

Dhaka Day by Day

Music in Dhaka Air

by Samia Islam

Dhaka isn't a city famous for its street musicians. Let's face it — this is no Jamaica when it comes to street music. So the only tune wafting through the air is the blaring Hindi film song playing either in some cassette store or on a home stereo system. But if one looks hard enough, one can find musicians and singers on the streets who go unnoticed among our everyday hustle and bustle. Take Malibagh, for instance. There is one particular image that competes the chaotic picture in my head of minimum twenty minutes' waits in bumper to bumper traffic. Amidst all the mud and muck with or without a downpour, the vegetable and fruits vendors taking up one third of the already narrow roads, the malodorous garbage heaps, the bug-infested sweetmeat stores and ramshackle restaurants, there is also an old main the picture standing near the vegetable vendors. He is there through rain or shine. Above all the honking of car and truck horns, tinkling rickshaw bells, old film songs from the restaurants and swear words from the rickshawpullers, one can hear the sweet, out-of-place, melancholy sound of a flute. The flute that the old man plays to promote his wares. He sells flutes. His array is laid out on the soiled road — a meagre handful. I have never seen anyone buy one or even stop to ask the price. It's impossible to stop in a place like that where everybody is waiting to move on and precious minutes cannot be wasted over things like badly made flutes.

Somehow that place wouldn't be the same without the man with the flute. Although no one volunteers to inspect his products or to take the time out to stop and listen to the music, everything falls into place by divine intervention. People have to stop and listen whether they have the time or not, thanks to the congestions. And the flutist himself seems to be least affected with the fact that his sales are in a slump. There is a certain air about him, that of the artist who is playing for the joy of it, not bogged down with financial worries.

The sad notes from his magic flute takes your mind to a place in your heart where time loses significance and the mind is refreshed. It is then that you are able to comprehend what J.R.R. Tolkien meant in his book *The Silmarillion* when he said that in the beginning of the universe, there was music. You are able to imagine one not rolling out onto the darkness and turmoil, echoing through the times and ending up in a melody. The flute player is so engrossed in his music that even if you ever decided to buy a flute from him some day, you might not have the heart to break into this reverie and destroy this dream sequence in the city of worthless pursuits.

Streets musicians apart, there are those of us who can rise above our inhibitions and break into a song anytime, anywhere. Like the singing quartet one night a Bally Road. They were just walking along when one of them started singing a folk song. Soon all of them picked up the tune and continued in a chorus. People looked on as the do in Dhaka whether you do something out of the ordinary or not but the four were least concerned. When there is a song in your heart, nothing else can intrude on your bliss.

There were the men in a rickshaw singing a Bhupen Hajarika hit, *Sharat Babu*. Although it wasn't the right season for that song, but as long as the tune was right, the singers had passion, who cared? In a city where we are used to hearing vulgar Hindi songs hummed around us, we get so startled by innocent renditions that *Sharat Babu* also gets scrutinized for suggestive innuendos. This does not say much about our psychological well-being. But all said and done, when the scrutiny is over, the guild of suspicion is dealt with and shoved at the back of the mind, we get to enjoy the music. What if it isn't Ravi Shankar or Erico or the Phantom of the Opera at the Royal Albert Hall, it has more down-to-earth fell to it. It is closer to the heart.



The Awami Ain Chhatra Parishad brought out a procession in the city yesterday demanding trial of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's killers. — Star photo

What's on today...

Publication of book on Sultan: The publication ceremony of a commemorative book on S M Sultan, published by the Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy to mark the artist's 72nd birth anniversary, will be held. Venue: Academy seminar room. Time: 5 pm.

IUBAT seminar: The International University of Business Agriculture and Technology has organised a seminar on "Transfer of management technology to LDCs: Some critical issues". Venue: IUBAT, House-135, Rd-9A, Dhanmondi. Time: 4 pm.

Bangladesh Unnayan Parishad seminar: The Parishad has arranged a seminar on "Sharing the Ganges waters: In pursuit of a solution". Chief guest: Water Resources Minister Abdur Razzak. Venue: Hotel Sonargaon. Time: 9 am.

UNICEF survey report reveals 7.5 lakh children die yearly due to poor sanitation

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Aug 9: In Bangladesh 7,50,000 children die every year due to poor sanitary conditions and of them, 4,50,000 die from water-borne diseases.

These were revealed today at a workshop on promotion of sanitation organised jointly by Health Directorate and Public Health Engineering Directorate, sponsored by UNICEF, at the District Council auditorium.

It was also revealed that 28,000 tons of human excreta are passed in the open space daily in Bangladesh causing sanitation problems.

The above facts were based on a UNICEF survey report, said Kazi Ali Azam of Public Health Engineering, Director General of Health

Prof A K Shamsuddin Siddiqui who attended the function as chief guest, urged the health officials to gear up activities in their respective areas to promote health awareness and ensure proper service to the people.

The workshop was addressed, among others, by Dr Abdur Nur, Director of Health, Chittagong Division, Dr. Amjad Hossain, Civil Surgeon, Chittagong, Prof Dr. Sultanul Alam, Dr. Mojaheerul Islam and Kairul Bashir.

Milad at official residence of Khaleda

A milad mahfil was held at 29 Minto Road, the official residence of Leader of the Opposition, after Asr prayers yesterday, reports UNB.

A large number of leaders and workers of the BNP and its front organisations attended the milad.

Special prayer were offered for the continued peace, development and solidarity of the country and people.

Leader of the Opposition Begum Khaleda Zia, former Speaker Shaikh Razzak Ali, BNP leaders A S M Mostafizur Rahman, Majid-ul-Haq, Barrister Abdus Salam Talukdar, Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, Tariqul Islam, Barrister Rafiqul Islam Miah, M Shamsul Islam, Khandaker Delwar Hossain, Mir Shawkat Ali, Dr. A Gani, Iskandar Ali, M K Nwar, Barrister Jamir Uddin Sircar, Fazlur Rahman Patol, Prof Abdul Mannan, Nazrul Islam Khan, Haris Chowdhury, Goyeshwar Chandra Roy, Major (Retd) Halizuddin, Amanullah Aman, Barrister Aminul Haq and Fazlul Haq Milroy attended the milad.

After the milad, Begum Zia exchanged greetings with the party leaders and workers at her office room.

Rally demands repeal of Indemnity Act

LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Zillur Rahman yesterday said that Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's dream of 'sonar Bangla' will be materialised by achieving people's economic emancipation and establishing terrorism-free society, reports BSS.

The minister was addressing a rally in front of the Jatiya Press Club organised by Awami Ain Chhatra Parishad marking the National Mourning day on August 15, Shah Alam MP, Advocate Shahara Khatun, Quamrul Islam, Abdullah Abu, M A Karim, Nadim Mia, among others, addressed the rally, an official handout said.

At the rally, the speakers demanded repeal of the black Indemnity act and trial of the killers of Bangabandhu.

Earlier, the minister led a mourning procession of the lawyers, from the Awami League Central Office to the Jatiya Press Club.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Office of the Divisional Forest Officer Chittagong Forest Division Tender Notice

Tender No. 03 Dated: 30-7-96

1: Tenders are hereby invited from Importers Agents/Dealers/Suppliers/Manufacturers in sealed envelope for purchasing:

Item No. I) 15.24 cm x 10.16 cm x 0.04 mm L.D. Polythene bag	53,94,600 Nos=6346.58 kgs. (850 Nos. per Kg.)
Item No. II) 25.40 cm x 15.24 cm x 0.06mm L.D. Polythene bag	12,84,450 Nos=5137.80 Kgs. (250 Nos. per Kg.)

Under Forest Resources Management Project as per schedule of requirement and specifications.

2. Tenders will be received in the name of undersigned till 12:00 Noon of 10-9-96 at the Office of the Divisional Forest Officer, Chittagong Forest Division and at the Office of Asstt. Chief Conservator of Forests (General) Bana Bhaban, Mohakhali, Dhaka will be opened on the same day in presence of tenderer (if any) at 12:30 PM.

3. Name of work, tender memorandum number and date and name of Project are to be mentioned on the envelope while submitting the tender.

4. Details about the tender document, including schedule, specifications, instructions and general conditions etc. can be purchased from the office of the undersigned and from the office of the Asstt. Chief Conservator of Forests (General) Bana Bhaban, Mohakhali, Dhaka till 09-9-96 during office hours on payment of a non-refundable fee of Tk. 400/- (Four hundred) only; for each set.

5. Earnest money @ 2% of the quoted price will have to be submitted as per condition No. 8 of Tender documents.

DFP-17349-6/8 G-929

Divisional Forest Officer Chittagong Forest Division.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Office of the Divisional Forest Officer Coastal Afforestation Division Bhola Tender Notice for Supply of Polythene Bags

Tender Notice No 02 Dated: 1-8-96

It is hereby notified for general information that tenders are invited by the Divisional Forest Officer, Coastal Afforestation Division, Bhola from bonafide contractors/manufacturing firms/trading firms in their own printed pads under sealed cover for supply of transparent polythene bags as mentioned in the following schedule for use in raising seedlings in polythene bags at various nursery centres during 1996-97 under Coastal Green Belt Project. Tenders can be deposited in the tender box kept at the office of the undersigned directly or by post up to 12:00 Noon of 22-8-96. Tender can be sent by post or courier service but that must reach the office of the undersigned before the prescribed date & time. 5% (five per cent) of the tendered value should be deposited with the tender through Post Office Savings Bank Pass Book or scheduled bank's Bank Draft in favour of Divisional Forest Officer, Coastal Afforestation Division, Bhola.

Terms & conditions of tender and other information needed may be seen & obtained during office hours from the office of the undersigned up to the day before the date of submitting tender.

Serial No	Description of polythene bag	Size & thickness of bag	Number of bags per kg	Place of supply	Total quantity of bags	
					Number	Kg
1	Each bag one side open & the other side closed by heat press through machine should contain in two rows 6.0 cm dia 4 (four) holes at 5.0 cm from the bottom & 10.0 cm dia similar 4 (four) holes at 10.0 cm from the bottom — total 8 (eight) holes. Colour of bag should be completely transparent. No frosted bag will be accepted.	25cm x 15cm x 0.8cm	180-190 Nos	1. Monpura Range 2. Daulatkhan Range 3. Charfasson Range 4. Kukri Mukri Range 5. Forest Extension Nursery Centre, Bhola.	725398 Nos	3921.07

DFP-17102-4/8 G-931

Abdullah Al Mamun Chowdhury Divisional Forest Officer Coastal Afforestation Division Bhola.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Office of the Executive Engineer SB Nagar PWD Division No.1, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka PWD Tender Notice

No: 10/1996-97 Dated: 4.8.96

1. Sealed tenders in Bangladesh Form No. 2911 are hereby invited from the enlisted pre-qualified contractors of PWD selected by Addl. Chief Engineer, PWD Dhaka Zone, and Chairman Scrutiny Committee, vide Memo No. 1176/1(5) dt. 3.8.96 for the undermentioned works and will be received by the undersigned as well as by the Executive Engineer, SB Nagar PWD Divn. No. I/II/III/Mohakhali/Eden Bldg./Dhaka PWD Divn. I/II/III/IV/City PWD Divn. /Medical College/Azimpur/Motijheel/ Savar/Mirpur/Resource/Maintenance PWD Divn., Dhaka up to 12:00 Noon of 3.9.96 and will be opened on the same day at 12:15 pm in presence of the intending tenderers who may like to remain present. Each tender shall be in a sealed cover with the name of work with group on it. No tender will be sold to a contractor/firm who has no VAT registration.

- Name of work: Establishment of National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases Hospital at SB Nagar, Dhaka Phase-II (SH):
 - Group-I: Constn. of 2nd floor over the existing 1st floor in middle Block inc. Civil, Internal Sanitary & water supply arrangement & internal electrical works.
 - Group-II: Constn. of South Block (Ground, 1st & 2nd floor) inc. Civil, Sanitary and water supply arrangement & internal electrical works.
- Estimated cost: Gr. I: Tk. 2,83,48,565/- Gr. II: Tk. 4,83,07,899/-
- Earnest money: Gr. I: Tk. 5,66,972/- Gr. II: Tk. 9,66,158/-
- Time allowed for completion of work from the date of work order: Gr. I: 10 (ten) months. Gr. II: 18 (eighteen) months.

6. Contract documents consisting of BD. Form No. 2911, detailed tender notice, schedule of items, additional terms and conditions etc. can be seen and obtained from the office of the undersigned and the Executive Engineer, SB Nagar PWD Divn. No. I/II/III/Mohakhali PWD Divn./Eden Bldg./Dhaka PWD Divn. I/II/III/IV/City PWD Divn. /Medical College/Azimpur/Motijheel/Savar/Mirpur/Resource Divn., Dhaka on all working days during office hours up to 2.9.96 on payment of usual charges of Tk. 750/- per set of schedule and Tk. 25/- per copy of Tender Form No. 2911 (Both Non-refundable). The tender form may be purchased by the contractor/firm himself/herselves or his/her representatives on production of authorised letter bearing the signature of the representative duly attested by the contractor/firm and VAT registration certificate. No tender form will be sold after 2.9.96.

Rezaul Islam Executive Engineer SB Nagar PWD Division-I, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka.

Programmes to mark Nat'l Mourning Day

Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, Bangla Academy, National Museum and Nazrul Institute have chalked out elaborate programmes to mark the National Mourning Day on August 15, the death anniversary of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, reports BSS.

The Shilpakala Academy programmes will start at 7 pm at the academy auditorium. The programme will feature important speeches of Bangabandhu, documentary on Liberation War, famous songs on Liberation War broadcast by Shwadin Bangla Betar Kendro, songs written especially to pay tribute to Bangabandhu.

Bangla Academy will organise a reminiscence at the

academy premises at 4 pm. Eminent intellectuals including poet Sufia Kamal will be present on the occasion. Besides, a recitation competition for children will also be held on the day at 9 am.

Bangladesh National Museum will hold a discussion meeting at its auditorium on August 14 at 5 pm on the life and activities of Bangabandhu.

Nazrul Institute will place wreath at the portrait of Bangabandhu at Bangabandhu Smriti Museum at 7 am. It will hold a discussion at 5 pm and a soiree of patriot songs at 7 pm at the academy auditorium.

A recitation competition of Nazrul's poem among the students of Nazrul Institute will be held today at 10 am to mark the National Mourning Day.

Weather

Temperature may rise

Light to moderate rain or thundershower accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at many places over Chittagong, Barisal, Sylhet divisions and at a few places over Dhaka, Khulna, Rajshahi divisions in the next 12 hours till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

Met Office predicted day temperature may rise by 1 to 2 degrees Celsius across the country. Country's highest temperature 34.0 degrees Celsius, was recorded at Sylhet and the lowest, 24.0 degrees, at Chuadanga and Rangamati.

The sun sets today at 6:36 pm and rises tomorrow at 5:32 am.

Maximum and minimum temperatures and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	32.5	26.0	82	78
Chittagong	32.4	24.8	-	78
Rajshahi	33.0	25.6	-	96
Khulna	32.3	24.8	82	76
Barisal	31.8	24.5	82	75
Sylhet	34.0	25.1	85	67
Cox's Bazar	31.0	24.5	-	80

Appointment

By Staff Correspondent Iktidar Ahmed, Deputy Secretary (Law), Election Commission (EC), has been appointed director of the Judicial Training Institute (JTI), according to official sources.

The JTI has been created as an autonomous body for training of personnels employed in the judicial service and to improve upon the management of the courts in the country.

Iktidar Ahmed joined in 1981 as assistant judge and also worked as additional district and sessions judge prior to his posting at the Election Commission as its deputy secretary.

Ali Kabir new NSC Secretary

The government has appointed A S M Ali Kabir as Secretary of the National Sports Council, reports BSS. Kabir will succeed Fazlur Rahman Khan, who was appointed as Secretary of Water Resources Planning Organisation.

199 arrested

Police rounded up 199 people on various charges from different parts of the city yesterday, reports UNB.

The arrested include two convicted and 36 wanted criminals. Besides, 54 people were held on charges of murder, dacoity, snatching, toll extortion and terrorism.

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