

Abul Hussain's
death anniv

CITY DESK

The 11th
death
anniversary
of renowned
poet Abul
Hussain is being observed
today, said a press release.

Hussain's works reflect his lifelong search to find a philosophical and religious position that allows him to analyse and try to understand individual lives in relation to society.

He also spoke about the political instability and economic uncertainty. Hussain authored 25 books.

Naba Basanta was his first book of poetry. Birash Sanglap (1969), Duswpana Te Duswpane (1985), Ekhono Shomoy Achhey (1997), Aar Kirshen Opekkha (2000), Kaler Khatae (2008), and Selected Poems by Abul Hussain (1986) are some of his other notable works.

Born in Khulna on August 15, 1922, he was educated at Kolkata Presidency College and Kolkata University in Economics.

For more than 30 years, he was a civil servant in national and international organisations, at home and abroad.

Hussain was honoured with many awards -- including Ekushey Padak, Bangla Academy Award and Padabali Award.

Khulna bypass road unprepared for over 15yrs



PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

DIPANKAR ROY

The 2.37-kilometre Sheikh Abu Naser Bypass Road in Khulna city, stretching from Sheikh Abu Naser Specialised Hospital to the City Bypass intersection, has been in a state of utter disrepair for over 15 years.

Thousands of people from Beel Pabla, Aronggata, Dumuria, Khalishpur, Daulatpur, and Boyra areas use the road daily. It is also a gateway for more than 400 oil tankers transporting fuel from the state-owned Padma, Meghna, and Jamuna depots in Khalishpur.

Despite this, no maintenance work has been carried out since the road was constructed in the 2008-09 fiscal year under a Tk 14 crore project of the Khulna Development Authority.

Over the years, the road's bitumen surface has eroded

entirely, leaving loose bricks exposed. Countless small and large potholes have developed along the stretch, making vehicular movement highly risky. During the dry season, dust blankets the area, while in the monsoon, the road becomes muddy with puddles forming in the potholes.

"Every year we expect that the road will be repaired, but it never happens," said Mahamuda Khatun, a local.

Locals voluntarily repaired the road two years ago using donated bricks and sand, but the initiative provided only short-term relief.

"We've repeatedly appealed to the authorities concerned to repair the road, but no one responded," said Hemayet Hossain, former president of Madinabagh Janakalyan Samity.

Several important establishments, including Khulna

Specialised Hospital, BNS School and College, Naval Admission Centre, Sector Office of Border Guard Bangladesh, KMP Police Lines, and the Tax Office, are located on the eastern side of the road.

Contacted, KDA Executive Engineer Montasir Maman said, "KDA had built the road, but later received no budget for its maintenance. We requested both the Khulna City Corporation and the Local Government Engineering Department in 2010 and again in 2014 to take over its responsibility, but nothing happened."

KCC Chief Engineer Md Moshiuzzaman said they were working to repair 1.5 kilometres of the total 2.37-kilometre road since April 13 this year at a cost of Tk 19.58 crore.

"The work is expected to be completed by October 31," he added.

JU allocates only 2.85% for research

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research and innovation Tk 9.23 crore (2.85 percent), and primary medical services Tk 45 lakh (0.14 percent). A special grant of Tk 4.40 lakh has been allocated for purchasing medicines and pathology kits.

"The research budget is definitely inadequate... we needed at least 5 percent of the total budget to ensure quality research and innovation," said Prof Dr Md Monwar Hossain, director of the Wazed Miah Science Research Centre.

"We require at least Tk 80 lakh annually for medicine and dressing equipment alone, and Tk 75 lakh more to sustain pathology services," said Dr Shamshur Rahman, JU's chief medical officer.

Salahuddin suspects

Contacted, JU Pro Vice Chancellor (Administration) Prof Dr Sohel Ahmed acknowledged the inadequate allocations.

"Yes, the research budget is inadequate for the growing number of faculty and researchers, but the allocation is set by the relevant ministry and the University Grants Commission. Due to our heavy engagements, we couldn't communicate effectively with the authorities this time. Still, we tried our best and hope to secure better funding in the next fiscal year," he said.

"The medical centre has not been able to utilise its existing resources effectively," he added.

The projected income

for the FY2025-26 budget includes Tk 279.35 crore in grants from the UGC, while Tk 44 crore from internal revenue sources such as student fees, admission form sales, and other service charges.

Meanwhile, JU's accumulated deficit is expected to reach Tk 100.37 crore by the end of FY 2025-26.

Jamaat

FROM PAGE 3

screenings and cultural programmes will take place; and on July 29 and 30, discussion meetings will be held by women and female students.

Besides, a seminar will be held on August 1, a photo exhibition from August 1 to 3, nationwide processions on August 5, and discussions from August 6 to 8.

**PRAYER
TIMING**
JUNE 29

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 4-05 12-45 5-00 6-54 8-17
JAMAT 4-40 1-15 5-15 6-57 8-45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

FROM PAGE 3
president Ziaur Rahman and an archive unveiling programme organised by the Bangladesh Research Analysis and Information Network at the International Mother Language Institute Auditorium.

The BNP leader said people are united in their demand for the national election to be held in early February next year.

"All democratic people have not struggled for local government elections. We have fought for 17 years for a free, fair, and neutral national election. We have lost countless lives to establish our right to vote," he said.

Salahuddin, a BNP standing committee member, said the sacrifice made by martyrs during the student-led mass uprising reflects the desire for a truly democratic state in this country.

"We will certainly

be able to build that democratic state if a political government is established through a free and fair national election," he added.

He said a consensus proposal has been made through a joint statement to hold the national election in the week before Ramadan and in the first half of February 2026, following discussions in London between Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus and BNP Acting Chairman Tarique Rahman.

"It will only be effective when the chief adviser conveys the message and instructions to the Election Commission through the appropriate process in this regard... When the Chief Adviser's Office, the Election Commission, or both inform the nation together, only then will we be truly assured that the election will be held at that time," he said.

Regarding closed jute mills in Khulna, Shafiqul said, "The government will nationalise those closed jute mills where schools are situated."

He expressed hope that Khulna will turn around and see significant progress within the next decade.

"People will be able to cast their votes according to their own choice," he added.

Speaking about the upcoming national election, the press secretary said it will be the most free, fair, peaceful, neutral and participatory election in Bangladesh's history.

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