

THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER

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Dacca MONDAY MARCH 19 1979

Abul Mansur Ahmed

Some people in this world are bigger than their equals. They stand out as stalwarts. They influence others. They build up their own image too. And when such a man passes away others become grieved. In the death of Abul Mansur Ahmed there is a sense of loss felt by all. A gloom is cast over the social and cultural horizon in the country. His death is mourned. "Inna Lilla he wa-inna-ilaihe rajeoon".

In him the society lost a litterateur. He left behind him the legacy of a thought-provoking essayist, a pungent satirist and above all, a bold editor. As editor Abul Mansur Ahmed upheld the cause of truth. He was undaunted. He was found projecting his ideas rather aggressively and for over five decades. He had audience both in open forums as well as through his writings. And that audience he got through the eloquence of his tongue and pen. In his ripe old age he had many admirers and rightly so.

Some of his writings like 'Amar Dekha Rajnitir Panchash Basar' are full of anecdotes on politics in the subcontinent. He found himself involved in politics in early forties. He worked in different political positions including that of the Acting Prime Minister of the then Pakistan in late fifties. He has tenaciously kept himself abreast of all the

political movements that took place in the last four decades. And he had tried to appreciate the events in right earnestness. He deserves credo for that.

Those who know him closely often pointed out that he was very sharp in grasping problems of life and living. He was amiable to friends and admirers. He was a loving father and reared up his children in a way as would enable the latter to take up different assignments. He lived over eight decades and lived it fully. He intended to be a lawyer—that by education. He by-passed the career of a lawyer and became all that he was. And in being so he proved himself to be worthy of them. We mourn his death and extend our heartfelt condolence to the members of the bereaved family. May his soul rest in peace.

His death came at a time when the country is passing through a critical stage. His prudence could be utilized by the politicians in general and the members of the Parliament in particular. And he would love to be of help to them. His leanings for democratic ideals are known. He would be able to inspire many, if he would live longer. As it is, he was available for guidance and advice to those who sought them. In his writings he left a store-house of knowledge for posterity. And it is in them that he will live, after March 18, 1979.