

Dhaka Day by Day

A Knapsack and a Whistle for Women's Lib

by Fayza Haq

Marille Hahne is far from unfeminine but she is a dead earnest feminist. She has left no stone unturned — within her limitations — to fight for the cause of women in Europe in particular and those of the world in general.

With her camera on her back and a bicycle to pedal, she has scoured the length and breadth of an area that she investigated with her friend, and made a 90-minute film called the 'Joy of Seeing'. This is a surrealist, symbolic, experimental film and has layers upon layers of meanings. She has also made numerous short films of tremendous interest for the serious film viewer.

What have been the problems that she has been facing as a film maker? Marille replied that there was a strong competition in Germany, and this rivalry was growing among more and more people who want to make films. She explained that it was fairly easy to do a first project, but the step from the first to the next

we will face tremendous problems, for example, the unemployment rate in the East."

I was keen to know of her opinion of the films she made. "Originally I only did experimental short films and was more interested in the aesthetic and technical aspects. When I moved from the States to Germany, film making became more a process to know the German society. That is what 'Augenlust', my 90-minute film, is all about."

She continued, "I collaborated with an American woman and we tried to collect impressions over the whole year on traditions, public events, how people relate to nature, pollution problems, roles of men and women in society and things that struck us as being foreign to us. This film is about people — but we don't know any particular person — it is about someone who comes to Germany and tries to figure out life as it is there. It was shown in the Berlin Film Festival."



Marille Hahne: 'The film is now a product that is thrown away after a short time.'

Talking about German short film making she said that it was often very abstract. She informed me that they follow the tradition of the American underground film making which took place in the sixties and seventies. For the last ten years these underground films have been shown at the universities in Germany, and they have this as an orientation for film making, she said.

"In the video world more women are involved and there's more documentary film work in the video in Germany," Marille added. She also said that except for the festivals there were no place for these experimental films in Germany.

Discussing European films she felt that in Poland and Czechoslovakian producers are known for their good animation film work with often hidden messages. She continued "It might be different now because in the East people can be

more open."

Discussing American film making she said that it was getting more and more violent. She was weary of the sexist and racist approach. "Why do people have to get a thrill out of violence?" she asked. "Pornography in America is another lamentable factor. This is now being imported into Germany, even the pornography with children. German women are very upset about this."

Talking about the German film industry she informed me that it took twenty years to even produce an average film after the First World War. "The first good film makers were Fassbinder and Wender. After them the film is now a product that is thrown away after a short time. So there is little chance of great producers to have come after them," she commented.

As a teenager she never watched TV or movies in a fanatical way. What got her into film making initially, she explained, was "That I could use my technical knowledge to express myself or to help others open themselves out."

Reopening of Ibrahim Textile Mills demanded

From Our Correspondent NARAYANGANJ, July 31: Speakers at a workers' rally Wednesday demanded reopening of the Ibrahim Textile Mills which was closed following clashes inside the mills at the end of May.

The rally held at local Diamond Cinema Hall premises, Narayanganj was organised by Bangladesh Sramik Dal. President of the Sramik Dal Fazlul Islam presided over the rally while a BNP leader Strajul Islam MP attended the rally as the chief guest.

Local BSD leader Mahubb Rahman Ismail, Abu Sayed Siddiki, a local leader of BNP and a local CPB leader Advocate Mantu Ghosh also addressed the rally.

The speakers at the rally expressed deep concern over the suspension of mill's production for an indefinite period and resented at the free movement of the alleged armed workers.

Speakers also said that about 1400 workers of the mill were facing immense sufferings due to the closure of the mill indefinitely.

BFCC starts selling bakery products

Biman flight catering centre (BFCC) has started selling its high-quality bakery products through some selected sales outlets in different areas in Dhaka city, a Biman press release said in Dhaka on Wednesday, reports BSS.

The BFCC — a modern flight kitchen of Biman, equipped with the sophisticated Swedish machinery — was set up at a cost of Tk 17 crore and is capable of producing 8,500 meals of international airlines standard per day. Besides, providing delicious foods to Biman and other international airlines such as Emirates, Aeroflot, Gulf Air, Thal, Saudia etc. who are operating to and from Dhaka, the centre has now extended its catering facilities to the city dwellers.

Under the management to internationally-reputed catering firm M/S Albert Abela, the BFCC will sell food items of choice to parties also on direct order.



Golam Kibria, Comptroller and Auditor General handing over the audit reports and annual accounts to the Acting President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed at President's Secretariat Wednesday.

460 UZ bodies to decide on rural rationing

State Minister for Food Nazmul Huda informed the Jatiya Sangsad, Wednesday that the government had decided to form a three-member committee in each upazila headed by the respective MP to take decision on "palli ration" dealers, reports BSS.

The committee will have the authority to cancel the dealership of any person if found guilty of corrupt practices with ration goods and give fresh appointment within seven days, he said.

Huda said his ministry Wednesday issued necessary directives in this regard. The other members of the committee would be the UNO and the Upazila Food Officer, he said.

The decision of the Food Ministry was welcomed by members of both the Treasury and the Opposition benches. However, a number of MPs in-

cluding messrs Suranjit Sengupta (GP), ASM Feroj (AL), Mahubb Alam Tara (BNP), Shaheedul Haq Jamal (BNP), Abdul Awal Meah (AL), Abdus Shaheed (AL), Farida Rahman (BNP), Dr. Abdul Motin Khan (BNP), Ebadur Rahman Chowdhury (JP), Akhteruzzaman Chowdhury (AL), Niamatullah Sabu (BNP), ATM Alamgir (BNP), Begum Fatema Chowdhury (BNP) and Shajahan Seraj (JSD) took the floor one by one and put forward a number of suggestions for streamlining the palli rationing system.

Pak army team calls on Shahabuddin

The visiting Pakistani military delegation led by Lt Gen Muhammad Ashraf called on Acting President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed at the President's Secretariat here Wednesday morning, reports BSS.

The delegations stayed with Justice Shahabuddin for some time and discussed matters of mutual interests.

While talking to the delegation Justice Shahabuddin said exchange of such visits would help strengthen bilateral relations.

Chief of Army Staff Lt Gen Muhammad Noor Uddin Khan was present on the occasion.

SAARC seminar ends Special courts to try drug offences recommended

The three-day SAARC seminar on enforcement, prosecution and trial of drug related offences concluded in Dhaka Wednesday recommending especially designated courts for the trial of drug related offences, reports BSS.

The meeting also recommended fixation of a time-limit for submission of investigation reports, prompt exchange of information and intelligence, waiver of visa for enforcement officers, freezing and confiscation of assets and money emanating from drug trafficking.

Prices of essentials rise by 6 pc in a fortnight

Prices of essential commodities soared by about six per cent on an average between the first and third week of July, according to a survey by the Consumers Association of Bangladesh (CAB), reports UNB.

Spices and vegetables registered significant rate of rise during the fortnight while

prices of rice and powdered milk remained stable.

Potato had the highest spiral rate soaring from Tk 4 a kilogram to Tk 6 representing a hike by 50 per cent. Price of green papaya rose by about 46 per cent, green banana by 33 per cent and jhinga by 34 per cent. Onion and garlic prices rose by 12 and 15 per cent respectively.

Almost all species of fish also had a significant rise during the period.

Per kg of 'Rubi' shot up to Tk 175 from Tk 150 and 'Kachki' to Tk 80 from Tk 65.

The survey covered kitchen markets in 17 separate pockets of the metropolis Dhaka and also markets in Chittagong, Bogra, Mymensingh and Kurigram.

Rohingyas hail US sanctions on Burma

The Rohingya Solidarity Organisation has appealed to the United States, Australia and other democratic countries of the world to help stop violation of human rights and establishment of democracy in Burma, reports UNB.

In a statement sent here recently and signed by its President, Dr. Mohammad Yunus, the organisation hailed the decision of President Bush of United States to impose economic sanction against

Mahila Parishad meets eminent lawyers

Bangladesh Mahila Parishad Wednesday met eminent lawyers and talked about amending the existing laws for establishing equal rights of the women.

The meeting discussed problems concerning marriage, divorce, rights of property to simplify laws for ensuring justice to women.

Those present in the meeting were Advocate Assad Hossain Chowdhury, Sigma Huda, Ziad Al Malum, Masuda Rehana Rozi and organisation's representatives Rina Helal, Bela Nabi, and Khaleda Mahubb.

Dhaka asks Baghdad to let Bangladeshis return home

Bangladesh has formally requested Iraq to allow its nationals staying there to leave that country, reports UNB.

About 24 Bangladeshis have taken refuge in the embassy in Baghdad during the weekend seeking repatriation.

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The request was made to the present head of the Iraqi mission here when he met officials at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Tuesday.

The Iraqi Charge of Affairs assured that he would convey it to his government for necessary action, officials said today.

They also informed that the government was taking all possible steps for evacuating the Bangladeshis in Iraq who are willing to come back home.

About 100 Bangladeshis are now living in Iraq serving different establishments there.

Weather

Rain with gusty wind likely

By Staff Correspondent

Light to moderate rain or shower accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely to occur at most places of Chittagong and Rajshahi divisions and at many places over Dhaka and Khulna divisions during the next 24 hours commencing 6 pm on Wednesday, reports Meteorological Department.

The day temperature till Friday morning may remain nearly unchanged over the country. On Wednesday the highest temperature recorded at Jessore was 34.8 degree Celsius while the lowest temperature was 23.7 degrees at Feni.

Meanwhile, Cox's Bazar experienced the highest rainfall of 49 mm on Wednesday while Teknaf and Comilla witnessed the second and third highest downpour of 28 mm and 27 mm respectively. The rainfall in Dhaka was 01 mm.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Little change. Extended outlook for another five days: No appreciable change. The sun sets today (Thursday) at 6.42 pm and rises tomorrow (Friday) at 5.28 am.

The temperature and humidity in some cities and towns of the country on Wednesday were:

| Cities/Towns | Temperature in Celsius | | Humidity in percentage | |
|--------------|------------------------|------|------------------------|-----|
| | Max | Min | 9am | 6pm |
| Dhaka: | 32.6 | 25.7 | 85 | 81 |
| Chittagong: | 24.5 | 25 | 93 | Na |
| Rajshahi: | 33.2 | 25.9 | 85 | 78 |
| Khulna: | 33.1 | 27.2 | 85 | 78 |
| Jessore: | 34.8 | 26.4 | Na | Na |
| Sylhet: | 31 | 25 | 90 | 85 |
| Srimangal: | 31.3 | 26 | 83 | 93 |
| Cox's Bazar: | 28.5 | 25.4 | 96 | 92 |
| Iswardi: | 33 | 26.8 | 88 | 80 |
| Sandwip: | 29.8 | 26.5 | 88 | 91 |
| Feni: | 32.2 | 23.7 | 85 | 92 |

Frozen food exporters hail industrial policy

The chief adviser of Bangladesh Frozen Foods Exporters Association, Taher Sobhan, Wednesday hailed the new industrial policy saying it was a unique and unprecedented step of the present government towards industrialization, creation of jobs and development of export-oriented industries in the country, reports BSS.

He congratulated the Industries Minister for announcing such a realistic policy and said specific structural measures, clean atmosphere and balanced labour policy would be adopted during its implementation, an association press release said.

Zillur Rahim Chowdhury, President of Cox's Bazar district Unit of the Association, also welcomed the new industrial policy and said its successful implementation would contribute immensely to the country's overall development.

Kamal Yusuf visits Ataur Rahman Khan

Health and Family Welfare Minister Chowdhury Kamal ibne Yusuf on Wednesday visited the ailing leader Ataur Rahman Khan at the Shurwardi Hospital here, reports BSS.

A former Prime Minister and veteran politician Mr. Khan, was admitted to the Hospital on July 28, following his ailment.

Thursday

| | |
|--------|--|
| 5:00: | Opening, Al-Quran |
| 5:15: | Recitation from the Geeta |
| 5:20: | News in Bangla |
| 5:30: | Eao Gan Shikhi |
| 5:55: | Carton film — Captain Planet and the Planeters |
| 6:30: | Jiboner Alo |
| 7:05: | Katha-o-Sur: Songs programme |
| 8:00: | News in Bangla |
| 8:40: | Drama of the week |
| 10:00: | News in English |
| 10:25: | Parliament round-up |
| 10:40: | Mini Series: Queer |
| 11:45: | Closing |



Resident students of Rokeya and Shamsunahar Halls of DU at a press conference at the National Press Club Wednesday. They condemned terrorism let loose allegedly by BCL activists.

Romanian scholarships discussed

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Romania Dumitru Mocioiu called on State Minister for Education Principal Mohammad Yunus Khan at the latter's office in Dhaka on Wednesday, reports UNB.

They discussed matters of mutual and bilateral interests with particular reference to cultural exchange between the two countries and Romanian scholarship stipend for Bangladesh students, said a PID handout.

German envoy

Meanwhile, Dr Karl-Heinz Scholtz, German Ambassador to Bangladesh, called on State Minister for Post and Telecommunication M Shamsul Islam at the secretariat on Wednesday.

The discussed matters of mutual interest, said a PID handout.

Australian MP calls on Speaker

Visiting Australian Parliamentarian Bill Thomas Wednesday called on Speaker Abdur Rahman Biswas in his Sangsad Bhavan chamber, reports UNB.

Bill Thomas, MLA and Parliamentary Secretary of the Cabinet, Western Australia, exchanged views with the Speaker on Parliamentary issues and matters of mutual interest.

Meets Hasina

Bill Thomas Wednesday also made a courtesy call on Awami League Chief and Leader of the Opposition in the Parliament Sheikh Hasina at her Sangsad Bhavan office, reports UNB.

During the meeting, they discussed present socio-economic conditions of the country with particular reference to the constitutional amendment bills now under consideration of the House.

Awami League leaders Abdul Mannan, Begum Sajeda Chowdhury, Tofael Ahmed and Amir Hossain Amu were present on the occasion.

Australian High Commissioner Richard Gate was also present during the meeting.

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