

AN ART OF FEW

Scarcity of men in classical dancing

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Interestingly enough, when we think about the pioneers of classical dancing in South Asia, one of the biggest names is of the late Pandit Birju Maharaj, the father of *Kathak* dance. Neither can we deny the ubiquitous acclaim for male pioneers like Shibli Mohammad in the realm of classical dance in Bangladesh. Yet, classical dance remains conceived as a predominantly female domain with a scarcity of male classical dancers in our country.

In conversation with Shibli Mohammad, he spoke from his own experience while starting out in his journey of dancing. "I had to hear from all my relatives that I was becoming 'like a girl'. The world does not have tender words for someone who sets out to do something different. They called it a woman's dance form and dispensed negativity my way. But I was desperate and practiced like a madman. I had a record number of hours of practice, and you need that fanatical devotion to make it."

Gendering dance is a widespread practice, and classical dance is one of the main victims. While spectators wait to see women dance to soft and graceful moves in the field of dancing,



Monira Parveen



(From left) Hridoy Saha, Shibli Mohammad and Sayor Sinchon.

PHOTO: STAR AND COLLECTED

men need to be rough and tough.

A classical dancer and current Chairperson of the Department of Dance at the University of Dhaka, Monira Parveen explained "I can guarantee that none of my students seem like anything other than their own gender when they dance. Classical dance traditionally involves loud makeup and vibrant dresses. But it does not make one feminine."

The social stigma is not the only reason for the scarcity of males in classical dance. There are limited platforms and festivals for dancers to perform and showcase their talents in our country. In addition, emerging as a professional male classical dancer is hard in the patriarchal setup of our society where a male has to grow up, get a job that pays well, and provide for his family before he can think about his passions.

"I remember when I was in college and attending an annual function when one of my teachers asked if I still dance. He was very concerned as to why I wasn't trying out other sectors like acting, singing, or recitation; dance is a feminine art form, he had said," shared Hridoy Saha, a trained *Bharatnatyam* dancer currently studying at the Department of Islamic History and Culture at the University of Dhaka. He is also the current president of

the Dhaka University Dance Club (DUDC).

Over the years, there has been a steady decline of classical dance, in its stead, fusion dance has taken the spot. Shibli Mohammad commented on the matter saying, "Promoting our culture is not a priority anymore for most TV Channels nowadays. Channel owners are here to do business and make money off popular film heroines dancing to upbeat music while broadcasting profitable ads in between."

Sayor Sinchon, a Grade-3 dance artist at Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, urged for more opportunities countrywide. He said, "More chances should be given to the root-level dancers. There are lots of dancers who can't pursue dance due to the lack of guidelines. Teachers should be trained to impart the proper techniques to students."

Notwithstanding these circumstances, the future is not all too bleak. Dancing is soon to be incorporated into textbooks of the National curriculum along with other arts until the tenth grade. Many schools are including dancing classes in their curriculum as well. It is crucial to implement these steps to dispel gender norms and cultural assumptions that have led to the underrepresentation of male dancers.



Jaya's 'Ardhangini' runs houseful for 6 weeks straight

Jaya Ahsan, the renowned actress who has captivated audiences on both sides of Bengal, has once again proven her reign over the silver screen. Her latest film, *Ardhangini*, has been drawing houseful crowds in Kolkata for six consecutive Sundays, cementing its status as a blockbuster hit.

Jaya took to her Facebook page to share the overwhelming response, posting a photo of long queues outside theaters, showcasing the film's houseful status.

She expressed her gratitude, stating, "My film has been running houseful for six consecutive Sundays. I am overwhelmed by the love of the audience."



Hugh Jackman rocks classic Wolverine costume in 'Deadpool 3'

Hugh Jackman, known for his iconic portrayal of Wolverine, has finally donned the yellow spandex suit in the highly anticipated film *Deadpool 3*. Alongside co-star Ryan Reynolds, Jackman shared a first-look photo on Monday, unveiling his character's classic comic book costume for the very first time.

In the original 2000 movie, Wolverine expresses his dislike for the black leather suits worn by the team, prompting a witty response from Cyclops. A deleted scene in 2013's *The Wolverine* teased the yellow suit, although it was not actually worn by Jackman's character.

Reynolds and Jackman shared the image on their Instagram stories, while the official *Deadpool* account also posted a high-resolution version.

NEWS

Consolation win

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while Towhid Hridoy was not out on 22 to clinch an easy win in the end.

Bangladesh had come up with three changes, with Taskin, Shoriful and Taijul returning to the side. Despite having already lost the series, the Tigers came up with an aggressive approach and looked to make a statement after Afghanistan opted to bat.

Bangladesh had come up with three changes, with Taskin, Shoriful and Taijul returning to the side. Despite having already lost the series, the Tigers came up with an aggressive approach and looked to make a statement after Afghanistan opted to bat.

Afghanistan opted to rest their star leg-spinner Rashid Khan but their batting failed to click, courtesy of some fiery bowling upfront by Shoriful.

The left-arm seamer came up with a double blow for Afghanistan in his second over, removing last match's centurion Ibrahim Zadran for one with an edge to the keeper, and following up with the wicket of Rahmat Shah.

He went on to pick Mohammad Nabi and Abdul Rahman as the visitors were bundled out for a small total.

All he did was kick a ball

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Osman's father is an expatriate in Kuwait. He along with his mother and sister used to live in the capital.

Alam said Osman's family returned to village home from the capital in Ramadan. They started living in their recently built one-storey house.

The victim's mother said Montu, a mason, wanted to do the construction work of the building. He was angry as he did not get the work, she alleged.

The mother filed a case with Chatkhil Police Station and police are trying to arrest the accused, said Gias Uddin, officer-in-charge of the police station.

170GB sensitive data stolen

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engage in any discussions regarding data recovery, prompting the ALPHV to issue a warning. The group urged all investors who entrusted their funds to Bangladesh Krishi Bank to withdraw their investments within seven days. The warning message was dispatched to contacts and emails procured from the stolen data, the post adds.

The group set a 72-hour deadline starting from July 8 for the bank's top management to contact it. The hackers implanted potent backdoor tools deep within the bank's network

US under secy

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The US provided the largest amount of humanitarian assistance for around one million Rohingyas in Cox's Bazar. It also declared the atrocities by the Myanmar military against Rohingyas as genocide and pledged supporting the Gambia's genocide case at the International Court of Justice.

Bangladesh wants justice for Rohingyas and their repatriation at

Taqsem

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ensuring quality Wasa services, Taqsem has been holding the post since October 2009. His sixth term will end on October 14.

Mostafa Jalal Mohiuddin, a board member of Wasa and also the president of Bangladesh Medical Association, said the board chairman, Sujit Kumar Bala, proposed Taqsem's name as the MD for a fresh term.

"Some board members agreed with the proposal and some others submitted notes of dissent," he told The Daily Star last night.

Speaking to this newspaper on condition of anonymity, another board member said two members agreed with the proposal while three others opposed, saying that Taqsem should not be given another term as there are allegations of irregularities against him.

Seven out of the 13 board members were present at yesterday's meeting.

Taqsem is also in the board as an ex-officio member, but he cannot exercise voting rights.

AKM A Hamid, president of the Institution of Diploma Engineers,

infrastructure. This ensures future access for the hackers and enables them to return at will, it says.

"IT-management of this bank does not have enough qualification and skills to protect their data."

Earlier on June 27, it was reported that a security leak from the website of the Office of the Registrar General, Birth & Death Registration had left more than 5 crore citizens' personal information exposed on the internet. The government's Computer Incident Response Team confirmed the data breach.

the soonest.

Under Chinese mediation, Bangladesh had tried to repatriate over one thousand Rohingya before monsoon.

The UN and the US, however, said conditions in Myanmar are not yet conducive for repatriation.

The diplomatic source said Zeya may discuss the issues while meeting the top Bangladeshi officials.

Bangladesh, Imran Ahmed, ex-vice president of Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and Sabbir Ahmed, vice-president of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Bangladesh, submitted the notes of dissent.

Wasa Board Chairman Sujit, Dhaka South City Corporation Ward Councillor Mamun Rashid Shuvro, and Mostafa supported the proposal, said meeting sources.

Contacted, Sujit declined to comment on the issue.

There had been many complaints about Dhaka Wasa's actions and decisions over the last 14 years. The complaints include supplying contaminated water to residents, increasing water tariffs 15 times, and taking up ineffective projects worth crores of taka in the name of improving services.

The recently removed board chairman, Gholam Mostofa, wrote a letter to the Local Government Department highlighting various irregularities by Taqsem. The LGRD ministry, however, removed him as chairman of Wasa on May 21.

Dengue deadlier

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they are being unable to accommodate many patients due to a shortage of facilities.

Dr Shatavisa Dhar, medical officer at Bangladesh Shishu Hospital, said they have turned 50 bed medical ward 2, where the 45 dengue patients are now being treated, into a separate "dengue cell".

"We have shifted other patients of the ward to other places."

He added that due to a lack of accommodation, they are only admitting dengue patients who are in critical condition, though non-critical patients are also seeking admission there.

"A single dengue patient needs 10 to 15 days to be cured and so, we can only admit a limited number of patients per day," he said.

With the new deaths, the total number of fatalities rose to 76 this year, while the total number of cases rose to 13,843. Of those, 4,179 are from outside the capital.

According to a DGHS analysis of the first 50 deaths, 62 percent were female and 38 were male. The age group that saw the highest — 60.80 percent — number of deaths was between 19 and 50 years. Of the deaths, 4.30 percent were of children aged between 0 and five and 6.50 percent were of those aged six to 11 years, while nine percent

were of those aged over 50.

So far, 176 patients were admitted to Shishu Hospital, where one of the 76 deaths occurred.

HM Nazmul Ahsan, associate professor of Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College and Hospital, said the dengue symptoms are slightly different in children compared to adults.

"While for older people, the symptoms begin with sudden fever along with body and eye pain, children first experience nausea and/or coughing."

A child (newborn to 12) may cry excessively, have fever with nausea and cough and may show disinterest in being breastfed — if such symptoms show up, they may be suspected of suffering from dengue, he said.

Apart from symptoms, dengue also gives less time for children to be cured when at the critical stage.

"It takes 48 hours for the situation to become critical for adults, while children only have 24 hours, which is why we suggest hospitalisation as quickly as possible."

Children are also more prone to developing shock syndrome, which is risky for any dengue patient, he added.

Three-year-old Alvia Jahan Ananda was admitted to Shishu Hospital five days ago after her platelet count came down to

'Why is my daughter not getting bail?'

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"My daughter is innocent," she weeped.

Khadija, a political science student, was arrested on August 27 last year after police pressed charges against her in the two cases, filed by New Market and Kalabagan police themselves on October 11 and October 19, 2020.

According to her NID and academic documents, she was only 17 when she was sued for hosting the Facebook webinar, where Delwar Hossain, a retired army officer, made contentious remarks.

Delwar, who is currently abroad, was also accused in these cases.

Khadija also had to spend a

week in solitary confinement due to what jail authorities termed her "misbehaviour".

Her elder sister Monira said, "My parents broke down further after Khadija's bail order was stayed for four months by the apex court on Monday."

At the tribunal, when Khadija desperately asked her, "Am I going to get bail? Why am I not getting bail?", Monira did not have any answer to console her sister with.

Khadija's studies have already been hampered and her academic life would be severely affected if she remains behind bars any longer. Besides, she suffers from a chronic kidney disease that has been further

80,000.

A normal platelet count ranges between 150,000–450,000, which is generally accepted for healthy neonates, infants, children, and adolescents.

Mohammad Sharif, father of 3-year-old patient Jahan and a resident of Adabar, said his daughter's platelet count had come down to 56,000 after admission but improved slightly yesterday morning and rose to 60,000. Mosharraf Hossain, father of 8-year-old Mohammad Habib, said his son was admitted to Dr MR Khan Shishu Hospital & Institute of Child Health in Mirpur on July 4. "When he was admitted, he was in a critical condition but he has now gotten better."

A nurse of the 250-bed hospital, seeking anonymity, said the number of patients has been increasing over the last few days and they are currently treating over 30 dengue patients.

Meanwhile, the Dhaka South City Corporation yesterday conducted anti-mosquito drives in 10 different areas, including Dhanmondi, Bangshal, Tikatuli and Demra and fined 16 building owners Tk 37.3 lakh for having mosquito breeding grounds in their establishments.

They are also conducting special combing operations to clean spaces and destroy mosquito breeding sources in 94 educational institutes.

complicating her stay in prison, she said.

On Monday, the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court stayed for four months a February 16 High Court order that had granted Khadija permanent bail.

The state had filed two petitions with the SC, challenging the bail, following which the SC chamber judge stayed the HC order.

Later, Khadija submitted two petitions to the Appellate Division, praying that the chamber judge's stay order be vacated, said her lawyer BM Elias Kachi, adding that the SC chamber judge then sent all the four petitions to the full bench for a hearing.