

# Dhaka Day by Day

## Butchering the Holy Cows of Jazz

by Fayza Haq

When Holger Mantey played the piano the entire room was pulsating with ecstatic musical notes. A dead earnest player, he appeared dedicated to the last point of his finger tips. As he played at the Goethe Institut that night, he appeared like some soul possessed. With his high Shakespearean forehead and in his white raw silk shirt, with the backdrop of the carmine curtains and potted ferns he simply pounded and ground out the notes in perfect harmony. He played with passion, energy, tendresse and tremendous precision. The audience cheered wildly as each piece terminated. Mantey poured out a prodigious wealth of notes from one single instrument.

Speaking about the difference between classical and modern jazz he said, "It is difficult to sharply distinguish between classical and modern jazz. I personally have the influence of jazz of the past and present in my work. All the modern music that you hear today has affected my work. It is difficult to pinpoint to what exactly is jazz. Most of the people in Europe and Asia relate jazz to Dixieland, but there is more than that to jazz."

"I don't believe that modern jazz is all that popular. I think there is at the moment, a revival of classical jazz. People, in any case, enjoy pleasant sounds in many modern presentations," he added.

"It is difficult to describe in words what the player wants to express. A new form of art is developed when the old one is disturbed. This applies as much to jazz as to painting. Laws and norms are against development. Expression of oneself and the norms of music do not always go hand in hand," Mantey replied when I asked him what "Frankfurter Allgemeine" meant by saying that "Holger Mantey had butchered all the 'holy cows' of jazz", and that he had created "a sound image which was cubistic."

The daily "Kolner Stadtanzeiger" saw Mantey as a virtuoso "in whose mind tremendous jumps take place from romanticism to cluster, from rag to polyphony."

Like many of his European colleagues, he draws from a pool that does not only contain this kind of music but provides fascinating chains of associations from the classical modern music to Johann Sebastian Bach. How does he manage to mix Bach with jazz with such ease? "I studied classical music and Bach too, so his influence is bound to be great," he replied.



His father was a bass player, who worked with a pianist, and it was from this pianist that he got his first lessons. He began with classical compositions. When he felt that he could not express himself enough he made improvisations. He finally moved on to jazz to find an individual expression. "In my mind the music of Bach can be named jazz too," he commented.

Mantey, born in the biggest German island, Rugen, appeared in public for the first time at the age of 13, and continued with his formal musical studies in former East Berlin, which he successfully concluded in '85. In '87 he left the then existing GDR to play at Cologne at the "Jazzhausfestival". This was a stepping stone to his success at the performance at the 23rd German Jazz festival in Frankfurt in '91.

Mantey has tried his hand not only at music but has done some abstract paintings in the mixed media. He has done sculpture as well and tried his hand at ceramics too. He has at least 30 visual art creations to his credit.

When asked about the future for jazz, Mantey replied, "Jazz will be more popular as time goes by. Creative music is the same everywhere. Modern music is specially valued by the young generation in every place. Maybe three or four years ago jazz was on a low peak but now it is coming up again."

What is the difference in Jazz in Europe and that in USA? The opportunities for the musicians is more in Europe. There are many American musicians making a career for themselves in Europe when they don't stand a chance in USA," he informed me.

"I am aware how people are still hooked on to pop music and rock 'n roll. It is not for me to judge. It is not my duty to influence people by my music. My music is to express myself and not to change the world," he continued.

"I enjoy Indian music and its improvisations. I have listened to many recitals of the 'sitara' and 'tabla'. I believe the music of the east and west can be blended well, as it has already been," he commented about the music of the east.

During his trip of the Subcontinent, of which Dhaka was a part, he was very impressed as to how the extremes of rich and poor coexisted in harmony. He loved the narrow and colourful shopping centres.

Mantey, who has a girl friend called Charlotte, who plays the cello, says life as a musician "is sometimes difficult and sometimes easy."

# UN Secy General urged to use good offices to solve Rohingya issue

Bangladesh has launched an intensive lobby at the United Nations headquarters in New York to mobilise support in favour of its move to raise the Rohingya refugee problem in the UN Security Council, reports UNH.

Tens of thousands of Burmese Rohingya Muslims have fled to Bangladesh to escape persecution and torture by the Myanmar military junta, creating a tremendous pressure on the country's socio-economic condition.

The problem has also posed a threat to the peace and stability of the region.

Bangladesh formally approached the international community last month to come forward in aid of the Myanmar

refugees sheltered in the country's southeastern region.

Dhaka also urged the UN Secretary General to exercise influence of the world body to force the Yangon military junta to take back the refugees with dignity and safety.

Bangladesh, seeking a peaceful solution of the problem, has streamlined its diplomatic channel both bilaterally and internationally to obtain support of the international community for its initiative.

On her way back from Washington, Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia met with UN Secretary General Boutros Ghali in New York, who assured her of the UN support in

solving the Rohingya refugee problem through political means.

Foreign Minister ASM Mostafizur Rahman, who had accompanied the Prime Minister to the United States, stayed back in New York to discuss the Rohingya issue with the members of the UN Security Council.

The United States, UK, France, China and Russia are the permanent members of the Security Council, the highest executive body of the UN having veto power.

At present ten non-permanent members of the Security Council are Australia, Belgium, Ecuador, India, Zimbabwe, Cape Verde, Hungary, Japan,

Morocco and Venezuela. The Foreign Minister is expected to return home on March 29 winding up his most vital diplomatic mission.

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Four student organisations brought out a procession on DU campus yesterday demanding trial of all war criminals including Golam Azam. — Star photo

## Re-excavation of Chaktai canal in progress

CHITTAGONG, Mar 24: Fifty per cent of the Taka 3.80 crore Chaktai canal re-excavation works has so far been completed, reports BSS.

City Mayor Mir Mohammad Nasiruddin said while visiting the re-excavated part of Chaktai canal along with a group of journalists and members of the City Development Advisory Committee today.

The 4.935 metre long and 40 metre wide re-excavation project of the Chaktai canal was inaugurated on February 19 last.

The re-excavation of the canal to be completed by April next would be an outlet for stagnant rain waters from Chaktai, Bakalia, Chandgaon, Bahadderhat and Sholokbohar areas.

Over five lakh people of the city would be benefited by re-excavation of the canal.

The Corporation had to evict large number of unauthorised occupants who built houses, shops and other structures on both sides of the canal blocking easy flow of water.

### Palestinian envoy calls on Hafiz

Ambassador of Palestine in Bangladesh Mohammad Shahata Zarab called on the Law and Justice Minister Mirza Golam Hafiz in Dhaka Tuesday, reports BSS.

The canal is connected with Karnaphuli river facilitating plying of small boats and sampans when it remains clear.

When the canal is fully re-excavated small boats and sampans would be able to ply up to Chaktai and Bakalia during high tide facilitating transport of various goods from city areas to outside.

TV Wednesday

- Special Session**  
9.00am Opening announcement  
10.30 5th World Cup Cricket: England vs Pakistan
- Evening Session**  
5.00 Opening announcement Al-Quran  
Programme summary  
5.10 News in Bangla  
5.20 Recitation from the Geeta  
5.50 Mahey Ramzan  
6.30 Tarunya  
7.05 Hizal Tamal: Folk songs  
8.00 News in Bangla  
8.30 News Commentary  
9.00 MacCyver  
10.00 News in English  
10.30 Special songs programme  
11.15 Khabar/The News  
11.25 Thursday's programme summary  
11.30 Closing

## Elimination of terrorism seen a must for development

Law and Justice Minister Mirza Golam Hafiz Tuesday underlined the urgent need for eliminating terrorism from the society to ensure all-round development and well-being of the people, reports BSS.

He said the society must have to be freed from the vices like terrorism and insecurity for growth of democracy and establishment of rule of law.

Mirza Hafiz was speaking as chief guest at a discussion meeting organised by Bangladesh Jatiyatabadi Kalyan Parishad held at the Rose Bank Club here. The function was also addressed by State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism Abdul Mannan.

Advocate Jahed Ali Chowdhury presided over the function. "Unemployment and solution to the problem" was the theme of discussion.

Referring to massive unemployment in the country, Mirza Hafiz said the BNP government was making endeavours to

solve this problem on priority basis under the aegis of 19-point programme. He urged the youths to be prepared for hard work.

The minister asked the youths to identify the problems afflicting the society and come out with suggestions to solve those. He also urged them to organise juveniles in every locality to ensure their participation in nation building activities. The youths should be raised and guided by the nationalist spirit initiated by late President Ziaur Rahman, he added.

State Minister for Civil Aviation Mannan said unemployment was like an octopus which was crippling the society from all sides and we must make resolute endeavours to solve this problems.

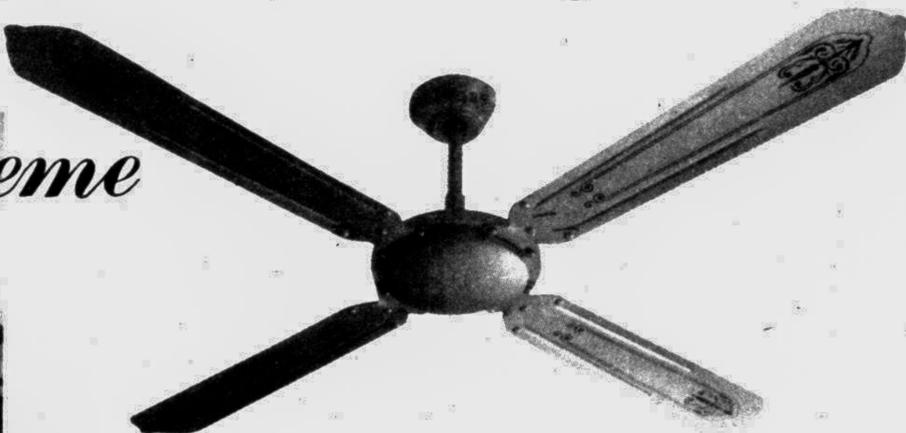
Mannan asked the youths to come forward with appropriate suggestions and projects which could provide maximum jobs. He said tourism

could also provide jobs to nearly three lakh people within a few year.

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### Weather

#### Dry weather to prevail

By Staff Correspondent

Met office Tuesday forecasts that rain or thundershower accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at one or two places over the regions of Comilla and Sylhet during the next 24 hours till 6 pm Wednesday.

Weather may, however, remain mainly dry elsewhere across the country, it adds.

Day temperature may rise by one to two degree Celsius during the period over the country.

Today's highest temperature 38.2 degree Celsius was recorded in Rajshahi while the lowest temperature 21.8 degree Celsius, in Sylhet.

The Sun sets today (Wednesday) at 6.12 pm and rises tomorrow (Thursday) at 5.57 am.

Temperature and humidity recorded in important cities and towns Tuesday are:

Cities/Towns	Temperature		Humidity	
	Max	Min	9 am	6 pm
Dhaka	36.0	24.8	90	70
Chittagong	30.2	24.0	80	80
Rajshahi	38.2	22.0	55	28
Khulna	35.3	23.8	86	71
Cox's Bazar	30.5			81
Sylhet	32.8	21.8	82	65
Jessore	36.5	24.2	75	82
Dinajpur	35.8	22.4	55	27
Comilla	31.5	23.0	88	81