photos captured by studio photographers for their daily news. But Musa changed the practice. He was the first to introduce professional photographers in the newspaper business. And consequently, the popularity of the Pakistan Observer soared to such heights that other newspaper houses had to follow the new styles. Veteran journalist Kamal Lohani believes that this was the beginning of the modern newspaper in Bangladesh. "He led the way to modernity in journalism," adds Lohani.

Lohani stresses that clarity and objectivity were two distinctive characteristics of Musa. He says, "Musa *bhai* was very precise while dictating assignments to his reporters in the newsroom."

In the mid sixties, Musa changed the number and wordings of his car's number plate to spell 'Bangla.' This act was seen as a form of rebellion by the Pakistani government, and he faced a lot of harassment from the government for this simple act of patriotism. However, Musa never budged from his stance, and refused to change the number plate.

In Brief

ABM Musa had a career spanning 60 years in journalism. Here's a brief look at his career as a journalist and politician.

- At the age of 19 he joined a local newspaper of Feni called "Saptahik Qaifiat".
- However, he started his professional career with 'Dainik Insaaf' in Dhaka, in 1950.
- Afterwards Musa joined The Pakistan Observer.
- During the 1952 Language Movement when 'The Pakistan Observer' was closed down, Musa joined 'Sangbad'.
- But he returned to The Pakistan Observer when the newspaper resumed its publication in 1954 and was with it till 1971.
- During the liberation war, he worked as a correspondent of BBC and Sunday Times. Through his writing, he believed that he was able to play a crucial role in building international support for the war.
- After independence, Musa joined Bangladesh Television (BTV) as its director general and later became editor of the then Morning News.
- As an Awami League candidate, he was also elected Member of Parliament (MP) from Feni in 1973.
- The veteran journalist joined BSS as its managing director and chief editor on May 15 in 1985 and was with the national news agency till March 23, 1987.
- Later, he joined Daily Jugantar as its editor in 2005 and worked there for about a year.
- He got the Ekushey Padak and many other awards for his outstanding contribution to journalism.

A close disciple of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, Musa drew a vivid picture of his long association with the founding president of Bangladesh in his only book 'Mujib Bhai.' There he wrote that Sheikh Mujibur Rahman would always jokingly refer to the journalistic trio of Abdul Gaffar Chowdhury, Faiz Ahmed and ABM Musa as '*aapod-bipod-musibot*' (trouble, danger, and nuisance).

Although he was not interested in politics but when Sheikh Mujibur Rahman decided that Musa needed to be by his side as a lawmaker, Musa heeded the advice. He participated in the 1973 general elections from the Feni constituency and even won. However, a new career in politics ended after the tragedy of August 1975. After that he returned to the newsroom and served the nation for sixty years as a journalist. In his last years, he wrote in different newspapers as a columnist and appeared on various talk shows on many television channels, offering the nation wisdom and courage to fight against corruption and filthy politics.



PHOTO: RAMADIPOM BASU

He was the first to introduce professional photographers in the newspaper business. And consequently, the popularity of the Pakistan Observer soared to such heights that other newspaper houses had to follow the new styles.

As General Douglas MacArthur coined in his farewell speech, "Old soldiers never die, they just fade away." And like the old soldier of MacArthur's speech, ABM Musa has just faded away from our worldly realms but he will remain in our history forever.