

Recalling Tajuddin Ahmad

Illuminated by the Gleam of Work He Left Behind

by Mahjabeen Ahmad Mimi

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WHEN a man's work transcends the man himself and spreads far and wide, it is then that he becomes the man of action. A trait rare in this day and age.

Though many an adjective is attached to his name depicting him as a private, introvert man but in reality Tajuddin Ahmad was a leader who was a worshipper of the — work focused, contained and of unwavering conviction.

When we follow his life closely, make an intense study of his own handwritten diaries, the face that emerges from the depths of time is the image of one devoted but only to his work; committed, dedicated and true to his cause. An epitome of self-sacrifice, he gave his life, clinging to the very final moment to what he believed in. It was not the limelight he desired for himself, rather throughout his life, Tajuddin, had singularly directed his actions and deeds aimed at making the lot of the deprived and hapless people of this land, the prime source of that limelight.

He was not the conventional, flamboyant political leader as can be found around us. It is rather his work that is more illustrious than his person. Enormously gifted, of impeccable integrity, sharp as the razor's edge, this dauntless leader with his unequalled wisdom, tenacity and talent combined, had imparted brilliant leadership to his people in their great War of Liberation which had seen the emergence of an independent nation.

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But then what of the recognition of this inordinate accomplishment?

This selfless, unassuming leader barely exists in our memory. Woeful it is, but true indeed that there is not the slightest mention of the work especially the monumental contribution of the deceased leader in our struggle for liberation, let alone evaluation.

Whereas there was a just anticipation in the public mind that the present government would, to say the least, evaluate and recognise the leader with due veneration. This may be noted here that in the past years the country was in the grip of tyranny and autocracy and therefore he was not recognised — thanks to the negative attitude held by previous regimes — when it came to such things as independence and war of independence.

Today, standing on the changed plane of realities, boundless grief engulfs the soul as we witness the man with his

qualities second to none, being ignored with icy indifference. To think that the regime in power is one that is known for upholding the spirit of independence.

In all times and in all lands, leaders who are cherished and revered by their people remain ever above their politics and their parties. By evaluating an ascetic, far-sighted, unpretentious and principled leader such as Tajuddin his party not only would be bestowing upon him the recognition that he deserves in his own right, also at the same time this would enhance the party with true dignity.

Great achievements have been made possible only by dint of untiring efforts and unyielding tenacity spanning the lifetime of a man, it cannot be had by means of giving or receiving.

Great feats do not long for a reward nor a return but then we, as a nation, shall only be free

from the iron-hold of our conscience the day we shall find it in our hearts to unabashedly recognise and validate the work of this man for his country. That will have been the most singular and elevating event happening to the nation's psyche.

The glory of advent of an independent nation entails some integral factors, one of those factors, or probably the chief one, being recognition of the work and contribution of person or persons responsible for leadership in a War of Liberation. For it is on the firm ground of that recognition from which stands tall the true history of a nation's independence. The more we show reluctance in recognising, the thinner and weaker gets the foundation of history. God help those see their path that have no reverence for the sons of the soil, that sit back and gleefully watch their

demeaning with diabolical complacency!

It is such freedom-seeking and timeless leaders who have been celebrated deferred and sometimes, worshipped from nation to nation, from age to age across the globe for their heroic roles in history-making. Tajuddin Ahmad indubitably was one such leader.

Not only is it not done and unfair to confine him to his mere party identity, it is tantamount to depriving the nation of truth. In the final analysis, it could be deemed by the unerring judgement of history itself as something beyond forgiveness. It is today the 73rd birth anniversary of Tajuddin Ahmad.

What better moment can be than this to pay tribute to his memory, his soul, his work? Salute to the memories of the noble leader.