

Help students develop talent and creativity

Says minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Confining education to the boundaries of classroom and textbooks does not help students nurture their talent and creativity, Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid said yesterday.

They should be given ample opportunities to sharpen their intellect and develop their talent and creativity, he said at the inaugural ceremony of the Inter-school Quiz Competition 2009 at the Shishu Academy Auditorium.

Appreciating the initiative to find out juvenile talents through this contest, the minister said such events should be organised more often to encourage children to enhance their knowledge.

The quiz competition features 32 schools com-

peting with each other in different rounds for the top spot at the contest. Three students from each school will represent their institutes in the contest.

"We are hopeful that we will eventually be able to hold a competition like this at the national level, giving exposure and encouragement to many young talents in the rural areas of our country," said renowned artist Mostafa Monowar, chairman of Bangladesh Shishu Academy.

"We live in a knowledge-based society and to excel in this environment, activities to sharpen intellect and enhance knowledge should be given utmost importance," Women and Children Affairs Secretary Rokeya Sultana said.

The women and children affairs ministry will try to organise such competitions at the national level, she added.



Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid speaks at the inaugural ceremony of the Inter-school Quiz Competition 2009 at the Shishu Academy auditorium in the city yesterday. On his left are artist Mostafa Monowar and Women and Children Affairs Secretary Rokeya Sultana. PHOTO: STAR

Qaumi madrasa leaders pledge to help root out militancy

DU CORRESPONDENT

Qaumi madrasa leaders at a seminar yesterday pledged all out support to the government to root out militancy from the country to establish a peaceful society.

The leaders were speaking at a national seminar titled "Role of Qaumi madrasas in nation building and curbing militancy" organised by Sammilita Qaumi Madrasah Shikha Board Bangladesh at the Engineers' Institution auditorium in the city. Abdur Rahman, a Qaumi madrasa leader, presided over the seminar.

Refuting the allegation against Qaumi madrasas of patronising militancy, they said thousands of young students have been studying the holy Quran and Hadith at Qaumi madrasas. Students and teachers of Qaumi madrasas cannot patronise militancy as they believe in Islam that teaches peace, they added.

They also demanded recognition of Qaumi madrasa education so that its present principle and unique style of teaching remain intact.

Rahman said they are ready to help the government if it (government) does not change present policy of Qaumi madrasas.

Regarding enrolment to Monthly Payment Order (MPO), he said they do not want to be enrolled under MPO if the government tries to impose control on Qaumi madrasas. Muslims will not accept it, he added.

Sammilita Qaumi Madrasah Shikha Board Secretary Mizanur Rahman Sayeed read out a 10-point demand at the seminar that includes an end to propaganda by different quarters against Qaumi madrasas and teachers, halting the move to impose control over Qaumi madrasas, recognition of Daoraye Hadith certificate as equivalent to MA (masters' of arts), formation of an independent commission to be run by Qaumi madrasa leaders and stopping harassment of Qaumi madrasas across the country.

Senior leaders of the board and representatives from different Qaumi madrasas across the country also spoke at the seminar.



ADD chief executive officer due today

METRO DESK

Jill Flynn, Chief Executive Officer of Action on Disability and Development (ADD), arrives in Dhaka today, says a press release.

The aim of Flynn's visit is to gain an understanding of the experiences of persons with disabilities in Bangladesh and also to discuss the future of the disability movement. Her itinerary includes meetings with government leaders, donor foundations, and the leaders of disabled people's organisations (DPOs). She will also visit Sirajganj, Natore and Kushtia.

Flynn assumed her office in March in 2009 as CEO of ADD, an international NGO that operates in 12 countries of Africa and Asia to promote the rights of persons with disabilities. She brings a wealth of experience to the position, herself a person with a disability and a prominent leader of the disability movement in South Africa. Before joining ADD, she was the National Executive Director and CEO of the South African National Council for the Blind.



ASF Executive Director Monira Rahman addresses a press conference at the National Press Club in the city yesterday. On her left are ASF Acting Chairperson Parveen Mahmud and Asma Akter. PHOTO: STAR

Prevalence of acid violence declines: ASF

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prevalence of acid violence has declined compared to the first quarter of the previous year because of proactive role of different non-government organisations, the media and the government, according to Acid Survivors Foundation (ASF).

Some 20 people fell victim to acid violence from January to April this year, while the same period of the last year saw 42 victims, ASF Executive Director Monira Rahman said at a press conference yesterday.

"Acid violence had increased by 40 percent every year during the period from 1999 to 2002. If we had not taken necessary action to curb such violence, it would have shattered at least 4,668 lives in 2008, which saw a total of 178 victims," she said.

However, there is no reason to be complacent as acid violence is still taking place in the country, she added.

She also announced that ASF would organise the 1st International Conference of the Acid Survivors on Tuesday to mark the 10th anniversary of the organisation.

The conference will be held at the auditorium of Institution of Engineers, with Social Welfare Minister Enamul Haq Mostafa Shahid as the chief guest, she said.

Some 500 representatives from acid survivors and participants from Pakistan,

India, Cambodia, Uganda and the UK will attend the conference and share their experiences.

Acting Chairperson of ASF Parveen Mahmud, Farzana Rahim, AK Masood Ahmed and Shah Alamgir also spoke at the press conference held at the National Press Club.

JCD leader assaulted by BCL men at DU

DU CORRESPONDENT

Some activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) beat up a leader of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) on Dhaka University campus yesterday.

Campus sources said a group of 10-15 BCL men allegedly led by Sohel and Kutub of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Hall seriously beat up JCD man Hafizur Rahman with iron rods, sticks and bottles of beverage in front of Madhu's canteen at around 1:00pm.

With serious injuries in head and back, Hafiz was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital. He was later shifted to Islami Bank Hospital while his condition was deteriorating.

JCD sources said Hafiz, assistant sport secretary of JCD Zia Hall unit, might have been beaten following a previous enmity with a BCL man of Bangabandhu Hall.

Beating JCD men up by BCL men has become a common phenomenon on the DU campus since Awami League assumed power early this year.

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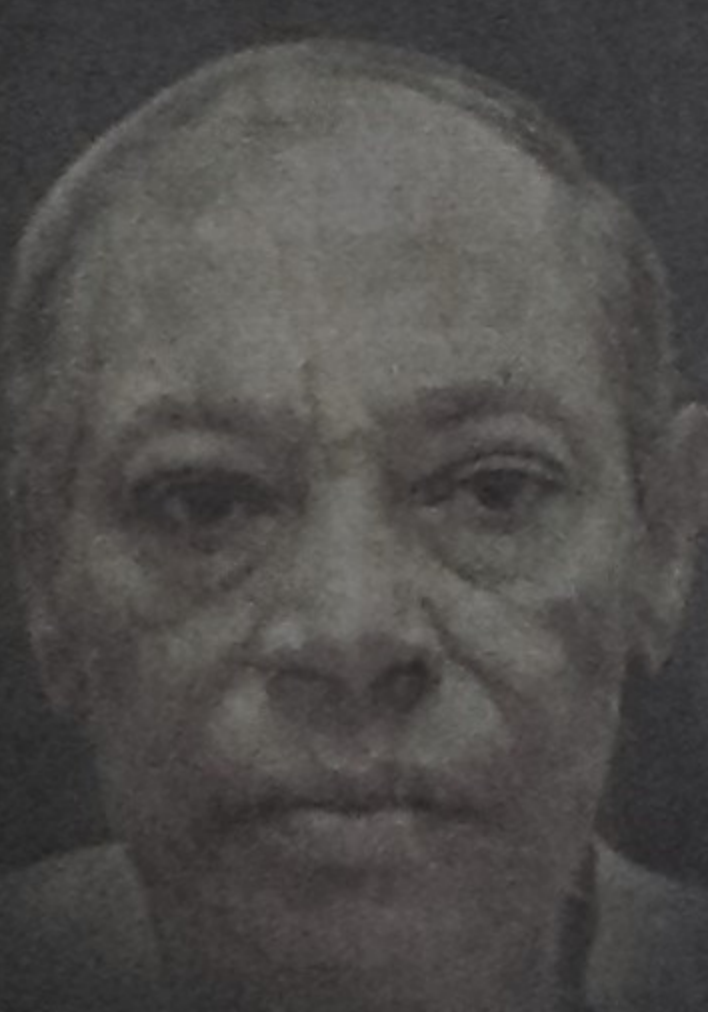
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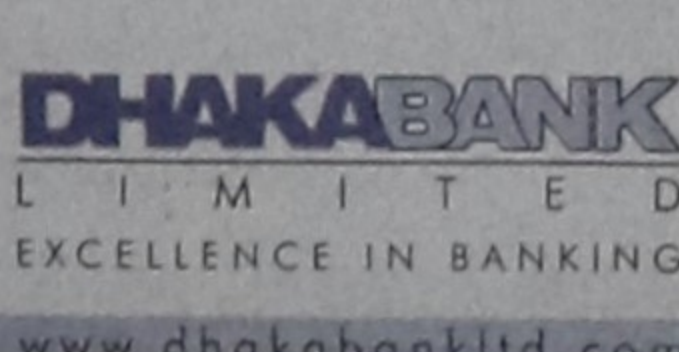
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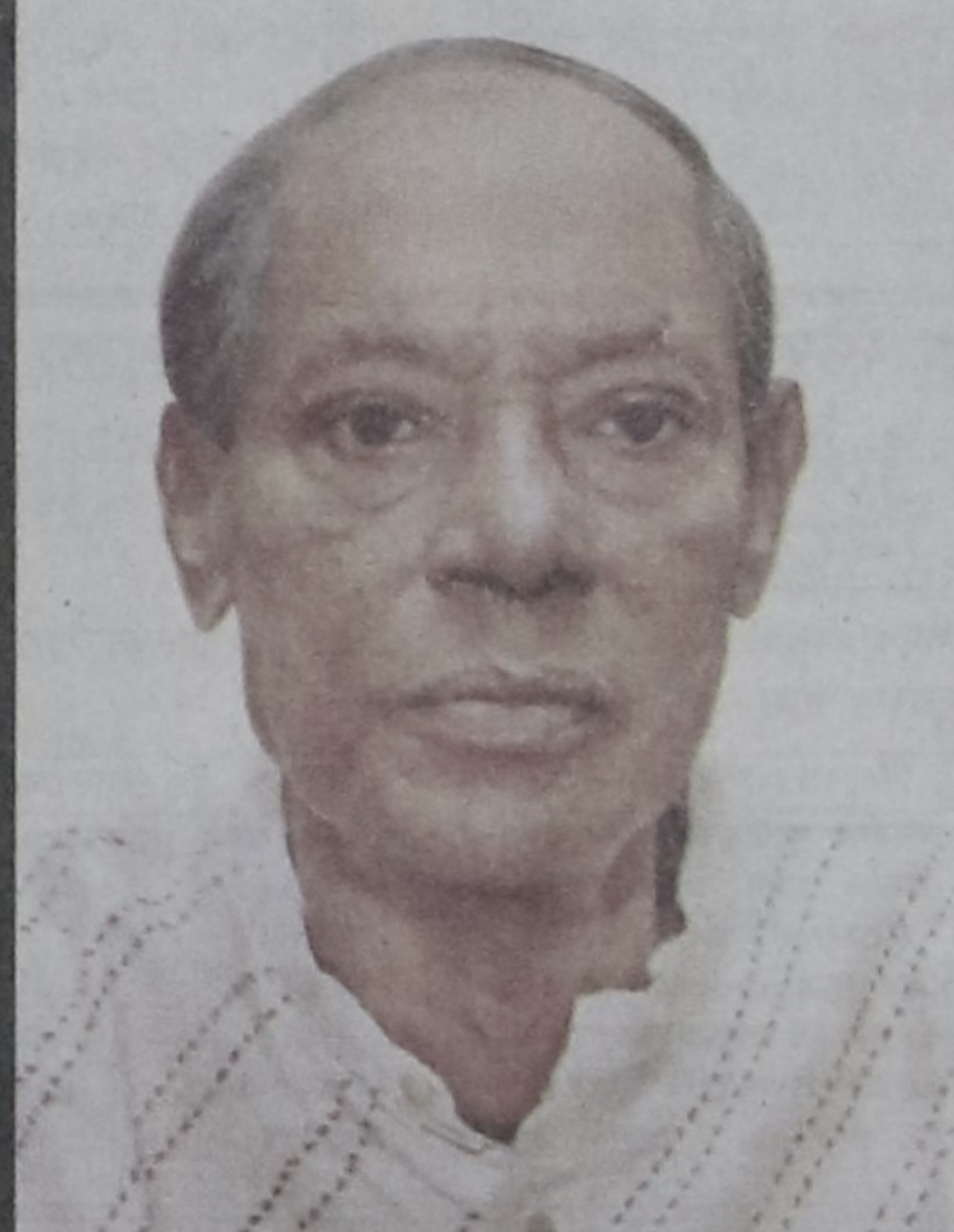


We Mourn

We are in grief for the bereavement of eminent scientist, former Chairman of Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission **Dr. M. A. Wazed Miah**. We express our deep sympathy for the members of the bereaved family.



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Dr. M A Wazed Miah
(1942 - 2009)

In grief, in sadness, we mourn...

Our heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family of our country's eminent nuclear scientist and former Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission, **Dr. M A Wazed Miah**.



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