## Abul Mansur Ahmad's death anniv today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the 45th death anniversary of Abul Mansur Ahmad, a renowned litterateur, journalist, and politician of the sub-continent. He died in 1979.

One of the greatest satirists of Bangla literature, he was also a pioneer of modern and progressive journalism. He worked for prominent newspapers such as Krishak, Nabajug, Sultan, and Mohammadi, and was editor of the Kolkata-based Daily Ittehad from 1946 to 1948.

He wrote about the language issue from early 1940s and contributed to the Language Movement as

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Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina alongside performers at a programme at Tungipara in Gopalganj yesterday, on the occasion of 104th birth anniversary of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and the National Children's Day.

PHOTO: BSS

## President, PM pay homage to Bangabandhu

BSS, *Tungipara*

President Mohammed Shahabuddin and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday paid tributes to Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on his 104th birth anniversary coinciding with the National Children's Day-2024.

They placed wreaths at the mausoleum of the Bangladesh's founding father at Tungipara of Gopalganj at 10:38am.

A smartly turned out contingent drawn from Bangladesh Army, Navy and Air Force gave an honour guard on the occasion.

PM's younger sister Sheikh Rehana and other family members were also present.

Flanked by senior leaders of the ruling Awami League (AL), Sheikh Hasina, also the president of AL, placed another wreath at the grave of Bangabandhu on behalf of her party.

### HIJACK OF MV ABDULLAH

## 'Beware of what you publish'

### Says ex-captain who was once a hostage

MD NAZRUL ISLAM, *CTG*

The authority or owning firm of the ship, which has been hijacked by Somali pirates, needs to exercise caution while making comments to the media in this regard, said a former captain of a vessel who went through the same ordeal.

"The pirates often follow international media like BBC and CNN and come to know what the hijacked ship's authority is saying to the media, and their responses to those comments might reflect on how they treat the ship's crew," said former Master Captain Farid.

Farid was captain of MV Jahan Moni, a Bangladeshi ship that was hijacked by Somali pirates in the Arabian Sea on December 5, 2010.

With his 25 crew members, along with the wife of the ship's chief officer, who was on board the ship, Captain Farid endured 100 haunting days of being held hostage by the pirates.

After the ship and its crew were let go, Farid returned to the country, left the job, and migrated

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## Pirates yet to make contact

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Six days have passed since the hijacking of the Bangladesh-flagged cargo ship MV Abdullah, yet no contact has been made by the suspected Somali pirates till yesterday.

The ship, with 23 Bangladeshi crew members on board, was located around four nautical miles off the Godobjiraan coast of Somalia.

It remained anchored at the same location for two days, according to the ship's owning firm, KSRM Group.

There was no communication with the crewmen in the last two days, said KSRM

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# When speaking up is a 'crime'

### PSTU teacher remains suspended after protesting corruption in teachers' recruitment

ARAFAT RAHAMAN

A teacher at Patuakhali Science and Technology University (PSTU) has remained suspended for around 10 months for the "crime" of speaking out against university authorities regarding irregularities in teachers' appointments.

Mehedi Hasan, a professor at the language and communication department, was suspended in May last year for "circulating posters tarnishing the image of university authorities".

The posters were displayed in May 2023 to commemorate the fifth death anniversary of a university student who applied for a teaching position in the soil science department but reportedly took his own life after being denied the job due to corruption in recruitment process.

The posters called for the resignation of Vice-Chancellor Prof Swadesh Chandra and Registrar Prof Santosh Kumar Bose, alleging their involvement in corruption regarding teacher recruitment and the student's death.

The university authorities suspended Mehedi on May 28 last year on disciplinary ground, although there was no proof till now that it was indeed Mehedi who put up such posters.

Meanwhile, in a complaint letter to Mehedi on June 14, it was stated that he was distributing posters and spreading provocative and offensive remarks about the administration.

The suspension was also attributed to his failure to publish articles in peer-reviewed journals and to pursue further degrees within his initial two years as a professor.

Prof Mehedi said, "I have been protesting against irregularities of the university authority for many years. I was vocal about the student's death and corruption in teacher's recruitment. So they framed and suspended me." "I

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> **I was vocal about corruption in teachers' recruitment. So they suspended me.**
>
> MEHEDI HASAN
> The suspended teacher

## Titas snaps over 11,300 gas lines

UNB, *Munshiganj*

Titas Gas Transmission and Distribution Company has disconnected over 11,300 illegal household and other connections in three days in Munshiganj district.

According to officials, a team of Titas Gas -- headed by its managing director Md Haronur Rashid Mullah -- conducted a drive against the illegal connections in different areas of Munshiganj on Monday, Thursday and Saturday.

The areas include Moddho Baushia, Baktarkandi, Bhaberchar, Alipura Vitikandi, Notun Charchashi, Puran Baushia, Bhaber Char College Road, and Gazaria.

The length of the disconnected lines is about 34 km where the illegal connection holders include 11,300 household users, three casting factories, five restaurants and 59 tea stalls.

Each of the connections was snapped permanently from the source point, said Titas Gas.

Titas Gas officials informed that the drive against illegal connections was conducted through mobile court by executive magistrates from Munshiganj district administration.

## Working to control commodity prices

### Says state minister

UNB, *Dhaka*

State Minister for Commerce Ahasanul Islam Titu yesterday said the prices of essential commodities will return to reasonable level as the state agencies are working in this regard.

He said this while talking to reporters after a discussion meeting organised by the Ministry of Commerce at TCB Bhavan, Karwan Bazar in the capital, making Bangabandhu's 104th birth anniversary. The minister said the Department of Agriculture Marketing (DAM) has fixed the prices

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Two workers paint a building wall without necessary safety gears near Bosila Bridge in the capital. The photo was taken yesterday afternoon.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON