



Abul Mansur Ahmad's 109th anniversary of birth today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The 109th birth anniversary of Abul Mansur Ahmad, a renowned litterateur, journalist and statesman of the sub-continent, will be observed today, says a press release.

Doa mahfil will be held at Dhaka and Mymensingh on the occasion and prayers will be offered at his grave in the morning.

One of the greatest satirists of Bengali literature, Abul Mansur Ahmad was also a renowned politician, lawyer and a leading journalist. He was the editor of Daily Krishak, Nabajug and Ittehad in undivided Bengal and a pioneer in progressive journalism.

A successful politician, Abul Mansur Ahmad was the provincial education minister in the United Front cabinet under Sher-e-Bangla AK Fazlul Huq and the central commerce and industries minister in the Awami League government of Prime Minister Hossain Shaheed Suhrawardy. He was known for his strong stand on matters of interest to East Bengal.

Abul Mansur Ahmad's publications include great satires like Aina, Asmani Purdah, Gulliverer Safar Nama and Food Conference. His works also include important writings on social and political history of Bengal. He has two autobiographical writings – 'Atma Katha' (About myself) and 'Amar Dekha Rajnitiir Panchash Bachar' (50 years of politics as I have seen it).

Abul Mansur Ahmad always propagated secularism in a manner unparalleled in the forties, fifties and sixties. His contribution towards opposition movement in the early days of Pakistan was extremely significant.

He wrote about the language issue from the early forties and contributed to the Language Movement as editor of the Ittehad. He was the author of the election manifesto of Jukta Front (a grand coalition of the three giants of our politics, Sher-e-Bangla AK Fazlul Huq, Moulana Bhashani and Shaheed Suhrawardy) in the 1954 election in which the Muslim League was ousted from power. The 21-point programme (Ekush Dafa) was the first comprehensive articulation of the political, economic and cultural demands of the Bengalis of the then eastern part of Pakistan.

Abul Mansur Ahmad was one of the greatest political personalities of Bangladesh who combined rare talents in three distinct fields – politics, journalism and literary writing.

Army chief receives donations for flood victims

BSS, Dhaka

Army Chief General Moeen U Ahmed yesterday received donations for the flood-affected people from individuals and various organisations at the Banquet Hall of Army Headquarters in Dhaka Cantonment.

Cotton Group Chairman Shaheen Mahmud donated Tk 5 lakh, Brig Gen (ret'd) Mustafiz handed over a cheque for Tk 2.85 lakh and clothes on behalf of Baridhara DOHS, Nazrul Islam donated Tk 2 lakh and clothes on behalf of Shaijad Knit Dying and Sajidul Siraj handed over a cheque for Tk 1 lakh and dry food on behalf of Aqua Paints.

Alhaj Syed Badrul Alam of Wills Group, Lion Harunur Rashid of NCC Group, Billal Shah of Dhaka City Fruit Import-Export Merchant Cooperative Society and Dr Nasim of Nurjahan Clinic Sylhet donated Tk 1 lakh each, an ISPR press release said.

Besides, Haji Yusuf Hassan of Bangladesh Pipe and Tube-well Merchant Association handed over a cheque for Tk 50,000 and Zahidi handed over a good number of oral saline packets to the army chief.

Chief of General Staff (CGS) Major General Sina Ibn Jamali, senior army officers and high officials were present on the occasion.

Tk 4.96 cr IRW relief for flood victims

Responding to the current floods in Bangladesh, Islamic Relief Worldwide (IRW), an international NGO based in the UK, has given immediate aid of Tk 4.96 crore, providing food, agricultural seeds and shelters for more than 23,000 families in worst-affected districts, says a press release.

In the first phase, it has allocated Tk 21 lakh for immediate food relief in six districts for 2250 families from its own fund. The food packets contained 20 kg of rice, 3 kg of lentil, 1 kg of salt and 1 litre of soybean oil. The districts are Sirajganj, Jamalpur, Faridpur, Kurigram, Dhaka and Manikganj. Earlier, it distributed high protein biscuits among the flood victims in Jamalpur and Manikganj with the support from WFP and Unicef.

Now, Islamic Relief Bangladesh (IRB) is going to start post-flood relief and rehabilitation programme with the support from European Commission's Humanitarian Aid Office (ECHO). It allocates Tk 4.25 crore for food assistance, seed distribution, emergency shelter renovation/reconstruction and cash support for worst flood victims in Sirajganj, Jamalpur, Faridpur, Madaripur, Manikganj and Dhaka. It targets to reach over 15,000 families.

Under its seasonal food security programme, IRB is also providing food packets containing 10 kg of rice, 2 kg of lentil, 1 kg of sugar, 1 kg of peas and 1 litre of soybean oil to 7000 families in Kurigram, Lalmonirhat, Chapai Nawabganj, Bhramhanbaria, Cox's Bazar, Thakurgaon, Sunamganj, Rajbari and Dhaka.



Army Chief General Moeen U Ahmed receives donations for the flood victims from individuals and various organisations at the Banquet Hall of Army Headquarters in Dhaka Cantonment yesterday.

Govt to update land record laws to curb harassment

BSS, Dhaka

The government will take an initiative to update laws relating to land records and land survey system in order to curb harassment of the people, Land Adviser Mainul Hosein said yesterday.

The pressure on the land is increasing because of growing population in the country, he said at the annual conference of settlement officials of the Department of Land Records and Survey.

The adviser attended the conference as the chief guest and Secretary of the land ministry Md Mosleh Uddin

was present as special guest. Director General of Land Records and Survey Mahfuzur Rahman chaired the function.

Mainul Hosein said there are reports that people who go to land records and registration offices to get their work done are being harassed. Besides, the number of land-related criminal and civil cases is increasing, as the land record and survey system is not modern and time-befitting, he added.

He urged the settlement officials to work with honesty and sincerity and provide better service to the people to dispel bad impression of the land

records and survey department.

The adviser also stressed the need to make people aware of the activities of the land record and survey department, which would help reduce forgery in land records. The media can also play a vital role in raising awareness about land records and survey, he added.

Measures are under process to set up permanent survey offices at thana and upazila levels, the adviser said, adding that this would benefit people and ensure transparency and accountability in land survey and registration process.

Seminar to improve border security, management begins

A four-day seminar on 'Improving Bangladesh's Border Security and Management' began at Radius Conference Centre in the city yesterday, says a press release.

The British Ministry of Defence, in conjunction with the Bangladesh Ministry of Home Affairs, is hosting the seminar.

The seminar aims to enhance awareness of the range and nature of border security issues that concern Bangladesh and to encourage sensitive and coordinated policy responses including on countering terrorism, managing border policing and tackling international crime including trafficking drugs, people and arms.

The seminar brings together senior delegates from key border

management agencies in Bangladesh, (including police, immigration, customs, coastguard, navy and Bangladesh Rifles) with UK delegates from the British Army, police and customs and draws on the UK's experience of dealing with border security issues, including through inter-agency co-operation.

British High Commissioner Anwar Choudhury said, "There is a common interest in securing regional peace and stability. We have expressed our shared commitment with Bangladesh to fight terrorism and to tackle the harmful effects of international crime. We are, therefore, delighted at this opportunity for UK-Bangladesh co-operation and look to strengthen it further in future."