

# WINNER

**Daily Star:** What was your first reaction when you heard that you had been selected as Miss Bangladesh 1994?

## Talking to Anika, Miss Bangladesh '94

A Daily Star Interview

**Anika Taher:** When I came to know this, my pleasure and joy knew no bounds. I was so glad that my personal glory was overtaken by the glory of my country itself. It was really a very sensational time for me. I felt an inexplicable pride for this honour of being selected as Miss Bangladesh for my beauty.

**DS:** Why do you think you were chosen out of all the contestants to represent your country?

**AT:** All the competitors for Miss Bangladesh required some qualities like beauty, sound health, intelligence, self-confidence, ability to express their own ideas freely, good character, willingness to work for peace and welfare of others, charm and poise of the personality etc. I feel I was considered for the above mentioned qualities, and the honourable judges found me suitable as their unanimous choice for selection as Miss Bangladesh.

**DS:** How did you come to participate in the event?

**AT:** There was an advertisement in a magazine. Seeing that, I just tried my luck, hoping that my participation in such a contest might bolster my position as well as the position of many other young Bengali women who would come into the limelight, and prove that we (the women folks of Bangladesh) too could be as good as others in foreign countries. Also, I believed that participating in the contest would bring me a world of experience, whether I win or not.

**DS:** Was it ever an ambition of yours as a child to win a contest like this?

**AT:** Yes, it was. I had always dreamt of it. From my childhood I cherished this idea in my mind. Personally I think it should be every girl's dream to take part in such a contest.



**DS:** What is your opinion of beauty contests in general, what role do they play in society today?

**AT:** Generally in beauty contests I think that good character, charm of personality, human qualities and social services are considered to be the main factors. Nowadays beauty contests are being appreciated throughout the world. I believe, while responding to the call of the modern advancements of the Third World, people should not remain conservative in

this regard anymore. Today, in my opinion, society must come forward positively in the area of beauty competitions, body building competitions, etc. Success in this field should be rewarding. Such contests also bear a sense of entertainment for all to enjoy, and bring a feeling of happiness to people's lives. Should society not be more frank in this matter? I feel it must.

**DS:** How has winning this contest changed your life?

**AT:** This contest has given me self-confidence and a sense of responsibility. I have made many friends and gained lots of experience regarding various peoples, cultures and traditions and customs of the world.

**DS:** What are your future plans?

**AT:** Receiving higher education is what I am contemplating for the future.

**DS:** How will this title enable you to do something positive for Bangladesh?

**AT:** This title enables me to do something as a befitting medium for uplifting and representing my country in the world. Further, it enables me to become much more popular as Miss Bangladesh and because of this I am being honoured by the general people. So far I have been invited to many important functions as chief guest, and so on. Moreover, I am now in touch with various other beauty contest winners of different countries of the world and arranging for various charity programmes.

**DS:** What would be your role in promoting more contests of this type in this country?

**AT:** My role as Miss Bangladesh would itself work as encouragement for interested people in this country to come forward and take part in such contests, thereby promoting our women as a regular participant in Miss World beauty contests. Thus, my role shall remain as a milestone for the expected regular representation of our country as well as our national culture.

**DS:** What do you do in your spare time, how do you like to relax?

**AT:** I like to relax by listening to songs singing, reading, playing musical instruments and watching TV. I also like to do exercise regularly.

**DS:** What about studies?

**AT:** I am very interested in my studies for a Bachelor of Commerce degree at college.

## Where Little Ones Are Wanted

by Fayza Haq

**S**OME of the older generation raise their eyebrows or vaguely hint that they are not quite happy about my state of late pregnancy without being married or without even having a boy-friend around. But the rest of the people in my office are very understanding and helpful about my expecting a baby this month," said a German acquaintance of mine at Berlin.

This young woman was a government servant and a trained lawyer in company laws besides. Although only 29 she was widely travelled and could speak several languages fluently. With all her qualifications and her physical charm one might have been surprised at her plight. But in Germany, specially in Berlin, this was an accepted state of affairs.

Did the man not offer to marry her. "He isn't good enough for her," her colleagues informed me. One of them is an editor in the radio in Berlin. A university student held a similar opinion. The man was an immigrant whom the young woman had helped come to Germany and who ignored her once coming there. He preferred to go for holidays to different parts of Europe rather than caring for her. He had also made himself very unpopular with her colleagues and friends by his country bumpkin ways and his refusal to speak German. "All he had to discuss was his own homeland and for Germans that was of little consequence," the young woman explained.

To have a child without being married is no longer tabooed in the big German cities, although this is so in the small provincial Catholic villages as the ones in Bavaria. Parents who live metropolitan areas have adjusted themselves with the winds of time and do not tell daughters, "Don't darken our doors" as they did in the Victorian days.

My father is delighted with the idea of being a grandfather might go and stay with them when I have the child," my friend said, "but I will bring up the child myself in Berlin and let leave it with them in Amstradam where they are posted. Send me some Muslim names, won't you, in a tape so I know how to pronounce them and know

the meaning too I won't want the child to be ashamed of its being part Bangladeshi though I naturally want the baby to grow up as a wanted and accepted person in the German society."

Like this young mother to be, there was the other German divorcee with a child whom I knew at Walzbachtal, near Stuttgart. Although living in a small provincial town, she was not condemned or ostracised for her divorced state, as a young woman in the East might have been. Her family has rallied around her and tries to make her forget her husband who has divorced her against her consent. He had come to Germany as a student but after eight years had fallen in love with another woman in his own country. A working woman she goes on long tours of Europe to help her bear her sorrow. But nobody in her own community belittles her or treats her with any hint of contempt or doubt.

Expectant mothers normally have a pleasant life in Germany, without the tiresome drudgeries associated with a such a state in most Asian countries. Mechanical and electrical gadgets help them run their homes with much less physical strain. Husbands help caring the children and even dish washing after office hours. The

husbands of one woman I came to know does all the cooking on weekends despite the fact on weekdays he must drive two hours to get to and for his work in Bonn from Ockenfels.

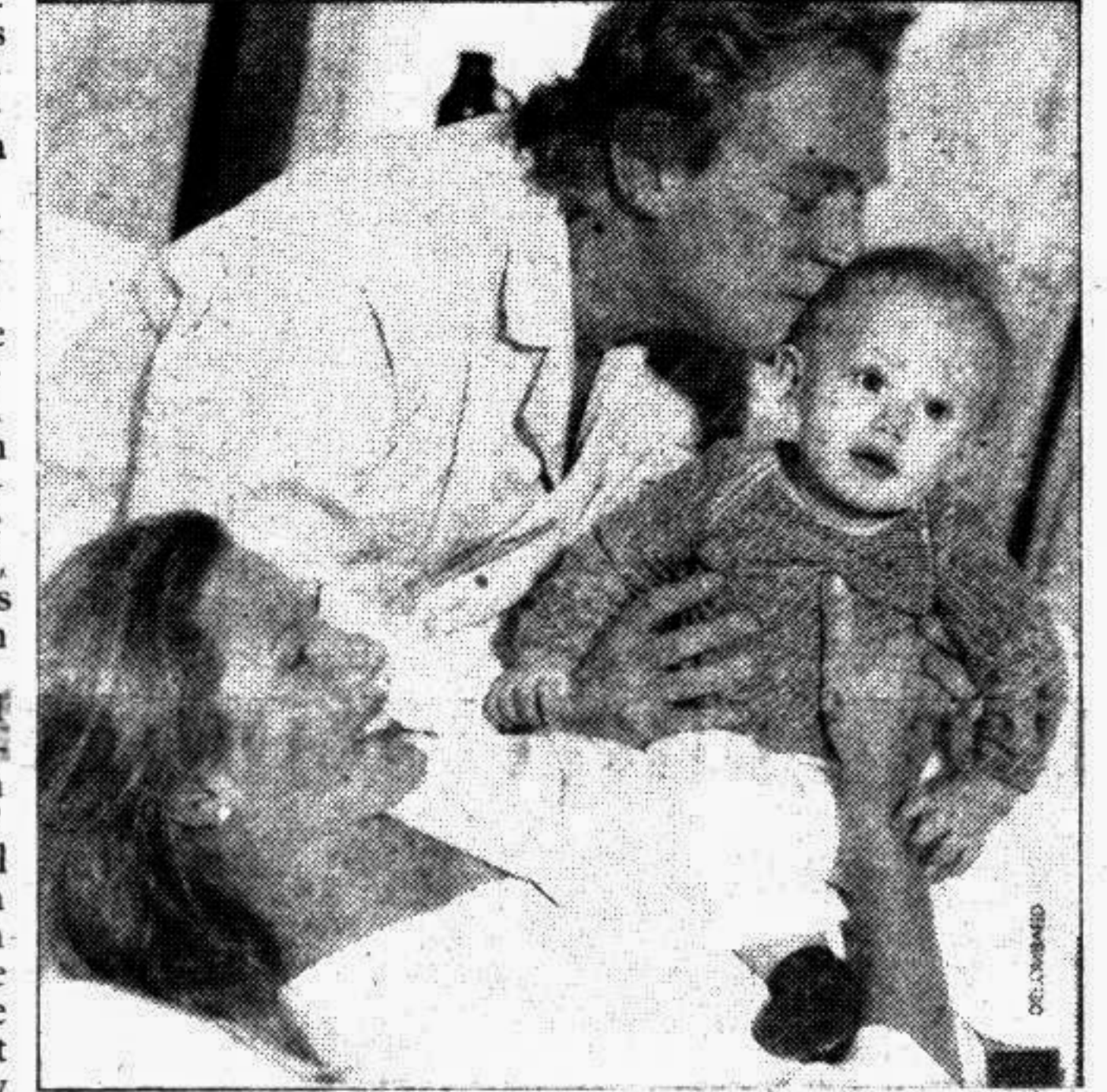
This young woman of part Asian part Portuguese ancestry, whom I had known as a child, has blossomed into a beautiful person whose youth has not been marred in any way despite her childbearing and dedicated housekeeping. She gets on well with her husband's colleagues and her in-laws and is fairly popular with her neighbours too. Married to a German she has learnt enough of his mother tongue in her nine years of marriage to be accepted in Germany despite her ancestry. Her brown hair and light eyes have perhaps made her more easily acceptable to the European community. "Here there is no racial prejudice," she said. With her own children being blue-eyed what could anyone have to say, I mused to myself.

Judging by the way women are treated by them one will easily comprehend the open-mindedness and progressive views of the Germans. Their views began to widen, it seems, when many of them were sent to different parts of Europe to fight the Second World War. "It was 40 years ago that I last saw this sta-

tion," said a gallant 65 years old who gave me a lift and helped me with my luggage at Boden-Baden, on my way to France from Stuttgart.

The older generations do have their expensive collection of encyclopedias where one finds a mine of information on Asia, the Middle East and the rest of the world outside Europe, going by the leather-bound, well-thumbed collections in the living rooms. Older German couples look forward to travelling in cheap package tours often offered to them and bring back souvenirs from far off places like Bali and New Delhi. These they display in their homes with care and pride. The "lota" and the "bati" of copper or brass, which is knocked around in Bangladesh, will be polished and treated like some rare jewel in the Black Forest home. "It's foreigners like Europeans who know how to value our antiques," once confided a brass dealer in Dhaka.

The average individual on the road can be so polite that even if one's German vocabulary is extremely limited to the basic phrases, one can enjoy a two-hour trip without any effort despite having to change many times en route by train, bus and tram. Even the taxi drivers long to converse with you and help you to the utmost, gesticulating wildly with their hands, as they will, and using their sparse stock of English. If you find it difficult to make telephone call, say, from a railway station, it is most likely that some helpful person will not only make the call for you but also pay for the call and wait until your taxi has arrived to take you away from the rain and cold at night. If you are not sure of the correct answer for the ticket and passport check during a border crossing by a train the person sitting next, will help you out. As for carrying luggage, there is no dearth of good Samaritans near the Rhine even though, reportedly, American women have complained otherwise. As in France, across the border, chivalry is very much alive here too. And it is not just the men who are considerate. Women and students love to help you out, specially in small towns, as I found at Konings-winter and Linz.



Courtesy: Cosmopolitan

## Problems That Make-up Cannot Disguise

by Sidra Shaukat

**T**HERE are some beauty problems that even perfect make-up, applied by the best make-up artists, cannot disguise. Your face is a good indicator of

healthy. There are nerve endings below the skin of your face, so if you are feeling below par it is not surprising

may have had adverse effects on your health, will leave their marks on your face for the whole world to see. No matter how clever you are with make-up, you cannot disguise these lines and wrinkles nor the underlying ill health. You have only to step into a hospital to look at the faces of people who have been seriously ill to realize that neither the best make-up products nor the finest techniques could make them look the picture of health, although make-up could make them look better and improve their confidence.

Stress and ill health will affect your whole body and therefore your face, but a specific illness will manifest itself on the specific nerve endings in the skin of the face. Bad skin can almost always be equated with bad health. Spot-prone and problem skin can often be linked to stress as well as to poor digestive and waste disposal systems, such as the stomach and kidneys. A pasty complexion may signify problems with the bowels. In such cases, rather than trying to disguise these problems, it is much better to seek advice from your doctor to deal with the underlying cause.

Similarly, persistent dark circles under your eyes do not always indicate a lack of

sleep. They can be the result of poor diet or nutrient deficiency or they may simply be hereditary. It is much better to check with your doctor before piling on the concealer.

Make-up cannot disguise a poor self-image, which is built up over the years, particularly in childhood, and is deeply ingrained in the mind. By carrying out the treatments in this book, you will go a step towards improving your self-image. The problem with incorrectly applied make-up, however, is that it can reinforce your self-image. If you have small eyes, you will naturally go overboard with eye make-up. Unfortunately, you will actually bring attention to your small eyes rather than make them look larger. Bold eyeliner, incorrectly applied, will make eyes look smaller. The trick is to highlight each of your features evenly by accentuating the good — full lips, for example — and hiding the bad — small eyes, for example.

Make-up cannot disguise prominent features. There is a technique of using light and dark shades of foundation to 'correct' features, with light shades highlighting 'good' areas and dark shades hiding the 'bad'. In principle, the theory is correct, but in practice, it is easy to make mistakes and to end up looking artificial. You may even end up highlighting the very feature you wanted to conceal.



your state of health and well-being so you cannot be beautiful if you are not

that this shows up in your face. Stress and pollution, which

## What Is a Great Book?

by Mortimer J Adler

**T**HERE is no end to the making of books. Nor does there seem to be any end to the making of lists of "great books." There have always been more books than anyone could read. And as they have multiplied through the centuries, more and more blue-ribbon lists have had to be made.

No matter how long your life, you will, at best, be able to read only a few books of all that have been written, and the few you do read should include the best. You can rejoice in the fact that the number of such is relatively small.

What are the signs by which we may recognize a great book? The six I will mention may not be all there are, but they are the ones I've found most useful in explaining my choices over the years.

**Great books are probably the most widely read.** They are not best-sellers for a year or two. They

are enduring best sellers. Gone with the Wind has had relatively few readers compared to the plays of Shakespeare or Don Quixote. It would be reasonable to estimate that Homer's Iliad has been read by at least 25,000,000 people in the last 3000 years.

A great book need not even be a best seller in its own day. It may take time for it to accumulate its ultimate audience. The astronomer Kepler, whose work on the planetary motions is now a classic, is reported to have said of his book that "it may wait a century for a reader, as God has waited 6000 years for an observer."

**Great books are popular, not pedantic.** They are not written by specialists about specialties for specialists. Whether they be philosophy or science, or history or poetry, they treat of

human, not academic, problems. They are written for men, not professors. To read a textbook for advanced students, you have to read an elementary textbook first. But the great books can be considered elementary in the sense that they treat the elements of any subject matter. They are not related to one another as a series of textbooks, graded in difficulty or in the technicality of the problems with which they deal.

There is one kind of prior reading, however, which does help you to read a great book, and that is the other great books the author himself read. Let me illustrate this point by taking Euclid's Elements of Geometry and Newton's Mathematical Principles of Natural Philosophy. Euclid requires no prior study of mathematics. His book is genuinely an intro-

duction to geometry, and to basic arithmetic as well. The same cannot be said for Newton's because Newton uses mathematics in the solution of physical problems. His style shows how deeply he was influenced by Euclid's treatment of ratio and proportions. His book is, therefore, not readily intelligible, even to scientists, unless Euclid has been read before.

I am not saying that great scientific books can be read without effort. I am saying that if they are read in an historical order, the effort is rewarded. Just as Euclid illuminates Newton and Galileo, so they in turn help to make Einstein intelligible. The point applies to philosophical books as well.

**Great books are always contemporary.** In contrast, the books we call "contemporary," because they are currently popular, last only for a year or two, or ten at the most. You probably cannot recall the names of many earlier best sellers, and you probably would not be interested in reading them. But the great books are never outmoded by the movement of thought or the shifting winds of doctrine and opinion. The letters of Cicero, or the essays of Bacon and Montaigne, will find how constant is the preoccupation of men with happiness and justice, with virtue and truth and even with stability and change itself.

**Great books are the most readable.** They will not let you down if you try to read them well. They have more ideas per page than most books have in their entirety. That is why you can read a great book over and over again and never exhaust its contents. They can be read at many different levels of understanding, as well as with a great diversity of interpretations. Obvious examples are Gulliver's Travels, Robinson Crusoe and the Odyssey. Children can read them with enjoyment, but fail to find therein all the beauty and significance which delight an adult mind.

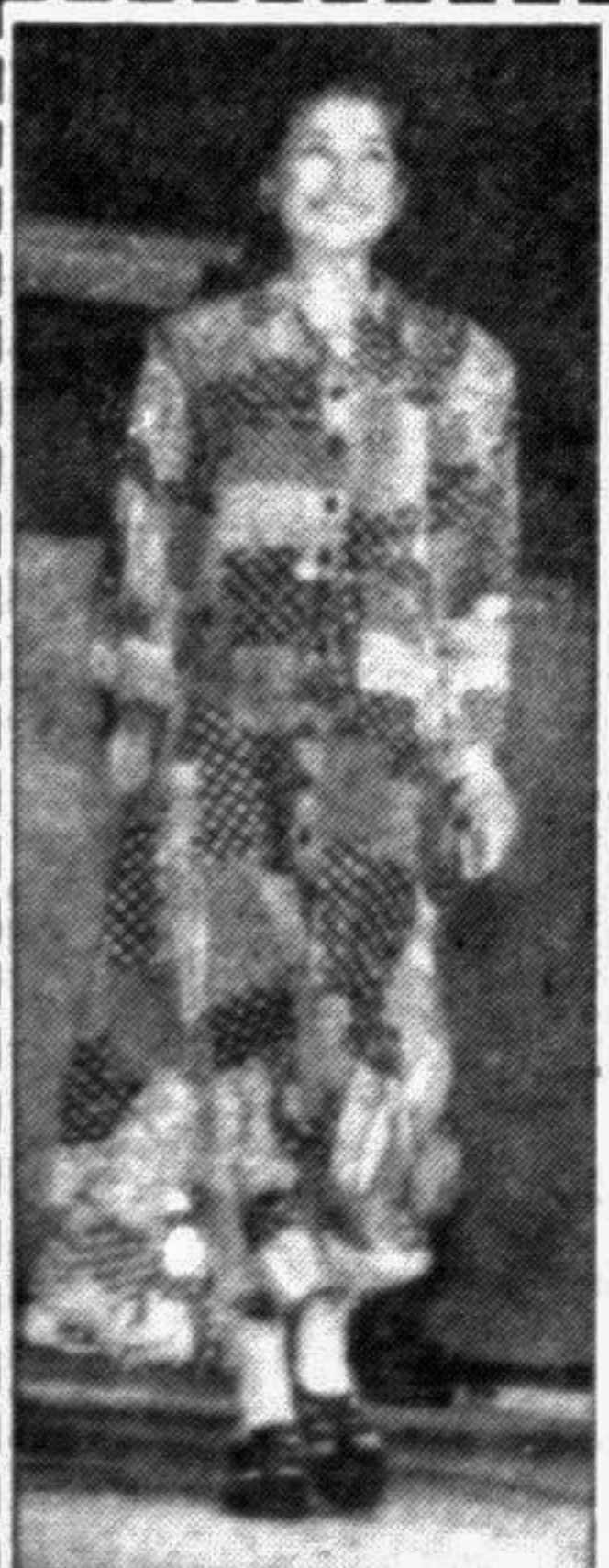
## Cookery

Dash of pepper and panna

**Galette au Nouilles**  
6 oz. macaroni  
2 eggs  
A little minced ham  
2 oz. grated cheese  
2 oz. butter  
Cook the macaroni in boiling, salted water for about 7 hours, drain well, add half the butter while the macaroni is hot, mixing well, and finally add cheese Gruyere and minced ham. Beat the eggs and add them to the macaroni. Melt the rest of the butter in a saucepan, put in the mixture and brown the galette on one side. Turn it on to a plate for a moment, put a small piece of butter in the saucepan, replace the galette and brown the other side. Serve alone or with tomato sauce.

**Cheese Souffle (for 4-6)**  
1 oz. butter  
1 gill milk  
1 dessertspoonful cornflour  
2 eggs  
2 oz. Parmesan cheese  
Cayenne and salt  
Melt the butter in a pan. Add cornflour and seasoning and then the milk. Boil for 3 minutes, stirring well. Cool slightly. Separate the egg whites from the yolks and beat in the yolks and the cheese. Whip the whites until they are very stiff and fold into the sauce. Put into a prepared and well-buttered soufflé dish, and bake in a moderate oven for 20-25 minutes until risen and light brown. Serve at once.

**Cheese Puffit (for 6-8)**  
1 1/2-in. slices stale bread  
4 eggs  
3/4 teaspoonful salt  
4 lb. cheese, sliced  
2 pint milk



Scenes from a recent fashion show held at Sonargaon. — Photos: Abul Kalam Mohammed Mohsin

Courtesy: How to Read a Book