

Metropolitan

Dhaka Day by Day

Filling the Air with Pure Piano Notes

by Fayza Haq



Sophia, Zoe and Idris playing at the National Museum

Sophia Rahman, her sister Zoe, and her brother Idris, delighted the audience at the National Museum with their Dubussy Prelude, a piece from a Brahms concerto, Hungarian, Spanish and Norwegian dance music. They played with skill, dedication and enthusiasm. The listeners, eager for good piano music, lapped it all up.

"In England, where I live, they still appreciate classical music. The presentation of classical music is changing. They are now trying to reach out to a wider audience. Even though pop music has arrived, the importance of classical music will not die down. There are classical music listeners among the younger generation as classical music is less formal now. The musicians talk to the audience and communicate to them other than just play," Sophia commented.

"The music of the east and west cannot be combined when dealing with the strictly classical. The type of music my brother and sister play is jazz and that is much easier to combine with eastern influence. We played for All India Radio recently, and for the preparation of the improvisation we only took half an hour. I enjoy eastern music specially 'Rabindrasangeeths' as well as modern Bengali music, which I heard, when my cousin Polash was recording recently," she added when asked if western and eastern music can be combined with success.

Does Sophia get enough money to make a livelihood? "The performances vary depending on the venue and the type of presentation. There is no set fee. I get paid 100 to 200 pounds each time, but for charity performance they only pay for the travel expenditure," she replied.

While Sophia and Zoe did not appear to have any favourites, Idris said that he liked Miles Davies, John Contrane and Wayne Shorter. Idris hoped to phase out to jazz later.

Sophia went to school early. At the age of six, at the end of the year, she came home with various trophies including a huge one for music. The parents were surprised because they did not have a piano at home. From the age of six she took individual lessons, and by the time she was nine she had done all the grades that she wanted to do. She got a scholarship at the age of eleven to go to the Yehudi Menuhin School, which is a very competitive institution. In that school she did her normal academic studies too like GCE and A levels.

At seventeen she went to study English Literature at King's College, London. She continued to have music lessons while studying English by Professor Alexander Kelly of the Royal Academy. She gave major recitals once a week all over the country, and played at prestigious music festivals in England like Salisbury and Chichester. She also went to Switzerland and Luxembourg and to Italy. She was financed by sponsors, who had invited her. She played as a concerto soloist with the conductor Odaline de la Martinez. She has also been to Turkey and India and has broadcast for BBC3, All India Radio and the Turkish television. In 1992 she won the Royal Overseas League Music Competition's accompanist Award which got her her 1000 pounds.

Sophia, now twenty-four, who wanted to be a concert pianist from the age of eight, has succeeded in her ambition. She is increasingly playing with other musicians on the viola, violin and clarinet. She plays both duo and with groups and this gives her variety. She has a lot of engagements and they are coming in rapid succession. Her '93 diary is full and her '94 diary commitments are coming in as well.

Zoe, also a pianist, has been to the Royal Academy of Music, like Sophia. From there she went to Oxford University and has graduated in '92 with honours. She has written music for a musical that the Oxford Play House produced. The production is based on Kipling's 'Jungle Book' and it is called 'Jungle Town'. She wrote the lyrics jointly with a friend who is a graduate of history, and they hope to take the production to the Edinburgh Festival this year.

Idris played the piano at the early stages but decided not to continue that. When he went to secondary school, a clarinet was pushed in his direction and he has been playing the clarinet since the age of 13. Five years ago he picked up the saxophone as well. He is studying music at Oxford University and hopes to do his BA (Hons.)

Sophia, Zoe and Idris used to play together when they were at home, but now they are all scattered and at hostels. Occasionally they get together to raise money for charity.

It was fascinating to see a family of Bangladeshi origin doing so well abroad. Both their parents are doctors. While the father is from Bangladesh, originally, the mother is English.

Evolve a strong human resource development policy: Speakers

Speakers at a seminar have urged the government to formulate a strong human resources development policy with explicit fertility objectives and action oriented programmes to achieve national goal of poverty alleviation, reports BSS.

They also called for total commitment of the government, employers and employees towards promotion of productivity as well as marketing of the produces with due emphasis on labour factor to help sustain economic growth of the country.

The seminar on "Human Resources Development, Productivity and Quality" organised by Asian Productivity Organisation (APO) Society for Bangladesh was held Tuesday at hotel Purbani with Mohammad Abu Misir, a former Director of National Productivity Organisation (NPO) in the chair.

Engr. Khan Mohammad Akram Hossain of Bangladesh Standard and Testing Institution presented the key-note paper at the seminar while Prof. Bazul Huq Khandker of Dhaka University's Management Department and Ahmad Ali Shah of the NPO took part in discussion on the paper.

Besides, it was followed by a floor discussion participated by nearly a dozen of employers representing different government and private organisations.

Prof. Bazul Huq Khandker said the manpower in Bangladesh was a quality force but lack of commitment had so far been a barrier towards promotion of productivity.

He said tripartite initiative of the government, employers and employees was very much necessary for economic growth as human resources development and productivity was inextricably linked with each other.

Ahmad Ali Shah said human resources development and quality control had a direct link with productivity promotion and stressed the need for creation of awareness among the members of the public about it through the mass media.

He said inadequacy in national level planning for human resources development and qualitative productivity promotion was giving rise to the import of "packaged production facilities".

HERE and THERE

SAARC culture body meet

The eighth meeting of the cultural committee formed in connection with the forthcoming SAARC Summit was held yesterday at the conference room of the Cultural Affairs Ministry with State Minister for Cultural Affairs Prof. Jahannara Begum in the chair.

The meeting held elaborate discussions regarding cultural programmes scheduled to be staged during the summit in honour of the distinguished guests.

The meeting was informed that all preparations for holding the cultural programmes have been completed.

The meeting was also informed that a week-long SAARC philatelic and book exhibition and Bangladeshi handicrafts exhibition was held

successfully in Dhaka from 10th of this month.

Amanullah Chowdhury, MP and concerned officials were present at the meeting.

Anjumane Chistia

The founder of Anjumane Chistia Bangladesh and eminent religious and spiritual personality Sher-e-Khawza A K M Anwarul Haq Chowdhury presented the Bangladesh made Gilaf and Chandina Mubarak at the Holy Rowza Sharif of Khawza Gharib-e-Newaz on December 26.

Sher-e-Khawza placed the Gilaf and Chandina there on behalf of Bangladesh and the whole world on the occasion of the Fatcha Khajegan of the holy Urs Mubarak of Hazrat Khawza Moinuddin Chisthi (R) at Ajmeer Sharif.



Hotel Restaurant Owners' Association held a rally against terrorism in front of the National Press Club yesterday. — Star photo

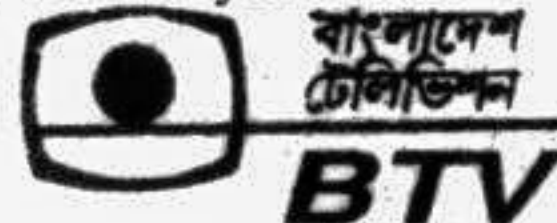
Dhaka to get \$ 2.7m UNDP aid

Bangladesh will receive 2.7 million US dollars equivalent to Tk 12.48 crore from United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) for export development and promotion, reports UNB.

A project document to this effect was signed between Bangladesh government and UNDP here yesterday said an official source.

Economic Relations Division (ERD) Secretary Enam Ahmed Chowdhury and Resident Representative of UNDP Charles Lamsmont signed the document on behalf of their respective sides.

The export promotion project will be implemented by Export Promotion Bureau (EPB) of the Commerce Ministry in three years time.



Thursday

- 5-00 Opening announcement Al-Quran Programme summary
- 5-10 News in Bangla
- 5-20 Recitation from the Geeta
- 5-30 TV debate
- 6-15 Open University
- 6-45 Campus programme on youth
- 7-20 Jiboner Alo
- 8-00 News in Bangla
- 8-40 Drama of the week
- 10-00 News in English
- 10-30 China Beach
- 11-30 Khabar/The news
- 11-40 Friday's programme summary
- 11-45 Closing



Abul Chairman, Jasimuddin Secy of DCC Contractors' Union

By Staff Correspondent
Abul Hossain Khan and Jasimuddin Mahmood have been elected Chairman and Secretary General respectively of the Dhaka City Corporation Contractors' Union Monday. According to a press release the Abul-Jashim panel won all the 19 posts of the union.

Girls guide camp fire today

The closing ceremony of the Combined Regional Guide Camp will be held today at its national camp site at Baropara in Kalukhat Thana of Gazipur district, reports UNB.

State Minister for Cultural Affairs Prof. Jahannara Begum will attend as chief guest, says a press release.

Bangladesh Girls Guide Association capital region organised the camp.

NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES

The containerised cargo on M.V. JAPAN SENATOR V-EMD41/PETER METZ V-22 from Izmir, La-Spezia, ex. M. V. ALINA V-119 from Damman have been relayed to M. V. NGS EXPRESS V-0792 Imp. Rot. No. 981/92 is due to arrive Chittagong on or about 31-12-92 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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Appointment

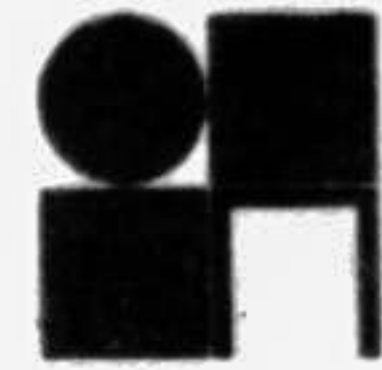
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D-728



বাংলাদেশ স্থপতি ইনস্টিটিউট

সদর দপ্তর: ঢাকা

বাকী নং-৫১, সড়ক নং-৫

ধানমন্ডি আবাসিক এলাকা, ঢাকা।

দ্বিবার্ষিক সাধারণ সভা ও নির্বাচনের বিজ্ঞপ্তি

বাংলাদেশ স্থপতি ইনস্টিটিউট-এর দ্বিবার্ষিক সাধারণ সভা ও নির্বাচন আগামী ২২ জানুয়ারী ১৯৯৩, তরুবার সকাল ১০-৩০ মিনিটে বাংলাদেশ প্রকৌশল বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের অডিটোরিয়াম কমপ্লেক্স-এ অনুষ্ঠিত হবে।

সম্মতিত সদস্যবর্গকে যথাসময়ে উপস্থিত থাকার জন্য অনুরোধ করা গেল।

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S-377

Entry in Sangsad area restricted

Entry of persons without valid pass has been restricted in the Sangsad area in view of the coming session of the Jatiya Sangsad from January 2 till the end of the session, reports UNB.

All concerned have been requested not to enter the Sangsad area without valid pass.

Qaiyum dead

Syed Abdul Qaiyum, secretary general of Bangladesh Republican Party died of heart attack Tuesday night at his Asad Gate new colony residence, his party sources said yesterday, reports BSS.

He was 48. Qaiyum, who was a bachelor, left behind two brothers, two sisters and his mother to mourn his death.

Obituary

The Transportation Officer of the Alfa Tobacco Manufacturing Company Limited Mizanur Rahman died of brain haemorrhage at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital on Sunday last. He was 39, says a press release.



Tender Notice

No 118-6/Engg. Dt 28/12/92
UNIVERSITY OF DHAKA: Sealed tenders in Dhaka University form "Tender for works" are hereby invited from the Enlisted Contractors of Titas Gas T&D Co Ltd (Category 1:1 & 1:3) for the undermentioned works are will be received by the undersigned up to 12 Noon on the dates mentioned against each work & opened on the same day at 12.15 PM in presence of the contractors who may remain present. Contractors will have to deposit as Earnest Money a sum of Taka as stated below in Demand Draft or Pay Order from any scheduled Bank of Bangladesh. Specification and other particulars may be had from office of the undersigned on all working days except on the date fixed for submitting the tender after depositing the cost of tender forms and schedule as stated below against each work to the Janata Bank, TSC branch (non-refundable) after showing the necessary enlistment papers endorsed by the undersigned.

Sl No	Name of Work	Estimated Cost	Earnest Money	Price of Tender form	Time allowed for Completion Date	Opening Date
1.	Installation of Gas pipe line to supply Titas gas (1st floor to 3rd floor) at Class-IV employees quarter at bldg No 57 Shib Bari, DU	Tk 31,365/86	Tk 628/-	Tk 30/-	21 days	11th Jan '93
2.	Installation of Gas pipe line (extension work) for fixing additional 10 (ten) double burners to the Kitchen of Hazi Mohammed Mohsin Hall, DU	Tk 17,641/18	Tk 353/-	Tk 20/-	21 days	11th Jan '93

Md Muklasur Rahman
Executive Engineer
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