

Dhaka Day by Day

Woman Who Represents a Role Model

by Aasha Mehreen Amin

For someone who is the first woman to head UNDP operations in Bangladesh, Eimee Watanabe is quite down-to-earth. She has the rare quality of being both practical and sensitive at the same time. With her no-nonsense efficiency and clear thinking she has become a source of inspiration for her colleagues.

"For myself personally," says Tokyo-born Watanabe, "I have been working in a UN environment where being a woman official is accepted as normal, but since I have come here, people — especially women — tell me that they feel very encouraged."

This, she says has added a special dimension to her work. "I realize that I represent a role model; I guess I am a sort of visual reminder so that we have the issue of women, which is the key issue in the development process foremost on our minds."

With three degrees in sociology, including a Masters and PhD in the subject from London School of Economics, Watanabe could not be more suited to head an organization, main focus of which has recently been on human development, a concept that puts people at the centre of the development process. Watanabe mentions a few elements of progress assisted by the UNDP in Bangladesh in this area. This includes income generating activities for the poor especially women, self sufficiency in food, a modest success in family planning with population growth rate going down and compulsory primary education — something that Watanabe feels is the key strategy for Bangladesh's future.

Regarding the weak areas that should be focussed on, Watanabe mentions lack of growth due to political instability that discourages investment, both foreign and domestic. Family planning and primary education too should be accelerated. Yet the major challenge that Bangladesh faces, says the UNDP resident representative is improving the status of women. She gives the example of the garment industry which has allowed hundreds of thousands of women to earn a living "Although they are often

exploited, the fact that they are coming out in such great numbers must have a tremendous impact on their status and their relationship with their families."

Among her organisation's achievements, Watanabe mentions UNDP's coordination efforts during '91's cyclone, specific rural housing project and its positive effect on agricultural development. "Where we have not been as active — because of the nature of our assistance which is mainly technical — is the area of poverty alleviation". Speaking of UNDP's report on administrative reforms, Watanabe says that there is a lot of scope to improve public administration's efficiency. "The issue of different cadres is very hot and the rapid turnover of secretaries is also a cause of concern but the nature of the reform is a government decision, we are fully aware of the sensitivity of the issue," she remarks.

As for her own achievements, they include being the UNICEF Representative in India for three years, a Senior Programme Officer in New York and other senior posts in Myanmar and Sri Lanka. She has also taught at the University of London and University of Kansas.

It was while completing her post graduate degree and teaching at the same time that Watanabe realized that she wanted to do something different and practical, a decision that has eventually brought her to Bangladesh.

With a job as challenging as hers, Watanabe has to constantly rack her brains to find new ways to tackle the constraints typical of a developing country. "One thing that is frustrating," she says, "is dealing with bureaucracy not just the government's but also in our own organisation". Bureaucracies tend to breed processes of their own, many of which are not necessary she adds.

Yet her attitude is very positive. "I never see anything as an obstacle; after all, problems are what make life more interesting", she smiles. Pragmatic, yet compassionate, Watanabe represents the kind of professionalism that demands more action and less rhetoric.



'Contribution of women to GDP must be increased'

State Minister for Women's Affairs, Sarwari Rahman has reiterated the government's firm determination to remove gender disparity, not only on humanitarian consideration but also for economic reason, reports UNB.

"The contribution of women to the GDP must be increased for accelerating the pace of development," she told a conference of women on Sunday in Kuala Lumpur, according to a message received here yesterday.

The State Minister was giving her statement at the meeting of representatives of first ladies of Asia-Pacific region for follow-up of the implementation of Geneva Declaration on Economic Advancement of Rural Women in the Malaysian capital.

Sarwari said the present government in Bangladesh has been doing its best to improve the condition of rural women as well as urban poor women as outlined in the Geneva Declaration.

"Now the women in Bangladesh have access to employment in almost all sectors of the economy," she added.

Meanwhile, a four-day Asia-Pacific workshop on "Micro Enterprises and Entrepreneur Development for Island and Rural Women" ended in Kuala Lumpur on Sunday.

Bangladesh was represented at the workshop by two government officials.

Islamic Shipowners' Assoc AGM today

The annual general meeting (AGM) and general assembly of the Islamic Shipowners' Association encompassing 22 countries begin here today, reports UNB.

President Abdur Rahman Biswas will inaugurate the three-day conference at Hotel Sonargaon at 10 am. Some 50 foreign delegates from the Islamic countries will attend the moot.

KM Anwar, Minister for Shipping, Dr Ahmed Mohammad Ali, President of the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) and Dr Abdul Latif A Sultan, Secretary General of the Association, will also be present at the inaugural function.

This meeting is expected to give a big push forward towards establishing joint venture Islamic Shipping Companies, as proposed by the 21st Islamic conference of Foreign Minister held in Karachi from last April.

The IDB President earlier in a letter to all ISA members requested to initiate the necessary coordination with the working group entrusted by the IDB to establish the Islamic shipping companies.

The Maritime Transport, Research and Consultation Centre of the Arab Academy for Maritime Transport, Alexandria, has conducted the feasibility study on the joint venture Islamic Shipping Companies. The report of the study will be reviewed at the Dhaka meeting.



A scene of the play — *Vandami* — by the Animiya Natyadal of Munshiganj staged at the Central Shaheed Minar yesterday on the 6th day of the week-long Street Drama Festival based on the theme of Liberation War organised by the cultural group Samaya. — Star photo

2 hurt in separate incidents

By DMCH Correspondent
Two persons were injured in two separate incidents in the city Monday.

A rickshawpuller received bullet injuries when two groups clashed at Rasulbagh, Mohakhali yesterday afternoon.

The victim Mohammad Dilu, 18, received bullet injuries in his hands and legs.

In another incident one Mohammed Shangram, 22, received stab injuries when two groups of toll collector clashed at north gate of Baitul Mukarram yesterday afternoon.

Happy Birthday

Dearest Ash

With Lots of Love

Simeen

Asia Foundation VP meets Razzak

The visiting Asia Foundation Vice President Barne F Baron called on Speaker Shaikh Razzak Ali at his Sangsad Bhaban office yesterday, reports UNB.

They discussed matters relating to cooperation between Bangladesh Parliament and Asia Foundation.

During the meeting, Baron said the Asia Foundation was interested in extending all possible assistance to Bangladesh in strengthening the Parliament and democracy.

The Speaker also appreciated the cooperation and assistance extended to Bangladesh Parliament by the Asia Foundation.



Anniversary of Aatur Rahman Khan's death today

The second death anniversary of veteran politician, former chief minister and prime minister Aatur Rahman Khan will be observed today.

To mark the day the Aatur Rahman Khan Jatiya Smriti Sangsad has planned on elaborate programme in Dhaka and elsewhere in the country, says a press release.

The day's programme will start with Quran Khawni and placing of the wreath at the mazar of the leader at the Jatiya Gorosthan (National Graveyard).

In the afternoon the family of the late leader has arranged a feeding programme of the destitute.

At 3:00 pm the Sangsad will hold a discussion meeting and milad mahfil at the residence of the late leader at 500/A, Dhanmandi, Road No. 7.

The discussion meeting will be presided over by former Chief Justice Kemaluddin Hossain. The meeting will also be addressed by Commerce Minister Shamsul Islam, Deputy Leader of the Opposition Abdus Samad Azad, Information Minister Nazmul Huda, Health Minister Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yusuf, Justice Ruhul Islam, President, Supreme Court Bar Association, Kazi Golam Mahboob, BNP Central leader Firoz Noon and Shahjahan Siraj MP.

Bangladesh Television will telecast a special programme.

Int'l Volunteer Day observed

International Association for Volunteer Effort (IAVE) observed the International Volunteer Day (IVD) in the capital with the support and cooperation of other voluntary organisations and discussion meeting was held at UN Information Center Sunday, says a press release.

Higeo Morikawa the Deputy Resident Representative of JICA was the chief guest of the programme and he talked about 20 years of JOCV volunteer service in Bangladesh and the importance of the voluntary work for the nation.

Weather

Temperature may fall

By Staff Correspondent

Sky is temporarily likely to remain partly cloudy over the northern part of the country, while dry weather is likely to prevail over rest of the country today (Tuesday).

The Met office forecasts night temperature is likely to fall by one to two degrees Celsius over Dhaka, Chittagong, Barisal, Khulna divisions and slightly fall elsewhere over the country.

The country's highest temperature of 30.2 degrees Celsius was recorded in Bogra and the lowest of 13.1 degrees Celsius was recorded in Srimongol yesterday.

The sun sets today at 5:11 pm and rises tomorrow (Wednesday) at 6:29 am.

The maximum and the minimum temperature and the relative humidity recorded in some major cities and towns of the country yesterday were:

Cities/Towns	Temperature in Degrees Celsius		Humidity in Percentage	
	Max	Min	9 am	6 pm
Dhaka	28.3	15.2	71	77
Chittagong	27.9	15.2	90	71
Rajshahi	29.4	15.2	74	78
Khulna	28.4	14.6	78	78
Barisal	28.4	14.8	88	86
Cox's Bazar	28.6	17.0	74	75

Award-giving ceremony of Tarkabagish Sangsad today

Maulana Tarkabagish Sangsad has awarded 15 personalities for their outstanding contribution to the Great War of Liberation and various field of the national life, reports UNB.

The recipients of the awards are: Abdur Razzak MP, Tofael Ahmed MP, Major General Abdur Rab PSC and Sheikh Kamaluddin (posthumous) — freedom fighters, Dr Rafiqul Islam PSC and Abeer Ahad — book on Liberation War, Sufia Kamal — poetry, Dr Mazharul Islam — essay, Santosh Gupta — journalism, Atauddin Khan and Syed Abu Hossain MP — spreading of literacy, Prof MR Khan — medical science, Md Asafuddoula — music and Kazi Sirajul Islam and Alhaj Md Kalim Ullah — social service.

The awards will be distributed at 4 pm today at the Children's auditorium of the National Museum. Speaker Shaikh Razzak Ali will distribute the awards as chief guest while President of the sangsad Sanaullah Noori will preside over the function.

Leader of the Opposition and Awami League President Sheikh Hasina will receive award on behalf of her brother Sheikh Kamaluddin.

BTV

Tuesday

5:00	Opening announcement, Al-Quran
5:10	News in Bangla
5:35	Mass education programme: Esho Para Shikhi
6:00	Sports Programme: World Cup Cricket '92 South Africa vs Sri Lanka
6:30	Sangeeta
6:50	A special programme on introduction computer course at SSC level
7:40	Documentary on SAF Games
8:00	News in Bangla
8:40	Fortnight drama serial: Rupnagar (3rd episode)
10:00	News in English
10:30	Discussion on noted politician late Aatur Rahman Khan
11:00	Film show: ENG
11:30	Khabar/The News
11:40	Tomorrow's programme

129 arrested on various charges

Police rounded up 129 people from different parts of the city in last 24 hours on various charges, a DMP press release said yesterday, reports UNB.

Of the arrested, seven were wanted criminals, four under the Arms Act and eight for stealing.

CAREER OPPORTUNITY

Reckitt & Colman Bangladesh Ltd. would like to appoint a **PROCUREMENT MANAGER** to take total responsibilities of all procurement activities and to report directly to the Managing Director.

We are looking for a person who has adequate experience in the relevant field, having a University degree in Management discipline preferably MBA. Familiarity with Computer Software packages will be an added advantage.

The job offers excellent career opportunity, befitting remuneration and other fringe benefits which are negotiable on the basis of experience and knowledge.

Please send your detailed CV and a recent photograph addressed to the Managing Director, Reckitt & Colman Bangladesh Ltd. G.P.O. Box 515, Chittagong-4000 by 20th December, 1993.



Anita Aggarwal, President of the International Inner Wheel Club (on the extreme right) was accorded a reception by Inner Wheel District-328 in the city yesterday. District-328 chairman Munira Khan (on the extreme left) and Dilruba Ahmed, International Inner Wheel representative (in the middle) are seen. — Star photo

Aarong wishes all a very Happy New Year with a special announcement

Through 07 December '93 to 31 January '94, every day from 10 am. to 9 pm. at **Aarong** Lalmatia branch two grand display sales arrangement

- For the first time in Bangladesh exhibition and sales of attractive dolls for Children. And for your home decoration an exclusive array of Bangladeshi dolls.
- A wide selection of carpets in artistic patterns and new designs at an unprecedented reduced price, for you to choose from.

In addition, also available in all **Aarong** branches now

- At discount rate Diaries for 1994 in appealing format and greeting cards for the new year in alluring designs.
- Offering the choicest selection of Jamdani, Tangail Cotton, Katan, Banarasi, Block print and Hand Painted sarees at new year's greeting discount of 10%.

Buy Bangladeshi Products. Help our artisans survive

JOB OPPORTUNITY

Vacancies exist in a development financial institution for the following positions:

- Law Officer-1 (one)**
The candidate is required to be LL.M or LL.B with Masters Degree in any discipline having a minimum of 5 years' experience in specialised financial institution, investment bank, commercial bank or in a public international organisation with analytical thinking and accurate conceptual expression ability. Practical experience in the field of preparation and negotiation of financing agreements including contracts and leases, documentation of various investments, company legal matters and knowledge of letter of credit operation will be preferred.
- Monitoring Officer - 1 (one)**
The candidate is required to be an MBA/M. Com. having experience of working in specialised financial institution or in a commercial bank for minimum of five years. The jobs involve analytical exercise in respect of post-investment activities such as establishment of letter of credit, monitoring physical progress of the projects, release of funds, pursuing efficient operation of projects and appropriate reporting to superior authorities.
- Accounts Officer -1 (one)**
The candidate must be an M. Com./MBA having a minimum five years experience preferably in a specialised financial institution or any other commercial banks. In case of a Chartered Accountant experience may be relaxed to three years.
- Civil Engineer -1 (one)**
The candidate is required to be a Bachelor of Civil Engineering having a minimum of five years' experience in specialised financial institution whose primary functions will be relating to all engineering works of civil matters during implementation period of financed projects, advice and supervision of projects on technical matters in construction stage and any other functions on engineering and technical fields as and when required.
- Mechanical Engineer -1 (one)**
Candidate is required to be a Bachelor of Mechanical Engineering having a minimum of five years' experience in specialised financial institution whose primary functions will be assimilation of technical inputs for preparation of feasibility study and evaluation of investment proposals; furnishing of advice on technical matters specially technical supervision of plant machinery, production related matters on expansion and diversification programme of projects, location and identification of machinery suppliers, selection of consultant and knowhow partners, preparation of tender documents, price negotiation of plant machinery and any other functions on technical fields as and when required. Minimum salary package for the above positions will be in tax paid attractive figures.

Application with detailed C. V. mentioning two referees with full particulars alongwith certificate of qualifications, experience and two recent passport size photographs should be sent to GPO Box No. 4175, Ramna, Dhaka and P. O. Box No. 1683, Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) simultaneously latest by 25th December 1993 inscribing post name on the envelope and contact telephone number.

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