

Metropolitan

# Dhaka Day by Day

## Message from Hanoi

by Rahat Fahmida

It was exciting to interview a United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) official who recently served in Vietnam for the last three years. The fact which made it even more interesting is the interviewee being a Bangladeshi woman in her early 30s. Over a cup of tea and cheese-toasts, in the warm atmosphere of her house at Dhanmondi, Tania Zaman talked in details about her life in the capital of Vietnam, Hanoi, and specified her areas of interest.

Before going to Hanoi, Tania was informed by others about the bad housing and living conditions. The allotment of houses or flats were made by preference, depending on a person's number of family members. This was a negative point for her, and as a result she had to put up in the government guest house for about eight months. As Tania put it, that one could not ask for a better place in Hanoi, than

ceded, and this has meant a great change in the lives of our women. Before the revolution, women had no rights, they could not go to school. Only boys could go to school. So, almost all women were illiterate. Immediately after the revolution in 1946, the first constitution for independent Vietnam was created. This constitution granted equal rights to men and women in all areas. Since then, the women's organisation has sought to educate women so that they understand their equal rights. The Women's Union participates in the drafting of laws that concern women, and works to see that they are put into practice.

This women's organisation is trying now to heighten the knowledge of the women in Vietnam because, although they now have equality with men, there is a gap between men and women's average knowledge because of the long feudal and colonial history.



Tania at her office in Hanoi.

this government guest house, where she had a chance of meeting a number of top officials, both national and international. Though initially she had a difficult time with the choice of food as most of it was pork, she clarified that during her stay of three years, both living conditions and availability of food improved.

Tania's office work at Vietnam included sectors like environment, development, natural disasters, women in development and international non-government organisations serving in Vietnam. Her field of work, specially when she worked in the social sector, gave her a wide opportunity to meet a lot of people, which included the commoners.

One of the most interesting part of her work dealt with women's issues. She went on to explain that the present scene where there is a big dilemma about women's role in Vietnam, was completely different about 30-40 years back. It was a time when men and women worked hand in hand. In changing the women's situation a few organisations are formed to put forward their rights and demands.

One such organisation which Tania greatly appreciated and talked in details about is the Vietnam Women's Union. It was founded in 1930, when the country was under French colonialist rule. The women who founded it wanted the emancipation of women, but they realised that first they must have national liberation. That is why the Vietnam Women's Union, since its inception, has mobilised women all over the country to participate actively in the struggle to gain independence. Being a broad organisation it unites all kinds of women-workers, peasants, mathematicians, Buddhists, Catholics.

In 1945, their first revolution under the leadership of President Ho Chi Minh suc-

The Vietnamese women are trying to evoke a feeling of humanitarianism and not one of revenge. This is a very difficult task since the memory of the US involvement in the war in Vietnam is still very fresh. So many women have lost their dear ones. There is a natural feeling of bitterness and a desire for revenge. The women cadres spend a great deal of time explaining Vietnam's policy of not seeking revenge. As Ms. Zaman pointed that they want to rebuild their country. The people in Vietnam want peace with all their neighbours in South-East Asia and with the rest of the world. A great deal of the income generating jobs are handed by the women. For example, the work of transplanting paddy is done almost entirely by women. The Women's Union in cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture holds classes to show women new techniques of transplanting paddy to get a higher yield. The research and recommendations of the Ministry of Agriculture are implemented through the education work of the Women's Union. Classes are held, and later the women return to their co-operatives to teach the new methods to the other women. This is how new knowledge and techniques are spread in all areas whether it is how to raise pigs or transplant paddy. Without the Women's Union these new development remain only on paper.

Tania said, "In general, the Vietnamese people are pragmatic and committed."

Tania Zaman is the only daughter of a former finance minister, M. Syeduzzaman. Having studied anthropology both at the undergraduate and graduate level, she aims to serve in similarly interesting places in future. Tania opted for a few years break and left for the United States recently, to proceed with her doctorate in anthropology.

## 'Dhaka needs increased partnership in trade with developed countries'

Commerce Minister M. K. Anwar Thursday said the present government had taken substantial steps for promotion of country's export and liberalisation of the trade, reports BSS.

A policy of deregulation and non-intervention was being pursued along with boosting the private sector for an effective inter-play of market forces, the minister said while inaugurating a workshop on 'Modern marketing approach for promotion of exports from Bangladesh.'

Anwar called for removing the trade barriers so that exportables of the Least Developed Countries including that of Bangladesh could get an easy access to the markets of the developed world.

Organised by the Centre for Scientific and Technological Information (CESTI) of the

Alliance Francaise, Dhaka the workshop was participated by representatives of the trade and business circle and members of the various chambers of commerce and industry.

Editor of Holiday A Z M Enayetullah Khan presided over the workshop and the French Ambassador in Bangladesh Serge Degallix presented the key note paper.

M Renaud de Maricourt, an expert on marketing and education and a member of the Paris Chamber of Commerce and Industry spoke on techniques of modern marketing and on how to approach the markets of develop countries.

The Commerce Minister said along with the economic assistance and aid an LDC country like Bangladesh needed increased partnership in trade with the developed countries.

Anwar said the world could be made much more equitable only through increased trade between the developed and developing countries.

He lauded the setting up of a specialised agency by France for promotion of trade and investment of the Least Developed Countries.

In his key-note speech Degallix said Bangladesh was well-poised for raising its exports of the forthcoming single market of the countries of the European Community.

Enayetullah Khan said the policy of protectionism pursued by the developed countries was detrimental to the trade of economically backward nations.

Maricourt spoke on the modern marketing techniques with emphasis on methods for an access to the markets of developed countries.

## Sweden to cooperate in foreign investment

The Swedish Ambassador in Bangladesh, Carl Olof Cederblad, called on Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia at the Prime Minister's office here, reports BSS.

The envoy said the government and the people of Sweden lauded the progress of the democratic government under the leadership of Begum Khaleda Zia.

He expressed the hope that the accountable and transparent government would lead the country towards progress and prosperity through various socio-economic reforms in priority sectors already identified by it.

He described the success achieved in different fields in-

cluding human rights since the present government took over as tremendous and remarkable.

Cederblad assured his government's continued support for the welfare and development oriented programmes of Bangladesh and said it would also cooperate in various field including trade, economy and foreign investment.

Begum Khaleda Zia conveyed her best wishes to the people and the government of Sweden for their support. She also gave a brief resume of various steps taken by her government including rural development, development of women and protection of environment.

## Immunization Publicity Day today

Immunization Publicity Day will be observed today as part of the education fortnight jointly organised by the Ministry of Education and UNICEF, reports BSS.

The theme of the day is 'prevention is better than cure.'

The programmes of the day included enhancing mass-awareness on six deadly diseases which can be cured by immunization.

The education fortnight began throughout the country on January 1.

## Obituary



Sultana Jamil wife of MII Jamil, Managing Director of Khanapara Textile Mills, recently breathed her last at her residence in Prembagan Gaware, Uttara, Dhaka. She was 54.

Sultana Jamil was the former president of Lonca Club of Padma, Dhaka, Co-Chairperson of the Residential Crippled Children Home, Dhanmondi, Executive member of the WVA and Bangladesh China Institute. She widely travelled many parts of the world to attend conferences and seminars.

Chehlum of Sultana will be held today (Friday) at her residence. On this occasion a milad mahfil will be held after Jumma prayers.

Friends, relatives and admirers of the deceased have been requested to attend the milad and pray for the salvation of the departed soul.

## Chehlum

The chehlum of former minister SM Shafiqul Azam will be held on January 13 at deceased's village home Babunagar, Fatikchhari, Chittagong after Zohr prayers, reports BSS.

Zebunnessa Azam has requested all friends, admirers, colleagues, acquaintances and countrymen at large to attend the same and pray for the peace of the departed soul.

## WB Vice President due tomorrow

The World Bank Vice President for South Asia Joseph Wood will arrive in Dhaka tomorrow (Saturday) on a five-day visit to Bangladesh, reports BSS.

During his first visit to Bangladesh since taking the appointment last month, Wood is scheduled to meet a host of ministers including finance, energy and communications. He will also hold talks with high officials including the Secretary of Economic Relations Divisions (ERD).

Wood was likely to call on the Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia.

## DU teachers' representatives poll Jan 26

Election of teachers' representatives for Syndicate, Academic Council and Finance Committee of the Dhaka University will be held on January 26, says a press release, reports UNB.

A press release said six representatives will be elected for the Syndicate, six for the Academic Council and one for the Finance Committee.

Prof Dr Shahiduddin, Treasurer of the university will conduct the elections between 8 am and 1 pm at the Teacher-Students Centre the press release added.

## What's on today . . . .

### Society for Parasitology

The first annual conference of the Bangladesh Society for Parasitology will be held today (Friday) at 10 am at the IARC auditorium at Farmgate.

Prof AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury will inaugurate the function as the chief guest.

### Discussion on future of democracy

A discussion on the future of democracy and economy will be held today (Friday) at 5 pm at the auditorium of the National Museum to commemorate the patriot and social worker Mukhlisur Rahman (Shidhubhai) under the auspices of the Shidhubhai Memorial Society.

Dr Anisur Rahman, Abu Abdullah, Fayez Ahmed and Rehman Sobhan will address the function. The talks will be followed by a musical programme presented by singer Sharmila Roy of Shantiniketan.

### Sixth Asian Waterfowl Census '92

The inaugural ceremony of the Sixth Asian Waterfowl Census '92 will be held today (Friday) at 9 am at the Dhaka Zoo lake.

A M Chowdhury, Country Representative of the World Conservation Union (UCN) will attend the function as chief guest while GM Karim honorary Consultant WWF will be present as the special guest.

### Bangla-Libya Brotherhood Assoc.

The monthly executive committee meeting of the Bangladesh-Libya Brotherhood Association will be held at its New Circular office at 5 pm today (Friday).

### Lawyers' Concern

An executive committee meeting of the Lawyers' Concern will be held at its Mugdipara office today (Friday) at 5 pm.

### VAN meeting

The first annual conference of the Voluntary Assistance for the needy (VAN) will be held today (Friday) at 249/A South Jatrabari at 4 pm.

### Islami Chhatra Samaj

The Dhaka city unit conference of Bangladesh Islami Chhatra Samaj will be held today (Friday) at the auditorium of Dhaka District Sports Council at 8 am followed by a procession in protest against Myanmar action in Bangladesh Border last month.

### Death anniversary of ex-JU VC

A milad mahfil will be held at the Jahangirnagar University Staff Quarter on the occasion of fourth anniversary of death of former JU Vice-Chancellor AFM Kamaluddin today (Friday) after Asr prayer.

### Islamic Medical Mission

The certificate awarding function of an Imam Training Course will be held at Mirpur Islamic Medical Mission today (Friday) at 8-30 am.

Home Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury will be the chief guest at the function in which State Minister for Education Mohammad Younus Khan will be the special guest.

## ... and tomorrow

Talk on situation in Russia  
Dr. Andrey A Schildbach, a senior researcher of the Institute of Asian and African States at the University of Moscow will give a talk on 'current situation in Russia' tomorrow (Saturday) at 3-30 pm at the Bangladesh Institute of International Strategic Studies (BISS).

**Quikhwani**  
Quikhwani of AKM Wajshullah, retired joint registrar of Cooperative Societies will be held today after 'Asr' prayer, reports BSS.

**House For Sale**  
First Floor (2200Sqft) of Four Storey House at Elephant Road, Khokan. 500559

**Congratulations**  
to  
Our loving Parents  
On their 32nd wedding anniversary  
from  
Ripon and Lorna

**Congratulations**  
To: Japee & Poltu  
Wish our best wishes on your first wedding anniversary from Abba, Amma, Babu Bhai, Nadim Bhai, Sema Bhabi and Naved.

**It's new just for you**

The Daily Star is pleased to introduce a new column where individuals and organisations can publish Birthday and Anniversary Greetings, Congratulatory and Condolence Messages, Get-Well/Good-Luck Wishes, Birth/Death Announcements, In Memoriam, etc. at nominal charges.

For booking details, please contact:  
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Phones: 246023-4, 863035

**WVA Annual Meenabazar-1992**

WVA will be holding its annual Meenabazar at Gulshan Shishu Park on January 31, 1992 from 11 AM to 5 PM. The bazar will have international and other stalls and attractive prizes for raffle: Entry cards will be available at the venue. This annual fair is being held to raise funds for WVA's health, educational and vocational projects in aid of underprivileged and physically disabled children of Bangladesh.

**WANTED**

We are an International Development Agency helping poor people improve their living standards by using more productive techniques and technologies in the fields of Agriculture, Manufacturing, Shelter etc. We need a

**COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER**

She/he will be responsible for the collection, collation, development and dissemination of information to the development professionals and for the benefit of the general public within Bangladesh and through our international network.

The successful applicant will be a graduate in a relevant subject with 5 years experience in journalism, publishing, media or similar field OR a Masters in a relevant subject with 3 years experience. An excellent command of English and Bangla and proven communication skills are a must. She/he should be able to work with people at all levels and be willing to spend time in rural areas.

If you think you are the right person, please apply to the following address with just an application, a CV and a photograph by the 20th of January 1992. No need to send any certificates now. Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

**The Advertiser**  
GPO BOX NO.3881, Dhaka 1000

## CAREER OPPORTUNITY

A Swiss - based organization for children seeks **Coordinator** for its Migrant Children's Programme based in Dhaka, Bangladesh. The migrant Children's Programme is working at different areas in Dhaka City with the Street Children.

The main purpose of the post is to ensure that the programme is conducted within a framework of effective management and administrative procedure which enables the Staff to plan and implement the Programme to achieve the set objective of the Programme.

Candidates should have experience and potential to develop the programme for the Street Children and should have the high level of managerial skills. This post requires an intelligent, energetic & caring person who can operate under pressure and emotionally demanding conditions of the Programme. Candidate must have ability to respond & handle the emotional & physical need of the children with sensitivity & patience.

Deep commitment towards the disadvantaged and underprivileged, is an essential prerequisite of the post.

Age: 30 to 40 years.

Qualification: Master's degree.

Experience: At least 5 years field experience in working directly with the issues concerning homeless children and their rights.

Must be fluent in Bangla & English, both spoken & written.

Female candidates preferred.

Salary commensurate with responsibility of the post.

Candidates should apply, giving a brief written background of their work experience.

**G. P. O. Box-268 Dhaka, Bangladesh.**  
Last date of receipt of application  
**25th January '92**

## French Senator due in city today

Senator Xavier de Villepin of France will arrive here today evening on a two-day goodwill visit to Bangladesh, reports BSS.

He will be received at the airport by Chief Whip Khondaker Delwar Hossain.

During his stay in Bangladesh, Senator Villepin is expected to call on Speaker Shaikh Razaque Ali, Foreign Minister ASM Mustafizur Rahman and Deputy Leader of the Opposition Abdus Samad Azad.

## Friday

- Morning session**
- 8.00 Opening announcement, Al Quran programme summary
  - 8.10 News in Bangla
  - 8.15 Chena Kahini
  - 8.45 Cartoon: Mutant Ninja Turtles
  - 9.30 Film show: The Spectacular World of Guinness Records
  - 10.00 News in English
  - 10.05 Popular Film show
  - 11.15 Moner Mukure
- Evening Session**
- 3.00 Opening announcement Al Quran programme summary
  - 3.15 Recitation from the Tripitak
  - 3.20 Alor Dishari
  - 3.40 Movie of the week: Carujel
  - 5.10 News in Bangla
  - 5.30 Sports Programme
  - 6.45 Anu Panmanu
  - 7.05 Sangeta
  - 8.00 News in Bangla
  - 8.30 The Cosby Show
  - 9.00 Bishwa Natak
  - 10.00 News in English
  - 10.30 Film Show: L.A. Law
  - 11.30 Khabar/The news
  - 11.40 Sunday's programme summary
  - Closing.