

Dhaka Day by Day

'Classical Music Promotes Concert Audience'

by Fayza Haq

Twenty-six year old Amy Briggs Dissanayake gave a delightful piano concert performance recently at the 'Shahnaz Villa' in Gulshan. She played Ravel, Beethoven, Liszt, Schumann, Barber, Gershwin, and Rigger.

Talking about combining western and eastern music, Amy said, "I think it is possible to combine the two. I have studied a bit of eastern music myself. I do know that eastern and western music are both complex within themselves and they both have their own separate tradition. But I think it is very significant that western composers have taken ideas from eastern music and I do know eastern performers like Ravi Shankar performed with western orchestras. I am very much in favour of people listening to and knowing both kinds of music."

Asked if she thought if classical western music will survive the invasion of pop music, Amy replied, "They say that classical concert scene is dying but I think it depends on the education of the young people. Classical music is something that not only young adults can enjoy but can learn a lot of discipline and organisation by taking lessons on an instrument everyday. Whether they are studying a western classical or eastern classical music is a very good disciplinary form and that itself will help promote concert audience."

Discussion her favourite composers, Amy said "I tend to like music from the Romantic period. However, I am fascinated with music from all periods. The twentieth century music is what my audience in my tour like to hear. I do play blues and jazz and make extra money in the hotels in that manner. But I am no means a jazz pianist. I copy what I hear from jazz players, while jazz has its own separate system and theory which I haven't learnt. I concentrate on classical but I would like to play jazz with authority."

She added, "Normally I do not get paid for concerts and one finds when one gets out of school that the music world is a competitive one. A lot of what I do is teaching and I accompany singers for companies. One has to be very flexible."

Did she have a good idea of eastern music? "As a college student my minor was South Asian Studies and I did quite a bit of studies of South Indian music in particular, specially South Indian dance music, which I love. My secret dream is how to play the 'sitar'. It is hard for western ears to assimilate at first because it has its own separate classical tradition which is very different from our western tradition, as I said earlier."

Is she afraid that video music will hamper the taste for classical music? "I am not too concerned with video music because that seems to stay on a different level and I am not bothered with pop music. As for a presenting classical music everything has been done tastefully from what I've seen so far. I don't think video has spoiled the taste for classical music," Amy replied.

Having travelled to Africa, Nepal, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh, Amy was excited about coming to South Asia. And was delighted that the people in the east know and are interested in classical western music.

Amy is at present the main pianist with the Civic Symphony and is pianist with the Chicago Children's Choir. Recent awards include a grant from the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation, first runner-up in the 1990 Lakeview Music Society Piano Competition, and first prize in the 1990 Union League and Civic Arts Foundation Competition. In addition, Amy is a winner in the 1991 Rose Fay Thomson Competition. She is also a finalist and prize winner in the 1991 Frinna Awerbuch International Piano competition in New York City. Most recently, Amy was the prizewinner in 1993 Joanna Hodges International competition. She has appeared as a soloist with the New Hampshire Philharmonic Orchestra with members of the Civic Orchestra.



Amy Briggs Dissanayake

Gold medal for best performance in jute sector

Every year, six best jute purchasers and three best general managers of Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation (BJMC) will be awarded gold medals and certificates for their performance, reports UNB.

This was announced by Jute Minister ASM Hannan Shah yesterday while speaking as chief guest at a conference of the jute purchasers of Adamjee and Dhaka zones at the Latif Bawany Jute Mills.

The minister also said that last year BJMC purchased about eighteen lac bales of raw jute at the rate of Taka 256 per maund. This year, BJMC has already started purchasing raw jute at the competitive market price.

Presided over by the Dhaka zonal general manager Mir Jamaluddin, the vote of thanks was given by the general manager of the Latif Bawany Jute Mills Dr A Majid Talukder. BJMC Chairman Muniruddin Ahmed also spoke on the occasion.

Biswas, Khaleda greet President of Uruguay

President Abdur Rahman Biswas yesterday felicitated Dr Luis Alberto Lacalle, President of the Republic of Uruguay on the occasion of the Independence Day of that country, reports BSS.

In a message to the President of Uruguay, President Biswas wished him good health, happiness and long life and the people of Uruguay well-being and prosperity.

In a separate message Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia also greeted Dr Luis Alberto Lacalle, President of the Republic of Uruguay on the same occasion.

In the message to President Luis, Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia wished him good health, happiness and long life and the people of Uruguay peace, progress and prosperity.

BSP meet today

An emergency meeting of the Executive Committee of the BSP will be held today at 11:00 am at the 'Ajker Kagoj' office (House No-61, Road No-2A, Dhanmondi Residential Area, Dhaka), says a BSP press release.



Redwan Ahmed MP, President of BGMEA addressing newly elected office-bearers in the city yesterday.

Govt to encourage backward linkage units : Zahir

Planning Minister A M Zahiruddin Khan said the government would encourage the entrepreneurs to establish backward linkage industries to reduce the import of raw materials in the garments sector, reports BSS.

He was addressing the newly elected members and office bearers of Bangladesh Garments Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) yesterday in the city.

The minister said setting up

of such linkage industries will help the sector towards further growth, create more employment and help the government's long-term strategy of economic growth. "The government was providing ample scope under the liberal industrial policy to establish various industrial units," he added.

The Planning Minister assured the BGMEA leaders that the government would remove any difficulties they were facing and sought their active participation for formulating a policy in this field.

The function was presided over by BGMEA president Redwan Ahmed MP and addressed, among others, by members of the executive committee Messrs Fazlul Huq and Maj (Retd) Sayeed Iskander respectively.

BTV
Wednesday

5:00	Opening announcement
	Al-Quran
	Programme summary
5:10	News in Bangla
5:20	Recitation from the Geeta
5:25	Khelar Jagot
5:45	Dance drama : Gunal Bibi
6:45	Open University
7:15	Tagore songs
8:00	News in Bangla
8:30	Biswa Parikrama
9:05	Film: The A-Team
10:00	News in English
10:30	Musical programme
11:30	Khabar/The News
11:45	Closing

Body recovered

By SSMCH Correspondent
The body of an unidentified youngman (31) was found lying on a sidewalk near the Postagola bridge in the city yesterday morning. Demra police said, there were no injury marks on the body of the victim. Police sent the body to the Sir Salmullah Medical College Hospital (SSMCH) for autopsy.

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Sadharan Bima earns Tk 16 crore in '92

Sadharan Bima Corporation (SBC) has earned Taka 16.06 crore by investing Taka 170.33 crore during last 1992 calendar year, reports BSS.

This was disclosed at the 23rd meeting of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Ministry of Commerce at the committee room of the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban with Commerce Minister M K Anwar in the chair.

The meeting discussed different issues including the manpower strength of the Corporation, their salary and bonus, total amount of deposit in different banks, sector-wise expenditure during last five years, export credit guarantee scheme, audit objections, outstanding premium and the steps for its realisation, the total investment and its income.

The meeting was also informed that 835 audit objections had been raised from 1973 to 1992, among which 518 cases had been settled and the other objections were on the way to being settled. The SBC has an outstanding premium of Taka 29.61 crore which is also under the process of realisation.

The meeting was attended by the members of the committee Muhammad Ansar Ali Siddiky, Quamruddin Ehtiya Khan Majlish, Advocate Abul Kalam, Amir Khasru and Begum Farida Hasan of BNP, Azizur Rahman Mia and Mohammad Khademul Islam of AL, and Mohammad Anwar Hossain of JP. Commerce Secretary Syed Ahmed and senior officials of the Ministry of Commerce also attended.

Impostor held

By Staff Correspondent

An impostor using a falsified recommendation letter of a parliamentarian of the Treasury Bench was nabbed by Tejgaon police Monday.

Police said, one Masum Rahmat Ullah went to the Tejgaon office of the Bengali daily 'Sakaler Khabar' and introduced himself as a member of the weekly 'Bangabarta' using seals and initials of Mir Shawkat Ali, Btr Uttam, MP.

Newspaper holiday

All newspaper offices will remain closed on August 31 on the occasion of Eid-e-Milad-un-nabi. No newspaper, therefore, will be published on September 1, says a BSP press release.

Weather

More showers may occur

By Staff Correspondent

Weather forecast for the next 24 hours commencing 6 am today (Wednesday) says, under the influence of the persisting active monsoon over the country moderate to moderately heavy rain or showers may continue at most places over Dhaka, Chittagong, Barisal and Rajshahi divisions and at many places over Khulna division.

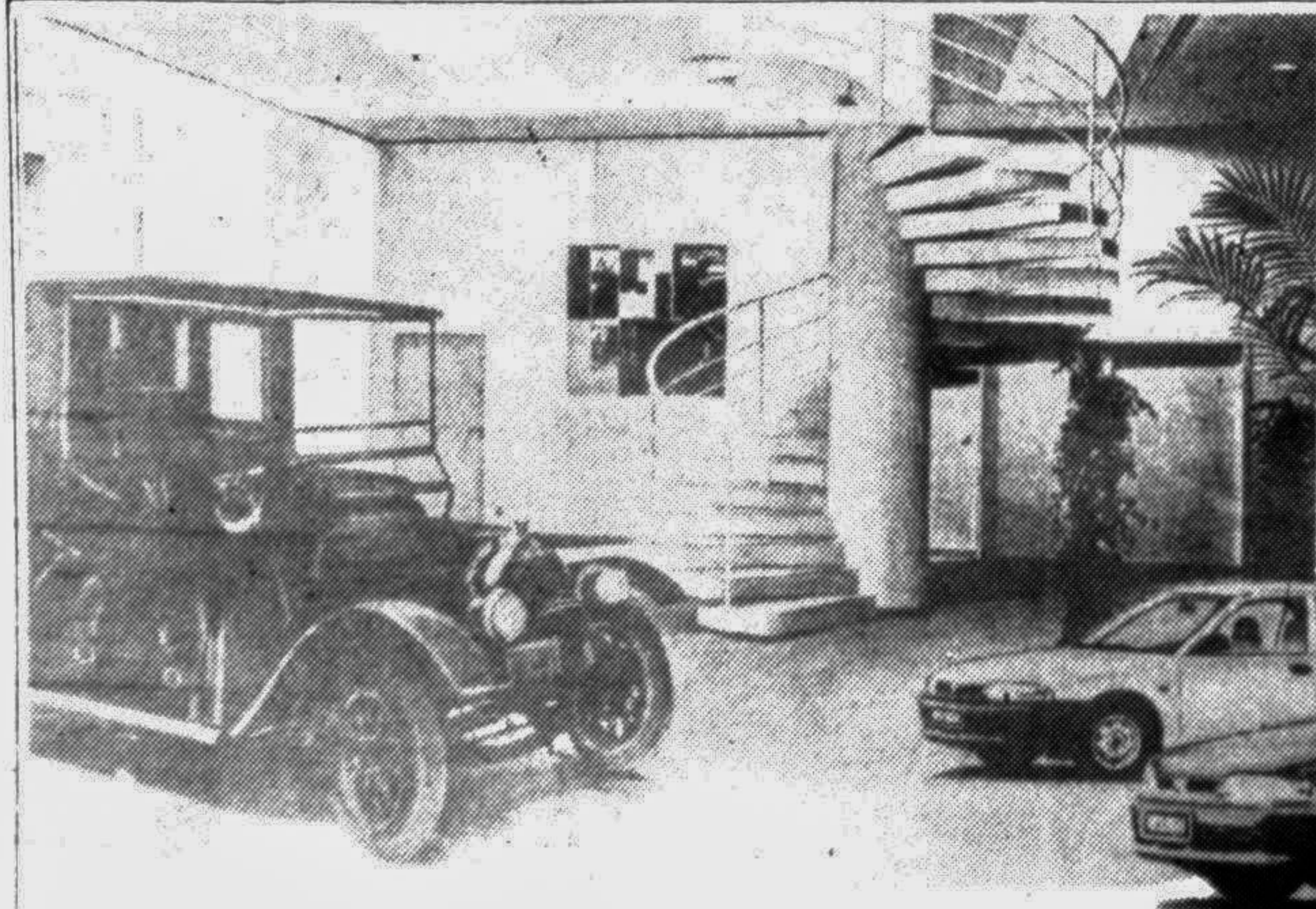
Met office says day temperature is likely to fall by one to two degree Celsius over Rajshahi and Chittagong divisions and may remain nearly unchanged over the country.

The country's highest temperature of 33.5 degree Celsius was recorded in Jessore and lowest of 23 degree Celsius was recorded in Faridpur.

The sun sets today (Wednesday) at 6.23 pm and rises tomorrow (Thursday) at 5.38 am.

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

Cities/Towns	Temperature in degree Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	9 am	6 pm
Dhaka	28.5	24.6	93	94
Chittagong	32.0	24.9	80	78
Rajshahi	31.2	25.6	95	81
Khulna	32.1	27.0	-	-
Barisal	31.3	25.4	91	93
Sylhet	26.7	-	-	90
Cox's Bazar	30.5	25.2	79	84
Dinajpur	30.2	25.5	92	90



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