

Dhaka Day by Day

Five Clever Crazy Clowns

by Miranda

The recent performance of "Embarquez-les" at the gymnasium of the American International School brought in a relaxed evening of smiles and laughter at the zany goings-on of five female French clowns. Both children and adults succumbed to the lure of subtle artistry of the performers' play with sound and movement. In France the audience is very polite; they applaud even if they don't like the show. This is not good for us. In the East, such as in the Subcontinent, the onlookers laugh, talk and leave when they like. We really appreciate this spontaneous reaction," said Celine Chateleine, one of the five performers, with her lively, innocent face and her spontaneous and infectious laughter, sitting in the covered veranda of the residence of Xavier Bares, during a reception for the members of "Embarquez-les".

Apart from France, Belgium, Switzerland and the Subcontinent they have been to the Philippines, Indonesia, Vietnam, Malaysia and Singapore, so the artistes have been exposed to a good measure of various tastes and trends.

There was no single story in the performance but a succession of display of emotions like flirtation, greed, jealousy, tenderness and the joy of sharing in a group. The movement centred around props like an old suitcase, a chair, a newspaper, an atomizer, a wine bottle and plastic globes that could be inflated. The wistful but funny actresses with protruding, round, red noses, large painted eyes, weird off-white costumes, one sporting an outsized bra and can-can and another a huge belly and strange child-like hair styles, kept mute most often but now and then broke into mutterings, strains of songs and steps of dances. They also displayed subtle balances of limb joints and other parts of the body. Reflectors played visual tricks of limb movements. Soft background sounds helped to add interest to the clever and absurd movements of the five clowns: Celine Chateleine, Catherine Cretin, Sylvie Didier, Corinne Lordier and Christine Wurm.

"We play with basic human relations and feelings. The situations are not essentially comic such as the human desire to be posses

sive. It is the way the feelings are presented that creates the humour.

"We are originally not clowns but full-fledged actresses who formed a group around Vincent Rouche. We went into this special form of performance as we felt that it expressed a lot in a few witty gestures. We believed that in this way there is good interaction with the public. We have studied drama at Besancon, Centre Rencontres, and for this show we rehearsed two months. By the time 'Embarquez-les' reached Dhaka we had performed 200 times," said Celine and Catherine.

"In the performance we show how different people react differently to the same thing. All around the world people are searching for a way of life. The programme is a study of basic human behaviour. In France we have acting

with movements and no sound and actors who talk but do not move. I tried to bring the actors to the point where the impulse of moving is the same as speaking," said director Vincent Rouche.

"It would have been nice if there had been more Bangladeshis in the audience rather than Europeans. We would like to have more interactions

with the local people. I was pleased when some theatre people in Dhaka asked me if I could have a workshop with them some time in the future. It is interesting how cultural groups such as in Manila, take great pride in their tradition. We would dearly like to come back to Bangladesh again. This trip was backed by Association Francaise D'Action Artistique and Alliance Francaise," Vincent added.

Vincent has been working with drama since '78. He has worked with a Guatemala expert, Mario Gonzales, for 12 years. He taught him clowning and mask work. He also searched through many kinds of movement such as yoga and voice work. Besides this, he worked on voice and movement with other European and US masters of theatre.

Rouche and his five clowns of "Embarquez-les" won the "Coup de Pouce du Jury" in the Avignon Off festival of 1993, and the "Prix of the Rene Prale Foundation, Theatre 40" in Brussels in 1994.



A spectacular number of the dance-drama *Nataraj*, held at the Guide House auditorium in the city yesterday. The drama was performed as part of the ongoing drama week, organised by the Theatre — a leading drama troupe, to mark the 1000th show of its production. — Star photo

Weather

Dry spell to continue

Dry weather is likely to continue across the country with temporary partly cloudy sky over the coastal regions during the next 12 hours till 6 pm today. UNB reports quoting Met office sources.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country during the period, it added.

Yesterday's maximum temperature in Dhaka was 38 degrees Celsius and minimum 21 degrees while country's highest temperature was recorded 38 degrees in Dhaka and Jessore and the lowest 16.1 degrees in Rangpur.

Percentage of humidity in Dhaka was 60 in the morning and 30 in the evening.

JS body on Public Accounts meets

A meeting of the parliamentary standing committee on Public Accounts was held yesterday at the Sangsad Bhaban with its chief L K Siddiqui in the chair, reports BSS.

The meeting discussed in details over the audit objections of the Comptroller and Auditor General of Bangladesh on 1984-85 accounts of Bajitpur, Gouripur, Bhairab and Jamalpur municipalities.

Nat'l Jatra Festival begins

By Staff Correspondent

A lively production of 'Nawab Shiraj-ud-Dowillah' kicked off the National Jatra Festival 1994-95 at the Shilpakala Academy in the city yesterday evening.

"Jatra", or traditional folk theatre, is part of our 1000-year-old cultural heritage, and we must do everything to preserve this fast-declining form of popular entertainment," Prof Jahar Ara Begum, State Minister for Cultural Affairs said this while inaugurating the festival.

Some fifteen groups from across the country will be taking part in the 17-day long festival, organised by the Shilpakala Academy with technical assistance from the Ford Foundation.

Present at the opening ceremony, among others, were Md Mukhlesur Rahman, Secretary Ministry of Cultural Affairs, Mobarak Hossain Khan, Director General Shilpakala Academy, Prof Salauddin Ahmed, cultural adviser, Ford Foundation and SM Mohsin, Director of Drama, Shilpakala.

Today's Jatra: 'Nawab Shiraj-ud-Dowillah', performed by Madhumita Theatre Group, Manikganj.

Pak HC meets Mannan

High Commissioner of Pakistan to Bangladesh Karam Elahi yesterday called on State Minister for Textiles Abdul Mannan at his office, reports BSS.

They discussed matters of mutual interest and bilateral relations, particularly matters relating to import of raw cotton from Pakistan for the textile mills of Bangladesh both in public and private sector. The Pakistani envoy was apprised of different complexity regarding the import of raw cotton. He assured to look into the matter.

One stabbed to death in city

By DMCH Correspondent

A rickshawpuller was murdered and another four persons were injured in separate incidents in the city Monday.

The deceased, Mohammad Ansar, aged about 30, was injured when a group of unidentified youths stabbed him at Gabtoli on Saturday. He received severe stab injuries in his chest and back, relatives said.

At least three persons were injured when local bullies hurled crackers at a workshop at Lalbagh yesterday morning.

Helal, 20, Alam, 20, and Zulhash, 18, were admitted to the DMCH.

In another incident, one Mohammad Shamsul Haque received bullet injuries in his leg when a group of miscreants shot at him at Shial Bari under Mirpur police station yesterday morning. He was admitted to the DMCH.

কবরির জানায়ে মিলি নাটকের যজ্ঞ



Today's plays

Following plays will be performed today at the Shilpakala Academy auditorium as part of the eight-day National Children Theatre Week, according to a press release. 5:00 Pm: Drama - *Ha Ja Ba Ra La*: Troupe - Ghare Birae, Dhaka. 6:30 pm: Drama - *Swadhinater Ahazari*. Troupe - Tongi Shishu Kishore Natya Swarnpradya, Tongi. 8:00 pm: Drama - *Anniya Rakama Avijan*. Troupe - Kishore Theatre, Dhaka. Besides, rehearsals of the groups - Taranga Lalitkala Kendra, Dhaka; Kendriya Kachi Kancher Meia, Dhaka; Lok Natya Dal's Children's Theatre Troupe will be held at the Curzon Hall cafeteria, German Cultural Centre, Russian Cultural Centre respectively from 2:30 pm to 4:30 pm.

Rover moot from Mar 25

The 14th Rover Moot of Regional Rover Scouts will be held on March 25-30 at the National Scouts Training Centre at Mouchak in Gazipur, reports UNB.

President Abdur Rahman Biswas, who is also the Chief of Scouts, is expected to inaugurate the moot with Vice-Chancellor of National University Prof Abdul Bari in the chair.

The six-day programme includes grand display, camping, social and development-oriented work, blood donation, youth forum and re-union.

Exhibition concludes

The week-long first Bangladesh single country exhibition held in Yangon from March 15 concluded today, according to a message received in the city, reports BSS.

Myanmar Brigadier (ret'd) Chodhury Khalequzzaman hosted a reception marking the ending of the exhibition.

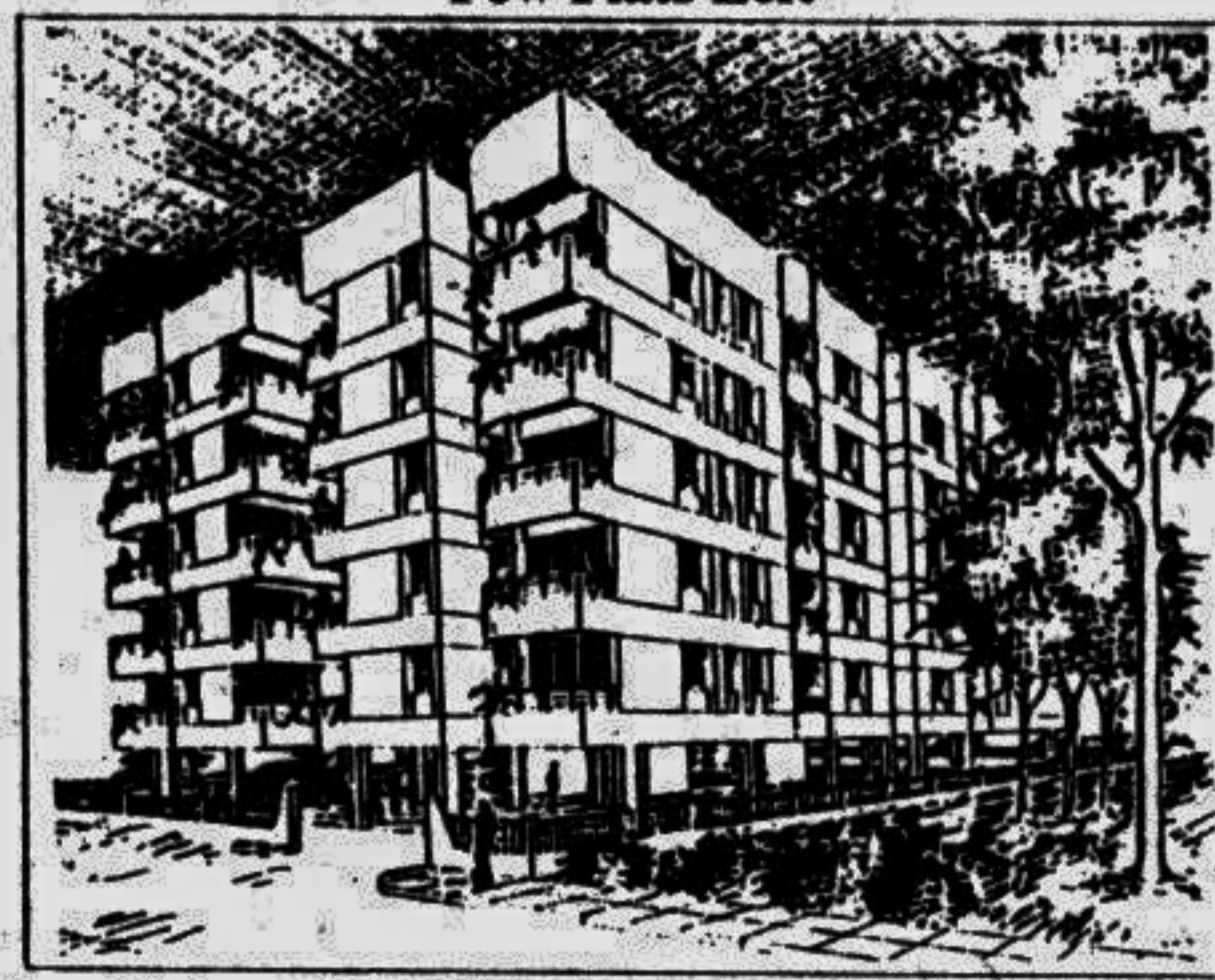
Saudi envoy, hosts dinner

Abdullah Oma Barry, Saudi Arabian Ambassador to Bangladesh, hosted a dinner at his residence Monday in honour of Mir Mohammad Nasiruddin, Bangladesh Ambassador-designate to Saudi Arabia, says a press release.

The dinner was attended by a number of ministers, diplomats and senior officials.

2650 s/ft Luxury Apartments

By the side of 84' wide only dual Carriage Road At Dhanmondi Residential Area Few Flats Left



For Allotment Contact: **Happy Homes Ltd.** SITE House # 33 Raod # 10(A) Dhanmondi R/A Dhaka. Phone: 405557, 412268

North South University



One Week Intensive Course in Software Engineering For Professional Programmers

29th April to 4th May, 1995

The course will involve a total of 36 hours of instruction. All handouts and other instructional materials will be provided.

For details please contact: Short Term Course Convener, Department of Computer Science, North South University, 12 Kemal Ataturk Avenue, Banani, Dhaka-1213 Tel: 881495, FAX: 885369, 666447. Fax: 883030

Do you wish to communicate effectively in English?

CLE offers courses on Communicative English & Business English

ADMISSION GOING ON

Classes begin from April 2, 1995 CENTRE FOR LEARNING ENGLISH (CLE) 222, New Elephant Road, Dhaka. Phone: 502421, 325391



GSA TRAVELTIME LTD. DHAKA SEEKS FOR

TICKETING & RESERVATION OFFICER

WHO IS
*** EXTREMELY FLUENT IN ENGLISH
*** HAS KNOWLEDGE IN AIRLINE INDUSTRY/FARES/TICKETING
*** DYNAMIC AND FRIENDLY CHARACTER
*** SERVICE MINDED

THOSE WHO ARE SURE THAT THEY HAVE THESE CAPABILITIES, MAY RESPOND ALONG WITH THEIR CURRICULUM VITAE AND PHOTOGRAPH TO THE FOLLOWING ADDRESS BEFORE 30 MARCH 1995.

MANAGING DIRECTOR GSA TRAVELTIME LTD. JAHANGIR TOWER 10 KARWAN BAZAR DHAKA-1215 BANGLADESH

THE RELIABLE AIRLINE

OVERSEAS MERCHANDISE INSPECTION CO. LTD.

TOKYO, JAPAN

is an affiliate of International Federation of Inspection Agencies and Pre-shipment Inspection Agency approved by N.B.R. Government of Bangladesh

For all your pre shipment inspection requirement under S.R.O. No. 316 of National Board of Revenue &

For prompt, efficient & courteous service kindly contact

OMIC LIAISON OFFICE

"Pacific Centre" 14, Mohakhali C/A, 11th Floor, Dhaka-1212 Tel: 888025, 889458, Fax: 880-2-886343

OS/2 WARP Fest/95

Come & See WARP Live in action!

March 27, 1995 at 9:30 - 11:00AM

March 28, 1995 at 2:30 - 4:00PM

at Sonargaon Hotel Ballroom

Introducing OS/2 Warp

Dhaka OS/2 Warp Launch



The new 32-bit, multitasking, multimedia, Internet-accessed crash protected, Windows-friendly, easy-to-install, **totally amazing** way to run your computer



For More Information, Please Contact:

IBM World Trade Corporation, Pacific Center (6th Floor), 14 Mohakhali, Dhaka - 1212 Telephone - 889783/86 Fax: 880-2-889788

中国远洋运输公司 CHINA OCEAN SHIPPING COMPANY

NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES/SHIPPERS

M. V. JIANG CHENG IMP. ROT NO. 26695 WILL TAKE BERTH CHITTAGONG PORT ON OR ABOUT 22ND MARCH, '95 TO DISCHARGE HER IMPORT CARGO FROM PRC PORT SHANGHAI.

CONSIGNEES ARE REQUESTED TO TAKE DELIVERY OF GOODS IMMEDIATELY AFTER DISCHARGE. SURVEY APPLICATION MUST BE PRESENTED TO US WITHIN 3 DAYS OF DISCHARGE. NO CLAIM WILL BE ENTERTAINED NOR ANY LIABILITIES ACCEPTED IN RESPECT OF DAMAGE TO, AND OR SHORT LANDINGS OF CONSIGNMENTS WHICH HAVE BEEN REMOVED FROM STORAGE SHED. IN EVENT OF CONSIGNEES TAKING DIRECT DELIVERY SURVEY TO BE HELD AT SHIP'S SIDE ONLY.

CONSIGNMENTS NOT CLEARED WITHIN 45 DAYS FROM THE DATE OF UNLOADING EX THE SHIP ARE LIABLE TO BE CONFISCATED AND AUCTIONED AS PER SEC. 167(8) AND SEC. 82 RESPECTIVELY OF THE CUSTOMS ACT 1969 WITHOUT ANY FURTHER NOTICE/REFERENCE.

GENERAL AGENTS:



Bangladesh Shipping Lines Ltd.

(A BCS COMPANY)

DHAKA 19F Saria Kalyan Bhaban 195 Mirshatam Com. Area Tel: 864546, 864547 Tel: 832105 BSL/HP BJ, 822566 HRC BJ Tel: 880-2-853734, 866446

CHITTAGONG G/F Jiban Bina Bhaban 1009 St. Mujib Rd., Agrabad Tel: 504313, 522123, 506783 Tel: 833027 BSL/HP BJ, 833128 HRC BJ Tel: 880-31-710625

KHULNA 1 Missara Road (PTI Moor) Tel: 22255, 25123 Tel: 833002 HRC BJ Tel: 880-41-21175