

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 Shawkot 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 Shawkot 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

International (an NGO involved with projects for the needy, Thorpe told The Daily Star, "I see my job going into two different directions, one is to bring Western music to Bengali ears."

— last year I had a classical recital with commentary in Bangla and May I will have a seminar presentation on how an orchestra works with commentary in Bangla. The second direction is to present Bengali music to Western ears. Tagore songs are very beautiful. Western ears don't understand Bengali and Western music does not have harmoniums and tabla. The presentation I do is a way to get Bengali music into a Western form so that it can be understood by Westerners. In the United States, Tagore is hardly known unlike in Britain, because of the colonial ties." Thorpe hails from Maine, USA.

Thorpe finds that one of the main attractions of Tagore songs lies in its sweet



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

melodies, Western music, on the other hand, centres more on harmony. In some arrangements, he has stuck closely to the original melody while in others he has taken some liberties by making good advantage of the harmonious sounds provided by the piano accompaniment.

Besides his fruitful efforts in marrying the best of melody and harmony in his musical arrangements of Tagore songs, this gifted musician has also translated 39 poems, published by SIM International. Here's an elegant sample

Bangla soil and Bangla breeze
Bangla water, Bangla trees
Holy, holy let them be
O Most High Divinity!
Bangla homes and market place
Bangla fields and forest space
Filed to full, let them be
O Most High Divinity!
Bangla hope and promises preached
Bangla work, Bangla speech
Truthful, truthful, let them be
O Most High Divinity!
Bangla soul, Bangla mind
All Bangla kindred bind
As one united let them be
O Most High Divinity!

'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 abroad 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 Spitfields 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 Bangladeshis 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 Bighan
5:10 News in Bangla
5:25 Cartoon show: Tom And Jerry Kids Show
5:40 Sports programme: Cricket
6:30 Population programme: Mayday 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 Shurabance
11:30 Khabar/The News



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

Council of Editors express anxiety at Matur's arrest

The Bangladesh Council of Editors has expressed grave anxiety at the incident involving the arrest of Matur Rahman Chowdhury, editor of the daily "Bangla Bazar Patrika", reports BSS.

In a statement in the city yesterday Chowdhury Mohammad Faroque, convener of the ad hoc committee of the Bangladesh Council of Editors, said the tendency to harass the editors through criminal cases instead of lodging complaints with the Press Council could create an unfortunate obstacle on the way of institutionalising the freedom of press.

With full respect and adherence to the court, he wondered whether law is truly applied by issuing the warrant of arrest without issuing the summons after filing the criminal case. This aspect deserves to be taken into cognizance by the concerned quarters, he said and expressed fear that such incidents could create an undesirable impression in the minds of people about reckless or even misuse of laws.

Justice Hakim to attend UN meet on human rights

Justice Maksumul Hakim has left for Geneva Friday to attend the working committee meeting of Human Rights Commission of United Nations as an executive member of the organisation, says a press release.

A 6-member committee will finalise the working programme and schedule of the organisation before the final meeting.

S Korea donates medicine worth \$ 10,000

The Ambassador of South Korea to Bangladesh Jong Kyoo Byun yesterday formally handed over medicines worth US dollar 10,000 to the Minister for Health and Family Welfare Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yusuf at the Tongi 50-bed hospital premises at Tongi, Gazipur, says a press release.

The medicine was sent by the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) under an agreement on medical cooperation signed between Bangladesh and South Korea last year would be mainly used for patients receiving medical treatment at the 50-bed Tongi Hospital. The KOICA has already sent a Korean doctor to the hospital to render curative, preventive and promotive medicare services.

Speaking on the occasion, Ambassador Byun hoped that the existing friendly relations between Korea and Bangladesh would be further strengthened in the coming days with the consolidation of the bonds of mutual cooperation and understanding through such gestures of goodwill and friendship.

Seminar on rural women held

President Abdur Rahman Biswas yesterday called for integrating womenfolk in national development efforts through giving them education and creating self-employment opportunities, reports BSS.

The President was inaugurating a seminar on the role of rural women in self-employment at the National Museum in the city last afternoon. State Minister for Textile Major (ret'd) Abdul Mannan, attended the function as special guest while State Minister for Cultural Affairs Prof Jahannara Begum presided.

Prof. Rahima Khatun, general secretary of Bangladesh Women's Rights Implementation Sangstha, spoke on the occasion.

President Biswas referred to the existing disparity between men and women in our society and said this disparity was an obstacle towards building a healthy society.

Govt urged to pay dues of ads

The Bangladesh Sangbad-patra Parishad (BSP) yesterday urged the government to immediately pay all the dues of government advertisements, published in the national newspapers since the last Eid-ul-Fitr, reports BSS.

In a meeting chaired by BSP President Prof Majidul Islam, the BSP leaders observed that because of non-payment of the outstanding bills of government advertisements since the last Eid-ul-Fitr, the country's newspaper industry is facing severe financial crisis.

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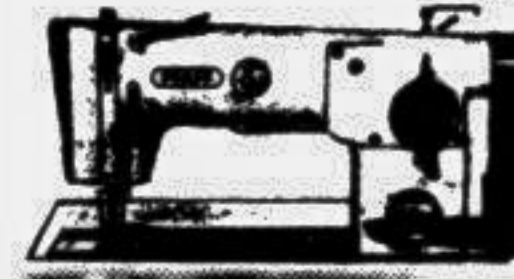
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World Tobacco Day May 31

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.

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.



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

Sonali Bank

Babubazar Br, Dhaka

Dated: 2-4-94

Re-Tender Auction Notice

Sealed quotations are hereby invited by Sonali Bank, Babubazar Br, Dhaka for auction sale of the undernoted goods from the intending buyers under the following terms & conditions:

Sl. No.	Category of loan	Name & Address of Borrower	Description of goods	Place where the goods are stored
1.	Cash credit (pledge)	M/s. Khaja Store Cottage Industries Prop: Chand Miah Sheikh, K.G. Shaha Dockyard, Aganagar, Zinzira, Dhaka	Flower Duster 83334 pcs. (Eighty three thousand three hundred thirty four)	Mr. Shafuddin Ahmed's house, Aganagar, Chotta Mosjid Road, Keraniganj, Dhaka.

Conditions:

- Each quotation shall be accompanied by 10% earnest money of the price quoted in the quotations in the form of Bank Draft/Pay Order from any Br of Sonali Bank in favour of Sonali Bank, Babubazar Br, Dhaka. Otherwise quotation will not be accepted.
- The goods may be examined by the intending buyers through the manager of the concerned branch during office hour.
- Sealed quotations will be deposited in the tender box at Babubazar Br, Dhaka up to 1.00 pm on or before 3.5.94 and will be opened on the same day in presence of quotations (if anybody present there) at 3.00 pm.
- The auction committee reserves the right to accept or reject any or all of the quotations without assigning any reason whatsoever.
- Earnest money of the unsuccessful quotations will be refunded/back in time.
- The successful bidder will have to deposit the entire balance of the quoted amount and to take delivery of the goods within 7(seven) days from the date of acceptance of the quotation failing which earnest money will be forfeited.

SB/PRD/16/214/24
OFF/BA/3185-16/4
G-660

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

Weather

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 kalbaisakhi squall 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 Kutubdia 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:

Dhaka	30.0	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



Directorate General Defence Purchase

Ministry of Defence
New Airport Road, Tejgaon, Dhaka-15

Tender Notice

1. Sealed tenders in local and foreign currency are invited from bonafide 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

2. 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



BPDB's International Tender Notice

বিদ্যুৎ বিল নিয়মিত পরিশোধ করুন

International sealed tenders are hereby invited by the Bangladesh Power Development Board for procurement of Hydrazine Hydrate and Spare Parts for the following Power Stations. The source of financing will be cash Foreign Exchange Allocation.

Sl No	Tender No	Name of Stores	Cost of Tender	Submission of Tender Dt & Time	Opening Tender Dt & Time
1.	Pur-416/94	Hydrazine Hydrate for Khulna Power Station.	Tk 100/-	31-05-1994 Time: 11-00 AM	31-05-1994 Time: 11-30 AM
2.	Pur-418/94	Spare Parts for Baghabari GT Power Station.	Tk 100/-	01-06-1994 Time: 11-00 AM	01-06-1994 Time: 11-30 AM

A complete set of Tender Document including detailed specifications, terms & conditions may be sold to the interested eligible bidders against a written application to the undersigned on payment of Taka (Non-refundable) mentioned above against each tender in the shape of Bank Draft/Pay Order favouring Director of Purchase, PDB, Dhaka. The bidding documents will be available from 21-04-1994.

All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Bond in the prescribed Bid Format @ 2% of the total Bid price from a scheduled bank of Bangladesh in accordance with instructions to the Bidders. Tender will be received up to 11-00 AM and will be opened at 11-30 AM on opening date of each Tender in presence of the Bidder or their representative if any.

No Tender Document shall be sent by post nor sold on the opening date and no Telex/Fax offer will be acceptable.

Biddu/Jan-1266(6)/93-94
DFP(BA)-3296-18/4
G-694

Director of Purchase
PDB, Dhaka