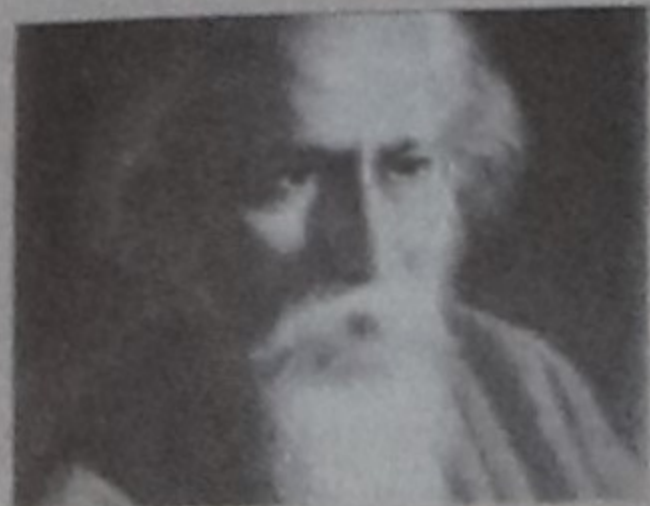


WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

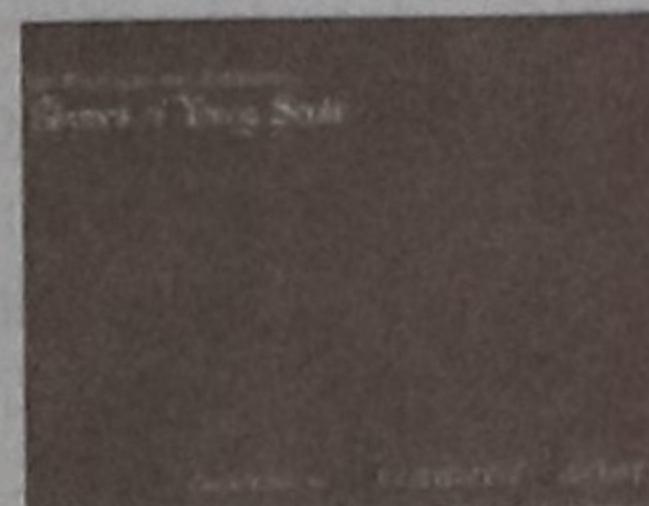
Musical Soiree
Title: Jharichhey
Srabono Dhara
Organiser: Nandan
Venue: Chhayanaut,
Dhanmondi
Date: July 24
Time: 7:15pm



Photography Exhibition
Title: Survivors
Artist: GMB Akash
Organiser: Alliance
Francaise of Dhaka
Venue: Alliance Francaise
of Dhaka, 26, Mirpur Road,
Dhanmondi
Date: August 14-27



Photography Exhibition
Title: Rhymes of Young
Souls
Organiser: Dreamers'
Factory
Venue: Drik Gallery, H 58,
Rd 15A (new), Dhanmondi
Date: July 17-21
Time: 3-8pm



Theatre
Play: Dhaboman
Troupe: Dhaka
Theatre
Venue: National
Theatre Hall,
Shilpakala Academy
Date: July 22
Time: 7:30pm



10th National Theatre Camp for Children and Adolescents in full swing

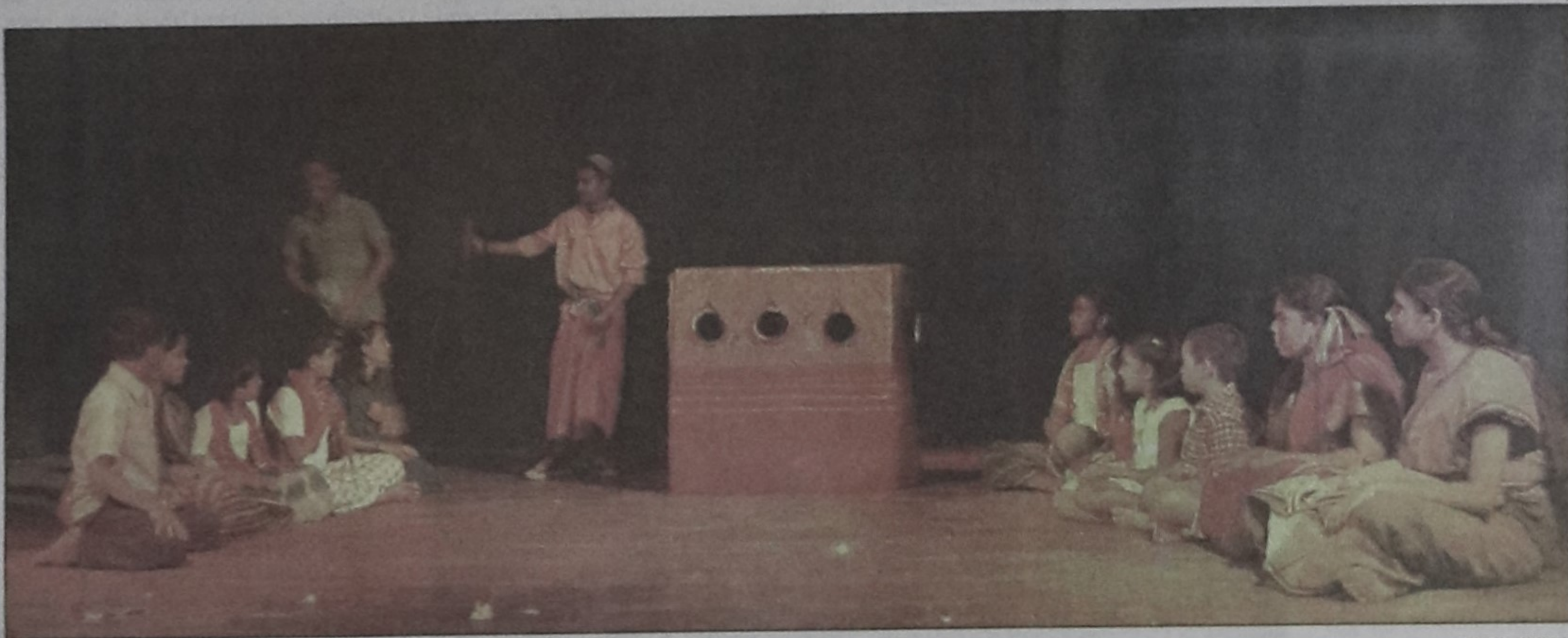


PHOTO: MUMIT M

Young actors of Nirman Theatre, Dhaka in a scene from "Bioscope."

MAINUL HASSAN

The ongoing 10th National Theatre Camp for Children and Adolescents by Peoples Theatre Association (PTA) is in full swing. The event has been organised in association with Rakhal and is supported by Artaction and SIDA.

"The festival aims at encouraging children's theatre activities," said convenor of the event and president of PTA, Liaquat Ali Lucky.

"Some of the most important developments happen during childhood. Surveys show that through theatre a child's verbal, visual, musical, logical and aesthetic senses can be developed in a more positive way," said Lucky.

"Across the country we have a total of 210 theatre troupes, associated with PTA,

working with children," he added.

A total of 130 troupes are taking part at the ongoing theatre camp at Central Public Library, Shahbagh, in the city, starting from July 17.

Along with the children's theatre troupes, 20 regular troupes are also taking part at the camp. The latter will stage plays on July 24 and 25, under the youth theatre camp programme.

Indigenous theatre troupes representing the Santal (Dinajpur and Shetabganj), Orao (Dinajpur), Bonua (Gazipur) and other communities are taking part at the camp. The troupes will stage plays narrating their stories.

"We have also invited several troupes working with underprivileged children as well," added Lucky.

Theatre troupes comprising underprivileged children from Tejgaon Rail Station, Mohammadpur Geneva Camp, Mirpur Bihari Camp, Mirpur Beribadh area will stage plays at the festival.

Two theatre troupes formed of differently-abled individuals are also expected to stage plays at the festival.

On July 19 (third day of the festival), seven plays "Shanghar" by Diamond Club, Jessore; "Amar Bangladesh" by Rahman Smriti Theatre, Panchagarh; "Amader Kotha" by Geneva Camp Shishu-Kishore Theatre, Dhaka; "Protikir Kanna" by Oniyomito Shahitya O Shangskritik Gosthi, Munshiganj; "Desh Pardesh" by Banua Shishu-Kishore Theatre, Gazipur; "Bioscope" by Nirman Theatre, Dhaka and "Ora

Chhilo Baganey" by Nandan Shishu Natya Dal, Dhaka -- were staged.

The play "Desh Pardesh" narrated the story of the Banua Community. The community, now based in Gazipur, were originally from Bihar, India. They were moved from their homes by the British to work on the construction of the railroads.

After the railroad construction was complete, they were stuck in Bengal. They settled here and during the Liberation War they fought against the Pakistani army, yet in post-war Bangladesh they often faced discrimination. Through the play, the young actors narrated their stories. The play was directed by Premdas Rabinath.

Another highlight of the day was a play staged by Geneva Shishu-Kishore

Theatre, Dhaka. Through the play, young residents of the camp enacted their everyday struggles and misery. The play was directed by Shamim Ahmed Shanto.

"Bioscope," staged by Nirman Theatre, Dhaka, provided a look into the history of Bengal. British aggression, Khudiram, Partition, Language Movement, the Liberation War and other important chapters of our history were shown in the play through a form of bioscope. The play was directed by Mohammad Jamil Hossain.

Today, seven plays -- "Alor Pothey," "Tuntuni," "Kado Bangali Kado," "Rajar Shikkha," "Garol Jibon," "Mishar Kirti," "Ek Bochhorer Raja" and "Ranga Mulo" -- will be staged at the festival.

The festival will continue till July 31.

Monsoon melodies by five artistes

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Rebeka Sultana, Parveen Sultana, Yasmin Mushtari, Sharmin Shathi Islam and Anima Roy performed at a musical soiree, titled 'Borshaboron-1416' at the Sufia Kamal Auditorium, National Museum, Shahbagh in the city on July 19. The programme was organised by 'Amra Surjamukhi,' a cultural organisation founded in 1975.

Artists at the programme performed songs on monsoon of 'Pancho Kobi' -- Rabindranath Tagore, Kazi Nazrul Islam, DL Roy, Atul Prasad and Rajanikant Sen.

July 19 marked the 146th birthday of DL Roy. The five artistes commemorated the poet's birth anniversary with a chorus of "Dhono Dhanya Pusta Bhora." It was a moving tribute to Roy.

This was followed by solo performances of the artistes.

Anima Roy, a lecturer at the department of Theatre and Music, Dhaka University, rendered three Tagore songs -- "Saawan gaganey ghor ghanagata," "Ogo nadi apon begey pagol para" and "Pagla hawar badol diney."

Sharmin Shathi Islam, a teacher of Nazrul Sangeet at Chhayanaut, rendered "Rumjhum rumjhum nupur paye," "Elo Krishna Kaniya tomal bon-e" and an Atul Prasad song "Bodhua need nahi ankhi paatey."

Parveen Sultana performed a cover of the Asha Bhosle song "Jokhon akashta kalo hoy," A Haimanti Shukla number "Ogo brishti amar chokher pata" and "Jakhon srabon diney" (written and composed by Saiful Islam Mukul and Pranob Ghosh respectively).

Yasmin Mushtari performed three Nazrul Sangeet -- "Shaon ashilo phirey," "Ajhor dharaye borsha jhorey" and "Shokhi badal o badal o jhulanja."

Seasoned singer Rebeka Sultana sang "Abar srabon elo phirey," a Nazrul song; "Jodi tor hrid Jamuna," an Atul Prasad song and more.

Prior to the performances, music exponent Dr. Rafiqul Islam spoke at the programme as chief guest. He said, "The practice of classical music in our country is becoming abysmally inadequate. TV channels are promoting a hybrid form of language that appears Greek to me."

Dr. Islam mentioned a survey conducted by UNESCO, saying that 40 percent of the existing 5000 languages of the world will be extinct if people discontinue using them. He also emphasised the need for proper use of language in respect of art, literature and culture.

Special guest at the programme, former diplomat M. Shafiqul Islam Selim, also spoke at the programme.



(From left) Anima Roy, Sharmin Shathi Islam, Rebeka Sultana, Yasmin Mushtari and Parveen Sultana sing at the programme.

Frank McCourt, author of Angela's Ashes, passes away

Author Frank McCourt, whose tragic childhood became creative grist for his first book, the Pulitzer Prize-winning "Angela's Ashes," died Sunday, according to the website of his publisher, Simon & Shuster. He was 78.

McCourt taught creative writing to high school students in New York City for 30 years before achieving literary acclaim with the 1996 biography.

"Angela's Ashes," named after his mother, also won the National Book Critics Circle Award. It was translated and sold throughout the world.

In the book, McCourt described a desperate childhood marked by severe poverty, malnutrition, neglect, infectious

disease and loss.

"When I look back on my childhood I wonder how I survived at all. It was, of course, a miserable childhood: the happy childhood is hardly worth your while. Worse than the ordinary miserable childhood is the miserable Irish childhood, and worse yet is the miserable Irish Catholic childhood," he wrote.

McCourt wrote the two other memoirs, "Tis" and "Teacher Man," as sequels to "Angela's Ashes," and penned the children's book "Angela and the Baby Jesus."

The author was born to Angela and Malachy McCourt on August 19, 1930, in Brooklyn, New York, to Irish immigrants.

The family fled to Limerick, Ireland, four years later, during the Great Depression era, only to become mired in even more gut-wrenching poverty.

Three of the couple's seven children died.

Malachy McCourt, an alcoholic who managed to keep jobs only a few weeks at a time, left the family scrounging to survive.

Yet, he also brought joy to his children, as the younger McCourt wrote in "Angela's Ashes":

"Before bed we sit around the fire and if we say, 'Dad, tell us a story,' he makes up one about someone in the lane and the story will take us all over the world, up in the air, under the sea and back to the lane. Everyone in the story is a different colour and everything is upside down and backward. Motor cars and planes go underwater and submarines fly through the air. Sharks sit in trees and giant salmon sport with kangaroos on the moon. Polar bears wrestle with elephants in Australia and penguins teach Zulus how to play bagpipes."

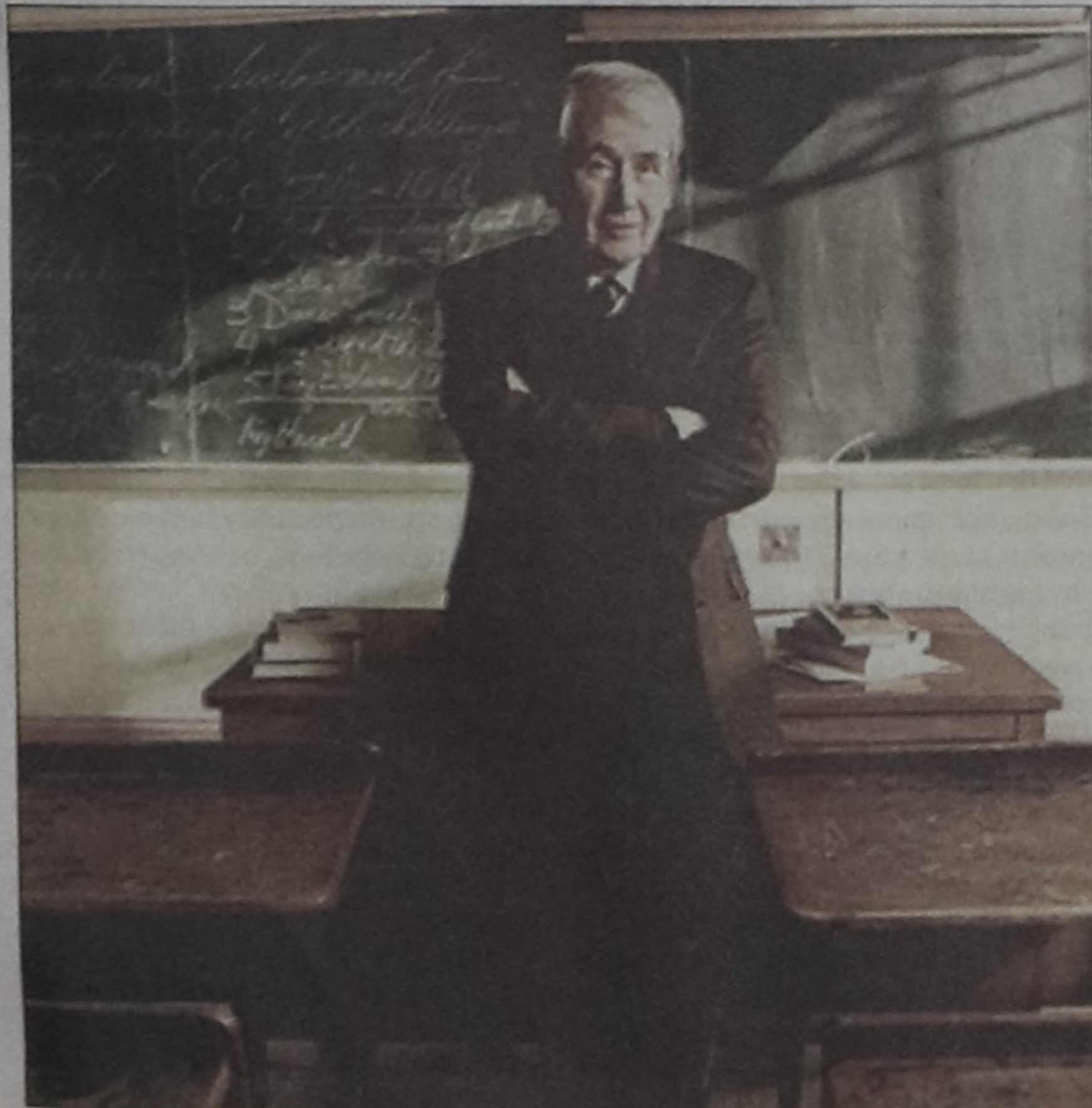
In October 2006, McCourt told the BBC that he saw his family's struggles as part of the human experience, without casting his father as a villain. He also expressed sorrow about his mother.

"First of all, I feel so sorry that I didn't understand more about her life and her misery and the deaths of three children," McCourt said.

"I had one daughter and if she had a cold, I was up all night. If she had the sniffles, I was running to her little crib or her bed... When I was growing up and as I grew to manhood, I really didn't understand my mother's pain."

McCourt is survived by his wife, Ellen, and other family members, including brother Malachy McCourt, who is an actor and writer.

Source: CNN



Drama serial Ichchhey Holo on Desh TV



A scene from the play

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Drama serial "Ichchhey Holo" will be aired tonight on Desh TV at 9:45pm. Written jointly by Ranjan Rabbani and Amitav Reza, the serial has been directed by the latter.

The story of the play revolves around five young individuals -- Ranju, Anindya, Raka, Shobhon and Shila -- and their respective dreams.

After higher secondary exams, Anindya decides to study architecture. His closest friend Ranju is a music maniac.

Shila loves to watch soap operas on different TV channels and is a big fan of glamorous Bollywood actors. She usually chats with Raka, one of her closest friends. The topics vary from her hobbies to favourite actors/actresses.

Shila's twin Shobhon is quite the opposite. Shobhon wants to be a journalist. He is keen on Latin American literature and classics by master filmmakers.

Cast of the serial includes Rahmat Ali, Wahida Mallick Joly, Chitralakha Guha, Fazlur Rahman Babu, Azad Abul Kalam, Shagota and Shoshi.

Gaanalap on Banglavisision tonight

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Celebrated music composer Sheikh Sadi Khan and singer Agun are the guests on tonight's episode of "Gaanalap." The programme will be aired at 9:05pm on Banglavisision.

Sheikh Sadi Khan is a well-known music director of Bangla films. His songs like "Ekatturey ma janoni," "Amar shopno gulo keno emon shopno roy" and "Jiboner galpo" are quite popular among the music lovers.

Agun is known for his melodious voice. Son of the legendary Khan Ataur Rahman and renowned singer Nilufar Yasmin, Agun has also tried his hand at acting. He is a successful solo artiste.

On tonight's show, the artistes will share stories from their professional and personal life with the host, noted singer-composer Nakib Khan.

Nahid Ahmed Biplab is the producer of the programme.



Agun sings on the show.