### Appreciating Raag Sangeet

by Fayza Haq

Samir Das who has performed recently at the Alliance Française, and also played before a select audience, guests of the Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany, last this evening, paused in his busy schedule to say a few words about himself.

"I studied for eight years at Santiniketan under Nikhil Gangapadya, Suresh Mishra, Mohan Singh, D T Joshi, Sudesh Bangapadhya — all of whom had a strong influence on me," he informs. That evening he played iman and maj khambaj for an hour, being accompanied by Babu Madhu Shudhan on the tabla and Shopon Ghosh on the tanpura.

"For a long time now in Bangladesh Uchango sangert has had a relatively limited stream of enthusiasts. It is the same way as cheaper magazines flood the market while classic novels are often left untouched. Uchango sangeet is not something that can comprehended immediately — it takes time to appreciate, understand and learn it. Even those who listen to it regularly have a lot to learn. Compared to the situation in our neighbouring country India, the following in Bangladesh is much less. The reason is that we need patrons of which we have few in our country. In India, for instance, the government itself is a major patron," says Samir Das.

He has given seven performances at Alliance Francaise, nine at Goethe Institut, and eight at the Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy. He has also played at the British Council.

His overseas performance include those at Paris, Berlin, Munich, Hamburg, Amsterdam, The Haque, Geneva and Zurich. "I found the audience in Europe attentive and eager to appreciate, even though Western music is so totally different from ours. They pay good money for their tickets and listen for long hours to music that is

alien to their culture and sensibility. I feel great response too when I played for All India Radio, Durdarshan, at the Tanseen Music Conference and when I played at places like Kashmir, Delhi, Lucknow and Banaras."

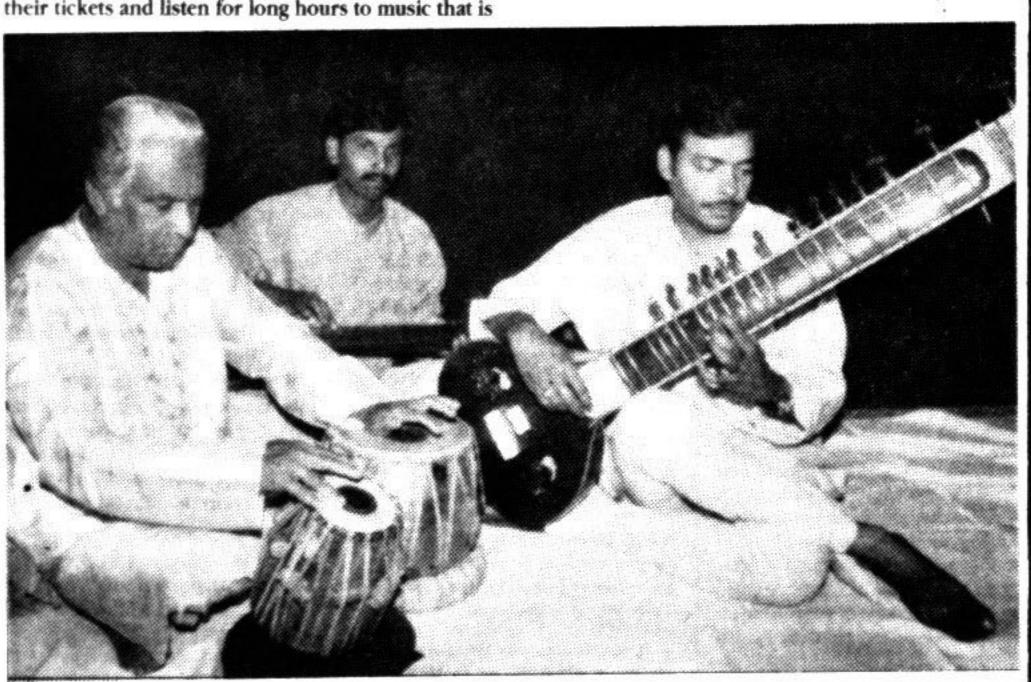
He has been the principal of "Enayet School of Sitar" near Dhaka College, and has also worked at "Sangeet Bhabhan".

"I cannot make a living by performances alone at the Radio, TV and the halls, and so I have students of which the majority are females. I teach them for about an hour every day once a week and get paid Tk 1,000 to Tk 2,000 by each of them. However, for me, the shadhona of the music itself is food for my soul," he says.

"As a student, I have practised 12-14 hours a day. Now, before a performance, I practise with my accompanying players for as long as the actual performance takes. I have played with Pandit Shanta Prashad, Shajan Misra, Rajan Misra, Ramji Misra and Shankor Ghosh," he

"Imon raag is what I like best. The players of Rabindra shangeet and Nazrul geeti also follow ragas. Rabindranath Tagore himself was taught by an Uchanga shangeet expert," he added.

"I came to Dhaka from Mymensigh in '68. In '75, I got scholarship for India. But for me the goal was not to be only 'first class first' in India in '79. I want to be remembered by what I play in the years to come. Government work and the cliques that go with even performance in halls make me weary. I have now left the city, and, so to speak, taken shelter in the villages. I would like to give up teaching altogether and to practise day and night for two years at a stretch to leave behind something by which I may be recognised by my country," Samir says in conclu-



Samir Das playing the sitar at Alliance Française

#### 118 NGOs enlisted with PKSF Nestle official for loan disbursement meets Mostafiz of such credits. Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman

said here vesterday that the NGOs could play a vital role in channeling

credit to the rural poor, reports BSS. The finance minister was talking to the representatives of a group of NGOs who received credits from the Palli Karma Sahayak Foundation (PKSF) for disbursement among the rural poor.

The PKSF has been established to sanction credits to the selected NGOs for disbursement to the rural poor. So far 118 NGOs have been enlisted with the PKSF for disbursement

Saifur Rahman said government's rural development policies were primarily aimed at reducing poverty and the rural poor should get easy access to the credit facilities.

The government has earlier sanctioned Taka 100 crore to the PKSF as its initial fund in this regard.

Finance Secretary M Nasimuddin Ahmed, Banking Division secretary Dr ATM Shamsul Huda and Chairman of the PKSF Nazrul Islam attended

#### **POSITION AVAILABLE**

The Urban Livelihoods Study (ULS) is a longitudinal study of vulnerable livelihoods in the urban economy. by Proshika. The study will run for three years in the bustees of Dhaka city. Its aim is to develop replicable approaches to urban poverty reduction. Research methods will combine participatory, quantitative and qualitative techniques and approaches

The ULS seeks to recruit a Database Manager. interested in and committed to the aims of the study and willing to take responsibility for the entire process of maintaining data quality. He or she will design, implement and maintain a relational computer database system; train and supervise three full time data entry clerks; oversee data checking, cleaning and verification; design and produce monthly reports; maintain computer hardware and software for the study.

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The closing date for applications is 31 July 1995.

Ref: ADM/95/86/S.G.



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia inaugurated tree plantation campaign of the Bangladesh Navy by planting a sapling at the Naval headquarters at Banani yesterday. - PID photo

# Flood victims to get agri loans: Shamsul

The meeting discussed proper

The minister called upon the offi-

The meeting was informed that 65

cials to strengthen the rehabilitation

tonnes of wheat, Taka one lakh, and

two thousand sarees and lungees were

distributed in 65 flood-affected

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activities on priority basis.

thanas of the district.

distribution of relief, extent of dam-

age and post-flood rehabilitation

programme.

Commerce and Information Minister Shamsul Islam yesterday said the flood victims would be provided with agricultural loans and pisciculture loans after the recession of flood water as part of rehabilitation activities, reports BSS.

While addressing two separate meetings at Dighirpar Bazar and Pura Bazar in Munshigani district, the minister said the government had strengthened relief activities for the rehabilitation of flood-affected people.

The Minister also distributed relief goods among the flood affected people in Munshigani district. He visited Dighirpar, Pura,

Mulchar, and Makuhati villages under l'angibari thana and distributed rice, pulse, sarces, lungees, chira, biscuits and cash among the people. Chairman of the Bangladesh Red

Crescent Society Shahidul Huq Jamal MP also took part in the distribution of the relief goods.

Later, the minister held a meeting with the district and thana level officers at the deputy commissioner's of-

# distributes

day, reports UNB. The exchanged views on bilateral reports BSS. issues particularly matters relating to foreign investment in Bangladesh, said a press release.

Chairman of Nestle Bangladesh Ltd Latifur Rahman and Managing Director Nick Miller were present.

Michael WO Garrett, Head of

Nestle Asia-Oceania zone, called on

Foreign Minister ASM Mostafizur

Rahman at his residence here vester-

Garrett also visited Nestle factory at Sripur in Gazipur district in the TREALTH WILL

Drug smuggling 759 cases lodged in Khulna

KHULNA, July 16: Some 759 cases were lodged against 663 people for their involvement in smuggling huge amount of spurious drugs in greater Khulna district from 1990 to June, 1995, reports UNB.

According to Narcotics Control Directorate, the drugs seized during the period included phensidyl, ganja, alcohol, heroin, charosh and opium.

Officials said 109 cases were registered against 113 people in 1990-91. 90 cases against 88 people in 1991-92. 142 cases against 133 people in 1991 92, 192 cases against 165 people in 1992-93. 116 cases against 76 people in 1993-94 and 110 cases against 85 people till June this year.

The sources said the owners of most of the seized goods were not

## Red Crescent relief goods

The Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS) yesterday distributed relief materials among the

flood-affected people of Munshigani, says a press release here, Chairman of BDRCS Syed

Shahidul Haque Jamal MP supervised the distribution of the goods.

The BDRCS chairman distributed relief goods among the affected people in Demra Saturday. Local member of Parliament Salahuddin Ahmed was present during the relief

Meanwhile, relief operation by Red Crescent Society has been stepped up in all the flood-affected districts of the country including Sirajganj, Jamalpur, Sherpur, Netrakona, Gaibandha, Nilphamari, Kurigram, Bogra, Manikganj, Munshigani, Madaripur, Tangail, Shariatpur, Mymensingh, Kishoregani and Dhaka.

Relief goods included rice, dal, chira, molasses, emergency food, saree, lungee, old clothings, shirts, frock, ORS, water purifying tablet and soap.

#### Indian envoy meets Speaker

Indian High Commissioner Dev Mukharjee vesterday called on Speaker Shaikh Razzak Ali in his Parliament chamber, reports UNB.

They discussed matters relating to the conference of the Association of SAAR( Speakers and Parliamentarians to be held in New Delhi from July 22.

They also exchanged views on various issues of bilateral interest, said an official press release.

### Weather

## Shower likely

Moderately heavy rain or shower accompanied by gusty or squally wind may occur at most places over Chittagong and Barisal divisions during the next 12 hours till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

Met Office said moderately heavy rain may also occur at places while light to moderate rain or shower is likely at many places over Dhaka, Raishahi and Khulna divisions during the period.

It said day temperature may fall by 1-2 degree Celsius over Barisal and Chittagong divisions and slight fall elsewhere over the country. in its outlook for subsequent two days, weathermen forecast rainfall

activities likely to increase. Giving extended outlook for another five days. Met Office forecast that rainfall activities may decrease towards the end of the period.

Country's highest temperature 33 degree Celsius was recorded at Dhaka and Dinajpur and the lowest 24 degrees at Kutubdia.

Sun sets today (Monday) at 6:48 pm and rises tomorrow at 5:21 am. Maximum and minimum temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns vesterday are:

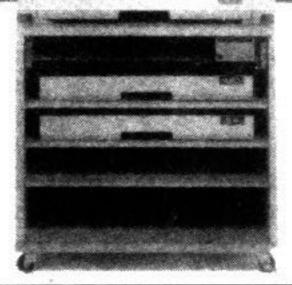
City/Town Temperature Humidity in in Celsius Percentage evening Dhaka Chittagong Raishahi **Name** Barisal 29.5 wither 28.2 Cox's Bazar 45.0

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