

Dhaka Day by Day

Speaker for Women's Emancipation

By Rahat Fahmida

"It is easier to bring women together through folk songs, rather than printed articles, as many of them can't even read in the villages", said Kamla Bhasin. A well-known woman activist and feminist in India for more than two decades, she recently visited Bangladesh.

Talking at a gathering in the city, she shared her long experience and enlivened the discussion by presenting a few feminist folk songs in Punjabi. Even at 46, she has stamina and the zeal to go on working as an activist. It is no exaggeration to say, feminism has overcome national boundaries to form its own alert signals and network system even in the sub-continent, through workers like Bhasin.

The explosive spread of feminism and feminist consciousness has been supported by a new body of creative work, much of it focusing on those kinds of issues by women at both academic and activist levels, Bhasin observes.

This Indian feminist's tall and slim stature confirmed her Punjabi origin. Her streaks of grey hair added colour to her composed personality. She said, women anthropologists and sociologists in India, Bangladesh and Pakistan (as in the other parts of the world), have taken a fresh look at the societies they study and the methodologies they have been taught; have uncovered the male biases in their disciplines and revealed the mainsprings of gender oppression. Women economists have examined the role of women as workers and housewives in the process of capital accumulation, and women historians continue to unearth the 'hidden history'.

Bhasin explained, together they have demonstrated how, in every patriarchal culture,



women have been oppressed and controlled by ideologies that justify and legitimise their subjection.

Feminism today has cut across class, nationality, ethnicity, religion and caste, said this Indian feminist. There is hardly any sphere of activity it has not touched: mobilising support, arousing controversy and in some cases, forcing even the political parties to face the issue of women's rights and women's liberation.

Kamla Bhasin, who over these years has attended mainly conferences, seminars, high level discussions and written a number of books on this issue said, "The wide spread male domination, the double burden of work on women, different kinds of discrimination practiced against women are not mentioned anywhere seriously."

"The qualities prescribed for women are the age-old ones of sacrifice, self-abnegation, living for others, docility, love, softness. There are stories of Sita, Savitri and Draupadi (in Hindu religion), there is

talk of places of pilgrimage. All these are considered more important and necessary than information on legal rights of women and social legislation, like minimum wages, dowry and inheritance legislation, marriage and divorce laws. Revisiting and restating the laws are an essentiality now!"

As she talked, Bhasin's confident appearance spoke of her determination. She now works for the United Nation's Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), as programme director in charge of both India and Bhutan, of their food for hunger project. She is also a writer. She was here to attend workshops organised by two non-government organisations (NGOs).

Turn tree plantation into social movement, Huda urges people

Information Minister Nazmul Huda appealed to the people to extend their total cooperation in making the tree plantation programme undertaken by the government a success, reports BSS.

Tree plantation would help face natural calamity and maintain environmental balance, the minister noted.

The minister was speaking at a tree plantation programme within the premises of Radio Bangladesh. Jointly sponsored by Radio Bangladesh and Lions Central Council District 315-A, the function was also addressed by Forest and Environment Minister Abdullah Al Noman and Lions Governor M Anwarul Haq.

Huda said Prime Minister Begum Zia has taken the tree plantation programme as her own special programme to create greater awareness among the masses for af-

orestation. The Prime Minister also asked her cabinet colleagues to work for materialising the programme by imbuing the people, he said.

Emphasising the importance of tree plantation in the present context, the Information Minister urged the people to carry out this programme in all nook and corner of the country for the development of environment and enriching forest resources.

Referring to the inadequacy of forest resources Abdullah Al Noman called for turning the tree plantation into a social movement. He asked all to extend their support in implementing this programme.

Earlier the Information Minister and Forest and Environment Minister inaugurated the programme by planting saplings within the premises of Radio Bangladesh.

Narigrantha Prabartana holds discussion

By Staff Correspondent

Narigrantha Prabartana held a discussion Sunday to share the experience of its three participants in the fifth annual feminist book fair in Munich.

Natasha Ahmed, Fahmida Begum and Syeda Kumkum represented the country's only feminist publishers at the fair where more than 200 writers, journalists, activists from 55 countries participated.

The three participants said that specialised books on women's issues were mainly published by India and Pakistan. Bangladesh, as a 'beginning', was doing well in this field, they observed.

Kamala Bhasin, a well-known woman activist from India gave a talk that enlightened the audience.

Among others, Farida Akhter, Dr Hamida Hussain, Salma Sobhan, Khurshi Kabir were present.



BTB Tuesday	
5.00	Opening announcement Al-Quran
	Programme summary
5.10	News in Bangla
5.20	Recitation from the Geeta
6.00	Shiksha Diksha
6.30	Programme on Mother and Child Health
7.05	Nazrul Songs
8.00	News in Bangla
8.40	Drama series: Shawpnor Shahar
10.00	News in English
10.25	Parliament round-up
10.35	Olympic highlights
11.40	Khobar/ The News
11.50	Wednesday's programme summary
11.55	Closing



Dhaka city shopowners held a rally in front of Press Club yesterday in protest against terrorist activities. — Star photo

BFUJ meet July 31

A meeting of the Executive Committee of the Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) will be held at 10-30 am on July 31 at the union office at Jatiya Press Club, reports BSS.

All members have been requested to attend the meeting on time.

'Steps taken to solve teachers' problems'

Education Minister Jamiruddin Sircar Monday called upon the teachers and students to plant trees on the campus of schools, colleges, madrasahs and universities for restoring ecological balance in the country, reports BSS.

He said "we want to fill up

the country with flowers and fruits through massive afforestation all-over the country."

The Education Minister was addressing a gathering of teachers and students on the occasion of tree plantation programme in the premises of Taltola Government Primary School here.

Organised by Bangladesh Government Primary School Teachers' Association, the gathering was addressed by chief adviser of the association Abu Abbas MP, and secretary-general of the association Abdul Awal Talukder. Suruzzaman presided over the function.

The Education Minister said BNP government had already launched epoch-making programme for spreading education among the mass. He said mass education and compulsory primary education programmes have been introduced to bring all people under the umbrella of education by phases. He pointed out that the government has already taken steps towards solving the problems of the teachers.

Sircar said the government had already undertaken nationalisation programme of schools and colleges at grass-roots level to facilitate education at these levels.

What's on today...

Discussion on Environment

A discussion meeting on "Afforestation and Environment: Thoughts and Spirit in Students' Community" will be held at Jahangirnagar University today (Tuesday).

The meeting, on the occasion of a tree plantation programme, will be held at the Social Science gallery of the university.

Minister for Environment, Forestry and Livestock Abdullah Al Noman will be the chief guest at the meeting.

Seminar

The atomic energy centre will hold a seminar on 'High field effects and plasma instabilities in solid state devices' today (Tuesday) at the centre auditorium beginning at 10:00 am.

Professor M Z Anwar, of the state university of California at Long Beach and a TOKTEN consultant, will present the keynote paper.

Workshop on Betel Leaf

A two-day workshop on "Research and development of betel leaf" begins today (Tuesday) at 12:00 pm at the Bangladesh Agriculture Research Council (BARC) auditorium in Dhaka.

Commerce Minister M K Anwar will attend the workshop as chief guest while Agriculture Minister K M Rabbani will preside.

Rotary Club of Dhaka

The regular weekly meeting of Rotary Club of Dhaka will be held today (Tuesday) at 5:30 pm at Sheraton Hotel, Dhaka.

Sams Kibria, former Executive Secretary of ESCAP, will speak on "Social, political and economic issues of Bangladesh, in the light of experiences of South and South-East Asia."

Asiatic Society

The sixth monthly general meeting of the Asiatic Society of Bangladesh for 1992 and 1993 will be held today (Tuesday) at 4:30 pm at the seminar room of the society at Nimitali, Dhaka.

Eminent educationist Prof Muhammad Nurul Karim will deliver a talk on "Campus in the days — past and present." President of the society Prof A K M Nurul Islam will preside.

Death Anniversary of Charu Majumder

Organising committee for observance of 20th death anniversary of Communist leader Charu Majumder will hold a rally and a cultural function at the TSC road island today (Tuesday) at 4:00 pm.

Rotary Club of Dhaka Ramna

The regular weekly meeting of Rotary Club of Ramna will be held today (Tuesday) at 5:30 pm at Hotel Sheraton.

Luis Bunuel retrospective

A five-day retrospective of the Spanish film-maker Luis Bunuel begins at the Alliance Francaise Auditorium in Dhaka today (Tuesday) at 6:00 pm.

Noted film maker and journalist Obaidul Haq will open the retrospective, organised by Rainbow Film Society.

Rotary Club of Motijheel

The regular weekly meeting of the Rotary Club of Motijheel will be held today (Tuesday) at 5:30 pm at Hotel Purbani. Rtn Hafizullah will speak on group study exchange programme as guest speaker.

Programme on Management Audit

A one-day management programme on Management Audit will be held today (Tuesday) at 9:30 am at Hotel Purbani International.

Sponsored by Rapport Bangladesh Limited, the programme will be conducted by A P Roy Chowdhury — an eminent management expert from India.

Weather

Rain with gusty wind likely

By Staff Correspondent

Weather forecast for the next 24 hours commencing 6 am today (Tuesday) says moderate rain or shower accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely to occur at most places over Khulna, Chittagong and Dhaka divisions and at many places over Rajshahi division.

Day temperature is likely to fall by one to three degree Celsius over the country.

Heavy rainfall warning: heavy falls may occur at one or two places over Chittagong-Khulna divisions and the regions of Dhaka, Faridpur and Pabna today (Tuesday).

The Met office forecasts, rainfall activities may decrease within two days.

The country experienced rainfall at few places Monday. The chief amounts of rainfall recorded in 12 hours from 6 am to 6 pm were: 42mm at Teknaf, 25mm Faridpur, 22mm Jessore, 11mm Chandpur, 14mm, Cox's Bazar and 13mm Barisal.

The maximum temperature of 33.5 degree Celsius was reported from Sylhet Monday and the minimum of 24.1 degree Celsius reported from Ferni.

The sun sets today at 6.44 pm and rises tomorrow at 5.26 am. The maximum and the minimum temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns of the country Monday were:

Cities/Towns	Temperature in degree Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	9 am	6 pm
Dhaka	31.3	27.0	79	78
Chittagong	32.0	24.5	72	69
Rajshahi	30.0	26.2	82	88
Khulna	30.0	26.0	85	85
Kutubdia	33.0	26.5	89	93
Sylhet	33.5	25.6	73	84
Dinajpur	31.8	25.2	82	88
Comilla	32.0	25.4	73	89

CONGRATULATION

Our heartfelt Congratulation to Mr Manzoor Elahi, Proprietor Sharif & Co. for being awarded with the Scientist Sir Jagadish Chandra Bose Memorial Gold Medal for his valuable Contribution in the field of Industry.

Engineering Enterprise
36 DIT Road, Dhaka

Best Wishes
to
Bhomba & Gutubug
on their new journey
— The Messiah Group

Happy Birthday
to

SUHANY
Aboo, Mam & Shanta

Tutul and Ruma
Let's view the world
Thru' The New Glasses.
Friends in Journalism Department, DU.

EDUCATION IN BRITAIN

Mr David Game, of the DAVID GAME COLLEGE GROUP, will visit Bangladesh August 7-10 to interview and inform students about the following courses in the UK:

- * "A" Levels, Foundation Courses & GCSE
- * Degree Courses in Law & Accountancy
- * Management, Marketing & Abcountancy (ABE, CIM, CIMA, IAT)
- * Hotel Management (AHMA)
- * Travel & Tourism (IATA)
- * Computing & Secretarial Studies
- * Art, Fashion and Design

Interviews at The British Council, Dhaka on Fri 7, Sat 8 & Sun 9th August 1992
Everyday 10 am to 1 pm & 3 pm to 6 pm.

For an appointment telephone (Sat-Wed):
Mr M A Wadud at 240105-6, 243161 (9am-5pm)

The British Council

শোক সংবাদ

মুহুমিতা ক্রমের স্বামীস্বামী মরহুম মোঃ সিরাজ উদ্দিন সাহেবের জ্যেষ্ঠ পুত্র জনাব মোঃ সালাউদ্দিন (ফারুক) গতকাল বেলা ২টার সময় ডেউকা মেডিক্যাল সেন্টারে হৃদরোগে আক্রান্ত হইয়া শেষ নিঃশ্বাস ত্যাগ করেন (ইল্লাল্লাহুে... রাজ্জেন্না)। মৃত্যুকালে তাহার বয়স ছিল ৪৬ বৎসর। মৃত্যুকালে তিনি স্ত্রী, ৪ কন্যা, তিন ভাই, ২ বোন এবং বহু আত্মীয়-স্বজন ও গণপ্ৰাণী রাখিয়া গিয়াছেন। তাহার আত্মার মাগফেরাত কামনা করে সকলের নিকট দোয়া প্রার্থনা করছি।

কিনীত—
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