

# Dhaka Day by Day

Zonta International

## They Show That They Care

by Iftikhar Ahmed Chowdhury



Women have always been most vulnerable to social prejudice in our country and they are the ones who require major assistance from all quarters of the society. It is only natural that the affluent section of the society should come forward to help those unfortunate people who are less privileged than they. Zonta International is such an organisation which continually pursue the cause of distressed women worldwide. To be more precise it is an organisation of the women, by the women and for the women.

Zonta International is a classified service organisation of executives in business and professions, who has distinguished role in their own communities and countries. It was established in 1919 in Buffalo, New York, USA. The organisation consists of over 35,000 members of 1,050 clubs in 56 countries. The club's main purposes are to advance the legal, political, economic, educational and professional status of women and encourage service.

From 1986-90, this organisation has contributed US \$1,000,000 to the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) to train women in health, marketing and income generating skills in Argentina, Botswana, Brazil, Comoros Island, Honduras, Mexico, Philippines, Sierra Leone, Thailand and Zimbabwe. At present over US \$ 500,000 is committed to projects in Egypt, India and Togo.

Zonta supports women's education through the Amelia Earhart Fellowship Awards for graduate study in aerospace related science and engineering. Founded in 1938, it has till now awarded its fellowship to 367 women from 44 countries. Zonta International is also involved with project 5-0. This is a project which is comprised of five women's organisations. Collectively these organisations can undertake projects of far greater magnitude than they could individually. 5-0 projects are going on in India, Philippines, Thailand, Turkey and Mexico. In Bangladesh 5-0 project is on the drawing board ready for execution and will be implemented as soon as the formalities are over. This project involves helping village women, generate their own income through poultry farming.

Zonta International first found its footing in

Bangladesh, when Zonta Club was established in Dhaka on 19 February 1966. This is now Zonta Club of Dhaka I. The organisation has obviously travelled a long way since its founding of Zonta Club of Dhaka III in August 1991 and it is very much dedicated to the Zonta ideal of voluntary service to the community. At present the club is running an Adult Literacy Programme for under privileged women 3 days a week, a free clinic every fortnight for these women and their families. Advice on general hygiene, nutrition and family planning is also given to women. The club is also planning to begin to teach these women embroidery, basket weaving and various other income generating projects.

The youngest body of Zonta International in Bangladesh, Zonta Club of Dhaka III organised a programme of 20 April 1992 at a local hotel, where Zonta International President Leneen M. Forde presented its charter. Minister for Information and Broadcasting Mr. Nazmul Huda was the chief guest at the charter presentation ceremony. In his speech Barrister Huda praised highly the efforts made by Zontians for development of women folk worldwide and conveyed his best wishes to the newest member of the Zonta family.

Among others who spoke on the occasion were Tamara Rahman Ali — president Zonta Club of Dhaka III; Mitha Shroff — Governor, District 25; Mano Mathi Krishna — Lt. Governor, District 25; Anwari Kabir — Governor — elect, District 25 and International President of Zonta Leneen M. Forde.

Ms. Forde in her speech emphasised that "the world needs caring of the dedicated people towards the distressed and suffering of people, help improve the quality of life, ensure human rights, equality and friendship worldwide. Zonta International is a dynamic and progressive service organisation who continually advocates the cause of the suffering people.

The word "Zonta" perhaps meant "honest and trustworthy" among Sioux Indians. Let us keep our fingers crossed and hope that Zonta Club in Bangladesh will continue to be an honest and trustworthy friend to the unfortunate millions who are really needy.

### Newspaper holiday May 1

All newspaper offices will remain closed on May 1 on the occasion of 'May Day' BSP press release said in Dhaka Tuesday, reports BSS.

There will be no issue of newspaper on the following day (May 2), the press release added.

### Educational Week concludes in Rajshahi

RAJSHAHI, Apr 27: A three-day divisional level National Educational Week '92 concluded here today with the distribution of prizes among the winners of literary and cultural competition, reports BSS.

Divisional Commissioner N A Habibullah was present at the function as the chief guest and distributed prizes and certificates among the winners.

The function held at Rajshahi Teachers' Training College was presided over by Prof S M Enamul Haque, Principal of the Teachers' Training College.

It was attended, among others, by Md Serajul Haque, Additional Divisional Commissioner, Rajshahi and Chairman Rajshahi Development Authority and Khaleda Khatun, Inspector of Schools, Secondary and Higher Education, Rajshahi region, as the special guests.

### Gold smuggling case

Hearing adjourned till Apr 29

By Court Correspondent

The hearing of the sensational three thousand tola's gold smuggling case has been adjourned till 10 am on April 29 by the Special Anti Smuggling Court Dhaka Monday.

All the arrested persons were recommended as under trial prisoners at the Central Jail, Dhaka while produced before the court to face the trial.

### NDP leaders pay tributes to Sher-e-Bangla

CHITTAGONG, Apr 27: NDP leaders here today paid glowing tributes to late Sher-e-Bangla AK Fazlul Huq saying he devoted his life for the welfare of the people, reports BSS.

The city unit of NDP held a discussion on the life and activities of Sher-e-Bangla in observance of his 30th death anniversary at its Rahmatganj office with city NDP President AKM Abu Bakar Chowdhury in the chair. It was addressed by local leaders Dr Ranjit Barua, Wali Ullah Benu, Sekandar Hayat Khan, Abdul Mabud and others.

They said Sher-e-Bangla AK Fazlul Huq was a great leader whose political activities aimed at welfare of the people.

His ideals would continue to inspire us to do politics for the welfare of people, they added.

### Saifur, Samad Azad visit Hafiz

Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman visited the ailing Minister for Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Mirza Golam Hafiz now undergoing treatment at Diabetic Hospital (BIRDEM) in the city Monday, reports BSS.

Earlier, Abdus Samad Azad, Deputy Leader of the Opposition in the Jatiya Sangsad visited Mirza Hafiz at the hospital.

They stayed beside the ailing Law Minister and enquired about his welfare.

### Conference on Education For All Apr 30

A one-day conference on "Education for All: Social Mobilisation," jointly organised by the Ministry of Education and UNICEF, will be held in Dhaka on April 30, reports BSS.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia will inaugurate the conference at 10.30 on the day at the Shilpakala Academy Auditorium.

Executive Director of UNICEF James P Grant will attend the inaugural function as the special guest while Education Minister Jamiruddin Sircar will preside over it.

State Minister for Education Principal Md Eunus Khan will also attend the function.

### 'Foreign intervention seekers not patriots'

Mafiqul Hasan Tripti, Assistant Office Secretary of Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), Monday strongly protested and condemned the statements made by some leaders of Hindu, Bouddha,

Christian Oikya Parishad (IIBCOIP) calling for Indian intervention in the country, reports BSS.

In a statement, the BNP leader said, the people of the country were not only surprised but also angered at the Parishad's leaders' observations that "communal harmony is disrupted," "Minorities are being repressed", and "Members of Hindu Community are fleeing to India".

He said the statements of the Parishad leaders were in fact, designed to disrupt communal harmony and create anarchic situation in the country.

Hasan said they cannot be patriotic persons who seek foreign intervention on imaginary and false pretext.

Bangladesh will maintain its tradition of communal harmony, he said adding the people of the country would untidely resist any move to disrupt communal harmony.



Myanmar Foreign Minister Ohn Gyaw called on Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia at her residence Monday. Story on page 1. — PID photo

## People's participation in local govt institutions stressed

Information Minister Nazmul Huda Monday reiterated the government's commitment to formulate an acceptable and viable policy regarding the shape of local institutions to ensure participatory local level development in the country, reports BSS.

He was inaugurating a two-day "Regional consultation on role of NGOs in strengthening local government institutions" jointly sponsored by the NGO Affairs Bureau, Prime Minister's office and Ford Foundation Bangladesh at Hotel Sunderban in the city.

The Information Minister pleaded for people's participation in the local government institutions for bringing about a meaningful change in the life of common people and said

NGOs could play the role of catalysts in empowering the poor to have access to the service of the local government institutions.

Barrister Huda hoped that the regional consultation would come out with specific recommendations to strengthen the local government institutions through a close coordination of the government and the NGOs.

Chaired by the Secretary to the Prime Minister, and a local government institution expert, Dr Kamal Siddiqui, the inaugural function was addressed by Director General, NGO Affairs Bureau, Mohammad Shahidul Alam and Country Representative of Ford Foundation, Raymond Offenheiser.

Minister of State in charge of Relief Lutfar Rahman Khan,

Dr Moin Khan, MP, senior government officials and NGO executives were present.

Forty-five participants from India, Pakistan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, the Philip pines and the host Bangladesh are attending the two-day regional consultation.

The Information Minister said the new democratic government wanted to develop democratic practice at all stages of the government.

In this connection, he referred to the 12th constitutional amendment providing elected representatives at the local government institutions and ensuring maximum participation of the people.

He referred to the 17-member review commission set up for local government structure headed by the Information Minister and hoped the commission would recommend an effective model which would suit to the needs of the people.

The Information Minister hoped that the regional consultation would provide the commission with an opportunity of having views of experts from other countries on the issue as well as on the role of NGOs in development aspects.

Lauding the role of the NGOs after the natural disasters like floods and cyclones in the past, the Information Minister said, "we can't simply ignore the role of NGOs". The government is determined to remove all complications from the functioning of the NGOs, he added.

In his presidential speech, Dr Kamal Siddiqui said the regional consultation on the role of NGOs in strengthening local government institutions was being held at a crucial stage when the government was trying to ensure participatory development. The government wanted to remove complexities from the NGOs for decentralisation and development.

## Garments workers threaten strike

By Staff Correspondent

Bangladesh Garments Sramik Karmachari Samannay Sangram Parishad (Coordination movement council of garments workers and labourers of Bangladesh) may call for observing strike at the garments factories in the city if their seven point demands were not met by May 30.

According to sources, the Parishad has taken up far fetched plans to press home their demands.

Their seven point demands include: implementation of lowest scale of Taka 1400 at the national level for the garments workers, assurance of workers' and labourers right as per laws of International Labour Organisation and convention and assuring various facilities to the workers.

If the government and the garments factory owners do not accept the demands, about seven lakh workers will be mobilised to go on strike during the peak garments production season during October-November.

The Parishad at present is organising workers of about 1000 factories of the city, the sources said.

Parishad leaders urging acceptance of their demands through tripartite talks with the government and factory owners say that while the garments industry earns much of the foreign currency it fails to provide any social or economic security to the workers.

They say garments industries fetched 802.19 million in the fiscal year of 1991-92 which was 17.93 per cent more than the target of export and it is expected that this year garments export will earn more than \$907 million.

The Parishad says that garments industries flourished in Bangladesh because of cheap labour cost.

It should assure rights of the labourers, they said.

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### What's on today . . . .

**Janadal discussion meet**  
Janadal will hold a discussion and milad mahfil on the occasion of 55th birth anniversary of Iraqi President Saddam Hossain today (Tuesday) at 11 am at the party's central office. All have been requested to attend it.

**Rotary Club of Dhaka**  
The regular weekly meeting of the Rotary Club of Dhaka will be held today (Tuesday) at 5.25 pm at Dhaka Sheraton hotel.

President of Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industries M Morshed Khan will be the guest speaker. He will speak on "State of Bangladesh Economy".

**Discussion on Mujibnagar Day**  
A discussion meeting on the 'Historic Mujibnagar Day' will be held at the auditorium of the Dhaka Lawyers' Association (6, Court House Street) in the city today (Tuesday) at 4.30 pm.

'Sadhona Forum' has arranged the meeting which will be addressed among others by Dr Kamal Hossain, Dr Mazharul Islam, Abdul Mannan, Shamsul Haq Choudhury, Barrister Amirul Islam, Lt Col (ret'd) Abu Osman Choudhury, Prof Panna Kaiser, Belal Mohammad, Abdul Kuddus Makhan, Syed Mahubul Ali and Khandaker Abdul Mannan. Advocate M Sajwar Hossain will preside.

**BSD discussion on Lenin**  
Bangladesh Samajtantrik Dal will hold a discussion meeting in observance of Lenin's 122nd birth anniversary at the party office today (Tuesday) at 4.30 pm. Party leaders will address the meeting.

**Discussion on 'Nakshi Kantha'**  
On the concluding day of the Bangla Academy's fortnight-long exhibition of 'Nakshi Kantha', the Academy will hold a discussion on 'Nakshi Kantha' at its Conference Room today (Tuesday) at 5 pm.

President of Bangladesh Jatiya Karushilpa Parishad and a member of the Planning Commission Mohammad Sirajuddin will chair the meeting.

Tofael Ahmed, Dr Hamida Hossain, Begum Niaz Zaman, Mohammad Saidur Rahman and Mahbulul Alam will take part in the discussion.

**GIS exhibition**  
An exhibition of Geographical Information System (GIS), a new software system in computer technology invented by Citech Company Limited will be held at the VIP lounge of the Jatiya Press Club today (Tuesday) at 4.30 pm.

**Green Leaf and Rotaract**  
The monthly meeting of the Green Leaf Campaign has been scheduled today (Tuesday) at 3 pm at the USIS Auditorium.

A Video Show highlighting drug menace and effective control measures has been planned after the meeting.

### PID clarification on Saifur's press briefing

The following clarification was issued by the PID on Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman's observation on the increase in train fare and gas price at his 'press briefing' at Zia International Airport on return from Paris Sunday, reports BSS.

It said the Finance Minister has been very much misquoted and misreported by some national dailies.

In his reply to the question, "Why the government increased train fare and gas price by-passing the parliament?" The Finance Minister said government is the executive and the authority to decide on prices and fares and not taxes. It is one of the legitimate functions of the government to decide on the prices of sensitive products and services, he said.

The Finance Minister had said that the Parliament is to enact laws for taxes and also review the functions of the government and enforce accountability.

He had also said that the parliament can question, the soundness of the government decisions and price fixation but not its authority to take decisions.

Saifur Rahman expressed his regret for such type of motivated reports in the press.

### Reopening of BUET entry points demanded

Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) Unit, Monday urged the university authorities to reopen the entry points of the campus and to stop bus service immediately, reports BSS.

The main entry point was sealed and all the entry points are controlled by the security guards from October 1991, when a number of vehicles belonging to the university, teachers were burnt by some outsider.

In a rally, the JCD leaders criticised the Vice-Chancellor, Prof M Shahjahan for not taking any initiatives to fulfill the demands of the teachers, students and employees. The rally was addressed, among others, by Meer Ruhul Kabir and Karim Fazlul Karim, Vice-President and General Secretary of Engineering University Central Students' Union, and S M Jahangir, President of BUET Unit.

### Body of Bashar arrives

The body of Brigadier Mohammad Abul Bashar Mazumder, Bangladesh Defence Attache in Saudi Arabia, was brought to Dhaka Monday, reports BSS.

His namaz-e-janaza will be held at Dhaka Cantonment Central Mosque today (Wednesday) at 1-30 pm, an ISPR press release said.

## Change of Name

The changed name of Pragati General Insurance Company Limited would be **PRAGATI INSURANCE LIMITED** with immediate effect.



**PRAGATI INSURANCE LIMITED**  
90-91, Motijheel C/A, Uttara  
Bank Bhaban (9th & 10th Floor)  
Dhaka-1000.



**UNITED INSURANCE COMPANY LIMITED**

### CAR FOR SALE

Sealed tenders are invited by United Insurance Company Ltd. for sale of a Mitsubishi Lancer 1300CC Dhaka Bha-4078 Model 1985 in good running condition. Last date for submission of tenders is 1 pm of May 4, 1992. The car can be inspected from 11-30 am to 1-00 pm on May 2 & 3, 1992 in front of the Company's Head office at 2, Dilkusha Commercial Area, Dhaka. 10% of the tendered amount will have to be submitted in the form of Pay Order in favour of the Company as Earnest money. For details please contact: Mr. K.M.S. Huda. Tel: 242343, 239294. The management reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without showing any reason.

### Weather

## Shower likely

By Staff Correspondent

Rain or shower accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at one or two places over Dhaka division and at one or two places over Rajshahi, Chittagong division and in the regions of Jessore, and Kusta during the next 36 hours commencing 6 pm Monday.

Meteorological office forecast that weather is likely to remain mainly dry elsewhere over the country.

No marked change in weather would be noticed during the subsequent two days.

The highest temperature of 37 degree Celsius was recorded at Satkhira.

Sunset at Dhaka on Tuesday at 6-26 pm an sunrise Wednesday at 5-26 am.

Temperature and humidity recorded at important cities and towns on Monday were:

Cities/Towns	Temperature in degree Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	9 am	6 pm
Dhaka	33.5	20.2	61	55
Chittagong	35.5	24.0	65	68
Rajshahi	36.4	20.6	69	53
Khulna	36.8	23.3	59	73
Barisal	36.2	24.1	75	73
Cox's Bazar	34.0	25.4	62	70
Sylhet	32.3	20.2	75	58
Satkhira	37.0	24.1	59	35
Tangail	33.5	22.0	65	64
Dinajpur	33.4	22.5	62	56

### Tuesday

- 5.00 Opening announcement Al-Quran Programme summary
- 5.10 News in Bangla
- 5.20 Recitation from the Geeta
- 5.30 Documentary film Shikhangon
- 6.00 Programme for Mothers
- 6.30 Nazrul Songs
- 7.05 News in Bangla
- 8.00 Drama Series: Baro Rakamer Manush
- 8.40 News in English
- 10.00 Mini Series: Sword of Honour
- 11.30 Khabar/The News
- 11.40 Wednesday's programme summary
- 11.45 Closing.