

Rly advance tickets from Nov 18

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Railway (BR) authorities will start selling advance tickets on the occasion of Eid-ul-Azha from November 18 and will continue till November 22.

The BR authorities will also operate four special trains in four routes for three days from November 25 to November 27 to ease the pressure of home-bound people. The special trains will also run after Eid.

The routes are Dhaka-Jamalpur, Dhaka-Mymensingh, Joydebpur-Shantahar and Dhaka-Cantonment-Ishwardi, said MA Jinnah, station manager of Kamalapur Railway Station.

"The advance tickets for November 23 would be sold on November 18, while for November 24 tickets on November 19, November 25 tickets on November 20, November 26 tickets on November 21 and November 27 tickets on November 22," he said.

The tickets will be sold between 9:00am and 5:00pm everyday, he added.

The selling of advance tickets of most of the bus services especially for northern districts have already started and most of the tickets have already been sold out. Some bus services will start selling tickets within one or two days.

Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation (BRTC) will start selling tickets for its special services from November 20 and will continue till November 25, BRTC sources said.

Qulkhwani

METRO DESK



Qulkhwani of MA Bari Mian, former director of Bangladesh Biman, will be held at his residence in the city after Maghrib prayers today, says a press release.

Bari Mian passed away due to a cardiac arrest on Thursday at the age of 74.

Form national taskforce for more scientific researches

Speakers urge govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a conference yesterday called on the government to form a national taskforce to carry out more scientific activities and research works in Bangladesh.

The taskforce should have female representatives to promote women's involvement in scientific and technical professions, they said.

Styled 'Gender participation in the development of science', the international conference was organised by Bangladesh Academy of Sciences (BAS) in association with Inter Academy Panel (IAP), Academy of Science for Developing World (TWAS) and Network of Academy for Sciences in Islamic Countries (NASIC).

Scientists and researchers spoke at the two-day confer-

ence that began at National Museum of Science and Technology auditorium at Agargaon in the city began with the theme 'Women Scientists for Development'.

BAS President Dr M Shamsur Ali in a keynote paper said, "While the National Council of Science and Technology tends to take decisions regarding research activities, it is the responsibility of the government to implement them," adding that a taskforce would make the implementation process more effective.

Myth needs to be broken that women's administrative and decision-making capabilities are inferior to their male counterparts, he mentioned.

"We have myths in our society that women are not interested in the pursuit of science and technology. This is

untrue as suggested by the ever-increasing number of women being involved in science, engineering, architecture, computer science and medicinal fields."

There is a common misconception that village women are involved only in domestic activities, Dr Shamsur said, adding that women play a vital role in the agricultural sector of the country.

"Out of the dozen or so agricultural activities, some seven or eight are conducted by the rural women. In fact, 67 percent of agricultural workforce include village women," he said.

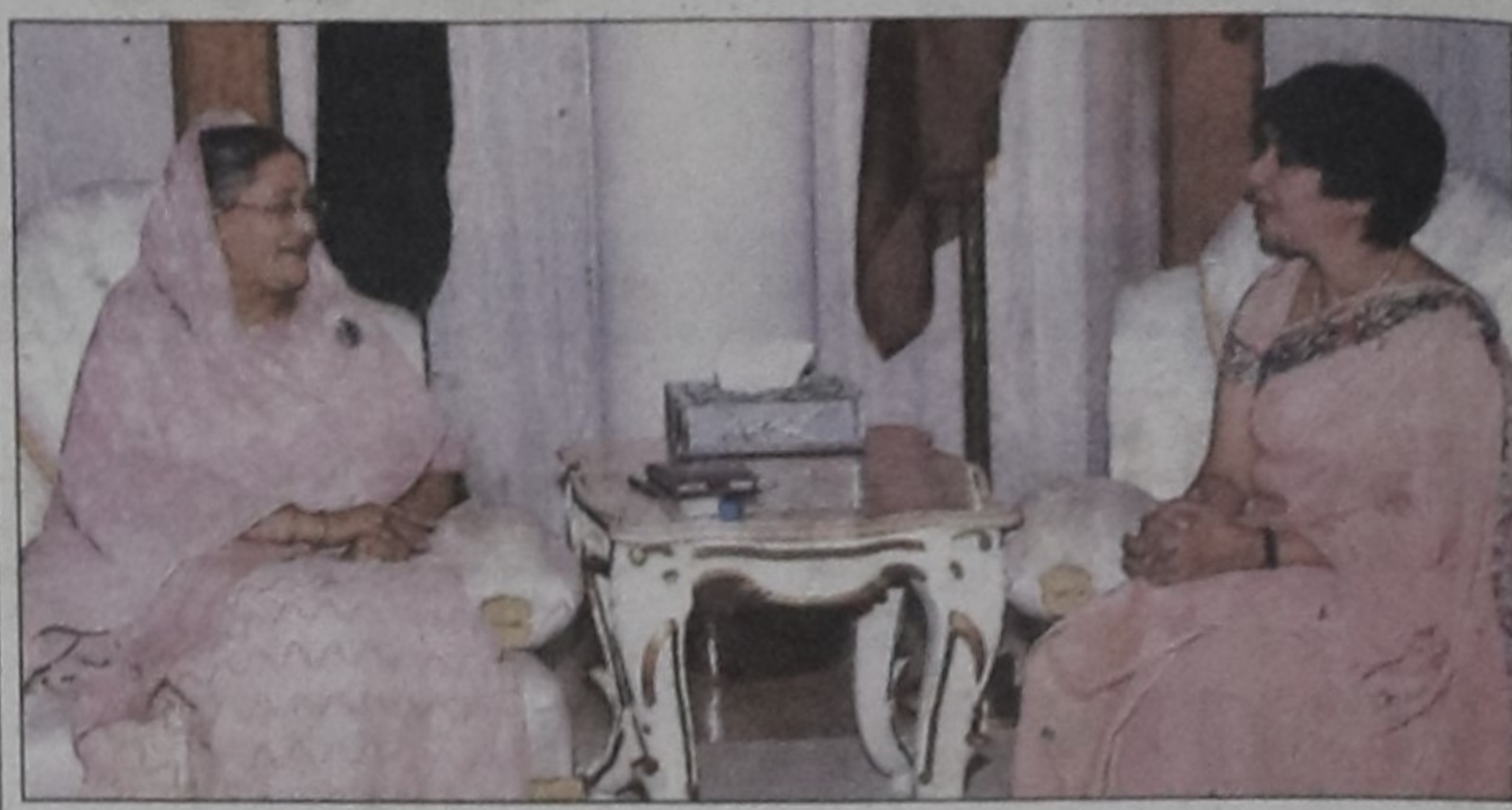
The speakers at the conference said initiatives should be taken so that more and more technical and scientific jobs in different industries would be accessible to women.

There should be provisions of special facilities and incentives for females so that they are motivated to take up science as a career and play their role as mothers as well, they added.

Speaking as the chief guest, State Minister for Science and ICT Yeafesh Osman said Bangladesh is blessed as some of the most important leadership positions in the country are held by females.

"This proves that we have realised the importance of women in the development of the country as a whole," he said.

He called on the researchers and scientists to learn what the general people expect from technology. "We need to know how the common people, especially the villagers and farmers, want from technology, he added.



Indian Foreign Secretary Nirupama Rao calls on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her official residence Jamuna in the city yesterday.

WORKERS PARTY CONGRESS BEGINS

Menon threatens to quit grand alliance

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Workers Party President Rashed Khan Menon yesterday warned that his party would pull out of the Awami League-led grand alliance if the government fails to stop 'wilful mistakes' such as tender violence and nepotism.

"This government is the outcome of the united movement of the 14-party grand alliance. The nation started moving towards building a secular society with the spirit of our liberation war. So, the Workers Party wants the present government to move forward," said the lawmaker at the inaugural session of the party's eighth congress.

"We came to power with the pledge to bring about changes. But no changes have taken place. Tender violence has become a regular event. Authorities resorted to nepotism while giving fertiliser dealership. Power of the Anti-Corruption Commission has been curbed. People now feel disappointed after observing all such activities," said the president of the Workers' Party, one of the key partners

of the ruling AL-led alliance government.

"If the government continues to make such wilful mistakes, Workers Party would not remain with the alliance... We along with people will protest such activities of the government," said Menon.

Hundreds of party delegates from across the country joined the five-day congress of the Workers Party that began at the Mahanagar Naryamanch in the city. Communist party delegations from India, Vietnam, Nepal, Spain, North Korea and Pakistan also attended the inaugural session.

At the congress, Menon called on the alternative left forces to forge unity to build a secular Bangladesh.

He also criticised the government for maintaining close relations with the USA. "The government is going to sign TIFA with the US, but we will not let it happen."

"We will also no longer tolerate any move to export gas," he added.

Party leaders Bimal Biswas, Fazle Hossain Badsha MP also spoke.

National Agriculture Day today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

With bumper Aman production on the horizon, the nation celebrates the National Agriculture Day today, the first of Bangla month Agrahayan.

The government is observing the day with the slogan 'Agriculture is Prosperity' for the second time in the country to encourage farmers.

Rallies and processions will be held at district and upazila levels with the participation of officials, farmers and students.

Speaker Abdul Hamid will lead a procession from the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban to Khamar Bari in the capital.

The agriculture ministry will organise a harvest festival at Tentulia in Savar.

"There are many festivals, but not for the farmers. We want to celebrate the day for agriculture and farmers who feed us," Anwar Farouque, additional secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture, told The Daily Star yesterday.

The day is being observed at a time when farmers are expecting bumper production of Aman.

"Though there was late rain in the beginning of Aman season, it would be a no major problem. A total of 54 lakh hectares of land was brought under Aman production and we are expecting over 1.30 crore metric tonnes of yield," Farouque said.



Prof Abdullah Abu Sayeed inaugurates the first organisational convention and 8th general meeting of Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon (Bapa) by releasing a pigeon at a city restaurant yesterday while ASM Shahjahan, Prof Zillur Rahman Siddiqui, Prof Nazrul Islam and Bapa Chairman Prof Muzaffer Ahmad look on. (Story on Page 5)

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