

Women's Role in Language Movement Neglected

by Rahat Fahmida



Sufia Ahmed

Wars are fought by brave men. Movements are carried on conscious by young students. And their memories are cherished over the years. But what about the women, who also play an important and significant role in these movements.

In the language movement, when the social attitudes and norms were much more conservative, women took a big stand. It was a time when university students in the same class of the opposite sex could not talk to one another without the permission of the proctor. The country has lost many of these activists and hundreds have gone trackless.

Sufia Ahmed, 60, is one of the very few women around, who were directly involved in the language movement. Now a professor with the Department of Islamic History and Culture at the Dhaka University looks down her memory lane.

She was daughter of Justice Ibrahim, who was then a judge at the High Court. Her awareness and love for her mother tongue was nurtured from her house. And her father took great care to enrich her knowledge of Bengali, for which there was a derth because of her Convent education.

In 1952, a young girl of 19, Sufia Ahmed had her first year at Dhaka University. She was well acquainted with the student leaders and was involved in the movement from the beginning. The All Party Committee for State Language called for a hartal on February 21. Anticipating the consequences, the government proclaimed Section 144 from February

Ahmed went into details, "we met, as earlier as possible on at the famous 'aamtala'. Dhaka University was then at, where you now have the Emergency building of Dhaka Medical College. This is a famous mango tree — which has for long provided the umbrella for many famous meetings and movements. And on that February 21, students gathered in hundreds and thousands. In order to make our programme successful, we even did picketing earlier on.

"We went in groups to different schools and colleges to mobilise the students. And certainly did get unprecedented response.

"First we decided whether we would break Section 144. And with advocate Gaziul Hag as the president of our committee we decided to

"From 'aamtala' we could see the police officials patrolling that area. This was to put off the students from any chaos. We could sense, there would be some problem as soon as we go out on the streets in groups. But we did not suspect that they would lathi-charge, or shell tear-gas, let alone shoot at the students. This was just beyond our imagination.

"We decided on breaking Section 144 by

An ikebana exhibition at the National Museum

-Star photo

auditorium in the city yesterday.

going out in groups of five - because more than four in a group was punishable. The Assembly was our destination. We wanted to place our complaint against demeaning our mother tongue. We demanded equal status of

Bengali alongside Urdu. "The men decided to send us (the women's groups) first, sensing, the police force might keep their cool in that manner. We went near the gate where among others, we saw many of our batch mates, like - Obaidullah Khan, Azizul Jaltl. A group who were already out could be seen to be lathi- charged. We went out with a wrong notion of not being attacked, and in the process other groups would follow. But as soon as we crossed the police barrier, they lathi charged us. It got my feet wounded, but worse than that, Raushanara Bachchu badly hurt her back and could hardly walk. She is now a principal of a school. We went along anyway. The others in our group were - Dr. Shafia Khatun, who was the first woman member of Public Service Commission and was also once the minister of women's affairs. Shamsun Nahar, daughter of the then speaker was with us too, in her 'burkha', defying all her bindings at home. I don't exactly remember the name of the other girl from Eden College, who was

also in our group. Susia Ahmed in her articulate and descriptive manner, said, the police shelled teargas on them when men were stoning the police from roof tops. All this did not stop the other student groups to cross the barricade. Many of these students were picked up by police trucks and dropped off in the suburbs. The situation slowly turned from worse to

She explained, 'our group struggled on and we somehow entered the provost's compound of Salimuliah Hall. But not through the front gate. Tearing our sarees and bruising our legs, we somehow climbed over the bulbed wire fence. We washed our eyes which was otherwise blurred by the smoke of tear gas. We stayed in that compound for sometime without any help from those inside the house, as most of us were quite injured to go any further. I am not blaming anyone. The provost and his family might have moved out earlier. At dusk we went in search of some first aid at the medical college. And later returned home to the the relief of our parents, who were panicked by the unprecedented incident in the city."

What bothers Sufia Ahmed now is the lack of proper documentation of these details of our history. The movement and contributions made by women are soon shelved and lorgotten. There is a slight hope of nurturing these facts for the future generation only by putting it in black and white.

Dhaka-Tokyo ties very deep: Kamal

The growing interactions between Bangladesh and Japan in different fields were adequately reflected here in a function marking the 19th annual Bangladesh-Japan cultural

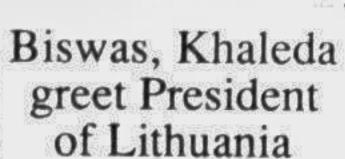
evening, reports BSS. The occasion was a cultural fiesta participated by the nationals of two countries while the function also served as a prize giving ceremony for the lkebana contest.

Health and Family Welfare Minister Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yusuf was the chief guest on the occasion at the National Museum auditorium while Japanese Ambassador in Bangladesh Toshio Saiki gave away the prizes to the winners of the Ikebana (flower making competition).

"The magnitude of Dhaka-Tokyo ties is very deep, ranging from economic cooperation to proximity in the cultural ties, the Health Minister said.

He recalled Japan's association with Bangladesh's development efforts and said it was the single largest donor nation for this country.

The Minister said many other form of cooperation and understanding in varied fields brought the two Asian nations still closer.



President Abdur Rahman Biswas yesterday felicitated Algirdas Brazauskas on his election as President of the Republic of Lithuania, reports

"We sincerely hope that the existing cordial bilateral relations and close cooperation would be further strengthened under your dynamic leadership in the coming days to the mutual benefit of our two government and peoples," he said in

Another report adds: Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday felicitated Algirdas Brazauskas on his election as the President of the Republic of Lithuania.

The Prime Minister in a message wished President Brazauskas every success in office and hope that the existing cordial relations "between our two friendly countries will be further strengthened to the mutual benefit" of the two peoples.

Office timing during Ramadan

Office timing for all government offices during the month of Ramadan has been announced, reports UNB.

According to new time schedule for the Secretariate offices in Dhaka (Ministry) Division) and offices attached the secretariate, corporations and other attached offices and for autonomous bodies will be from 9 am to 3 pm. There will be a 15 minutes break from 1.15 pm to 1.30 for Johr prayers.

For divisional offices in and outside Dhaka and for district, thana and other mufassil offices and courts, office hours will be from 10 am to 4 pm with the 15 minutes break for Johr prayer, said a handout yesterday.

Banks, post offices, telephone, railway, hospitals, nationalised industries, industrial units and other organisations, however, will follow officetime as per their own regulations considering public inter-

Visual Health Images show begins Feb 25

A nine-day exhibition o Visual Health Images will be held at the auditorium of the Dhaka Centre of British Council beginning February 25, reports BSS.

On display at the exhibition will be a collection of visual works of 'Health Images' special design and training organisation of Britain as well as such works being done at an on-going training workshop for Bangladeshi designers working in health and population sector, a British Council press release said.

It said that the exhibition will remain open to public from 10 am to 6 pm each day except Friday.



Sunday. Morning Session

Opening announcement Al-Quran Special programme: Aar Ek Falgun Documentary on Ekushey Songs on Ekushey Ekushey Book Fair Drama: Set Ek Manus

Evening Session Opening announcement Al-Quran Programme summary News in Bangla Programme for children

Poetry recital programme Songs on Ekushey News in Bangla Drama: Gharer Chabt News in English Special programme on Khabar/The News 11:45



An anti-drug procession by the juvenile in the city yesterday.

ECNEC okays project worth Taka 122 crore

The Executive Committee of National Economic Council (ECNEC) yesterday approved the Dhaka-Sylhet-Tamabeel-Jaflong highway reconstruction project at an estimated cost of Taka 122 crore including a local currency component of Taka 82 crore. The projected expenditure is, however, likely to be revised and may exceed Taka 250 crore, reports BSS.

The ECNEC meeting held at the Bangladesh Secretariat was chaired by Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman and attended by Planning Minister A M Zahiruddin Khan and high officials of various ministries, divisions and departments. The meeting also approved

a number of minor projects pertaining to water development and flood control, roads and highways, fisheries and livestock, youth and sports, local government and rural development and telecommunication sectors.

Folklore deptt in universities suggested

By Staff Correspondent Speakers at a discussion meeting at the Bangla Academy Saturday said there was no alternative to practising folklore in finding out the portrait of the country's culture and root of the race.

Bangla Academy organised the discussion meeting on 'Folklore Practice in Bangladesh" Saturday afternoon as part of its month-long Ekushey programme. The meeting presided over

by Principal Tofael Ahmed was addressed, among others, by Prof Abdul Hafiz, Shamsuzzaman Khan, Dr. Shah Jalal, Habibur Rahman and Prof Niaz Zaman. Prof Abul Ahsan Chowdhury presented the keynote paper.

Prof Chowdhury in his keynote paper stressed the need for setting up a national folklore institute and opening folklore departments in the universities to boost folklore research and practice.

He also suggested that workshops on folklore at national and regional levels should be organised by the government to make the people aware of the country's own tradition and culture.

Principal Ahmed also stressed the need for collecting and preserving the folklore resources of the country by using scientific methods.

The meeting was followed by 'Kobigan' (Bardsong) on "Democracy versus Autocracy". Swarupendru Sarker and his team locked in bardsong with Rabindranath Roy and his

Today's programme of Bangla Academy: Discussion on "Practice of Democracy in Bangladesh: Its institutionalisation." Vice-Chancellor of Dhaka University Prof Emajuddin Ahmed will preside over the function while Prof Syed Anwar Hossain will present the keynote paper.

Weather

No change in night temperature

By Staff Correspondent

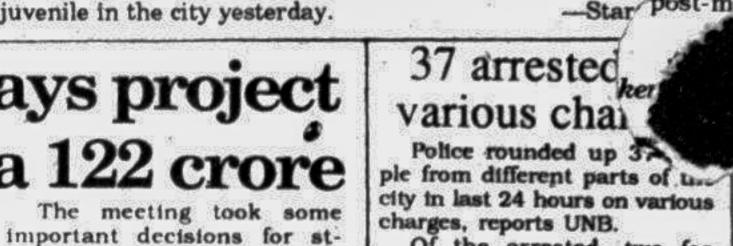
Rain or thundershower accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely to occur at a few places over Dhaka, Chittagong and Barisal divisions and at one or two places over Khulna division and the regions of Pabna and Bogra. Weather will remain mainly dry elsewhere over the country during the next 24 hours commencing 6 am today (Sunday).

The Met office forecasts, night temperature will remain nearly unchanged over the country

The minimum temperature of the country of 14.6 degree Celsius was reported from Rajshahi and Rangpur yesterday (Saturday) and the maximum of 34.1 degree was reported from Satkhira.

The sun sets today (Sunday) at 5.57 pm and rises tomorrow (Monday) at 6.27 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 Harmidity in

Cities/Towns	Degree Celsius		percentage	
	Max	Min	9 am	6 pm
Dhaka	26.4	17.6	88	68
Chittagong	22.0	17.6	100	85
Rajshahi	29.8	14.6	52	30
Khulna	28.8	18.0	89	
Cox's Bazar	26.7	23.6	80	90
Barisal	28.8	18.6	93	76
Sylhet	25.2	17.7	86	68
Dinajpur	28.4	15.5	85	32
559				



37 arrested

Police rounded up 3

Of the arrested, two for

robbery, four on charge of kid-

napping and three for stealing.

pur-Thakurgaon-Panchagarh Speaking on the occasion the Finance Minister said the Dhaka-Jaflong Highway Project is nearly as important as the Dhaka-Chittagong route in terms of economic utility and has to be taken up in right earnest from the next fiscal year. The Asian Development Bank along with Japan is likely

rengthening the implemen-

tation, monitoring and evalua-

tion division and also approved

some recommendations for

rehabilitation project of Dinaj-

to finance the project. The meeting also reviewed the difficulties currently being faced in formulation and implementation of various development project. It took some decisions to reduce the existing bottlenecks in project implementation and aid utiliza-

Army Chief reviews artillery reunion parade

CHITTAGONG, Feb 20: A ceremonial parade marking the second Artillery Re-union was held at the Shaheed Major Nazmul Haque Artillery Centre and School yesterday, says a press release.

Chief of Army Staff Lt General Muhammad Noor Uddin Khan reviewed the smartly turned-out parade and took salute at the impressive march-past.

In his brief speech on the occasion, General Noor Uddin said that the members of the Regiment of Artillery along with other soldiers belonging to different arms and services of the Bangladesh Army earned the confidence of the nation by discharging their sacred duty of safeguarding the independence, sovereignty and integrity of the country relentlessly. They also proved their efficiency in anti-insurgency operations at the Chittagong Hill Tracts, he said.

General Noor Uddin paid glowing tributes to those martyred during the War of Liberation in 1971. He said that the Regiment of Artillery, born during the days of the War of Liberation, stood itself on a solid footing in the army through concerted efforts, relentless work, devotion to duty and undaunted spirit of all its members.



Birth anniversary of Sri Ramakrishna

The 158th birth anniversary of Sri Ramakrishna will be observed at Ramakrishna Math and Mission, Dhaka, from February 22 to 26, says a press release.

The annual function of Ramakrishna Mission Vidyalaya will be held tomorrow with Swami Aksharananda in the chair. Sadeq Hossain, State Minister for Youth and Sports, will be present as chief guest.

The birthday of Sri Ramakrishna will be observed on February 23 with special puja, devotional songs, study from the scriptures beginning from 5 am.

A discussion on 'Sri Ramakrishna and Novelty in Religious Consciousness' will be held at 5 pm on that day presided over by Justice Debesh Chandra Bhattacharya. Professor Emajuddin Ahmed, Vice-Chancellor of Dhaka University, will be present as chief guest.

Nepalese embassy hosts reception

The Parily Star 3

The Royal Nepalese Embassy in Dhaka hosted a reception on Thursday to celebrate the 43rd National Democracy day of Nepal, report BSS.

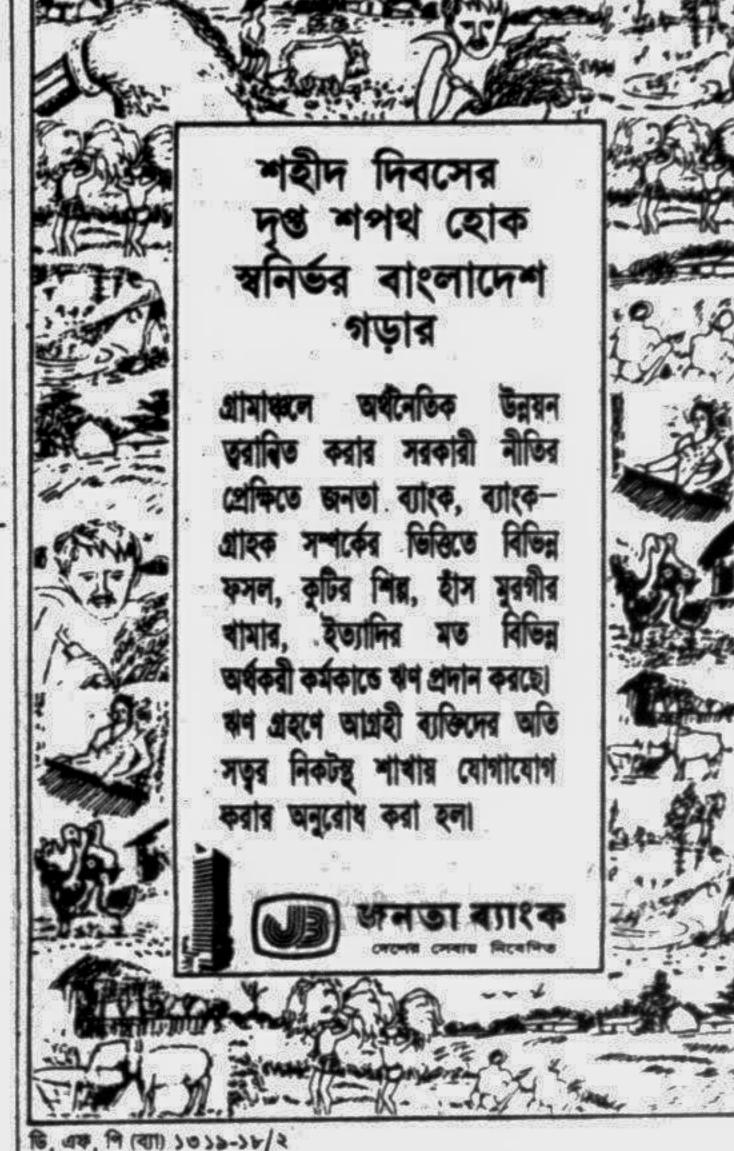
Speakers at a discussion on the occasion highlighted the significance of the day in the life of Nepal, a press release of the embassy said.

Bangladesh-Nepal Friendship Association together with the family members of the personnel of the Royal Nepalese embassy pre-

sented a variety of songs and dances to mark the day. The ers of the ben on tourism in

Justice of Bange chief guest, Kazi Sident, Bangladesh-Friendship Association, the Nepalese community including the Nepalese students studying in Bangladesh were present. The Charge d' Affaires of the Embassy welcomed the

Chowdhury, a



পন্তী বিদ্যুৎ সমিতি শিশ্ব কাৰখানা গড়তে ও আৰু বৃদ্ধিতে সহায়তা কৰে: নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

পদ্ৰী বিদ্যুতায়ন বোর্ড ও ইহার প্রকল্পবীন উপ-সহকারী প্রকৌশলী পদে নিয়োগ/গ্যানেশ তৈরীর জন্য (নিয়মিত ও প্রকল্প গদ এবং চুক্তিভিত্তিক বাহা ব্রয়োজ্য হয়) যোগ্যতা সম্পন্ন বাংলাদেশী নাগরিকদের নিকট হইতে দরখাত আহবান করা যাইতেছে। পদের পার্ণে বয়স সীমা, প্রয়োজনীয় শিক্ষাগত যোগ্তা এবং বেডনক্রম ও জন্যান্য সুবিধানি উল্লেখ করা হইলঃ-

कविक म्र	न्तरंबर नाव	गुर्थाच साग ग्रीम	শিকাশত বোশাতা ৩ অতিকাতা	
(3)	हेन- गर्वाहे वरकेनचे	३४-७-३०११ कावित वनुई २० करमञ्ज युक्तियाचारमञ् (काम ७२ करमञ्जः)	क्रिप्/व्य-रमोनमः/ गृहरमोनमः गांववात- व नवनात्ती गरिडे- नात्त- हेनांब्रिकेडे इहेरक ७ क्यात रम्बानी विद्याया नाडिकिटकडे (कार्न)	बाठीव (स्टन (स्त ১৯৯) चन्यांची >=)१२४१-१ x)०४ -२४९०-१४१-)> x >>१-७१२१/= वया वक्रमेठ शहर चन्यांना वृत्याः।

পর্ভাবনীঃ-

সালা কাৰ্যক্ৰ বীয় স্বাক্ষরিত ও সহতে বাংলায় লিখিত আবেদন পত্ৰে নিজের নাম, পিডার নাম, বয়স, স্থায়ী ঠিকানা ও বর্তমান ঠিকানা, নিক্ষা ক্ষেমা, শিকাণত যোগতা textra curricular activities) গ প্ৰতিক্ৰতা (যদি থাকে) প্রভৃতি এবং খামের উপর পদের নাম ও নিক্ষ জেলা উল্লেখ পূর্বক সক্ষ শিক্ষাণত যোগ্যতা ও অভিজ্ঞতা সম্পর্কিত নার্টিকিকেটের সভ্যায়িত অনুবিশি, সদ্য ভোলা ২(দুই) কণি পাসংশাই আকারের সভ্যাহিত ছবি ইউনিয়ন কাউন্সিলের চেয়ারঘান/ওয়ার্ড কমিশনার কর্ত্ব রুদত জাতীয়তার সনদ পত্র এবং ১০ (দপ) টাকার ক্রসড পোটাল অর্ডার সহ নিম্নতাক্ষরকারীর বরাবরে ১৮-৩-১৩ ইং ভারিখের ১৪.৩০ মিনিটে-এর यत्या लोकादेख दहेरत।

कृष्टियाका श्राबीननरक छाशासक वारवमन नरवक महिल काश्मारमण যুক্তিযোদ্ধা সংসদের প্রধান উপদেষ্টা কর্তৃক সাক্ষরিত সদদ পরের সভ্যায়িত কশি সহযোজিত করিতে হইবে। সরকারী/ আধাসরকারী/ভারত্-শাসিঞ नरहाड कर्यक्र धार्यीननरक ववायन कर्यनरक वानारम कारतमन कविरक হইবে। অসম্পূর্ণ এবং নির্ধারিত তারিখের শর প্রাপ্ত কোন দরখাত বিবেচন। क्या व्हेरव ना।

চাকুরীর ক্ষন্য যে কোন ভদবীর বা সুপারিশ চাকুরী দাতের ক্ষেত্রে অযোগতা বলিয়া বিবেচিত হইবে। কোন কারন দর্শালো ব্যক্তিরেকে যে কোন আবেদন পত্র বাজিদের অধিকার কর্ত্তপক সংরক্ষণ করেন।

কর্মচারী প্রশাসন পরিমত্ত **नहीं विमाशक्य त्वार्थ** वादी न१-१०, मधुक न१-33/व ধানমতি আবাসিক এলাকা, ঢাকা।

नवि/सन (२७) ३२-३०

डिज्रमनि(या)- ১२৯৬- ১৭/२