

Dhaka Day by Day

Make them Laugh, make them Cry

by Fayza Haq

The American Centre had a play reading of "Life With Father", a comedy in three acts by Howard Lindsay and Russel Crouse, which examines with sympathy the Day family during the 1880s in New York. The father's hot temper leads to the maids to be fired in succession, but the mother knows how to handle them. The mother has strong religious convictions, and when she discovers that the father has not been baptized, she insists that he should be, and finally gets her way.

Cynthia Warren, who played "Cora", cut in forcefully. "Last year I was in a Dhaka Stage production. First of all there were a lot of problems with the 'harkals'. Going back and forth to Gulshan from Dhanmandi, sometimes I was right in the middle of processions. One of the actors actually regretted his commitment. It was too much for him. It disrupts your whole life, specially if you have a large role. I don't enjoy a few lines. I like to take the centre stage. My role in this play was a small one and a repeat performance of what I did before. This role was just a filler."

In the narrative of the family life, Lindsay and Crouse have produced fascinating humour, sparkling dialogue and a witty plot. In fact, a number of critics were surprised that "Life With Father" had not been awarded any of the two major US dramatic awards (the Pulitzer Prize or the New York Drama Critic's Circle Award).

Talking to some of the participants of the play, I gathered that both the actors and the audience thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Mr Ray Peppers, of the USIS, who read the part of the father, has been interested in the theatre since his high school days, and has had many roles as a student, and later in life in amateur plays. "I've had several professional roles in the musical theatre. I used to be pretty good at singing 35 years ago, and have sung quite a bit in amateur productions since then."

What made the group do the play? "Our motives were mixed," Mr Peppers explained. "We wanted to present an American theatre in general to the Bangladesh audience but there was no proper stage at the USIS. At the same time it was very hard for people with full time jobs to practice for a full scale theatre production. It took us two weeks with two rehearsals and we didn't have to memorise anything. The play is a very funny one in a period very different from the contemporary period. The father is a stubborn disciplinarian, whose wife manages, with her innocent guiles to persuade him to do what he wants to do. It is a sort of nostalgic humour."

"I've taken part in play reading 25 years ago in Dhaka. The audience was then bigger and everybody understood English very easily in those days. We tried to present a picture of American life, as it was several generations ago. It had no naughty language. It was enjoyable both to see and to perform," he added.

Why did the group not attempt a full scale play? "Have you ever been in a play? Do you know what it is to memorise all those lines?"



Ray Peppers and Cynthia Warren in "Life With Father"

We have some plays translated into Bangla like Arthur Miller and Eugene O'Neil, but they are really heavy. In this play I had only two lines but I have sponsored many plays for years in various countries," said Diana Carroll-Wirth, the director of the American Centre. "It explores the horizons of the non-American audience. It provides diversity and wealth of the theatre in USA. I always want a moving play. It doesn't have to be a prize winner. It should be clever, should make you think, and it should make you cry or laugh. I think that is what performing creative art is all about. From the feedback I got the impression that the people really enjoyed the funny lines of 'Life With Father,'" she added. "Everyone would like costumes make-up and sets but we are not able to do it."

Selim Shahabuddin, who acted as "Dr Humphreys", said that it was "quite challenging and exciting to be the programme manager. However, with experienced people around me I knew it would end up as a successful show. I have done four socio-political Bangla plays during my university days."

Mr Robert Hilton, also of the USIS, played the role of the eldest son of the family "Clarence". "It wasn't a difficult role and I enjoyed it. I had to fall in love with a character in the play, who is my wife in real life, so the role was easy enough." Mr Hilton, who has done a number of plays at the high school, and has experience at musicals at the university, believes it is possible to have a play reading every once or twice a month at the USIS.



A children procession paraded different city streets on Monday under the motivation programme "Peace for All"—Star photo

Khetmajur Samity formally breaks up ties with CPB

By Staff Correspondent

Bangladesh Khetmajur Samity officially announced Monday that it had broken ties with its parent-organization, CPB, to become what its leaders said a non-partisan group.

Addressing a press conference President of the Samity, Nurur Rahman, said that the organisation's February 27-28 national conference had amended the Samity's constitution turning it into a mass-oriented organization having no party affiliation.

But the President claimed that his organization would be different from NGOs. Khetmajur Samity was

floated in 1981 as a front of Communist Party of Bangladesh CPB for the landless peasants and farm workers and its programmes were focussed on movement for increased agricultural wages and mobilising landless peasants to obtain unused khas (government) land for cultivation.

But it suffered a setback after the CPB had abandoned the politics of class struggle opting for liberal democracy.

Nurur Rahman, better known as a supporter of the NGO movement, said the Samity had taken government registration as an organization

dedicated to the welfare of the poor agricultural workers. However, he said it would continue to work for more wages for farm labourers and to provide land with the landless peasants.

Abul Kalam Azad, the newly elected General Secretary of the Samity and some more central leaders were present at the conference. But the Samity's founding General Secretary Mujahidul Islam Selim was conspicuous by his absence.

Selim, a presidium member of CPB is known to have opposed Nurur Rahman's moves.

Independence Day programme

The government has chalked out an elaborate programme in celebration of the Independence and National Day on March 26, reports BSS.

President Abdur Rahman Biswas and Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia will give a message to the nation on this occasion.

The National Flag will be hoisted atop all government and private buildings on the day which will be a public holiday.

The booming of 31 guns will herald the beginning of the day in Dhaka.

President Abdur Rahman Biswas will inspect the parade of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Bangladesh Rifles, Police, BNCC, Ansar and VDP at the National Square of the old airport. The President will also inspect fly past of the air force and rope alighting from the flying helicopters and take the salute from the mechanised column of the army. Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia will be present at the function.

The President will host an Iftar party at the Bangabhaban in the evening. The Army, Navy, Air Force, Bangladesh Rifles, Police, Ansar and VDP will play their respective bands at selected places in the capital.

Newspapers will bring out special supplements while Radio and Television will put up special programmes on the occasion.

Discussions and symposiums will be held and exhibition arranged to highlight the significance of the Liberation War and stress the need for using country made products.

ILO keen to help gear up cooperative movement

LGRD and Cooperative Minister Barrister Abdus Salam Talukder has sought assistance and cooperation from the International Labour Organisation (ILO) for development of cooperative movement in the country, reports UNB.

Talking to two top ILO officials, Ejvind Mogesen, Regional Advisor on Cooperative Development and Werner K. Blenk, Director, here Monday he said cooperative is a priority sector to the government.

He said the country's development largely depended on the socio-economic development of rural people and added that it was possible

through a wider network of cooperative movement.

The ILO representatives expressed their eagerness to help gear up the cooperative movement in Bangladesh.

Salaudin Ahmed MP, Joint Secretary of Rural Development and Cooperatives Mahmood Hassan and Registrar of Cooperatives Mahfuzul Islam were present during the meeting.

3 railway employees suspended

Three employees of Bangladesh Railway, Western Zone, have been placed under temporary suspension for alleged realisation of excess fare and misappropriation of the sale proceeds, reports BSS.

Of them, booking Assistants Abdul Latif and Aftab Ahmed of Ishwardi Railway Station were charged with realising excess fare while booking assistant Abu Baker of Jessore station was charged with misappropriation of sales proceeds.

BRCS authorised to distribute WFP relief materials

The government has authorised the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BRCS) for the distribution of relief materials from World Food Programme (WFP) among the Myanmar Rohingya refugees, reports BSS.

An agreement has been signed in this regard at the Bangladesh Secretariat Monday.

The additional Secretary in-charge of the Ministry of Relief, M A Hakim and the Secretary General of the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society, Ali Hasan Quareshi, signed the agreement on behalf of the respective sides.

Thinkers forum formed

CHITTAGONG, Mar 16: Thinkers Forum was formed here today at a meeting of cross section of people with Dr. Moinuddin Ahmad Khan and Dr. Muhammad Mahbubullah of Chittagong University as chairman and general secretary respectively, a forum press release said, reports BSS.

The Thinkers Forum will work for utilising higher education and knowledge for human welfare and national development.

Other office bearers of the forum are: Vice-president, Advocate Shamsuddin Ahmad Mirza and Dr. Shabbir Ahmad, Assistant General Secretary, Prof. Muzaffar Ahmad Chowdhury, Treasurer, Dr. Muhammad Badur Rahman and Organising Secretary, Prof. Imdadul Haq.

Foreign media slate Myanmar atrocities

Atrocities of Myanmar authorities on the Muslims are being harshly criticised in the foreign media. A European daily said, "Myanmar was turning into a field of blood, similar to that of Cambodia under the Khmer Rouge," reports BSS.

"Tens of thousands of Muslims, who are the minority, have fled to Bangladesh due to extreme cruelty of the army, mass killing, torture and labour camps" a major newspaper of Iceland, the "Morgunblaio" said in a recent issue.

In a front-page cover story with photographs of the refugees, the paper in its march 4 issue in a report captioned "Fleeing from fields of blood in Burma" gave a graphic account of the situation in western Myanmar

and drew an analogy between the situation there with that of the Cambodia under the rule of the Khmer Rouge.

Quoting refugees, the paper said that Myanmar "intends to drive every Muslim away and leave behind scorched land".

The paper estimated the number of refugees to be 1,45,000 since the military government went into action in western Myanmar.

Obituary

Sarjannessa, wife of late Rahatullah Mia, formerly a member of the then East Pakistan assembly and a parliamentary secretary, died at her Parbatipur residence early Monday morning due to old age complications. She was 80, reports BSS.

She left behind seven sons and two daughters.



A condolence meeting in remembrance of Moin Hossain Raju, a third year student of the Soil Science Department of Dhaka University, who was killed Friday last, was held at the department yesterday. —Star photo

Prof Mannan visits Baitul Mukarram market

State Minister for Religious Affairs Prof. M.A. Mannan Monday paid a surprise visit to Baitul Mukarram market and Islamic Foundation Press, reports BSS.

The State Minister talked to the shopkeepers and the approved hawkers of the market and discussed various problems of the market.

Prof. Mannan expressed resentment over unauthorised hawkers at the market and viewed that realistic steps be taken up to remove the problems of the hawkers.

Three terrorists held in Ctg

CHITTAGONG, Mar 16: Chandgaon police in a special raid arrested three alleged terrorists and recovered one pistol and two foreign daggers from their possession at Bokolia here today, reports BSS.

The arrested persons, wanted by police in charges of illegal toll collection and hijacking, are Akbar Hossain, Mohammad Naser and Mohammad Major.

Chittagong Metropolitan Police rounded up 27 persons on various charges from different parts of the city during the last 24 hours ending six pm today.

TV Tuesday

- 5.00 Opening announcements Al-Quran Programme summary
- 5.10 News in Bangla
- 5.20 Recitation from the Geeta
- 5.30 Documentary: Wild Life on One
- 5.50 Mahy Ramzan
- 6.30 Shikshangon: Programme on Education
- 7.05 Nazrul Songs
- 8.00 News in Bangla
- 8.30 Drama series: Baro Rakom Manush
- 10.00 News in English
- 10.30 Film: Sword of Honour
- 11.15 Khabar/The News
- 11.25 Wednesday's programme summary
- 11.30 Closing.

Weather

No change in day temperature

By Staff Correspondent

Mainly dry weather will prevail over the country during the next 36 hours commencing 6 pm Monday, according Meteorological office.

Day temperature is likely to remain nearly unchanged over the country.

Little change in weather will be noticed in subsequent two day, Met office also forecast.

The sun sets in Dhaka today (Tuesday) at 6-09 pm and rises tomorrow (Wednesday) at 6-05 am.

Temperature and humidity recorded in important cities and towns on Monday were:

| Cities/Towns | Temperature in degree Celsius | | Humidity in percentage | |
|--------------|-------------------------------|------|------------------------|------|
| | Max | Min | 9 am | 6 pm |
| Dhaka | 31.0 | 21.5 | 37 | 28 |
| Chittagong | 30.0 | 23.7 | 83 | 86 |
| Rajshahi | 32.5 | 16.5 | 34 | 24 |
| Khulna | 31.5 | 21.3 | 40 | 40 |
| Barisal | 30.8 | 22.2 | 63 | 45 |
| Cox's Bazar | 30.4 | 22.0 | 80 | 87 |
| Sylhet | 27.8 | 22.2 | 37 | 39 |
| Dinajpur | 29.5 | 15.8 | 41 | 28 |
| Rangpur | 29.2 | 14.8 | 45 | 37 |

Maximum and Minimum temperature recorded in important cities of this region on Monday were:

| Cities | Temperature in degree Celsius | |
|-----------|-------------------------------|------|
| | Max | Min |
| Kathmandu | 26.3 | 5.5 |
| Male | 31.6 | 24.1 |
| Islamabad | 22.5 | 5.5 |
| New Delhi | 27.5 | 11.4 |

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- East : Tongi Diversion Road.
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Advocate, Supreme Court of Bangladesh
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জেলা সার্টিফিকেট অফিসারের আদালত

নীলাম বিজ্ঞপ্তি

সার্টিফিকেট কেইস নং ১ বিএসআরএস/৯১

বাংলাদেশ শিল্প ষণ সংস্থা কাম ১। মেসার্স সোনিয়া ট্রাফোর্টিং লিঃ

- প্রধান কার্যালয়: মালিকগণ :
মতিঝিল: ২। জনাব বাসনা হুক
ঢাকা: পিতা - মোঃ ইউসুফ মিয়া
৩। জনাব মুফক্বু নাম্বার
হামী - বাসনা হুক
৪। জনাব রহিয়া বেগম
হামী - মুফক্বু আলী হান মজলিস
বাড়ি নং - সিবি ১২০
ব্যাকোর্স রোড, নাথালপাড়া,
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এতদ্বারা সর্বসাধারণের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাইতেছে যে, উপরোক্ত সার্টিফিকেট কেইসের সর্বমোট দাবী ৫৮,২০,১৮৭.০০ (১-৭-৯০ পর্যন্ত) টাকা মাত্র আদায়ের নিমিত্তে সার্টিফিকেট বাতক-এর দায় তফসিলে বর্ণিত সম্পত্তি আগামী ২১-৩-৯২ ইং তারিখ বেলা ১১ ঘটিকার সময় নিম্নস্বাক্ষরকারীর আদালতে প্রকাশ্য নিলামে বিক্রয় করা হইবে। নিলামে অংশগ্রহণ করিতে ইচ্ছুক ব্যক্তিগণ নিলামের বিস্তারিত শর্তাবলী অবলম্বিত হওয়ার জন্য নিম্নস্বাক্ষরকারীর অফিসে যোগাযোগ করিতে পারেন। কৃতকার্য নিলাম ডাকক্রমীকে আদালত কর্তৃক সম্পত্তির দখল বুঝাইয়া দেওয়া হইবে।

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