

Dhaka Day by Day

Where the Heart Sways

by Fayza Haq

Despite the cold evening Dr. (Mrs) Sharmistha Sen Ghosh and Mrs. Kanaka Banerjee gave performances to a rapt audience at the National Museum auditorium last Tuesday.

"Although video cassettes have invaded our existence this has not undermined the importance of classical music, which remains a symbol of social and intellectual achievement," said Sharmistha Sen, who was born in Calcutta and has settled in New Delhi.

"Classical music today is flourishing in a place like India where there are music festivals, house concerts, and sponsored programmes with big commercial firms," Sharmistha added.

Commenting on the impact of Indian classical music on the western world the artist said, "I started with the Beatles' George Harrison who learnt from Ravi Shankar. Today there is a steady demand for sitar and tabla music in the west and it continues to influence their music. 'Dhurpad' and 'Dhamar' vocal forms are also gradually getting to be well known."

"What does one need to be a good sitar player? You must have a good 'ustad'. You should be prepared to slog away and have some imaginative powers as well," were the suggestions of a teacher who has taught for 19 years. Her career includes six months of teaching at the Washington University in '82. "I enjoy helping the boys and girls to learn. It is such a creative art that you don't get bored," Sharmistha confided.

The artist has a brilliant academic record. She won a national scholarship while a student. She did research on stringed instruments of North India under Professor Dhurva Tara Joshi at Santiniketan and was awarded a PhD in '72. She is both a musicologist and an accomplished artist.

Sharmistha, who began playing at the age of seven said about her training, "The people who taught me were friends of my parents who often frequented the house. I learnt under Narresh Chandra Bondopadhyay of Bishnupur Gharana and Ustad Mushtaq Ali Khan Sahib of Sena

Gharana."

Her book "Stringed Instruments of North India" deals with evolution, style and practical techniques. "It discusses the various styles of the different schools," she informed.

Sharmistha, who has played the sitar in Europe, USA and Afghanistan, is a senior artist for All India Radio and Doordarshan (TV). She does not have to perform unnecessarily over her livelihood as she has her teaching post to rely on.

"Other people like Kanaka are making a living by performances alone," she pointed out. Her husband is an engineer and she has a young daughter.

Kanaka, who was the vocalist for the evening's performance, said "I was told by foreign music enthusiasts that when you hear pop music your

feet start tapping to the beat but when you hear Indian classical music your entire heart sways.

"People don't easily take to classical music. They are even sometimes afraid of it," Kanaka commented. "But when they hear my singing fortunately, they are prepared to listen to more and more," she said with a rush of confidence in her talent.

Kanaka has given performances in a number of places like London, Rome, Paris, Germany, Nairobi and Dubai. "Performances abroad go all night till six in the morning. It is really heartening," she added.

Talking about her work in India she informed, "I have three L.P.s and four cassettes to my credit. I have done playback singing for films like 'Raam Terri Ganga Matlee', 'Iddi Mubarak' and 'Halon Ki Lakeerey'. Kanaka, who has been singing for twenty years, has won the 'Sur Mani' award in '69 and the 'Kala Saraswati' from Andhra in '87.

The artist, who began singing at the age of four, guided by her mother, learnt from Ustad Amir Khan and Pandit Prithap Narain of Mevast Gharana. The singer, who is now a widow, with two grown children, is settled in Bombay and had this to say about her career "Music is entire life."



Sharmistha Sen

Kanaka Banerjee

Two shifts in 8 city schools

The Government have decided to introduce two shifts in eight schools of the city from this academic year, Education Ministry sources said, reports UNB.

With heavy pressure of admission, it was decided to introduce double shift in selected schools to tackle the problem.

The schools are: Government Laboratory School, Dhannondi Government Boys High School, Mohammadpur Government High School, Gonobhavan Government High School, Tejgaon Government Girls High School, Dhaka Collegiate School, Khilgaon High School and Science College School.

Earlier, two shifts were introduced in 10 schools of the city and 12 schools of old district.

120 rare Soviet books on show

A week-long book exhibition began at the Central Public Library under the auspices of the Soviet Cultural Centre in Dhaka on Wednesday afternoon, an official handout said, reports BSS.

Education Adviser Prof. Zillur Rahman Siddiqui formally inaugurated the exhibition at a simple ceremony. Justice K. M. Sobhan and Mr. Igor A Saprykin, Minister-Counsellor of the USSR embassy in Dhaka and Zirifa Taimur Kizi Salakhova, collector of the books also spoke on the occasion.

Speaking on the occasion, the Education Adviser underlined the need for education and cultural exchange between Bangladesh and USSR for strengthening the existing bond of friendship between the two countries.

He said, Bangladesh and the USSR have a similar story and cultural heritage which if preserved properly, may enrich arts and culture in the interest of the peoples of the two countries, the handout said.

A total of 120 rare books including Holy Quran collected by Mrs. Zarifa Taimur Kizi Salakhova, an Azerbaijan philologist and cultural worker were placed for display.

Notre Dame College wins Inter College Debate contest

Notre Dame College "Gold" team and Vigarunissa Noon College became champion and runners up respectively in the 8th Inter-College Debate '90 held in the city Tuesday, reports UNB.



Bulbul Ahmed, Syed, Hassan Imam and Golam Sarwar in a scene of controversial drama 'Jatri' to be telecast tonight (Thursday).

Controversial TV drama tonight

The Drama of the Week in the Bangladesh Television tonight (Thursday) is titled Jatri (passenger), written by Shafiq Rehman, Editor of weekly Jai Jai Deen, banned by deposed President H.M. Ershad.

The drama was earlier recorded in August, 1986 but later the then Information Minister Anwar Zahid had seen its recording and ordered the Bangladesh Television authorities to stop its telecast, as the drama reportedly referred to the autocratic rule. It was scheduled to be telecast on the occasion of Eid.

After the fall of H.M. Ershad, the TV got clearance from the higher authorities to telecast it. The producer of Jatri M. Hamid, when contacted on Wednesday, smilingly refused to divulge the contents of the drama.

"First see it," he dramatised the main actors of the play are Bulbul Ahmed, Syed Hassan Imam and Golam Sarwar. Hamid said frantic efforts of the BTV to telecast Jatri failed in those tumultuous times of 1986 as the Ministry was stubborn in its refusal. Shafiq Rehman, following ban on his weekly had gone to London and established an independent broadcasting station with blessings of former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher. His wife Taleya, once a BBC staffer, is also working in the station. -- Fatema Hossain

Pir Shaheb's son says Ershad misused Atroshi for his political gains

Zaker Party leader Pirzada Mostafa Amir Faisal on Wednesday said he favours parliamentary form of government because he believes it can ensure a genuine representation of the people.

In an interview with UNB, Faisal said that in a presidential system, all powers are concentrated in one hand

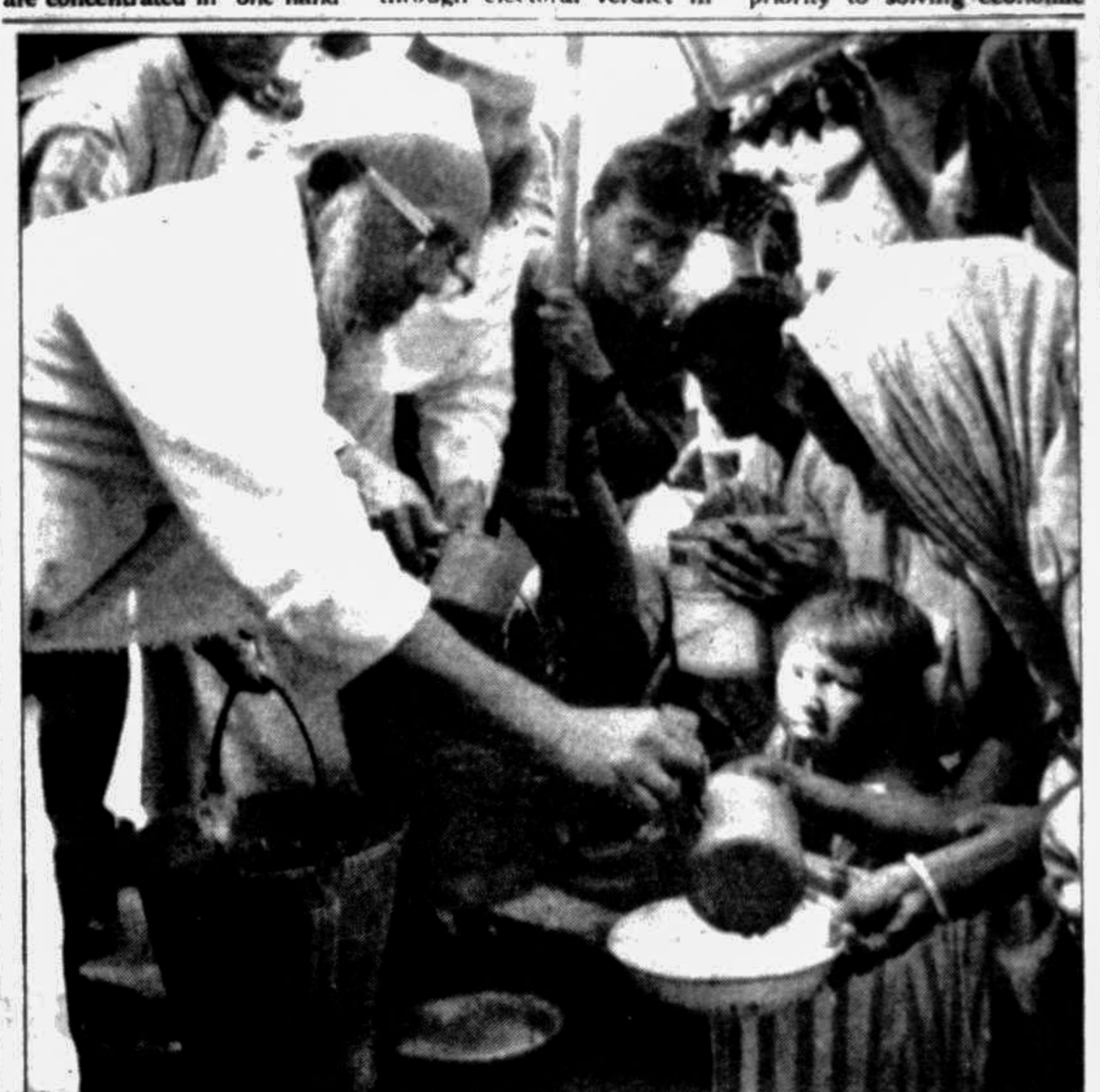
and the destiny of the people is controlled by one individual.

"In my opinion, people's representation is truly reflected in the parliamentary system but in a presidential form all powers are vested in one individual," he said, adding that the future form of government should be decided through electoral verdict in

next month's elections.

Faisal, whose Zaker Party fielded 299 candidates, including two from minority Hindu community, in the February 27 parliamentary polls, expected to win a large number of seats in the elections.

If voted to power, he said, the Zaker Party would attach priority to solving economic



Muslim devotees feeding the poor in front of the National Press Club in Dhaka on Wednesday in order to seek divine blessings for President Saddam Hussein's victory in the Gulf war. Series of anti-war rallies were held throughout Bangladesh on the day. -- Star Photo

problems facing the people and deal with various social and political issues in light of Islamic spirit and values.

Replying to a question, Faisal said his party is ready to go for an election alliance with nationalist and Islamic forces, indicating the Zaker Party had been in touch with a number of parties like BNP, Jamaat-e-Islami, Freedom Party, Proqash, Krishak Samik Party and Progressiv Nationalist Party.

Asked about the relation of his party with the Awami League, Faisal said, "Awami League believes in secularism but we don't."

Asked to comment on the widespread demand for trial of Ershad who is a disciple of the Pir of Atroshi, Faisal said "if there is any charge against him (Ershad), he must be tried as per law of the land nobody is above law."

In this context, Faisal, younger son of the Pir of Atroshi, said Ershad was barred to visit the Atroshi Dargah from last October as he disobeyed the instructions of the Pir Shaheb.

He described the nine years' rule of Ershad as undemocratic and said Ershad misused the Atroshi for his political purpose and building his personal image.

The Pir Shaheb asked President Ershad to transfer power to caretaker government for holding elections but he did not listen to his instructions, he said.

Faisal further said ousted president Ershad had caused immense harm to the nationalist and Islamic forces. "Even his administration tried to arrest me, harassed our party workers and put press restriction on our party activities."

The Zaker Party leader, replying to a question, said his party wants to maintain good relations with neighbouring countries, including India, by protecting country's interest.

Asked about the Indo-Bangladesh friendship treaty, he said if voted to power, the Zaker Party will scrap all treaties and agreements contrary to the interest of Bangladesh.

Grave concern over Gulf war

Advocate M. A. Muteleb, President of Liberty International, a Bangladesh-based international human rights organization having consultative status with the United Nations (ECOSOC) has expressed serious concern about the dangerous escalation of war in the Gulf area, reports BSS.

Drawing attention to the United Nations declaration on the rights of peoples to peace, Mr. Muteleb urged the parties concerned for immediate halt to fighting and to enter into a discussion urgently in an international conference to establish permanent peace in the area, the press release added.

Democracy march from Chittagong to Dhaka today

CHITTAGONG, Jan 23 : Sammilita Sangskritik Jote will start a democracy march from Dhaka to Chittagong tomorrow, jote sources said here, reports BSS.

The participants of the march are scheduled to arrive Chittagong on January 26 through Comilla, Feni, Mirsarad and other places. The march is aimed at building up united resistance against armed terrorists, communal forces, anti-people and corrupt bureaucrats, businessmen and politicians and lackeys of the ousted autocrats, political and cultural workers, intellectuals, professionals and literatures will be among the marchers.



Awarded Ph. D. Abdur Rahim Mollah, Asstt. Professor of Bangladesh Institute of Technology (BIT) Khulna has been awarded Ph. D of the Council of National Academic Awards of the School of Electronic and Electrical Engineering, ROIT, Aberdeen, Scotland.

He did his Master's degree in Electrical Engineering from the UMIST, Manchester in 1987 under the British Council scholarship.

World Bank pressure for streamlining energy sector

The government has constituted a cabinet committee to suggest measures for resolving various problems in energy sector, reports UNB.

Official sources said on Wednesday the four-member committee, headed by Energy Adviser Prof. Wahiduddin Ahmad, would submit its report to the Acting President next week.

Sources said the move was prompted by continued insistence of the World Bank and other donors on immediate implementation of agreed reforms in the power sector.

The World Bank, the largest financier to the country's energy sector, warned the government three in last one month that it would stop all assistance unless donors conditionalities implemented.

Major conditions were: cut in system loss in power supply, restoration of financial discipline in the Power Development Board (PDB),

launching of Dhaka Electric Supply Authority (DESA) and transfer of 1700 distribution lines to the Rural Electrification Board (REB) by PDB.

The cabinet committee will also look into the deadlock caused by the disruption of installation of the North-South gas pipeline in Sylhet since December 22.

The World Bank, the financing agency to the pipeline project, has expressed concern over stoppage of the project work and asked for its immediate resumption to get funds released.

Deadline for launching DESA and power line transfer as agreed with the World Bank is February 1 next but, according to sources, their implementations will not be possible on schedule.

System loss in power supply is still above 40 per cent, which is the highest in the

world. Besides, only 800 power distribution lines were so far transferred to REB.

The Energy Ministry had a series of meetings with the PDB management and the employees unions where their cooperation was sought in implementing the reforms.

PROGRAMME

Lokayata Study Centre

A discussion organised by Lokayata Study Centre on the significance of mass uprising of 1969 will be held today at 3.30 p.m. at the Institute of Modern Languages of Dhaka University, says a press release.

Sardar Fazlul Karim, Dr. Anisuzzaman, Mr. Mansur Musa Mr. Ahmed Safa, Syed Abul Maksud and Dr. Harun-ur Rashid will take part in the discussion. Prof. Abul Kasem Fazlul Hque, Convener of the Centre, will preside over the discussion.

Sanskrit, Pali Teachers Samity

The biennial conference of Bangladesh Sanskrit and Pali Teachers Samity will be held at Kamalapur Dharma Rajik Buddha Bihar today at 10 a.m. a samity press release said.

The Director General Secondary and Higher Secondary Education, Mr. Abdur Rashid Chowdhury, will be the chief guest in the conference while the Secretary-General of the samity, Bishudhananda Mahathero will be present as the special guest.

Citizen committee

Bangladesh Citizen Committee will hold a discussion meeting tomorrow at 10 am at Guide House auditorium in the city to observe the death anniversary of Maukhesur Rahman (Shidu Bhai), the founder member of the Committee, reports UNB.

Justice (ret'd) Baudrul Haider Chowdhury will preside over the meeting while Professor Sardar Fazlul Karim, Prof Sirajul Islam Chowdhury, Badruddin Umar will take part in the discussion.

Maizbhandar urs

The annual Urs of Hazrat Maulana Ahmadullah Maizbhandari will be held at Maizbhandari darbar sharif, Fatickchari in Chittagong today, says a press release.

Thousands and devotees from home and abroad have already arrived at Fatickchari to attend the urs.

Peace procession

Bangladesh Students Welfare Organization will bring out a peace procession today (Thursday) at 11 am from Shisu Academy to National Press Club demanding immediate end to Gulf war, says a press release.

Ganochhaya centre

Ganochhaya Cultural Centre, will organise a discussion meeting on "Mass movement of '69 and mass upsurge of '90" today at 272, Doria Road, Dhaka at 10 am.

Plea to publish Chittagong massacre report

CHITTAGONG, Jan 23: Speakers at a rally here today demanded immediate publication of the Inquiry Commission report on Chittagong Massacre of January 24, 1988, reports BSS.

Held at Shaheed Minar this afternoon under the auspices of Chittagong Sammilita Peshajibi Sangram Parishad, the rally was presided over by its convener Prof Abdul Mannan among others journalist Faiz Ahmed, Joint Convener of Sammilita Sangskritik Jote Akhtarunnabi, A T M Rafiqul, Anwar Siddiqui, Dr. A Q M Sirajul Islam and Abul Momen addressed the rally.

The speakers said the democratic movement that toppled the autocratic government was yet to achieve total success as the report of the Inquiry Commission on the massacre in which many persons were killed in police firing was yet to be published.

They demanded erection of a memorial plaque at the spot where the gruesome killing was committed.

The speakers also called upon the leaders of the political alliances and the parties to remain alert against any conspiracy to foil democracy. They criticised certain parties for accommodating lackeys of the government of Ershad.

They blamed major political alliances for failing to prevent reappearance of those who killed people during the movement for democracy.

Weather

Temperature rises in Dhaka

A little relief in next two days

By Staff Correspondent

Met Office forecast on Wednesday that moderate cold wave over the country would discontinue for the next two days.

Srimangal hit the lowest minimum temperature Wednesday was recorded at 6.2 degree Celsius.

The minimum temperature in Dhaka on Wednesday rose to 11.8 degree Celsius which was 10.7 degree on Tuesday.

Dry weather will prevail over the country during the next 36 hours ending on Friday morning.

The westerly low lay over Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Sub-

temperature and humidity recorded in major cities and towns of Bangladesh on Wednesday were:

Himalayan West Bengal and adjoining northern Bangladesh. The seasonal low lay over South Bay.

Outlook for subsequent two days: moderate cold wave may temporarily discontinue.

Extended outlook for subsequent other five days: Little change.

The sun sets today (Thursday) at Dhaka at 5:39 pm and sunrise tomorrow (Friday) at 6:42 am.

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

Degree Celsius

New Delhi 12.0

Bangkok 25.0

Hong Kong 16.0

Beijing -02

Singapore 24.0

Karachi 17.0

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

ACROSS

- Small animal
- Stable compartment
- Thinly scattered
- Marine snail
- Conjunction
- More ill-natured
- As far as
- Free of
- Useful
- Pose for portrait
- Short jacket
- Lamprey
- Wild plum
- Period of time
- Blemishes
- Pedal digit
- High mountain
- Shuts
- Russian plain

DOWN

- Apparition
- Tantalum symbol

Answer to Previous Puzzle

CLEAN HARDER MENTAL AN DEALERS LA IDA DIANA SLY REDS NOD ENOS DIPS SENIOR PAID DODO HOTTER WEPT MUSS NEW REEF ORETIARA DEE UT EREMITA TA SLOPES TEASES EERIE START

- Sea eagle
- Brother of Jacob
- Remained at ease
- Quails
- Woody plant
- Ventilate
- Army off
- Medicinal preparation
- Painful spots
- Memoranda
- Physicians
- Form of light shoe
- Loop
- 25 Soupy
- Born
- The self
- Hold fast
- Liquid measures
- Becomes aware of
- Hair nets
- Ached
- Gladde
- Decay
- Clan
- Allowance for waste
- Corred cloth
- The self
- College deg.
- Artificial language

United Feature Syndicate