



PHOTO: STAR  
The weekly Begum Editor Noorjahan Begum speaks at the first conference of the Bangladesh Women Journalists Centre (BWJC) as chief guest at the National Press Club VIP Lounge yesterday. On her left are BWJC convenor Nasimun Ara Haq Minu and columnist ABM Musa and on her right is Ananya Editor Tasmima Hossain.

# 'Lack of social security key hurdle for women journalists'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a conference yesterday said lack of social security and familial problems are the key hurdles for women journalists in their professional advancement.

"Before 50's when we started the Weekly Begum, we could not even think that Muslim women can become journalist, dance in public, and perform

in drama and film," said Noorjahan Begum in her speech as chief guest at the first conference of Bangladesh Women Journalist Centre (BWJC) in the city.

"But the scenario has now changed," Noorjahan, also editor of the weekly Begum, said.

She called on women journalists to work for common women, focus their struggles more vividly and write against all social prejudices.

"We must be given dignity as human being, not just as women, she emphasised.

Columnist ABM Musa said, "When we began our career, we could not think of a woman working as journalist. But a good number of women are now working in this field and it is undoubtedly a positive sign."

He said they will have to march ahead with their profession despite security-related problems.

"Despite our will, we cannot send women journalists for reporting everywhere because there is a question of social security from all including their parents and husbands," said Mahfuz

Anam, editor of The Daily Star.

He said journalism is a challenging profession for women and they should give more emphasis to sustain and advance in this profession.

He said media owners and policy makers also need to change their attitude towards women journalists in ensuring their full dignity as professionals.

"Women are entering almost in all professions contributing immensely to national economy, but they are not given opportunities to play their role at policy-level," said Tasmima Hossain, editor of Ananya, a fortnightly magazine.

BWJC Convenor Nasimun Ara Haq Minu presided.

Minu said a woman has to take care of her profession after looking after her husband, children, their education, and in-laws. She has to manage so many things in single hand.

She said the BWJC will hold conference with district level women journalists, invite Saarc women journalists and introduce award for best reporting.

BWJC member secretary Di Monwara Minu also spoke.

## Obituary

UNB, Dhaka

M Habib Ullah, a senior lawyer of the Supreme Court, died of cardiac arrest here yesterday at the age of 68.

Advocate Habib, also a former deputy attorney general, left behind his wife, three daughters and one son.

His namaz-e-janaza will be held on the Supreme Court premises at 10:30 am today.

Supreme Court Bar Association President Barrister Rokanuddin Mahmud and General Secretary Bashir Ahmed expressed deep shock at the death of Habib Ullah.

## Death anniversary



Today is the seventh death anniversary of Advocate Md Hasan Ali Chowdhury (Montu Meah), says a press release.

On the occasion, a milad mahfil will be held at his village home Maista Chowdhury Para under Kalihati upazila in Tangail district.

## Quazi Rowshanara Begum

Today is the first death anniversary of Quazi Rowshanara Begum, wife of Quazi AT Nuruzzaman, former Chief Superintendent of Bangladesh Railway, says a press release.

On the occasion, a milad mahfil and Qurankhwani will be held at her village home Adiabadi in Narsingdi after Zohr prayers.

## DAILY STAR-ASTECH ENGLISH DEBATE

# Bay View, Oxbridge, Ctg Int'l School win on second day

CU CORRESPONDENT

Bay View School, Oxbridge International School and Chittagong International School won their respective three sessions held on the second day of the five-day-long The Daily Star-Astech Group Inter-School English Debate Competition at the Lions Foundation Auditorium in the port city yesterday.

In the first session, Bay View School defeated William Carry on the motion 'Computer is taking away the pleasure of reading and sports'. Bay View School spoke for the motion while William Carry spoke against it.

Oxbridge International School became the winner beating Bangladesh Elementary School in the second session. The topic was 'Our education system is responsible for brain drain'.

Bangladesh Elementary School took position in favour of the motion while Oxbridge International School against it. Chittagong International School spoke

for the motion 'Private tuition should be banned in our country' and Presidency International School spoke against it in the third and last session of the day. Chittagong International School became the winner.

Former head of English department of Chittagong Government College Professor Rehana Khanam, Principal of Chittagong International School Fazle Alam and Principal of Sunshine Grammar School Safia Rahman presided over the sessions.

Journalist Nazimuddin Shyamol, ex-president of Chittagong University Debating Society Fuad Hasan, USTC Debating Society Secretary Afroza Sharmin and Drishty Debate Secretary Adnan Mannan were the judges.

Another three sessions of the competition will be held at the same venue starting from 12.00 noon today.

A total of nine English medium schools of the port city are taking part in the competition organised by Drishty, a cultural and debating organisation.

DHAKA TODAY

### Film show

A documentary film titled 'In through the outdoor', directed by AKM Zakaria will be screened. It will be followed by a discussion on 'Women in Media'. Venue: Community Development Library, Dhanmondi. Time: 4.00pm.

### Academy film show

Academy Film Society will screen a Canadian film titled 'Videodrome' (1982). Venue: Society auditorium, Jigatola. Time: 6.30pm.

### Film festival

As part of the film festival programme, Dhaka University Film Society will screen four films titled 'Kolkata 71', 'Sarengbou', 'Lal Doroja' and 'Swaralipi'. Venue: Teachers Students Centre.

### Conference

Unesco and Bafed co-organise the fourth educational researchers' conference for dissemination of research findings. Venue: IDB Bhaban, Agargaon. Time: 9.30am.

### Jote rally

Sammilito Sangskritik Jote will hold a rally to protest the killing of Awami League

lawmaker Ahsanullah Master. Venue: Central Shaheed Minar. Time: 5.00pm.

### Meeting

A meeting of the executive committee of Bangladesh Sports Journalists' Association will be held. Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium Swimming Pool. Time: 12.00 noon.

### Blood donation

Quantum Foundation organises a voluntary blood donation camp. Venue: Ahsan Monjil Supermarket, Islampur. Time: 10.00am to 6.00pm.

DHAKA TOMORROW

### Academy film show

Academy Film Society will screen a Chinese film titled 'Springtime in a Small Town (2002)'. Venue: Society auditorium, Jigatola. Time: 6.30pm.

### Seminar

A seminar on Canada Immigrant Investor Programme, organised by Immigration Law Consultancy Bureau, will be held. Venue: Sonargaon Hotel. Time: 10.00am.