

Dhaka Day by Day

Message From the Santoor

by Fayza Haq

Omrakash Chourasiya, who was in Dhaka for a short spell from India said, "I felt so bad for the people of Bangladesh. I wish I could have given a concert and collected funds for the cyclone affected. But I was here for too short a time to organise that."

The artiste, who gave a private recital, is one of the two young musicians who have introduced the hundred stringed Santoor to Indian classical music. It took them ten years to perfect this.

Santoor is a present day distortion of the original name Shat Tuntri, and this instrument was actually a hundred stringed Veena. The same instrument existed with the name of "Van" and accompanied the "Veena" or "Veenu". A similar instrument is found in Greece and Bulgaria and is called "Santeer". The Santoor has always been a part of popular music in Kashmir since the ancient times.

Santoor is a multi-stringed instrument, which is played with two sticks, which look like the dried claws of a cock. It has hundred strings and plays 25 notes.

Omrakash, who is a gold medalist from Benaras Hindu University graduated in 1970. He did his Master's degree in '72. In '75 he proceeded to win another gold medal and to study the Tabla. That same year he won the best performance award in the 'Kal Ka Kalakar' Music Conference, in Bombay. In '75 he won a government scholarship to study the Santoor under the famous Dr. Lalmani Misra. In '80 Omprakash was awarded "Ustad Alauddin Khan" Music fellowship.

The musician has worked for three years as a research worker in the Department of Instrumental Music at the Benaras Hindu University. He has made a long playing record in Paris.

"Santoor was the folk music of Kashmir. By changing the tuning I altered the notes and got the necessary three octaves which are essential for classical music," he explained about his innovation.

Talking about classical Indian music he believed, "There is nothing better than this. It will survive despite the flood of film music and the spate of videos. There are videos and audio cassettes on classic Indian music too. People also spend a lot of money staging live classical music performances both in India, and abroad, in places like USA and Europe."

Like most musicians Omprakash insisted that practice and dedication was vital.

"Earlier I used to practise fourteen hours a day. Now that I have the job of the Deputy Director at the Alauddin Khan Music Academy in Bhopal and have to put in eight hours of work there, I only practise for two hours daily."

"Inspiration is another important factor," the artiste insisted. "Your 'ustad' or 'guru' will give you instructions and you must follow this to the last letter."

The Santoor virtuoso said that he loved playing in places like Delhi, Bombay and Bhopal better than anywhere else in India. He has taken part in several music conferences in the country and abroad like

Hindustani people are going crazy for Hollywood productions and western pop music. The Europeans are being exposed more and more to the music of the East, the Sitar, Tabla, Tanpura, and Sarod, and it appears to appeal to their sensibility. This is specially so in the capital cities."

Omrakash, who has been teaching for 12 years now, appeared to have a good impression of Dhaka, although he spent a very short time in the city. "It is not all that different from India, and I felt quite at home and relaxed. The atmosphere was similar and so was the food. A lot of people understand and even speak



"Swami Haridas Sangeet Sammelan" at Vrindavan, "Kal Ka Kalakar Music Conference" in Bombay, "Sangeet Parishad" in Benares, "Tansan Sangeet Samaroh", Gwalior, "Alauddin Khan Sangeet Samaroh" in Mathar, and "Utsava '81" organised by Madhya Pradesh Kala Parishad, Bhopal.

The musician has played in at least 10 European countries like Germany, Italy, Holland, Switzerland, France and Italy. "It was in Switzerland that I had the most appreciation," he said. "I found the European audience very receptive and they would go on listening for hours late into the night. While in

Hindi. So there was no way that I felt lost or missed home."

The Santoor which is a percussion instrument has tinkling sounds that remind you of temple bells. The "Alap," "Jod" and "Jhala" can all be beautifully played in several stages on this instrument.

Omrakash, in his performances, produces exciting crescendoes. The audience does not want to move long after he has finished his recital.

The USIS and Alliance Francaise arranged for the artiste to play at Dhaka.

One killed, two injured in city mishaps

A man was killed and two others were injured, one of them seriously, in three separate road mishaps in the city today, police said, reports UNB.

A speeding mini-bus hit an auto-rickshaw near Nilkhet crossing at about 6.15 am. Raju Bala Karmakar (42), the passenger of the three-wheeler was rushed to DMCH with serious injury where she succumbed soon after her admission there.

In another incident, Habibur Rahman (40) a pedestrian was seriously injured when he was knocked down by a mini-bus near Mohakhali Bus Terminal at about 8 this morning.

The victim was admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where his condition is stated to be critical, hospital sources said.

In another incident, a driver of a "Mishuk" was injured when a running mini-bus dashed a private car from behind which subsequently hit the parked three-wheeler.

The injured driver was admitted to DMCH.

Separate cases were registered with different police stations.

Private sector for more flexibility in ADB lending

The visiting Vice-President of the Asian Development Bank William R Thomson met the representatives of the private sector in Bangladesh and exchanged views with them on the possible assistance of the ADB to the development of the private sector in Bangladesh, reports BSS.

The representatives of the private sector noted that there should be more flexibility in the bank's lending to the private sector. They advocated for the reduction of the floor limit from the present rate of two million dollar to 500,000 dollar and increase in the bank's equity to at least 30 per cent.

Spurious factory unearthed, money forgers held

Ramna police on Friday raided a house in east Bashabo and unearthed a spurious factory of Nidra Kushum Oil.

Police also recovered huge quantity of oil ready for marketing. Police could not find the owner of the factory.

Motjheel police on Friday arrested two racketeers of money forgers and briefcase lifters from Gulistan area.

Successful holding of free and fair elections to the Parliament

The House adopted another resolution calling for shifting of the date of bye-elections in 10 constituencies which were vacated by members who won from more than one constituency in the February 27 election.

One noteworthy feature of the first session was: the government withdrew three bills when the opposition raised strong protests against their passage in the House. These bills were the Newspaper Employees Conditions of Service (Amendment) Bill; The Sugar (Road Development) Bill; and the Union Parishad and Pourashava (Special Responsibilities) Bill.

Out of 44 ordinances laid in the House 18 were passed and 16 lapsed. The most important bills passed during the session were the Bank and Company Bill, and the Premises Rent Control Bill.

Other bills passed by the House included the Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Bill, the Representation of the People (Amendment) Bill, the Supreme Court Judges Remuneration and Privileges (Amendment) Bill, The Eastern Railway Servants Group Insurance (Amendment) Bill, The Eastern Railway Servants Benevolent Fund (Amendment) Bill, The Special Powers (Amendment) Bill, the National Sports Control Board (Amendment) Bill, the Hindu Religious Welfare Trust (Amendment) Bill, the Representation of People (seats for women members) (Amendment) Bill, the Printing Presses and Publications (Declaration and Registration) (Amendment) Bill, the Penal Code (Amendment) Bill.

Blood donation

Free Birds International Club donated 55 bags of blood for the cyclone-hit people. The donation was undertaken jointly with Shandhan. The donation programme was presided over by Club President Kamrul Islam Siddiki. The chief guest of the programme was member of the Parliament Sadek Hossain

Medical sector suffers loss of Tk 490 cr

By Staff Correspondent

About 663 medical complexes and centres were damaged in the April 29 cyclone and tidal surge and the estimated loss is over Tk 490 crore, Information Secretary Kazi Monzur-e-Moula said on Thursday.

The damaged facilities include 5 district hospitals, 68 upazila health complexes, 190 health sub-centres, 400 health and family planning centres, apart from medicines and equipment. These were either partially or fully damaged.

The Information Secretary in his regular press briefing said, about Tk 290 crore would be needed for repair of the health complexes. Another Tk 200 crore will be required for repair and replacement of medical equipment, vehicles and purchasing medicines.

He said 1300 medical teams were now working in the affected areas. One hundred and 70 were sent on May 10 to the affected areas and three supervising teams are working under three additional secretaries of the Health Ministry. Moreover, 280 medical centres have been set up

for treating the injured and disease-infected people. He said different NGOs were also working.

He said the Institute of Public Health had increased the production of oral saline and water purifying tablets to combat the diarrhoea situation in the coastal areas. He told the newsmen that the total number of diarrhoea patients was now 1,68,428. In the last 24 hours, 8,590 new attacks were reported, of them 20 died.

The Information Secretary said the number of diarrhoea patients in the cyclone hit areas alone had risen to 99,811 starting from May 1. The countrywide diarrhoeal death toll was 1,256, of them 381 died in the cyclone-hit areas.

He said the infrastructural damage of the Water Development Board in terms of embankment, sluice gate and drainage channel amounts to Tk 313.5 crore. Over 434 kilometres of embankment were damaged fully while 858 kilometres partially damaged. About 12 sluice gates were

fully and 300 partially damaged. Over 330 kilometers of flood protection embankment were partially damaged and 23 kilometers were washed away. About 659 kilometers of drainage channel were partially damaged.

The Information Secretary said, emergency measures had been taken for repairing the embankments through food-for-work programme. The programme will involve Tk 100 million in cash in addition to 30,000 metric tons of wheat. Water Development Board is now trying to construct embankments in Kutubdia, Sandwip, Moheshkhali, Laxmipur, Bhola, Barisal and some other places.

He said the government had a plan for rehabilitation of the cyclone-hit people during the dry season involving Tk 179 crore. A programme has also been taken for emergency rehabilitation in the agricultural sector. Seeds, pumps, fertilizers worth Tk 10 crore will be provided. He said the government had already allocated Tk six crore in this sector.

AL, Jamaat MPs included in relief body

The government has included Mostaque Ahmed Chowdhury, MP (AL), in the relief and rehabilitation supervision committee for Cox's Bazar, reports BSS.

Enamul Huq Manju, MP (Jamaat), has also been included in the relief and rehabilitation supervision committee for Chakoria.

Tk 59.45 lakh donated to PM's Relief Fund

Different individuals and organisations Friday donated Taka 59,45,000 in cash and cheque to Prime Minister's Relief Fund, reports BSS.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia Friday received the donations at her Sugandha office.

Those who donated to the fund include Christian Community of Bangladesh Taka 22,20,000 and Shaw Wallace Bangladesh Ltd Taka 5,00,000.

DU, BUET classes resume today

By DU Correspondent

The classes of Dhaka University will resume today (Saturday) after a one-week closure due to devastating cyclone at the coastal regions of the country.

The classes of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) will also resume today (Saturday).

The date of reopening of BUET was shifted from May 11 for providing scope for the students, teachers and employees to participate in relief operations.

US copters to be used in Sylhet

The use of US helicopters, now engaged in relief operations in the cyclone-hit zones, for carrying emergency foodgrains from godowns to the flood-affected areas of Sylhet, Moulavibazar, Sunamganj and Habiganj was discussed at a meeting held at the Ministry of Food between State Minister for Food Najmul Huda and the US Ambassador William B. Milam, according to an official handout, reports BSS.

Huda thanked the Ambassador for extending the service of US helicopters in carrying emergency food to cyclone and flood-affected areas. He said the American assistance in the speedy transportation of foodgrains to the distressed and remote areas of the country had expedited the relief operation. He stressed the need for making more effective use of the US helicopters in carrying relief operation and transportation of emergency foodgrains.

Discussions were also held on stock position of food, procurement drive and supply of foodgrains including US food aid.

Milam explained in detail the "Operation Productive Effort" of emergency food and relief in the cyclone-hit areas and the relief activities of the advance team of the US Task Force.

Dr. Sharif's death condoled

Health and Family Welfare Minister Chowdhury Kamal Ubc Yusuf Friday expressed profound shock at the death of eminent eye-specialist Dr. Ahmed Sharif, former Director of National Institute of Ophthalmology, reports BSS.

In a condolence message Dr. Ahmed Sharif was a physician of repute and a great social worker. His death is an irreparable loss to the nation.

Industrial rules to be relaxed

Finance and Planning Minister M Saifur Rahman Tuesday said the government will relax the existing rules and regulations for the establishment of industries and marketing their products for reaching the industrial goods to the people at a reasonable price, report BSS.

Talking to the representatives of Dhaka Metropolitan Chamber and Commerce at his office, the Finance Minister said the government will provide all sorts of facilities for producing quality goods which could compete in the international market.

Saifur Rahman said the industrialists will have to minimise the production cost and increase efficiency in administration and management.

The Finance Minister said, the budgetary irregularities of the past government has made the country dependent excessively on foreign assistance. Consequently the country's ability to manage autonomy in external finance has been neutralised to a substantial extent, he added.

The Finance Minister said, the government is under heavy pressure from donor agencies for the budgetary irregularities of the past government.

Saifur Rahman said the present government is working relentlessly for removing the budgetary irregularities. He urged all to contribute their mite for establishing a self-reliant economy.

Directives to check realisation of tolls by force

The government has given necessary directives to all law enforcing agencies to apply relevant laws in checking with iron hand the trend of realising tolls forcibly, a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Home said on Thursday, reports BSS.

UNDP relief coordinator dead

Enayet Rasul Chowdhury, Programme Officer and Head, Chittagong Division of the UNDP (WFP) and coordinator for its cyclone affected relief operations, died in Chittagong Friday morning, reports BSS.

Chowdhury, who had returned to Chittagong city Thursday from the cyclone affected areas after coordinating relief work, suffered a heart attack. He was taken to hospital but died Friday morning when he suffered another attack.

He left behind his mother, wife, two daughters and a son.

His janaza will be held on May 19 after Zohr prayer at Dhanmondi Eidgah Mosque. The burial will take place on the same day.

JS passes 18 bills

The session began on April 5. In all there were 22 working days of the Parliament which had a total of 29 sittings, according to the Parliament Secretariat.

Besides the passage of the bills there were general discussions on jail situation, which was explosive during the first fortnight of April, the Acting President's inaugural address, and the cyclone.

By Staff Correspondent

The first session was a stormy one. The Treasury and the Opposition Benches were at odds most of the time. Differences between the two benches surfaced in the very inaugural sitting when the House failed to unanimously elect a Speaker and a Deputy Speaker. The opposition had also proposed the names of

two candidates and the matter was resolved through division votes. Shamsul Huda Chowdhury, Speaker of the fourth parliament, presided over the inaugural session where the new Speaker and the new Deputy Speaker were elected.

The House witnessed heated exchanges over the positioning of the name of the Leader of the Opposition Shethk Hasina in the Business Advisory Committee. The opposition staged a walk out to press home the demand that the name of the Leader of the Opposition should come just after the name of the Leader of the House. The Treasury Bench had argued that names were put in the committee in keeping with the orders of precedence. The matter was resolved by conceding the opposition demand.

The general discussion on the jail situation generated tremendous heat as the opposition blamed the government for deterioration of law and order situation. Awami League members tried to benefit politically by asserting that there had been lawlessness in jails since the killing of four leaders in Dhaka Central jail on November 3, 1975. The government complained that certain political quarters had instigated rebellion in jails and promised strong measures to bring the situation under control.

The discussion on the motion of thanks on the Acting President's inaugural address was taken by most opposition members to make a strong plea for a constitutional amendment to switch over to a parliamentary form of government. Treasury Bench members were mostly noncommittal, but argued that both parliamentary and presidential systems were democratic.

The House adopted a resolution thanking the President for his inaugural address. Members who spoke on the motion highly praised the Acting President for the suc-

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

ACROSS

1 Time gone by
4 Near
6 Swift
11 Sprinkle
12 Gladiators
15 Running
16 Longed
18 Myself
19 Fulfill
21 Great Lake
22 Quarrel
24 Courageous person
26 Seeds
28 Individual
29 Muse of poetry
31 "William - Overture"
33 Down: prefix
34 Covers
36 "Indiana Jones and the Temple of -"
38 Physician

DOWN

1 Bother
2 Male goose of -
3 River in Siberia
4 Toward shelter
5 Blood, sweat and -
6 Renovated
7 Sudsy brew
8 Cushions
9 That thing
10 Require
12 Young ID
14 Meditter-ranean vessel
15 Carry
17 Disturbance
20 Spoken
23 Italian river
24 That man 25 Auricular
27 Narrow opening
30 Aroma
32 Booby
35 Halted
37 Additional
38 College officials
39 Comfort: ease
41 Piece for one
43 Missive
44 Selenium symbol
46 Roman 51
48 Trials
51 Carry
53 Danish island
57 Write
58 Roman gods
60 Forerunner of CIA
62 Agave plant
64 Exist

Answer to Previous Puzzle

LOB ATONE PEP
ORALINER ARE
PERSON AORTAS
ROE ARDOR
STEPAS ELOGE
EEL ACTS ELIA
AN CLERICORS
MESH SILO ALE
STAIPL DL LESS
FLAME TAR
SVELTE LADIES
AISELDER ENK
WET STOAT SAK

Weather Squally wind likely

By Staff Correspondent

Dhaka city on Friday experienced heavy rainfall accompanied by gusty wind with the highest record of 66mm, on Friday till 9 pm. Meteorological Department reports.

Many low-lying localities of Dhaka city, Dhaka old town and several main avenues and roads including Topkhana, Bijoyganj, Jonaki, Dainik Bangla crossing, Nilkhet and Newmarket road, Doel crossing, and different parts of Mirpur and Mohammadpur road were submerged by heavy downpour.

Different cities and towns of the country were also lashed with gusty wind and downpour. It rained significantly in Sylhet and Srimangal which have already been gripped by flash floods due to onrush of water from upstreams.

Srimangal and Sylhet had 50mm and 32mm respectively of rainfall during the day till 6pm.

The other places experiencing rainfall during the period included Dinajpur 11mm, Tangail 8mm, Rangpur 7mm, Khulna 3mm and Rangamati 1mm.

Light to moderate rain or shower, moderately heavyfall accompanied by gusty or squally wind is likely to occur at many places ever Rajshahi, Dhaka and Chittagong divisions and at one or two places over Khulna divisions till Tuesday morning. Day temperature is expected to remain nearly unchanged over the country, Meteorological Department reported.

Nor-wester Squally Warning: Temporary north west or nor-wester squally speed at a velocity of 70 to 90 kilometre per hour or more is likely to occur at one or two places ever Dhaka Division and the regions of Bogra, Pubna, Jessore, Kushtia, Noakhali, Comilla, and Sylhet during 24 hours.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Little change

Extended outlook for another five days: Weather likely to improve.

Temperature and humidity of some cities and towns of the country on Friday were:

Town/City	Maximum	Minimum	Humidity in percentage
Dhaka	33	21	77
Chittagong	32.4	27.3	78
Rajshahi	35.2	20.8	94
Khulna	32.3	22.8	75
Bogra	32.3	20.4	95
Rangpur	28.9	23	98
Dinajpur	28	21.6	97
Barisal	33	21.5	81
Sylhet	24.8	20.8	86
Cox's Bazar	32.5	26.5	78
Tangail	28.4	20.4	83

CORRIGENDUM NOTICE

NOTICE OF INVITATION OF TENDER NO. 3398 ISSUED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH FOR A PROJECT FINANCED BY THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY.

PROJECT TITLE/AND NO.: RANGPUR REGION RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME. NA 84/21 (RD-8)

Please read, "Participation shall be open on equal terms to all natural and legal persons, firms and companies falling within the scope of the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community and to all natural persons, firms and companies of the recipient state and all the EEC assistance receiving countries".

In place of "Participation is open on equal terms to all natural persons and companies or firms, that are nationals of the Member States of European Economic Community or of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, or of the Republic of India, Pakistan, Bhutan, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Indonesia, Thailand, China and The Philippines.

All other terms and conditions will remain same.

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