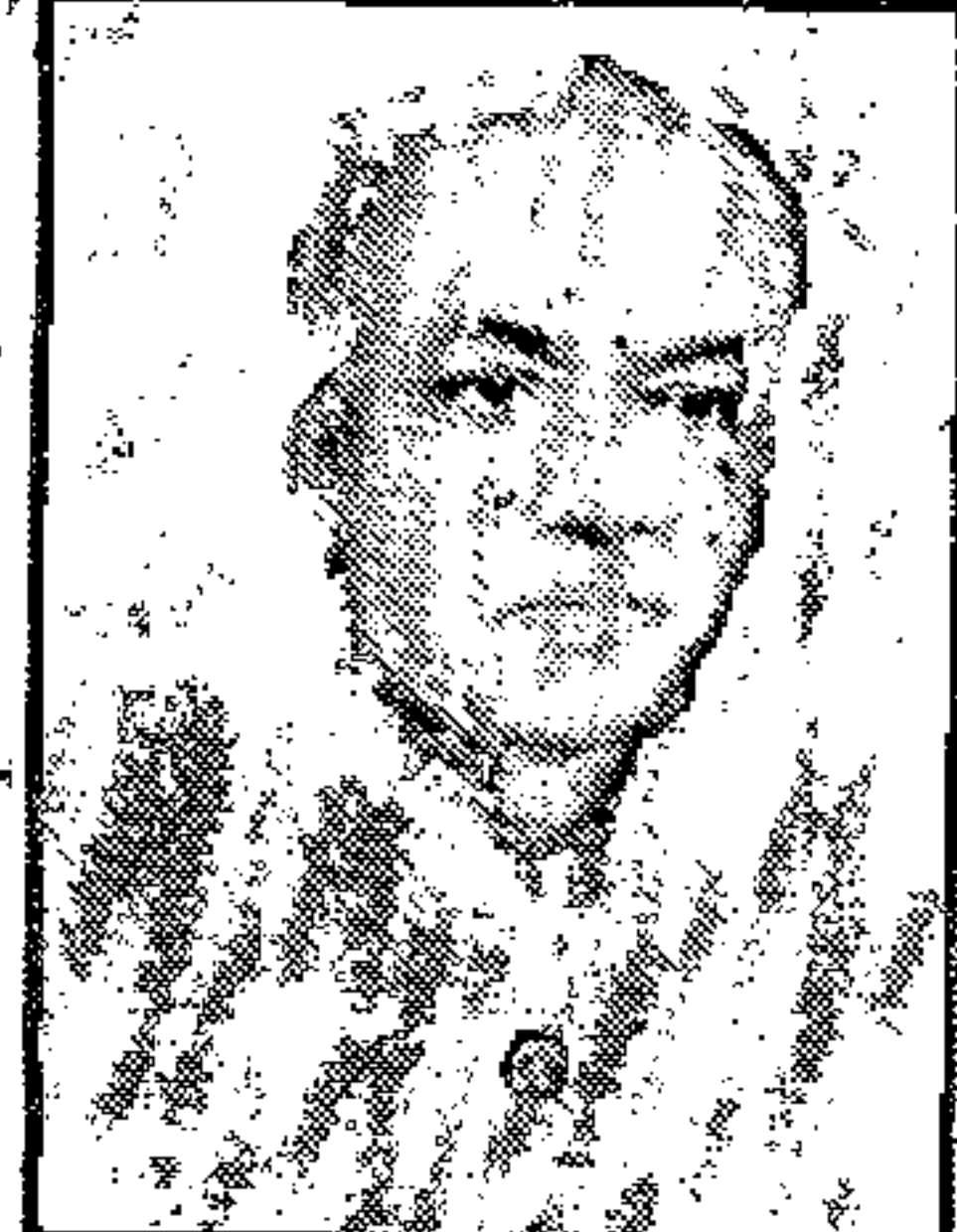


206

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Abul Kashem dead

Principal Abul Kashem dead

Principal Abul Kashem, founder of Tamuddun Majlish and a pioneer of the movement for recognition of Bangla as one of the state languages of Pakistan, died this morning at the Suhrawardy Hospital in Dhaka, says BSS.

He was 71. He left behind his wife, six sons, four daughters and a host of admirers at home and abroad. He began his career as a lecturer of physics at the Dhaka University in 1946 and later made outstanding contribution in the movement for recognition of Bangla as one of the state languages of Pakistan soon after the independence in 1947.

Principal Kashem founded the Tamuddun Majlish on September 1, 1947 to pioneer the movement for rights of Bengali language and set up the Bangla College in 1962. He was the founder principal of the college.

He was elected a member of the then East Pakistan Legislative Assembly in 1954 as a candidate of the United Front and as a Nominee of Khelafat-e-Rabbani Party.

He was recipient of the Ekushey Padak in 1987, Bangla Academy Award in 1982, Islamic Foundation Medal in 1988, Gold Medal of Chittagong Association in 1988 and Gold Medal in a National Reception in 1989.

He authored nearly 100 books including text books on science for post-graduate students and on education.

(See Page 8 Col. 6)

(From Page 1 Col. 8)
tion, Islam and Culture.

He was born on June 20, 1920 at village Sebundi-Barama under Chandanaish Upazila of the district of Chittagong.

Life sketch

Eminent educationist, scholar and one of the architects of the 1948 language movement. Principal Abul Kashem was born on June 20, 1920 in village Sebundi Barama under Chandanaish Upazila in Chittagong.

He did his M.S.C. in physics from Dhaka University in 1945 and got a First Class First. In 1946, he was appointed lecturer in Physics in Dhaka University.

Principal Abul Kashem was associated with the literary and cultural activities of the country for long five decades. On September 1, 1947, he founded the Pakistan Tamuddun Majlis as a non-political cultural organisation to mobilise students, intellectuals and the people in general for the Bengali language. The same month, he published a booklet entitled, "Pakistaner Rashtrobhasha—Urdu Na Bangla?" demanding introduction of Bengali as one of the state languages of Pakistan.

In the booklet, he also strongly advocated for Bengali as the medium of education, court language and for its use in the offices in the then East Pakistan, besides as one of the state languages in the whole of Pakistan.

His untiring efforts led to the formation of the first state language action committee on October 1, 1947 with Mr. Nurul Huq Bhuiyan as the convener and he himself as the treasurer. On December 6, a meeting was held under the presidentship of Prof. Abul Kashem in Dhaka University campus which protested the resolution of the education week held in Karachi suggesting Urdu as the state language and the lingua franca of Pakistan.

A protest procession was brought out from the meeting which met Khawaja Nazimuddin, the then provincial Chief Minister, and other ministers. Khawaja Nazimuddin gave a written assurance to the action committee that he would do the needful to introduce Bengali as one of the state languages of Pakistan.

Principal Abul Kashem actively participated in organising a country-wide strike on March 11, 1948, to press the demand for the introduction of Bengali as one of the state languages of Pakistan. As the outcome of the strike, on the eve of the impending visit of Mohammed Ali Jinnah, the founder of Pakistan to Dhaka, the then Provincial Government had no other alternative but to sign an agreement with the action committee on March 15, 1948 for introducing Bengali as one of the state languages of Pakistan.

Principal Abul Kashem was actively associated with politics. He was one of founders of Khilafat-e-Rabbani Party in 1952. He was elected a member of the provincial assembly as a United Front nominee, in 1954. While a member of the Legislative Assembly, he moved a resolution for introduction of Bengali as the medium of education at all levels.

Mr. Abul Kashem founded the Bangla College at Mirpur in 1964 and became its founder principal. He continued in that capacity till he retired in 1981. Earlier, he was Vice-Principal of Chittagong City night college from 1954.

A prolific writer, Principal Abul Kashem wrote nearly 100 books on education, science, Islam, culture and politics. These include 40 text books on physics and other science subjects for college and university levels. Some of his well-known books are "Adhunik Chintadhara", "Samaj Tata Sahita O Darshan", "Shristi Tatta O Allahr Astitta", "Biggan, Bastubad O Allahr Astitta", "Qurane Arthonit", "Science and Modern Thought", "Universal Ideology in the Light of Modern Thought", and "Sreni Sangram".

Principal Abul Kashem received a number of national awards which include Ekushey Padak in 1987, Bangla Academy Award in 1982, Islamic Foundation Padak in 1988, Pakistan writers guild award in 1964 and Chattagram Samity gold medal in 1988. He was accorded a national reception in Dhaka in 1988 which was attended by eminent scholars and litterateurs of Bangladesh and India.

Body to be taken Bangla Academy

The body of Principal Abul Kashem will be brought to Bangla Academy today (Tuesday) at 9 a.m. for the last glimpse of his admirers and well wishers. It will be kept there till 12 noon.

Death condoled

Adviser for Culture and Food Prof. Iajuddin Ahmed Monday condoled the death of principal Abul Kashem, a pioneer of the historic language movement.

In a message of condolence he termed Principal Abul Kashem as a good organiser and said that his contribution in the language movement and introducing Bangla in the field of education would be ever remembered by the nation. In his death the nation lost a brilliant son, he added.

Prof. Iajuddin prayed for the peace of departed soul and expressed his sympathy to the members of the bereaved family.

Another report from Chittagong adds: Tamuddun Majlish Chittagong chapter president Prof. Chowdhury Shahabuddin Ahmed Khaled and former M.P. Mr. Rafiqullah Chowdhury today Monday expressed deep condolence at the death of the language movement hero Principal Abul Kashem.

In a joint statement here they said, the country had lost a pioneer of the great language movement of 1952 in the death of Principal Abul Kashem.

They recalled his role in founding Tamudun Majlis and his contributions towards adoption of Bangla in all spheres of national life. They prayed for the peace of the departed soul and expressed sympathy with the members of the bereaved family.

Quasem's death condoled

The BNP chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia condoled the death of Principal Abul Quasem, a name in the language movement and said he had given lead in the language movement under the aegis of the Tamaddun Majlis reports BSS.

He also rendered important contribution to the concept of Bangladeshi nationalism as its ardent supporter, she said.

Begum Zia said the country lost a patriot and important intellectual in his death.