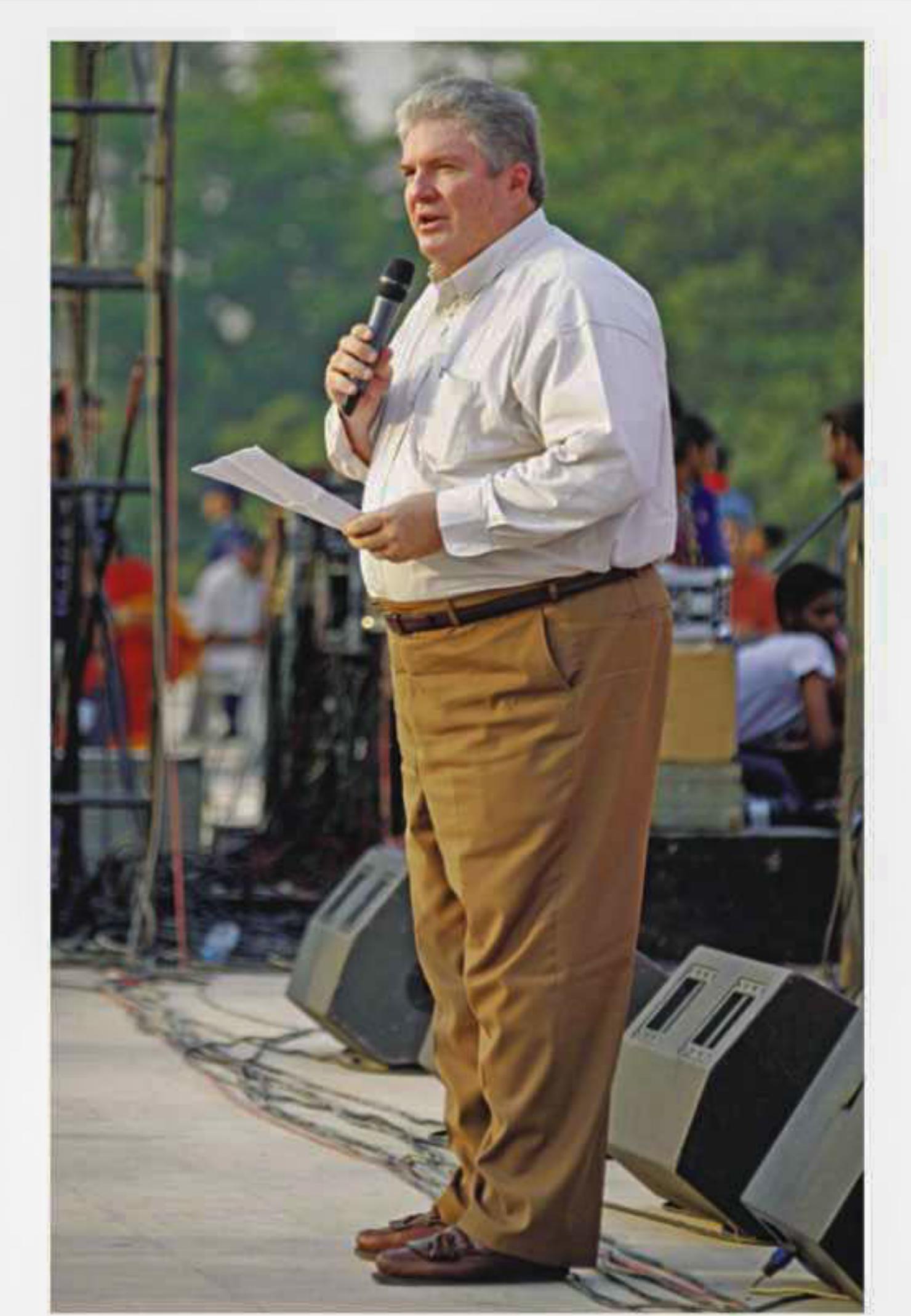




The Daily Star - Standard Chartered

CELEBRATING LIFE, CELEBRATING INDEPENDENCE



The "Celebrating Life Swadhinata Concert" at Suhrawardy Udyana in the capital yesterday featured some of the most renowned artists of the country as well as an ensemble of musicians from Kolkata. The Daily Star, in association with Standard Chartered Bank, organised the event to commemorate 40 years of Bangladesh's independence. The show commenced with a choral rendition of the national anthem by some of the "Celebrating Life" contestants. Popular singers Shakila Zafar, Subir Nandi, Samina Chowdhury and Fahmida Nabi teamed up with Ayub Bachchu, Naquib Khan and the band Feedback to wow the crowd at the concert. Indian musician Debajyoti Mishra and his 24-member troupe were a treat for the Dhaka audience. Jim McCabe, CEO of Standard Chartered Bank Bangladesh, and Mahfuz Anam, editor and publisher of The Daily Star, spoke on behalf of their organisations. They along with novelist Selina Hossain unveiled the cover of a book of photography. A number of eminent personalities made special appearances at the programme. They included Information Minister Abul Kalam Azad, lawmaker and media personality Asaduzzaman Noor, litterateur Mohammed Zafar Iqbal and theatre personalities Aly Zaker and Nasiruddin Yousuff. Reciter Bhaswar Banerjee emceed the event that drew a huge crowd. Desh TV aired the concert live, while abc radio broadcast it from the venue.

Photo: MUMIT M. & RASHED SHUMON

