



Afghan boys injured in the earthquake receive treatment at a hospital in Jalalabad, Afghanistan, yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Abul Mansur Ahmad's 127th birth anniv

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Daily Ittehad [in Kolkata]. He had earlier worked at daily newspapers Krishak and Navajug and many other periodicals.

An immensely successful politician, Ahmad was the provincial education minister of Sher-e-Bangla AK Fazlul Haq's United Front government and, in 1957, served as the commerce and industries minister of the central government. His contributions to the development of East Bengal are undeniable.

Among his famous satirical novels, "Aina", "Asmani Parda", "Gulliver's Safranama", and "Food Conference" are notable. Two of his autobiographies are "Atma Katha" and "Amar Dekha Rajnitir Panchash Bachhar". While his works bring out his own personal struggles, they also depict the historical and social challenges faced by the common people of that period.

His role in the initial days of

Pakistan was extremely important in highlighting issues of economic and cultural rights for the people of East Pakistan. He was one of the earliest proponents of Bangla being the national language of the country.

He had written extensively about the issues of national language since the beginning of the '40s and also contributed actively to the Language Movement as the editor of Ittehad.

Abul Mansur Ahmad was the author of the famous 21-point manifesto for the United Front in the 1954 election,

which saw the demise of the Muslim League from power and from the politics of East Pakistan. The manifesto was a historic document that first portrayed the political, economic, and cultural aspirations of the suppressed Bangladeshi.

The military regime of Ayub Khan imprisoned Abul Mansur Ahmad several times as a result of his political

activities in the late 1950s and early 1960s.

On the occasion of his birth anniversary, a discussion programme will be held on September 5 at 4:00pm at Dhaka University's Professor Muzaffar Ahmed Chowdhury Auditorium.

The programme, titled "Bangladesh's Culture in the New Political Arrangement", will be presided over by Prof Serajul Islam Choudhury.

The discussants will include writer and politician Hasnat Kaiyumi, Professor A Al Mamun of Rajshahi University, writer and politician Firoz Ahmed, and journalist and writer Tahmidal Zami. Prof Monsur Musa, former director general of Bangla Academy, will be present as a special guest.

The event will also feature prize distribution for the National Public Speaking Competition, organised for the second time by the Abul Mansur Ahmad Memorial Council and Tarkoja.

Besides, 21 workers died in workplace accidents due to unsafe conditions.

In August, at least 159 women and girls were victims of abuse. Sixty-four were raped, of whom 33 were under the age of 18. Of the rape incidents, 18 were gang raped, and three were killed after rape.

A total of 26 cases of sexual harassment were recorded, including 12 child victims. One woman was killed and three were injured over dowry disputes.

Meanwhile, 30 women were killed in domestic violence, 13 were injured, and 20 died by suicide.

The report also recorded 133 cases of child abuse. Of them, 17 children were killed, while 116 were physically or mentally tortured.

But we don't know how it happened." Contacted, Nilphamari Superintendent of Police ASM Tarique Hossain Khan claimed police did not open fire.

Habib's body was handed over to his family members after an autopsy last night. Later, the victim's relatives and fellow workers staged a demonstration near the EPZ area, demanding justice.

Additional law enforcers have been deployed in the area to maintain law and order, said Lt Col Sk Md Bodruzzoda, commander at BGB 56 Battalion.

The Evergreen factory Ltd authorities could not be contacted, despite repeated attempts.

At the same time, food insecurity continues to rise, linked to the armed conflict, economic instability, and natural disasters.

In 2025, an estimated 15.2 million people, nearly a third of the country's population, were projected to face high levels of acute food insecurity, a sharp increase from 13.3 million in 2024, the report added.

Turk called for immediate meaningful action to end this wanton violence against the civilians and the immediate provision of humanitarian aid, especially for populations that have suffered violence, hunger, and displacement for years and were denied humanitarian assistance by the military.

He implored the UN member states to act to hold the parties to their obligations to allow help to reach those in need, and to support international efforts to hold those responsible for violations of international law to account.

The report examines in detail four incidents involving grave violations, including the targeting of civilian locations.

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Violence against journos doubled

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injuries. Police action against Gono Odhikar Parishad left another 30 injured.

The report further added that attacks by unidentified groups on political workers left eight killed and 38 injured, while over 50 party offices, homes, vehicles, and businesses were vandalised, set on fire, or looted.

HRSS documented 38 incidents of mob violence in August, in which 25 people were killed and 39 were injured.

Victims included two men beaten to death in Sirajganj on August 5 over theft allegations, and a 15-year-old boy killed in Chattogram on August 22.

In addition, on August 15, several people were beaten at Dhammandi 32,

while on August 29, former minister Abdul Latif Siddique and others were harassed during an event at the Dhaka Reporters Unity.

The report said there were 11 incidents of border killings and pushbacks along the India border. These left four Bangladeshis shot dead, eight injured, and 11 arrested by India's Border Security Force.

The report documented two deaths in law enforcement custody and two more in police chases.

In addition, 10 deaths in prisons were reported nationwide, including three convicts and seven detainees.

The report documented 20 incidents of workers' rights violations, in which two workers were killed and 30 were injured.

Meanwhile, 30 women were killed in domestic violence, 13 were injured, and 20 died by suicide.

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were brought to the hospital.

"One worker was brought dead around 9:00am," he told The Daily Star yesterday morning.

"During primary observation, I found a wound in the victim's chest. The exact cause of his death can be confirmed after the post mortem."

The victim's elder brother Rashidul Islam said Habib had worked the night shift at his knitting factory, and after finishing his shift in the morning, he was leaving the EPZ when he was shot dead.

Nilphamari Sadar Police Station Officer-in-Charge MR Sayeed said, "We've come to know that a worker died.

The workers said the factory authorities terminated workers without paying benefits, while many more were in line to be laid off.

Police, BGB, and army personnel rushed to the spot and tried to disperse them. At one stage, workers clashed with the law enforcers.

Workers alleged that the law enforcers opened fire, at which time Habib was shot dead. They also claimed that at least 20 workers were injured in the violence.

Contacted, Nilphamari General Hospital Duty Doctor Farhan Islam said some seven to eight injured workers

have left civilians trapped in a cycle of killings, forced displacement, and deprivation.

The widespread violations -- including mass killings, air strikes, torture, forced recruitment, and starvation -- evoke grim parallels with the atrocities of 2017.

According to sources, at least 1,633 conflict-related incidents, including 409 air strikes and 274 artillery barrages, were recorded between November 2023 and May 2025.

Verified accounts point to nearly 400 civilian casualties in Rakhine state, though the true figure is believed to be far higher, the report added.

The AA has steadily expanded control over nearly all of Rakhine, seizing the Western Military Command in December 2024 and pushing offensives into neighbouring regions. In response, the military resorted to brutal retaliation, often targeting Rohingya and ethnic Rakhine civilians.

The UN estimated some 150,000 Rohingyas have fled to Bangladesh since November 2023, joining more than a million already taking refuge there.

"Civilians from both Rohingya and ethnic Rakhine communities continue to suffer the consequences of the hostilities," said UN Human Rights

chief Volker Türk in a statement.

"The military and the Arakan Army have acted with near complete impunity, enabling the recurrence of violations in an endless cycle of suffering for the civilian population."

In 2017, some 750,000 Rohingyas fled to Bangladesh amid a brutal military crackdown, which UN and other rights organisations labelled as genocide.

In light of the ongoing violations of international law and the prevailing impunity, Türk reiterated his previous calls for a full referral of the Myanmar situation to the International Criminal Court by the Security Council.

The report, which covers the 14 months up to May 31, 2025, finds that nearly half of all civilian deaths throughout the country -- 838 out of 1,811 -- were reportedly the result of direct military aerial attacks.

Additionally, it identifies two alarming new trends: 26 allegations of the use of chemicals, including fertilisers, attached to explosive devices in six states and regions; and the use of armed paramotors, which are low-flying tactical aircraft used to drop munitions almost entirely on civilian locations.

The report examines in detail four incidents involving grave violations, including the targeting of civilian's

Want to free DU from muscle power

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one stop automated service, launch scholarship programmes, and introduce on-campus part-time jobs. "Many students struggle to focus on studies or research because of private tutoring," Bin Yamin said.

The VP candidate vowed to abolish "guestroom and gono room" practices and ensure dormitory seats from the first year. He also plans to connect students with relevant sectors to prepare them for careers, and establish medical centres as required for healthcare services.

"There are many organisations at TSC

that are the lifeline of this university. I will strengthen them further. Dhaka University has student bodies of left, right, and centrist ideologies, as well as creative thinkers. I will ensure an environment where everyone can speak freely. No politics of domination will be allowed, and students' interests will always come first," he said.

On women's issues, Bin Yamin stressed security and dormitory facilities. "Half of our students are female, yet we have not ensured a safe campus for them. I will work to ensure their safety with utmost sincerity and their rights in every sphere," he said.

He also mentioned that the DUCSU elections are going to be held because of their movements. "We will make sure DUCSU elections are held every year."

Commenting on the electoral atmosphere, Bin Yamin said powerful quarters were trying to exert influence. "I urge the administration to rise above all and ensure a free, fair, and neutral election."

He also pledged to work in the spirit of the Liberation War and the July uprising. "Whether I win or not, I will continue to work for students' rights. Whatever the result, they will always find me by their side."

decide if I can contest. But no attempt will be allowed to derail the elections. We will resist such moves."

Farhad claimed that the issue of 1971 is being repeatedly raised against him as a distraction.

"Our opponents raise this only as a political ploy. They lack effective student welfare programmes, and they fear the rising popularity of Shibir. So, they keep raising the same old questions. We have already responded to these officially many times, in various forums."

Concluding on a conciliatory note, he said he sees other contestants not as rivals, but as associates. "Whoever wins will take responsibility, and the rest of us will assist."

Ex-Kurigram DC Sultana lands in jail

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the country, and Ariful was released on bail the following day.

On March 31, 2020, Ariful filed a case against Sultana and several others.

Following a High Court order, Kurigram Sadar Thana Police recorded the case.

After a prolonged investigation, the Police Bureau of Investigation (PBI) submitted a charge sheet five years later, implicating former DC Sultana Parvin

along with three former magistrates -- Nazim Uddin, Rahatul Islam, and Rintu Bikash Chakma.

Speaking to journalists after the court order, Rigan said, "I was tortured and imprisoned only for publishing reports. I waited five years for justice. Today's order proves that no one is above the law. This is not only a relief for me but also for the entire journalist community."

last month, saying that the state has a concrete and prioritised policy to establish a separate judicial secretariat with full logistic support.

However, the affidavit, placed by Deputy Attorney General Mohammad Mehedi Hasan on behalf of the law ministry, opposed the writ petition's claim to scrap the current article 116.

According to the affidavit, the petitioners "failed to show how article 116 is inconsistent with the constitution's basic structure or to provide concrete arguments for declaring it unconstitutional". It added that, on those grounds, the writ petition should be dismissed in the interest of justice.

Earlier, Attorney General Md Adzuddaman and Intervenor Advocate Ahsanul Karim argued that article 116 maintains checks and balances among state organs, noting that the law ministry cannot transfer or post any judge without the Supreme Court's approval.

By contrast, amicus curiae Sharif Bhuiyan, along with petitioners' counsel Mohammad Shishir Manir and intervenor Mahiuddin, contended that article 116 undermines judicial independence and the constitutional principle of separation of powers.

Big stride towards judicial autonomy

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Mehedi Hasan, however, said the state would appeal the decision before the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court.

The bench also criticised the judicial service (disciplinary) rules, which designate the law ministry as the "appropriate authority" over lower court judges. This, the HC said, places judicial officers under executive control in violation of the constitutional principle of separation of powers.

The judges noted that while separate secretariats exist for the Jatiya Sangsad and the Election Commission, no such body has been created for the judiciary.

They observed that establishing a judicial secretariat would strengthen checks and balances among state organs and safeguard the separation of powers.

The full details of the verdict will be known once its full text is released.

Following the verdict, petitioners' lawyer Mohammad Shishir Manir hailed the ruling as "a glorious chapter in the country's judiciary".

"Through this verdict, our lower courts have been freed from political influence. The dignity and prestige of judges and officials have been restored," he told The Daily Star.

Deputy Attorney General Mohammad

reading rooms at Ruqayyah and Shamsunnahar halls, and the Central Library. They would coordinate with the city corporation to improve the drainage system of Bangladesh-Kuwait Maitree Hall and Bangamatia Sheikh Fazilatunnesa Mujib Hall.

If elected, the panel pledged to take initiatives to extend the entry deadline for female dormitories and to ensure equal participation of female students in night-time events on the campus.

Umaima also vowed to work on ensuring that female invigilators are present during viva voce to verify students wearing niqabs. She said the female prayer spaces at the TSC and central mosque would be modernised and properly maintained.

The panel said they would renovate the monuments built to remember the Liberation War and democratic movements as well as the July uprising. It also pledged to take steps to include impartial history regarding the incidents in the academic syllabus.

She further pledged to ensure an optional three-day "period leave" for female students each month. The manifesto also includes installing and upgrading sanitary pad vending machines in every hall, department, and faculty.

For students with children, the panel promised to establish daycare centres.

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