



LILY DAS MALIK

A Voice to Remember

“That clear, resonant, authoritarian voice taking us on a quick jog-trot around the world would remain fresh in our minds for many years to come...”

Lily Das Malik decided when very young that she would live life on her own terms and was ready to pay the price for it. She was born to Kalindi Das and Nabin Das in 1934. She had four brothers and sisters amongst whom Sri Pulin Das is a noted sports person of Assam. She graduated from Cotton College in Science. In 1955 she left for Delhi to take part in the International Youth Festival and was much privileged to be a part of the troupe of Dr. Bhupen Hazarika's *Era Bator Sur*. The Delhi ambience cast a magic spell on her. She joined her career as an Assamese News Reader at All India Radio, New Delhi in 1957. Prior to this she was a radio artist in *Akanir Mel* and *Aideor Buloni* programmes. Mrs Malik took up the challenge of news reading in AIR by trying to cultivate the virtues of clarity, simplicity, proper punctuation, pronunciation and not to falter under any circumstance.

Mrs Das Malik was married in 1965 to a journalist, Mr K.N.Malik, who served for the *Times of India* and in 1982 he was posted as European Correspondent of the paper in London. It is worth mentioning that,

although she frequently visited London during this period, she was determined not to compromise with her career and continued to serve the AIR with much sincerity and enthusiasm. The couple is blessed with two well settled sons. She retired in 1994 after a long spell of 40 years of dedicated service through rain and shine, reading news on war and famine, killing of Presidents and the landing on the moon, coups and agreements, victories and defeats. That clear, resonant, authoritarian voice taking us on a quick jog-trot around the world would remain fresh in our minds for many years to come.. Now she is settled in U.K. and Mrs Das Malik is an active member of a social service group that helps Asian Immigrants bridge the communication gap in England.□□