

Establish democratic state to ensure gender equality

Speakers say at seminar

DU CORRESPONDENT

The rights of women and gender equality will not be ensured without the establishment of an ideal democratic state, speakers said at a seminar yesterday.

They said a democratic state, which ensures the welfare of its people can also ensure and preserve the rights of women and a society free from gender biasness.

Contributions of women to the society and national development are hardly found, as history is written from patriarchal point of view.

The speakers were addressing a seminar titled 'Pritilata Waddedar Memorial Lectures' at Dhaka University (DU) Senate Building.

The Department of Women and Gender Studies (DWGS) of Dhaka University (DU) organised the seminar to mark the 75th anniversary of death of Pritilata Waddedar, an anti-British revolutionary.

Chaired by Prof Dr Serajul Islam Chowdhury, the seminar was



Prof Uttara Chakravarti addresses a seminar titled 'Pritilata Waddedar Memorial Lectures' at Dhaka University (DU) Senate Building yesterday.

addressed by DU Vice Chancellor Prof SMA Faiz, Prof Dr Syed Anwar Hossain of the History department, Uttara Chakravarti, former professor of Bethun College of Kolkata

and one of the friends of Pritilata, and Mrittika Sahita, a lecturer at the history department, DU, and DWGS Chair Ayesha Banu.

Pritilata, through her anti-

imperialism revolution, stands against the patriarchal social system," said Prof Islam.

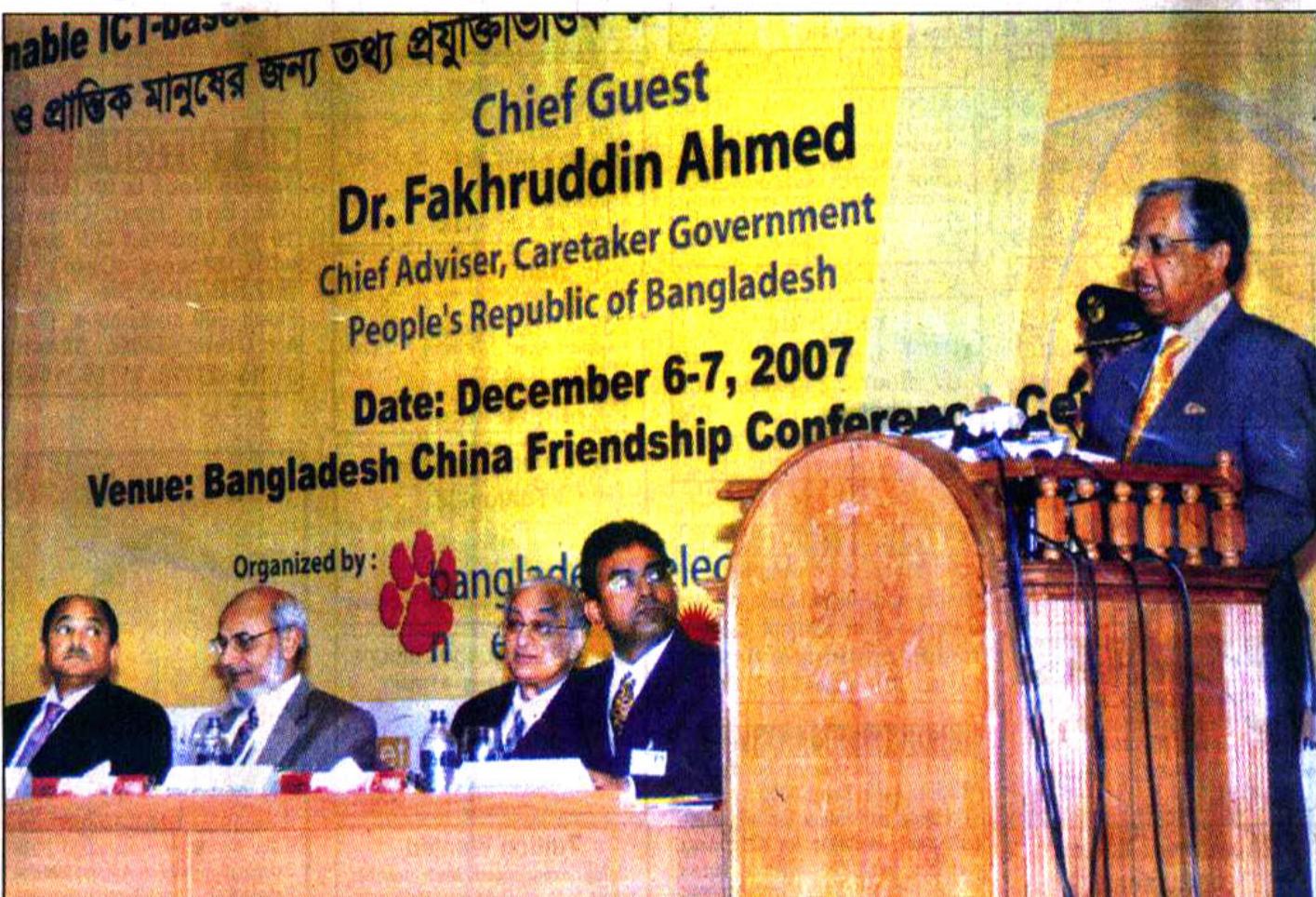
Prof Syed Anwar Hossain said there is no state recognition to Pritilata, since the state she dreamt of is yet to be established.

Pritilata Waddedar committed suicide by swallowing potassium cyanide on an assignment to launch attack on the Pahartali European Club on September 23, in 1932.

Born in Chittagong in 1911, she was a meritorious student from Khastagir Girls' High School in Chittagong and passed the matriculation examination in the first division in 1927.

In early 1930s, Surya Sen planned an attack on the Pahartali European Club, which bore the words 'Dogs and Indians not allowed'.

He assigned Pritilata to lead a team that would attack the Club on September 23, in 1932.



Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed speaks at the inaugural ceremony of 'Mission 2011: Building a sustainable information and knowledge system for the poor and the marginalised' at Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre in the city yesterday. (Story on Page 1)



Speakers sing the national anthem before the beginning of a discussion to mark the Freedom Fighters' Day at National Press Club in the city yesterday. From left are Ferdousi Priyabashini, Ahad Chowdhury, Maj Gen (Retd) KM Shafiqul Islam, Prof Mahfuza Khanam and Monzaz Begum. Peshajibi Nasi Samaj organised the discussion.

Scholarships for handicapped DU students

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka University 69 Batch, a platform of the former students of Dhaka University (DU), formally distributed scholarships among handicapped students of the university yesterday.

A male student of the Department of Law and a female student of the Institute of Education and Research (IER) received Tk 10,000 each to continue their studies smoothly.

Vice Chancellor Prof SMA Faiz handed over the scholarships among the students as chief guest while Bangladesh Bank Governor Dr Salehuddin Ahmed spoke as special guest at the function at Centre for Excellence of the university.

"It is not right that the quality of education of the university collapsed over the previous years," Faiz told the former students of the university.

"Even at the present stage DU is considered as a very prestigious university by other universities and institutes of the world," he added.

He, however, admitted that the number of researches conducted in the university was very handful and the blamed fund constraints for this situation.

Governor Salehuddin Ahmed thanked the initiates for giving away scholarships saying it would help the handicapped students to run their studies smoothly.

Maintain congenial atmosphere

President tells Sust convocation

BSS, Sylhet

President Iajuddin Ahmed, yesterday termed the universities' centre of excellence and urged all concerned to ensure a congenial academic atmosphere on the campus for the students and recruit new teachers to hasten academic activities.

Later, he visited mazars of Hazrat Shahjalal (R) and Hazrat Shah Paran (R) and offered fateha there.

DU 'Ka' unit admission test today

DU CORRESPONDENT

Admission test of Ka Unit (science faculty) at Dhaka University for the first year honours courses for the sessions 2007-2008 will be held today.

This year 27,908 applicants will vie for 1300 seats in various departments under the faculty, which means 21 applicants will fight for a seat.

The admission tests of Kha Unit (social science and arts faculties) and Gha Unit (combined) will be held on January 11 and 4 respectively.

Anti-corruption cartoon exhibition begins today

An anti-corruption cartoon exhibition organised by the Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) begins in the city today.

Anti-Corruption Commission Chairman Lt Gen (retd) Hasan Mashhud Chowdhury will inaugurate the five-day exhibition at Drik Gallery, says a press release.

British Deputy High Commissioner to Bangladesh Duncan Norman and artist Prof Rafiqunnabi will be present on the occasion.

The exhibition will remain open to all till December 11 from 3:00pm to 8:00pm everyday.

5,236 MT Italian wheat for VGF programme

Italian Development Cooperation has procured wheat worth 2 million euro as per the deal signed between the Government of Italy and Bangladesh government on June 20, says a press release.

The Vessel Ocean Friend moored at Grain Silo Jetty in Chittagong Port yesterday while the 5,236 MT of wheat donated by the Italian Government will be unloaded today.

The wheat will be distributed among the poor people on the line of Vulnerable Group Feeding (VGF) programme.

A brief ceremony for the consignment of the food aid between the representative of the Italian Embassy in Dhaka and the representative of the Ministry of Food and Disaster Management will take place at the Grain Silo Jetty at 11:00 am today.

UNB, Dhaka

Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed yesterday said the government would carry out its efforts to build improved infrastructures in the cyclone-battered southwestern region under its long-term programme with domestic and foreign cooperation.

The CA expressed the view when he received donations for the Chief Adviser's Relief and Welfare Fund from individuals and organisations at his office in the city in a continued flow of aid for disaster victims.

He told them that an additional amount of Tk 50 crore from the CA's Relief Fund would be sent to affected areas, which would be mainly used for

house-rebuilding.

Earlier, Tk 60 crore was disbursed from the Fund. "House rebuilding would help the cyclone-distressed people resume economic activities, and the main objective of the relief and rehabilitation operations is to help them restart their livelihood as quickly as possible," the head of the caretaker government told his audience.

Those who donated yesterday and were present included former minister Habibullah Khan, former ambassador M Mizanur Rahman, former secretary Dr M Ayubur Rahman, President of Uttara Sector-3 Welfare Association Maj Gen (Retd) M Abdul Latif, NBR Chairman Abdul Mazid, Chairman of Bangladesh

Steel and Engineering Corporation Md Abu Jafar and Principal of Chittagong Medical College Prof Dr MAWahab Chowdhury.

Others included President of TV Producers Association of Bangladesh Mamunur Rashid, Chairman of the University of Asia and the Pacific A A Moniruzzaman, Vice-chancellor of Ahsanullah Science and Technology University Prof Dr M Anwar Hossain, Vice-chancellor of Asian University of Bangladesh Prof Dr Abul Hasan M Saadeg, Principal of Nur Mia Degree College at Chowdhogram in Comilla Md Monirul Islam, Headmaster of Dhamondi Government Boys High School Monzur Ahmed, Headmaster of Mostafa Kamal High School at Chowdhogram in Comilla Mohammad Mabbubul Huq, Chairman of Meghna Group of Industries Mostafa Kamal, Managing Director of H S Enterprise Ltd Mahbub Siddique, Manager of Nestle Bangladesh Ltd Mirza Golam Hossain, on behalf of Bangladesh Association in Florida Mohammad Ferdous, Principal of South Point School and College Begum Hamida Ali, President of Bangladesh Auto Biscuits and Bread Manufacturers Association Md Shafiqur Rahman Bhuiyan and Convenor of Bashedhara Shopping Mall Shop Owners Association MA Haman Azad.

CTG POWER PROJECT

2nd loan deal signed with Kuwait Fund

UNB, Dhaka

A second loan agreement for Kuwaiti Dinar 40 lakh for financing the ongoing Greater Chittagong Power Transmission and Distribution Development Project (Phase-III) was signed yesterday with Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED).

KFAED deputy director general for Investment Ghanem Sulaiman Al-Ghenaime and ERD Secretary Aminul Islam Bhuiyan signed the deal worth approximately 13 million US dollar from their respective side.

The Kuwait Fund of the gulf country has been involved as a development partner of Bangladesh for over three decades now.

During this period, it has provided soft loan worth 419.15 million US dollar for 17 development projects, including infrastructural development and two grants, with a view to promoting "socio-economic benefit of the people of Bangladesh", said a news release.

The loans are mostly in the three important sectors of power and energy, road communications and agriculture.



Installation art exhibition

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Artist Mahbubur Rahman will hold a solo exhibition of his installation art, an alternative form of art, at the Galleri Kaya at Uttara in the city today.

The installation inauguration will accompany a live performance supported with video projection by the artist.

The exhibition titled 'The story of a deceased man' will remain open for public viewing till December 18.

Eminent writer and founder of Bishwa Sahitya Kendra Abdullah Abu Sayeed will inaugurate the exhibition, which will be attended by eminent architect Shamsul Wares.

USAID asst administrator due today

UNB, Dhaka

Assistant Administrator of the US Agency for International Development (USAID) Dr Kent Hill will arrive in Dhaka today on a three-day visit.

Dr Hill is head of the Agency's Bureau of Global Health whose programmes represent the commitment and determination of the US government to prevent suffering, save lives and create a brighter future for families in the developing world.

With an annual budget of over \$1.6 billion, USAID's health programmes are confronting global health challenges by improving the quality, availability and use of essential health services.

Dr Hill will visit some major USAID health projects in Tongi and Bhulka, including a Smiling Sun Health Clinic, the Social Marketing Company (SMC) oral rehydration salts factory, SMC Blue Star Pharmacy, as well as the Bangladesh HIV/AIDS programme in the city.

As part of USAID's effort to improve the overall health condition of the Bangladeshi people, USAID will provide \$173 million over the next five years to fund programmes.

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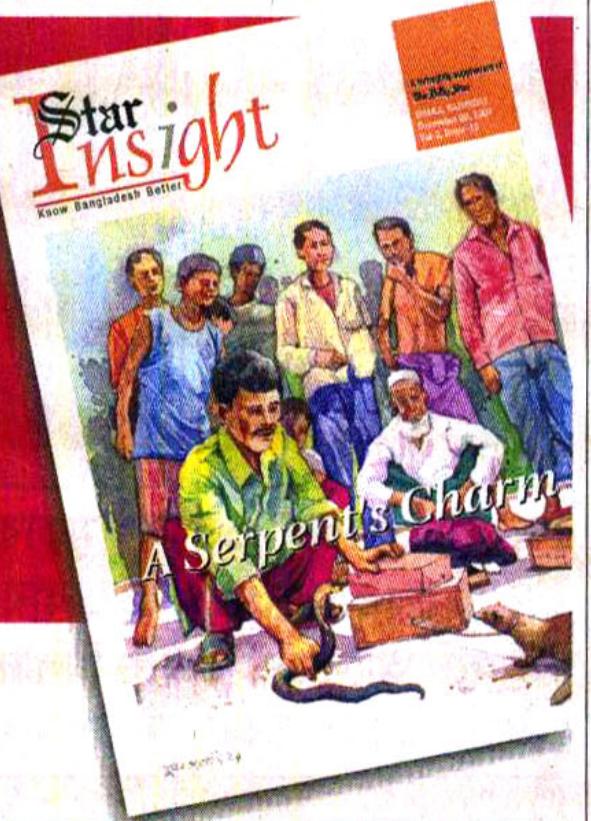
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Reserve 33pc posts for women

Speakers urge political parties

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a seminar yesterday called upon the womenfolk of the country not to vote for the political parties that oppose the proposal of Election Commission (EC) to reserve 33 percent posts within a party.

"If womenfolk decide not to vote the political parties opposing the EC proposal, then those parties would probably change their stance," said Awami League (AL) President Member Motia Chowdhury at the seminar.

Emphasising the need for united movement with like-minded men Justice Ghulam Rabbani said, "Women did not get anything free of cost in the past and in the coming days also they will have to gain everything through struggle."

Commenting on the representation of women in AL Motia said, "In its presidium the proportion of women and men is 40:60," adding, "We have to improve the situation

in working and other committees."

The seminar titled 'Political empowerment and advancement of women' was organised jointly by Bangladesh Nari Pragati Sangha (BNPS), Institute for Environment and Development, and South Asian Alliance for Poverty Eradication at the National Press Club.

Country Director of ActionAid Farah Kabir said when women's contribution to country's economy is highly appreciated, only a few people want their due representation in the political parties.

She also stressed the necessity of creating pressure on the political parties to include women's issues in their election manifestos.

BNPS Executive Director Rokeya Kabir conducted the programme which was also addressed by former lawmaker Nurul Islam Nahid, Prof Syed Anwar Hossain and Prof Shawkat Ara Hossain of Dhaka University and Dr Makduma Nargis of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad.

"Rather a specialist should explain the usefulness of its ingredients in the advertisement," he added.

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