

Dhaka Day by Day

Creating Awareness for Women's Education

by Fayza Haq



The audience at the "Women for Women" seminar on "Education and Gender Equity" — Star photo

"Women for Women" is a group that has been persistently struggling for some time to improve the conditions of Bangladeshi women. They recently held a conference on "Education and Gender Equity" at the National Museum and numerous papers were read on this occasion.

"Women for Women" is a pioneer in non-government and non-political organisation which is engaged in research and public education programmes on gender issues with a view to enhance the status of women in Bangladesh. It aims at creating awareness among Bangladeshi people, particularly among development planners, policy formulators and public functionaries about the need for enhancing the status of women.

Speaking at the conference was Dr Sharifa Khatun, Professor at the Institution of Education and Research. Dr Sharifa stressed on the fact that it was an age old belief that women after marriage will do household duties. Therefore, some religious education and mastery of the three Rs are the desired education for women. This traditional attitude of society is one of the major barriers to equal participation, Dr Sharifa insisted.

She reminded that our per capita income is one of the lowest in the country and over 80 per cent of the people live below subsistence level. The private cost of schooling is too high to be borne by the poor parents. Even if a family can afford some fund for education of their wards they prefer to spend the amount on the education of the boy rather than the girl, she said.

Girls, Dr Sharifa stressed, were married earlier than boys. Even in cases where rural girls have successfully completed secondary education, college and university education is not considered necessary for them, she added.

She concluded that if women are to play a meaningful role in the development of the country, education of women should be treated as important policy of our national development plan.

Dr Sharifa called her paper "The Myth and Reality of the secondary and higher education of women."

Ms Khushi Kabir, in her paper, "Non-formal education and women experience and outlook", insisted that the economic growth model has shown that the main gain from modernization and increased production does not benefit all people equally, and in most cases only helps intensify disparity through wide polarization of income, wealth and power, and as such tends to make the poor even

poorer and more powerless.

Speaking specially about poor women who do such work as earth work, field agriculture, poultry and petty trade, she insisted that these women get half or less than half of the wages.

Ms Kabir insisted that education is the fundamental factor for achieving the self-reliance. She reminded that since the early to mid seventies, conventional literacy programmes were discarded for a wider and realistically oriented life related education programme geared towards providing functional literacy along with social awareness.

Literacy, Ms Kabir pointed out, was a difficult skill for women to learn as adult. She has many tasks to perform and finds it difficult to find the spare time for literacy.

Professor Qamrunnessa Begum of Dhaka University, also speaking on the occasion, stressed on how the country could not develop without education. She said that primary, practical education should be available to all, if nothing more. She reminded that UNO, in '48, had passed a resolution that stated that every one had the right to education. She lauded the common slogan of the Bangladesh government "Shabar Janno Shukta". While she hoped that children's education would not be interrupted she insisted that the quality of education would improve.

Salma Khan, Joint Chief of Planning Commission, also stressed on the fact that the main cause of inequality between men and women was education. Women's education is at a low ebb, our percentage being 30% compared to India's 36%, she reminded. She pointed out that only 20% of our GNP was spent on education, and women's literacy in Bangladesh fell as low as 19%. She insisted that according to a recent research, the government is spending a relatively small budget on education. She also lamented the fact that there were no special quotas for girls in places like "madrasahs", cadet schools, in the Engineering and Agricultural colleges.

Dr Nurunnahar Fazlunnessa, Professor of the Dhaka University Education and Research Institute also added to the belief that the cause of progress and culture in the country was the low level of education. In our country where 80% of the people are below the poverty level 77% are illiterate. To escape from such a situation, the stress should be on primary education, the professor insisted.

The seminar included interesting discussions based on the papers read out, and the discourses, at times, took the shape of lively arguments.

JS Business Advisory Body meet held

The second meeting of the 'Business Advisory Committee' of the Jatiya Sangsad was held at the office of the Speaker in Dhaka on Tuesday, reports UNB.

The meeting was chaired by Speaker Abdur Rahman Biswas who is also the Chairman of the Committee. The meeting discussed about the current session of the Sangsad and took some important decisions.

It was also attended by Chief Whip Khondoker Delwar Hossain, Minister for Education Badruddoza Chowdhury, Deputy leader of opposition in Parliament Abdus Samad Azad, State Minister for Labour and Manpower Rafiqul Islam, Matur Rahman Nizami and Montrul Huq Chowdhury.

Gold worth Tk.80 lakh seized at ZIA

Customs authorities at the Zia International Airport seized 1000 tolas of gold worth about Taka 80 lakh from a Bangladeshi passenger who came from Singapore by Biman flight Wednesday night, reports BSS.

A member of customs surveillance team, after observing the suspicious movement of the passenger Abdul Mannan, challenged him at the customs counter and found 100 gold bars each weighing 10 tola tied to his waist.

The customs seized the gold bars and handed over the passenger to the police. A case has been instituted with cantonment police in this connection.

Discussion meet on publication ceremony

A discussion meeting will be held on the occasion of publication ceremony of the book 'Biggan, Paddhati and Pragati' (Science system and progress) by Galib Ahsan Khan on May 5 at National Book Centre auditorium.

Dhaka University Vice-Chancellor Professor Moniruzzaman Mian will preside over the meeting which will be attended by among others Professor Ali Asgar of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET), Prof Syed Manjurul Huq, Dr Anisuzzaman, Matur Rahman, Abul Kashem Fazlul Huq of Dhaka University and Ali Ahmed Mallik of Jahangirnagar University.

CU VC files case against Daily Sangram

Dr Alamgir Mohammad Sirajuddin, Vice-Chancellor of Chittagong University, has filed a case with the Bangladesh Press Council, against the Daily Sangram from furnishing his image in the estimation of the members of the public by publishing three news items in April this year, a council press release said, reports BSS.

The three news items, published on April 8, 9 and 10 were: "Chittagong University in the grip of terrorism and corruption-1, three killed and more than a hundred injured in four months, situation in university getting more complex," "Chittagong University in the grip of terrorism and corruption-2, allegation of extensive irregularities and working for group interest against the VC" and "Chittagong University in the grip of terrorism and corruption-3, allegation of misappropriation of lakhs of Taka against the VC".

Dr Sirajuddin, in his case, said that these three items were objectionable untrue, hypothetical, motivated, insulting, baseless and fabricated. Their publication was an evil design to blackmail him and to tarnish his personal image and also the image as the Vice-Chancellor socially, politically and religiously in the eyes of the public.

Dainik Bangla Press Workers Union executives

Md. Tofazzal Hossain and Md. Rafiqul Alam have been elected President and General Secretary respectively of the Dainik Bangla Press Workers Union for the year 1991-92.

The other elected office bearers of the union are Md. Mujibur Rahman Babu - Vice President; Md. Abul Kashem Mridha - Joint Secretary; Md. Nurunnabi-Organising Secretary; Md. Nesar Ahmed and Md. Selim Khan - Executive members and Abdus Samad was elected Treasurer unopposed.

TV programme Wednesday

- 5:00 Opening and recitation from Al-Quran
- 5-15 Recitation from Geeta
- 5-20 News in Bengali
- 7-15 SAARC exchange programme: Sri Lanka
- 8-00 News in Bengali
- 8-30 Special programme on May Day
- 9-00 Macgyver
- 10-00 News in English
- 10-30 Sanglap
- 11-30 Khabar/The News
- 11-45 Closing down



Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina receiving a 26-point charter of demands from President of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad Sufia Kamal in Dhaka on Monday. Other members of the delegation are also seen.

Sultan's call to include painting in curriculum

Eminent painter SM Sultan Tuesday urged the government to include painting in the national curriculum as a compulsory subject, reports BSS.

He was speaking at the inaugural exhibition of premier documentary film "Adam Surat (The Inner Strength)" on the life and art of himself at Goethe Institute auditorium, Dhanmandi, in the evening.

Organised by a non-fiction film unit production, the inaugural function was chaired by Director of FDC Mustafa Monwar, while Shawkat Osman was present as the chief guest. Eminent film director, Khan Ataur Rahman, poet Shamsur Rahman, Prof Kabir Chowdhury, Ahmed Safa, Director of the film, Tareque Masud and Director of the Institute

Mrs. H Lechner were among others who spoke on the film. Earlier, the English version of the film was exhibited. Sultan who lived a solitary life far from human habitation, developed a nomadic temperament from his boyhood and remained a confirmed bachelor. Nature and its beauty are the central subject of his paintings.

Speaking on the film, Ahmed Safa said, "Sultan's uniqueness lies in the feeling and power expressed in his portrayal of the human form. Prof Kabir Chowdhury said the bugling and knotty muscles abundantly displayed by the naked peasants depict strength of the body and mind, as if the figures are outward manifestation of the inner strength." Shawkat Osman said, "I am really startled why the artists do not use peasants as their material, who labour most, who produce profession." He said they are losing interest in human beings.

Democratic ordinance for BAU demanded

A nine-member delegation of the Bangladesh Agriculture University Teachers' Council met the Acting President, Mr. Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed, at the President's Secretariat Tuesday morning, reports BSS.

The delegation led by Prof Dr. Azizul Haq, Head of the Council, submitted a five-point Memorandum to the Acting President on various problems facing the teachers and students of the Agriculture University. Their demands include promulgation of a 'Democratic Ordinance' for the Agriculture University in the line of Dhaka University Ordinance, extension of tenure of Selection Committee for appointment of teachers in the higher posts and expansion of

accommodation facilities both for teachers and students. The delegation also requested the Acting President to arrange for providing to the university two buses, one micro-bus and one ambulance for the use of the teachers and students.

The delegation which also includes Mahfuzur Rahman, General Secretary of the Teachers Council, put forward their proposals regarding pay structures for the teachers of Agriculture University.

The Acting President gave them a patient hearing and said that he would look into the problems facing the teachers and students of the university.

3 more cases filed against Zafar Imam

The Anti-corruption Bureau has filed three separate cases with Ramna thana against the former Textiles Minister Lt Col (Retd) Zafar Imam, for abuse of power, reports BSS.

The FIR stated that the former Textiles Minister had made an offence by abusing his power to violate the existing rules and norms in appointing four yarn dealers for Textiles Mills under the Bangladesh Textile Mills Corporation. With the ulterior motive to acquire undue benefits for himself or to give scope for such benefits to others.

The FIR said the Chairman of the Bangladesh Textile Mills Corporation had tried many a time from 7-1-89 to raise the prices of different counts of yarns produced in ten textile mills, but the Textiles Minister had made offence for giving illegal benefits to the yarn dealers by incurring huge monetary loss to the textile mills by not giving the order for increasing the prices on various pretext for six months.

Relating that the same Minister by abusing his power, had spent Tk 26,423 of government money on fuel and other accounts by using six vehicles of the Handlooms Board for personal use though he was allocated a government car.

The FIR said, he had made punishable offence under section 409/109 and section 5(2) of No 2 Corruption Resistance Act of 1947 by not depositing this amount to government funds.

Assembly near SSC exam centre banned

By Staff Correspondent

Dhaka Metropolitan Police Commissioner has banned assembly of more than four people within 200 yards of the SSC examination centres of the city on the days examinations.

The order will remain in force from May 2 to June 5, coastal districts, a party press release said, reports BSS.

Instead, the party will hold a discussion on the day at the WAPDA auditorium. BNP's Secretary General Abdus Salam Talukder will be the chief guest.

Direct polls to women seats in Parliament demanded

By Staff Correspondent

An eight-member delegation of the Bangladesh Mahila Parishad met Leader of the Opposition and the Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina on Monday and urged her to plead for direct election to the reserved seats for women in the Parliament.

The Mahila Parishad delegation also sought immediate withdrawal of the Mahila Sangstha Bill, tabled in the House. Sheikh Hasina assured the team of her fullest cooperation in fulfillment of the 26-point charter of demands submitted to her.

The team included Sufia Kamal, President of the Parishad, Chitra Bhattacharya, Vice-President, Ayesha Khanam, Maleka Begum, Bela Nabi, Dr. Makhdum Nargis Ratna, Baby Moudud, Latifa Akhand and Khaleda Mahbub.

PROGRAMME Bangla-China Friendship Assoc

Bangladesh-China Friendship Association will hold a discussion meeting and cultural programme in observance of May Day today (Wednesday) at 4.30 pm at the Public Library auditorium, Shahbag, says a press release.

Mirza Golam Haftz, Law and Justice Minister and President of the Association will address the meeting as the chief guest.

Democratic Sramik League

Democratic Sramik League will hold a discussion meeting today at 4 p.m. at the National Book Centre auditorium in observance of May Day.

Oli Ahmed, President of Democratic League will address the meeting as the chief guest.

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ঢাকা সিটি করপোরেশন পুনঃদরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

এতদ্বারা সর্বসাধারণের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাইতেছে যে, ঢাকা সিটি করপোরেশনের নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী, যন্ত্রিক-২ এর অধীনে রক্ষিত বিভিন্ন প্রকারের অকেজো/ভাঙ্গা/বিনষ্ট খুচরা যন্ত্রাংশ/ইঞ্জিন এর মালামাল বিক্রয়ের জন্য প্রকৃত ব্যবসায়ী প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিকট হইতে সীলমোহরকৃত বামে পুনঃদরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাইতেছে। আগামী ১৪/৫/৯১ ইং তারিখে বেলা ১২-০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত ঢাকা সিটি করপোরেশনের আঞ্চলিক নির্বাহী কর্মকর্তা, অফিস-১, ২, ৩, ৪, ৫, ৬, ৭, ৮, ৯ ও ১০ এবং সিনিয়র এজেন্ট অফিসার সাহেবের দপ্তরে রক্ষিত বামে দরপত্র গৃহণ করা হইবে এবং ঐ দিনই বেলা ১২-০০ ঘটিকার উপস্থিত দরপত্রদাতাদের উপস্থিতিতে (যদি কেহ উপস্থিত থাকেন) দরপত্র সমূহ খোলা হইবে। প্রস্তাবিত টাকার ১০% হারে জামানত এর অর্থ বাবদ ঢাকা সিটি করপোরেশনের মেয়র এর অনুকূলে ঢাকা শহরের যে কোন সিডিউল ব্যাংক হইতে ব্যাংক ডাকট/পে-অর্ডারের মাধ্যমে দরপত্রের সঙ্গে জমা দিতে হইবে। অনুষঙ্গীয় দরপত্র বাতিল বলিয়া গণ্য হইবে। এ বিষয়ে বিস্তারিত বিবরণ সিনিয়র এজেন্ট অফিসার সাহেবের দপ্তর (অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে) হইতে জানা যাইবে। এজেন্ট বিভাগ হইতে চালান পাশ করাইয়া টাকা (অফেকং যোগ্য) ব্যাংকে জমা দান পূর্বক ঢাকা সিটি করপোরেশনের হিসাব বিভাগের নিকট হইতে সিডিউল ক্রয় করা যাইবে। সিডিউল ক্রয় মূল্য ২০০/- (দুই শত) টাকা।

দরপত্র খোলার তারিখে কোন সিডিউল বিক্রয় করা হইবে না। সিটি করপোরেশনের কর্তৃপক্ষ কর্তৃক যে কোন বা সমুদয় দরপত্র কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে গৃহণ বা বাতিল করিবার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষিত থাকিবে।

ডিসি/সিআর/২৯১/৯০-৯১
D-24
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ঢাকা সিটি করপোরেশন, ঢাকা।

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

- ACROSS
- 1 High mountain
 - 4 Whiskers
 - 9 Anger
 - 12 Gaelic sea god
 - 13 Aquatic mammal
 - 14 Nothing
 - 15 Commend
 - 16 Perpetual
 - 17 Six every inning
 - 21 The self
 - 22 Tarnishes
 - 25 "Clean and"
 - 29 Cutting tool
 - 30 Athletic groups
 - 32 Story
 - 33 Bone of body
 - 35 Spirited horse
 - 37 Lair

Answer to Previous Puzzle

PEW SPORT THE
AGE EERIE AIT
COBALT ASSUME
CLUB TA
EMIT LAD TUGS
LOT PANEGYRIC
LET EON PAR VE
CONVIC TED MEN
TRUE ERN PEST
RA IDEA
MANTLE ENTIRE
OWE PLANT RUT
PET SMITE ABA

- DOWN
- 1 Priest's garment
 - 2 Zodiac sign
 - 3 Confirmation
 - 4 Containers
 - 5 Latin conjunction
 - 6 Devoured
 - 7 Nerve network
 - 8 Leas; sediment
 - 9 Hostelry
 - 10 Inlet
 - 11 House
 - 16 Garment
 - 18 - beer (drink)
 - 20 Chair
 - 22 Challenges
 - 23 Banishment
 - 24 Besmirch
 - 26 Michael Jackson album
 - 27 Choose
 - 28 Tears
 - 31 Cut
 - 34 Storage compartment
 - 36 Leaves
 - 39 Mine entrance
 - 41 Love to excess
 - 44 Precipitous - Without Cause
 - 48 Withered
 - 50 Stitch
 - 51 Period of time
 - 52 Attempt
 - 53 Ocean
 - 55 Rubber tree
 - 56 Youngster
 - 59 "Nutt House" star: initials

