

Dhaka Day by Day

'A Never-ending Love Affair'

by Fayza Haq

If the world is collapsing, if your dreams are shattered, all you had to do was wangle a ticket to the Eric Vincent Concert. You can make your audience sing in English and clap to the tune but to have them sing choruses in French is novel indeed in Dhaka. Eric had the Sheraton crowd eating out of his hands.

How did he find the Dhaka audience? Were they responsive enough? "I feel the best moment for me is not when they applaud. It is the silence that speaks more than anything else. I feel the audience around the world is the same. As a song writer I try to include what is common to everybody in the world. I deal with fundamental problems like a terminated love affair. There is always a link between human beings all over the world. When problems like wars arise we try to push the blame on to the other," Eric informs.

Eric continues, "as a song writer you have to be a soul searcher and be self-critical. When you are singing you are sharing an emotion with many people no matter what culture he comes from. The people in Chitta-gong, for instance, were less demonstrative than in cities in USA — but that is to be expected.

How does he go about composing his litting songs that he pours out in his cream-on-coffee seductive voice? "There is no rule," he says with an infectious grin. "The most important is the idea. I always ask myself whether it is important to tell something or not. I must decide what idea it is that I can share with the others. I also have to be careful that it has not been used by someone else before," he replied with a deep grin.

Discussing the secret of being a success, Eric replies with gravity. "Sincerity. That's it! You have to develop a good technique. You have to train yourself adequately. You must be able to reach out to the people. The chason Francaise must have an immediate appeal. Performance is a communion. It is a never-ending love affair. Your heart has to be totally involved and your mind entirely engaged in your task," he insists.

Talking of how to be a good musician he admits that he plays according to his moods and schedules. "If you stop to play the instrument one day, you will mark it yourself. If you stop for a week, your wife will notice it, and should you stop for a month everybody will be only too aware of it," he remarks.

Eric admits that folk singers in USA are better known all over the world rather than the European singers. But he adds quickly with vehemence, "A lot is manipulated by the promotions and the people marketing the LPs and CDs." Mentioning the sex symbol and superstar Madonna the singer comments, "I am not denying that she has no talents but I have not made a study of her integral capabilities. She's beautiful and sexy but that's it — as far as I am concerned."

His travels have influenced him a lot. "My ambition is to move and mix with different cultures. I am fascinated by the sand and the sea of the islands like Madagascar, Sri Lanka and Mauritius. When you live in the city the island is an idyllic dream. Mauritius is an exceptional experience. It has gathered people from different cultures and they live in perfect harmony. They have kept their own culture but have held on to their own Mauritian identity too."

Eric adds, "In the song of Sri Lanka, that you heard, I was dealing with the promiscuity of the poor people while there is a lot of money pouring in with tourism in other sections. It was the social discrepancy that touched me. Islands alone don't particularly fascinate me. I simply made the songs to entertain. I love places like Brazil and Indonesia as well."

Does he believe that the music of the east and west can be combined effectively again, as the Beatles did decades back? "There is not necessarily a frontier," he replies. "You can be inspired by the music from any country and I myself borrow tunes and techniques from the places I go to."

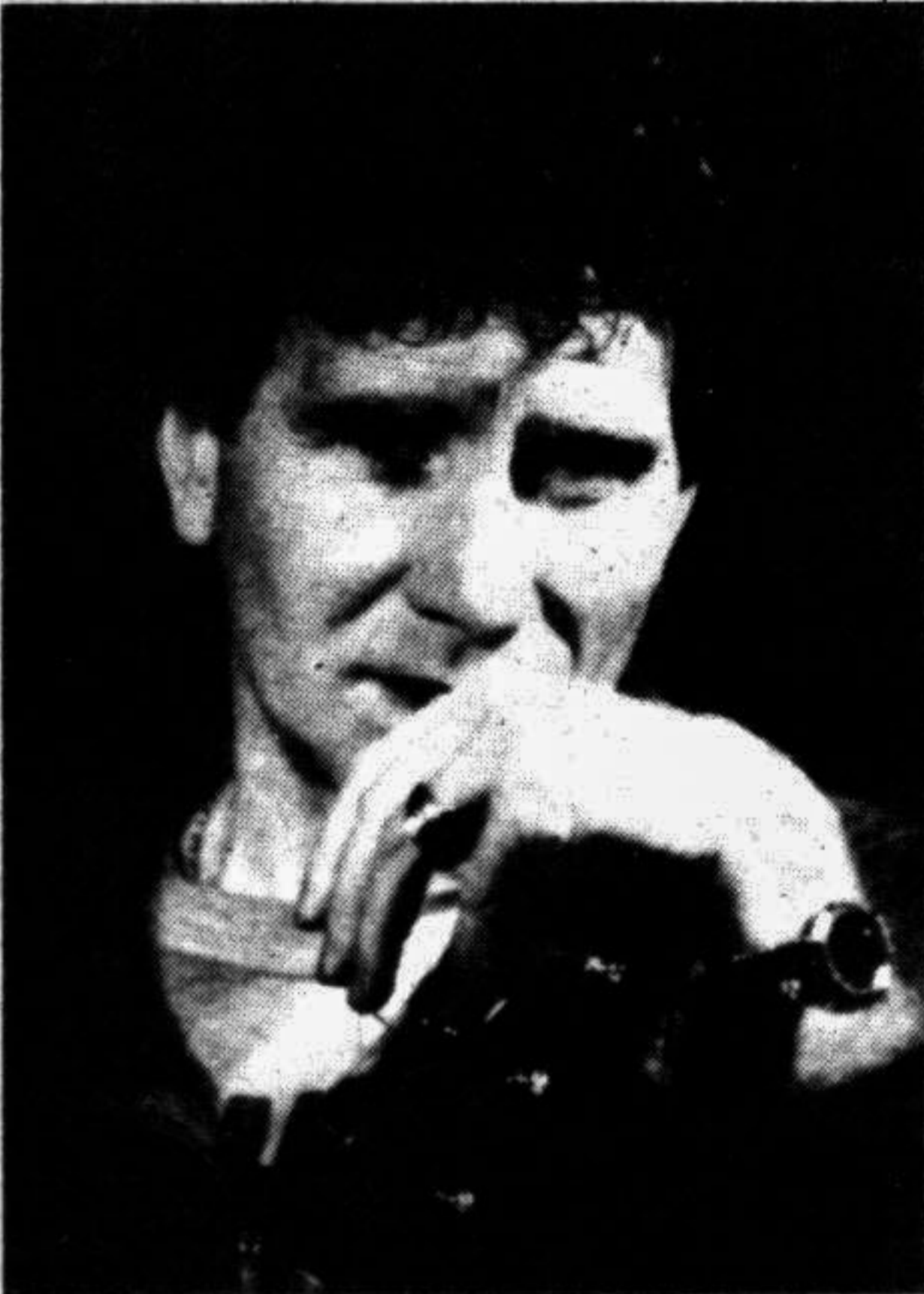
"People coming from France and Germany may not have an instantaneous rapport with eastern music. Yet there are people who live in Paris and eat steak and French fries — it can't be helped that their sensibility is limited. But I believe that such cases are in minority today. I think people are now more open and interested. I myself am 'exotic' in the sense that my performance is not in pure French. There is a marked difference between the music of the east and west but the two music can well be blended with satisfactory results," he continues about his opinions about music.

"Songs like Kylie Minogue's 'Je ne sais pas pourquoi' is well loved but I think that people should sing in their own language, according to their own culture. I don't want people to lose their own identity. It is a pity that so many far Eastern singers are going the American way."

Comparing French music with the American ones he comments, "The chason Francaise always tells something. The singer involves himself in the life around him and shares something with the audience. In fact, he involves himself with the audience completely. Maybe the American singers are technically superior. But sometimes if the performance gets 'too perfect' it is like a circus performance or something too mechanical. The communion with the audience is essential even if he has to sing with the audience at the cafe tables."

Eric's wife Claudine is half French and half Vietnamese and she helps him with his performances by manipulating the background music.

Eric Vincent Concert was held at Hotel Dhaka Sheraton on Wednesday, sponsored jointly by the hotel and Alliance Francaise.



Eric Vincent

Justice Amin's janaza held

A namaz-e-janaza of Justice Amin Ahmed, former Chief Justice of the then East Pakistan was held at the Supreme Court premises in Dhaka Sunday afternoon, reports BSS.

Chief Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed, judges and members of the Supreme Court Bar attended the janaza.

Official and employees of the Supreme Court also attended it.

Earlier as the body of the late Chief Justice was brought to the Supreme Court complex, the judges, members of the Bar and other employees came out to have a glimpse of late Amin Ahmed and to pay respect.

'Govt trying to create more job opportunities'

LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdus Salam Talukder has underscored the need for realistic efforts towards improving the socio-economic condition of people living in the rural areas, reports BSS.

The minister was addressing the faculty members and employees of Rural Development Academy in Bogra Saturday. State Minister for Finance Mujibur Rahman and State Minister for Religious Affairs M A Mannan were present at the meeting.

Salam Talukder said the government is striving to generate employment opportunities in a two-pronged approach for rural poverty alleviation and boosting production. He said the rural development institutions like the Bogra Academy can play a significant role in creating the avenues for the rural people to have a more effective and meaningful participation in our national growth process.

Earlier, the minister laid the foundation stones of Nandigram College mosque and Ompror hat mosque in Nandigram.

Shafiul Azam laid to rest

Former minister S M Shafiul Azam was buried at the family graveyard at his village Babunagar, in Fatikchhari, Chittagong, after Asr prayer on Sunday, reports BSS.

Azam died in a London hospital on December 4 after a prolonged illness.

Earlier, on arrival of his body at Chittagong, a namaz-e-janaza was held at Laidlight Maidan after Zohr prayer.

Local MPs, high officials, friends and relatives and a cross-section of people attended the janaza.

The body of late Azam was flown to Dhaka by a Biman flight from London in the morning. A namaz-e-janaza was held at the lawn of the VIP lounge at Zia International Airport.

The Janaza at Zia was attended, among others, by Post and Telecommunications Minister M. Keramat Ali, Planning Minister Zahiruddin Khan, Akhteruzzaman Chowdhury, MP, Chief Whip Khondoker Delwar Hossain, Cabinet Secretary Siddiqueur Rahman, former Cabinet Secretary M. Monturuzzaman, Major General Salam, high officials and a host of friends and admirers of late Azam.

BIA exams from tomorrow

Diploma examination in insurance conducted by Bangladesh Insurance Academy (BIA) begins tomorrow (Tuesday) as per schedule, reports BSS.

107 students will participate in different parts of the diploma course examination, says a press release.

Weather

Dry weather likely

By Staff Correspondent

Met office forecast Sunday that dry weather would prevail over the country during the next 36 hours ending 6 pm Monday.

Night temperature is likely to remain unchanged over the country except Chittagong, Barisal, Khulna, Patuakhali and Faridpur where temperature may rise by one to two degrees Celsius.

Temperature and humidity recorded in important cities and towns on Sunday were:

Table with 3 columns: Cities/Towns, Temperature in degree Celsius (Max, Min), Humidity in percentage (9 am, 6 pm). Rows include Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi, Khulna, Barisal, Cox's Bazar, Srimangal, Mymensingh, Dinajpur, Jessore.

The lowest temperature was at Jessore on the day. Sun set at Dhaka on Monday at 5-12 pm and Sun rise Tuesday at 6-31 am.



Artists of Chhayana rendering songs at the auditorium of Central Public Library on Sunday on the occasion of the 70th birth anniversary of Patua Quamrul.

What's on today....

Rotary Club of Dhaka Central: The regular weekly meeting of Rotary Club of Dhaka Central will be held today (Monday) at 1:30 pm at the Dhaka Sheraton Hotel.

Rotary Club of Dhaka North: The regular weekly meeting of Rotary Club of Dhaka North will be held today (Monday) at 5:30 pm at the Hotel Sonargaon.

Journalist Welfare Fund: Karnaphuli Insurance Journalist Welfare Fund has organised a function today (Monday) at 3:30 pm at the auditorium of the National Press Club to distribute cheques among the distressed journalists.

Institution of Engineers: The 343rd meeting of the council of the Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh (IEB) will be held today (Monday) at 4:30 pm at the council room of the IEB headquarters.

Tamaddun Mazlish: A discussion meeting will be held today (Monday) at 5 pm at the auditorium of the National Book Centre in observance of the sixth death anniversary of Emdad Ali Khan, a language martyr.

The meeting, organised by the Tamaddun Mazlish, will be attended by Public Works Minister Barrister Rafiqul Islam Miah as chief guest and State Minister for Education Principal Yunus Khan will be the special guest.

The meeting will be presided over by Dewan Mohammad Azraf, Sanaulah Noory, Justice Ansar Ali, Advocate Farmanullah Khan and Barrister Korban Ali will address it.

Extra Mohrar Assoc: The annual conference of Bangladesh Extra Mohrar Association will begin tomorrow (Tuesday) at Dhaka Zila Kirta Samity Auditorium.

The Law and Justice Minister Mirza Golam Hafiz will address the conference as chief guest.

The State Minister for Relief and Rehabilitation Lutfor Rahman Khan and State Minister for Law and Justice Barrister Aminul Huq will address the conference as special guest.

About 5500 members of the extra mohrar association are expected to attend the conference. Compiled by Sohel

Press freedom a must for democracy

Speakers at a seminar in Dhaka Sunday underscored the need for press freedom to institutionalise democracy, reports BSS.

Organised by 'Sangbadik Ferdous Alam Dulal Smriti Parishad' at National Press Club the seminar on 'Democracy and Press Freedom', was addressed by Abdus Samad Azad, K M Obaidur Rahman, Mozaffar Hossain Paltu, Nurul Islam Nahid, Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury and Akram Hossain.

The key note paper was written by Alhaj Shamsul Huda and presented by Nazmul Haq Sarkar on his behalf.

Journalist Ferdous Alam Dulal who used to work with BSS news agency, was killed on May 7, 1981 by some unknown assailants.

Speaking at the seminar Deputy Leader of the Opposition Abdus Samad Azad urged the journalists to maintain objectivity in discharging their professional tasks.

He said the newsmen should write the truth whether that be in favour of the government or against. The key note speaker pointed out that present government did not interfere on publication of newspaper but, he said, language of government press notes was still quite harsh.

There could not be a compromise between individual political belief and the concept of press freedom and we do not want any newspaper being loyal to any quarter, he added.

City BNP rallies against anarchy

Kotwali thana and Ramna thana BNP Sunday brought out separate processions against anarchy and terrorism from their respective offices and paraded the city thoroughfares in their areas, reports BSS.

The procession led by Kotwali Thana BNP President Mohammad Mohan and General Secretary Abu M. Mynuddin Mainu paraded through North South Road, Gulistan, Nawabpur Road, Patuatuli, Islampur, Babu Bazar and other roads.

The procession led by Ramna Thana BNP Convener Chowdhury Alam paraded through Foxe Road, Gulistan, North South Road, Kaptan Bazar, Nawabpur Road, and different roads under Ramna thana.

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Alamgir Kabir's death condoled

Poet Begum Sufia Kamal and Dr S A Malek, Chairperson and General Secretary of Bangabandhu Parishad, on Sunday expressed their deep shock at the death of Alamgir Kabir, an eminent architect and ardent follower of Bangabandhu's ideals, reports BSS.

In a condolence message they recalled late Alamgir Kabir's active involvement with Bangabandhu Parishad and said he had dedicated himself to the national causes like independence, democracy and progress.

Begum Sufia Kamal and Dr S A Malek prayed for the peace of the departed soul and expressed their sympathy with the members of the bereaved family.

Advertisement for The Daily Star featuring 'It's new just for you' and 'The Daily Star is pleased to introduce a new column where individuals and organisations can publish Birthday and Anniversary Greetings, Congratulatory and Condolence Messages, Get-Well/Good-Luck Wishes, Birth/Death Announcements, In Memoriam, etc. at nominal charges.'

Advertisement for 'শাফিকুল পিকনিক স্ট' (Shafiqul Picnic Spot) with details about a picnic spot in the hills.

Advertisement for Oxford School: 'Your child needs better schooling. ADMISSION'S GOING ON. Please contact for details. OXFORD SCHOOL. House No. 35, Road No.9A, Dhanmondi, RA Dhaka. Tel: 323912'

Notice Inviting Tender: 'Tender No: T-13/91-92. 1. Tender No: T-13/91-92. 2. Name of work and estimated cost: Group A Repair and maintenance of Main pumping plant (under SRP) in U Z: Rangunia, Dist-Chittagong, Tk 9,07,108/-; Group B Repair and maintenance of Fencing of RPP in Rangunia Upazila under CDR programme Tk 2,98,436/-.

More industrial units needed for flourishing market economy

Finance Minister M. Saifur Rahman Sunday said the success of the market economy largely depended on disinvesting the losing public sector enterprises to the private sector, reports BSS.

Inaugurating a five-day workshop on 'The role of cost and management accountant in a market economy' at a city hotel, the Finance Minister also stressed the need for setting up of more new industrial units for flourishing the market economy which is the main thrust of the present government.

The Institute of Cost and Management Accountants of Bangladesh (ICMAB) and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) jointly organised the workshop. The inaugural session was presided over by the Vice-President of ICMAB Muzaffar Ahmed and addressed by a representative of UNDP Amanullah Khan.

Md. Nurul Hassan, past President of the ICMAB, presented the key-note paper in the opening session.

Saifur Rahman said, Bangladesh is an agro-based country and it has limited resources. We need to evolve techniques for optimum use of the limited resources for the overall development of the country, he pointed out.

Referring to a strike called by some trade unions against privatisation programme of the government, the Finance Minister said the government opted for privatisation programme to restore discipline and order in the economic sector and for infusing momentum there.

He said, labour and input costs were higher than the sale proceeds in many of the public sector enterprises. As a result, he said, government had to pay subsidy from its exchequer to keep run the enterprises.

The finance Minister said the Cost and Management Accountants (CMAs) could play an important role in the market economy by aiding, helping, communicating and convincing the policy makers and

planners for optimum use of the resources. He regretted that importance of the (CMAs) was not felt much in private sector of the country and even in the government level.

Nurul Hassan, in his keynote speech, said by and large the CMAs have so far been inward looking. What will now be required of them is to be strategists and outward looking concerned with competitive market forces, he said.

He said, the CMAs should further cultivate their knowledge and familiarity with strategic management accounting which involves the provision and analysis of management accounting data relating to a business strategy.

Hassan urged the CMAs to launch a major initiative to place themselves squarely in the middle of the national economic stage which will ultimately help them expand their role and presence in international economic scene and in international accounting activity.

Steps to repair damaged temples assured

State Minister of Religious Affairs Prof. M A Mannan said Sunday the present government would take all possible measures to repair and reconstruct the affected temples during protest against Babri Mosque event in India at the time of autocratic regime in Bangladesh, reports BSS.

Addressing a huge gathering of Hindu community while visiting Gaba, Ja temple in Sirajganj, the State Minister said Bangladesh believed in cordial coexistence of all communities to ensure a healthy and excellent growth of communal relations for the well-being of all classes of

people. As such, he said, Bangladesh had established unprecedented communal harmony in the world.

Referring to Awami League's call for hartal, the State Minister said hartal could not bring any good to the society.

He expressed satisfaction that the people of Sirajganj did not respond to the hartal called by the said party. Later, he addressed a conference of an Islamic woman organisation at Ullapara. He said the BNP government had been doing every thing possible to improve the socio-economic condition of women.

Monday TV schedule table with columns for time and program details.