

Status of women lowest in Bangladesh, says report

by A Special Correspondent

Over 60 per cent of the world's women live in countries including Bangladesh where their health childbearing options, educational prospects, economic participation and social standing are severely compromised.

When measured by these five indicators, the overall status of women is lowest in Africa, the Middle East and South Asia, and highest in northern Europe and North America.

The rankings are based on data compiled by such organizations as the United Nations Statistical Office, the International Labour Organization and the U.S. Bureau of the Census.

HERE and THERE

Muslim League

The emergency meeting of the Convening Committee of Muslim League held on Friday supported the movement of the government employees to implement pay scales report and urged the government to fulfil the pledge it made before the election.

The meeting said any coercive policy taken to quell the movement would not be fruitful. The meeting said due to price hike of essentials, the minimum wage of an employee should be equal to four mounds of rice.

The meeting presided over by M A Hannan was also addressed by Kazi Aolad Hossain, Ibrahim Hossain, Kamruzzaman Khan and G A Khan.

Human Rights Organisation

Speakers at the organisational meeting of Bangladesh Human Rights Organisation said Friday the Indemnity Ordinance should be repealed immediately.

The meeting presided over by poet Muhammad Abdul Khalek said the Ordinance is a black spot in the history of Bangladesh. They said if the government does not repeal the Ordinance, mass movement should be launched from grass-root level for its repealment.

Hossain Ali Memorial Sangsad

The founder General Secretary of Syed Hossain Ali Memorial Sangsad, Md Abdur Rauf Ahmed congratulated Mikhail Gorbachev for his return to power. He said the comeback of the Soviet President is significant for the present world.

In no country do women enjoy "excellent" status. However, in seven of the countries studied - two in North America and five in northern Europe - the overall status of women is characterized as "very good."

In 51 countries containing more than 60 per cent of the world's women, the overall status of women can be described as "poor," "very poor" or "extremely poor." All of the African, Middle Eastern and South Asian countries studied, with the notable exceptions of Israel and Sri Lanka, fall into one of these three lower categories.

Country scores in each of the five principal sectors vary widely. For example, in terms of the health status of women - as measured by female infant and child mortality rates, female mortality during the reproductive year, female life expectancy at birth and the differential in female-male life expectancy - Finland ranks first and Afghanistan last.

Freedom Party for No' vote in referendum

The co-chairman of Freedom Party, Col (Rtd) Abdur Rashid on Friday said his party would urge the people to cast "No" vote in the September 15 referendum.

Speaking at the combined meeting of the Central Executive Committee, Central Advisory Council, Local Executive Committee and Local Advisory Committee of the party, he said the nation can not accept the system of electing President through the vote of the MPs.

The two-day combined meeting inaugurated at the central offices was presided over by the chairman of Freedom Party Col (Rtd) Syed Farooq Rahman.

In his inaugural speech, Col Farooq termed the politics of the next few months as very significant. He urged his party-men to play the correct political role during the time.

The meeting was also addressed by Major (Rtd) Bazlul Huda, Mia Abdur Rashid and others.

adult female mortality (most of which are Western nations), only one out of every 100 women will die between the ages of 15 and 45. However, in over one-fourth of the countries studied, one in 10 women will die during their childbearing years, and in Afghanistan, Benin, Cameroon, Malawi, Mali Mozambique, Nepal, Nigeria and North Yemen, as many as one in five women will die.

Differences in female life expectancy at birth further illustrate the gap between developed and developing countries: In eight highly industrialized countries, females have an average life expectancy at birth of at least 80 years, whereas in eight of the poorest countries in Africa and Asia, the average life expectancy for women is below 50. While women can expect to live longer than men in every country studied, except for Bangladesh and Nepal, male-female differences in life expectancy are much narrower in the developing countries than in the developed ones.

The data reveal strikingly different patterns of marriage and childbearing in developed and developing countries. Over all, Australia and New Zealand scored highest on such indicators as teenage marriage, total fertility and contraceptive prevalence, and Saudi Arabia scored lowest. In the United States and northern Europe, at most eight per cent of women have married by age 19. In contrast, more than two-thirds of Bangladeshi women 19 and younger have married, as have more than half of the women in this age-group in Afghanistan, Malawi, Mali, Nepal, North Yemen and the United Arab Emirates.



A group of Chhatra League (SA) activists set three vehicles on fire in city on Friday protesting rearrest of their two leaders. One of the damaged vehicles two leaders. One of the damaged vehicles are seen.

3 vehicles set ablaze

By DU Correspondent

A group of Chhatra League (S-A) activists set three vehicles on fire Friday at the Palassy crossing in the city protesting rearrest of two party leaders.

The vehicles were two private cars (Dhaka Jha-33 and Dhaka Bha- 8275) and a minibus (Faridpur Ba -314). One of the cars belonged to Dr

Defamation case filed

By Staff Correspondent

Eminent social worker Anita Dey and her husband Ajit Kumar Dey on August 14 filed a case against eight persons including the Secretary of Home Ministry and the Editors, Publishers and printers of six newspapers and magazines for publishing defamatory stories against them.

The Taka five crore defamation case was filed at the Sub-judge Court, Dhaka, against the Secretary, one Manindra Nath Sarkar, the Morning Sun, the Daily Millat, Weekly Agami, Fortnightly Tarakalok, Fortnightly Dhaka Reporter, and fortnightly Sonar Tari, says a press release.

Sohrabuddin Ahmed, teacher of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET).

Two Awami League backed Chhatra League (S-A) leaders Moazzem Hossain and Mohammad Ali were released from the Dhaka Central Jail Friday and were rearrested immediately from the jail gate.

On hearing the news, the agitated BCL (S-A) workers brought out procession in the city and at one stage attacked the vehicles at 10-30 pm.

Dr Sohabuddin Ahmed while contacted told The Daily Star that the attackers dam-

221 arrested in Ctg

CHITTAGONG, Aug 23: Police arrested 221 persons on various charges from 12 districts of Chittagong range today under their Operation Doorbar '91', reports BSS.

Police also seized four fire arms and some ammunition during the drive.

A police press release said tonight that the arrest included absconders and suspected criminals.

Cases were filed against them under relevant sections.

aged the windcreens of the car and set fire to the bags inside. The seats of the car were partially gutted before he could show his identity and was allowed escape. Dr Sohrab added.

The BCL (S-A) activists chanted slogans demanding release of their leaders and left the place immediately.

Later, the gutted two vehicles were recovered by the fire brigade personnel in presence of police.

Cases in this regard were filed at Ramna and Lalbagh police stations.

Contribution of Buddhist preacher recalled

Speakers at a memorial meeting Friday paid tributes to late venerable Shantapada Mohathero and recalled his significant contributions for establishing peace in south-east Asia and promoting brotherly relationship among the Buddhist countries, reports BSS.

The meeting was held commemorating the 4th death anniversary of late Shantapada who a Buddhist preacher and theologian and also a gold medal recipient for peace. The high priest of the International Buddhist Monastery Venerable Jinanandha Thero was in the chair.

Organised by Bangladesh Buddhist Federation, the meeting was addressed, among others, by Dr. Sukumal Barua, S. K. Chowdhury, Parimal Mutsuddi, M L Barua and M P Barua. The speakers touched on the different aspects of life and activities of late Shantapada.

75 films produced every year

State Minister for Information Mohammad Nurul Huda Friday said film industry can play an important role in nation-building activities by depicting the problems of the toiling masses, reports BSS.

It should aim to become a repository of the cultural heritage and history of the country, the State Minister said this while inaugurating a week long Chinese film festival at the auditorium of the National Museum in Dhaka.

Jointly organised by Bangladesh Film Archive and Embassy of China, the inaugural function was chaired by Secretary, Ministry of Information, Nooruddin Al-Masood.

It was attended by Zhu Luchang, Charge d'Affaires of Chinese embassy in Bangladesh as the special guest.

Pointing out the degradation of the country's standard of films, the State Minister said that there were about 75 films produced in the country every year, but most of them were unable to present amusement to the audience.

Nurul Huda said the existing friendship between China and Bangladesh which was first initiated by Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman would become stronger through this cultural exchange and "present government is looking forward to further strengthen the relationship of the two friendly countries in the years to come."

Referring to the similarity of cultural heritages of the two countries, Huda expressed his optimism that this film festival would provide the film producers of the country to prepare such films which would entertain the audience.

Huda underlined the importance of making healthy films in which sorrows, happiness and miseries of the people of all walks of life would be reflected and the audience would also be able to derive entertainment from those films.

He said the Film Archive, which stepped into its mission in 1978 under the patroniza-

tion of Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman, would continue to expand its activities.

The State Minister assured them of setting up of an auditorium for the Bangladesh Film Archive at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar soon.

Zhu Luchang in his speech thanked Bangladesh government for giving kind consent to hold the festival and expressed his optimism that the people and producers of Bangladesh would be interested in the Chinese films through the festival.

The curator of the Film Archive, K M Abdur Rouf, in his address of welcome said that the international film festival was expected to be held in Bangladesh next year.

High Commissioners and Ambassadors of different countries, diplomats and high officials also attended the function. Later, the function was followed by a film show 'Red Sorghum'.

The films which will be exhibited in the week-long festival included, 'The Loner', 'The Little Black Box', 'The Mysterious Caravan', 'A Care Free Sword' and 'Ballad of the Yellow River'.

Japanese trade team due in city Aug 30

A high level Japanese economic mission will visit Bangladesh from August 30 to September 3, a press release in Dhaka Friday said.

Japanese government will send the mission to identify measures for strengthening and improving trade and investment relations between two countries.

The mission will consist of about 40 members including government officials and businessmen.

The mission will be led by Kikuo Ikeda, former President and Counsellor of Nippon and Masao Sawaki, Adviser to the Tokyo Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

During its stay, the economic mission will meet the Ministers for Finance and Planning, Industry and Commerce to exchange views on various issues concerning trade and foreign investment.

The Japanese mission will also visit Chittagong and the members of the mission will participate in 'Bangladesh-Japan Economic Forum' to be held on September 2.

Reception

Mr and Mrs L. P. S. Lucker, Managing Director, Philips Bangladesh, held a reception to meet K. Ilubeo, Vice-President and Vice-Chairman, Philips Board of Management, Netherlands, and A Veldhuizen, Director Regional Bureau of Philips International, reports BSS.

The reception at his Gulshan residence was attended by the elite of the city.



Police were called in by the Dainik Sangbad management before its journalists went on taken hunger strike on Friday to press home their 11-point demand. - Star photo

Release of Kazi Zafar demanded

One hundred and eight lawyers of Comilla Bar Association in a joint statement Friday demanded immediate release on humanitarian ground of the former Prime Minister Kazi Zafar Ahmed who is suffering from various complicated ailments.

The lawyers said that democracy cannot be meaningful without the rule of law and democratic tolerance. They called upon the government to free the ex-premier without further delay giving up, what they said, the way of vengeance to its political opponents.

Free Friday clinic opens

A free Friday clinic was inaugurated at Lab-Aid, Road No 3, Dhanmondi in the city on Friday.

Rajbari Zila Samity President Dr K M Mohsin ceremonially inaugurated the free clinic expressing the hope that objectives behind the start-up of the clinic will be fulfilled. The clinic will offer consultancy services to the people of Rajbari district residing in Dhaka and outside-free of charge.

Prof K M H S Sirajul Huq, Project Director, Rheumatic Heart Disease Unit, Suhrawardy Hospital organised the free clinic in association with other doctors hailing from Rajbari district.

The inaugural ceremony was addressed, among others, by Rajbari Zila Samity General Secretary NAM Eskender, Dr Masum, Dr Lutunnahar and Ms Jubaida Parveen.



Speaker Abdur Rahman Biswas addressing the installation ceremony of Jahangirnagar University Central Students Union (JUCSU) at the open dais of the university on Thursday.



Dr. Kasruzzaman Chowdhury, Chairman of Juba Academy, addressing the academy's inauguration ceremony at a local hotel on Friday. - Star photo

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