

Dhaka Day by Day

Breaking the Shackles of Exploitation

by Aasha Mehreen Amin

To say that Begum Rokeya was a pioneer for the emancipation of women would be a gross dilution of her greatness...

In the passages read out from one of her earliest essays, Begum Rokeya expresses her insatiable thirst for knowledge and her need to understand the world around her...



Begum Rokeya

hance their own social status. She says even this is a prime example of women's subjugation to men where even a woman's thoughts are not her own.

Rokeya's preoccupation with human rights and ways to improve the lot of the common man are also reflected in these writings. She satirizes modern society saying that while we become more civilized, modern and so-called 'advanced' the status of the common farmer...

The last phase of the forum had professors, students and younger children reading out their own poetry and compositions. Professor Rokeya Kabir for example, read out anecdotes and case studies of girls from her organisation - Saptagram...

numerous cases of oppression due to failure to pay dowry that she recounted paralleled with the condition of women Begum Rokeya describes in her writings converging into two conclusions...

Tk 50cr master plan for mass literacy

A concept paper for a Taka 50-crore master plan for mass literacy programme for the next two years has been formulated by the Ministry of Education...

Inaugurating a two-day workshop on 'training of chief trainers of the non-governmental organisations involved in mass literacy programme'...

In this connection, the Education Minister urged all to volunteer themselves to educate their illiterate neighbours and said students, teachers, employees and social workers should come forward to accomplish this national task...

He said the mass literacy programme should be moulded into a national movement for educating the school dropouts and also those who could not get the chance to go the school.

The minister said, an unlettered man or woman should be given education up to certain level so that he or she could read, write and understand involving himself or herself in the development activities of the country.

Being held at the National Education Management Academy, the workshop has been jointly organised by the Mass Literacy Programme of the Ministry of Education and the UNICEF.

The inaugural function was also addressed by the UNICEF representative in Bangladesh Cole P. Dodge, Joint Secretary of the Ministry A M Khan Choudhury, executive director of the programme Prof. S A Saifuddin and Deputy Director of the programme M M Abdul Hany.

Education Secretary M. Mustafizur Rahman presided over the function.

Mr Jamiruddin Sircar said the present government was pledge bound to spread the mass literacy programme all over the country for creating opportunity for education for all by the year 2000.

But, he regretted, the Ershad regime had stopped this popular initiative after seizing power in 1982. He said had it been continued, the programme would have reached a revolutionary stage by now in removing illiteracy from the society.

The minister said the people of the country would never forgive the autocratic regime of Ershad for stopping the progressive and mass-oriented programme.

The UNICEF representative Cole P. Dodge said education is the basis and foundation of consolidating democracy in the country. He urged all social forces and government organisations to ensure education for all as it was the basic right of every citizen...

The workshop, to be held in 10 sessions, is being participated by 35 chief trainers of different non-governmental organisations of the country.

JS session at 11.30 am

President Abdur Rahman Biswas has summoned Jatiya Sangsad session at 11.30 am on January 4, an official announcement said, reports BSS.

This will be the fourth session of the current fifth Parliament.

A BSS news item on Wednesday was inadvertently released with the session time at 11-10 am. Actually the session time will be 11.30 am.

UAE team due today

A 15-member UAE delegation arrives in Dhaka today (Friday) to attend the second meeting of the Bangladesh-UAE Joint Commission beginning December 21, a Foreign Ministry official said yesterday, reports BSS.

The UAE delegation to the four-day meeting will be led by Mohammed Khalifa Bin Yousuf Al-Sowaidi, Chief of Economic Relations and International Cooperation Division of the Foreign Ministry. The Bangladesh team at the talks will be headed by acting Foreign Secretary Faruq Sobhan.

Curbing population boom a must for progress

Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Dr Khandaker Musharraf Hossain Thursday emphasised the need for curbing population boom for unhindered progress and pace of development of the country, reports BSS.

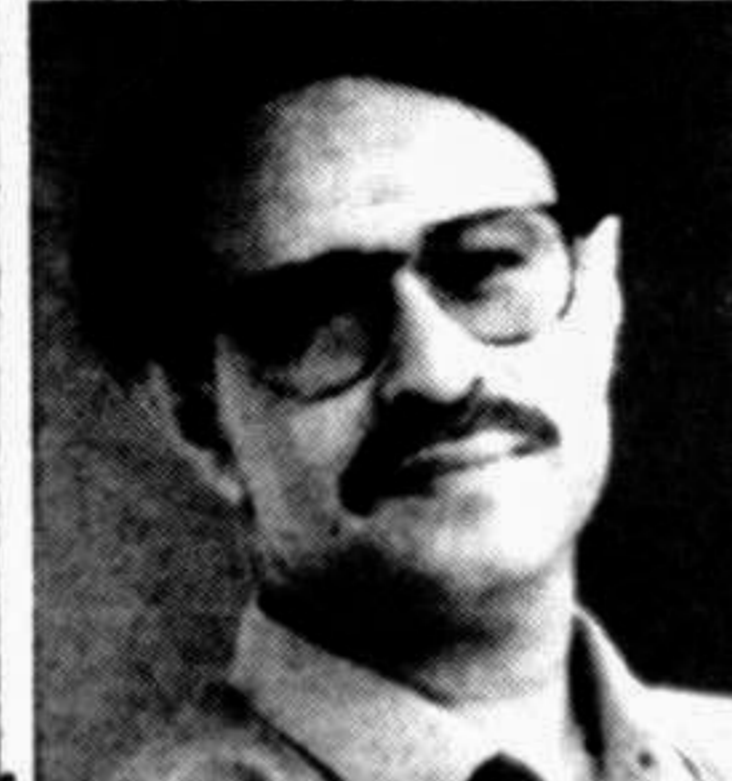
He was speaking at the inauguration ceremony of Taler-shar Family Welfare Centre, a remote area of Daudkandi Upazila in Comilla.

Presided over by Alhaj Bazur Rahman, a retired Deputy Secretary, the function was also addressed by Rafiqul Islam Rani, ex-MP and local leader KMI Khalil.

The minister said, the present government of Begum Khaleda Zia was committed to ensure basic needs of the people. With this aim the government is taking several measures to promote health facilities including establishment of health and family welfare centres at the farflung area of the country.

He called upon the people to help successful implementation of different development programmes of the government aiming at the welfare of the common people.

Earlier, the minister inaugurated earth-work of Gouri-pur-Kachua Road. In the evening, he also inaugurated a local eye-camp.



Ashoka fellowship for Saleem

Saleem Samad, the only journalist in Asia has been awarded the prestigious Ashoka fellowship for the year 1991-1994 for networking rural journalists for advocating public policy on environment and development, says a press release.

The fellowship, announced by Ashoka: Innovators for the Public, Washington, USA is operating in South Asia, South East Asia, Europe, South and North America, Southern and Western Africa since 1980s. Ashoka fellowship are awarded to individuals committed to find non-conventional but innovative solutions to societal problems.

Friday

- Morning Session 8.00 Opening announcement, Al Quran, Programme summary 8.10 News in Bangla 8.15 Amra Nutan 8.45 Cartoon Film 9.10 Ashe Pasher Manosh 9.30 The Spectacular World of Guinness Record Documentary Film: Nature of Australia 11.15 Moner Mukure: Iti 12.30 Closing Evening Session 3.00 Opening announcement, Al Quran, Programme summary 3.15 Reading from the Tripitak 3.20 Alor Dishari 3.40 Bengali Film: Gayer Badha 5.10 News in Bangla 6.15 Shikkhangon Malancha 8.00 News in Bangla 8.30 Comedy series: The Cooby show Balun dekh 9.00 News in English 10.30 Film show: L. A. Law 11.30 Khabar/The news 11.40 Saturday's Programme summary 11.45 Closing



President Abdur Rahman Biswas with the Bar members at a luncheon hosted by Bangladesh Supreme Court Bar Association in the city on Thursday. Chief Justice and former Acting President Shahabuddin Ahmed is also seen in the picture.

Meet-the-people programme PM listens to problems of 50 more individuals

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia spent more than two hours Thursday evening listening to individual problems of about 50 persons who came to her Sugandha office from far and near, reports BSS.

This was the fifth session of Prime Minister's meet-the-people programme.

Works Minister Rafiqul Islam Mia, State Minister for Establishment M Nurul Uddin, State Minister for Cultural Affairs, Prof Jahannara Begum, State Minister for Social Welfare Sarwar Rahman and Wing Commander (ret'd) Hamidullah, MP were present during the meeting.

The persons who came to Sugandha office discussed with Begum Zia their personal problems including waiving of loans, reinstatements in the job, finding jobs and providing financial help for treatment and daughter's wedding.

The family of late Sagera Morshed came to Begum Zia seeking justice for the murder of Sagera Morshed.

Morshed was brutally killed by hijackers in front of a school in the city while she came to pick up her school-going children on July 25, 1989.

Begum Latifa Rawshan Ara Morshed, 60, mother of Sagera came to Sugandha alongwith

three grand-daughters and son-in-law Abdus Salam Chowdhury and urged the Prime Minister to punish the killers of her daughter.

Begum Latifa said the killers of Maftia were duly punished but the killers of Sagera had not yet been brought to book.

The Prime Minister consoled them saying she would look into it.

One Manoranjan, a high school teacher, came with his wife to ask for financial help for the treatment of his bone cancer. He is undergoing treatment at the post graduate (PG) hospital in Dhaka.

Among the people was seven-year-old Roni who came with his father to seek financial help for his blood cancer treatment.

Ishaque Mridha, who came all the way from Bagerhat to request Begum Zia to construct a road in his locality at Chital Mart.

Abdul Majid, a day labourer, wanted khas land from the Prime Minister. He narrated his plight saying he even could not arrange marriage of his daughters.

Begum Khaleda Zia listened to all of them with patience and attention and gave on-the-spot directive in some cases.

'AAPSO can promote regional cooperation'

Experts on Thursday said Afro-Asian People's Solidarity Organisation (AAPSO) could play a vital role in promoting regional cooperation by providing a broad platform for regional understanding, reports BSS.

Participating in the working sessions of consultative conference of SAARC country AAPSO began here on Thursday at a local hotel the experts evaluated the current political perspectives on South Asian cooperation. The conference was inaugurated on Wednesday by Jatiya Sangsad Speaker Sheikh Razzaque Ali.

Dr. Imtiaz Ahmed presented a paper titled current political perspectives on South Asian cooperation - the need for innovations and Abdul Malik, a delegate from Pakistan presented a paper entitled 'South Asian cooperation is imperative' at the first working session. Former ambassador Syed Nazmul Islam Hashim, Ajay Roy, Chitta Biswas, Deputy Secretary General of AAPSO, A Malik, Justice KM Sobhan, Engr. Shahidullah, Biddasckara

of Sri Lanka and Hasanul Huq Inu took part in the discussions. Shekhar Ganguli of India presided over the session.

In the second session the keynote paper was presented by Dr. Debapriya Bhattacharya and was entitled 'South Asian regional economic cooperation in the 1990s: Challenges and prospects'. Dr Abdul Gafur, Syed Altaf Hossain, Engr. Shahidullah, Dr. Binayak Sen, Ms Swapna Deb participated in the discussions. A Malik, presided over the session.

In the third session 'promotion of education and cultural exchanges within the SAARC countries', Prof. Zillur Rahman Siddiqui made the keynote presentation. Dr. Gauri Ganguli of India, Bidda Sekara, Mafidul Huq, Justice K M Sobhan, Dr. Rangalal Sen, Dr. Debapriya Bhattacharya and Asaduzzaman participated in the discussion. Chitra Biswas, Deputy General Secretary of AAPSO presided over the session.

Two other working sessions will be held today followed by a cultural function.

BMBA team calls on Rafiqul Islam

A delegation of Bangladesh Marna-Buddhist Association (BMBA) led by Mr. Mong Sathowan Chowdhury on Thursday called on Works Minister Barister Rafiqul Islam Mia at his office in Dhaka, reports BSS.

The minister assured them of all possible help and cooperation from the government to solve their problems relating to association office accommodation and housing for the students of the hill districts.

The members of the delegation said, they would extend total cooperation to the present democratic government for the socio economic development of the country.

Weather

Dry weather likely

Temperature rose a little bit on Thursday leading to a warmer weather in most parts of the country, reports UNB.

Met office, however, forecast a fall by 1-2 degree Celsius over Rajshahi division and the regions of Sylhet, Mymensingh, Kushtia and Jessore during the next 24 hours till 6 pm today (Friday).

Temperature may remain nearly unchanged elsewhere over the country, it added.

Country's lowest temperature Thursday was recorded at Rajshahi 9.4 degree Celsius.

Met office in its forecast further stated that weather is likely to remain mainly dry across the country during the next 24 hours.

Sky may remain partly cloudy over Dhaka and Chittagong divisions and the regions of Khulna, Patuakhali and Barisal during the same period.

Thursday's maximum temperature in Dhaka was 25.8 degree Celsius and the minimum 14.5 degrees.

Percentage of humidity was 77 in the morning and 63 in the evening.

Sun sets today (Friday) at 5:16 pm and rises tomorrow (Saturday) at 6:37 am.

First draft report of JS standing body discussed

A meeting of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Account Affairs was held at the Sangsad Bhaban with Mohammad Asaduzzaman in the chair, reports BSS.

The meeting discussed matters relating to the finalisation of the first draft report of the committee and took some decisions.

Syed Manzoor Hossain, Mohammad Shahjahan Omar, Anwarul Hossain Khan Chowdhury, Mohammad Shahjahan, Mohammad Abdul Gani, Mesbah Uddin Khan, Principal M. M. Nazrul Islam, Rashed Khan Menon and Dr. T. I. M. Fazle Rabbi Chowdhury attended the meeting.

Birth Day Greetings December 20, 1991 Happy Birthday To "SADAF" With love your family.

Happy Birthday to Precious Dearest Love BABA 20.12.91

Biswas attends SC Bar Assoc luncheon

President Abdur Rahman Biswas attended a luncheon hosted by Bangladesh Supreme Court Bar Association at the court premises in Dhaka Thursday, reports BSS.

Chief Justice and former Acting President Justice Sahabuddin Ahmed, ministers, judges, Members of Parliament and a large number of lawyers were present.

Earlier, on arrival at the venue the President was received by Dr. Rafiqul Rahman and Mesbahuddin Ahmed President and General Secretary of the Association.

President Biswas exchanged greetings with the members of the Bar and enquired about their welfare.

Birthday Greetings 20th December '91 Happy Birthday Our Gem May Allah grant you a happy and prosperous life

It's new just for you The Daily Star is pleased to introduce a new column where individuals and organisations can publish Birthday and Anniversary Greetings, Congratulatory and Condolence Messages, Get-Well/Good-Luck Wishes, Birth/Death Announcements, In Memoriam, etc. at nominal charges. For booking details, please contact: Advertisement Manager Phone: 246023-4, 863035.

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Charity Bazar Today Organised by Innerwheel Club of Dhaka Venue: Sonargaon Hotel Date: Friday, 20th December, 1991 Time: 10 A. M. to 6 P.M. Entry Cards at Entrance

Flats For Rent A number of modern flats measuring 2,000 and 2,250 Sq.Ft. are available at KALINDI APARTMENTS, 36 Indira Road (Adjoining Manik Mian Ave.) for immediate renting. These are 3 bed room flats, with one attached and one common bath room. There is a servant's room with attached toilet. Floors are of white mosaic. Floors and walls of bath rooms and kitchen are fitted with tiles. 24-hour running hot water can be provided by gas fired boilers, if required. Security service is provided by securex. The larger flats have 3 planters and one extra living room, for TV viewing, etc. enquiries may be made over phone 811849 or 317791.

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Cultural show at St. Jude's Tutorial

Students of St. Jude's Tutorial, a leading English medium school of the city, enthralled their guardians by their cultural performances and physical feats at the annual prize-giving ceremony held at the school premises in Dhaka on Thursday, reports BSS.

Songs, poetry recitation, dance and physical display were the main features on the occasion which was applauded by the audience. Students of elementary classes drew the attention of the guardians by their skilful and attractive performances in various disciplines.

Later, principal of the school, Augustine Cruze, gave away prizes to the best performers and best students.

Taltala Pir dead

Hazrat Shah Gohar Mohsin Mohammad Nazir, the Pir of Taltala, Khilgaon died of old age complications at the BIRDEM hospital in Dhaka yesterday morning. He was 109, reports BSS.

He left behind his five sons, four daughters grandsons and grand daughters and a large number of Muridans and admirers to mourn his death.

The Namaz-e-Janaza of the late Pir will be held here today at the Baitul Mukarram Mosque after Jumma prayer.