

Dhaka Day by Day Feeling a Dance

by Nico den Tuinder

Recently, I greatly enjoyed the performance of Shukla Sarkar and her dance troupe of the Dhruvad Arts Centre. That is to say, those parts that I could see and hear. The audience tried everything it could to prevent me from having a marvellous evening at the auditorium of the National Museum.

And that was only the final hurdle on a long road to haute culture. I once lived in London for nearly one and a half years. There you have "Time Out", a weekly magazine which announces all the films, music performances, plays, operas, musicals, etc. You can plan your cultural programme well in advance, and adjust your weekly time schedule accordingly. Here in Dhaka, it is virtually impossible to know what is going on. I am a member of the Alliance Française, but do not receive its monthly programme. Each month I have to go there to pick it up. The same applies to the Goethe Institut. A weekly calendar in the newspaper with all events would be a great benefit to me, and all those institutes catering for Dhaka's cultural life.

The Bengalis have a knack for fasting right until the middle of the night, and the timings of cultural events are adjusted to that. So people like me, who are used to having their dinner at a time, when the rest of Bangladesh is starting to consider their afternoon tea, have to suffer. Sometimes performances even start at 6 O'clock. I then have to eat at 5 pm!

How does one obtain a ticket? The performance was duly announced in the newspaper, but yours sincerely did not see any ticket booth whatsoever. Like a poor *bakshishwallah*, I had to beg for a ticket, anxiously waiting for some ten minutes for entering. Thanks to the hospi-

ality of the organisers, and the Tk 250 in my wallet, I was granted permission to see more of Dhaka than the grubby buildings, dirty streets and overdecorated cars.

Pfff, I sighed, when I entered the auditorium. My troubles are over. And now for the dance and music. I thought, Well, there was the dance, there was the music, and there was the Dhaka audience. The visual and musical balance was in favour of the latter. Children

I like them, especially when they are asleep — but not during a cultural performance. Why can't parents leave these noisy little goons at home? Photographers. Please let the professional ones be seated in the front row of seats, and allow them one flash each. Smash go the cameras of the amateurs. Next, late-comers arrive. A large family coming in, forcing the audience to get up, of course, creates its own visual spectacle, but I am sure that is not the idea behind organising a dance performance.

Earthquakes. In the Science Museum of London, you can stand on a shaking platform and feel what an earthquake is all about. In the 1970s, an era full of films of disasters "Towering Inferno" and "Airport," I watched Earthquake.

Surrounded by a special musical system to generate low-frequency sound waves imitating earthquakes, I am sure, my neighbour at the auditorium relished both the platform and the film. The dancer frequently shook her right leg, sending waves of vibration through all the seats, and so literally made me feel that an earthquake had come around me.

I think events like this should be renamed. The performance by Shukla Sarkar and her dance troupe had the audience mesmerised.



The performance of Shukla Sarkar at the National Museum Auditorium. — Star photo



Visitors at the painting exhibition of Nazrul Islam at the La Galerie in the city Saturday. — Star photo

'BNP not afraid of any movement'

BNP standing committee member and Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Dr Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain yesterday said the BNP government would not leave power at any undue request or in face of pressure from any quarter, reports BSS.

"The BNP government has come to power with the people's mandate through a fair and impartial election and not at the mercy of anybody," he said.

The minister was addressing as the chief guest the installation ceremony '94 of Dhaka City Jatiyabadi Chhatradal (JCD) at the Shilpakala Academy auditorium in the city.

Dr Mosharraf Hossain said BNP was not afraid of any movement and would not bow down to any pressure of illegal demands.

With the City Chhatradal President Nasiruddin Ahmed Pintu in the chair, the function was also addressed, among others, by DUCSU VP Amanullah Aman MP, Barkatullah Bhulu MP, Sayed Mohammad Mohsin MP, President of Central Chhatradal Fazlul Hoq Milon, General Secretary and DUCSU AGS Nazimuddin Alam, JASAS President Zahid Hossain Chhunu and central leaders of Chhatradal Moniruzzaman Monir, Kamruzzaman Ratan, Abul Khair Bhuiyan.

ABM Mosharraf Hossain and General Secretary of City Chhatradal Saiful Islam Nirab.

"The BNP government always welcomes any democratic move and constructive suggestion for the betterment of the people," he said.

Referring to the Awami League demand for scrapping the Indemnity Act, Dr Mosharraf Hossain said it was not the BNP but the Awami League leaders headed by Khandaker Moshataq Ahmed who passed the indemnity bill. He also said the Awami League government had rehabilitated the *rajakers* and *al-badrs* in the country through announcing general amnesty. "Now it is not democratic and also not logical to demand for the repeal of the indemnity Act and the trial of *rajakers* and *al-badrs* when BNP is in power after about two decades," he observed.

Referring to Oppositions' demand for caretaker government, the minister said it could not be an alternative to a democratic government as it had no constitutional basis. "It is not the caretaker government but only the Election Commission which can give guarantee to free and impartial election in the country," he reiterated adding, "We should all come to a consensus to make the Election Commission more powerful for sustaining democracy in the country."

Malaysian deputy minister calls on President

There is bright prospect for cooperation between Bangladesh and Malaysia in drug detection, treatment and rehabilitation of addicts and training of police personnel, President Abdur Rahman Biswas told a Malaysian delegation, reports UNB.

The delegation, led by Dato Meah Junid Bin Megat Ayob, Deputy Minister of Home Affairs, called on the President at Bangabhaban yesterday.

"We can also be benefited out of each other's experiences in education, rural development, health and family planning," he said exchanging views with the Malaysian deputy minister.

President Biswas said the Bangladeshi workers employed in Malaysia were hard-working, sincere and law-abiding and expressed the hope that more Bangladeshis would be recruited in Malaysia in future.

He hoped that the visit would further strengthen the bond of friendship between the two countries. The visiting minister thanked the President for receiving him and members of his delegation. He conveyed greetings of the King and the Prime Minister of Malaysia to President Biswas. Reciprocating, President Biswas also conveyed his warm greetings to the King and the Prime Minister of Malaysia.

67 bodies get Youth Welfare Fund aid

The dignity of labour has to be established in society to attain the desired goal of self-employment of the country's unemployed youth, Agriculture and Water Resources Minister Major General (ret'd) M Majidul Huq said in the city yesterday, reports BSS.

Addressing a function to mark the distribution of cheques between Taka five thousand and Tk 30 thousand to 67 non-government youth organisations from Youth Welfare Fund at the Directorate of Youth Development, the minister said, "We have to free ourselves from feeling shy to do our own work".

Presided over by Secretary, Ministry of Youth and Sports M Azizul Huq, the function was also addressed by State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadek Hossain, Director General, Directorate of Youth Development Fazlul Huq and Rafiqul Islam Sarkar, a member of Youth Welfare Fund.

Citing an example of self-employment in India, Majidul Huq said degree certificates are used there as collateral for bank loans. He said when neighbouring countries can introduce such programmes, there is no reason for us to lag behind.

He appreciated the Ministry of Youth and Sports for its recently introduced realistic

programmes to create employment opportunities for the youth through various training programmes.

Expressing concern over prevailing unemployment problem, Sadek Hossain said, "We welcome initiatives of non-government organisations to create self-employment opportunities as the government alone cannot solve the problem."

Azizul Huq said, of the trained youth, 60 per cent were self-employed.

Science team leaves for Delhi today

A three-member Bangladesh official science and technology delegation leaves the city today for New Delhi, reports BSS.

The delegation will have talks with Indian officials to review and renew the existing science and technology cooperation working programme between Bangladesh Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (BCSIR) and the Indian Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR).

The Bangladesh delegation is scheduled to return home on October 2.

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Weather

Dry weather likely

The weather is likely to remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky over the country during the next 24 hours till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

The Met office say day temperature may remain unchanged across the country.

No appreciable change in day temperature is expected in the outlook for the next two days.

The country's highest temperature, 34.8 degree Celsius, was recorded at Jessore and the lowest, 22.6 degrees at Rajshahi.

The sun sets today at 5.51 pm and rises tomorrow at 5.49 am.

Maximum and minimum temperatures and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday are:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius	Humidity in percentage
	Max	Min
Dhaka	33.8	27.0
Chittagong	33.8	25.1
Rajshahi	33.2	22.6
Khulna	34.0	26.4
Mymensingh	32.0	24.6
Cox's Bazar	33.6	25.4
Faridpur	31.3	24.4
	Morning	Evening
	63	60
	73	69
	66	66
	74	69
	73	73
	70	68
	67	56

Dhaka, Delhi discuss dev of tourism

Bangladesh and India Saturday discussed in New Delhi ways and means for development of tourism in their respective countries, according to a message received here, reports BSS.

Bangladesh Minister of State for Civil Aviation and Tourism, Abdul Mannan, and the Indian Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism, Gholam Nabi Azad, led their respective sides in official talks on bilateral development of tourism aimed at benefitting both the countries.

Bangladesh side at the talks included High Commissioner in New Delhi, Farooq Sobhan, and Joint Secretary, Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism, Sheikh Akram Ali.

Bangladesh suggested joint collaboration for the development of tourism in Bangladesh and suggested India with its vast experience and resources should come forward to help Bangladesh in this sector.

Workshop on polythene pollution

Participants at a workshop held in the city yesterday stressed the need for creating awareness among the people against the use of polythene shopping bags, reports BSS.

The day-long workshop on 'Environmental Management Towards Polythene and Plastic Pollution' was jointly organised by the Environment and Social Development Organisation (ESDO) and the Centre for Sustainable Development (CSD).

Ken Aspinall, Australian High Commissioner to Bangladesh, inaugurated the workshop as chief guest.

A survey conducted by ESDO recently revealed that about 15 lakh families in the capital throw away 45 lakh polythene bags every day. Of the total, only ten per cent are disposed of at fixed places like dustbins while the rest are thrown into drains, manholes, canals and open places.

Memorial meeting

CHITTAGONG, Sept 25: Speakers at a memorial meeting today paid tributes to founder-editor of *Dainik Azadi* Abdul Khaleque Engineer saying his contributions towards development of journalism in the port city would be remembered for all time, reports BSS.

The meeting held at the Azadi Auditorium under the auspices of Ottijya Sanarakhan Parishad in observance of his 32nd death anniversary was presided over by Chowdhury Zahurul Huq, convener of the Parishad.



Monday

- 4:30 Opening session
- 4:40 Bible recitation
- 4:45 Cartoon film: Captain Planet and the Planetoids
- 5:10 News in Bangla
- 5:25 Sports Programme: Football
- 6:30 Programme on Bangla language: Moder Garob Moder Asha
- 7:00 Open University
- 7:25 Nazrul Songs
- 8:00 News in Bangla
- 8:30 Family planning programme: Janomat
- 9:00 Folk songs: Bara Nadir Banke
- 10:00 News in English
- 10:30 Comedy series: Murphy Brown
- 11:00 Musical programme: Disco Rally
- 11:30 Khabar/The News



The Sarah Paribahan Sramik Federation organised a rally in front of the Jatiya Press Club yesterday. — Star photo

CORRIGENDUM

TO
INTERNATIONAL NOTIFICATION
FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION OF
PRE-SHIPMENT INSPECTION
AGENTS/ AGENCIES

Published in the Daily Star
on 17 July 1994

A. Deadlines for selling of application form and of receiving of applications for Pre-qualification of Pre-shipment Inspection Agents/ Agencies are hereby extended as following:

Application Form Sale Date	Application Receiving
To	Date
02 October, 1994	03 October, 1994
	Upto 11:00 Hours

(Sale will be on and during working days and office hours only; time mentioned will be Bangladesh Standard Time as signalled over Radio Bangladesh.)

B. All other terms & conditions will remain unchanged.

(Md. Rezaul Hoque Bhuiyan)
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