

Equal rights for women stressed

The Women Affairs Directorate Monday held a function at Birdem auditorium in Dhaka to mark the observance of "International Women's Day," reports BSS.

Social Welfare, Women Affairs, Youth and Sports Affairs Adviser, Alamgir M. A. Kabir, attended the function as the chief guest while UNDP representative, Mr. Winston Temple, was the special guest.

Presided over by Women Affairs Secretary, K. M. Hossain, the function was also addressed by UNICEF representative Begum Joushan Ara Rahman, Women Affairs Director Begum Gul Afroz Mahbub and a self-reliant woman Begum Kalpana Rahman.

Addressing the function, Adviser Kabir called for creating social awareness for equal

rights for the women. He said despite laws, rules and regulations women in the country were subject to repression and discrimination.

He urged the persons concerned to implement properly the existing facilities offered to the women. The women in responsible positions like legal professions and journalism should come forward in this regard, he added.

Mr. Winston Temple said in spite of some sorts of progress women in generations were still lagging behind.

He stressed the need for raising the literacy rate among the women.

Mr. K. M. Hossain, in his speech, said women's participation in all kinds of uplift activities was a precondition to development.

Govt decision on Chinese scholarships awaited

By Staff Correspondent

The hundreds of brilliant Bangladeshi students are now anxiously awaiting the Education Ministry's decision regarding fourteen scholarships in different subjects offered by the Chinese government.

A notification of the ministry published in the national dailies invited applications from the Bangladeshi citizens for the twelve scholarships in graduation level and two in post-graduation level.

While contacted, a reliable source told The Daily Star that the scholarships were only for the dependents of the members of staff of Bangladesh Embassy in Peking. But no such condition was mentioned in the notification.

Art competition at Bangabandhu Bhaban Friday

An art competition will be held at the Bangabandhu Bhaban on Friday (March 15) on the occasion of the 71st birth anniversary of the Father of the Nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, reports BSS.

Joy Bangla Sangskritik Oikka Jote has arranged the competition for the juveniles between 6 years and 16 years in three groups, said a press release of the Oikka Jote.

The subject matter for competition for 6-9 years age group is open, for 10-12 year age group is 'Liberation War of Bangladesh' and for 13-16 year age group is 'Bangabandhu'.

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Ambassadors of UAE and Poland called on BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia at her residence on Monday. —Star photo

Envoy of UAE, Poland greet Khaleda

The Ambassadors of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Poland called on Bangladesh Nationalist Party Chief Begum Khaleda Zia at her residence on Monday, party sources said, reports BSS.

The Envoy Ibrahim Jawad-al-Ridha of UAE and Dr Edward Baradziej of Poland congratulated Begum Zia on her party's victory in the recent parliamentary elections during their separate meetings.

They discussed with Begum Zia matters relating to common interests and cooperations among the countries. They also hoped that Bangladesh would prosper gradually under the able leadership of BNP government and the existing bond of friendship between the countries would be further strengthened.

Sultan's death condoled

Bangla Academy on Monday expressed its condolence at the death of writer Sayed Abdus Sultan who was also a freedom fighter and lawyer.

In a statement it said people of the country will remember Sultan's role during the War of Liberation.

It also expressed its sympathy to the members of the deceased family.

CU Officers' Assoc executives installed

CHITTAGONG, Mar 11: The installation ceremony of Chittagong University Officers' Association was held at CUCSU building yesterday, a university press release said today, reports BSS.

Organised by the International Jute Organisation (IJO), the meeting will be attended by the scientists from Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Thailand.

The experts and scientists will discuss and examine the performance and evaluation of different types of jute seeders developed under the project.

Initiated in 1988 the seeders have been developed with the close cooperation of Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute (BARI), Central Research Institute of Jute and Allied Fibres (CRJAF) of India, Department of Agriculture of Thailand and Royal Nepal Academy of Science and Technology.

The main objective of the project is to develop an improved low-cost equipment for the sowing of jute and kenaf which would help reduce cost of cultivation and increase productivity and income.

Mr. Shamsul Alam administered oath of office to the newly-elected office bearers of the association.

Mr. Shamsul Alam

convener and Member

Fahd lauds Dhaka's role in Kuwait's liberation

King Fahd bin Abdul Aziz Al-Saud of Saudi Arabia and custodian of the two holy mosques has appreciated the efforts of Bangladesh and its constructive participation in the international efforts that condemned the occupation of Kuwait, reports BSS.

In a reply message to the Acting President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed, King Fahd bin Abdul Aziz expressed his sincere feelings and appreciation for Bangladesh's response to participate by land forces in supporting Saudi Armed Forces in its duties to defend the right from liberating Kuwait from Iraqi occupation.

King Fahd said that the sin-

cer brotherly position of

Bangladesh had a positive impact on the success of the planned objectives.

King Fahd conveyed to the Acting President and to the people and government of Bangladesh his sincere wishes and hoped for all with continuity of progress, flourishing, security and stability of Bangladesh.

One arrested for kidnapping

By Staff Correspondent

Demra police on Monday arrested one Jahanara, aged 35, and recovered 10-year-old Nilufar from Jatrabari area.

Nilufar had been missing since February 27.

Police said Jahanara lured out Nilufar, a housemaid and took her to another house in Mirhajaribag. She lied to the

inmates of the house that Nilufar lost her parents. She pleaded the inmates for providing Nilufar shelter.

Later when the previous employer of Nilufar advertised in the newspaper promising a reward of five hundred taka to the person knowing her whereabouts, Jahanara attempted to return her to the said employer.

Plea for accord on parliamentary form of govt

By Staff Correspondent

Sammilita Sanskritik Jote in statement on Monday demanded immediate start of discussion among political alliances to reach an understanding on a parliamentary government.

The statement issued by Faiz Ahmed, Convener of the Jote, said in accordance with the understanding among parties majority parliament member supported party will form the government and opposition party will play a positive role in the greater interest o

the country.

The Jote in the statement reiterated its determination to do work in favour of a sovereign Parliament for implementing people's verdict.

Dateline Chittagong

Restoration of High Court Bench demanded

CHITTAGONG, Mar 11: Chittagong High Court Implementation Committee and Chittagong High Court Lawyers Association Monday demanded withdrawal of order rescinding holding of High Court Sessions outside the capital and restoration of High Court Bench in Chittagong immediately, reports BSS.

The demands were made at a press conference at Chittagong Press Club by the leaders of the lawyers' organisations Monday morning. Advocate Nurul Huda and Barrister Saifuddin Mahmud, Convener and Member

Secretary of the High Court Implementation Committee respectively, Advocate Mozammel Hussain and Advocate Abdus Salam Mamun addressed the press conference.

The lawyers said that the recent order rescinding the holding of High Court Sessions outside the capital was unlawful as the verdict against the Eight Amendment passed on September 2, 1989 restored the Article 100 of the Constitution.

According to this article, the permanent seat of the Supreme Court shall be in the capital, but sessions of the High Court division may be

held in other place or places as the Chief Justice may with the approval of the President from time to time appoint.

The lawyers further said, as per the Article 100 President or the Chief Justice was not empowered to rescind the High Court Session and hence the recent order was not lawful and it was unconstitutional.

Any change in the Constitution must be brought about by Parliament through amendment and the sovereign Parliament was only competent to bring about any change in constitutional affairs, they argue.

Dateline Khulna

Ground water level falls in seven districts

From Syed Isa

KHULNA, Mar 11: The underground water level in almost all the south-western districts fell by 7.75 meters resulting in non availability of drinking water from about 50 per cent of the tubewells installed there.

According to informed sources, acute crisis of pure drinking water is prevailing in about 6 to 7 districts with the advent of the dry season.

To cope with the recession of underground water level, the UNICEF is learnt to have undertaken a 5-year scheme but the slow progress of the project has hampered the supply of pure drinking water in vast rural areas. It is expected that after the completion of the project in 1993 at a cost of Tk 38 crore, all the tubewells installed in the locality will be able to provide pure drinking water for the rural areas.

During the last dry season, the underground water level receded in the northern as well as southern regions of the country. Although the northern

districts had faced crisis of drinking water earlier, the problem may be more acute this year unless UNICEF project is being implemented on priority basis.

Ershad's release demanded

The District Unit of the Jatiya Party held a workers meeting at Paikgacha in the city recently demanding unconditional release of the party chief and other leaders.

Presided over by Gazi Mizanur Rahman the meeting was addressed among others by district Jatiya Party General Secretary S M Babar Ali, former Deputy Mayor of Khulna City Corporation Kismatul Alam and District President of the Jatiya Juba Sanghati Shafiqul Hamid Chandan.

Another Jatiya Party meeting was held at Khalishpur Industrial Belt. The meeting was addressed by former Whip of the Jatiya Sangsad Mia Musa Hossain and former President of the Khulna Chamber of Commerce and Industries and

the Organising Secretary of Khulna City Jatiya Party SMA Rab.

The leaders congratulated their party chief Ershad for his winning in all five JS seats in Rangpur.

The women wing of Khulna district Jatiya Party held a mela at mohila at town Jessor road on Saturday to express gratitude to almighty Allah for helping former President Ershad to win in all five seats in Rangpur.

KCC & I

Khulna Chamber of Commerce and Industries has thanked the Acting President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed, the chief election commissioner, law enforcing authorities and concerned persons and bodies for conducting a fair poll on February 27.

In a statement on Saturday Iqbal Hossain Nanna, Vice President of the Chamber expressed hope that the newly elected members of the Jatiya Sangsad would play vital role in rebuilding the nation.

Plea to bury Kashem with state honour

People from different walks of life condoled the death of Principal Abul Kashem, vanguard of the historic language movement, reports UNB.

President Adviser on Culture and Food Prof Iajuddin Ahmed mourned the death of Abul Kashem, a pioneer of his historic language movement.

He termed Principal Abul Kashem a good organiser and said that his contribution to the language movement and introducing Bangla in the field of education will be ever remembered by the nation. The nation lost a brilliant son at his death, he added.

Prof. Iajuddin prayed for the salvation of departed soul and expressed his sympathy to the bereaved family.

Condoling his death former Prime Minister Ataur Rahman Khan said, "It will be disgraceful for the nation if Principal Kashem is not buried with state honour."

Principal Kashem would remain ever alive in the hearts of the people for his unparalleled contribution during the great language movement and the reformation of our language at different times, he added.

Prof. MA Barnik, Director, Bangladesh Language Movement Museum along with nine intellectuals in written appeal to the Acting President urged him to accord State Honour to Principal Abul Kashem, a guiding spirit behind the historic language movement.

Different organizations and individuals on Monday night expressed their condolence at the death of Language Movement hero Principal Abul Quasem.

The convenor of library forum and chairman of Institute of Human Rights Justice Abdur Rahman Chowdhury, who was also a Language Movement veteran, said at the death of Principal Quasem the nation had lost a patriotic intellectual.

He said the nation would ever remember his contribution.

Adviser for Culture and Food, Prof. Iajuddin Ahmed Monday condoled the death of Principal Abul Kashem, a pioneer of the historic Language Movement.

DUCSU VP Amanullah Aman, MP-elect, and GS Khairul Kabir Khokan, in a joint statement, said a chapter of traditional culture and philosophy of the nation ended at the death of Principal Abul Quasem.

DUCSU Literary Secretary M. Niamat Elahi, convenor of Dhaka University Sahitya Sangsad Mostaqur Rahman Moin, General Secretary of Dhaka University debating society Hasan Ahmed Chowdhury, President of Bibartan Sangha M. Nasumul Bari and President of Bangladesh Legal Aid Association Mostafa Kamal also condoled the death of Principal Abul Quasem.

THE STAR SERVICE