

Dhaka Day by Day

Aparna's Brief Call

by Rahat Fahmida



Aparna Sen having a tete-a-tete with the BNP Chairperson, Khaleda Zia.

— Photo: Mohsin

We were all so pre-occupied with the recent elections that many interesting events escaped our notice. Didn't we have a glimpse on our local TV screen, of one of our favourite personalities from the world of films — Aparna Sen? Yes we did, but that seemingly failed to register. Was it because she was looking different from her usual self? She was rather serious, in her crescent shaped glasses which added weight to her dignified appearance. Aparna did not come to Bangladesh in connection with any film or publication activity. She was here to see for herself one of the real life dramas of our country — 1991 elections. She came as a member of the non-governmental SAARC observer mission. This is a Sri Lankan based institution, sponsored by International Centre for Ethnic Group.

This group has observed the last elections in Pakistan and will do the same in Nepal. They usually choose the observers from eminent personalities of the country, such as — judges, writers, poets, editors, activists. There were 30 members on this SAARC observer mission for our elections.

Aparna Sen, who is not just a favourite actress to us, has reached millions in our country and abroad, through her film direction and also as the editor of one of the most popular women's journal in Bangla — 'Sananda'. Daughter of an Indian intellectual giant, Chidananda Dasgupta, she is from Chittagong, but has never had the time or the right opportunity to visit her ancestral home. This was her first visit to Bangladesh.

During an exclusive interview accorded to The Daily Star with Aparna, she was asked, "What was the compelling attraction here, that brought you here despite a busy schedule?" Aparna came up with a forceful but one-word answer, "Democracy".

Knowing that on the election day she went around as many polling centres as it was humanly possible, her views on the goings on had special value for us. So she was asked, "Since you are in the observers group what is it about our elections that has impressed or de-

pressed you most?" Aparna shook her head in denial as she said, "There is no question of being depressed. On the contrary, my spirits lifted seeing the enthusiasm of Bangladeshi people for democracy and the free, fair and peaceful way in which they conducted their election. The three things that impressed me most were the neutrality of the interim government, the Bangladesh Mulo Nirbachan Andolan which expressed the desire of the citizens of Bangladesh for a democratic government, and last but not least the APSU (All Party Students Union), which showed itself to be most impressively united in their common goal of democracy in spite of different party affiliations."

It was rather difficult to draw up the last question, as one felt tempted to continue the discussion with her not only to be in her enlightened company, but to have a better understanding of her views. But one felt inquisitive to know about her idea of the shape of things in Bangladesh before she came here. "Does the whole show here match a rough picture you might be having in your mind before coming here?" And surprisingly she said, "No. I could never imagine such a overwhelming response of people from all walks of life towards a popular election unless I had witnessed it at first hand."

Through Aparna Sen's films, both as a director and actress, and also a journalist, she speaks to us in her very own and special language. And the same goes for her writing. We understand a great deal through her expressive eyes — her vision of life, which is well conveyed through her calm phrases and sentences. It goes without saying that this was very much felt even during the brief encounter! We cannot resist what deepens our sense of the values she portrays, any more than we can resist the deepening and widening of meanings that come through her looks and expressions. Through her we at times hear fresh meanings that revive and strengthen the values we live by. And now we are proud to have her views on a national issue of Bangladesh — our democracy!

Hindu, Bouddha, Christian Oikya Parishad greets Khaleda

Bangladesh Hindu, Bouddha, Christian Oikya Parishad Tuesday congratulated Begum Khaleda Zia and her Bangladesh Nationalist Party for getting majority in the 5th Jatiya Sangsad election held on February 27, reports BSS.

In a press release, the Oikya Parishad also congratulated the members of all other political parties and independent candidates who won the elections.

The Parishad thanked the caretaker government of Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed, law-enforcing agencies, including army and the people of the country for holding free and fair elections.

Architects hail BNP

Institute of Architects Bangladesh (IAB) Tuesday congratulated Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) for emerging as the single majority party in the elections to the fifth Jatiya Sangsad, reports BSS.

The IAB, in a statement also hailed the political parties which had participated in the much-aspired democratic polls, victorious MPs and the people.

The institute congratulated Begum Khaleda Zia saying her uncompromising leadership, far-sightedness and sagacity would remain as an example in the political arena of the country.

Attack on Rafiqul Islam condemned

Thirty-two lawyers of Bangladesh Supreme Court Tuesday condemned the attack on BNP candidate Barrister Rafiqul Islam Miah by Awami League supporters at Muradnagar on the election day, reports BSS.

They demanded exemplary punishment to the persons responsible for the attack and expressed surprise at the "silent role" of the law-enforcing agencies when the incident took place, a press release said.

Kafiluddin's gratitude

Finance Adviser Kafiluddin Mahmood expressed his gratitude to all colleagues, friends, relatives and admirers who prayed to Almighty Allah for his recovery from recent ailments, reports UNB.

In a statement in Monday the Finance Adviser sought blessings of Allah for the well-being of all.

One commits suicide

By SSMCH Correspondent

Balram Sarker (44), a worker of a pharmaceutical company allegedly committed suicide by hanging on Monday night.

A case was registered with Sutrapur thana. The body was sent to Mitford Hospital for autopsy.

Bangladesh envoy leaves for Kuwait Friday

Ambassador KM Shehabuddin leaves on Friday to resume functions of the country's embassy in Kuwait, just liberated from Iraqi occupation, reports UNB.

A Foreign Office spokesman said Shehabuddin would be accompanied by four officials — two counsellors, a Second Secretary and a Labour Attaché.

Bangladesh, like other countries, suspended its mission in Kuwait City in mid-September last after the occupation and annexation of the tiny sheikhdom by Baghdad.



Wednesday

5-00 Opening and recitation from Al-Quran
5-20 News in Bengali
5-30 Shikhanon: Educational programme
5-55 Pakistan
6-20 Children's programme
7-05 Notun Shilpider
8-00 Asor: Songs Programme
8-30 News in Bengali
9-00 Sangeetanusthan: Songs Programme
9-00 Film: Macgiver
10-00 News in English
10-30 Opening ceremony of 8th Pepsi Asian Cup TT Tournament
11-30 News
11-45 Closing

Foundation stone of new Forestry complex laid

The foundation stone of Taka 5.5 crore new complex of the Institute of Forestry, Chittagong University was laid at Hayeebari area of the University on Monday, a university press release said Tuesday, reports BSS.

Vice Chancellor of the University Prof Alamgir Mohammad Sirajuddin laid the foundation stone.

Prof Sirajuddin said that the institute would create opportunities for the students and the teachers to carry out research work.

The complex comprises academic building, students residential hall and safe quarters it will be completed in nine months.



A Thai dancer seen performing during the inaugural ceremony of Bangladesh-Thailand Friendship Association held recently in Dhaka.

Service the Biman way

By Staff Correspondent

Flight services of Bangladesh Biman have hit time low due to laxity of a section of officials.

Recently the Biman had to pay a penalty of 1000 riyals for violating the rule at Riyadh international airport. In this case, one official was caught red-handed while he was selling liquor in black market.

In another case, due to negligence of another official, 70 passengers of the Biman were kept unfed in an international flight.

There are many other instances of negligence of the persons who are responsible for flight services.

The authority initiated investigation into the two cases but even after a couple of months, the department has

not yet taken any step against the persons responsible.

Chief Pursers Trust-an association of the Biman employees alleged that the persons who were responsible for the incidents had somehow managed to escape but the innocent persons who have no backing of the top officials are suffering unnecessarily.

The Trust in a letter to the Managing Director of Bangladesh Biman alleged many untrained persons have been recruited in the Flight Service Department.

Meanwhile, commotion has been prevailing at the Biman offices at airport because of the behaviour of some top-level officials. A deadlock was created at the Customer Service Office and Central Controller's Office of Bangladesh Biman.

The angry employees of Bangladesh Biman forced out of their offices the Director, Customer Service Mr M. A. Bari and D.G.M. Central Control Mr Walt Last week.

The Biman Employees Union alleged that these two persons were unnecessarily harassing the poor employees for a long time.

When contacted the Administrative Department of Biman said the matter is being looked into by the authority.

It may be mentioned that the number of trained crew in Bangladesh Biman would not be more than 50 to 60 out of total 380. Sources said that many chief pursers had no training about their duties.

Gulf returnees asked to be ready with documents

The government has launched all-out efforts for return of all Bangladesh evacuees to the Gulf region to resume their jobs, an official said Tuesday, reports UNB.

The Foreign office spokesman advised all those who returned from the Gulf to stay in readiness with all necessary documents that will support their bonafide and fulfil respective employment requirements.

About 75,000 Bangladeshis

working in Kuwait and Iraq have been repatriated since the outbreak of the Gulf crisis.

The spokesman said that authorities concerned had necessary consultations with respective governments and international agencies for return of the evacuees to the Gulf, where the devastating war has come to an end after the liberation of Kuwait. An official delegation will visit shortly different capitals in the region.

Polls really free, not impartial: Sajeda

Awami League General Secretary Begum Sajeda Chowdhury on Tuesday said a subtle conspiracy, and fraud, faulty electoral rolls and black money have reversed results of the February 27 parliamentary election, reports UNB.

"It's true elections were free and peaceful but not fair and impartial", she said, adding "Awami League would have secured absolute majority had the voting been fair".

Addressing a largely attended workers meeting of Dhaka City Awami League at the party's Bangabandhu Avenue office, Sajeda said Awami League was defeated and BNP made victorious through a "subtle" conspiracy.

"Yet, whatever the results, we have accepted the electoral verdict for giving democracy an institutional shape", she said.

The Awami League General Secretary said the Acting President was the product of a revolution. "The present interim caretaker government would lose its neutrality if it forms a government with any party".

Presided over by city Awami League President Mozaffar Hossain Paltu, the meeting was also addressed by Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya, Advocate Shahrar Khatun, M.A. Aziz, Akhtarul Alam, Advocate Gamrul Islam, Salauddin Badal and Faiz Ahmed.

Freedom Party opposes change in constitution

The Freedom Party on Tuesday called upon all political parties to help maintain the continuity of the Constitution and not to change the form of government in order to avoid any crisis in the interest of political stability, reports BSS.

According to a party Press release, an emergency meeting of the Central Advisory Council of Freedom Party held with Chairman Col.(Retd.) Abdur Rashid presiding at the party's

central office, observed that two national issues had been decided in the elections through people's mandate. These are: The mandate in favour of historic revolution of the 15th August of 1975, and rejection by the people of the Parliamentary form of government by ignoring the Awami League's appeal.

The meeting observed that the people had rejected Awami League and voted for the nationalist force.

Weather

Gusty wind likely

By Staff Correspondent

Light rain or thundershower accompanied by temporary gusty/squally wind is likely to occur at one or two places over Rajshahi, Khulna and Dhaka Divisions and the regions of Sylhet, Noakhali and Comilla. Weather likely to remain dry over the country. Day temperature likely to remain unchanged.

Weather remained dry over the country on Tuesday. The maximum temperature on Tuesday was recorded at Ishurdi at 32.5 degree Celsius and the minimum of 14.6 degree was recorded at Dinajpur.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Weather may improve. Extended outlook for another five days: Little change. The sun sets today (Wednesday) at 6.04 pm and rises on Thursday at 6.16 am.

The temperatures and humidity of some cities and towns on Tuesday:

On Tuesday : City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity (%)	
	max	min	9 am	6pm
Dhaka	31.7	20.5	67	61
Chittagong	31.0	20.6	85	68
Rajshahi	32.0	16.2	-	-
Khulna	31.7	20.2	69	63
Cox's Bazar	32.5	21.0	83	-
Sylhet	30.6	18.3	67	64

The maximum temperature of some international cities:		
Beijing	15	degree Celsius
Calcutta	29	
Colombo	23	

Latif Siddiqi demands repolling

Mr. Abdul Latif Siddiqi, an Awami League candidate who lost the election from a Tangail constituency, Tuesday demanded the Election Commission to hold repolling in three centres and re-counting in other centres, reports BSS.

Addressing a press conference here, Mr. Siddiqi also called upon his victorious opponent to show greatness as the winner and lead the nation in the right direction.

Mr. Siddiqi alleged that his opponent Mr. Shahjahan Straj of JSD and his supporters did not abide by the code of conduct adopted for the election. He said the supporters of his opponent continued to harass Awami League supporters even after the election.

He said his victory had been threatened by unholy activities of unseen forces.

AL demands repolling in Ctg-14

CHITTAGONG, Mar 5: Awami League Election Steering Committee of Chittagong 14 (Sankaria Lohagara) constituency Tuesday demanded reelection as 'majority of voters could not cast vote in 24 centres' on account of alleged terrorism by the workers of Jamaat-e-Islami and Bangladesh Nationalist Party on Feb 27, reports BSS.

Nearly one hundred voters including ten women were injured in different centres by the terrorists, the committee alleged.

Addressing a press conference at Chittagong Press Club M. Siddique, Chairman, Election Steering Committee and President of Sankaria Upazila Awami League alleged that the local administration and the law enforcing agencies kept silent as the terrorists harassed the polling agents, workers and supporters of Awami League candidate, Akhtaruzzaman Chowdhury. He said out of nine separate complaints to the police only one was registered. Rest were rejected by the Sankaria and Lohagara police. Lohagara police arrested 14 workers of the party just three days before the election. The police also detained chief election agent Ziaul Huq Babul and Advocate Humayun Kabir at their residences during the election.

Mr. M. Siddique further alleged that members of the minority community could not cast their votes.

New organisation

By Staff Correspondent

A new organisation called Bangladesh Nationalist Lawyers-Intellectuals Forum has been floated in Dhaka on Tuesday.

A press release of the forum says a 64-member convening committee with Syed Serajul Huda as convener was formed. The convening committee was given power to co-opt members from different districts of the country.

Post office to issue Tk 4 stamp

Bangladesh Post Office will issue a commemorative postage stamp of 4 Taka valuation on March 12 on the occasion of third national census, reports UNB.

Fake doctor arrested

By Staff Correspondent

Sabujbag Police on Monday night arrested a fake doctor from 381 Khilgaon. A.H.M Kamruzzaman was carrying on his business posing as a physician having several degrees including foreign ones. Police sent him to court.

Water best treatment for burn injuries

By SSMCH Correspondent

Three-fourth of all burn cases are domestic with females and children the worst victims in Bangladesh.

This was revealed at a discussion meeting at the conference room of Dhaka Medical College (DMC) on Tuesday. Prof. Shahidullah, Plastic Surgeon of DMC presided over the meeting arranged by the Bangladesh Burn Association.

Participating in the discussion, Dr. Shaheen Begum, General Secretary of the association said there is only one burn unit with a 8-bed capacity for female patients in DMC.

Prof. Shahidullah said, "the best treatment of burn injuries is water but people are not aware of this. However, the treatment of electric burn is very difficult in our country".

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

ACROSS

- 1 Writing tablet
- 6 Island in Mediterranean
- 11 Declares
- 12 Having branches
- 14 Tantalum symbol
- 15 Fields in high regard
- 17 Yes: Sp.
- 18 Choose
- 20 Binds
- 21 Crimson
- 22 Conspiracy
- 24 Gratitude
- 25 Rational
- 26 Calm
- 28 Evening meal
- 30 Sugar
- 31 Capuchin monkey

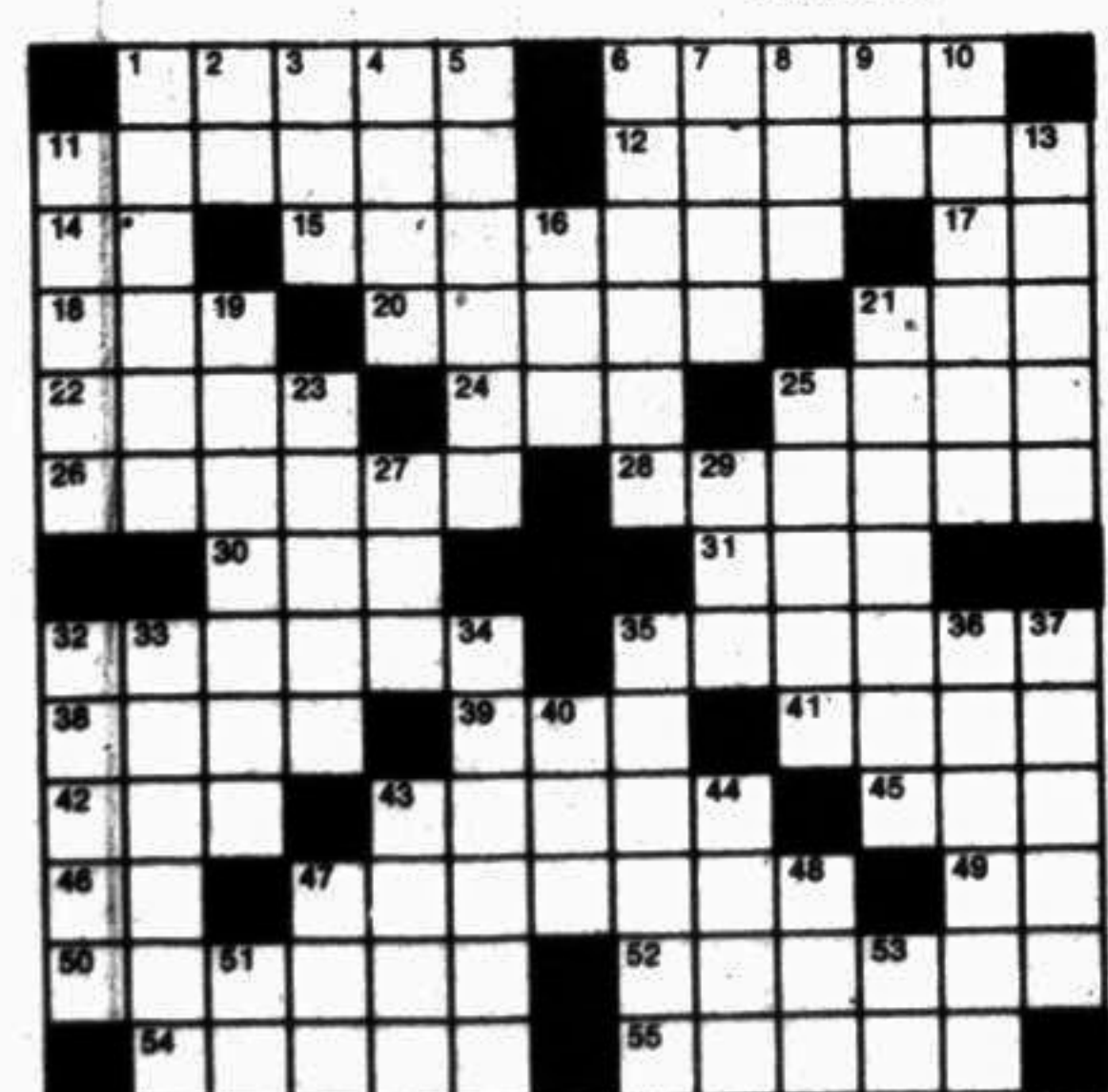
Answer to Previous Puzzle

PLACE RETURN DAMAGE
AG TRAVELS RA
TIE SPACE PES
EONS ELA FRET
NIPS EDDIES
GLAD EARL
SMILED LEAP
THAT FEW STOP
HAS TEARS EIR
ER PENNANT NO
REMIEND PAINTS
ESSED GEES

DOWN

- 1 Fastener
- 2 Note of scale
- 3 Consumed
- 4 Trial

- 5 Landed property
- 6 Crawls
- 7 L.A. players
- 8 River in Germany
- 9 As far as
- 10 Ancient Hebrew
- 11 Ceases
- 12 Downy duck
- 13 Stender river
- 14 Heavy downpour
- 15 Swiftly
- 16 Athletic groups
- 17 Extra
- 18 Brood of pheasants
- 19 Born in the
- 20 Characteristic
- 21 Searched
- 22 Hunting dog
- 23 Tossed
- 24 Chooses
- 25 Evaluates
- 26 Small rug
- 27 Surfeit
- 28 Withered
- 29 Wager
- 30 Dicoose
- 31 Concerning
- 32 Centimeter: abbr.



আপনার বাড়ি
আপনার স্বপ্ন...
আপনার ভবিষ্যৎ বয়সের
মিলিত নিঃশব্দে অগ্রসর

বাড়ি তৈরির জন্য উদ্বুদ্ধ হন
বাবার কন

টরন্টো রডের বৈশিষ্ট্য:-
● কম খরচ
● অধিক পণ্ডিত
● আর, সি, সি, কাজের
দীর্ঘ হারিয়ে নেওয়া
● কমিস্টারি ফাইল প্রবন্ধতা প্রাপ্ত
● আসল বিল্ডিং থেকে উন্নীত রডের নিচায়

বিশিষ্ট আবার অন্য
যোগাযোগ করুন:-

কু **বাংলাদেশ কালি-কোলিং সিস্টেম লিমিটেড**

১০০ বক্স রাস্তা (১৩৩০)
ফোন: ১৩৩০০০, ১৩৩০১০
টেলেক্স: ৬১১০৭৭ কিলিফোন লিমিটেড

১৩৩০১০
ফোন: ১৩৩০১০, ১৩৩০২০
টেলেক্স: ৬১১০৭৭ কিলিফোন লিমিটেড

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● আসল বিল্ডিং থেকে উন্নীত রডের নিচায়

আমাদের মজুত টকে সদা তৈরি আন্তর্জাতিক মানের
৩' ১ ১/২" এবং ৪' ১ ১/২" এর এস চ্যানেল আকর্ষণীয় মূল্য পাওয়া
যাবে। আপনার প্রয়োজনীয় চাহিদার জন্য আজই যোগাযোগ করুন।