

Road to litterateur Abul Mansur Ahmed's village in sorry state

AMINUL ISLAM with ANDREW EAGLE

Unusable during the monsoon months, the roads leading to the historical home where renowned satirist Abul Mansur Ahmed was born are themselves somewhat of a satire. While none of the 20 kilometres of dirt road in the area of Mymensingh's Dhanikola and adjacent villages are in prime condition, the final four kilometre Char Kumaria - Natiarpar Bottola Road is the worst.

Born in 1898, the late Abul Mansur Ahmed was a Bangladeshi litterateur, politician and journalist. As a political activist he was involved in the Khilafat and Non-Cooperation movements during the British period. He was elected Member of Parliament from Trishal in the mid 1950s and served as minister for education, and later commerce and trade in the then Pakistan government.

Ahmed's literary legacy includes three novels, four satires and four works of reminiscence. His writings are often considered most noteworthy for their wit.

Every year people travel even from afar to visit Ahmed's birthplace, and also the home in adjacent Ujaan Bhatipara village of another renowned litterateur, politician and journalist, also Ahmed's friend, Abul Kalam Shamsuddin. But during the rainy season any such expedition is likely to become a futile venture due to the condition of the roads.

"We feel so proud that great literary personalities like Ahmed and Shamsuddin were born here," says Md Walid Bin Khoshru, the headmaster of Dhanikola Osmania High School. "But their villages are neglected and the state of road communication is



PHOTO: STAR

A road at Dhanikola village, the birthplace of Abul Mansur Ahmed.

dreadful."

The headmaster of Mohammadpur High School in Trishal, Ayub Ali, believes that, at the least to properly honour the two local litterateurs Dhanikola union should be properly developed.

"There should be institutions," says local poultry and fish farmer Md Ashraf Alam, "to honour these two historical figures. Libraries should be estab-

lished in their names."

Beyond the inconvenience to visitors wishing to connect with literary and political history, however, the state of Dhanikola's roads causes a much hardship for locals, including about 400 students who use the roads to reach their classes daily.

There are 19 villages in Dhanikola union, and poor road transport is an unfortunate reality in at

least 5 of them.

"On several occasions we have requested the concerned authorities to construct better roads in the union, especially in Dhanikola village, to no effect," says local chairman Asadullah Asad.

Many locals also support the renaming of an improved Char Kumaria - Natiarpar Bottola Road after Abul Mansur Ahmed, to honour him.

Focus on health

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strategy and a plan of action to prepare them and create scopes for jobs, we can significantly improve our socio-economic status like that of Southeast Asia and Europe," he told journalists.

Of the 4.5 crore, teenage girls are more vulnerable to deprivation of education and healthcare. In a recent interview with The Daily Star, Country Representative of United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Argentina Matavel Piccin described teenage girls as "forgotten part of the population".

According to the 15-year programme -- Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted by the UN late last year -- nobody will be left behind. So, attention should be given to education and health issues of teenage girls,

one of the important segments of the population.

The government has already moved to improve health services for adolescents, especially girls, through the setting up of health corners.

Adolescent-friendly corners will have a trained family welfare visitor or a sub-assistant community medical officer, said Dr Mohammad Sharif, director (maternal and child health) at the Directorate General of Family Planning (DGFP).

With USAID funds, the DGFP will gradually set up such facilities at all 4,337 family welfare centres in the next five years under health, population and nutrition sector development programme.

"Adolescents can come and undergo counselling regarding their reproductive

and sexual health. It will be a separate room so that they can freely discuss their problems," Sharif said.

Adolescents go through mental and physical changes, and many of them do not get proper information or guidance. These issues, including teenage girls' menstruation and hygienic practices, will be addressed.

Regarding services to married adolescent girls, the director said some vitamins, including folic acid tablets, iron and calcium tablets would be provided free of cost.

State Minister Zahid Malik said 59 percent of girls in Bangladesh get married before they reach 18 with their education shelved forever. Many of them get pregnant and face risks of death and malnutrition of

their children.

Child marriages also lead to more domestic violence as they are not capable of negotiating with their partners, he said, adding that the rate of using modern contraceptives is low (47 percent) among married adolescent girls (15-19 years).

In the 65th UN General Assembly, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina emphasised the importance of improving reproductive and sexual health of adolescents and youths.

With that in mind, Zahid said, "We are setting up adolescent-friendly health corners."

World Population Day is globally observed on July 11, but the government this year changed the date due to Ramadan and Eid-ul-Fitr vacation.



PHOTO: STAR

RISKY JOURNEY IN TURBULENT RIVER: Ignoring the risk of accidents during the ongoing monsoon, people travel on small mechanised boats to cross different rivers in the southern region. The photo was taken from the Agunmukha River in Galachipa upazila under Patuakhali district.

GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER BARISAL PWD DIVISION BARISAL.			
INVITATION FOR TENDERS IFT No. - 01/2016-2017			
Memo. No:- 3996	Dated:		30-03-1423/বঙ্গাব্দ 14-07-2016/খ্রিষ্টাব্দ
01. Ministry/Division	Ministry of Home Affairs.		
02. Agency	Public Works Department		
03. Procuring Entity Name	Executive Engineer, Barisal PWD Division, Barisal.		
04. Procurement Method	Open Tendering Method (OTM)		
05. Source of Funds	GOB		
06. Project Name	Construction of 12 Barrack Buildings at different Units of Police Department one at Barisal.		
07. Name of Work	Tender Security	Type of Tender Security	Time for Completion of the Works
i. Construction of 12 Barrack Buildings at different Units of Police Department one at Barisal. S.H:- Construction of 6-Storeyed Barrack Building with 6-Storeyed foundation at Barisal Police Lines, Barisal.	Tk. 41.00 Lac (Forty One) lac. Only.	BD/PO/Bank Guarantee from any Bangladesh Scheduled Bank.	24 (Twenty Four) Months
08. Eligibility of Tenderers	This invitation for Tenders is open to all eligible Tenderers as mentioned below:		
(a)	Reputed Contractors/Construction firms who have minimum 05 (five) years of general experience in construction works.		
(b)	Having experience in successful completion of at least 1(one) number of building construction work with Pre-cast pile in foundation of Tk. 1050.00 (One thousand Fifty) lac in a single tender in Government /Semi-Government /Autonomous Organization of Bangladesh during last 5 (five) years. In case of the work done under PWD, the certifying and authenticating authority shall be the concerned Executive Engineer. In case the work done under any Government/Semi-Government/Autonomous Organization other than PWD the certifying authority shall be an officer not below the rank of Executive Engineer and the same duly verified by the concerned Executive Engineer of PWD of that district under whose jurisdiction the work has been done. Prescribed form for work certificate for this purpose will be available in all offices mentioned in clause no. 13. In the case of JVCA, the Lead Partner must satisfy 100% for single work experience and it is optional for other partner.		
(c)	The tenderers shall have a minimum average annual construction turnover during last 5 (five) financial years of Tk. 1650.00 (One thousand Six hundred Fifty) lac .		
(d)	The minimum amount of liquid asset or works capital or credit facilities of the tenderer shall be of Tk. 200.00 (Two hundred) lac . Document submitted along with the tender must be issued in between publication date and submission date of the tender.		
(e)	The tenderer must possess. i) Up-to-date income tax clearance certificate. ii) Valid VAT registration certificate. iii) Up-to-date trade license. iv) Up-to-date ABC category contractory and supervisory license from Electricity Licensing Board, Government of Bangladesh. v) Attested copy of documents mentioned in Sl. No. i, ii, iii & iv are to be submitted.		
(f)	Other required eligibility and conditions of the tenderer are shown in Tender Data Sheet of tender documents.		
09. Price of Tender Document	Tk. 2,000/- (Two thousand) only Non-refundable.		
10. Name and address of the offices selling Tender Documents	Office of the Executive Engineer, Barisal PWD Division, Barisal/ Madaripur PWD Division, Madaripur/Gopalganj PWD Division, Gopalganj/ Patuakhali PWD Division, Patuakhali / Pirojpur PWD Division, Pirojpur/ Jhalokati PWD Division, Jhalokati/ Shariatpur PWD Division, Shariatpur /Bhola PWD Division, Bhola/ Barguna PWD Division, Barguna/ Dhaka PWD Division-1, Dhaka/ Khulna PWD Division-1, Khulna/ Chittagong PWD Division-1, Chittagong/ Rajshahi PWD Division-1, Rajshahi/ Sylhet PWD Division, Sylhet/Divisional Commissioner's Office, Barisal and DIG, Barisal Range, Barisal.		
11. Name and address of the offices receiving Tenders	Office of the Executive Engineer, Barisal PWD Division, Barisal. Office of the Divisional Commissioner, Barisal. Office of the Police Commissioner, Barisal Metropolitan Police, Barisal. Office of Superintending Engineer, Barisal PWD Circle, Barisal.		
12. Name and address of the office Opening Tenders	Office of the Executive Engineer, Barisal PWD Division, Barisal.		
13. Last Date and Time for selling Tender Documents	During office hours up to 17-08-2016.		
14. Last Date and Time for Submission of Tender Documents	Up to 12:00 noon of 18-08-2016.		
15. Date and Time for Opening of Tenders	Tender will be opened on 18-08-2016 at 3.00 PM in the office of the Executive Engineer, Barisal PWD Division, Barisal.		
16. Name of official inviting tender	Md. Osman Gani		
17. Designation of official inviting tender	Executive Engineer		
18. Address of official inviting tender	Executive Engineer, Barisal PWD Division, Barisal.		
19. Contract detail of official inviting tender	Tel. No. 0431-64801	Fax No. 0431-2173232	Email.
20. Brief description of works	Pre-Cast Pile, Pile Cap, R.C.C frame structure including Brick Works, Wood Work in Door, Sanitary & Water Supply and Internal Electrification.		
21. (a) The Procuring Entity reserves the right to accept or reject all the tenders or annul the tender proceedings without assigning any reason thereof. (b) If any mistake/ omission occurs in this tender will be corrected / included as per PPR-2008 & its amendment and no claim in this regards will be entertained.			
22. Special Instructions	(a) All document submitted must be signed by the Tenderer in each page. All true copies / photocopied documents submitted must be attested as per prevailing laws/rules. (b) In the case of JVCA, the quantity of each of its partners must meet at least 25% (twenty five percent) of minimum criteria of individual Tenderer and lead partner at least 40% (forty) percent of those minimum criteria of construction Turn-over and amount of Liquid assets. Failure to comply with this requirement will result in rejection of the JVCA Tender. (c) This tender notice is in brief and details of the Tender can be seen from the office of the undersigned during office hours. (d) The tenderer himself or his/ their authorized representative may remain present at the time of opening of the tender. (e) If it is not possible to receive/ open tender on the schedule date for any unavoidable circumstances, the same will be received/ opened on the next working date at the same time & same venue. (f) If the Tenderer Submits any false/ incorrect or forged certificate, the Tender security may be forfeited. (g) 02 (Two) Nos. Additional duplicate copies of the tender should be submitted with the original tender.		

Md Osman Gani
(Md. Osman Gani)
Executive Engineer,
Barisal PWD. Division, Barisal.