

Dhaka Day by Day

Artistic Ambassadors

by Fayza Haq

Can opera singers really shatter glass? No, but they can shatter crystals. Kyle Marrero the baritone opera singer who performed at "Shahnaz Villa" recently, at the first official function held by the new USIS Director Donald M. Bishop, did not shatter anything, but succeeded to remove any possible depression in the minds of the listeners. He and J.J. Penna, who accompanied him on the piano, were truly "Artistic Ambassadors" as they were labelled.

Kyle had no horned helmet or sword and shield of the traditional opera hero but he sang with feeling and joie de vivre. Classical singers can be aloof and hard to reach but Kyle was gentle and amiable when he spoke to the guests. Equally intelligent, sensitive and soft-spoken was J.J. despite his expertise and pure notes on the piano.

It is not every day that one can savour the cultures from abroad without having to incur expenses and making the effort to actually go abroad. One was able to sample songs of Spanish origin, "El pino moruno", "Sequidilla muriciana", "Jota", "Nana", and "Polo" which brought heady nights, rose-filled gardens and sweet notes of nightingales in the mind. Traditional American songs were brought in and these included ones by Whitman like "I was There," "O Captain! My Captain!" and "Joy, Shipmate Joy", set to the music of Holby. What de



J.J. Penna (L) Kyle Marrero (R)

lighted the audience tremendously were old American songs with their witty words and lilting 'merry cadences. People relaxed with songs like "Long Time Ago", "Simple Gifts" and "I Bought Me A Cat". These and other delightful traditional songs like "Ching-a-ring Chaw" were set to the music of Copland. The audience cheered more enthusiastically than ever at the flawless playing of selections of Rags by Joplin.

Dwelling on his experience of the trip to places in Asia and the Middle East, Kyle remarked, "What would have been very fruitful would be to have the local singers sing for us and we sing to them. We could talk about different ideas and techniques. We would also like to learn about traditional singing and music of the countries we visit. We would love to learn some of the expertise linked with the instruments like the 'tabla', 'sitar', 'sarodh' and the eastern flutes. When we were in Kuwait one of the universities had its students demonstrate their instruments and we did a demonstration for them. The duo had been to Sri Lanka and were headed for Qatar and Turkey.

"Although I am not schooled in eastern music, I certainly have a deep interest in it. I was amazed to learn at Kuwait the ability of eastern instruments to play with the quarter steps as opposed to a tempered scale with only twelve half steps which repeats all over again. The eastern instruments can play many multitudes of notes and are capable of making many different sounds. Their vocabulary of sounds is

much greater than that of western instruments," he added.

Asked if he felt that Western and Eastern music can be combined, Kyle said, "It would be a wonderful opportunity to exchange ideas. I would love to see that happen. Whether this will be musically harmonious is a subjective matter. Much of contemporary music today is atonal. If we can accept this we can accept something new too. A combination of the East and West would be a welcome change."

Talking about opera music Kyle said, "Many of the regional opera houses, as opposed to the Metropolitan Opera, will do anything in the vernacular English. They will translate an opera into English so that they can bring the audience into the story with more impact. Most of the American audience don't understand Italian or German. They don't necessarily comprehend what is going on in the opera that uses a foreign language. Even when the opera is sung in the original language there are subtleties above the stage so that the audience can understand."

Explaining why he and J.J. had chosen the particular composers that evening Kyle added, "We wanted to have a strong representation of American composers with Holby and Copland to bring in early American songs. The Spanish part was included as it was a good representation of folk music in classical form. The USA is a melting pot of different cultures and being of Puerto Rican origin I brought in the music of my particular heritage."

Commenting on pop music he continued, "It is a wonderful vehicle for the young people who are in it as they find so much of enjoyment in it. It is a marvellous creative avenue. However, personally it is not something I find a lot of interest in."

J.J. talking of piano music said, "I heard of brilliant piano playing in many places like Russia, Germany, England and USA. You cannot say piano is best in any particular place. However there are certain centres of piano studies in the world such as the Royal College of Music, London, the Vienna Conservatory, the Leningrad Conservatory and the Juilliard School."

Speaking of his favourite composers J.J. said that he would like to specialise in twentieth century American songs with the works of Samuel Barber, Lee Holby and the lesser known American composers like John Musto.

Asked if a pianist can expect to be a master of symphonic music and at the same time be a virtuoso in light and modern trendy music, J.J. replied, "There are people like Andre Previn and Leonard Bernstein who are virtuosos on both sides of the fence."

Kyle is working on a doctorate in vocal performance and a master's in choral conducting at the University of Michigan, while J.J. is currently in his first year of doctoral studies at the same institution.



Members of Surer Dhara presenting songs at the National Museum auditorium in the city yesterday marking the organisation's second founding anniversary. — Star photo

Runa Laila musical evening today

By SSMCH Correspondent

A Runa Laila solo musical evening will be held today at Hotel Sheraton at 5:30 pm.

Medical Reporters' Association of Sir Salimullah Medical College has organised the show.

Barrister Rafiqul Islam Mia, Minister for Housing and Public Works will be present as chief guest.

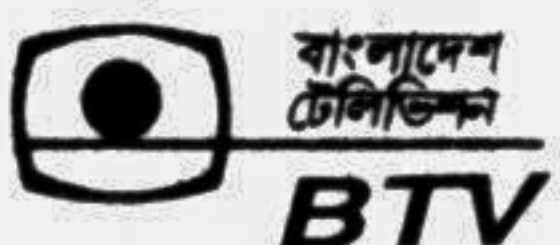
Piano concert

By Staff Correspondent

Renowned composer and artist Azad Rahman will perform a concert of subcontinental classical music on piano tomorrow.

The musical evening will be held at the American School Auditorium at Baridhara at 7:30 pm.

Foreign Minister A S M Mostafizur Rahman will present as chief guest.



Thursday

- 4:30 Opening announcement
- 4:45 Al-Quran
- 4:45 Programme summary
- 4:45 Rum Jhum
- 5:10 News in Bangla
- 5:20 Special programme for children
- 6:05 Mass education programme: Esho Para Shikhi
- 6:45 Special programme on Hajj
- 7:10 Nazrul songs
- 8:00 News in Bangla
- 8:40 Drama of the Week: Didi
- 10:00 News in English
- 10:30 Mini series: Rat Bag Hero
- 11:30 Khabar/The News
- 11:40 Tomorrow's programme summary
- 11:45 Closing

Huda tells Bangladeshi expatriates

Join development efforts

Information Minister Barrister Nazmul Huda has called upon the Bangladeshi expatriates, educationists, scientists and technocrats living in the United States to contribute in all possible ways in the socio-economic and scientific development of their motherland, according to a report received here, says BSS.

Addressing as chief guest a reception arranged in his

honour by the Bangladesh Association in Georgia Tuesday evening, the minister said Bangladesh needed their expertise, knowledge and efficiency to build Bangladesh in the perspective of the coming century.

He invited the Bangladeshis of remarkable qualities, talents and potentialities to join the massive development efforts of the present government.

Weather

Thundershowers likely

By Staff Correspondent

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind are likely to occur at one or two places over Chittagong, Dhaka and Barisal divisions and the regions of Kustia, Rajshahi, Pabna and Bogra during the next 12 hours commencing from 6 am today.

Weather may remain dry with partly cloudy sky elsewhere over the country.

Day temperature is likely to remain nearly unchanged. Yesterday's maximum temperature of 42.2 degree Celsius was recorded in Rajshahi while the minimum of 22.4 degree Celsius was recorded in Sylhet.

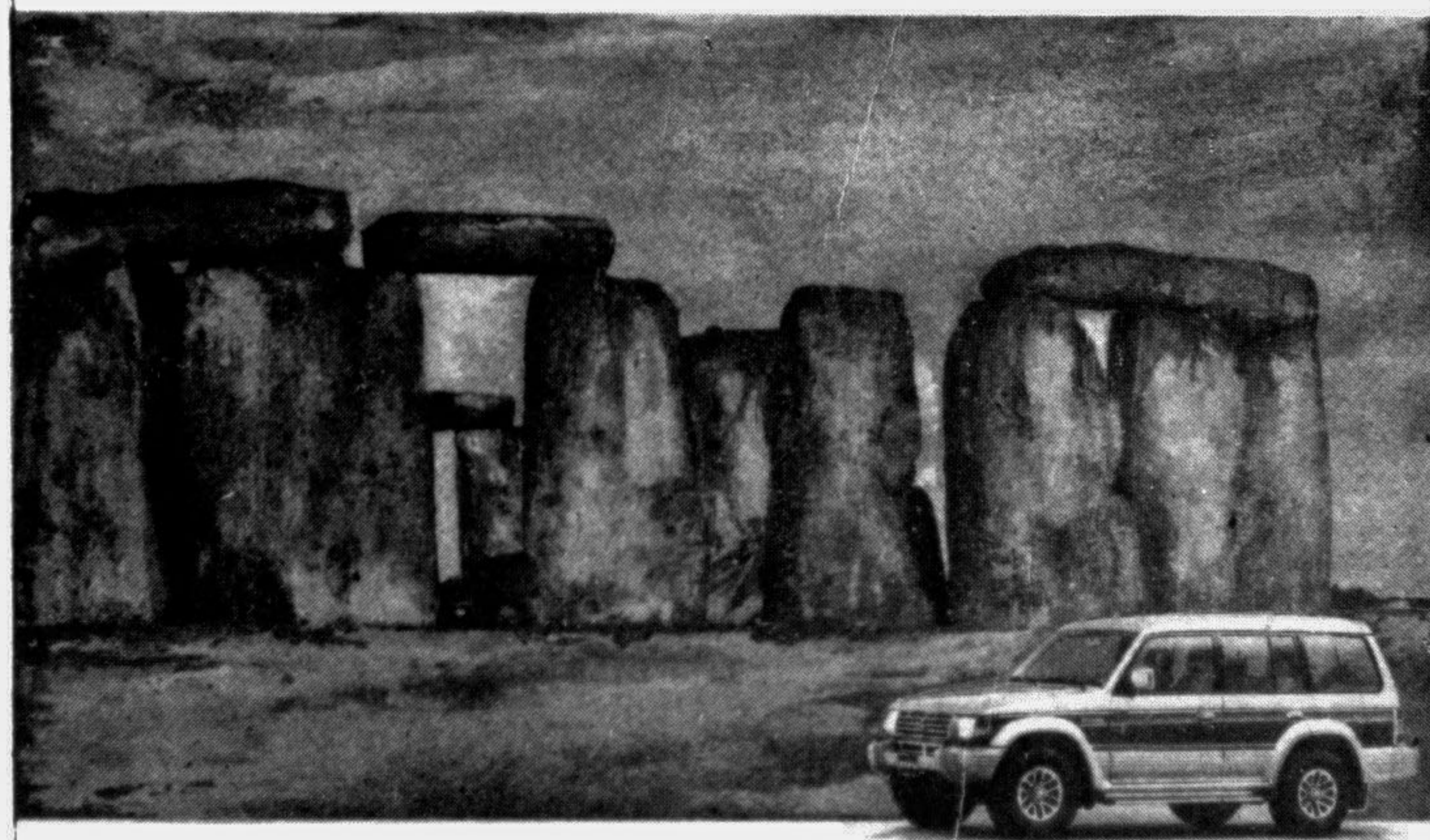
CHEHLAM

Chehlam of Late Farruk Banu Chowdhury, daughter of Late Khan Bahadur Abdul Khaleque of Sylhet and wife of Late A K M Shamsuddin Chowdhury of Ullania, Barisal will be held on Thursday, the 5th May, 1994 after Asr prayers at the deceased's residence at 57, Hossaini Dalan Road, Dhaka.

Relations, friends and well-wishers are requested to attend and pray for the salvation of the departed soul.

S-241

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In response to queries from the general public we are pleased to furnish the following informations for the convenience of prospective investors in Shares and Debentures of the Company:

**A. SUBSCRIPTION OPENS : 02 MAY 1994 (MONDAY)
SUBSCRIPTION CLOSES : 08 MAY 1994 (SUNDAY)**

B. Application Form and Prospectus are available in places as follows:

DHAKA - ICB: Head Office, 8 Rajuk Avenue, Janata Bank: (1) Local Office, 1 Dilkusha C/A (2) Motijheel Corporate Branch, 48 Motijheel C/A (3) Foreign Exchange Corporate Branch, 57 Purana Paltan (4) Imamgonj Corporate Branch, Imamgonj. **IFIC Bank Ltd.:** (1) Federation Branch, Motijheel C/A (2) Dhanmondi Branch, Road No. 2 (3) Shantinagar Branch, 24 Shantinagar. **Arab Bangladesh Bank Ltd.:** (1) Principal Branch, BCIC Bhaban, Dilkusha C/A (2) Karwan Bazar Branch (3) Motijheel Branch (4) New Elephant Road Branch (5) Mohakhali Branch (6) Imamgonj Branch. **Standard Chartered Bank:** 18-20 Motijheel C/A. **Banque Indosuez:** 47 Motijheel C/A. **ANZ Grindlays Bank:** (1) Head Office, Hadi mansion, 2 Dilkusha C/A, (2) Dhanmondi Branch, (3) Karwan Bazar Branch

CHITTAGONG - ICB: 32 Agrabad C/A, Janata Bank: (1) Laldighi East Corporate Branch, (2) Sheikh Mujib Road Corporate Branch, IFIC Bank Ltd.: Agrabad Branch. **Arab Bangladesh Bank Ltd.:** Agrabad Branch **Standard Chartered Bank:** Chittagong Branch. **Banque Indosuez:** Chittagong Branch, **ANZ Grindlays Bank:** Chittagong Branch Sheikh Mujib Road Agrabad.

KHULNA - ICB: KDA Bhaban, Jessore Road. Janata Bank: Khulna Corporate Branch. K.D. Gosh Road, IFIC Bank Ltd.: Khulna Branch. **Arab Bangladesh Bank Ltd.:** Khulna Branch.

RAJSHAHI - ICB: Star Bhaban, 74 New Natore Road, Shaheb Bazar. Janata Bank: Main Branch, Rajshahi, IFIC Bank Ltd.: Rajshahi Branch, **Arab Bangladesh Bank Ltd.:** Rajshahi Branch.

BARISAL - ICB: 87-88 Hemayetuddin Road. Janata Bank: Main Branch, Barisal, **Arab Bangladesh Bank Ltd.:** Barisal Branch.

SYLHET - ICB: Chamber Building, Jail Road. **Arab Bangladesh Bank Ltd.:** Modhuban Branch. Janata Bank: Corporate Branch, Sylhet.

BOGRA - Arab Bangladesh Bank Ltd.: Bogra Branch.

JESSORE - Arab Bangladesh Bank Ltd.: Jessore Branch.

RANGPUR - Janata Bank: Main Branch, Rangpur.

MYMENSINGH - Janata Bank: Main Branch, Mymensingh.

COMILLA - Janata Bank: Main Branch, Comilla.