

Classical

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evening at Army Stadium in Dhaka.

The Bengal ITC-SRA (Sangeet Research Academy) Classical Music Fest 2012 will be inaugurated this evening at Army Stadium in Dhaka.

In view of promoting and celebrating the shared legacy of classical music Bengal Foundation and ITC-SRA of Kolkata have organised the four-day annual festival dedicated to the memory of the legendary Ustad Alauddin Khan.

The festival will commemorate other luminaries such as eminent Tagore exponent Waheedul Haque, Ustad Vilayat Khan, Pandit Uday Shankar and Ustad Ali Akbar Khan, all of whose roots can be traced to Bangladesh.

The extravaganza will feature around 100 artistes of both countries including noted music maestros of ITC-SRA. Classical vocal and instrumental music and classical dance numbers will be performed on the opening day.

Minister of Foreign Affairs Dipu Moni will inaugurate the festival while Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Pankaj Saran will be present as a special guest. Professor Emeritus Dr Anisuzzaman will preside over the ceremony. Abul Khair, chairman of Bengal Foundation and Ravi Mathur, executive director of ITC-SRA, will also speak on the occasion.

The featured artistes of the day include: Ustad Ali Ahmad Hussain Khan (shehnai); Omkar Dadarkar (vocal); Ustad Shahadat Hossain (sarod); Vidushi Sujata Mahapatra (Odissi dance); Waseem Ahmed Khan (vocal); Ustad Shahid Parvez (sitar); Pandit Uday Bhawalkar (vocal); Pandit Tejendra Narayan Majumdar (sarod) and Pandit Ajoy Chakraborty (vocal).

Bangla daily Prothom Alo is the strategic partner while The Daily Star is a partner of the festival. Maasranga Television and ABC Radio are the telecast and broadcast partners while Ice Media Limited is the media partner of the festival.

Today's programme will start at 6:00pm and will continue throughout the night till 4:30am.

5.5 quake hits Indonesia

AFP, Jakarta

A 5.5-magnitude earthquake struck off the coast of eastern Indonesia yesterday, the US Geological Survey said.

The Indonesian Meteorology, Geophysics and Climatology Agency (BMKG) had earlier reported the quake at a magnitude of 6.3 and a depth of 12 kilometres (7.5 miles), but issued no tsunami alert.

USGS reported the quake struck at 0856 GMT at a depth of 55 kilometres, 288 kilometres north of Saumlaki in the Tanimbar Islands.

"There was light shaking reported but we've received no reports of damage or casualties so far," BMKG technical chief Suharjono told AFP.

Indonesia sits on the Pacific "Ring of Fire" where continental plates collide, causing frequent seismic and volcanic activity.

Financing to depend

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co-financiers gathered in Manila for preliminary discussions on revising project implementation arrangements.

Led by Luis Moreno Ocampo, former chief prosecutor of the International Criminal Court, the three-member panel first visited Dhaka on October 14.

The panel discussed how it would work with the ACC, and encouraged the commission to move from preliminary inquiry to a deeper investigation of corruption evidence, said the statement.

Following that visit, the World Bank integrity vice presidency provided the ACC with additional information on November 13 about evidence on graft allegation.

The global lender on June 29 cancelled its \$1.2 billion credit for the scheme due to an "insufficient response by Bangladeshi authorities" to evidence of a conspiracy of corruption involving senior public officials.

The release also cited

that the government pledged to the WB and all the co-financiers to place all public officials suspected of involvement in the corruption scheme on leave from government employment until the investigation is complete; appoint a special inquiry and prosecution team within the ACC to handle the investigation; grant access to all investigative information to an external panel of internationally recognised experts to advise the WB and co-financiers on the credibility of the ACC's investigation; and revise implementation arrangements for the project to give the WB and co-financiers greater oversight of the procurement processes.

WB PANEL TO MEET ACC OFFICIALS
The WB external panel is scheduled to meet the ACC officials on December 2 to assess the progress of the ACC investigation into the Padma bridge corruption allegations.

ACC Chairman Ghulam Rahman told this to newsmen at his Segunbagicha

office in the capital yesterday.

Asked whether the ACC would quiz former communications minister Syed Abul Hossain in presence of the WB panel, he avoided giving a direct answer.

If the person who has been summoned for quizzing and the WB panel mutually agree on such an interrogation method, then the ACC will interrogate the very person before the panel, he added.

The ACC chief said such interrogation is possible according to terms of reference signed between the government and the WB.

The anti-graft watchdog has summoned Abul to appear before it on November 3.

Meanwhile, a four-member ACC team yesterday quizzed five more persons including former Padma bridge project director Rafiqul Islam in connection with the corruption conspiracy in the project.

The outcome of the interrogation could not be known.

My fault

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made accessible from outside. Nobody even advised me to install one like that, apart from the existing ones," he argued in an exclusive interview with The Daily Star, for the first time since the deadly fire killed 111 workers at his factory on Saturday.

"I could have done it. But nobody ever suggested that I do it."

While Delowar was apparently shaken by the tragedy, he did not announce any compensation for the families of the deceased, nor did he clearly express any sympathy for them, at least not in public.

Besides shouldering the entire responsibility for the incident, Delowar also blamed others for the tragedy -- at least partly. He alleged that the officials of the labour department had visited his factory several times, but they had not raised any question about the exit routes.

It was the social compliance audit of the retail giant Walmart that complained only about the excess working hours at the factory. "But we have rectified the problem after receiving the complaint," he claimed.

The retailer did not complain about the absence of any emergency exit from outside, Delowar said, adding that it did not even raise any objection over having a warehouse on the ground floor in the same building and near the staircase.

"Now I can understand it was my fault and I realise it at a time when more than a hundred lives have been lost," said Delowar.

A total of 1,137 workers, out of 1,163, were present in the factory when the incident occurred. The factory has a space of 1.40 lakh square feet.

Delowar started his own garment business in March 2004 by setting up Tuba Textiles Mills Limited with two production lines. Ashulia-based Tazreen Fashion is a sister concern of Tuba Group.

He made his fortune with the garments business by setting up a dozen units since 2004. Earlier, his career began as an accounts manager at Latest Garment in 1989.

he asserted.
"Of course, I believe it is sabotage and therefore, a pre-planned incident. We are looking for some officials who were present during the incident and now cannot be traced," he said.

Among the officials, Mubarak Hossain Manju, production manager, was on the fourth floor during the incident; while Mohammad Dulal, quality manager, was on the third floor though his seating arrangement was on the fifth floor. Abdur Razzak, factory manager, was on the third floor although his designated desk was on the fifth floor, mentioned Delowar.

"If they are found, they can tell us why the workers were barred from leaving the second, third and fourth floors after the first fire alarm had rung," he said.

Denying the allegation of locking the collapsible gates from outside during the incident, the owner said: "The gates were never locked. They always remain open."

He also explained that the warehouse was set up on the ground floor to facilitate the loading and unloading of raw materials.

Asked if it was a violation of rules having a warehouse on the ground floor and adjacent to the staircases, he only replied: "Now I can realise many things."

He also admitted that the fire extinguishers did not work. "The workers panicked rather than use the fire extinguishers. Every worker was trained to use it," he claimed.

Earlier in the day, The Daily Star reached Delowar, who was thrust into the spotlight over the nation's deadliest factory fire in history.

He shared much of his personal and business information but denied some of the allegations that have been raised after the mayhem.

The first issue, on his being a Canadian citizen, Delowar claimed: "I never went to Canada, let alone having the citizenship. No one can find a Canadian visa on my passport ... Anyone can search with the Canadian embassy."

"Even a media report cited that I am an Italian citizen. I do not know how and where they got the information, which is completely baseless," he said. Earlier, at noon, a visit to

the group's corporate office adjacent to Gulshan Circle-1 revealed that the entry doors were locked.

The lone security guard, Nurul Islam, was walking to and fro in the apartment building, Espirit, a six-storied building facing Gulshan Lake.

"Four to five employees came to the office in the morning, but then left immediately," said Islam, adding that around 60 employees work in the head office.

Delowar, however, claimed that the head office was open and the employees were working inside after locking the doors "to avoid any untoward incident".

Govt to bring

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reports our New Delhi correspondent.

Talking to The Daily Star last night, Inspector General of Police Hassan Mahmood Khandker said, "Although we have not been informed officially of his arrest, we have known it informally. We are trying to know the details of his arrest."

If necessary, police would contact the Indian authorities through proper channel, he added.

Also known as Shuvro, the 46-year-old felon from Barisal is accused in many cases for killing, extortion and abduction in Dhaka.

He sneaked into India after walking free from Dhaka jail on a High Court bail in 2001.

During his hiding in India, he used many names and even crossed to Nepal and China.

Subrata was rounded up by Kolkata police on October 13 in 2008, but was freed from jail on bail in September, 2009.

In the same month, he was arrested by Nepal police at Kakarvita border along India for illegal immigration.

On the night of November 8 this year, the culprit along with a dozen inmates escaped from a Nepal jail by digging a 12-metre tunnel.

Earlier in 2007, Bangladesh police brought several criminals back home from India, including another most wanted criminal Sanjidul Islam Emon and Rafiq and Babul -- two close aides of another top criminal, Tanvirul Islam Joy.

Sources said around 400 Bangladeshi criminals are now hiding in India.

2 more

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After the amendment, the government will be able to exercise this sweeping authority for two more years.

The law has empowered the government to avoid compliance with the Public Procurement Act, 2006, which was introduced to ensure transparency in government procurement.

It also allows authorities to quickly publish tender notices in newspapers and websites, make correspondences and negotiations with bidders through emails to fix service prices. Even it allows direct bidding and unsolicited deal with a single bidder or one from a pool of pre-selected bidders through restrictive tender.

The law curtailed the court's jurisdiction, saying all acts done or purported to have been done, actions taken or orders made under this law shall not be questioned in any court.

When the law was made last year, legal experts blasted the government and said it would encourage corruption in the power sector.

In defence of the extension of effectiveness of the law for two more years, State Minister for Power, Energy and Mineral Resources Enamul Haque told the House it was not possible to meet the country's demand for power and energy even after the expiry of effectiveness of the law on October 11.

He said quick implementation of some more projects is needed to meet the demand for power and energy. Therefore, extension of effectiveness of the law is needed, he said in a brief statement tagged with the copies of the bill.

Dec 9 road blockade

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Addressing a rally with thousands of supporters gathering in the city's Naya Paltan area, Khaleda, leader of the opposition in parliament, said the alliance would hold rallies across the country on December 6 to mark "Democracy Freedom Day". She also announced the staging of demonstrations and processions in all cities, districts and upazilas by the opposition alliance on December 23 and December 26.

Amid roaring chants of anti-government slogans, Khaleda said she would lead the procession in the capital on December 26, while other leaders of the 18-party would do so in their respective areas.

Pointing to ruling party leaders' involvement in corruption, Khaleda claimed she had information and the names of ruling party leaders who had embezzled public money, and where they had kept it.

She also said she had the names of those who had fallen victim to forced disappearances and who were behind such activities. "I will make it public through the media in time. None will be spared," Khaleda said, without giving any further details.

"This incompetent and most corrupt government has failed totally... Acknowledge your failure and give election under the caretaker government. We will have nothing to say if the people send you to power again," Khaleda added.

Yesterday's grand rally was part of the 18-party alliance's declared programme to mount pressure on the government to

bring back the caretaker government system.

The opposition alliance has been carrying out various programmes, including enforcing hartals and blockades, since June last year when the government repealed the caretaker provision through the constitution's 15th amendment.

According to the constitution as it stands at present, parliamentary polls will be held under a partisan government. Therefore, the next spate of general polls due in 2014 will be held with the Awami League government in power.

Hours before Khaleda started her speech, thousands of supporters filled the roads from Fakirapool intersection to Kakrail crossing and from Shapla Chatter to Naya Paltan intersection and adjoining alleys.

The opposition supporters carried banners, festoons, placards and portraits of BNP founder late president Ziaur Rahman, Khaleda and Senior Vice-Chairman of the party Tarique Rahman.

The Jamaat-e-Islami, whose top leaders are facing war crimes trial, and its student wing Islami Chhatra Shibir joined the rally to show their strength by gathering a huge number of activists and leaders.

At the Nayapaltan rally, Khaleda said: "We have been observing our programmes in a lawful manner. We are still showing patience. But you [the govt] will have to face dire consequences if any obstacles are created while we observe our programme."

She called upon the

government to hold the next general polls under the caretaker government for the continuation of the country's democratic process.

"Otherwise, there will be no election in the country under the present government," Khaleda said, adding, "This is a democratic country, not a dynasty. This country is not for any family."

The BNP chief reiterated her appeal to give her party another chance to run the country. "We will take the country forward, make it self-reliant and create job opportunities for the youth."

She also promised that she would fight corruption and crimes if her party assumed power again. "I will take stern action if anybody is involved in corruption and crime irrespective of their identity."

"...And I will not come before you if I fail to do so and will accept your [people's] judgment."

She said the government was desperate to remain in power at any cost. "There are rumours that emergency will be promulgated, but this will terribly go against them [the govt]."

Blasting the finance minister, she said the country was being deprived of foreign investment due to the government's corruption and incompetence. But the finance minister had pinned the blame on Prof Yunus for this, she added.

"Dr Yunus is admired by the whole world for his microcredit invention, through which many people were benefited and he [Muhammad Yunus] was awarded the Nobel Prize."

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Invitation for Tender

No . 44.04.0000.006.00.052.12-3876

Date: 28/11/2012

1.	Ministry / Division	Ministry of Home Affairs		
2.	Agency	Department of Narcotics Control		
3.	Procuring Entity Name	Director General, Department of Narcotics Control		
4.	Invitation for	Goods		
5.	Invitation Reference No	44.04.0000.006.00.052.12-3876		
6.	Procurement Method	Open Tendering Method (National)		
7.	Budget and Source of Fund	Revenue Budget (GOB)		
8.	Tender Package No.	04/Vehi-2012-2013 (FY)		
9.	Tender Package Name	Procurement of Double Cabin Pick-up (diesel) and related services Procurement of Microbus (petrol) and related services		
10.	Tender Publication date	29/11/2012		
11.	Tender Last Selling date	19/12/2012 (office hour)		
12.	Tender Closing date and time	20/12/2012 at 10.30 am		
13.	Tender Opening date and time	20/12/2012 at 11.00 am.		
14.	Selling & Receiving Tender Document	Store and Purchase Section, Head office, Department of Narcotics Control, 441,Tejgaon I/A, Dhaka-1208.		
15.	Opening Tender Document	Conference Room, Department of Narcotics Control, Head office, 441,Tejgaon I/A, Dhaka-1208		
16.	Eligibility of Tender	Well reputed and financially solvent tenderers (manufacturer/ authorised agents/distributors) having office establishment, repairing workshop, manpower, logistic support, stock position, good performance, qualification and past experience of supplying new and good quality vehicles in government sectors within assigned time.		
17.	Brief Description	4WD- Double Cabin Pick-up (Diesel), Microbus (Petrol) are to be latest model, International standard, good quality brand new, fitted with modern amenities , high efficiency engine, CBU by the county of origin with detail specifications (supported by original catalogue/brochure.		
18.	Price of Tender Document (BDT)	Lot-1= Tk 3,000/- (Three Thousand Taka only) Lot-2= Tk 2,000/- (Two Thousand Taka only)		
19.	Lot No	Identification	Location	Tender Security Tk
	1	4WD-Double Cabin Pick-up, Units-3	Head office	2,60,000/-
	2	Microbus (15 seats), Units-1	do	70,000/-
20.	Name of official inviting Tender	Mohammed Shafiqullah, Director (Admin), Department of Narcotics Control, Head office, 441,Tejgaon I/A, Dhaka-1208.		
21.	Contact Details of official inviting Tender	phone : 02-8870016	Fax : 880-2-8870010	e-mail: md_shafiqullah @ yahoo.com
22.	The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all or any tender.			
23.	One copy original catalogue must be provided while purchasing tender document.			

(Mohammed Shafiqullah)
Director (Admin)