

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.



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.



Faisal opposes question bank system

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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 (BSCR). 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.

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 School (889); Md Sayed Ali, Shatabari High School (889); 3. Md Lutfur Rahman, Ahmadpur M H High School (888); Md Ashiq Iqbal, Dinajpur Zilla School (888); 4. Naira Al Husain, Government Girls' (Helenabad) High School (886); 5. Pradipta Prometheus Mitra, Rajshahi University School (885); Md Ashkur Rahman, Dinajpur Zilla School (885); 6. A B M Ehsanul Mamun, Pall Unnayan Academy Laboratory (883); M Tanveer Hossain Parash, Rangpur Zilla School (883); 7. S M Ikhtiar Mahmud, Satbaria High School (882); 8. Md Shafiqul Azam, North Bengal Sugar Mills High School (881); Khademul Bashar Md Abdul Ahad, Bogra Zilla School (881); Md Zillur Rahman, Rangpur Cantonment Public School and College (881); 9. Md Mostafizur Pahlman, Ikshmu Gobesara High School (880); S M Mizanur Rahman, Kurigram Government High School (880); 10. Md Ahsan Habib, Pabna Cadet College (879); Mst. Nargis Tanjina Ferdous, North Paper Mills High School (879); Md Sharif Imam Ibne Amir, Ullapara M High School (879); Polin Kumar Saha, Sariakandi Government High School (879); Md Mostofa Ali Sarkar, Gaibandha Government Boys' High School (879); Md Moinul Ahsan, Dinajpur Zilla School (879).

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 Ganatantri 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 *gambana janaza* for Kamrul Islam Bulbul at the DU Central Mosque *gambana* prayers yesterday.

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.

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 cold-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

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.

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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

From Page 1 Col 7

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

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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.

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 (875); 4. Md Badrul Islam Chowdhury, Blue Bird High School, Sylhet (874); Atia Rabbi, Sylhet Pulp and Paper Mills High School (874); Md Mizanur Rahman, Nasirabad Government High School (874); AFM Zia Hasan, Noakhali Zilla School (874); 6. Mosammat Nasima Akter, PH Amin Academy, Custom Academy (873); Partha Pratim Das, Collegiate School, Chittagong (873); Mohammad Delwar Hossain, Collegiate School, Chittagong (873); Md Mashuk Elahi, BIT Campus High School, Chittagong (873); 7. Sohail Md Anwar Pasha, Government Muslim High School, Chittagong (871); 8. Salma Akter, Dr Khastagir Govt Girls High School, Chittagong (870); Mouyid bin Islam, Govt Laboratory High School, Chittagong (870); 9. Farhana Ahmed, Bangladesh Bank Colony High School, Chittagong (869); 10. Nasiruddin Mahmud Chowdhury, Collegiate School, Chittagong (867); Mohammad Moslehuddin Chowdhury, Collegiate School, Chittagong (867); Mohammad Samiul Haque, Collegiate School, Chittagong (867); Fatima Binty Hussain, Bangladesh Bank Colony High School, Chittagong (867).

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

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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); AJM Afzal Hossain, St Joseph's High School (874); 6. Md Meraj Uddin Mollah, Rotary School Khulna (873); 7. Israt Jahan, Government Coronation Secondary Girls' School (872); Mahmuda Jahan, Magura Government Girls' High School (872); 8. Md Hafizur Rahman, Barisal Cadet College (870); Md Mosharrar Hossain Khondaker, Bheramara High School (870); KM Zahidul Islam, Jhenidah Cadet College (870); 9. Masud Ibne Mahub, Barisal Cadet College (869); Jahan Ara, Khulna Government Girls' High School (869); Md Firoj Alam, Laxmipasha Adarsha Secondary School (869); 10. Md Nazmus Shakeeb, Khulna Zilla School (868).

Samad Azad

From Page 1 Col 8

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The Midnight File

LTTE frees 10 policemen

COLOMBO, Sept 2: Sri Lanka Tamil guerillas 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

SEUL, 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.

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.

Another student

From Page 1 Col 3

Dayamay Biswas. They received first aid from the DMCH.

Hall residents claimed the police had behaved rudely with the students and made provocative comments.

According to witnesses, a large contingent of police including Detective Branch personnel entered the Jagannath Hall premises at around 11.30 am. They started searching the rooms in the East and North Houses. Hall residents claimed the police men actually ransacked the rooms in the name of their search.

Later, at around 11:45 am the students organised themselves in front of the October Memorial building and brought out a procession to protest the police 'attack'.

The processionists then tried to move towards the North house, witnesses said. At this time the policemen started lobbying tear gas shells and chased the processionists.

The procession was dispersed and the students ran helter skelter.

The policemen left the hall area around 12:20 pm.

Hall residents said that rubber bullets and tear gas shells also damaged some rooms during the police action.

In the afternoon the Jagannath Hall Students' Union, at a press conference at the TSC, termed the police action as a 'heinous act' and alleged that it was a 're-planned attack' on the students of this particular hall.

The conference was attended by the hall union VP Shubhash Singh Roy, Bimal Krishna Biswas and Sukundo Baidya.

The union leaders said that 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.

Son hacks parents to death in Ctg

CHITTAGONG, Sept 2: A son hacked to death his father and mother at village Chodaha under Satkania 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 Jogesh Chakrabarti and mother Joynta 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 Satkania confirmed this over telephone.

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

Police arrested him

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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.

Another student

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Dayamay Biswas. They received first aid from the DMCH.

Hall residents claimed the police had behaved rudely with the students and made provocative comments.

According to witnesses, a large contingent of police including Detective Branch personnel entered the Jagannath Hall premises at around 11.30 am. They started searching the rooms in the East and North Houses. Hall residents claimed the police men actually ransacked the rooms in the name of their search.

Later, at around 11:45 am the students organised themselves in front of the October Memorial building and brought out a procession to protest the police 'attack'.

The processionists then tried to move towards the North house, witnesses said. At this time the policemen started lobbying tear gas shells and chased the processionists.

The procession was dispersed and the students ran helter skelter.

The policemen left the hall area around 12:20 pm.

Hall residents said that rubber bullets and tear gas shells also damaged some rooms during the police action.

In the afternoon the Jagannath Hall Students' Union, at a press conference at the TSC, termed the police action as a 'heinous act' and alleged that it was a 're-planned attack' on the students of this particular hall.

The conference was attended by the hall union VP Shubhash Singh Roy, Bimal Krishna Biswas and Sukundo Baidya.

The union leaders said that 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.

Son hacks parents to death in Ctg

CHITTAGONG, Sept 2: A son hacked to death his father and mother at village Chodaha under Satkania 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 Jogesh Chakrabarti and mother Joynta 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 Satkania confirmed this over telephone.

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

Police arrested him

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 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.

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