

Dhaka Day by Day

Music Rooted in Black Traditions

by Fayza Haq

Thirty-two year old Steve Sweeting delighted his audience recently at the Goethe Institut with his performance on the piano. The programme was jointly arranged by the Orpheus Music Club. His repertoire included Scott Joplin's "Maple Leaf Rag", Jelly Roll Morton's "Grandpa's Spells" and Duke Ellington's "Black and Tan Fantasy". He played a number of requests from the audience and in his lecture on jazz explained how this music

was a combination of improvisation, swing and influences of blues and he talked about how the piano worked in rag time, stride, walking bass and solo line.

Steve began playing the piano at the age of seven, being inspired by the music he had heard at school. His parents bought him a piano at a garage sale for \$5 and even though they were not musicians they were very supportive of his career and let him take private lessons. He prefers to find his own projects and do it himself. He believes that the best way to learn is to practise and play with other people. He now has an experience of 25 years. He has performed all over USA.

Europe (Germany, France, Italy, Switzerland, Hungary and Czechoslovakia), Africa (Senegal), South America (Brazil, Panama and Honduras). He is currently studying "tabla" in Dhaka and is also interested in learning about Bengali folk and popular music. He is here with his wife Katherine who is on a scholarship for nine months.

Steve does not live by concerts alone. He has taught for four years at Harvard University where there is a course on the history of jazz. What attracted him to jazz was the fact that it allows one to improvise. He plays gospel music, musical theatre, and Western classical music. What he likes best depends on his mood. All the different genres have a strong place in his life.

He believes that there is always going to be a place for live music. In Boston where he lives, he says, there are dozens of live concerts every night. It is difficult to make a living as a concert player but he likes the balance of performing, teaching and composing. He has composed over a hundred songs — popular songs, show tunes and jazz tunes. He has recently written his first musical "Widow's Peak" which is about an artist's struggle with immortality, and in this he collaborated with a writer, Debra Waller.

Steve elaborated on how jazz piano has been played as a solo instrument in music like rag

time and stride. Later it has been used a lot as the cornerstone for larger jazz ensemble e.g. swing and be-bop, he said. "Jazz grew out of the African American community. Today there are fine jazz players all around the world. However the music is still rooted in black traditions such as the blues and gospel music. A famous jazz pianist once told me 'jazz is the music of protest', but I think that jazz is very difficult to define narrowly," he explained.

"There is no single element that defines jazz. It is an amalgam of key ingredients: improvisation, blues feeling and the syncopation of swing rhythms. Some jazz is very hard to categorise as with a lot of music. Everything today seems to involve a fusion of different styles. Historically you have ragtime, New Orleans style, swing, bop, free jazz, modal jazz, and various other fusions. Now there is fusion of ethnic music with jazz, fusions of electronic instruments with the jazz tradition and also there is fusion with classical tradition (third stream music)," he added.

"On the one hand jazz does not sell a lot of records but on the other hand the people who love it, love it with a passion deeper than for any other music I know. John Coltrane, a famous saxophonist, for example, has a religion based upon his music. Jazz is perhaps more popular in France and Japan than in USA. In America there are so many things to choose from that it does not get as much attention as pop and rock, but I think elsewhere, the music symbolises something very American," he added.

He is very much in favour of any kind of musical experimentation. "Of course not all of this is going to sound good. There are very rich musical traditions such as Indian and Bangladeshi music that American jazz can learn from and be inspired by. And that is partly why I am here. Most of the music I've heard is at the 'tabla' teacher's and I love it. The reason I like Bangladeshi music is because it emphasises human things: rhythm and voice. Sometimes these qualities get lost in overproduced Western music," he commented.

"I am a professional musician so I have to live in both worlds — electronic and acoustic, but I much prefer music that does not require electricity. Right now my favourite musicians are Randy Weston, Betty Carter and Hermeto Pascual. While Duke Ellington and Antonio Carlos Jobim are the composers that most appeal to me," he concluded.

Lectures on cancer

The Bangladesh Cancer Society will hold several lecture sessions on cancer at different schools and colleges of the city this month, says a press release.

The lecture sessions will be held at Notre Dame College on April 20 at 12 noon, Govt Laboratory School at 3 pm on April 11 and Shaheed College at 12 noon on April 18.

Earlier, as part of their cancer prevention programmes, the society has introduced a series of lectures on this subject by a panel of experts to the students of high schools and colleges of the country.

The students of schools and colleges are now universally accepted as the most appropriate target group for the purpose of educating them about the pathogenesis, causes, early signs and symptoms of cancer.

The lectures, arranged by the society, have been included various suggestions, specially the way how the cancer can be prevented by appropriate change in the life styles and habits — particularly the ill effects of smoking and the alternative use tobacco instead of smoking.

This programme is intended to cover as many institutions as possible in near future, at least one institution every week — preferably on Monday both in Dhaka and outside of Dhaka. The society had already organised similar programmes in Rajshahi and Bogra.

The panel of experts involved in the Bangladesh Cancer Society programmes are Prof Sayyid Fazlul Huq, President of Bangladesh Cancer Society, Prof Samir Kumar Sarma, Secretary General, Bangladesh Cancer Society, Prof K M Nazrul Islam, Dr Sheikh Golam Mostafa, Prof M A Hai, Dr Abu Ubaid Muhammad Mohtsin.

Rumanian envoy meets Mannan

Liviu Radu, Charge d'Affaires of Rumania in Bangladesh, made a courtesy call on State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism Abdul Mannan at his office yesterday, reports BSS.



The ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) backed Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (top) and the Bangladesh Awami League-backed Chhatra League (M-I) (above) brought out two separate mourning processions in the city yesterday. Both these students' bodies claimed Mustafa Aminur Rasul Paran and Habibur Rahman Milon who were killed during Thursday's 'secretariat siege' programme in the city had belonged to their organisation. — Star photo

4 new nuclear medicine centres soon

The government would set up four new nuclear medicine centres at Dhaka, Faridpur, Comilla and Bogra soon, State Minister for Science and Technology Prof MA Manan said in Dhaka yesterday, reports BSS.

Inaugurating the first national convention of Bangladesh Society of Nuclear Medicine at the Atomic Energy Centre auditorium Prof Manan said, "The government wants to expand the facilities of nuclear medicine to meet the increasing public demand."

The nine nuclear medicine centres run by the Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission (BAEC) are located at Rangpur, Dinajpur, Rajshahi, Khulna, Barisal, Mymensingh, Sylhet, Chittagong, Dhaka and an Institute of Nuclear Medicine at IPGMR in Dhaka.

The state minister said the government realised the importance of science and technology for national development and was ready to provide all sorts of assistance for scientific research.

Emphasising the need for optimum utilisation of the resources allocated for science and technology, he said maximum care should be taken so that the costly equipment purchased with the hard earned money of the people could be best utilised. He alleged that in many laboratories the costly equipment remained idle or did not function properly due to lack of maintenance and care.

The inaugural session was also addressed by the Chairman of BAEC engr MA Quaiyum, president of the organising committee Dr

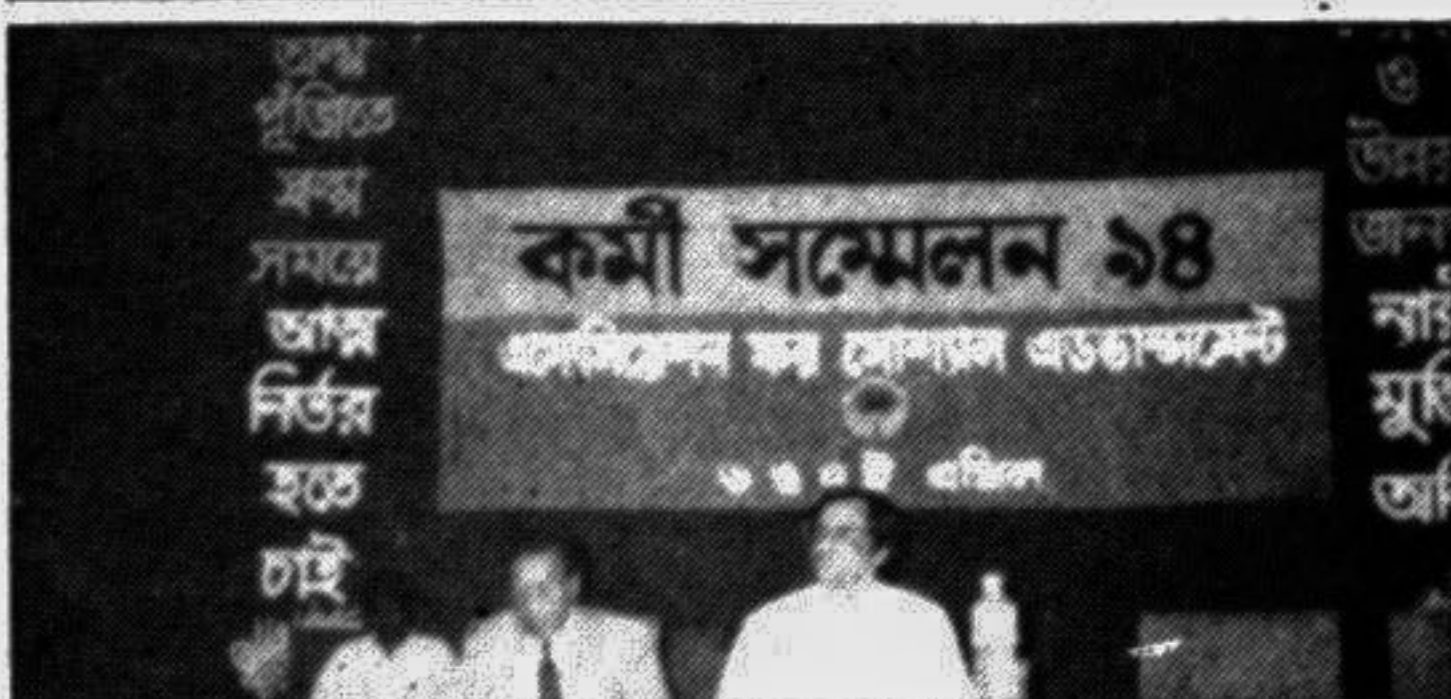
Kamaluddin Ahmed and secretary Dr MA Karim.

The first nuclear medicine centre was established at Dhaka Medical College in 1962. Chittagong and Rajshahi in 1970, Sylhet in 1980, Dinajpur in 1981 and at Rangpur, Khulna, Barisal and Mymensingh in 1990. The Institute of Nuclear Medicine at IPGMR was established in 1980.



Sunday

4:50	Opening announcement
4:40	Al-Guran Programme summary Magazine for children: Chetana
5:10	News in Bangla
5:20	Cartoon: Tom and Jerry Kids Show
5:35	Sports Programme: World Cup Cricket '92 Australia vs West Indies
6:15	Population programme: Mayeder Janya
6:45	Open University
7:15	Tagore songs
8:00	News in Bangla
8:30	Biggan O Naree
9:05	Drama series: The Sword of Tipu Sultan
10:00	News in English
10:30	Musical programme: Chhaya Chhanda
11:30	Khabar/The News
11:40	Tomorrow's programme summary
11:45	Closing



The Association for Social Advancement (ASA) held its two-day workers' conference April 6 and 7 on poverty alleviation through self reliant approach. The concluding ceremony was attended by Barrister Aminul Haque, State Minister for Establishment, Md Shafiqul Haque Chowdhury, Chief Executive of ASA presided.

Weather

Temperature may rise

By Staff Correspondent

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by the temporary gusty or squally wind is likely to occur over the regions of Pabna, Bogra, Tangail and Mymensingh during the next 12 hours commencing from 6 am today (Sunday), the Met Office forecast.

Meanwhile, the weather is likely to remain mainly dry with slight rise of temperature is expected elsewhere over the country during this period of time, it adds.

The country's highest temperature of 37.90 degrees Celsius was recorded in Jessore and the lowest temperature of 21.50 degrees Celsius was recorded in Dinajpur.

The sun sets today at 6:18 pm and rises tomorrow (Monday) at 5:41 am.

Jhalakati Dist Bar Assoc team meets Biswas

President Abdur Rahman Biswas yesterday called upon the lawyers to help the government uphold the rule of law in the country, reports BSS.

He was exchanging views with the representatives of the Jhalakati District Bar Association when they called on him at Bangabhaban. The delegation was led by Yussouf Molla, president of the Jhalakati District Bar.

President Biswas underlined the responsibilities of the lawyers in sustaining rule of law and dispensation of justice to the people. He said that member of the bar are part and parcel of the judiciary. By explaining and arguing the intricate points of law they help the judiciary, in maintaining rule of law, he added.

In this connection, he said, we should try to ensure peaceful atmosphere and stability in the country for achieving progress in different sectors and alleviating poverty. Indiscipline and terrorism must be checked for socio-economic development, he added. He stressed the need for enhancing rate of mass literacy, which is the key to success of the south-east and far eastern countries.

Pahela Baishakh celebration programmes

CHITTAGONG, Apr 9: Different socio-cultural organisations and clubs are preparing to celebrate the *Pahela Baishakh*, the first day of the Bengali year 1401, here through holding different cultural programmes and discussions, reports BSS.

Sammilito, Pahela Baishakh Ujapon Parishad, the committee to hold the occasion, has planned a three-day programme on the occasion which include a colourful procession, staging of drama, recitation, musical session on songs of hundred years, dance and discussion. The programme will be held at the DC Hill Park according to a decision of the organisers of Pahela Baishakh function.

The Sammilito Barsha Ujapon Parishad will stage a two-day programme in celebration of Pahela Baishakh.

The programme will be held at CRB road island near Chittagong Stadium. A large number of clubs and educational institutions have also planned similar programmes to welcome the Bengali New Year 1401.

BAKLADESH: YESTERDAY AND TOMORROW

We regret that the discussion on Bangladesh: Yesterday and Tomorrow, scheduled to be held at the Goethe-Institut on Sunday 10 April 1994 is postponed for unavoidable reasons. Participants will be informed of new date soon.

University Press Limited, Dhaka

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NOTICE OF SHIFTING OF DATE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

We regret to inform you that due to unavoidable circumstances the date of 21st Annual General Meeting of the Company hereby shifted from April 26, 1994 to April 27, 1994 at the same time and same venue i.e. at 3:00 p.m. at the Ball Room of Sonargaon Hotel, Karwan Bazar, Dhaka.

All shareholders are requested to please attend the meeting.

By order of the Board
Sd/-
B. K. NATH
Company Secretary

Note: The Register of Members and the Share Transfer Books of the Company will remain closed upto 27th April, 1994.

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International Tender Notice

Invitation of tender for procurement of small Standalone Digital Switching System for establishing Local Exchanges in seven Zillas (of 1000 lines expandable up to 10000 lines capacity) all over Bangladesh.

Sealed tenders are invited by the Managing Director, Telephone Shilpa Sangstha Limited, Tongi, Gazipur, Bangladesh against TSS Ltd. International Tender No. TSS/FP/IT/93-94/451 Dt 10-04-94 for procurement of small Standalone Digital Switching System for establishing Local Exchanges in seven Zillas (of 1000 lines expandable up to 10000 lines capacity) all over Bangladesh. This will be financed from Cash Foreign Exchange Allocation.

2. All correspondence on the subject may be addressed to Dy General Manager (Finance & Commerce), TSS Ltd, Tongi, Gazipur, Bangladesh.

3. Tender documents can be purchased on payment of Tk 5,000/- (Taka five thousand) in cash (non-refundable) from the offices mentioned below:

1. The Senior Accounts Officer
Telephone Shilpa Sangstha Ltd
Tongi, Gazipur, Bangladesh
2. Secretary
TSS Board of Directors, Room No. 7
PMG Building, Ramna, Dhaka, Bangladesh.

No tender documents will be sold on the date of opening of the tender.

4. Tender shall be addressed to the Dy. General Manager (Finance & Commerce), Telephone Shilpa Sangstha Ltd., Tongi, Gazipur, Bangladesh. One tender box will be kept in TSS Factory at Tongi and another Tender Box in the office of the Secretary, TSS/BOD, Room No. 7, PMG Building, Ramna, Dhaka-1000, for dropping sealed tender offers/bids. Tenders may be dropped only on 30-06-1994 up to 12-00 hours in any of the tender boxes at the above two places. Both the tender boxes at the above two places shall be closed at the same time just at 12-00 hours on 30-06-1994. After closing the tender box kept in the office of the Secretary, TSS/BOD, Room No 7, PMG Building, Ramna, Dhaka-1000 shall be brought to TSS Factory at Tongi and then both the tender boxes shall be opened at 14-00 hours on 30-06-1994 in the conference room of TSS Factory at Tongi in presence of the tenderers or their authorised representatives, if they remain present.

5. Telephone Shilpa Sangstha Ltd reserves the right to accept or to reject any or all tenders either partially or wholly without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Deputy General Manager (Finance & Commerce)
Telephone No 892334 Fax No 891177