



## Abul Mansur Ahmad's 118th birthday today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the 118th birth anniversary of the renowned litterateur, journalist and politician of the sub-continent Abul Mansur Ahmad.

He was born at Dhanikhola village in Trishal Thana of Mymensingh.

Abul Mansur Ahmad made his name as a satirist in Bangla literature. He is also considered as a trail-blazer of journalism in the pre-partition Bengal. He was the editor of Dainik

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## Abul Mansur

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Ittehad in 1946, a daily published from Kolkata. He also worked in other newspapers, such as Krisak and Navayug. He was a leading figure of modern and progressive journalism.

An accomplished politician, Abul Mansur Ahmad served the Sher-e-Bangla AK Fazlul Haque-led United Front government as the provincial education minister.

During 1956-57, he was the central commerce and industry minister of Huseyn Shaheed Suhrawardy's cabinet. His dedication to the welfare of East Pakistan, particularly his contribution to the initiating of the industrialisation of this area, is well recognised.

In his literary oeuvre, he produced famous books like *Ain-e-Asmani*, *Purdah*, *Gulliver's Safari*, *Food Conference*, and *Bangladesher Culture*. His autobiographical works include *Atma Katha* (about myself) and *Amar Dekha Rajniti* Panchash Bachar (50 years of politics as I saw it).

Abul Mansur Ahmad had an incomparable role in struggling for and promoting secularism during the 40s, 50s and 60s. He was a leading figure in organising the opposition movement in the early period of Pakistan. He was one of the frontline leaders of Awami League.

Since the early 40s, he had been writing on the language question, and played a crucial role in the Language Movement as the editor of Ittehad. He drafted the 21-point programme of United Front in the 1954 election. It was the earliest political articulation of the political, economic and cultural demands of the Bangalees of East Pakistan. In that election, Muslim League was ousted from power.

He was imprisoned several times during the late 50s and early 60s due to his political activism.

Abul Mansur Ahmad died on March 18, 1979 in the capital.

On the occasion of his birth anniversary, "Bikkhon" organised a discussion yesterday in Mymensingh, where Prof Dr Serajul Islam Choudhury was the key discussant.

Abul Mansur Ahmad Smriti Parishad will organise a discussion titled "Ideals and Aesthetics of Abul Mansur Ahmad" on Tuesday in the Abdul Karim Sahitya Bisharad Auditorium of Bangla Academy at 3:00pm. Prof Emeritus Anisuzzaman will chair the programme and Prof Emeritus Rafiqul Islam will be the chief guest. Among other discussants, Prof Mansur Musa, folklorist Shamsuzzaman Khan and novelist Selina Hossain will be present.

A book titled *Jibon Shilpi* Abul Mansur Ahmad, edited by Imran Mahfuz, will be published on that occasion.

All are requested to join the programme.