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Address: 602 & 603, Silver Star, Behind BEST Bus Depot, Santacruz (E), Mumbai: - 400 055.

Edited by

Miss. Qutub Jehan Kidwai
Miss. Shirin Huda

A Step Forward

Irish peace prize for Benazir Bhutto

H S Rao in London

January 01, 2008 21:49 IST



Slain Pakistani leader Benazir Bhutto [\[Images\]](#) has been chosen for Ireland's 2007 Tipperary Peace Prize for her 'courageous' work to promote democracy and reconciliation in her trouble-torn country.

Speaking on the World Day of Peace, the Tipperary Peace Convention on Tuesday said the accolade will be presented to a member of the former Pakistan premier's family in Tipperary Town in April.

The Tipperary Peace Award was founded in 1984 to recognise people who promote peace in Ireland and abroad. Previous recipients of the award include former South African President Nelson Mandela, former Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, singer Bob Geldoff, former US President Bill Clinton [\[Images\]](#) and assassinated Lebanese premier Rafic Hariri.

Bhutto, who is being honoured for her 'courageous' work for democracy and reconciliation, 'fought all her battles through dialogue and political debate and was an example to all those who do not use or surrender to terrorism,' Martin Quinn, its spokesman said.

"Her selection as Peace Prize recipient should act as an inspiration to those in Pakistan who seek to secure democracy and reconciliation for their country."

"The award will be presented during the International Festival of Peace in Tipperary Town in April this year," the spokesman said.

The Tipperary Peace Convention said the accolade was to 'recognise the very difficult path towards peace and democracy in Pakistan and the ultimate sacrifice made by Bhutto in her campaign to put her country back on the road to democracy.'

"Bhutto, a former two-time prime Minister, was an incredibly brave and courageous woman who had returned from exile to her homeland to lead her party in the forthcoming elections. She knew the risks involved in her return but she did so because she felt that her country and the Pakistani people needed her."

The Convention committee chose Bhutto after considering nominations received from members of the public.

19-year-old girl Alia Sabur world's youngest professor



Alia Sabur, 19, was announced the youngest full-time college professor in history by the Guinness Book of World Records. (Photo: xkb.com.cn) [Photo Gallery>>>](#)

BEIJING, April 23 (Xinhuanet) -- Alia Sabur, 19, was announced the youngest full-time college professor in history by the Guinness Book of World Records, media reported Tuesday.

That happened last month, when the venerable publication named Sabur the world's youngest college professor.

It's no surprise if you take a look at her life: The child prodigy from Northport enrolled at Stony Brook University in America at age 10 and played clarinet with the Rockland Symphony Orchestra at 11.

When the New York child genius was 14 she earned her bachelor's degree. Sabur was 18 when she was hired Feb. 19 as a professor in the Department of Advanced Technology Fusion at Konkuk University, in Seoul of ROK.

"It's really a great honor to be in the company of such great scientists," the now 19-year-old said.

Sabur is set to start physics studies and teaching next month at Konkuk. For now, she is teaching math and physics courses at Southern University in New Orleans. She said classroom teaching in Seoul will be challenging because she doesn't speak Korean. "I can speak math and music," she said.

The previous record was held by a student of physicist Isaac Newton, Colin Maclaurin, who set the mark in 1717.

YOUNG KASHMIRI WOMEN NOW GO FOR HIGHER EDUCATION & JOBS.

Rashid Ahmad, Srinagar

April, 27.



TWO DECADES of armed conflict have left a distinct mark on the social and cultural fabric of Kashmir. One of the major changes witnessed widely is a preference for career-building to family life growing among young girls.

Social scientists say late marriages, a corollary of the trend, are a phenomenon now in the otherwise orthodox society of Kashmir. "Earlier, most parents would see their daughters married off in their early or in mid-twenties," says sociologist Khursheedul Islam.

"This has now stretched to 30-35 years. "Impact of modernisation and slogans of women empowerment have made our female folk conscious.

They want bigger role in society and for this proper, rather higher, education is compulsory." Nazia belongs to a remote village in Shopian district.

Her ambition always stretched beyond the hills surrounding her village and last year, Nazia made it to the state medical college. "It was a dream come true," said her father Sofi Nazir, "and I am the most relaxed man now.

"Among the 30,000 students who appeared in tests for admissions to different technical and professional courses last year, over 16,000 were women. This phenomenon, says Nahida Yousuf, a student of sociology, is because of the high divorce rate and post-marital conflict in Kashmir.

"A woman wants to be self-reliant after marriage. This is possible only if she has a permanent job, and jobs are available only to highly educated people, and as a result, many women are going in for higher education to qualify for jobs.

" Hundreds of young women in their late 20s and mid-30s can be seen pursuing higher studies in professional colleges, universities in and outside Kashmir, says Nahida. To give higher education to their daughters is a priority for parents as well.

Many complain that they could not find match for their daughters who do not work. Lassa Kak - a middleman who arranges marriages - says few men are ready to marry a non-working woman.

"Ladki kya karti hai is the first question I face everywhere I go with the proposal."

UAE: Meeting of Women Parliamentarians of the Gulf States

21/04/2008: United Arab Emirates (UAE) Submits report to Inter-Parliament Union on Gulf Cooperation Council Women Parliamentarians Meeting. (Emirates News Agency-WAM)

The UAE submitted a report on The 2nd Conference of GCC Women Parliamentarians and Women at Decision Making Positions (Oct. 30th and 31st, 2007) to the Inter-Parliament Union (IPU).

The said conference is the second of a series of regional events organized by the IPU aimed at providing a forum for women parliamentarians and women political decision makers in Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen. It examined the role and input of women legislators and the mechanisms to promote women's access to parliament. It will also provide a space for exchange on the best practices on mainstreaming gender in parliament.

The report was submitted by Dr Amal Al- Qubaisi, Member of the Federal National Council (FNC) at the current 118th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union which is being held at the Cape Town International Convention Centre (CTICC) in Cape Town, South Africa.

For the first time ever, said Al- Qubaisi, the conference provided a platform to women parliamentarians in member states of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) to get together to discuss challenges as well as critical issues such as migrant workers, people trafficking, xenophobia and human rights as well as to exchange best practices on mainstreaming gender in parliament, strengthen women's knowledge of political processes; promote an exchange of experience between women from similar cultural and political backgrounds; maintain visibility on the question of women in politics, and encourage continuous participation of women in the political arena.

The said conference was hosted by the UAE's Federal National Council (FNC) in collaboration with the Geneva-based Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU).

The 118th Assembly which concludes today has discussed the role of parliaments in striking a balance between national security, human security and individual freedoms, and in averting the threat to democracy, parliamentary oversight of State policies on foreign aid.

Breaking shackles, Muslim girls join nursing course.

By TwoCircle.net staff reporter.

Mumbai: In a good sign of breaking shackles, about a dozen Muslim girls have joined a nursing course offered by a local charitable trust Anjuman Khairul Islam in Mumbai.

This they did ignoring strong opposition from some quarters. The trust was asked to stop the course but its students and their parents supported the program. "We responded because we wanted to groom their daughters to serve the sick, not to walk on the ramp," says the institute's director, Mohammed Arshad. The girls had to survive severe pressure. "My mother was against sending me for this course. She feared I would get spoiled," says Anjum Sheikh, daughter of an STD operator in Nasik. Almost all of these students are from impoverished families. Some are from an orphanage in Mumbra, a Muslim ghetto.

AIDWA's signature campaign on Muslim women issues

Posted March 12th, 2008 by Tarique Anwar

[Indian Muslim](#)

By TwoCircles.net staff reporter

New Delhi: The All India Democratic Women's Association (AIDWA) on 11th March submitted the National Commission for Minorities a signature campaign paper concerning laws related to Muslim women.

The signature campaign among Muslim women was meant to demand a change in the way in which some of the laws affecting them were being interpreted and implemented in the country. More than 25,000 women signed the paper submitted to commission chairman Mohammad Shafi Qureshi.

The signature campaign conducted over the past few years covered issues like practice of triple talaq, polygamy and granting mother the right to custody of children. Addressing a press conference here on 12th March, AIDWA president Subhashini Ali said the commission was requested to discuss the issues with different sections of the community.

International: Online resource: The Encyclopedia of Women & Islamic Cultures (Scholars Database)

7/03/2008: The EWIC Scholars Database is an invaluable listing of scholars from all over the world and from all disciplines whose work focuses on women, gender, and Islamic cultures. (EWIC / WLUML Networkers)

Based on the authors database for the Encyclopedia of Women and Islamic Cultures, this free on-line publication offers a searchable database connecting scholars, students, planners, and activists with each other and with NGO's, governmental agencies, and potential employers seeking researchers whose work specifically covers issues on women and gender related to Islamic cultures.

The online database, funded by a grant from the International Development Research Center (Ottawa), is published at <http://sjoseph.ucdavis.edu/ewic/index.htm>. We would like to request permission from you to post a brief announcement about this project and a link to the EWIC Scholars website for scholars to fill out the template. The opportunity to invite experts (including graduate students) to participate in this project through your webpage will expand the scholars base and make this free online resource even more valuable for researchers and the general public. We have created a digital flyer with links to the EWIC Scholars Database template. It is user-friendly and easy to complete.

The Encyclopedia of Women and Islamic Cultures is a 6-volume, 2,000,000 word state of the art compendium offering 1,246 articles by 906 authors from all disciplines, covering the full span of topics for which we could find research on women and Islamic cultures all over the world.

Published by Brill, Leiden, the print edition of EWIC is now complete and a new Editorial Board is being comprised to launch EWIC On-Line, a continually updated and innovative publication of new research. The print edition was lead by a distinguished team of scholars (Suad Joseph, General Editor; Afsaneh Najmabadi, Julie Peteet, Seteney Shami, Jacqueline Siapno, and Jane Smith Associate Editors; and Alice Horner, Assistant Editor) and EWIC On Line, will continue this level of scholarship with its new Editorial team (Suad Joseph, General Editor; Hoda Elsadda, Shahla Haeri, Martina Rieker, Therese Saliba as the first phase Associate Editors).

Visit the Encyclopedia of Women & Islamic Cultures' website:
<http://sjoseph.ucdavis.edu/ewic/index.htm>.

Iraqi girl slain for loving UK soldier

NewsByte 28 April, 2008

London, April 28: A 17-year-old Iraqi girl, who had fallen in love with a British soldier, was murdered by her father in an "honour killing," according to media reports here.

Rand Abdel-Qader, from Basra, was killed after her family found out she had formed a friendship with a 22-year-old British infantryman, known only as Paul. She is believed to have met him only four times and had told a friend of her hopes of a future with him. The girl, a student of English at Basra University, met the British soldier while working on an aid project for displaced families, according to the Observer newspaper.

Rand had confided in her best friend, Zeinab, 19, and when Paul gave her a cuddly toy she gave it to her friend for safe-keeping. "I always had to remind Rand that she was a Muslim and her family was never going to accept her marrying a Christian, British soldier," said Zeinab.

The relationship was innocent, but that did not help her. She had not seen the young soldier since January, but on March 16 her father Abdel-Qader Ali learned of the friendship. He stamped on her and suffocated her, then hacked at her with a knife, calling out all the time that his honour was being cleansed, the report said. When she was being put into the ground, her uncles spat on her covered corpse, the newspaper added.

The father was arrested, held for two hours, then released without charge, it said. A police sergeant Ali, Jabbar of the Basra police, said Ali had good government contacts and was quoted as saying: "Not much can be done when we have an 'honour killing'. You are in a Muslim society and women should live under religious laws." The British defence ministry said it could not confirm the story, and did not know who the soldier was, but was trying to find him.

"Service operations are to help them society they are not told, 'Don't go and fall in love,'" a spokesperson said.



personnel deployed on given cultural awareness training understand the environment and operating in. However, they are

Protest for gender equality in Bangladesh results in injuries

Maynard Joseph | Apr 12 2008 <http://www.themuslimwoman.org/>

Bangladesh is terribly in hot water as the protest for gender equality is underway. Hundreds are currently experiencing the lashes of the patriarchal system of male dominance over women.

What the country is undergoing is a long-battle with a noble goal that if ever it will be pushed to the limits, it will eventually result to women empowerment. Dhaka may seemingly be bloody as riots begin to curtail any movement to give women equal rights as men, but the members of the radical Islamic Constitution Movement should not be violent about their actions to temper down the situation.

Since the *Sharia Law* is the prevailing custom in Bangladesh, women receiving only half as much as men will be unfair to those who want to break free to traditions. We are living in the 21st century and the old ways of women being treated as second-class citizens should be abolished. The reality of too much female oppression in the region are still being denied by the radical group and consider violence as a normal way of living in Dhaka.

The Bangladeshi women treading their way to gender equality will open doors to the progress of the country. It is only proper that the women in the region be respected and be given importance by its men. After all, the women in Dhaka are human beings who should be fairly treated and protected from abuses.

Announcement

Training Programme for Muslim Women

The Institute of Islamic Studies, Mumbai is going to organize a training course in '**Rights of Muslim Women- Theory and Practice**' for those who are actively involved in promoting and working for the awareness of Muslim women's right in their respective areas. This training will equip them with adequate knowledge and skills to do their work more effectively and efficiently. Needless to say such training is highly necessary for those working in this field.

A list of subject mentioned below clearly shows how useful this training could be.

1. Islam and its origin and development.
2. Position of Women before Islam.
3. Evolution of Islamic Shariah.
4. Concept of Women in Qur'an.
5. Position of Women in Shariah.
6. The Personal Law in India.
7. Personal Law reforms in Islamic countries.
8. Personal Law reforms and codification of law in India.

These subjects will help them to thoroughly grasped how the Shariah was evolved, what steps can be taken for reforms and what are the possibilities of empowerment and liberation of Muslim women.

In all there will be 40 participants from all over India. The training will be for the period of 3 days from **27th June to 29th June 2008** (both days inclusive). For further details and registration mail us at csss@mtnl.net.in