

Dhaka Day by Day

"Madonna Not My Cup of Tea"

by Fayza Haq

The tickets for the performance of Reinhard Goebel and his group of 18 of Ensemble Musica Antiqua Cologne were reasonable indeed. The auditorium at the National Museum was packed to the brim — and it included both locals and expatriates. Baroque music was being presented with confidence and suavity to people eager for good entertainment.

Talking to Reinhard, the leader of the team at the Sheraton lobby, before he rushed off to practice with his colleagues at the Goethe Institut, I realised that he had begun playing the violin at the age of 12.

With his nose bloated with the effect of humidity of Dhaka, wearing Bermuda shorts and T-shirt, carrying his violin bag, he says, "Like the language of every piece of art, music is international. However, Italian concerto is best played in an Italian church... chamber music is most suitable in a private place... our own music fits German listeners... French Music is best appreciated by the French listeners," when asked where concert music is best played in Europe.

Discussing whether the present cult of video music was badly affecting the popularity of classical music, Reinhard says, "Now all you have to do is press a button and you get music. It is easier to watch television than to rehearse for hours. Video cult is certainly damaging the development of a broader understanding for classical arts. Madonna, Prince and Michael Jackson are not a part of my world and certainly not my cup of tea".

Dwelling on the popularity of concert music, Reinhard, with his graying cropped crew-cut hair says vehemently, "Classical concert music is still popular but now the border between concert and entertainment is fluid. The market for classical music is growing as people have spare time. There is still a huge demand for classical music in Europe."

The only reason I'm a bit hesitant to come to the subcontinent to places like Nepal and India is because our musical instruments are badly affected by the humidity of the region. However, our trip to

Bangladesh and the neighbouring countries was decided two years ago and I'm glad my team can play to the people here. We have left the old instruments behind and brought copies with us," Reinhard confides.

"Yes I've heard ragas. I'm not the type to say 'It's beautiful.' It's amazing. I frankly find Indian classical music difficult to understand. The same applies to Chinese and Japanese music. My head is so full of my own type of concert music that I have no time for any other kind of music," Reinhard says frankly.



"If Mozart could discover Turkish music, I don't see why the music of the east and west cannot be combined with good effect although Indian music is quite different from baroque violin," he says further, when asked if he felt that eastern and western music could be combined.

"The concerts are very close to each other. Every second day you have to go to different places and there is no time to get impressions of the different countries. If you are in a place for a short time, you cannot really enjoy it," Reinhard gives his frank impression of his tour.

Reinhard was born in Cologne and has 100 CD recordings over the last 20 years.

I got an opportunity to get in a few words with Florian Deuter, Reinhard's colleague before the group of nine men and nine women

got into a bus and hastened for concert practice. He says, "It is wonderful to travel 10,000 kilometers and address our music to the local people. We must get used to short applause too" Florian most probably had no idea that the next day the applauses at Dhaka would be thunderous.

"Pop music uses TV and video and reaches out to more. But classical and modern music can coexist. I personally like listening to jazz with its mixing of melodies," Florian adds.

Reinhard's ensemble enhanced our appreciation of baroque music as we listened to the various instruments ranging from the violin and viola to the flute, oboe, cembalo and bassoon.

Photo caption: Reinhard Goebel and Florian Deuter

Chirac, Mugabe greet Shahabuddin

More world leaders have felicitated President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed on his assuming the office of President of Bangladesh, reports BSS.

In a message sent to Justice Ahmed, French President Jacques Chirac said France and Bangladesh have been enjoying a relation of friendship and confidence since long.

Chirac said, "Under the perspective of the development of our economic exchanges and our mutual cooperation, the important role played by your country in the international domain justifies that this bond will be strengthened further and it seems to me that we can work together towards this end."

In another congratulatory message, Zimbabwean President R G Mugabe said, "I wish on behalf of the government and people of Zimbabwe, and in my own name, to convey to you our warm congratulations on your assumption of duty as President of the People's Republic of Bangladesh."

"I avail myself of this opportunity to express satisfaction with the excellent relations that happily exist between our two countries and peoples, and to wish you personal good health," he added.

Customs detects tax-evasion co

Customs intelligence detected a big computer import company depriving the government of crores of Taka by means of tax-evasion, reports UNB.

Official sources said the firm evaded paying huge amount of money in customs duty and value added tax (VAT) through import of computer and spares by heavily underinvoicing the consignments.

Customs Intelligence Department is now investigating the matter to find out how much revenue the government has lost to the company in the past few years.

NAP leaders concerned at fertiliser crisis

Central leaders of National Awami Party (NAP) yesterday expressed deep concern at fertilizer crisis prevailing in southern part of the country, reports UNB.

Prof Muzaffar Ahmed and advocate Md Nurul Alam, President and General Secretary respectively of NAP in a statement called upon the government to ensure supply of fertilizer to the farmers to help them grow crops.

What's on today....

Seminar on tourism: In observance of Tourism Month '96, a seminar on "Problems of Development of Tourism and their Solutions" will be held. Chief guest: Prof Abu Sayeed, Minister for Information. Venue: Children's Auditorium, National Museum, Shahbagh. Time: 4 pm.

Film show: Award winning films — "David" by Peter Lilienthal and "Les Cousins" by Claude Chabrol — will be screened. Venue: Gothe Institute, House: 10, Rd: 9 (New), Dhanmondi. Time: 4 pm and 6:30 pm respectively.

Rotary Club of Dilkusha: The club will hold a 'vocational award ceremony '96.' Venue: Hotel Purbani. Time: 5 pm.

Rotary club of Dhaka Central: The weekly meeting will be held. Venue: Dhaka Club. Time: 1:30 pm.

Rotary Club of Dhaka North: The weekly meeting will be held. Venue: Sonargaon Hotel. Time: 5:30 pm.

JEXCA meet: A meeting of the executive committee of Jhenidah Ex-Cadets Association will be held. Venue: 2/48, 3rd floor, ABC House, 8 Kemal Ataturk Avenue, Banani. Time: 5 pm.

Laboratory opens at IUB

A Composite Laboratory after the name of Ispahani was opened at the Independent University Bangladesh (IUB) here on October 14, reports UNB.

Mirza Mehdy Ispahani unveiled the plaque of the laboratories consisting of Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Environmental Science and Geographic Information Services.

The laboratories have been named in recognition of generous support received from Ispahani, said a press release yesterday.

IUB President Dr A Majeed Khan, members of the Board of Trustees and the faculties, staffs and students were present at the inaugural ceremony.

Washing powder from rice hull ash developed

Scientists at the BCSIR laboratories (science laboratory) in the city have developed a process for the production of washing powder from rice hull white ash, reports BSS.

The washing powder can be used for cleaning plates made of steel and other utensils used for household purposes, according to a press release.

The process has been leased out to a local entrepreneur for commercial production within one year.

Chief scientific officer of BCSIR Dr Mohammad Golbar Hossain led the research team.



AARONG CHECK

The BRAC Textile produced cotton handloom (100%) Aarong check is now available in all the Aarong shops & Aarong Economy shops located in Zindabazar of Sylhet, and Comilla. The Aarong check is also available at all RDP Regional Offices located in Kushtia, Bogra, Barisal, and the rest of the regions.



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BCIC Corrigendum Notice

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Sub: Extension of Opening Date of Tender

This is for information of all concerned that the opening date of Tender No Pur-3.1438/96-97 dated 02.10.96 for procurement of 50,000 MT Urea (±5% at seller's option) on C&F (C) Chittagong/Mongla liner terms basis, has been extended from 23.10.96 to 28.10.96. The Tender shall now be opened on 28.10.96 at 11.00 AM at the same place specified in the Tender Enquiry.

All other terms and conditions shall remain unchanged.

Selim Waiz

BCIC 1096-20/10/96
D-1132General Manager (Purchase)
BCIC, Dhaka.

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1600 digital lines cut-off in Nilkhet

By Staff Correspondent

Some 1600 digital telephone lines under Nilkhet Exchange have remained cut-off for nearly two weeks, according to T&T officials.

The T&T authorities are replacing the faulty old cables of these lines with new cables. But the replacement work has re-

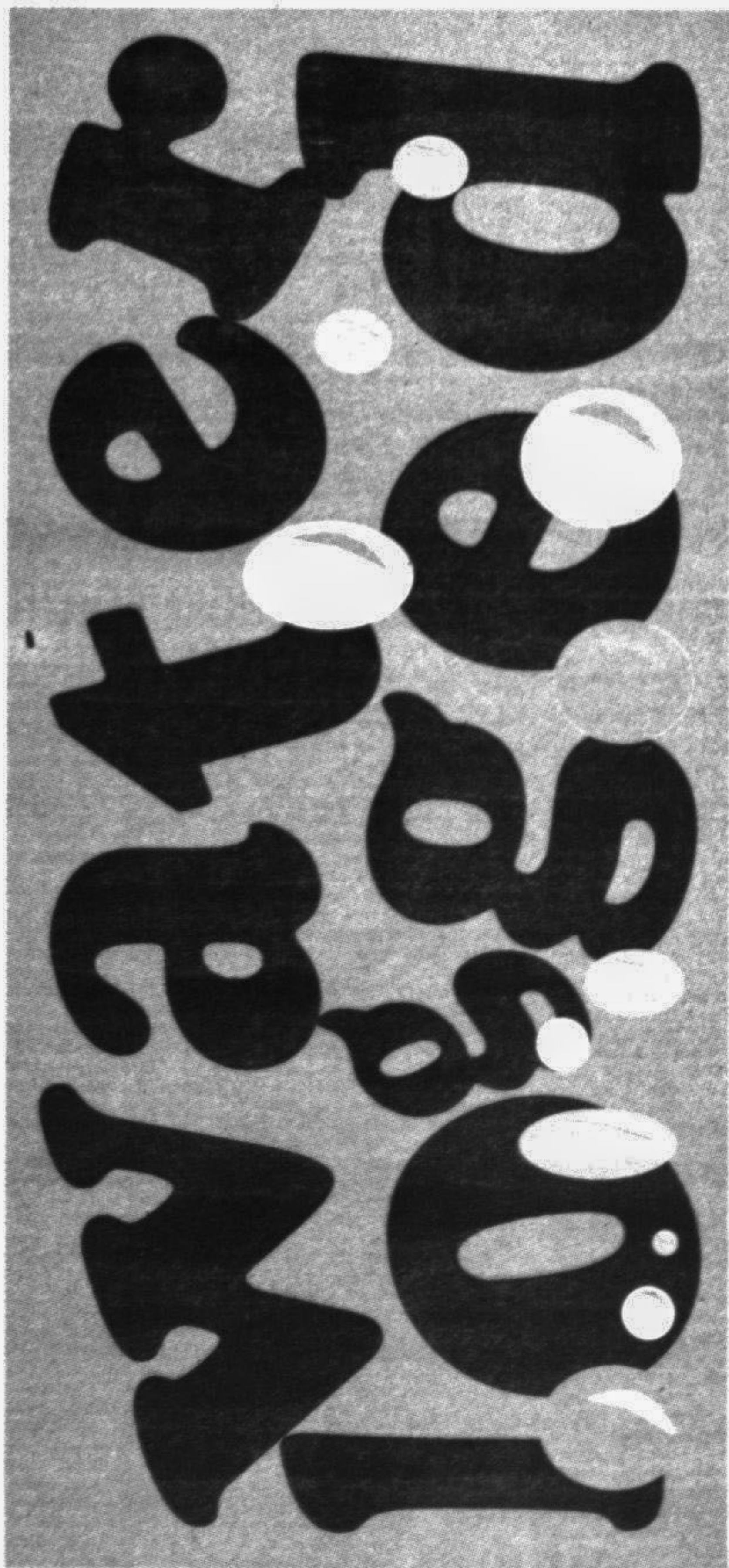
mained unusually slow.

Hundreds of telephone subscribers of Hatirpool, Bhoote-gali, Central Road and Green Road are crowding the Science Laboratory telephone station with complaints everyday.

According to subscribers, the T&T cut off their lines without

any prior notice. The authorities had been assuring them of immediate connection everyday but no progress seemed have taken place.

Officials at the Nilkhet Exchange, when contacted, said that the installation of new cables will be completed soon.



Scene : 10 am, Shantinagar C/A, after a short downpour

SO ?



I'll be there.