

## Dhaka Day by Day

### A Korean Actress's Concern for Social Welfare

by Fayza Haq

"Being at the top means being surrounded by a lot of loneliness and anxiety," admits South Korean actress Hye Ja Kim, who was here in Dhaka for a few days. Lonely or not as a super star of TV serials, Hye Ja had a hectic schedule in the city. The trim-waisted 54-year-old actress came to Bangladesh on behalf of World Vision Korea to see to the running of the child survival projects in Dhaka and Khulna, for which she had donated \$10,000. This money came from her income of writing on World Vision project around the world. The writings were based on her visits to African and Asian countries like Ethiopia, Somalia, Rwanda, Vietnam, Laos and China. She wrote about malnourished, diseased, war-torn and needy people. While making the documentary on Hazaribagh slum, Dhaka, she was accompanied by 4 TV crew members from Korea. The purpose of the film is to raise the awareness of the people of South Korea about the world's poor.

Hye Ja is an actress with 30 years experience, working mostly for TV. She has made 600 TV plays, and has been on the top of the chart of popularity for the last ten years. She is presently performing in the weekly TV serial 'A Dairy of a Rural Family' which has been running with success for the last 10 years. This remains a favourite drama of the Korean immigrants as it reminds them of old Korean social values. The actress plays the role of a patient wife and a dutiful daughter-in-law. In this play three generations of Koreans are shown as living together contentedly. Her film 'Late Autumn' won a Manila international award ten years ago. Her performance in a daily TV drama 'What is Love?' has also won her acclaim in South Korea.

It was Hye Ja's childhood dream to be an actress. She has considerable experience in acting as a school and college student. She

was, moreover, encouraged by her family and friends to go into acting. "Even though at one time acting was a profession frowned upon by most Koreans, specially in case of women, today, it is fairly well accepted," the actress says.

"Most films in South Korea today are either love stories or erotics and are a complete waste of time. It is only recently that artistic and philosophic films are being made," Hye Ja informed me.

This well-travelled artist, who has been to France, Italy and Denmark and places in USA



Hye Ja seen at Hazaribagh

like Colorado, Los Angeles and New York, has Ingrid Bergman as her idol, and says she would like to have starred with Robert de Niro.

Asked what were the essential ingredients of good acting, Hye Ja comments that 'this requires talent combined with a good drama script plus the guidance of a good producer. Moreover, the director and actor should respect each other, and should be on the same wave length.'

Hye Ja, who has had no drama-school training herself before embarking on her career

says, "Today acting is taught at the college and university level in South Korea."

Her busy schedule does not include any hobbies except for visiting art galleries. Her husband Lim Jong Chan, whom she met before her acting career, is a fabric exporter. Her 31-year-old son Hyunsik is a fabric designer while her 26-year-old daughter Goenun, a cello major, is a happily settled housewife in USA.

Hye Ja, who has made large donations for immunization, nutritional programme, blindness prevention and home made oral dehydration saline promotion programmes in Bangladesh, says with a bright smile, "I hope, some day, Bangladesh will be able to solve its problems of poverty and overcome its dependence on foreign aid."

### Red Crescent Day today

The World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day will be observed throughout the country today as elsewhere in the world to commemorate the birth of the founder of the movement Jean Henry Dunant, reports BSS.

The federation of the movement — International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies — proclaimed "dignity for all — respect for women" as the theme of the day for the year.

The day will be observed through discussions, seminars and symposium on the life and activities of Dunant, and on the Geneva Convention that has decreed the principles of the Red Cross and Red Crescent movement.

The national headquarters of the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS) will hold a rally of the members of the youth red crescent (YRC) at the auditorium of the Nursing School attached to the Holy Family Red Crescent Hospital.

A rally by the members of the YRC will also be brought out from Engineers' Institute to the Press Club.

#### PM's message

UNB adds: In a message on the occasion of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Day, she said our goal is to ensure proper honour and dignity of women by enhancing their abilities in society.

Praising the welfare-oriented missions of Red Cross and Red Crescent movement dedicated to the helpless people, the Prime Minister said, the organisation has always extended their helping hands to save the distressed people affected by war, natural calamity and epidemics.

This year the theme of the day — Dignity for all, Honour for Women — has been very timely, Begum Zia said.

Worldwide consciousness has been created in establishing the rights and dignity of women, the Prime Minister said, adding that some special programmes have been taken in Bangladesh to expand female education and improve their socio-economic condition.

### Workshop on flood warning held

Bangladesh, India and Nepal decided that simple indicators would be developed to use as warning signals to mitigate the sufferings of people from flash floods, reports UNB.

The decision came from a two-day workshop on "Regional Cooperation on Flood Warning" held at BUET May 4-6.

Some 50 participants from India, Nepal and host Bangladesh, including academics, development workers and government officials, attended it.

Experts viewed that simple indicators should be used for operationalising them at the local level within a framework of regional cooperation.

The participants reached a consensus on starting a pilot project, which will be developed in the next six months, in collaboration with NGOs, educational and research institutions of the three countries.

The two areas that have been selected for that purpose are Dawki river (for Sylhet and Jyanti, Meghalaya) and Mechi river (for Jhapa, Nepal and Kishanganj, Bihar).

After this timeframe, all three countries will again sit together to plan on future development and actual implementation. This type of efforts are complementary to the existing national flood forecasting activities.

Disaster Forum, Resources Engineering Department of BUET and Duryog Nivaran South Asian Forum jointly organised the workshop.

### Reception held

The State Minister for Cultural Affairs, Prof Jahanara Begum, yesterday called upon all concerned including students, teachers and guardians to play their respective roles to create an atmosphere favourable for academic pursuits, reports BSS.

Addressing a reception at the Pangsha College ground in Rajbari to the Secondary School Certificate candidates of this year the minister said this and called for freeing the campus from violence.

### Office-bearers

An eleven-member executive committee of the Bangladesh Muktiyoddha Sangsad, Brahmanbaria unit command, has been elected recently, reports BSS.

Jamaluddin and Mohammad Ratan Mia have been elected commander and deputy commander of the unit respectively, says a press release.

Other office-bearers of the unit are: Bashir Ahmed, assistant commander (organising), Khairul Islam, assistant commander (finance) and Mohammad Abu Taher, assistant commander (project and cooperatives).



The inhabitants of the metropolis have been facing acute water crisis for a week or so. This picture was taken from city's Khilgaon area Friday

### Saifur back home

Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman returned home yesterday after attending the 28th annual meeting of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) held in New Zealand city of Auckland from May 3 to 5, reports BSS.

The finance minister presented a keynote speech at a seminar on 'Asia development agenda' organised on the occasion of the annual meeting of the board of governors of the ADB.

### ROK envoy meets Mannan

The South Korean ambassador Jong Kyun Byun, yesterday called on the State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism, Abdul Mannan at the latter's secretariat office, reports BSS.

They discussed matters relating to bilateral interests.

They also discussed various matters on the development of air service between Bangladesh and the Republic of Korea.

They exchanged views on the promotion of trade and business between the two countries.

### SAARC's decade-ending festivals Dec 8

SAARC festivals will be celebrated collectively and individually on December 8 marking completion of the first decade of the association, reports UNB.

A Commemorative Session of the Council of Ministers on the theme "SAARC Vision of the Second Decade" to identify the areas on which the forum should focus on its second decade will also be held on the day.

Proposals in this regard were endorsed by the just-concluded 8th summit of the association, Foreign Secretary Farooq Sobhan said briefing newsmen about the outcome of the Delhi meet at the ministry yesterday.

The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, grouping Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, was launched in Dhaka on December 8, 1985 through member-countries.

According to the decision of the summit, held May 2-4 in the Indian capital, programmes of the SAARC festivals, to be celebrated in the capitals of all member-countries, will include issuance of commemorative stamps, cultural functions and seminars.

### Trial of Manzur, Zia murder demanded

CHITTAGONG, May 7: Lt Col (rtd) Kazi Nuruzzaman, Bir Uttom and former chief of Bangladesh Muktiyoddha Sangsad yesterday urged all conscious citizens of the country to demand trial of the killers of Zia and Manzur, reports BSS.

Addressing a press conference at the Chittagong Press Club here Nuruzzaman alleged that the killings of Zia and Manzur were a part of conspiracy hatched by the anti-liberation forces to destroy the spirit and values of the Liberation War.

He claimed that the killing of Zia was inseparable from that Manzur.

He asserted that the trial of the killers of Zia was indispensable for proper inquiry into the Manzur killing.

Nuruzzaman also called for the trial of all political killings in Bangladesh.

Major (rtd) Dost Mohammad, Capt (rtd) Giasuddin, Nairn Jahangir of left democratic party and engineer Saifullah were present on the occasion.



As the Ed-ul-Azha draws nearer, sale of caps goes up so do the number of makeshift cap-shops. This picture was taken on Saturday from the city's Baitul Mukarram mosque area.

### Hasina condoles WB chief's death

Awami League President Sheikh Hasina Saturday expressed her shock at the death of Lewis Preston, President of the World Bank who died on Thursday, reports UNB.

In a message of condolence, sent to the World Bank, she said through Preston's death, the developing world lost a well-wisher as he worked tirelessly to change the condition of people of the Third World countries.

Hasina prayed for the salvation of the departed soul and conveyed her sympathy to the members of the bereaved family.

### IUBAT accords reception to Prof Bonsu

The International University of Business Agriculture and Technology (IUBAT) organized a reception in honour of the visiting professor of IUBAT Samuel Bonsu of Simon Fraser University, Canada recently. Bonsu taught Business Research, Marketing Management and Human Resource Management and developed a collaborative project document on institution building with Larenstein International Agricultural College, Velp, The Netherlands. Bonsu also offered a seminar on "The Human Dimensions of Development in Lesser Developed Countries (LDCs)." This semester long visit is a part of academic cooperation between Simon Fraser and IUBAT. The Visiting Faculty appreciated IUBAT initiatives in various academic fields and assured full cooperation from Simon Fraser. Bonsu is planning to return for a year long teaching and research assignment in 1996, says a press release.

### BNP aims at changing lot of commonmen: Tariqul

Post and Telecommunications Minister Tariqul Islam said, the main aim of the politics of BNP is to change the lot of commonmen through implementing the production-oriented development programmes, reports UNB.

The minister was addressing as chief guest at a function of distributing the cheques of government grants and test relief (TR) among the different educational, religious and social organisations.

Countering the remarks of opposition leader, which undermined the relief and rehabilitation programmes for the tornado-affected people, he said, "as our opposition leader has been afflicted by political juandice, the ongoing development activities are not visible to her, rather everything appears yellow in her eyes."

He said, the 12 crore people and the diplomats of foreign missions are the witness whether development is going on in the country or not.

"It is not a sign of sound mind of Awami League to take part in the coming general election with the fallen autocrats and the anti-liberation forces Jamaat who were earlier termed as war criminals," he said adding, "it is an attempt to capture power by any means."

Tariqul warned that the opposition leader is giving birth to a Frankenstein monster by going on entente with parties devoid of ideals.

Referring to her remark about the failure of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia in realising water in the recent SAARC summit in India he said, it is Begum Khaleda Zia who for the first time has awakened the international conscience by raising the issue

at the United Nations.

Tariqul Islam said, Farakka water crisis is a national problem, it is not possible to have a solution of it through whimsical rhetorics.

He termed the announcement of the opposition leader in the newspapers mere political eye-wash that if her party regains power then the 25 years treaty of servitude with India will not be renewed.

He urged the opposition leader to call strike and stage march of millions towards Farakka to build public opinion for the solution of the issue. The minister added that only then it will reveal that you are really against the atrocity caused by India and have feeling for the people of this country.

### 190 kg ganja seized

CHITTAGONG, May 7: Narcotics Control Department (NCD) in separate drives seized 190 kg of ganja, huge quantity of foreign wine and arrested five people from four thanas of the city in the last one week, official sources said, reports UNB.

A special team of NCD, Chittagong Metro sub zone, seized some 145 kg of ganja and arrested a man from Kashapara of Syednagar in Panchajish thana on May 4.

In another drive on May 1 the NCD members arrested two people with 45 kg of ganja from West Motherbari in Doublemooring thana.

Earlier, on April 30, they also seized huge quantity of foreign wine from Bariq building of Bandar and Firingbazar of Kotwali thana. Two people were also arrested in this connection.

