

Dhaka Day by Day

When Classical Music Gets a Poor Patronage

by Fayza Haq

Ustad Saghiruddin Khan, born at Mongi Bihari on December 26, claims himself to be a Bengali, as he has lived at Park Circus, Calcutta, for decades. He gave up the 'sarangi' to teach singing to young enthusiasts of eastern classical music, once having retired.

"Music has been in my family for years, as my father played and taught the 'sarangi' and song, along with other members of my family," the Ustad explained about his introduction into the field of music, in his self-effacing and tactful manner.

Asked what he thought about "Uchango Shangeet" standard of performance in Bangladesh, the music expert said frankly, "It is in a pathetic state, as compared to the rest of the Subcontinent, and this is largely due to the lack of adequate training. I am not impressed by most of the present artists of 'Uchango Shangeet' on TV. Anyone who has any talent in Bangladesh has left for India. Bangladeshi artists in classical music would not stand an international competition to win any accolades. There are, of course, a few exceptions as in the case of the instrumental performers like Abid Hussain, Shahadat Hussain and Khurshid, who all belong to the same Khan family, and all of who learnt from Alauddin Khan."

When requested to give his opinion as to why Eastern classical music was not popular, he said that this was because of lack of patronage and due to the fact that very few people participate in it. "Only 'Rabindrasangeet' and 'Nazrul Geet' appear to flourish in Bangladesh," the Ustad believed.

"The students must practise sincerely and constantly for two to three hours daily. I understand that they have other pursuits to follow, such as their basic school education or the care of the household, in case of the ladies," the maestro replied, when asked to give his advice about how many hours a student of 'Uchango Shangeet' must put into his or her daily schedule, in the pursuit of music.

The Ustad has played at the Goethe Institute, Dhaka, in '91, with the help of Lubna Marum doing the public relationship work for him. At this function he sang 'Dekho jeno bhulona', a Bangla 'thumri', and presented a 'kheyal', 'Kanshik kandara'. He has also performed many times at the "National Museum", Dhaka, at the 'Bisho Shahitto Kendro', and at private houses.

Ustad Saghiruddin Khan specialises in voice training at Dhaka and comes here twice a year, staying for three to four times, on each occasion.

"As I have been in Calcutta since '46, am a lover of Bengali culture, 'Nazrul geetis' and 'Rabindrasangeets', being included in this. I have admiration for the Bangladeshi cultural progress, on the whole. It is the attraction of the Bangla language that has led me to compose 'Dekho jeno Bhulona', 'Prlo gechey porobashey' to which I give my own tunes."

"Since I have been in Calcutta since '46, I greatly admire Bangladeshi culture, and 'Nazrulgeetis' and 'Rabindrasangeets' are included in this. I have considerable hopes for Bangladesh cultural progress. It is the attraction of the Bangla language that has led me to compose the Bangla songs that I mentioned that I had sung at the Goethe-institute, Dhaka, to which incidentally, I had given my own tunes."

"The Ustad" elaborated, when asked to give his opinion of the country that he visits regularly. He is well aware of Western music and its possible inclusion in eastern tunes, as he has mixed the tunes of the two places for a "Dur Darshan" performance, which was based on the life of blind man, in '89.

"I like both classical and modern songs like those of Orun Bahadur, (classical) and arohi Mukharji (modern). My own compositions include 'Jecona choley' on 'raag' Sharshati and 'Thak-na lukey meger araley ongo raagey', a modern piece. I admire Khairul Anam Shakil and Shahcen Samad for their 'Nazrulgeetis'."

At the function by 'Shadhona', arranged by Ms. Lubna Marum, which was inaugurated by Deputy Minister for Health and Family Welfare Sirajul Haq and Health Secretary Syed Ahmed were present.

Headed by Additional Secretary of the Ministry A B M Siddique the 25-member team consisting of ten international members representing SIDA, UNICEF, USAID, World Bank and WHO and 14 national members from the Directorate Generals of Health Services and Family Planning and the Public Administration Training Centre (PATC).

Dr F Gasse of WHO headquarters was the co-chairman of the review team. The review found that national immunization coverage with all antigens in 1992 for the children below two years was 74 per cent while below one year it was 50 per cent.

The team observed that the EPI which sustained since 1991 mainly with external donor support and funding was facing considerable shortfall of vaccines for the current year due to production and procurement problem.

The minister assured the team that the government would try to overcome the shortfall of vaccines immediately so that the people do not suffer.

The review revealed that assessment of coverage based on routine reporting was inaccurate and over-estimated and there was no uniform urban EPI model applicable to all municipalities.

At least 20 per cent of newborns are not protected at birth due to non-registration of pregnancies or too late to detect it, the report said.

The review team alleged that combined service delivery was being carried out without a national policy, without clear definition of responsibilities and without specific training.

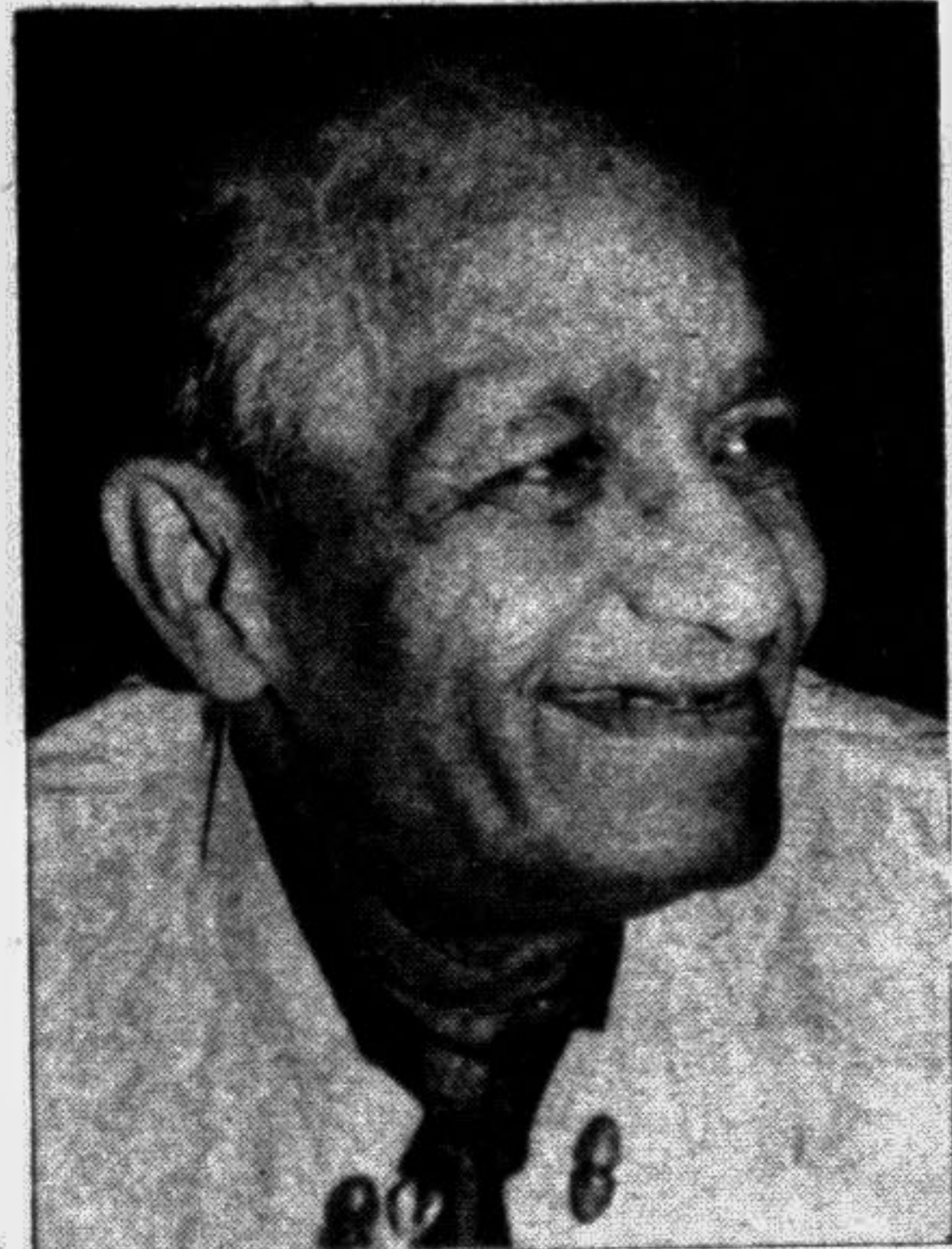
The sterility and safety of injection technique were not still fully guaranteed and allocation of funds at district and thana levels were inadequate to cover the costs of transport, supervision, training and maintenance needs for cold chain and logistics.

The review team expressed concern that in absence of proper planning there was no guarantee that the areas presently covered by NGOs can sustain quality of performance.

The international review team presented executive summary of its observations and recommendations to the Health and Family Welfare Minister Chowdhury Kamal ibne Yusuf at the conference room of the ministry here yesterday.

Ustad Saghiruddin Khan, Anushey Andadil, a 15 year-old, played on the "tanpura", and performed with zeal in her magenta and white "shahwar-kurta", who sang with the confidence and enthusiasm of a professional, won instant praise.

So did Paresha Zarmeem, a eleven year-old presented "raag" 'Mullani with the 'ek taal', and "raag" Durga on the "teen taal".



Ustad Saghiruddin Khan

BCSIR seminar 'Vitamin B2 remedy for skin diseases'

Vital skin diseases like vitiligo, leucoderma (pigmentation disorders), eczema, ring worm, chuli and sores in different places of the body can be cured and prevented by applying vitamin B2 (riboflavin), reports BSS.

It has been stated by Hosnara Khan, Principal Scientific Officer, Bangladesh Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (BCSIR) at a seminar on contribution of vitamin for curing and preventing diseases held at the Institute of Food Science and Technology (IFST) of BCSIR here yesterday.

Mrs Khan informed that patients suffering from vitiligo and leucoderma may regain original colour of their skin if vitamin B2 (riboflavin) is taken in accurate dose regularly.

She said that besides these diseases, itching, deadnail, bad smell in mouth, quinsy, pain in ear, cold etc can also be removed by vitamin B2.

Hosnara Khan who has been continuing research on vitamin for preventing and curing diseases for 27 years, informed that vitamin B2 (riboflavin) has no side effect. So, if this vitamin with doses 30 milligram to 150 milligram can be taken every day from very beginning of diseases, it can all be controlled, she added.

117,000 babies saved from tetanus

A total of 117,000 cases of neonatal tetanus and 13,000 cases of polio were prevented during 1992 with the implementation of Expanded Immunization Programme (EPI) throughout the country, reports BSS.

A joint review of EPI by the government, SIDA, UNICEF, USAID, World Bank and World Health Organisation (WHO) found that neonatal tetanus cases had dropped from 40 per 1000 live births in 1986 to 10 in 1991 and in 1993 one thana had reported only three tetanus cases per 100 live births.

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Bangla Academy book fair now going on at its premises to be concluded on February 28.

Afforestation to maintain natural balance in north zone likely

All necessary steps will be taken in the Barendra Multiple Area Development Project in order to protect desertification tendency in the northern region, through afforestation to maintain natural balance, reports BSS.

Excavation and re-excavation of derelict ponds and canals to increase the surface water flow and food production had already been included into this project to solve the overall problems of 25 thanas of Rajshahi, Nawabgonj and Naogonj districts.

This was disclosed at the 7th Parliamentary Standing Committee meeting of the Agriculture Ministry at Jatiyo Sangsad yesterday with Agriculture and Irrigation Minister M Mazid-ul-Haq in the chair.

A total of Taka 45 crore has been earmarked in 1992-93 to complete the second phase development works.

Kahlil Gibran's "Prophet" translated by Humayun Abdul Hye available for Tk-80/-

Khaleda greets Amir, Crown Prince of Kuwait

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia has greeted Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Al-Salim Al-Sabah, crown prince and Prime Minister of Kuwait on the occasion of its National Day, reports UNB.

In a message Begum Zia expressed her firm conviction that the existing fraternal relations and cooperation between the two countries would be further strengthened and developed for the mutual benefit of the two peoples.

Begum Zia wished the crown prince good health, happiness and long life and the people of Kuwait peace, progress and prosperity, says an official handout yesterday.

In a similar message Begum Zia also felicitated Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmed Al-Sabah, Amir of Kuwait on the occasion. She said under his wise leadership and able guidance the people of Kuwait has made tremendous progress in all walks of life.

NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES. The containerised cargo ex M.V. CHOYANG FRONTIER VEM 306 from Khorsakhan, ex M.V. SINGAPORE SENATOR V-WF310 from Busan, Hong Kong, have been relayed to M.V. NGS EXPRESS V-1193 Imp. Rot. No. 116-93 is due to arrive Chittagong on or about 26-2-93 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.

NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES. The containerised cargo ex M.V. ALLIG VICTORY V-41344 from Los Angeles, Kobe, ex M.V. VEGA V-428 from Karachi, ex M.V. OCEANUS TOKYO V-27405 from Fos, La-Spezia, ex M.V. KAGA V-27405 from Rotterdam, ex M.V. HOECHST EXPRESS V-07305 from Hongkong have been relayed to M.V. NGS EXPRESS V-1193, Import Rotation No. 116-93 is due to arrive Chittagong on or about 26-2-93 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.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY. A JAPANESE DONOR AGENCY INVITES APPLICATIONS FROM FEMALE CANDIDATES POSSESSING THE FOLLOWING QUALITIES FOR THE POSITION OF SECRETARY WHO CAN START WORKING FROM APRIL 1, 1993. GOOD COMMAND OF ENGLISH. MINIMUM HSC (OR EQUIVALENT) WITH SECRETARIAL KNOWLEDGE. KNOWLEDGE OF ENGLISH WORD PROCESSING. PLEASANT PERSONALITY. PREFERABLY UNDER 25 YEARS OF AGE. APPLICATION WITH COMPLETE BIO-DATA AND A RECENT PASSPORT SIZE PHOTOGRAPH SHOULD REACH THE FOLLOWING ADDRESS BY MARCH 10, 1993 POSITIVELY. DIRECTOR, GENERAL AFFAIRS DIVISION JICA BANGLADESH OFFICE PLOT NO. NW (C) I, ROAD NO. 62/63 GULSHAN, DHAKA-1212.

ঢাকা সিটি করপোরেশন. আপনার পরিবেশ সুন্দর ও পরিষ্কার রাখুন. আপনার শিককে টিকা দিন. দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি. এতদ্বারা ঢাকা সিটি করপোরেশনের যাত্রিক সার্কেলের তালিকাভুক্ত টিকাদারদের নিকট হইতে নিম্নে বর্ণিত কাজের জন্য বাংলাদেশ কর্তৃক নং-২৯১১তে সীলমোহরকৃত বামে দরপত্র আহ্বান করা হইতেছে। দরপত্র আবেদী ৩-৩-৯৩ হইতে ১৯-১১-৯১ বাজ় তারিখে বেলা ১২-০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত গ্রহণ করা হইবে এবং ৫ দিনই সকল প্রকৌশল বিশদ হইতে সিটি করপোরেশন গ্রহণ সাপেক্ষে বেলা ২-০০ ঘটিকার সময় উপস্থিত দরপত্রদাতা অথবা তাহাদের প্রতিনিধিদের সম্মুখে (যদি কেই উপস্থিত থাকেন) নিম্নবর্ণিতকরণের সম্বন্ধে যে কোন সিটিউল ব্যাঙ্কের ব্যাঙ্ক জাঙ্কট/সে-অর্ডার আকারে দরপত্রের সহিত সন্মুক্ত করিতে হইবে। প্রাক্কলিত দরের ৫% (পাঁচ) ভাগ ব্যাঙ্কার ঢাকা কোম্পানি লিমিটেড, ঢাকা সিটি করপোরেশনের অনুমুখে যে কোন সিটিউল ব্যাঙ্কের ব্যাঙ্ক জাঙ্কট/সে-অর্ডার আকারে দরপত্রের সহিত সন্মুক্ত করিতে হইবে। পরকরা হিসাবে দর অর্কে এক কথায় উত্তরই পরিষ্কারভাবে উত্তর করিতে হইবে। অন্যথায় দরপত্র বাতিল বলিয়া গণ্য হইবে। পরকরা ৫ (পাঁচ) ভাগ অথবা নিম্ন পর্যন্ত দরের জন্য দর বিলম্ব (এলাসাইসিস) মালিক করিতে হইবে। ঢাকা সিটি করপোরেশনের সকল আকলিত অফিস এবং হিসাব বিভাগের কাগজপত্রের নিকট হইতে কাজের পার্শ্ব বর্ণিত মূল্যের বিনিময়ে (অফসেট/ফোটা) দরপত্র সিটিউল করা হইবে। এতদসম্বন্ধে বিস্তারিত বিবরণ অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে সহকারী প্রকৌশলী যাত্রিক-২, সিটি পার্ক-১, কোন কার্য নথীনাে বাতিলক্রেই যে কোন অথবা সম্মুখ দরপত্র গ্রহণ বা বাতিলের ক্রমতা কর্তৃক সন্মুক্ত করণে।

Bangladesh University of Engineering & Technology Dhaka. International Tender Notice. No. EU/P & D/FP-844/93/GEN/D-3018(2) Dated:23/2/93. Sealed Tenders are invited for the supply of Scientific Instruments, Lab. Equipments, Micro-Computer Spare Parts, Electrical & Electronic Equipments etc. for several deptt/office of this University from the reputed indentors/suppliers. Tender schedule together with terms and conditions will be available from the undersigned by showing the receipt of Tk 500/- (Five hundred) only (non-refundable) deposited in the Sonali Bank Branch of this University in favour of the Comptroller, Bangladesh University of Engineering & Technology, Dhaka. Each tender must be accompanied by a Bank Guarantee or Bank Draft or Pay Order from any nationalised Bank in favour of the Comptroller, BUET, Dhaka amounting to 2% of the tendered amount as Earnest Money without which no tender will be considered for acceptance. Tender will be received by the undersigned up to 2:30 PM on 7.4.93 and will be opened at the same time in presence of the tenderers. The University reserves the right to accept or reject any tender without showing any reason thereof. No tender form will be sold against PO, DD, Money Order and on the day of opening of the tender. Deputy Director Planning & Development D-150

BTB Friday. Morning Session. 8.00 Opening announcement Al-Quran Programme summary. 8.10 News in Bangla. 8.40 Cartoon: Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. 9.00 Moder Garab Moder Asha. 9.30 Comedy show: Candid Camera. 10.00 News in English. 10.05 Drama: Chastak. 11.15 Shikhyia Dikkhya. 11.30 Children's drama series. Evening Session. 3.00 Opening announcement Al-Quran Programme summary. 3.15 Cartoon: The Peter Pan and the Pirates. 3.40 Movie of the week: Prejudice. 5.40 Mahi Ramzan. 6.15 Sports programme. 7.05 Malancha: Programme of modern songs. 8.00 News in Bangla. 8.30 Comedy show: Perfect Strangers. 9.00 Magazine: Itadh. 10.00 News in English. 10.30 Drama series: LA. 11.30 Khabar/The News. 11.40 Tomorrow's programme summary. 11.45 Closing.



Recipients of recent State Language Gold Medal Award: From left (standing), Dr JR Garst, Naziruddin Ahmed, WR Tawheed, Sutanuka Haq and Mrs Ibrahim.

Weather. No Change in night temperature. By Staff Correspondent. Weather forecast for the next 24 hours commencing 6 am today (Friday) says, dry weather will prevail over the country with partly cloudy sky over Rajshahi division and the regions of Mymensingh and Sylhet. The Met office forecasts night temperature may remain nearly unchanged. The minimum temperature of the country yesterday (Thursday) of 9.5 degree Celsius was reported from Srinangal and the maximum of 31.0 degree Celsius was reported from Chuadanga. The sun sets today at 6.00 pm and rises tomorrow at 6.23 am. The maximum and the minimum temperature and humidity recorded in some of the major cities and towns of the country yesterday were: City/Town Temperature in degree Celsius Humidity in percentage. Max Min 9 am 6 pm. Dhaka 27.7 14.0 71 47. Chittagong 26.0 14.6 62 42. Rajshahi 29.0 10.2 57 40. Khulna 28.9 13.7 59 54. Barisal 28.2 13.2 74 75. Sylhet 26.0 13.2 66 51. Cox's Bazar 28.0 15.5 58 33. Dinajpur 26.6 10.5 67 43.

Motorcycle stolen. A motorcycle was stolen from the premises of the Diabetic Hospital yesterday, reports UNB. Nizam Uddin, technician of the United News of Bangladesh (UNB) is the owner of the bike of Honda company, bearing number Dhaka Metro 01-9312.