

Dhaka Day by Day

Ekushey Observance

Street Theatre Loses its Appeal

by Fayza Haq

Last year the plays at Shaheed Minar during "Ekushey" street theatre festival drew large crowds. The people could be seen spilling over the steps, the lawns around and the tiled area in front. If you left your seat you could hardly expect to get it back quickly, you could lose your shoes or your bag in the crowd. But this year the audience turn-out was less encouraging. It was only around 5 pm that some regular audience and passers-by settled down on January 14 to see "Pretattar Sangram" by Dhaka City Theatre. There was no clapping or cheering that one witnessed in '93.

Faiz Ahmad who is one of the individuals in charge of the presentation blamed the poor

turn-out and the substandard production on the Ramadan. He commented, "The tradition has to go on and that is why we are having the plays, no matter how poorly produced they may be." Hasan Arif, who had arranged a series of engaging programmes last year, gave this excuse, "The actors are not in a mood during the month of fasting." Surely the actors had plenty of time to rehearse before the month of fasting began. Blaming the substandard performance on Ramadan appeared to be a lame excuse for mismanagement and carelessness.

Gaibandha Theatre, which had earlier presented "Commission", admitted that it had had next to nothing when it came to rehearsals and simply shouted out their lines. The actors and actresses had no makeup on and their presentation was less effective than any rehearsal. They explained, "We had come to Dhaka for the 'Boi Mela', and hearing about the plays to be enacted at the Shaheed Minar we decided to have a go."

Bangladesh Theatre which has presented "Bohoman", along with "Commission" was no better either. Its production was like a brief "geeti natya" about a black marketer who dealt in clothes. There had been a scuffle towards the end and apart from a little prancing on the stage there had been little action to talk about. The actors had moreover failed to throw their voices and do anything in way of acting to win the admiration of the viewers.

Dhaka City Theatre's "Pretattar Sangram" had souls of dead martyrs and tyrants as the subject. Once again one failed to find any action which one believes is an essential part of drama. According to the programme that had been

distributed days before, background music was supposed to be provided by Dipu Chowdhury and Mohammed Shahid. This was absent at the actual performance. So were Ratna, Ranu, Hena and Najma although their credits had been given. One also missed Shanti who was to act as Preetilata.

The characters, dressed in shrouds — which were roughly cut and sewn white tops — simply spoke their lines which recalled history and betrayal in history. Even the 'razakar' did not draw much enthusiasm. "We are blasé about the repeated theme of 'razakars', Gholam Azam etc.," commented one bystander. People were a bit weary of didactic themes.

Mirjafar (Liton) simply spoke out his lines as at a recital. Adam (Masud Rana) Khudi Ram (Mukul Ratan), Student (Zahid Muktar), Razakar (Farid Ali), and Sirajuddaulah (Maznu Khan Zahid) did not seem to fare any better. There was little to distinguish one character from another, except that each identified himself as a different personality and rambled on into history, which was already known by the audience. There was nothing revealing or new. The performers appeared to be on stage without much experience, deep dedication or inspiration.

The Mukti Jodha (Fazur Rahman Mantu) was an exception but his part too did not seem to make an outstanding impression. With his entrance there was an effort to kill the "Razakar". Since the characters were only

spirits, one wondered at the point of the personalities rushing to kill the evil spirit, which appeared to be the climax of the play. This brought in action in the form of a rough and tumble and little more. Yes, it did propound the playwright and director, Fazur Rahman Mantu's theory that plays on the occasion of "Ekushey" should depict the ordinary man's triumph over tyrants and that it was the duty of the average person to resist people like "razakars".

The play failed to amuse or bring tears. It was out to teach a lesson in a very obvious manner — and so remained overly pedantic and didactic. The audience, as already mentioned before, was weary of sermons and looked for something new and exciting which it could not find in a play, where characters simply came on the stage and spoke out lines like soliloquies for the major part of the performance.



Lacklustre performance.

— Star photo



The Dhaka City Envelopes Labour Union brought out a procession in the city yesterday. — Star photo

19 railway engines to be imported soon : JS told

Nineteen railway engines and a number of compartments will soon be imported to strengthen the railway fleet, Communications Minister Col (Rtd) Oli Ahmed informed parliament yesterday, reports UNB.

Replying to questions, the minister said all steps were being taken to salvage the railway from colossal losses which were brought down to less than Tk 100 crore during the last year from Tk 180 crore in 1991-92.

He urged the members to motivate the people to buy tickets while travelling by train.

Replying to another question, Oli Ahmed said 11,290 railway officials sought voluntary retirement under the "golden handshake" programme.

He said of them, 19 officers and 9,981 employees were relieved which cost the government over Tk 242.93 crore. This reduction in the number of employees will save railway Tk 41 crore annually.

The minister told another questioner that railway has earned more than Tk 52.78 crore during the second quarter of current fiscal year (October-December), which is Tk 1.20 crore more than that of the corresponding period of last year.

Replying to another question, the Communication Minister said the plan for Faridpur-Barisal rail line was subsequently cancelled as it was found financially non-viable.

Deputy Minister for Health Sirajul Haq in parliament yesterday denied anyone died in Rangamati in the recent past for using water from Kaptai lake.

Replying to a call notice, the Deputy Minister said the civil surgeon of Rangamati has been advised to examine the lake water and take all preventive measures against water-borne diseases.

He said more than 200 people were reported suffering

from diarrhoea and dysentery in the district since last month but none of them died.

Earlier, Dipankar Talukdar in his notice said a recent special report showed each milliliter water of Kaptai lake contained some 700 coliform bacteria making the water dangerous for use.

About six lakh people in 10 thanas of Rangamati district largely depended on the lake water. People were compelled to use the lake water in the absence of alternative source and were suffering from diseases. More than one hundred people have died, Dipankar added.

He urged the minister to reexamine the water of the lake in April-May when the water level comes down to the lowest.

31 blood banks set up

Deputy Minister for Health and Family Welfare Sirajul Islam yesterday informed the House that 31 blood banks had been set up by the present government at the old district headquarters for further improving medicare facilities outside the cities.

The Deputy Minister for Health was making a statement on a call attention notice of treasury bench member R J Hamida Khanam that the absence of blood bank in Narsinghdi had caused great threat in ensuring proper treatment facilities to over 16 lakh people of the area.

He assured the House that steps had been taken to establish blood banks at all district headquarters in phases.

Mostafiz greets Filali

Foreign Minister ASM Mostafizur Rahman yesterday thanked Moroccan State Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Abdelatif Filali for the latter's message of felicitation to him on the occasion of the holy Ramadan, reports UNB.



Professor Ajoy Roy of Physics Department, Dhaka University delivering the 10th Saidur Rahman Foundation Lecture series yesterday at Institute of Business Administration (IBA) auditorium. Vice-Chancellor Professor Emajuddin Ahmed and Pro-Vice-Chancellor Professor Wakil Ahmed, University of Dhaka are also seen in the picture.

Weather

Temperature may rise

By Staff Correspondent

Dry weather with a fair sky is likely to prevail over Bangladesh until 6 pm today (Thursday). The Met Office says, slight rise in night temperature is expected across the country.

The country's highest temperature of 31.8 degrees Celsius was recorded at Teknaf and the lowest of 11.0 degrees Celsius at Srimangal.

The sun sets today at 5:55 pm and rises tomorrow (Friday) at 6:30 am.

The maximum and the minimum temperatures and relative humidity recorded in the divisional towns yesterday are:

Towns	Temperature in degrees Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	9 am	6 pm
Dhaka	28.0	14.5	85	44
Chittagong	29.0	18.4	68	56
Rajshahi	27.6	12.4	96	61
Khulna	28.3	16.0	81	61
Barisal	28.2	11.5	80	68

WANTED

A Deputy General Manager (Administration) by a leading general insurance company.

Candidates should have a good post graduate university degree with appropriate qualification in personnel management. They should be very fluent in both spoken and written English and Bengali and be between 35 and 40 years of age. They must have held a responsible position relating to personnel and general administrative work for at least three years. Knowledge of and experience in company law matters will be treated as an additional qualification.

An attractive remuneration package together with a whole-time chauffeur driven car is on offer for the right candidate.

Applications with one copy of passport size photo and photocopies of certificates should be submitted latest by 28.02.94 to Box No. D-124, C/o The Daily Star, House No. 11, Road No. 3, Dhanmandi R.A, Dhaka-1205.

নিলাম বিজ্ঞপ্তি

মোকাম-সাব জঙ্গ অর্ধরণ আদালত, ফরিদপুর।

টাকা জারী নং ৪/৯৩

বাংলাদেশ কৃষি ব্যাংক পক্ষে :-

ব্যবস্থাপক।

-বনাম-

- এস এম আমিরুলকামান, পিতাঃ মৃতঃ কাঃ মোঃ আবদুল্লাহ
 - মোসাঃ কামরুন নাহার, জন্ম এস এম আমিরুলকামান, সাং-কমলাপুর, থানা-কোতয়ালী, জেলা-ফরিদপুর।
- ১। এতদ্বারা সর্বসাধারণের অবগতির জন্য জানান যাইতেছে যে, নিম্ন তপশীল বর্ণিত জমি/সম্পত্তি উপরোক্তিকৃত মোকদ্দমায় ডিক্রী দানের অনাদারী ২৪,৫৫,০৭০/০০ (চব্বিশ লক্ষ পঞ্চাশ হাজার সত্তর টাকা) মাত্র। টাকা ও জারীর বরচা আদায়ার্থে নিলাম বিক্রয় করা হইবে।
- ২। নিলামের তারিখ ৩/৪/৯৪ ইং তারিখে দুপুর ১২-০০ টায় ফরিদপুর জজ কোর্টে ধার্য হইয়াছে।
- ৩। ৩/৪/৯৪ ইং তারিখে নিলাম ডাক পৃথিত হইতে উক্ত মূল্যের ২৫% টাকা ঐ দিনের মধ্যে এবং অবশিষ্ট টাকা নিলাম হওয়ার ১৫ দিনের মধ্যে পরিশোধ করিতে হইবে। অন্যথায় নিলাম ডাক বাতিল বলিয়া গণ্য হইবে।
- ৪। উপরোক্ত নিলাম বিক্রয় প্রচলিত ও প্রযোজ্য আইনের নিয়মাবলী সাপেক্ষে।
- ৫। আদালত ডাক অনুমোদন করিবেন। আদালত যথার্থ বিবেচনায় ডাক গ্রহণ বা বাতিল করিতে পারিবেন।

-তপশীল-

জেলা-ফরিদপুর, থানা-কোতয়ালী, মৌজা-কমলাপুর	SA ১২৩২/২	খতিয়ানে	২৭৩১	দাগে	জমি	০.০৬ শঃ
	SA ১২৩২/৩	"	২৭৩১	"	"	০.০৭ শঃ
	এক					০.১৩ শঃ

২। উক্ত সম্পত্তির উপর নির্মিত দীতলা আবাসিক ইমারত।

আদালতের আদেশক্রমে

স্বাক্ষরকারী

সাব জঙ্গ অর্ধরণ

আদালত, ফরিদপুর

D-126

Tk 39cr development plan

RAJSHAHI, Feb 16: A revolving fund amounting to Tk 39 crore will be used in a project to ameliorate the socio-economic condition of the landless people, reports BSS.

Under the project named "thana resource development and employment project", the amount will be disbursed as loan among the landless people in 25 thanas of the country by June 1995. The landless people will be assisted to run

their self-employment project like poultry and cattle farming, pisciculture, rice husking, blacksmith and small business.

The youth development department is implementing the project.

Five thanas of Rajshahi division have been included under the project. The thanas are Tanore of Rajshahi district, Dhamurhat of Naogaon, Pirganj of Thakurgaon, Jaldhaka of Nilphamary and Gabtoly.

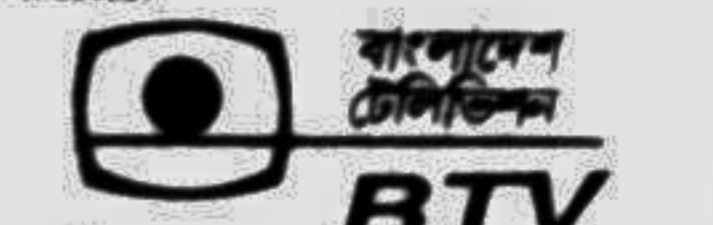
Of the Tk 4.5 crore to be distributed in the said thanas during the current financial year Tk one crore have already been disbursed.

About 3,000 people of each thana are getting the loan facilities on the basis of weekly installment repayment.

Saidur Rahman Foundation lecture held

The 10th lecture series of Saidur Rahman Foundation, Dhaka University was held yesterday at the IBA auditorium. Professor Emajuddin Ahmed, Vice-Chancellor of the university attended the lecture as chief guest and formally inaugurated the lecture series while the chairman of the foundation's Trustee Board Pro-Vice-Chancellor Professor Wakil Ahmed was in the chair. Professor Ajoy Roy of Physics Department presented the key-note paper entitled "Science and Philosophy: in search of non-livings", says a DU press release.

Professor Emajuddin Ahmed in his inaugural speech said the students of the university are now fully engaged in their studies though unrest has been prevailing in and around the campus. He also noted with satisfaction that his colleagues have engaged themselves in many new research works.



Thursday

4:30	Opening announcement. Al-Quran
	Programme summary
4:45	Esho Gan Shikhi
5:10	News in Bangla
5:25	Jiboner Alo
6:10	Avinandan
6:55	Nazrul Songs
7:20	Amar Ekushey
8:00	News in Bangla
8:40	Drama of the week: Shesh Kothay?
10:00	News in English
10:30	Film show: Joe Wilson
11:15	Khabar/The News
11:25	Tomorrow's programme

Standard Chartered SITUATION VACANT

Standard Chartered Bank is seeking qualified candidates to fill the following positions immediately in its Dhaka Office:

Manager, Information Technology

To supervise the operations of IBM 36 and various LAN based applications operating in two sites.

Candidates should possess a sound knowledge of Novell-Ethernet LAN and WAN technology, preferably gained in a financial environment and through having independently managed an IT installation.

Strong inter-personal skills are required in order to motivate professionally qualified subordinate staff and to build positive relationships with system users.

Project management experience is a prerequisite as is the ability to make lucid oral and written presentation in English.

A post graduate degree in management is preferred.

System Operator

To perform the daily operation of the system 36 and LAN server and to manage the Information Technology help desk. Candidates should possess a sound knowledge of DOS and be familiar with Lotus, Wordperfect, Database packages. A degree in a business discipline is preferred and fluency in written and spoken English essential.

The prospective candidate for the above position may apply with detail C.V. and one copy of recent photograph, and contact telephone number by March 3, 1994, to the Head of Human Resources, Standard Chartered Bank; Alico Building -1/floor; 18-20 Motijheel Commercial Area, Dhaka - 1000.

Application should be hand delivered to avoid postal delay.

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(তখন নং ৬, কক্ষ নং ১৭০৬)
বাংলাদেশ সচিবালয়, ঢাকা।

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G-270