

# Dhaka Day by Day

## Dress Parade or a Soiree?

by Fayza Haq



Mitalee and Bhupinder playing up to the crowd.

You would think that people had turned up for some engagement function if not a wedding... They were flaunting sequins, brocade, silk, chiffon, velvet, gold, silver and all the finery under the sun. Men wore silk 'kurias' and embroidered 'nagras' or Peshwari 'chappals'. This was at the Mitalee and Bhupinder Singh evening on a Sunday at Sonargaon Hotel, arranged by the Dhaka Rotary Club and BTC. The heat was so intense that you could hardly breathe freely.

To this was added the stale smell of women's mixed perfumes with jasmine predominating... There was also the heavy body odour of men. The lighting too was loud, garish and opulent. If it had been dimmed down even a few degrees, the performance would have been more enjoyable.

Normally in most of the musical programmes that I have covered for 'The Daily Star', especially the ones at Sheraton, there has been a break in between when you could stretch yourself and sip a cup of tea and resume the hearing. But here the songs proceeded from 7.20 to 9 pm and later requests followed beyond 10 pm. Here you had to scramble and squeeze for a seat by 6.30 pm at the latest, though the programme began much later. People had to be satisfied even with sitting on the carpet at the end.

When Irshad Khan had played till 11 pm at the Public Library auditorium, I had felt no discomfort, although I had to find my way home alone, and this time I had a companion. When musicians and actors come from Germany, France, Britain and USA arrived earlier, they were most cordial and ready to talk after the programme or some other appointed time. But Mitalee and Bhupinder appeared aloof and Mitalee condescended to only a 15 minutes chat on the phone with a vague promise to possibly talk later after the show.

The elites of the town, 99% of them being local, crowded the hall by 6.45 pm. This followed by a great stampede for seats by 7.5 pm while the musicians arrived by 7.15 pm. To look at the sea of listeners you would think a fashion parade for various ages was on.

Mitalee was in a deep pink sari with a black flowered 'anchal' while Bhupinder had a black and yellow combination 'kurta' and sported a heavy gold chain. They sang with poise and confidence, even though the songs were from films and radio and did not rise above that. The audience somehow lapped up the fare.

The singers began with 'Khud Sey Bhi Mai Ney Piar Tumharey Licy Kia' and progressed to 'Tum Puchh Aur Mai Na Batay'. They continued with their languid amorous pieces, accompanied by the 'tabla', harmonium and two stringed instruments by Harilal S Pandit, Iqbal Hussain S Warsi, Deepak A Shah and Arshad A Iqbal Ahmed. They sang in Hindi, Urdu, and Bangla but the heat and congestion was too much for

some of the viewers who were not inclined to get their Tk 500 or Tk 350 worth. There had been such massive advertising that people expected a lot more. I am personally a lover of 'ghazals', having spent decades in Karachi, but I was not exactly moved. It was good that the tickets to the evening were complimentary otherwise I would have been quite disgruntled.

What made Mitalee sing? 'It is in our family. My mother used to sing as did my brothers and sisters. My elder brother Deepak was very good 'tabla' player and it was he who specially helped me continue with my training. In Mymensingh I learnt from Mithun Dey and earlier from Narayan Das who was the disciple of Mithun Dey. I went to school at Brodah', she told me. She got a gold medal during her graduation and she did her masters too with distinction.

What made her specialise in 'ghazals'? 'I settled down in India in '83 after my marriage. From the very beginning I sang modern Bengali and Nazrulgeeti. For Rabindrashangeeti you need a different style and different training. I continued to learn classical in Hindi and Gujarati. In Brodah I heard a lot of 'ghazals'. There the listeners were non-Bengali and I naturally took to 'ghazals'.

How did she feel about singing in Bangladesh and elsewhere, outside India, her present home? 'The response in Dhaka has been very good and I feel proud of my country. I have sung for two and a half hours at a stretch and the audience appear to lap it up. In America, Canada, Dubai and Nigeria, where I have performed and given about 25 shows each, the Asian listeners loved to listen to something from their own country.

What did she think was the secret of being a successful singer? 'One must practise and have both experience and spontaneity. When you sing on stage you have to be able to relate with the listeners,' Mitalee remarked. She said her favourites were Lata Mangeshkar, Mehdi Hassan and Abida Parveen. So far she has had 10 cassettes and 10 CDs of her 'ghazals' and Bengali songs.

Did she feel that the eastern and western music can be blended with and impact? 'Many of the directors have used the guitar and the keyboard with success,' she replied. Mitalee has sung for TV, radio and for films and she has a national film award as the best singer for a song in 'Dui Pyshar Aalta'.

Her husband Bhupinder, born in Punjab, has had K L Taheem, Shri Gopal Acharya and Shri Gopal Krishna as his teachers. He joined Delhi Television as a musician in '62, and since he got his chance to sing in his first film 'Haqiqat' he has progressed and been more popular. Mitalee and Bhupinder have made successful 'ghazal' and 'geet' records like 'Saahil', 'Aap Ke Naam', 'Tauba Tauba' and 'Aapas Ki Baat'.

## 27,422 students seek admission in JU

**JU Correspondent**  
A total number of 27,422 students are seeking admission in the first year (Hons) classes of Jahangirnagar University in the 1991-92 academic year.

Students have applied for 21 departments under four different units: 'Ka', 'Kha', 'Ga', and 'Gha'. The 'Kha' unit received the highest number of applicants with a total of 8458 while units 'Ka', 'Ga' and 'Gha' followed by 7212, 6210, 5542 applicants.

The Admission Tests will start on May 10 and will end on May 13.

## DU Microbiology Admission Test May 4

Applications for admission into M.Sc. in Microbiology course at the Department of Microbiology, University of Dhaka have been invited, says a DU press release.

The last date for submission of application is May 2, while the Admission Test will be held on May 4.

Those who have either passed or appeared the B.Sc. (Hons) examination in Biochemistry, Pharmacy, Botany or Soil Science, or passed the M.B.B.S. examination will be eligible to apply for admission.

## Rotary Int'l Confce begins today

A three-day Rotary International Conference of Cooperation and Goodwill begins in Dhaka today (Friday), reports BSS.

Talking to newsmen at a city hotel, Rotary Club functionaries said, Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia will inaugurate the conference at 4.30 pm today Friday at Hotel Sonargaon.

Rotary International President Rajendra K Saboo will bestow upon the Prime Minister the Rotary Award of Paul Harris fellow, named after the founder of the Rotary movement.

Together for better tomorrow is the theme of the conference, which, the Rotary functionaries said, is designed to promote peace in the region.

More than 700 Rotarians from South Asian countries — Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Pakistan and India — are expected to attend the conference.



## Girl Guides team leaves for Korea

A two-member delegation led by Zeba Rasheed Chowdhury, National Commissioner, Bangladesh Girl Guides Association left Dhaka Thursday to attend a conference on 'Asia Pacific Regional Conference' beginning April 19 in Korea. The theme of the conference is 'Effective Leadership a Challenge', says a press release.

The other member of the delegation is Zeenat Ahmed, General Secretary of the Association. Delegation from 24 countries of the Asia Pacific Region will attend the conference.

### Friday

- Morning Session**
- 8:00 Opening announcement
  - 8:10 Al-Quran Programme summary
  - 8:15 News in Bangla
  - 8:15 Chena Kahini
  - 8:45 Cartoon: Mutant Ninja Turtles
  - 9:10 Shikshangan (recast)
  - 9:30 The Spectacular World of Guinness Records
  - 10:00 News in English
  - 10:05 Moner Mukure
  - 11:15 Documentary
  - 12:15 Closing.

- Evening Session**
- 3:00 Opening announcement
  - 3:10 Al-Quran Programme summary
  - 3:10 Recitation from the Triptak
  - 3:15 Alore Dishari
  - 3:40 34th Grammy Award
  - 5:10 News in Bangla
  - 5:30 Sports programme
  - 6:45 Anu Paramanu
  - 7:05 Sangeta: Songs programme
  - 8:00 News in Bangla
  - 8:30 Candid Camera
  - 9:00 Dristi Kone
  - 10:00 News in English
  - 10:30 Drama Series: L A Law
  - 11:30 Khabar /The News
  - 11:40 Saturday's Programme Summary
  - 11:45 Closing.

## 'Ensure proper medicare to people'

Deputy Leader of Parliament Prof A Q M Badruddoza Chowdhury Thursday called for making the health service people-oriented to ensure proper medicare for the nation, reports BSS.

In this respect, he stressed the need for social responsibility of the physicians and said they should come forward with broader and modern outlook to treat the ailments of the people.

Prof Chowdhury was speaking as the chief guest at the 14th annual general meeting of the Bangladesh Chest and Heart Association at the auditorium of the ICANDH at Mohakhali in city.

Health and Family Welfare Minister Chowdhury Kamal Ibn Yusuf said the government's health services and health education were being expanded to reach health facilities to the farthest corner of the country.

The government is taking steps to establish more medical institutes in the country to develop the health system of the country,' he said adding that it was important step of the present democratic government to ensure health facilities for people.

Chowdhury sought cooperation of the physicians towards implementation of the government's health measures in the country. He assured the association of considering its demands.

Later Prof AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury handed over the 'Lustar Rahman Gold Medal' to Dr AKM Salahuddin for his outstanding performance in the DTCED examination related to chest diseases.

people are getting health services in their need,' he said.

The Deputy Leader of Parliament also called for motivating the people to adopt preventive measures against diseases as prevention is always better than cure.

Prof Chowdhury urged all concerned in the health sector to make appropriate suggestions and proposals to the NGOs and international organisations so that they could help in dealing with diseases in the country.

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## Discussion on 'Kabi gan' held

A discussion on 'Kabi gan' was held at the Bangla Academy Batmol on the third day Thursday as part of the week long 'Batshakhi' folk festival of the Academy, reports BSS.

The discussion was followed by presentation of 'Kabi gan' where 'kabiab' Nikhilranjan Adhikari and 'kabiab' Rajendranath Sarkar rendered songs.

*It's new just for you*

The Daily Star is pleased to introduce a new column where individuals and organisations can publish Birthdays and Anniversaries Greetings, Congratulatory and Condolence Messages, Get-Well/Good-Luck Wishes, Birth/Death Announcements, In Memoriam, etc. at nominal charges.

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Dividend Warrants which shall not have been collected by 17th May, 1992, will be despatched to the shareholders by registered post.

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**Toyota car stolen**

A golden Toyota corolla car, 1984 model bearing number Va 6464 was stolen on April 13 from Road Number 7, Dhanmondi, reports BSS.

The owner of the car had lodged a complain with the Dhanmondi police station the same day. Anyone who can find the car may telephone 3,17,623 and that he should be rewarded.

## Probe into killing by insurgents demanded

**RANGAMATI, Apr 16:** Chairman of the Local Government Parishad of Rangamati hill district Goutam Dewan today condemned the killing of 11 people by tribal insurgents in Panchhari upazila of Khagrachari district on April 10.

Talking to newsmen at the Parishad office Thursday morning, Dewan demanded a judicial investigation into the incident.

He urged the government to take steps towards solving the Hill Tracts problem. 'Now that a democratic government is in power it should take proper steps to solve the problem.'

Dewan asked the outlaws to refrain from atrocities which, he said, would make the problem more difficult to be resolved.

Samiran Dewan and Saching Prue Jarry, Chairmen of the Local Government Parishads of Khagrachari and Bandarban hill districts respectively have also condemned the brutal killings by the Shantibahini men.

Talking to UNB by phone, they said that atrocities perpetrated by the Shantibahini terrorists on the innocents have only contributed to delaying the process of finding solutions to the problem.

## 4 held

Bangladesh Rifles held four members of the outlawed Shantibahini from Ramayan slum of Kukiachara area in Barkal upazila of the district early Thursday, reports UNB.

Acting on a tip, BDR personnel rushed to the spot and arrested them at about 1-30 am. BDR also recovered a pipe gun, a tape-recorder and some medicine from their possession.

**Weather**  
**Day temperature may fall**  
By Staff Correspondent

Rain or thundershower accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely to occur at one or two places over the Dhaka division and the regions of Rajshahi, Pabna, Bogra, Jessore, Kushtia, Khulna, Comilla and Sylhet, during the next 24 hours till 6 pm Friday. Met office forecasts.

Weather will remain mainly dry elsewhere of the country, it adds.

Day temperature is likely to fall by one to two degree Celsius over the country.

The highest temperature of the country 38.6 degree Celsius on Thursday was recorded in Rajshahi and the lowest temperature 19.5 degree Celsius, in Sylhet.

The sun sets today (Friday) at 6-20 pm rises tomorrow (Saturday) at 5-35am.

The temperature and humidity recorded on Thursday at the important cities and towns of the country are:

Cities/Towns	Temperature		Humidity	
	Max	Min	9am	6pm
Dhaka	35.8	26.5	51	58
Chittagong	34.8	26.0	78	89
Rajshahi	38.6	25.5	48	65
Khulna	35.8	22.6	65	67
Bogra	35.0	23.5	55	44
Cox's Bazar	32.0	27.2	69	69
Sylhet	32.2	19.5	75	68
Comilla	34.0	25.2	80	76
Barisal	35.2	26.5	56	68

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