

Dhaka Day by Day

Brains and Beauty

by Fayza Haq

As she walked down the Sonargaon lobby to talk to me, I was struck by the regality of Ms. Marjatta Rasi's bearing. This Finnish ambassador, posted in New Delhi, and seeing to the interests of Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal and Bhutan as well, looked a fair combination of Princess Diana, and Lynn Redgrave. Her clinging pinkish-red dress with its pleated skirt and her earrings, that would be the envy of any maharani, certainly made her look dignified and poised. Her white shoes and handbag completed the suave appearance of an accomplished woman who went places.

A career diplomat for twenty years, Ms. Rasi has always found great satisfaction in her job. "As I progress I learn more and more," she commented. "I came into the profession by accident," she insisted. "This was not my dream as a child. I am a lawyer by training. I am also interested in politics, history and languages and that channeled me off into diplomacy." The diplomat is proficient in Finnish, Swedish, German, French and Spanish.

She found her most challenging job, she told me, when she was a member of the UN Security Council during the Gulf crisis of '89-'90, when she was helping to monitor the implementation of sanction against Iraq.

In the same vein, she said she had her amusing experiences in her career when she was often taken for an ambassador's wife but never an ambassador. Ms. Rasi has served as a Second Secretary in London, a Second Secretary in Paris and the Deputy Permanent Representative of Finland to the UN in New York.

As an ambassador in New Delhi, she finds her job challenging. "I have to learn a lot. The more I study the more is the chance to get confused with the pile of information. In India there are so many languages, cultures, traditions, and religions. I find Bangladesh easier to handle. Dealing with Sri Lanka, Bhutan and Nepal as well, is surely a handful, as you can assess. The reason why Finland does not have separate ambassadors for the different countries is basically because we are more Europe oriented. Again, the country does not have that much of resources to establish embassies at will. I admit this is not an ideal situation. I don't give my time to all the different countries sufficiently, as I would have dearly liked to," the Finnish diplomat commented.

She has had the feel of India for a few months now. How does she feel about her posting there? "India is a complex society," she confided "but it is interesting to witness all the new policies that the Prime Minister Rao is implementing. It is wonderful to watch all these new changes."

She added, "To some extent the same is happening in Bangladesh. The country has returned to democracy after a fair election. I hope the people will have trust in the leaders that they have voted for. There are a lot of

problems facing the country. There is over-population which can be eradicated only through education. The economic problems too are intense. The floods, cyclones and other natural calamities add to the poverty and suffering of the common people."

What are the prospects of bilateral understanding between Finland and Bangladesh? "Although there is an agreement between India and Finland there is no such understanding between my country and Bangladesh. However a lot can be done on an ad hoc basis. A formal agreement is not necessary. There can be cultural exchanges in the field of music, dancing and in the form of art exhibitions," the ambassador commented.

Were there any prospects of Bangladeshi manpower being employed in Finland? "Finland is too far away from Bangladesh. The temperature is too cold for your people. The language is difficult for the average Bangladeshi to pick up. Moreover we do not require foreign labour, as is the case of some other European countries. Again, the neighbouring Baltic states will be sending their labour across the border and we will have to accommodate them," she spelt out frankly.

Ms. Rasi felt that there might be scope in the export of garments and spices to Finland. "But it is more realistic to have joint ventures to develop machinery or chemicals as has been happening in India."

Talking about her impression of Bangladesh in the four days that she was here, she narrated how she had been to Chittagong to inaugurate a bridge and came back in a small plane so that she got a chance to study the topography of the country. "It is remarkable how flat and green the country is. The vast expanses of water too overwhelmed me. I now understand why there are such frequent floods in the country."

Ms. Rasi continued, "There is an enormous amount of people here when I compare them to the five million in my country. I enjoyed watching the multicoloured rickshaws but I found the traffic undisciplined."

She added, "as for the local food it is not different from that in India. I loved the Dhaka fish and vegetables. As for your yogurt I could eat it all the time. It is simply wonderful. Talking of clothes, I find the 'sari' and 'shalwar' very beautiful. I have two 'shalwar-kameezes' myself which I wear at home. I naturally find the jewellery that the women wear very attractive too. I don't find the heat in the Subcontinent unbearable as I am used to the hot and humid summers in New York."

"Bangladesh has a special place in our heart. We have chosen it as one of the main recipients of bilateral cooperation," Ms. Rasi added.

The ambassador, who would love to have Great Dances as pets, is having her parents flown in to New Delhi for Christmas.



Ms. Marjatta Rasi: 'Bangladesh has a special place in our heart.'

'Garments alone cover 40 pc of exports'

A four-day Bangladesh trade fair began in Moscow Wednesday, reports UNB.

The multi-product trade fair, the last in a series of three fairs in the Soviet Union, was inaugurated by First Deputy Trade Minister of Russian Federation Yuri Mikhailovich Besputin, according to a message received in Dhaka Thursday.

He hoped that enormous possibilities for trade and economic cooperation would open up between the two countries in the changed economic scenario.

"Bangladesh is no longer a producer and exporter of primary products only, it is gradually emerging as an important manufacturing country," said Bangladesh Ambassador to the Soviet Union Mustafizur Rahman.

He pointed out that the export figure had crossed two billion of which more than 50 per cent is manufactured goods. Readymade garments alone account for over 40 per cent of the exports, he added.

Bangladeshi products praised in Washington

Bangladesh stall at a recently held international festival in Washington attracted large number of visitors who appreciated Bangladeshi handicrafts, sarees, garments and enjoyed Bangladeshi food served by Embassy ladies, according to official source in Dhaka, reports BSS.

Mrs Marilyan T Quayle, wife of the Vice-President of USA who inaugurated the festival at a local hotel, visited Bangladesh stall where she was received by Mrs Rahima Ahsan, wife of the Bangladesh Ambassador and other Embassy ladies.

A fashion parade was the highlight of the festival which was sponsored by YWCA. Bangladeshi girls attired in jamdani and silk sarees and salwar-kameez drew repeated applause from the audience.

Bangladesh team, in the fashion parade, comprised of Sharmin Ahsan, Papia Alam, Sabrina Islam and Nghma Susan.

Margaret Kakoli Gomcz enthralled the audience by presenting a dance sequence.

Shafiu Azam critically ill

S M Shafiu Azam, former Cabinet Minister, now undergoing treatment in a London hospital, is critically ill, says a Press release.

His family members have requested all his friends, well-wishers, other acquaintances and countrymen at large to pray to the Almighty Allah for his recovery.



A reception was accorded to the distinguished personalities organised by the 16th batch of outgoing students of Jahangirnagar University on Thursday. Vice-Chancellor of the University Prof Kazi Saleh Ahmed handing over crests to S M Sultan, a renowned artist and Rashid Talukder, a noted photographer.

Air chief distributes certificates Flight safety course aims to inculcate discipline

The certificate awarding ceremony of the Flight Safety Institute of Bangladesh Air Force was held in Dhaka Thursday at air headquarters, says an ISPR press release, reports BSS.

Chief of the air staff Air Vice Marshal Altaf Hossain Choudhury attended the ceremony as chief guest and distributed certificates and trophies among the student-officers.

Speaking on the occasion Air Vice Marshal Choudhury said that the aim of the flight safety course was to inculcate discipline, motivation and awareness amongst all personnel so that they could perform their task safely and efficiently. He added, the study of flight safety involved the physiological and psychological aspects of human being, the intricacies of the machines, the medium

of operations and management of all other aspects to achieve success in the mission.

Air Vice Marshal Altaf opined that the lessons they acquired from this course would bring about a qualitative change in their method of accident investigation and thereby enable them to identify the root cause of an accident.

Besides, Bangladesh Air Force, student-officers from Pakistan Air Force, Bangladesh Army and Civil Aviation have taken part in the three-month long course.

Wing Commander Sohail Muzaffar of Pakistan Air Force was adjudged the best student-officer and was awarded the chief of air staff's trophy.

Among others, Defence Adviser of Pakistan and high civil and military officers attended the ceremony.

Indo-Bangla cultural ties to grow further

Jute Minister ASM Hannan Shah has said cultural activities with joint participation of artists from both Bangladesh and India will further consolidate and expand the friendly relationship and cooperation existing between the two countries, reports BSS.

He was addressing as the chief guest a function organised in connection with performance of a dance drama titled 'Odyssey in Bangladesh' participated by artists of Bangladesh and India at the auditorium of National Museum in Dhaka Wednesday. Akhtaruzzaman Chowdhury, MP and organiser of the function addressed as special guest. The function was held under the auspices of Bari Prakashani.

people living in this planet belong to a 'greater human family.' The rich and poor people of the South East Asian SAARC countries, Africa, Latin America and those from the East and West can work together for forging closer attachment and showing love for this human family, he observed.

The Jute Minister recalled with gratitude the contribution of India in the Liberation War of Bangladesh and aid and assistance of different countries including the United States during the tidal surge in Bangladesh. He said the liberal attitude of the democratic world on the issues like national emancipation, natural calamities and famine could now be attained easily.

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Tk 287 cr LPG projects taken up

The Government has taken up two projects involving an expenditure of Taka 287 crore aimed at building a proper infrastructure for the supply of liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) as fuel, alternative to natural gas, reports BSS.

Informing this at the first meeting of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Energy, Dr Moshurraf Hossain, Minister for Energy and Mineral Resources, said when implemented the projects would help set up a reliable network of supply and distribution of LPG in the gas starved remote areas. The project would also help save foreign exchange, otherwise used to import fuel oil, the minister added.

He said work on the two projects, to start soon, would be completed within 1994. Under the project, two LPG plants will be set up at Elanga in Tangail and Kollashatla in Sylhet, a PID source said.

Detailing Dr. Hossain said Petrobangla has taken up a Taka 117.3 crore project including Taka 93.5 crore in foreign exchange for production of LPG gas and transportation.

Another project of Taka 150 crore including Taka 90.06 crore in foreign exchange has been taken up by

Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation for storage of gas bottling and its distribution, he added.

The meeting reviewed the progress of work of different departments under the ministry and discussed ways for making power sector dynamic by reducing the system loss.

The committee members Azimul Haq, A.K.M. Abu Taber, Manzurul Hasan Munshi, Shahiduzzaman Beltu, Imran Ahmed, Abdul Awal Mia, Abdul Muqit Khan and A.K.M. Jahangir Hossain attended the meeting.

Secretary of the Ministry Mohammad Ali and heads of corporations and departments were present on the occasion.

Dhaka WASA Tender Notice

বিভিন্ন পানি সরিষ্ নিশ্চিতকরণে আপনার বাজীর জলাধার সমূহ নিয়মিত ক্লিইং পাটভার দিয়ে পরিষ্কার করুন

Tenders are invited from Dhaka WASA enlisted 1st, 2nd & 3rd class mechanical and electrical (A/B/C category) contractors with necessary experience for re-electrification and security time installation works of the pump house of Narinda Storm Water Pump Station at a cost allotment of Taka 45,009/-. Tenders will be received up to 12-00 Noon on 2-12-91 and opened the same day in presence (if any) of the tenderers or their representatives.

Tender schedule will be available at the office of the Chief Accounts Officer, WASA Bhaban, 98 Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka and all MODS Zone offices of Dhaka WASA. Other detailed descriptions will be available from the undersigned.

Address: Segun Bagicha, Dhaka
WASA-P.I.—394/91

Md. Zahurul Alam
Executive Engineer
(current responsibility)
Drainage Division-2
Dhaka, WASA

DFP (G)—14072-25/11
G—997

Friday

Morning Session

8-00 Opening announcement
Al Quran
Programme summary

8-10 News in Bangla

8-15 Chena Kahini

8-40 Cartoon Film: Mutant Ninja Turtles

9-10 Film show: The Spectacular World of Guinness Records

9-30 43rd Emmy Award

10-00 News in English

10-05 Popular Film Programme

11-15 Moner Mukurey: Shumudrey Gangchil

Evening Session

3-00 Opening announcement
Al Quran
Reading from 'the Triptak'

3-20 Alor Dishari

3-40 Movie of the week

5-10 News in Bangla

5-30 Anu-Paramanu

5-50 Sangecta

6-45 Sports programme: Cricket

8-00 News in Bangla

8-25 Dipia Chetona

9-00 Shatarupa

10-00 News in English

10-30 Drama series: L A Law

11-30 Khabar/The News

11-45 Close down

Weather

No change in night temperature

Dry weather is likely to prevail across the country during the next 24 hours till 6 pm Friday, reports UNB.

Met office says no appreciable change in night temperature is expected.

Thursday's maximum temperature in Dhaka was 27.5 degree Celsius and the minimum 17.2 degrees. Country's lowest temperature 13 degree Celsius was recorded at Rajshahi.

Percentage of humidity was 71 in the morning and 69 in the evening.

Sun sets today (Friday) at 5.11 pm and rises on Saturday at 6.24 am. Temperature and humidity recorded at important cities and towns on Monday were:

Cities/Towns	Temperature in degree Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	9 am	6 pm
Dhaka	27.5	17.2	71	69
Chittagong	26.7	16.8	80	70
Rajshahi	26.6	13.0	86	86
Khulna	26.4	14.7	88	68
Rangpur	26.3	14.0	90	83
Barisal	27.4	15.3	84	75
Sylhet	27.9	15.4	86	73

Bangladesh Small & Cottage Industries Corporation
137/138 Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000

পরিবার পরিকল্পনা গ্রহণ করুন

TENDER NOTICE

For the undermentioned works, besides 1st & 2nd class enlisted contractors of BSCIC, 1st & 2nd class contractors enlisted with other government, semi-government and autonomous bodies may participate in the tender by purchasing schedule depositing the prescribed fees (1st class Tk 1500/- & 2nd class Tk 1000/-) in cash.

Sl. No.	Name of work	Estimated cost Taka	Earnest money (from any scheduled bank) Taka	Price of Tender form (non-refundable) Taka	Time limit for work	Tender receiving			Tender opening		
						Place	Date	Time	Place	Date	Time
01.	Repairing the kitchen of Lamshikhal Salt Exhibition Centre	1,03,463/60	2,069/27	100/-	Two months	Chief Engineer & Regional Director, Regional Office, BSCIC, Chittagong	05.12.91	11 AM	BSCIC, Regional Director, BSCIC Dhaka Regional Office, Chittagong	07.12.91	10 AM
02.	Repairing the goods storage godown of Lamshikhal Salt Exhibition Centre	1,47,750/93	2,955/02	150/-	Two months	Do	Do	Do	Do	Do	Do
03.	Construction of enclosure embankment of Lamshikhal Salt Exhibition Farm	7,65,250/-	15,105/-	750/-	Three months	Secretary, BSCIC, Head Office, Dhaka & Regional Director, BSCIC Regional Office, 17, Agrabad, Chittagong	Do	Do	Secretary, BSCIC, Head Office, Dhaka	Do	Do

Detailed description regarding the works can be obtained on all working days during office hours from Chief Engineer, Civil Engineering Division, 137/138 Motijheel C/A, Dhaka and Regional Director's Office of the area concerned and office of Chief, Salt Project, BSCIC, Cox's Bazar.

No. PFD-490/91 (66)
DFP (G) 13842-21/11
G-970

Chief Engineer
BSCIC, Dhaka