

Obituary

CITY DESK

Hasina Razzak Chowdhury, mother of Khurshid Irfan Chowdhury, executive director of Transcom Beverages Ltd, passed away yesterday. She was 77.

She left behind her husband and four more sons, daughters-in-law and grandchildren.

Her first namaz-e-janaza will be held today at 9:00am at the Parade Ground Field (adjacent to Chawk Bazar in Chittagong city) followed by the second one at Shah Nagar village in Fatikchhari after Asr prayers.

Chehlum

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

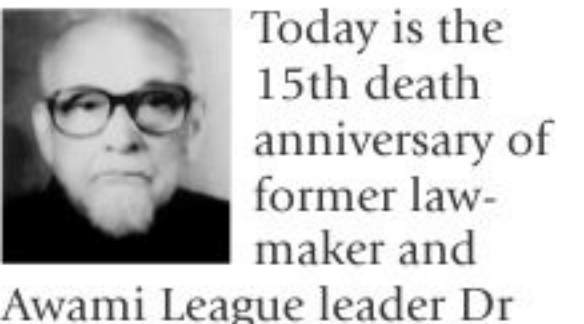


Chelum of Dr MS Haq, former adviser in the office of the prime minister of Fiji, will be held tomorrow in his Dhanmondi residence after Asr prayers, said a press release.

All well-wishers are requested to join the doa mahfil and pray for the salvation of the departed soul.

Death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Today is the 15th death anniversary of former law-maker and Awami League leader Dr Abul Kashem.

On the occasion, his family will organise a milad and a doa mahfil, said a press release.

Relatives, friends and well-wishers are requested to attend the programme and pray for the departed soul.

Education needs shift from rote

FROM PAGE 3 skills," said Shamse Ara Hasan, director of the education programme at Gonosahajjo Sangstha, a development organisation.

Citing a 2012 baseline survey on class-III students conducted under the Third Primary Education Development Programme, she said only 20 percent of students had the competence level of class-III, 30 percent had the level of class-I, and 50 percent had the level of class-II.

"We are failing to think independently because of following the rote learning method," said Dr Kazi Saleh Ahmed, former vice chancellor of Jahangirnagar University.

Recognising the facts, Primary and Mass Education Minister Mostafizur Rahman said the quality of education remained a question though Bangladesh had achieved many millennium development goals. He blamed teachers' "lack of sincerity" in schools for this.

Shamse Ara, however, said it was the lack of teachers' training, adding that teachers should engage every student in practical activities, using various supportive learning materials.

Dr Shamsher Ali, president of Educational Quality Assurance Foundation, recommended training teachers in practical teaching techniques that best help students' learning.

The teaching process should be arranged in such a way that primary school students learn everything in schools, said Dr Ahmed.

James Jennings, an education expert at the Australian Agency for International Development, called lack of learning in schools as a major contributor to drop-outs. Poor parents stop sending their children to schools when they found their kids not learning anything, he said.

Dr Manzoor Ahmed, vice chair of the Campaign for Popular Education

(CAMPE) which organised the discussion with the Prothom Alo, said the teacher-student ratio in Bangladesh was very poor. For 1.7 crore primary school students, there are only four lakh teachers, he added.

CAMPE Executive Director Rasheda K Chowdhury said that in real sense, the education budget was declining whereas it should have gone up.

In the 2012-2013 fiscal, the education sector received 11.3 percent of the budget, which experts say should be 20 percent.

Chowdhury said, "We should think if we will invest more in military or in the future generations."

Bangladesh usually spends about two percent of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) on education and 1.5 percent on the defence.

Prothom Alo Editor Matiuur Rahman was present at the discussion, while its Associate Editor Abdul Qayyum spoke among others.

Qaisar's aides killed

FROM PAGE 5 Ali said on April 24, he was assigned to obtain information about the Pakistani army, who had reached Brahmanaria at that time, and learned that Qaisar was leading the army towards Madhabpur.

On April 27, the Pakistani army marched towards Madhabpur, said the freedom fighter, who worked under S Force, commanded by Maj KM Shafiqullah. Following Shafiqullah's order, they took shelter at Mantala and Moujpur, apparently safer places, he added.

On April 28, he heard that the Pakistani army, Razakar, and aides of Qaisar had killed his father and many others the previous day, Ali said. After the Pakistani army left the area on April 29, 1971, he went to Madhabpur and found around 50 other houses, including his, in their village and 200 shops of Madhabpur Bazar burnt.

"I saw 14/15 bodies were laid out at a place between Madhabpur Bazar and our Krishnanagar village...I found the body of my father and three others on the north-eastern side of my home," he said. Later, he went to India for training and returned to Bangladesh in November, he said, adding that he had returned home 15/20 days after independence and found trails of destructions in his locality.

From the people who took refuge in India, he learnt that Qaisar's men and the Pakistani army caused the havoc, said Ali, who identified Qaisar during the testimony. A defence lawyer asked Ali only four questions before the tribunal-led by Justice Obaidul Hassan, which adjourned the proceedings till Sunday when Ali will face further cross-examination.

Nasim urges BNP to behave democratically

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League's presidium member Mohammad Nasim yesterday urged the BNP leaders to behave democratically.

If they do so, "the government will also behave with them democratically," Nasim, also the health minister, told reports after a meeting of the AL-led 14-party alliance at AL president's Dhanmondi office in the capital.

Slamming BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia and her son Tarique Rahman for their claim that Ziaur Rahman is the country's first president, he said this was tantamount to sedition.

HC gives govt 7 more

FROM PAGE 5 on December 27, 2009, during its previous tenure, formed a three-member judicial probe commission, headed by retired district judge Mohammad Sahabuddin, to inquire into the atrocities perpetrated after the 2001 election.

The commission submitted the report to the home ministry on April 24, 2011 after probing 3,625 of 5,571 complaints filed with it. The attorney general's office received the report from the home ministry in February.

Sources in the AG office said the commission found at least 25 ministers and lawmakers of the BNP-Jamaat government, among 26,352 people, involved in the 15-month long atrocities on Hindus and the then opposition men across the country.

Those involved in the incidents include former ministers Ruhul Quddus Talukder Dulu, Abdus Salam Pintu, Matiuur Rahman Nizami, Altaf Hossain Chowdhury, Tariqul Islam, and Maj (ret'd) Hafiz Uddin Ahmed.

Of the 3,625 complaints, 355 were filed for political murders, while 3,270 for rape, arson, looting and other crimes.

HC terms govt probe report

FROM PAGE 3 Md Aiyub Hossain, director (administration and finance) of the Department of Social Services.

The court came up with the order after DAG Biswojit yesterday further placed the probe report before it for decision. Earlier in last month, the DAG submitted the report to the court. It then fixed April 3 for an order.

The government in February formed a three-member committee led by Meshkat Ahmed Chowdhury, director general of the Department of Social Services, in line with an order of the HC to investigate the allegation

of torture on the teenagers in the development centre.

The other two members are Deputy Commissioner of Gazipur, Nurul Islam, and Superintendent of Police Abdul Baton.

In the second week of March, the committee handed over the probe report to the attorney general's office for placing it to the HC.

On February 13, 20 teenagers made newspaper headline by inflicting injuries on them, protesting "abuse" at the hands of their Superintendent SM Anwarul Karim. Karim was suspended following the news report.

10,324 candidates

FROM PAGE 3 data of Bangladesh Inter-Board Co-ordination Sub-Committee.

Among the expelled students, 27 were from the technical board while four from the madrasa board, three each from Jessore, Barisal and Dinajpur boards, two each from Dhaka and Comilla boards, and one from Rajshahi board.

The examinees expressed satisfaction over the question papers. However, some said they could not understand those properly.

Meanwhile, allegations of question paper leak were reported in some districts, something Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid denied.

After visiting the capital's Motijheel Ideal School and College centre, he said they would publish the results within 60 days after ending of the exams.

Rigging stigmatised

FROM PAGE 5 Referring to the comment of acting election commissioner about the participation of BNP in the upazila elections, it says the comment is "unacceptable and indecent". The remark is completely against the spirit of the constitution.

The role of the Election Commission in the upazila polls has proved that they are accomplices of the ruling party, it adds.

Programme activated

FROM PAGE 5 the competition will be held in Dhaka, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions. Students can register for the competition at www.ignite-bd.com.

Three ECs to visit five

FROM PAGE 3 exchange views with officials of the countries concerned regarding managing citizen database, producing and distributing ID cards with biometric features and reviewing and appealing rights systems and services

approaches that maximize the ease of government services for all the citizens, said an official letter of the Election Commission.

The EC's Identification System for Enhancing Access to Services (IDEA) project will bear the expenditure.

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