

My sweet Memories.

Division of reconstructive surgery
for oral and maxill ofacial region **Bibi Rahima**
regeneration and reconstruction

I can hardly believe that more than three years have already been passed since i came to Japan. It was in January 1999. I began my study from April 1999 at the first department of oral surgery as a student under Ph.D. program. I was very worried about my ability to study in a foreign country and to adjust to foreign peoples. It was also, the first time for me to be on my own, away from my country, Bangladesh. However, soon, all my fears vanished. I was surrounded by many Japanese friends willing to help me in my study and to accustom to my new life. Study and research were a great joy in a faculty provided with the best hightechnology equipment. The first year practically flied away and I found myself wishing to learn more, not only in the dental field but also about Japanese culture and cus-

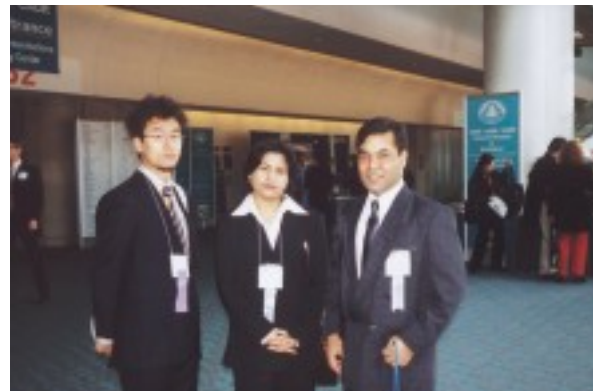
toms.

I was specially inspired by Japanese language. Bengali is my own language. Bengali and Japanese are little bit same, specially grammatically. We use some words which are also use in Japanese but meanings are different, for example: hashi (chop sticks), in Bengali hashi means laughing, Pan (bread), in Bengali Pan is a kind of leaf. In Japanese nani (what), but in Bengali nani means grand mother. How interesting ! As I did not have enough time for learning Japanese before coming to Japan, I took Japanese lesson for one year at Niigata international friendship center. Now, I can speak Japanese although, I still cannot say that I am a good Japanese speaker.

At my department, I have always to speak Japanese so, some time I mistake when I want to speak English.



A picture with my husband by the river of shinano during cherryblossom viewing.



A picture with my husband and a Japanese graduate student at San Diego, Convention center.

Now I feel comfort speaking Japanese than English. Here, I would like you to read a true story of mine that happened at the Los-Angeles airport. I went to the San Diego, California in March this year for attending the IADR meeting. At Los-Angeles airport a security officer asked me about my cash money, at first I could not understand what he said, I wanted to say what, instead of I said nani ? the man surprised of my reply and looked at me with big eyes, then I said sorry for that. What a wonderful experienced that I gained there ! Perhaps, I have so much inspired by Japanese language. Haven't it ?

What did I expect to see in Japan and Niigata? A country with a special land, unique people, customs and habits. A land with a beautiful nature and amazing architecture. People famous to be hard working, politeness, disciplined, committed to their jobs. Here the activities, eating

habits, dress and even the mood of people change as the season changes. Respecting the elded, appreciating the habits, customs., which did not change with time. I came with a lot of expectations and was not disappointed at all.

In the university, I found a big department, well - equipped experiment room and every necessary things that I expected. Here, I learned that team work is important than individual work and you have always to think about the others. I have felt a very strong family atmosphere dispersed between everyone, expressed in the teaching process and the daily life, and mostly by the willingness to offer help whenever needed.

What am I going to take with me when I go back ? my baggage, my books, and a lot of sweet memories. The people I have met, the friends i have made, the experienced I have had, and of course most importantly, everything I have learned here.

From Bangladesh With Love

2nd Division of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery KAZI SAZZAD HOSSAIN

I am to say like Suzanne Vega, a famous singer

'I Won't use words again

They don't mean what I meant

They don't say what I said.'



I am not a poet nor a singer but I am deeply emotional and sensitive like them. My name is Kazi Sazzad Hossain, a second year

Ph.D. student in the Dept. of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery of Niigata University. I am a Bangladeshi Bangali (Bengali). By the way 'Bangladesh' — my motherland is a newly independent country but she has a very old, long and rich history behind her. Bangladesh emerged as a free and sovereign country following the War of Independence in 1971 against Pakistan. The contribution of two persons automatically arises, when speaking about Bangladesh. Firstly, Nobel - Laureate Rabindranath Tagore, a famous poet of Bangladesh and secondly, the great leader Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, who is the founder of Bangladesh— the 'Father of the nation' and of course my favourite political figure.

However, let us turn the topic. My hobby is to be a rich man and then to act for the poor though it is far away. The person I love most is my mother

to whom I owe very much. I like freedom. My favourite flower is bell. I like to be out for a walk or having a seat beside a river or sea or water at moonlit night. I love nature. So sight-seeing always attracts me. Anything peculiar or strange can draw my attention easily. I like travelling, catching fish, playing football and so on. I am proud of being a student in the 2nd Dept. of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery of Niigata University. I'd like to express gratitude deeply to Prof. Ritsuo Takagi and Prof. Kooji Hanada for my studentship. Their love and care can never be repaid by me. I'd like to thank to Prof. Takeyasu Maeda, Dr. Norio Amizuka, Dr. Kayoko Inoue, Dr. Nobuyuki Ikeda, Mr. Kiichi Takeuchi, Mr. Masaaki Hoshino and for those whom I failed to mention their name, namely the members of the 2nd Dept. of OMS, the 2nd Dept. of Oral Anatomy and the Dept of Anesthesia for their care, assistance and support. I'd highly appreciate them for their kindness, good manner and behavior. They are very cooperative and helpful and I am really happy as they treat with me. I am studying here without stress.

Fact in, to be born as a man is very

painful. There are many obligations in human life. They often suffer from different types of complexity. I am also not free from it but there is nothing so hard like 'Oedipus' (May God help me), where he was not guilty but the victim. Everything is not possible to say but nothing is kept secret. Yet, sometimes eye-sight may betray, I mean it may be untrue what we see. Please allow me to make a few lines in my own words from the most powerful Bengali poet in the domain of Bangla poetry 'Jivanananda Das'-

To the attraction of the earth
When I was born as a man
It was better not to come
As I came I am benefited
I could understand so
At the dew touched bright dawn
I saw—

What happened to man
Should not be happened.
What a noble creature is man! As man is mortal, so I must have to pass after a certain period of time like others. Now the question is that why to come on this earth. My answer is to understand the creature. To understand the creature there is no alternate but to acquire knowledge. The prophet of Islam Hazrat Muhammed (sm) said, 'To acquire knowledge if you need then go to China.' I have come to Japan across China and Japan is the more suitable place in my view.

In the midway, I was frustrated to think that what I did in my life till now. But when I came to understand that

the real war is to fight against hunger, poverty, illiteracy and backwardness, then I felt yes I am in the right way. I would like to quote from Ernest Hemingway-

'It does not really matter where you come from socially. It all matters where do you go'.

The time is not over. I have many, many and many things to do for myself, for my family, for my country and for mankind. I believe that the time I spending here will not provide knowledge only in my respective field but it will further influence in my future life style.

Japan is called the country of the rising sun. when I was in the aeroplane on the way to Japan I was ever excited to enjoy the sunrise. Though every sun is very charming but my excitement lasted no longer when I failed to feel no more charming and I cooled down soon. Rather it was as usual.

In our country it is known, 'The Japanese girls are fond of beauty. They are very polite and gentle. They like flower very much. The Japanese have great liking of working'. Practically I saw here the same. In truth, still now I didn't see anything here that allows me to criticize. I mean the culture, tradition and everything. Specially the generosity, politeness and the sense of humour of the Japanese, may be some excellent examples. Japan is a beautiful country in all respect and her beauty could not be expressed only in words.

Even here, often I forget that I am a foreigner. She is the heaven of the earth. The feelings about the taste of her delicious food like Sushi, Sashimi, Nabe and her various festivals, hanami, hanabi and glorious memories of cheerful Niigata Matsuri will never be devoid from my mind. I will miss her secured life and the life where all the facilities are available for its citizens and every moment I will be ever anxious for it.

I took in marriage few days before I came to Niigata. We lived together in

Bangladesh for 10 days only. I started my new life in Niigata. She was with me. Once in Niigata-

'The moon shines like a golden dish
And I show my wife
To look through the window at night.'

The day is over. The time is not so far to say like a famous English poet 'Jhon Donne'-

'For God's' sake, hold your tongue
and let me love !