

Dhaka Day by Day

Of Bangladeshi Sweets and Budget Cuts

by Fayza Haq

Diana Carroll-Wirth has not only been introduced to "roshogollas" much before she came to Bangladesh, but has written about Bengali cuisine in her book called "Flavours" which deals with all types of Subcontinental food ranging from the Farst and Sindh to the South Indian.

"Bengalis", she writes, "are either making food, eating it or talking about it. Bengali cuisine concentrates on freshwater fish, with Hilsa occupying pride of place. It is characterised by liberal use of mustard oil and mustard seed," she comments in her book.

She has practised Bharat Natyam for three years in Bombay. Although she will not go on stage herself today with a nine yards "sari", tinkling bells, and flowers in her hair. She insists she recognises good dancing when she sees it. As for her association with the "sitar" and "tabla", she often has "sitar" recitals at home. At her house one sees an amazing collection of exotic paintings from China, puppets, masks and stuffed toys, along with embroidered and mirror-work cushions, panellings and wall hangings. She has used a lot of yellow, orange and black with imagination to brighten her rooms. She has also utilised old "zari" silk "saris" to make cushion covers. Her collection of hats and cloaks is also remarkable.

Ms Carroll-Wirth, or Diana, as she is affectionately called by her friends and colleagues, is very much at home with the culture and lifestyle of Bangladesh. She wears the "sari" and "shalwar-kameez" to work on formal occasions with ease, as if she had grown up wearing them.

How does she find her posting as the Director of the USIS Dhaka as compared to the jobs she had held before? "I find a similarity of people and customs with what I found in my last posting in Bombay. The difference is that it is a homogeneous country. In Bombay there were Parsis, Christians, Hindus, and Muslims. The majority of the people of Bangladesh have the same religion and have the same customs." She naturally finds the place quite different from the European countries like Germany, Italy or France, where she had been before.

Workwise she finds it a lot of fun here. An energetic person bursting with enthusiasm she says, "If you have a good idea you find lots of people willing to work with you. The people are so receptive that it is wonderful to be here." This is her third diplomatic assignment. She had been at Bombay and Stuttgart before.

She did her other travelling as a librarian in the Department of Army. That is how she had

been to Thailand, Japan, and some European countries.

Why is the USIS having a budget cut? Ms. Carroll-Wirth replies, "We have a budget problem. Every country is having a budget problem for a variety of reasons. We have cut down on things. We try to do as much as we can in different ways which won't cost as much." She elaborates that the USIS is an independent agency and in Dhaka there are four Americans helping her with her work, and this includes Ray Peppers and Carlos Arana.

Continuing about her work Ms. Carroll-Wirth says, "The Bangladeshis have a capacity to do anything. They are a very cultured people. We are hard put with our stringent budget to get the kind of materials we'd like to have in our library. At one time there were many centres in Bangladesh but now they have been closed down. We don't show the 16mm film any more as it is too expensive, bulky and outmoded. We are out of the film business and into the video world of the twentieth century. We have four video showings a day and any time of the day or evening there is a full house."

The USIS recently arranged for a poetry reading session along with the British Council, the Goethe Institut and the Alliance Francaise. It also had a technology book exhibition at the BUET. Next month it plans to have a play reading session. "It's not Shakespeare or Chekov but it is a big hit on Broadway. In September there is a theatre group coming to perform two plays and one of them is 'Driving Miss Daisy'," Ms Carroll-Wirth elaborates.

There is then the "Circle USA" which is a group of young university people who meet once a month, and there is an American speaker to talk to them. USIS is starting a book lovers' club. There is also a video panorama which is something new, and there is live news coverage as long as the monsoon does not disturb the satellite dish on the roof.

Speaking on the recent cyclone and the work of the American Task Force Ms Carroll-Wirth says, "I was appalled by the cyclone. Bangladesh had been beset with problems for the last six months. Then there was the Gulf War tension. There was the new government and people thought all was right. Instead all hell was let loose. Here the Task Force did a wonderful job with their water purification plants and by reaching the distant island with their boats."

The outspoken and extrovert diplomat is married to a German, who will be teaching French at the American School.



Diana Carroll-Wirth

them is 'Driving Miss Daisy', Ms Carroll-Wirth elaborates.

Plan to cope with natural disasters submitted

A plan containing some recommendations to cope with natural disasters and minimise devastations for Cox's Bazar district was submitted to Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia at her Secretariat office Wednesday, reports BSS.

Abdullah Al-Noman, Minister of State for Environment and Forest, submitted the plan. Shahjahan Chowdhury, MP, of the area, and Mohammad Omar Faruq, Sub-Zonal Relief Coordinator of Cox's Bazar, were present on the occasion.

The suggestions have been made on the basis of practical experience of relief and reconstruction work named "Operation Seba". These included some long-term measures like establishment of permanent shelters, reconstruction of schools, places of worship, embankments and strengthening the telecommunication network in the area.

Omar Faruq briefed Begum Zia on the damage and losses in the unions and upazilas of the district during the April 29 cyclone.

He also spoke about various relief and rehabilitation measures taken by the government in the cyclone-battered district.

Begum Khaleda Zia thanked them for preparing the plan.

Govt employees' rally June 17

A meeting of Bangladesh Sachibalay Karmachari Sangjukta Parishad has called upon all concerned to attend the rally called by the Bangladesh Sarkari Karmachari Sanghati Parishad on June 17 at the Secretariat, a press release said, reports BSS.

Presided over by Mohd. Azkur Rahim, President of the Parishad, the meeting was addressed by its Secretary General Sayed Mohiuddin, Vice-President Zakir Hossain Patwari and other leaders.

The leaders expressed concern for delay in implementing the Pay Commission report. They said due to present office timing the employees were facing health problems and also frustrated regarding promotion cases.

Feasibility of open varsity being explored

Bangladesh has a favourable atmosphere to establish an 'Open University', said Prof Ram Reddy, education consultant 'Open University', Bangladesh and Vice President Commonwealth of Learning in a speech delivered on June 10 at IEB, Dhaka, says a press release.

He said by virtue of print, audio video and TV media, a large number of people could come under the purview of higher education through an 'Open University'.

Reddy, now in Bangladesh to explore the feasibility of establishing the 'Open University' with the help of ADB.

There are 'Open University' in India, China and UK.

A question-answer session was held after the lecture.

Earlier Dr. Md Anwar Hossain, President of IEB addressed the session.

VAT to simplify import duty structure

Value Added Tax (VAT) which is being introduced for the first time in the country from July 1, will dispense with the multiplicity of taxes, simplify the import duty structure and remove confusion in the tax-payers, Finance Minister Saifur Rahman told Parliament on Wednesday, reports UNB.

A uniform rate of VAT will replace sales tax, development surcharge and regulatory duty in the import duty structure, he said.

The resultant revenue loss, he said would be compensated by a ten per cent raise in the customs duty on almost all imported goods.

VAT will also be levied, as a substitute for excise duty, on most of the goods and services which are now subjected to excise duty, Saifur Rahman said.

Finland envoy calls on Shahabuddin

The Ambassador of Finland, Jyrki Almonen, paid a farewell call on Acting President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed at the President's Secretariat Wednesday, reports BSS.

During the meeting, they discussed matters of bilateral interest.

The Finnish Ambassador commended the role of the Acting President in holding a free, fair and impartial election toward restoration of democracy. He hoped that the existing bilateral co-operation and friendly relations between the two nations would be strengthened in future.

Reciprocating the sentiments, the Acting President thanked the Finnish government for their all-out assistance in the development programmes of Bangladesh.

Heroin seized: 11 arrested

A special squad of Narcotics Control Board in a three-day drive has recovered three grams of heroin, 8.65 kg of Ganza (cannabis) and 34.5 litres of country-made liquor from different areas of the city, an official press release said in Dhaka on Wednesday, reports BSS.

The special squad during the drive from June 9 to 11 arrested five persons including a woman in this connection.

Cases have been registered against them under Narcotics Control Act of 1990, the press release said.

Workshop on drama begins tomorrow

A week-long workshop on acting and direction of drama will begin tomorrow (Friday) at the Shilpakala Academy.

A selection board will interview the intending participants today (Thursday) at the Academy.

The workshop will be conducted by Kabol Dhalwai, Rajesh Kumar and Seema Odhikari of India and Ishrafi Shaheen of Bangladesh.



AL procession in the city on Wednesday protesting new taxes proposed in the national budget. —Star photo

Schools remain open today

By Staff Correspondent

All schools will remain open today (Thursday).

Although wide confusion, Director-General of the Secondary and Higher Education Directorate Dr Muzammel Haq told the Daily Star on Wednesday night that the schools would go into Eid vacation after Thursday's classes.

Asked why a number of schools were declared closed on Wednesday, the DG said this was due to sheer confusion. No educational institution are usually closed following presentation of national budget.

No alternative to mass education programme

State Minister for Education Principal Mohammad Yunus Khan on Wednesday said for eradicating illiteracy from society there was no alternative to successful implementation of the government's mass education programme, reports BSS.

"To achieve this goal the teachers community has a pioneering role to play," he said while addressing the central leaders of Bangladesh Teachers' Association at the secretariat in Dhaka.

PK PROGRAMME

Badrunessa Govt Girls College

The teachers and students of Badrunessa Government Girls College will give a farewell reception to the HSC examinees today (Thursday) at 10 am.

Students of all sections have been requested to attend the function to be held at college auditorium.

IBA Alumni Day

The Alumni Day 90-91 and the Annual General Meeting (AGN) of the IBA Alumni Association scheduled to be held tomorrow (Friday), at the Hotel Sonargaon has been deferred due to unavoidable circumstances. Fresh date, time and venue will be announced in due time to the members.

Rotary Club

The 18th regular weekly meeting of the Rotary Club of Uttara will be held today (Thursday) at 5:15 pm at "Chilling Restaurant", Sector 4, Uttara, Dhaka.

Conference

The Combined Cultural Alliance will hold a conference and council meeting tomorrow (Friday) at the Mahila Samity auditorium.

Barrister Syed Ishtiaq Ahmed will be present as the chief guest.

Two representatives from each wing of the Alliance will take part in the council meeting.

Weather

Heavy rains likely

By Staff Correspondent

Rain or thundershower accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely to occur at places over Chittagong, Khulna and Dhaka Divisions and at many places over Rajshahi Division. Day temperature is likely to remain unchanged.

Heavy rainfall warning: Heavy shower may occur in Dhaka and Chittagong Division during the next 36 hours.

Meanwhile, heavy rainfall occurred at many places over Chittagong and Khulna Divisions on Wednesday.

The Dhaka city witnessed 33 millimeter rain on Wednesday. Rainfall in Khulna was recorded at 45 mm, Rajshahi 73 mm and Srimongol 18 mm.

The maximum temperature of 32.9 degree Celsius was recorded at Rajshahi on Wednesday.

Outlook for subsequent 2 days: Little change.

Extended outlook for another 5 days: No marked change.

The temperature and humidity of some cities and towns on Wednesday:

City/Towns	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity (%)	
	Max	Min	9 am	6 pm
Dhaka	31.7	25.4	86	93
Chittagong	30.8	25.6	97	82
Rangpur	27	25.5	97	97
Rajshahi	28.5	27.5	88	83
Sylhet	32	24	85	82
Khulna	31	24.3	88	98
Cox's Bazar	31.5	24.5	93	85

Investment in undesired sectors to be discouraged Duties rescheduled to raise efficiency of local industries

The annual budget for the 1991-92 session placed before the Jatiya Sangsad on Wednesday afternoon by the Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman proposed a number of measures to increase efficiency of local industries and discourage investments in undesired sectors, reports BSS.

The present duty of 150 per cent on built-up air-conditioners up to three BHP and that of 100 per cent on air-conditioners above three BHP are proposed to be unified and fixed at 100 per cent and all CKD air-conditioners and their parts are proposed to be subjected to a duty of 75 per cent.

Duty on pillar proof caps will be reduced from 100 per cent to 75 per cent.

Customs duty on white cement will be fixed at 75 per cent instead of the present rate of 100 per cent.

All imported lifts will be charged a duty at the rate of 10 per cent instead of the present rates of 20 and 50 per cent, charged respectively on CKD and CBU lifts.

Neutral glass tubes imported for the manufacture of glass ampoules now fully exempted will be subjected to a duty of 10 per cent. At the same time the rate of customs duty on glass ampoules will be enhanced to 30 per cent from the present rate of 18 per cent including development surcharge.

Customs duty of 58 per cent including development surcharge on fork lifts, used primarily by industries, will be reduced to 20 per cent.

Duty of 50 per cent on CKD refrigerator and deep freeze will be enhanced to 75 per cent and on parts reduced from 100 per cent to 75 per cent.

Meanwhile, to arrest widespread misuse of VCP/VCR components, it is proposed to enhance customs duty on some of these items from 30 per cent to 75 per cent.

Tax machinery to be recast for Tk 1,079 cr mobilisation

Government plans to introduce far-reaching changes in the income-tax administration to raise Taka 1079 crore of income-tax revenue in the next fiscal year and augment domestic resource mobilisation, reports UNB.

The Finance Minister Saifur Rahman told Parliament on Wednesday that the scheme of re-organisation of tax-machinery aimed at modernising the tax-management including introduction of computerised information processing system.

The proposed measures include establishment of tax-offices in the newly created districts, bifurcation of large tax-circles, creation of independent survey zone to identify new assesses, strengthening the inspection programme, creation of new posts of commissioners and members of the National Board of Revenue and reorganisation of Taxes Appellate Tribunal.

Saifur Rahman expressed his confidence that the programme being implemented in the coming fiscal year would bring about dynamism in the income tax administration and strengthen resource mobilisation efforts in the years to come.

Taxi passenger robbed of Tk 50,000

By Staff Correspondent

A gang of hijackers robbed one baby taxi passenger of 50 thousand Taka from near the Dhanmondi police outpost on Wednesday at 12 noon.

Jafarullah, an employee of an NGO after drawing money from Sonali Bank, Mirpur branch was returning to his office. When the baby taxi reached near Dhanmondi bridge, two youngsters jumped in front of the taxi and stopped the vehicle. The miscreant snatched away the money from Jafarullah at dagger point.

Huda visits ailing PIO

State Minister for Information Muhammad Nurul Huda on Wednesday visited Principal Information Officer (PIO) to the Government Abdus Sobhan, who is undergoing treatment at Dhaka Medical College Hospital, reports BSS.

The Minister stayed for sometime besides the ailing PIO and enquired about the progress of treatment. He asked the attending physicians to take all measures for his treatment.

JP emergency meet today

By Staff Correspondent

The Jatiya Party will hold an emergency meeting today (Thursday) at 5 pm at its Gulshan office.

All the members of the Working Committee, Members of Presidium, the President and General Secretary of Dhaka City branch and the former ministers have been requested to attend the meeting.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Ministry of Education
Dhaka

NOTICE

Applications are invited from bonafide Bangladesh citizens for undergraduate level study at Technology College under Jagan Government's Monbasu Scholarship during 1991-92 session.

Sl.No	Subject	Educational qualification
1)	Electronics	Should possess First Division in both SSC and HSC examinations and above 75% marks in Mathematics, Physics & Chemistry (Science Group)
2)	Mechanical Engineering	
3)	Electrical Engineering	
4)	Electronic Control Engineering	
5)	Information Engineering	
6)	Industrial Engineering	
7)	Civil Engineering	
8)	Architecture	
9)	Merchantile Marine (Nautical Science, Marine Engineering)	

- Age of candidate should not be above 22 years and below 17 years as on 1-4-92.
- Candidates must learn Japanese and take lessons in Japanese.
- None can be a candidate for more than one subject.
- Application (in English) with bio-data containing the following informations, two copies of passport size recent photograph, two copies of marksheet and certificate each for all examinations passed (attested) etc. should reach the undersigned by 20-6-91. Bio-data should contain Name, Father's name, Present address, Permanent address, Telephone number (if any), Age on 1-4-92, Educational qualification, Name of examination, Roll No., Registration No., Year of passing, Place in merit list (if any), Total marks obtained, Percentage of aggregate number in main subject, subject applied for.
- A self-addressed envelope affixed with Tk 02/= postage stamp should be sent with each application. Acknowledgement receipt will be sent in 10 days of receiving the application. If the receipt is not received by the applicant in time, the Scholarship Wing-11 of the Education Ministry should be contacted. The candidates can also submit their applications in the wooden box kept at Gate No. 5 of Bangladesh Secretariate.
- Candidates under selection for already considered scholarship by the Education Ministry need not apply.
- Incomplete application will not be considered.

DFF (G) 6997-10/6
G-212

M. Shamsul Huq
Senior Assistant Secretary

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

ACROSS

1 Canterbury

6 Protective

11 Courtesies

12 Examinees

14 Printer's

15 Preacher's

17 Concerning

18 Arabian

20 Objects of

21 Afternoon

22 Defeat

24 Poem

25 College

26 Method

28 Visions

30 Anger

31 Demon

32 Mad

35 Hairplace

36 Obligation

39 Born

41 Lease

42 River in

43 Mixture

45 Press for

46 Hebrew

47 Clothes-

49 Sun god

50 Automobile

52 Walks from

54 Cook in oven

55 Heats

2 Actor Padingo

3 Brim

4 Case for

5 Rarely

6 Posted

7 Six every

8 Inviting

9 Paid notices

10 Note of scale

11 Brook

12 Tolls

13 Chairs

14 Seed

15 Container

16 Helps

17 Snared

18 Wander

19 Thighbone

20 Evening to

21 River: Sp.

22 Mental

23 Images

24 Indefinite

25 Amount

26 Enroll for

27 Service

28 Choir voices

29 Habituated

30 Heating

31 Laundry

32 Prohibits

33 Let fall

34 Chinese

35 pagoda

36 Puffin

37 Selenium

38 symbol

Answer to Previous Puzzle

POINT BEAST
ENTIRE MONDAY
TA BORROWS IL
AGA TRIAL ALE
LETS SON AVER
RETE TESTED
LEAS DOOR
DIETED UNTO
SEAR REP EELS
PAR BALES DIP
EL DEPLETE VE
NEGATE PEAHEN
DRAMA WREST