

# Dhaka Day by Day

## Where Martyrs Lie in Their Eternal Rest

By Gemini Wahhaj

It is raining outside the gates of Azampur Purano Kabarthan (Old Azampur Graveyard). Nearby is a long line of makeshift shops. Shopkeepers, rickshawallas, and other ordinary people go about their daily transactions in Bangla. There is nothing strange about this. Bangla is their national language. Inside the graveyard, amid rows of other Bangali tombs, lie two men who died in the fight to save this very language.

A total of five people died in the Language Movement clashes on 21st and 22nd February in 1952. Police firing in front of the Dhaka Medical College Hostel on the 21st killed Abdul Jabbar and Rafiquddin Ahmed. Abul Barkat died in the hospital at 8 o'clock that night. Two more died when police began to shoot at the mourning procession on the next day. High Court clerk Shafiqur Rahman was one of them.

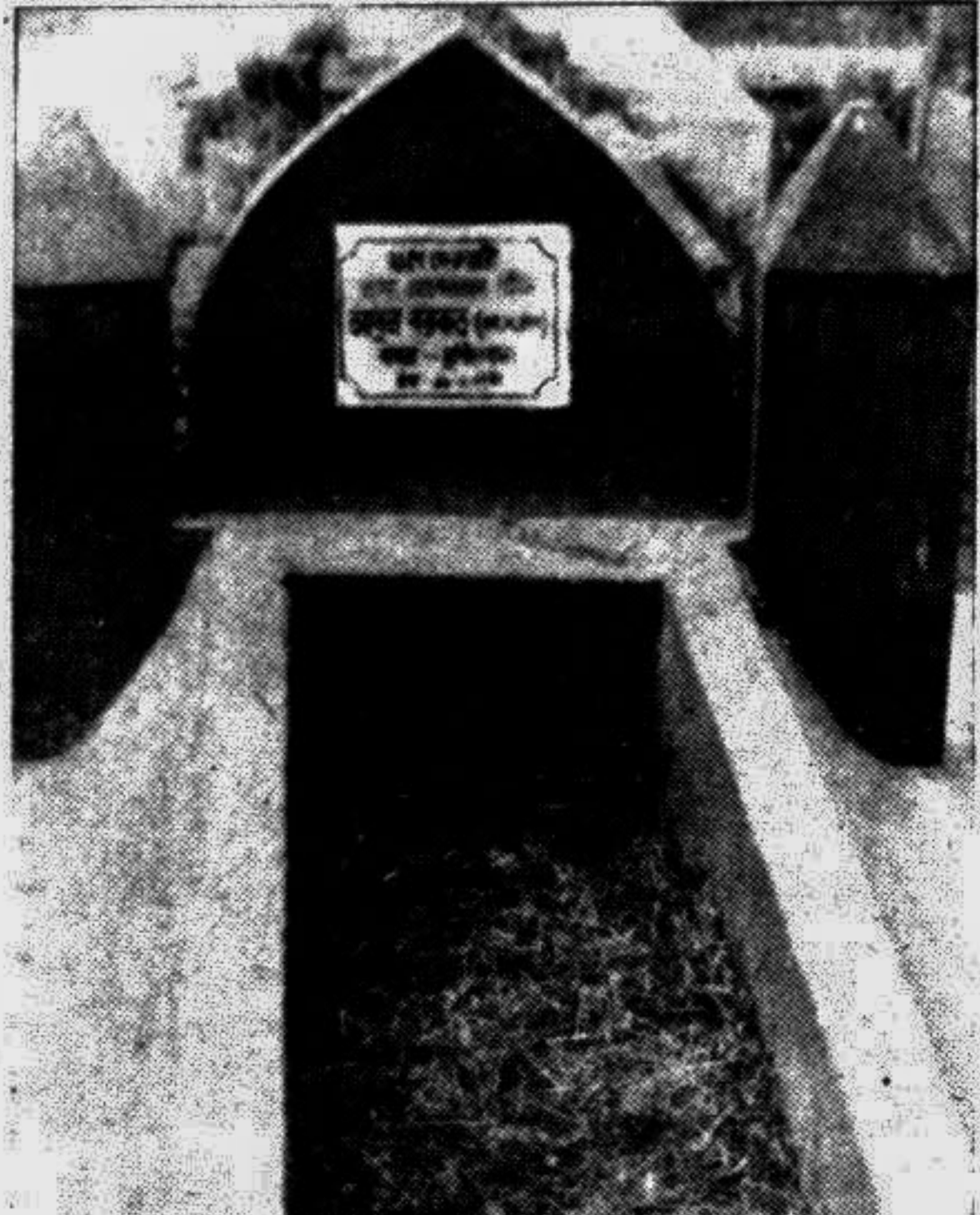
The bodies of the martyrs were missing for several days. None knew where the Pakistan government had moved the dead bodies. University students then built a memorial inside the Dhaka Medical College gates in memory of the martyrs — only a few yards away from the present Shaheed Minar.

A dismal sign on the gates of the graveyard announces no women are allowed on the premises. But it is a rule in name only. Women enter at ease. A long walkway leads from the gate across the graveyard. On either side are the tombs of countless Bangalis: some carved

out in stone, some painted in red with a loving epithet, and others simply left bare, a raised mound of earth. To the left of the walkway are three Shaheed graves.

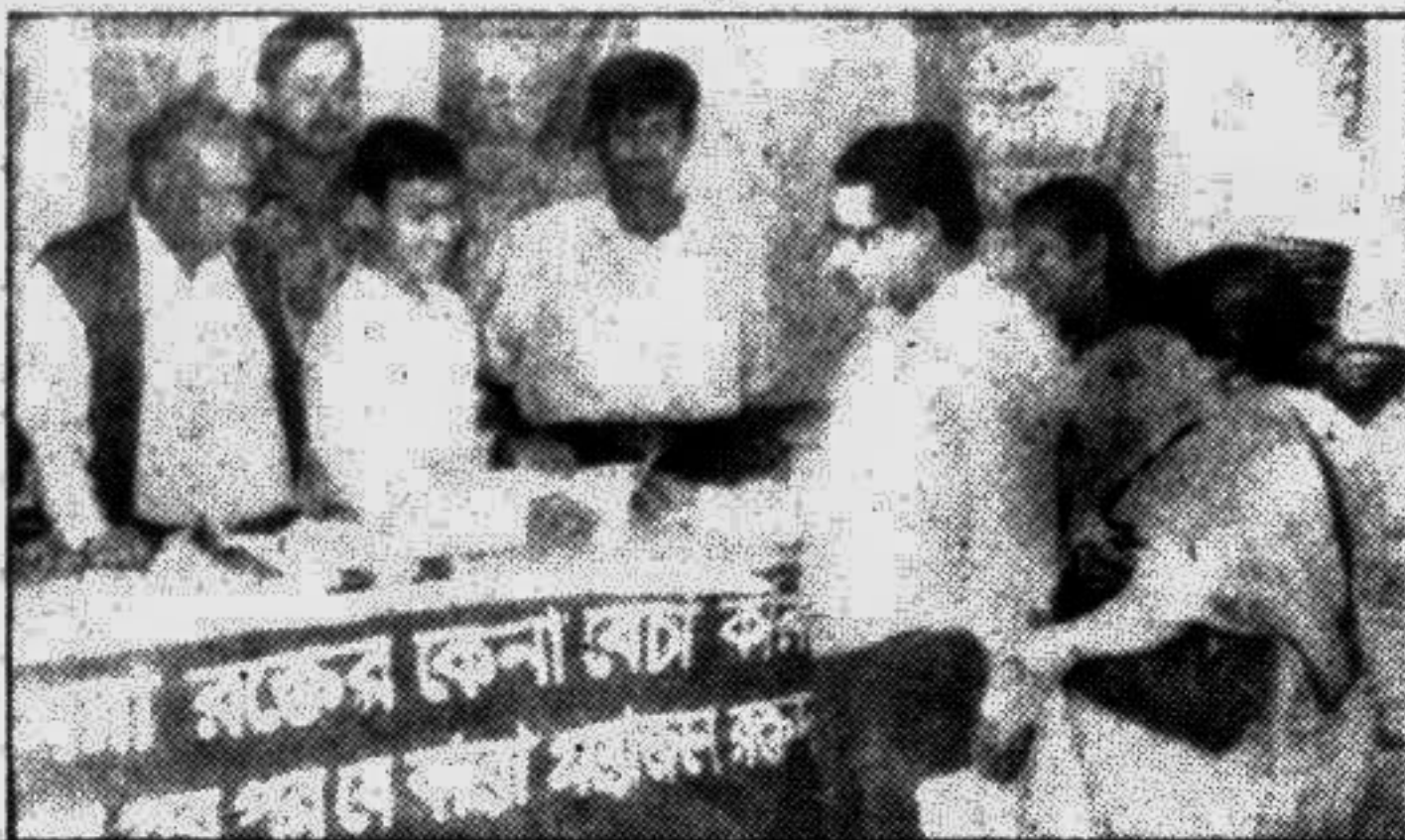
A painted red concrete tomb reads Abul Barkat, M A Class, Babla, Murshidabad, Bhasha Andolon Shaheed. Born: 16-6-27. A few feet away, a similar tomb reads Shafiqur Rahman, 22nd February, 1952. Bhasha Andolon (Language Movement). Also buried here is Hamidur Rahman, architect of the present Shaheed Minar. The rain washes down the sides of the tombs, falling in to the green grass, seeping in to the earth below. If you stand here for long enough, you almost feel their presence, the great power of what they have done. And the enormous magic of Bangla, now floating in the air, in snatches of words from the visitors, the caretaker at the gate, the gardener nearby.

The caretaker can't tell if the actual bodies are buried here. He doesn't know where the rest of the graves are either. Perhaps in their home districts, he imagines. But when asked what happens on Ekushey February, his face lights up. He says people come to the graveyard in crowds early in the morning, on their way to the Shaheed Minar. They come here and they pray for the souls of the martyrs. Then they proceed towards Shaheed Minar, carrying flowers, spilling out into the streets, just as in 1952.



Martyr in eternal rest.

— Star photo



Dhaka University Teachers' Association (DUTA) president A T M Zahurul Haq receiving membership form from the stall of Bandhan — a voluntary blood donation organisation — at the Ekushey Boi Mela yesterday. Founder of Bandhan and Prof of English Dr Ahsanul Haque seen on the left. — Star photo

### What's on today . . .

**Ekushey Boi Mela:** A *Aubade* and poetry recitation will mark today's Ekushey programme. Venue: Bangla Academy premises. Time: 7 am. Poet Ataur Rahman will preside.

**Seminar:** The Bangladesh Computer Society (BCS) will hold a seminar on "Expansion of computerisation in Bangla Language and an exhibition of Bangla software." Venue: Institution of Engineers' seminar room. Time: 10 am.

### . . . and tomorrow

**Art exhibition:** The third solo painting exhibition by Afroza Jamil, a Bangladeshi artist based in Los Angeles, will begin. Venue: La Galerie, 54, Kemal Ataturk Avenue. Time: 4 pm.

Noted Artist Aminul Islam will inaugurate the week-long exhibition, the central theme of which will be women.

**Rotary Club of Dhaka North West:** The regular weekly meeting of the club will be held. Venue: House 670/B, Road-32 (old), Dhanmondi. Time: 5 pm.

**Workshop:** A day-long workshop on 'Alternative Development Communication' will be held. Venue: German Cultural Centre, Protisabda Alternative Communication Centre has organised the workshop to be participated by some 20 NGO activists working in this field.

**Training course:** A five-day wheel chair maintenance training course for the physically handicapped begins. Venue: National Museum auditorium. Time: 10 am.

The Bangladesh Pratibandhi Kalyan Samity has organised the course.

**Training course on Haj:** Tahfiz-e-Haramine Parishad, Bangladesh, organises a week long course beginning today. Venue: East Nayatola Mosque.

**Film show:** Zahir Raihan Film Society, in collaboration with the Alliance Francaise, has organised a five-day film session. Film-makers: Claude Chabrol and Alain Resnais. Venue: Alliance Francaise. Time: 3 pm.

**Girl Guides Association:** In observance of the birth anniversary of the founder of the World Scout and Guide Movement, the association will hold a *milad* and *iftar* party. Venue: Central office, Guide House, New Bailey Road. Time: 4.30 pm.

### NSU discussion on Ekushey

A discussion in observance of the Amar Ekushey was held at the North South University (NSU) in the city yesterday, says a press release.



### Abhijit's slide show today

The first slide show of Abhijit Chowdhury will be held at the Institute of Fine Arts in the city today.

Poet Syed Shamsul Haq will inaugurate the show at 10 am. The show runs from 10 am to 8 pm.

Some 60 photographs of Abhijit will be on display.

Among others, artist Rafiqunnabi, poet Nirmalendu Goon, Prof Syed Manzoorul Islam will be present.

### Obituary

Former Director of Armed Services Board and Chief Engineer of Family Planning and Population Control Cell of the World Bank Col (Retd) Mohammad Iqbal died at the Combined Military Hospital here yesterday morning. He was 69, reports UNB.

He left behind his wife, two daughters and a son.

He was buried at the Army graveyard at Banani.



A K M Nurul Huda, former additional chief engineer of the Public Works Department (PWD), died of a heart attack on February 19, at the National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases. He was 61, says a press release.

He left behind his wife, two sons, daughter, a host of relatives and admirers to mourn his death.

His *qukhwan* will be held after *Asr* prayers on Wednesday at his Banani residence (House No-61, Road No-17, Block-C).

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**Family Planning Association of Bangladesh**  
2, Nayapaltan, Dhaka  
**Wanted**  
Applications are invited from Bangladeshi National for the following positions in Family Planning Association of Bangladesh (FPAB).  
1. **DEPUTY DIRECTOR, IEC** (Information, Education and Communication). Candidates having at least Second Class Masters Degree in Mass Communication and Journalism or any social science with minimum seven years experience in Managing IEC activities in the field of Family Planning may apply. Knowledge of Production of Video and Audio visual, and IEC materials for FP promotion will be given preference. The position needs wide contact with Radio, Television and other news media. Age limit 35-45 years. Initial salary will be around Tk 12,000/- but higher initial salary may be considered for the deserving candidate.  
2. **DEPUTY DIRECTOR, (RESEARCH AND EVALUATION)**. Candidates having at least 2nd Class Masters Degree in Statistics or Social Sciences with 7 years experience may apply. Experience in developing Research and Evaluation Protocols, conducting Evaluation of FP Projects independently will be given preference. Age limit 35-45 years. Initial salary will be around Tk 12,000/- per month. Higher Initial pay may be considered for deserving candidate.  
3. **MIS OFFICER:** Candidates should have at least 2nd Class Master's Degree in Statistics with 5 years of working experience in Family Planning MIS related activities, including data entry, analysis of program and preparing periodical MIS reports through computer. Age limit 30-35 years. Initial pay will be around Tk 7,000/- in the scale of 3078-146-5998/- plus other allowances. Higher initial pay may be considered for deserving candidate.  
Apply with full bio-data, 2 copies of PP size photograph, attested copies of educational and experience certificates to the Director General, Incharge, Family Planning Association of Bangladesh (FPAB), 2-Naya Paltan, Dhaka — 1000 by 11th March, 1995.  
D-205

### WP calls for unity

By Staff Correspondent

Workers Party president Amal Sen and general secretary Rashed Khan Menon, MP, in a joint statement yesterday urged all anti-fundamentalism, anti-communism and anti-autocratic forces to be united. The Workers Party leaders deplored that democratic political forces of the country retracted from the path of movement that was emerged out of the 52's Language Movement.

They came down heavily on ruling BNP and main opposition Awami League for making entente with fundamentalist forces like Jamaat for just petty party interests.

### Iftar party

Food Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan yesterday hosted an iftar for editors of the national dailies and news agencies and senior journalists at the state guest house Padma in the city, reports BSS.

### Death anniversary

By Staff Correspondent

A *milad mahfil* will be held in connection with the first anniversary of death of Oazi Mensor Ahmed, a senior information officer of the Information Directorate, at the deceased's residence at 100, Malibagh DIT Road after *Asr* prayers today, says a press release.



Australian High Commissioner Kenneth W Aspinall handing over a cheque amounting to \$ 40,000 to Professor Demissie Habte, Director, International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh (ICDDR, B) Sunday.

### Weather

#### Rain, gusty wind likely

Rain or showers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely to occur at a few places over Chittagong and Barisal divisions, at one or two places over Dhaka division and the regions of Khulna during the next 12 hours till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

The Met Office forecasts weather may remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky elsewhere over the country during the period.

Night temperature may fall slightly over Dhaka, Khulna and Rajshahi divisions, and may remain nearly unchanged over Chittagong and Barisal divisions, it said.

Percentage of humidity was 90 in the morning and 50 in the evening.

The sun sets today at 5:57 pm and rises tomorrow at 6:27 am.

City/Town	Temperatures in Degrees Celsius		Humidity in Percentage	
	Max	Min	6 am	6 pm
Chittagong	27.8	17.6	74	82
Rajshahi	28.0	11.8	94	54
Khulna	28.8	16.8	96	59

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