

Women's Due Share

The colloquium on 'women and poverty', organised by the study circle called Women for Women...

From all the suggestions voiced in the form of a resolution adopted at the moot, we pick out two for our comments because they are key to women's development...

Then it is an indelible blot on the national polity that our political parties have out matched each other in providing only lip-service to the women's rights issues...

Alternative Energy

Energy Minister Lt Gen (retd) Noor Uddin Khan's observation that the government attaches 'high priority' to tapping all sources of energy has by now become too familiar a theme...

Deliberations at a seminar on 'Wind Energy Study' in the city once again confirmed that the promise of power generation from coastal wind is very bright...

The same goes for other sources of energy: solar power, tidal and bio-mass. That we are getting into the trap of thermal power — an uncertain source and highly costly one at that — is becoming increasingly clear...

Death Trap

The picture of a truck rolled over on its side with four of its wheels failing to make it to the ground was published on the back page of this newspaper yesterday...

Open manholes are just a type of the death trap in our capital, the other are the potholes and deeper fissures caused by indiscriminate road excavation work...

Now to prevent the stealing of manhole cover, constant vigilance will be required. But this is rather difficult. So the concrete slabs instead of iron covers on the manholes might be a right answer to the problem...

Anything, the year 1996 will be remembered in Pakistan for the maximum rise in prices of essentials during any one single period in the nation's history...

Justice may be delayed, it can never be denied when the judiciary is served by the likes of the Honourable Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, Justice Sajjad Ali Shah and his esteemed colleagues...

(PPP) that had been founded on platonic social ideals to mitigate the miseries of the common man by promising 'Roti, Kapra aur Makan' (bread, clothes and housing) for everyone...

While there are many people who look after their employees without any prompting, it is time that all of us in our own way take a concrete step in this direction. Whether employers are in the office or in the home...

'Teen Sukhi Roti?'

It is upto us to rise to the challenge and not fail the population and the country that has bestowed prosperity on us, in whatever varying degrees. Our good fortune cannot be assumed to be a selfish privilege, it inculcates a socio-economic and moral responsibility that we must discharge.

as businessmen or are salaried, are very badly hit in the present worsening economic climate but even then their plight is still bearable...

AS I SEE IT

Ikram Sehgal writes from Karachi

usually a 'pass through' item, directly off-loaded onto the consumers, the main brunt again being borne by the poor...

desperately poor need at this time is Rs. 5 per day, which is just about what is required by him or her to purchase 'Teen Sukhi Roti' at the rate of Rs. 1.60 to Rs. 2 per roti...

AS I SEE IT

Ikram Sehgal writes from Karachi

In November 1990 when the Pakistan Rupee against the US dollar was much stronger (less than rupees 22 to the US dollar, almost half of what it is now)...

ating in Pakistan. As such while the Mian Nawaz Sharif thought was well intentioned the implementation thereof was mostly ineffective mainly because the mandated increase could not be enforced without the parliamentary sanction...

While a one-time increase indexed to the inflation would be welcome, we cannot rely on government alone. Some things have to be voluntary, it being the privilege of those who are more fortunate than others to assume that responsibility without being prompted to do so...

Choosing The Next UN Secretary-General

by ASM Nurunnabi

All nations have a stake in the success of the Secretary-General, so they might be expected to do the very best to find the most able, highly qualified person in the world for the post. But in six selections so far, that is not how they have approached their task.

THE first UN Secretary-General, Norwegian Foreign Minister Trygve Lie, famously called this post as 'the most impossible job on this earth'...

All nations have a stake in the success of the Secretary-General, so they might be expected to do the very best to find the most able, highly qualified person in the world for the post...

Boutros-Ghali has now been busy seeking re-election. Under Boutros-Ghali, the UN has launched 15 peacekeeping operations since 1992 in contrast to 23 over the 44 years since the first mission...

was also the feeling that Boutros-Ghali shocked the civilised world professing neutrality when there were grounds for believing that he had full knowledge of the Serbian atrocities against the hapless Muslims of Bosnia...

There has been a strong division of opinion on the question of succession as United Nations Secretary-General. African leaders defied the United States and recommended that Boutros-Ghali be considered for a second term as UN Secretary-General...

On the other hand, it was felt by China that Boutros-Ghali was being sacrificed at the altar of US Democratic and Republican party interests...

have caused the ire of the US to rise. Boutros-Ghali some time in the past branded the UN as a 'super beggar'. This is mainly because the US keeps falling further and further behind on its payments to the UN...

In support of his candidacy, Boutros-Ghali took the position that during his tenure, he achieved success in respect of some items on UN's reform agenda. During his tenure, the UN could achieve some reduction in its deficit on its budget and also be able to abolish some posts at the higher level...

It is reported that other candidates in the running for selection as UN Secretary-General include OIC Secretary-General Hamid al Ghabid, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Dr S Ogata, Norway's

Prime Minister Rutman who has lately resigned his premiership and Irish President Mary Robinson. Though Boutros-Ghali has reportedly obtained the support of the three permanent members of the Security Council, namely China, France

and Russia, Britain has been keeping its silence. It will perhaps to the line of the United States when objection is raised irrevocably against Boutros-Ghali's re-election.

International observers around the world are coming

privileged in some way must strive to (1) increase employment opportunities (2) increase employment benefits and (3) decrease the routine monetary load on the poor. There is so much to do as lawyers, doctors, engineers, etc. in the field of such voluntary work that can lessen the burden on the poor...

The present government may have failed this country, will we just stand as bystanders while the poor of this country go from being poor and miserable to being destitute and helpless? It is upto us to rise to this challenge and not fail the population and the country that has bestowed prosperity on us...

OPINION

Crippling of Scientists

Zeba I Seraj

IT is the general impression of the public and even the administration in the Science & Technology Ministry that scientists of the country simply cannot deliver. Some feel that they are not bright enough or just plain lazy and prefer to embroil in politics...

To start work, one needs to order chemicals, biochemical, equipment. Up to the year 1992, there was no tax on educational equipment and only 10 per cent on chemicals. This minimal amount could be managed through the grant itself...

Now, where does the tax money come from? Despite requests made to relevant quarters, we were told that tax cannot be exempted. Till now we could order only half the items we previously could order...

It is known to all that our capital is so densely populated that its citizens have to undergo numerous problems. First of all their fundamental rights and demands are expected to be fulfilled...

Delwar Hossain Department of English Jahangirnagar University, Savar.

within three months of receipt, the goods could be cleared. The guarantee could only be given if the invoices and airways bill were given to the Registrar.

On the 3rd day of June this year a consignment of perishable chemicals (one year's supply) costing \$2500/- for the Department of Biochemistry arrived at the Zia International Airport. The shipment has started on the 30th May from London. As requested, the agents faxed the invoice and airways bill as soon as the shipment was made...

Another impediment to research work is the lack of suitable paid research positions in the norm of research assistants/associates, a usual norm in all universities of the world. Research requires full-time devotion. Teaching and exam duty load prevents the academic staff from giving full-time attention to research...

Last but not the least, there is absolutely no incentive for research work. Members of the academic staff can get credit points (which helps in promotions) if they are provosts, house tutors or student advisors. There is no credit, however, if one works one's mind off to write a grant and get in foreign money. These grants are mostly used to purchase expensive equipment which benefit the university, its teaching staff and students immensely...

I am sure that many will share my opinion if I say that the government should find that solving the above problems of the scientific community will bring in much future benefit. It is with great sadness that I would like to point out that there are perhaps no scientists in the Ministry of Science & Technology and none from the biological sciences. Not only are such scientists required, but some who have higher degrees in modern technologies with some experience are an imperative. Coordination and cooperation between ministries of science & technology, agriculture and health is also required to solve many problems which require a multi-pronged approach.

Blockage in sewerage lines

Sir, I'd like to draw everybody's attention to the blockage in sewerage lines of our area. We the residents of Gour Sundar Roy Lane are sick and tired of the surrounding environment which is highly polluted by the overflowing of stagnant water from manholes due to blockage in sewerage lines...

However, the dwellers are compelled to paddle on the nasty roads. It has become a big problem to the devotees who go to mosque as they are often smeared with the splashes of dirty water.

Lodged a complaint with the WASA office in Water Works Road, but no action was taken so far. I personally reported the problem to the Assistant Engineer concerned of Chandighat area, but no action was also taken by him. After a few days, I talked to the in-charge Executive Engineer of the Water Works WASA office over telephone. He told me that he would look into the matter.

A world-class Dhaka?

Sir, We are at the same time amazed and delighted having been informed of the startling news that Dhaka, our capital, will be a city of international level within six months. The LGRD and Co-operatives Minister Zillur Rahman has demarcated the period. Though it is

We pay taxes regularly to WASA for maintenance of the sewerage service. Therefore, whenever there is any problem of the WASA sewers under the road outside the compound of any premises the sewerage maintenance staff of WASA must take prompt action to remove the cause of the problem...

Nayeem 22, Gaur Sundar Roy Lane, Labagh, Dhaka-1211

not clear to us as to which cases will Dhaka be up-dated. Learning lessons from the past we are reasonably doubtful whether it would be possible for the present government to turn such a challenging scheme into reality by March '97.