational institutions terror-free.

HERE and THERE

Bekar Samaj

At least 500 members led by Moshed Al Firoz and Manjurul Huq joined Bangladesh Bekar Samaj (BBS) in a simple function at the organisation's central office on Saturday.

A press release of the BBS said that the function was addressed by its founding President Mohammad Hassan and Adviser Advocate Zillul Huq.

ITET

The Institution of Textile Engineers and Technologists (ITET) on Saturday appealed to all concerned to save the sick textile and jute industries of the country.

A meeting of the National

Council of ITET with chairman of the institute M A R Talukder in the chair urged to divulge the causes of the loss of these sectors and find out means and measures to make those profitable.

Compiled by ASZ

Plan to supply electricity to 1800 villages

The government would bring 1,800 villages under the rural electrification programme during the current financial year, Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Dr. KH. Mosharraf Hossain told parliament Sunday, reports BSS.

Weather

Heavy rainfall likely

By Staff Correspondent

Met Office forecast on Sunday that heavy rainfall may occur under the influence of depression in the Bay at a few places over Khulna, Chittagong and Dhaka divisions during the next 18 hours commencing 6pm Sunday.

Moderate rain or shower accompanied by temporary gusty to squally wind is likely elsewhere over the country, during the next 36 hours.

Day temperature is likely to remain nearly unchanged over the country during the period. Met office also said.

Weather may improve during subsequent two days.

Temperature and humidity recorded at important cities and towns on Sunday were:

| Cities/Towns | Temperature in degree Celsius | | Humidity in percentage | |
|--------------|-------------------------------|------|------------------------|-----|
| | Max | Min | 9am | 6pm |
| Dhaka | 35.8 | 24.4 | 97 | 97 |
| Chittagong | 29.0 | 25.5 | 95 | 92 |
| Rajshahi | 26.2 | 23.0 | 100 | 98 |
| Khulna | 28.0 | 23.0 | 100 | 92 |
| Satkhira | - | 23.5 | 91 | - |
| Dinajpur | 29.0 | 24.0 | 87 | 84 |
| Bogra | 26.1 | 24.5 | 97 | 98 |

Sunset at Dhaka on Monday at 5-34pm and sunrise on Tuesday at 5-56 am.