

# Dhaka Day by Day

## Integrate Women in Development Field

by Fayza Haq

Women, who constitute half of mankind, have played a significant role in moulding, nurturing and sustaining both natural and social environment without proper recognition. It was stressed in a recent seminar on "Women and environment". This was held at the National Museum. It was maintained that a woman's life in the third world is closely related with nature. It was reminded that 78% of the people live in rural area.

In conserving of nature a woman is involved with planting and caring of trees; raising fish in the ponds, growing vegetables and fruits; raising poultry and domestic animals and bees; recycling of animal products using manure as fertilizer. It was recalled that in the third world countries, specially in Africa, a woman is deprived of the right to own land and to participate in development activities.

It was also pointed out that in the third world, majority of rural women are deprived of elementary education, and are surrounded with superstition and that women were victims of traditional system, treated only as means of producing children and generally as a burden.

Ms Rosie M Ahsan, speaking at the seminar, stressed on

the fact that women were contributors to the household income, they were responsible for procuring and preparing of food and were entrusted with the management of the household health and hygiene. In spite of all their contribution, the evidence of high infant and maternal deaths point to the fact that women are uncared for, and remain undernourished, and even deprived of the basic necessities.

Ms Ahsan pointed out at the seminar that Bangladesh women were dependent on men in all aspects and as a result they are unable to make decisions. The flood victims of '87 and '88 were mainly women and children. It was said, they suffered for food, clothing and shelter, while the men deserted them.

It was maintained by Ms Ahsan that river erosion and cyclones, common features in Bangladesh, make people homeless. Its effect on women are greater since women are mostly home-based workers and their work place is often destroyed.

Discussing the manipulation of nature and women in Bangladesh, Ms Ahsan reminded that the Farakka Barrage in India is causing increased salinity in the river water in the southern region of Bangladesh. This affected expectant mothers, it was said, as they had accumulation of water in the womb, resulting in breathing problem and weakness known as the "Farakka syndrome".

Speaking on the occasion F Z Majid, of the BCSIR Laboratory, stressed on the natural calamities that caused great havoc in the country. Acute shortage of food caused additional misery during such period. He suggested "spirulina", a protein, vitamin and mineral rich plant, which has been found as an ideal for survival food. He

said Bangladeshi women can play a significant role in the cultivation, utilization and storage of "spirulina", as an emergency food.

Discussing the residential circumstances of low income earning single working women in Dhaka, S Obada Haque and Nazrul Islam discussed the result of their study on 200 working women in the city, most of them being involved in the garment factory.

Majority of these women, it was reported, had to be satisfied with the accommodation of substandard quality, with low per capita floor space (on the average less than 20 sq ft per person). The extremely inadequate supply of cheap housing at appropriate location is a major problem, it was said.

Ziaush Shams Haq, also speaking on the occasion, dealt with how the role of women was becoming more and more critical in sustaining paddy production in Bangladesh.

Dwelling on the status of rural women in the socio-economic and cultural environment of Bangladesh, and stressing on case studies of two villages in Sherpur Upazila, Salim Moutaz and Borhan Uddin stated that evidence showed that women are recognised only in few areas of participation.

In the arena of cultural environment the status of women appeared to be indeed low.

Md Abdul Baqee from the Department of Geography, University of Dhaka, spoke of the needs for laws to curb violence that is inflicted on women in the form of physical assault, kidnapping, rape, acid throwing and murder. Of the various reasons behind violence on women, Mr Baqee said that dowry related cases for young married women far outnumbered other motives. Violence, he insisted, was caused by both the husbands and the paramours.

Afsana Morshed, dealing with women and habitat, said that although women are officially rated at only 9% of the labour force, women can identify with the important areas of involvement such as health, water supply and sanitation.

Dr Aminul Islam, in his paper on women's contribution in rural household economy and environmental protection, focused on women's contribution in homestead agriculture, including kitchen gardening, planting of horticulture and forest species, poultry and livestock raising and pisciculture for food and cash. On the other hand, he said, there was the women's contribution to the rearing of children, cleaning, cooking and maintenance of the household.

Thus the Bangladesh Geographical Society and the Department of Geography, DU, discussed the environmental degradation and survival issues. It was repeatedly stressed that women of our country, who comprise half the population, are totally neglected. To stop the ruination of environment and the human race, it was suggested that plans should be made to integrate women in development fields.



## Saifur off to Kathmandu

Finance and Planning Minister M Saifur Rahman left Dhaka Monday for Kathmandu to attend the eight session of the Bangladesh-Nepal Joint Economic Commission beginning there Tuesday, reports BSS.

The Finance Minister will lead a three-member Bangladesh delegation at the session. The other members of the delegation are: ERD Secretary Enam Ahmed Choudhury and Joint Secretary of Commerce Golam Rahman.

The commission in its three-day meeting will discuss the bilateral issues for promotion of economic cooperation.

The Finance Minister will return home on September 13.

## Kuwaiti envoy calls on Speaker

The Ambassador of Kuwait to Bangladesh Mohammad Ebraheem al-Najran, called on the Speaker, Abdur Rahman Biswas, at his office chamber in Sangsad Bhaban Monday, reports BSS.

They discussed matters of mutual interest.

## Mannan visits injured JCD leaders

State Minister for Religious Affairs Prof M A Mannan Monday visited injured student leaders Manir Hossain Kazal and Rashedul Alam Swapan at the Pangu Hospital in the city, a BNP press release said, reports BSS.

Manir Hossain Kazal, Vice President of the Government City College and Rashedul Alam Swapan, President of the Dakhinkhan Unit of Bangladesh Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) were injured in a road accident.

The State Minister enquired about their condition and asked the Director of the hospital to ensure better treatment.

Nasruddin Ahmed Pinto, General Secretary, Bazul Basat Anju, Vice-President and Kazi Azizul Hakim Arju, Publicity Secretary respectively of Dhaka city unit of JCD were present during the visit.

## PM urged to accept engineers' demands

Engineers on Monday urged Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia to implement their seven-point demands for ensuring active participation of technocrats in the development activities of the country, reports UNB.

In a statement the President of Engineers Institution Anwar Hossain and its honorary General Secretary Ruhul Matin observed that although the profession is blessed with the "best students" of the soil, their talent and efficiency were not being properly evaluated in the administrative structure.

As a result, they said, engineers could not play their due role in the socio-economic development of the country.

Most of the government organisations, engaged in activities related to engineering, were being controlled by non-engineers resulting in reduction of organisational effectiveness, they alleged.

The statement said the new democratic government would take the matter seriously and take steps for implementation of the demands of the engineers community.

## COP rally

Combined Opposition Party (COP) will hold a rally demanding the release of COP leader ASM Abdur Rab on September 12.

This was decided in a meeting held on Sunday at the party central office at Fakirapool. The meeting was presided by Alhaj Ataur Rahman.

## Weather

### Moderate rain likely

By Staff Correspondent

Weather forecast valid till 6 pm Tuesday says light to moderate rain, or shower with a few moderately heavy falls at places accompanied by temporary gusty wind likely to occur at most places over Rajshahi and Dhaka divisions and at many places over Khulna and Chittagong divisions.

Day temperature likely to remain nearly unchanged over the country.

Heavy rainfall warning: Heavy falls likely to occur at one or two places over Dhaka and Rajshahi division during the next 24 hours.

Meanwhile, rain or thundershower occurred at most places over the country on Monday. Chief amount of rainfall recorded are: Chuadanga 4.5 cm, Khulna 3.5 cm, Rajshahi and Penti 3 cm and Dhaka, Comilla and Rangpur 1 cm each.

The highest temperature of 33.6 degree Celsius was recorded from Chitraganga.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Little change. Extended outlook for another five days: Weather likely to improve.

The temperature and humidity of some cities recorded on Monday were:

City	Temperature in Celsius			Humidity
	Max	Min	9am	
Dhaka	28	26.5	97	89
Chittagong	32.4	24.4	78	78
Khulna	29.2	24.6	98	90
Rajshahi	29.2	23.8	100	95
Rangpur	29	25.6	89	100
Sylhet	32	X	93	97
Comilla	30.8	X	X	89
Jessore	29	X	X	90

## AL efficiency in looting aid known to all: Salam

BNP Secretary General Abdus Salam Talukder Monday criticised and protested against certain remarks made by Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina about the competency of the BNP government, reports BSS.

In a statement Salam Talukder said the Awami League chief in an election meeting at Badda Kutchabazar area Sunday accused the BNP government of failing to run the government during the last seven months, evading its responsibility, going to establish a reign of loot and plunder and squandering foreign aid. Protesting the comments of Sheikh Hasina, he said the BNP government has been running the affairs of the state for the last seven months with great efficiency. The way the new government had faced the last cyclonic storm and flood with devotion and efficiency was unparalleled, he added.

He said the government did not allow any scope to anybody to miss appropriate foreign aid that came not to talk of plundering them.

The BNP Secretary General pointed out that the efficiency of Awami League in plundering foreign assistance in the past was well known. In this connection, he referred to the accusation made by the respected father of Sheikh Hasina against the looters of foreign relief materials including blankets during the Awami

League rule.

He described the period of Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman as a golden era.

The BNP Secretary General dismissed the Awami League chief's charge of letting loose reign of terror by the BNP government, oppressing the Awami League workers or instituting false cases against them as baseless and motivated.

He asserted that Shaheed Ziaur Rahman did not come to power through conspiracy. He was installed into power by the revolution of soldiers and people, he stressed.

He also dismissed the charge that Awami League was defeated in the last general election due to subtle conspiracy and rigging as ridiculous.

## TV Tuesday

- 5.00 Opening announcement, Al Quran Programme Summary
- 5.15 Reading from the Geeta
- 5.20 News in Bangla
- 5.30 Cartoon film: Adventures of the Galaxy Rangers
- 5.55 Educational programme
- 7.05 Nazrul songs
- 8.00 News in Bangla
- 8.30 Drama Serial: Bara Bari
- 10.00 News in English
- 10.30 Film: War and Remembrance
- 11.30 Khabar / the news
- 11.45 Closing



Sweetmeat traders brought out a procession in the city on Monday demanding withdrawal of Value Added Tax (VAT) from Sweetmeats. —Star photo

## KSP call to vote for BNP candidate

President of Krishak Samik Party A S M Solaiman Monday called upon the people to vote for BNP nominated candidate in the coming by-election for strengthening the Jatiyatabadi force, reports BSS.

He said it was essential for stabilising the present BNP government to give democracy an institutional shape.

Solaiman was addressing a meeting of the party workers from Gulshan and Cantonment thanas at Khilkhet Bazar in Dhaka.

The Krishak Party leader said the political quarters who have been criticising failure of the democratic government within five months of its formation are in fact enemy of democracy.

He said success of the BNP candidate in the by-election would be the victory of democracy indeed.

Presided over by Secretary of Samik Front of the Party, the meeting was also addressed, by Secretary General of the Party, Advocate M A Latif Majumdar and Chairman of Jubo Front Tolazzal Hossain.

## Fire at Labour Minister's office

By Staff Correspondent

A fire in the office room of State Minister for Labour, Barrister Rafiqul Islam 'Miah' caused damage to the furniture of the room Monday morning, Fire Brigade sources said.

The fire originated from an electric short circuit of the tube light of the room at the Secretariat and spread to the wooden panel of the wall.

Employees of the office immediately extinguished the fire with extinguisher. The State Minister was outside the office at that time.

## 75 pc dropouts in primary level

By Staff Correspondent

Dropout of students in the primary level is 75 percent, Nuruddin M Kamal, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Education said here Sunday.

He was presenting the keynote paper in a seminar in observance of World Literacy Day at the National Museum Auditorium.

He said that 77 percent children get enrolled in the primary schools but three out of every four drop before completion of five-year primary education.

The compulsory primary education programme which was already delayed by one year, would not be successful if this trend was not checked, said.

## Rapid growth of population a threat to social security

A six-day inter-country workshop on "Population Education and Nutrition" began in the city Monday, reports BSS.

Minister for Education and Cultural Affairs Prof A Q M Badruddoza Chowdhury inaugurated the workshop organised by the Institute of Public Health Nutrition (IPHN) with the financial and technical assistance of Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) of the United Nations.

Twenty participants including five from Sri Lanka and three from Nepal are taking part in the workshop.

Presided over by Health Secretary M Mokammel Haq, the inaugural session of the workshop was addressed by

FAO representative in Bangladesh Peter Myers and Director of IPHN Dr M Jahangir.

Speaking on the occasion, the Education Minister said, "when the human civilisation has reached the highest point and the astronauts are making journey outside the earth, we have millions of children suffering from malnutrition and early blindness."

He said rapid growth of population is a direct threat to the social security, and development of the economy, standards of living and status of nutrition and health services.

Prof Chowdhury stressed the need for improvement of the status of nutrition and changing the diet habit and

side by side checking the population boom.

Myers, in his speech, said political and social awareness for better nutrition and food would have to be created.

He said the increased population is worsening the food and nutrition condition in the developing countries.

## Friendship Assoc team leaves for China today

A five-member delegation of Bangladesh-China People's Friendship Association leaves Dhaka today for China on a two-week visit at the invitation of the Chinese Foreign People's Friendship Association, reports BSS.

The delegation members are association President and team leader Dr Mirza Abdus Sobhan, Dr Abdul Baten Khan, Dr Begum Jahanara, Ahmad Nazir and Muhammad Jahangir, a press release of the Association said.

## One arrested with pipegun

By Staff Correspondent

Sabujbag police on Sunday night arrested one Saifullah Patwari alias Suman and recovered a pipe gun with one round of live cartridge.

Police on a tip reached in front of house No 29/A of Kadamtala and caught the man moving suspiciously at around 11 pm.

A case was filed with Sabujbag police.

## 'Terrorism, democracy can't co-exist'

Justice Maksumul Hakim said in Dhaka Monday that the newly born democracy would be slain if terrorism were not annihilated from the soil of the country, reports BSS.

"Terrorism and Democracy cannot co-exist as they are born enemy to each another," he said while speaking at a seminar on "Terrorism vs Democracy" at the National Book Centre in the city organised by Zia Parishad, the seminar was presided over by parishad president Kabir Morad.

Chief Whip of the Jatiya Sangsad, Advocate Khondaker Delwar Hossain, President, Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) Rezauddin Ahmed, convener, Dhaka unit of the parishad, Anwar Hossain and Secretary-General Mahbul Alam were, among others, who spoke in the seminar.

Justice Hakim said terrorism was destroying not only the educational arena but the whole nation was becoming its victim. It is a severe threat and impediment in establishing democracy, he said.

Terming terrorism as a national disease, Hakim urged all to create consciousness among the terrorist elements about the harmful effects of this malady.

He expressed his optimism that there would be no place for terrorism in the country as long as the BNP government will remain in power, "because it is pledge-bound to wipe out the violence from the country, he added.

Khandaker Delwar Hossain said the nation has just received a newly born democracy which was the outcome of the long nine years of relentless struggle against autocracy.

"The seed of democracy planted in the country through the 11th and 12th amendments of the constitution through national consensus is yet to take a firm root," he said.

The Chief Whip said a vested quarter was always engaged in creating terrorism to

## Book binders call off strike

The National Book Binding Workers have decided to call off their strike following an assurance given by State Minister for Education Principal Mohammad Yunus Khan to take proper step for maintaining the interest of the workers from next year, reports BSS.

According to a National Book Binding Workers Dal press release in Dhaka, the decision was taken after a fruitful discussion between the leaders of the Dal and the State Minister for Education about the strike of the book binding workers.

Abu Abbas MP, President and S M Selim, General Secretary of the National Book Binding Workers Dal have advised all the workers to join their duties immediately.

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