



Devotees offer their Juma prayers at the Baitul Mukarram mosque in the city yesterday. This Juma prayers will be the Jamaat-ul-Bida, the last Juma of the holy month of Ramadan, if Eid-ul-Fitr is held after fasting 29 days.

Propaganda being peddled against Tarique Rahman

Says Nazrul Islam

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP standing committee member Nazrul Islam Khan yesterday said a vested party is peddling propaganda against Tarique Rahman, as he is the future head of the party.

He was talking to reporters after placing wreaths at the grave of party founder president Ziaur Rahman on the occasion of Tarique's 2nd "jail release day".

Party leaders including senior joint secretary general Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir, Salauddin Ahmed, Shahiduddin Chowdhury Anne, among others, were present.

They offered prayers for the salvation of the departed soul of Ziaur Rahman and recovery of Tarique, who is now in London for medical treatment.

Tarique was arrested on different charges, including corruption, in March 2007, during the last caretaker government. He was released on bail on September 3, 2008.

Nazrul Islam said BNP would speak for the

people ignoring conspiracy, attacks, lawsuits and repression by the government.

"Every time BNP opted for a movement or human chain to voice people's grievances, the government spread rumours that the opposition was trying to foil war crime trials or conceal corruption. But this propaganda cannot keep BNP from waging a movement for the people," he said.

Responding to a comment by ruling Awami League leader Mahabubul Alam Hanif, Mirza Alamgir said it was Ziaur Rahman who helped Awami League's rebirth by establishing multi-party democracy in the country.

On Thursday, Hanif said the BNP Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hossain and BNP-led alliance were spreading propaganda they might some day claim Zia as the founder of Awami League.

In counter argument Alamgir said, "Mr Hanif is just trying to obscure the facts by being rhetoric. Claiming Zia the founder of Awami League is absurd. But they have forgotten that Maulana Abdul Hamid Khan Bhashani founded Awami League.

PM condoles death of MA Karim

BSS, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday expressed deep shock at the death of elderly journalist MA Karim.

In a condolence message, the prime minister said MA Karim contributed a lot to the freedom of newspapers and democratic movement. She prayed for eternal peace of the departed soul and conveyed deep sympathy to the bereaved family.

75pc quacks prescribe 'wrong drugs'

Reveals study

BSS, Dhaka

The acute shortage of qualified doctors in rural Bangladesh has given quacks the opportunity to dominate the health of rural people, says an ICDDR, B study.

The study reveals that almost nine out of 10 people resort to unqualified doctors instead of seeing medical graduates. The quacks, known as 'village doctors', are popular with patients from all socio-economic groups, it says.

Only a very few village doctors, who practice allopathy, have proper knowledge on common rural diseases like child pneumonia, diarrhoea, cold, and fever, says the study.

But in practice only 18 per cent prescribe appropriate drugs, while 75 per cent suggest inappropriate medicines, and seven per cent recommend harmful remedies.

Social and Behavioral Sciences Division of International Center for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh (ICDDR, B), has been conducting the four-year action-research about to end soon.

Low treatment cost, easy accessibility, and some other conveniences have made it possible for quacks to control rural people's health over decades.

The number of informal healthcare

providers, especially the village doctors, has increased sharply by four to five per cent a year during the last decade -- it shows the increasing demand for quacks.

The village doctors, who are now major source of healthcare providers for rural folks, often resort to inappropriate and even harmful practices.

But most villagers believe that they have been receiving quality healthcare from the quacks who are available round-the-clock, offer low cost and better attention, prescribe small number of drugs within patients' purchasing power, and seldom ask for diagnostic tests.

These village doctors had embarked on the profession by attending short courses or training, or being a trainee in drug store or an assistant in a doctor's chamber, or by inheriting the livelihood from family.

Principal Investigator Dr Abbas Bhuiya of the study said the action-research has unearthed a number of issues for policy interventions to improve the rural health system within available resources.

He says the village doctors occupy much of the rural areas because the country faces acute shortage of qualified health professionals, especially MBBS doctors.

A nationwide survey in 2007 estimated that the country has a shortage of 60,000 qualified physicians, 280,000 nurses, and 483,000 health technologists.

With some 40,000 MBBS doctors, and slow manpower development in health sector, it is unlikely that the nation would overcome the huge shortage of health workforce in near future, concludes the survey.

"And this is the gap which village doctors are plugging," observes Dr Mohammad Iqbal, one of the key investigators of the ICDDR, B study being done over 6,000 people.

Dr Iqbal says the gap-filling is taking place as the informal health sector develops in an unhealthy manner with inadequate actions to stop it.

The qualified MBBS doctors can attract a few patients mainly because of high treatment costs, which include consultation fees, medicine price, and diagnostic tests. The MBBS doctors at local levels find themselves hardly relaxed, as one doctor has to attend a lot of patients at a time, it observes.

Experiences from Nepal, Thailand, Laos and Vietnam show that better health services could be ensured for rural folks by improving the knowledge and practice of these semi or unqualified quacks.

Textile university in city soon: Nahid

UNB, Dhaka

Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid yesterday said Tejgaon Textile College will be turned into a university soon.

He said the bill of the university would be placed in the first week of next session of the parliament, which will start on September 20.

The Cabinet and Parliamentary Standing Committee on Ministry of Education have already approved the bill, Nahid said.

He said this while he was talking to the journalists after visiting the online admission test at the city's Agargaon Women Polytechnic Institute.

About 70,000 workers is working in our garment Industries, the education minister said, adding that the government has decided to turn the Textile College into university to fulfill the demand of skill workers.

Nahid said the technical education institutions of the country were neglected for long time. In this regard the present government is working to change the situation, he added.

The construction work of 25, including four women polytechnic institutions, has already started, he said.

The government also decided to establish technical schools at every upazila of the country, Nahid said.

About the first ever online admission test in the country, the education minister said, the government has taken the initiative to ease examination process and assure utilisation of technology in every sector.

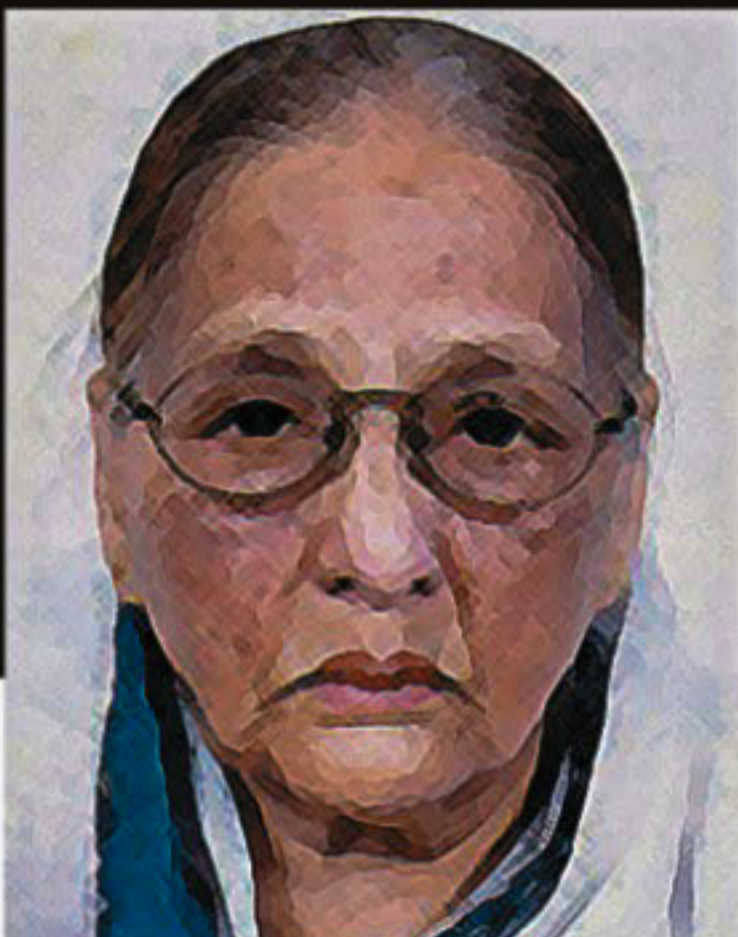
Nahid said the all education institutions would come under the technology to reduce extortion and politicisation in the admission test.

National University will open six branches at six divisions for the students, he added.




BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia, now in Saudi Arabia to perform Umrah, yesterday offers prayers at Rauza Sharif in Mecca.

Our gratitude
for your
sympathy...




We gratefully acknowledge the affectionate note of condolences received from all our sympathisers, relatives, friends, associates and members of our extended family and their kind attendance in all rituals that followed the demise of our beloved mother **SHAFIA KHATUN** who breathed her last on 25 July 2010.

May Allah the Almighty grant your prayers in the salvation of her departed soul.



M. SHAHADAT HOSSAIN KIRON
M. SHAHID HOSSAIN



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