

## Metropolitan

## Dhaka Day by Day

## Out of Old Enemies, Turkey Makes New Allies

by Nancy Wong

In this fast changing world, where many nations break into pieces, some former enemies turn allies extending a helping hand with distant neighbours bridging the gaps to become close friends. The latter happened when the Central Asian republics left the Soviet Union to form the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS). Although they were practically next door neighbours with Turkey, politics during the Soviet Union days dictated a distant relationship. When things fell apart and the centre could not hold anymore, Turkey was among the first countries to come forward with concrete proposals of assistance to these largely Muslim states.

Speaking of this new found partnership, the Head of Chancery in the Turkish Embassy here, Salih Bogac Guldere, in a farewell interview, told The Daily Star: "Turkey opened embassies in these states soon after their independence as our aim is to help them establish pluralistic democracies based on the market economy so that in time they can join the outside world. We have established banks giving extensive credit facilities, initiated joint ventures as well as gone into direct investments in some areas — particularly in Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan — where oil exploration is a real possibility."

"While Turkey



Salih Bogac Guldere. — Star photo by Enam

may not have oil, we do have the technology for its exploration" — he added with a smile.

Of the many countries which are keen to help the Central Asian bloc Turkey probably has an edge over them. For starters, both share the same ancestry for their people trace their origins way back to the legendary conqueror, Genghis Khan. Unsurprisingly, their language comes from the same root and although pure Turkic as such may not be spoken in the CIS because of their Soviet past and dilution throughout the centuries, Guldere affirmed. "We have no difficulty understanding each other. Although language is a dynamic process and is evolving endlessly, the root remains the same."

In fact, Turkey is providing thousands of scholarships for study in her various universities and is building, equipping and staffing numerous schools throughout the CIS. It is also training civil servants to operate in an open economy — all in the main endeavour to integrate them into the new world they have emerged so that they may reap the rewards of a market economy as rapidly as possible," continued Guldere.

In addition to the participation in joint ventures and "invisible exports" such as technology in manufacturing and exploitation of natural resources, Turkey has a vast array of manufactured goods and agricultural products to sell to the CIS. They range from wheat, pulses, lentils,

dried fruit to industrial ware like iron and steel, metals, chemicals and fertilisers. Although the CIS lacks foreign exchange for the time being, credit facilities have been worked out with the various governments, as "Turkey is not interested in barter trade anymore," explained Guldere. "Our relations with the CIS are growing by the day. There was a time when a dozen agreements were signed, one after another since we had immediately (following their independence) set the necessary framework for bilateral agreements," he elaborated.

After a two-year stay in Bangladesh, Guldere has been assigned to Turkey's Permanent Delegation to the United Nations in Geneva. Reflecting on his term of office here, he described it as "two wonderful, magnificent years highlighted by many personal gains in my life. I have gained a great deal of experience in how an embassy works and it has been a laboratory for me." Despite his rather hectic professional demands, he found time off to marry the "shining star" of his life — Can, a young lady, endowed with both brains and beauty, from Ankara, who is an expert in international banking relations.

On the subject of Turkey's relations with Bangladesh, Guldere feels there is a great deal of friendship between the two countries. He feels "honored" that an important road has been named after the father of modern Turkey, Kemal Ataturk. He recalled that "this happened in 1982 when Metin Sirman was the ambassador and Ziaur Rahman the President of Bangladesh." He further noted: "Turkey provides university scholarships to many countries and Dhaka is one of the few centres in the world where the Turkish university entrance exams are held. It is conducted in English, though there is an optional Turkish knowledge paper which can be taken in Turkish. We offer 20 such scholarships annually. The rate of success by the candidates here is very high — close to 90 per cent." The beauty of this offer is that students can choose whatever subjects they wish to pursue in any of the Turkish universities.

Trade relations is normally an important aspect of diplomacy and it is no different in this case. According to Guldere, the total value of trade between the two countries is US\$20 million per annum — mostly in Bangladesh's favour. He feels that "this certainly does not reflect the full potential" and suggests that "if joint chambers of commerce could be established in Dhaka, even a modest secretariat would be able to disseminate more information and make appointments for bilateral visits for businessmen from both countries to explore further possibilities for trade to flourish."

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## Public Notice

The Government have constituted a one Member-Commission comprising Honourable Justice Abdul Matin Khan Chowdhury (Retired) to enquire into the incident that took place at Jahangir Nagar University, Savar, Dhaka on the 29th July 1993 vide Notification No. MH (Pol-1)/505 dated 01-8-93 of the Ministry of Home Affairs. Every one having knowledge of the said incident is hereby requested kindly to send a written report in the matter, citing his full name and postal address, to the undersigned within 15-9-93. The Tender of the report will, later on, be informed of the date, time and place when and where to appear to depose before the Commission.

M A Mobarak

Additional District Magistrate, Dhaka and

Secretary, Enquiry Commission, Room No. 12, Collectorate Building, Jonson Road, Dhaka. Phone No : 230950 (Office) 247915 (Residence)

## Two youngmen stabbed

By DMCH Correspondent

Two youngmen were stabbed in separate incidents in the city yesterday. One Ismail Hossain was admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital with stab injuries right below his right eye. He claimed that he was only a looker of a fight over a piece of land at Gulshan when he was attacked yesterday noon.

Meanwhile, at Bashabo a group of young men reportedly waylaid one Nazrul Islam and took him to a local club Tarun Shanghai. Nazrul claimed the young men tied him up and stabbed him.

Both the victims were under treatment at DMCH.

## Libyan envoy hosts reception

Hamad A. Abdel Wahed Charge D'affairs of the People's Bureau of the Great Socialist Peoples Libyan Arab Jamahiriya in Bangladesh, held a reception here yesterday evening in celebration of the 24th anniversary of the great Al-Fateh revolution, reports BSS.

The reception was attended by political leaders, diplomats, journalists, officials and elite of the city.

**BTV**  
Thursday  
5:00 Opening announcement  
Al-Quran  
Programme summary  
News in Bangla  
5:20 Recitation from the Qeeta  
5:25 School debate  
6:30 Mass education programme

7:00 Jiboner Alo  
7:25 Nazrul songs  
8:00 News in Bangla  
8:40 Drama of the week: Kungo-Nikunjo  
10:00 News in English  
10:30 Mini series: Voyage of the Heart  
11:30 Khabar/The News  
11:45 Closing



AL chief Sheikh Hasina addressing a meeting of Council of Advisors of her party at the Bangabandhu Avenue central office yesterday.

— Star photo

## What's on today....

## IUBAT seminar

The Centre for Management Development (CMD) of the International University of Business Agriculture and Technology (IUBAT) will hold a seminar on 'Aggregate Savings in Bangladesh' today (Thursday) at 5:00 pm at IUBAT seminar room, House No 135, Road No 9A (old 19), Dhanmondi.

## Ustad Ayet Ali Khan Sangeet Niketan

On the occasion of the 26th death anniversary of Ustad Ayet Ali Khan, a renowned musician of the sub-continent, discussion and classical music programme has been arranged by the Ustad Ayet Ali Khan Sangeet Niketan today (Thursday) at 7 pm at the Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy auditorium.

State Minister for Cultural Affairs Prof Jahanara Begum will attend the function as the chief guest while Prime Minister's Principal Secretary K M Rabbani will be the special guest.

## Zahir Raihan Film Society

"Zahir Raihan Film Society will screen two films — 'Amanush' (The Inhuman) directed by Shakti Samanta and 'Bhuvan Shome' directed by Mrinal Sen today (Thursday) at 4 pm and 6:30 pm respectively at the Indian High Commission Auditorium.



A procession on Eid-e-Miladunnabi in the city yesterday.

— Star photo

## Miladunnabi observed in Rajshahi, Ctg

CHITTAGONG, Sep 1: Different socio-cultural and religious organisations observed the Miladunnabi here Tuesday with a call to follow the ideals of Prophet Muhammad (SM) in action and thought, reports BSS.

Quankhwant, milad mahfil, seminar, special prayer and procession were among the programmes of the day. Jamiatul Falah, Baitus Sharaf Anjuman Ahmadi Sunnah, Islamic foundations held milad mahfil and seminars at their auditoriums. Anjuman Ahmadi Sunnah brought out a big procession in the city which passed through different roads.

Special prayers were offered in different mosques of the city for the solidarity of the Muslim ummah, peace and progress of the country.

Improved diets were served among the inmates in jails, hospitals and orphanages on the occasion.

Prophet Muhammad's life, ideal and teachings were discussed at the seminars where speakers called upon the people to follow the ideals of the Prophet in their day-to-day life.

## Rajshahi

Eid-e-Miladunnabi was observed in Rajshahi Tuesday

with due solemnity and religious fervor.

Various socio-cultural, educational and political organisation of the city organised discussions on the life of Prophet Mohammad (SM), milad mahfil, hamid, naat, qirat, azaan and essay competitions to mark the day.

Special prayers were offered in different mosques of the city for the solidarity of the Muslim ummah, peace and progress of the country.

Improved diets were served among the inmates in jails, hospitals and orphanages on the occasion.

A jowbuli (procession) was brought out in the morning in the city which paraded the streets, chanting Islamic slogans.

The holy Eid-e-Miladunnabi was observed in Narayanganj Tuesday with due respect and solemnity.

## Two young girls commit suicide

By DMCH Correspondent

Two young girls reportedly committed suicide in separate incidents in the city.

At Rampura, one Khushi, 20, reportedly took poison realising an end of her affair with her fiance on Sunday. She died at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) after fighting some 30 hours with death.

Meanwhile, one Bela Rani took poison at Kaliganj on Monday. She was rushed to DMCH in critical condition where she succumbed to her injuries yesterday.

## Dacoity

By Staff Correspondent

Three local bullies forcibly entered the house of an old woman at Kathalbagan in the city yesterday and sped away taking ornaments.

AL observes Miladunnabi.

Leaders of the Awami League

at a discussion in Dhaka Tuesday called for following the ideals of Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (SM) to rid the society of injustice, falsehood and deprivation, reports BSS.

City Awami League organised the discussion at the party central office in the afternoon in observance of holy Eid-e-Miladunnabi. It was followed by a milad mahfil and Quran khwant.

The discussion was presided over by City AL President Mohammad Hanif. Among others, Amir Hossain Amu, Abdul Mannan, Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya and Maulana Abdur Awal, spoke on the occasion.

Expressing concern at the disunity of Muslim Ummah, Presidium member Amir Hossain Amu said many Muslim countries are involved in conflicts as they have deviated from the teachings of Islam.

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## 4-man team to join C'wealth confce in Cyprus

A four-member delegation headed by Deputy Speaker Humayun Khan Panni will participate in the 39th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference which will begin at Limassol, Cyprus from tomorrow, reports BSS.

The other members of the Bangladeshi delegation are: Ziaul Huq MP, (BNP), Shahjahan Siraj MP, (JSD-Shahjahan Siraj) and Khondaker Abdul Haque Mia, Additional Secretary of the Parliament Secretariat, according to a parliament press release yesterday.

The nine-day conference will be inaugurated by the President of the Republic of Cyprus, Glafcos Clerides and will be addressed by the Commonwealth Secretary General, Chief Emeka Anyaoku.

Happy Birthday  
To  
Naheen  
Muna, Shomi, Kakul  
&  
Friends

To  
My dearest Honey  
(London)  
Missing you so much

Yours & forever yours  
Naushad  
Dhaka

## ★ U. S. TRADE SHOW '94 ★

The American Bangladesh Economic Forum (ABEF) and the United States Embassy announce the third annual U.S. Trade Show '94 will be held at the Dhaka Sheraton Hotel from January 22 through January 24, 1994. Invitation letters to U.S. firms and/or their agents have already been mailed inviting them to participate in the Trade Show. Interested U.S. firms or their agents, who have not yet received the invitation letters, should contact the following person for details.

Mr. A. Gafur  
Executive Secretary



AMERICAN BANGLADESH ECONOMIC FORUM

& Manager, U. S. Trade Show '94  
Room No. 319, Dhaka Sheraton Hotel  
1, Minto Road, GPO Box 504,  
Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh  
Phone : 863391, 861191 (Room No. 319)  
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