

Dhaka Day by Day

A Man's Mission for a Musical Marriage

By Nancy Wong

Lovers of Tagore music and poetry were treated to an evening of sheer joy and pleasure at the German Cultural Centre recently when John Thorpe, Teresa Khan, Anne Birch and Shawket Hossain gave a performance of the Nobel Laureate's songs to a crowded auditorium of appreciative listeners. While Teresa Khan delighted the audience with superb renditions of "O My Golden Bengal" and "If On Hearing Your Call" in her flawless soprano voice and Anne Birch and Shawket Hossain supplied inspiring accompaniments on the viola and tabla, John Thorpe was the prime mover behind the whole show; being the pianist, translator and arranger of all the pieces as well as singer.

Thorpe's initiation into Tagore's poetry took place when he studied Bangla upon his arrival in Bangladesh in 1980. The legendary poet's writing formed part of the syllabus, but



he was so captivated by its beauty and lofty thoughts that he put his heart and soul into its study. Posted in Ishwardi, a town in Pabna, not particularly renowned for many diversions, he spent his leisure hours in mastering the language, to the extent that he could confidently translate the master's works into English.

The serenity and lush green of the countryside probably formed part of the inspiration. "The art of translating Tagore's poetry into English involves careful handling of the rhyme and metre so that it comes out in English as poetry," he explained.

Not satisfied with this major accomplishment, Thorpe took his love of Tagore poetry another step further. Blessed with a rich, musical voice, he yearned to sing his lovely songs. An added advantage was that Thorpe has a Bachelor's of Music degree from the University of Maine and also plays the piano like a virtuoso. Thus, equipped with such technical skills and imbued with a great love for the subject, he translated and arranged Tagore's songs to the accompaniment of the piano, viola and tabla. The mix is magical as the audience at the concert he organized, will readily appreciate.

As a Cultural Exchange Co-ordinator for SIM

World Tobacco Day May 31

The World Tobacco Day will be observed in Bangladesh on May 31 to highlight the adverse effects of tobacco, reports BSS.

A 15-member steering committee to observe the day was formed at a meeting of the Adhunik, a national anti-tobacco organisation and representatives of the media Friday.

Publication ceremony held

The publication ceremony of the revised second edition of the book 'Local Government in Bangladesh' edited by Dr Kamal Siddiqui was held at the National Institute of Local Government (NILG) auditorium in the city yesterday evening, reports BSS.



The visiting Pakistan National Defence College team led by Air Vice Marshal Nafees Ahmed Najmi called on Health and Family Welfare Minister Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yusuf at latter's office yesterday.

— PID photo



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Dated: 2-4-94

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SB/PRD/16/214/24
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G-69

M A Hashem
Manager A-2772, Sonali Bank
Babubazar Br., Dhaka

Metropolitan

London festival of Bangladesh to help create positive image'

By Staff Correspondent

The London festival of Bangladesh scheduled to be held in July would help create a positive image of this impoverished country, organisers of the festival said in Dhaka yesterday.

"We often read in some British newspapers that Bangladesh is a country of floods, famines and natural calamities. The proposed festival will change the negative image," Amin Ali, the organiser told newsmen at a press conference at Hotel Sonargaon.

The three-day festival begins on July 1 at Spitalfields Market, Commercial Street.

Keith Vaz, a member of the House of Commons, who is one of the 14 patrons of the festival, was also present at the press briefing along with his wife and some local British High Commission officials. Pakistani cricketer Imran Khan is also a patron.

There will be dance shows, live music, photography exhibition, trade fair, health fair, food stalls, fashion shows and jatra.

A cultural troupe and some 30 Bangladeshi firms are likely to participate in the festival. Prince Charles is likely to open the festival. Bangladesh Foreign Minister A S M Mostafizur Rahman would also attend the inaugural function.

Some 12 British companies and a number of individuals are supporting the festival financially, the organisers said.

"It is a unique opportunity to project Bangladesh in Britain," Keith Vaz said adding that "the festival is not only for the Bangladeshi who live in Britain but also for all Bangladeshis."

He said Bangladesh is a "country for the future." Bangladeshis are doing fine in Britain and they contribute a lot to the British economy.

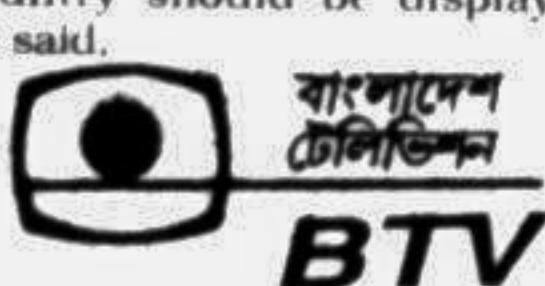
Many Bangladeshis have been elected councillors while many others of the Asian origin became MPs, he said.

Later in the evening, the organisers held a reception which was attended by Foreign Minister A S M Mostafizur Rahman, Information Minister Nazmul Huda, the leaders of the business community, politicians, journalists, high government officials and members of cultural groups.

The Information Minister wished success of the festival and thanked the organisers. He said that such festivals would help build a better image of the country.

Latifur Rahman, President of the Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, speaking on the occasion, mentioned about the growing contribution of the Asian community in the business of the United Kingdom.

The Metropolitan chief suggested that Bangladeshi products should be displayed in the London Festival. Items like jute products and the wide range of garments manufactured in the country should be displayed, he said.



4:30 Opening announcement
Al Quran
Programme summary
4:45 Desh O Bigan
News in Bangla
5:10 Cartoon show : Tom And Jerry Kids Show
Sports programme : Cricket
6:30 Population programme : Mayered Janya
7:00 Open University
7:25 Tagore songs
8:00 News in Bangla
8:30 Amar Desh
9:00 Film show : The Sword Of Tipu Sultan
10:00 News in English
10:30 Sharbance
11:10 Khabar/The News

46 arrested on various charges

Police rounded up 46 people, including four wanted criminals, from different parts of the city in last 24 hours, reports UNB.

All the arrested, who also included one charged under the Anti-Terrorism Act and another under the Arms Act, were produced before the court.

— PID photo

Temperature may rise

By Staff Correspondent

Weather forecast for the next 12 hours commencing 6 am today (Sunday) says, rain or showers accompanied by temporary kalbaishakhi squal is likely to occur at many places over Chittagong and Barisal divisions, at a few places over Dhaka division and at one or two places over Rajshahi and Khulna divisions.

The Met Office forecast, slight rise in day temperature is expected over the country.

The country's highest temperature yesterday of 32.8 degrees Celsius was recorded in Rajshahi and the lowest 19.6 degrees in Rangpur.

Rainfall- recorded in different places yesterday are Kutubia 26mm, Cox's Bazar 14mm, Rangamati and Teknaf 1 mm each.

The sun sets today (Sunday) at 6.24 pm and rises tomorrow (Monday) at 5.29 am.

The maximum and the minimum temperatures and relative humidity recorded in some of the major cities and towns of the country yesterday are:

Cities/Towns	Temperatures in degrees Celsius	Humidity in percentage
Dhaka	max 30.0 min 21.0	93 74
Chittagong	30.1 20.0	79 78
Rajshahi	32.8 21.5	83 61
Khulna	31.5 22.0	87 75
Barisal	30.4 20.0	91 71
Cox's Bazar	31.5 24.0	74 88
Sylhet	30.8 21.6	80 67



Information Minister Barrister Nazmul Huda speaking at a reception accorded to the visiting British Member of Parliament Keith Vaz at a hotel in Dhaka yesterday.

— PID photo

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Tender Notice

1. Sealed tenders in local and foreign currency are invited from bona fide Manufacturers/Suppliers/Dealers/Indentors (Not necessarily enlisted with DGDP for supply of the following items for Bangladesh Air Force:

Sl No	Description of Items	Selling Date	Opening Date	Currency
1.	Trolley Crane for Aircraft Qty-01 Ba	26-04-94 From 10-05-94	12-05-94	Foreign
2.	Spares of PSG-60M/71M VHF R/T	26-04-94 From 25-05-94	26-05-94	Foreign
3.	Tender schedules with detail specifications will be available on payment in respective value (Non-refundable) on any working day between 0800 hrs to 1200 Noon. The tenders will be opened on the specified date at 1000 hrs in presence of the bidders (if present).			

ISPR/Misc/94/837
DFP(G) 7546-18/4
G-697

Wing Commander
For Director General

