



Abul Mansur Ahmad's 110th anniversary of birth today

METRO DESK

The 110th birth anniversary of Abul Mansur Ahmad, a renowned litterateur, journalist and statesman of the sub-continent, will be observed today, says a press release.

On the occasion, doa mahfil will be held at Dhaka and Mymensingh 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 the 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 Rajinir 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 the 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.

Brig Gen Habibur appointed BUP registrar

BSS, Dhaka

Brigadier General Habibur Rahman Kamal, PSC, of the Military Institute of Science and Technology (MIST), was appointed registrar of the Bangladesh University of Professionals (BUP).

He will discharge this duty for an interim period as per an order of the president and chancellor in addition to his present job, an official handout said yesterday.

DHAKA TODAY

Seminar

The Witness and Assembly for Protection of Hijab Bangladesh jointly organise a seminar on the occasion of International Hijab Solidarity Day. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 3:00pm.

Seminar on flood forecast

The inaugural ceremony of an international seminar on long lead flood forecast technology for disaster management will be held. Venue: Sheraton Hotel. Time: 9:00am.

Art exhibition

The inaugural ceremony of a six-day art exhibition of Walk and Work will be held. Venue: Zainul Gallery, Institute of Fine Art. Time: 2:00pm. The exhibition will remain open from 12:00noon to 8:00pm everyday.

DRUG SMUGGLING

Int'l syndicate active to use Bangladesh as route

Says IGP Nur Mohammad

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Inspector General of Police (IGP) Nur Mohammad yesterday said international drug smuggling syndicate is active to use Bangladesh as a smuggling route.

The main challenge of the country is to prevent the inter-nation crimes and underscored the need for international cooperation in curbing such crimes, the IGP added.

Inaugurating a computer training centre of the Special Branch (SB) of Police at Rajarbagh Police Lines, Nur Mohammad said, "Our main challenge is to prevent inter-nation crimes. And international

cooperation is needed to eliminate such types of crimes."

He further said, "Our police need to be more capable to ward off inter-nation crimes and the SB computer centre will play an important role in this regard."

The computer centre is a part of reforms in police administration under Police Reforms Programme (PRP) and with assistance from Australia Federal Police.

A total of 23 computers were provided to the centres where 360 immigration police officials will be trained up.

Additional IGP and SB chief Baharul Alam, Additional IGP and PRP Project Director NBK Tripura, DMP Commissioner Naim

Ahmed, Australian High Commissioner in Bangladesh Douglas Foskett and Commandant of SB Training School Yasmin Gafur also spoke.

Nur Mohammad thanked the Australian Federal Police for assisting them in establishing the training centre.

NBK Tripura said Bangladesh and Australian federal cops are working jointly in curbing cross-border crimes through raising skills of the police.

DMP Commissioner Naim Ahmed said internet connection will be given to all land and sea ports to identify criminals quickly.

Eight iftar items for prisoners

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The jail authorities are supplying eight iftar (fast-breaking) items to the prisoners of all 67 jails this year costing Tk 22.75 per head.

However, the authorities have made a special iftar arrangement for the VIP and division status prisoners.

Jail sources said the government allocation is Tk 15 for the iftar for each prisoner. But as the prisoners do not have the breakfast, jail authorities have increased the amount up to Tk 22.75.

Inspector General of Prisons (IG-Prisons) Brig Gen Zakir Hassan told The Daily Star, "Though the government allocation is Tk 15 per head, iftar arrangement for VIP prisoners and division status prisoners is little different from others."

According to sources, each prisoner is provided with 50 grams of muri (fried rice), 50 grams of

chickpeas, 50 grams of piazus, 37 grams of dates, 50 grams of chira (flattened rice), 70 grams of gur (molasses) and a banana.

Senior Jail Super Mohammad Touhidul Islam said, "At present, a total of 9,656 prisoners are staying at the Dhaka Central Jail and of them, 51 are VIP and division status prisoners."

He said, "If any prisoner wants to have more items as iftar, he/she can buy those at their own cost from the jail bakery and jail canteen."

IG-Prisons said, "The prisoners are being provided with the sehri items instead of their lunches."

Earlier, different social and non-government organisations had supplied the iftar items for prisoners.

"This year none of the organisations have contacted us so far in this connection," IG-Prisons added.

Acid attack on housewife

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sathkhira

A divorced housewife received burn injuries as criminals led by her former husband threw acid on her at Machkhola village in Sadar upazila Monday night.

Nur Banu, 27, mother of three children and daughter of Akbar Ali, received burn injuries on her face, hands and chest while she was cooking at the kitchen of her father's house.

Immediately after the incident, she was rushed to Sathkhira Sadar Hospital in a critical condition. As her condition deteriorated, she was shifted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital yesterday, hospital sources said.

Police arrested two people named Mukul and Zulfiqar of Taltala village in Sadar upazila for their alleged involvement in the incident.

Nur Banu tied in wedlock with Zulmat Ali, son of Abdul Gaffar of Taltala village 10 years ago, police said.

Zulmat divorced her about two months ago. Since then, the victim had been staying at her father's house, they said.

When contacted, Sadar Police Station officer-in-charge, Abdul Kader Beg confirmed the report.

ILL-GOTTEN WEALTH ACC files case against CCC CBA boss Jalal

UNB, Chittagong

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) yesterday filed a case against CBA president of Chittagong City Corporation M Jalal Uddin for concealing information about his wealth worth about Tk 51.16 lakh.

ACC Assistant Director Sheikh Abdus Salam filed the case against Jalal with Double Mooring Police Station.

According to the case statement, Jalal amassed wealth worth about Tk 51.16 lakh illegally and concealed information about it in his statement submitted to the commission.

Meanwhile, Jalal has been suspended for indulging in corruption.

'Reduce timeframe for pay commission report'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

National Front of Teachers and Employees (NFTE) leaders in a statement yesterday urged the government to reduce the stipulated time for submission of report of the newly formed pay commission.

They said the government will have no scope to implement it after December. They also demanded a permanent pay commission.

NFTE will submit a memorandum to the pay commission to remove discrepancies in pay structure, says a press release.

NFTE Coordinator Principal Kazi Faruq Ahmed, Convener Mohammad Azizul Islam, Principal Asadul Huq, Principal Abdur Rashed and Principal MA Sattar issued the statement.

DAM to open rehabilitation centre today

METRO DESK

Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) will inaugurate its 3rd 40-bed Free Drug Addiction Treatment and Rehabilitation Centre at 32-34, Johnson Road of old Dhaka today with the financial and technical support of Family Health International, says a press release.

Additional Secretary of Home Ministry Dr Sheikh Abdur Rashid will inaugurate the centre at a ceremony with DAM Programme Director Shafiqul Islam in the chair.

Documentary on Mansur Ali

METRO DESK

A documentary on the life of national leader Shaheed M Mansur Ali is under making, says a press release.

Under the supervision of Mohammad Rezaul Karim, son of Mansur Ali, Mirza Sakawat Hossain is making the documentary titled 'M Mansur Ali: Itihas Batighor'.

A campaign to collect information has also begun to make the documentary more informative and objective.

People having any kind of information, including video, photographs, diary and letters related to Mansur Ali are requested to contact Mirza Sakawat Hossain, Mansur Bhaban, House no-7, Road no-13 (old), Dhanmondi R/A, Dhaka.

He can also be contacted at 01671-352468.

CG hailed for setting up Nat'l HR Commission

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of the Bangladesh Manobadhikar Samonny Parishad (BMSP) yesterday hailed the caretaker government for setting up the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), says a press release.

In a statement, BMSP President AHM Nouman and Director Muhammad Shamsuddin said that the government would appoint competent people at the Commission so that it can play an effective role in ensuring peoples' basic human rights.

Draft of Labour Ordn on website

DU CORRESPONDENT

The draft of the Bangladesh Labour Ordinance 2008 has been published on the website of the labour and employment ministry, says a press release.

The draft can be seen at http://www.mole.gov.bd/labour_law.php. Interested people or organisations are requested to send their opinions about the act to info@mole.gov.bd within September 30.

Besides, opinions in black and white can also be sent to the Joint Secretary, Ministry of Labour and Employment, Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka.



BNP leaders and activists gather on the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University Hospital premises in the city yesterday as they expected that BNP Senior Joint Secretary General Tarique Rahman would be freed on the day.

Five killed in road accidents

METRO DESK

Five people were killed and another was injured in separate road accidents in Moulvibazar, Kushtia and Chapainawabganj in the last two days.

Our correspondent in Moulvibazar reports: Two people were killed in a road accident at Jagannathpur in Moulvibazar on yesterday.

The accident occurred when a Sylhet-bound truck lost control and fell into a roadside ditch, killing driver Abdul Karim, 35, and helper Rumon Miah, 25, on the spot.

Both of them hailed from Chandpur district.

Our correspondent in Kushtia

adds: Two people were killed in separate road accidents in Kushtia in the last two days.

A bicyclist was killed in a road accident on Kushtia-Khulna highway at Madhupur in Sadar upazila yesterday.

The accident occurred when a Kushtia-bound passenger bus from Khulna hit the bicycle Taha Uddin, 45, a farmer, was riding on, killing him on the spot.

In another accident on Monday a Kushtia-bound oil-laden truck from Dhaka hit a motorcycle from behind at Khoirpur in Kumarkhali upazila on Rajbari-Kushtia highway at about 6:30pm, leaving two motorcyclists Kalim Uddin, 45, and Rezaul severely injured.

They were rushed to Kushtia

General Hospital where Kalim succumbed to his injuries at about 8:30pm.

Our correspondent in Chapainawabganj adds: A woman was killed in a road accident at Poladanga in Chapainawabganj town yesterday.

The victim was identified as Betara Khatun, 45, wife of late Namul Islam.

The accident occurred at around 11:00am when a truck hit the rickshaw she was travelling in from behind while she was returning home from a local clinic.

Locals rushed her to Chapainawabganj Sadar Hospital where the on duty doctors declared her dead.

Engage local govt bodies in solar power generation: USAID

BSS, Dhaka

The local government bodies in coastal areas can be encouraged to manage disasters during and after the extreme natural events and generate solar power, a top USAID official said yesterday.

US Agency for International Development (USAID) Mission Director Denise Rollins said the local government bodies in the country should be brought out from their conventions and entrust them with new tasks like power generation from renewable energy sources.

The suggestions came at a national conference on local governance, organised by Research Triangle Institute (RTI), a USAID funded organisation that worked for last three years to strengthen local government bodies in the country.

Chief of party of RTI William J Althaus, Democracy Watch Executive Director Taleya Rehman, Khan Foundation Executive Director Advocate Rokhshana Khondker, Stephen Pereira and Dr AKM Saifulah of RTI also spoke on the occasion.

The conference marked the wind up of the USAID-RTI's Democratic Local Governance Programme (DLGP), which worked for an effective, responsive and accountable local government system in the country for last three years.

The DLGP also focused on developing a participatory local government structure and has successfully helped 70 union parishads (UPs) and 14 municipalities in Rajshahi and Khulna divisions.

It helped the UPs and municipalities to mobilise their local resources,

involve communities, prepare mid and long-term plans, find new income sources and introduce open budgeting system. Started in October 2005, the projects will come to an end by this month.

"This was an innovative project, but it is going to be closed due to lack of resource," Denise said, urging other donor communities to come forward and help strengthen local government institutes in Bangladesh, where she believes that 'local government is the root of democracy'.

Giving democracy an institutional shape, she said, there was no alternative to strengthening the local government bodies. The basic objective of USAID was to make efficient, transparent, accountable, and a strong local government system in Bangladesh, she said.

RMCH docs spend much time at private chambers TIB report reveals

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

Rangpur Medical College Hospital (RMCH) doctors have spent much time for patients at their private chambers than that at hospital, according to TIB.

This was revealed at a press conference organised by Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) and Sacheton Nagorik Committee at the TIB office here yesterday.

TIB researcher Mahmud Hasan Talukder read out the report.

On average, each doctor spent three minutes for a patient at hospital and 10 minutes for each patient at private chamber, the report said. Most of the doctors asked patients to see them at their private chambers for treatment.

Fifty percent patients did not get food at hospital while 42 percent of them did not get drinking water and 44 percent did not get medicine at hospital. Doctors suggested the

patients to buy medicine outside the hospital.

Stealing of medicine from ward was a regular feature.

Payment of money for treatment without receipt was a common phenomenon. Ticket sellers, lifemen, ward boys, nurses, other staff and middlemen took regular tips from patients in exchange of service.

Patients of contagious diseases were deprived of healthcare service as their wards are 2 km off the hospital.

Moreover, latrines remained dirty from where bad smell emitted causing patients' inconvenience.

RMCH deputy director Dr Mohammad Shajahan, Sacheton Nagorik Committee president Sadul Alam Dulu, Rangpur deputy civil surgeon Dr Abdus Salam, RMCH assistant director Dr Abu Bakar Siddiquee and Dr Mofizul Islam Mantu were present at the conference.

Sher-e-Bangla's contribution recalled

BSS, Dhaka

Speakers at a discussion yesterday recalled the courageous role of Sher-e-Bangla AK Fazlul Huq in building a self-reliant nation free from poverty, hunger and repression.

Sher-e-Bangla was a visionary leader, who always fought for freeing his people from exploitation and deprivation in this part of the world, they added.

The discussion titled 'Contribution of Sher-e-Bangla to welfare-oriented politics' was organised by Sher-e-Bangla AK Fazlul Huq Research Council (SAKFHRC) at the National Press Club in the city, marking its second founding anniversary.

The Independent Editor Mahbulul Alam spoke at the function as the chief guest with former Information Secretary Syed Marghub Morshed in the chair.

Zaglul Ahmed Chowdhury, chief editor of Bangladesh Sangbad

Sangstha (BSS), and Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation (BPC) Chairman Shafique Alam Mehdi also took part in the discussion.

Mahbulul Alam said as a meritorious student of Law, Sher-e-Bangla's name and fame spread out to the whole subcontinent. "Research on Sher-e-Bangla should be expanded to help students of both college and university to learn more about the life and brilliant career of this great politician," he added.

Terming Sher-e-Bangla the 'Spiritual heart of Bengal', he said his contribution to the expansion of education and building a self-reliant nation was unique.

Marghub Morshed described Sher-e-Bangla as a bright star in the history of politics in the subcontinent and said this great leader played a very courageous role in spearheading a movement against the British colonial rule.

Death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Today is the third death anniversary of Abidur Reza Khan, one of the organisers of the Liberation War, former lawmaker, and a veteran Awami League leader, says a press release.

On the occasion, Abidur Reza Khan Memorial Parishad organises a discussion and milad mahfil after Asr prayers at his residence in the city.

Relatives, friends and admirers are requested to attend the programme and pray for salvation of his departed soul.

Mizanur Rahman

BSS, Dhaka

Today is the first death anniversary of Mizanur Rahman, former member of the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industries (FBCCI) and a philanthropist.

On the occasion, a milad mahfil and Quirankhwani will be held at his village home in Feni.

Friends, relatives and admirers are requested to attend the function.

Qamrul Siddiqui's death condoled

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Federation of NGOs in Bangladesh (FNB) yesterday expressed its deep shock at the death of Qamrul Islam Siddiqui, founding chief engineer of Local Government Engineering Department (LGED), says a press release.

Siddiqui, a freedom fighter, was also the former secretary of housing and public works ministry.

FNB Director M Tajul Islam said Siddiqui was honest and efficient while performing important government duty and played an important role in the rural infrastructure development.

The members of the federation prayed for salvation of the departed soul and conveyed sympathy to members of the bereaved family.



Thundershowers likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at a few places over all the six divisions in the next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country, Met Office said in a forecast.

Highest temperature 34.2 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Jessore and lowest 23.5 degrees Celsius at Sylhet.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:14pm today and rises at 5:41am tomorrow.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

| City/Town | Temperature in Celsius | | Humidity in percentage | |
|-------------|------------------------|------|------------------------|---------|
| | Max | Min | Morning | Evening |
| Dhaka | 31.1 | 27.8 | 76 | 77 |
| Chittagong | 29.6 | 26.6 | 96 | 89 |
| Rajshahi | 34.0 | 26.8 | 89 | 84 |
| Khulna | 34.0 | 27.4 | 77 | 73 |
| Barisal | 34.0 | 26.5 | 78 | 83 |
| Sylhet | 28.5 | 23.5 | 98 | 95 |
| Cox's Bazar | 32.0 | 26.0 | 84 | 73 |

SEXUAL HARASSMENT Varsity teachers express solidarity with JU students

DU CORRESPONDENT

A total of 50 university teachers and intellectuals expressed solidarity with the ongoing anti-repression movement by Jahangirnagar University (JU) students.

The students under the banner of 'Jahangirnagar against repression' have been demonstrating for the last three and half months, demanding removal of a teacher of Drama and Dramatics Department for sexually harassing some female students of the department.

On May 3, some female students of the department brought allegation of sexually harassment against the teacher.

In a joint statement, the eminent personalities said even after four months of formation of a fact-finding committee and a high-powered probe body, the trial process against the accused teachers is yet to be started.

The demonstrating students have been observing the hunger strike unto death for last four days.