

Dhaka Day by Day

Strumming You to Sleep

by Fayza Haq

Jens Wagner, 33, from Essen and Thomas Offermann 32, from Bonn, played on their 18th century classical guitar at the "Sheraton" and kept the audience from any lapse into listlessness or ennui. The notes, though often serious, chased the devil from the soul.

Speaking about his choice of classical music, Jens said, "It is deep music. You can express different moods adequately in it. I began with jazz and rock but I felt that in blues music I could not express my hidden feelings. I found the modern music too facile. In classical music you can interpret the highest form of music written. You can delve deep into the truth of music."

What future is there for the classical guitar? To this Thomas replied without hesitation and with gusto. "The interest in classical guitar is rising. There was an era of pop music. Now this is going down because it is getting so plastic. People loved the Beatles 20 years ago. Now they do not really care all that much for Michael Jackson, Madonna and musicians of that group. They have nothing deep or penetrating to say about life or art. What is missing at the moment in pop music is the reaching out to the soul."

Thomas continued with enthusiasm. "Playing the classical guitar you can play all types of music. Classical music is not necessarily highbrowed. Old classical music is something that has a room in our everyday life today. We, as a group, are out to teach that classical music is not purely intellectual. There is a lot of fun in it for the average person."

Why did they not play more of the Spanish music as it appealed to all and sundry? "We could have had a whole concert in Spanish music but we wanted to present a variety."

Thomas loves Jimmy Hendrix while Jens is crazy about Andres Segovia. They have toured Nepal, Bangladesh, SE Asia (Vietnam, Thailand, Singapore), Los Angeles and New York in USA, Moscow in USSR, France, Spain and England.

Discussing a possible combination of eastern and western music, Thomas remarked that "The classical music in the Subcontinent is very different from that in Europe. I think combination is possible only by experts. It is easy in modern music to bring in the 'sitar' and the 'tabla' as has been done by Oregon and the Beatles. We are definitely keen on the music of the Subcontinent and the East. Both the European and Eastern classical music are equally good but I don't believe that there will be a 'world music'. I believe in learning from each other and appreciating each other's music and so cultivate comradeship and understanding."

Thomas loves exploring S American literature such as that by Isabel Allende and Jens is

Gradius and Parnassus. b) Jimol's Lullaby, c) Snow is Dancing d) Little Shepherd and e) Golliwog's Cake-walk. This was an experimental type piece, and fanciful enough to keep you wide awake at 9 p.m. after the day's heavy schedule.

The duo then played Albeniz, who specially wanted to avoid flamenco music. The soft, caressing Spanish notes were sentimental, and when the lights were dimmed by accident for a while this was more appealing than before. It included a) Bajo de la Palmera, b) Rumbos de la Caleda, c) Evocation and d) Castilla.

The last piece was Tango by Piazzolla which was of an impressionistic nature. It was inspired by the red light district in Argentina and was dedicated to an Argentine national hero, who was originally from Uruguay.

For an encore Jens and Thomas played two little songs that reminded you of Tinkerbell and Peter Pan. The guitar playing that included many composers from different centuries and generations, was organised by the German Embassy.

you to sleep at 8 p.m. The performance was faultless and effortless.

The third encore was by Napolcon Coste and the movements included Allegro, Concertino, Andante, Barcarolle and the finale was Allegro too. The notes were enchanting for an evening before a weekend. The strumming reminded a harmonious jangling that gave you respite from the humdrum of everyday existence.

After the interval the players changed into shocking pink bows with black polka dots and played music of a faster tempo. They played the "Children's Corner" by Debussy and this included a) Doctor

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Iranian envoy assures more assistance for Rohingyas

The Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Mohammad Ganjidoost, Tuesday called on the Chairman, Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS), Syed Shahidul Huq Jamal MP, at the national head quarters of BDRCS, reports BSS.

They discussed the relief measures of the BDRCS for the Myanmar refugees in Cox's Bazar and Bandarban.

The Iranian Ambassador is reported to have assured the society further assistance for the refugees during the holy month of Ramadan.

Khaleda visits ailing Sramik Dal leader

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia Tuesday visited the ailing Vice President of Bangladesh Jatiyatabadi Sramik Dal SA Khaleque at the railway hospital in Dhaka, reports BSS.

Begum Zia enquired about his welfare from the attending physicians.

Khaleque has been suffering from various diseases.

A three-member medical board has been formed with National Professor Nurul Islam, Prof AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury and Prof SR Khan, for the treatment of Khaleque.

Khaleda lays foundation in N'ganj Work on Tk 9.69 cr hosiery estate begins

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia Tuesday asked the workers to maintain peace and discipline in mills and factories for uninterrupted production and overall development of the country, reports UNB.

"Maintain discipline and order for attaining self-reliance in all aspect," the Prime Minister said at a meeting after laying foundation of BSCIC Hosiery Industrial Estate at Panchbati Narayan-

ganj.

Industries Minister Shamsul Islam Khan, Home Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury, Sirajul Islam, MP, Advocate Abul Kalam, MP Prof Rezaul Karim, MP, Ataur Rahman Khan

Angur, MP, Shamsunnahar Khwaja Ahsanullah, MP, and Bangladesh Hosiery Samity President Abdur Rashed also addressed the meeting.

The industrial estate to be built at an estimated cost of about Tk 9.69 crore will have 739 plots for different hosiery items. Thirty per cent of earth filling of the project has already been completed at a cost of Tk 4.01 crore.

The hosiery industry is expected to earn about Tk 1,500 crore from exports and provide jobs to about one lakh people.

Begum Zia said those who do not want Bangladesh to be self-reliant are creating anarchy in the industrial sector.

"Our independence struggle was not aimed at creating markets for others," she said adding that nine years of autocratic rule have created Bangladesh markets of foreign goods.

Begum Zia said government jobs alone cannot solve the unemployment problem and stressed on setting up of small and cottage industries along-side heavy industries for creating employment opportunities.

Hosiery industry, regarded as the third traditional industry after Maslin and Jamdani, has the potentiality to earn valuable foreign exchange, she said.

Begum Zia stressed on producing raw materials for all kind of industries in the country and referred to the creation of Tula Ummayan Board by late President Zia.

She assured that her government will continue to encourage private sector investment for setting up new industries.

The Prime Minister called for ensuring strict quality control of products for capturing foreign markets.

Turning to local problems, she said, telecommunications system in Narayanganj will soon be upgraded, electricity facilities increased and link roads will be constructed in the district.

The Industries Minister said the Hosiery Estate was unique in the country because the entrepreneurs had deposited money first for their allotment.

The Home Minister said government assistance would be provided to genuine and dedicated entrepreneurs.

Maniruzzaman Choudhury, Chairman of BSCIC Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation told a press conference in Narayanganj that the corporation had a plan to convert a part of the estate into an Export Processing Zone (EPZ) to attract foreign investors. It may also be expanded up to 100-acre in the next phase, he added.



Artistes rendering songs on the occasion of the fourth Rabindra Sangeet Festival at Shilpakala Academy auditorium Tuesday. — Star photo

'Active support of male partners needed to secure women's rights'

Literacy is needed most to make people aware of how to help establish the rights of the women in the society, reports UNB.

Inaugurating a six-day trainers' workshop on "Women rights and Development" at the Community Health Care Project (CHCP) at Mirpur, Tuesday, Justice KM Sobhan said that the women should be made aware of their rights and for that mass literacy is the need of the hour.

"Country's overall development is not possible without ensuring the rights of the women who constitute about 50 per cent of the total population", he said.

CHCP — a health NGO, organised the workshop in cooperation with the Bangladesh Human Rights Commission (BHRC) on the occasion of the World Women's Day.

Justice Sobhan urged male section of the society to come forward in helping their female partners to have their legitimate rights established.

"Without active support of he dominating male partners, it is quite impossible to help women secure their rights", Sobhan observed.

Referring to the indiscriminate towards the women in the family as well as society, he

said that they are discriminated even in time of property distribution.

Dr Nel Shah, Executive Director of CHCP, who presided over the function, called upon the women to get themselves employed so that they can have an honoured position in the family and society.

Among other, SC Ratna, Deputy Executive Director of CHCP and Akram Hossain Chowdhury, Secretary General of BHRC, spoke on the occasion.

A total of 40 field level workers of the organisation are attending the training course.

New committee of Ganatantri Party

By Staff Correspondent

Ganatantri Party announced Tuesday the names of the office-bearers and members of its newly elected central committee. The committee was unanimously elected Monday night at the end of two-day national conference of the party in Dhaka.

Ahmedul Kabir and Mohammed Afzal were elected president and general secretary of the party respectively while Nurul Islam was elected treasurer.

Party's 15-member new presidium includes Ahmedul Kabir, Syed Altaf Hossain, Pir Habibur Rahman, Chowdhury Harunur Rashid, Azizul Islam Khan, Saiful Islam, Aminul Islam Badshah, Shaiful Alam, Syed Badruddin Hossain, Fazlul Haque Khandoker, Gulzar Ahmed, Azizul Haque Seltm, Kazi Aziza Idris, Mahmudur Rahman Babu and Mohammed Afzal. The treasurer and the leader of party's parliamentary party would remain ex-officio member of the presidium.

Besides a 13-member secretariat and 77 members of the central committee were also elected.

The first meeting of the committee was held Tuesday noon at the party's central office with Ahmedul Kabir in the Chair.

Reception

Ambassador of Morocco Saleh Zaimi and Mrs Zaimi held a reception in celebration of the 31st anniversary of his majesty King Hassan to the throne at their Baridhara residence in Dhaka Wednesday, reports BSS.

Govt urged to take water sharing issue to int'l forum

National Awami Party (NAP) Bhasani Chairman Nur Mohammad Kazi Tuesday demanded that the government raise the water sharing issues with India in various international forum, including the United Nations, reports UNB.

"It has been proved that the staggering issues cannot be solved bilaterally", he told a press conference in the city.

Nur Mohammad, who leaves here for New York, today (Wednesday) said he will raise the issue at the UN for the Indian violation of human rights by diverting flow of water during dry season and releasing excessive water during the rainy season.

Criticising the government for its "subservient" foreign policy, he accused it for disallowing MPs to raise the issue

in parliament.

He also criticised the big political parties for not raising their voice against Indian conspiracy to destroy the country by withdrawing water from the Ganges.

Since the "Farrakha Long-March" in 1976 led by late leader Moulana Abdul Hamid Khan Bhasani the NAP has been fighting for the issue, the NAP leader said.

He lamented that the country doesn't have any water sharing agreement with India since 1988 and said that his party would soon build up a movement on the issue.

The press conference was attended by NAP (B) leaders, including Advocate Mujibur Rahman and Shah Alam Bhuiyan.

Hindu Samaj Sangkar Samity confce begins tomorrow

A two-day conference of the Bangladesh Jatiya Hindu Samaj Sangkar Samity begins at the Bangladesh Shishu Academy Auditorium in Dhaka on March 5, reports BSS.

Shaikh Razzaque Ali, Speaker of the Jatiya Sangsad, will attend the conference at the chief guest, while it will be presided over by samity's President Shib Sankar Chakrabarti.

Poet Matiur Memorial Lecture ends

By DU Correspondent

The fifth Memorial Lecture Series on poet Mattur Rahman ended at the Dhaka University Tuesday.

The two-day lecture series held at the IBA auditorium was addressed by pro Vice Chancellor Professor Wakil Ahmed.

Dr. Ahmed Sharif, former Professor of the Bengali Department, presented second and third part of his three-part lecture on culture.

Weather Day temperature may rise

By Staff Correspondent

Dry weather will prevail over the country during the next 36 hours commencing 6 pm Tuesday, according to Met office. Day temperature may increase by 1-2 degree Celsius.

Little change in weather will be noticed during subsequent two days. Met office also forecast.

The highest temperature was 31 degree at Khepupara on the day.

Sun sets on Wednesday at 6-03 pm and rises on Thursday at 6-17 am.

Temperature and humidity recorded at important cities and towns on Tuesday were:

Cities/Towns	Temperature in degree Celsius	Humidity in percentage
	Max	Min
Dhaka	29.0	18.7
Chittagong	27.8	20.6
Rajshahi	29.0	14.4
Khulna	30.0	16.6
Feni	30.1	21.1
Cox's Bazar	28.0	20.6
Sylhet	28.1	17.0
Mymensingh	28.2	15.9
Dinajpur	28.0	14.0

Zia, Ershad did nothing for industrial growth: Hasina

Opposition leader Sheikh Hasina Tuesday called for reopening closed mills and factories, and halting disinvestment of profitable industries in the interest of workers and the economy, reports UNB.

Addressing the opening session of Jatiya Sramik League's conference at Engineer's Institution she alleged that the government had failed to take up steps to revive the economy through increased production in industrial and agricultural sectors.

She said about 100 mills and industries remained closed, recession prevailed in economy, volume of trade and commerce came down and foreign aid utilisation went below 10 per cent due to inefficient management of the government.

The Awami League leader was critical of the post-1975 governments of Zia and Ershad, saying these two successive regimes did nothing for industrial growth and economic development. They amassed wealth illegally by looting national resources without improving the condition of the poor and limited income groups.

She said viable industrial units were denationalised at throw away prices, thousands of workers and employees lost their jobs and no new industries were set up in last 15 years.

Hasina recalled the plans of the Awami League government of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman for self-reliant economy and exploitation free society.

Heavy industries were nationalised and share of workers in the management was ensured. She also listed mea-

asures for the wellbeing of industrial and farm labourers.

Criticising the rule of Prime Minister Begum Zia, the opposition leader said the inefficiency of the present government also leads the country towards destruction.

The way Begum Zia is ruling the country reminds the people of Ershad's autocratic attitude. There is no difference between the policy matters and attitude of the BNP government and the ousted regime.

Hasina said despite her party's cooperation, the BNP government terribly failed to tackle the prevailing situation. "We tried to prop up BNP, but still they fail to run the state affairs properly", she said, adding Awami League being an opposition will not share the failure of the present government.

Dwelling at length on the prevailing situation in eco-

nomic and socio-political life, Hasina feared a situation of 1982 when BNP government of President Justice Sattar being failed to run the government handed over power to General Ershad.

Brushing aside all speculation, she asserted that the fall of BNP government will never disrupt the democratic process initiated with the downfall of the Ershad regime.

Hasina also accused the ruling BNP of trying to rehabilitate the Jatiya Party in politics again. In support of her accusation, she pointed out the behaviour of the government and a section of the government controlled press.

Criticising the ruling party's dillydally tactics on the question of rescinding the Indemnity Ordinance, Hasina warned that Awami League will build movement in and outside parliament for the repeal of the black law.

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Air Chief Marshal Sir Peter Harding, Chief of Air Staff, Royal Air Force, being received at the Zia International Airport by Chief of Air Staff Air Vice Marshal Altaf Hossain Choudhury Tuesday. —ISPR photo

TV Wednesday

Special Session

10:15 am Opening announcement Al-Quran Programme summary

10:30 am Fifth World Cup Cricket: India vs Pakistan

6:30 Shamachar

7:05 Songs programme of new artistes

8:00 News in Bangla

8:30 "Nritter Tale Tale" Dance Programme

9:00 Film: MacGyver

10:00 News in English

10:30 Muktdhara

11:30 Khabar/The News