

Dhaka Day by Day

Appreciating Raag Sangeet

by Fayza Haq

Samir Das who has performed recently at the Alliance Francaise, 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 Gangopadhyaya, Suresh Mishra, Mohan Singh, D T Joshi, Sudesh Bangopadhyaya — all of whom had a strong influence on me," he informs. That evening he played *unani* and *muj khamraj* for an hour, being accompanied by Babu Madhu Shudhan on the tabla and Shapon Ghosh on the *tanpura*.

"For a long time now in Bangladesh *Uchango sangeet* 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 be 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 Hague, 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 Tanseem 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 Bhawan'.

"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 says.

"*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 *Uchango shangeet* expert," he added.

"I came to Dhaka from Mymensingh 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 conclusion.



Samir Das playing the sitar at Alliance Francaise



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

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 Munshiganj 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 Munshiganj district.

He visited Dighirpar, Pura, Mukhar, and Makuhati villages under Tangbari thana and distributed rice, pulse, sarees, lunges, chira, biscuits and cash among the people.

Chairman of the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society Shahidul Haq 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 office.

The meeting discussed proper distribution of relief, extent of damage and post-flood rehabilitation programme.

The minister called upon the officials to strengthen the rehabilitation activities on priority basis.

The meeting was informed that 65 tonnes of wheat, Taka one lakh, and two thousand sarees and lunges were distributed in 65 flood-affected thanas of the district.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY
TO SHONTUNI
TUSHI
— JAANTUNI

118 NGOs enlisted with PKSF for loan disbursement

Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman said here yesterday 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

of such credits. 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 ADM Shamsul Huda and Chairman of the PKSF Nazrul Islam attended the meeting.

Nestle official meets Mostafiz

Michael WO Garrett, Head of Nestle Asia-Oceania zone, called on Foreign Minister ASM Mostafizur Rahman at his residence here yesterday, reports UNB.

The exchanged views on bilateral 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.

Garrett also visited Nestle factory at Sripur in Gazipur district in the morning.

Red Crescent distributes relief goods

The Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS) yesterday distributed relief materials among the flood-affected people of Munshiganj, says a press release here, reports BSS.

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 operation.

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, Munshiganj, Madaripur, Tangail, Shariatpur, Mymensingh, Kishoreganj and Dhaka.

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

Indian envoy meets Speaker

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

They discussed matters relating to the conference of the Association of SAARC 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.

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.

Minimum necessary qualifications:

- Masters degree in computer science or a related subject;
- Previous experience in design and implementation of a substantial database project;
- Sound knowledge of computer programming including BASIC and at least one database language;
- Good spoken and written English and Bangla.

In addition, preference will be given to candidates with knowledge of Microsoft Access and/or with previous experience in staff training and supervision.

A salary package in the range 12,000 to 15,000 taka will be offered, depending on qualifications and experience.

Applications should be written in English and include a curriculum vitae, two recent passport photographs and a daytime contact telephone number (if possible). Applications must be accompanied by a Bank Draft for 100 taka in favour of Proshika Manobik Unnayan Kendra and addressed to:

Principal Coordinator
Personnel Administration
Proshika Manobik Unnayan Kendra
1/1 Ga, Section 2
Mirpur 2, Dhaka 1216

The closing date for applications is **31 July 1995**

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

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 phenisidyl, 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 found.

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, Rajshahi 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 Dinapur 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 yesterday are:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in Percentage	
	max	min	morning	evening
Dhaka	33.0	26.6	82	76
Chittagong	27.2	25.0	97	98
Rajshahi	32.6	26.0	90	97
Khulna	32.6	26.8	81	
Barisal	29.5	25.6	100	88
willset	29.0	25.2	98	98
Cox's Bazar	28.2	25.0	95	98



MashreqBank

بنك المشرق

Over its 28 year history, MashreqBank (formerly Bank of Oman Limited) has emerged as the market leader and most profitable Bank in the United Arab Emirates. The Bank is renowned for its innovative marketing strategies and adoption of state-of-the-art technology. MashreqBank has progressively upgraded the quality of its human resources through extensive training both internally and internationally. We currently require the following Banking Personnel.

CREDIT MANAGERS

The incumbent for this position would be required to evaluate the credit worthiness and debt repayment capacity of borrowers.

Candidates must:

- Be University graduates, preferably with an MBA.
- Have 8-12 years experience in the field of Credit Administration, Marketing and Credit Appraisal in a multinational bank.
- Have a thorough knowledge of Banking Credit policies and procedures.
- Have a profound knowledge of Credit & risk appreciation.

RELATIONSHIP MANAGERS

The main function of the Job holder will be to manage existing relationships and identifying profitable new business opportunities.

Candidates must:

- Be University graduates, preferably with an MBA.
- Have 5-12 years experience in the field of Credit / Marketing in a multinational bank.
- Have a thorough knowledge of Banking Credit policies and procedures and independently prepare sound credit presentation.
- Have a flair for marketing and possess excellent interpersonal and communication skills.
- Have a profound knowledge of Credit & risk appreciation.

All applicants must be below 40 years, have worked in an International Bank and be fluent in English (both spoken and written).

Applications may be sent, along with a passport size photograph, within 10 days of the release of this Advertisement quoting the REF NO. CM/RM to:

MANAGER STAFFING
HUMAN RESOURCES DIVISION
MASHREQBANK, P.O. BOX 1250,
DUBAI, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES.