

# Dhaka Day by Day

## A Taste of Bach with Ballet

By Fayza Haq

There was political trouble brewing in the city that Tuesday. It is not easy to get public vehicles to return home from Osmani Memorial Hall late in the evening. Yet there was a large turnout at the Ballet Atlantique's performance of Soli Bach. All went well at first. The ballet dancer did a superb job of expressing the message of Bach's music in pantomime. There were no stage props except for the carpets and with nothing special for costume, the ballet dancer did her job, giving a new angle to the dance.

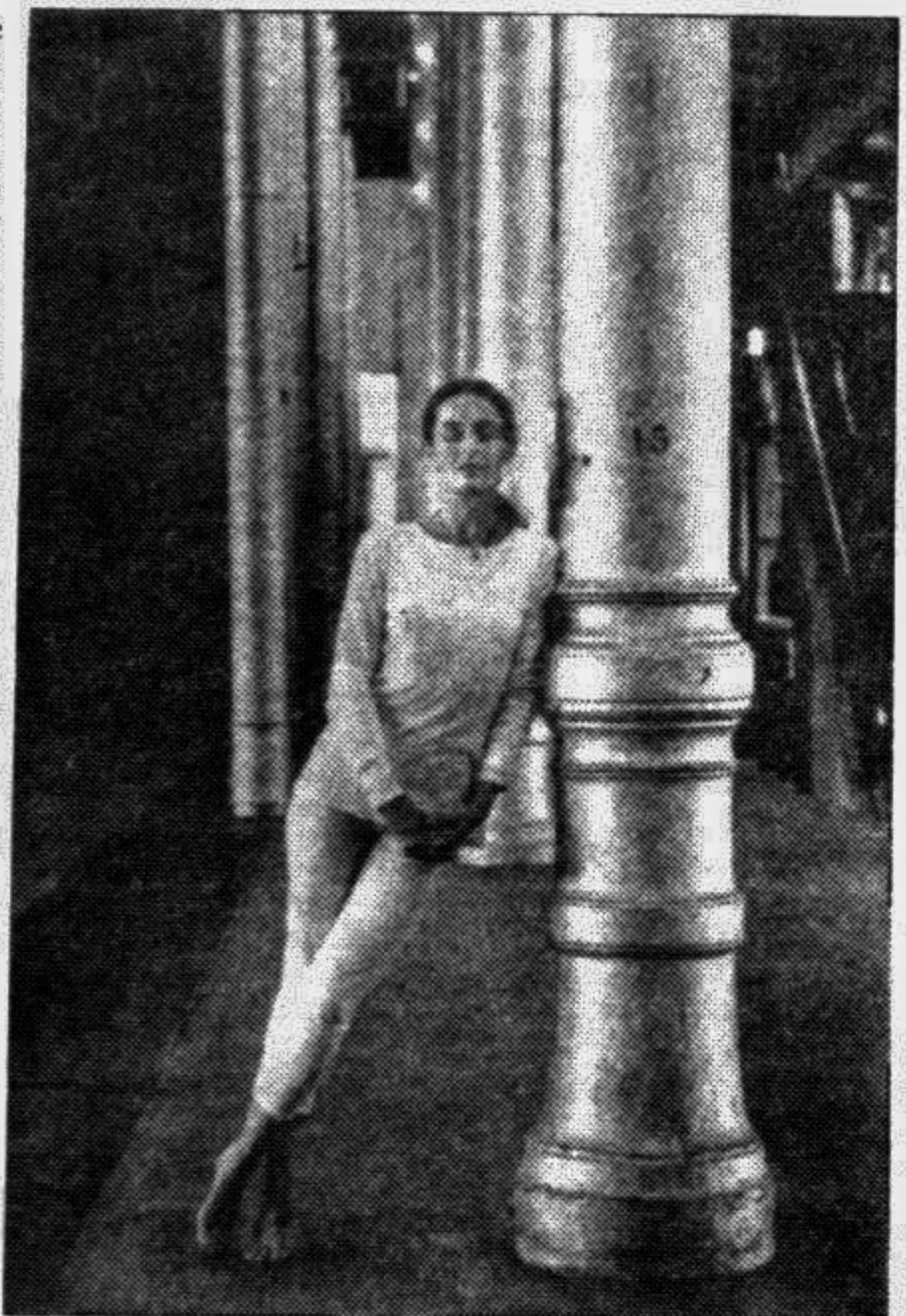
Some people in the audience compared it to the American Ballet that visited Dhaka last year and which brought the story of the Red Indians, their myths, legends and culture. Some viewers had been fascinated by US troupe and missed the colour, pageantry and visual splendour in the French presentation. But all in all this was a more metaphysical and high-browed approach to dance and music. At the same time it could be interpreted as a degree more avant garde and open.

As the curtain came down on the first piece, resounding ovation followed. However ill fate dogged the steps of the young, outgoing and enthusiastic troupe. Jerome Fernoo, the cellist, while going to the wings in the pitch dark, tripped on the carpet and smashed his 200-year old antique cello into smithereens. The Osmani Memorial Hall electrical engineering authorities felt that the French dancers were

were extremely sensitive to the nuances of the culture of the subcontinent that they were visiting. They had already performed at Bombay and Calcutta and were due to be at Islamabad and Ahmedabad. The troupe members did not say "We have just been between hotel walls. It was difficult to learn about Bangladeshi culture in a couple of days," or that "Eastern and western music are totally different things; there's no way they can come together." They had already experienced and learned the

details of eastern values of aesthetics. They were sympathetic to ragas, literature and philosophy of the East. Regine prided in having been to India and watching music and dance performances there. Regine, who began dancing publicly at age of 5, was ecstatic about matters like the music of Ravi Shankar the Bharat Natyam the star, the sarodh and the tabla, she said she was fascinated by the subcontinental life-style of the sari and chicken curry. She is one of those exponents who feel that the music of the East and West can be combined with success. "Music of both the East and West have the same purpose," Regine says, she is now a choreographer for 18 years and does not have to teach to make ends meet like some other musicians.

"Bach is very contemporary. He has the same preoccupations as we have today," she adds about her choice of Bach for the evening



Regine Chopinot the choreographer of Soli-Bach

to be blamed themselves for not having sufficient light as they themselves had requested pitch darkness.

The audience was shocked to learn about the catastrophe, and although the people were returned their tickets, and in due time, refunded their money, they gathered like startled magpies and stood in the premises discussing and musing about the mishap for at least half an hour.

It was a pity that the delightful ballet programme, so rare in Dhaka, brought all the way from Europe, had to meet such an unlucky end. Sometimes visiting musicians and dancers can be quite snobbish about coming from the developed countries but the Soli-Bach choreographer, Regine Chopinot, and the dancers like Virginie Garcia

The harmony between the cello and the dancers is the gist of the ballet. The music of Bach is interpreted in a modern way. It is not mere entertainment but an expression of the inner self and an interpretation of the music in hand," she explains further.

The audience had the opportunity to see at least Virginie Garcia, 26, in action. Virginie too was intrigued by the philosophy and culture of the subcontinent which she described as "illuminating." Like Regine, she was also full of praise for eastern music.

Would it have been possible to have avoided the debacle? The troupe could hardly have been expected to carry a second cello or bring with them some relevant taped music to save the day. This was one blue day in Alliance Francaise's calendar.

### What's on today...

**Painting show:** Rotary Club of Dhaka Mid City has arranged a two-day painting exhibition with 25 selected works of Ashok Karmakar. The inaugural session will be followed by musical soiree, reception to the artist. A drama will also be staged. Elderly artist Mohammad Kibria will inaugurate the show. Venue: Muktiyuddha Jadugarh auditorium. Time: 6 pm.

**Dental Assoc installation ceremony:** The installation ceremony of newly-elected central executive council of the Bangladesh Dental Association will be held. Chief guest: Mohammad Zillur Rahman, Minister for LGRD & Cooperatives. Venue: Ballroom of the Sheraton Hotel. Time: 9:30 am.

**'Bangladesh Panorama':** The concluding session of the week-long 'Bangladesh Panorama', a programme of Dhaka University Film Society as part of its year-long programme marking the 100 yrs of cinema will be held. Chief guest: State Minister of Information Prof Abu Sayeed. Venue: TSC auditorium, Dhaka University. Time: 5 pm.

**CCCUG AGM:** The inaugural ceremony of the 36th annual general meeting of the Christian Co-operative Credit Union Ltd will be held. Zillur Rahman, LGRD and Cooperatives Minister will attend the function as chief guest. Venue: Batmali Home Girls' High School, Tejgaon. Time: 10:30 am.

**Soviet Alumni Assoc:** Soviet Alumni Association, Bangladesh has arranged a blood donation programme. Venue: Lions Blood Bank, 2, New Baily Road. Time: 10 am.

**Baha'i community programme:** The Baha'i community of the city has arranged a programme marking the 'International Peace Day'. Venue: National Baha'i Centre, Circuit House Road. Time: 5:30 pm.

**Rotary Club of Rama:** The club has arranged a conference on 'New Generation'. Eminent scholars and intellectuals will respond and suggest probable solutions. Venue: BARC auditorium, Farm Gate. Time: 9 am-12 noon.

**CME programme:** The Bangladesh Academy of Family Physicians has arranged a lecture session as part of its Continuing Medical Education (CME) programme. Venue: Lecture Room, The Bangladesh Society of Ultrasonography, 10/7, Eastern Plaza (9th floor), Hatirpool. Time: 9 am to 12 noon.

### Weather

#### Heavy rainfall in Ctg likely

Moderately heavy rainfall may occur at one or two places over Chittagong division during the next 12 hours till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

Met office said, light to moderate rain and thundershower accompanied by temporary gusty wind are likely at a few places over Chittagong, Barisal and Dhaka divisions and at one or two places over Khulna, Rajshahi and Sylhet divisions during the period.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.

Meanwhile, Met Office recorded 120 mm rainfall at Sylhet, 44 mm at Cox's Bazar, 29 mm at Comilla, 19 at Rangpur, and 13 mm each in Dhaka and Jessore in last 24 hours till 6 pm Thursday.

Country's highest temperature was recorded 34.5 degrees Celsius at Rajshahi and the lowest 22.2 degrees at Kutubdia.

The sun sets today at 5:57 pm and rises tomorrow at 5:47 am.

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

| City/Town  | Temperature in Celsius |      | Humidity in percentage |         |
|------------|------------------------|------|------------------------|---------|
|            | max                    | min  | morning                | evening |
| Dhaka      | 32.2                   | 26.5 | 93                     | 86      |
| Chittagong | 30.5                   | 26.0 | 89                     | 82      |
| Rajshahi   | 34.5                   | 26.0 | 88                     | 86      |
| Khulna     | 34.0                   | 26.0 | 78                     | 87      |
| Barisal    | 32.8                   | 25.4 | 88                     | 88      |
| Sylhet     | 30.5                   | 23.5 | 100                    | 82      |

## ADMISSION NOTICE

### THE UNIVERSITY OF ASIA PACIFIC

[A private university established under the Private Universities Act, 1992]  
House # 71, Road # 5A (off Satmasjid Road), Dhanmondi R/A, Dhaka

#### FALL SEMESTER : 1996

The University of Asia Pacific (UAP), a university established under The Private Universities Act, 1992, and founded by The Foundation for Human and Social Development, invites application for admission into the undergraduate course in the following disciplines:

- Architecture
- Business Administration
- Civil Engineering
- Computer Science & Informatics
- Computer Science & Technology
- Electronics & Communication
- Pharmacy
- Women Studies.

**Eligibility:** An applicant must have (i) passed HSC examination in 1994 or 1995 with at least a high second division; or (ii) completed GCSE 'O' level examination in at least five subjects with a good 'SAT' score or (iii) passed 'A' level examination in at least two relevant subjects. A student who has appeared in HSC examination in 1996 is also eligible to apply. However, such admission will be dependent on results as per the aforesaid criteria. Further details are available from the Dean's office.

**Application form:** Application forms can be obtained from the Dean's office of the University during week-days from 0900-1500 hours on payment of Tk. 200/-.

**Campus:** The campus is located at Road 5A off Satmasjid Road, Dhanmondi R/A, Dhaka, the former offices of UNICEF.

**Faculty:** Academic programmes will be conducted by a competent and experienced faculty having teaching experience both in Bangladesh and abroad.

**Foreign Collaboration:** UAP has already finalised arrangements with a number of universities in Australia and USA for academic and technical collaboration covering such areas as student exchange, award of degrees, faculty support, joint programme activities, etc. These universities include Virginia Polytechnic Institute, Blacksburg and South Dakota's Science and Engineering University, Rapid City, of USA, and University of New England, Armidale and Australian Language Centre, Sydney, of Australia. Negotiations are underway with University of Canberra, Australia, and London Institute to Technology and Research of UK for similar collaboration.

**Fees:** Total fees (registration, admission, tuition fees etc.) will vary between Tk. 30 and 40 thousand per semester depending on the discipline.

**Financial Assistance:** Deserving meritorious students will be awarded substantial financial support for pursuing studies at the university on a continuing basis subject to satisfactory academic performance.

**Commencement of Classes:** Classes will commence mid-October 1996.

Prof. S A Chowdhury  
Dean of Studies  
(Former Vice-Chancellor  
Shahjalal University of Science & Technology)

Hedayat Ahmed  
Vice-Chancellor

# It's incredibly NEW!

## It's.... IGL'OO

### The #1 choice... Now!

Our new technologically advanced state-of-the-art 'Straightline Extrusion System' ensures Supreme product quality, taste, and sanitation. And only IGL'OO has this advanced System in all of SOUTH ASIA!



Hazelnut with Vanilla and Chocolate on SUGAR CONE

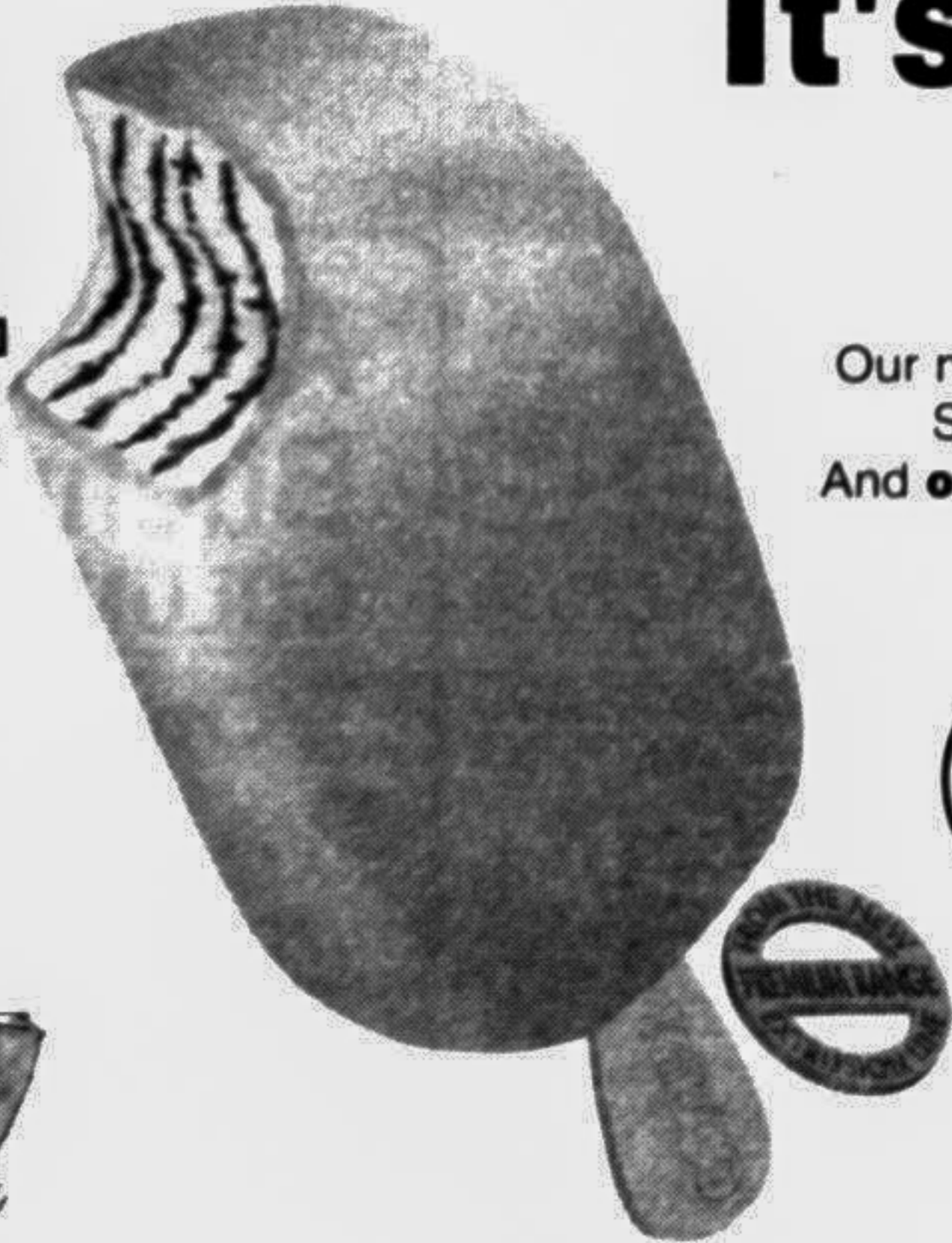
Chocolate, Vanilla & Strawberry with BUBBLE GUM

### Why IGL'OO is The #1 choice... Now!

- We follow the strictest International Standards for Ice-Cream nutrition, manufacturing and hygiene.
- We use only the best European recipes for creating our Ice-Cream.
- All our Ice-cream ingredients and machinery are imported from Denmark right down to the wrappers & sticks
- We're the only Ice-cream makers to offer exclusive parlors with the distinct variety and flavor of parlor Ice-Cream.
- We're the pioneering Ice-Cream company in Bangladesh since 1962.
- We're also the Coca-Cola bottlers and makers of AMOMILK.

Because they deserve the best and your you care with IGL'OO

It's MEGA  
Ripple, coated with WHITE CHOCOLATE



Magic Show

Bingo

CARTOONS

MUSIC

GREAT PRIZES

exciting SURPRISES!!!!!!

TODAY

## IGL'OO Ice-Cream FAIR-Sheraton Family Brunch

WHERE ALL ICE-CREAM IS 15% OFF.

From 9:00AM- 4:00PM at Dhaka Sheraton Hotel, Pool Side

Sheraton Family Brunch is offering a separate Buffet and Barbeque for only Tk. 450 per child (under 12) & Tk. 650 per ADULT