

Dhaka Day by Day

Versatility is Hallmark of Her Writing

by Raffat Binte Rashid

There are times when a child is too weak to be a part of her playmates' world. She is left alone, in her own small world. Eventually books become her only resort.

Rizia Rahman, a writer and columnist of our times was exactly such a child whose world was books and so writing for her was as natural as playing games.

"My first story or poetry, I don't quite remember, was published when I was only ten and half years old," she says with a smile.

Born in Calcutta in the year 1937, Rizia Rahman has been a witness to many changes. "Time is dynamic and dynamism is change," she explains. "A transition period, it may be good or bad but the change that comes afterwards is something every one will acknowledge," she feels.

Her father came to Bangladesh after the partition and her education began here, in Faridpur, with a part of it taking place as far away as Bahadurshah.

She has received many awards, among which the '78 Bangla Academy award is one. Rahman has her own ways and ideas of writing "I like everything but prefer our socio economic, historical and anthropological aspects more."

Few of her novels are *Ghar Bhangar*, *Bangur Theke Bangla* which is a novel about Bangla language and its history. *E Kal Chitrokai* is about aboriginals, there are a total of 16 of her published novels so far.

"Literature should be from the reality not farthest from it. Even though we are not experts or excellent, for that matter, in terms of language but each one of our novels are realistic. They talk about the village, the green, the rickshaw pullers and even the prostitutes," she compares our literature to that of the West. "West Bengal reached its peak, now it faces a downward trend," she thinks.

Talking about realistic literature her *Rakter Akare* is about the girls who were rape victims during the Liberation War. Explaining her novels she says that "we learnt to hate these girls only, but never realized that they too might have a story or a say of their own."

To her the truth is all that matters and printing that is what she wants to do. "Every one has some sort of commitment to the country and society and my writings are my commitments."

There are three eras of women writers from Begum Sufia Kamal to Jahanara Arzoo and onwards "but I feel that the writers of the '60, '70's, and '80's are still into the writing and there's a fewer number of women-writers now," she says, a living witness and participant of all three eras.

"But I like Taslima Nasreen's techniques, her sharpness and presentation but of course her topics are entirely her choice," she says.

"First you have to shape things up and then choose a design or a line of work," she says. A writer might be famous because he is liked and read by the people and one might be controversial because one's works incites debates among the people. It all depends," she feels.

"Many books or novels might create havoc and are read all over but they are never preserved. Popular literature is read but may not have any literary value at all," she thinks. "This is another reason for which I have turned down many film offers," she explains. "If the director is not good, then it will be something as terrible as what goes on in cinema halls now," she says confidently.

She likes French and Russian literature along with American and British. And among Bengali literature she likes Rabindranath, Bankim, Sukanto, Jibananda, Narayan Gogopadhyaya and so on. Ahsan Habib, Faruque Ahmed, Jasimuddin, Shamsur Rahman, Alauddin Al Azad, are also her favourites.

From the time when the word 'whiskey' sounded vulgar to people, she has come a long way, but when she sits to evaluate her works she is never satisfied. "Things could have been written differently," she says with a modest smile.

Besides writing Rizia Rahman is a painter and does some pottery too. Elegant and sophisticated, she believes that literature is in a web now, but things will change with time and evolution. She believes in politics and changes that are good for the country.



Information Minister Barrister Nazmul Huda (L) presenting a crest to author Humayun Ahmed (R) at the Russian Cultural Centre in the city yesterday in connection with a reception accorded by the Bangladesh Film Journalists' Association to the artistes of *Sankhaneel Karagar*, a movie based on Humayun Ahmed's famous novel. —Star photo

Trustee board to be set up to help promote good films

A trustee board will be set up in the next fiscal to promote the trend of making good films in the country, Information Minister Nazmul Huda said in Dhaka yesterday, reports BSS.

The minister said the board will be set up according to the country's Trust Act.

Huda was speaking at a reception accorded by the Bangladesh Film Journalists' Association for the artistes and technicians of *'Shankha Neel Karagar'*.

The function was addressed by noted journalist Obaidul Huq, litterateur and story writer of *'Shankha Neel Karagar'* Humayun Ahmed, director Mostafizur Rahman, president of the association Shariful Azam and general secretary Musfiqur Rahman Gulzar.

The Information Minister said the trustee board will function with a portion of the profit of the *'Shankha Neel Karagar'*. The fund will be a rotating one, he said.

Huda said the initiative to make good films will be taken with overall support from people of the Bangladesh Television, the film Development Corporation and the Department of Films and Publication.

He said a permanent measure would be taken to arrange royalty for the artistes and technicians of the films which will be produced with the fund of the trustee.

World Environment Day tomorrow

By Staff Correspondent

The World Environment Day will be observed in the country as elsewhere in the world tomorrow.

Different socio-cultural organisations have drawn up programmes to mark the day. Bangladesh 2000 — a voluntary organisation in cooperation with the United Nations Information Centre (UNIC) will hold a seminar on "Social Forestry and Role of NGOs" at the UNIC premises tomorrow to observe the day.

Environment and Forest Minister Akbar Hossain will attend the seminar as chief guest. Secretary, Ministry of the Environment and Forest Abdullah Haroon Pasha and UNDP Resident Representative in Bangladesh Elmi Watanabe will present as special guests.

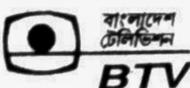
Chief Conservator of Forests M Muzammel Hussain will present a key-note paper at the seminar.

Intellectuals as well as environment researchers are expected to take part in the seminar.

The National Association of UNESCO Clubs in Bangladesh and the Bangladesh National Commission for UNESCO, Ministry of Education will jointly hold a discussion on "Environment and Education" at the BANBEIS auditorium at Palassy, Nilkhet in the city at 10 am tomorrow.

Speaker Shaikh Razzak Ali will be the chief guest while Vice Chancellor of the Dhaka University Prof Emajuddin Ahmed will present as special guest.

Journalist Gias Kamal Chowdhury will preside.



Saturday
 4:30 Opening announcement Al-Quran
 Programme summary
 4:45 Children's programme
 5:10 News in Bangla
 5:20 Puppet show
 5:50 Shikhangar
 6:30 Open University
 7:05 Banshari
 8:00 News in Bangla
 8:30 Maati O Marush
 10:00 News in English
 10:30 Dynasty
 11:30 Khabar/The News
 11:40 Tomorrow's programme summary
 11:45 Closing

What's on today . . .

Bangladesh Unnayan Parishad: Has arranged a discussion on 'People's Role in the Development of South Asia'. Speakers: Former Finance Minister of West Bengal Dr Ashok Mitra, Fashuddin Mahtab, S A M S Kibria, Dr Sheikh Maksud Ali and Vice-Chancellor of Calcutta University, Dr Rathindra Narayan Basu. Venue: NAEM Conference Hall. Time: 9:30 am.

Handicrafts Exhibition: Organised by the Bangladesh Homework's Women Association. Venue: Russian Cultural Centre. Time: 10:00 am.

Rotary Club of Sonargaon Dhaka: Will hold regular weekly meeting. Guest speaker: M Mosharraf Hossain. Subject: Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam and Rotary. Venue: Hotel Purbani. Time: 5:00 pm

Nazrul Academy: Final of recitation competition will be held on the second day of the three-day programme organised as part of poet Kazi Nazrul Islam's 95th birth anniversary celebrations. Inaugural speech: By G M Hedayetul Islam. Chief guest: Justice Mostafa Kamal. President: Principal Dewan Azraf.

Memorial Meeting: To mark the 20th anniversary of death of noted parliamentarian and journalist Mahbubul Haque. Chief guest: Deputy Leader of the House Dr A Q M Badruddoza Chowdhury. Special guest: Chief Whip Khwaddar Delwar Hossain. Venue: National Press Club auditorium. Time: 3 pm.

Dhaka Ahsania Mission: Has organised a discussion and screening of a short film marking the World Environment Day. Chief guest: Minister for Environment and Forest Col (ret'd) Akbar Hossain. Venue: Mission's auditorium. House: 19, Road: 12, Dhanmondi.

Weather

Light rain likely

Light to moderate rain or thundershower accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at a few places over Chittagong and Rajshahi divisions and the regions of Dhaka, Tangal and Mymensingh during the next 12 hours till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

Met office says moderately heavy falls is likely at places over the regions of Sylhet, Mymensingh and Rangpur. Weather may however remain mainly dry elsewhere across the country with cloudy sky.

Day temperature is likely to remain nearly unchanged over the country.

The maximum temperature in Dhaka yesterday was recorded 34.2 degree Celsius and the minimum 28.5 degrees. Country's highest temperature 37.8 degree Celsius was recorded at Rajshahi and the lowest 21.2 degrees at Sylhet.

The sun sets today (Saturday) at 6:43 pm and rises tomorrow (Sunday) at 5:11 am.

Malaysia keen to strengthen economic ties

Malaysia is keen to strengthen ties with Bangladesh in all sectors, particularly in the economic field, a member of parliament said after his recent visit to the country, reports UNB.

Muhammad Neyamatullah Sabu, an MP of the ruling BNP, said during his visit to Malaysia last week, he had met with Datuk Abdullah Ahmed Badawi who expressed the interest of his country's participation in

Bangladesh's economic development and industrialisation. Bangladesh High Commissioner to Malaysia Mahbubul Alam was present at the meeting.

Sabu also said that during his visit to Kuala Lumpur he had discussed with members of about 40 business leaders and industrialists who showed interest in participating in joint ventures in Bangladesh. The MP said that Malaysia

would require a large number of workers from Bangladesh to implement the country's gigantic development programme under its "Vision 2020" — a massive national development plan.

Sabu, who is also president of Bangladesh-Malaysia Friendship Society, laid the groundwork for launching a counterpart organisation in Malaysia during his visit.

Bakhrabad Gas Systems Limited
 (A Subsidiary Company of Petrobangla)
 Head Office, Chapapur, Comilla

শিল্পে, কল-কারখানায়, পৃথকভাবে গ্যাস ব্যবহার করুন।
 প্রাকৃতিক গ্যাস খরচে কম, বামেলাসুত ও নিরাপদ

Tender Notice

Description	Cost of tender schedule (Non-refundable)	Earnest Money
A. Supply of Petrol Engine driven Car (Toyota/Mitsubishi) - 02 Nos.	Tk. 1,500/- (One thousand five hundred) only per set	2.5% of the total quoted value.
B. Supply of Petrol Engine driven Jeep. (Toyota/Mitsubishi)-02 Nos.		
C. Supply of Petrol Engine driven Microbus (Toyota) - 02 Nos.		
D. Supply of Petrol Engine driven Double Cabin Pick-Up (Toyota/Mitsubishi) - 01 No.		

01. Eligibility of contractor/ Supplier : Authorised dealer/Agent of Manufacturer of above vehicles.

02. Place of selling tender documents:

- BGSL, Head Office, Chapapur, Comilla.
- BGSL, 100, Momin Road, Chittagong.
- BGSL, City Gate Station, Demra, Dhaka.
- Accounts Deptt Petrobangla, Petro Centre, 3, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka.
- Accounts Deptt BAPEX, HBFC Bhaban, 22, Purana, Palton, Dhaka.
- Accounts Deptt PIU, BSB Bhaban, 14th floor, 8, Rajuk Avenue, Dhaka.
- Accounts Deptt TGTDC, 2, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka.
- Accounts Deptt BGFCL, Court Road, B'Baria.
- Accounts Deptt JGTDC, Barkutia Super Market, Ambarbhana, Sylhet.
- Accounts Deptt SGFL, Chiknagul, Haripur, Sylhet.
- Accounts Deptt RPGCL, BSEC Bhaban, 7th floor, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka.

03. Place of Receiving & Opening Tenders:

- Materials Deptt BGSL, Head Office, Chapapur, Comilla.
- Regional Distribution Deptt BGSL, 100, Momin Road, Chittagong.
- Liaison Office, House No 3, Road No 2/A, Banani, Dhaka-1213.
- Petrobangla, Petro Centre, 3, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka.
- BAPEX, HBFC Bhaban, 22, Purana Palton, Dhaka.
- PIU, BSB Bhaban, 14th floor, 8, Rajuk Avenue, Dhaka.
- TGTDC, 2, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka.
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- JGTDC, Barkutia, Ambarbhana, Sylhet.
- SGFL, Chiknagul, Haripur, Sylhet.
- RPGCL, BSEC Bhaban, 7th floor, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka.

04. Selling of tender documents : 02-06-94 to 11-06-94.

05. Date & time of receiving tenders : 12-06-94 up to 11.00 AM.

06. Date & time of opening tenders : 12-06-94 at 11-15 AM.

"গ্যাস লাগান, গ্যাসের পরিচর্যা করুন
 এবং পরিবেশ বাঁচান" — প্রধানমন্ত্রী

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