

**THE GAUHATI HIGH COURT AT GUWAHATI**  
(THE HIGH COURT OF ASSAM, NAGALAND, MIZORAM AND ARUNACHAL  
PRADESH)

**OBITUARY REFERENCE ADDRESS BY HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE SUDHANSHU DHULIA, CHIEF JUSTICE OF GAUHATI HIGH COURT, GUWAHATI, ON 11-11-2021 AT 3.30 PM, ON ACCOUNT OF SAD DEMISE OF SENIOR ADVOCATE ABDUL MUHIB MAZUMDER AND ADVOCATE MASLIM GHANI AND DULAL CHANDRA DUTTA, MEMBERS OF THE GAUHATI HIGH COURT BAR ASSOCIATION SITTING IN THE COURT NO.1 (NEW BLOCK).**

**BEFORE**

**HON'BLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE  
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE N. KOTISWAR SINGH  
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE MANASH RANJAN PATHAK  
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE SUMAN SHYAM  
HON'BLE MRS. JUSTICE RUMI KUMARI PHUKAN  
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE ACHINTYA MALLA BUJOR BARUA  
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE AJIT BORTHAKUR  
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE HITESH KUMAR SARMA  
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE SANJAY KUMAR MEDHI  
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE NANI TAGIA  
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE MANISH CHOUDHURY  
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE SOUMITRA SAIKIA  
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE PARTHIVJYOTI SAIKIA  
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE KAKHETO SEMA  
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE DEVASHIS BARUAH  
HON'BLE MRS. JUSTICE MALASRI NANDI  
HON'BLE MRS. JUSTICE MARLI VANKUNG  
AND  
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE ARUN DEV CHOUDHURY**

**Reference by:**

1. Mr. N. J. Dutta, Vice President, Gauhati High Court Bar Association.
2. Mr. S. Matak, President, Gauhati High Court Advocates' Association.
3. Mr. G. Sahewala, Chairman of Bar Council of Assam, Nagaland, Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim.
4. Mr. Dilip Mazumdar, Addl. Advocate General, Assam.
5. Mr. N.N.B. Choudhury, Additional Advocate General, Arunachal Pradesh.
6. Mr. Sudipto Bhattacharjee, Govt. Advocate, Mizoram.
7. Mr. R. K. Deb Choudhury, Assistant Solicitor General of India.
8. Ms. M. Kechii, Government Advocate, Nagaland

**Reply by: Hon'ble the Chief Justice**

1. My esteemed colleagues on the Bench.
  2. Mr. N. J. Dutta, Vice President, Gauhati High Court Bar Association.
  3. Mr. S. Matak, President, Gauhati High Court Advocates' Association.
  4. Mr. G. Sahewala, Chairman of Bar Council of Assam, Nagaland, Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim.
  5. Mr. Dilip Mazumdar, Addl. Advocate General, Assam.
  6. Mr. N.N.B. Choudhury, Additional Advocate General, Arunachal Pradesh.
  7. Mr. Sudipto Bhattacharjee, Govt. Advocate, Mizoram.
  8. Mr. R. K. Deb Choudhury, Assistant Solicitor General of India.
  9. Ms. M. Kechii, Government Advocate, Nagaland
- Members of the Bar and members of the Registry.

We have assembled here to mourn the sad demise of Senior Advocate Abdul Muhib Mazumder and Advocates Dulal Chandra Dutta and Maslim Ghani.

Late Abdul Muhib Mazumder, Senior Advocate left us for his heavenly abode on 3<sup>rd</sup> November, 2021. He passed away in Guwahati at the age of 89 years.

Late Mazumder was born in Hailakandi district on 20 August 1932 in a family of freedom fighters. After studying at Government Victoria Memorial High School at Hailakandi, he obtained his B.Sc.(Hons.) degree from Cotton College, Guwahati, and his M.A. and LLB from Aligarh Muslim University. He was a Senior Advocate who practiced here in the Gauhati High Court as well as before the Supreme Court of India. Late Mazumder initially worked with Mr. Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed, who was then a senior advocate practising before the Gauhati High Court and as we all know, who later became the President of India. Late Mazumder had also worked as Lecturer in Economics and Political Science in Pragjyotish College (1956-1961) and at University Law College (1961-1980). He had a flourishing practice. He became the Advocate General of Assam from 1980 to 1983 and then Advocate General of Arunachal Pradesh (1991-1996).

Late Mazumder entered politics in 1970s and represented Hailakandi four times as Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA), from 1983-1991, 1996-2001 and 2011-2016; the constituency had been represented by his father earlier from 1946 to 1972. He became a Cabinet Minister of Assam in 1983 and was having the portfolio of law, power and municipal administration departments till 1985. Late

Mazumder was Deputy Leader of Opposition (1986-1991) and formerly Vice Chairman, State Planning Board of Assam. He also was the Member, State Security Commission; Member, AICC; Vice President APCC; Chairman APCC Minority Cell; Adviser Minority Department of APCC.

Late Mazumder's autobiography, *Down the Memory*, was published in four volumes. Among his landmark cases was his defence of the late Prime Minister Indira Gandhi before the Tirkha Commission in 1977-78. Two other landmarks in his career were drafting of the IMDT Act (Illegal Migrants Determination by Tribunal Act) 1983 and Assam Accord 1985 as the then Law Minister of Assam.

Late Dulal Chandra Dutta was born on 1<sup>st</sup> of June, 1933 and breathed his last on 24<sup>th</sup> October, 2021 at the age of 88 years, leaving behind his wife Smti Krishna Dutta, one son Sri Manas Dutta and a daughter Smti Meenakshi Dutta Mazumder.

Late Dutta graduated from Cotton College, Guwahati and thereafter obtained degree of law from Gauhati University in the year 1970. Late Dutta had initially also served as a Deputy General Manager at National Textile Corporation and thereafter joined Bar in the year 1991.

Late Maslim Ghani was born on 1<sup>st</sup> January, 1961 and had an untimely death and left for heavenly abode on 23<sup>rd</sup> September, 2021 at the age of 60 years, leaving behind his two(2) daughters Farida Tyasmin and Khalida Ghani and one son Monowar Ghani. Late Ghani obtained his Bachelors degree from Rangia College in 1984 and Masters from Guahati University in 1988 and thereafter obtained the

degree of law in 1992 from Gauhati University. He also served as the Government Advocate for the state of Assam from 2001 to 2003 and again from 2006 to 2007. He was also the Central Government Standing Counsel from February, 2007. Late Ghani was the President of All Assam Minorities Students Welfare Association and the Secretary of Annual Social Service Camp 1988 under University Law College Students Union.

I never had the opportunity to meet any of them personally, but I have been told by several sources that late Abdul Muhib Mazumder, Senior Advocate was admired and respected by one and all for his art of advocacy, his wit and for his amiable disposition. His contributions in the legal field and his contributions to the society will be remembered for many years. Late Abdul Muhib Mazumder was a very outspoken person and he had always maintained high standards of professional integrity all throughout his career. It is for this reason that he enjoyed a remarkable standing in the Bar and commanded great respect from both the Bar and Bench. With his death, the legal fraternity has lost a legal stalwart creating a vacuum which will be hard to be filled in. Late Mazumder leaves behind his two daughters Smti Sanjida Mazumder and Smti Hima Mazumder. The Bar of the Gauhati High Court was never short of brilliant lawyers. This High Court is privileged to be assisted in the dispensation of justice by scholarly, intelligent and erudite lawyers. Late Abdul Muhib Mazumder was definitely one such lawyer.

Advocates Dulal Chandra Dutta and Maslim Ghani were equally loved and respected for their good behaviour and courteous submissions in the Court.

Their death is a great loss, not only to their respective families, but also to the legal fraternity.


I and my colleagues on the Bench, can understand the sentiments and feelings expressed by the members of the Bar. I, on my behalf and on behalf of my colleagues on the Bench and members of the Registry convey our heartfelt condolence to the members of the bereaved families. We all pray to the Almighty to grant eternal peace to the departed souls and to give sufficient strength and courage to the members of the bereaved families to bear this irreparable loss.

As a mark of respect to the departed souls, I request the learned members of the Bar and Bench to observe a minute's silence.

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The Court work on the judicial side will remain suspended for the rest of the day as a mark of respect to the departed souls.

The Registry is directed to communicate the proceedings and convey our heartfelt condolence to the members of the bereaved families.

  
(Sudhanshu Dhulia)

Chief Justice

Gauhati High Court, Guwahati