

Dhaka Day by Day

Throwing off the Shackles

by S Bari

The two men had a hazardous job. To monitor gatherings that smacked of seditious, revolutionary intent, meetings that threatened the stability of the state. Today's assignment for our two Special Branch heroes was a meeting that was plotting, of all the explosive, anti-democratic things, the proper treatment of women.

It was an exhibition on violence against women, organized by Oikyobaddho Naari Samaj. Begum Sultana Kamal opened the show, and speakers included Ayesha Khanum, Secretary of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad, and lawyer Sigma Huda.

Posters and a small selection of publications on the topic were the major attraction. An o Saalish Kendra's excellent booklet 'Let's learn about the law' was available. Simple sketches accompany a straight forward explanation of a woman's rights under Islamic law. Areas covered particularly well are child marriage and divorce proceedings. Mahila Parishad had on display a number of books dealing with Begum Rokeya.

Various pamphlets of statistical and analytical studies on violence against women were for sale, but the most recent of these only went up to 1985. When asked, one researcher in the subject said that more up-to-date studies do exist but have not appeared on the market yet.

When exhibitions on topics such as these include posters, you can be sure subtlety is not the watchword. It's the old Art versus Social Relevance argument: invariably leading to a defeat of artistic endeavour. Most of the posters were predictably of women hanging by their necks, impaled on fences, beaten, mutilated, bodies piled indiscriminately in rooms.

This depiction has two flaws. Newspapers regularly print such pictures, ostensibly as a dangerous dream as getting a decent deal out of life. The very presence of those two men proves that the security and humane treatment of women is a political issue.

One poster sums up all oppressions and all the justifications, and pulls off the Art meets Social Relevance act: a woman kneels, and piled on her bent back are the Bible, the Quran, the Gita, and books on the laws of the state that discriminate against her. The system expects that their combined weight will keep her down, but the exhibition was part of the hope that she will throw these books off her back.

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'Atmosphere for foreign investment created'

CHITTAGONG, Dec 5: Konei Kajikawa leader of the 12 member Investment Survey Mission and Chairman of Nishio Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Japan said here today that a congenial atmosphere for foreign investment had been created by Bangladesh government through its market economy and liberal industrial policy, reports BSS.

Kajikawa was exchanging views with members of Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry at the Chamber House here today.

The Investment Survey Mission is exploring investment opportunity in Bangladesh. The mission has already visited Dhaka.

Kajikawa noted with satisfaction that 11 Japanese industrial units had now been set up in the Chittagong Export Processing Zone, while two years back there were only two such units. We see a favourable investment climate in Bangladesh, he added.

The survey mission leaders pointed out that Japan was experiencing some sort of economic recession and as such she would have to recast her foreign investment policy. Japan, he said, would go for increased foreign investment to narrow down its trade gaps with various countries.

He also said that he would be happy to see Bangladesh as a competitive market for investment in South East Asia.

He commended introduction of Dhaka-Nagoya Biman service saying introduction of Chittagong-Tokyo air service would further facilitate expansion of trade relationship between the two countries.

Govt cooperation to run voluntary bodies urged

Speakers at a discussion meeting on the occasion of the International Volunteers Day Saturday called for sincere co-operation from the government to run voluntary organisations more effectively, reports UNB.

The voluntary organisations were rendering services to the society working side by side with government organisations amid adverse situations, they pointed out.

Commitment, a voluntary organisation, organised the discussion meeting at its head office.

Former VC of the Dhaka University and member of Public Service Commission Dr Abdul Mannan was the chief guest at the meeting presided over by Abul Kalam Azad.

Referring to the contribution of the voluntary organisation in socio-economic development of the country and for distressed humanity the speakers called for relentless effort from all quarters to overcome the hindrances towards implementation of uplift programmes.

The meeting was addressed, among others, by Vice President of the organisation Amena Nawaz.



Sunday

- 5.00 Opening announcement
- Al-Quran
- Programme summary
- 5.10 News in Bangla
- 5.20 Recitation from the Bible
- 5.30 Sports programme
- 6.30 Open University
- 7.05 Tagore songs
- 8.00 News in Bangla
- 8.30 Probaba
- 9.00 Drama series: Oshin
- 10.00 News in English
- 10.25 Deepa Chetana
- 11.30 Khabar/The News
- 11.40 Monday's programme summary
- 11.45 Closing

Weather

Dry weather likely

By Staff Correspondent

Weather is likely to remain dry over the country during the next 24 hours commencing 6 am today (Sunday).

The Met office forecasts, night temperature is likely to fall by one to two degree Celsius across the country.

The Met office adds, night temperature may fall further after two days.

The minimum of 11.0 degree Celsius temperature was reported from Srimangal and the maximum of 28.5 degree was reported from Kutubdia yesterday (Saturday).

The sun sets today at 5.11 pm and rises tomorrow at 6.28 am.

The maximum and the minimum temperature and humidity of some of the major cities and towns of the country yesterday were:

Cities/Towns	Temperature in degree	Celsius Humidity in percentage
	Mix	9 am 6 pm
Dhaka	27.0 16.1	72 55
Chittagong	27.2 18.4	87 72
Rajshahi	27.0 14.6	80 77
Khulna	27.0 15.5	81 83
Cox's Bazar	28.0 18.4	82 74
Sylhet	26.0 14.7	77 70
Dinajpur	24.1 11.4	88 88
Barisal	24.7 15.4	87 81



Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal brought out a procession in the city yesterday on the occasion of Democracy Day.

— Star photo

Speakers at a seminar

Code of ethics for newsmen should not be dictated

By Staff Correspondent

Minister, politician and journalists in a seminar Saturday said that there should be a code of ethics for the journalists but it should not be dictated by the government.

A code of ethics can ensure objectivity of newspapers as well as press freedom but if the government formulate that ethics there are possibilities of government control over the newspaper industry.

Information Minister Nazmul Huda, Awami League General Secretary Zillur Rahman, Five-party leader Nirmal Sen, Secretary General of Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists Amanullah Kabir, Chairman of Dhaka University Journalism Department Dr Golam Rahman, Editor of Banglabazar Patrika Matir Rahman Chowdhury and President of Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ) Shajahan Mia discussed at the seminar on 'Ethics of journalism and our newspaper' at the Teachers-Students Centre (TSC).

Prof Sakawat Ali Khan presented the key-note paper at the seminar organised by Dhaka University Journalist Association (DUJA) Acting Vice-chancellor of the University Enajuddin Ahmed chaired the seminar.

Some of the speakers said that most of the newspapers were not following the basic norms of journalism like objectivity and credibility. Some blamed mushroom growth of newspapers for not following even the unwritten ethics drawn by the newspapermen.

Prof Khan in his paper said that so far there was no code of ethics for the journalists in our country. Most of the journalists mostly new comers followed their seniors to learn

Kamal elected Vice Chairman of ICN

Bangladesh Minister for Health and Family Welfare, Chowdhury Kamal ibne Yusuf, has been elected a Vice chairman of the International Conference on Nutrition (ICN) now being held in Rome according to a message received here, reports BSS.

The conference, jointly sponsored by the FAO and the WHO began with the gracious presence of his holiness the Pope John Paul II.

NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES
The containerised cargo ex. M.V. DSR ROSTOCK V-EE248 from Rotterdam and Containers from Singapore have been relayed to M. V. KOTA BUANA V-KBN245 Imp. Rot. No. 917/92 is due to arrive Chittagong on or about 05-12-92 from Singapore.
Consignees are requested to take delivery of their cargo from FCL containers within 5 days free time from the date of landing and if cargo not cleared within 45 days will be guided by Customs Act.

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Commemorative stamps on SAARC summit released

Bangladesh Post Office has brought out a set of two commemorative stamps of Taka 10 and Taka 6.00 denominations and a first day cover valued Taka 5.00 on the occasion of seventh SAARC summit 1992, reports BSS.

Prime Minister Begum Khadeja Zia formally released the stamps at a simple ceremony at her Secretariat here yesterday.

Foreign Minister ASM Mostafizur Rahman, Minister for Post and Telecommunications Mohammad Keramat Ali, Chairman, seventh SAARC Summit Preparatory Committee Faruq Ahmed Chowdhury, Secretary, Ministry of Post and Telecommunications Dr Shawkat Ali and Director General, Bangladesh Post Office Muhiuddin Ahmed were, among others, present on the occasion.

The stamps and first day cover will be sold from all GPOs and head post offices all over the country.

The stamps were designed by Mahabub Akond and Nurul Islam.

The South Asian Association for Regional cooperation (SAARC) embodies the desire and determination of the people of South Asia to cooperate regionally and to work together towards finding solutions to their common problems in a spirit of friendship, trust and understanding.

Dr Qamruzzaman off to Geneva

Dr A K M Qamruzzaman, MP, President, Doctors' Association of Bangladesh left Dhaka yesterday for Geneva to participate in the World Drug Conference at the invitation of World Health Organisation, a press release said, reports BSS.

Dr Zaman, who is also an eminent psychiatrist, will represent Bangladesh at the conference to be held on December 7-9.

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Bangladesh Postal Department released a first day cover and two stamps marking the seventh SAARC summit.

— PID photo

What's on today . . .

Founding Anniversary of Sandhani

The 8th founding anniversary of Sandhani Jatiya Chokkhudhan Samity will be observed today (Sunday) at 9-30 am at BIRDEM at Shahbagh through a discussion meeting and distribution of white cane.

Works Minister Barrister Rafiqul Islam Mia will attend the function as chief guest while Brig Zahir Uddin Ahmed, Director of Dhaka Medical College Hospital and Chairman of Lions Foundation Humayun Zahir will be present as the special guests.

Open discussion on Drama

An open discussion on 'Our Drama Practices: Expected Audience, Prospects and Problems' will be held today (Sunday) at 4 pm at the TSC of Dhaka University under the auspices of Drama Department of the university in collaboration with Nirikkha, a drama group.

Drama artistes — Ali Zaker, Muhammad Jahangir, Biplab Bala, Wahida Malik, Ashish Khandaker, Jamil Ahmed and Sazzad Sharif will participate in the discussion.

Documentary on Women in Development

The inaugural show of Tale of a Woman, a documentary on women in development, will be held today (Sunday) at 5 pm at the German Cultural Centre.

Protishabda Alternative Communication Centre (PACC) produced the documentary while Zakir Hossain Raju was the Director.

... and tomorrow

Publication ceremony

The publication ceremony of a book titled 'Album: Nine years of Autocracy' will be held tomorrow (Monday) at 3 pm at the National Press Club under the auspices of Bangladesh Human Rights Commission.

The book contained over one hundred photographs taken by the Chief Photographer of The Daily Star AKM Mohsin during the autocratic regime of Ershad.

Awami League Chief and Leader of the Opposition in the Parliament Sheikh Hasina will attend the function as chief guest.

Chairman of the commission Justice KM Sobhan will preside over the function. The function will also include an exhibition of photographs of Mohsin.