

'Proper resource management can reduce probability of earthquake'

Proper resource management could reduce the probability of earthquake and other natural disaster. State Minister for Planning Dr Abdul Moyeen Khan said yesterday, reports UNB.

Inaugurating a day-long seminar on "Recent Developments in Earthquake Disaster Mitigation" at Engineers' Institution in the city, he said the government is planning to develop prediction capacity regarding earthquake.

Bangladesh now can predict about disasters like cyclone and flood but it is yet to acquire technical knowledge of predicting earthquake. There is a separate Ministry of Relief and Disaster Management, but it is not adequately armed with technical know-how in forecasting earthquake probability, Dr Khan said.

Prof Hareesh C Shah of USA and Ibrahim Mia of IEB also spoke at the inaugural session of the seminar, jointly organised by the Engineers' Institution and World Seismic Safety Initiative. BUET Vice-Chancellor Dr M Shahjahan presided. The state minister said a "National Building Code" has been submitted to the authorities concerned for approval.

According to experts, the code will contribute to reduction of earthquake damage.

Referring to quake-prone Myanmar, Dr Khan said, "Bangladesh has to be cautious about earthquake and steps should be taken to create awareness among the people to mitigate natural disaster."

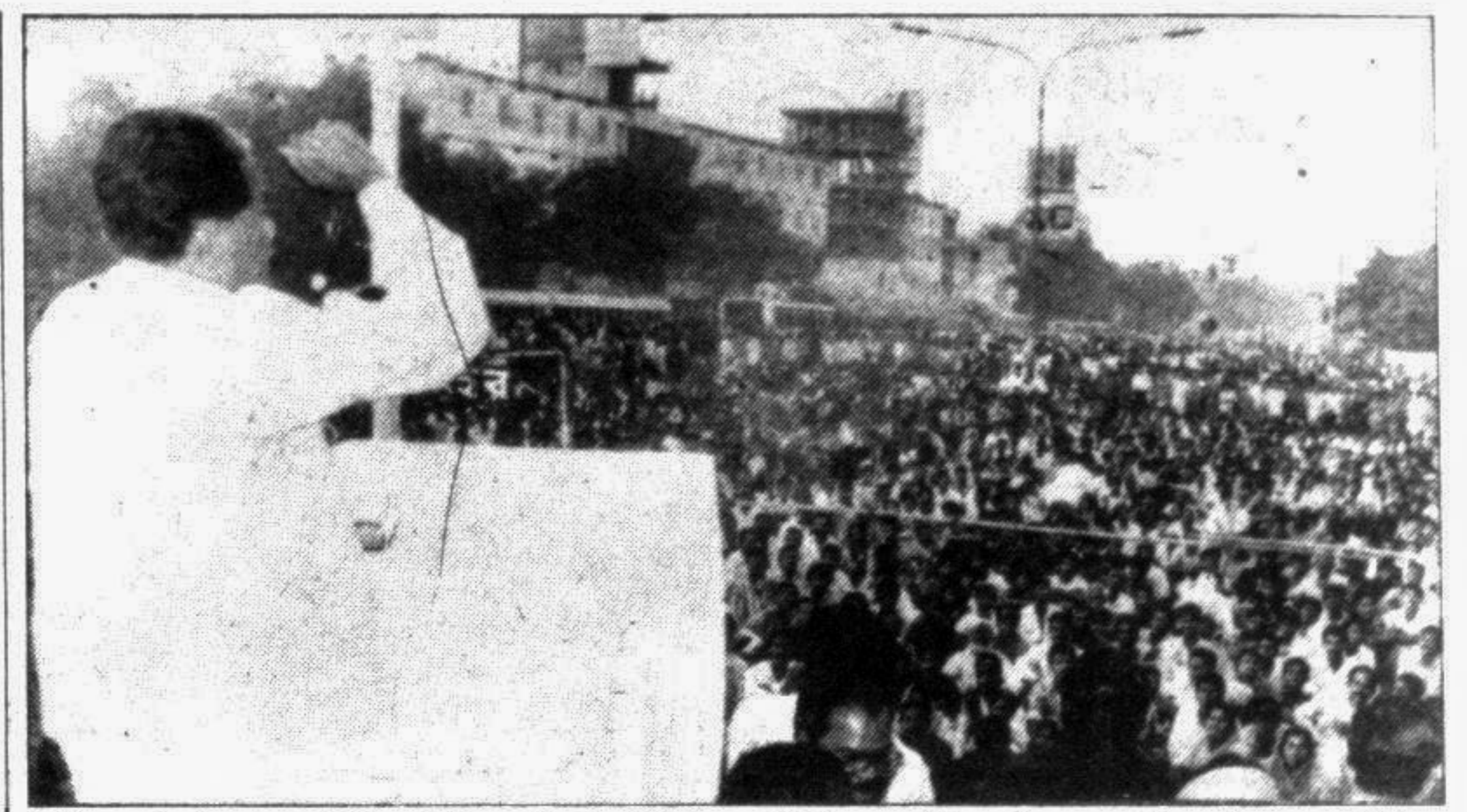
Prof Hareesh C Shah, Prof Jamilur R Chowdhury, Prof Hussain Ali, Prof Tsuneo Katayama of Japan, Teddy Boen of Indonesia, Dr Saiful Bari, Dr Zakaria Ahmed and Dr Tahmeed M Al-Hussaini presented papers in two technical sessions chaired by Prof AMM Saifullah and Prof JR Chowdhury respectively.

In their paper on "Seismic Zoning of Bangladesh," Md Hussain Ali and Jamilur R Chowdhury said about 20 million people of the country live in Zone 3 (north and northeastern part), considered as liable to severe damage.

Some of the major cities like Dhaka and Chittagong are in Zone 2, considered as moderate damage area. Measures for overall disaster mitigation must, therefore, include a recognition of earthquakes as a major natural hazard, they said.



Dhaka University Vice-Chancellor Professor Emajuddin Ahmed inaugurating the 10-day poster and photographic exhibition at DUCSU Bhaban yesterday.



Acting chairman of the Jatiya Party Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury addressing a public meeting at Mahakhali in the city yesterday. — Star photo

Student bodies observe Democracy Day

Student wings of different political parties observed "Democracy Day" yesterday with a call for upholding the spirit of the 1990 uprising and safeguarding the hard earned democracy, reports UNB.

The student organisations arranged rallies and processions in an outside the Dhaka

University campus to mark the day commemorating the fall of Ershad in the face of a mass upsurge on December 6 in 1990.

The organisations included ruling BNP's student front Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), Awami League backed Chhatra League, Chhatra Union, pro-

JSD (Inu) Chhatra League, Chhatra Maitri and Samajtantrik Chhatra Front.

Addressing a rally, DUCSU VP Amanullah Aman MP accused Awami League and its allies — Jamaat-e-Islami and Jatiya Party — of putting on-going development works in danger through hartals.

More German assistance assured

Germany has assured more assistance and cooperation for the development programmes in Bangladesh, reports UNB.

The assurance came when leader of a German delegation Dr Wolf Preuss called on State Minister for Planning Dr Abdul Moyeen Khan at his office yesterday.

The delegation is in the city to review on-going German aided projects and discuss with Bangladesh officials the future economic assistance.

During the meeting, Dr Khan explained the government policies, strategies and methods for implementation of development projects. He also

referred to 94 per cent achievement in implementing annual development programme.

The state minister said a perspective plan is being formulated for the first time with active participation of the grassroots level people.

Prizes of sports dev lottery distributed

The prize distribution of the fifth sports development lottery was held at the conference room of the National Sports Council in the city yesterday, reports BSS.

Information and Commerce Minister Shamsul Islam attended the function as the chief guest and gave away the first prizes worth Taka 30 lakh to the winner Anwar Hossain Bhuiyan of Jatrabari.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadek Hossain, officials of the National Sports Council and a large number of sportsmen and sports organisers were present.

Rokeya of Narayanganj won the second prize (a minibus), she took Taka 10 lakh instead of the bus.

The three third prize-winners were — Tripti Islam (Manikganj), Akkas (Mymensingh) and Younus Khan (Dakshin Budda). They each received Taka three lakh, the equivalent of a Maruti car price.

JICA founding anniversary

The Bangladesh office of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) has arranged a day-long programmes on Friday to mark the 20th founding anniversary of the organisation. The programme to be held at the Sonargaon Hotel will begin at 10:30 am and run till 5:00 pm, says a press release.

The programme includes exhibition of picture panels on JICA activities, video show on JICA activities and Japan, display of replicas on development projects and display of various handicrafts made by Bangladesh village women with the help of JOCV volunteers.

M Lutfullahil Majid, Secretary, Economic Relations Division of the Ministry of Finance, Y Kuroda, Minister, Embassy of Japan in Bangladesh and H Suzuki, resident representative of the JICA, Bangladesh will inaugurate the function.

Entry to the function is, however, strictly restricted to the invitees only.

DU exams' shifted

By DU Correspondent The Marketing third and fourth paper final examinations of the Masters Degree, 1991, under the traditional system of Dhaka University has been shifted due to unavoidable circumstances.

The examination scheduled for December 13 will be held on December 19 and the postponed examination of December 6 will now be held on December 13.

Other parts of the examinations scheduled earlier will remain unchanged, said a DU press release yesterday.

BCS confce postponed

The 18th annual conference and annual general meeting of the Bangladesh Chemical Society (BCS) scheduled to be held on December 9 in Rajshahi, has been postponed due to unavoidable circumstances, reports UNB.

US envoy calls on Mannan

The US Ambassador to Bangladesh, David Merrill, called on State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism Abdul Mannan at his office yesterday, reports UNB.

They discussed matters of mutual interest and bilateral relations.

Notice
Our regular feature 'Dhaka Day by Day' could not be published today due to space constraint. Inconvenience to readers is regretted.

BTV
Wednesday

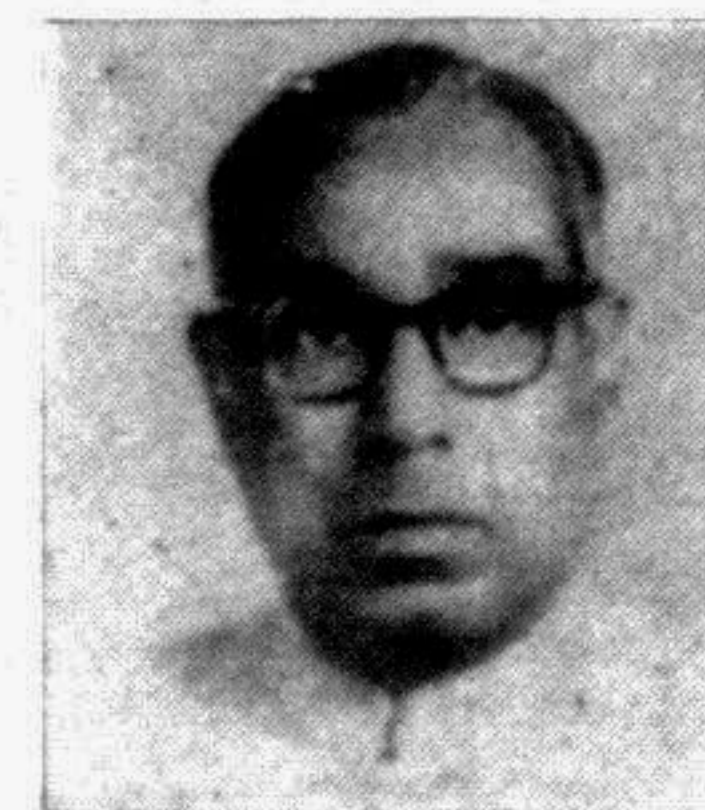
- 4:30 Opening announcement
- Programme summary
- 4:45 Sports Programme
- 5:10 Saragbad
- 5:25 Agami
- 6:00 Hiral Tamal
- 7:00 Open University
- 7:25 Tagore songs
- 8:00 News in Bangla
- Jamalinna
- 8:25 Nittrir Tashir Tale
- 8:30 Mini series: The Girl from Tomorrow
- 10:00 News in English
- 10:30 Ujjiban
- 11:30 Khabar/The News
- 11:40 Tomorrow's programme summary
- 11:45 Close down

Workshop on jute, yarn, fabrics begins Saturday

A two-day workshop on "Improvement of Physico-Chemical Properties of Jute/Kenaf Fibre, Yarn and Fabrics for the Production of Value Added and Diversified Products" will begin here from Saturday, reports UNB.

Commerce Minister M Shamsul Islam will inaugurate the workshop at Bangladesh Jute Research Institute (BJRI) conference room at 9 am on the day.

International Jute Organisation (IJO) in collaboration with BJRI will hold the workshop.



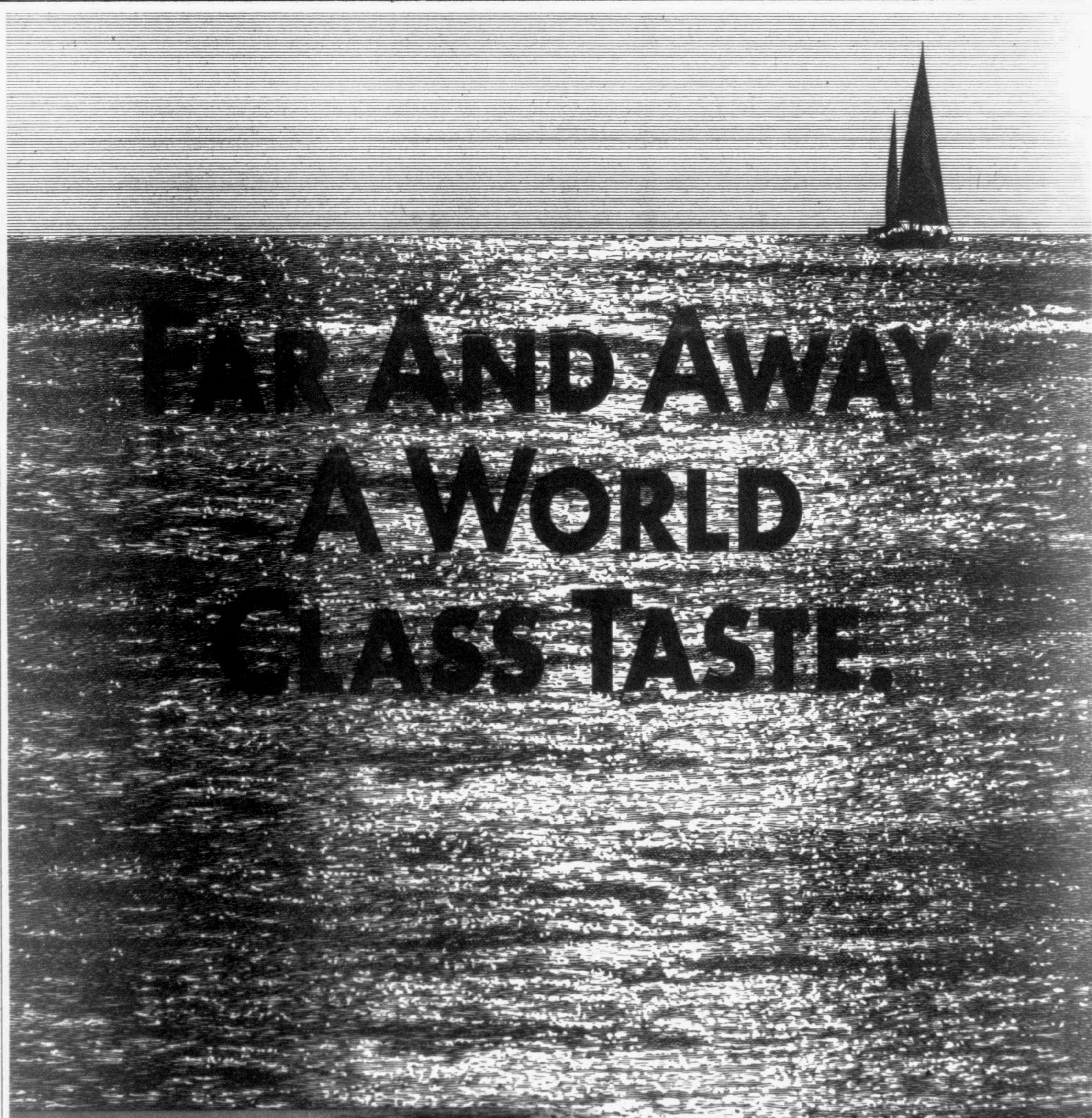
Anniversary of death of Aatur Rahman Khan today

By Staff Correspondent Today is the third death anniversary of former prime minister, veteran politician and parliamentarian Aatur Rahman Khan.

The Aatur Rahman Khan Jatiya Smriti Sangsad will observe the occasion through elaborate programmes on Friday.

The programmes include visiting the national graveyard to pay homage to the late leader in the morning. A discussion meeting followed by a milad mahfil at the late leader's residence in Dhanmondi. Speaker Sheikh Razzak Ali and Commerce and Information Minister M Shamsul Islam, politicians, justices, educationists among others will be present at the discussion.

The BTV will telecast a special programme on the leader today while discussions will be held on the leader in his village home in Balis under Dhamrai thana of Dhaka district Saturday and Sunday.



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