

Dhaka Day by Day

A Refreshing Medley of Songs

By Rahat Fahmida

Beaming with a smile, she paced on to the stage with her hands folded into a gracious pose, 'namaste.' It was difficult for anyone to guess what a combination of songs she had in store for the audience. Usha Uthup dressed in a black and shocking pink South Indian saree, with a prominent round red 'bindi' on her forehead, she looked very much a presenter of traditional songs.

This, much talked about, modern singer from Madras, India, started her evening with a not too enthusiastic English song — 'I believe in music, I believe in love.' But her later songs were a treat for the audience. As Uthup, who has been singing for last 22 years, said to *The Daily Star*, 'I believe in the universality of music.' This she rightly proved, on the second day of her performance at Hotel Sonargaon. Uthup sang a variety of songs in English, Bengali, Hindi, Punjabi, Tamil and a few other languages. In between her songs she made a point of introducing eight of her band members who accompanied her from India.

She gave preference to the audience's requests to present some of their favourite numbers.

As the genius of Indian civilisation lies in its ability to absorb and encompass the many cultures it has come into contact with, this was very much evident in the different types of songs Uthup sang. A consequence of this 'wholesale' adaptability is what Indian civilisation has been successively enriched through the ages. This has contributed to its incredible energy and diversity, and given birth to artists of this standard and variety; though there are controversies about Uthup, accusing of distorting the actual Indian culture.

Expressivity in music is its power of communication. So, as Uthup said, 'Through music I communicate with the people from different parts of the world, irrespective of their caste, creed and culture. Communication is my business.' All the music that is any good says something.

Any performance is correctly called an in-

terpretation. The creator creates and then adds, somewhat later, as many aids as she can think of toward a clear interpretation. The interpreter, that is the singer, can not afford any vagueness. She must, as Uthup did or put in her best, make a guess at the music's specific meaning. Otherwise she has no test for determining tempos, rhythmic inflections, and climactic emphases beyond the notes and mar-kings of the score. Each of this modern Indian singer's songs were pregnant with meaning and intensity.

The crowd itself was a medley of different types. There was the row of decorous upper middle-class people in front who appeared to be listening with pleasure and edification. There were broad matronly backs, reverent bald heads, here and there a gaunt clerical neck, and in every lone head and shoulder one could decipher recititude, propriety, and virtue.

Daughter of a police commissioner, in a family of six brothers and sisters, this South Indian

singer was brought up in Bombay and educated in a convent. Usha Uthup had no formal training in music. Starting her career in 1969 at Nine Gems, a night club in Madras, she was later offered to sing at Hotel Savera in the same city. She slowly gained popularity as an artist and was offered to sing in Bombay's famous Ritz hotel. Later Uttap came to Calcutta, where she has been living for a number of years. She first presented at Trinkas, a well-known restaurant at Park Street.

Lively Usha Uthup said with a smile, 'People did and still do have a stigma against singers at night club. I did face a lot of problems. It is natural. What you wear is also important. I always wear a saree, no matter in which language I sing. It really matters how you sing and what you sing.'

Usha Uthup was in Dhaka with her eight-member band to perform in shows organised by Hotel Sonargaon, her host. The proceeds of these shows were donated to Rotary Club of Buriganga to help its different projects.



Usha sings at Sonargaon

System loss down by 5pc, minister informs JS

Evaluation on PDB's reward, punishment programme

Power Development Board (PDB) has materialised Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia's public announcement to bring transparency and accountability in its administration through the implementation of 'Reward and punishment' programme, reports BSS.

This was stated by Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Dr Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain who was talking to newsmen after a function held at the PDB Bhaban Tuesday where evaluation on the programme of system loss and boosting revenue earning was announced.

He said that about 22 thousand employees and officers of the Board were rewarded under this programme. The rewardees included 18,799 employees and 3,187 officers. A total of 2,688 persons including 600 officers were either warned or given strictures for their poor performances.

He said accountability and performance based evaluation in PDB is unique in Bangladesh. Clear cut criterion have been evolved for proper evaluation of the performances, he added.

The minister said the programme was taken to fulfil the objectives of the democratic government and also for bringing down system loss and boosting revenue earning.

The reward and punishment were evaluated on the performances of three months April, May and June in 1991, he said.

Eight employees and officers of Dumar Electric Supply Unit (ESU) were suspended for utter failure in achieving their targets, out of the 264 ESUs in the country, Dumar unit with achieving less than 50 per cent of its targets, stands lowest of them all.

Dr Hossain said as a result of better performances, the system loss in PDB has been brought down by 3 per cent from 28.98 per cent that existed prior to the launching of DESA in last October. He said if PDB could achieve its target 100 per cent, the system loss would have come down by 6 per cent.

The minister informed the Sangsad on Sunday that overall system loss in the country has been brought down by five per cent to the present level of 37 per cent. In September last year, overall system loss by PDB, REB and DESA taken together was 42 per cent. DESA, which accounts for 45 per cent of nation's power distribution, presently has a system loss of about 32 per cent, the minister said.

The minister noted that 1 per cent system loss means loss of Taka 20 from the exchequer.

Lauding the success of the PDB officers and employees for their good work, the minister said that when the programme was announced it sounded very 'challenging'. 'We are happy to have succeeded in facing the challenge', he added.

Referring to the causes of initiating such a programme, the minister said, besides helping the growth of national economy, it is also intended to distinguish between good and bad performances and rate them accordingly. Unfortunately it was the practice during the previous regime in which there was no demarcation between fairness and foul play.

In nine years of autocratic rule, system loss went up to 42 per cent from 32 per cent. It was shameful that despite this. The awarding of incentives continued at the cost of national exchequer.

He said till now evaluation was confined in the distribution sector. From now on, the performance of transmission, generation and others will also be evaluated.

The minister said compared to average monthly realisation of Taka 76.6 crore (out of an average of four years ending last June), revenue realisation in six months beginning April this year was Taka 106 crore. Officers and employees who have been rewarded will be getting a maximum of one and half month's basic to a minimum of half month's basic salary. Punishments included letters for improvement, warning and disciplinary action. It was estimated the total reward money would amount to Tk 4.72 crore which is about 15 per cent of the enhanced average monthly revenue, realised under the programme.

1 stabbed, robbed of Tk 3000 at Mirpur

By DMCH Correspondent

A youngman was stabbed Monday morning by a group of ten led by a local bully at Mirpur Section 11.

The victim Waztulla (20) was attacked by Muhammad Farouque of that area and was allegedly robbed of Taka 3000. The assailants tried to cut off the vein of Waztulla but was

unable to do so following the raid of the throng.

He was rushed to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital in critical condition. The elder brother of the victim Jallil Sikder was also stabbed by the same group of miscreants Sunday.

NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES

The containerised cargo ex. M. V. Great Rizal V-28286 from Genoa, ex. M. V. Vaal V-7762F from Moji, have been relayed to M. V. 'NEW GENLORD' V-8492 Import Rotation No. 773/92 is due to arrive Chittagong on or about 14.10.92 from Singapore.

Consignees are requested to take delivery of their cargo from FCL containers within 5 days free time from the date of landing and if cargo not cleared within 45 days will be guided by Customs Act.

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103, AGRABAD COMMERCIAL AREA, CHITTAGONG. AS AGENTS: MITSUI O.S.K. LINES LTD., TOKYO. PHONES: 503317, 500686/88.



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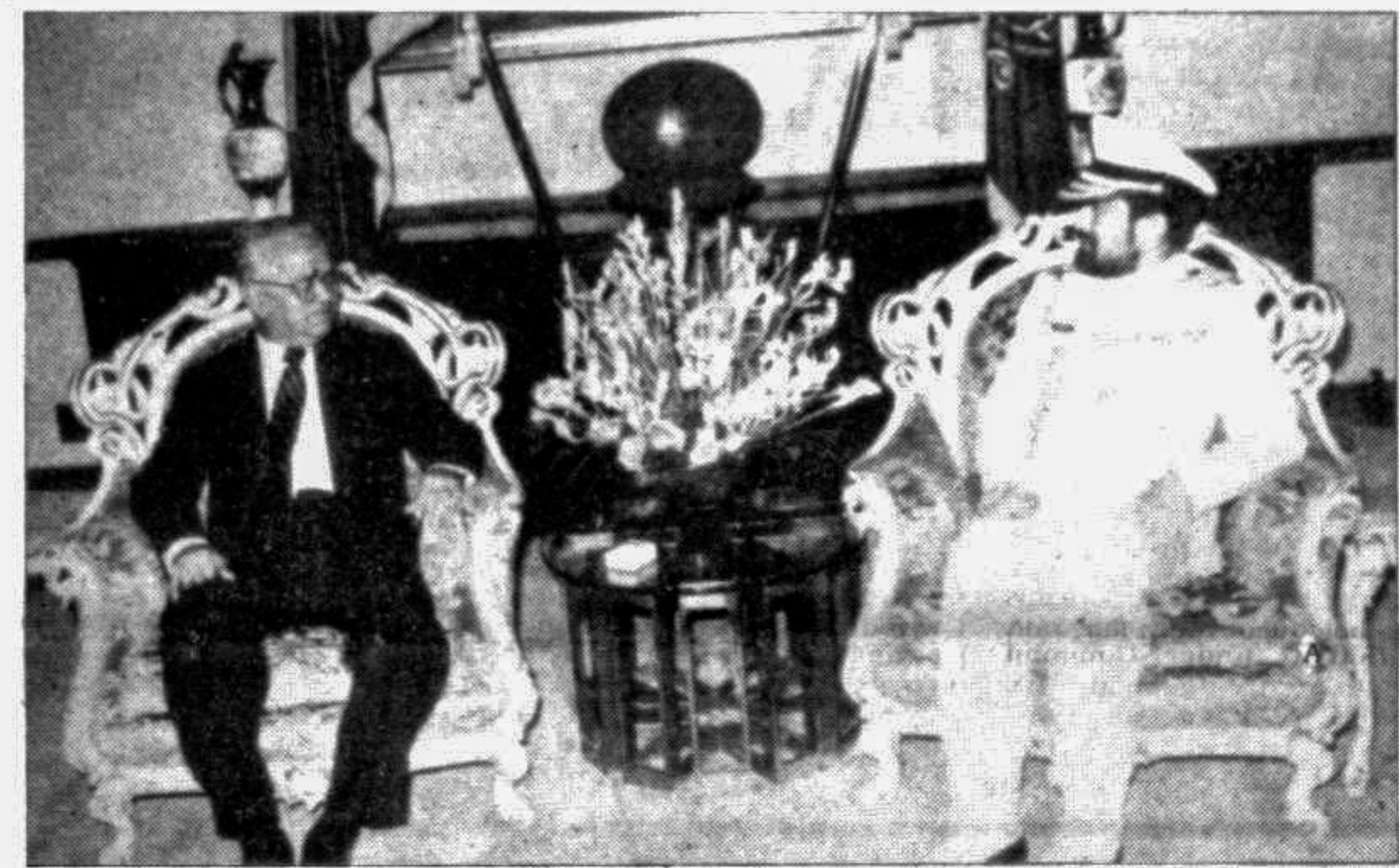
ACI Pharmaceuticals is a fast growing pharmaceutical company with an attractive product range. The company is also the distributor of ICI Pharmaceuticals products in Bangladesh.

As a part of its expansion programme, ACI Pharmaceuticals is looking for some medical representatives who will be based at different district headquarters and designated "Sales Promotion Officers".

The candidates should be aged below 28 years, energetic and willing to pursue a career in pharmaceutical sales. They should have a masters degree in biological science or related subjects.

Candidates with M Pharm degree or some years of experience in multinational or large local companies will be given preference. A higher compensation can be offered to really deserving candidates.

Application in own handwriting along with a biodata and a recent photograph should reach ACI Pharmaceuticals, PO Box 7218, Dhaka-1000, by 24 October 1992. The envelope should be marked "Sales Promotion Officer".



The visiting Malaysian Naval Chief Vice-Admiral Dato Seri Mohammad Shariff Bin Ishak met President Abdur Rahman Biswas at Bangabhaban yesterday. — PID photo

Bangladesh-Malaysia ties to grow

The visiting Chief of Naval Staff of Malaysia, Vice Admiral Dato Seri Mohammad Shariff Bin Ishak yesterday called on President Abdur Rahman Biswas at Bangabhaban, reports BSS.

The Malaysian Navy Chief informed the President that his country always stressed the importance of strengthening mutual relations with Bangladesh.

He said that opportunities for expanding bilateral cooperation in all fields through exchange of visits between the two brotherly countries would be strengthened further.

He conveyed best wishes from the King of Malaysia and hoped that two countries would work together for their

mutual benefit. President Biswas said that the relations between the two brotherly countries would continue to grow and work together to bring about rapid development in all sectors.

Appreciating the existing good relations between Bangladesh and Malaysia the President said that the two countries could help each other in boosting economic growth, industrialisation and other infrastructural development.

President Biswas conveyed his warm regards to the King of Malaysia and the Prime Minister.

Vice-Admiral Dato Seri Mohammad Shariff Bin Ishak,

left Dhaka yesterday afternoon ending his five-day goodwill visit to Bangladesh.

WFP official meets Food Minister

Director of World Food Programme (WFP) Gaston Eyben called on Food Minister Shamsul Islam at his office yesterday, reports UNB.

They discussed different aspects of on going projects in Bangladesh assisted by WFP.

Milad mahfil

A milad mahfil will be held in observance of the fifth anniversary of Ruquia Khan, wife of Zulmat Ali Khan, Chairman of BSS Board of Director, tomorrow (Thursday) after Magreb prayer at Dhanmondi (House-32, Road-16), reports BSS.

The orphans of the Tejgaon Orphanage will be fed at 6pm on the day.

Weather

No change in temperature

Many parts of the country yesterday experience rainfall during the last 12 hours till 6 pm yesterday (Tuesday) with the highest 33 mm at Faridpur, reports UNB.

Met office said that Bogra and Rangpur each had 28 mm rain, Cox's Bazar 25, Chittagong 23, Sylhet 16, Mymensingh 14, Sandwip 13, Feni and Rajshahi 12 each, Kutubdia 8, Matjdicourt, Bhola and Dinajpur 4 each, Dhaka, Madaripur and Satkhira 2 each, Rangamati, Chandpur, Patuakhali and Ishurdi 1 mm during the period.

Met office forecast for the next 24 hours till 6 pm today (Wednesday) also predicted that light or moderate rain or thundershower at a few places over Chittagong and Rajshahi divisions and at one or two places over Dhaka and Khulna divisions.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged during the period across the country.

Yesterday's maximum temperature in Dhaka was 32.7 degree Celsius and the minimum 26.7 degrees. Country's highest temperature 34.6 degrees was recorded in Jessore and the lowest 22.5 degrees at Srirangal.

Percentage of humidity was 78 in the morning and 89 in the evening.

The sun sets today (Wednesday) at 5.33 pm and rises tomorrow (Thursday) at 5.56 am.

Urs Mubarak

The holy Urs Mubarak of Hazrat Alhaj Shah Sufi Abdul Latif Amantuli, (R A) will be held at Biswa Darbar, Amantula Khanka Sherif, Mithachara, Mirsarai, Chittagong tomorrow (Thursday), reports BSS.



- 3.00 Opening announcement
- Al-Quran
- Programme summary
- 3.15 Indian Bengali Film: Pathy Holo Dert
- 5.20 News in Bangla
- 6.00 Desh O Bigyan
- 6.30 Programme on World Standards Day
- 7.05 Hjal Tamal (Folk Songs)
- 8.00 News in Bangla
- 8.30 Sangbad Parikrama
- 9.00 Film: The Fall Guy
- 10.00 News in English
- 10.25 Parliament round-up
- 10.35 Mukhomukhi
- 11.30 Khabar/The News
- 11.40 Thursday's programme summary
- 11.45 Closing

BCSIR, UNICEF sign agreement on edible salt

Bangladesh Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (BCSIR) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) signed an agreement Monday for the quality control of iodated edible salt. This is an important new step to ensure that adequate amounts of iodine are present in edible salt and that consumers are protected from the health problems caused by iodine deficiency, says a press released.

\$ 2.5 lakh Japanese aid for CIRDAP

Japan has donated 250,000 US dollars for the Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific (CIRDAP) to promote its seven projects, including five ongoing ones, reports UNB.

Yasuyoshi Ichihashi, Charge d'Affaires of Japan, handed over Tuesday a letter to Dr Somporn Hanpongpanth, Director of CIRDAP, Dhaka, conveying the contribution for the Japanese fiscal year '92.

Japan has been providing financial support each year to the Centre since its inception for promoting projects related to the development of socio-economic conditions of the disadvantaged groups of rural people in Asia and the Pacific region.

CIRDAP has promoted a good number of projects with Japanese contributions. The total amount of

Institute of Bankers, Bangladesh

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Examination Notice

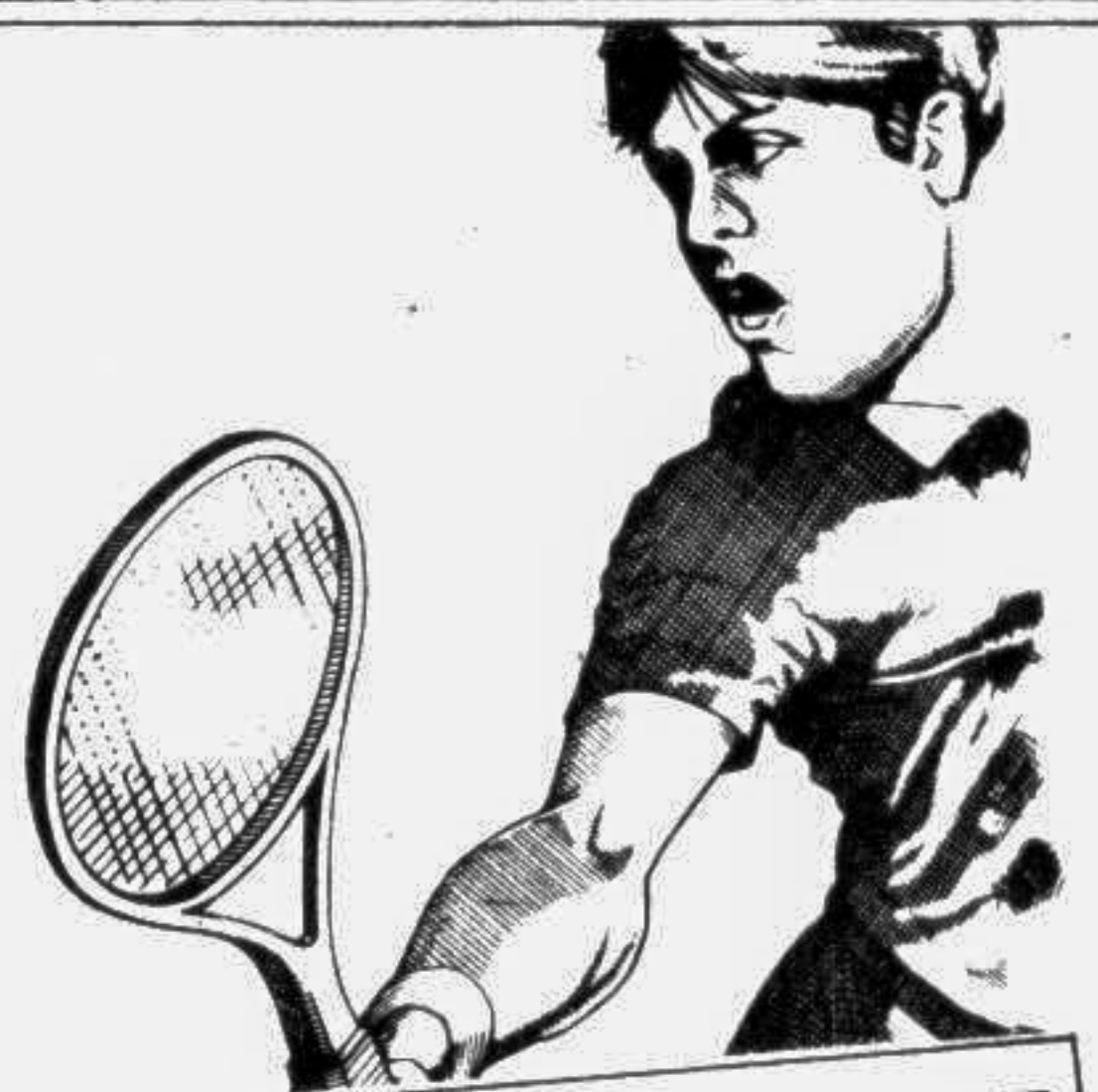
The next Banking Diploma examination of the Institute (1st & 2nd parts) will be held from 10th December, 1992 at all district headquarters of the country. Intending candidates can collect detailed information for depositing entry form of examination from the offices of the Institute, Branch Office/Principal Office of Sonali Bank as well as head office of Bangladesh Bank Chittagong, Sylhet, Bogra, Rajshahi, Khulna & Barisal.

Last date of depositing entry form with current fee is November 5, 1992 and with late fee November 12, 1992. Candidates will have to deposit the entry form through the Regional Office/Principal Office of their respective banks. Under no circumstance the form will be received directly from the candidates. Where there is no Regional Office/Principal Office of a bank, the form can be deposited through the Branch Chief.

Secretary



Second Leg Meet



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