

## Obituary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Fakhrul Abedin Khan, former collector of customs and member of the National Board of Revenue, yesterday died of cardiac arrest. He was 68.

He left behind his wife, two sons and a grandson.

His namaz-e-janaza will be held today at Gulshan Azad Masjid after Asr prayers.

**Rokeya Begum**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Rokeya Begum, a social worker, died in a Dhaka hospital on Friday, aged 74.

She left behind her husband; son Shaikat Rushdee, former joint secretary of Jatiya Press Club; three daughters; two sisters and a brother.

Her qulkhwan will be held tomorrow after Maghrib prayers at her Banani residence.

## Mahila Parishad

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The election is being delayed due to a lack of political commitment towards strengthening local governance, she added.

Deputy Commissioner of Dhaka Sheikh Yusuf Harun, BMP Movement Secretary Lila Khaleda, among others, spoke on the occasion.

## Nahid for more science

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their horizons.

Addressing the function as a special guest, Syed Manzur Elahi, chairman of Bangladesh Freedom Foundation and former caretaker government adviser, said alongside science, students need to study philosophy, history and other branches of knowledge for the advancement of a nation.

Editor and Publisher of The Daily Star Mahfuz Anam said, "Your studies, your merits will take the country forward. But you will have to love the country...Always keep in mind that you will never be satisfied with your individual success unless your social and national success can be achieved."

Samakal Editor Golam Sarwar demanded an increase in the budgetary allocation for the education sector.

The debating team from Dhaka Residential Model School and College became the champion in the competition, while Kushtia Zilla School debaters were the first runner-up. A total of 1,368 participants from 456 schools across the country took part in the contest that began in April.

## PM took responsibility

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she sided with heinous "godfathers" like Zoynal Hazari of Feni and Abu Taher of Laxmipur and supported their criminal activities.

"The so-called government's prime minister has expressed her support to godfathers like Shamim Osman at a time when killing, forced disappearance, and abduction are going on countrywide," he said, adding the premier's statement had exposed the present government's "character" clearly.

He said the government wanted to stay in power at any cost. "That's why the Hasina government is patronising killers and godfathers." But the people dethroned repressive and autocratic governments through movement in the past, and they would do it again, Fakhrul added.

### RIZVI BRIEFING

Saying that more allegations will be levelled against Sheikh Hasina after identifying the conspirators of BNP founder Ziaur Rahman's killing, party office secretary Rizvi Ahmed yesterday questioned why Zia was assassinated within 13 days of Hasina's return in Bangladesh.

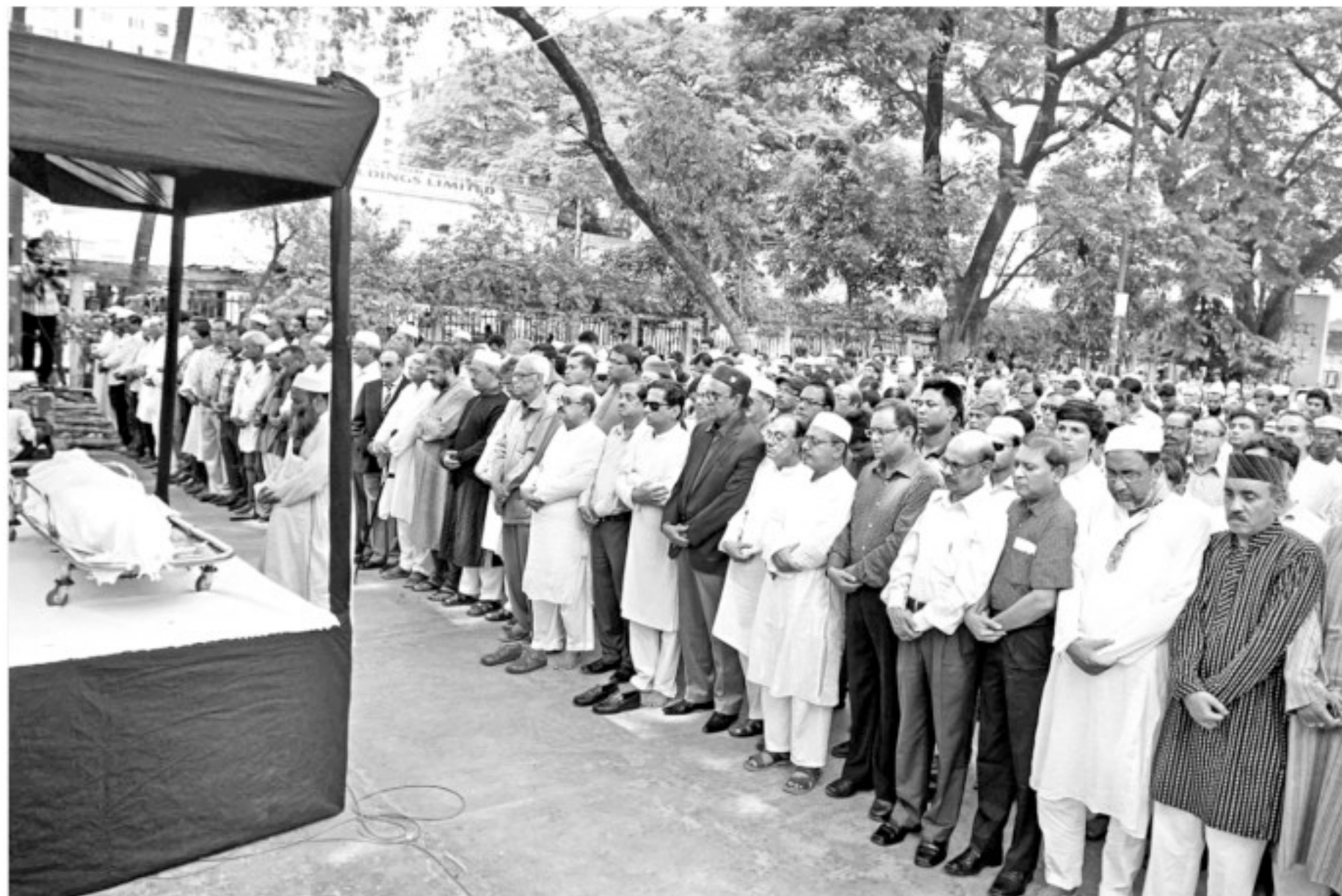
At a press conference at BNP's Nayapalton headquarters, he referred to a report published a few years ago in an Indian newspaper and questioned why Hasina had tried to cross the border on the day of killing of Zia wearing a burqa.

## 88pc attackers still

FROM PAGE 3

prosecutors, law enforcing agency members and officials of the organisation. The data also shows that police submitted charge sheets in 1,128 cases but only 293 accused received punishment while 1,687 were acquitted. However, the data also showed a gradual decrease in acid attacks over the years with 85 attacks, the lowest in 12 years, recorded last year.

Selina Ahmed, executive director of the organisation, said proper implementation of law and punishment of those accused are needed to ensure justice for the victims.



The third and last namaz-e-janaza of Mahbubul Alam, former editor of The Independent, on the Jatiya Press Club premises after Zohr prayers yesterday, before he was laid to rest in the burial plot of his father at the capital's Azimpur graveyard. The veteran journalist died on Friday at age 78.

PHOTO: STAR

## Wetlands crucial for Dhaka

FROM PAGE 3

would result in disasters like land subsidence and salinity increase, said Kazi Motin U Ahmed, a geology professor at Dhaka University. Groundwater table in the capital is depleting by three metres every year, according to the government estimate.

Architect Iqbal Habib, joint secretary of Bangladesh Poribesh Andolon, said the government had approved a big private housing scheme on floodplains in Rupganj of Narayanganj, where the master plan earmarked the Balu and Shitalakhya rivers as sources of drinking water.

M Firoze Ahmed, vice chancellor of

Stamford University, said in his presentation that rainwater harvesting would help meet the domestic need of 160 billion cubic metres of water annually.

Rain harvesting devices should be installed on large government buildings, stadiums, railway stations and airports, said Hasin Jahan, director of WaterAid.

Sheikh Abdul Mannan, director of Rajdhani Unnayan Kartipakhha, said they were going to incorporate provisions for rainwater harvesting in the building rules and code.

Prothom Alo Associate Editor Abdul Qayyum moderated the discussion.

## 50 BU students sued

FROM PAGE 5

launched the attack on the campus.

Among the injured, Assistant Registrar Bahauddin Golap was admitted to Barisal Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital.

BU Vice Chancellor Prof Harunor Rashid Khan said the case was lodged after a seven-member probe committee, led by syndicate member Prof Md Hanif, submitted its

report on Friday.

Meanwhile, BU staff under the banner of Barisal Bishwabidyaloy Karmakarta Karmachari Oikya Parishad staged a rally on the campus protesting the attack as they continued their agitation programmes since the incident.

They demanded immediate arrest of the accused.

## Ratify UN convention

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that voted for the convention adopted on May 21, 1997, said Md Abdul Matin, general secretary of Bangladesh Poribesh Andolon (Bapa).

Supreme Court lawyer Abu Mohammad Raihan Khaled, however, pointed out that India neither did vote for the convention nor was likely to ratify it.

Yet, if Bangladesh ratifies it, the country can at least raise the point in the international forum and put pressure on India to comply with the convention's provisions once it turns into a law, he said.

Prof Anu Muhammad, however, is sceptic about the government's intention to ratify. All governments suffer from inferiority complex when it comes to India and China, he said.

Besides, both Indian and Bangladeshi rulers ignore environmental concern and adopt development agendas, which give preference to forces within the country, which want all the rivers to die so that they can grab more and more land, he added.

## BCL chief of medical

FROM PAGE 5

Secretary Saiful Hai, Rafi, Hafiz, Pathan, Antadip, Abi Shahan Fahim, Shariful, Jubayer Ibne Khayez and Ripon.

Meanwhile, Health Minister Mohammad Naim cancelled his yesterday's visit to Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital.

The hospital's Deputy Director Dr Tanmoy Bhattacharya could not say the reason behind the cancellation.

On Friday, the college unit of JCD submitted a memorandum to the college principal demanding cancellation of the minister's visit.

The JCD, which continued its indefinite strike on the campus since Thursday, placed the demand as its three-day programme for seeking arrest of the killers of Towhid was going on, said Aslamul Islam, the college JCD president.

Some BCL men allegedly beat Towhid, a fourth year MBBS student, to death at Abu Sina Hostel Wednesday.

Later, the suspended 10 BCL men and 10 more unnamed persons were sued.

## Ashraf asks critics to send

FROM PAGE 3

after placing a wreath at the portrait of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at the capital's Dhanmondi 32.

At the discussion, AL joint general secretary Mahabubul Alam Hanif said the BNP was an "illegal party"; so it should not brand anyone illegal.

He also said BNP chief Khaleda Zia would soon meet with her two sons at Singapore to hatch a new conspiracy against the country.

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