

Dr. Syed Yusuf Hasan

PHOTO: COURTESY

REMEMBERING THE FRONTLINER

REMEMBRANCE

AHMED ILIAS

December 25 will be the 1st death anniversary of Dr. Syed Yusuf Hasan who died on this day in Dhaka at the age of 90 years. He was living in Dhaka with his wife and son Kaifi. He also left a daughter. Who is married. Very few Bengali intellectuals of the new generation know the contributions of Dr. Yusuf Hasan during the historic language movement of 1952 that paved the way of liberation of Bangladesh in 1971.

Dr. Syed Yusuf Hasan was a progressive political person. He was born in Patna, Bihar, on 24 November 1926. His father Syed Ashraf Hasan was a landlord who sent him to Aligarh University, from where he obtained his Master's Degree in 1949. He was awarded the PhD from Dhaka University in 1971.

When Dr. Yusuf Hasan was in Aligarh, he met with Kaifi Azmi, Moin Ahsan Jazbi and Jan Nisar Akhtar. These three were later emerged as the most famed progressive Urdu poets in India. At that time the Communist Party was leading a progressive political movement and at the same time Urdu poets and writers were leading the progressive writers' movement. Both the movements greatly influenced young Yusuf Hasan.

Before partition the Urdu language was being influenced from two separate streams; one was secular, initiated by the progressive movements and the other was Islamic. Backed by Nawab Waqarul Mulk and Dr. Abdul Huque, who were claiming that Urdu was an Islamic Language and part of Islamic culture. It was seen during partition of India that the Indian Muslims who were following the secular trends of Urdu, decided to live in Secular India.

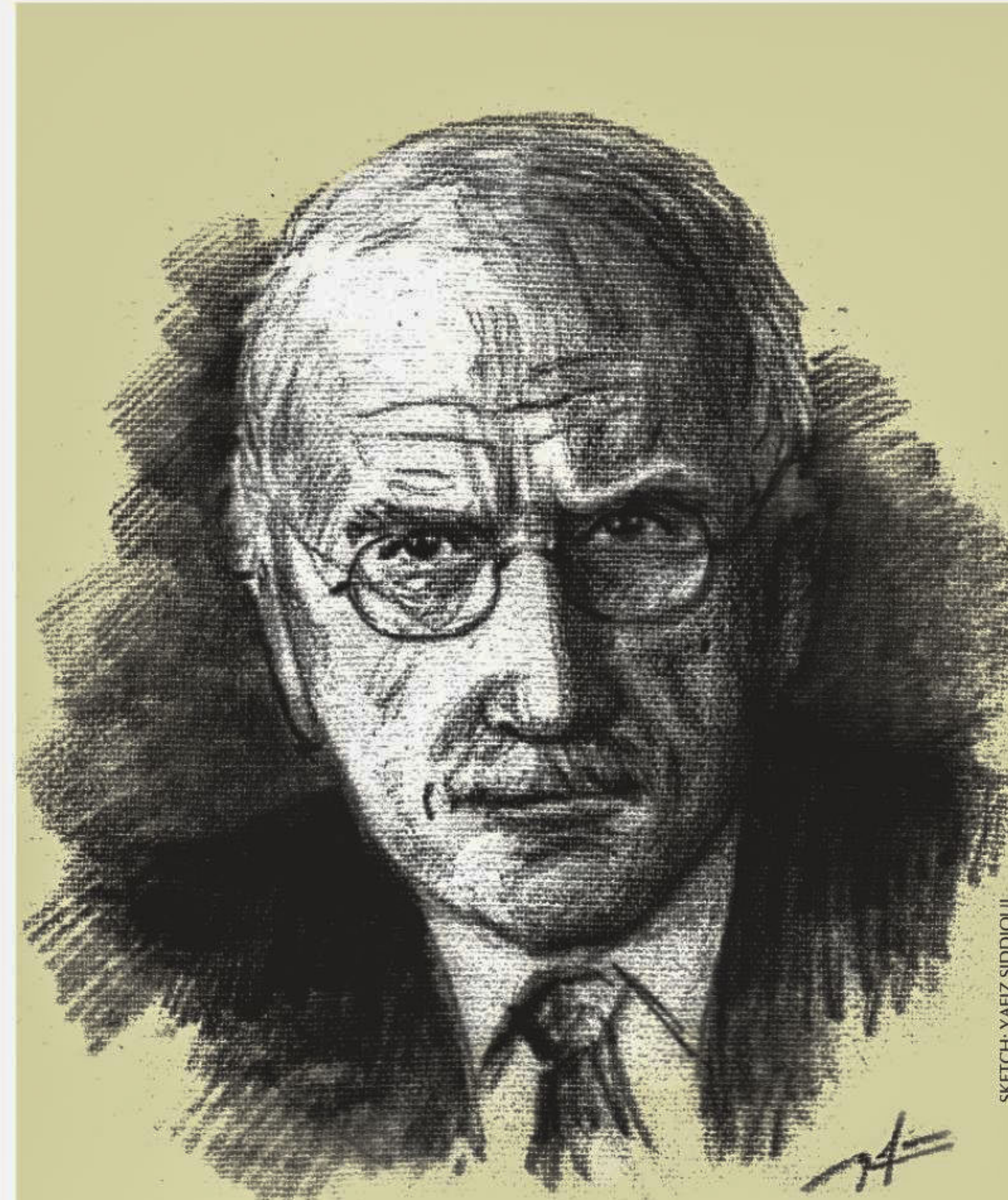
And those Muslims who recognised Urdu as the identity of their religion and culture, their majority migrated to Pakistan.

Following the advice of Sajjad Zaheer, Dr. Yusuf Hasan came to Dhaka from Patna on 16 October 1949. He was the first person among the Urdu speaking community in the then East Bengal, who gave his statement to the press in favour of making Bangla along with Urdu the state languages of Pakistan.

Dr. Yusuf Hasan remained in the frontline during the Language Movement. He was elected a member of "Bhasha Sangram Parishad". At that time he was an active trade union leader in Narayanganj. There was a countryside protest against police firing on students on 21 February in Dhaka. Dr. Yusuf Hasan led a protest procession of workers on 22 February in Narayanganj and was arrested and sent to jail.

During the Movements of Jugto Front, he was again arrested for the third time and put in jail. He was arrested and sent to jail, when military dictator General Ayub Khan imposed Martial Law in the country.

He was given a reception by the Bangla Academy and Shilpokala Academy for his outstanding contribution during the language movement. Yusuf Hasan was close acquaintance of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. In 1954, he toured Peking, China, to attend Peace Conference of the Asian and Pacific Regions with Tofazzel Hossain Manik Miah, Ataur Rahman Khan, Khandakar Mohammed Illias and Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. He was one of the founder members of NAP (Muzzafar). He was also president of Aligarh University Old Boys Association in Dhaka at the time of death.



SKETCH: YAEZ SIDDIQUI

MAD GENIUS

CARL JUNG

(26 July 1875 – 6 June 1961)

Prominent Swiss psychiatrist and psychotherapist Carl Gustav Jung is known for his enormous contribution in analytical psychology. His work has been influential not only in psychiatry but also in philosophy, anthropology, archaeology, literature, and religious studies. He was a prolific writer, though many of his works were not published until after his death. Some of his important theories are the concept of introversion and extraversion, the concept of the complex, a grouping of interrelated unconscious elements, the concept of the collective unconscious, the primordial realm of archetypes, which manifests in all people.

“Everything that irritates us about others can lead us to an understanding of ourselves.

Your vision will become clear only when you can look into your own Heart. Who looks outside, Dreams; who looks inside, awakes.

The healthy man does not torture others – Generally it is the Tortured who turn into torturers.”

SOURCE: WIKIPEDIA AND BRAINY QUOTES

STAR JOURNAL

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PHOTO: STAR FILE

LAUGHABLE EFFORTS

The long road from Banani to Uttara is invariably busy all the time. On a trip to Uttara from Banani, my car stopped at the signal in front of the Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport. I noticed that two traffic policemen were standing at opposite sides of the road, holding on to a tightrope for smooth traffic movement. This method was invented to prevent people from jaywalking. However, a passer-by tripped over the rope when it was raised without caution and people behind me fell over as well, as in a stampede. This type of farcical method should be stopped and the authorities concerned should take necessary measures to this effect.

Samiul Raijul
North South University, Dhaka

THE CORRUPT SQUAD

The CNG-run auto-rickshaw I had hired was stopped by a policeman at a check-post. He asked the driver for his license. I had thought that the driver had a driving license but to my surprise, I was proven wrong. The policeman asked the driver to accompany him. After a few minutes, the driver was released. I later came to know that the policeman had staged all this drama only to demand a bribe from the driver and nothing else. I can't understand what our society has turned into. If the police force – a squad responsible to ensure our safety – is contaminated by corruption, how can we hope to develop and improve our country?

Elham Ali
Manarat Dhaka International College, Dhaka



PHOTO: INTERNET

57 NUMBERS

Is the number of journalists, who have been killed around the world in 2016 while doing their job, said Reporters without Borders. The press freedom group said 19 were killed in Syria alone, followed by 10 in Afghanistan, nine in Mexico and five in Iraq. Almost all of those killed were locally-based journalists. Although it was fewer than the 67 killed in 2015, the group put the decrease down to "the fact that many journalists have fled countries that became too dangerous, especially Syria, Iraq, Libya, Yemen, Afghanistan and Burundi". It said the withdrawal of reporters from these conflict-ridden countries had created "news and information black holes where impunity reigns". Nine bloggers and eight media workers have also been killed this year. Reporters without Borders said the fall in deaths was also the result of the "terror" imposed by what it called "press freedom predators" that close media outlets arbitrarily and gag journalists.

Source: AFP