

## Abul Mansur

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“Atma Katha” and “Amar Dekha Rajnitr Panchash Bachhar”, which while bringing out his own personal struggles, depict the historical and social challenges faced by the common people of that period.

He was one of the earliest proponents of Bangla being the national language of the country. He wrote extensively about the issues of national language since the beginning of the ‘40s and also contributed actively to the Language Movement as the editor of Ittehad. Abul Mansur Ahmad was the author of the famous 21-point manifesto for the United Front in the 1954 election, which saw the demise of Muslim League from power and from the politics of East Pakistan.

As a result of his political activities in the late ‘50s and early ‘60s, Abul Mansur Ahmad was jailed several times by the military administration of Ayub Khan.

Bangla Academy has published three volumes of Abul Mansur Ahmad’s collected works. A collection of memorial books on the renowned personality was published by Prothoma. Star Books has also published “Abul Mansur Ahmader Shreshtho Golpo”.

In his honour, Abul Mansur Ahmad Smriti Parishad has launched an essay contest on three topics: Abul Mansur Ahmad’s thoughts on politics and nationalist perspective; anti-establishment ideas in Abul Mansur Ahmad’s short stories; and contribution and relevance of Abul Mansur Ahmad in societal change.

The contest received huge responses from all over the country. A total of nine contestants (three from each category) will be declared winners.

## Unprotected

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many of them to continue working with limited protection and almost no formal guidance or support structures.

A sanitation worker in Khulna said, “We are continuing our job under great risk only to give the public some level of comfort. But it is very unfortunate that people do not value our sacrifice.”

Practice of frequent handwashing also varied largely due to workers’ access to facilities with soap and water. In India, 40 percent workers reported lack of any handwashing station at work.

Many sanitation workers across the four countries are in fear of losing their livelihood while almost half of the respondents reported challenges in meeting their daily expenses.

Across the board, they had very limited access to social protection or safety nets, with only a small minority being covered by some sort of insurance, and many missing out on emergency support measures introduced during the pandemic.

Vanita Suneja, regional advocacy manager (South Asia), WaterAid, said, “South Asian governments must put in place a comprehensive safety net to protect these workers, including health insurance, guidelines and training. Only with proper job recognition and protections these essential workers will be able carry out some of their roles in our society safely.”

## Sexual and

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slowed down in the country. Special initiatives have also been taken to ensure maximum services to pregnant mothers and newborns from the beginning of this pandemic,” she said.

Manjun Nahar, focal person of Strengthening Family Planning Services through Advocacy initiative of Advance Family Planning (AFP) Media Advocacy; Jasmine Prema, chairperson of Samaj Kalyan Unnayan Shangstha (SKUS); SM Shaikat, executive director of SERAC-Bangladesh took part in the dialogue moderated by journalist Nikhil Bhadra.

## Final nail

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Eminent lawyer Shahdeen Malik said, in the last three years, EC has proved that they are totally inefficient to hold free and fair elections.

“They don’t have any idea how to hold such elections. They don’t even have the will to do so,” he said.

“Names of the present election commissioners and the chief election commissioner will be placed at the top of the list of those who caused the most damage to the country,” he also said.

Local government expert Prof Tofail Ahmed said the EC cannot take initiative to change its law.

“Curbing its own power through amending law is tantamount to suicide. Everyone knows that the present Election Commission is dysfunctional. Through its move to amend the law, the Election Commission will earn more hatred from people,” he said.

The retired professor of Chattogram University also said it is not a good sign for our democracy that everyone at this time is silent against the EC move.

Dhaka University Professor Asif Nazrul said, “It seems that Election Commission wants to get rid of its responsibilities and wants impunity.”

Noted environmental and rights activist Syeda Rizwana Hasan said as a civil society platform, they can express their no-confidence against the present EC through sending letters to the President or the committee, who had selected the present election commissioners.

Shujan President M Hafizuddin Khan presided over the meeting while former election commissioner Sakhawat Hussain, senior journalists – Abu Sayeed Khan and Sohrab Hossan, among others, spoke on the occasion.

### HIGHER EDUCATION IN BANGLADESH

## DRU, NSU hold webinar

CITY DESK

Dhaka Reporters Unity (DRU), in collaboration with North South University (NSU), yesterday organised a virtual discussion on “The Reality and Challenges of Higher Education in Bangladesh” and an award ceremony for children of DRU members who passed PSC, JSC, and SSC examinations, said a press release.

Education Minister Dr Dipu Moni attended the programme as chief guest. Md Mahbub Hossain, Secretary of Secondary and Higher Education Division, Ministry of Education; MA Kashem, former president of FBCCI and chairperson, board of trustees, NSU; and Saiful Alam, president of Bangladesh National Press Club and Editor, The Daily Jugantor were present as special guests.

## 33pc fishers

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MJE, while Bangladesh Institute of Labour Studies and Coast Trust assisted in data collection.

Some 86 percent respondents received food (rice) and cash support as they had “fisher card”, it added. However, the survey found that about 87.4 percent respondents had to take out loans to meet their regular expenses.

Addressing the press conference, MJF Executive Director Shaheen Anam said like in other parts of the globe, shutdown enforced to contain coronavirus disrupted the livelihood and income of many people in Bangladesh, especially those involved in informal sector. Its negative impact on the country’s fishing community could be assumed as well, she said.

Besides, the 65-day ban that is being imposed each year also impacted the fishing communities, she added.

On Covid-19, about 99 percent respondents reported they had been made aware from different sources including union parishad, media and neighbours.

The report recommended creating opportunities for diversified income generation among coastal fishing communities, and increasing food support as well as to introducing cash support for poor fishermen.

## Relocating

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are not sure what we are going to do with them. We need to work on it.”

**LEGAL, SCIENTIFIC SIDES** Supreme Court lawyer Barrister Shihab Uddin Khan told The Daily Star, “The Animal Welfare Act prohibits anyone from killing or moving any stray animal from its habitat. If a government body does it, then any aggrieved organisation and person can avail their constitutional right to file a writ petition with the High Court.”

“If the city authorities want to take any such decision, I think they should sit with all stakeholders, and find a way that is acceptable to all and legally compliant to address the issue,” he suggested.

Dr Firoj Jaman, a professor of zoology at Dhaka University, suggested that any decision be made based on scientific evidence. Talking to The Daily Star, he said, “Street dogs are scavengers. They add benefits to the ecology, but they can also cause problems. If their population needs to be managed, I think it should be done based on surveys and scientific data.”

## OC Pradeep sued

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then sent to jail in a yaba case.

On March 5, her husband Musa Akbar held a press conference at Cox’s Bazar Press Club, demanding release of the arrestees.

On March 28, police picked up Musa and then demanded Tk 20 lakh from his family members to release him. The family members gave them Tk 3 lakh. But Musa was shot dead around 11:45pm that day, the complainant said.

The court asked the OC of Teknaf Police Station to submit the report of the incident within 10 working days.

The second complaint was filed by Hafez Ahmed, of Kanjarpara village in the same upazila, against 26 persons, including Pradeep. Of them, 25 are police personnel.

Judge Helal took the complaint into cognisance and asked the OC of Teknaf Police Station to submit the report of the incident in 15 working days.

In his complaint, Hafez said police picked up his younger brother Sahab Uddin on April 17. Later, police demanded Tk 5 lakh from them to free him. They gave police Tk 50,000. But Sahab Uddin was shot dead in the early hours of April 21 in a paddy field in Kanjarpara area.

With yesterday’s two complaints, seven complaints have so far been lodged against police personnel, including Pradeep, over killing people.

Meanwhile, three accused in Major (ret’d) Sinha Md Rashed Khan murder case gave their confessional statements before another Cox’s Bazar court yesterday.

They are: Nurul Amin, Nizam Uddin, and Ayas Uddin of Marishbania village.

Senior Assistant Superintendent of Police Khairul Islam, who works at Rab, also the investigation officer of the case, produced the three before the court around 10:00am.

Tamanna Farah, judge of Senior

Judicial Magistrate Court-4 in Cox’s Bazar, recorded their statements, said Khairul.

The trio were arrested by Rab on August 11. They gave their confessional statements while they were on a three-day remand in the third phase.

With them, eight of the 13 accused in the murder case, filed by the victim’s elder sister Sharmin Sharia Ferdous, have so far given their confessional statements.

Five others are: key accused suspended inspector Liakat Ali and suspended sub-inspector Nandadulal Rakshit, and suspended APBN members Shajahan, Rajib and Mohammad Abdullah.

Another prime accused Pradeep was placed on 15 days’ remand in phases. But he is yet to give his confessional statement.

In another development, the probe committee members interrogated Pradeep in connection with the Major (ret’d) Sinha murder case.

The four-member committee, formed by the home ministry, reached Cox’s Bazar jail yesterday morning and started recording Pradeep’s statement around 11:00am, according to sources at the jail.

Meanwhile, Army Chief General Aziz Ahmed yesterday said like the people of the country, Bangladesh Army also wants exemplary punishment in the Major (ret’d) Sinha murder case.

The army chief made the statement in Chattogram, said an ISPR press release.

## Court freezes

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different police stations, while Masud was placed on a 28-day remand in different cases.

In August, the Special Tribunal-1 of Dhaka framed charges against Regent Group Chairman Mohammad Shahed in an arms case.

## Love for country

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is creating such debate and with what motive,” said Dr Sil.

Dr Sil also said that he has the opportunity to work in Singapore and other countries; an opportunity that will remain open for him in the future.

The Daily Star also got in touch with Gonoshasthaya Kendra regarding Dr Sil’s current status and complications regarding the work permit.

Dr Sil had two years’ “employment visa” which expired in July. He applied for a visa and a one-year extension but did not get the work permit, said an official of the public university.

Gono University has already applied for his work permit and it is under process, said the official. Authorities have sought a few more papers which were also provided accordingly.

“We need Dr Sil. Bangladesh needs him. Students are reaping the benefits of having such an internationally acclaimed scientist. He does research work in our university. It’s a matter of huge pride for us,” Laila Parvin Banu, vice Chancellor of the university, told The Daily Star.

“We hope he will get the work permit soon,” she added. “There is no question of relieving him. He is with Gono University.”

Gonoshasthaya Kendra’s founder Zafrullah Chowdhury said, “Some media outlets published reports that said Dr Bijon Kumar Sil was relieved from the university. It is a blatant lie. This information is not only misleading but disrespectful for him.”

Born and brought up in Banpara of Natore, Bijon Kumar Sil worked as a researcher at the BSMU along with professor Dr Nazrul Islam on dengue in 2002. He then worked for a while at the institute of Livestock Research in Savar.

“I made some breakthroughs while working there. Usually the research examination was done on plastic but I did it on glass and successful. The benefit of my invention was that the glass can be reused,” Dr Sil said while reflecting on the early days of his scientific work.

An academic article on Bijon’s invention was published in a French journal after which the Singapore government proposed him to join its civil service.

“I decided to go to Singapore. I had to go through a procedure. I talked with some high-placed Singapore officials, of whom some had come from other countries. I joined the civil service after taking citizenship of Singapore,” Bijon said, adding that Singapore built up its human resources by bringing people from various countries.

According to Singaporean law, there is no scope of dual citizenship, that’s why Sil said he had to surrender his Bangladeshi citizenship.

He was assigned to do research on dengue. But when the Sars virus hit the world, he was assigned for research on the virus. In 2003, he invented the testing kit for Sars which earned him global fame.

Till 2006, he worked in Singapore civil service and then joined a California-based organisation and worked there till 2013.

During that time, he invented Multisure hepatitis-C rapid test kit. He then worked in India for a while and then returned to Singapore again. In the meantime, he got 14 patents under his name. Five of his kits are approved by the European Union.

In 2019, he came to Bangladesh following an invitation by BMRC. At the beginning of January this year, when the coronavirus hit China, he informed Zafrullah Chowdhury about the danger of Covid-19.

“I have known Zafrullah sir for a long time. I informed him about my research on Sars virus and testing kit. I told him that I want to do research on coronavirus at Gonoshasthaya Kendra and he agreed. I joined Gono University’s microbiology department as its chairman,” said Dr Sil.

He also led a four-member research team to develop antigen and antibody test kits for Covid-19.

Zafrullah said Singapore and China used Sil’s talent to successfully combat the Sars virus.

“He [Bijon] came voluntarily to Bangladesh and should we not use his talent? If he leaves, whose loss is it? It is our loss; it is the loss of Bangladesh.”

The Gonoshasthaya Kendra founder also asked, “Thousands of foreigners are working in Bangladesh. How many of them have work permits?”

“We are not saying that he should be allowed to work without a work permit. We have applied for it and will surely get it,” said Chowdhury.

Coordinator of the GR Covid-19 rapid dot blot project, Dr Muhibullah Khandaker said those who are trying to create controversy have no idea about Dr Sil’s credentials and his love for the country.

“As the issue of his work permit is pending, he is not taking his salary,” he added.

## Australia falls into recession

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announced a record contraction of seven percent despite authorities providing billions of dollars in support to struggling firms.

“Today’s national accounts confirm the devastating impact on the Australian economy from Covid-19,” said Treasurer Josh Frydenberg.

## Bangabandhu asks

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League. He said the proposed all-party government was necessary to prevent famine, safeguard the sovereignty of the country, restore law and order, check smuggling and root out corruption.

The Maulana also pleaded for an all-party committee under the leadership of Bangabandhu and Awami League for the prevention of famine.

**BANGLADESH, IRAQ AMITY STRESSED**

A Bangladesh-Iraq joint communique on the three-day visit of Iraq by Bangladesh

Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad says that the disputes in the Indo-Pak-Bangladesh subcontinent could only be solved “by peaceful measures and mainly by bilateral discussions and negotiations on the basis of sovereignty, equality, national independence and mutual respect”.

Azad concluded his Iraq visit on August 30, 1972 but the joint communique is officially released in Baghdad today.

*SOURCES: September 4, 1972 issues of Bangladesh Observer, Dainik Bangla and Dainik Ittefaq.*

## Govt has no list

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The judges said they would not hear the petition as the petitioner’s lawyers and deputy attorney general had a quarrel.

The HC bench said the petitioner would have the liberty to move the petition before any other bench. During the hearing, the bench on August 31 wanted to know how many Covid-19 and non-Covid-19 hospitals were there in the country.

It also asked the authorities concerned to inform the court yesterday about how many private hospitals have licence and how many do not have.

On July 26, Children’s Charity Bangladesh Foundation submitted the petition as a public interest litigation to the HC, seeking necessary orders on the authorities to stop irregularities in some hospitals, including Regent Hospital.

It sought HC directives on the authorities concerned to refund the money

taken from patients who were cheated by Regent Hospital over Covid-19 testing and treatment.

The organisation requested the court to order the authorities to give Tk 25,000 as interim relief to each of the patients victimised by Regent Hospital.

In the petition, the rights body prayed to the HC to ask the health and home secretaries, DGHS director general and managing director of Regent Hospital to prepare a list of people who received fake reports from the hospital and to publish a list of the names of the hospitals and diagnostic centres that have legal licence to conduct Covid-19 tests.

The organisation also requested the court to direct the authorities to take necessary measures to monitor the activities of the hospitals and diagnostic centres at upazila level, regarding carrying out tests and treatment of patients.

## Giant fossilised

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At the time the tree probably sat at an altitude of 6,560 feet above sea level.

“This tree and the hundreds of fossil wood, leaf and pollen samples, reveal that when these plants were alive the ecosystem was more humid - even more humid than climate models of the past predicted,” said Camila Martinez, a fellow at STRI.

“There is probably no comparable modern ecosystem, because temperatures

were higher when these fossils were deposited 10 million years ago.”

Five million year-old fossils from the same sites confirmed that the Puna ecosystem that now dominates the Andes’ high mountain plateaus had been born: the younger pollen samples were mostly from grasses and herbs, rather than from trees.

Leaf material was from ferns, herbs and shrubs, indicating that the plateau had already risen to its current altitude.



**World Health Organization**  
Bangladesh

**VACANCY NOTICE**

World Health Organization (WHO) invites applications from the interested and eligible candidates for the following positions under Special Service Agreement:

- National Consultant –Epidemiology
- National Consultant –Information Technology (IT)
- National Consultant –Statistics cum Data management

For further details on the terms of reference and deadline for applications, please visit our websites:

<https://www.who.int/bangladesh/about-us/employment>

*Qualified **female candidates** are highly encouraged to apply*

 WHO has a smoke-free environment and does not recruit smokers or other tobacco users.

**INVITATION FOR TENDER**

**Pubali Bank Limited**, the largest online commercial Bank in Bangladesh is hereby inviting sealed Tenders from the eligible Tenderers, who can participate in any the following tenders, but in separate envelope as defined in the tender documents of the under mentioned works as per terms & conditions stated below:

- Civil, Electrical & Networking works** at proposed premises of our **Sarsina Branch, Pirojpur.**
- Civil, Electrical & Networking works** at proposed premises of our **Thanarhat Bazar Branch, Noakhali** with change of nomenclature as **Sonaimuri Branch, Noakhali.**
- Supply, installation & commissioning** of 10 (ten) nos. **Note Counting Machines** at different 09 (nine) Branches of our Bank.

Please visit our web site, <https://www.pubalibangla.com/tender.asp> for details. Interested Parties may purchase their Tender document by **10 September, 2020** duly filled up all requirements and submit their offer in the Tender Box by **13 September, 2020** (before 11.00 A.M.). Tender will be opened on **13 September 2020** at 11.30 A.M.



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**TENDER INVITATION**

Tenders are invited from the bonafide / intending suppliers / firms for the following items:

- Supply and installation of different types of Networking Accessories for the 10 (Ten) storied Academic Building of EWU
- Re-Tender for supply and installation of different types of networking accessories for the Academic Building-03, Practice Lab (ICS) & Labs of the Department of Civil Engineering of EWU
- Procurement of CCTV Cameras and related accessories for the 10 (Ten) storied Academic Building of EWU
- Procurement of CCTV Cameras for the Academic Building-3 of EWU
- Procurement of 83 units 56" Sweep Ceiling Fan for the Academic Building-3 of EWU
- Re-Tender for running & commissioning of McQuay Brand Chiller of Unit # 03 of EWU by replacement of Compressor, VFD & Accessories

The schedule for the items with terms and conditions can be obtained from the Finance & Accounts Department of the University up to **16 September 2020** during office hours (**up to 2:00 p.m.**) on payment (non-refundable) of **Tk. 300/-** for each item.

**The interested bidders are requested to submit the tender schedule through hard copy by 17.09.2020 within 12:00 p.m.** Hard copy of the tenders must be dropped in the tender box kept in the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the Office of the Treasurer (**Room No-316**) of the University. Submitted tenders within the deadline will be opened on **the same day (17.09.2020) at 12:15 p.m.** in the Conference Room (4<sup>th</sup> floor) of East West University in presence of the bidders (if any) ensuring health safety.

The bidders must mention the **“name of the item”** at the top of envelope, otherwise the bid document will be treated as cancelled.

**East West University authority** reserves the right to accept any tender in full or part of it or reject all tenders without assigning any reason thereof.

**Chief of HR & Logistics (In-Charge)**