

68TH ANNIVERSARY OF BIRTH OF HIS MAJESTY THE EMPEROR OF JAPAN



The Daily Star

SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT

DECEMBER 23, 2001

Their Majesties Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko



His Majesty Emperor Akihito

HIS Majesty Emperor Akihito, who acceded to the throne on January 7, 1989 upon the demise of Emperor Hirohito (posthumously known as Emperor Showa), was born in Tokyo on December 23, 1933, the eldest son of Emperor Hirohito and Empress Nagako. He studied at Gakushuin elementary, junior high and senior high schools. In 1952 he entered the Department of Politics in the Faculty of Politics and Economics, Gakushuin University. In 1952 he also had his Coming-of-Age Ceremony and investiture as Crown Prince.

Emperor Akihito (then Crown Prince) made his first overseas journey in 1953, attending the coronation of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II of the United Kingdom on behalf of Emperor Hirohito. On that occasion he also visited other countries in Europe and North America.

From April 1954 Crown Prince Akihito continued his university studies as an auditor. He completed his university education in 1956.

On April 10, 1959, Crown Prince Akihito married Miss Michiko Shoda (the present Empress). Miss Shoda was born in Tokyo on October 24, 1934, the eldest daughter of Mr. Hidesaburo Shoda. The Shoda

family is prominent in both industrial and academic circles, having among its relatives two recipients of the Order of Culture, the highest order given to scholars and artists by the Emperor.

Crown Prince Akihito himself chose Miss Shoda for his bride. The choice was welcomed by all concerned, as expressed in the following words: "The Crown Prince chose her and so did we" to conform with the Imperial House Law, the Imperial Household Agency, headed by the Prime Minister and composed of representatives of the Imperial Family, the Diet and the Supreme Court and the Grand Steward of the Imperial Household Agency, gave its unanimous consent to the marriage, which was warmly welcomed by the nation.

Miss Shoda attended Futaba Elementary School and Sacred Heart High School. In 1953 she entered the University of the Sacred Heart, specializing in English literature. At her graduation ceremony she was valedictorian of her class. In 1958 she represented Japan at the first international conference of the World Association of the Alumnae of the Sacred Heart.

Since their marriage, the imperial couple has participated in such imperial functions as their

Majesties' New Year Reception, New Year lectures, the New Year's Imperial Poetry Reading and imperial garden parties. They have also participated in receptions for state and official guests from foreign countries, welcomed to their residence members of royalty and distinguished persons including ministers and ambassadors from foreign countries, and received Japanese individuals from administrative and diplomatic fields, scholars, artists and people involved in social welfare. Each year they meet members of the Japan Youth Goodwill Mission, which was founded in commemoration of their wedding. Each year nearly 800 members of the Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers visit their residence before being sent abroad.

Since their marriage, the imperial couple has made official visits to 37 countries. They visited most of these countries on behalf of Emperor Hirohito.

On November 12, 1990, the Sokui Rei Seiden no Gi (Ceremony of the Enthronement of His Majesty the Emperor) was held at the Imperial Palace. Since the enthronement, Their Majesties have made state visits to Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia, in 1991, and China in 1992.

Emperor Akihito has for many years made a taxonomic study of gobioid fishes. As a member of the Ichthyological Society of Japan, the Emperor has published 26 papers in the society's journal. He has also written nearly 200 accounts of gobioid fishes in "The Fishes of the Japanese Archipelago", published in

November 1984. For his work in this field, he was invited to become a foreign member of the Linnean Society of London in 1980 and was elected as an honorary member of this society in 1986. His Majesty is also a research associate of the Australian Museum, and since 1992 has been an honorary member of

the Zoological Society of London. In addition to his research, the Emperor takes great interest in natural life and its conservation, as well as in history. The Emperor enjoys meeting and conversing with scholars in these fields. Their Majesties' favorite sport is tennis.

MESSAGE

It is my great honour and pleasure to extend my warm greetings and best wishes to the Government and people of the People's Republic of Bangladesh on the auspicious occasion of the sixtieth birthday of His Majesty, Emperor Akihito on 23rd December 2001. This year we joyously celebrate the birth of Her Imperial Highness Princess Aiko to the Imperial Highnesses Crown Prince Naruhito and Crown Princess Masako on the first of this month. I wish much happiness to the Imperial family of Japan.

On this my first opportunity to celebrate H M Emperor's birthday since assuming my Ambassadorial role in Bangladesh, I would like to extend to the Government and people of Bangladesh my sincere and heartfelt gratitude for the warm welcome and support that I have received since my arrival. The celebration of His Majesty's birthday provides an excellent opportunity to focus on relations between Japan and the People's Republic of Bangladesh and to reflect on further ways to enrich our relationship both at government level and with the people.

I am very pleased that the warm friendship between Japan and Bangladesh has grown steadily over

the years since Independence. Close contact between our two peoples started as early as the beginning of the 20th century. The personal friendship between Rabindranath Tagore and Teshin Okakura, a Japanese intellectual, and Taikan Yokoyama, a master of Japanese fine art at that time, highlights the cultural exchange which we sincerely hope has contributed to the Bengali Renaissance. Up to the present time our two countries have not only enjoyed very cordial relations but have also developed bonds of mutual understanding and friendship.

As an Asian country, Japan shares many common interests with Bangladesh and I highly commend the role that Bangladesh is playing in this region as well as in the international arena. The brave initiative of the SAARC meeting, and Bangladesh's role in the United Nations including the provision of the largest number of PKO forces in the world are typical examples.

Our two countries have enjoyed very cordial relations since Japan first recognized the independence of Bangladesh in 1972. The year 2002 is auspicious as the 30th anniversary of the start of diplomatic relations between Japan and Bangladesh. I hope that the governments and people of both our countries will work together to celebrate such an important occasion. To

further commemorate this occasion, the Embassy of Japan is planning to hold 'Japan Week in Bangladesh' in the month of March 2002 and 'Japan Month' in October 2002. During these times, the Embassy will organise various cultural programmes in cooperation with the Government of Bangladesh. We hope that through these events, mutual understanding between the people of our two countries will be strengthened and our excellent long term bilateral relationship will be further enhanced.

Japan has been one of Bangladesh's major development partners for the past 30 years since independence and has continuously extended active support to the Bangladesh effort for economic and social development. Bangladesh is one of the major recipient countries of our bilateral aid, and has been the single largest recipient country of Japanese grants since 1984. We sincerely hope that Japanese assistance to Bangladesh will contribute to accomplish the alleviation of poverty. The main focus of our assistance has been in the areas of agriculture and rural development; in social areas such as basic human standards and health care; in the basic infrastructure for investment and export promotion as well as in the area of disaster preparedness. In these four areas,

human resource development, institution building and environment are also addressed.

During the last 30 years, with Japanese Official Development Assistance (ODA), extensive road networks have been developed and major bridges constructed across the Meghna, Meghna-Gumti and Jamuna. Paksey and Rupsha bridges are now under construction. Japanese ODA has also been utilized for many other facilities such as irrigation systems, water supply systems and weather warning services. Technical assistance such as Human Resource Development in the Reproductive Health project, and Poultry Management Techniques Improvement project have also assisted with the economic and social development of Bangladesh. From the time of Bangladesh independence up to the end of the year 2000, Japan has extended a total amount of approximately 403 billion yen in grant assistance, 577 billion yen in soft loans (E/N base) and more than 35 billion yen in technical assistance.

Our bilateral relationship has also been enhanced in other areas, especially in trade and investment. Japan is now the 9th destination for Bangladesh goods. Prawns, garments, shoes and other leather goods are all exported to Japan. Japan is one of the major countries investing in Bangladesh. Thirteen

Japanese companies inside EPZs and 40 outside EPZs are now operating, as reported by the BOI.

Our bilateral exchanges of culture and people are also strengthening. Last year our former Prime Minister Mori visited Bangladesh and held productive talks with the Government of Bangladesh. Several hundreds of Bangladeshi students are now studying in Japan under the Japanese Government's Scholars' program. I wish all of you a merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

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Jiro Kobayashi
Ambassador of Japan to Bangladesh

On the 68th Birthday of His Majesty Emperor Akihito of Japan we wish him a long and prosperous life

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TV GUIDE

BTV 3:10 News Headlines 3:20 Open University 3:45 Shukhi Poribar 4:00 Khabar 4:05 Animation Film: Totally Tuned In 4:30 Puthithalya 4:45 Programme for the children 5:00 News Headlines 5:10 Shashatalyha 5:25 National Television Debate 6:00 Khabar 6:10 Taruchaya 6:35 Programme from Chittagong station 7:00 News Headlines (English) 7:05 Oli O Manush 7:30 Baria Probaho 8:00 News in Bengali 8:30 Drama 9:00 News Headlines 9:00 News at Ten (English) 10:25 Ontorongo Aloke 11:30 Khabar / The News 11:45 Closing	BBC WORLD 6:00 BBC News 6:30 Holiday 7:00 BBC News 7:30 Hospital 8:00 BBC News 8:30 Correspondent 9:00 BBC News 9:30 This Week 10:00 BBC News 10:30 Mastermind India 11:00 BBC News 11:30 India Business Report 12:00 BBC News 12:30 Wheels 1:00 BBC News 1:30 Hardtalk India 2:00 BBC News 2:30 This Week 3:00 BBC News 3:15 Bubble Trouble 4:00 BBC News 4:30 Click Online 5:00 BBC News 5:30 Hospital 6:00 BBC News 6:45 People's Century 7:00 BBC News 7:30 Top Gear 8:00 BBC News 8:30 Dateline London 9:00 BBC News 9:15 Road To Riches 10:00 BBC News 10:30 Hardtalk India 11:00 BBC News 11:15 Bubble Trouble 12:00 BBC News 12:30 Hospital 1:00 BBC News 1:30 People's Century 2:00 BBC News 2:30 Top Gear 3:00 BBC News 3:30 Dateline London 4:00 BBC News 4:30 Asia Business 5:00 Report/Asia Today 5:30 Asia Business Report/Asia Today	HBO 6:30 Trespass 8:30 First Daughter 10:30 Magic in the Water 11:30 Tales from the Crypt: Demon Knight 12:30	2:30 Band of Brothers: Why We Fight 3:45 My Girl 2 5:45 Magic in the Mirror 7:30 Clueless 9:30 Scrooged 11:30 The Presidio 1:30 Tales from the Crypt: Demon Knight 3:30 Official Denial 5:15 Last Man on Planet Earth STAR MOVIES 7:00 Drama: Mercury Project 9:00 Thriller: The Willies 11:00 Comedy: Fat the Movie 12:30 Action: Atomic Twister 2:15 Thriller: Hide And Seek 4:00 Action: Titan A E 5:45 Comedy: Queens Logic 7:45 Action: Atomic Twister 9:30 Sunday Megamovie: Plunkett and Macleane 11:15 Drama: Harlan County War 1:00 Comedy: Fat the Movie 3:00 Action: Managua 5:00 Drama: Harlan County War STAR GOLD 10:30 Geet Bahar 1:00 Geet Bahar 1:30 Kalash 11:30 Geet Gata Chal 12:00 Raheem Na Raheem Hum 1:00 Sunday Noon Show Shaadi Ke Baad 3:00 Sansar 3:30 Dateline London 4:00 BBC News 4:30 Asia Business 5:00 Report/Asia Today 5:30 Asia Business Report/Asia Today 11:00 Geet Gata Chal 11:30 Zehreela Insaan (Rishi Kapoor, Neetu Singh) 12:30 Zehreela Insaan	(contd) 3:00 Geet Bahar 3:30 Shankar Sita Ansuya (Mahipal, Shahu Modak, Nirupa Roy) 7:00 Ek Musafir Ek Hasina (Joy Mukherjee, Sadhana) STAR PLUS 6:00 Mirch Masala 6:30 Geet Bahar 7:30 Aatma 8:30 Dharam Aur Hum 9:30 Surabhi 10:00 Family Fortunes 10:30 Kaun Banega Crompton Junior 11:30 Chalti Ka Naam Antakshiri 12:30 Chhupa Rustom 1:30 Musafir Hoon Yaron 1:30 Mirch Masala 2:00 Hit Filmlein Hit Sangeet 2:30 Mail Milap 2:40 Star Sunday Matinee 6:00 Hit Filmlein Hit Sangeet 6:30 Fox Kids Sunday 7:30 Son Pari 7:55 Jubilee Plus 8:30 Ji Mantriji 9:00 Star Event Kambakht Ishq 12:00 Hit Filmlein Hit Sangeet 12:30 Shagun 1:00 Sonpari 1:30 Kalash 2:00 Kaahin Kissii Roz 3:00 Jubilee Plus 3:30 Pal Chhin 3:30 Saahil 4:00 Sansar 4:30 Chhupa Rustom 5:00 Meri Saheli 5:30 Hit Filmlein Hit Sangeet STAR NEWS 8:30 Star News English 9:00 Star News Hindi 11:30 Star News English 12:30 Star News English 1:00 Reality Bites 3:00 Liminalight Hindi 6:30 The Big Fight	8:00 Star Talk 8:30 We The People 9:30 Star News Sunday 10:30 Star News Ravivaar 11:30 Star News English 12:30 Star Business Week AXN TV 4:00 High Actin Adrenalin 4:30 World's Most Amazing Videos II 5:30 Rollerjam 6:30 David Blaine: Magic Man 7:30 Grandeur Musashi RV 8:30 You're Under Arrest 9:30 Outdoor Quest 10:30 The Amazing Race 11:30 Who Dares Wins II 12:30 Survivor: Africa 1:30 David Blaine: Magic Man 2:30 Movie: Striking Distance 4:30 High Action Adrenalin 5:30 Who Dears Wins II 6:30 World's Most Amazing Videos II	7:30 Survivor: Africa 8:30 David Blaine: Magic Man 9:30 Sun Action Heroes Movie: Nowhere To Run 11:30 Movie: Bill & Ted's Excellent Adventure 2:30 Rollerjam 3:30 High Action Adrenalin ZEE MGM 1:30 Desperately Seeking Susan 4:00 Pink Nights 6:30 Wild Orchid 9:00 The Ambulance 11:30 Breathless 2:00 The Three Amigos 4:30 Memories of Me 7:00 Wild Orchid 9:30 The Ambulance (Eric Roberts, James Earl Jones) 11:30 Breathless (Richard Gere, Valerie Kaprisky) ZEE ENGLISH 12:30 Benny Hill Show	1:00 Homicide: Life on the Street 1:30 Mini Series: Dangerous Lady 3:00 Heartbreak High 4:00 Charlie Chaplin 4:30 Mowgli 5:00 Heartbreak High 6:00 Over The Edge 6:30 Mini Series: Dangerous Lady 7:30 Heartbreak High 8:30 Movie Stars 9:00 Homicide 10:00 Mowgli 10:30 Charlie Chaplin 11:00 Over The Edge 11:30 Police Academy 12:30 Brand Champs 1:00 For Your Love 1:30 The Sopranos 2:30 Friends7 3:00 La Femme Nikita 4:00 Mini Series: Black Scorpion 5:00 Veronica's Closet 5:30 Heartbreak High 6:30 Suddenly Susan	7:00 ER 8:00 Living Single 8:30 Jesse 9:00 Friends7 9:30 Mini Series: The Other Side Of Paradise 10:30 The West Wing 11:30 Friends7 12:00 Movie Stars ZEE TV 12:30 Bourvita Quiz Contest 1:00 Aaj Bhi...Aleet 1:30 Dollar Bahu 2:00 Hip Hip Hurray 2:30 Zee & You 3:00 Feature Film 3:30 News 6:00 Yaadon Ke Pal 6:30 Aalaap 7:00 Yoga For Life 7:40 Jagran 7:50 Zee Gym 8:00 Guldasta 8:30 Nickelodeon on Zee 9:00 Jai Jai Trivee 10:30 National Challenge Antakshan 11:30 Baazi Kiski	12:30 Bourvita Quiz Contest 1:00 Hip Hip Hurray 1:30 Rist Take/Top of the Tops 2:00 Dollar Bahu 2:30 Zee & You 3:00 Cinema Hits 6:00 Ek Nazar 6:30 Nickelodeon On Zee 7:30 Neelam Ghar Bid Bid Boom 8:30 Razzmatazz 9:30 Sansaar 10:30 Aap Jo Bolein Haan To Haan Aap Jo Bolein Naa To Naa 11:30 India's Most Wanted 12:00 Guddudee 12:27 Intermissee ZEE CINEMA 1:30 Kamna 4:30 Mamta 7:30 Nai Roshni 10:30 Mehbooba (Rajesh Khanna, Hema Malini) 1:30 Do Raaste (Rajesh Khanna, Mumtaz) 6:00 Barsaat (Twinkle Khanna, Bobby Deol) 10:00 Laadla (Anil Kapoor, Sridevi)	7:30 Hit Pe Hit 8:30 Fillers 9:00 Compact Disc 9:30 Zee Music Box 10:00 Sizzlers 10:30 Jharokha 11:05 Zee Music Com 12:00 Phoren Maal ALPHA TV BANGLA 12:30 Bangla Feature Film 3:00 Talk Jhal Misti 3:30 Bharat Bhraman 4:00 Daibaddha 4:30 Jhara Samayer Upakatha 5:00 Gandharbi 5:30 Saat Kahani 6:00 Bhola Basa Mandobasa 6:30 Manabi 7:00 Arghya/Ananda Vilas 7:30 News 8:00 Suret E Dharana Dharay 8:30 Amra probasi 9:00 News 9:05 Bharat Bhraman 9:30 Premier Phante 10:00 Samayer Sur 10:30 Soni Robi Molar Chobi 11:30 Choto Chuttr Phake 12:00 Bideshini Bodhu 12:30 Tniyo Purush 1:00 Ranna Ghar 1:30 Antrasley 2:00 Goyenda Panbar 2:30 Feature Film 3:00 Arghya/Ananda Vilas 5:00 Amra Probasi 6:00 Alpha Khabor 6:25 Jhankar 6:30 Mojar Khel Kobitay 7:00 Ekuse Paa 7:25 Jhankar 7:30 Googly 7:55 Jhankar 8:00 Alpha Bangla Telechobi 9:45 Purobi 10:15 Talk Jhal Misti 10:45 Ek Palake 10:50 Bangla News Bulletin 10:55 Ek Palake 11:00 News 11:30 Nijel Nayak 11:55 Ek Palake 12:00 Daibaddha 12:55 Ek Palake
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