

Metropolitan

**Dhaka Day by Day**

**Recalling the Poignancy of 'Mayerling'**

by Fayza Haq

Looking into the black opal-like liquid eyes and curved mustaches of Martin and Haensch Weiss one could not help recalling the crescent moon, the vermilion rose bud, and the scintillating carved silver snake on Gypsy caravan wheels.

Martin and his uncle Haensch had come to Dhaka, along with their leader Vall Mayer from Germany, to bring in not only the strains of poignant romantic music but also the blue notes of Jazz. One gets a lot of taped Jazz every Thursday night in the city at Alliance Francaise but live performance of Jazz remains a manna in the desert of western music.

Organised by the Goethe Institute, playing at a local hotel, the trio performing on the double bass, violin and the guitar, brought in the strains of throbbing Hungarian tunes and soulful American Jazz. Small as is the Hans'che Weiss ensemble, it can play any tune that you can ask for. They have performed not only in Western Europe and USA but also the Indian Subcontinent and the Far East.

Unassuming but dignified they proved that music was something that came from the soul and heart and was not a product of mere practice or simply a dedicated mind. The soul pitch was vital for all the three players.

Swarthy and well-built Martin, who learnt to play the violin before he ever learnt to read and write, says he has been fascinated by the records of Ravi Sankar and Yehudi Menuhin long ago. Speaking and listening to sitar and sarod pieces in Dhaka he says "the direct communication is very exciting."

As for his impression of Dhaka, he is not at all intimidated or irritated by beggars and "lokats". In fact, after India and Nepal, he finds the boulevards of Dhaka extremely neat. Born after the World War II, when the hatred for Gypsies in Germany had abated and almost subsided into amnesia Martin feels like some Asian settled in UK or USA since his childhood. German is his language and Berlin is his home.

"Practice is secondary. Inspiration is the vital factor in music or most other fine arts", is his advice to young musicians.

Vall Mayer, 55, born in Zurich, has spent so many years in South-East Asia, and has such an admiration for that region, that he

might as well have settled down in Asia. "But I had my children's education to consider," Vall explains. Incidentally both his children are musicians, the son performing in USA.

Vall has been familiar with the "star" and "table" for years. "In Europe the average person has only known of Ravi Sankar and little beyond. Coming to Dhaka and consorting with people like Abed Hussein Khan and his talented son, makes me want to stay on not just for three days or three months but much more. The "ragas" maybe long but you fail to care about the passage of time, you are so engrossed and lost in the magic of the music, the musician confides.

The double bass player has little time or patience for musicians like Madonna. "These supporters have been artificially built up. Michael Jackson is an exception. Their music is commercialised and computerised. They replay and patch up at will. You are busy watching the seductive scenes rather than listening to any relevant music. 'Justify my love' is a case in point."

Vall is a "ganjo" or an outsider to the Gypsies but sun-burnt Haensch, 39, with his seven children and seven grandchildren is not. Like the other two in his band, music has been a part of his growing up and he was a professional at 15. As in the case of the others, music has been an integral part of the family, and a matter of pride handed down through generations.

Haensch tells you, "Gypsy music is entwined with humorous anecdotes and witty comments. The people who are listening feel there is a personal message for them. Often there is audience participation, at least in the form of the dancing and clapping."

"Music goes beyond the political boundaries and coming to Dhaka, I can't help but admire the courage of the simple people who struggle against all obstacles", he says.

As the music reminiscent of the strains from the Gypsy pieces in "Mayerling" ended for the evening, one was grateful for the viewpoint of the musicians that "an artist should travel and stretch out his hand for peace."



The Hans'che Weiss ensemble that won resounding applause for its gypsy strains.

**Tolerance key to growth of democracy**

CHITTAGONG, Feb 23:

Speakers at a seminar here today said that strict adherence to and respect for democratic norms and values in all spheres of social and national life was indispensable for a smooth transition to democracy and giving it a stable institutional shape, reports BSS.

The seminar on democracy, education and mass media held under the auspices of Chittagong University Club at its premises was presided over by Dr Shirin Huq, of the Department of English.

Vice Chancellor of Chittagong University Prof Alamgir M. Serajuddin attended it as the chief guest while Prof Antuzzaman, Prof Abdul Mannan, Dr Aftab Ahmad and Dr Iftekhar Chowdhury participated. Journalist Abul Momen read out the main paper on the subject.

**Sheraton's Controller of the Year**



Mujibur Rahman, Financial Controller of Dhaka Sheraton Hotel received the Sheraton Asia Pacific Corporation's most prestigious 'Controller of the Year' award-1990, says a Press release.

This was announced by Miguel Ko, Senior Vice President of Sheraton, Asia Pacific recently.

Mujib has been selected from among 36 Sheraton Hotels in the Asia Pacific Region.

The criteria for selection considers quality performance, cost control, business ethics and contribution to the hotels financial profitability.

General Manager of Dhaka Sheraton Hotel Giorgio Burigana will present the special plaque flown in from Sheraton headquarter soon at a simple ceremony.

**Anti-drug programme underscored**

Newly formed Bangladesh Inter-Religious Brotherhood Association organised a seminar on purpose of anti-drug decade of the United Nations in a local hotel on Friday, says a press release.

Alamgir MA Kabir, Adviser of the Ministry of Social Welfare, Women Affairs, Youth and Sports, graced the occasion as chief guest while M Enamul Haque, Director General of the Department of Narcotics Control and Abu Hena, member of National Board of Revenue were present as special guest and main speaker respectively.

Alamgir MA Kabir said that in order to make the society rich, healthy and happy the society should be free from drug as well as drug addict people.

He urged the people of all level to come forward with appropriate programmes to stop the misuse of drugs.

Khabiruddin Ahmed, chief advisor of the organisation, Jannatul Ferdouse, journalist Golam Kader, Dr. Thomas Baral and Shahidullah Khan spoke on the occasion. Khandker Faruq Ahmed, Jayantho Maitthi and others presented anti-drug songs and poems.

**Plea to resist upholders of two-nation theory**

The chief of Dhaka City Awami League Mozaffar Hossain Paltu on Saturday said the nation would be faced with serious crisis if the neo-exponents of the two-nation theory could not be checked, reports BSS.

Addressing a public meeting at the AOB Colony area here, Paltu, who is contesting the coming elections as an Awami League nominee from Mottijheel-Sabujbagh constituency of the city, said the neo-upholders of the old two-nation theory who were trying to raise

their ugly heads must be resisted to ensure a congenial atmosphere in the society.

He said these elements were now engaged in undermining the values of the liberation war. He said these people brand "Joy Bangla" slogan as something imported from India. But he said "Joy Bangla" came as an outcome of the 1969 mass upsurge, winning of absolute majority by Awami League in the 1970 general elections and the war of independence in 1971.

Mozaffar Hossain said any insult to the slogan of Joy Bangla would be like ignoring the spirit of the great freedom movement and the war of independence.

Presided over by Bashirul Alam Khan, the meeting was addressed among others, by Kamal Chowdhury, Capt (Retd) Aftabuddin and Sohail Ahmed.

**EC poll observers due today**

The visiting Commonwealth Observer Group met Chief Election Commissioner Justice Abdur Rauf at his office on Saturday evening, reports UNB.

They exchanged views on the coming parliamentary polls which, the interim government is committed to hold in a free and fair manner.

Commonwealth observers who flew in here on Wednesday already met different political leaders including acting chairman of the Jatiya Party Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury and Awami League leader Dr. Kamal Hossain.

Former Malaysian Minister Dato K. Pathmanabon is leading the 12-member Commonwealth team which will oversee February 27 polls.

Of the 31-member SAARC team, seven arrived here on Friday.

Seven observers from the Washington based National Democratic Institute (NDI), four from the British Parliament, six from the Japanese Diet and one from the European Parliament are expected to arrive today.

**Citizens Election Commission's congress held**

By Staff Correspondent  
The first national congress of "Citizens Election Commission" was held at Sohag Community Centre, Eskaton on Thursday.

Saifullah Chowdhury presided over the conference. Barrister Sayidur Rahman Mian, Gazul Hasan Khan, Principal Zahir and S.M. Rahman were present among others.

**Kibria arrives in city**

ESCAP Executive Secretary S A M S Kibria arrived on a nine-day visit to Bangladesh, reports BSS.

He was received at the airport by the senior officials on Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Economic Relations Division.

During his stay Kibria will meet Advisers in charge of Foreign Affairs, Industry, Works and Planning.

He will also address two seminars.



Lt Col (retd) Farook Rehman addressing a rally of Freedom Party at Khilgaon in city on Saturday.

**Election Commission to spend Tk 8 crore for polls**  
**95 minority candidates, 36 retd defence personnel in race**

The Election Commission has completed almost all preparations for the Parliamentary elections scheduled to be held on February 27 in a free and fair atmosphere.

Sources at the Commission told BSS on Saturday that all necessary materials including ballot papers, ballot boxes, indelible ink and stamp pads have already been despatched to all destinations throughout the country.

The commission is now giving touches to final aspects of the polling, the collection of results and their dissemination through mass communication media. About 62.2 million people have been registered to cast votes against 47.3 million voters in 1986 elections.

A total of 2774 candidates will contest 298 out of 300 seats of the Jatiya Sangsad (Parliament). The death of two candidates -- in Kushtia-2 and Munshiganj-3 -- necessitated the holding of polls in those constituencies at later dates. With the killing of Marfat Ali of JSD(Rab) in Kushtia-2, the total number of candidates died after withdrawal date rose to 3. Despite death of a candidate in Gaibanda-1, the Election Commission could complete all formalities afresh to hold election in that constituency on February 27.

Seventy political parties and alliances fielded 2,350 candidates for 298 seats. The number of independents totalled 424. The maximum number of candidates to contest in a constituency is 26 (Dhaka-6). In

1979, 29 parties and independents took part. The number of candidates including independents who contested elections in the past were 1089 in 1973, 2125 in 1979, 1527 in 1986 and 978 in 1988.

February 27 elections have a distinctive feature. This is for

the first time in the history of Bangladesh that a national-level elections are being held under a neutral caretaker government. Over five dozen observers including Parliament members from Commonwealth, SAARC, USA and Japan will monitor the polls.

Besides, a record number of political parties is contesting the polls. More than 37 of women including the chiefs of two major political parties are in the election race. Ninety-five persons belonging to the minority community have put up candidature. About three dozen of retired personnel from Defence Department are contesting the elections.

The sources said that nearly four lakh officials will conduct the polls. An equal number of the members of the law enforcing agencies including defence personnel will be there to ensure peaceful atmosphere. Compared to the expenditure of over Taka 82 lakh in the first Parliament elections in 1973, expensed of the Election Commission this time will be about Taka 8 crore, it was learnt.

The sources said that immediately after the casting is over, the counting will start. After completion of counting, the Presiding Officers will report the results to the nearest UNO's or district administrations (Returning Officers) who in turn will convey them to the Election Commission. "Our efforts would be speedy collection of results so that we can make them public through mass communications media

**Plea to help lawyers polls observation team**

Bangladesh Juba Ainjibi Samity Saturday urged the government and the Election Commission to extend cooperation to its members of the impartial election observation team during the February 27 parliamentary election, reports BSS.

The Samity has formed a 305-member team to oversee the polling.

Addressing a press conference here the convener of the Samity Advocate Abul Kalam Azad also urged the intellectuals and the professionals to extend cooperation to the members of the team in carrying out their responsibility.

The central convening committee members of the Samity were also present at the press conference who included A.K.M. Saiful Islam Tareque, Mrs Selma Sultana Shelley, Mousuduzzaman, Mostafa Kamal Choudhury, Motahar Hossain Shaju, Abdur Rahman, Shaful Islam and Salmullah Selim.

**'BNP exploiting people in the name of Islam'**

Awami League Organizing Secretary Tofael Ahmed said on Saturday if wind to power, his party would strive for meeting the basic needs of people and ensuring their voting rights, reports BSS.

Addressing a big public meeting at Bhola Government School play ground, he criticised the BNP leadership for "dishonouring" Islam by resorting to falsehood in the name of "Bismillah". He urged the people to be on their guard against those who want to exploit people in the name of religion.

Turning to local problems, Tofael Ahmed said if Awami government was formed, it would promote small and cottage industries in the nook and corner of Bhola district by supplying electricity.

**BDR asked to be neutral in polls**

Director-General of Bangladesh Rifles Major General Mohammad Abdul Latif on Saturday called upon the BDR personnel to perform their responsibility by maintaining neutrality in the parliamentary elections on February 27, reports BSS.

Justice Rouf is expected to address the nation within a day or two asking the voters to exercise their rights in the most judicious manner in an atmosphere unique in the nation's history.

The Chief Election Commissioner Mr Justice Mohammad Abdur Rouf held a series of meetings with officials for conducting free and fair elections. He visited divisional headquarters and also Comilla, Mymensingh and the Hill Tracts and held meetings with officials and political leaders.

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**Supreme Court holiday Feb 27**

The Acting Chief Justice has declared general holiday for the Supreme Court's Appellate Division, permanent and outside benches of the High Court Division and all civil courts under it on February 27 for parliamentary elections, an official press release said in Dhaka Saturday, reports BSS.

**Rotary awards presentation today**

Rotary Club of Dhaka West on Saturday announced the Rotary Award for 1990-91 for personalities in the fields of teaching, journalism and literature, reports BSS.

According to a press release, Nasiruddin Yousuff was given the award for literature, Muhammed Quamrul Islam Chowdhury, Senior Staff Reporter, Daily Sangbad for journalism and Head Master Moulvi Ahmad Ullah Mollah for teaching.

The Rotary Award will be handed over to the recipients today (Sunday) at the regular weekly meeting of Rotary Club of Dhaka West, at Hotel Sonargon at 5-30 pm.



A truck turned turtle near Kanchpur Bridge on Dhaka-Chittagong Highway. None was injured.

**Weather**

**Light rain likely**

By Staff Correspondent

Met Office forecast light rain or shower accompanied by temporary gusty wind for the next 36 hours ending Monday morning over Dhaka and Rajshahi Division and the region of Comilla and Sylhet.

Weather is likely to remain dry elsewhere of the country. Night temperature may rise one to two degree Celsius on Sunday.

Westerly low lay over Bihar, West Bengal, and adjoining Bangladesh in a complex condition on Friday.

Another active low lay over western Uttar Pradesh and adjoining areas.

Seasonal low lay over South Bay. Outlook for subsequent two days: little change. Outlook for another five days: weather may improve.

Sunset at Dhaka on Sunday at 5.59 pm and sunrise tomorrow (Monday) at 6.25 am.

Temperature and Humidity recorded at major cities and towns on Saturday were:

Cities/ towns	Temperature in Celsius	Humidity (%)
max		9 am
pm		
Dhaka	31.6	18.4
Chittagong	31.0	17.5
Khulna	33.2	17.0
Rajshahi	32.5	13.5
Jessore	34.3	15.30
Barisal	31.7	19.5
Srimangal	31.5	15.2
Cox's Bazar	31.4	17.5

The maximum temperature was recorded at 34.3 degree Celsius in Jessore.

Minimum temperature recorded in the major cities of the region on Saturday were:

New Delhi	16 degree Celsius	Colombo	24 degree Celsius
Hong Kong	14	Bangkok	24
Beijing	(-08)	Singapore	25

**Dhaka hails Soviet plan to end war**

Bangladesh on Saturday welcomed the acceptance of the Soviet Peace Plan by Iraq designed to end the Gulf war.

Talking to UNB, Additional Foreign Secretary Riaz Rahman described "willingness" of Baghdad to withdraw troops unconditionally from Kuwait as a positive development towards the end of the crisis.

"This will lead to a peaceful resolution of the problems", he hoped.

The Foreign Ministry official said "Bangladesh supports all moves to bring about a peaceful political solution of the crisis in compliance with the Security Council resolutions" seeking complete withdrawal of Iraqi troops from Kuwait and restoration of the legitimate government of the Sheikdom.

Bangladesh stands for liberation of Kuwait, but not the destruction of Iraq.

**Foil bid to rig polls: Sajeda**

Awami League General Secretary Begum Sajeda Chowdhury Saturday expressed her apprehension that some quarters may try to rig Wednesday's polls and urged people to guard against any such attempts, reports UNB.

"Remain alert against any attempts at rigging to manipulate election results and vote for boat to salvage your lost democratic rights", she told an election rally at Bijoy Sarani here in the evening.

Awami League President Sheikh Hasina was scheduled to address the rally but could not turn up due to other important engagements, party sources said.

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**CROSSWORD PUZZLER**

**ACROSS**  
1 Caviar  
5 - Albert  
8 Peruvian  
12 Seed  
13 Coating  
14 Goddess of healing  
15 Approach  
16 She's remembered  
17 Metric measure  
18 Epic sea tale  
19 Chooses  
20 Cake mix  
22 Consuming  
23 Falsehood  
24 Gorges  
27 Realm  
31 " - House"  
32 Sound on the farm  
33 Seesaw  
37 "Love with

**DOWN**  
1 " - from Outer Space"  
2 Sea in Asia  
3 Hoarfrost  
4 Regions, localities  
5 Sumptuous meals  
6 Ventilate  
7 Threefold  
8 Foot part  
9 Tidy  
10 Nicolas  
11 Sandarach

**Answer to Previous Puzzle**

BRAND	BAILS
SAILOR	ACCEPT
ENTE	ELITE
AGE	WAITS
TL	NAMES
SEVERED	QUITS
OVER	PURE
RATES	FRIENDS
AVER	TIERS
YES	HORSE
ON	GOOSE
NUTANT	NEWELS
EASES	TREES