

Metropolitan

Dhaka Day by Day

A Royal Touch to Diplomacy

by Nancy Wong

TUNKU Nazihah binte Mohammad Rus, the High Commissioner of Malaysia to Bangladesh, enjoys two unique distinctions. But she takes them both in her stride, as if they are not all that important to her as a diplomat.

Tunku — as she is called by all her friends — is the only woman head of a diplomatic mission in Dhaka and, at this moment, happens to be one of the three women ambassadors serving in the foreign service of Malaysia.

Those who are familiar with Southeast Asia would immediately know of the other distinction enjoyed by the High Commissioner. A Tunku is a member of a Malaysian royal family. When a visitor brings up this point, as this writer did during an informal talk with the diplomat the other day, Tunku throws light on her family origin with gentle modesty that is typical of all Southeast Asians.

Tunku Nazihah is part of the extended family of the Sultan of Negeri Sembilan, the ninth state of Malaysia. At the moment, the Sultan is the Deputy King — "Timbalan Yang di Pertuan Agong," so goes his official title — of Malaysia. Under the country's unique constitution, the Sultan of each state, by rotation, holds the office of the Monarch for five years, with a Deputy King serving as his Number Two during the same period.

It has been relatively easy for Tunku Nazihah who obtained a B.A. (Hons) in International Relations from the University of Malaya in the 1960s to be career-minded. This, too, has something to do with her family background. The royal family of Negeri Sembilan is descended from the Menangkabau stock, the ethnic group in Padang of Sumatra in Indonesia, which prides itself in having a matriarchal form of society. This brings me to another bit of history.

Many of the well-known families in Malaysia originally came from different parts of Indonesia, especially Sumatra. Among them were the ancestors of the country's second prime minister, the late Tun Abdul Razak.

What attracted Tunku Nazihah to diplomacy?

Says the diplomat, "Basically, I am a shy person. However, I am interested in meeting people. Besides, one of my goals in life is to try to make the world a better place to live in, by promoting better understanding among nations. I feel, diplomacy provides one of the channels to realise these objectives. For me, this is also the best way of serving my country."

So far, the years she has spent in the foreign service of Malaysia have been stimulating. Soon after joining the Ministry in the late sixties, she attended a one-year course in International Relations at Oxford University. Then, since her salad days in this fascinating world of diplomacy, she has served in her country's missions in Bonn, Colombo, The Hague, Beijing and Jakarta, with each posting adding something to her experience. For instance, during her post-

BIBM course on computer ends

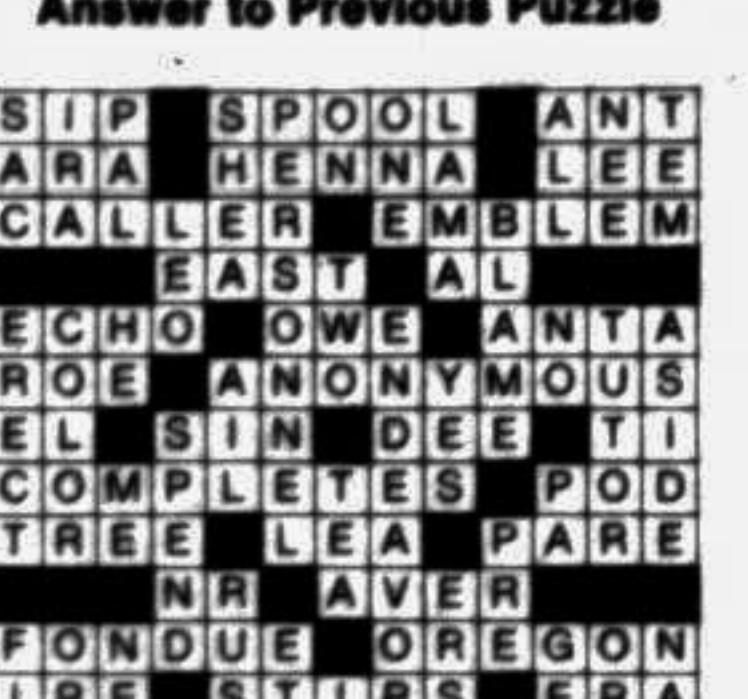
An 18-day course on computer programming organised by Bangladesh Institute of Bank Management (BIBM) concluded in Dhaka Saturday, re-

ports UNB.

Twenty-seven officers from different banks and financial institutions participated in the course.

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

Answer to Previous Puzzle



ACROSS

- 1 Aseptic fluid
- 2 Ran easily
- 3 Wine cup
- 4 River island
- 5 Angry
- 6 Emerged victorious
- 7 Eve of "The Brady Bunch"
- 8 — Hidden Videos
- 9 Bird's beak
- 10 Sahara and Gobi
- 25 Republic
- 29 Sun god
- 30 Water nymph
- 32 Tibetan priest
- 33 Urge on
- 35 Lawful
- 37 Lair
- 38 Sluggish
- 40 Surgical thread
- 42 Neon symbol
- 43 Automobile style
- 45 "Thirty — Over Tokyo"
- 47 New Zealand
- 49 Surfet
- 50 "Down These Mean —"
- 54 Plague
- 55 Type of cross
- 56 Immense, drench
- 60 Quarrel
- 61 Hoover
- 62 Haste
- 63 Opp. of NW
- 1 Opening
- 2 Be ill
- 3 Ornamental knobs
- 4 Generous
- 5 Conjunction
- 6 Mrs. Nixon
- 7 Short jacket
- 8 Hinder
- 9 Shoemaker's tool
- 10 Wire measure
- 11 One, no matter which
- 12 Altitude
- 13 Son of Adam
- 14 Piggens
- 15 Frock
- 16 King of birds
- 17 Wise persons
- 18 Cushion
- 19 Correct a manuscript
- 20 Paths
- 21 Tropical fruits
- 22 Delly
- 23 Situated
- 24 Vigil
- 25 Memorandum
- 26 Wants
- 27 Approaches
- 28 Adore and touch
- 29 Customary
- 30 abtr.
- 31 Chinese pagoda
- 32 — raisin (ice cream)
- 33 Petition
- 34 Distress signal
- 35 Female sheep
- 36 Eggar ID

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