



# The festival that almost wasn't WHAT A TEAM WORK!

BY MAHFUZ ANAM

Bengal Foundation has, once again, treated us to a magnificent festival—of the best there is in Indian classical music—and this time in spite of some unexpected obstacles. We never understood why the usual venue, the Army Stadium, was denied nor why the ultimate venue selection had to wait till so late in the day necessitating the postponing of the festival to December from its usual time in November.

It is a testimony to the prestige that the Bengal Classical Festival has gained over the last five years that these globetrotting maestros, whose schedules are fixed at least a year in advance, agreed to accommodate the new dates as a tribute to this

festival which has now gained prominence as the biggest Indian classical music festival in the world. Who would have thought that Bangladesh would have such a unique place of pride in this genre of specialised music?

A word of thanks must be given to the management of Abahani KriraChakra, but for whose wholehearted collaboration this festival could not have taken place. The law enforcers performed an onerous task of providing security and traffic management which, everyone feared, would be hellish. Of course a word of thanks to the Prime Minister but for whose final nod nothing of this scale and complexity can take place.

But as the saying goes, all is well that ends well, and we couldn't have been happier.

There is far more to a festival than meets the eye. First of course is the quality of the performers. To repeat the obvious the artists who graced the occasion were some of the world's best. Bengal Foundation's decision to introduce western classical music to the Bangladeshi audience was a masterstroke as, save for a lucky few who may have listened to western classical music in foreign capitals, for the rest, it was perhaps their very first exposure to a symphony by a philharmonic orchestra.

To our further amazement the collaborative performance of Dr L Subramaniam, the violin virtuoso, and the 58-member Astana Symphony Philharmonic Orchestra from Kazakhstan, gave the festival the best possible opening imagin-

able. The blending of the western and eastern classical music forms in such incredible harmony must have mesmerised the more than 30,000 first-day audience. Those who have had the rare privilege of listening to a philharmonic orchestra in highly acoustically sophisticated concert halls must have wondered how on earth the same effect was created in an open field of a sports club. Most of us who loved the festival may not perhaps be aware of the technical sophistication that was principally responsible for the quality of music that we were treated to. It was a match for anything similar in the world and, again, we have the Bengal Foundation to thank for it and its technical team.

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## ম্যান্ডালিনা সোপ

ঐতিহ্যের আর এক তান্ন আধুনিকতা  
ঠিক যেমন রূপচর্চায় আভিজাত্য মানেই

রূপচর্চায় আভিজাত্য...

Dabur  
**Vatika** ফ্রী  
শ্যাম্পু (৭মিঃলিঃ)

প্রতিটি ম্যান্ডালিনা সোপ ৭৫ গ্রাম-এর সাথে ১পিস এবং ১২৫ গ্রাম-এর সাথে ২পিস Vatika (৭মিঃলিঃ) শ্যাম্পু