

## Metropolitan

## Women lawyers urged to protect rights of underprivileged women

By Staff Correspondent

Speakers at a discussion yesterday called upon the country's women lawyers to come forward to exercise their power to protect the rights of underprivileged women of the society.

They were addressing the inaugural session of a seminar titled "The role of women lawyers in protecting the rights of underprivileged & disadvantaged groups" at the Second Women Lawyers Congress at Democracy auditorium of the Khan Foundation in the city.

Noted Lawyer Barrister Syed Iftaque Ahmed called upon the women lawyers to stand up and fight against all injustice and discrimination to establish justice and impartiality in the society.

He expressed optimism that female lawyers would do better in their profession day by day.

A n a d i a n H i g h Commissioner David Preston, who attended the function as guest of honour recommended appointment of women to higher levels in the judiciary, eliminating *fatwas* which victimise women, revision of legal definition of rape to make it more comprehensive and amendment of other laws to prevent discrimination against women.

The High Commissioner urged prevention of abuse by empowering the disadvantaged, particularly women, through

## Time changed

The timing of the 5th solo-painting exhibition by artist Gulshan Hossain, which began on Friday, has been changed due to today and tomorrow's hartal, says a press release.

During hartal days the exhibition will remain open from 6 pm to 9 pm. Otherwise the exhibition will remain open from 10 am to 8 pm daily till December 15.

Martyr's of the Liberation War  
The brave people of greater Rajshahi

RAJSHAHI, Dec 4: People from all walks of life of greater Rajshahi district had forged solid unity during the Liberation War and waged a heroic struggle to wrest freedom from the clutches of barbaric Pakistan army, reports BSS.

During the armed struggle, thousands of people, men and women of greater Rajshahi district and made supreme sacrifices for the liberation of their motherland.

The Liberation War against occupation Pakistani army actually began on March 23, 1971 in Rajshahi district when a Punjabi army soldier tried to disarm a Bangalee sepoy of the then East Pakistani Rifles (EPR) at Rohanpur which is now under Chapainawabganj district.

The EPR Sepoy disobeyed the Punjabi soldier and instantly opened fire at him. The very next day, a Punjabi army captain went to disarm the Bangalee EPR Sepoy at the camp. At this stage, the EPR Sepoys revolted the Pakistani army and a Bangalee EPR Habilidar Akkas Ali opened fire at the captain and killed him on the spot. After the incident, a mini war between Bangalee law enforcing personnel and occupation forces began in the area which lasted for nearly two to three days.

Rajshahi district remained a

free area till April 13, 1971 despite Pak army crackdown at Dhaka and other parts of the country on March 25, 1971. Rajshahi Cantonment remained under the control of Bangalee Army Captain Gias and Captain Rashid till April 13. The local people including students, farmers, housewives and members of professional groups extended their support and cooperation to maintain control the cantonment.

The Pakistan Air Force bombed different parts of Rajshahi on April 8 and 9 to create panic among the people, hoping that the air bombings would destroy the strong morale of the Bangalees.

Freedom fighter Abdul Malek Chowdhury, a student leader, at that time, said that the occupation army entered Rajshahi with reinforcements from Dhaka on the night of April 13, 1971 and unleashed a reign of terror. On their way to Rajshahi from Natore, the notorious army burnt down thousands of houses. Along with their collaborators, they mercilessly killed lawyers, university teachers, politicians, journalists, students, businessmen and innocent people.

Some of the prominent intellectuals who were brutally killed by Pakistani army in

Rajshahi included Advocate Biren Sarkar, Advocate Nazmul Haque Sarkar, Advocate Aminuddin, journalist Abu Sayeed, Abdus Sattar, treasurer of Rajshahi city Awami League, Prof Mir Abdul Qayum of Psychology Department of Rajshahi University, Prof. Habibur Rahman, Reader of Mathematics Department and Prof Sukhranjan Sammader of Sangskritik Department, Suresh Pandey, Mawrozuddin and Eliasuddin.

The Pak army and their collaborators killed these men at their own houses or at different concentration camps set at several places including Zoha Hall and Munnujan Hall of Rajshahi University, and Kunjumotri Bari and Rani Bazar areas. The victims of the brutal killings were dumped near the concentration camps and also at Babla Tala, on the bank of the river Padma.

Skulls and bones were found at mass graves at Zoha Hall, Munnujan Hall and Babla Tala after the liberation of the country.

The Pakistan army also killed Mamun Mahmud, DIG, Police, Rajshahi Range, Shah Abdul Majid, Superintendent of Police, Rajshahi and Khalilur Rahman, Assistant Director, CID, Rajshahi Range.

Air chief returns  
Chief of the Air Staff Air Vice Marshal Jamal Uddin Ahmed returned home from Malaysia yesterday, reports BSS.

Air Vice Marshal Jamal Uddin Ahmed went to Malaysia to witness the Langkawi International Maritime and Aerospace Exhibition '99, says a press release.

## Prize distribution ceremony today

The prize distribution and concluding ceremony of the 40th annual sports of Dhaka Residential Model College will be held at 2:30 pm tomorrow, says a press release.

Happy Birthday to "Jaantush"



## টেক্সটাইল মেশিনারী

আপনি কি ইউরোপ অরিজিন টেক্সটাইল মেশিনারী খুঁজছেন?  
ইংল্যান্ডের বিখ্যাত সরবরাহকারী Hall & Boyden-  
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ইত্যাদির প্রয়োজনে যোগাযোগ করুন।  
নীড় এন্টারপ্রাইজ লিঃ  
৬৫, বঙ্গবন্ধু এক্সিনিউট, ঢাকা। ফোন : ৯৫৫৪৬৮৩, ৯৫৬৬৪৯৮

## English Courses

The British Council Teaching Centre's Ramadan Intensive course (7 Dec-4 Jan) will start after hartal finishes.

Some places are still available in General English classes (except elementary level) and in IELTS preparation classes. Young Learner classes are full. Young Learners can register after Eid.

Late registration will take place on Tuesday 7th & Wed 8th December (subject to hartal) 12.00-3.00pm.

**The British Council Teaching Centre**  
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— Nana, Nanu, Mama C-1007

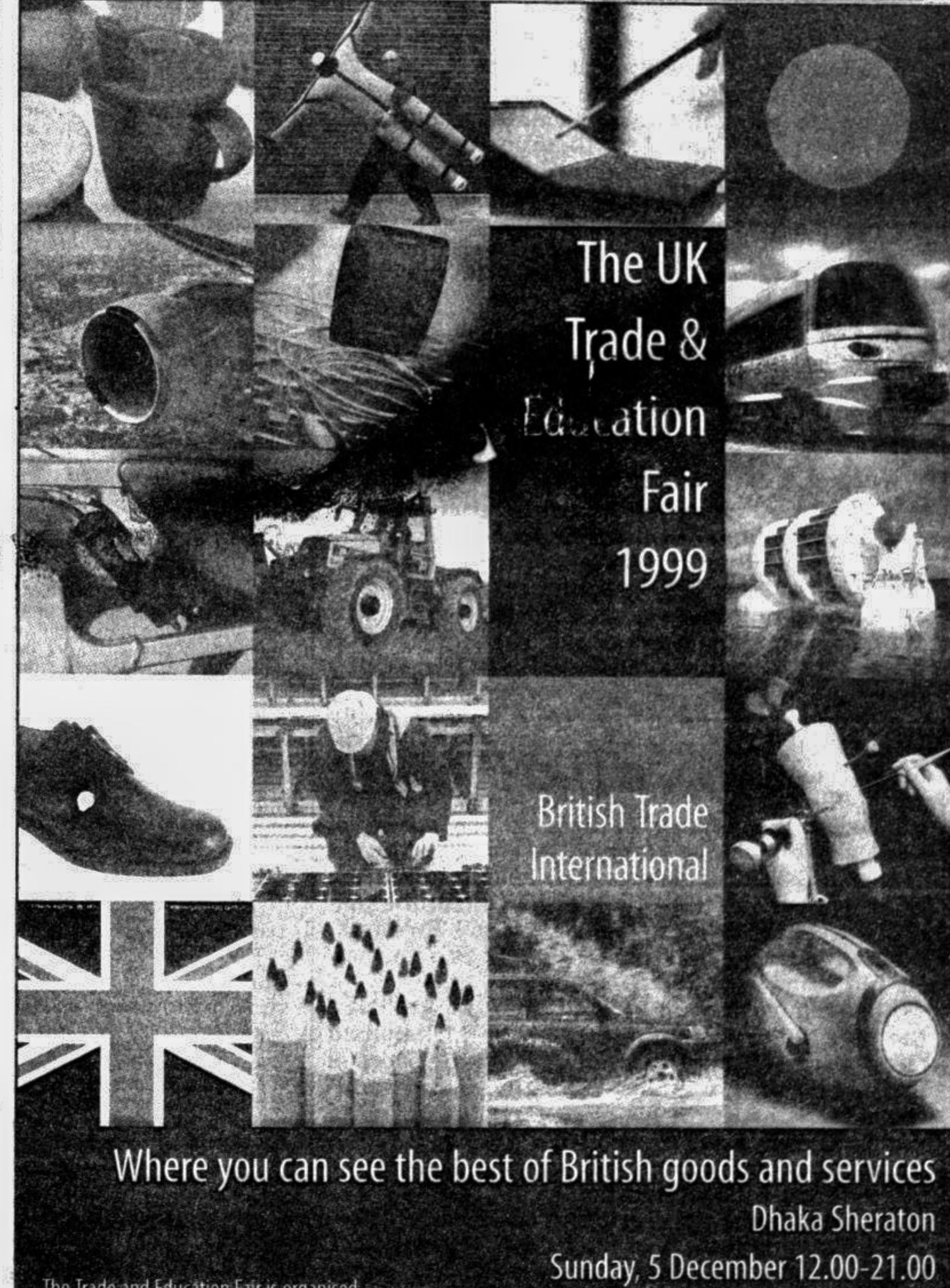
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