



Abul Mansur Ahmad's 30th anniversary of death today

METRO DESK

Today is the 30th death anniversary of Abul Mansur Ahmad, a renowned litterateur, journalist and politician of the sub-continent, says a press release.

The Abul Mansur Ahmad Memorial Committee will hold a doa mahfil in Dhaka and at his ancestral home, Dhanikhola, in Mymensingh.

One of the greatest satirist of Bengali literature, Abul Mansur Ahmad was also a renowned politician, lawyer and a very powerful journalist. He worked for the Krishak and Nabajug and was editor of the Ittehad published from Kolkata in 1946 in undivided Bengal. He was a pioneer in modern and progressive journalism.

A very successful politician, Abul Mansur was the provincial education minister in the United Front Cabinet under Sher-e-Bangla AK Fazlul Huq and the central commerce and industries minister of the Awami League government of Prime Minister Hossain Shaheed Suhrawardy in 1957. He was known for his strong stand in matters of interest of East Bengal.

Abul Mansur Ahmad's publications include great satires like Aina, Asmani Purdah, Gulliverer Safar Nama and Food Conference. His works also include great writings on social and political history of Bengal. He has two autobiographical writings - 'Atma Katha (About myself)' and 'Amar Dekha Rajnitir Panchash Bachar (50 years of politics as I saw it)'.

Abul Mansur always propagated secularism in a manner unparalleled in the forties, fifties and sixties. His contribution towards opposition movement in the early days of Pakistan was extremely significant. He was one of the early leaders of Awami League.

He wrote about the language issue from early forties and contributed to the Language Movement as editor of Ittehad. He was the author of the famous Ekush Dafa (21-point programme) election manifesto of Jukta Front (a grand coalition of the three giants of our politics, Sher-e-Bangla Fazlul Huq, Maulana Bhashani and Shaheed Suhrawardy) in 1954 election through which Muslim League was ousted from power. The Ekush Dafa was the first comprehensive articulation of the political, economic and cultural demands of the Bengalis of the then eastern part of Pakistan. For his political work, he suffered jail terms on several occasions during Gen Ayub Khan's Martial Law in the late fifties and early sixties.

Bangla Academy has recently published three volumes of Abul Mansur's collected works. Three more volumes are under print.

PM's support for families of Capt Mazharul, Lt Col Elahi

UNB, Dhaka

Family members of Capt Mazharul Haider and Lt Col Elahi Monjur Chowdhury, killed during the mutiny at BDR Headquarters in Pilkhana, received prime minister's personal letter of compassion and cheque for Tk 10 lakh each yesterday.

State Minister for Science and ICT Yafes Osman handed over the PM's letter and cheque to Nusrat Noor, wife of Capt Mazharul.

Iqbalur Rahim MP and PM's Deputy Press Secretary Mahbulul Haq Shakil accompanied Yafes Osman. Earlier, Iqbalur Rahim handed over the PM's letter and cheque for Tk 10 lakh to Tanni Yafsa Chowdhury, wife of Lt Col Elahi Monjur Chowdhury.

SURVEY ON MEASURES AGAINST FIRE, QUAKE

'72 pc of high-rises lack safety measures'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Some 72 percent of high-rise buildings in the city do not have necessary arrangements to handle disasters like fire and earthquake, according to a survey report released yesterday.

Nagorik Sanghati, a non-government organisation, conducted the survey among 100 multi-storied buildings and organisations in the capital under the supervision of its President Prof ASM Atiqur Rahman. Building owners and fire service and civil defence officials were interviewed during the survey.

About 90 percent of the respondents said their buildings are vulnerable to the threat of fire and earthquake, but they do not have any idea of how to deal with such disasters.

Only 28 percent of high-rise buildings have some arrangements and equipment to deal

with fire and earthquake, but the building users expressed doubt about whether they can use the equipment properly during the time of disasters.

Only three percent of the organisations said that they carry out regular drill to train the people on how to handle fire and earthquake.

The survey report also placed some recommendations to minimise the damage from such disasters.

It suggested demolition of all vulnerable and unfit buildings as soon as possible.

It also called for proper implementation of Bangladesh National Building Code.

Nagorik Sanghati General Secretary Sharifuzzaman Sharif, researcher Nigar Dil Nahar and engineer Sarder Amin spoke at the press conference where the survey report was presented.



Students of Rifles School, who are SSC examinees, come out of the BDR headquarters at Pilkhana in the city yesterday after they were allowed to attend practical classes for the first time since the mutiny by BDR jawans. All the educational institutions inside the BDR headquarters have remained closed since then.

Bring war criminals to book to foil conspiracies

Speakers tell discussion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jamaat-e-Islami and its allied forces who opposed the Liberation War in 1971 are still hatching conspiracies against the country and trying to jeopardise democracy by killing people with the spirit of the Liberation War, speakers at a discussion said yesterday.

They also called for immediate trial of the war criminals in order to foil their conspiracies. Forum for Secular Bangladesh organised the discussion entitled 'Pilkhana carnage and our national security issue' at Women's Voluntary Association auditorium in the city.

The Pilkhana tragedy on February 25 is a sequel to the genocide of 1971, killing of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and four national leaders in 1975, and the killing of Ziaur Rahman, said writer and journalist Abdul Gaffar Chowdhury.

A vested quarter is still active to destabilise the country, he said and called on all to remain

above partisan politics and work unitedly to safeguard the country.

"The motive behind the Pilkhana carnage was just to oust this democratic government and bring in an unelected puppet government," Chowdhury said.

Justice Golam Rabbani said the war criminals and their accomplices were behind the carnage and that the crisis would not be resolved unless they are brought to justice.

Writer and journalist Shahriar Kabir said the Pilkhana carnage has exposed the weaknesses of our intelligence agencies.

The intelligence agencies lack coordination in their activities due to the absence of a national security policy, he added.

The speakers also stressed the need to form a National Security Council immediately.

Maj Gen (ret'd) KM Shafiqullah, journalist Kamal Lohani, Prof Ajay Roy, Prof Mahfuza Khanam, Principal Abdul Ahad Chowdhury and woman leader Ayesha Khanam also spoke.



Guests at a discussion at WVA auditorium in the city yesterday. From left are Prof Mahfuza Khanam, Abdul Gaffar Chowdhury, Prof Ajay Roy, Justice Golam Rabbani, Maj Gen (ret'd) KM Shafiqullah and Kamal Lohani.

Borders are fully secure

Says home ministry

UNB, Dhaka

The home ministry yesterday requested the people not to be misled by incorrect reports in a section of the media claiming rising smuggling along the border following last month's BDR carnage and killing in Pilkhana.

"Bangladesh's borders are fully secure and all activities to prevent smuggling are continuing," a brief statement of the home ministry said.

It said in the backdrop of February 25 unfortunate killing and massacre in BDR headquarters, a sec-

tion of the media is misreporting about rising incidents of smuggling along the border.

It asked the members of the public not to be misled by such negative and misleading information.

In another statement, the ministry also urged the people to immediately inform their nearby police stations or "Operation Rebel Hunt" authorities if they come across any information about the arms and ammunition looted and missing from the BDR headquarters during the mutiny.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina stands in silence after placing wreaths at the portrait of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at Dhanmondi in the city yesterday on the occasion of his 89th birth anniversary.

'Execute verdict in Bangabandhu murder case'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Freedom fighters, academics and students at a discussion yesterday reiterated the demand for trial of the war criminals and execution of the verdict in Bangabandhu killing case saying those criminals are continuing conspiracy against the government to destabilise the country.

They criticised the BNP-led four-party alliance government for distorting the history of the liberation war and patronising

militancy. They also called upon the government to take steps to let the people specially the young generation know the true history of the liberation war.

Muktijuddha Prajanma Command organised the discussion titled 'Bangabandhu and Bangladesh' marking the 89th birth anniversary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at the National Press Club.

Speaking as the chief guest at the discussion State Minister for Liberation War Affairs Captain (ret'd) AB Tajul Islam said country-

men would have to be united again to resist conspiracy against the country.

Dhaka University Vice Chancellor Prof Dr AAMS Arefin Siddique who attended the discussion as special guest said, "We have to work together in establishing principles of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman to build poverty-free and non-communal country."

Prof Dr Nim Chandra Bhowmik, lawmaker Junaid Ahmed Palak, Bangladesh Krishak League leader MA Karim, among others, spoke at the programme.



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