

Call to uphold traditional culture

An eight-member delegation of the Jatiyatabadi Sangskritik Sangstha, led by its president Khorshed Ali Molla, called on President Abdur Rahman Biswas at Bangabhaban Saturday, reports BSS.

While exchanging views, the President advised them to uphold the traditional culture of the country that goes in with the spirit of the Liberation War.

He said integrated efforts of all in nation building activities is essential and cultural workers can play an effective role in this regard.

President Biswas urged them to spread their activities in different parts of the country and organise cultural workers to contribute to the development of culture.

Majid-ul-Haq off to Germany

Agriculture and Irrigation, Water Development and Flood Control Minister M Majid-ul-Haq left Dhaka Saturday for a right-day visit to Germany, reports BSS.

He will represent Bangladesh in an international conference in Berlin on "challenges and opportunities for the National Agriculture Research System (NARS) in the year 2000," a policy dialogue.

Publication ceremony

The publication ceremony of the book "Rural Poverty and Agrarians Structure of Bangladesh" was held at a local hotel Saturday.

Dr M A Momin is the author of the book. The book was released by Professor Kazi Saleh Ahmed Vice Chancellor of Jahangir Nagar University.

Vikas Publishing House Pvt Ltd, New Delhi, has published the book.

Lawyers' ultimatum to withdraw upazila courts by Jan 30

Coordination Council of the Bar Associations Bangladesh Saturday demanded withdrawal of upazila courts by January 30, reports BSS.

The council in a meeting with its convener Shamsul Haq Chowdhury in the chair strongly pleaded for separation of judiciary from the executive and repeal of the Special Powers Act.

If the demands are not met, the Coordination Council will announce greater movement programmes on January 31, the meeting decided.

An extended meeting of the council will be held on January 31. The Coordination Council meeting said it would call for a movement against the government if it fails to stop terrorism in the educational institutions and improve the law and order situation. Condemning the killing of BCL leader Mantruzaman Badal the meeting demanded punishment to those responsible for the offence.

The meeting also expressed concern over attack on the BMA Bhaban and damaging of cars on the streets.

The demands of the Council also include autonomy for the electronic media like radio and television in the light of "declaration of three alliances on November 3, 1990."

The meeting called for an explanation from the government on Prof Golam Azam who has been elected chief of a political party despite being a foreign national. The meeting also demanded withdrawal of the order of removal of Prof Alamgir M Sirajuddin as Vice Chancellor of Chittagong University.

French support during Liberation War recalled

Visiting French Senator Xavier D'Villetin Saturday called on Deputy Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Abdus Samad Azad at his Sangsad office in Dhaka in the morning, reports UNB.

After a long struggle a democratic system has been established in the country and in the last parliament election none of the parties obtained absolute majority, he told the French parliamentarian.

Referring to the present political situation in the country, Azad said, decision of any single party on major national issues is undesirable and a national consensus is needed in this respect.

Azad recalled with gratitude the French moral and material support during the Liberation War.

After the independence, Awami League took economic development programmes with international assistance, but the process was stopped with the killing of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the deputy leader said.

French Ambassador to Bangladesh Serge Degallair and Opposition Whip Mohammed Azizur Rahman were present.

Nazmul Huda leaves for Cairo today

Information Minister Nazmul Huda leaves Dhaka today Sunday for Cairo to attend the 2nd conference of the information ministers of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) beginning from January 15 at the Egyptian capital, reports BSS.

He will lead a four-member delegation at the two-day meeting. Other members of the delegation are: Information Secretary Nuruddin Al-Masud, Director General of Bangladesh Television Fotzur Ruzzaque and chief reporter of Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha Gias Kamal Chowdhury.

Krishak Dal body visits Zia's mazar

The members of the newly-elected committee of Jatiyatabadi Krishak Dal, the peasant wing of the ruling BNP, Saturday visited the mazar of Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman and offered feteiha there, reports BSS.

Krishak Dal President and Minister for Labour and Manpower Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, Krishak Dal General Secretary Shamsuzzaman Duda, Whip Mahbul Alam Tara, Whip Ashraf Hossain Bhuiyan were among others present on the occasion.

Speaking briefly on the occasion, Bhuiyan stressed on organising the country's peasant community to trigger of self-reliant movement with the aim of changing the lots of the down-trodden.

Paying rich tributes to Moulana Abdul Hamid Khan Bhashani and Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman, Mannan said that the Krishak Dal would carry out its activities under the leadership of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia towards establishing an exploitation-free society.

Dublin City Varsity to help modernise BUET laboratories

Dr Daniel O'Hare, President of the Dublin City University (DCU), Ireland Saturday called on Prof M Shahjahan, Vice-Chancellor of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) at the latter's office, reports BSS.

During the meeting O'Hare, who is leading a three-member delegation, discussed matters of mutual interest and possible fields of cooperation in science and technology. The visiting DCU delegation reviewed the existing linkage programme between BUET and DCU. They also agreed to introduce joint research and PhD programme and modernize the BUET laboratories.

The President of the DCU showed keen interest in cooperating with BUET in the fields of biotechnology, mechanical engineering and computer engineering.

Other members of the DCU delegation, Dr C McCormick,

Dean of the faculty of Mechanical Engineering, Prof MSJ Hashmi Head of the Department of Mechanical Engineering, Deans and Heads of different faculties and departments of BUET, were among others, present.

JS body discusses shrimp, salt cultivation

The first meeting of Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Ministry of Land was held Saturday at the Sangsad Bhavan with State Minister for Land Muhammad Kabir Hossain in the chair, reports BSS.

The meeting had discussion on shrimp and salt cultivation, rubber and tea plantations, issues relating to non-agricultural khas land, land acquisition, self-reliant ideal village, exchange and vested property.

Plea to introduce Justice Murshed Chair in DU

The 8th birth anniversary of former Chief Justice SM Murshed, an eminent jurist and one of the greatest constitutional lawyers of the sub-continent was observed in Dhaka Saturday, reports UNB.

Various socio-cultural organisations held discussion meetings, placed floral wreaths, and offered feteiha and Qurankhwani at the mazar of the great leader at Banani.

Bangladesh Human Rights Organisation held a discussion meeting on the life and works of Justice Murshed.

Speakers at the meeting paid rich tributes to the memory of the justice lauding his role in establishing the rule of law in the country.

The meeting demanded to introduce a chair in the Law Faculty of Dhaka University after the name of Justice Murshed.

They also demanded that a hall of residence should be named after him in the Varsity.

Foreign investment in rubber cultivation sought

CHITTAGONG, Jan 11: Minister for Forests and Environment Abdullah Al Noman today said, the government will encourage private sector initiatives to increase the contribution of rubber cultivation to our national economy, reports BSS.

He was talking to the officials while visiting the rubber factory in Ramu rubber gardens, Cox's Bazar today.

The Minister said that the Government had taken initiatives to boost up rubber cultivation in certain selected areas of the country including Cox's Bazar.

Referring to the prospect of joint collaboration in rubber cultivation, Noman said, foreign investment will be encouraged for the use of modern technology in rubber cultivation to expand its export.

Local MP Mamyee Ching, BNP leader Mahbul Karim Chowdhury and student leader Abu Sufian accompanied the minister.

TV Sunday

- 5.00 Opening announcement Al-Quran Programme Summary
- 5.10 News in Bangla
- 5.20 Recitation from the Bible
- 5.30 Chharai Chharai Lekha Para
- 6.00 Educational Programme : Can You Do It?
- 6.30 Sports programme
- 7.05 Tagore songs
- 8.00 News in Bangla
- 8.30 Probaha
- 9.00 Drama series : Oshin
- 10.00 News in English
- 10.25 Parliament round up
- 10.40 Sanglap : Dialogue
- 11.30 Khabar/The News
- 11.40 Monday's programme Closing.

Dhaka Day by Day

Of Two Committed Romantics

By Fayza Haq

Talking to Anup Kumar Biswas in the lounge room of the British High Commissioner's residence, one gathered that it was circumstances that had made him take to the cello, which has won him fame in Europe, UK and in his own country. He was visiting Dhaka for the third time in his life, and was giving repeated performances, along with Oyvind Aase on the piano.

When he was only ten years old at the Oxford Mission School, he was introduced to the classical instruments. Western classical music was played in his school, as he explained. "All the senior cellist had gone away to perform in the Bombay films. I was picked up at that point and given a chance to prove myself. Since then I have not looked back. I have received encouragement from the British, American and Europeans who came to Calcutta."

He continued about his work, "a successful cellist has a lot of hard work, dedication and tenacity to put in. There must be flexibility too. It is not enough to be just a musician. One must be able to communicate with the people. The main thing is not to be conceited. If you think you know everything about music and your instrument it is your downfall. There's no end to learning in music—there's always a lot to learn and discover."

During his earlier two visits to Dhaka he had been accompanied by British pianist. This time he had Oyvind Aase, whom he found "very supportive". He continued about his performance, "based in London for 13 years, I find it very refreshing coming to Dhaka. The Bengalis both in Dhaka and Calcutta simply 'root' for me and I naturally find that flattering."

"So far", Anup continued "I have had good reviews. I like playing from various periods: Baroque, Classical, Romantic and Contemporary. What is he most fascinated with? "It is whatever I am working with. If someone tells me to go to a desert island I'd find it difficult to choose something."

He is originally from Chapra, which is 15 miles from the Bangladesh border. There are folk musicians there and he loves to visit his village where they welcome him warmly.

What is his impression of Dhaka? "It is a clean and spacious city compared to many of the cities in India. I find the people genuinely interested in me. What is fascinating is that I meet poets, musicians, and even politicians in Dhaka. As for the countryside, around Dhaka, I

find it picturesque, with the smell, air, and rivers which remind me of "Bhatyali" songs. The smile of the Bangladeshi child is what captivates my heart most."

What does Anup think of the mingling of the eastern and western music? There are some composers in USA, and Europe who are bringing in the elements of the eastern music in the European structure. There are glimpses of eastern ragas and folk tunes. There are some people who are experimenting. They sometimes confuse the issue when they do not have a deep perception of the music of both the east and west. It is only by combining the music of the east and west that we can find a way for people of different origins to come together," he believed.

As for Oyvind Aase, who plays with excellence himself, and who accompanied Anup, he learned to play the piano as child "as there was one in the house and as a natural consequence I took to plonking on the piano," he said.

He has been taking lessons since the age of ten, and met Anup in '75' at Darlington De-

von (U.K.) Oyvind has done concerts with him since last year. His favourites remain Beethoven, Schubert and Schumann. "The reason I like them is, that they undoubtedly wrote great pieces."



Anup Kumar Biswas and Oyvind Aase.

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