

Dhaka Day by Day

A Glass of Wine and a Classical Guitar

by Fayza Haq

William Matthews who has been praised by the New York City critics as "passionate and brilliant" and who has been lauded for his "exceptional technique", gave a marvellous performance at the TV auditorium at Rampura.

He confided that he had thought of combining the eastern and western music on his own. But he pointed out, "It is hard to work with a player you haven't known before." I regret that I didn't study improvising. Yehudi Menuhin made recordings with Ravi Shankar but Yehudi was not improvising.

He remarked, "The 'tabla' and 'sitar' are fascinating. The 'tabla' players have a talking rhythm. In America Indian music is less popular today than it was in the 70s. The Beatles gave them a popularity which has not been continued. Before the 70s people in the west knew nothing of Indian music. Today everybody has heard of Ravi Shankar."

Matthews who is on a tour that includes Qatar, S. Arabia, Oman and Jordan is quite happy with the idea of playing in the Middle East. "There is a strong connection between guitar and Arab music. The guitar is not abstract for the Middle Eastern viewers. Even if the music is different in culture, the act of playing itself is very engaging. It is like watching a 'sitar' player," he said.

"Music is not an international language," Matthews pointed out, "It is easy to follow the rise and fall of the music. But as you move from one culture to another as from the Western to the Hindi or Arabic there are sounds that appear angry to me which are intrinsically not so. If you haven't grown up listening to a particular music, there are notes from the music of the other cultures that you don't comprehend. If the 'sitar' player were to hit a wrong note I wouldn't know it."

Speaking about the classical guitar that he plays he commented: "It is a link between popular and classical music. As its volume is much less, it has not played a terribly central role. It is only in this century that it is being integrated. However, at one time, the guitar and the lute were important, as in the eighteenth century."

What made Matthews turn to music in a big way? "The biggest influence was my father," he said. "He was an accountant but he loved the piano. Around the age of 13, I visited a cousin who had a plastic guitar. I went through the instruction book and learnt to play it myself. Down the block where I lived, there was someone who played the guitar very well and he was very popular with the girls, and this naturally affected me too."

"My family had no objections," he continued. "In many countries having music as a career is considered wrong. My father himself

played the classical piano. My teacher said both popular and classical music had about the same importance. My father then urged me to go in for classical music. It gave you a good physical feeling. I listened to a number of LPs too which influenced my career."

Alexander Bellow was his teacher when he was a teenager. But he had little reverence for him. In fact he believed, "I could play better than my teacher." Matthews talked about how finger nails affected the playing, and how he took great pains to tend to his own.

He did not study guitar form-ally. At the university he studied literature. He played the guitar in his spare time but he never went to a conservatory. He taught himself. "I worked in a music store and there I met many music enthusiasts. Despite such a background he is Professor of guitar at Hunter and Queens Colleges of the City University of New York.

The guitarist does not claim that there is a large audience for classical music. People go to concerts less and less

with VCRs and CDs. You have wonderful entertainment at home at cheaper cost and at your convenience. Despite high ticket prices, however, concerts remain popular for a certain group of people who have the time, inclination and money."

Does he scoff folk music? On the contrary, he said, "I saw myself as playing folk music sometimes. One is tempted to try folk music, but by the time I have finished my schedule, I have little time for improvising and experimenting in that line."

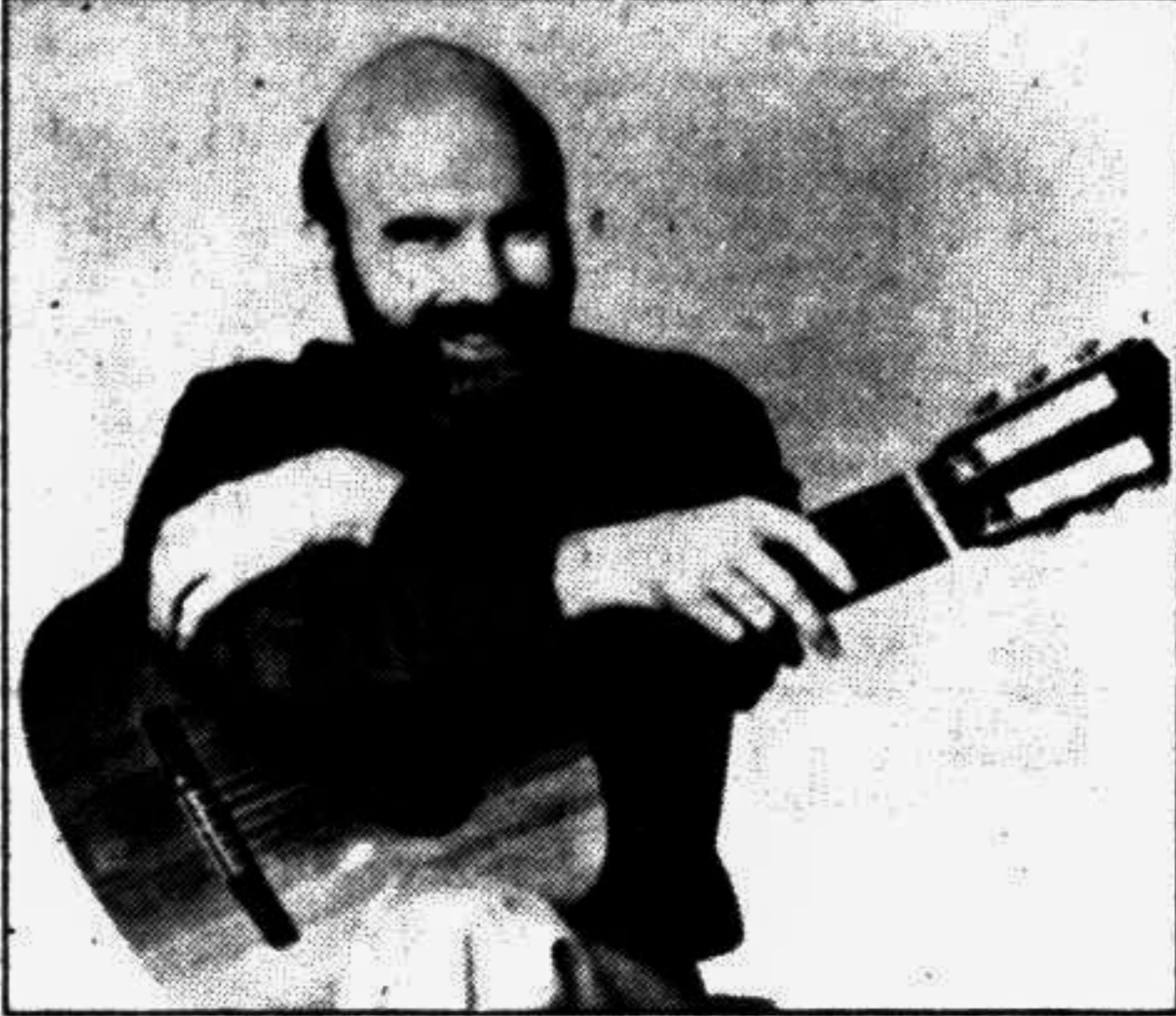
What does he think of popular guitarists? "It doesn't annoy me unless it gets too loud. I enjoy John McLaughlin, incidentally," he said.

He has been influenced by the pianists Vladimir Horowitz, Glen Gould and Andre Segovia, a guitarist, who put the guitar on the map of this century."

In Indian music Matthews goes in for Ali Akbar Khan, Ravi Shankar, the Dagar brothers. "I have only been exposed to Indian music and am not an expert in any way in it," he commented. Matthews will be teaching at the Delhi School of Music for a month.

The 48 year-old artist about whom it is said by the Washington Post critic, "It's not often that one hears such a persuasive multi-instrumentalist as Matthews," has been playing in public for 30 years. In the last 15 years he has visited 65 countries including China, Africa, Far East, India and Europe.

The guitarist, who also plays on the Renaissance lute, played pieces from the Brazilian Heitor Villa-Lobos, the Spanish Isaac Albeniz, and also some Spanish Renaissance items.



William Matthews: Music is not an international language.

Lawyers' 'Protest Day' Nov 21

A country-wide "protest day" will be observed by lawyers on November 21 to press their demand for the shifting of upazila courts to district headquarters, separation of the judiciary from the executive and repeal of the Special Power Act, reports BSS.

The decision to this effect was taken at a meeting of the executive committee of the Co-ordination Council of the Bar Associations, Bangladesh, held Saturday at the President's room of the Supreme Court Bar Association.

The meeting asked all bar associations of the country to observe the day through boycotting courts, holding meetings and demonstrations.

The meeting was presided over by Shamsul Huq Chowdhury, convener of the Co-ordination Council of the bar associations. Other speakers were Mohammad Hannan, Sheikh Mohammad Ali, Showkat Ali Khan, A. F. M. Mesbauddin, Abul Baset Majumder, K. M. Saifuddin and Mohammad Shamsuddin Mia and others addressed it.

Greater Dhaka Dist Assoc executives

A 101-member central executive committee of the Greater Dhaka District Association has been formed with Barrister Nazmul Huda and Advocate ABM Walur Rahman as its president and Secretary General respectively.

The committee was formed at a council meeting organised by the Convening Committee of the Association Friday at the auditorium of Dhaka Bar Association. Barrister Nazmul Huda presided over the meeting.

German concert group arrives Nov 26

A 26-member German orchestra, "Concerto Kolo" will arrive in city on November 26 on a two-day visit, reports UNB.

The renowned concert group is on tour of South Asia sponsored by the Goethe-Institute Munich.

It will perform a concert at the National Museum auditorium at 6-30 pm on November 26. Free entrance tickets are available at the German Cultural Centre and at the venue on the musical evening.

The concert is being arranged to commemorate the 200th death anniversary of famous composer WA Mozart.

Chalachitra Film Society has also arranged a "Mozart Film Festival" at the German Cultural Centre Goethe-Institute auditorium here.

On November 27, the group will meet the press at 11 am at their hotel suite.

Dainik Barta to resume publication

RAJSHAHI, Nov 16 : The Government will take measures for the re-publication of the 'Dainik Barta', the only national daily coming out from the northern region of the country, reports BSS.

This was disclosed by Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia while addressing a gathering today in connection with the foundation laying ceremony of an auditorium of Rajshahi Medical College.

She said the Dainik Barta would resume its publication which was closed by the autocratic regime of Ershad. She said the people involved with the Barta had suffered a lot since the paper was closed down.

It may pointed out that the re-publication of the Dainik Barta was an election pledge among other local pledges of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party.

Obituary
K T Ahmed, a retired Assistant General Manager of Uttara Bank died of blood cancer at a city clinic Saturday.

Weather
Thundershower likely

By Staff Correspondent
Weather forecast valid till 6 pm today (Sunday) says rain or thundershower is likely to occur at one or two places over Dhaka and Rajshahi divisions and the regions of Jessore, Kushtia, Comilla and Sylhet.

Meanwhile weather remained mainly dry over the country on Saturday. The minimum temperature of 14.6 degree Celsius was recorded at Rajshahi.

Outlook for subsequent two days : Little change. Extended outlook for another five days : No marked change.

The temperature and humidity of some cities/towns recorded on Saturday were:

City/Town	Temperature		Humidity	
	Max	Min	9 am	6 pm
Dhaka	27.8	19.8	73	68
Chittagong	28.6	19.1	89	76
Rajshahi	28.4	14.6	70	82
Khulna	26.7	20.7	79	88
Rangpur	28.0	16.2	80	82
Sylhet	29	16.2	x	74
Comilla	25	17.4	86	85
Jessore	27.8	19.2	x	x

5 p.c. people use sanitary latrine

CHITTAGONG, Nov 16 : Five per cent people of the country use sanitary latrine while 80 per cent have tubewell water accessibility, reports BSS.

This was disclosed by UNICEF official J. K. Baral at a press conference at the Press Club here today. The press conference was arranged by Rotary Club of Agrabad on the eve of its day-long seminar on

sanitation environment and urbanisation to be held tomorrow (Sunday) Minister for Environment and Forest Abdullah-al-Noman will inaugurate the seminar.

Baral said the diarrhoeal diseases could be checked to a great extent when the disparity between safe water and sanitation would be reduced.

Rotarians Sayed Muhammad

Haq, Shahed Khan and Mahmud Ali also spoke at the press conference.

The Rotary Club of Agrabad has undertaken a massive programme to help check environmental pollution and create mass awareness among the people about primary health and sanitation in Chittagong city.

DU student shot by own revolver
Kishore Kumar, a student of 2nd year Mathematics Honours and resident of Jagannath Hall of Dhaka University received self-inflicted bullet injury on the right thigh while he was jogging near the Teachers-Students Centre early Saturday morning.

Hospital sources quoting eyewitnesses said the jogger was carrying a revolver in his pocket, which triggered of a under the pressure of his pants.

He was taken and admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital where police arrested him on charge of carrying illegal arms.

Kishore Kumar, reportedly an activist of DCL (S-A), is being treated at DMCH.

ESCAP Executive Secy in city
SAMS Kibria, Under Secretary General of the United Nations and Executive Secretary of ESCAP arrived in the city Saturday on a week-long official visit, reports UNB.

Enam Ahmed Chowdhury, Secretary of Economic Relations Division (ERD) received him at the airport.

Kibria will meet Finance Minister Saifur Rahman today (Sunday) morning.

During his stay Kibria is scheduled to take part in a number of important events and consult with government leaders and senior officials on matters of cooperation between Bangladesh and ESCAP.

He has been invited by the government to the Regional Workshop on Sectoral Development Issues and Environment scheduled for November 18-21.

What's on today

Asiatic Society of Bangladesh
The second lecture of the Mustafizur Rahman Khan and Saleh Khanam Trust Fund will be held at 4 pm today (Sunday) at the auditorium of the Asiatic Society of Bangladesh at 5 Old Secretariat Road, Nimtali.

Dr AM Sharafuddin, President of the Asiatic Society of Bangladesh will preside over the function and Prof Sufia Ahmed of Islamic History and Culture, Department of Dhaka University will deliver lecture on "the emancipation of women in Turkey."

Gonotantik Forum
A free discussion on "Violence in the educational institution: Causes and Solutions" arranged by Gonotantik Forum will be held at National Museum auditorium at 3.30 pm today (Sunday).

Speaker Sheikh Razzak Ali will attend as the chief guest while Justice Abdur Rahman Chowdhury will preside over the function.

Former Vice-Chancellors of different universities, Prof M Ennas Ali, Prof M Shamsul Haq, Prof Wahed Uddin Ahmed, Prof AKM Aminul Haque, Prof Shamsul Haque, Dr MA Nasir, Prof Fazul Halm Chowdhury and Prof Mohammad Ali will take part in the discussion.

Bangladesh 2000
A meeting of the Executive Committee of Bangladesh 2000 will be held at 22, Dhanmondi Residential Area, Road No-3, today (Sunday).

. . . . and tomorrow

104th Birthday of Nasir Uddin
The 104th birthday of "Sawgat" Editor and writer, Mohammad Nasir Uddin will be observed at children auditorium of the National Museum at 4 pm tomorrow (Monday).

Poet Sufia Kamal will preside over the birthday ceremony while several intellectuals, writers, and journalists will speak on the occasion.

A cultural function will also be held in this connection.

Drama course
Bangladesh Shilpa Kala Academy has arranged a 15-day drama training course at the academy from tomorrow (Monday).

The course will remain open for all enthusiastic drama workers.

Interested persons have been requested to contact the academy authorities by 10 am on the opening day.

Compiled by FA



Noted Pakistani singer Alamgir performing solo programme at Soanagar Hotel Saturday. Inner Wheel Club of Dhaka North organised the programme in aid of the distressed.

Bhashani never craved for power : Justice Chowdhury

By Staff Correspondent

Justice Abdur Rahman Chowdhury said on Saturday that the country now needs a leader of the stature of Maulana Abdul Hamid Khan Bhashani as the nation is faced with various crises.

He was addressing a discussion meeting organised in observance of 15th anniversary of Bhashani's death at National Museum auditorium. Today is his 15th death anniversary.

He said the so-called Shanti Bahini has gone on killing people in the three hill districts and it was known to everyone which quarters are instigating and arming the out-lawed rebels.

He regretted that the government did not even issue a press note when the bodies of

Resumption of DU classes demanded

Dhaka University Education Movement Council (DUEMC), a non-political students body demanding immediate resumption of classes, Saturday brought out a procession in the university campus and held a brief rally at the National Press Club premises, reports BSS.

The rally was addressed by Shamsul Alam, Ruhul Kuddus, Isharaf Hossein, and Shubho Mohsin.

The students urged the university authorities, teachers and concerned authorities to take effective measures against campus violence through attaining a sincere understanding amongst them.

Earlier, the students, under DUEMC banners reading "We want resumption of classes in the university, we want to study," chanted slogans against all kinds of violence and terrorists urging the general students to outcast them.

Ray of hope for the childless couples



I, Syed Mayad Aziz Ahmed, Son of Mohammad Sadekur Rahman, 444, South Paikpara, Mirpur, Dhaka had been suffering from utter frustration for want of a child, during the long 12 years of my married life. It seemed to me that my family life was almost doomed.

I had tried every possible means to have a child but in vain. At one stage when it appeared that there was no way out for me I came to know about the spiritual healer, Hujur Sayedabadi from one of my relatives. I rushed to his Darbar Sharif at Sayedabad and saw many couples who had so long no issue with new born babies. The miracles which I witnessed at the Darbar Sharif were simply unparalleled.

I talked to some of the happy parents and became convinced that the Almighty Allah has responded to the prayers and efforts of Hujur Sayedabadi, a saint of the modern age and the result is: the birth of babies from otherwise barren wombs.

I met Hujur Sayedabadi on their advice and began receiving treatment. On instruction for the Hujur I started attending milad mahfil at the Darbar Sharif every Tuesday evening and offered prayers to Allah for a child. The prayers and treatment by the Hujur continued simultaneously. Hujur fixed up a probable date for me to become a father. It may sound in credible that I was blessed with a child before the stipulated time.

We express our deep gratitude to Almighty Allah for his gift and pray for the long life and welfare of Hujur Sayedabadi. May Allah grant him more strength to serve the cause of suffering humanity.

D-126

20,000 killed by Shantibahini so far

The Chittagong Hill Tracts Students' Council Saturday urged the Indian government to patronise the tribal Chakma miscreants perpetrating massacre in the Chittagong Hill Tracts, reports UNB.

The Council submitted a memorandum to the Indian High Commissioner in Dhaka Saturday with an appeal to take necessary action to stop killing of innocent people in the hill tracts region.

In the memorandum the council accused the Indian Border Security Force (BSF) and army of imparting training to the members of so-called Shantibahini in Tripura and supplying them arms and ammunition.

The claim that the tribal Chakma miscreants had so far killed more than 20,000 people in the hill districts, said a press release of the council.

"India does not want peace in Chittagong Hill Tracts. We want friendship, we want peace, not war," the memorandum said.

A similar memorandum was submitted to the Indian High Commissioner Saturday by the Parbatya Chattagram Bangali Krishak Sramik Kalyan Parishad.

Suu Kyi Mukti Parishad formed
Bangladesh Human Rights Commission held a meeting Saturday protesting illegal detention of Nobel Peace Prize winner Suu Kyi by the Burmese military regime, reports UNB.

The meeting formed an 11-member "Suu Kyi Mukti Parishad" with Saiful Islam Dildar as convener and Advocate S N Goswami as Joint Convener.

The other members of the Parishad are Prof Delwar Zahid, President Comilla Union of Journalists A K M Maksud Ahmed, President Rangamati Press Club, Directors of IRJ Abdul Halim Bhuiya, Mosharraf Hossain Chowdhury, Kazi Nurul Islam, Kazi Lina Laila, Advocate A U Bhuiya, Md Nazrul Islam and Rokeya Nurunnesa.

Biplabi Jote protests price spiral, terrorism
Gonotantik Biplabi Jote Saturday held a rally at the GPO premises to protest against terrorism and price spiral of essential commodities, reports BSS.

Presided over by Jote leader Qayum Hossain, the protest rally was also addressed other by eminent scholar and Jote member Badruddin Omar, Swadheenata Party leader Aber Hasan, Krishak leader Hasnat Qayum and student leaders, Faizul Hossain, Uday Pal and Farooq Hossain.

One stabbed at Shambazar
By Staff Correspondent
An employee of Shambazar wholesale market was stabbed by source unidentified hijacking at market area Saturday morning.

The hijackers attacked Abdul Hussain (28) when he was going to deposit some money with Shambazar Branch of Rupali Bank.

The shop keepers of Shambazar pulled down their shutters immediately in protest against the incident.

A case has been filed with Sutrapur police.

Birthday Greetings
17th November '91
HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO AMMU & BORO APU
Many happy returns of the day
From: TUBLA, SAMIRA, SARIYA & FAISAL

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Additional Chief Manager (MPIC)
For General Manager

TV Sunday

5.00	Opening announcement Al Quran Programme Summary
5.10	News in Bangla
5.20	Reading from the Bible
5.30	Reading and writing
6.00	Educational programme : Can you do it ?
6.30	Sports programme : Sharjah Cup Cricket '91
7.05	Rabindra Sangeet
8.00	News in Bangla
8.30	Special programme on late Abdul Hamid Khan Bhashani
9.00	Drama Series : Oshin
10.00	News in English
10.30	Rang Hong
11.30	Khabar/The News
11.45	Close down.