

Metropolitan

Dhaka Day by Day

Mozart Lives On

by Fayza Haq

When it was announced that the tickets of "Concerto Koln" were available — they were snapped up in two hours. While the group played Mozart to commemorate the musician's 200th death anniversary at the National Museum Auditorium, hundreds waited outside in the chill, as they had not the necessary tickets.

"Concerto Koln" he has been to South East Asia — Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia and Europe. Talking about his experiences in the east, he said that he found the people "extremely open and friendly" but that he could not understand the slaughtering of animals on the open roads and the floating of dead bodies of beasts in the rivers as he witnessed in Nepal.



Concerto Koln from Germany: 'You announce Mozart, everyone comes.'

Bernard Erhard, the concert master, commented, "You wouldn't think that Mozart was unknown for the people of the Subcontinent. We were afraid that as the average person was perhaps not acquainted with the composer and that he might not appreciate him. We were apprehensive. We did not expect the tremendous success we have had," he said, sitting with me, like the others, in the Sheraton lounge.

He added that in the tour, which comprised four weeks, had been hectic as it included Karachi, Lahore, Delhi, Kathmandu and will also consist of Calcutta, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Bombay and Colombo.

"The first week is always difficult as you have to get used to the food and climate," he commented. Some of the players were literally perspiring profusely while performing in Dhaka, as the air conditioner had been put off.

When asked if Mozart's character included frivolity as was depicted in the film "Amadeus" he admitted that Mozart had a considerable streak of bohemianism and eclecticism in him. Mozart tried to be independent of the court and church, Erhard stressed.

The group, which includes Australians, Argentinians, French, Dutch and Swiss, is more like a European orchestra although most of them are from around Koln. The "Concerto Koln" has been in existence since '85. So far they have produced 16 CDs.

Michael Niesemann, who plays the oboe and the clarinet, began on the flute at the age of three. He said that it was not easy to make a living as a free lance musician. He normally rehearses about four hours a day but before a concert this increases to six. With this troupe

spoken language. Pierre Andre Taillard, the soloist, learnt his clarinet as a child. He commented on how difficult it was to play with the historical instruments. "They are too many notes and they are either too sharp or too low. Through practice alone can you perfect your performance." He found life in the east rather exuberant. He loved the Indian and Pakistani music that he had heard.

Werner Ehrhardt, a violinist, and a member of the troupe, played folk and rock music as a teenager but returned to Baroque music as an adult. He said he was truly impressed by the warmth of the Asians.

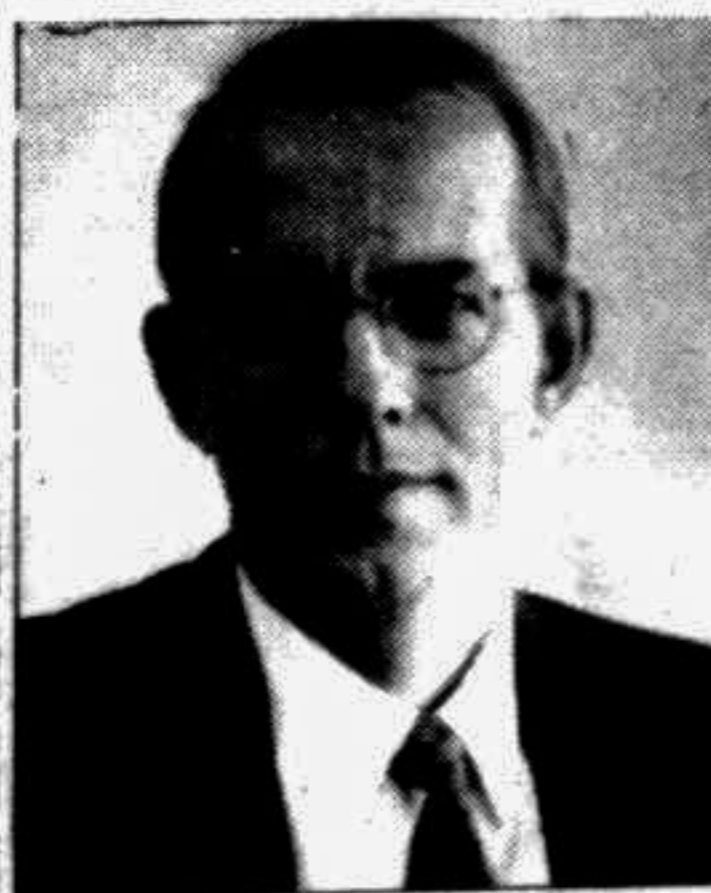
The "Concerto Koln" that evening played Divertimento E flat Major KV113, Concerto A Major KV622, Serenata Notturna A Major KV239, and Symphony A Major K201.

The concert was preceded by a splendid film festival on Mozart at the Goethe Institut. There too the hall was crowded to bursting point on all five days.

The festival included "Amadeus" which is an adaptation of Peter Shaffer's play about the life of Mozart and his rivalry with the court musician Salieri. The operas, "The Marriage of Figaro" — which is one of the greatest comic operas — with its bubbling music and witty plot, and "The Magic Flute" — which was inspired by the Freemasons — were included. "Don Giovanni, which dealt with Don Juan, and had sensuous, and hilarious music was screened too, as was the 93 minutes film "Forget Mozart," which primarily dealt with the final end of the brilliant composer.

Parliamentary body on foreign affairs meeting held

The first meeting of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on foreign affairs was held at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban in Dhaka Friday with chairman of the committee Foreign Minister A S M Mostafizur Rahman in the chair, reports BSS. Matters relating to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs were reviewed in the meeting. It also discussed how the Bangladesh Missions abroad can raise their effectiveness and efficiency to cope with the changing political, economic, social and technological development in the world.



New ADB Resident Representative takes over

Geert van der Linden has taken over as the new Resident Representative of the Asian Development Bank's Bangladesh Resident Office. Prior to this assignment van der Linden was at the ADB headquarters in Manila as Manager in charge of Education, Health and Population Division (West), says a press release.

An economist by profession, van der Linden is a Dutch national. Before joining ADB in 1979, van der Linden worked in the Dutch Government and UNDP. In his previous position as Manager of Education, Health and Population Division (West) at ADB Headquarters, van der Linden visited Bangladesh on many occasions and he is well aware of the country's needs in the various sectors of economic and social development.

Van der Linden will be the fourth Resident Representative of ADB since the Bangladesh Resident Office was established in Dhaka in late 1982. He succeeds Basudev Dahal who left Bangladesh in July 1991 to become the Deputy Director of Programs (East) Department at the ADB HQ.



Sangrami Chhatra Samaj brought out a procession in city Saturday protesting the abolition of Upazila Parishad.

NGOs asked to help eradicate lathyrism

The third Triennial Colloquium of International network for improvement of Lathyrus sativus and the eradication of Lathyrism (INILSEL), on the theme "Nutrition without toxicity" was opened at Hotel Sheraton in Dhaka on Saturday, reports BSS.

The four-day Colloquium has been sponsored by the Third World Medical Research Foundation (TWMRF) and jointly organised by the Institute of Post Graduate Medicine and Research (IPGMR) and the Oregon Health Sciences University of the United States.

Health and Family Welfare Minister Choudhury Kamal Ibne Yousuf inaugurated the colloquium as the chief guest while additional Health Secretary Dr K M Fariduddin addressed it as the special guest.

Besides, Director of IPGMR Dr T A Choudhury, President of TWMRF Valerie Palmer and host organiser Dr Anisul Haq addressed the function. Chairman of (INILSEL) Peter S Spencer presided over the inaugural function.

Thirty-six scientists and some foreign experts working

Contraband seized from night coach

RAJSHAHI, Nov 30: BDR personnel seized contraband eight hundred bottles of Phenidyl syrup valued at Taka eighty thousand from a Dhaka-bound night coach a Dashuria on Nov 28, reports BSS.

The smuggled goods were deposited to Pabna district Narcotics Control Department.

Upazila chairmen can take part in UP polls

The government in a clarification Saturday said there was no legal bar for former Upazila chairmen to participate in the forth-coming Union Parishad polls, provided they are not otherwise, disqualified, reports BSS.

Blood donation

A voluntary blood donation programme will be held on Monday at 10 am at Dhaka Montessori Tutorial, 300/A road 25 (old), Dhanmondi Residential Area, reports BSS.

The programme is jointly organised by Inner West Club of Dhaka south and Rotaract Club of Sir Salimullah Medical College, says a press release.

Gadhafi's envoy arrives today

A special envoy of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya arrives in Dhaka today (Sunday) to deliver a message from President Muammar Gadhafi to Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, reports UNB.

Secretary of the General Peoples Congress (Supreme Legislative Body) Abdur Razaque will lead a three-member delegation.

The Special Libyan Envoy during his three-day stay is also expected to pay a courtesy call on President Abdur Rahman Btawas.

Foreign Office sources described the existing relations between Dhaka and Tripoli as "good" indicating the setting up of a Joint Economic Commission (JEC) between the two countries in the near future.

There is bright prospect of expansion of technical and economic cooperation between the two countries, the sources added.

Libya is expected to take more skilled and non-skilled personnel from Bangladesh to absorb them in the gigantic construction work of "Great Man Made River Projects."

Asghar visits stranded Pakistanis

Air Marshal (ret) Asghar Khan, on a private trip in Dhaka, visited mazars of the three national leaders Saturday morning and laid floral wreaths, reports UNB.

He stood in solemn silence at the mazars of Sher-e-Bangla AK Fazul Haque, Khwaja Nazimuddin and Hussain Shaheed Suhrawardy and offered فاتحہ.

Chief of Tehrik-e-Istiqal Pakistan also visited camps of the stranded Pakistanis at Mirpur and enquired about their conditions.

He is expected to meet members of the media at the National Press Club today (Sunday) at 4 pm.

The Air Marshal who flew here on Thursday on a week-long private mission to meet his friends and admirers, is due to leave for home on Monday.

HERE and THERE

United Communist League

United Communist League General Secretary Bimal Biswas in a statement Saturday condemned revival of the Martial Law cases against former student leaders Faze Hossain Badsha, Abdul Haasib Khan and 14 others.

JSD central committee meeting

The two-day meeting of the central working committee of Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) Rab ended in the capital Saturday.

Presided over by JSD Vice President Abdun Noor, the meeting expressed resentment over the lack of direction of the ruling party to solve country's economic problems and said that the nation led to bankruptcy because of the lack of planned development programme of the government.

Pak-Bangla youth friendship

A meeting to form the Bangladesh-Pakistan Youth Friendship Association was held at Chamelibagh area of the city Saturday with an aim to strengthen the existing brotherly ties between the two countries.

Shop owners Assoc

A meeting of the Dhaka Metropolitan City Shop Owners Convening Committee was held Saturday with its convenor Md Hicluddin Hicli in the chair.

The meeting elaborately discussed the problems of the shop owners and chalked out future programmes.

Dhaka-Riyadh Brotherhood Assoc

The Ambassador of Saudi Arabia Abdul Latif al-Maimani Friday laid the foundation stone of the Sohail al-Maimani Foundation, a multi-purpose social service project at Kantadas Kati in Jhalakati district.

Addressing the function, the Saudi Ambassador hoped that the existing friendly ties

between the two countries will be strengthened in the years to come.

Presided over by Alhaj Maulana Abdur Rab, the function was also addressed by the association general secretary Bil Harun.

Rotary Club

Rotary Club of Dhaka Mid Town, Inter Wheel Club of Dhaka Mid Town and Rotaract Club of Dhaka Mid Town jointly organised a Blood Donation Programme on Friday at the Red Crescent Blood Center in Dhaka.

Syed Shahidul Haque Jamal MP, Chairman, Bangladesh Red Crescent Society inaugurated the programme, said a press release.

TV, VCR licence renewal from today

The renewal of television and VCR licences commences from Today (Sunday), an official press release said in Dhaka Saturday, reports BSS.

The renewal fees of domestic black and white television, colour television and VCR has been fixed at Taka 125, Taka 300 and Taka 500 respectively.

Domestic licences could be renewed up to December 31 in all branches of Janata Bank by depositing necessary fees.

All kinds of commercial television licences could be renewed from the office of the Controller of Licences at television office of Rampura within the said period.

The subscribers are requested to renew their licences within the specified period to avoid surcharge.

Sunday

TV schedule table with times and program names like Opening announcement, Al Quran, Programme summary, News in Bangla, etc.

Weather

Night temperature may fall

By Staff Correspondent

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

Night temperature may fall by two to three degrees Celsius during the period over Rajshahi and Khulna divisions and by one to two degrees Celsius over Dhaka and Chittagong divisions.

Little change in weather would be noticed during the subsequent two days over the country. Met office also said.

The lowest 10.0 degrees Celsius temperature recorded in Jessore on the day and the highest 29.00 degrees Celsius was in Satkhira.

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

Weather table with columns for Cities/Towns, Max, Min, Humidity in percentage, 9 am, 6 pm.

Auction Notice: Old used vehicles and various condemned articles will be sold in public auction...

Its new just for you: The Daily Star is pleased to introduce a new column where individuals and organisations can publish Birthday and Anniversary Greetings...

WHAT DO THESE THREE WOMEN HAVE IN COMMON?: These busy women believe in having small happy families. But they were not satisfied with the birth spacing method they were using...