WINNING IN A MEN'S GAME

On the occasion of the International Women's Day on March 8, *the Star* Magazine pays tribute to some remarkable women leaders of the civil services

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It's a man world. Be it business, the arts, sports, media, politics, movies; women have always had to be satisfied with a supporting role while the "man" gets to be the hero. As with other professions, men dominate the higher ranks of the civil services. Currently, we have only five female secretaries employed by different ministries, while the list compiled by the Ministry of Public Administration shows the total number of public service secretaries to be 69.



Nazneen Sultana participated at the 1971 march-past on the streets of Dhaka after female students completed their training for the liberation war. (In this picture, she is in the fourth row of the left side).

The scene, fortunately, is changing. Women are willing to take the risk of joining civil services, a field that till date has been controlled by men. They are ready to face the discrimination, the doubts, the suspicion, the non-cooperation, to emerge triumphant and empowered. Even though the numbers might not present an encouraging picture, more and more women are aiming towards the higher rungs of the civil service hierarchy. And it's all thanks to the trailblazers who have inspired women to affect change by being leaders and not mere followers.

Nazneen Sultana was an active participant of the students' movements during the war of liberation. She was the General Secretary of the student union of Badrunessa College. She inspired girls of her age to unite, and take active part in the Liberation War of the country. It's only fitting that a woman with such courage and determination would be appointed as the first woman Deputy Governor of Bangladesh Bank.

"Apart from taking up the active role of organising rallies and participating in them during the liberation war movement, I also