

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 Parsee 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 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



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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 virtuoso 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.

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

Presided over by federation President Mohammad Amanullah, 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 Aslam.

Barrister Salam 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.

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 Salam Talukder stressed the need for fulfilment 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 Salam 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

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.

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

various standing committees.

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.

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

—Star photo

Govt plans to make city corporns self-reliant: Salam

LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Barrister Abdus 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.

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