



## Journalist Zaglul laid to rest with heavy hearts

Human chain before Jatiya Press Club today protesting road death

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

With heavy hearts overshadowed with bereavement, people from all walks of life yesterday paid their last tribute to veteran journalist Zaglul Ahmed Chowdhury who died in a tragic road crash in the capital's Karwan Bazar on Saturday. He was 66.

Today journalists will form a human chain before Jatiya Press Club protesting the death. Law enforcers are yet to identify the bus driver and ascertain whether Zaglul was forced to get off the moving vehicle.

Ministers, politicians, diplomats, bureaucrats, journalists and jurists filed slowly before the coffin, placed wreaths and stood in solemn silence for some time on the capital's Jatiya Press Club premises, where it was kept for around one and a half hours from around 3:00pm.

He was laid to rest in Azimpur graveyard, in the same spot where his mother Saduren Nessa was buried, following a namaz-e-janaza at Jatiya Press Club after Asr prayers.

The first namaz-e-janaza was held after Zohr prayers at the Banani central mosque, where the body was taken from the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University mortuary.

The Daily Star caught up with many people at the press club who expressed their grief at the loss of the former chief editor and managing director of the state-run Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha.

"We" could not ensure road safety, said Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid, expressing the need for making laws more stringent and increasing their enforcement. He recalled Zaglul having immense knowledge on political issues and journalism.

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People from all walks of life, including journalist leaders, diplomats and jurists, participate in the namaz-e-janaza of veteran journalist Zaglul Ahmed Chowdhury in front of Jatiya Press Club in the capital yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

## Nation grieves Qayyum's death

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Eminent citizens and various organisations yesterday expressed deep shock at the death of celebrated artist Qayyum Chowdhury.

In a statement, Workers Party President Rashed Khan Menon and its secretary Fazle Hossain Badsha said the people would recall Qayyum Chowdhury forever for his contribution to the development of fine arts as well as taking it to a high level.

"He had depicted the natural beauty of Bangladesh through his creative paintings. His paintings in the cover of books had also taken the industry to a new height."

The loss due his death is irrecoverable, said the statement.

Artist Qayyum Chowdhury had spread the spirits of the language movement and the liberation war till the last day of his life that had made next generations enlightened, said Ekattorer Ghatok Dalal Nirmul Committee in another statement.

Qayyum, also an adviser of the Nirmul Committee, had played a great role to form the committee

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## Declare no more properties as vested: Rights activists

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

No new list of vested properties or additions to the existing one should be made or published through gazettes, rights activists said yesterday, expressing fears that it would subject more people to harassment for the legal complexities it entails.

The call came in the wake of the land ministry's attempt to propose at the November 10 cabinet meeting to amend the list "Ka", which includes vested properties already under the government's possession.

Addressing a press conference at Dhaka Reporters Unity, Sultana Kamal, executive director of Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK), urged the government to monitor, identify and take action against the corrupt government officials who were impeding the implementation of the Vested Property Return (Amendment) Act 2011.

Nine organisations including ASK, Bangladesh Hindu Buddhist Christian Unity Council (BHBCUC), the Association for Land Reform and Development (ALRD), Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST), and Nijera Kori arranged it.

After the 1965 India-Pakistan war, the then Pakistan government promulgated the enemy property ordinance and took possession of Indian institutions as well as properties of any non-Muslim individual or families, who left Pakistan for India between 1965 and 1969, Kajal Debnath, president member of BHBCUC, told The Daily Star.

The state continued to take over properties of religious minorities as vested properties till April 2001 when the government passed the Vested Property Return Act to give vested properties back to their rightful owners by producing the list "Ka", Subrata Chowdhury, another president member of BHBCUC, told The Daily Star.

In 2011, yet another list, "Kha", was made including properties declared as vested but which were not under the government's possession, he said. Both lists with "Ka" involving about two lakh acres of land and "Kha" about four lakh acres were published, he said.

In the face of opposition from rights activists, the government cancelled the list "Kha", and two circulars were issued in this regard in

October 2013 and May 2014 asking all authorities to treat all "Kha" properties as any other normal property, said Subrata.

However, personnel at the offices of assistant commissioners (AC-land) continue to harass people when they try to get mutation papers or submit land tax, he said.

"Ignoring government circulars they say the property belongs to someone else and ask for bribes 10 times the tax amount," said Kajal Debnath.

Subrata feared that the government's recent move would lead to inclusion of the properties under the defunct "Kha" list into the "Ka" list.

On the other hand, the cases filed by claimants under the "Ka" list were facing delay in court because of non-cooperation by government officials, he said.

Khushi Kabir, executive director of Nijera Kori, said that even the verdicts of tribunals regarding vested properties could not be implemented because of non-cooperation from government offices.

The organisations demanded that a special tribunal be formed in every district to deal only with the cases of return of vested properties.

## JCD dissidents still against new leaders

Threaten to stage sit-in from tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dissident Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) leaders yesterday threatened to stage a sit-in in front of BNP's headquarters in the capital from tomorrow, a day after their seven-day ultimatum to cancel the new central committee of the student body expires.

"We waited for a long time but did not get any response from the BNP high-ups," Ferdaus Munna, a dissident, who was joint secretary of the last JCD committee, told a press briefing at the Nayapaltan office.

On Wednesday, the dissidents raised three demands-cancellation of the committee, restoration of the three JCD leaders who were expelled for their dissidence, and removal of BNP student affairs secretary Shahid Uddin Chowdhury Anne and assistant student affairs secretary Sultan Salahuddin Tuku.

The dissidents accused Anne and Tuku of putting men of their choice on the new committee, which was approved by BNP chief Khaleda Zia on October 14

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## BNP-Jamaat tie only for polls, movement

Says Khaleda

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia last night said her party's relation with Jamaat-e-Islami was only for polls and movement.

She made the comments at a views exchange meeting with Jatiyatabadi Muktijoddha Dal at her Gulshan office in the capital.

Referring to AL general secretary Syed Ashrafur Islam's recent comments on US Assistant Secretary of State Nisha Desai Biswal, Khaleda said the ruling party leaders had become habituated to using derogatory language against BNP, and now they started doing the same to foreign guests.

Ashraf called Biswal a "minister worth two pennies". Referring to Khaleda's meeting with her, he said the two-time prime minister was seen on TV sitting like a kid in front of Biswal as if the American official would right away hand her power.

Khaleda also said the remarks of HT Imam, adviser to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, had proved that a free and fair election was not possible under the AL government, and that BNP was right to demand a neutral election-time administration.

Pointing to the recent violence at public universities, she said Bangladesh Chhatra League had made the campuses storehouses of arms and that education atmosphere was not existing there.



Bangladesh Dalit Parishad protests the use of derogatory words in the Primary School Certificate exam questions, from a human chain in front of the capital's Jatiya Press Club yesterday. The protesters said Wrishi people were disrespectfully called "muchi" or cobblers in the question paper on Hindu religion and ethics.

PHOTO: STAR

## NAZMUL HUDA'S GRAFT CASE SC overturns HC acquittal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday scrapped a High Court verdict that acquitted former BNP minister Nazmul Huda and his wife Sigma Huda in a bribery case.

Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) filed the case on March 21, 2007 centring Tk 2.40 crore taken from a businessman for the couple's weekly, Khoboror Ontorale.

The SC asked the HC to expeditiously hold hearing and dispose of the appeals filed by the convicts challenging a lower court verdict jailing Nazmul for seven years and his wife three. The SC passed the order after hearing two appeals filed by ACC and the government against the HC verdict.

Talking to The Daily Star, ACC's counsel Khurshid Alam Khan reasoned that the HC in its verdict did not review statements witnesses gave before the lower court. Bail for Nazmul and Sigma, both now in Singapore, will remain effective till disposal of their appeals, he added.

## WAR CRIMES IN CHAPAINAWABGANJ Decision on indictment of two suspects Dec 11

Tribunal points out prosecution's sloppiness again; separately defence counsel disputes testimonies against Jabbar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Crimes Tribunal-2 will decide on December 11 whether to indict two men of Chapainawabganj for their alleged involvement in war crimes during the Liberation War.

Mahidur Rahman, 84, of Dadanchak village, and Afsar Hossain alias Chutu, 65, of Satrosia village, in Shibganj upazila allegedly collaborated with the Pakistani army as Razakars.

The prosecutors filed three charges against the two involving mass killings, arsons, looting, abduction, torture, confinement and murder in the district in 1971.

While briefly reading out the identities of the suspects and the charges, Prosecutor Sahidur Rahman faced a barrage of questions from the tribunal for several errors in the formal charges they submitted. Sahidur was seen fumbling at that time.

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