

Dhaka Day by Day

A Man With Big Horizons

by John Thorpe

Those who came to hear the performance given by Calcutta pianist Adi Gazder at the German Cultural Centre in the night of April 29, heard a man who had stretched his horizons, not only ethnically but professionally. This Parse musician, who has mastered many of the major Western piano works, is not only a leading figure in the Calcutta music scene, but also a retired professor of pediatrics from the National Medical College, Calcutta. These two diverse fields of interest come together to form a personality of great sensitivity and balance.

The evening was sponsored by the Orpheus Music Listeners Club, a national society of music listeners formed to foster and promote awareness and an appreciation of music. They are presently sponsoring several varied and innovative programmes, all held at the German Cultural Centre in order to accomplish these goals.

Gazder began his study of the piano in 1941 at the age of 11 under the instruction of Beresford Scott and passed his LTCL with distinction at the age of 17. But he commented later that the striving for such diplomas often does more to discourage aspiring young pianists as they are shackled to certain pieces and theoretical study which may ultimately discourage their genuine interest in just playing the piano. Scott gave him the freedom to either be tested or not and more importantly, gave him the tools to learn a piece, to play with a technique and to listen to his own playing. When later pressure of medical school study became too great and he had to leave formal piano study for a season, he found that this training provided the foundation for further study on his own.

Not only has Gazder collected a repertoire of solo works but he has done extensive accompanying and chamber music performances in concert throughout India and for television. Dhaka is no strange place to him. Among such performances here, in 1973 he accompanied violinist Thomas Brandis, member of the Berlin Philharmonic, and he gave solo performances here at the Goethe Institut in 1986 and 1988. In 1974, he earned international distinction from the Czech pianist Jan Novotny when he

was awarded the Smetana Medal. Playing the piano is not a job for this man but a passion. He was amazed to hear of a fellow performer who only practised when a concert was forthcoming. "I must play whether I have a concert or not." Music has been an outlet to sustain him through the tremendous pressure of the medical profession as well as through various crises in life.

A demanding selection of pieces for the Friday night programme, demonstrated Gazder's technical ability and musical sensitivity. Beginning with a Rondo by Mozart which follows the Sonata form, he played with the simple clarity necessary in these early pieces of the Classical era. His second selection was the very challenging Walsein Sonata by Beethoven. Even

this relatively early Beethoven work shows the composer's characteristic challenge to the Sonata form, as the piece makes uncharacteristic changes in form, dynamics, and tempo. Like our performer, Beethoven also sought to stretch the horizons of convention. After the long and intricate work, Gazder sensibly moved the audience to the lyrical works of Chopin. Though beautifully melodious, the Fanatics—Impromptu—is known for its challenging opening section in which

three beats in the left hand are played against four in the right. Try tapping three beats with your left hand in the same time interval as four in your right and you will catch a glimpse of this challenging rhythm. The Chopin waltzes which the performer played showed such variety of melodic style while still holding to the characteristic left-handed oom-chuck-chuck triple meter of a waltz.

Once again, the performer's technical ability was displayed in a Liszt Concert study in which the hands bounce a melody back and forth amidst arpeggios and virtuosic accompaniment. The final item of the programme was a fast moving Toccata by Aram Kachaturian, but the enthusiastic audience who would not permit the programme to end were rewarded by two encores, including especially for piano students, a sensitive rendition of Beethoven's Fur Elise.



A J Gazder



Gono Forum leader Dr. Kamal Hossain talking to the press at the party's central office in the city's Segun Bagicha area yesterday.

Govt plans to make city corps self-reliant: Salam

LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Barrister Abdul Salam Talukder said in the city yesterday the idea of turning the country's four city corporations into city authority to make them gradually self-reliant is under active consideration of the government, reports BSS.

Barrister Talukder was addressing function, organised by Bangladesh City and Pura Karmachari Federation to accord reception to four newly elected mayors at "Nagar Bhaban" as the chief guest.

Presided over by federation President Mohammad Annullah, the function was addressed, among others, by Dhaka City Corporation Mayor Mohammad Hanif, Khulna City Corporation Mayor Sheikh Toyubur Rahman, Rajshahi City Corporation Mayor Mizanur Rahman Minu, Deputy Minister for LGRD and Cooperatives Abdul Hye, Secretary, Local Government Division Syed Alamgir Faruq Chowdhury and Federation Secretary General Shamsuddin Asalat.

Barrister Talukder said the government has allocated Taka 200 crore to implement the development programmes of the four city corporations and 112 pourashavas during the last fiscal year. He said the amount of money which has

been provided to city corporations and pourashavas during the last three years, had not been given by any government in the past.

LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Barrister Salam Talukder said the government has been trying hard to make the local government institutions meaningful for people's welfare. He said the city dwellers in their turn have to make timely payment of taxes if they want to enjoy civic amenities.

Barrister Talukder stressed the need for fulfillment of civic duties to help city development.

He said the share of internal resources to the ADP is 33 per cent this year as against 27 per cent last year. With the increase of internal resources mobilisation it will be possible to spend more money for people's welfare, he said.

Referring to an observation made by Mohammad Hanif, Barrister Talukder said in an oblique reference to Awami League that as the party was not giving due recognition to the achievements of BNP, grand unity in the field of politics has not taken place.

He said the way the party has given recognition to the achievements of the past governments, in the same way if it

judged the performance of BNP it would not have described BNP as an undemocratic and totally unsuccessful government. Rather it would have praised the successes and achievements of BNP government during last three years, he said.

Earlier, Mohammad Hanif said had there been broadness of mind and tolerance, there would have been a grand unity in the field of politics. He said it has become a habit of blaming the past governments by successor governments. He described it as a very negative trend in politics and favoured change in such an attitude.

He said the governments of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, Ziaur Rahman and Ershad had done something laudable and we all have to give recognition to their good work.

Bibi fashion show today

Internationally famous fashion model and choreographer Bibi Russell will conduct a fashion show today at the Grand Ball Room, Hotel Sonargaon, says a press release.

The Fashion is highlighting BATEXPO '94 organised by BGMEA, Roop, the official agency for organising and promoting the Fashion Show has placed tickets of this at many different corners of the city.

Tickets are being sold for Tk. 3,000 for couples and Tk. 1,500 for single person. Twenty renowned Bangladeshi fashion models are participating in this grand gala. Dinner and dance will follow the Fashion Show and will go on till midnight.

What's on today...

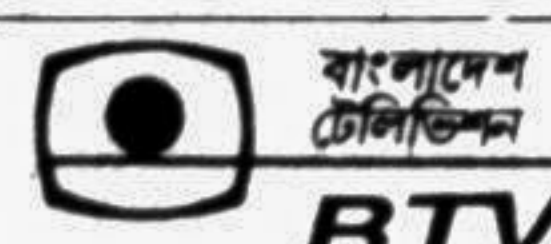
Satyajit Ray Retrospective: Organised by Zahir Raihan Film Society. Film: Abhijan (the expedition) Venue: Indian High Commission Auditorium. Time: 6 pm.

Udvas: A fine arts institute to be inaugurated by Begum Sofia Kamal. Special guest: artist Safiuddin Ahmad. Artist Quyum Chowdhury will preside. Venue: Udvas 5/1, Block-A, Lalmatia. Time: 5 pm.

Rotary Club of Dhaka West: Regular Weekly meeting. Guest Speakers: Marghub Murshed, DG, Department of Narcotics. Venue: Gulshan Club. Time: 5:30 pm.

Discussions on May Day: Organised by the Jatiya Sramik Party. Chief guest: Acting chairman of Jatiya Party Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury. Special guests: Barrister Maudud Ahmad, Kazi Zafar Ahmad, Shah Moazzem Hossain and Khaledur Rahman Tito. Venue: Dhaka District Sports Association Auditorium. Time: 3 pm.

Painting show: The solo painting Exposition of Artist Mujibul Haque has been extended till May 13. Venue: Buds Pre-cadet and High School, 5/11-E, Lalmatia. Time: From 4 pm to 8 pm daily.



Sunday
4:30 Opening announcement
Al-Ghuran
Programme summary
Children's programme on Tagore birth anniversary
5:10 News in Bangla
5:35 Cartoon show: Tom and Jerry Kids Show
6:10 Open University
6:45 Programme on Red Crescent Day
7:15 Tagore songs
8:00 News in Bangla
8:30 Science Programme
9:05 Film show: The Sword of Tipu Sultan
10:00 News in English
10:30 Special Programme on Tagore birth anniversary
11:30 Khabar/The News

3rd NSC lottery draw held

Ticket number Ka 0209756 has won the first prize of Tk 15 lakh of the third lottery of National Sports Council (NSC), reports UNB.

The draw was held at the Engineers Institute auditorium yesterday. Jute Minister ASM Hannan Shah attended the function as chief guest.

The second prize winners were Ka 0595287 and Uma 0019315. While eight tickets — Ga 0274096, Gha 0381523, Uma 0453182, Gha 0587692, Uma 0682947, Ka 0480050, Gha 0251345 and Gha 0236953 — got the third prize. A total 530 tickets will get prizes through the lottery.

Weather

Hot spell to continue

The hot spell continued to sweeping across the country yesterday as the mercury rose again to 42.5 degrees Celsius at Ishwardi, reports UNB.

The Met Office said that country's highest temperature of 42.5 degrees Celsius was recorded at Ishwardi followed by 42 degrees at Rajshahi.

According to the Met Office reading the country was experiencing hot spell for the last few days. Chudanga experienced hot weather with 38.4 degrees Celsius on May 2. Jessore had 40.2 degrees on May 3 and Ishwardi 42.2 degrees Celsius on May 4.

The Met Office forecast for the next 12 hours till 6 pm today also predicted that hot and humid weather will continue. No appreciable change in day temperature is expected. It forecast that rain or thundershower accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at one or two places over Dhaka division and the regions of Pabna, Bogra, Kushtia, Comilla, Noakhali and Sylhet.

Weather may, however, remain mainly dry elsewhere in the country.

Today's maximum temperature in Dhaka was 35.0 degree Celsius and the minimum 24.2 degrees.

Sun sets today (Sunday) at 6:31 pm and rises tomorrow (Monday) at 5:19 am.

People's faith in democracy

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in an isolated way," he said. Shaikh Razzak Ali said that under the parliamentary system, problems must be resolved in Parliament and a mechanism must be developed in the House to address the needs of the people and fulfil their hopes and aspirations of those who are the real masters and source of all power.

Razzak Ali referred to the two short experiences of parliamentary system of government during 1972-74 and the second time since 1991 and said our first attempt for establishment of a democratic order as per hopes and aspiration of the people ended in fiasco. "We are now passing through the second phase and this time we cannot afford to fail."

"We must learn from our past errors and identify the circumstances which were responsible for our past failures and guard against them with all sincerity and resolution," he stressed.

The Speaker regretted that Parliament was not able to discuss national problems. "I must confess, we have not been able to discuss real problems of the nation. We have discussed many things but have not discussed problems confronting the nation."

He observed that amendment should be made in the Rules of Procedure. He said there is no provision in the Rules of Procedure that a resolution has to be adopted after a discussion. As a result, he said discussion on an issue was always talked out.

Razzak Ali said that issues of minor incidents are discussed in the House, leaving aside the

national problems. "We have to make Parliament effective and more lively."

The Speaker said, "We must bear in mind that if we commit any mistake the whole nation will have to pay for it."

Dr Mohabbat Khan, in his keynote paper, said the weaknesses of the present parliament become clear when one looks at how the institution is viewed by the major political parties in the country. "Major problems and issues faced by the nation are mostly discussed in public meetings rather than in Parliament."

He said the moot point is that Parliament is yet to become the main forum where national problems and issues are dispassionately discussed, debated and decided.

Dr Khan suggested that the various standing committees should be headed by senior Parliament members instead of ministers. "It is impossible for the chairman of any of these committees to be dispassionate when his actions and those of his senior civil servants are thoroughly scrutinised, lapses unearthed and responsibility assigned," he said.

The workshop was attended by Members of Parliament belonging to both Treasury and Opposition benches, academicians, researchers and scholars.

Photo exhibition begins today

A photo exhibition by Syed Noor Hossain, Director-General in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, begins today at La Galerie, 54 Kamal Ataturk Avenue, Banani, here, reports BSS.

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EID HOLIDAY TRIPS

01. RIVER-CRUISE 21-23 May
02. Trip to SRIMONGAL 20-23 May
03. Trip to RANGAMATI 23-26 May

LAST DATE OF BOOKING 15 May, 1994. PLEASE CONTACT:



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The Visiting Director of the Asia and Oceania Bureau of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees Werner Blatter (left) called on the State Minister for Disaster Management and Relief Harun-al-Rashid (R) at the latter's office in the city yesterday. —PID photo

UNHCR assures help for cyclone-hit people

UNHCR has assured all possible help for not only the Rohingya refugees but also local people affected by the recent cyclone that left a trail of devastation in Cox's Bazar district, reports UNB.

The assurance came from the visiting UNHCR Director of the Regional Bureau of Asia and Oceania, Werner Blatter, during a meeting with State Minister for Disaster Management and Relief Harun-al-Rashid at his office here yesterday.

Werner Blatter said unspent money of the assistance to Bangladesh Village Project would be spent for the cyclone-hit people.

They discussed the extent of damage caused by the severe cyclonic storm, with special reference to the battered Rohingya refugee camps.

3 Titas Gas staff beaten up in Tejgaon

By Staff Correspondent
Three men of the Titas Gas were allegedly beaten up in Tejgaon Industrial Area when they went to inspect a gas meter of a mill.

While the men were engaged in examining the meter an altercation arose with the mill owner.

Later, some of the workers reportedly beat up Mahmudun Nabi and Abul Hussain, technicians and Syed Mukkaram, Lab assistant of the gas company.

Tejgaon Police said, a case has been filed

SAARC confce on youths begins in Maldives tomorrow

State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadeque Hossain left Dhaka for the Maldives to attend the SAARC ministers' conference on youths, reports UNB.

President of Maldives Dr. Maumoon Abdul Gayum will inaugurate the three-day conference in the Maldivian capital tomorrow.

The state minister is leading a three-member Bangladesh delegation. During his stay he will talk to the Youth and Sports ministers of the SAARC countries and discuss matters of mutual interests.

The delegation is expected to return home on May 13.

WTO must cater to needs of LDCs: GATT chief

World Trade Organisation (WTO) must cater to the needs of Bangladesh and other LDCs, the Director General of GATT Peter Sutherland said while meeting with Commerce Minister M Shamsul Islam in Geneva on Tuesday last, according to an official handout in the city yesterday, reports BSS.

The Commerce Minister, who is now in Geneva to attend the five-day workshop on effective trade representation, thanked Sutherland for his support to LDCs during the final phase of Uruguay Round negotiations.

The minister informed the Director General about the setting up process of a cell for in-depth study of the Uruguay Round agreement for taking follow-up action.

He called upon GATT/WTO secretariat to assist Bangladesh in taking advantage of the various provisions of the Uruguay Round.

Sutherland responded by saying that GATT was being restructured to pay due attention to the interest of disadvantaged group of countries including Bangladesh.

Appreciating the liberalisation measures being taken by Bangladesh, Sutherland expressed his intention to visit Bangladesh in near future.

Later, the minister addressed the commercial representatives of Bangladesh in Europe and asked them to make concerted efforts to boost export to different countries.