

Dhaka Day by Day

Mixing the Folk with the Classics

by Fayza Haq



Fraunhofer Saitenmusik' presenting in the city.

The ensemble 'Fraunhofer Saitenmusik' consisted of six players and they delighted the Dhaka audience at the Goethe Institute for two evenings. The name of the ensemble was taken from one of the oldest and most beautiful inns in Munich 'Fraunhofer', where Heidi Zink and Richard Kurlander met in 1978 and subsequently formed the musical group.

At first the two musicians played with the dulcimer (hackbrett) and harp on small stages in Munich and took part in numerous concerts and folk festivals from Berlin to Switzerland.

They were then joined in 1981 by Gerard Zink and shortly afterwards the trio were able to convert their hobby into their profession — something similar groups can only dream of. They left their jobs (sociologist, hospital employee and computer expert) and acquired a renowned reputation as 'Fraunhofer Saitenmusik' which reached far beyond their home region Bavaria and their alpine countries.

Their great popularity is based on at least two things: The transparent pleasant sound of string instruments and the sensitive arrangements of music, and secondly the fact that the musicians have developed an ability to get to the roots, to reveal the character of each of the works they play. The music of the Vienna classical period for example is put back into its alpine context and is mainly played with the appropriate folk instruments. When doing this the musicians can take advantage of their profound knowledge of classical chamber music and folk music alike.

For their programme in Bangladesh and in the Subcontinent 'Musikalishe Saitenspieler Saitenspieler' (Musical toying with strings) the ensemble decided to exclusively demonstrate the close link of the Vienna Classic with the alpine folk music.

Together with Gabi Bretcher (flute), Franz Schubbeck (violin) and Michael Klein (guitar) they sprang a surprise on the audience: Music by Mozart, Schubert, Haydn as well as other not so well known composers of this period which took an entirely new appearance, sound transparent and light; it became music for wonder and relief.

Gerhard Zink, 37, has been playing the electric guitar since 13, and got involved in rock music the age of 16. He began professionally at 26. He has been on other tours before of Africa where the hot weather bothered the group but they were soothed by the response of the African audience. They had been to Senegal, Ivory Coast, Ghana, Togo, Nigeria, Cameroon and Zaïre. Next they went to Ethiopia, Tanzania, Kenya, Zimbabwe and Sudan. In the Subcontinent tour they began in Karachi and then proceed to Lahore, Delhi, Hyderabad, Bangalore, Madras and Colombo. Dhaka was their last stop.

Talking about his impression of the places Gerhard said that the group enjoyed the traditional music, temples, and mosques. They were, however, shocked by the poverty of the people. "We were told that in India and the rest of the Subcontinent millions live under terrible conditions. We felt sad and helpless. As a single group we could do very little but were glad that at least the music pleased them."

Speaking about the possible similarity between their instruments and those of the east he said "The basis of the stringed instrument is in Asia. The dulcimer for instance is similar to the santoor in India and Iran."

Dwelling on the unification of the East and West Germany he said "Basically the idea is good but a lot of economic and social problems are cropping up. Xenophobia has become a serious problem. Unemployment is rising. The stability of the currency is also suffering."

Franz Schubbeck, 29, the violinist, began playing when he was 11 and studied the violin at school. He likes jazz, rock, classical and Hindustani music. He hopes to be a teacher but the last few years he has been free lancing. "My impression is that the traditional eastern music, architecture and philosophy are all very rich. I was surprised to find the enthusiasm for western music because I was told that the people in the east do not show their reactions easily."

Comparing the music of the east and west Franz said that "They are totally different. In S. Indian music, for instance, there is a melody player and a few accompanying him. They play only the basic note which they do not change till the end. In western music the accompanying notes are always changing within one piece."

Heidi Zink, who played the dulcimer and flute said, "I prefer to stay put in my country and looking after my daughter. However, I did get pleasure in seeing the different ways that people lived."

Richard Kurlander, who played the harp, said, "It was a new experience, this travel. I loved meeting the musicians from the Subcontinent. As for the unification in our country I feel the people from the west do not understand the ones from the east." He began playing the dulcimer at the age 27 and has been playing the guitar since 16.

Gabi Bretcher, 19, who played the flute said "I don't like commercial music like pop and go in for classical, jazz and folk." She hopes to continue music as a hobby and plans to study social education as a career.

The sextet not only brought in music of Germany and Austria but also that of Italy, Ireland, France, Switzerland and Sweden.

New timings for American Cultural Centre library

The American Cultural Centre library will remain open between 10 am and 5 pm from Sunday to Thursday under new timings from November 1, reports BSS.

According to a press release, the Student Counselling Centre will open at 10 am and close at 3 pm.

Admission to the library will now be restricted to members only from November 1

JS body meet on Works Ministry held

The 9th meeting of the parliamentary standing committee on the Ministry of Works was held yesterday with the Works Minister Rafiqul Islam Mia in the chair, reports BSS.

The meeting discussed in details the decisions taken in the previous meeting and reviewed the progress of the on-going projects of the concerned organisation.

LGRD minister attends ICA confce

Barrister Abdus Salam Talukdar, Minister for LGRD and Cooperatives, attended the opening ceremony of International Cooperatives Alliance (ICA) congress in Tokyo on Tuesday according to a manage received here, reports BSS.

The congress attended by over 1500 delegates from all over the world was opened by the Japanese Prime Minister.

Prevention only way to get rid of AIDS: Badruddoza

By SSMCH Correspondent
"Sexual promiscuity is the main barrier of AIDS, only condom can help" — said Prof AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury, Deputy Leader of the House in Parliament.

Prof Chowdhury said this at a function on AIDS Awareness Programme organised by The National AIDS Committee at the gallery of Sir Salimullah Medical College yesterday.

He said that when we draw blood we should not use contaminated syringes.

B Chowdhury said AIDS can be transmitted through sexual contact with an HIV infected person, transfusion of contaminated blood, sharing contaminated syringe, infected pregnant mother to her child.

Prof Chowdhury said prevention is the only way to get rid of AIDS. He said no vaccine or curative treatment of the killer disease had yet been discovered and ultimate fate of the victim is death.

Prof AK Shamsuddin Siddique, the Director, Medical Education and National Focal Points on AIDS said there are ten patients of AIDS in Bangladesh.

Dr Mostafa Kamal, National Programme Manager on AIDS told the audience AIDS is preventable through creating public awareness and taking some measures like maintaining safe sex life using condoms in prostitute, use of disposable or sterilized syringes in pathology and transfusion of pure blood.

SAIC confce begins Common market for SAARC states needed to ensure better prices

Agricultural experts from SAARC countries yesterday began a three-day conference here to discuss how they can further cooperate in the field of exchanging information among the south Asian nations to boost their agriculture, reports UNB.

The moot, described as 'Focal Points Meeting' aims at strengthening the SAARC Agricultural Information Centre (SAIC), established in Dhaka in 1988, to facilitate exchanges of information on agriculture.

Agriculture, Irrigation, Water Development and Flood Control Minister M Majid-ul-Haq inaugurated the meeting at BARC here Tuesday morning with a call for establishing a common market of the SAARC countries to ensure better prices for their agricultural products.

The inaugural function was presided over by Executive Vice-Chairman (in-charge) of BARC Dr Z Karim. It was addressed by SAIC Director AKM Abdur Nur, Agriculture Secretary ANM Ehsauf and SAIC Deputy Director Dr V Dharmarajya.

Delegates from all SAARC countries except the Maldives are participating the conference which will discuss various programmes, activities and related matters on agricultural

information benefitting the member countries. The conference will also discuss strengthening of the liaison and interaction among SAIC and the country focal points.

In his inaugural address, Agriculture Minister Majid-ul-Haq said a common market needs to be established for strengthening and providing better prices to the producers of agricultural wealth — the food, feed and fiber — in the SAARC countries.

He said this should be done by not only exchanging agricultural products from areas of surpluses and prosperity to areas of deficiency and adversity, but also for exporting them to the western world at competitive prices.

The Minister said this sort of active cooperation shall be a precursor for healthy competi-

tion in food production so as to realise better results and make the nightmare of hunger and poverty a word of by-gone days.

Active cooperation is needed for healthy competition in food production, he underlined and added that successful experiences and success stories need to be swapped among countries for adoption and adaptation.

The Minister said SAIC focal points meeting has been very timely and hoped it should help to know, understand, appreciate and accept each other more intimately for mutual benefit.

He also hoped that the recommendations of the meeting will be formulated into a time-oriented action plan and be submitted to the governments of the SAARC countries for their consideration and implementation.

New technical school opens in Ctg today

CHITTAGONG, Oct 28: About 19,500 underprivileged children will be imparted education in 38 general and technical schools in the country through the Under Privileged Children's Educational Programme (UCEP) BY 1996, reports BSS.

A technical school under the name A K Khan-UCEF Technical School will be inaugurated tomorrow at Mohora (Kalurghat) by Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia.

This was stated by Major General (Rtd) Amzad Khan Chowdhury Chairman, Board of Governors of the UCEF at a press conference at A K Khan UCEF Technical School, at Kalurghat here today.

He said that the UCEF in cooperation with six foreign donor agencies as well as local sponsors set up the educational institutions for urban working children or street boys and girls who are deprived of educational facilities.

DEAREST MA — Happy Birthday To You! Love — Chand Moni

Happy Birthday

LAMIA

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For details contact BTI's Office at 52 New Eskaton Road, Dhaka (Telephones : 404243, 404872, 413110 & 419758) during working hours, on all days except Fridays.

ECNEC okays five projects worth Taka 560 crore

The Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (ECNEC) yesterday approved five development projects involving a total outlay of Taka 559 crore 88 lakh with a foreign exchange component of Taka 97 crore 15 lakh, reports BSS.

The approval was given in an ECNEC meeting here with Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman in the chair.

The projects are business management education training (IBA part) and balancing, modernizing, rehabilitation (BMR) of Keru and Company under the Ministry of Industries.

Revised project of River Research Institute and Bhola town protection project under Irrigation, Water Development and Flood Control Ministry, and rural development project,

infrastructure development for greater Khulna, Jessore and Kushtia districts under local government division.

The main objective of this project is to build feeder and connecting roads to the growth centres for economic boost in the region.

Agriculture, Irrigation, Water Development and Flood Control Minister M Majid Ul-Haq, Post and Telecommunications Minister M Keramat Ali, Commerce Minister MK Anwar, Industries Minister M Shamsul Islam Khan, Deputy Minister for LGRD and Cooperatives Abdul Hye, Cabinet Secretary, principal secretary of Prime Minister, members of the planning commission, Governor of Bangladesh Bank, secretaries and other high officials were present.

Weather

No change in day temperature

By Staff Correspondent

Weather forecast for the next 24 hours commencing 6 am today (Thursday) says, dry weather will prevail over the country and day temperature is likely to remain nearly unchanged over the country.

The Met office recorded a maximum temperature of 33.2 degree Celsius yesterday (Wednesday) at Bogra and a minimum temperature of 17.4 degree at Jessore.

The sun sets today (Thursday) at 5.21 pm and rises tomorrow (Friday) at 6.03 am.

The maximum and the minimum temperature and humidity of some of the major cities and towns of the country are:

Cities/Towns	Temperature in Degree Celsius		Humidity in Percentage	
	Max	Min	9am	6pm
Dhaka	32.2	20.6	70	62
Chittagong	32.0	23.5	84	73
Rajshahi	32.0	19.1	79	80
Khulna	32.0	20.6	77	-
Cox's Bazar	32.8	25.0	73	74
Sylhet	32.5	21.6	66	80
Dinajpur	30.5	18.2	75	78
Barisal	32.6	20.5	78	88

BTV

Thursday

5:00	Opening announcement, Al-Quran, programme summary
5:10	News in Bangla
5:20	Recitation from the Geeta
5:25	School debate competition
6:15	Peter Pan Am the Pirates
6:35	Address of Turkish Ambassador
6:40	Tarunnya
7:20	Jiboner Alo
8:00	News in Bangla
8:45	Drama of the Week : Bardhu Aamar
10:00	News in English
10:35	Parliament round-up
10:40	Film : China Beach
11:40	News in Bangla
11:45	Friday's programme summary
	Closing

BFUJ meet tomorrow

A meeting of the executive committee of Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) will be held tomorrow (Friday) at the union office at the National Press Club, reports UNB.

All members have been requested to attend the meeting.

NOTICE FOR THE EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING OF THE SHAREHOLDERS OF APEX TANNERY LIMITED

Notice is hereby given that an extraordinary general meeting (EGM) OF THE SHAREHOLDERS OF APEX TANNERY LIMITED shall be held at the auditorium of Dhaka Chamber of Commerce & Industries, 5th floor 65-66, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka on Thursday 19 NOVEMBER 1992 AT 5:15 PM for the purpose of considering, and if thought fit, passing the following resolution as Special Resolution.

DRAFT SPECIAL RESOLUTION

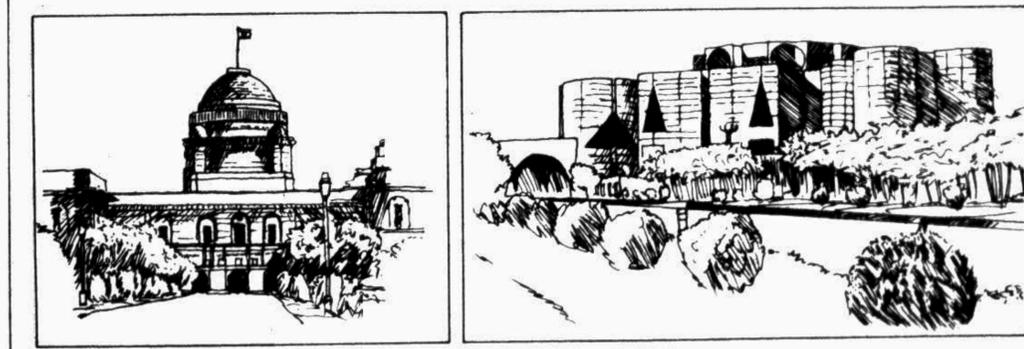
"RESOLVED THAT THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS BE AND IS HEREBY AUTHORISED TO ISSUE 381,000 RIGHT ORDINARY SHARES OF TK. 100/= EACH IN THE CAPITAL OF THE COMPANY AT PREMIUM OF TK. 200/= (THAT IS EACH SHARE @ TK. 300/=) AND OFFER THE SAME TO THE MEMBERS AS A RIGHT ISSUE IN THE PROPORTION OF 1:1 AND SUCH OFFER BE MADE TO EACH MEMBER BY NOTICE SPECIFYING THE NUMBER OF SHARES TO WHICH THE MEMBER IS ENTITLED, AND ALLOWING 21 DAYS TIME WITHIN WHICH THE OFFER, IF NOT ACCEPTED, BE DEEMED TO BE DECLINED AND AFTER THE EXPIRATION OF THE SAID TIME ALLOWED OR ON RECEIPT OF A REJECTION BY A MEMBER OF THE SAID OFFER THE DIRECTORS BE AND ARE HEREBY AUTHORISED TO DISPOSE OF THE SAID SHARES IN SUCH MANNER AS THEY THINK MOST BENEFICIAL TO THE COMPANY. IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED THAT THE PREMIUM MONEY BE HELD IN A SHARE PREMIUM ACCOUNT OF THE COMPANY AND THE LIABILITIES OF THE COMPANY WITH AGRANI BANK BE LIQUIDATED WITH THE SAME."

Explanatory note from the Chairman alongwith the Profit & Loss Account for the 3 months ended 30 September 1992 will be sent through special courier to the shareholders on 01 November 1992. Should the members find that they have not received the explanatory note by 04 November 1992, they are requested to contact the registered office of the company or Dhaka Stock Exchange.

Registered Office: 65-66, Motijheel C/A., Dhaka Tel:236433, 231117, 245909

By order of the Board
Md. Rahmatullah
Managing Director
29 October 1992

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