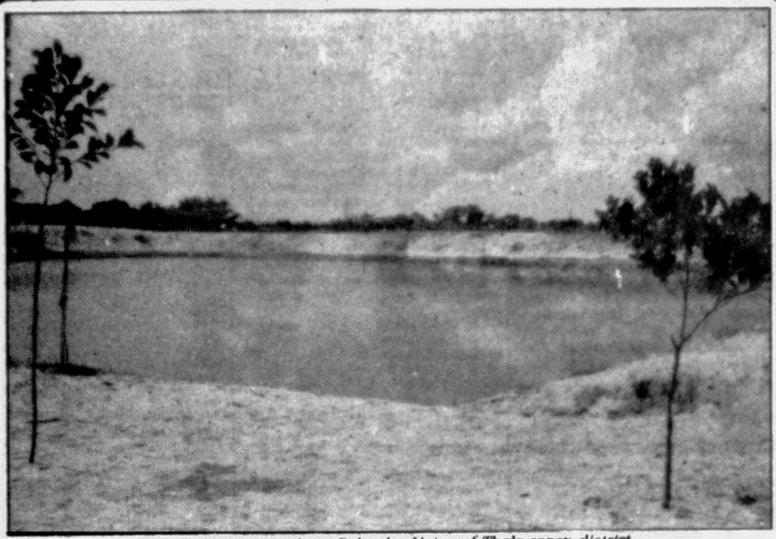




WOMEN ON THE MOVE



A female-run fishponds in Salander Union of Thakurgaon district.

Effective Development Breaks down Barriers

by Aloysius Milon Khan

EFFECTIVE women's development means enabling women to begin taking on tasks normally reserved for men. In overcrowded rural Bangladesh, fishfarming has enormous potential to provide nutrition and income for the poor.

member group have been together for 7 years and are now self-managing. Once the pond is filled, they plan to release the fingerlings and begin feeding.

Fourth World Conference on Women

Beijing, China - 4-15 September 1995

CONFERENCE UPDATE

by Shaheen Anam

PREPARATION for the Beijing World Conference on Women '95 is going on in full swing both at the government and NGO level.

We, in Bangladesh feel that there is a deep bond and unity of purpose between all the women of the world which will help us to rise above all differences.

The Chairperson of the committee, Ms Najma Chowdhury assured the Minister that the committee is committed to input positively into the government's preparation for the conference.

In the same note, one might add that women's organisations within the country, both government and non-governmental, should try to resolve their differences — big or fundamental they may be and work for our common cause of building a discrimination free society.



Agaljhura, a village in Barisal. Birds chirp and trees cast cool shades. Once the village housewives walked the muddy paths wearing veils. Today the scene has dramatically changed. The children, especially girl-children, walk the dirt roads marching towards the schools.

IT is a girl! A flash of thunder struck the parents and everything burned into ashes. Their world of dreams is blown to smithereens in just a split second.

In the dark ages baby girls were buried alive after their birth, thereby ending all the agony with it and the parents lived happily ever after.

The clergy or Imams considered the pillars and the guards of Islam are held in great esteem by the devotees. Their every movement, every word is taken into account and followed by the faithful disciples.

Dragging the Nation into Dark Ages

by Mehar Akhter

Today under the shadow of Islam and assuming an honorable position in the society some unconscionable hypocrites are trying to contaminate the purity of Islam. They are diminishing ethical and social values by taking advantage of their power and trying to drag the nation to the dark ages imposing great threat to our civilization. It is high time that the Muslim community lift the veil of illusion from their eyes and make a strong stand against the conspirators of Islam who are up to obliterate the name of Islam.

need of the hour. But can we forget what happened to Nurjahan who had to take her own precious life, for her only crime that she was poor and above all, she was a woman.

that can only plunge a nation into darkness. Nurjahan, who became victim in the name of religious bigotry, could not stand the excruciating pain of shame, ended her life by taking poison.

have to bear the brunt of their inferior status. When frustration begins to bog them down, seeing no other way they have to yield to the circumstances, leaving their shells behind to strive to ameliorate their state and help boost their economy



Women groups brought out a procession in the city protesting 'Jatwas' — Star photo

her ex-husband's failure to provide her maintenance which is mandatory during the restricted period and because of her parents' inability to afford her.

Islam has led the women from the depths of darkness into the clearest light and endowed them with what they have rightfully deserved: the precious treasure of freedom, respect, right and security

gion is left in the hands of half literate, uncouth and arrogant people and when it becomes the safest means of money making by the unscrupulous literate, it is bound to destroy the values of religion.

Zero Tolerance for No Respect

by Anyal Dalo and Sandra Wolf

Christine Jombe, from Lusaka, shares a common experience with 100,000 London women: Last year they received medical treatment for injuries inflicted on them by their husbands or partners. The number of reported cases of domestic assault has increased, says Gemini News Service, partly because women feel more comfortable unveiling the abuse.

for violent injuries received in the home, where four in 10 homeless women have left home as a result of abuse and where there has been a 66 per cent increase in domestic assaults reported to the police between 1990 and 1991.

Zero Tolerance campaign counsellor say that men are brought up to be competitive, powerful and aggressive, and that they often transfer these attitudes to their private relationships.

Lack of money reduces the campaigns impact, and Patel is not optimistic about the possibility of government support: "They sit and argue about domestic violence, but the funding for organisations that actually do the work is not there."



And that is exactly what the organisers of Zero Tolerance say in London — where 100,000 women a year receive treatment

working for NGOs. Others have burnt down some schools run by BRAC. These are examples of their savageness. Our Muslim intellectuals' indifference toward this deteriorating situation is also very depressing.

A nation is characterized by its peoples' adherence to moral and religious ethics. A society is distinguished by its community's compliance to conventional and religious law and to build up a morally strong and rich nation.

Today under the shadow of Islam and assuming an honorable position in the society some unconscionable hypocrites are trying to contaminate the purity of Islam. They are diminishing ethical and social values by taking advantage of their power and trying to drag the nation to the dark ages imposing great threat to our civilization.

Canada, where many people showed their support by wearing white ribbons.

The campaigners are convinced public discussion helps: "There's more talk about it now," says Patel, who belongs to a group of Londoners called Southall Black Sisters.

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Campaigners hope their effort will be followed elsewhere. Violence does not stop at borders, parties or community lines, they say.

"There's little difference in the incidence of violence, across economic, class or ethnic boundaries," stresses Smith. It's a global issue."

Anyal Dalo is a Zambian freelance journalist. Sandra Wolf is a post-graduate journalism student at City University in London.