

Dhaka Day by Day

'Indonesian Women's Emancipation Has a Long History of Struggle'

by Rahat Fahmida

One would think that she was a princess from some South Asian fairy tale — wearing a turquoise necklace to contrast her navy blue lace outfit. It is behind this delicate look lies a strong and determined personality. Mrs. Otje Djundjungan looked calm, composed and friendly when she was introduced to this writer, immediately after attending a seminar last Thursday. Mrs. Djundjungan is an honourable member of parliament of the Republic of Indonesia. She is now in Dhaka to celebrate today the 46th Indonesian Independence day. We congratulate the member of the parliament of Indonesia and the Indonesian diplomats on this auspicious day.

Thursday's seminar on "The Role of Indonesia in South-South Cooperation: Rural Development in Indonesia", jointly organised by the Indonesian Embassy in Dhaka and the Centre for Development Research, Bangladesh, was held on the occasion to mark this independence day. And for this Mrs. Otje Djundjungan was an important speaker.

Indonesian women have had a historical role in the country's development, especially during their liberation from the Dutch. Keeping this in mind, during her interview with "The Daily Star" the Indonesian MP was asked, "What is the state of liberated women in Indonesia? Do they have a role in various professions?" To this she answered: "The present emancipation of our women has a long history of determined and fierce struggle that started from the beginning of the 19th century. In our country of 180 million population more than half are women, and on average 50 per cent of these women are working in various sectors — in the fields, industries, factories, and even in the army, not to mention medicine, engineering, teaching, journalism and others.

Generally speaking, they are not suppressed. The struggle of the women of Indonesia was not intended to improve their own status only, but was aimed at a national struggle to attain and safeguard the country's independence and to look into the welfare of the people. It has never been intended to compete with men or to step on them, but only to develop and increase skills and abilities, expand our horizons and be able to take crucial decisions and responsibilities, along with our partners in the development of the families, the society and the nation as a whole."

Madam Djundjungan added that in Indonesia

the woman has to play a dual role, the first being that of a housewife — looking after the household and fulfilling her responsibilities both as a wife and mother. And secondly to build her career. That is as a responsible citizen she ought to be educated and be an independent individual. Both these aims go side by side; one does not supersede the other.

Indonesia over the years have been quite advanced in the field of mother care, child care and family planning. Ninety per cent of the country's population is Muslim. Hence assuming the criticism by the religious orthodox groups, Mrs. Djundjungan was asked, "Could you tell us briefly how you approach the aspects of family planning, mother care and

child care in your country?" She proudly stated, "We do not have any pressure by the orthodox groups and there is no religious pressures of any sort. We stress on peace, and tend to move forward keeping a good relationship within the country and outside without any difference.

"Regarding family planning, it is not just the government's but every citizen's responsibility. And one important factor is that family planning does not mean just planning on the number of children, but also to mother care and child care. Their health and nutrition advice is necessary. Everyone is motivated in this step and there are field workers who visit door-to-door advising on maternal and child health care. This too, is not merely the government's initiative but the whole society's — for which every individual is involved."

Talking to her one had the inquisitiveness to know how she came to be an elected MP. Mrs. Otje Djundjungan is now a widow. In her early years as a wife of an army officer she always had the craving for being active in national development. She started working only after her children were adults and was then a teacher for ten years, after which she has been elected a member of the parliament and is carrying out her duties actively for the last four years.

She is proud of her country and is confident about Indonesian women, as she concluded with a soft smile, "We love our culture, and country and obey our law. There are still a large number of obstacles which we need to overcome. We should always bear the confidence to lead our other women in the right way to build the nation as a dutiful citizen and defend our own self."



Madam Otje Djundjungan

Four lakh rickshaws ply in city 35 traffic sergeants for 310 square mile area

The Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) will observe a three-day traffic campaign in the city beginning August 19 (Monday) to motivate people about traffic rules and regulations, reports UNB.

During the campaign, the authorities will apply the traffic rules strictly, DMP Deputy Commissioner of Traffic Kazi Nazrul Islam told a press briefing Friday.

The DC (Traffic) admitted that the city's traffic system was faulty and in many cases the traffic policemen were ei-

ther inefficient or not properly trained to perform their duties efficiently.

But, he said, "we are serious to bring good traffic order in this metropolis".

The DC (Traffic) said faulty driving, driving by physically and mentally unfit persons, uncontrolled movement of non-mechanical vehicles and pedestrian's lack of knowledge of traffic rules were the major impediments to smooth traffic system in the city.

He further said that at any given time only 35 traffic

sergeants now control the traffic in 310 square mile area of the city where about 4 lakh rickshaws ply besides other vehicles.

At present 240 traffic points are manned by 897 constables, he said. This number is very inadequate to control the traffic. "We need at least four times the present manpower to place them in 850 beats."

Some 30 people died of road accidents in the city in last one-month period, the DC Traffic said.

Children urged to study juvenile literature of Rabindranath

Education and Cultural Affairs Minister Prof. A.Q.M. Badruddoza Chowdhury on Friday said Tagore's writings reflected our glorious cultural heritage and tradition, reports BSS.

The more we read the different branches of his works the more we learn about our life and philosophy," the Minister said this, while speaking at a discussion meeting at Bangladesh Shishu Academy in observance of the 50th death anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore.

Organised by Bangladesh Shishu Academy it was attended by State Minister for Social Welfare and Women Affairs Tariqul Islam as the special guest.

Mustafa Manwar, Managing Director of Bangladesh Film Development Corporation presided over the meeting.



Referring to the writings of Tagore "which are free from all sorts of prejudices" the Education Minister urged

the children to study the juvenile literature of the great man like Rabindranath Tagore.

The State Minister in his speech said Rabindranath was a great personality and very near and dear one to the children.

Mustafa Manwar in his presidential speech said the identity of a nation is not merely based on its geographical entity but by the cultural heritage of its people. This essence has been depicted in the works of the poet, he said.

The Chairman and Director respectively of the Academy, Dr Anwar Mansur and Golam Kibria and Shahwata Dhar also spoke on the occasion.

Later, Tagore's short story "Postmaster" was dramatised by Chayanot Nattyagoshthi at the Academy's stage.

Tragedy of Hiroshima, Nagasaki recalled

The need for strengthening movement for durable world peace for preservation of mankind and human civilisation was emphasised at a meeting in Dhaka on Thursday under the auspices of the Bangladesh National Centre of the Asian Buddhist Conference for Peace (ABCP), reports BSS.

The meeting held in observance of "Hiroshima Day" under the presidency of venerable Prajnavnshta Thero, General Secretary of the Bangladesh Supreme Sangha Council welcomed the new global develop-

ments for international peace through super power summit talks.

Speakers included Ven Jnananda Thero, high priest of the International Buddhist Monetary, DP Barua, Secretary General of ABCP Bangladesh National Centre, Jwanananda Barua, President of Bangladesh Buddha Juva Parishad (BBJP) and regional centre of World Fellowship of Buddhists Youth, Shilabrata Chowdhury, past President of BBJP, Roymohana Barua, President, Dhaka Regional Centre of BBJP and Sugata

Prasad Barua.

They recalled the tragic events of the world's first atomic devastation on August 6, 1945 in Hiroshima and on August 9, 1945 in Nagasaki and its tragic consequences on the survivors and subsequent generations.

Speakers also lauded the important contribution of the ABCP in promoting peace through dissemination of compassionate teachings of lord Buddha and uniting the Asian Buddhists in the movement for peace.

Prayers were also offered for world peace and happiness of mankind.

The meeting proposed to hold a seminar of South Asian Buddhists in Dhaka by next December

Huge arms recovered 3,100 arrested in city on various charges

By Staff Correspondent

Police recovered huge quantities of arms and ammunition and more than 3,100 persons were arrested on various charges in a special drive in the city between July 27 and August 14, according to a Dhaka Metropolitan Police press release.

The recovered arms included 34 firearms, 146 rounds of ammunition and other weapons. The 3,100 persons arrested during the drive included anti-social elements, miscreants, mastans, muggers, toll collectors, absconding prisoners, persons wanted in connection with various cases and other criminals.

The Inspector General of Police, Tayabuddin Ahmed, on Thursday inspected the recovered arms and ammunitions at the police headquarters and

thanked all members of DMP for making the drive a success. On this occasion, the IGP gave away cash awards to three police officers in recognition for their good work. The first prize went to the ASI of Mirpur Thana, Abdul Huq, while Sharaful Hossain, ASI of Gulshan Thana and Enayetullah Sub Inspector of Mirpur Thana got second and third prize respectively.

57 students get BCIC chairman Gold Medal

Industries Minister Shamsul Islam Khan Friday hoped that brilliant students would play pioneering role in making the future of the nation bright, reports BSS.

He was addressing the "BCIC Chairman Gold Medal '91" awarding ceremony at BCIC auditorium Friday. Prizes were distributed among the students of 13 schools and three colleges run by BCIC for their outstanding results in SSC and HSC exams. BCIC Chairman Nefaur Rahman also addressed the function.

The minister said today's successful students would lead the nation tomorrow. He advised the students to put in their sincere efforts to acquire more knowledge.

He hoped that the recognition in the form of winning gold medals would help them achieve brighter success in the days ahead. In all 22 SSC students and 35 HSC students have been awarded BCIC gold medal.

Hartal in some city areas Aug 31

By Staff Correspondent

A day-long hartal will be observed at Sadarghat, Northbrook Hall Road, Bangla Bazar, Shyambazar, Farashgonj, Gendaria, Millbarrack, Faridabad, I.G Gate, Karimullahbagh, and Postagola on August 31 if the City Corporation fails to take steps to repair the damaged roads in these areas.

Minimum price of jute at Tk 500 per maund demanded

By Staff Correspondent

Bangladesh Gono Azadi League President Alhaj Abdus Samad Advocate and Joint General Secretary Kazi Oliul Islam Ukil have demanded fixation of minimum price of jute at Taka 500 per maund.

In a joint statement on Friday they demanded announcement of jute policy and sanction of sufficient amount of loan to government and private organisations for buying jute.

Obituary

Engineering Manager of Bangladesh Television Abdul Quader died of a heart attack at his Bally Road Residence in the city on Friday morning. He was 46, reports BSS.

The deceased left behind his wife, two sons and a host of relatives and friends to mourn his death.

The Namaz-e-Janaza of Abdul Quader was held at BTV Bhaban premises. His body will be buried at his village home at Sunamganj.

Ruhul Amin, Convener of Khagrachhari Hill district Muslim League, died of a heart attack at his village home at Feni Friday afternoon, a party press release said in Dhaka. He was 50.

Chittagong city Muslim League General Secretary Prof Nurul Islam Siddiqui, in a statement here expressed deep condolence at the death of Ruhul Amin.

TV Saturday

- 5.00 Opening announcement, Al Quran programme, summary recitation from the Tripitak
- 5.15 News in Bangla
- 5.30 Programme on physical exercise
- 6.40 Cartoon film: Giftgance
- 7.05 Banshari: Folk songs
- 8.00 News in Bangla
- 8.30 Chena Sur: Songs programme
- 9.00 Ujjiban
- 10.00 News in English
- 10.25 Drama series: Dallas
- 11.30 Khabar / The News
- 11.45 Closing



A sequence of one-act play 'Kabaya' performed by new generation artists of Drama Circle at Guide House auditorium in the city Friday. — Star photo

Weather

Day temperature may fall

By Staff Correspondent

Rain/thundershower accompanied by temporary gusty wind with a few moderately heavy to heavy fall at places likely to occur at most places over Khulna, Dhaka and Chittagong divisions and at many places over Rajshahi division. Day temperature is likely to fall by 1-2 degree Celsius over the country.

Rainfall warning: heavy falls is likely to occur at one or two places over Chittagong division and the regions of Khulna, Barisal, Patuakhali, Madaripur and Dhaka during next 24 hours commencing 6 pm on Friday.

Outlook for subsequent two days: rainfall activities likely to increase. Extended outlook for another 5 days: weather likely to improve.

The highest temperature of 32.4 degree Celsius was recorded at Rajshahi while the lowest of 23.2 degree was reported from Mymensingh. The sun sets on Saturday at 6.31 pm and rises on Sunday at 5.35 am. Temperature and humidity of some cities and towns on Friday were:

Cities/Towns	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	min	9 am	6 pm
Dhaka	30.8	25.0	83	78
Chittagong	32.1	25.4	78	85
Rajshahi	32.4	26.2	92	83
Khulna	31.3	26.1	90	95
Cox's Bazar	28.0	24.8	93	92
Sylhet	29.8	24.0	92	82
Rangpur	30.3	25.2	93	74
Barisal	30.3	25.5	85	95
Srimangal	29.6	25.6	89	77
Mymensingh	29.8	23.2	89	80

What's on today...

City Corporation Budgets
Mayor of the Dhaka City Corporation Mirja Abbas MP will present the corporation's revised budget of 1990-91 fiscal and the proposed budget of 1991-92 fiscal at a press conference to be held at the Gulshan Mayor Bhaban today (Saturday) at 11.30 in the morning.

CPE discussion at ICMA
A six-day discussion session on continuing education programme for the students of the Institute of Cost Management and Accounting will begin at the ICMA auditorium today (Saturday) at 5 pm.
Commerce Minister MK Anwar will inaugurate the discussion while ICMA President Habibur Rahman will be in the chair.

Abujar College students installation
The installation ceremony of the newly elected office-bearers of Abujar Gifari College Students Union will take place at the college premises today (Saturday) at 10 am.
Dhaka City Corporation Mayor Mirja Abbas will be the chief guest on the occasion. State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadek Hossain Khoka will attend the function as special guest.

Muslim League rally
Bangladesh Muslim League will hold a rally at the party's central office at 28/1, Tophkhana Road in the city today (Saturday) at 4 pm.
The rally has been convened demanding repeal of the Special Powers Act and immediate reopening of all closed educational institutions.
The rally will be followed by a procession. Which will be terminated in front of the National Press Club.

Chhatra Front rally
Samajtantrik Chhatra Front, students chapter of Bangladesh Samajtantrik Dal (BSD-Khaleq), will hold a students' rally in front of the National Press Club today (Saturday) at 10 am demanding immediate reopening of all closed educational institutions, recovery of illegal arms and arrest of the terrorists.
The rally will be followed by a procession.

Nizami meets journalists
Jamaat-e-Islami Secretary General and its Parliamentary Party leader Matur Rahman Nizami will give a courtesy call to the journalists at the Chungwah at Chinese restaurant at 12/A, Bijoynagar Road in the city today (Saturday) at 1.30 pm.

Drama Circle one-act play
The regular show of a one-act play written by Banaphul will be held at the Guide House auditorium in the city today (Saturday) at 7 pm.
Drama Circle, the oldest group theatre of the country, sponsors the drama.

'British military role in the 1990s'
Brig RC Wolverson OBE and Capt (Navy) AR Peters of the British Military Advisory Team in Bangladesh will speak on "The British Military Role in the 1990s" at the Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies (BISS) at 1/46 Elephant Road (former Air House) today (Saturday) at 5 pm.
Barrister AKH Morshed, Chairman, BOG, BISS will preside.

Jatiyatabadi Jubo Dal
The Ramna Thana branch of Dhaka City Jatiyatabadi Jubo Dal will hold a meeting today (Saturday) in front of Malibagh-Mouchak square on the occasion of "Anti-Terrorism Fortnight".
The meeting is likely to be addressed by a number of ministers and leaders of BNP. State Minister for Social Welfare and Women Affairs Tariqul Islam will be the chief guest on the occasion.

Press Council discussion
Bangladesh Press Council holds a discussion on "the role of Press Council in improving professional standard in the newspapers" at the National Press Club Auditorium today (Saturday) at 4.30 pm.
The discussion will be followed by a tea-party.

United efforts to root out terrorism from campus urged
Law and Justice Minister Mirza Golam Hafiz Friday called upon the students, teachers and guardians to come forward to help eradicate terrorism from the educational institutions, reports BSS.

Addressing a discussion meeting at T & T College in the city on the occasion of the 50th death anniversary of Poet Rabindranath Tagore, Mirza Golam Hafiz said the country could not march towards prosperity if the campus problems were not solved with concerted efforts.
"The future of the country will be dark if terrorism cannot be rooted out from the campus," he said.
Organised by 'Sur Manjary', a cultural and social welfare group, the discussion meeting also addressed by State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism Abdul Mannan and Principal Hosne ara Shahed.
The Law Minister urged the students to take lesson from Tagore literature. The themes of the writings of Tagore are the welfare of mankind, peace, freedom and economic emancipation, he said.

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