

# Dhaka Day by Day

## The Male of The Species

by Parveen Anam

Whether Adam was meant to be superior to Eve when they were thrown out of the heavenly garden of Eden, is a highly debatable issue. At least with the feminists it certainly is at the moment, who are rightly up in arms at the male domination of the world. There is no two way about it but the female of the species is considered by the male to be a dim-witted, half literate moron capable at best of waiting on him hand and foot.

Not only does he think so, he also acts in ways which prove in the long run his own rather narrow perspective of things. And never is his limited intelligence more evident than when it comes to leaving the shores of our beloved land for the wonders of the yonder world.

Once in a while, you do come across the odd female who has the gall to travel by her lonesome self into the terrors of the wild, wild world and those are the unfortunate few who the superior species of mankind love. A woman travelling by herself, on business? Horrors. What is the world coming to, is the general consensus. The weaker gender is supposed to be hibernating at home with the brave male protecting her zealously from the armed marauders, determined to snatch both her bag and her chastity. And when this same species is determined to explore the domain outside her four walls the other kind cannot take it.

Ask any woman who has wanted to travel in mankind's most clever invention, the airplane and civilized society would be appalled at the audacity of the superiority of the superior species. There she is, all set to go off on her hectic schedule of the seminar or conference or whatever and lands up at the airport papers ready, passport in hand. That man behind the desk at the immigration counter, does a double somersault at the horrid prospect of one of his weaker member of the teeming millions

being audacious enough to even think she could embark on any such mission. Not if he can help it, she is not in his resolution. The fun has only just begun. For him; for her it's a nightmare with her in the role of the villain.

Awkward question after awkward question follow. Is she being accompanied by a male, is the most favourite question of the lot. And if she is not, could she have a 'No Objection Certificate' from her husband (if she claims she is married) claiming he does not mind her travelling alone out of the country? Her stuttering and indignation leads to his rephrasing his question. If she does not have a husband, could she have her travel documents signed by her father? Oh, he is dead. Well perhaps she could have it attested by her son. The fact that the child might be a wee thing of seventeen and a half months is a fact which does not seem to impress him. Ah ha. If she has a seventeen and a half month old child at home, she should certainly be home looking after him. All this mind you is said in a most patronising tone as when one is talking to either a child or an imbecile. In this case that little man probably thinks the woman he is

so gallantly harrasing is the latter. And of course the entire exercise is one to prove both to himself and to his loved ones that he has only the best interest of the moron at heart. The moron who does not know what perils await her if she steps out of the shadow of her lord and master. It does not matter to the peabrain in all his glory that female is probably perfectly capable of looking after herself. She has after all grown up in a world inhabited by the knights in their shining armours and knows the ropes perfectly. If anything is that little man in his uniform who is so passionately being perfectly rude and awful, who needs to be protected. From himself.

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Noorjahan Siraj, wife of Shaheed Sirajuddin Hossain, addressing the publication ceremony of a book at the National Press Club auditorium yesterday. Sitting from left: Sakhina Khondker, Panna Kaiser, Iftikhar Kazal, Haroon Habib and Mahfuz Anam. — Star photo

## 'Rise of anti-liberation forces pricks conscience of posterity'

By Staff Correspondent

Mingling of the history of independence with party politics created a lot of 'confusion' and sometimes cause dishonour to our liberation heroes, speakers at a publication ceremony pointed out Monday.

Rise of the anti-liberation forces after 21 years of independence pricked the conscience at least of the new generation which vowed to resist the defeated force to convey due honour to our heroes, they also said at the publication ceremony of the book titled 'Muktijuddhe Shaheed Sangbadik-Smritikatha' at the National Press Club auditorium.

Organised by the 'Raktarin' (legacy of blood) which published the book containing the memories of 14 journalists, the meeting was addressed by BSS Special Correspondent Haroon Habib, The Daily Star Executive Editor Mahfuz Anam and BBC's Bangladesh Correspondent Ataus Samad.

Panna Kaiser, wife of Shaheed Journalist Shaheed Sirajuddin Hossain, wife of Shaheed Journalist Sirajuddin Hossain, and Sakina Khandaker, daughter of Shaheed Journalist Khandaker Abu Taleb recalled their dear ones on the occasion. Engineer Iftikhar Kazal chaired the meeting.

A sombre atmosphere

gripped the ceremony when a number of martyr family members started weeping demanding trial of the killers. It was the third publication of the new organisation 'Raktarin' which earlier published books on martyred engineers and martyred doctors.

Haroon Habib regretted that the journalists could not pay due honour to their predecessors, which the new organization could.

He proposed to Press Club authorities, the BFW and DUJ to set up a memorial stone comprising the name of martyred journalists in front of the National Press Club which was seconded by another speaker.

Mahfuz Anam said that the pro-liberation forces should clear the point to the people that they (pro-liberation power) were not against Islam or any religious spirit.

The Jamaat-e-Islami propagated that if the pro-liberation forces assume power, Islam will be at stake. They almost succeeded in convincing the people who gave them 18 seats in the Parliament, he added.

"I am confused of how a total achievement (political and military) started fading away," Anam said.

Ataus Samad said that what the martyrs did then, did for their mother, for their country. If needed the new genera-

tion would do so again, he hoped.

Panna Kaiser alleged that the martyred journalists were never remembered by the Press Club authorities and their family members were never invited in any function of the Press Club.

She said that the new generation would not go back home before the trial of the killers and collaborators including Golam Azam.

The name of the martyred journalists contained in the books are: Shaheedul Kaiser (Joint Editor Sangbad), Sirajuddin Hossain (Executive Editor, Ittefaq), Nizamuddin Ahmed (Correspondent, BBC), A N M Golam Mostofa (Literary Editor, Dainik Purbadesh), Syed Nazmul Haq (Chief Reporter, PPI), Abu Syed (Rajshahi Bureau Chief, Dainik Azad), Shaheed Saber (Asstt. Editor, Sangbad), Chisti Shah Helalur Rahman (DU Correspondent, Azad), Abul Bashir Chowdhury (Morning News), Khandoker Abu Taleb (Feature Editor, Dainik Paigam), Sheikh Habibur Rahman (Jhettidah Correspondent of different national dailies), S A Mannan (Observer), Muhammad Akter (Weekly Lalana) and Selina Parveen (Editor, Shilalipi).

## Health hazards on increase: Kamal

Health and Family Welfare Minister Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yusuf said the government was committed to the development and proper health education to the rural people to achieve social and economic uplift on the country, reports BSS.

The Minister was speaking as chief guest at the inauguration of the week-long motivational exhibition on the health education activities of the Health Education Bureau at Char Bhadrason Thana Health Complex under Faridpur District Sunday.

Presided over by Civil Surgeon Faridpur the function was also addressed by Deputy Director (Health), Dhaka Division, Chief of Health Education Bureau and DC Faridpur.

Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yusuf warned that with the population explosion, the health problems were increasing extensively. In the context of present socio-economic

condition and limitation of resources, it had become difficult to extend medicare by providing additional doctors, nurses, paramedics and other resources, he said adding: under this circumstances, the health education workers could play a vital role in country's over all health system.

The Health Minister said, a country like Bangladesh where illiteracy, poverty and malnutrition were the main barriers to creating awareness about the disease, mass media could play a vital role in making people conscious about the primary health care. In this regard, he urged all to make coordinated efforts to combat any sort of health hazards.

**AFFIDAVIT FOR CHANGE OF NAME**  
I (Narayan Chandra Modak, S/O Gopal Chandra Modak, KUTI, B. Baria) am a Physician by profession and have some Medical publications, books wherein I have been named as Dr. Suman Chowdhury. I have decided to change my name from Narayan Chandra Modak to Suman Chowdhury. That in future I shall be known and named as Suman Chowdhury in all purposes and in my S. C. C. H. S. C. Medical Certificates, Marksheets, Registration etc. my name shall be corrected as Suman Chowdhury.

## Saudi envoy meets Mannan

Saudi Charge d' Affaires in Bangladesh Ali Ahmed Abdul Wahab called on the State Minister for Religious Affairs Prof M A Mannan at the latter's secretariat office chamber yesterday, reports BSS.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**  
TO  
**KHALID BHAI & PAPPU**

**Shahed & Daizy**

**PIANO RECITAL**  
E. Frieser, Salzburg and D. Sequi, Venice present classical works to four hands on Friday, January, 1, 1993 at 6-30 p.m.  
at  
**GERMAN CULTURAL CENTRE**  
23, Dhanmondi, Rd. No. 2, Dhaka, Phone : 501879, 507325  
Limited seats :  
Reservations for five front rows: Tk.100-00

## Survey of Freedom in the World report

### Dhaka, Tel Aviv, Kathmandu rated free

Bangladesh has been rated as 'free', along with two other countries in the 22nd annual report in titled 'Survey of Freedom in the World' published by a US based organization freedom House, according to a USIS source in Dhaka, yesterday, reports BSS.

The only two other countries of the near Eastern and South Asian region rated as 'free' are Israel and Nepal.

The global movement toward a more open, integrated and freer world found "a few bright spots" in the Middle East in 1992, but was widely challenged by civil wars, nationalism, and religious and ethnic conflict", the report said.

"Throughout the Middle East this year there were contradictory trends of liberalization and repression," although more than half of the world has now adopted democratic political systems, according to the survey.

The report, which covers 186 nations and 66 territories, does not equate democracy with freedom, however. "By the beginning of next year

there will likely be 31 democracies where substantial human rights violations occur everyday," says R Bruce McColm, Executive Director of the New York-based fifty year-old non-profit human rights advocacy group.

The survey for 1992 reflects a startling increase in the number of countries where freedom is in a state of change.

In the Middle East, three nations — Kuwait, Oman and the United Arab Emirates — changed categories from "not free" to "partly free," and Jordan, Lebanon and Yemen improved their numerical ratings while Egypt's rating declined.

Among the "partly free" were Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Oman, Tunisia, Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates, Pakistan, India, Sri Lanka, Kuwait and Yemen.

Egypt, Tunisia, Morocco, Iran, Qatar and Saudi Arabia were among 22 nations reported to have declined in freedom without changing category.

The Freedom House report states that 1992 was "the

bloodiest year in Egypt since the assassination of Anwar Sadat in 1981, as Muslim fundamentalists attacked Coptic Christians in the South." The report also observes that Egypt, "known for its relatively unfettered press... imposed an unprecedented degree of censorship."

The survey found that the Tunisian government continued its crackdown on fundamentalists, especially the banned Al-Nahda Party. "A very restrictive law on association passed in February 1992 effectively limited the work of the famous Tunisian Human Rights League, which finally chose to disband in June rather than obey the new statute."

In Sudan, "torture, extrajudicial round-ups and detention by the state security apparatus" were reported. In July, the Sudanese government "initiated a massive resettlement programme, destroying nearly 500,000 homes," and reports that "Hasan Alturabi's movement was training guerrillas sparked a new anti-terrorist legislation."

The Freedom House survey

classifies as "not free" Afghanistan, Algeria, Iran, Iraq, Libya, Mauritania, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, and Syria.

Algeria's much heralded transition to a multiparty system collapsed with the cancellation of the second round of elections after the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) swept in the December polls, the report points out. The military forced the resignation of President Chadli Benjedid and dissolved the national assembly and the constitutional council. "Virtually all constitutional rights were suspended as the situation deteriorated into a year of assassinations and unrestricted detention."

In the rating of territories, the Israeli occupied territories and Kurdish territories in Iraq were designated "partly free," while Kashmir (India) and Western Sahara (Morocco) were listed as "not free."

Freedom House findings are based on reports by human rights organizations, reporters, political leaders, journalists, regional newspapers and magazines.

The 1992-93 yearbook, "Freedom in the world: Political rights and civil liberties," which includes lengthy analyses of each country and territory, will be available from Freedom House in March 1993.

## Jobs under int'l bodies

Some international organizations have invited applications for filling up certain vacancies, says a PID press release yesterday. Name of the organisations along with the posts and last date of receipt of the applications by the head offices of the organisations are:

International Atomic Energy Policy: Director (D-1) — Feb 4; World Meteorological Organisation: Scientific Officer (P-4) — Jan 18 '93; Scientific Officer (P-4) — Feb 15; Common Fund For Commodities: Legal Adviser/Special Assistant to the Managing Director (P-5) — Jan 15 '93; International Trade Centre: Trade Promotion Officer (P-3); Procurement and Contracts Officer (P-3) Jan 8 '93; United Nations Secretariat: Environmental Affairs Officer (P-4); Senior Programme Analyst (P-5) — Jan 18; United Nations Environment Programme: Plants Officer (P-4) — Jan 10 '93; Enforcement Officer (P-4); Programme Officer (Scientist) (P-3/P-4) — Jan 31; Deputy Chief (P-5) Feb 26.

Details of the posts and procedures will be available with the Ministry of Establishments and other Ministries/Divisions, Divisional Commissioners, Deputy Commissioners and District Labour and Manpower offices.

## Weather

### No change in night temperature

By Staff Correspondent  
Weather forecast for the next 24 hours commencing 6 am (today (Tuesday) says that dry weather is likely to prevail over the country.

No appreciable change in night temperature is expected during this period. The Met office forecasts, night temperature may fall within two days.

The minimum temperature of 8.4 degree Celsius was reported from Ishurdi yesterday (Monday) and the maximum of 27.5 degree was from Kutubdia.

The sun sets today Tuesday at 5.21 pm and rises tomorrow Wednesday at 6.41 am.

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

Cities/Towns	Temperature		Humidity	
	In degree Celsius		in percentage	
Dhaka	24.5	11.3	89	80
Chittagong	26.0	14.0	92	67
Rajshahi	25.1	9.0	91	85
Khulna	26.2	10.5	93	75
Cox's Bazar	27.4	15.3	76	67
Dinajpur	23.4	10.0	91	77
Barisal	26.0	10.8	93	83

## Protect smuggling: Rafiq

Works Minister Barrister Rafiqul Islam Mia said late President Ziaur Rahman had dreamt of a happy and healthy society free from corruption, nepotism, anarchy and terrorism, reports BSS.

The Minister was speaking as chief guest at a public meeting at Gunabati Degree College in Comilla organised by the local BNP unit Sunday.

The meeting was addressed, among others, by Begum Rabeya Chowdhury MP, Serajuddin Majumder, Dr Bazlur Rahman, Harun-ur-Rashid Khokon and local leaders.

Turning to the development of the border belt, the Minister said peace in society

## Outgoing Cuban envoy meets PM

Outgoing Cuban Ambassador Sonia Diaz Llera paid a farewell call on Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia at her office yesterday afternoon, reports UNB.

Ms Llera thanked the present government for the cooperation it extended during her tenure.

Referring to the Anti-Terrorism Act, the Minister said that the present government was committed to make the society free from terrorist activities.

Stressing the need for more production in the mills and factories, the Minister said that BNP believed in the politics of production. He urged the workers to cooperate with the government in executive the development oriented projects for the overall development of the respective areas.

## Urs

The holy Urs Mubarrak of Sultanul Hing Garib-e-Nwaz Baba Khawja Moinuddin Chishty Hasan Sanjari (R) will be held at Arifpur Graveyard in Pabna on December 31 and at Jamaat-e-Sunnati Pak Darbar Sharif at Bheramara in Kushtia on January one, according to a press release here, reports BSS.

**BTV**  
Tuesday

5.00	Opening announcement
	Al-Quran
	Programme Summary
5.10	News in Bangla
5.20	Recitation from the Geta
6.00	Programmes of Mothers
6.30	Open University
7.05	Nazrul songs
8.00	News in Bangla
8.40	Drama series:
10.00	News in English
10.30	Film show: Family
11.30	Khabar/The news
11.40	Wednesday's programme summary
11.45	Closing.

## Shahabuddin new CONCOPE Chairman

Executive Chairman of Bangladesh Export Processing Zones (BEPZA) Authority Colonel (Rtd) Syed Shahabuddin Ahmed has been elected new Chairman of Consultative Committee of Public Enterprises (CONCOPE) for two years, reports UNB.