

Dhaka Day by Day

When Beatles Cut No Ice

by Fayza Haq

This boyish-looking 36 year old ethnomusicologist, with his reticent nose, Pierre Bois, was late for his appointment, as his plane had been delayed. He had little time to fit me in his tight schedule. Yet we did exchange opinions on music in the moments left before a soiree at the Alliance Francaise cafe.

Through the din of the gathering audience, I heard him say to me that he believed that "oriental music had great influence on western music. The influence of western music on the eastern was purely a product of neocolonialism. This applied to Arab music of which I have heard aplenty."

Bois is an expert in African music, and is well versed with Middle Eastern music as well. He was here in Bangladesh to choose some folk singers and musicians to give six concerts in Paris. He works with the Maison des Cultures du Musique to bring out CDs on ethnic music from all over the world.

Listening to the folk music of northern Bengal, Bois came to the conclusion that "in ethnic Bangladeshi music there were many structures that related to African music. The Africans use the same pentatonic scale. The treatment of the rhythm is similar. Their way of dancing also has similarities."

There are differences between the "Maqam" of Arabia, the "Dastgah" of

Persia and the "Raga" of Bangladesh. Yet, Bois pointed out, Amir Khusro tried to mix Indian "Ragas" and the Persian "Dastgah" so there must be a connection," he insisted.

"In any case, there was the same principle by which you improvise according to the mood and time of the day," Bois reminded. "There was also the importance of the voice and poetry. In Europe no one cares any more for poetry. Even in the opera we don't care for the text. We just go in for the music. Yet music is nothing if you can't understand the underlying poetry. The same applies to Rabindra Sangeet or to the music of Azerbaijan and Tajikistan, which is influenced by Persian culture. In Europe today, the voice tries to be like an instrument. In the orient, however, the instrument tries to be smooth and elastic," he remarked.

Commenting on the success of the Nigerian bands and singers who have made the top of the pop charts in UK and USA Bois did not believe that the famous Morri Kante, played true folk music. "His music is urban and has too much of the show biz in it. For me it is not the real image of the people. The youth of Africa and the immigrants in France can identify with them only by getting attuned to them. However, the 'Rai' movement in Algeria is interesting even if the music is poor. It reflects the rebellion of the young people and their problems of sex and

unemployment." Talking about Steve Reich, who has used Ghanaian drumming rhythm and Philip Glass, who has written music inspired by pygmy polyphony, Bois said, "This can be heard only by the elites in the city. These people did not copy. They borrowed the structure. They used only the principle. They were not interested in adapting the repetitive structures of the instruments." The ethnomusicologist said he cared for Reich but not for Glass.

Dwelling on the musical heritage that the Africans took with them to America, Bois admitted that a lot of modern music like the rock and roll, boogie, blues, rap, reggae, samba, bossa nova all had African roots. All along the evolution of modern American music you always find Black music, Bois commented. However, he insisted that the Black version was "hard" while the white, as presented by say Elvis Presley was softer and more commercial. In France Lavilliers and O Gringo based their music on jazz while singers like Geroges Brassens and Jacques Brel departed to the waltz and polka of the nineteenth century, he added.

"There are universals in music," Bois believed. Even if you don't understand the language you understand the music and appreciate it. This applies to all the oriental music from the Arab countries to Japan. But European classical music works like a language or like architecture. There is no improvisation since the eighteenth century. This is due to polyphony. Only in jazz can you improvise. Jazz is the future of the music in the western world."

"In oriental countries musicians take time to present all the emotional aspect of the smallest note," he pointed out. Bois agreed that people were tired of standardised music. "In the last ten years the interest in foreign music in Europe has gone up ten times," he remarked. "There are at least five theatres in Paris where you can hear everything from Indian to African music regularly," he reminded.

Bois, who met the Shantals and Orao of Dinajpur, felt that the ethnic music of Bangladesh was very much alive. However, he was not too happy with the Bhatiali and Bhawalia being sung by professionals, as he heard them in a soiree. He would have preferred to have heard an actual fisherman or an ox-cart driver sing.

As for people like Stevie Wonder, he considered their contribution as collage-like, as they borrowed a little from Indian, some from African and even from the Japanese. He did not think much of the Beatles incorporating the music of the east either. "It was a marginal phenomenon," he commented.



Pierre Bois

Kader Siddiqi's release demanded

Bangabir Kader Siddiqi Biruttam Swadesh Pratibartan Sangram Parishad demanded unconditional release of valiant freedom fighter Kader Siddiqi at its extended meeting held in Dhaka on Monday, reports BSS.

The meeting, presided over by Bishwajit Nandi, decided to change the name of the organisation as Bangabir Kader Siddiqi Biruttam Sangram Parishad, a press release of the Parishad said.

The meeting also decided to hold a rally in front of Jatiya Press Club and submit a memorandum to the Speaker on May 6 demanding the release of Kader Siddiqi.

Later a procession was brought out which paraded different city streets.



Swadesh Pratibartan Sangram Parishad held a rally in city on Monday demanding release of Kader Siddiqi. — Star photo

Plea to establish trust fund to meet economic crisis of DU

The two-day second Justice Ibrahim Memorial Lectures concluded at the Teacher-Student Centre (TSC) of Dhaka University on Monday, reports BSS.

Organized by Ibrahim Memorial Foundation, the concluding session of the lectures was presided over by Prof. Maniruzzaman Miah, Vice-Chancellor of Dhaka University. Prof. Mohammad Afsaruddin gave the concluding lecture on "person, society and state".

Barrister Ishtiaq Ahmed, also took part in the lectures.

The Vice-Chancellor in his presidential speech thanked Prof. Afsaruddin Ahmed for his valuable paper which touched different developments of human civilization in various ages and hoped that this lecture would be able to flourish our knowledge and thinking.

He underlined the importance of learning lessons from the history as guideline for the well-being of the human society.

Barrister Ishtiaq Ahmed called upon the rich people to come forward in establishing a trust fund to meet the economic crisis of the university.

113 members of '86 Parliament allotted RAJUK plots

By Staff Correspondent

The Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakha (RAJUK) allotted plots to 113 members of the Third Parliament.

169 members of that Parliament did not apply for plots while 48 others were excluded during scrutiny by the higher authorities.

In reply to a question by Md. Abdul Hafiz of NAP(M), the State Minister for Land and Barrister Zamiruddin Sircar disclosed this in the House Monday.

The 113 members of the Third Parliament, who got five katha plots at Uttara were:

Choudhury Khurshid Alam, Eng. Afsaruddin Ahmed, Rowshan Ara Mannan, Md. Salauddin, Md. Korban Ali, AKM Shamsul Huda, Dr. Md. Rafiqul Hossain, Md. Mobaraz Ali Advocate, ABM Shahjahan, Dr. Sadat Ali Sikdar, Md.

Yakum Ali, Binoy Kumar Dewan, Ansar Ahmed, Md. Borhanuddin Khan, Moinuddin Bhuiyan, Md. Mozaffar Hossain, Shiekh Abdur Rahman, Sunil Gupta, Md. Abul Kashem Sarkar, Aftab Uddin Hawladar, MA Awal, Md. Ayen Uddin, Abul Kashem Chowdhury, Momin Uddin Ahmed, Golam Sarwar Milon, Monirul Islam Monir, Md. Fazle Rabbi, Md. Abdur Rouf Miah, Dewan Nurunnabi, Md. Moyenuddin Sarker, Humayun Kabir, Sultana Rezwana, Humayun Kabir Advocate, Md. Mokbul Hossain, Md. Jalal Uddin Talukder, Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto, Omar Ahmed Majumder, Md. Atinul Kamal, Khondakar Mohammad Khurram, Jahangir Kabir, ANM Shamsul Islam, Mahmuda Khatun, Firoza Zaman, Sarker Abdur Rashid Advocate, Md. Mujibur Rahman, Alhaj Raushan Ali, Shah Rafiqul Bari Chowdhury, Talukder Nurul Islam, Md. Abdul Razzak Khan, Khadja Sulfa, Md. Mozibur Rahman (Shentu), Prof. Abdus Salam, Meshbahuddin Ahmed, Saif Hafizur Rahman, Md. Abdul Jalil Prodhann, Md. Hafizur Rahman Pramanik, Mohmodul Islam Chowdhury, Mostafa Jamal Haider, Sarder Amjad Hossain, Shah Md. Abu Zafar, Kazi Md. Anwar Hossain, Advocate Ulfat Ara Ayesha Khanam, Begum Setara Talukder, Syeda Sakina Islam, Md. Mohiuddin, Md. Nuruzzaman, Saad Jagul, Didarul Alam Chowdhury, Syeda Hashna Begum, SM Kaisar, Eng. Faruk Alam Hawladar, Md. Muzibul Haque, Md. Nurun Nabi Chand, Mojibul Haque Chowdhury.

Mohammad Ullah, AKN Alim Ullah, Md. Abdur Razzak Akand, Md. Habibur Rahman, Shah Haduzzaman, SM Abu Syed, Md. Khademul Islam, Md. Imamul Haque (Judge Miah), Alhaj Abdur Gafur Chowdhury, Laifa Siddiqi, Lt. Col. HMA Gaffar (rtd), Md. Lutfar Rahman Chowdhury, Md. Makbul Hossain Montu, Begum Shamsunnahar Shelley, Sultana Jaman Chowdhury, Mongshoupeur Chowdhury, Mohammad Ali, Shamsuddoha Khan Mojlish, Md. Abdul Hossain Tarun, Md. Hossain, Md. Jalal Uddin Talukder, Md. Ajarul Haque, AH Salahuddin Mahmud, Sree Malati Rani Tonchanga, Md. Mohudul Islam, Mamota Wahab, Syed Rahmatur Rob, Irtija Ahsan, Principal Strajul Islam, Md. Aminul Islam Sarker, Sawkat Momen Shahjahan, Md. Siddiqur Rahman, Begum Nur-e-Hana Chowdhury, Maj. (rtd) Iqbal Hossain Chowdhury, M. a m u d u r Rahman Chowdhury, Md. Anwar Hossain Hawladar Advocate, Syed Abdul Hossain Babla, Nizamuddin Ahmed, Fazlur Rahman, Advocate, Nurul Alam Chowdhury, Md. Hasimuddin Dewan.

Indian sarees worth Tk 10 lakh seized

By Staff Correspondent

Detective police on Thursday seized Indian sarees worth about Taka 10 lakh and arrested four persons in connection with smuggling cloths in the city.

A team of the detective police was following the smugglers in two cars from Gabtali bus terminal to a house at Jigatola where the goods were unloaded. The police then caught the smugglers red-handed and recovered 788 pieces of Katan, Benaroshi, silk and other print sarees brought from India.

The arrested persons identified themselves as Himangshu Roy, Jamaluddin, Abdur Razzak and Khorsheed Ahmed. A case has been lodged with Dhanmondi police.

Tk 17.31 crore foreign money orders received

Bangladesh Post Office received a total of 12,989 foreign money orders worth Taka 17,30,45,806 during the month of March, 1991, reports BSS.

The exchange value of there is 23,77,394 pound sterling and 3,55,210 US dollars rent by Bangladesh nationals living abroad, according to a PID handout.

Harassment to workers' leader condemned

By Staff Correspondent

Bangladesh Srarak Paribahan Sramik Union in a statement Sunday strongly condemned what it said police harassment to a union leader on the plea of a 'false' case filed during the autocratic regime of H M Ershad. The statement issued by the union President M Arju and General Secretary Belayet Hossain alleged that the police searched Islam's residence at Matika under Cantonment thana in the city several times during last few days and threatened the residents.

DU memorial lecture held

By Staff Correspondent

The 10th Mukarram Hossain Khandekar Memorial Lecture, 1991 of Dhaka University was held Sunday at the Lecture Theatre of Chemistry Department, reports UNB. Professor V. Krishnan, fellow of the Indian National Science Academy and Chairman, Division of Chemical Science, Bangalore delivered a lecture on "Artificial Photosynthesis-Biomimetic Model Studies".

Vice-Chancellor Prof. M. Maniruzzaman Miah attended the function as chief guest while Dr. Abu Zafar Mahmud, Chairman of the Department presided over it. Prof. M. Maniruzzaman Miah in his speech dwelt on the significant role and contribution of late scientist Mukarram Hossain Khandekar in the field of science particularly in Chemistry.

Acting President assents to 5 Bills

The Acting President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed Monday assented to five Bills passed by the fifth Jatiya Sangsad, reports BSS.

The Bills are: The Premises Rent Control Act, 1991, the Supreme Court Judges (Remuneration and Privileges Amendment) Act, 1991, the Hindu Religious Welfare Trust (Amendment) Act, 1991, the Eastern Railway Servants Benevolent Fund (Amendment) Act, 1991 and the Eastern Railway Servants Group Insurance (Amendment) Act, 1991.

This is for the first time Bills passed by the fifth Parliament have been assented to by the Acting President. These Bills have now become laws.

Policies on Hill Tracts tribals to continue

The Council Committee on Chittagong Hill Tracts met in Dhaka on Sunday at the President's Secretariat with Acting President Shahabuddin Ahmed in the chair, reports UNB.

The meeting which was attended by Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia reviewed the overall situation in the Chittagong Hill Tracts region. It decided that existing policies on the socio-economic development in the hill districts will continue.

The meeting was attended, among others, by Finance and Planning Minister Saifur Rahman, Foreign Minister ASM

Mustafizur Rahman, Communications Minister Col (Retd) Oli Ahmed, Agriculture Minister Maj Gen (Retd) Majidul Haq, LORD and Cooperatives Minister Abdus Salam Talukder, State Minister for Land Jamiruddin Sircar, Chief of Army Staff M. Nooruddin Khan, Cabinet Secretary Siddiqur Rahman, Home Secretary Sayeed Ahmed, GOC 24 Infantry Division Maj Gen Mahmudul Hasan and concerned secretaries and senior officials.

The meeting noted with satisfaction that more and more of the tribals who had gone across the border are now returning home and integrating themselves with the mainstream of life in the Hill Tracts region.

The meeting was attended, among others, by Finance and Planning Minister Saifur Rahman, Foreign Minister ASM

Jamaat urges govt to maintain law, order situation

By Staff Correspondent

Jamaat-e-Islami at a meeting in Dhaka on Sunday expressed concern at the deteriorating law and order situation of the country.

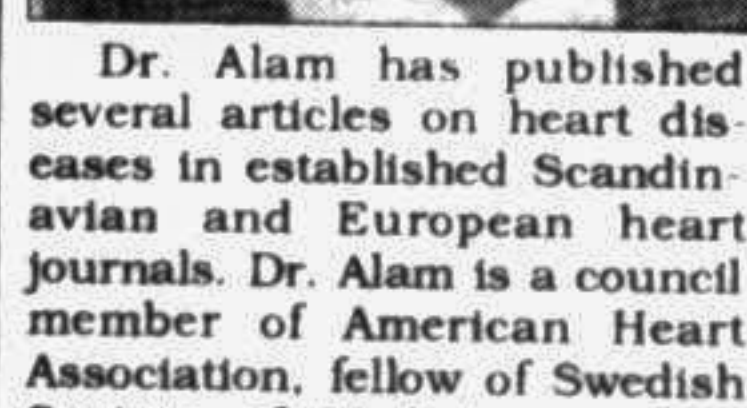
The Majlis-e-Sura observed that even after the election of a democratic government, the authority has failed to check crimes and mishaps. The Majlis urged the government to check such crimes and fulfill the people's hope. It also urged the government to check violence in all the educational institutions.

The Embassy of Japan in Bangladesh held a reception at Hotel Sonargaon Monday evening to introduce its new ambassador, Mr. Toshi Saiki, reports BSS.

Members of parliament, high government officials, diplomats, elite and journalists attended the reception.

Gets Ph. D. in Cardiology

Dr. Mahbubul Alam has recently obtained Ph. D. in Cardiology from the Karolinska Institute at Stockholm, Sweden.



Dr. Alam has published several articles on heart diseases in established Scandinavian and European heart journals. Dr. Alam is a council member of American Heart Association, fellow of Swedish Society of Medicine and a permanent member of Swedish Heart Foundation. He is the youngest son of Advocate Akhtaruzzaman of Mymensingh.

Kidney patient seeks help



Md Abu Bakar (Abu), son of Haji Abdul Matbar of Ulania village under Galachipa Upazila of Patuakhali district has been suffering from complicated kidney disease for a long time. Both the kidneys of Abu have become inoperative.

Abu has been under treatment of Dr Harun-or-Rashid, Professor of the Department of Kidney, PG Hospital, Dhaka. Thirty-year-old Abu who married only a year ago is now leading a frustrated life. He has sought help from all walks of people.

Persons interested to help him have been requested to contact the following addresses: Abu Bakar (Abu), C/33 (Block 'E'), Jakir Hossain Road, Mohammadpur or Mohammed Golam Mousa, Savings Account (Stipend), 6761, Janata Bank, TSC Branch, Dhaka University, Dhaka.

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

Crossword puzzle grid with clues and answers. Includes 'Answer to Previous Puzzle' and 'TOSS POD GLAD' section.

Reception

The Embassy of Japan in Bangladesh held a reception at Hotel Sonargaon Monday evening to introduce its new ambassador, Mr. Toshi Saiki, reports BSS.

TV Tuesday

- 5-00 Opening and recitation from Al-Quran
5-15 Recitation from Geeta
5-20 News in Bengali
5-30 Film
5-55 Special programme for the SSC examinees
6-30 Anashikhar Ashor Nazrul sangee
7-05 News in Bengali
8-00 Drama series: Ayamaya
10-00 News in English
10-20 Parliamentary roundup
10-40 Film show
11-30 Khabar/The news
11-45 Closed down

Weather

Temperature may fall

Rain / Thunder shower accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely to occur at most places over Rajshahi Division till Wednesday morning, Meteorological Department says. The day temperature is likely to fall two to four degree Celsius over the country. The highest temperature recorded in Dinaajpur on Monday was 33.2 degree Celsius while the lowest temperature was 21 degree Celsius recorded in Khepupara. The Maximum temperature in Dhaka city on Monday was 27.2 degree Celsius. The sun sets today (Tuesday) at 6.27 pm and rises tomorrow (Wednesday) at 5.25 am.



Members of Kandriyo Kachi Kanther Asar team which attended the 13th International Children's Festival in Ankara on April 23 last.

JCD confce May 9

By DU Correspondent

A special Council meeting of Jatiyatadabi Chhatra Dal (JCD), Dhaka University Unit will be held on May 2 at the Teachers Students Centre (TSC) of the university.

The council will select leaders in three posts President, General Secretary and Organising Secretary, who will represent the Dhaka University Unit in the central conference of JCD scheduled to be held on May 4.

The possible candidates for the three posts are keeping themselves engaged in maintaining liaison with the central leadership.

As many as eight candidates will contest for the three posts of JCD Dhaka University Unit.

The candidates are: Rafiqul Islam Zaglu, member of DUCSU and former General Secretary of Mohsin Hall Students Union, Habbibunnabi Sohel, former General Secretary of Fazul Haque Hall Students Union and Tariqul Islam Bani for the President post, Sayedur Rahman Sohrab, General Secretary of Mohsin Hall Students Union, Monwar Hossain Rana, Vice President of Zia Hall Students Union and Awlad Hossain Faruk, Convener of JCD Surjason Hall Unit for the General Secretary post.

Two more persons will contest for the Organising Secretary post in the council.

The JCD Dhaka University Unit is now functioning under a Convening Committee since October, 1990. The full committee was dissolved at that time for the internal conflict within the leadership and also for ending of session of the committee earlier.

PROGRAMME Discussion on Lenin

A discussion on "V.I. Lenin - the architect of Soviet socialist state and pioneer of World Socialist Movement" will be held at 4 pm today at Colonel Taher auditorium in Dhaka on the occasion of the 121st birth anniversary of Lenin, reports BSS.

Organised by the Central Five-Party Alliance, the discussion will be addressed, among others, by alliance leaders Mr. Khalequzzaman, Bimal Biswas and Rashed Khan Menon, a press release said.

Seminar on Lech Walesa

A seminar on "Lech Walesa" will be held today at 4.30 pm at the institution of engineering in Dhaka, reports BSS.

The seminar has been organised jointly by the Embassy of Poland in Bangladesh and Centre for Development Research Bangladesh (CDRB), an official press release said. State Minister for Food, Barrister, Nazmul Huda will inaugurate the seminar as the chief guest while the paper on "Lech Walesa" the victory of democracy will be read out by Prof Syed Anwar Hussain, Department of History, University of Dhaka.

Gitikabi Sangsad

Bangladesh Gitikabi Sangsad will organise a discussion on noted singer and musical Director Lokman Hossain Fakir today (Tuesday) at 5 pm at Btswa Shahitya Kendra (near Bangla Motor) in the city.

Film Director Khan Ataur Rahman will preside over the function while Dr. Ashraf Siddiki will attend it as the chief guest.

Sramik Jote

Jatiya Sramik Jote will hold a discussion meeting in observance of May Day today (Tuesday) at 4 pm at the National Book Centre auditorium.

One arrested for murder

Sutrapur police arrested one person on Monday on charge of murder. Police arrested Majnu Mia (16) son of Fazlu Mia of Shilokot village under Dohar thana of Dhaka district from 27, Shatish Das lane under Sutrapur thana.

Majnu was accused of murdering Chandan Chandra Dev of Patua Uttar under Gobindagonj thana in Gatabandha district. Majnu confessed to killing Chandan with dao (a sharp knife).

Children's painting workshop

Alliance Francaise has arranged a three-month children's painting workshop starting on May 10. Children aged 7 to 16 are allowed for admission. The workshop will be conducted by Artist Masuma Khan, says a Press release. Admission test will be held on Friday next.