

Dhaka Day by Day

Rashdi Comes Home!

By Rahat Fahmida



Mumtaz with her two grand-children.

No not the man with the death sentence around his neck. This is Mumtaz Rashdi, formerly Mumtaz Khan, a social worker running a farm in the Pakistan state of Sindh. Originally from Barisal, a close relative of Sher-e-Bangla A.K. Fazlul Haque, Mumtaz Rashdi, visited her homeland after a long time, heading a delegation from Pakistan.

While talking about this visit to The Daily Star, Rashdi said, the delegation was here to attend a conference on family planning. Pakistan looks at Bangladesh's family planning programme as a big success. She herself was so overwhelmed to see the progress in her own country that she almost lost track of her priorities.

Mumtaz Rashdi, now about 60, the wife of a one time noted journalist and later a diplomat of Pakistan, Late, Peer Ali Mohammed Rashdi, she has been running a regional non-government organisation since 1966. Setting up this organisation called Samaj Sudhar Tehrik in Sindh, her initial programme concentrated mainly and solely with rural women. This has now expanded to various fields, ranging from topography to income generation through livestock.

Mumtaz Rashdi, who has been actively involved in development work for over 25 years said, "Development approach is a broad statement on how interventions are to be delivered from the sources of inputs to the receiver in order to meet development goals and specific objectives."

"Human approach, which is essentially important, assumes that the people know best their changing needs and priorities. Therefore, the technician who believes in this approach first spends his/her time learning

the needs and priorities of the people before introducing improved technologies. The initial act of the technician under their approach is to learn, rather than to teach. The ultimate objective of the technician is to develop the knowledge, attitude, and skill of the people toward self-reliance. The social or human side of rural development is significant in order to reach and understand the grass root of any problem."

"I don't believe in working alone. I strongly believe in linkage. I think linkage is the main way of success." She works closely with social welfare departments and believes not to be in competition with other non-government organisations.

As an active social and development worker of Bengali origin, Rashdi confidently said it is not difficult for her to work in Pakistan. The main reason for this is the way her husband presented her to the people in his country. "The people in Sindh respect me and have great confidence on my doings. Their expectations are high, because I am a Bengali."

Mumtaz Rashdi feels there is a wide media gap between Bangladesh and Pakistan. There is not much of communication between the two countries. She stressed that this gap should be fulfilled and both countries ought to be informed about the other's success stories.

As a humanist, Rashdi has great interest in archeology. Her family life demands quite a bit of her time with one son and a daughter and three young grand-children. Being involved with a number of other organisations and trustees, Mumtaz Rashdi still finds time to contribute to her column in one of the leading newspapers of Pakistan — 'Dawn'.

Ban on import of locally produced items urged

By Staff Correspondent

Bangladesh Electrical Merchandise Manufacturers Association on Sunday condemned the identification of electrical meters, electrical fan, bulbs and tubelights as free importable items in the 1991-93 import policy.

The Association in a statement said these items are produced domestically maintaining the international standard. It viewed that such moves will destroy the local industries.

The Association also urged the government to impose strict ban on the import of locally produced items.

JASSAS holds discussion on poet Nazrul

Jatiyatabadi Samajik Sankshiptik Sangstha (JASSAS) held a discussion meeting in city Sunday to celebrate the 93rd birth anniversary of rebel poet Kazi Nazrul Islam, reports BSS.

Deputy Leader of the Jatiya Sangsad Prof. Badruddoza Chowdhury addressing the function as the chief guest called upon the people to be imbued with the ideals of Nazrul.

Paying tributes to the poet Prof. Chowdhury described him as a poet who championed equality and humanity. He said late President Ziaur Rahman was a great admirer of the rebel poet.

Presided over by JASSAS convener Amjad Hussain, the function was also addressed by Food Minister Shamsul Islam, State Minister for Cultural Affairs Prof. Jahannara Begum, DR R A Ghani, Meer Shawakat Ali MP, Jahid Hossain Churnu, Mahfuzullah and Dr Ahmed Rafique.

What's on today . . .

Polytechnic teachers conference

A two-day conference of Bangladesh Polytechnic Shikkhak Samity (Teachers' Association) begins today (Monday) at the Dhaka Polytechnic Institute auditorium.

Education Minister Jamiruddin Sircar will open the conference at 4 pm as chief guest.

The second day's programme includes a seminar on 'polytechnical education for self-reliance' at the Teachers' Training Centre.

Deputy Leader of the Jatiya Sangsad Prof. Badruddoza Chowdhury will attend the seminar as chief guest.

Rotary Club of Dhaka North

The weekly meeting of the Rotary Club of Dhaka North will be held today (Monday) at 5:30 P.M. at Sonargaon Hotel. Rtn. PP. M. Mosharrat Hossain will speak on 'Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam and Rotary Ethics' as guest speaker.

Workers' Party public rally

The metropolitan unit of the Workers' Party of Bangladesh will hold a public rally at the Noor Hossain Square in the city today (Monday) at 4.30 pm.

The rally has been called ahead of the party's Demand Week beginning tomorrow (Tuesday).

Party General Secretary Rashed Khan, MP, will address the rally as chief guest.

Rotary Club of Dhaka Central

The weekly general meeting of Rotary Club of Dhaka Central will be held today (Monday) at 1.00 PM at Family Lounge of Dhaka Club.

Chhatra Majlish press confce

Islami Chhatra Majlish has called a press conference at the Jatiya Press Club today (Monday) at 11 am in the wake of the organisation's delegates' conference to be held on May 29.

. . . and tomorrow

Discussion on budget

Consumers Association of Bangladesh (CAB) has arranged a discussion meeting on 'National Budget and Consumers' Interest' at the Jatiya Press Club auditorium tomorrow (Tuesday) at 3.30 pm.

Finance Minister M. Saifur Rahman will address the meeting as chief guest.

Politicians from the ruling and the opposition parties, noted economists, educationists, and leaders of different professional groups will also speak.

Workshop on LMI Analysis

A three-day national workshop on 'LMI Analysis,' jointly organised by the Ministry of Labour and Manpower and ILO regional project, will begin at the Bangladesh Management Development Centre in the city tomorrow (Tuesday).

Labour and Manpower Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan will inaugurate the workshop at 9 am in the morning.

Weather

No change in temperature

By Staff Correspondent

Light to moderate rain accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at a few places over Chittagong and Khulna Divisions and one or two places over Dhaka and Rajshahi divisions during the next 36 hours commencing 6 pm Sunday.

Meteorological office forecast day temperature is likely to remain nearly unchanged during the period over the country.

Rainfall activities will increase in subsequent two days, it also said.

There was no rain anywhere in the country in 12 hours Sunday.

The sun sets in Dhaka today (Monday) at 6:39 pm and will rise tomorrow (Tuesday) at 5:12 am.

Temperature and humidity recorded in important cities and towns on Sunday were:

Cities/Towns	Temperature in degree Celsius	Humidity in Percentage
	Max	Min
Dhaka	33.5	23.4
Chittagong	33.2	22.5
Rajshahi	34.7	23.0
Khulna	33.3	22.8
Barisal	33.2	23.0
Cox's Bazar	32.0	24.0
Sylhet	32.2	21.2
Dinajpur	32.5	22.6
	9 am	6 pm
	54	57
	73	68
	77	47
	58	66
	73	75
	79	67
	80	53



A torch procession in the city Sunday jointly organised by Chhatra League, JAGPA and Majdur League urging the Prime Minister to take up issues with India boldly. — Star photo.

NGOs asked to ensure best use of financial aid

Minister for Social Welfare and Women Affairs Tariqul Islam said that the present government was putting in its best and relentless efforts to better the lot of the destitute people despite resource constraints, reports BSS.

He called upon the affluent section of the society and non-government voluntary organisations to come forward to strengthen the government efforts.

Social Welfare Minister was addressing a destitute children rally at Jessore Town hall maidan and another adult destitute rally at village Banial about twenty kilometer north of Jessore town.

Tariqul Islam urged NGOs to ensure best use of financial aids being provided by donor countries and agencies for the welfare of the poor.

Islam was apprised that Jagorani Chakra was educating a batch of about nine hundred poor children in thirty centres at different slum areas of Jessore pourasava. He also gave away prizes among the winning children at their annual sports competition.

Radio to air PM's speech on Nazrul

Radio Bangladesh will broadcast the inaugural speech of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia on the occasion of the birth anniversary of rebel poet Kazi Nazrul Islam today at 4 pm, reports UNB.

The speech of the Prime Minister and the other related programmes will be broadcast directly from Comilla Stadium.

All the regional stations will relay the programmes simultaneously, says a press release.

Bangali Sangskritik Utsab begins May 27

By Staff Correspondent

The 'Bangali Sangskritik Utsab-1399' will be held at Khulna, Kushtia, Rangpur, Mymensingh and Dhaka from May 27 to June 22.

The utsab sponsored by 'Ganasahajya Sangstha' will uphold the traditional dances, music, drama and other cultural activities of Bangladesh.

Programmes will be held at Khulna Municipal Auditorium from May 27 to 29, at Kushtia Shilpakala Academy on June 1 and 2, at Rangpur Town Hall on June 5 and 6, in Mymensingh on June 9 and 10, and at Shilpakala Academy of Dhaka from June 18 to 22.

An advisory board has been formed with Shamur Rehman, Prof. Rehman Sobhan, Syed Shamsul Haq, Anisuzzaman, Ali Zaker and other cultural personalities as its members to celebrate the festival.

Independence Medal '92 distributed

Commerce Minister M K Anwar Sunday distributed the Independence Medal '92 at a function organised by a voluntary organisation 'Save the Distress People' at National Press Club auditorium in Dhaka, reports BSS.

An eminent personality of self-reliant movement late Mahbubul Alam Chashi, social workers Bazlur Rahman and Abu Taher were awarded medals for their outstanding philanthropic contributions. The Chairman of the organisation Benazir Ahmed chaired the function.

The Minister said that BNP government was the pro-people one and it had taken diversified programmes to change the lot of common people.

He stressed the need for an all-out coordinated efforts at all levels to build a healthy society.

Happy Anniversary

To
Abbu & Ammu
Love
Tania

Happy Birthday

To
Provamoni
"Naku Penda Piya
Naku Taka Piya
Mnpenziwe"
Love
Saimon

JS body on communication meet held

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Ministry of Communications met Sunday at the Committee Room of the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban with Communications Minister Oli Ahmed in the chair, reports BSS.

The meeting discussed at length the queries raised by

the members of the Committee on Bangladesh Railway.

State Minister for Communications Fazlur Rahman Patal, Advocate Abdul Karim MP, Advocate Mostafizur Rahman MP, Golam Mohammad Siraj MP, Tajul Islam Mohammad Faruque MP and Alhaz Md Golam Hossain MP.

Biswas greets King Hussein

President Abdur Rahman Biswas has felicitated King Hussein Ibn Talal of Jordan on the occasion of its National Day, reports BSS.

In a message to King Hussein, President Biswas wished him good health, happiness and long life and the people of Jordan increasing prosperity.

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