Remembrance



Syed Mohammad Ali

Honouring the Pioneer



S M Ali in his younger days.

Syed Mohammad Ali is a legendary name in the history of journalism in Bangladesh. Popularly known as S M Ali, his contributions in national and international dailies and magazines made him a popular intellectual figure in South and South East Asia. He has served in editorial positions of renowned dailies like The Pakistan Times, The Bangkok Post, The Asia Magazine and The Bangladesh Observer. He was the founding editor of the country's most circulated English daily, The Daily Star. By launching this daily in 1991, he has made exemplary changes in the traditional practices of journalism. We remember this great intellectual on his 86th birth anniversary.

- Syed Mohammad Ali was born on December 5, 1928 in a distinguished literary family of Sylhet, Bangladesh
- He was the nephew of famous Bengali writers Syed Mujtaba Ali and Syed Murtaja Ali
- He completed his graduation and post-graduation from the English Department of Dhaka University in 1952
- Then he went to England to pursue higher studies in journalism and there he worked with the *News Chronicle* of London and the *BBC*
- S M Ali's journalism career began in his student life in 1949 as a staff reporter of the newly launched Pakistan Observer
- On his return to Pakistan from England in 1954 he joined the *Dawn* in Karachi, and rejoined *Pakistan Observer* in 1956 as a staff reporter
- In 1960 he joined *The Pakistan Times* as assistant editor
- In 1962 he became the assistant editor of the Hong Kong based regional publication *The Asia Magazine*
- His outstanding performance as a journalist made him the Executive Director of Manila based Press Foundation of Asia and he continued to serve there as CEO till 1981
- Upon returning to Bangladesh, he joined The Bangladesh Observer as its editor but left it after only six months
- His dream of creating his own newspaper in his motherland became true when he launched *The Daily Star* in 1991
- Soon after its launching, The Daily Star stood out among all the English dailies of Bangladesh with its dedicated and honest journalism
- Ali's book After the Dark Night was published in 1974 by Thomson Press (India)
- He was the UNESCO's regional communication adviser for Asia and the Pacific
- He was also the chairman of the Press Institute of Bangladesh (PIB).
- S M Ali died when he was at the peak of his editorial role at The Daily Star in 1993 at the age of 65

- MD SHAHNAWAZ KHAN CHANDAN

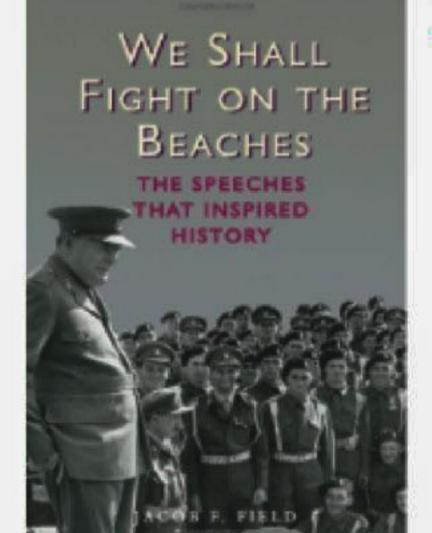
46_____The Star

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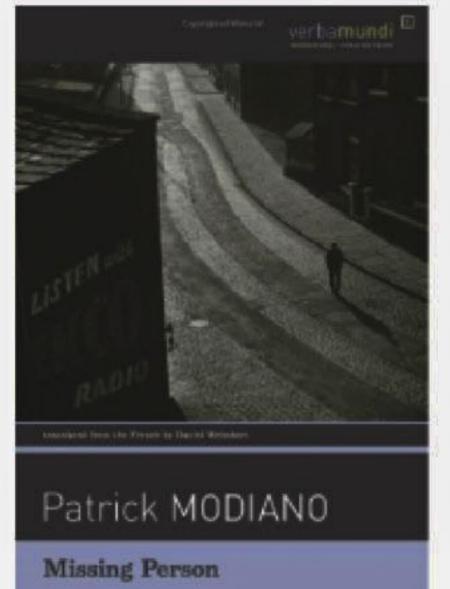
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For ten years Guy Roland has lived without a past. His current life and name were given to him by his recently retired boss, Hutte, who welcomed him, a onetime client, into his detective agency. Guy makes full use of Hutte's files - directories, yearbooks, and papers of all kinds going back half a century - but his leads are few. Could he really be the person in that photograph, a young man remembered by some as a South American attaché? Or was he someone else, perhaps the disappeared scion of a prominent local family? He interviews strangers and is tantalized by half-clues until, at last, he grasps a thread that leads him through the maze of his own repressed experience.

On one level Missing Person is a detective thriller, a 1950s film noir mix of smoky cafés, illegal passports, and insubstantial figures crossing bridges in the fog. On another level, it is also a haunting meditation on the nature of the self. Modiano's sparce, hypnotic prose, superbly translated by Daniel

ISBN 9781567922813 Weissbort, draws his readers into the intoxication of a rare literary experience. (Verba Mundi)



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