

# Dhaka Day by Day

## Music and dancing under corrugated roofs

by Fayza Haq

Amidst clucking chicken, noisy ducks and even a donkey in the bamboo and tin shed dance and music school at Ahmedbagh, at the edge of the city.

It is next to impossible for people in this area to make an expensive trip to BAFPA to satisfy their cultural cravings. It is often the mothers who complete their unfulfilled dreams by sending the children to paint, recite poetry, learn Rabindrasangeet and Nazrul Geeti, and sometimes interesting dance steps too—which have delighted audiences at foreign cultural centres in the city.

The Bakul Lalitkala Academy has two rooms for which the owner pays a monthly rent of Tk 1500. She employs nine teachers and they are paid Tk 300 to Tk 500 each.

The charges for the different art skills vary. The students pay Tk 30 for songs, Tk 40 for painting, Tk 50 for dance, Tk 5 for poetry recitation and Tk 5 again to master the "tabla". The admission fee is Tk 100.

A lot of the young teachers are little more than students themselves. Some are university students giving instructions to the eager learners. Housewives who come with the children, are surprisingly eager to learn themselves. As they sit around waiting for their children, they might as well train to sing or play the "sitar", when they have a little money to spare for this pleasure and luxury.

Bakul, who is the founder of the school, is a director of accounts at the WAPDA. When her sons left for studies abroad, she, who was once a part time teacher in the afternoon, now runs the school from four to six. Being a widow, she is only too pleased to be able to serve the community and to keep herself from moping and brooding on her own.

"People go in for western music. We should develop our own culture," comments Bakul. She is, however, hoping to teach the guitar along with the "sitar", "sarod", "harmonium" and the other instrument, the "tabla".

She continues, "Although the videos are there to twist and ruin the taste of our youth, we must preserve our classical and traditional folk cultures. The western influence is there and I can hardly approve of the so-called action—packed story of karate and judo. But there are few ways of stopping teenagers from indulging in them.

Otherwise they may resort to something even more dangerous like LSD, hashish and speed pills.

I would have also have liked to involve the youth in sports, apart from the music and dancing. This would absorb the extra energy of the growing children. But in our cramped near ghetto community—and with our limited income—how can you arrange for proper coaches for cricket and football in our area? We cannot even provide the necessary field or equipments".

Going back to her pet theme of Bangladeshi music, Bakul says like most teachers, that it is not enough to be able to sing on the TV or the Radio. The students, she insists, must have real appreciation of music. "When a student leaves my institution he should have a thorough knowledge of dancing, singing or whatever else he has been trained for."

"She adds" it is easy to have a superficial knowledge and to impress friends, neighbours and relatives. People are so busy trying to earn a fat salary that they have little time for the gentler and artistic side of life."

Bakul points out "Parents will keep tutors for Maths, Physics, Chemistry and English or even Bangla. But they will not always include lessons in music for their daughters. The pressure is on good marks in the examinations followed by the respectable white collared job, or a so-called successful marriage, where the young women can boast of her husband's scooter if not the car, and the posh rented apartment in Dhanmandi or Green Road."

that with growing industrialisation and mechanisation in Dhaka and the other cities there is a tendency to be increasingly materialistic.

Bakul's main problem is to try to get government aid as the school is neither recognised nor encouraged by government officials. From the students fees alone it is impossible to keep good teachers and provide adequate training. Looking at the registers one discovers that she earns Tk 40,800 but must necessarily spend Tk 57,600 a year. She is obviously in the red. But her spirits are high, and she is determined to develop a laudable cultural institution in an environment where even a rickshaw hesitates and refuses to go.



Two young students take lesson in dance at Bakul Lalitkala Academy

## Measures to stop unfair means in exams discussed

A meeting of the committee formed earlier for making recommendations on taking steps towards resisting unfair means in public examinations was held in Dhaka on Sunday with State Minister for Education Principal Mohammad Eunus Khan in the chair, reports BSS.

The meeting discussed matters relating to government commitment for making public examinations free from malpractices. It decided to take measures to stop participation of fake students in the examinations, determining SSC and HSC centres at upazila levels and maintaining law and order situation at the examination centres and stopping entrance of outsiders in the halls.

It also reviewed the existing measures and system of conducting examinations and also discussed various measures taken so far for holding the forthcoming SSC, HSC and Madrasa examinations in a fair manner.

## 2nd JS Advisory Committee meet today

The second meeting of the Business Advisory Committee of the Jatiya Sangsad will be held at the chamber of the Speaker today, reports UNB.

Speaker Abdul Rahman Biswas will preside over the meeting to be held at 10 am. says a PID hand out in Dhaka on Sunday.

All members of the committee have been requested to attend the meeting.

## 63,303 return from Iraq, Kuwait

Minister of State for Food and Agriculture Nazmul Huda told the Jatiya Sangsad on Sunday that a total of 63,303 Bangladesh citizens returned home from Kuwait and Iraq after Iraq invaded Kuwait, reports BSS.

Replying to a question from Mosharraf Hossain (AL-Netrokona-Mymensingh), Huda said, 56,067 of the returnees were from Kuwait and the rest from Iraq. He said detailed information had been gathered from them.

In reply to another question from A T M Alamgir (BNP-Comilla), he said the government had already started talks with the government of Kuwait through the Bangladesh Embassy there and Kuwaiti Embassy in Dhaka on the question of taking back the Bangladesh expatriates.

He said efforts were under way to send the returnees back to Kuwait as soon as possible.

## Sagir's contribution to print technology acclaimed

CHITTAGONG, Apr 28: Speakers at a memorial meeting here today paid high tributes to late Abdullah Al-Sagir, Editor of the Dainik Naya Bangla, for his valuable contributions to the profession of journalism and improvement of print technology in the port city, reports BSS.

Held under the auspices of Abdullah Al-Sagir Citizens' Condolence Committee, the meeting was presided over by its Convener Mr. Azizur Rahman, ex-MP. It was addressed by Barrister Motinul Hussein, Chairman of the Editorial Board of Dainik Ittefaq, eminent journalists Gias Kamal Chowdhury, Reazuddin Ahmed, Ruhul Amin Gazi, former Deputy Prime Minister Jamaluddin Ahmed, industrialist Salahuddin Kasem Khan, Advocate Badiul Alam, advocate Shamsuddin Ahmed Mirza, Chittagong District Bar Association President Advocate Ahmed Hussein and others.

Replying to another question from Sotish Chandra Roy (AL-Dinajpur) he said 46,714 tonnes of wheat and 6,81,688 tonnes of rice were distributed through rural ration dealers from 1988 to December 1990.

## Confce on women education

By Staff Correspondent

A three-day conference by "Women for Women", a research study group began at the National Museum, Shahbagh at 4 pm on Sunday.

It was inaugurated by Professor Zillur Rahman Siddiqui, ex-Adviser for Education and Cultural Affairs.

Dr James L. Ross, the Acting Resident Representative of Ford Foundation was the special guest. Dr 'Najma Choudhury, President, Women for Women, presided over the function.

The conference was on 'Education and Gender Equity.' The first objective was to consider the situation of women in education with a view to analysing or reviewing development plans.

The second objective was to identify the problem and to implement women's education. The third purpose of the seminar was to recommend that for achieving equity for women an effective education development plan was necessary.



A partial view of rally organised by Chhatra Union in city on Sunday on the occasion of the Union's founding anniversary.

## Plea to name a varsity after Sher-e-Bangla

By Staff Correspondent

Former Chairman of Bangladesh Public Service Commission Dr. A Q M B Karim, poet Ataur Rahman, poet Muhammad Abdul Khaleque, and former President of Bangladesh Chhatra League, Habibur Rahman Habib also spoke on the occasion.

Sher-e-Bangla Jatiya Smriti Sangsad on Sunday demanded setting up a university in the name of A K Fazlul Haque, making films on his life and introducing doctorate degree in the university for research on Sher-e-Bangla.

Justice Kamal Uddin Hossain, as the chief guest said Sher-e-Bangla was the leader of Bengali nation. He was in politics for the well-being of the poor. He said none of the leaders in the country could contribute as much as he did in spreading education.

Justice Badrul Haidar Chowdhury as the special guest said the nation would be grateful if Sher-e-Bangla is honoured properly. He also called for making a film on his life.

Secretary General of the Sangsad, Mohammad Abdul Khaleq, said writings on Sher-e-Bangla should be included in curriculum of all classes. The other demands are, publishing book on the life of Sher-e-Bangla, establishing a chair in his name in all the universities and founding a library in his name.

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## Anniversary of Chhatra Union founding observed

by DU Correspondent

Bangladesh Chhatra Union, the student wing of CPB brought out a colourful procession in the city Sunday on the occasion of its 39th founding anniversary.

Earlier, a brief rally was held at the Aparajeo Bangla Monument premises of Dhaka University.

The rally was addressed by Nasiruddoza, General Secretary of the organisation while Zahurul Alam, student representative to the Rajshahi University Senate presided over.

Speakers at the rally recalled the contribution of the organisation in the liberation period and called upon the workers to gear up themselves to contribute for the nation.



## Documentary film on S M Sultan

By Staff Correspondent

The premiere show of the documentary film on the life and art of painter S M Sultan will be held at Goethe Institute auditorium, Dhanmandi on Tuesday.

The screening of the film 'Adam Surat' (the inner strength) directed by Tareque Masud will be followed by discussion presided over by Mostafa Monwar. Painter Sultan is expected to be present at the function.

## Financial crisis to curb DU autonomy: VC

By DU Correspondent

The Vice Chancellor said the necessary infrastructure for the extra-curricular activities which is essential for proper mental grooming of the students are not being built due to the crisis. He called upon the rich people to extend their support in this regard.

Prof Maniruzzaman Miah, Vice Chancellor of Dhaka University said the university administration is facing acute financial crisis.

He said if the situation continues the autonomy of the university may be affected.

Prof Maniruzzaman presided over the first session of the two-day long second Justice Ibrahim Memorial Lecture series, which began Sunday at the TSC auditorium of Dhaka University under the auspices of Justice Ibrahim Memorial Foundation.

National Professor Abdur Razzak inaugurated the session while it was addressed, among others, by Pro-Vice Chancellor of the University and Chairman of the Foundation Dr Wakil Ahmed.

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increased manifold as congenial atmosphere on the campus has to be restored and maintained at any cost.

Prof Afsaruddin of the Dhaka University Sociology Department presented the key-note paper on 'Individual, society and state' at the inaugural session, which covered various aspects of the ancient history.

Highlighting the dynamic elements of the individual in Greek, Roman, Egyptian, Chinese and Indian civilisations, Prof Afsaruddin focussed the role of religion, law, administration, marriage and the family as well as various intellectual aspects in his lecture paper.

The session will resume at 10 am today (Monday) at the same venue.

## SAIC meet begins

The 5th meeting of the Governing Board of SAARC Agricultural Information Centre (SAIC) began in Dhaka on Sunday.

The three-day SAIC Board meeting will review and discuss technical aspects and strategic plans for the Dhaka-based Centre.

It will also discuss budget for the year 1991-92 and matters relating to organising the Centre as a full-fledged professional institute within the SAARC frame-work.

## Social worker dead

Social Worker Mr AU Ahmed (90) died at his residence at Sadhupara in Pabna town on April 16. He was suffering from old age ailment for a long time.

Late Ahmed left behind his widow, three sons, five daughters, grand-children and host of relatives to mourn his death.

One of his sons Mr Shahidul Huq, Senior Officer of the Press Information Department of Soviet Embassy in Dhaka and former Sub Editor, Bangladesh Observer and Dainik Sangbad.

## 23,44,585 ration cards under rural rationing system

There are 23,44,585 ration cards in the country under rural rationing system, State Minister for Food Nazmul Huda informed the Jatiya Sangsad Sunday, reports BSS.

Replying to a question from Ebadur Rahman Chowdhury (JP Maulavi Bazar) the State Minister said 65,59,233 persons had been receiving ration under this system.

In reply to another question from Abdul Mattin Khasru (AL-Comilla) the State Minister said on an average 40,000 tonnes of rice were being distributed through rural ration dealers from 1988 to December 1990.

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## DMP rounds up 26 absconders

Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) Saturday night arrested 26 warrantees in a special raid in different parts of the city, a DMP press release said, reports BSS.

Seven warrantees were arrested from Sabujbagh Thana, six from Gulshan Thana, four from Lalbagh Thana, three from Demra Thana, two each from Sutrapur and Motijheel thanas and one each from Dhanmandi and Tejgaon thanas.

The Sutrapur Thana Police Saturday night arrested four persons from the Water road for their alleged involvement in gambling publicity while Mohammadpur Thana police on Sunday arrested a notorious person with a sharp 'kirich' from the Town Hall Kutcha Bazar, the press release added.

## CROSSWORD PUZZLER

ACROSS

- Hurl
- Seed container
- Merry
- Type of code
- Poem
- Mature
- Clayey earth
- Male face
- Actual being
- Gastropod mollusk
- Lessened
- Negative
- Baker's products
- Top of head
- Games
- Mature
- Is defeated
- Individual
- Imprisoned
- Polka stake
- Squid, as fish

DOWN

- Scottish cap
- Algerian airport
- Antitoxins
- Salty
- Cooking vessels
- Harem room
- Held back
- Lubricant
- Roster
- Church part
- Act
- Behold!
- Wagers
- Sits for portraits
- Moccasin
- Time gone by
- Decimal base
- Vies
- Offspring
- Explosive
- Disease
- Hold on properly
- Intimate
- Declare
- Helium month
- Tumble
- Lamb's pen name
- Diving bird
- Askin
- Great Lake
- Baseball team
- Labels
- Last age

Answer to Previous Puzzle

PAINT STRAP  
TOILER POISED  
IN LAUDING NE  
ADE RATED ACE  
REEP NEE AVID  
ARRANT REPELS  
IRE PAR  
GREET PIRATE  
LOSS NOR AGES  
OUT PARTS ENS  
AT PARENTS DE  
TERETE TOURED  
SEWED SWEAR

Crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-25 indicating starting positions for the clues.



Shukla, a noted artist rendering song on the concluding day of the Tagore Song Festival in Dhaka on Sunday.

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