

Dhaka Day by Day

When Acting Becomes a Passion

by Rahat Fahmida

As soon as one entered the room, it was easy to identify this pretty, fragile actress. But her nationality was a big guess! Jonquil Moona Saleheen Dopfel, is the daughter of Late Mir Maqsood-us-Saleheen, unknown to most of the younger generation as a pioneer of group theatre movement in Bangladesh. He is practically the founder of Drama Circle, the first group theatre in this part of the sub-continent, which was formed in 1956. He left for Hawaii with a scholarship in Fine Arts at the East-West Centre in 1961 and stayed on after marrying an American course mate.

Moona is now a budding stage actress in the United States and is here to attend a family wedding. A number of quite startling changes occurred in the theatre world both here and in the west since the days of her father — changes which for the first time challenged the very basis of theatrical organisations.

Moona had her interest in acting from a very young age. As she said, "I always dreamt of being an actress from the age of four. Though my father never imposed his interest on us, the inspiration came from him." Her limpid brown eyes spoke brightly and expressively enough to convey her passion for acting. Her interest was so strong that it never gave way to another alternative. Thus her graduation course included the study of drama and acting, at the State University of New York at Stony Brook. She considers it to be a luxury to take up her master's course, as learning on the job and experience were more important. Moona took part in school plays

and later in commercials. She hopes to act in films later in life.

This young actress gave quite a clear view of theatre and acting world in the West, and its ups and downs. That it now faces a big competition with television entertainments and video in every house. In this field, as on the race-course, there are no certain winners. As Moona put it, "Of course, it can be tough. It is getting harder to compete in recruiting talents. Everything is getting more expensive. Theatre rents are going up. It's a high, high risk to put on a show these days."

"I wish sometime in my life I can be a director and have my own theatre," Moona said. It is indeed a big ambition. As for theatres or films, the final word is of the director. "Once the stake money is in the kitty, getting a new play on the stage is a three-handed collaboration — author, player, director. But only one can play God. And the director is the one. Everybody has to trust the director and his/her instincts."

Talking about the success of a particular play or film Moona said, "If a play flops, neither the creative people nor the associated business people are going to blame themselves. The handiest scapegoats are the reviewers."

Moona did not have much chance to see any stage plays here. After she goes back to the States in a few days time, it is not expected that she will come back in a hurry. She has a trail of plans to work on. As one of her secret plan is either to direct a short film or a TV serial on a particular issue, which she refuses to disclose to anyone at the moment.



Jonquil Moona Saleheen Dopfel

Life sketch of Naval Chief

Rear Admiral Mohammad Mohamminul Islam, nce BN was born on 11 September 1940 in a respectable Muslim family of Bikrampur, Dhaka. His father late Janab Mominul Islam was a government servant.

He passed his Matriculation examination from Chittagong Collegiate School and Intermediate (Science) from Dhaka College with distinction.

He was commissioned in erstwhile Pakistan Navy in the Executive Branch on December 1, 1963. He was awarded B Sc degree from the University of Karachi in the same year.

Rear Admiral Islam is a qualified submariner and served in the Pakistan Navy submarines Ghazi and Hangor as Weapon Officer. He also attended advanced submarine courses in France and Turkey. He was the first Bangladeshi officer to graduate from the Naval Command College at Newport, Rhode Island, USA in June 1982. In addition, he holds a Master Mariner's Certificate from UK.

At home he served both in Command and Staff positions in ships, establishments and at the Naval Headquarters. He served as Directors of Naval Operations, Plans and Intelligence at the Naval Headquarters. He also commanded the Bangladesh Navy frigates Ali Haider, Abu Bakr and Umar Farooq. He served as the Commodore Commanding BN Flotilla for three years and as the Commodore Commanding Chittagong for two years. Prior to his appointment as the Chief of the Naval Staff he was serving at the Naval Headquarters as the Assistant Chief of the Naval Staff (Operations) since January, 1987. In addition he served in the Naval Headquarters as the Assistant Chief of Naval Staff (Materials) from Feb 87 to Jan 89. He has the distinction of serving at sea for more than 18 years and actively took part in sea exercises both at home and abroad.



A sportsman from his childhood, Rear Admiral Islam takes keen interest in athletics, tennis, cricket and had been a football blue of Pakistan Navy and Pakistan Military Academy prior to independence of Bangladesh.

6,479 branch post offices in remote areas

By Staff Correspondent

There are 6,479 branch post offices in the remote areas of the country, State Minister for Telecommunications Md Shamsul Islam told the Jutya Sangsad on Wednesday.

Replying to a written question of Abu Lais Md Mubin Choudhury, Shamsul Islam said that in the past, post offices were not opened union-wise and as such, there was no list of union-wise post offices available with the ministry.

Replying to another question of Prof Rafiqul Islam of Jessore, the State Minister said the government has own buildings for 587 post offices in the country. During the current fiscal year, eight more post offices were under construction, he added.

Weather

Moderate rain likely

By Staff Correspondent

Light to moderate rain or thundershower accompanied by gusty wind is likely to occur at many places over Chittagong and Rajshahi divisions and at one or two places over Khulna and Dhaka divisions during the next 24 hours commencing 6 pm Saturday, reports Meteorological Department.

On Saturday, the highest temperature, recorded at Jessore at 36 degree Celsius. The day temperature till Monday morning will remain nearly unchanged. Meanwhile, Patuakhali experienced the highest rainfall 55 mm during the last 12 hours till 6 pm on Saturday. Rangpur recorded 41 mm. Sitakunda 23 and Dinajpur 18 mm rain during the period.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Rainfall activities may increase. Extended outlook for another five days: Little change. The sun sets today (Sunday) at 6.50 pm and rises tomorrow (Monday) at 5.12 am.

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

Cities/Towns	Max	Min	Humidity in percentage
Dhaka	34	28	81
Chittagong	32	26.8	86
Rajshahi	30.6	26.8	86
Khulna	35	27.4	51
Sylhet	31.5	25.6	81
Srimongal	32.6	26.4	81
Comilla	32.2	27.6	90
Barisal	34.4	27.4	86
Satkhira	35.2	28.2	78
Jessore	36	27.3	x
Iswardhi	34.5	27.5	84
Cox's Bazar	32.2	25.6	84



Poet Shamsur Rahman addressing a meeting in memory of Rudra Md Shahidullah at National Press Club on Saturday.

Plan to improve health for 1 lakh women, child survival

By Staff Correspondent

The Women's Development Project (WDP) has taken up a programme to improve the health of 100,000 women and their families and to increase the net assets of 10,700 of the poorest of them by 1992.

The project was initiated by CARE in 1980.

The condition of women in Bangladesh was described in 1988 by the Population Crisis Committee as the least favourable in the world.

Today's adult women who are almost exclusively responsible for the health and well-being of their children are generally illiterate, uninformed about nutrition and sanitation, and without an independent or adequate source of income. As a result, their children frequently experience chronic malnutrition and repeated bouts of preventable diseases such as dehydrating diarrhoeas. The infant and child mortality rates therefore are extremely high.

WDP is operating in Tangail, Dinajpur, Rajshahi and Gaibandha districts.

WDP is a village based training in health and agriculture which enables the villagers to improve health status and survival rate of their children and to provide assistance in establishing and managing their own savings and loan group to enable them to include the organisation of village women's leadership structures (para committees, or PCs) which will carry on WDP's village improvement activities independently after three years of training and supervision by CARE.

Once each PC assumes full responsibility for these activities, CARE staff members withdraw from their village and move on to establish the programme in new villages and areas. The programme includes: the education of village women on topics of health, sanitation, nutrition, poultry raising and kitchen garden cultivation, the formation of savings and loan associations (SLA) which will allow the poorest women to increase their net assets; and the establishment of liaison functions between trained village women and government offices responsible for family planning and immunization of mothers and children (the Upazila Health Complex Office), and for poultry vaccination (the Upazila Livestock Office). This objective is achieved by establishing closer links between the functions of the para committees (PC) and those of the saving and loan associations (SLA). The para committee members are responsible for forming the SLAs and is/are eligible for

Life sketch of Air Chief

Air Vice Marshal Altaf Hossain Choudhury, NDU, psc was born at Patuakhali on 13 June 1943. He received his early education at B M School, Barisal and Jagannath College, Dhaka. He attended the Pakistan Air Force Academy (1962-1964) and was commissioned in the General Duties (Pilot) Branch on June 19, 1964.

The Air Vice Marshal was a test pilot at PAF Base Sargodha and is also a qualified Flying Instructor. As a combat pilot he has to his credit over 2000 hours of flying and has flown 13 different types of aircraft. The Air Vice Marshal attended various flying and staff courses at home and abroad.

He has served in a number of appointments in BAF, including those of Officer Commanding and Chief Instructor Cadets' Trg Wg, Officer Commanding Flying Wg, Air Officer Commanding BAF Base Bashor and BAF Base Matur Rahman, Commandant BAF Academy as well as President Pilot Categorisation Board. He also served as Director Air Operation at the Air Headquarters. He spent most of the prime years of his career in the Operation and Training Branch of the BAF.



The Air Vice Marshal is a graduate of Defence Services Command and Staff College, Mirpur. He also attended International Fellowship of National Defence University in USA. Prior to his present assignment he held the post of Defence Attache, Embassy of Bangladesh, Moscow for over two years. He is a well travelled man and has visited Singapore, Japan, China, USSR, England, France, Holland, Germany, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Iran, Kenya, Kuwait, and many other countries on official duties and as a member of high level delegations.

Apart from being an outstanding swimmer, Air Vice Marshal Altaf Hossain Choudhury is an avid marksman, a keen sports fan and has special interest in tennis and shooting.

World Muslim leaders greet Shahabuddin

More world leaders have greeted Acting President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed on the occasion of holy Eid-ul-Azha, reports BSS.

They wished peace, progress and prosperity of the people of Bangladesh. Those who have sent their Eid greetings to the Acting President include, King Hussain of Jordan, Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmed Al Sabah, President Mohammed Hosni Mubarak of Egypt, President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom of the Maldives and President Alhaj Hassan Gouled Aptidon of the Djibouti.

18 cases pending, more in the offing

By Staff Correspondent

Trial of Former President Ershad on charges of amassing wealth beyond his known sources of income is continuing at the Special Judge Court.

The Bureau of Anti Corruption has lodged 13 cases against Ershad while as many as five other cases by other authorities have been lodged at different thanas. It is learnt.

Hasina, Abbas greet Narashima Rao

Awami League President and Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina Saturday congratulated PV Narashima Rao on his assumption of the office of Prime Minister of India, reports UNB.

Hasina hoped under the bold leadership of Rao, India, now facing challenges against its fundamental principles, would overcome the crisis.

She further hoped the friendship between India and Bangladesh would be strengthened and meaningful in future on the basis of democracy, secularism and welfare.

"May God give you strength and moral courage to face the curse of anarchy and backwardness."

She also greeted his family, colleagues and the people of India on the occasion of new leadership coming to power.

Acting Ameer of Jamaat-Islami Abbas Ali Khan also greeted PV Narashima Rao on his appointment as the ninth Prime Minister of India. In a message to the new Indian Premier, the Jamaat leader hoped friendly relationship between Bangladesh and India would be strengthened further under his leadership.

Abbas further hoped the new government of India would be sincere in resolving the existing bilateral issues like Farrakha, Tinbigha and Talpatty, between the two neighbouring countries.

EUCSU polls July 18

The elections of Engineering University Central Students Union (EUCSU) and the hall student unions will be held on July 18.



Ms Monjon Ara Begum

Woman trade union activist visits Japan

By Staff Correspondent

Ms Monjon Ara Begum, Chair-person of Women Affairs Committee and Member of Executive Board, Bangladesh Free Trade Union Congress (BFTUC) recently visited Japan under the Japan International Labour Foundation (JILAF) invitation programme '91 and to participate in the '91 Japanese Trade Union Conference - RENGO National Women's Rally held in Tokyo.

She was earlier invited simultaneously by Tadanobu Usami, President of JILAF and Yuiko Matsumoto, assistant general secretary of RENGO and chairperson of APRO Women's Committee.

Such programmes are organised annually with participation by representatives from countries in the Asia Pacific region to enhance communication and exchanges among woman trade union leaders and workers of the region and to find possible redresses to problems faced by working women in their respective countries.

Ms Monjon Ara Begum, in her deliberation and addresses stressed the need for more child day care centres and implementation of rules for low paid women workers in the context of growing women's workforce in Bangladesh.

Representatives from Hong Kong, Indonesia, Korea, Singapore, Western Samoa also participated among others.

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

ACROSS

1 Young boy
4 Stumbles
9 In what manner?
12 Native metal
13 Passageway
14 Veneration
15 Come to pass
17 Barked
19 Small island
21 Plunge
22 Insects
24 Sink in middle
26 Depression
29 More ancient
31 Aeriform

44 River bank
46 Left fall
48 Title of respect
50 Encircle
51 Experimental
53 Foundation
55 Clothes-maker
58 Negates
61 River island
62 " - in Red"
64 New Deal
65 Beverage
66 Introduce (a topic)
67 Pinch

DOWN

1 Tennis stroke
2 Metric measure
3 Dared
4 High
5 Irritates
6 Exists
7 Work at one's trade
8 Sow
9 Occur
10 Be in debt
11 Merry
16 Item of property
18 Cover
20 Label
21 Occur
22 - of Education
23 Church official
25 Restrict of speech
27 " - on Sunday"
28 Kind of cloth
30 Tattered
32 The sun
36 Dance step
38 Commence
41 Courteous
43 Baby's napkin
45 Dream
47 Crony
49 Burghoff
52 Nods
54 Dispatched
55 Chinese pagoda
56 Be ill
57 Decay
59 Slender
60 Waken
63 Mother

Answer to Previous Puzzle

PARR OPAL PAW
ABIE BODE ARE
DAPPLE ON IT
OAST TEALS
SHORTEST AM
EARTH EAR APT
AT SETTLED AI
RED BOS FENCE
EM PECULIAR
CORAL SATE
OBI OF RETARD
ROD VOTE ETUI
NEE EPOS SEEN

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