

Dhaka Day by Day Helping the Hapless

by Rabat Fahmida

We hear an original voice. It is a voice, to be sure, that reaches only through the teachings she coordinates in her school. Syeda Iqbal Mand Banu has hard tried to turn her dreams into reality. She always wanted to have some sort of education programme for the underprivileged. Finally she set up a school, 'Surovi', with just one girl in 1979, within the area of the garden of her own house. Ever since the ignition keys are on.

Now this school has four branches throughout Dhaka and has plans of expansion. It started, what should be phrased as, 'a quiet revolution'.

This institution has given opportunities to the domestic servants, minor vendors and children of similar background to educate themselves, while helping their family.

Ms Banu did not have any financial assistance from the donor agencies or any non-governmental organisations. Her challenging spirit made her sell some of her valuables adding to all her personal savings to start this school and keep it going. At one point, one of her close acquaintances and she, set up a cooking school, that offered short course in Chinese and Continental dishes. Ladies from different embassies and professions rushed to take this course. And within weeks, Ms Banu said they were earning thousands. But she never had any business oriented thoughts. This was a way to increase her capital for starting her long cherished 'Surovi'. As they started off the school, after a few months they no longer offered the cooking classes. It is quite sad to see that even now it is almost a self-financed institution and has not received any monetary assistance from any organisation.



Syeda Iqbal Mand Banu

They occasionally get some stationeries from UCEP (Under Privileged Children Education Programme).

Syeda Iqbal Mand Banu is a voice asking to help educate the next generation, and it is a voice that reaches us somewhat uncertainly, as if it were muffled in layers of time. But it is an adamant tone of a close friend in the next room, whose intentions are whole hearted and rewarding. What is so wonderful about this lady is her power to kindle in us the awareness of life that many of us did not know we had.

Bangladesh is now one of the most densely populated countries of the world. The huge bulk of population, instead of becoming an asset to the nation is on its way to become a burden, unless they are literate. The rapid increase of population over the years has become disproportionate to the national resources. This has, for long, posed a threat as well as challenge to the whole country.

Especially to national policy makers and planners. So a literacy programme of this kind, is a blessing. The founder of 'Surovi' was a student of fine arts and in the later years she did her Masters degree in English literature. Her teachers in fine arts included the noted painter — Zainul Abedin. Looking into her activities, she is a lady with versatile qualities. She is a lyricist, too. Her songs mainly centres around the underprivileged children — their thoughts, dreams, and at times the way they are humiliated and tortured by the superiors. Ms Banu said that all this was possible only because she has an understanding and cooperative family. Her husband, late, Rear Admiral, MA Khan, was a great inspiration for her work. (More about 'Surovi' on Page 8.)



Law and Justice Minister Mirza Gholam Hafiz addressing a discussion meeting on Abul Mansur Ahmed at the auditorium of Shilpakala Academy on Tuesday. —Star photo

'Abul Mansur Ahmed was a champion of nationalism'

By Staff Correspondent

Abul Mansur Ahmed was a champion of nationalism in Bangladesh. As a journalist, writer, thinker and politician he had endeavoured to uphold the socio-political, cultural and literary distinctiveness of the people.

This was the consensus of speakers at a discussion meeting organised by the Abul Mansur Ahmed Kendriya Smriti Sangsad in observance of the 93rd anniversary of his birth at Shilpakala Academy auditorium on Tuesday.

Speakers at the meeting vowed to uphold the ideals of the great thinker who they said had helped shape all major political developments since pre-liberation days.

In a message Prime Minister Begum Khaleda said that Abul Mansur Ahmed was occupying a unique place in the political history of Bangladesh. Terming him as not only a politician but also a journalist and litterateur, she said Abul Mansur Ahmed was actively associated with all pro-people political movements.

Begum Khaleda Zia said that Abul Mansur Ahmed was truly a man of the soil and had close connections with its people. He was a pioneer in the field of literature, she said.

The Prime Minister said that the people of Bangladesh will remember Abul Mansur Ahmed with gratitude for his free thinking, straightforwardness and bold personality.

Law and Justice Minister Mirza Gholam Hafiz presided over the discussion meeting which was also addressed by Industries Minister Shamsul Islam Khan, Prof Shahid Ali, M A Muhaimen, Industrialist Harunur Rashid, MP, Principal of Zia Research Council A K A Firoze Noon, Azizul Huq, MP, Poet Al-Muzahid and Mahbub Anam, Secretary General, Abul Mansur Smriti Sangsad.

Mirza Gholam Hafiz recalled his association with the late leader from the pre-liberation days and said he had foreseen that the people would have to become independent. A pioneer of journalism among Muslim Bengalis he was a centre of attraction for intellectuals of different communities in Calcutta in those days.

He said Abul Mansur Ahmed had first raised the voice for abolition of Zamindari system without compensation and had prepared a draft law for this. He had drafted the 21-point programme of the United Front and was instrumental in framing the 1956 Constitution of the then Pakistan.

The Law Minister said Abul Mansur Ahmed had great contributions to the cause of democracy. Unparalleled contributions of this great thinker, however, remained unrecognised.

Mirza Gholam Hafiz said that BNP government would take all steps to recognise the contributions of Abul Mansur Ahmed, create a congenial atmosphere for the flourishing of indigenous culture cherished by him. A nation can never march towards the path of progress without recognising its illustrious sons, he said.

The Law Minister said now that democracy was established it was the duty of all to help institutionalise it with a view to upholding the ideals of Abul Mansur Ahmed.

Shamsul Islam Khan said Abul Mansur Ahmed could foresee that it was impossible to win election against Pakistani dictator Ayub Khan by Begum Fatema Jinnah in 1964. The people of Bangladesh took lesson from that and took part in election only after unseating autocratic rulers.

Prof Shahid Ali said that Abul Mansur Ahmed and his disciple Khandakar Abdul Hamid were the proponents of Bangladesh nationalism. Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) as a political party has accepted their philosophy, he said.

Prof Shahid Ali called for proper evaluation of Abul Mansur Ahmed as a literary genius. M A Muhaimen said that the business community of Bangladesh grew up under the patronisation of Abul Mansur Ahmed when he was the Minister for Industries and Commerce of the then Pakistan. He had opened an import and export office in Chittagong to help the people to engage themselves in business activities. He had taken steps to prevent return of unspent money under development budget from the then East Pakistan to the centre. He had also established the Pakistan Shipping Corporations to protect the people of the then East Pakistan from machinations of shippers of the then West Pakistan.

Harunur Rashid MP, emphasised the need for honest, patriotic and dedicated people like Abul Mansur Ahmed in all walks of life to forge ahead towards the path of prosperity. Poet Al-Mujahid said proper evaluation of a dynamic personality like Abul Mansur Ahmed would help bring dynamism in the society. He deplored that Bangla Academy which was established at the instance of the great thinker has not yet published a compilation of his writings.

A K A Firoze Noon said lat President Ziaur Rahman had attached great importance to the contributions of Abul Mansur Ahmed who, he said, had helped flourish the idea of Bangladeshi nationalism. The discussion meeting was followed by the staging of a drama composed by Abul Mansur Ahmed during pre-liberation days.

This was the first election to the Bangla Academy Executive Committee after 1980.

The other members who elected to the committee are: Prof Kabir Chowdhury, Prof Zillur Rahman Siddiqui, Prof Muntajjuddin Ahmed, Sardar Fazlul Karim, Humayun Ahmed and Prof Mohammad Abu Jafer.

Seven members were elected Tuesday to the 18-member executive body of the Bangla Academy, reports BSS.

A total of 29 candidates contested for the seven posts from two panels and others.

Dr Anisuzzaman from his panel got the highest number of vote 550.

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This was the first election to the Bangla Academy Executive Committee after 1980.

The former President of the Committee, Dr Lalith Mohan Nath, also spoke on the occasion. It was followed by a colourful cultural function which was inaugurated by eminent Film Director Khan Ataur Rahman. The function was participated by prominent singers including Nilufer Yasmin, Ratindranath Roy, Subir Nandi, Mina Barua and Indramohan Rajbarangi. Earlier, prizes were given to the participants of the procession. Meanwhile, the General Secretary of the Pujya Committee Joyanta Sen Dipu, in a statement conveyed his heart-felt gratitude to all including law-enforcing agencies to make the celebration a success.

Alleged leader of Sarbahara Party held

By Staff Correspondent

Police arrested an alleged leader of the Sarbahara Party from Maghbazar in the city Monday.

Detective Branch police, on receiving secret information, arrested Siddique Rahman alias Siddique alias Zahid (25), said to be a leader of the Barisal-based Sarbahara Party, from the Maghbazar intersection.

Police said there are two cases pending against him at Babuganj thana under Barisal district. He is also wanted in several murder cases. He was also involved in the recent launch dacoity in Goysharhat. After the dacoity he stayed in hiding in Dhaka with other members of his gang, police added.

A fake identity card of Tejgon College issued in the name of one Humayun Kabir, BA first year, with his photograph was found in his possession.

Detective Branch police also arrested an absconding accused wanted in connection with a murder in Chandpur from Rampura on Monday.

Abid Mian, a union parishad member of Hajiganj under Chandpur district and an absconding accused in a murder case, was arrested from the WAPDA road in Rampura under Gulshan Thana.

EC firm to hold referendum in disciplined manner

Chief Election Commissioner Justice Mohammad Abdur Rouf Tuesday reiterated his firm determination for holding the forthcoming referendum in a congenial atmosphere and disciplined manner, reports BSS.

He also urged the voters to participate in the referendum spontaneously so that the question of the future form of government was settled through the referendum.

He was addressing a discussion meeting in connection with the coming referendum at Gazipur organised by the district administration.

The meeting was attended, among others, by Election Commissioner Justice Syed Mubashir Uddin Hossain, the Deputy Commissioner of Gazipur, officers of various government, semi-government and autonomous bodies, teachers of various educational institutions, chairman and ward commissioners of Gazipur Paurashava, leaders of various political parties, upazila nirbahari officers, local elite, and leaders and members of various organisations of Gazipur district.

Highlighting the various aspects of the referendum, the Chief Election Commissioner said that it was for the first time that a referendum was being held on the question of amending the Constitution.

Jamaat's call to save jute growers

By Staff Correspondent

The central working committee of Jamaat-e-Islami, Tuesday urged the government to fix the minimum price of jute at Taka 500 per maund to protect the jute growers and jute, a party press release said Tuesday night, reports BSS.

In a resolution taken at the meeting held with Acting Ameer Abbas Ali Khan in the chair, it also called for taking measures to buy raw jute under government initiative and export those to international market.

The committee made a strong appeal to the government to announce the jute policy and take other steps to save the jute growers and jute industry in the interest of the country's economy.

Jamaat in the resolution, observed that there was no arrangement to buy raw jute under government initiative. The growers have to sell their jute at Taka 130 per maund which was less than half the production cost, it said.

If this trend continues, the party said, the farmers will be compelled to stop growing jute in the country resulting in gradual increase in unemployment and a sharp fall in foreign currency earning.

The meeting at the Ministry of Information decided that the newly-produced short film on motivation of voters and procedure of voting would be shown on television from Tuesday and in cinema halls throughout the country within a day or two.

It was also decided that appropriate steps would be taken for wide publicity of special articles and features, slogans and speeches of political leaders including the activities of the Election Commission in the mass media.

The meeting was informed that the posters and leaflets received from the Election Commission have already been sent to the information officers of all districts for display and distribution in the nook and corner of the country. The meeting was told the radio, television, Press Information Department and Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS) were conducting publicity work for popularising the referendum and maintaining close contact with the Election Commission.

The meeting was attended by Director General of Television. Principal Information Officer of PID, Directors General of Radio, EP Wing, DFP and FDC, Managing Director of BSS, Director of Mass Communication Department, curator of film archives and high officials of the ministry and its different organisations.

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Dr M Shamsul Haque, Election Commissioner, conducted the election.

Tk 6,500 realised from vehicles' owners

A mobile court on the Mkhakhali-Airport. Road Tuesday realised Taka 6,500 as fines from drivers and owners of vehicles for violating traffic rules, a police press release said, reports BSS.

Forty-two cases were also filed against them for the violation. Besides, the police sergeants filed 24 cases for callous and rough driving on the Biswa Road-Mukti Sarani Road.

Publicity strategy for referendum discussed

A high-level meeting held in Dhaka Tuesday with State Minister for Information, Md Nurul Huda in the chair discussed the publicity strategy of different departments and organisations of the ministry for the coming referendum, an official source said, reports BSS.

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Weather

Heavy rain likely

By Staff Correspondent

Heavy rainfall is likely at one or two places over Chittagong divisions and the regions of Barisal, Patuakhali, Dhaka, Mymensingh and Tangail during the next 24 hours commencing 6 pm on Tuesday, according to Met office.

Rain or thundershower accompanied by temporary gusty wind with moderately heavy fall is also likely to occur at most places over Dhaka and Chittagong divisions and at many places over Khulna and Rajshahi divisions.

Day temperature during the period may remain nearly unchanged over the country. Sylhet recorded the highest 58 mm rainfall during the last 12 hours till 6 pm Tuesday. Stakund had 49 mm rainfall.

Rajshahi experienced the highest temperature of 32 degree Celsius while Mymensingh the lowest 22.3 degrees. The Sun sets on Wednesday at 6.14 pm and it rises on Thursday at 5.42 am.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Weather is likely to improve. Extended outlook for another five days: Little change. The temperature and humidity of some towns and cities on Tuesday were:

Town/City	Temperature in Celsius	Humidity in percentage
	max	min
Dhaka	30.0	25.0
Chittagong	27.8	25.8
Rajshahi	32.0	25.0
Khulna	31.5	25.8
Khepupara	31.5	27.7
Cox's Bazar	29.6	25.5
Sylhet	26.7	24.0
Rangpur	28.0	x
Barisal	30.7	25.0
Jessore	32.0	25.5
Mymensingh	29.5	22.3

HERE and THERE

Janata Dal

Bangladesh Janata Dal Chairman Obaidul Huq on Tuesday urged the people to vote 'Yes' in the referendum to be held on September 15.

He was addressing a rally at Yousof Road organised by Kotwali Thana unit of the party.

He said that through the referendum long-cherished desire of the people would be fulfilled.

Other leaders Mirza Abdul Halim, Begum Shahina Khan, Enamul Huq Chowdhury and Begum Razia Alim also addressed the rally.

Bera High School ex-students

A 25-member Executive Committee of Bera B B High School Ex-students Association was formed at a meeting at the Pabna Samity auditorium in the capital recently.

Rais Uddin Mollah, Abdul Mannan Sarkar and Azrul Huq have been made President, General Secretary and Treasurer respectively, said a press release on Tuesday.

OP-1 winners

OP-1 winners who failed to avail visa yet submitted a memorandum to the American Ambassador to Bangladesh on August 29, says a press release. OP-1 Winners Association of Bangladesh requested the candidates to contact at 14, Fakirerpool with their necessary papers within September 5 (Thursday).

Music school

A function was arranged on the occasion of inauguration of a music school 'Shawr oc Ban' at Dhanmandi central road on August 30.

Principal of the School, Selina Hossain, started the function by rendering a Nazrul song.

Rayhana Hossain, Mahtuz-zaman Moina, Kumkum Mirza, Shahina Jesmin, Mahbulul Alam, Mehdi Rowshan, Khalid bin Abdul Aziz, Enamul Kabir, Shafia Aziz and Abu Taher, among others, attended the function.

Armed police

Fourth armed police battalion in Chittagong planted 50,000 saplings of different kinds in its own land during the last three months, said a press release on Tuesday.

DIG of the battalion, Nurul Huda concluded the programme on August 23 in a simple ceremony.

Reception

Charge D'Affaires of the Embassy of the State of Qatar Mohammed Khater Al-Khater held a reception at a local hotel Tuesday night on the occasion of the national day of Qatar, reports UNB.

Compiled by ASZ

What's on today . . .

Jamaat press confce
Acting Ameer of Jamaat-e-Islami Bangladesh Abbas Ali Khan will address a press conference at the National Press Club at 11.30 am on Wednesday. The Jamaat leader will speak on coming bye-election and referendum.

Editors to meet Saifur
Bangladesh Council of Editors will meet Finance Minister Saifur Rahman today (Wednesday) to exchange views on economy and planning.

Pabna people's meeting
A meeting of Pabna people residing in Dhaka will be held at Hotel Peacock, Mohakhali, at 6.30 pm today (Wednesday).

Lions Club meeting
The regular meeting of Lions Club of Dhaka Buriganga will be held today (Wednesday) at 5.30 pm at Hotel Sheraton. Members have been requested to attend the meeting in time.

Rotary Club meeting
Regular weekly meeting of Rotary Club of Dhaka South will be held today (Wednesday) at 5.30 pm at Hotel Purbani International.

Union members confce
The National Representatives Conference of Bangladesh Union Members Organisation will be held at Dhaka District Sports Association auditorium at 10 am tomorrow (Thursday).

'Proma' cultural function
Cultural organisation 'Proma' will arrange a programme on popular songs of old days at the Guide House auditorium at Baily Road at 7 pm tomorrow (Thursday).

Noted singers will render popular songs of old days at the programme.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Ministry of Planning Planning Division Administration Section-2

No. PD/A-2/9-51/90/1018 Dt. 29-8-91
13-5-98BS

To: Mr. Md. Kabir Chowdhury (Assistant Chief, Planning Commission)
C/O. Mr. Shah Alam Hafiz
15/9 C, Madhubag, Nayatola
Maghbazar, Dhaka.

Permanent address: Mr. Md. Kabir Chowdhury (Assistant Chief, Planning Commission)
C/O. Mr. Md. Majibur Rahman Chowdhury
'Amina Lodge' West Bagura Road, Barisal.

Sub: Notice as per section 5(2) of the ordinance in respect of complaint brought under Government Employees (special provision) Ordinance 1979 against Mr. Md. Kabir Chowdhury, Assistant Chief of BCS (Economic) Cadre.

Whereas you were accused under Section 3(B) of Government Employees (special provision) Ordinance 1979 and instructed to showcause as per Section 5(1) of the Ordinance and instructed to inform whether you were willing to attend the hearing personally, vide Planning Division Memo No. PD/A-2/9-51/90/802 dated 20-8-91 (which was published in the Daily Inqilab and the Bangladesh Times newspapers), and

Whereas you did not give any reply in respect of the notice nor expressed any wish to attend the hearing personally.

So it is proposed to dismiss to from service as per Section 4(A) of the ordinance.

Therefore you are instructed as per Section 5(2) of the Ordinance to showcause why you will not be given the proposed punishment, within 3 (three) days of the issue of this notice.

Syed Ahmed
Secretary
Planning Division
DFPG) 9949-31/8
G-480