

Harrison's Concert For Bangladesh on DVD

UNDATED, Internet

Warner Music is releasing the double DVD and CD of "The Concert For Bangladesh" by George Harrison & friends on October 24.

In the summer of 1971 the late-great George Harrison organised a massive concert at Madison Square Garden in New York. It's an event that is still talked about over three decades later.

The Beatles and his close friend Ravi Shankar were inspired to raise money for the millions of refugees forced to escape their war-torn country.

They enlisted their friends Bob Dylan, Eric Clapton, Ringo Starr, Leon Russell and Billy Preston to perform with them at what has become an historic event.

The package includes the original 99 minutes concert footage, a 45 minute documentary with exclusive interviews with Sir Bob Geldof and Kofi Annan, and loads of other bonus footage, according to a report posted online on the entertainmentwise.com.

To win one of two copies of this special DVD, just answer the following question:

George Harrison was a member of which famous band?

IOJ LEADER MURDER

Mita's family alleges police torture

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The family of Samina Haq Mita, who was arrested in connection with the murder of Islami Oikya Jote (IOJ) leader Iqbal Bin Yaqub in Chittagong, yesterday alleged that the police have been harassing and torturing them in the name of investigation.

The family members sought intervention of the prime minister and the home minister to stop such harassment.

At a press conference, they said that Mita is in no way involved in the murder and that she had no extramarital affair with the slain IOJ leader.

They also alleged that neither their lawyer nor any of them was allowed to meet Mita, now detained at the Kotwali Police Station.

On the other hand, Mita admitted to having a relationship with Maulana Iqbal.

"I didn't have any link to the murder, but I do admit that I have a close relationship with him and we used to meet at a city hotel," she told reporters at the police station yesterday afternoon.

Speaking at the press conference, Mita's mother-in-law Rahena Begum Chowdhury said, "Police picked up Mita on the night of October 18 in the name of interrogation and she was shown arrested under Section 54 two days later. Since then, police have been torturing me, my daughter, my grandchildren and other relatives. They have even ransacked our furniture in the name of search."

"In the last few days, the police led by the assistant commissioner of Kotwali Zone raided my house 33 times and the house of my relatives 19 times," she added.

Mita's 15-year-old son Amit and 13-year-old daughter Anannya burst into tears at the press conference. "Our mother can never be involved in such heinous activities," they said.

Amit said that a police official was pressing him to give false statement about his mother.

Mita's lawyer Mohammad Mohiuddin said, "The family members and I have tried many times to meet Mita at the police station, but police simply denied us access."

Mita's mother Laila Begum was also present at the press conference held at the Chittagong Press Club.

Meanwhile, Iqbal's business partner Abdur Rahim, also a Jamaat-Islami leader, who was detained but released later, said there was no business or political motive behind the murder.

At a press conference yesterday, he also expressed his ignorance of the relationship between Iqbal and Mita.

Journo Sheikh Rakib hospitalised

Sheikh Rakibuddin, senior journalist and diplomatic correspondent of the daily Independent, was admitted to the Birder hospital in the city due to diabetic complications yesterday, says a press release.

He has been suffering from various diseases for a long time. A month ago he was admitted to the National Institute of Heart Diseases for a week and then he was taking rest at his house.

Rakibuddin, also vice president of the Association of Diplomatic Correspondents, sought blessing and doa of all for his recovery.

Help save Pak quake victims

FPCCI special emissary appeals to Bangladesh business community

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A special emissary of Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) yesterday made an appeal to the business community of Bangladesh to extend its helping hand for his country's people severely affected by the recent devastating earthquake.

"Eighty percent houses were destroyed in the affected areas. Tents and blankets are now the most urgent needs to save hundreds of thousands of people, especially the women and children who are living under open sky and suffering from tremendous cold and rain," said Ikram ul-Majeed Sehgal.

Speaking at a press conference organised by Probe News Magazine at Dhaka Reporters' Unity auditorium in the city.

Sehgal said a lot of dead bodies are there to be buried and thousands to be fed.

"If prompt steps are not taken, the casualties might reach to 90,000," he added.

Sehgal, also Publisher and Chief Editor of Defence Journal of Pakistan, said his country received enough food assistance, but the affected people need at least 5,00,000 blankets, 2 to 2.5 million tents, and at least 400 doctors and many more volunteers apart from 30 to 40 hospitals to be set up there.

"All roads and rail communications were destroyed in most of the earthquake-affected areas, large part of which is mountainous. So, to recover the survivors from those areas we still need about 100 helicopters," he said, adding that about 2.5 million people are still homeless.

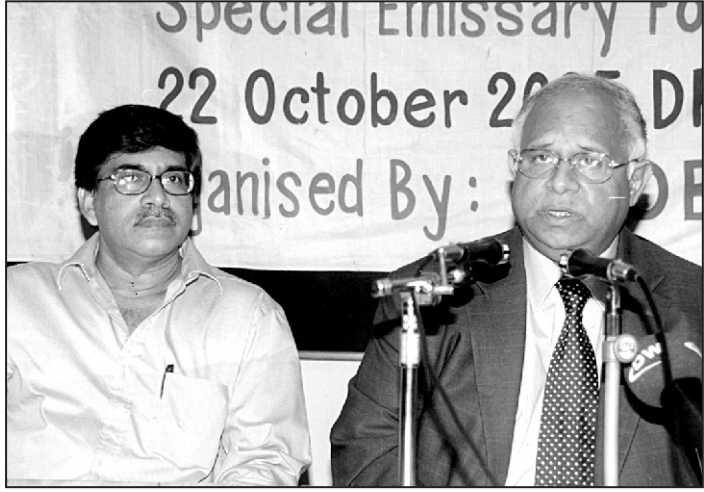


PHOTO: STAR

Ikram ul-Majeed Sehgal, special emissary of Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI), speaks at a press conference at the Dhaka Reporters' Unity auditorium in the city yesterday.

Sehgal said Pakistan would welcome helicopters and members of the army as volunteers from Bangladesh in its rehabilitation programme, as there is no controversy between these two countries.

On Pakistan's denial of receiving helicopters from India, the defence expert said, "There are already some conflicts between the two countries and naturally Pakistan does not want to take any risk in welcoming the army helicopters from that country."

"We are, however, very grateful to India. The way they responded in sending relief for Pakistan is really immense and laudable," he added.

Total rehabilitation of the victims would require at least 5 to 10 billion dollars, Sehgal said, adding, "Until now Pakistan has gathered not

more than one billion dollars."

"Bangladesh should have a comprehensive disaster management plan with all types of equipment and technologies to avert mass damage in the wake of such disaster," he suggested.

Sehgal said he will meet the leaders of Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) at 3:00pm today to give them the first hand picture of the unprecedented disaster that left about 60,000 people dead.

He will leave for New Delhi tomorrow to meet the leaders of Federation of India Chamber of Commerce and Industries in a similar mission.

Chief Editor of Probe News Magazine Irtiza Nazim Ali, and Editor Ayesha Kabir were present at the press conference.

Road accidents, injuries leading causes of child deaths

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Road accidents and injuries are the leading causes of death for the children aged between 10 and 14 years in the country, said the speakers at a discussion yesterday.

They said of all the child fatalities of road accidents nearly 82 percent are pedestrians.

The discussion was organised by Accident Research Centre (ARC) of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet) on the occasion of 'Road Safety Day-2005' at its premises in the city.

This year the theme of the day was 'Promote Pedestrians' Safety.'

The speakers said as reported to police, more than 4000 deaths occur on the roads each year and another 10,000 sustain disabling injuries. But actual number of deaths and injuries are much higher, they added.

Presenting a keynote paper Prof Md Mazharul Hoque, director of Accident Research Centre and head of civil engineering department of Buet, said trucks and buses are largely involved in accidents with the pedestrians.

He said the pedestrians become vulnerable to accidents when speeds are high and can suffer even fatal injuries by vehicles with moderate speed.

Speaking as chief guest Communications Minister Nazmul Huda stressed the need for integrated efforts to reduce road accidents.

He said realising the importance of

combating the road safety problems, the government took the decision to observe October 22 as 'Road Safety Day'.

Speaking as special guest Communications Secretary Md Shaiful Islam termed the BRTA a sick organisation.

He said if it worked properly there would be no defective motorised vehicle on the roads.

Eminent film actor and Chairman

of Nirapod Sarak Chai Ilias Kanchan stressed the need for expanding the highways and making the footpaths free from the encroachers for safe movement of the pedestrians.

Co-ordinator of the Centre for Rehabilitation of the Paralysis Valerie A Taylor, BRTA Chairman Dr MA Momen and NRSC member Prof M Anwar Hossain also spoke.

Buet Vice-chancellor Prof Alee Murtaza presided over the discussion.



PHOTO: STAR

Manusher Jonno Rasta (Road for People) took out a cycle procession in the city yesterday to mark the Safe Road Day, demanding a separate lane on roads for cycle riders.

WEATHER TODAY graphic with sun and cloud icons.

Light to moderate rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at most places over Barisal, Khulna, Rajshahi and Dhaka divisions and at many places over Chittagong and Sylhet divisions till 6:00pm today.

Moderately heavy to heavy falls are also expected at places, Met Office said predicting nearly unchanged day temperature over the country during the period.

Highest temperature 33.0 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Cox's Bazar and lowest 20.1 degree Celsius at Sayedpur.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:26pm today and rises at 6:00am tomorrow.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

Table with columns: City/Town, Temperature in Celsius (Max, Min), Humidity in percentage (Morning, Evening). Rows include Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi, Khulna, Barisal, Sylhet, Cox's Bazar.

PM leaves tomorrow for Umrah

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia goes to Saudi Arabia tomorrow to perform Umrah Hajj.

According to official sources, the prime minister will arrive at Madina to offer fatha at the holy Rawja Mubarak of Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (PBUH) and to say her prayers at Masjid-e-Nababi.

She will go to Makka on October 27 and perform Umrah Hajj.

The prime minister is scheduled to return home on October 31.

CULTURE OF PEACE

UN adopts Dhaka resolution

UNB, Dhaka

A resolution on 'Culture of Peace' tabled by Bangladesh was adopted by the General Assembly without a vote, according to a message received here yesterday.

The resolution mustered overwhelming support of the UN members.

It is "a great victory" for Bangladesh in its peace-building mission, said Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the United Nations Dr Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury following Thursday's passage of the resolution.

"This was a global acknowledgement of Bangladesh's current positive role in the international diplomatic arena," Iftekhar said.

The draft resolution had 107 co-sponsors, one of the highest in the annals of UN's recent legislative history, it said.

"Bangladesh has been at the forefront of the initiatives that promote greater understanding and tolerance among peoples. This, in our belief, is achievable through dialogue and cooperation," Iftekhar stated while introducing the resolution in the UN General Assembly.

"My country was born of a bloody conflict. We, therefore, see great value in the principles of tolerance, respect for diversity, democracy, and understanding," he told the UNGA session.

The resolution, among other things, asks the Secretary General to explore enhancing implementation mechanisms for this purpose within the UN system.

Dhaka believes that humanity, irrespective of the individual's culture and civilisation of faith, shares a lot of common values he said. "We should focus on those to build the connecting bridges, to close the gaps and to fasten the links," he added.

It would be in collective interest of all to devote resources and capacities, intellectual and material, in favour of this campaign, he said.

He concluded his statement with a strong plea that the resolution should get through the assembly without any vote-which it was.

President of the General Assembly Jan Eliasson also remarked on the importance of a culture of peace to forge a climate of understanding in a strife-torn, effete world.

Jalil donates Tk 50,000 for treatment of journo Bashar

BSS, Dhaka

Mohammad Abdul Jalil, chairman of the Mercantile Bank Foundation, donated Tk 50,000 for the treatment of senior journalist Abul Bashar who has been suffering from liver cirrhosis.

Former Senior Reporter of Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS) and The Independent, Abul Bashar was suggested by the attending doctors to undergo "living donor liver transplantation" which is not possible in the country at the present moment. Doctors suggested him to go abroad for better treatment that would require about Tk 30 lakh which is not possible on the part of the modest family of Bashar.

While expressing gratitude for the good gesture and personal magnanimity of Abdul Jalil for the generous donation, Bashar's family made a fervent appeal to the philanthropist organisations and individuals of the country to come forward to save the life of Bashar who made invaluable services in the profession of journalism for over two decades.

7th CoP begins in Nairobi Oct 24

UNB, Dhaka

Environment and Forest Minister Tariqul Islam left here for Kenya yesterday to attend a two-day international conference on combating desertification.

Seventh Conference of Parties to the UN Convention to Combat Desertifications begins in Nairobi on October 24.

The minister leading a two-member delegation in the conference.



PHOTO: STAR

The women's committee of Jatiya Sramik League stages a demonstration in the city yesterday to protest skyrocketing prices of essentials.

Hanif reiterates his stance on 'secularism'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Mohammad Hanif, president of Dhaka city Awami League, yesterday said he would continue his efforts to replace the term 'secularism' with 'freedom of religious functions' in the party's constitution.

"Secularism has no value in personal life as every person has own religious faith," Hanif said at a seminar organised by the Centre for Policy Forum (CPF) at the National Press Club.

He said, "Cashing in on the word 'secularism' in the party's constitution, some quarters take the opportunity to campaign against the Awami League, specially during the elections. So, I have suggested replacing the word."

"I am not secular because I believe in Islam and follow its teachings," the AL leader said, adding that "It may be a matter of debate, but I will not change my stance."

Speaking as the chief guest, Prof Muzaffer Ahmad said the term 'state religion' is outdated in the present day order.

Criticising the eighth amendment to the constitution, which established Islam as the state religion, he said,

"We did not hear about any state religion even during the periods of caliphs." Dr Syed Anwar Hossain, vice-chancellor of Darul Ihsan University, said the term 'secularism' is used in the context of a state, it's not personal. Prof Fariduddin Khan, chairman of the CPF, presided over the seminar.



PHOTO: STAR

City Awami League President and former mayor Mohammad Hanif speaks at a seminar in the city yesterday.

'Resist unified education system'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Shikha Andolon Mancho, an association for establishing universal education, called for a movement to resist the unified education system yesterday at a meeting at Arts Faculty of Dhaka University.

Speakers said the implementation of proposed so-called unified education will narrow the opportunity of students to study science and will deprive them from learning higher maths if religion is taught as compulsory.

They demanded immediate withdrawal of the decision of introducing unified education system.

Professor Ajay Roy, president of the association, presided over the meeting.

Withdrawal of price hike of CU admission form demanded

CU CORRESPONDENT

Progratishil Chhatra Jote (PCJ), Chittagong University (CU) unit, yesterday demanded withdrawal of increased price of the admission form and immediate arrest and punishment to the Shibir men involved in the attack on two leaders of Samajtantrik Chhatra Front (SCF).

They threatened to go for an indefinite student strike from October 25 unless their demands are met.

PCJ, a conglomerate of three left leaning student organisations, made the demand at a rally on the university railway station premises in the afternoon.

Leaders at the rally said the increased price of admission form, which rose to Tk 300 from previous Tk 250, adds to the miseries of the students already burdened with increased prices of educational materials and different fees.

Thus the authorities are making it difficult for the students to continue studies, they said.

While the PCJ launched movement against the increasing fees and prices of education materials, the October 16 attack on the SCF leaders by the activists of Islami Chhatra Shibir appears to foil the movement, alleged the PCJ leaders.

SCF President Mehedi Hasan Tomal presided over the rally.

Railway to sell Eid tickets from Oct 25

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

On the eve of the Eid-ul-Fitr, Kamalapur Railway Station authorities will start selling advance railway tickets for home-bound city residents from October 25.

Advance tickets for October 30 can be collected on October 25 while tickets for October 31 to November 3 will be available from October 26 during 8:00am to 4:00pm at the ticket counters of Kamalapur Railway Station, the station sources said.

No advance booking can be made prior to these dates and each passenger can buy a maximum of four tickets that are non-returnable, the sources added.

For the upcoming Eid ul Fitr, the decision on special train is expected to be taken today, the station manager of Kamalapur Railway Station said, adding that the railway authorities are thinking of deploying special forces on the station premises to avoid unwanted situation during these days.

On Eid occasions, the railway authorities usually make arrangement for special trains for the passengers of Netrokona and Mymensingh.

DHAKA TODAY event listings including Conference on ICT, Photo exhibition, AL seminar, Discussion, Mehendi festival.

Advertisement for 'লাচনা সভা' (Lachana Sabha) event with Bengali text and photos of speakers.

The Left Democratic Front organised a discussion on prevailing power crisis at the National Press Club in the city yesterday. From right are Workers' Party President Rashed Khan Menon, Nuruddin Mahmud Kamal and Nurul Hasan.