

Int'l Women's Day observed

MAR. 09 2002

International Women's Day was observed in the country as elsewhere in the globe on Friday with the theme "Protect Women's Rights", reports UNB.

In Bangladesh context, the theme of the day was "Guardianship of Child: Equal Rights of Parents."

The day commemorates the movement by female workers of a needle factory in New York in 1857 against 12-hour working day. Later, a women worker union was formed in 1860.

The day was announced as International Women's Day by Clara Zetkin during an international women's conference in Copenhagen, Denmark in 1910. The UN included the day as international day in its official list in 1984.

On the occasion, President Prof Badruddoza Chowdhury, Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, leader of the opposition and Awami League president Sheikh Hasina gave separate messages.

Government and different women and human rights organisations arranged elaborate programmes, including rally, human chain and meetings on the day.

International Women's Day Celebration Committee, formed in 1991 incorporating various women's organisations, on Friday brought out a colorful procession that was followed by a cultural function.

Hundreds of women from vari-

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ous organisations, including Concern, ASD, Ganosasthya Kendra, Chhayabithi, Nari Moitri, Nari Pakkha, CARE, Plan International, Bangladesh Women's Health Coalition, Aparajeyo Bangladesh and World Food Programme, National Garments Woman Federation, Jatiya Sramik Jote and Karmojibi Nari.

In the afternoon, BGMEA in association with UN Population Fund arranged a colorful rally followed by a discussion in the city's Malibagh area.

BGMEA president Kutubuddin Ahmed and UNFPA acting representative Nurul Ameen led the rally attended by more than 500 garment workers with the slogan "Ensure actual rights of women workers."

Acid Survivors Foundation and Prothom Alo jointly arranged a rally which was inaugurated by Justice Habibur Rahman.

The rally was addressed, among others, by Dhaka University Vice-chancellor Prof Anwarullah Chowdhury, BRAC chairman Fazle Hasan Abed, Prof Sirajul Islam Chowdhury, Attorney General Hasan Arif and BGMEA President Kutubuddin Ahmed.

BCL

In observance of the World Women's Day, pro-Awami Bangladesh Chhatra League on Friday formed a human chain in the capital urging the BNP-Jamaat government to return back people the rape-free country.

They also urged the people to resist the rapists socially and make a resistance against the BNP-Jamaat government.

BCL leaders and workers led by Marufa Akter Popy, Kamrunnahar, Sima, Silu and Aparna, formed the

chain in front of National Press Club on Friday afternoon.

Awami League Cultural Secretary Obaidul Kader, former student leader ABM Mojammel, former BCL President Enamul Huq Shamim, BCL president Bahadur Bepari, Ashraful Azim Rubon and AKM Azim were also present at the programme.

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