

# Dhaka Day by Day

## The Vanishing Breed

by Parveen Anam

That the world is male-dominated, is an accepted fact. The male of the species not only firmly believes in this undeniable fact, he is always out on the warpath, to prove it. If it needs to be proved, that is. But somehow the male seems convinced it does. That's all very well. If he has an ego which he needs to satisfy at regular intervals, the problem is his.

The problem starts when he sets out to prove it to the female of the species. As if she is ever given a chance to forget it. Morning, evening and night, she is subtly reminded, first by her mother and then by her mother-in-law, that the male is superior and no two ways about it. If a female can perform a task brilliantly, the male can perform it even better. And most females, out of compulsion, seem to accept the unalterable fact. But, what never fails to surprise the weak minded poor little female is the fact that not only does he want to prove his superiority, he has to be rude about it in the bargain.

Ask the male a perfectly simple question; instead of answering in an equally simple manner, he will jump at your throat. It takes so little to get his back-up, you seriously wonder, how he can ever think rationally. As the poor feeble minded female is rushing around trying to fit in just about everything he wants done, in a 24-hour cycle, he sits there, expecting to be waited on hand and foot. Request him to look after the baby for a couple of hours while you attend that very important meeting and the look he will give you is enough to convince you that you have your ears sprouting out of your nose.



Women, at some point, like a bit of courtesy. The qualities of the gentlemen seem to be a thing of the past. Knights in shining armour perhaps the woman does not expect, but the basic courtesy of getting to one's feet when the lady walks in, is apparently too much to expect nowadays.

The arrogance of most of the male members of humanity seems to totally overcome their basic gentlemanly quality. The 'gentleman' as described in the dictionary, seems to be an endangered species, in our lovely city. The male somehow confused it with his ego and forgot all about it. The woman is not complaining, of course, but she does suffer in silence, when the language matches the inflated ego.

The presence of the female, apparently, is no reason for the men to mind their utterances. If anything, it almost seems as though they have to put on their macho act even further and use language which would make a sailor blush. But of course there is no sailor present. It is only the lowly female.

Old-fashioned ideas of opening doors for the lady or pulling out the chair for her is so obsolete it falls in the 'fossil' category. If the poor female even vaguely expects it she should have her head examined, the male will arrogantly inform her. And since actions certainly speak louder than words, he will also prove it to her by his very rude behaviour. There is no denying the fact that the 'gentleman' is a species which is just as threatened and about to be extinct as any other breed the environmentalists shout about.

## Democratic system stumbles every moment: DU VC

Acting Vice Chancellor of Dhaka University Prof Emazuddin Ahmed yesterday said, although a democratic system had been established in the country, it was stumbling every moment, reports UNB.

"We're now passing through a transitional period in our national life," the VC told a seminar on "Philosophy, Democratic Values and Bangladesh."

Prof Abul Kashem Chowdhury and Dr Pradip Ray presented the keynote paper on the topic.

Bangladesh Philosophical Association organised the seminar on the occasion of its 20th anniversary of founding at TSC. University's elderly teacher and Emeritus Professor

Dr Sirajul Haq addressed the function as chief guest. Presided over by Principal Dewan Mohammad Azof, the inaugural function was also addressed by association president Prof Aminul Islam, Dr Kamal Hossain, National Professor Nurul Islam, Barrister Motinul Husein, Prof Syed Abdur Razzak and Prof Kazi Nurul Islam.

Prof Emazuddin said democratic system was time and again jeopardized here, but the people were not responsible for it. "Democrats are the big enemies of democracy."

He called upon the conscious section of society, especially the philosophers, to come forward to strengthen

and ensure proper practice of democracy.

Dr Kamal said if the government failed to enforce law neutrally, the democratic system would founder. He called for neutral application of law.

"Differences among the political leaders are yawning day by day in the country, and there is no consistency between our words and deeds," said the eminent lawyer and called upon all to abide by the constitution.

Dr Kamal vehemently criticised teachers activities, saying "they can do anything in elections to bag a post."

Social maladies can be healed if there be no inconsistency between words and works of the teachers, he said.

## Elections to 92 pourashavas Jan 16

Election to 92 pourashavas will be held on January 16 next for a five-year term. Election Commission announced Wednesday, reports UNB.

According to the election schedule announced in a gazette notification, nomination papers will have to be submitted to Returning Officers on December 19. Scrutiny will be held on December 20.

December 26 has been set as the last date for withdrawal of candidature.

Election to the remaining 14 out of the country's total 106 pourashavas will be held later on because of pending delimitation process, EC sources said.

## HERE and THERE

**EPI**  
Expanded Immunisation Programme (EPI) has been geared up in six thanas of Potaakhali district in the current year, reports UNB.

Official sources said out of a target of about 3,05,618 children, so far about 1,65,000 children have been brought under the programme during the period between January and October this year.

The local coordinator of the EPI Dr Subash Chandra said, activities on the programme gained momentum and received encouraging response from the people of the district.

**ABC**  
The 15th annual general meeting of Assistance for Blind

Children (ABC) was held recently in which a 11 member Executive Committee for the year '93-'94 was elected.

Nurul Islam Khan was elected President, Munira Khan Senior Vice President, Nilufer Mahmud Vice President, ZBM Bakht General Secretary, Raushan Ahmed Treasurer, Muhammad Nurul Alam Assistant General Secretary and AB Siddique, Sulaiman Chaudhury and Abdul Quayum were elected Executive Members.

**BTV**  
Friday  
Morning Session

8.00 Opening announcement  
Al-Quran Programme summary  
8.10 News in Bangla  
8.15 Alore Dishari  
8.40 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles  
9.05 Khelar Jagat  
9.30 Film show  
10.00 News in English  
10.05 Shingapattak  
11.15 The Girl From Tomorrow  
11.45 Documentary film  
12.15 Closing.

**Evening Session**  
3.00 Opening announcement  
Al-Quran Programme summary  
3.12 Recitation from the Tripitak  
3.15 Cartoon: Return of the Degastrium  
3.40 Full length Bengali Film  
5.10 News in Bangla  
7.05 Sangeeta  
8.00 News in Bangla  
8.30 Comedy Series: Perfect Strangers  
9.00 Kichhukhan  
10.00 News in English  
10.30 Dipta Chetanay  
10.50 Drama Series: L A law  
11.30 Khabar/The News  
11.45 Closing.



Dr Kamal Hossain addressing the discussion organised by Bangladesh Medical Association in observance of Dr Milon Day in the Dhaka Medical College premises yesterday. — Star photo

## Finance Minister slates incompetent production Cost consciousness can help survival of exporters

Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman said here yesterday cost consciousness and quality, not the fiscal benefits from the government, could ensure survival of Bangladeshi exporters in the highly competitive international market, reports UNB.

"You won't increase export by cutting the Finance Minister's income through reduced interest rates or other ways you should remove the structural rigidities in your production that make your produce costlier," he said.

Inaugurating a seminar on "Duty Exemption and Drawback" at a local hotel yesterday morning, the Finance Minister said, "Market now dictates your price, so your fate will be determined by your entrepreneurial ability to make products competitive."

Duty Exemption and Drawback Office (DEDO) arranged the seminar in collaboration with USAID and the World Bank to explain to exporters the technicalities and regulations of duty drawback, an incentive scheme to export sector in which an exporter gets back the duty he pays on

his raw material imports. The Finance Minister lamented that cost competitiveness was yet to be restored in the country's productive arena—both in the public and private sector. "This is a major hurdle before export," he said.

In Bangladesh, neither the government nor the private sector is perfect, he said suggesting that both the sectors should be rationalised. In this context, he referred to an official analysis which reveals that private sector jute mills are not doing better than those in the public sector.

Saifur stressed on reforms in labour market by establishing a link between wage and productivity which, he said, is a vital factor in competitive production.

The Finance Minister was very critical of the 'incompetent production' that has been exploiting consumers for years. "Why a kilogram of sugar costs Tk 30 in Bangladesh and Tk 20 in India? Propensity of profit making has become a culture in Bangladesh and consumers have been the victim of this tendency."

The inaugural function was also addressed by NBR Chairman Dr Moshur Rahman, Long-term Adviser of the Export Development Project Dr Kabir Uddin Ahmed, USAID official Dr James L Mudge and DEDO Director General Saiful Islam Khan.

DEDO officials said it has settled claims of Tk 90 crore to exporters since its establishment and at present it doesn't have any pending cases.

## Huda back home

Information Minister Barrister Nazmul Huda returned yesterday morning after a five-day official visit to Bahrain at the invitation of the Government of Bahrain, reports BSS.

The Information Minister led a four-member Bangladesh delegation which included Anisul Haq Chowdhury, Director General of Bangladesh Television, DP Barua, Managing Director and Chief Editor of Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha and Qazi Humayun Azad Bokhsh, Deputy Secretary of the Ministry of Information.

During his stay in Bahrain, the Minister called on Ameer of Bahrain Shaikh Isa Bin Salman Al Khalifa, Crown Prince and Commander in Chief of Bahrain Defence Forces Shaikh Hamid Bin Isa Al Khalifa, Prime Minister Shaikh Salman Al Khalifa, Minister of Health, Minister of Commerce, Minister of Law and Assistant Under Secretary for Immigration and Passport. He discussed with them issues on bilateral cooperation.

## Education vehicle for progress, says Sadek

State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadek Hossain yesterday called upon the students to build them up as worthy citizens of the country, reports BSS.

The state minister was speaking as chief guest at the installation ceremony of Kabi Nazrul Government College Students Union here. Presided over by Principal of the college Professor Abdus Shahid, the function was also addressed by Salauddin Ahmed, MP.



Police guarding Eden College premises yesterday following clashes between two student groups on Wednesday. — Star photo

## Siege for TV station observed in Khulna

KHULNA, Nov 26: A two-hour siege programme was observed yesterday at the Picture Palace crossing of the town to press home the demand for setting up a full-fledged Television station in Khulna, reports UNB.

People from all walks of life assembled at the crossing and blocked the main Sabur Khan road from 10 am to 12 noon.

Later at a rally, the speakers demanded immediate realisation of their demand.

## Friendship trade team to visit China Dec 12

A 3-member friendship trade delegation Bangladesh-China People's Friendship Association will leave here for a two week visit to China December 12, reports UNB.

During their stay the delegation led by Syed Mahmudul Huq will explore possibilities of strengthening further economic and trade ties under private sector, said a press release yesterday.

## Weather

### Night temperature may fall

Dry weather will prevail over the country during the next 36 hours commencing 6 pm Thursday, meteorological office forecast. Night temperature is likely to fall by 1-2 degree Celsius during the period throughout the country.

Country's lowest temperature recorded on Thursday in Sri Mangla was 11.6 degree Celsius and the highest 28.8 in Sathkira.

The sun sets today (Friday) at 5-11 pm and rises tomorrow (Saturday) at 6-23 am.

Temperature and humidity recorded in important cities and towns on Thursday were:

Cities /Towns	Temperature in degree Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	9 am	6 pm
Dhaka	27.4	25.5	70	77
Chittagong	27.6	17.0	90	72
Rajshahi	27.4	14.5	81	85
Khulna	27.8	15.6	80	-
Barisal	22.8	15.4	78	87
Cox's Bazar	28.2	18.5	78	78
Sylhet	28.0	14.3	72	67
Dinajpur	27.0	14.0	86	75

## Govt firm to hold retrial of Milon's killers if law permits

By DMCH Correspondent

Social Welfare and Women Affairs Minister Tariqul Islam said yesterday that the government was determined to hold retrial of the killers of Dr Shamsul Alam Khan Milon if there was any scope to revive the case in the court of law and sought cooperation of the lawyers in this regard.

Addressing a discussion on the 'Role of professionals in the mass movement of 1990' in the Dhaka Medical College premises, the Minister announced that the construction of a Mausoleum and an auditorium after Dr Milon's name would be completed within this year.

Organised by the Bangladesh Medical Association

(BMA), the discussion was also participated among others, by Deputy Leader of the Opposition Abdu Samad Azad, Democratic Forum Convener Dr Kamal Hossain, Deputy Minister of Health and Family Welfare Sirajul Haque, lawyers Barrister Ishtiaq Ahmed and Shamsul Haq Chowdhury, PSC Chairman, Prof Yeazuddin Ahmed, JSD leader Hasanul Huq Inu, Milon's mother Selina Akhter, journalists Payez Ahmed and BMA General Secretary Dr Gazi Abdul Haque.

Dr Kamal Hossain asked the Home Minister to resign if he was unable to nab and try the killers of Dr Milon.

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