

Dhaka Day by Day

Guitarist Who Tugs at heart's String

by Fayza Haq

Massimo Gasbarroni's recent solo performance on the guitar at the Chancery of the Italian Embassy was an elevating experience for the audience. As he progressed from his two compositions on "Folly" (G.F. Haendel, Sarabanda Variate, M. Ohama, Tiento a.); H Villa-Lobos' Dalla Suite Popolare Brasileira; Mazurka-choro, Valsa-choro, Dia 5 Preludi; N Paganini's Romnza dalla Grande, Sonata in LA maggiore; J Sor's Variazioni Opera 28 to the second half of the performance which included a piece from A Barrios Mangore and T Albeinz, one was transported into a soothing dreamland.

An accountant by professional training, Massimo was given a guitar as a present by his brother Chrma, at the age of 14, and his interest in it developed as he took private lessons in his school for four years from Giam Battista in Rome. He then continued his music lessons at the Italian Conservatory in Rome.

"If you are an artistically bent, you do not necessarily progress well in the world of mathematics. Yet, as music is done by counting of notes in numbers, so learning 'numbers' did help me to go into the depths of music and grasp it



Massimo Gasbarroni

with ease. Thus my book-keeping training did not go to waste entirely," said the maestro jovially, at a casual discussion in the lawn of Ms Rossana Massari, the Cultural Attache of the Italian Embassy.

Asked how much time he devoted to his guitar, Massimo replied, "I practise at least six hours a day before a concert performance, but currently as I teach at 'The Conservatory of Latina', situated not far from Rome, I have to cut down this schedule. This also applied to the time when I taught earlier at Naples."

I have a small house in the countryside, which is a 25 minutes drive by car from my work-place at Latina. I can contemplate and practise in peace amidst my tranquil surroundings and combine this with teaching and concert performances. I adore my work, it is no work at all, as it is the *elan vital* of my vie. My favourite composers are the originators of the pieces that I will play. I cannot explain why I like them best: you may say that they best express the stronger feeling in myself.

Elaborating on the type of guitar music he liked best, Massimo said confidently, "The gui-

tar has been appreciated more or less according to the time or place. It enjoyed three *renaissance* periods namely the one in the 17th century, the next in the following century, and one is now in this present century. I believe that Cevogja, who died about four years ago, played the blinding of the genres of guitar music that is definitely the height of perfection that guitar music has ever known. I believe that no one is there now to take his place."

Commenting on the places where the guitar has been best played, he explained, "The guitar is a musical instrument that has been in vogue since 3000 B.C; it was a documented and well-known instrument in ancient times of Egypt, Turkey and Greece. In the western culture it has its ebb and flow and it reached a

'crescendo' during the 17th and 18th century when Paganini and Giuliani played. But this rich 'harvest' was not confined to Italy alone."

Massimo who had played in countries like Russia, China, Nepal, Malaysia and Indonesia, said "I have been performing since the 60's and I felt that it was played with excellence in Russia. True, they had the bal-

alika ages ago, which is like a mandolin, but this had seven strings instead of the conventional classical guitar's six. Also, the tuning of this varies from the classical guitar. It remains difficult to compare the guitar performances in different countries. The classical guitar is played par excellence by even children under ten in places like Russia and China."

When told that some visiting musicians from the West have stated that the music of the West cannot be combined with that of the east, and asked to comment on this, Massimo explained, "The oriental music i.e. 'sitar' and 'sarodh' are the reflections of a certain culture with its own individual feelings, human values and roots. I have high regard for it. Do not mix the two: one must appreciate them both. This is not to say that they are different: music is the expression of a human being. Western music has symbols to play from. This does not apply to the oriental one. In Indian music e.g. there can "be a continuous note. Structurally they are different".

The maestro has been sponsored by the Italian embassies and the Cultural Ministry of Italy on his foreign trips.



The World Human Rights Day Joint Observance Committee brought out a procession in the city yesterday to mark the Human Rights Day '94. — Star photo

Tourism month ends

President Abdur Rahman Biswas yesterday said the private sector could play a significant role in developing the tourism industry to earn foreign currency for strengthening the country's economy, reports UNB.

The national tourism policy has been formulated and infrastructural facilities created for the development of tourism sector, he said at the closing ceremony of the Tourism Month '94 at Hotel Sheraton.

Flourishment of any industry depends on sincere efforts of entrepreneurs and organisers, he said while stressing the need for combined endeavours of the government and the private sector to develop the

tourism sector.

President Biswas said foreign investment should be encouraged in tourism sector.

Biswas emphasised that domestic tourism be given priority to consolidate national solidarity and tourism facilities extended to the students for enriching their knowledge.

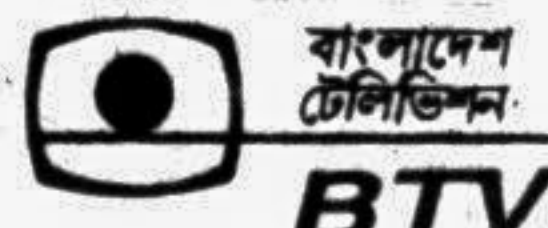
State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism Abdul Mannan, Tourism Secretary Nooruddin Almasood and Chairman of Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation Abdus Samad Bhuiyan also spoke at the function.

The President distributed prizes among the winners of different events of the Tourism Month-1994. The function was followed by a musical soiree.

Victory fair begins in Ctg

CHITTAGONG, Dec 10: A week-long Muktijuddher Vijoy Mela (victory fair) began at the outer stadium and in its adjoining areas here today, reports BSS.

Dr Meghna Guha Thakurata, daughter of a martyred family, opened the mela by lighting the victory flame, while national anthem was played by the members of martyred families and crippled freedom fighters at the Vijoy Manch.



Sunday

- 4:30 Opening
- 4:45 Educational programme
- Shikkhadikkha
- 5:10 News in Bangla
- 5:25 Cartoon show : Tom and Jerry Kids Show
- 5:40 Sports programme
- 6:30 Health programme : Mayeder Janya
- 7:00 Open University
- 7:25 Tagore songs
- 8:00 News in Bangla
- 8:30 Biggan O Narec
- 9:00 Drama serial: The Sword of Tipu Sultan
- 10:00 News in English
- 10:30 Chhayachhanda
- 11:30 Khabar/ The News
- 11:40 Announcement of tomorrow's programme
- 11:45 Closing

Weather

Dry spell to continue

Dry weather is likely to continue over the country in the next 12 hours till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

The night temperature may remain nearly unchanged during the period, the Met Office says.

The country's highest temperature is 31.0 degrees Celsius was recorded at Satkhira and the lowest 12.6 degrees at Ishurdi.

The maximum and minimum temperatures and humidity recorded yesterday at different parts of the country are:

City/Towns	Temperatures in degrees Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	29.8	14.4	68	70
Chittagong	28.0	16.0	80	82
Cox's Bazar	28.0	17.0	74	82
Sylhet	25.0	16.0	87	90

Italian plastic surgeons to give free treatment

An eight-member medical team from Interplast, Italy, led by renowned plastic surgeon Dr Paulo G Morselli will give free treatment for two weeks from December 29 at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital, reports BSS.

According to a press release, the team will treat different serious facial deformity and crippled patients.

Interested patients have been requested to come today and December 18 at 9 am at the outdoor of Plastic Surgery Department of the Dhaka Medical College Hospital for preliminary selection.

NIMC training course begins

A three-week long training course on "News in Broadcast Media: Foundation Course '94" began at the National Institute of Mass Communication (NIMC) in the city yesterday, says a press release.

Information Secretary Dr Ekram Hossain inaugurated the course which was presided over by Director General of the institute Abdullah Al-Mamun.

Ban on jatra goes temporarily

The government has temporarily withdrawn the restriction on *jatra*, a traditional form of folk theatre, reports UNB.

Home Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury ordered lifting of the 10-month-old restriction until the month of Ramadan following a meeting with the Bangladesh *Jatra* Shilpa Unnayan Parishad in the city on Friday night.

The minister urged the *jatra* groups to reflect national culture and resist infiltration of alien culture in their performance. There are 210 licensed *jatra* groups in the country.

Parishad president Ramjan Ali Mia, general secretary Milon Kanti Dey and Gazi Mannan, Masum Chowdhury, Abed Ali and Haris Mohammad were present in the meeting.

Happy Birthday
darling **TINA**
— Fayza

To-Let

An under-construction six-storey modern house (2100 sft in each floor) at 35/B, Road 9A, Dhanmondi will be ready for occupation by June '95. Scopes are still there to shape the rooms, on the basis of the original planning, according to the tenants's requirement. The clients willing to use the house as offices are most welcome.

Please contact: Shelly Ahmed, 866052. D-1258

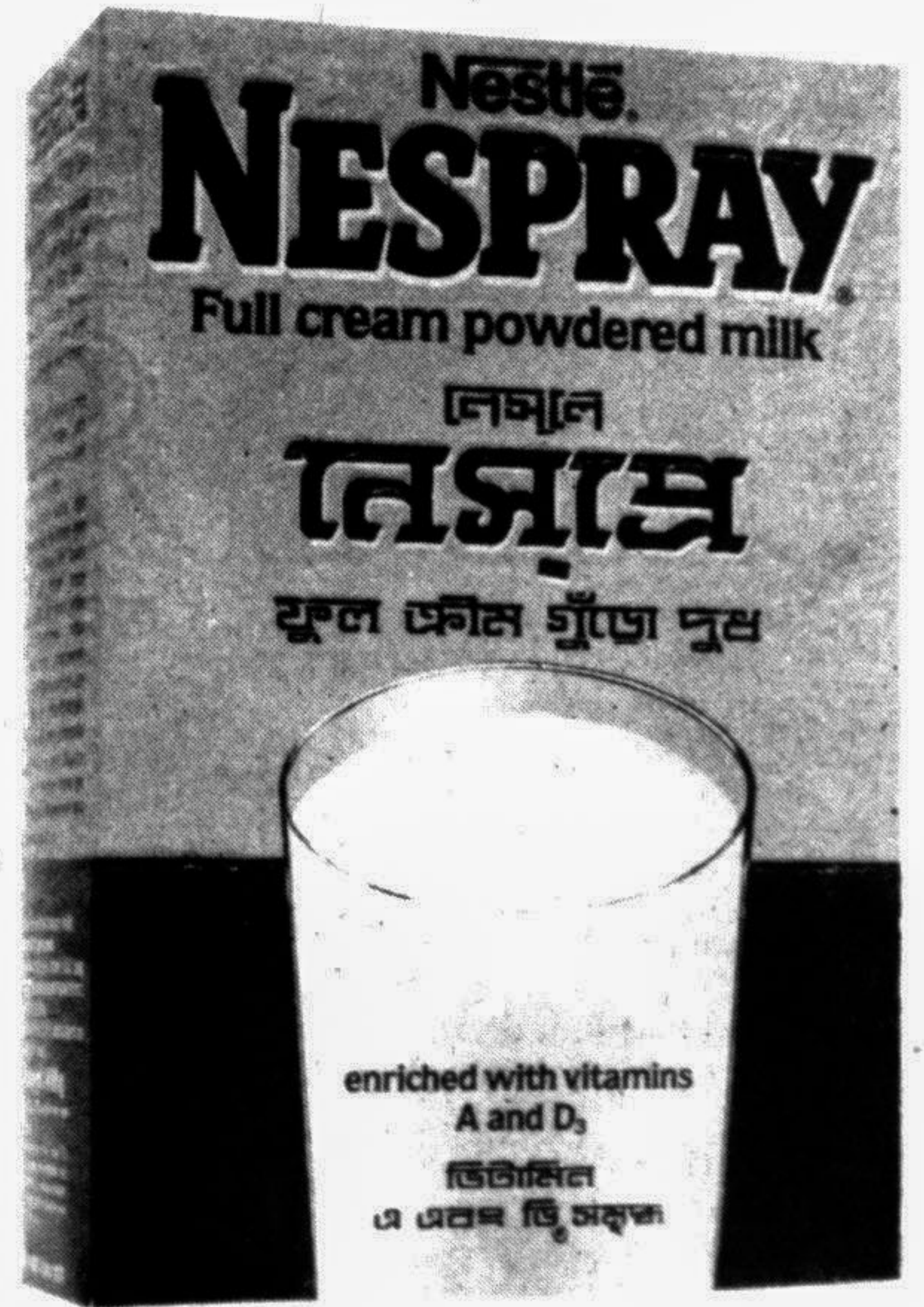
OBITUARY



Mr. Abdul Hafeez died of a heart attack on 9th December, 1994. He was 79. His namaz-e-janaza will be held at this daughter and son-in-law's residence at 26 (New 44), Purana Paltan Line, Dhaka on Sunday, December 11th at 3 pm. The *qil-khwani* will be held at the same residence on Monday, 12th December after Magreb prayers. Mrs Nurjahan Hafeez, Safdar Hafeez, Dr Waseem Hafeez, Seema Chaudhury

1+1+1+1=5

RETURN
FOUR
EMPTY FOILS
AND
GET ONE
NESPRAY
FREE!



Get 1 free 400 grams Nespray today ! Buy 4 packs of 400 grams or 1 pack of 1.6 kg Nespray and save the foil from each pack. Return the 4 empty foils to your nearest shop and get 1 free pack. This offer is valid for a limited time.

More you **BUY**. More you **SAVE**.