

Metropolitan

Bangladeshi women in US enjoy increased mobility

By Staff Correspondent

Discussions about Bangladeshi communities abroad inevitably look at London's East End. They should, however, start leading to New York's borough of Queens.

Jointly organised by the Centre for Development Research, Bangladesh (CDRB), and the American Institute of Bangladesh Studies (AIBS), a seminar examining the effects of migration on gender roles within Bangladeshi families in New York City was held at the Women's Voluntary Association Auditorium in Dhaka Tuesday.

The principal speaker was Kaari Lynn Flagstad, a visiting Research fellow of the AIBS from the Department of Anthropology and Demography, Pennsylvania State University, USA. Dr Mizanur Rahman Shelley, a noted scholar and Chairman of the CDRB, was in the chair.

Kaari Flagstad said that of the Bangladeshis who migrate to the US, most go to New York City, commonly residing in the Astoria and Jackson Heights areas of Queens. The exact size of the population is unknown because many of these migrants live in the country without proper visas or with fake passports and lack legal status.

She noted that Bangladeshi women migrants, to a varying extent, enjoy increased mobility in the US due to a variety of factors. Because they are in a nuclear, rather than joint families, and because they do not have servants, these women bear the brunt of household work, shopping, child-care, etc, thereby extending their responsibilities. These women feel less vulnerable due to the sense of safety and security provided by law enforcement.

Also, the active inclusion and participation of women in most spheres of American society enhances their confidence.

She said that although most of these migrants are from educated middle-class families, generally from Dhaka, Khulna or Sylhet, the intense competition for employment among immigrant groups and their

lack of appropriate qualifications, compels them to take inferior jobs, ordinarily in the informal service sector, as taxi-cab drivers, waiters, cooks, shopkeepers, store clerks, street vendors, and factory workers. She pointed out that an amazing 90 per cent of drivers for the Yellow Cab Company are Bangladeshis.

That while many Bangladeshi migrants praise the increased scholastic and economic opportunities that exist in the US, she observed that many expressed concern over imparting their cultural and religious values to their children.

In his presidential address, Dr Shelley said that courage and innovation helped Bangladeshi immigrants survive and flourish against all odds. He added that Bangladeshi women immigrants have proved equal to men in meeting challenges of a different society and culture. Dr Shelley also outlined how the cooperation between the AIBS and the CDRB had produced useful research work by US and Bangladeshi scholars.

IWDC programmes on Int'l Women's Day

By Staff Correspondent

International Women's Day Committee (IWDC) will arrange cultural programmes, rallies and processions across the country to celebrate the "International Women's Day 1998" on Sunday, says a press release.

IWDC, an umbrella body of a number of women's organisations, human rights groups and development agencies in Bangladesh, will observe the day with the theme for this year "Freedom of Movement for Women".

Among other organisations, IWDC includes Ganowastha Kendra, Mass Line Media Centre, Naripakkha, Girl Guides Association, CARE Bangladesh, World Food Programme and Utsa Bangladesh.

ADAB expresses shock at death of its field officer

By Staff Correspondent

ADAB president and director have expressed deep shock at the premature death of the organisation's field officer in charge of Barisal region Arif Chowdhury, says a press release.

Arif Chowdhury was drowned in the river Kirtonkhola when he slipped off the ferry and fell into the river on his way to Barisal from Patuakhali where he went to attend an annual general meeting of ADAB on Sunday.

Envoy of Morocco hosts reception

The Charge d'Affaires of the Embassy of the Kingdom of Morocco in Dhaka Mohamed Etghroussi hosted a reception Tuesday evening to celebrate the 37th anniversary of the ascension to the throne of King Hassan II, reports BSS.

The occasion was attended among others by Environment Minister Begum Sajeda Chowdhury, State Minister for Foreign Affairs Abul Hassan Chowdhury, State Minister for Jute A K Faezul Huq, politicians, officials, diplomats, journalists and elite of the city.

Muggers stab one, snatch Tk 45,000

By Staff Correspondent

Muggers snatched Tk 45,000 after stabbing a young man in the city's Mirpur area yesterday afternoon.

Police said a gang of about three snatchers riding on a rickshaw intercepted another rickshaw in which Sharwar Hossain, 23, an NGO official, was returning home after drawing Tk 45,000 in cash from a bank near the Goal Chatter Section No. 10 at about 2 pm.

Wielding knives, the gang asked Sharwar, a resident of Kazipara, to hand over the bag containing the cash. When Sharwar declined to do so, the muggers stabbed him in the neck and back.

What's on today . . .

Annual conference: The two-day fifth annual conference of Bangladesh Ceramic Society (BCS) will begin. Venue: Institute of Food Science and Technology, Bangladesh Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (BCSIR). Time: 9 am. Dr Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir, State Minister for Planning, Science and Technology will inaugurate the conference. The inaugural function will be followed by a ceramic exhibition.

Prize giving ceremony: A function to give the Shilu Abed Smriti Purushkar will be held. Venue: BRAC Centre auditorium at 75, Mohakhali. Time: 4 pm. BRAC has organised the function.

Training programme: The concluding ceremony and certificate awarding of a five-day training programme organised by the Bangladesh Private Medical Practitioners' Association in collaboration with Directorate of Health and ARI Project will be held. Venue: Holy Family Red Crescent Hospital auditorium. Time: 9 am. LGRD and Cooperations Minister Zillur Rahman will attend the function as the chief guest.

Rotary Club of Jahangirnagar Dhaka: The weekly meeting of the club will be held. Venue: Officers' Club, Bally Road. Time: 5:30 pm.

Japanese Film Festival: Tora-san My Uncle directed by Yoji Yamada will be screened. Venue: Central Public Library auditorium. Time: 6:30 pm.

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APPOINTMENT NOTICE

Applications are invited from bonafide Bangladeshies Female for appointment for a post of female "Vice-Principal" of Manarat Dhaka International College under the following terms and conditions:

- (i) Candidates should be Master Degree holder with Honours in any discipline.
- (ii) At least 15(fifteen) years teaching including 3(three) years administrative experience in a college or of A'level institution.
- (iii) Candidates are required to be fluent in spoken English.

Preference will be given to the candidate having English medium educational back ground and/or Foreign Degree.

- (iv) Muslim candidates must have adequate knowledge of Islam and must be practicing Muslim.

Application should contain the following information (i) Name (ii) Father's/Mother's/Husband's Name (iii) Present and permanent address (with Mailing address) (iv) Educational qualifications (v) Age (vi) Experience. (vii) Extra Academic qualification.

Application with attested copies of Certificates along with two copies of recent passport size photographs should reach the following address within 7 days of the publication of notices.

Pay and allowance will be decided on mutual discussion.

Secretary Manarat Trust.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina unveiling the plaque of foundation of the new administration and training building of the Bangladesh Civil Service Administration Academy in the city yesterday. — PID photo

Democracy Festival opens

Need for practising parliamentary democracy emphasised

Political leaders and diplomats yesterday emphasised the need for nourishing and practising parliamentary democracy in Bangladesh through responsible behaviour, mutual accommodation, tolerance and flexibility by the government and opposition for the development of the country, reports BSS.

They were addressing the inaugural session of the three-day Democracy Festival organised by 'Democracy Watch' in the city. Chief Election Commissioner Mohammad Abu Hena, prime minister's parliamentary adviser and Awami League leader Suranjit Sengupta, MP, former finance minister and opposition BNP leader M Saifur Rahman, MP, US Ambassador John Holzman, acting UK High Commissioner Miriam McIntosh, head of EC delegation Michel Drury, social activist Farida Akhter and Democracy Watch executive director Taleyah Rehman spoke.

Democracy Watch is a centre for training to the youth as democratic, independent and modern citizens.

The speakers all stressed for healthy parliamentary practices to strengthen the democracy and welcomed as a positive sign the major opposition BNP's decision to join the parliament withdrawing their abstention.

The Chief Election Commissioner said for the effective working of democracy, the pursuit of not power but healthy politics is an imperative. But people's welfare, being the ultimate

goal of politics, the conduct of the political parties, specially the ruling and opposition parties, is expected to be constructive and responsible and to conform to standard norms.

Hena said tragically, impolitic conduct, irresponsible activities and lack of mutual trust and tolerance on the part of political parties are eroding people's confidence in politics.

Suranjit Sengupta underlined the overriding need for continuous dialogue and accommodation between the ruling and the opposition parties and said parliamentary democracy without opposition is meaningless.

Peace Corps Country Director in city

Newly appointed Country Director for Peace Corps Ms Margaret Goodman arrived in Dhaka on Sunday to reestablish the US Peace Corps presence in Bangladesh, said a USIS press release yesterday, reports UNB.

The first Volunteers are projected to arrive in September. Peace Corps Volunteers served in Bangladesh during the 1960's, but the programme was suspended and then cancelled during the Liberation War in 1971.

Worldwide there are currently about 6,500 Peace Corps Volunteers serving overseas.

He said Bangladesh was born for democracy and democracy alone can rule Bangladesh though it was disrupted time and again.

Saifur Rahman was critical about taking decisions by the mere force of majority and said participatory process of decision making is the guarantor of decisions taken.

He was also critical about the culture of long boycott of parliament which, he said, was in practice since 1994 as an infectious disease.

Saifur Rahman said one has to nourish multi-party pluralistic democratic polity in the country for pro-people, pro-poor, pro-employment development programmes.

Holzman commended the major opposition BNP's decision to join parliament and said it is an example of harmony and tolerance, normal practice in democracy. He said it is a real challenge for Bangladesh to learn the art of democracy, harmony, tolerance, rule of law, and above all, good governance.

Taleyah Rehman said the objective of the Democracy Festival is to create awareness among the young people about democracy, introduce them to the democratic institutions of the established democratic countries and to give the opportunity to our politicians to listen to the younger generation.

The festival programme includes exhibition on democracy around the world and documentary film shows on democracy and human rights.



Chief Election Commissioner Mohammad Abu Hena inaugurated Democracy Festival in the city yesterday. — Star photo



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Attention is drawn to the notice published in this esteemed daily on 23 January 1998 inviting offers by SABINCO for purchase of its 120,000 ordinary shares of Tk.100 each in the capital of Impress Leather Process Limited as going concern and intending buyers are hereby advised to note the following change in the said offer notice:

The total number of ordinary shares of Tk.100 each being offered for sale would read 165,000 repeat 165,000 instead of 120,000 mentioned in the aforesaid offer notice as also in the information sheet. Buyers are therefore requested to submit offer for purchase of 165,000 shares en-bloc irrespective of the figure (which is 120,000) mentioned in the information sheet.

All other terms and conditions including last date and time of receiving offers i.e. 11 March 1998 at 11-30 AM remain unchanged.

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