

Youth should follow ideals of Motahar Hossain. Discussion told on his birth anniversary

DU CORRESPONDENT



The young generation should follow in the footsteps of eminent educationist Dr Qazi Motahar Hossain to overcome the barriers of the society, speakers said at a discussion yesterday.

The discussion marking the 117th birth anniversary of Motahar Hossain was organised in Dhaka University's TSC auditorium by Qazi Motahar Hossain Foundation and DU statistics department.

DU Vice Chancellor Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique said, SEE PAGE 5 COL 5

HC orders

FROM PAGE 3 directed to demolish the structure already constructed by the YMA and to take necessary steps to protect the historical and archeological beauty of the kachharibari, which was declared as an archeological site in 1994.

CID allowed

FROM PAGE 5 brother. On June 16, the court asked CID to investigate the murder as the victim's family submitted a no-confidence petition against the Rab probe.

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QAISAR'S WAR CRIMES TRIAL Defence claims there was no Qaisar Bahini

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Defence counsels of war crimes accused Syed Mohammad Qaisar yesterday claimed that their client did not form any force named "Qaisar Bahini" and even there was no such force in Habiganj and Brahmanbaria during the Liberation War.

According to the prosecution, Qaisar had formed "Qaisar Bahini" with four hundred to five hundred people in mid-April of 1971 to assist the Pakistani army that committed numerous crimes against humanity during the war and the testimonies of several prosecution witnesses supported these facts.

But, SM Shahjahan, a defence counsel of Qaisar, yesterday mentioned before the tribunal that several prosecution witnesses testified that Qaisar's hometown Madhabpur of Habiganj was under the control of pro-liberation people until April 27-28 in 1971 and there was no way to form such force there.

Shahjahan said a case was filed against Qaisar under the Collaborators Act, 1972 immediately after the war but he was acquitted from the charges and the case documents did not mention Qaisar as the founder or leader of the "Qaisar Bahini".

Even, the prosecution's documents didn't support their claim, claimed the defence counsel.

When the tribunal asked why Qaisar was tried in absentia in the collaborators case, Shahjahan could not give any answer.

But, according to the prosecution, Qaisar had fled the country at the last part of the war and had returned to home after the political changeover, caused by the assassination of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on August 15, 1975.

Shahjahn also placed arguments on first and second charges framed against Qaisar and tried to discredit the testimonies of the prosecution witnesses showing "contradiction and discrepancies" in their depositions.

The three-member International Crimes Tribunal-2 led by Justice Obaidul Hassan with members Justice Md Mozibul Rahman Miah and Justice Md Shahinur Islam adjourned the case proceedings until today, when they will place further arguments.

Qaisar who was a state minister of HM Ershad cabinet, faces 16 charges, including genocide, committed in Habiganj and Brahmanbaria during the war in 1971. The accused, however, pleaded not guilty before the tribunal.

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Bangladeshis

FROM PAGE 5
the watch of their Turkish employers.

Khandker Mosharraf, responding to queries about the workers' rescue, said they have been discussing alternative employment for the migrants.

Recruiting agency Career Overseas

Consultants Ltd had sent the Bangladeshis to Iraq in May to work for Abu Torab Housing Project.

Earlier, the minister addressed the programme of International Organisation for Migration (IOM) on "Policy Discussion on Migration and Development".

Addressing as the chief guest, Speaker Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury said the government must monitor whether policies for migrants' welfare were being implemented.

Expatriates' Welfare Secretary Khondaker Showkat Hossain and IOM Bangladesh Chief Sarat Dash, among others, spoke at the programme.

Pro-BNP-Jamaat

FROM PAGE 3
continue their agitation against the policy.

They also criticised the social welfare minister for his comment that "Journalists are dirty chaps and of bad characters."

Prof Rafiqul Alam, former vice chancellor of Islamic University, Kustia; RU teachers; Prof Dr Sabadat Hossain, Prof Mayenuddin, Prof Mahbubur Rahman and Prof CM Mostafa also spoke.

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যোগাযোগঃ বাদশা-০১৭১১০০৩৩০

Patriarchy plagues adivasi

FROM PAGE 3
and sell the farm produce in the market, women's participation in economic activities is not recognised, she explained.

"Though indigenous women work both at home and in the field, they are not identified as Jum farmers like the men. Rather we call them labourers," said Tuku Talukder, executive director of Rangamati-based women's rights organisation Himawanti.

Anna Minj, director, Community Empowerment, Integrated Development, Brac, said farm work and weaving is a part of the growing up process of the indigenous communities and the idea of working outside home was pioneered by the indigenous women.

Prof Naseem Akhter Hussain, the Government and Politics department of JU,

said, "Recognising women's work is related to women's empowerment, dignity and rights to property."

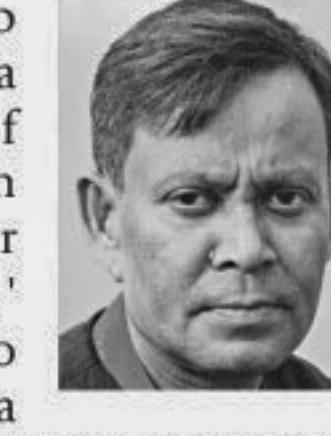
Quoting popular agricultural show's presenter Shaikh Siraj, MJF Executive Director Shaheen Anam said women perform 17 out of 22 tasks involved in farming, starting from planting seeds to bringing the crops home, yet they view these as house chores.

She talked about MJF's recent endeavour to calculate the economic value of women's unrecognised works and to find out its contribution to the Gross Domestic Product of the country.

Once women's work is valued and recognised, women would be respected and it might reduce violence against women in the society, she hoped.

Obituary

CITY DESK



MA

Rakib Khan, a member of Bangladesh Photojournalists' Association, died in a Dhaka hospital yesterday, aged 65.

Rakib, a senior photo-journalist of New Age and the Banglar Bani (now defunct), left behind his wife and three daughters, says a press release.

The association condoled his death and expressed sympathy to the bereaved family members.

Badrul Huda Chowdhury CRRY DESK

Badrul Huda Chowdhury, a renowned journalist, writer and sports commentator at Bangladesh TV and Bangladesh Betar, died of old age complications at his Chittagong residence yesterday. He was 84.

He left behind his wife, three sons and two daughters and was buried at Chaitanya graveyard.

During his journalism career he worked for the Daily Azad, Ittefaq, Dainik Bangla, Inquilab, Sangbad, Banglar Bani and Daily Purbadesh.

Death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Yesterday marked the 21st death anniversary of Sohel Samad, a freedom fighter and journalist. He died in 1993.

Samad won gold medal for "Excellence in Professional Broadcasting" at the New York International Radio Festival in 1989 and worked for Bangladesh Betar, Voice of America and Deutsche Welle.

To commemorate his life and work, Bangladesh Press Institute has been giving awards to journalists since 1999, said a press release.

4 left student bodies protest

FROM PAGE 5
Over 100 leaders and activists of the alliance brought out a procession at RU yesterday demanding immediate release of Debasis, also former president of RU unit of Samajtantrik Chhatra Front.

Among others, Sohrab Hossain, RU unit Somajtantrik Chhatra Front president; Ayatullah Khomeni, president of Chhatra Union; and Faruk Emon, president of Chhatra Federation, addressed the programme.

Earlier, they also met Prof Chowdhury

Sarwar Jahan, RU pro-vice chancellor, to withdraw the cases against the general students and leaders of left leaning student bodies over the violence.

On February 2, around 100 students and eight journalists were injured when some armed Bangladesh Chhatra League men backed by police attacked the students who were demonstrating against a fee hike and evening master's programmes.

Police, the RU authorities and the BCL filed six cases against around 750 agitating students.

Attacks on adivasis rising

FROM PAGE 3
Implementing the Rights of Indigenous Peoples", Goutam Kumar Chakma, member of the technical committee of the parliamentary caucus, said Bangladesh is among those countries which did not recognise indigenous people in their constitution but still is in process to implement their rights.

He mentioned some recommendations which include constitutional recognition of the communities and cancellation of

government notification that prohibited the use of the term "advisi", formation of two effective land dispute resolution commissions for the indigenous people, and ensuring rights to own culture and language.

Prof Mesbah Kamal and Sanjeeb Drong, an expert member and a member respectively of the technical committee, Mirnal Kanti Das, and lawmakers Khalid Mahmud Chowdhury, Kazi Rozi, Hazera Sultana, and AKM Fazlul Haq also spoke.

AL leader accused of assaulting

FROM PAGE 5
name for the second time in the voter list.

She made the allegations at a press conference at Khulna Press Club yesterday.

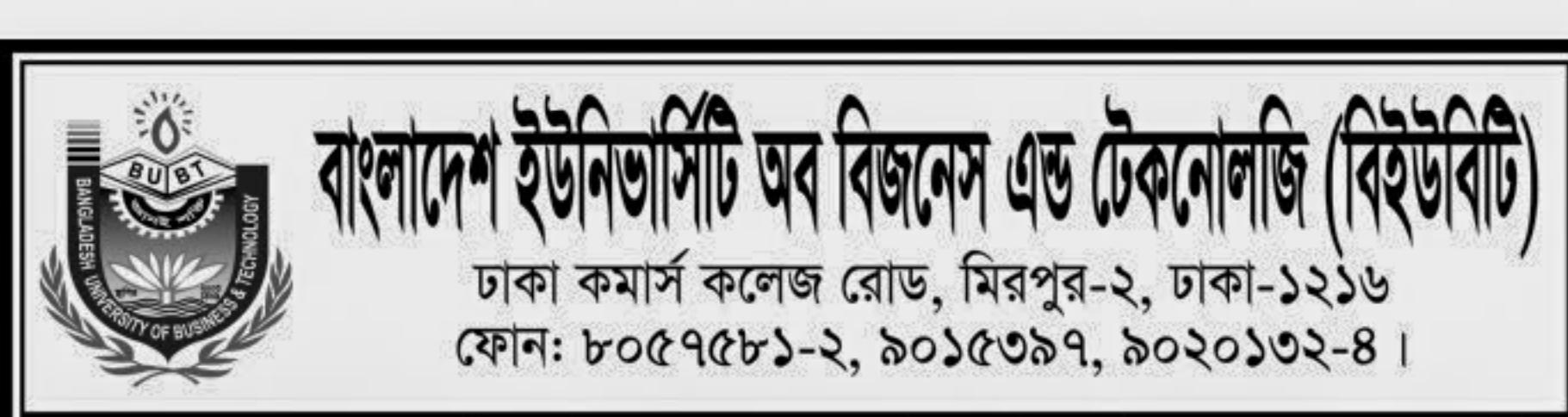
"I refused to register Mazid's name in the updated voter list as he was already listed and had a voter ID card," she claimed. She demanded exemplary punishment for him.

Khadija said she was beaten up in front of her husband's tea stall in Borokatali Bazar.

"There were many witnesses, but people are afraid to come forward," she claimed. Her husband, Robiul Alam Khokon, said he was also beaten up when he came to his wife's aid.

Contacted, Babul refuted the allegation.

"I did not beat anyone including Khadija for not registering somebody's name in the voter list," he claimed, adding that sometimes people conspire against him as he is a popular public figure.



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