

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-

ing in Beijing, she came to know Prince Sihanouk very well.

The Tunku's first posting as the head of a mission in Dhaka. Judging by her performance which has earned her a lot of admiration from her diplomat colleagues, she faces the challenge with verve and finds her work in Bangladesh extremely satisfying. As she puts it, "I find life in Bangladesh most interesting. I try to discern the political and economic developments which affect our two countries, Malaysia and Bangladesh, and look for ways of providing cooperation between them."

What is it like being a woman diplomat in a predominantly man's world?

The Tunku must have been asked this question before. She answers it slowly, without looking surprised. "I find all the diplomats and colleagues whom I have met in different countries very helpful, cooperative and, indeed, broadminded, which may be due to the nature of their work and their exposure to different countries and cultures," she says.

The High Commissioner dispels the notion of a helpless, fragile woman diplomat trying her best to make a mark in a male dominated profession. Her natural but confident ways have helped her to win the support of her junior colleagues who accept her leadership. What's more, being a woman, she also performs a dual role, as an Ambassador and a hostess, especially when there is a party or a social function at her place. She carries out the chores, like setting the menu or supervising the cooking, which are taken care of by a wife in the case of a male diplomat.

Like most diplomats, male or female, Tunku Nazihah has an active social life. She is the Captain of the Ladies Section of the Kurmitola Golf Club. Recently, she organised a function at her residence with other women golfers and raised Taka 80,000 for victims of cyclone. For Malaysian expatriates who often feel homesick, the Tunku has thoughtfully set up a Malaysian Women's Association which has a monthly get-together, sometimes for cooking demonstrations or for preparation to participate in annual Meena bazars. It is this group that has contributed Taka 33,000 for the cyclone victims.

It is indeed a hectic life for the only woman head of a diplomat mission. But, then, how does it affect her personal life?

The Tunku confides, "When you get uprooted from time to time, there is a loosening of close contacts with friends and relatives. While serving abroad, one makes a lot of friends, but close ones are hard to come by. One must also make a choice between career and marriage."

The affable diplomat has clearly found her niche in life and, still unmarried, is happy with her life. Above all, having adopted her sister's daughter, she has a wonderful ten-year old companion, not to mention a stimulating career. "No complaints," she says with a smile.

81,215 licensed rickshaws in city

The Minister for Local Government Rural Development and Cooperatives Abdus Salam Talukdar told that the Jatiya Sangsad yesterday that the number of licensed rickshaws plying in the capital city was 81,215, reports BSS.

Replying to a question of Nurul Islam Moni (Ind-Barguna), the Minister said the government had no plan, at the moment, to reduce the number of rickshaws in metropolitan Dhaka.

In reply to a supplementary question from Begum Motta Chowdhury (AL-Sherpur), Talukdar said the number of pullers was almost the same as the number of licensed rickshaws in the city.

In reply to another supplementary question on whether the government was thinking about introducing any alternative means of transport as pulling rickshaws was inhuman, Talukdar said the Engineering University was making an experiment on evolving an improved version of the rickshaws.

PROGRAMME

Sanskrit Sangstha

Jatiya Sanskrit Sangstha will arrange a programme of poems and songs 'Rim Zim Barishan' today (Sunday) at 5 pm at 52, New Eskatan in the city to welcome the rainy season.

Shilpakala Academy

Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy will accord a reception to the eminent music specialist Abdul Ahad and Ustad Rabin Majumder today (Sunday) at 11 am. It will also hold a programme in remembrance of late Khadem Hossain Khan at the same time.

NAP condolence meet

National Awami Party (NAP) will hold a condolence meeting in remembrance of late lawyer Nirod Bihari, former MP and member of central executive committee of NAP, today (Sunday) at 5 pm at Institution of Engineers in the city.

Speaker of the Jatiya Sangsad Abdur Rahman Biswas will attend the meeting as chief guest.

Seminar on Islam

A seminar on 'Islam in the eye of a non-Muslim' will be held today (Sunday) at the Dhammandi Office of Islamic Academy. Sayed Ashraf Ali will present the key-note paper which will be discussed by Dr Askar Ibne Shaikh and Prof Hassan Abdul Kayum.

Justice Abdur Rahman Chowdhury will be the chief guest in the seminar with Dr Sayed Ali Ashraf in the chair.

UNAB meet

In observance of International Day of Solidarity with the struggling people of South Africa, the United Nations Association of Bangladesh (UNAB) will hold a discussion meeting today (Sunday) at 5 pm at the auditorium of the United Nations Information Centre, House No-25, Road No-11 (Old Road No-32), Dhammandi.

Prof Salahuddin Ahmed will preside over the meeting. The meeting will be addressed by Prof Abdus Selim, Prof Asit Roy Chowdhury and Syed Ahmad Hossain, Secretary General, UNAB and Vice-President of the World Federation of United Nations Association.

BRCS meet

The general meeting of Dhaka City Unit of Bangladesh Red Crescent Society, which was scheduled for Saturday will now be held today (Sunday) at 12 noon at North Brooke Hall in Dhaka.

Weather

Gusty wind likely

By Staff Correspondent

Rain or thundershow with moderately heavy to heavy fall accompanied by gusty wind is likely to occur at most places over Chittagong and Rajshahi Divisions and at many places over Dhaka and Khulna Divisions during the next 24 hours ending 6 pm on Monday, reports Meteorological Department.

Heavy rainfall warning: Moderately heavy to heavy fall likely to occur at one or two places over Rajshahi and Chittagong Divisions till Monday morning.

The highest temperature recorded at Satkhira was 33.4 degrees Celsius while the lowest temperature recorded at Rajshahi was 24.3 degrees Celsius. The day temperature till Monday may remain nearly unchanged.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Little change. Extended outlook for another five days: No marked change. The sun sets today (Sunday) at 6.48 pm and rises tomorrow (Monday) at 5.12 am.

Temperature and humidity in some cities and towns of the country on Saturday were:

Cities/Towns	Maximum	Minimum	Humidity in Percentage	9 am	6 pm
Dhaka	30.6	26.5	86	86	90
Khulna	32.6	27.8	86	86	78
Rajshahi	32.2	24.3	88	88	98
Jessore	32.8	27.2	88	88	98
Bogra	31.6	24.8	92	100	92
Sylhet	31	24.5	83	92	92
Kutubdia	33.6	25	82	78	78
Comilla	31	25.5	86	86	86
Barisal	31	26	92	86	86
Dinajpur	28.8	24.5	88	92	92
Satkhira	33.4	27.8	88	78	78
Srimangal	31.5	25.6	78	80	80

Chehlum

Chehlum of Shamsur Rahman Molla, a retired District Judge and founder president of Naitragar Upazila Samity at Dhaka, will be held tomorrow (Monday) at 4.30 pm at his Shahedbag residence, a press release said.

All of his friends, relatives and well wishers are requested to attend the chehlum.



Bangabir Kader Siddiqui Mukti Sangram Parishad brought out a procession in city on Saturday demanding unconditional release of Kader Siddiqui. —Star photo

13,000 workers may go to Gulf countries this month

Some 12,000 labourers were sent to different Gulf countries last month after manpower export to the war-ravaged region resumed, an official source said today.

Another 13,000 workers are likely to be despatched to the Gulf in the current month, as the government geared up efforts to fulfil the manpower export target, a senior official at the Labour and Manpower Ministry told UNB on Saturday.

The fixed target of manpower export to the region in the current fiscal year is one lakh and 87,000 skilled and unskilled workers have been sent to the Gulf countries in the last 11 months, he informed.

He said the target would be fulfilled by sending rest

13,000 Bangladeshis to the Gulf states, including battered Kuwait, in the current month.

"The country will be in a better position to export a larger number of labourers in the next financial year," he also hoped.

About return of the Bangladeshis to their jobs they had left behind following the flare of Gulf crisis with the last August 2 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, the official said their re-employment had also started.

He said 2575 new and 620 returnee labourers have already been sent to Kuwait to take part in the rebuilding of the liberated emirate.

About 63,000 Bangladesh expatriates were evacuated from Kuwait following the Gulf

crisis. Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia visited three Gulf states — Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and UAE — in late May, when she discussed return of the evacuated labourers as well as fresh employment.

Remittance by the wage earners from the region dwindled due to eviction of a total of 65,000 Bangladeshis from their jobs. But it marked a fair rise after the end of the Gulf conflict.

In nine months of the current fiscal (1990-91) till March, Bangladesh received 568 million US dollar in remittance from the Gulf states against 760 million dollar in the previous year (1989-90), the official said.

Computerised Information Centre at Cancer Hospital

A computerised Medical Information Centre with two types of data-bank has been established at Cancer Hospital at Mohakhali to make up-to-date literature and progress of medical science available to all health care professionals, reports BSS.

Minister for Education and Cultural Affairs Prof AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury inaugurated the centre Saturday morning. State Minister for Information Md Nurul Huda and State Minister for Education Principal Md Eunus Khan and Dr Raymond E. Phillips, Medical Director of New York based Medical Exchange International (MEI) also spoke.

Education and Cultural Affairs Minister Prof Badruddoza laid emphasis on making up-to-date medical knowledge and information available to all medical professionals for achieving the desired goal of health for all programme by the year 2000.

State Minister for Information Nurul Huda said that step would be taken to publicise the MIC throughout the country.

State Minister for

Private Dental Surgeons Assoc executives

A 25-member executive committee of Bangladesh Private Dental Surgeons Association was formed at its general meeting held here recently, an association press release said in Dhaka on Saturday, reports BSS.

Dr Mohammad Amirul Islam and Dr Jahangir Kabir were elected President and General Secretary respectively of the committee, the press release said.

JAGPA protests new taxes

Jatiya Ganatantrik Party (JAGPA) brought out a procession Wednesday evening in the city to protest new tax proposals on essential commodities in the new budget. The processionists demanded withdrawal of new taxes, says a press release.

BCFA hails Khaleda

By Staff Correspondent

Bangladesh-China Friendship Association (BCFA) congratulated Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia on the eve of her visit to China.

In a statement BCFA Secretary General Nazmul Haq Nannu hoped success of the Prime Minister's visit and said it would strengthen the relationship between the two friendly countries.

The statement said late President Ziaur Rahman created a firm friendship between Bangladesh and China and Khaleda's visit would further strengthen it.

It hoped China would continue to extend its cooperation in overall development of Bangladesh.

Seminar on future of economy

By Staff Correspondent

The two-day national seminar on "future direction of Bangladesh's economy," organised by Islamic Economics Research Bureau, will be held on June 18-19 at ICMA auditorium at Nilkhet.

Chairman of the University Grants Commission M Shamsul Huq will attend the seminar as chief guest. The inaugural session will be presided over by SM Al-Hosini.

Economic related 13 papers will be presented by Prof Akhlaque Rahman of Jahangirnagar University, M Zahurul Islam of Rajdhan Unnayan Kartipakkha, Dr Haliz G A Siddiqui of Institute of Business Administration, Dr Wahiduddin Mahmud of Dhaka University, Dr Aynun Nisat of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology, Dr Ayubur Rahman Bhuiyan, Dr S Latifur Reza, Dr Salauddin Ahmed, SM Ali Akkas, Dr AKM Ahsanullah and Dr ATM Zahurul Huq of Dhaka University, Reazuddin Ahmed, President, Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalist.

Those who will discuss on the papers are Dr M Habibullah, Lutfur Rahman Sharker, SM Habibur Rahman, Muhammad Zafar, Dr Ataur Rahman, M Azizul Huq, SM Ali Akkas, Dr M Sohrabuddin, Dr Azizur Rahman Khan, M Awal Sharker, Dr ATM Shamsul Huda, Dr Mustafa Kamal Muzeri, Prof Abdul Bayes, M Zahurul Islam, Prof Abu Ahmed, Dr Azhar Uddin, Dr Mahfuzul Huq, Dr Abdullah Faruq, Prof Mahfuzul Huq, Prof M Royhan Sharif, Dr Sheikh Maksud Ali, SM Al-Hossaini, Dr Salauddin Ahmed.

The five sessions of the seminar will be presided over by Dr Sk Maksud Ali, Prof M Royhan Sharif, Jamaluddin Ahmed, Dr AH Shahadat Ullah and Dr M Shamsur Ali.

Tk 29 cr deposited with PM's Relief Fund

A total of Taka 28,94,18,698 was deposited till June 11 with the Prime Minister's Relief Fund opened after the April 29 cyclone. State Minister for Relief Lutfar Rahman told Parliament Saturday, reports BSS.

Replying to a question from Nurul Islam Moni (Ind-Barguna) on behalf of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, the State Minister said an amount of 9.5 million dollars Japanese grant had also been deposited with the Prime Minister's Relief Fund.

Rahman said Taka 6,84,85,896 has so far been spent on relief works while 4.85 million dollars was spent from the Japanese grant.

The expenditures from the Japanese grant included repair of microwave tower (0.20 million dollars), operation and management of helicopters (0.90 million dollars), house building and procurement of GC sheets (0.70 million dollars), procurement of essential medicines (0.20 million dollars), purchase of TSP fertilizers (2.50 million dollars), and fence replying of Cox's Bazar and Patenga airports (0.35 million dollars).

Answering a question from Mansur Ahmed (AL-Satkhira), the State Minister said till June 11, a total of 10,98,515 kilograms and 60 cartons of relief goods worth about 448.231 million dollars were received from 35 countries.

These relief goods included food stuff, medicines, blankets, tarpaulin and clothes, he added.

He said according to the account prepared by the economic relations department, the quantum of foreign grant committed and received till June 12 this year stood at little over 15 million dollars.

JU Officers' Assoc executives

By Staff Correspondent

The 11-member executive committee of Jahangirnagar University Officers' Association has been elected uncontested with medical officer ATM Abdul Hannan as President and Acting Public Relation Officer Mir Abul Kashem as General Secretary.

The other office bearers are Vice-President: Mosharraf Hossain, Asstt. Secretary: Batchu Mian, Organising Secretary: Sirajul Huq, Publicity and Social Welfare Secy: Abdur Razzak, Treasurer: Tajmud Huq and the members are Kazi Mohiuddin, Abdul Gafur, Shahidul Huq and Sayenuddin.

Palli Dal team leaves for Nepal

By Staff Correspondent

A two-member team of Jatiyatabadi Palli Dal (Village Party) will leave Dhaka for Kathmandu today (Sunday).

The team led by city unit Secretary Hemayet Uddin Azad would monitor panchayat system of Nepal and also meet the Nepalese Prime Minister.

Motorcycle stolen

By Staff Correspondent

A Honda motorcycle (Dhaka Metro A 016281) was stolen from the premises of House No. 4, Road No. 6 Block -E, Section -2, Mirpur Housing Estate between 8-30 pm to 9 pm on Thursday. The motorcycle belonged to Mr Manzurul Huq, Administrative and Financial Officer, IDP, a Technical Assistance (TA) component of LGED under LGRD and Co-operative Ministry.

A case has been registered with Mirpur thana.

BIBM course on computer ends

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

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

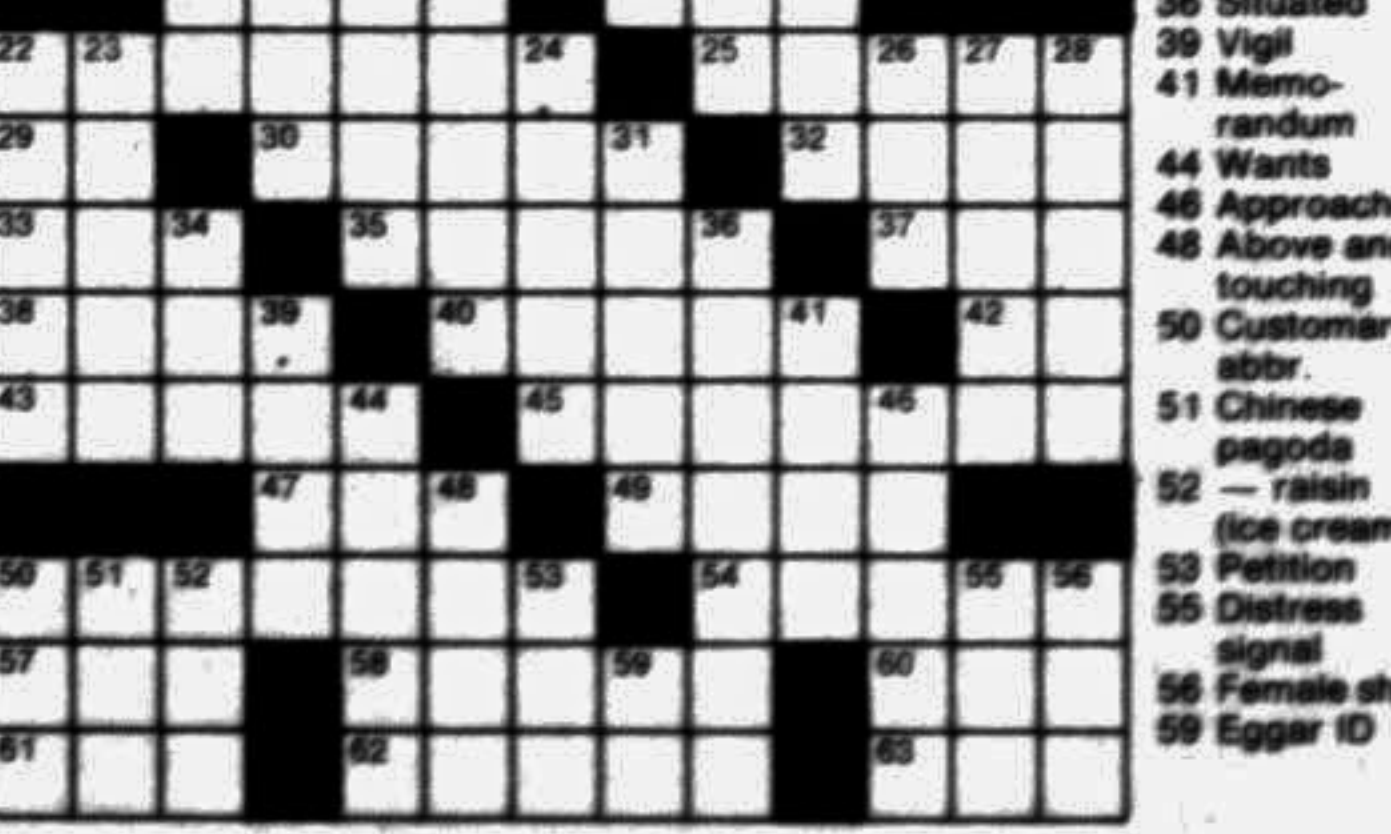
CROSSWORD PUZZLER

Answer to Previous Puzzle

ACROSS
1 Aeriform
2 Fluid
3 Ran easily
4 Wine cup
12 River island
13 Angry
14 Emerge
15 Victorious
16 Eve of "The Brady Bunch"
17 "Hidden Videos"
18 Express
21 Bird's beak
22 Sahara and Gobi
25 Repulse
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 parrot
48 Surflet
50 "Down These Mean —"
51 Pledge
57 Type of cross
58 Immerse
59 drench
60 Quarrel
61 Hoover —
62 Heist
63 Opp. of NNW

DOWN
1 Opening
2 Be II
3 Ornamental knots
4 Generous
5 Conjunction
6 Mrs. Nixon
7 Short jacket
8 Hinder
9 Shoemaker's tool
10 Wire measure
11 One, no matter which
16 Attitude
18 Son of Adam
20 Pigeon
22 Frock
23 King of birds
24 Cushion
27 Correct a manuscript
28 Paths
31 Tropical fruits
34 Ditty
36 Situated
39 Vigil
41 Miscellaneous
44 Wants
46 Approaches
48 Above and touching
50 Customary abbr.
51 Chinese pagoda
52 — rain (ice cream)
53 Pollution
55 Distress signal
56 Female sheep
59 Egg ID



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4. F/731/MPIC-73/91/POP	Variable speed cumulator Motor	15-7-91	Tk. 50/=
5. F/13/MPIC-11/91/POP	Mercury Bulb	17-7-91	Tk. 25/=
6. F/23/MPIC-17/91/POP	Boiler drum gauge glass	17-7-91	Tk. 25/=
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