

Dhaka Day by Day

Keeping Welfare in Mind

by Fayza Haq

Green-eyed, brown-haired 33-year old Martha Wilson was working for ABC and CBS TV for 5 years as a TV news producer for a variety of shows, with dignitaries from around the world, before she joined the Rotary International as a media specialist. She was in Dhaka for a few days in connection with her work.

Martha's first job was as a legal prosecutor, when she was a mediator to help prevent criminal cases from going to courts. Her focus in TV news was legal. Later she developed a broader interest in international issues.

"I decided to work for Rotary because I wanted to work for an organisation that is a very important world voice in areas of service and voluntarism. The United Nations and governments the world wide work with and need Rotary volunteers around the world. The more information I can convey about the Rotary the more lives are saved through programmes like Polio Plus global immunisation programme," Martha explained her reasons for joining the Rotary.

"I am the international media specialist for world head quarters. In addition to speaking to the local press for local events, I work very closely with the foreign press in the major bureaus around the world like CNN and BBC. I also produce educational videos for Rotary for distribution around the world. My interest in law and international affairs led me to journalism and my job now is an extension of that. I joined four years ago and worked for four different presidents from different countries. I have worked with the press on site in France, Austria, Hungary, Senegal, the Gambia, Ivory Coast, India, Pakistan and now Bangladesh," Martha explained about her work.

What is the position of women in Rotary International? "There are 200 women who join every week globally. There are more than 38,000 women Rotarians. In '87 the US Supreme court decided that Rotary Clubs should be allowed to invite women members. The principle of the Rotary Club is to have a wide array of professions. Women, now worldwide, are more visible professionally as leaders and they are now being asked to join the Rotary in all 180 countries. It is obvious that Rotary has recognised the need of women in the organisation," she informed me.

What are the current projects of the Rotarians? "Rotarians throughout Bangladesh and S Asia are committing impressive amounts of money and medical expertise to help resolve the refugee problem from Myanmar. The refugee project will blossom into something very im-

pressive, specially with the commitment of regional Rotarians (there are approximately 64,000 Rotarians in S Asia and with the additional youth groups attached to Rotary there is a potential voluntary force of 140,000 in S Asia). In addition schools have been built and hospitals renovated by Rotarians in Dhaka," Martha explained. She then went on to talk about the Polio Plus, and the Health, Hunger and Humanity projects which deal with eye disease, livestock and poultry production as well as fish farming, providing of safe water for drinking and women's development - which were the main targets of the Rotarians in Bangladesh.

"Rotary is the muscle behind the rhetoric of UN and government agencies like UNICEF and WHO. Without the help of Rotarians and other volunteers the UN and the government of developing countries simply could not achieve the average 80% coverage of immunisation of polio and other children disease. Imagine how much it would cost the UNICEF and WHO to staff the S Asia with more than 100,000 people to carry out immunisation," Martha added.

Was the Rotary International expanding to the former communist countries like eastern Europe and former Soviet Union? "Before world War II we had Rotary Clubs all over the Eastern Bloc except the former Soviet Union. With the take over of the communist regime all the service clubs were disbanded. The freedom to assemble was denied to the people in those countries. In 1989 the Rotary Club to be reinstated since World War II was the Rotary Club of Budapest. Since 1989 there are approximately 40 Rotary Clubs in Hungary, Czechoslovakia, former East Germany, Bulgaria, Russia, Ukraine, Estonia and Latvia. President Rajendra Saboo from India, just two weeks ago, hosted a president's conference in Budapest, where Rotarians from western and central Europe gathered to discuss future prospects for Rotary in the regions," Martha replied.

When I asked her about the "Rotary Annes" she explained that they were the wives of the male Rotarians who had been impressive volunteers working under the Rotary umbrella. As women become more members of the Rotary Clubs perhaps the Rotary Annes will become more directly involved.

Giving her impression of Bangladesh she said that felt that Bangladeshis were proud of their country and cared deeply for it. She found this same social commitment in places of S Asia like Sri Lanka, India, Nepal and Pakistan.

Martha had done her BA from Minnesota and Law from Capital University Ohio.



Martha with Rotary International president



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia visiting the ailing Law and Justice Minister Mirza Golam Hafiz at BIRDEM Hospital Wednesday. —PID photo

PM visits Mirza Hafiz

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia Wednesday visited the Diabetic Hospital to see the ailing Law and Justice Minister Mirza Golam Hafiz, reports BSS.

Mirza Hafiz was admitted to the hospital on Sunday with heart ailment.

Begum Zia stayed with him for some time and enquired about his welfare. She advised the attending physicians to take proper care of Mirza Hafiz for his quick recovery.

Health and Family Welfare Minister Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yusuf, Works Minister Rafiqul Islam Miah, Chief Whip Khandakar Delwar Hossain, Deputy Speaker Humayun Khan Panni, State Minister for Law and Justice Amnul Haq, and State Minister for Land Kabir Hossain Wednesday visited Hafiz and Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Mirza Golam Hafiz now under treatment at the Diabetic Hospital.

Mirza Hafiz was admitted to the hospital with cardiac problem on April 19.

Ambassadors of China and DPRK in Bangladesh also visited Mirza Hafiz and enquired about his welfare.

Gen Nawaz visits Ordnance Factory

Pakistan Army Chief of Staff General Asif Nawaz Wednesday visited the Ordnance Factory (BOF) at Gazipur, reports BSS.

On his arrival at the BOF, General Asif Nawaz and members of his entourage were received by the commandant of the Ordnance Factory Major General Manzoor Rashid Khan.

Pakistan Army Chief of Staff went round different workshops of the factory and saw the factory workers and technicians at work.

Earlier, on his way to Gazipur, General Asif Nawaz also visited Rajendrapur cantonment.

BKSP admission test postponed

The admission test of the Bangladesh Krira Shiksha Pratishthan for class seven scheduled to be held on April 26 and 27 has been postponed due to unavoidable reasons, reports BSS.

Fresh date for the admission test will be announced through press later.

Oli Ahmad off to Turkey

Communications Minister Oli Ahmad left Dhaka Wednesday for Turkey on an official visit at the invitation of his Turkish counterpart, reports BSS.

4 pc of cultivable land remains fallow every yr

About 4 per cent of the total cultivable land of the country remains fallow every year due to farmers economic hardship adversely affecting the crop production.

Official sources told UNB that on an average 9,61,000 acres of land out of the total cultivable land of 2,18,78,000 acres remain fallow every year.

Of the total cultivable land, 91,89,000 acres are single cropped, 1,07,81,000 acres double cropped and 19,08,000 acres triple cropped.

"Cropping intensity in our country is too meagre it could

be enhanced by the government's active assistance", said a senior official of the Agriculture Extension Department.

He said food shortage may be lesser if the fallow land could be turned into crop producing cultivable land.

Attributing the cause of fallow land to financial constraints and natural calamities, he said the ratio of fallow land will reduce if the government provides adequate financial assistance to the farmers during the cropping season.

An Agriculture Marketing Department official said maximum cultivable land remain fallow in Dinajpur, Sylhet, Khulna and Patuakhali.

Farmers of those areas mostly cultivate Aman crop. They should be motivated for cultivation of winter crops which will contribute to enhancing the total volume of production, he said.

Workshop on oil seed research to start at BARC on Sunday

A four-day workshop on oil seed research and development will begin at the Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (BARC) on Sunday next, reports UNB.

The workshop is aimed at reviewing the present status as well as planning the future strategies of oil seed research and development.

About 130 participants from different research organisations are expected to attend the workshop.

M. Majid-ul Haq, Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation, Water Development and Flood Control will inaugurate the workshop. Agriculture Secretary K M Rabbani will preside over the inaugural session.

'Uplift activities to be started from village'

Information Minister Nazmul Huda Wednesday said every stage of local government structure has to be built up as a democratic institution by making its activities accountable, reports BSS.

He said democratic exercise and development activities should be started from the villages at the grassroots level.

The Information Minister was discussing the core paper on 'formation of local government structure and activities at village level' at the 10th meeting of local government structure review commission held at the conference room of the Ministry of Information.

Earlier, Dr Ali Ahmed, member of the commission and former member directing staff of Bangladesh Public Administration Training Centre, presented the core paper and highlighted various aspects of the local government structure at the meeting presided over by the information minister.

Rabitat donates TK 4 cr for orphanages

Makkah-based Rabitat Al-Alam Al-Islami has donated Tk 3,85,010 for the development of two madrasahs and two orphanages in Chittagong and Comilla, reports UNB.

Two cheques each of Tk 1,92,505 were handed to the authorities of madrasah Anul Islam and Rahmania Orphanage, Fatch Magar in Chittagong and Rampur Islamia Gaseemul Uloom Madrasah and Yatimkhana, Debidwar, in Comilla.

Drought: No dramatic change likely

No dramatic improvement in the prevailing drought condition across the country is likely during the current month, according to a weather expert.

Met Director Hamiduzzaman Khan Chowdhury told UNB last night the weather condition, however, started turning better from mid-April with some localised nor-wester showers.

NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES

The containerised cargo ex. M. V. Mocklenburg V-EM210 from Khorfakkan, Felixstowe, Rotterdam, Hamburg, Antwerp, Aarhus, have been relayed to M. V. FONGSHIN V-9211, Import Rotation No. 272/92 is due to arrive Chittagong on or about 24-4-92 from Singapore.

Consignees are requested to take delivery of their cargo from FCL containers within 5 days free time from the date of landing and if cargo not cleared within 45 days will be guided by Customs Act.

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NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES

The containerised cargo ex. M. V. Arno Temasek V-38607 from Sydney M. V. New Oasis V-38607 from Yokohama Busan, Keelung M. V. Ludwighaf Express V-01314 & A. Pride V-32399 from Hongkong M. V. Srisamud V-SRS 213 from Bangkok M. V. A. Miracle V-02026 from Nagoya, M. V. Hakata V-25261, Oceanus Tokyo V-22260, Great Rizal V-25259 from Genoa have been relayed to M. V. FONGSHIN V-9211, Imp. Rot. No. 272/92 is due to arrive Chittagong on or about 24.4.92 from Singapore.

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President calls for loss cut

President Abdur Rahman Biswas Wednesday called for making the mills and factories profitable units through uninterrupted production, reports BSS.

The President said all must realise that the industrial units being run by the people's money under no circumstances should suffer loss.

President Biswas said this while a 20-member delegation of the Bangladesh Semi-Government Employees Welfare Association headed by Barrister Abdur Rab called on him at Bangabhaban.

Biswas observed that ac-

chieving food autarky, reducing loss in the industrial sector and generating new job opportunities were the pre-conditions to make the country self-reliant. A stable democratic government can only implement the development programmes towards national prosperity, he asserted.

The President referred to the massive development programmes taken by the present government and said the government would implement the programmes one after another with sincerity for improving the lot of the people.

President Biswas pleaded

for sustenance of the democratic process through a fair and smooth political atmosphere. "Democracy can't work in indiscipline," he said.

The President urged those concerned with production to put in their best efforts in maintaining continued development.

Earlier, the members of the delegation apprised the President of their various problems.

Among others, Shah Alam Manik and Abdur Rab Patwari of the Association were present.

National film competition

The government has decided to hold national film competition for full length as well as short local films released in 1990 and 1991, reports BSS.

A jury board has been constituted for this purpose.

According to an official handout for each sector of film prizes will be awarded on the basis of its qualitative and artistic excellence. If a film of national or foreign origin is made with copyright it may be considered for national award, but preference will be given to the films based on local story, culture and tradition.

Joint production films may also be considered for award but only Bangladeshi citizens will be considered in this connection. No film will be deemed fit for award if it is considered to have been copied. The best story must have to be original.

Award will be given in 21 areas: they include best film, best story, best director, best main actor, best main actress, best side actor, best side actress, best music director, best editor, best music director, best screen play and best dialogue.

Application for participation in the competition will have to be submitted in a prescribed form. It can be had from Bangladesh Film Censor Board free of cost.

Short term plan to reduce loadshedding taken up

The extent of loadshedding has now been brought down to 210 megawatt (MW) from the level of 515 MW about two weeks ago with the rehabilitation of very old power plants on an emergency basis, reports BSS.

A short term action plan has been taken up to reduce the extent of loadshedding still further within the next five to six weeks.

The demand for power stood at 1,850 MW during the peak hour of the current summer season as against 1,670 mw last year. On an average the demand for electricity goes up by 200 mw every year and the additional demand could be met only with long term planning and a huge investment. Usually it takes 3 to 5 years to complete a power station.

A package deal for rehabilitation, overhauling, repair and maintenance of a number of power plants with 644 mw generation capacity could not be implemented due to non-availability of committed foreign aid during the Ershad regime. Besides, the Kaptai Hydroelectric Power Plant is now generating only 50 mw against its capacity of 230 mw due to fall in the ground water level in the wake of the prolonged drought.

The proposal for installation of the fifth unit at Ghorasal

Power Station for generating additional 150 mw and establishment of a 300-mw capacity Meghnaghat Power Station could not be implemented in the absence of proper decision by the previous government. The present crisis in the power sector could have been averted if timely action on these two projects was taken at that time.

The Power Development Board has in the mean time instructed the zonal, circle and divisional offices to strictly follow load management programme for rational use of electricity by the consumers.

Thursday

- 5.00 Opening announcement Al-Guram
- Programme summary
- 5.10 News in Bangla
- 5.20 Recitation from the Geeta
- 5.30 Baltey Paro
- 6.00 Cartoon: The New Three Stooges
- 6.30 Jiboner Alo
- 7.05 Debate
- 8.00 News in Bangla
- 8.30 Drama of the Week
- 10.00 News in English
- 10.30 Programme on Lokman Hossain Fakir
- 11.30 Khabar/The News
- 11.40 Friday's programme summary
- 11.45 Closing

Weather

Nor'wester likely

By Staff Correspondent

Rain and Kalbaishakhi (Nor'wester) is likely at one or two places over the country during the next 36 hours commencing 6 pm Wednesday.

Meteorological office forecasts light to moderate rain or thundershower accompanied by temporary gusty wind at one or two places over Dhaka division and the regions of Rajshahi, Pabna, Bogra, Jessore, Kushtia, Noakhali, Comilla and Sylhet during the period.

Kalbaishakhi squalls speed up to 60 to 72 kilometre per hour or more at one or two places over Pabna, Bogra, Mymensingh, Tangail and Sylhet.

Weather is likely to remain nearly unchanged. Temperature and humidity recorded at important cities and towns on Wednesday were:

| Cities/ Towns | Temperature in Celsius | | Humidity in Percentage | |
|---------------|------------------------|------|------------------------|------|
| | Max | Min | 9 am | 6 pm |
| Dhaka | 36.5 | 26.4 | 71 | 66 |
| Chittagong | 33.1 | 25.1 | 76 | 79 |
| Rajshahi | 42.0 | 25.0 | 70 | - |
| Khulna | 38.8 | 24.9 | 73 | 62 |
| Bartala | 35.0 | 26.0 | 75 | 74 |
| Cox's Bazar | 32.4 | 26.0 | 66 | 73 |
| Sylhet | 31.2 | 19.8 | 98 | 70 |
| Mymensingh | 34.8 | 24.5 | 78 | - |
| Dinajpur | 35.5 | 24.0 | 73 | 60 |
| Ishurdi | 41.6 | 25.5 | 71 | 29 |
| Jessore | 41.8 | 25.6 | - | - |
| Chuadanga | 42.5 | 40 | - | - |

The highest temperature was at Chuadanga. Sunset in Dhaka on Thursday at 6-24 pm and sunrise Friday at 5-30 am.

➔ SUZUKI RANGS

আকারেও ষ্টিক যন্ত্রটি ইঞ্জিনও তেমন শক্তিশালী চেয়েছিলেন

সুজুকি জিএস১২৫

- ➔ অর্ধ টাইলার গঠন
- ➔ শক্ত মজবুত অথচ তেমন ভারী না
- ➔ ১২৫ সি সি উচ্চ ক্ষমতা সম্পন্ন ইঞ্জিন
- ➔ হেভী ডিউটি সাসপেনশন - যে কোন পথে চলার উপযোগী
- ➔ চক্রেতে ভারী অরাম

সুজুকি এ এন্ড ১০০

রিয়ান মটরস লিমিটেড
র্যাংগস গ্রুপ অব কোম্পানী-এর একটি প্রতিষ্ঠান
১৮/১৮, তেজগাঁও শিল্প এলাকা, ঢাকা-১২০৮ ফোন: ৬০৪০৯৯