

# Dhaka Day by Day

## Cheery Trio of Jazz Enthusiasts

by Fayza Haq

The Orpheus Music Club presented a pleasant evening of jazz at the Goethe Institut recently, with Sunny Pluger-Raghuath on the piano, Nancy Higginson on the flute and Brad Sack on double bass. They played selections from a suite in seven parts for flute and piano by Claude Bolling.

Talking about her introduction to the world of music, Sunny, the wife of the Indian High Commissioner in Dhaka, said, "There was always a piano in our house at Calcutta. My cousins played other instruments as well such as the violin, electric guitar and the accordion. There were a lot of other members of the family who also sang. There was music at school too and my first public performance was at the age of 13 for Palm Sunday at a chapel."

Sunny has studied classical music and used to arrange her own pop pieces, which would be based on the records that she would hear. She played songs like "Some Enchanted Evening" by ear. The left hand harmonising accompaniment would be her own arrangement. Counting out the chords was her personal effort and she was able to do that as she had a good ear. She studied music formally and took a number of Trinity College examinations. When she got married, she went back to studying under a teacher at Delhi. She then had more time to practise more seriously. She had the good luck of having had her husband posted to Moscow, Berlin and the Philippines where she was able to avail of good teachers and managed to sustain her interest in classical music. It was possible for her to keep up her interest in pop music too.



Nancy, Sunny and Brad.

Asked about her choice of musicians Sunny replied, "I like playing Bach. Normally when you play classical music you try to stay with composers that you have an affinity for and pieces you can cope with. It is not as if I don't like the other composers but I can cope more with classical repertoire. I would love to play romantic pieces like Brahms or Rachmaninoff. I play certain pieces of Chopin, Schubert and Schumann. When you study music, as in literature you go through the syllabus and learn to play set pieces."

Discussing her interest in eastern music she commented, "I enjoy Indian classical music and I like the rigour of the Carnatic system of S. India. I like any music that is good and has a technique that has to be mastered. In order to produce beautiful sounds you have got to have the apparatus for it. I think Indian classical music is linear. It has its own characteristic like a sardar — you cannot add a pocket or a fill to it. Indian music cannot be harmonised because the moment you do it, it sounds like a Western song."

Nancy Higginson, a Canadian who has been in Bangladesh for three years now, and is due to return home, said about her interest in music, "I come from a family of music lovers and took up the piano at the age of seven. Three years later I took up the flute and joined the school band studying both flute and piano. I had my first public performance at the age of 12

and worked harder at the flute competitions and recitals. At one time I was considering a career in music and at college I majored in musical performance. I enjoyed music very much but realised I must keep it as my hobby as I had other interests which were stronger. I was interested in marketing aspects of agricultural industry which is what I am doing presently."

Trained as a classical musician Nancy also did some chamber and pop music. In Dhaka she had her introduction to jazz flute. Friends of friends introduced her to Brad Sack and Sunny has been playing with them since January. She enjoys a broad range of music including opera, jazz and rock 'n' roll.

Discussing her interest in Eastern music she said that she enjoyed the wooden flutes of Bangladesh as well as the tabla and the sitar. Her only exposure to Eastern music before coming to Bangladesh was Ravi Shankar on the sitar.

Speaking about jazz she said that the genre of music was most definitely influenced by music outside USA. "Every region of the world has its own style of jazz playing such as the salsa beat of S. America and the raggae of the Caribbean and African," she added.

Asked what made a good musician and she replied, "It requires a lot of hard work and inspiration. If there is a performance coming up I practise two hours a day. When there is nothing happening I let it go off a few weeks at a time."

Nancy, who has travelled extensively throughout Bangladesh loves the green countryside, the friendliness and hospitality of the people. Her other hobbies include photography, dancing and water sailing.

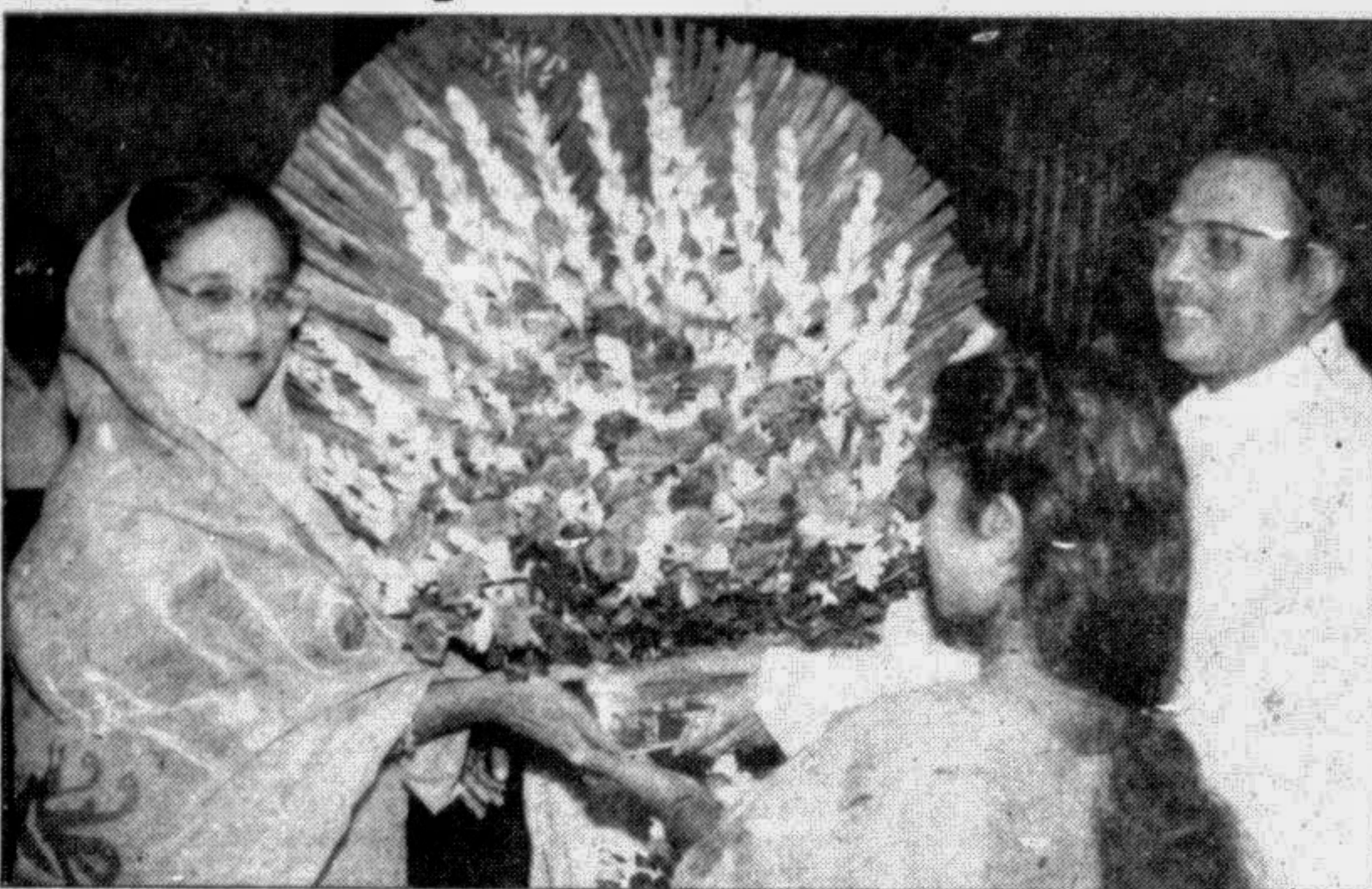
Like the other two of the group, Brad Sack, who has worked at the ICDDR,B before returning soon to USA, was surrounded by music when he was old enough to talk, and did not consciously choose music. Throughout school he was involved in music. Talking about his interest in music he said, "I like jazz as it strikes a chord within me. I also like classical particularly Mozart and Tchaikovsky. In pop music I like Rogers and Hammerstein, and Weber."

He has been playing the double bass in USA with various groups. In Dhaka he had different pianists to accompany Nancy and himself. He has been playing double bass for the last 10 years and before that he played the piano.

He said he likes Bangladeshi music although he does not understand it well. He has listened to Tagore music in concerts in informal gatherings. He can play the harmonium as it is like the piano and he enjoys the tabla too.

Asked to give advice to students, Brad commented, "You've got to have an ear for music to play anything well. Probably you can learn a lot by listening. Going to performances helps. You must also practise with a good teacher. I had a professional bass player myself as my teacher."

Although the three players were amateurs, yet they had the audience delighted with their performance. Their dedicated and enthusiastic playing was followed by songs by "Dhaka Chor-



Opposition leader and Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina being received at a function organised by Kotali Para Youth Association in the city yesterday. — Star photo

## 700 family welfare centres to be constructed: Kamal

Health and Family Welfare Minister Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yusuf yesterday said the health situation in the rural areas was improving and life was coming back there, reports BSS.

He said the government was trying to improve further the health services so that the successes attained in different fields in this sector could be sustained.

The minister was speaking as the chief guest while distributing awards to the best institutions and health and family planning workers in Dhaka division for their achievements in Extended Programme on Immunization (EPI).

Kamal said 700 family welfare centres would be constructed within next two years and all the existing health complexes in the rural areas would be repaired.

Appreciating the dedicated services rendered by the field workers in achieving the success in EPI, he said pro-

visions should be there for reward of the best performers while those having low performance should be censured.

He said there was no room for complacency and there should be a total mobilisation of the people for achieving 100 per cent success in EPI.

Dhaka division achieved 84 per cent coverage in EPI up to March this year which was only two per cent in 1984.

The function was also addressed by Deputy Minister for Health and Family Welfare M. Sirajul Huq, Director General of Health Services Prof. M. Nurumabi, UNICEF Representative Dr. Delwar Ali Khan, WHO Representative Dr. RN Basu, Dhaka Divisional UNICEF chief Mahera Khatun, Dhaka Divisional Director of Family Planning AU Rashid Ahmed Khan, and EPI Director Dr. M Abdul Majid.

Dhaka Divisional Director of Health Services Dr. Shamsul Huq presided.

## No plan to reopen four jute mills

The government has no plan to reopen the four nationalised jute mills, Jute Minister Brig. (ret'd) ASM Hanan Shah informed the Jatiya Sangsad yesterday, reports BSS.

Replying to a question from Treasury Bench member Begum KJ Hamida Khanam, the minister said that there were 35 nationalised jute mills in the country and that the government was contemplating conversion of the four closed nationalised jute mills to manufacture other products.

He said if the closed jute mills were not converted to other purpose then the government would put those to auction for sale.



### Morning Session

- 8:00 Opening announcement
- 8:05 Al-Quran
- 8:10 Programme summary
- 8:15 News in Bangla
- 8:35 Alor Dishart
- 8:35 Our Friends the Dolphins
- 9:00 Shikkha Dikkha
- 9:20 Comedy series: Major Dad

### Evening Session

- 10:00 News in English
- 10:15 Moner Mukurey
- 11:25 Film show: Tarzan
- 11:45 Programme on Health
- 3:00 Opening announcement
- 3:15 Cartoon film: Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
- 3:45 Movie of the Week
- 5:10 News in Bangla
- 5:45 Sports programme
- 6:50 Open University
- 7:20 Malancha
- 8:00 News in Bangla
- 8:30 Comedy series: Perfect Strangers
- 9:00 Magazine
- 10:00 News in English
- 10:30 Live Telecast of World Cup Football: Mexico vs Ireland
- 2:00 Brazil vs Cameroon
- 5:30 Sweden vs Russia

## Publication of Bengali Islamic Encyclopedia

Publication of Bengali Islamic Encyclopedia in 15 volumes has been completed at a cost of Tk about 3.38 crore in two years, reports UNB.

Islamic Foundation completed the publication of the writings which include 35 per cent basic articles and 65 per cent translation work from different encyclopedias in English, Arabic, Urdu and Persian languages since 1982 to 1993-94 financial year.

This was revealed at the 20th Parliamentary Standing Committee meeting on Ministry of Religious Affairs at Sangsaddhaban yesterday with Minister for Religious Affairs Muhammad Keramat Ali in the chair.

The Islamic encyclopedia could be completed in 25 volumes, the meeting disclosed. A sum of Tk 43 lakh has

been earned up to 1990 through selling these encyclopaedia, the meeting was informed.

The aims of publishing Islamic encyclopaedia in Bengali is to grow Islamic values and teachings among public and to facilitate research work and wide knowledge for the readers, scholars, researchers, teachers and the trainees on Islam.

The meeting also stressed wide publicity of the encyclopedia.

Members of the Committee Whip Prof Md Shahjahan Miah, Khandaker Badaruddin, Moulana Ataur Rahman and Begum Asia Rahman of BNP, Moulana Habibur Rahman of Jamaat-e-Islami and Alhaj Moulana Obaidul Haque of Islami Okaya Jote attended the meeting.

## BRTC profits: Tk 35.64 lakh

Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation (BRTC) for the first time made an operational profit of Tk 35.64 lakh in 10 months of the current fiscal year till April after recurring losses of some Tk 294 crore over 20 years, reports UNB.

This was stated by Communications Minister Oli Ahmed in parliament yesterday in reply to a question from Sheikh Ansar Ali of Jamaat.

The Minister told the House that indiscipline in the state-managed road transportation sector was one of the main causes of the losses.

He said the profit was possible because of bringing back discipline in the BRTC, slashing its manpower through golden handshake and leasing out buses to private operators.

The organisation has a plan to import 30 doubledecker and 100 deluxe buses, including 25 AC coaches, and 100 trucks and fuel tankers in 1994-95 fiscal.

The imported vehicles will be operated on lease basis, the Minister said.

## Habitat body formed

A national committee comprising officials, journalists, social workers and planners was formed Wednesday to prepare plan of activities ahead of the 2nd UN Conference on Human Settlements, reports UNB.

The conference, titled "Habitat-11" is scheduled to be held in Istanbul, Turkey, next year.

## আবশ্যিক

একটি জাতীয় বেসরকারী উন্নয়ন সংস্থা গ্রীষ্মকালীন মানবিক উন্নয়ন কেন্দ্রের মাঠ পর্যায়ে বাংলাদেশের প্রত্যন্ত এলাকাসে কাজ করার মত উদ্যমী ও কঠোর এবং কমপক্ষে তিন বৎসর কাজ করার অভিজ্ঞতাসম্পন্ন প্রতিভূত পিতে অগ্রহী শুভ্রমাত্র মহিলা প্রার্থীদের নিকট থেকে নিম্নলিখিত পদের জন্য সরাসর আহবান করা হচ্ছে।

পদের নাম : উর্ভজন মাঠ সংরক্ষক।

বেতনক্রম : ১৮৫০-১৮৫-৪৬২৫/- সে সঙ্গে বাড়ী ভাড়া (অন্য কিছু মূল বেতনের ৬৫% এর বেশী নয়), কন্ট্রিবিউটরি প্রিভিডেন্ট ফান্ড, গ্র্যাডুইটি, বঙ্গবন্ধু স্মৃতি উপসব ভাতা, মূল বেতনের ২২% মহাঘাড়াভাতা এবং চিকিৎসা সুবিধাসহ সংস্থার কর্মী নিতিমালা অনুযায়ী অন্যান্য সুবিধা।

যোগ্যতা : প্রার্থীকে অবশ্যই স্নাতক পাশ হতে হবে।

উন্নয়নমূলক কাজে অভিজ্ঞতাসম্পন্ন প্রার্থীদের আর্থিকর সেবা হবে। প্রার্থীকে প্রত্যন্ত এলাকাসে বাই-সাইকেল/মোটর সাইকেল চালিয়ে কাজ করার মানসিকতাসম্পন্ন এবং শারীরিকভাবে সুস্থ হতে হবে। কারিগরি বিষয়ে পাশ (বেমনার কুবি, পলসপান, ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং, এম, বি, বি, এস ও মফস বিকাশ) প্রার্থীদের আবেদন গ্রহণযোগ্য নয়। প্রার্থীর বয়সসীমা সর্বোচ্চ ৩০ বৎসর।

পূর্ণ জীবনব্যয়, পাসপোর্ট আকারের দুই কপি ছবি ও সনদপত্রের কপিসহ আবেদন পর মুখ্য সমন্বয়কারী, কর্মী প্রশাসন, গ্রীষ্মকালীন মানবিক উন্নয়ন কেন্দ্র, আই/১-প, সেকশন-২, মিরপুর-২, ঢাকা-১২১৬ এ ঠিকানায় অবশ্যই আগামী ৭ই জুলাই ১৯৯৪ তারিখের মধ্যে পৌছাতে হবে। বাসের উপর উর্ভজন মাঠ সংরক্ষক ক্যাটি উল্লেখ করতে হবে।

সূত্র নং : সিএডিএম/৯৪/০৫০/এস, এইচ, এন

## What's on today . . .

**Natyadhara:** Has organised a seminar on "professionalism in theatre" on the occasion of its 1st funding anniversary. Speakers: Ramendu Majumdar, Ataur Rahman, Mamunur Rashid, Sara Zaker, Kamaluddin Nilu, M. Hamid, Tarik Anam Khan. Professor Kabir Chowdhury will preside. Venue: Guide House auditorium. Time: 9:30 am.

**SOS-Children's Village:** The concluding function of International SOS-Children's Village Day 94 will be held. Chief guest: State Minister for Social Welfare Mohammad Fazlur Rahman. Venue: SOS Children's Village, 1 Shyamoli, Mirpur Road. Time: 4 pm.

**Dhaka Association of the Deaf:** Has organised a free vocational training for the deaf sponsored by Rotary Clubs of Dhaka and Port Phillip Melbourne, Australia. Rin Emdadul Huque will open the event. Venue: 278 Elephant Road. Time: 10 am.

**Rotary District Awards Ceremony:** Of Rotary International District 3280 for the rotary year 1993/94 hosted by the Rotary Club of Sonargaon Dhaka. Venue: Sonargaon Hotel. Time: 4 pm.

## Weather

### Light Rain Likely

Light to moderate rain or thundershower is likely at a few places over Rajshahi and Chittagong divisions and at one or two places over Dhaka, Khulna and Barisal divisions during the next 24 hours till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

Met office says day temperature may rise by 1.2 degree Celsius over the country.

Rainfall activity is likely to increase in the subsequent two days.

Meantime, Sylhet experienced the highest 18 mm rain yesterday. Khulna had 17 mm shower. Jessore and Barisal 9 each and Dinajpur 5 mm shower during the period.

Country's highest temperature 34.0 degree Celsius was recorded at Chuadanga and the lowest 25.0 degrees at Sylhet yesterday.

The sun sets today (Friday) at 6:50 pm and rises tomorrow (Saturday) at 5:12 am.

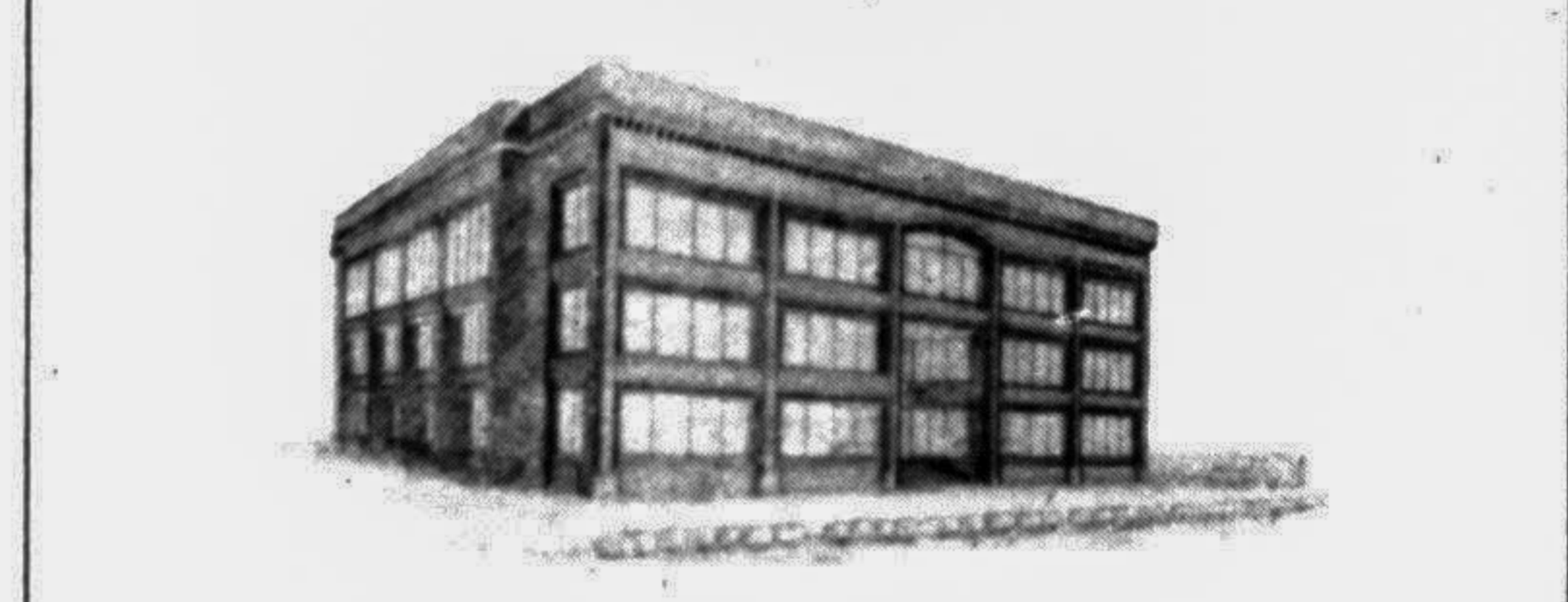
The maximum and minimum temperatures and humidity of some major cities/towns recorded yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in Percentage	
	Max	Min	9 am	6 pm
Dhaka	32.2	27.2	75	75
Chittagong	32.6	25.9	76	81
Rajshahi	32.4	26.6	82	82
Khulna	32.6	25.5	82	85
Barisal	31.8	26	78	78
Sylhet	30.7	25	97	85
Cox's Bazar	32.8	26	81	85

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BRUNEI, CHINA, CHINESE TAIPEI, HONGKONG, INDIA, MALAYSIA, PAKISTAN, PHILIPPINES, SINGAPORE, SRI LANKA, THAILAND AND BANGLADESH.

FIRST SESSION AT 10:00 A.M. □ SECOND SESSION AT 1:00 P.M.  
□ THIRD SESSION AT 4:00 P.M. □ FOURTH SESSION AT 7:00 P.M.

TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE AT VENUE (50.00 TAKA FOR EACH SESSION)

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