

# DOWN TO EARTH

## Condition of Women Industrial Workers in City

By A S M Nurunnabi

In recent years some research and studies have been made about the condition of women industrial workers in the city. Some important aspects of the picture which emerge from their findings are noted below. In Bangladesh, the entry of women into paid work outside the home mainly depends upon the degree of the family's need. There are, of course, certain historical, political and economic factors which in recent years have led to a noticeable entry of women from rural poor families into regular wage employment in urban areas.

Urbanisation and industrialisation in and around Dhaka at first proceeded slowly. The Adamjee Jute Mills started its operation in 1951. The next phase of industrial development was to the north of Dhaka, Tejgaon, Joydevpur and Tongi developed in the late fifties and early sixties. During the seventies and early eighties, urbanisation and industrialisation gathered pace. The garments industry entered the scene later than the other industries. The whole city including residential areas is now dotted with garment factories.

The most obvious pattern detected in industrial work is unequal and dissimilar ratio of male and female workers at different levels of employment. In course of a survey of certain industrial establishments, the male female distribution of workers under the broad occupational categories, was found to be as follows:

In the management category 218 were men and 36 were women. Of the executives, 72 were women and 1628 were men. In the clerical section, 204 were women and 2749 were men. Among the workers the gap was quite wide: the number of men was 38,932 and the number of women was 3288 only.

AGE: The age distribution of female and male workers surveyed shows an interesting variation in the pattern of concentration by gender in different age groups. The largest age group was 20-29 years, followed by the 30-39 age-group. However, to find a considerable number of young women (18 per cent) belonging to the 15-19 years of age being pushed into the urban labour force seems rather unusual especially as the male proportion is smaller (10 per cent). Purdah values are normally held as an obstacle to women's participation in activities outside the home, but this apparent deviation indicates that the degree of rigidity with which a family adheres to purdah customs, at any given moment, is in fact determined by its socio-economic position. The concentration of very young persons joining paid work reflects the increasing competition among poor families to utilise all available resources of labour, including the non-adults, merely to feed the family.

This early entry into paid work would lead one to expect a group of workers with a low level of education, little or no previous work experience and no relevant training. Lack of education or training and work inexperience generally indicate a low awareness of existing opportunities and rights. Needless to say, such a group of workers cannot project an image of collective strength because of their lack of options. This is particularly true of the garment workers, where their numerical strength has yet to contribute to their labour power.

LIVING CONDITIONS: The housing problems of the female industrial workers are generally very acute. Mostly the women factory workers live in sprawling slums near factories like Mirpur, Kallanpur, Khilgaon, Mahakhali and Hatkhola. Most of them live in kutcha shelters sharing one room less than a hundred square feet with two to three other women. There are several different housing arrangements. Some garment workers live in arrangements called mess-type system. Some others rent a unit in a compound with as many as 20 other units in which they share cooking, toilet, water supply, electricity, gas facilities with the family. More than a quarter of the women live in such situations. Others live with their families.

(To be continued)

## Strike at DU

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examinations would be held as per schedule.

But the BCL (M-I), in a statement yesterday, said all examinations and academic activities would come under the purview of its strike programme today.

Meanwhile, leaders of the Ganatantrik Chhatra Oikya (GCO) were reportedly trying to resolve the conflict between the BCL(M-I) and the JSD-backed BCL (B-K) that clashed on the campus Thursday.

The BCL (M-I) brought out a procession and held a rally in front of the Jatiya Press Club yesterday afternoon to protest Thursday's killing.

They urged the students to make today's strike a success.

The rally was addressed by Moinuddin Hasan Chowdhury, Iqbalur Rahim and Pankaj Debnath.

Earlier, the BCL (M-I) held a *gun-bana janaza* for Kamrul Islam Bulbul at the DU Central Mosque and *duha* prayers yesterday.

## BNP leaders reject

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The 1986 parliamentary polls. Deputy Leader in Parliament Prof A Q M Badruddoza Chowdhury, who has taken the current initiative to open a formal dialogue with the Opposition, also could-shouldered the demand for a caretaker government. The very concept of a caretaker government is undemocratic as it would not be an elected one, he told the meeting.

Prof Chowdhury said the Opposition's demand for a caretaker government meant domination of the minority. "How can a minority replace a majority even for a little span of time?" he asked.

Politicians are anxious about the continuous Opposition 'boycott of Parliament, he said, adding that the issue of the boycott is not related to any of the people's demand.

Prof Chowdhury, however, said they would analyse all suggestions for ensuring free and fair polls. It would be clear through discussions what demands can be accepted, he added.

Irrigation, Water Development and Flood Control and Agriculture Minister Major Gen (ret'd) M Majid-ul-Huq, without naming the Awami League, said this party was looking for the 'shortest route and short circuit' to go to power.

The Opposition has become envious of the achievements of the BNP government and frustration has gripped them, he said. "They are afraid of being rejected by the people who are supporting the development activities of the present government."

He cautioned the people about the Awami League, Jamaat and Jatiya Party, "the trio of undemocratic and defeated forces out to destroy the hard-earned democracy."

Post and Telecommunications Minister Tariqul Islam expressed his optimism about reaching an understanding to end the present government-Opposition standoff.

Labour and Manpower Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan questioned the reason of placing the demand for a caretaker government by the Opposition two years ahead of scheduled general elections.

"The Opposition, through frustration, is out to create chaos and confusion in the country," the minister said.

Dr Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain, Minister for Energy and Mineral Resources, said the aim of the opposition parties was not to ensure free and fair polls. "If that were so, they would have remained in Parliament. Boycott cannot be an agitation, he observed.

Editor of the Dainik Bangla Ahmed Humayun said a few opposition parties were trying to kill the new-found democracy.

Referring to the opposition-sponsored hartals and agitation during the anti-Ershad movement, he said the same strategy would not be effective this time.

BFUJ Secretary General Amanullah Kabir asked, why the issue of a caretaker government, rejected by the Awami League in 1991, became so important now.

Introduction of a caretaker bill by the treasury bench would be suicidal for the ruling party, Kabir said.

GP surprised at reports about Suranjit

By Staff Correspondent

The Ganatantri Party (GP) yesterday expressed surprise over press reports that a convening committee had been formed with Suranjit Sengupta as its chief.

A party press release, issued after a joint meeting of its presidium and secretariat with party chief Ahmedul Kabir in the chair, said such activities are illegal, undemocratic and against the party constitution and party discipline.

"The decision is contrary to Suranjit Sengupta's speech at the August 26 central committee meeting," said the press release signed by party General Secretary Mohammad Afzal.

## SSC : Rate of passing

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essay-type answers. Yet, because of the system, he or she managed to aggregate first division marks in that subject.

The main weakness of the present examination system, another headmaster said, is the private tutoring where the students are given a set of 500 questions and answers per subject by their tutors within which the questions are limited. This makes it very easy for the students to learn or memorize the answers and score excellent marks.

A guardian told this correspondent last night that he was very pessimistic about how much knowledge the students actually acquire, despite their good results. He regretted that the multiple choices are often all too obvious and anyone with average intelligence can guess the correct answers.

This year, the percentage of passing under the three of the four education boards of the country — Dhaka, Jessore and Rajshahi — were exceptionally high compared to the previous year. Only the results of the Comilla Board were similar to those of last year.

The pass percentage of the Comilla Board has remained almost the same this year compared to that of last year, which was around 61.86. This year it is 61.52 per cent.

A remarkable rise in the pass percentage is noticeable in this year's Dhaka Board results which jumped to a record 78.36 per cent from 59.11 last year.

The pass percentage of the Jessore Board, too, rose sharply to 77.71 from the previous year's 63.75pc.

The Rajshahi Board SSC results marked a rise to 67.21 per cent from 60.78 pc in 1993.

However, the number of examinees under the Dhaka Board this year rose by only a few hundred from last year. A total 2.19 lakh students appeared for the SSC exams under this board this year.

The number of examinees of the Comilla Board last year was 1.67 lakh, which rose slightly to over 1.68 lakh this year.

Under Jessore Board some 1.35 lakh candidates appeared this year. The number was 1.34 lakh last year.

However, the number of examinees under the Rajshahi Board rose remarkably from 1.45 lakh in 1993 to 1.61 lakh this year — an additional 16 thousand examinees.

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Russian Prime Minister Victor Chernomyrdin (L) and Chinese President Jiang Zemin (C) share a joke at Moscow's Sheremetyevo airport yesterday. Jiang arrived in the Russian capital on a five-day official visit. — AFP photo



Rakiba Nabi...1st in CB Social Science

## Manoj had no private tutor

By Staff Correspondent

Manoj Kumar Datta of the Khulna Zilla School, who topped the Jessore Board General Science groups combined merit list, wants to become a doctor.

Manoj, son of school-teacher Malik Chandra Datta, scored 882 marks with distinctions in seven subjects.

His mother, Shipra Rani Datta is a housewife.

Manoj did not have any private tutor, but he attended coaching classes.

"I read five to six hours a day," he said. "I owe my brilliant result to my parents and teachers."

"I did not expect my result to be so good," he admitted.

Manoj does not like student politics because of the violence and terrorism. His hobby is reading books.

## I didn't expect to do so well, says Imran

By Staff Correspondent

It was very exciting to hear. The news on Radio that I have secured the first place in Rajshahi Board, A F M Ashke Imran told The Daily Star.

"I did not expect to do so well," said Imran who stood first in the combined merit list of the General Science group securing 899 marks. "I thought I would be placed anywhere between one and tenth position."

Seven letter marks (80-plus) in Bengali, English, Mathematics, Geography, Islamiat, Elective Maths and General Science helped Imran of Dinajpur Zilla School to secure the top position.

Imran is the youngest of two brothers and one sister.

His father Md Badrul Alam is an artist but is now doing business. His mother Jolly Alam is a housewife.

"I had only two months of private tuition before the examinations," said Imran. "I am grateful to both my tutors and to my school teachers."

He now wants to become a computer scientist.

## Bulgarian govt resigns

SOFIA, Sept 2: The Bulgarian government of Prime Minister Lyuben Berov resigned today in a move seen as testing support after a series of no-confidence motions prompted calls for early elections, reports Reuter.

## SSC exam results

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In Jessore Board, 1,35,575 candidates appeared in the examinations. Of them, 47,043 got first division, 56,571 second division and 1743 third division.

Of the students who have passed 67,799 boys and 37,558 girls.

Manoj Kumar Datta of Khulna Zilla School topped the combined merit list securing a total of 882 marks with letters in seven subjects.

Three students each from the Zilla School and Barisal Cadet College were placed among the top 10.

The highest number of candidates appeared in the SSC examinations of 1994 under the Dhaka Board - 2,19,872.



## Faisal opposes question bank system

By Staff Correspondent

Sharif Mohammad Faisal who stood first in the Social Science group from the Jessore Board, strongly feels that the question bank system for the SSC examination should be abolished.

"The way the objective questions are set does not make the education any better than the previous system," said Faisal who appeared in this year's SSC examination from the Barisal Cadet College. He obtained 838 marks. "Rather it makes things worse," he said.

Sharif got five letters — in Maths, Geography, Islamiat, Elective Maths and Social Science.

"My good result in the SSC was quite expected," said a confident Faisal.

"My mother informed me of the result in the morning."

His father, Dr Shamsuddin Jahangir, is a chief scientific officer of the Bangladesh Centre for Scientific and Industrial Research (BSCIR). His mother Ferdous Sultana Begum is an adviser of CIDA.

"I want to pursue higher studies in economics," said Faisal. "I would also like to go abroad for higher degrees."

He loves to read novels of Sunil Gangopadhyay, Humayun Ahmed and Sharat Chandra Chatterjee.

He is also a keen football player.

## Subhasis wants to be a doctor

By Staff Correspondent

Subhasis Das, who stood first in the General Science combined merit list from Comilla Board wants to become an MBBS doctor unlike his father who is an Ayurvedic doctor.

Das, of Chittagong Collegiate School, obtained 887 marks with distinctions in all subjects.

His father is Anotosh Das and mother Priti Das, a housewife.

## Top ten of Jessore Board

By Staff Correspondent

The top ten students in the combined merit list of General Science group of Jessore Board:

1. Manoj Kumar Datta, Khulna Zilla School (882);
2. SM Farhad, Khulna Zilla School (880);
3. Laila Arjuman Banu, Fatema High School (879);
4. Hasan Nazib Mahmood, VJ Government Secondary School (876);
5. Monzurul Hasan Chowdhury, Barisal Cadet College (874);
6. Md Meraj Uddin Mollah, Rotary School Khulna (873);
7. Israt Jahan, Government Coronation Secondary Girls' School (872);
8. Mahmuda Jahan, Magura Government Girls' High School (872);
9. Md Hafizur Rahman, Barisal Cadet College (870);
10. Md Mosharraf Hossain Khondaker, Bheramara High School (870);
11. KM Zahidul Islam, Jhenidah Cadet College (870);
12. Masud Ibne Mahub, Barisal Cadet College (869);
13. Jahan Ara, Khulna Government Girls' High School (869);
14. Md Firoz Alam, Laxmipasha Adarsha Secondary School (869);
15. Md Nazmus Shakeeb, Khulna Zilla School (868).

## Top ten of Rajshahi Board

By Staff Correspondent

The top ten students in the combined merit list of the General Science group of the Rajshahi Board SSC examinations of 1994 are:

1. A F M Ashke Imran, Dinajpur Zilla School, total marks — 899;
2. Muhatarima Tabassum, Rajshahi University Shatabari High School (889);
3. Md Lutfur Rahman, Ahm-madpur M H High School (888);
4. Md Ashiq Iqbal, Dinajpur Zilla School (888);
5. Naira Al Husain, Government Girls' (Helenabad) High School (886);
6. Md Shafiqul Azam, North Bengal Sugar Mills High School (881);
7. Md Zillur Rahman, Rangpur Cantonment Public School and College (881);
8. Md Mostafizur Pahlman, Ikshmu Gobesara High School (880);
9. Md Mizanor Rahman, Kurigram Government High School (880);
10. Md Ahsan Habib, Pabna Cadet College (879);
11. Mst. Nargis Tanjina Ferdous, North Paper Mills High School (879);
12. Md Sharif Imam Ibne Amir, Ullapara M High School (879);
13. Polin Kumar Saha, Sariakandi Government High School (879);
14. Md Mostofa Ali Sarkar, Gaibandha Government Boys' High School (879);
15. Md Moinul Ahsan, Dinajpur Zilla School (879).

## Top ten in CB

By Staff Correspondent

Following students have secured the top ten positions in the General Science group merit list of the Comilla Board:

1. Subasish Das, Collegiate School, Chittagong (887);
2. Ritesh Barua, Collegiate School, Chittagong (881);
3. Mohammad Feroz Raihan, Collegiate School, Chittagong (877);
4. Ragib Hasan, Collegiate School, Chittagong (875);
5. Md Badrul Islam Chowdhury, Blue Bird High School, Sylhet (874);
6. Atia Rabbi, Sylhet Pulp and Paper Mills High School (874);
7. Md Mizanur Rahman, Nasirabad Government High School (874);
8. AFM Zia Hasan, Noakhali Zilla School (874);
9. Mosammat Nasima Akter, PH Amin Academy, Custom Academy (873);
10. Partha Pratim Das, Collegiate School, Chittagong (873);
11. Mohammad Delwar Hossain, Collegiate School, Chittagong (873);
12. Md Mashuk Elahi, BIT Campus High School, Chittagong (873);
13. Sohail Md Anwar Pasha, Government Muslim High School, Chittagong (871);
14. Salma Akter, Dr Khastagir Govt. Girls High School, Chittagong (870);
15. Mouyid bin Islam, Govt Laboratory High School, Chittagong (870);
16. Farhana Ahmed, Bangladesh Bank Colony High School, Chittagong (869);
17. Nasiruddin Mahmud Chowdhury, Collegiate School, Chittagong (867);
18. Mohammad Moslehuddin Chowdhury, Collegiate School, Chittagong (867);
19. Mohammad Samiul Haque, Collegiate School, Chittagong (867);
20. Fatima Binti Hussain, Bangladesh Bank Colony High School, Chittagong (867).

## Samad Azad

From Page 1 Col 8

Chowdhury, who gave the formal proposal to him to discuss the issue of a caretaker government, has not yet spelt out the *modus operandi* of the proposed dialogue.

"He (Chowdhury) is supposed to let me know immediately the process of the dialogue he proposed on behalf of the government. But till 11 to night I have not received any reply from him," Azad said.

## The Midnight File

### LTTE frees 10 policemen

COLOMBO, Sept 2: Sri Lanka Tamil guerrillas today freed 10 policemen in their custody for the past four years, responding to the government's partial lifting of an economic embargo in the rebel-controlled north two days ago. A spokesman for the international committee of the Red Cross told Reuters the 10, out of 28 policemen seized by the rebels in attacks on police stations on June 12, 1990, were handed over to ICRC officials in Jaffna in the north.

### An-Nahar allowed to resume publication

GAZA CITY, Sept 2: The Palestinian authority has given permission for the pro-Jordanian An-Nahar newspaper to publish again more than a month after closing it down, a PLO minister said today. They applied to us for the right to publish and we have agreed, Justice Minister Fethi Abu Mideen told AFP.

## South Korean Premier

From Page 1 Col 4

technical assistance.

The ROK prime minister told newsmen that he believed cooperation between the two Koreas could promote the cause of peace and building a moral society in the world.

UNB adds: Prime Minister Lee thanked the government and the people of Bangladesh for according him a warm reception.

Two tiny tots presented bouquets to premier Lee and Madame Sil as they alighted from the aircraft.

The airport formalities ROK to give work permits to 10000 more foreigners

SEOUL, Sept 2: South Korea will give work permits to 10,000 more foreign workers this year to help ease a labour shortage, government officials said Friday, reports AP.

The government also will replace the current one-year work visas for foreign workers with two-year work permits.

over, the Korean premier and his wife drove in a ceremonial motorcade to state guest house, Korotoa where they will be staying.

The airport and the city streets were decorated with the national flags of the two countries.

Lee's 22-member entourage includes Vice-Minister of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Park Kun-Woo and Secretary General to the PM's office Lee Heung-Joo.

The first-ever visit by a top Korean leader to Bangladesh is seen here as a significant one against the backdrop of the global changes in both political and economic scenario.

Later today the Korean PM will fly to Savar where he will lay wreath at the National Mausoleum to pay homage to the martyrs of the Liberation War of 1971.

The Korean leader, who flew in here on the last leg of his three-nation tour of South Asia, will also call on President Abdur Rahman Biswas.

The Korean Prime Minister is scheduled to leave Dhaka for home on Sunday.

### Concert fans

From Page 1 Col 8

Immediately hundreds of angry fans razed the tinned-fence of the venue and went on the rampage, damaging windows of nearby shops and houses by pelting stones.

When police intervened, the angry people clashed with the law enforcing men who used clubs and lobbed teargas shells to disperse the vandals, witnesses said.

Gulshan police also picked up over a dozen people from the scene. Many of them were later released.

A police officer said the organisers could have averted the chaos by announcing a fresh date or by giving an assurance of refund.

None of the organisers were, however, available for comment. The police officer said, they reportedly fled the scene when the situation went out of control.

Meanwhile, president of the Association of Businessmen at Banani, Akku Chowdhury, condemned the vandalism and blamed the organisers of the concert for not taking necessary measures.

### Son hacks parents to death in Ctg

CHITTAGONG, Sept 2: A son hacked to death his father and mother at village Chodaha under Saktania thana here today, reports BSS.

According to district police, one Narendra Kumar Chakrabarti and his parents had an altercation on family matters. At one stage the son became angry and hacked his father Joghesh Chakrabarti and mother Joytsna Rani Chakrabarti, both reportedly in their 90s, to death.

Immediately after the incident Narendra, a school teacher, came to the police station and confessed that he had murdered his parents because of his failure in providing for the family. Officer-in-Charge of Saktania confirmed this over telephone.

Narendra, 38, an MA in political science is married and has two children.

Police arrested him.

The police 'repression' had destroyed the normal atmosphere of the hall yesterday and hampered the studies.

Later, in the evening the Provost, house tutors and the leaders of the hall students' union met the Vice Chancellor at his official residence.

VC Professor Emajuddin Ahmed assured them of all necessary measure to restore peace, meeting sources said.

বায়রা'র সাধারণ সভা

অদা ০৩/৯/৯৪ শনিবার, সকাল ১০ ঘটিকায় ঢাকা চেম্বার্স অব কমার্স এন্ড ইন্ডাস্ট্রী (৬৫-৬৬ মতিঝিল বা/এ, ঢাকা) 'র কনফারেন্স হলে বায়রা'র ১০ম বার্ষিক সাধারণ সভা অনুষ্ঠিত হবে।

সভায় সকল সম্মানিত সদস্যবৃন্দকে যথাসময়ে উপস্থিত হওয়ার জন্য অনুরোধ করা হচ্ছে।

অধ্যক্ষ শফিক আহমেদ ভূইয়া  
মহা-সচিব  
বাংলাদেশ এসোসিয়েশন অব ইন্টারন্যাশনাল রিক্রুটিং এজেন্সীস

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