



PHOTO STAR
Election observers belonging to Bangladesh Human Rights Coordination Council paraded the city streets yesterday demanding free and fair polls in the country.

Dev not possible without participation of women

Speakers tell seminar in the city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Development of the country is impossible without the participation of women who constitute a half of the total population of the country.

Speakers said the above at a seminar held at the CIRDAP auditorium in the city. They also emphasised on political empowerment and education of the women.

Organised by the Department of Women's Studies of the Dhaka University the seminar was titled "Institutionalising Women's Studies in Bangladesh: Expectations and Challenges".

Vice Chancellor of the university Prof A K Azad Chowdhury addressed the inaugural session of the programme as chief guest while chairperson of the department Dr Najma Chowdhury was in the chair.

The speakers also observed that women's involvement in development activities depends to a very large extent upon their education investment in women has resulted in beneficial change in less developed countries, like Bangladesh, they said, adding that new economic demands have created new opportunities for women to come out of their traditional housework and child care duties.

The inaugural session was also addressed by Ambassador of the Netherlands to Bangladesh J.L. Ijzerman, Dr Saskia Wieringa of the Institute of Social Studies (ISS) in Hague, Dr Nazmunnessa Ma-

htab and Salma Ahmad.

Prof A K Azad Chowdhury said that scenario of women in very progressive. Women can change the world, culture of peace, culture of harmony and culture of tolerance.

Other speakers said women's studies are ethical and at the same time political because their empowerment is related with it. They termed women's studies as the challenge of the century to discover real issues regarding women.

The speakers said images, roles and behaviour of women are changing many societies however this change is very leisurely in developing countries, they said. It is easy to show that women in academia are limited to lower positions, but difficult to discover why it is so, they pointed out.

They said that in the third world today the situation of women is made worse not only by patriarchal attitudes but also by economic crisis.

The challenges to institutionalising Women's Studies in the academia are many. It is not seen as mainstream knowledge and its multi-disciplinary dimensions are perceived as loosely constructed that do not meet the test of methodological rigours, the speakers observed.

The speakers hoped that Women Studies would fulfil expectations by playing the role of an advocate in shaping policy agenda and focusing on issues concerning women.



PHOTO STAR
VC of Dhaka University Prof A K Azad Chowdhury addressing a seminar on "Institutionalising Women's Studies in Bangladesh: Expectations and Challenges" held at the CIRDAP auditorium yesterday.

IU admission

Distribution of application forms from October 7

IU CORRESPONDENT, Kishitla

Islamic University (IU) will start distributing application forms for admission into the first year honours classes under 2001-2002 academic year on October 7, said a press release.

Application forms will be available at the IU branch, Thanapara Kishitla branch and Jhenidah main branch of the Agran Bank. The price of the application forms has been fixed at TK 100 each.

The last date for submitting the forms is November 8.

Those who have passed higher secondary (HSC) examinations in the year 2000 or 2001 are eligible for admission. And the candidates should have at least second division in secondary school certificate (SSC) and HSC or equivalent examinations.

The admission tests will be held between November 18 and 26. And the admission process will be completed between December

23 and January 3. The first year honours orientation classes will start on January 19 next year, the press release added.

The pass number in the admission test is 45 out of total 150. For further information, admission seekers can contact the officials at the registrar office during office hour.

JSJ to hold rally today

BSS, Dhaka

Jatiyatabadi Sangskritik Jote (JSJ) will bring out a colourful rally from the National Press Club here at 3:00 pm today in support of the Four-party alliance in the October 1 parliamentary polls, a press release said yesterday.

Reputed cultural personalities including artists, poets, litterateurs, journalists, columnists and artists will take part in the rally.

Democracy Watch survey

AL, BNP getting equal coverage in electronic media

BSS, Dhaka

The Awami League and BNP are now getting almost equal coverage in the electronic media under both public and private ownership, according to a Democracy Watch survey report.

However, the Awami League is still getting more coverage than BNP from BBC and VOA, the report said.

Democracy Watch, which compiled the survey report on the basis of media coverage from September 14 to 20, said AL was given a total of 25 minutes 53 seconds by the state-owned BTV while the BNP was given 20 minutes 58 seconds during the period.

In ETV, AL was provided with coverage of 48 minutes 46 seconds while the BNP was allotted 30 minutes 26 seconds.

Democracy Watch released the survey report at a press conference held at the National Press Club yesterday. Executive Director of Democracy Watch Talea Rehman addressed the conference while Abu Sufian read out the survey report.

Talea Rehman said the previous reports showed that the AL got more coverage in the electronic media than BNP, but now both the parties are getting almost equal coverage.

After the formation of the caretaker government about three months ago, she said, the coverage gap between AL and BNP was 24 per cent. Whereas both the parties are now getting 47 per cent coverage from BTV and ETV, she added.

Talea said the law and order situation in the country has deteriorated after the caretaker government took over.

In September, 78 people were killed in political clashes across the country while 62 people were killed in similar clashes the previous month, the Democracy Watch survey said.



PHOTO STAR
Students of the Institute of Fine Arts held a cartoon exhibition in front of the institute yesterday. The cartoons depicted fanatics in the society.

Combing operation

1073 arrested, 57 firearms seized

Police seized 26 firearms, 31 others types of arms and 141 rounds of bullet on the 70th day of the countrywide combing operation, official sources said yesterday.

Of the arrested, 18 persons were caught with arms and police lodged 11 cases under arms act during the time.

Police also arrested 1,073 persons including five listed terrorists from across the country during the last 24 hours ended at 6 am today.

Of the arrested, police wanted 611 persons and rest 438 persons are accused in cases under investigation.

The identified terrorists arrested by the combined force are Mohammad Ajrat Hossain alias Farid of Rajshahi city, Mohammad Obaidur Rahman of Gazipur, Abdullah Abu, Member of Bagerhat.

UK High Commission consular section to remain closed on October 1

UNB, Dhaka

The consular/Immigration Section of the British High Commission to Bangladesh will be closed on October 1 on the occasion of the parliament election.

However, the section will provide emergency services for the British citizens on the day.

4TH DEATH ANNIVERSARY

The 4th death anniversary of Prof. Mofizuddin Ahmed, Professor Emeritus, Dhaka University and founding VC of Jahangirnagar University will be observed today, the 26th September 2001.

All relatives, friends and acquaintances are requested to pray for eternal peace of the departed soul.

On this occasion a Milad Mehfil will be held at his Gulshan residence at 5:00 PM.

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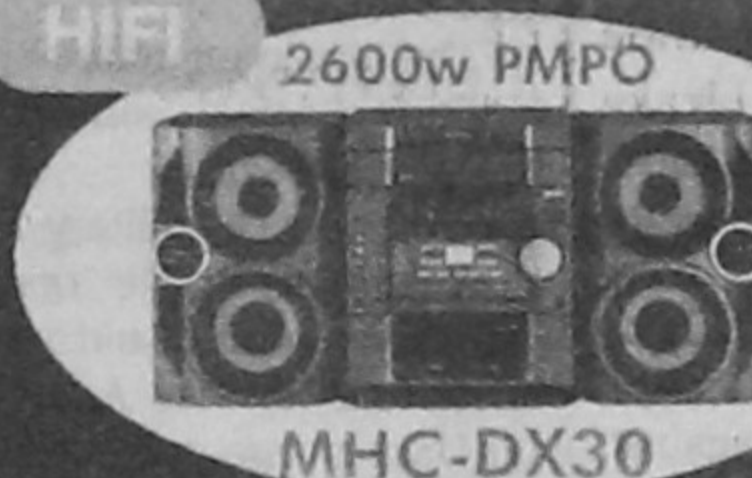
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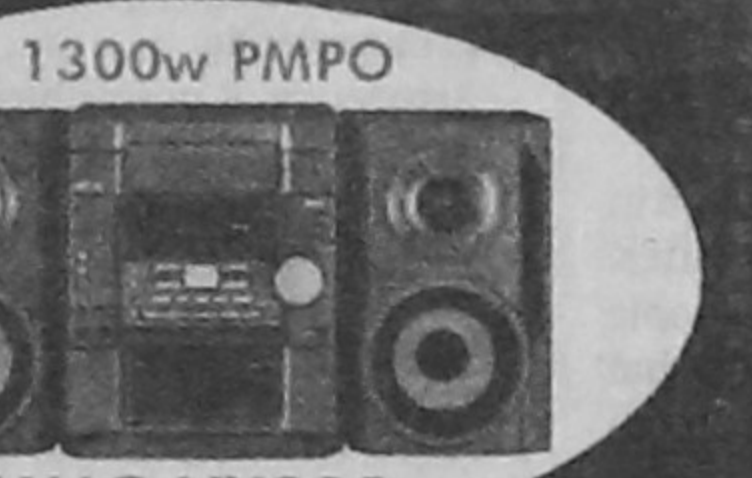
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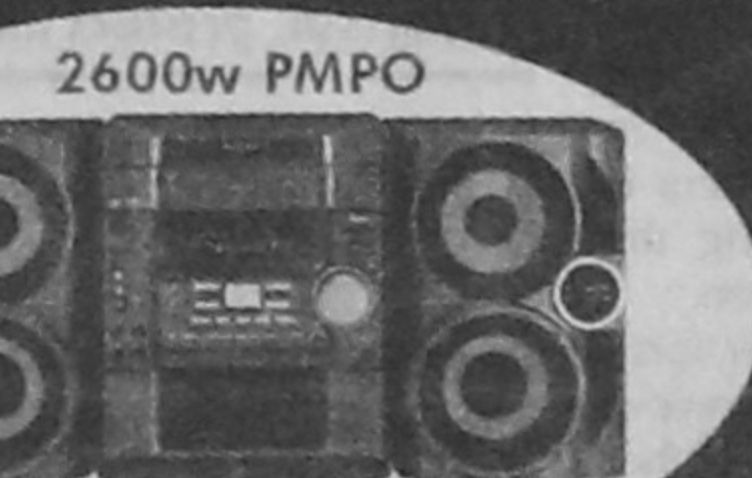
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