

Family by Novera Ahmed

APURBA JAHANGIR

Novera Ahmed, the first modern sculptor of Bangladesh, was born in 1930 in Kolkata. She earned a Diploma in Design for the Modelling and Sculpture course from Camberwell School of Art in London in 1955. At Camberwell, she studied under the renowned British sculptors Sir Jacob Epstein and Karel Vogel of Czechoslovakia. She also enriched her perspective on European sculpture by studying under Venturi Venturino in Florence and later in Vienna. She was credited alongside Hamidur Rahman for the original design of the Shahid Minar.



Within a short span of time, from 1956 to 1960, Novera had worked on about 100 sculptures in Dhaka. Her first and last exhibition was held in 1960. Out of 100, 33 sculptures were collected by the Bangladesh National Museum (BNM). Her sculptures have become a part of history. Novera's

sculptures in BNM are a part of her family series which was influenced by the rural life and folk motifs of Bangladesh. The sculptures represent the love between women and their children and also execute male and female figures from different angles.

PHOTOS: KAZI TAHSIN AGAZ APURBO



PHOTO SOURCE: INTERNET

NUMBERS

1000

Europe's Jews face rising anti-Semitism in some countries, but multiculturalism is far from dead. Today, more than 1,000 Muslims formed a human shield around Oslo's synagogue, offering protection and solidarity with Jews following a violent attack in Copenhagen last weekend. Chanting "No to anti-Semitism, no to Islamophobia," Norway's Muslims and others formed what they called a ring of peace during the event organized on Facebook.

"Humanity is one, and we are here to demonstrate that," Zeeshan Abdullah,

one of the organisers told the crowd of Muslim immigrants and ethnic Norwegians who filled the street around Oslo's only synagogue.

Muslim women joined hands to form a human shield as they stood outside a synagogue in Oslo February 21, 2015.

Source: <http://www.goodnewsnetwork.org/norway-muslims-form-human-shield-around-jewish-synagogue/> <http://www.jpst.com/International/Norways-Muslims-form-protective-human-ring-around-synagogue-391733>

ENDEAVOUR

EMILY SUMMERS

Political Section, British High Commission, Dhaka

I arrived in Bangladesh in July 2014. My impression on arrival: hot, larger than life, and colourful and I loved it. I still do. I have the grand title of Climate Change Attaché, although there is no hat to go with this! I am here to support the impressive strides Bangladesh has taken to tackle the adverse impacts of climate change. And it's leading role in the international negotiations. On international women's day I strongly believe it is important to remember that climate change will affect us all. We must act, and our collective response must include the voices of women.



RUZIANA HASAN

Head, Trade & Investment, British High Commission, Dhaka

I've just passed the six month mark of working in Bangladesh as Head of UK Trade and Investment. This is about supporting the important business relationship between the UK and Bangladesh. Being of Bangladeshi heritage makes this role even more special as I feel I'm doing my bit for the two countries that mean the most to me. Strong trade links lead to joint prosperity, and that is what we want to achieve. But what makes today even more special is that six years ago on International Women's Day my daughter Inaya was born. I hope she grows up to be as strong as some of those women whose stories we are hearing about today.



SHAHNILA AZHER

Team Leader, Private Sector Development, DFID Bangladesh

I have been with DFID for nearly ten years and am presently Head of the Growth and Private Sector team. Our team develops and implements innovative interventions to support the private sector in Bangladesh. These programmes, spanning a number of diverse issues from skills and financial sector to broader investment climate, help Bangladesh by improving productivity and creating jobs. I originally started my career in the private sector but moved across to development inspired by the wider remit of work involved and the transformational potential that it can offer. I think it is a real privilege to have a day job that allows me to directly benefit my country.



From behind the Red Bricked Walls

There are some who think, write and speak. And then there are those who act, implement and innovate. On International Women's Day, the British High Commission brings together their best and showcases the silent change makers.



NASREEN SULTANA

Deputy Country Exams Manager, British Council Bangladesh

Getting the opportunity to help young people of Bangladesh to achieve their global aspirations is what makes my job most interesting. I have been with the Examination Services for eleven years now and continue to enjoy the diversity of my role, which is endlessly fascinating, as it allows me to be creative and innovative, build cultural relations between people of Bangladesh and UK. And last but not least, the satisfaction it brings in me to see the smile on a Bangladeshi candidate's face who receives the top marks in the world in their exams. I celebrate womanhood everyday as women of this country contribute so much to the society and their family. Let's celebrate this year's International Women's Day together to recognize, honour and salute women around the world for the sacrifice and immeasurable support they provide to the society.



FOUZIA YOUNIS-SULEMAN

Head, Press and Communications Unit, British High Commission, Dhaka

I am very proud to represent Britain in Bangladesh. As the Head of Press and Communications Section, I work with my excellent team to strengthen the natural people to people ties that exist between both our countries. From engaging in our aid programme (we are the largest bilateral donor), to showcasing the very best of the UK education and skills, to working with the energetic and buzzing media community - my job allows me to get out and about, meeting the people of Bangladesh. Which is why I love what I do. This International Women's Day, my hope is for all girls and women to #haveachoice and to #haveavoice, and for men to be part of that change. My biggest supporter is my father who has given me the confidence to be the very best that I can be. I was the first person from my family to have the choice to go to university. A choice and a voice can take a girl a long way. Even to Dhaka!



HASINA RAHMAN

Head of Consular Services, British High Commission, Dhaka

As the Head of Consular Services my role is providing assistance and support to vulnerable British nationals in Bangladesh. Over the last four years, my team has dealt with over 80, mostly young female British nationals who have been victims of forced marriages in Bangladesh. I also work with local partners and NGOs within the Bangladeshi community to raise awareness against forced marriages. I am very passionate about helping and supporting people in distress. I am very lucky that my Job gives me the opportunity to fulfill my passion. Leading a Consular team and helping the most vulnerable British nationals, supporting people in extremely difficult situations and helping these people overcome their hurdles in life is an extremely rewarding experience.

Compilation and photos by the Press and Communications Unit, British High Commission, Dhaka.