



Namaz-e-janaza of former BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan was held at South Plaza of the Jatiya Sangsad in the city yesterday. (Story on Page 1)

Mannan Bhuiyan a war hero, democrat

REZAUL KARIM & RAKIB HASNET SUMAN

Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan is mostly admired for his gallant participation in the liberation movement and his passion for democracy.

Of his 67-year lifetime, he spent around 48 years as a political activist and struggled long for the freedom of the country's farmers and workers.

The veteran politician had played a leading role in all pro-democracy movements since 1962, when he joined anti-Ayub movement. He was elected Member of Parliament four times back to back since the 5th Jatiya Sangsad in 1991.

Bhuiyan was also popular with the media people, who thought of him as an extraordinarily interesting individual with an amazing memory and encyclopaedic information about regional and global politics, history, economy and biographies of famous people.

Mannan Bhuiyan was born on January 3, 1943, at his maternal grandfather's house at Asad Nagar village under Mashimpur union of Shibpur upazila in Narsingdi district.

His elementary education commenced at a village primary school. He passed Matriculation from Shibpur High School and the Higher Secondary Certificate examination from Narsingdi College. His graduation and post-graduation degrees came in History from Dhaka University. He also obtained an LLB degree.

After he had finished study, Bhuiyan was briefly involved in teaching.

Bhuiyan started his political life as an activist of Chhatra Union (Students' Union). Due to his involvement in left-oriented student politics he was imprisoned before his degree examination.

He was elected social welfare secretary of Narsingdi College Student Union in 1960. He played the role of a pioneer in the anti-Ayub movement in 1962 as one of the organisers of the then East Pakistan

Chhatra Union. He was elected organising secretary of East Pakistan Chhatra Union in 1964 and held the post of its general secretary for the next two years.

Bhuiyan was elected executive member of Dhaka University Central Students' Union (DUCSU) in 1964-65. After completion of his student life he joined the National Awami Party (NAP) led by Maulana Bhashani. He played a significant role in the mass upsurge in 1969.

During the Liberation War in 1971, Bhuiyan put up resistance against the Pakistani occupation forces by organising thousands of local freedom fighters. He announced a vast area including Shibpur of Narsingdi free and operated from there as a commander.

Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan had a colourful life and was very popular among the farmers and working class. He was general secretary of Krishak Samity for a long time under the leadership of Maulana Bhashani. The movement for improving the condition of deprived farmers commenced under Bhuiyan's leadership.

He left NAP and became general secretary of United People's Party (UPP) in 1978. Later on request of the then president Ziaur Rahman he joined BNP in 1980. Zia nominated Bhuiyan as the convenor of Jatiyatabadi Krishak Dal. He also became the agriculture secretary of BNP central committee.

A senior BNP leader, Mannan Bhuiyan was also an organiser of the movement against autocratic Ershad. He acted as the BNP joint secretary for eight and a half years since 1988.

Bhuiyan was appointed as state minister for Labour and Manpower in 1991 and then as a cabinet minister given the charge of food and agriculture.

On June 26, 1996, Khaleda Zia nominated him as the secretary general of the party. His foremost task was to reorganise the party, which he successfully carried out. Bhuiyan was the longest serving secretary general of BNP for 11 years.

He faced the toughest time during his secretary general tenure in BNP as the hardliners and anti-liberation elements within and outside the party strongly opposed a communist leader's becoming BNP's second man.

Against all odds and oppositions, he reorganised BNP across the country, which awarded the party a landslide victory in 2001 general elections. His popularity increased as he took over the charge of a party that lost in 1996 parliamentary polls and came out with around two-thirds majority within a span of five years of his dynamic and constructive leadership. He was then appointed as the minister for local government, rural development and cooperatives.

Bhuiyan emerged as a top-ranking politician and the key person in BNP who worked as a liaison with other political parties. He was considered as a liberal politician.

He had always opposed BNP's association with anti-liberation and autocratic forces, particularly Jamaat, and strove for BNP's alliance with progressive political parties. However, he failed to do so as the BNP chief was influenced by the majority right wing figures within the party to forge alliance with Jamaat.

The major slide in his long political career came about when he sided with political reformers during the military-backed caretaker government tenure in 2007. Although most of the party MPs and leaders supported him in bringing a real change and democracy in the party, Khaleda Zia stood firm against him and expelled Bhuiyan from the party on September 3, 2007.

Mannan Bhuiyan left his wife, two sons and many well-wishers behind. His elder son Bhuiyan Anindya Mohaimen Rajon works for a multinational company in Australia while his younger son Bhuiyan Nandita Nahiyan Swajon for Citi Bank NA. Bhuiyan's wife Prof Mariam Begum retired as the principal of Dhaka College.

6 die in road crashes

METRO DESK

At least six people were killed and three injured in separate road accidents in Kushtia, Mymensingh and Naogaon yesterday and on Tuesday.

Our correspondent from Kushtia reports: The driver and helper of a truck were killed in a head-on collision between two trucks at Bahalbaria of Mirpur upazila on the Kushtia-Pabna highway yesterday.

The driver was identified as Abdul Aziz Mia, 40, while identity of the helper could not be confirmed. Police sent the bodies to Kushtia general hospital.

The severely injured driver and helper of the other truck, Maruf Hossain, 38 and Tazul Islam of Poba of Rajshahi, were sent to Kushtia General Hospital.

The accident occurred when a Kushtia-bound bus collided with a Pabna-bound bus at Bahalbaria intersection at around 5:25pm. The driver and helper of the Pabna-bound truck were killed instantly.

Our correspondent from Mymensingh says: A least two people were killed and three others injured when a Dhaka-bound bus collided with a tempo at Hazir Bazar on the

Dhaka-Mymensingh highway at around 5:15pm yesterday.

The deceased were identified as Badshah Miah, 40, son of Afsar Uddin of Bangha upazila, and Hasen Ali, 48, son of Azmat Ali of Hazir Bazar of Bhaluka.

The injured, Sujon Miah, 23, Mohammad Ali, 26, and Rifat, 22, are receiving treatment at Mymensingh Medical College Hospital (MMCH).

The bodies were sent to MMCH for autopsy. Our correspondent from Chhainawabganj adds: Two helpers of a truck were killed in a road accident in the Tundanga bus stand area in Naogaon town on Tuesday night.

The deceased were identified as Super, 25, son of Khaimuddin and Ashik, 17, son of Ashrafuddin of Josnita village of Manda upazila of Naogaon.

Sub Inspector Nazneen Akhter of Naogaon model police station said a speeding bus hit the truck from behind when Ashik and Super were pushing the truck as it failed to start and killed them instantly.

Police sent the bodies to Naogaon Sadar Hospital for autopsy. An unnatural death case was filed with Naogaon police station in this regard.



Ataul Karim passes away

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former foreign secretary AHS Ataul Karim passed away due to lung cancer at the Japan-Bangladesh Friendship Hospital in the city early hours of Wednesday at the age of 78.

He left behind his two sons, a host of relatives, friends and well-wishers to mourn his death, says a press release.

Foreign Minister Dipu Moni expressed deep shock at his death and prayed for salvation of the departed soul.

He also conveyed sympathy to the bereaved family members.

Ataul Karim was permanent representative to the UN, Geneva and Bangladesh Ambassador to the United States.

Ehteshamul Haq

METRO DESK



Engineer Ehteshamul Haq, son of late Kazi Muzammil Haq of Islampur Kazi Bari, passed away due to cancer at Scarborough General Hospital, Toronto, Canada on July 26 at the age of 58, says a press release.

He left behind his wife, only daughter and a sister.

He was buried at Pickering Graveyard in Toronto after namaz-e-janaza at Nugget Masjid on July 27.

On the occasion, a doa mahfil will be held at his sister's residence at Banani after Asr prayers tomorrow.

Friends and relatives are requested to pray for the departed soul.

He previously worked as a chemical engineer at Unilever, Chittagong and Lalbagh Chemicals, Dhaka.

Death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the fourth death anniversary of Principal Mohammad Ruhul Amin, an educationalist and social worker, says a press release.

On the occasion, milad mahfil will be held at Majid Memorial City College, Paikgasa College, Garaikhali Aziz-Musa College, Khulna Mosque and at his village Betbunia.

His family has announced the "Ruhul Amin Memorial Scholarship" for meritorious students of some selected schools and colleges from the next year.

CCC budget today

BSS, Chittagong

Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) Mayor M Manjur Alam Manju will announce a nearly Tk 750 crore budget for the fiscal 2010-2011 today with a special focus on removing waterlogging from the city.

CCC sources said newly elected mayor Manju would formally announce the budget at corporation's Abdus Sattar auditorium at about 12:00 noon.

In the previous fiscal 2009-2010 CCC announced a budget of Tk627.50 crore.

BNP procession August 9

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The main opposition party BNP will bring mass procession on August 9 in the capital as part of its current anti-government movement.

Party chairperson Khaleda Zia, also leader of the opposition in parliament, will lead the procession, which would be started from Paltan Maidan.

Khandaker Delwar Hossain, secretary general of the party, formally announced the programme on Tuesday at a press briefing at the party's Nayapaltan central office.

He urged the government to show democratic attitude and expressed the hope that

the procession would not be obstructed.

Delwar urged the leaders, workers and supporters of his party and its associate bodies to make the programme successful.

The programme will be observed to protest repression on the opposition, press for the release of arrested BNP leaders and workers and protest the kidnapping of DCC ward councillor Chowdhury Alam.

Earlier, the party had announced the programme of mass hunger strike for July 25 but could not observe, as the authorities did not give permission to use Paltan Maidan for the programme.

Try war criminals to protect country from communalism

Speakers tell roundtable

BSS, Dhaka

Speakers at a roundtable yesterday said trial of the war criminals must be held and the non-communal spirit of the 1972 constitution will have to be upheld to protect the country from terrorism and communalism.

Online news agency, The Editor, organised the roundtable at Jatiya Press Club with President of Ekatturer Ghatok Dalal Nirmul Committee Justice Golam Rabbani in the chair.

Former army chief General (Retd) KM Shafiullah, president of Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury, former ambassador Waliur Rahman, General Secretary of Shushaner Jonno Nazgrik Badiul Alam Majumdar and JSD leader Nazmul Haque Prodan took part in the discussion.

Managing Director of The Editor Dr Shamim Haider Talukdar was the moderator of the roundtable.

Justice Rabbani said after the killing of Bangabandhu, the constitution of the country was scissored repeatedly to cling to power. "Gen-

eral Zia had tried to consolidate power with the help of the anti-liberation forces as he understood that the pro-liberation forces would not accept illegal capturing of power," he said.

Gen Shafiullah said war criminals are not sitting idle, rather they are hatching conspiracies and carrying out propaganda to foil the war crimes trial.

"Politics of Jamaat-Shibir will have to be banned like the banning of politics of Nazis after the World War-II," he said.

Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury said the 1972 constitution was changed with a view to turning Bangladesh into a terrorist and fundamentalist country.

Citing example of Pakistan, he said the military rulers always patronise communalism and terrorism to consolidate power. He called for building a greater national unity in favour of trial of the war criminals and resisting communalism and terrorism.

Waliur Rahman said General Zia not only captured power illegally but also destroyed the judiciary.

ATIF ASLAM IN NOKIA PLAYGROUND

Get a FREE ticket to the concert with every purchase of Nokia X6-00.

You can also win a ticket with the purchase of Nokia 5233 or Nokia 5530.

Offer available from select Nokia Stores.*

30 July, 2010
Bangabandhu International Conference Centre (BICC)
Also performing: Fuad and Mila

Nokia X6-00
MRP BDT 25,200

Nokia 5233
MRP BDT 10,700

Nokia 5530
MRP BDT 15,600 (4GB)
MRP BDT 15,300 (2GB)

Nokia Connecting People

Tickets also available for sale from
Coffee World & the select Nokia Stores
Hotline: 01716118351

Event Produced by
Co-sponsor
Media Partner

BNP procession August 9

Try war criminals to protect country from communalism

Speakers tell roundtable

CCC budget today

Death anniversary

Ehteshamul Haq

Ataul Karim passes away

6 die in road crashes

Mannan Bhuiyan a war hero, democrat