

Dhaka Day by Day

A US Drama Director All Praise for Local Talent

By Rashed Mahmud Titumir

"To act is to do and so it seems natural one would learn by doing," said American drama director JoAnn Johnson at a workshop, organised for young actors of Bangladesh.

The workshop, co-sponsor by the United State Information Service (USIS), Dhaka and Bangladesh Shilpkala Academy, comprises a total of 16 sessions each for four hours.

The workshop focuses on voice movement, body language and improvisation, which she defined as 'creative play.'

"The students are young 'up and coming' Bangladeshi actors, who have acting experience," said JoAnn.

JoAnn had a masters in speech and theatre from the University of Oregon.

However, she said, "most of what I knew, I have learned from observation and experience."

Greenish eyed JoAnn had the privilege of joining several festival on Shakespeare as an actor in the USA.

While asked why America had no "Great" playwright like Shakespeare, JoAnn contended, "We do have great playwrights — O'Neil, Williams and Wilden among them."

But she said "whether any of them (or Brecht, for that matter), will match Shakespeare 400 years from now remains to be seen."

Theatres in the USA are now undergoing severe crisis, because of the trickle-down economics.

"But more significant is the problem of the

artistic future. What is the function of live theatre in a nation so oriented toward TV, CD and computer?" The director posed the question and then herself offered answer to it.

"I think theatre is all the more essential to the cultural life of the community but it must find creative ways to reach the media-saturated public."

JoAnn thinks that new playwrights in America show great promise and she likes the explorations of new forms.

"A good trend, in my view is that many theatres are trying to include new plays in the repertory in order to encourage and support new playwrights," she asserted.

As a member of Artists Repertory Theatre, in its 'Arts America' town, she has visited many countries, including Egypt, Nepal, Pakistan, India, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh.

When asked to comment on Bangladesh's standard, she said "I have seen five plays here and do not think I should analyse except to say — the work is excellent and you need more and better equipped venues."

The American director was highly pleased with her students here saying they are "bright, creative and passionate in their love of their language and culture."

"Bangladesh has a bright theatre future, because these young artists are skilled inspired and absolutely dedicated," added JoAnn.

JoAnn Johnson

Three die in separate incidents

By DMCH Correspondent

Three people died and another was injured in the capital and the outskirts in separate incidents yesterday.

A 16-year-old rickshawpuller, Mohammad-al-Amin, was run over by a truck at Postgola early yesterday and later died at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).

A young girl, Nilufar Begum, was electrocuted in her Agamasi Lane home at 11:00 am. She died in the DMCH after two hours of admission.

Workshop on theatre ends

A month-long theatre workshop jointly organised by Dhaka Little Theatre and Goethe Institut-German Cultural Centre ends in Dhaka through certificate giving ceremony yesterday.

Poet Shamsur Rahman, who was present as chief guest in the concluding session, distributed certificates at German Cultural Centre auditorium at 6:00 pm. Prof Serajul Islam Chowdhury, chief adviser of Little Theatre, presided over the function.

Thirty-five members of the Dhaka Little Theatre participated in the workshop which began on August 8.

Later two dramas of Rabindranath Tagore "Bidab Abhishap" any "Khyatt Brambana" produced by the workshop were staged.

Businessman killed in road mishap

A Matin, businessman and proprietor of Trinex Complex at Tongi, was killed when he was run over by a speeding minibus at Amin Bazar under Savar police station at 11:00 am yesterday. He was 50, reports BSS.

The body was handed over to the relations of the deceased after post-mortem at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Son of late Ayub Ali, a retired deputy magistrate of Feni and eldest brother of Moazzem Hossain, Deputy Editor of The Daily Telegraph, Matin left behind his wife, two sons, one daughter and a host of relations.

His Namaz-e-Janaza will be held today at Chhapa Masjid at Azimpur after Zohar prayers.

Rabat donation

The Makkah-based Rabitat Al-Alam Al-Islami had donated Tk 158,563 to Madrasah Younusia Fatul Islam, Maduraghat, Raazan, Chittagong for its development.

Ali Ahmad Abdal Wahab, Charge d'Affaires, Saudi Embassy, handed over a cheque for the amount to Maulana Muhammad Shihabuddin, superintendent of the Madrasah, in the city on Monday last, says a press release.

Of the arrested, 15 were wanted criminals, one under arms act, another one for kidnapping, five for stealing and one for burglary.

Obituary

Rabea Hossain, mother of Dhaka University's Surya Sen Hall Provost Dr. Anwar Hossain died last week and her quirkhawari was held at her village home in Lalmonirhat on August 31. She was 79, reports BSS.

Mrs. Hossain, wife of late Dr. S. M. Hossain, left behind five sons, two daughters and scores of grandchildren to mourn her death.

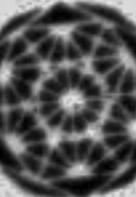
108 arrested on various charges

Police arrested 108 people from different parts of the city in the last 24 hours on various charges ending 6 pm (Sunday), reports BSS.

Of the arrested, 15 were wanted criminals, one under arms act, another one for kidnapping, five for stealing and one for burglary.

BCIC International (Short)

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Deputy Leader in Parliament Prof A Q M Badruddoza Chowdhury inaugurated an art exhibition of Anwar Arif at the National Museum in the city yesterday. — Star photo

Art show of Anwar Arif inaugurated

Deputy Leader of Parliament Prof A Q M Badruddoza Chowdhury yesterday called for portraying the hopes and aspirations of the people through art and culture, reports BSS.

Prof Chowdhury was inaugurating a week-long solo art exhibition of Anwar Arif Shaheen at the National Museum in Dhaka.

He urged the artists to project the positive side of the society along with the frustrations.



Anniversary of Dr Ibrahim's death today

By Staff Correspondent

The Diabetic Association of Bangladesh will mark the fourth death anniversary of late national professor Dr Mohammad Ibrahim by holding a discussion meeting followed by a milad mahfil at the Ibrahim Memorial Diabetic Centre this year with distinction. The reception was held Friday at the school premises, says a press release.

President Abdur Rahman Biswas will be present at the discussion meeting to be held at 4 pm while president of the association and former advisor of the care-taker government Almir M A Kabir will preside.

Wife of late Dr Ibrahim, Sakina Ibrahim, would be present on the occasion as special guest.

President Abdur Rahman Biswas will be present at the discussion meeting to be held at 4 pm while president of the association and former advisor of the care-taker government Almir M A Kabir will preside.

A milad mahfil will be held following the discussion while the association's officers' club will organise a Quran khataf at the ceremony.

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