

Dhaka Day by Day

Women's Struggle in Politics

by Fayza Haq

"Women for Women" had a seminar on "Women and Politics" at their annual convention held at the National Museum. Among the various papers read on the occasion was the one by Meghna Guhathakurata, Assistant Professor of the Department of International Relations at the Dhaka University.

Ms. Guhathakurata said that in order to bring the "women's agenda" into the mainstream politics a democratic polity and an anti-fundamentalist attitude is essential. She pointed out that demands such as equal rights to property, a universal personal code, freedom to criticise social and political institutions and attempt to change them will never be possible without a free press, an independent judiciary and a sovereign parliament, assuring each citizen his or her fundamental rights. She added that one of the chief reasons why political parties do not want to champion the women's cause is that in a traditional society like Bangladesh they would probably lose votes.

Fazila Bano and Firdaus Azim, of "Naripokkho" in their paper on "Struggle for Women's Emancipation", said that women occupy a minority position (regardless of numerical status), and their demands lack popular appeal within populist democracies. They added "Women's movement has to tread a difficult and dangerous ground — one of gaining ground for their positions, while not being tempted into losing the main basis for their protest for the sake of popular acceptance. The Tanbazaar campaign is one example of the problem with popularising women's issues. Within popular systems of political discourse, and even within political language, it is impossible to address the question of women in prostitution without bringing in the larger question of equality."

Dr. Najma Chowdhury, Professor of Political Science, Dhaka University said that apart from the Prime Minister, the leader of the opposition and a few others, there were not many women taking an active part in politics in Bangladesh. The participation of women is not only not wide, Dr. Chowdhury said, but it remained disorganised and unsystematic. She said, "Women are at a disadvantage in society. They have setbacks in every way — social, economical, legal, and political. How many women are there among the ministers? This can be taken as the criterion for the position of women in society. The relation between non-political women's organisation and women

involved in politics help determine the strength and nature of women's political power. Politics centres around men and is determined by them. Neither the needs nor the viewpoints of women are reflected in the present politics."

Dr. Chowdhury added that the bodies which take political decisions about public policies, which determine women's equality are in the hands of men who may not be sufficiently interested. Although their equality is acknowledged, she added, no strong step is taken to get rid of their gender gap.

S. Rowshan Qadir, Director Research, National Institute of Local Government, had a paper on "Problems and Possibilities of Women's Participation at Grass-root Level". Ms. Qadir pointed out that if women, who are half of the human resource and work force, do not participate in the overall development and political process then the desired development will not be possible. She said that while both in developing and developed countries the participation of women in politics is limited, in Bangladesh, the involvement is particularly low.

To improve their conditions women should, Ms. Qadir said, a) participate in politics and administration b) be active and nonactive members of political parties c) participate in political rallies, meetings and political discussion e) use their right to vote.

Malika Begum of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad said that medieval outlook and values prevent the progress of women. Whenever women fight for their due rights, she said, traditional values, religious dominations, and prejudices hold back the women. The main aim of women's movements, she stressed, was to achieve the rights of citizens.

Begum Selima Rahman, M.P., said that in our modern world women's position in politics is mainly achieved by inheriting the power. It is remarkable, she continued that in the developed world women have not come out in politics as they have in the developing world. She added that the men were not yet ready to share political power with women.

Rashid Khan Menon, M.P. and General Secretary of Bangladesh Workers' Party, talking on the subject, said that our mass of women, in the villages and at the lower social level, were not actively participating in politics. He too pointed out that Bangladesh women in general still needed to come out actively in the political sphere.

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Abu Hena made envoy to Philippines

The government has decided to appoint Mohammad Abu Hena, at present Ambassador to Japan, Ambassador of Bangladesh to the republic of the Philippines, an official press release said, reports BSS.

BTV
Monday

5:00 Opening Announcement
5:10 Al-Quran, Programme summary
5:20 News in Bangla
5:30 Recitation from the Geeta
5:30 Cartoon: The Great Space Coaster
6:00 Sports Programme: Boxing
6:30 Shikhangon: Education programme
7:05 Debate
8:00 News in Bangla
8:30 Aapnar Shaasho: Health programme
9:00 Bhora Nadir Baakeye
10:00 News in English
10:30 Film: Highway to Heaven
11:30 Khabar/The News
11:40 Tuesday's programme summary
11:45 Closing

STAR TV
BBC
WORLD SERVICE
TELEVISION
Monday

00:00 hrs World News
00:25 Crime Ltd
01:00 TBA
02:00 World News
02:05 Everyman
03:00 World News
03:25 Public Eye
04:00 TBA
05:00 The Dream Machine
06:00 World News
06:15 The Money Programme
07:00 World News
07:10 World Business Report
07:25 UN World
08:00 World News
08:25 Indelible Evidence
09:00 World News
09:25 TBA
10:00 World News
10:05 Explorers
11:00 World News
11:25 Tomorrow's World
12:00 World News
12:05 The Dream Machine
13:00 World News
13:30 Business Morning
14:00 Morning News from London
16:00 World News
16:25 Wagon
17:00 World News
17:05 The Healing Arts
18:00 World News
18:05 Everyman
19:00 World News
19:15 The Money Programme
20:00 News from London
20:15 Holiday Outings
20:25 TBA
21:00 World News
21:25 Wagon
22:00 World News
22:25 Talking Liberties
23:00 World News
23:05 Explorers
(Please deduct 2 hours from above timings for Bangladesh Standard Time)

M
Monday

00:00 hrs Music Videos - VJ
03:00 Danny McGill
05:00 Music Videos
05:00 The Day in Rock
05:30 1/2 Hour Comedy
06:00 Awake on the Wild Side
09:00 MTV Power Pack
10:00 MTV's Most Wanted
11:00 Classic MTV
12:00 Awake on the Wild Side
13:00 Music Videos - VJ
15:00 Danny McGill
18:00 Music Videos
20:00 The Day in Rock
20:30 1/2 Hour Comedy
21:00 MTV Power Pack
22:00 MTV's Most Wanted
23:00 Classic MTV
(Please deduct 2 hours from above timings for Bangladesh Standard Time)

STAR Plus
Monday

00:00 hrs Blue Blood
01:00 Movie: Yesterday Today & Tomorrow
03:00 Relative Strangers
03:30 The Bold & The Beautiful
04:00 Donahue
05:00 Santa Barbara
06:00 Attitudes
07:00 Everyday Workout
07:30 Kingdom Adventure
08:00 Animated Classics
09:00 Terrahawks
09:30 Dr Fad Show
10:00 Children's Room
10:30 Jupiter Moon
11:00 Altitude
12:00 Image Workshop
13:00 Santa Barbara
14:00 Donahue
15:00 The Great Moghuls
15:30 Fame & Fortune
16:00 Romance
16:30 Frugal Gourmet
17:00 Mac & Mully
17:30 Adventures on Kythera
18:00 Out of Control
18:30 Jupiter Moon
19:00 Jack Thompson Down Under
19:30 Earth Summit
20:00 Blue Blood
20:30 Hollywood Stars
21:00 Movie: That Cold Day in the Park
23:00 The Bold & the Beautiful
23:30 Runaway with the Rich & Famous
(Please deduct 2 hours from above timings for Bangladesh Standard Time)



Visiting International Monetary Fund (IMF) Executive Director, GK Arora, called on Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman at his office yesterday.

Arora satisfied at steps taken for liberal trade policy

The Executive Director on International Monetary Fund (IMF), GK Arora, called on Commerce Minister MK Anwar at his secretariat office Sunday morning, reports BSS.

They discussed trade liberalization with particular reference to import liberalization and export strategy of Bangladesh.

The Commerce Minister briefed the Executive Director on trade situation in Bangladesh.

Arora expressed his satisfaction at the measures taken by the government for liberalization of balanced trade policy. Although the recent export trade situation all over the

world is unsatisfactory, the export earnings of Bangladesh had increased several times during the last few years, he said.

The minister said the export earnings of the country had increased substantially. During the current financial year export earnings were expected to be very near the target, he added. The shortfall of target achievement is likely to be within the rate of 5 per cent caused by reduction of unit price of jute and tea in the world market, high rate of production cost of frozen food, etc.

Arora said the macro eco-

nomie framework as followed in Bangladesh was very sound and this had substantially contributed to the economic growth in the recent days.

The minister pointed out that the additional incentive to the exporters of tea, leather, shrimp, frozen good, etc, should be given preferential treatment and the existing rate of bank interest charged against loans given to exporters of those items should be reduced as far as possible. The executive director of IMF agreed with the minister on this point.

As regards withdrawal of some items of textile sector now in the control list, the minister pointed out that a large number of sudden withdrawal of textile items from the control list allowing influx of textile items into the country might paralyse domestic textile industries.

Jute mill workers to get bonus

The leaders of Bangladesh Jatiyatabadi Pat (jute) Samik Dal led by its General Secretary Mohammad Mohiuddin called on Jute Minister ASM Hannan Shah at his office Sunday, an official press release said, reports BSS.

The leaders informed the Minister of their problems including payment of weekly salary and bonus before the Eid-ul-Azha among the workers of public and private sector jute mills.

The Minister said directives had already been given to pay dearness allowance at the rate of 30 per cent with the basic pay along with Eid bonus to the labourers. Besides, necessary steps have been taken to make the temporary workers permanent within a month, he added.

The Minister said 35 per cent temporary workers would work in the spinning branches and 25 per cent in other branches of the mills against the permanent workers. But no temporary workers would be allowed to work in the weaving branches, he said.

He said directives had also been given for the maintenance and repair of 110 workers quarters damaged by the devastating fire in the Adamjee Jute Mill Saturday.

Zia first realised women's role in uplift: Badruddoza

Deputy Leader of the House Prof Badruddoza Chowdhury said in Dhaka Sunday that Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman was the first person who truly realised that womenfolk should be integrated in the national activities for attaining overall socio-economic development, reports BSS.

He was addressing a discussion on "The Contribution of Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman to the Development of Women Community and Our Responsibility" at the Shishu Academy Auditorium.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia attended the function as the chief guest.

The discussion, organised by Jatiyatabadi Mahila Dal, was presided over by its President Begum Shamsunnahar Ahsanullah. Mahila Dal Secretary General and State Minister for Social Welfare Begum Sarwar Rahman, Vice Chairman Tahmina Khan Doli, Selima Rahman MP, Farida Rahman MP, Raushan Elahi MP, Siddeswar Women's College Principal, Shams-e-Ara and writer Jubaida Gulshan Ara spoke on the occasion.

Prof Chowdhury said Shaheed Zia established Ministry of Women's Affairs, strengthened Jatiyatabadi Mahila Dal and involved the women community in all the development activities of the country.

Shishu Park to remain open during Eid holidays

Central Shishu Park will remain open for the public from 3 pm to 9 pm on Eid-ul-Azha day and from 10 am to 9 pm on subsequent two days to facilitate people to enjoy the park facilities during Eid holidays, according to a press release here Sunday, reports BSS.

'Prime task of EC to present faultless voter list'

Chief Election Commissioner Justice Mohammad Abdur Rouf Sunday said the mass media can play an effective role in formulating a faultless voter list, reports UNB.

Addressing a meeting of the high officials of Ministry of Information and different organisations under the ministry he said the prime task of the Election Commission at this moment was to present the nation a faultless voter list.

He urged the media to play a strong role in stirring the interest and awareness of the people to help formulate a faultless voter list.

The meeting was attended by, among others, Justice Syed Mesbahuddin Hossain and officials from Election Commission, Ministry of Information, Bangladesh Television, Radio Bangladesh, Information Directorate and Mass Communication Directorate, said a press release.

Obituary

Jamaat-e-Islami central working committee member Maulana Syed Mohammad Ali died of cerebral haemorrhage in a clinic in Dhaka Sunday. He was 60, reports UNB.

He was admitted to the Ibne Sina Clinic Saturday noon after he had suddenly fallen sick.

Namaz-e-Janaza for him was held at the Baitul Mukarram Mosque after Asr prayer and buried beside his residence at Dakkhinkhan Nadapara.

He left behind his wife, three sons, four daughters and a host of friends and relations. Jamaat-e-Islami Acting Amecr Abbas Ali Khan, Nayebe-Amecr Shamsur Rahman, Abul Kalam Yusuf and Secretary General Maulana Matur Rahman Nizami condoled the sudden death of Ali.

Agnibeena to make film on Nazrul

A local film production company 'Agnibeena' has undertaken a project to make a full-length feature film on national poet Kazi Nazrul Islam.

The movie to be named "Nazrul" will be produced in Bengali and in English, a press release said.

Rezaul Karim Talukder, producer of Agnibeena motion picture told BSS Sunday that they were now looking for a competent director in the west-Canada and USA—to direct the film. Work for the film's script is in progress and actual work is likely to begin in December next, he said.

The casts for the film will be from Bangladesh and India, said Talukder. He sought co-operation from all concerned to materialise what he described a monumental venture.

The producer hoped that like the film Gandhi, Nazrul would also be able to create sensation around the globe.

One stabbed to death in city

By DMCH Correspondent

A college student was stabbed to death and other two young boys including a school student sustained stab injuries near the Mirpur Stadium Sunday evening.

All of the victims were coming out of the stadium after the football match between Abahani Krira Chakra and Mohammedan Sporting Club was ended Sunday evening.

Sohag, an HSC candidate of the Dhaka City College was stabbed to death by some unidentified persons near the Mohammedan gallery of the stadium just before ending the game.

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Bangladesh Tobacco Company Limited have pleasure in informing its valued consumers and members of the cigarette trade that production in the Company's Dhaka Factory re-commenced at 6:00 a.m. on Sunday, 7th June, 1992. We very much regret inconvenience caused to our consumers and members of the trade during the last one week on account of the unfortunate closure of the factory for circumstances beyond the management's control. Normal distribution to all members of the trade channel has been resumed and it is sincerely hoped that prices of our products in the market will rapidly come down to normal level.

We thank all consumers and members of the trade for their patience in bearing with us during our temporary period of difficulty.

MARKETING MANAGER

Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology
Dhaka

Tender Notice

No P&D/LP-1(255,256&257)/91-92/D-2650(2)

Dated : 7.6.92

Sealed Tenders are hereby invited from the bonafide suppliers for supply of Micro-computer, Keyboard Panel, Compressor, Pump and Electric Motor at an estimated cost of Tk 1,78,775/-

Intending tenderers shall have to obtain permission for purchasing tender papers etc on application to the undersigned. Application must accompany GIR certificate, Trade Licence and certificate of experience about works/supplies etc from reputed organisation. Tender papers and other terms and conditions will be available from the office of the undersigned on payment of Tk 150/- (non-refundable) to the Sonali Bank, BUET branch, Dhaka. Each tender must accompany a Bank Draft or Pay Order from Nationalised Bank amounting to 5% of the quoted amount as earnest money deposited in favour of the Comptroller of this University without which no tender will be considered. Tenders must be put into the Tender Box kept for this purpose in this office up to 2-30 PM of 22.6.92 and will be opened on the same day at 2-45 PM before the tenderers present.

The University Authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders or one or more items of any tender without assigning any reason whatsoever.

No tender papers will be sold on the opening day of the tender.

Deputy Director
Planning and Development

D-315

Plan to supply quality seeds to farmers undertaken

Agriculture and Irrigation, Water Development and Flood Control Minister M Majid-ul-Haq Sunday said at Joydevpur the government had undertaken a programme of supplying the quality seeds of different crops to the farmers to increase agricultural output through public and private sectors. The minister said a national seed policy had been adopted for the purpose, reports BSS.

He was addressing the inaugural session of a two-day national seminar on seed technology, jointly sponsored by Bangladesh Agriculture Research Council and Seed Certification Agency at Joydevpur.

Presided over by the Executive Vice-Chairman, Bangladesh Agriculture Research Council (BARC), Dr Sujayct Ullah Chowdhury, the session was addressed, among others, by Agriculture Secretary KM Rabbani and Director, Seed Certification Agency AKM Tofir Uddin Siddiky.

The Minister said the government would extend and strengthen the programmes of evolving High-Yielding Varieties (HYV) of different seeds, multiplication, processing and preservation of those seeds and finally controlling quality of the seeds. He urged the private entrepreneurs to support and supplement the government efforts in this respect. He said the government would render all possible help and assistance to the private initiators for production and marketing of quality seeds.

The Seed Ordinance was promulgated in 1977 and seed law was enacted in the Parliament in 1980. All activities concerning seed are being performed under that ordinance and law.

It was learnt that the National Seed Board has so far certified 155 varieties of 33

crops. Among those crops rice, wheat, jute, sugarcane, pulse-seeds, oil seeds, fruits and vegetables are remarkable. These seeds are widely utilised by the farmers and about 15 per cent production has reportedly been increased of those crops.

One hundred fifty agriculture scientists and Extension Officers of Bangladesh Agricul-

ture Research Institute, Bangladesh Rice Research Institute, Bangladesh Jute Research Institute, Bangladesh Institute of Nuclear Agriculture, Bangladesh Sugarcane Research and Training Institute, Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation and Agriculture Extension Department are taking part in the seminar.

Jalal Ahmed nominated for Int'l Lionism

Lion Jalal Ahmed, District Governor, Lions Clubs International District 315-B Bangladesh, elected Council Chairman (1992-1993), Multiple District 315 has been unanimously nominated by the Lions of Bangladesh in the 5th Multiple District Convention held on June 5, for the office of International Director of the Lions Clubs International, says a press release.

This is the first time that candidate from Bangladesh is selected for this high office in International Lionism. In Jalal Ahmed joined Lionism in the year 1959 as a charter member of Khulna Lions Club.

20 activists of 'Nirmul' body chargesheeted in Khulna

KHULNA, June 7: Twenty activists of the local chapter of Ghatik-Dalal Nirmul Committee have been chargesheeted for killing a Chhatra Shibir leader, reports UNB.

Police have arrested six of the accused while others are at large.

Police said Amirul Islam Biman (22), GS of the BL College Student's Union, was killed by the activists of Nirmul Committee on March 23.

The city unit Secretary of Chhatra Shibir filed a case against the accused.

Weather

Day temperature may fall

By Staff Correspondent

Met office in a weather bulletin valid till 6 pm today (Monday) forecast that rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty win is likely to occur at one or two places over the regions of Rangpur, Bogra, Pabna, Tangail, Dhaka, Mymensingh, Sylhet and Chittagong. Weather is likely to remain mainly dry elsewhere over the country.

Day temperature is likely to fall by one to two degree Celsius over Dhaka and Rajshahi divisions and remain nearly unchanged elsewhere over the country, forecast Met office.

The maximum temperature in the country, 37.5 degree Celsius, was recorded in Chuadanga while the country's minimum, 21.6 degree Celsius was reported from Rangpur Sunday.

The sun sets today (Monday) at 6:45 pm and rises tomorrow (Tuesday) at 5:11 am.

Temperature and the percentage of humidity recorded in some major cities/towns Sunday were :

Dhaka	35	28	73	65
Chittagong	34	26		
Rajshahi	32.8	27.2	72	61
Khulna	35.8	26.7		
Barisal	33.4	27	84	77
Rangpur	29.1	21.6	98	82
Sylhet	32.5	26.1	78	77
Cox's Bazar	34	27.2	70	68

Eid holidays for newspapers June 11-13

All newspaper offices will remain closed on June 11, 12 and 13 on the occasion of Eid-ul-Azha, a Bangladesh Sangbadpatri Parishad (BSP) press release said here Sunday, reports BSS.

So, there