



Abul Mansur Ahmad's 111th anniversary of birth today

METRO DESK

Today is the 111th birth anniversary of Abul Mansur Ahmad, a renowned litterateur, journalist and statesman of the sub-continent, says a press release.

Doa mahfil will be held at Dhaka and Mymensingh on the occasion.

One of the greatest satirists of Bengali literature, Abul Mansur Ahmad was also a renowned politician, lawyer and a leading journalist. He was the editor of daily Krishak, Nabajug and Ittehad in undivided Bengal and a pioneer in progressive journalism.

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

Abul Mansur Ahmad's publications include great satires like Aina, Asmani Purdah, Gulliverer Safar Nama and Food Conference. His works also include important 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 have seen it).

Abul Mansur Ahmad 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 wrote about the language issue from the early forties and contributed to the Language Movement as the editor of the Ittehad. He was the author of the election manifesto of Jukta Front (a grand coalition of the three giants of our politics, Sher-e-Bangla AK Fazlul Huq, Moulana Bhashani and Shaheed Suhrawardy) in the 1954 election in which the Muslim League was ousted from power. The 21-point programme (Ekush Dafa) was the first comprehensive articulation of the political, economic and cultural demands of the Bengalis of the then eastern part of Pakistan.

Abul Mansur Ahmad was one of the greatest political personalities of Bangladesh who combined rare talents in three distinct fields -- politics, journalism and literary writing.

BCL confines JCD men to Madhu's Canteen

DU CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) yesterday confined leaders and activists of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) to Madhu's Canteen at Dhaka University for an hour on charges of pasting JCD posters on those of BCL on the canteen walls.

A tense situation was prevailing in the canteen when some top leaders of both the organisations exchanged some heated words, campus sources said.

They said JCD men attached posters, which were published to mark the first anniversary of the release of Tarique Rahman, on the posters of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on the walls and doors of the canteen.

The JCD men were freed on condition of tearing off their posters from the walls around 1:00pm.

Joint Secretary of DU unit JCD Obaidul Haq Nasir told reporters that the JCD posters were attached as August, the month of mourning, went by, adding that there was no political motivation.

DU unit BCL President Sohail Rana Tipu said they called on the JCD men to remove their posters from those of Bangabandhu and they did it understanding their mistakes.

Bangladesh 'model' state in South Asia

Says US deputy secy of state

UNB, Dhaka

US Deputy Secretary of State James B Steinberg on Tuesday said Bangladesh is a model in South Asia and has the potential to become a middle-income country soon.

He made the remarks when he received a copy of the Credential Papers from Akramul Qader, ambassador designate of Bangladesh to USA, in a simple ceremony at the State Department in Washington, said a message received here yesterday.

By virtue of this ceremony Qader becomes functional as 'ambassador-appointed' till presentation of the original Credential Papers to President Obama at the White House.

The Deputy Secretary of State also informed that President Obama will receive Ambassador Qader shortly to

present original Credential Papers.

Steinberg stated that he was encouraged to see the democratic transition in Bangladesh, and hope that the historic relations between the two countries will be further strengthened during the tenure of the new Ambassador.

Qader briefed the deputy secretary on the latest reform and development initiatives undertaken by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and assured that Bangladesh will live up to its expectation as a model country.

The ambassador also availed this opportunity to reiterate Bangladesh's request to the US government to grant duty free access to Bangladeshi products.

During the discussion, the issue of counter terrorism also

came up.

Appreciating the track record of Bangladesh, Steinberg stated that Bangladesh should remain alert, as perpetrators are always active in their bid to harm people.

Referring to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's directive to show 'zero' tolerance to extremism and proposal for forming a South Asian Task Force on terrorism, Qader assured Steinberg that Bangladesh is doing its best to address counter-terrorism.

Sheikh Mohammed Belal, deputy chief of the Bangladesh Mission, and Deputy Chief of Protocol Denis Ross, Protocol Officer Jennifer Weroneski and Bangladesh Desk Officer Elena Soderblom were also present.

Hazari freed on bail

A CORRESPONDENT, Feni

Former Awami League (AL) lawmaker Joynal Abedin Hazari, who was released from jail on bail yesterday, threatened to take action against the party reformists.

Talking to reporters at the jail gate in the morning, Hazari claimed that he is still the general secretary of Feni district Awami League.

He came out of the jail at around 10:00am and was greeted with flowers by a group of AL leaders and activists.

Hazari said many in the past plotted against him and tried to mislead the party chief about him but their efforts went in vain.

The High Court on August 27 quashed an arms case against him in which he was sentenced to life.

In Aug 2003, a Feni court sentenced Hazari, and his personal assistant Farooq Hossain, to life after police recovered illegal arms and ammunition from his house in 2001.

Later at a press conference at his residence, Hazari said Feni AL steering committee should not exist further as it has become controversial for different reasons.

Committee to Protect Oil, Gas announces fresh action programmes

UNB, Dhaka

The National Committee to Protect Oil, Gas, Mineral Resources, Power and Ports yesterday announced fresh action programmes in protest against the police action on its protest procession that left over 30 people injured.

The action programmes include countrywide protest rallies and processions tomorrow, demonstrations and a procession towards the Prime Minister's Office on September 10 and a rally at Muktangan in the morning the same day. Besides, rallies and processions will be held every day from September 4 to 9 across the country.

Addressing a press conference at Mukti Bhaban of CPB office, Convener of the national committee engineer Sheikh Muhammad Shahidullah urged the government to stop 'anti-people activities' immediately.

Otherwise, he said, the national committee will launch tougher movement such as blockade and hartal.

Meanwhile, BNP Chairperson and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Khaleda Zia visited the Square Hospital yesterday evening to see Prof Anu Mohammad, member secretary of the national committee, who was injured in the police action.

She also condemned the 'attack' on him.

Different organisations also condemned the 'police action' on the procession.

The organisations include Bangladesh Samajtantrik Dal, Bangladesh Communist Party (M-L), Gonotantrik Bam Morcha, Samajtantrik Mahila Forum, Samajtantrik Srani Forum, Garment Workers' Unity Forum, Gonotantrik Biplobi Party, Chhatra Oikya Forum, Samrajyabad Birodhi Gonotantrik Oikya, Bangladesh Khetmajur Samity and Green Voice.

Pedestrians left to suffer

FROM PAGE 1

Dr M Rahmatullah, a noted transport-planning expert, said, "Pedestrians in Dhaka city are forced to take a careful walk on the city streets only due to inadequate sidewalks."

He said pedestrians also remain at risk because of lack of human care among the drivers.

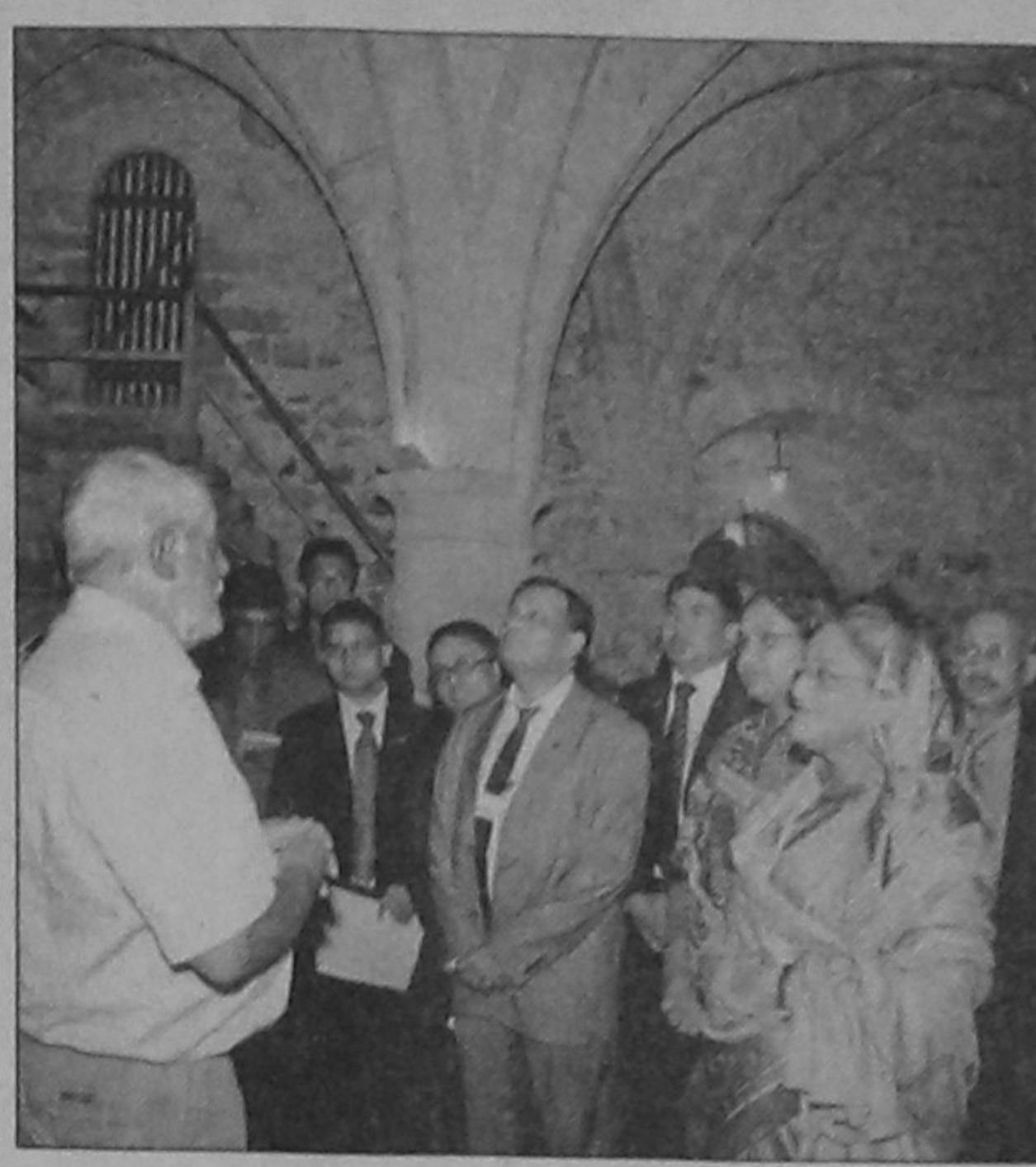
At least 50 percent of the total city commuters go to their workplaces on foot, said Prof Nazrul Islam, an urban researcher and currently chairman of University Grants Commission (UGC).

"All the footpaths must be freed completely from illegal occupancy and encroachment," said Islam.

According to Prof Islam, approximately one crore people live in the DCC area (central city) and around 90 to 95 percent of the poor and low-income people make their journey to workplaces on foot.

Prof Jubayer-bin-Alam of Civil Engineering Department of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet) who is working on a British Council-sponsored study on Sustainable Transport for Urban Poor said a total of 12 lakh out of 20 lakh garment workers go to their workplaces on foot in the central part of the city.

It is an offence to destroy pavements at will to make way



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina visits historic Chateau de Chillon in Switzerland yesterday. The premier is now in Geneva to attend the five-day UN-sponsored conference on climate change.

'Implement RTI Act to ensure accountability'

BSS, Dhaka

President Zillur Rahman yesterday said implementation of the Right to Information (RTI) Act is a must for ensuring accountability and transparency in all government and non-government institutions.

He termed enactment of Right to Information Act and setting up Information Commission as landmarks for the country.

Zillur said this when newly appointed Chief Information Commissioner M Azizur Rahman called on the president at Bangabhaban.

Commissioners of the Information Commission M Abu Taher and Dr Sadeka Halim accompanied the chief information commissioner.

During the meeting, Zillur stressed ensuring right to

information in line with the spirit of the constitution.

He hoped that the Information Commission would try its level best to provide the masses with necessary information.

The chief and other commissioners apprised the president of regular activities of the commission.

They also pointed out some of the problems they are facing now, including lack of a permanent office, manpower and other logistic support.

The commission also sought all-out cooperation of the president to smoothly discharge their duties.

President Zillur Rahman gave them a patient hearing and hoped that the government would take immediate measures to solve the commission's existing problems.

2004 ATTACK ON AL RALLY Sources of grenades to be identified thru' probe

Says state minister for law

DU CORRESPONDENT

State Minister for Law advocate Qamrul Islam yesterday said the source of grenades used in the attack on an Awami League (AL) rally on August 21 in 2004 would be identified through the high-level committee which is continuing its investigation into the incident.

"The high-level investigation into the incident is continuing to detect the source of grenades, identify persons who were involved in the process of destroying evidence and find out the reason behind law enforcement agencies' failure," he said.

The minister said this at a discussion organised by Bangabandhu Sangskritik Jote at the party's central office in the city in memory of AL leader Ivy Rahman who was killed in the attack.

Speaking as the chief guest, Qamrul also claimed that the last BNP-Jamaat alliance government had repeatedly tried to divert the case into a separate sector.

Terming the attack an attempt to kill AL President Sheikh Hasina, the minister said the conspiracy is still going on against Hasina and her party.

He called on the pro-AL leaders, workers, supporters and all concerned to stay alert to the conspiracy.

The minister also called on all not to speak or give statements on the issue to such manner that can influence the verdict in court.

He hoped that the hearing in Bangabandhu murder case would be held in the Appellate Division on October 5.

State Minister for Culture Promod Mankin and General Secretary of Sangskritik Jote Golam Kuddus also spoke.

BNP to observe Tarique Release Day today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP and its associate bodies will observe Tarique Release Day today as the party's 'former' senior secretary general Tarique Rahman was released from jail on this day last year.

Different programmes including processions, placing of wreaths at the grave of late president Ziaur Rahman and discussion meetings have been chalked out to observe the day.

BNP lawmakers will bring out a procession from Nam building at Sher-e-Banglanagar area to mark the day.

Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal will bring out another rally from the party's central office at Nayapattan at 12:00 noon and organise a discussion meeting at Mohanagar Natya Mancha at 01:00pm.

Party leaders at a press briefing yesterday urged all to make the programmes a success and asked the government to withdraw all the cases filed against Tarique.

No senior leaders of the party were however present at the briefing.

"Tarique Rahman is under treatment in abroad now. We are demanding withdrawal of all cases filed against Khaleda Zia and Tarique Rahman," said Goyeshwar Chandra Roy, joint secretary general of the party, at the briefing held at the party central office.

He said Tarique is still senior joint secretary general of the party but he is refraining himself from political activities due to illness.

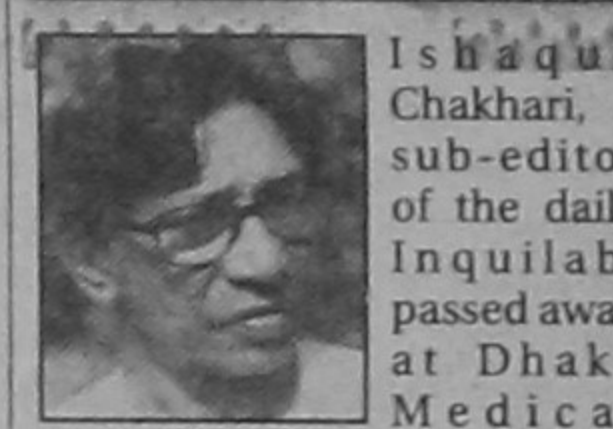
"Tarique will perform more important duties after returning home," he added.

Tarique, elder son of Khaleda, was arrested on March 7, 2007 on different corruption charges during anti-corruption drive conducted by the immediate-past caretaker government.

After getting release, Tarique left the country for London on September 11 last year.

Obituary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Ishaque Chakhar, a sub-editor of the daily Inquilab, passed away at Dhaka Medical College Hospital early yesterday at the age of 87, says a press release.

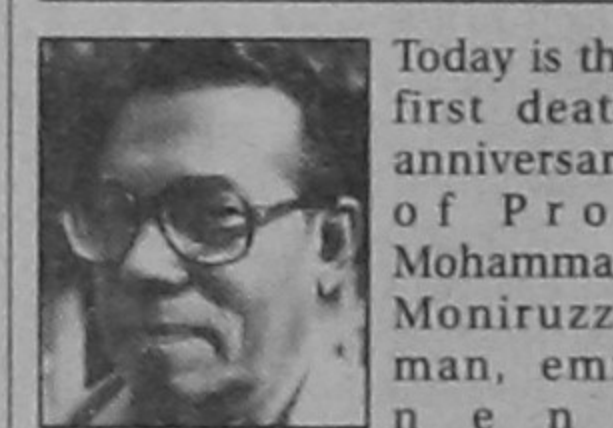
He has left behind his wife, two sons, four daughters and relatives to mourn his death.

He was buried at his family graveyard at Chakhar in Barisal.

President and General Secretary of Dhaka Sub-Editors Council Mir Mustafizur Rahman and Abul Kalam Azad in a statement expressed deep shock at his death.

Death anniversary

METRO DESK



Today is the first death anniversary of Prof Mohammad Moniruzzaman, eminent litterateur and former professor at the Bangla department of Dhaka University, says a press release.

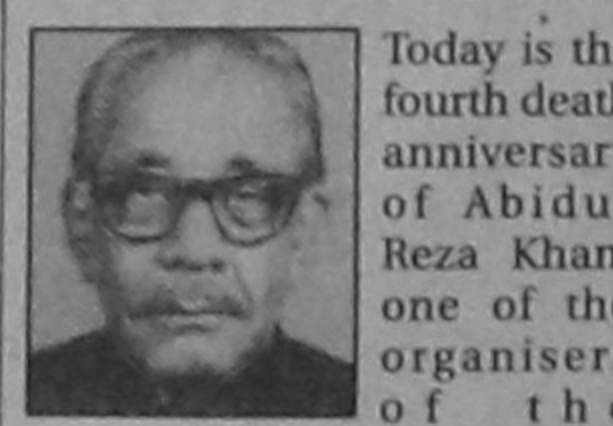
On the occasion, Quankhwani and milad mahfil will be held at the Uttara residence of the late poet after Asr prayers today.

Another Quankhwani will be held at his paternal home on Khaki Road in Jessore while Fateha will be offered at his grave there.

Besides, Ex-Students' Association of Jessore Zilla School will hold a discussion and a doa mahfil at the auditorium of Dhaka Ahsania Mission at Dhanmondi Road No 12 at 4:00pm tomorrow.

Abidur Reza Khan

METRO DESK



Today is the fourth death anniversary of Abidur Reza Khan, one of the organisers of the Liberation War, former lawmaker and a veteran Awami League leader, says a press release.

On the occasion, Abidur Reza Khan Memorial Parishad organises various programmes.

Members of the Parishad will place wreaths at his grave at the Martyred Intellectuals' Graveyard at Mirpur and offer prayers.



Moderate rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely to occur at different places in all the six divisions in next 12 hours as of 6:00pm today.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country, Met office said.

The sun sets in the capital at 7:14pm today and rises at 6:41am tomorrow.

Yesterday's highest temperature of 35.6 degree Celsius was recorded at Bogra and the lowest of 25.6 degree at Cox's Bazar.

The highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	34.6	27.5	82	62
Chittagong	32.5	25.7	65	76
Rajshahi	35.0	26.8	82	67
Khulna	35.0	26.5	67	92
Barisal	35.0	26.6	74	81
Sylhet	34.5	26.0	77	73



Discussion

Bangladesh Mahila Parishad will hold a discussion to mark International CEDAW Day. Venue: Cirdap auditorium. Time: 10:00am.

Roundtable

The daily Destiny organises a roundtable titled 'Steps to address traffic jam in Dhaka metropolitan'. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 3:00pm.

Workshop

Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI) in association with Global Enterprises Network of Iron and Metal Industries (GENII) organises a workshop on GENII project in Bangladesh. Venue: DCCI auditorium. Time: 11:00am.

Handicraft fair

A month-long handicraft fair will begin. Venue: International Trade Fair ground. Time: 3:00pm.