



## **International Collaborative Seminar on Abul Mansur Ahmed under Research Project on Partition & Liberation- A Report**

Centre for Language, Translation & Cultural Studies (CLTCS), Netaji Subhas Open University and Abul Mansur Ahmad Smriti Parishad jointly organized an International Seminar on Abul Mansur Ahmed and Contemporary Bengali: History and Literature on 21<sup>st</sup> April, 2018. It was funded by the Abul Mansur Ahmed Smriti Parishad, Bangladesh. Eminent Bangladeshi writer Selina Hossain inaugurated the seminar. A documentary was screened on the life and history of Abul Mansur Ahmad. Eminent scholars like Professor Biswajit Ghosh, Vice-Chancellor of Rabindra University, Bangladesh, Professor Sadhan Chakraborty, Vice-Chancellor, Kazi Nazrul University, Asansol, West Bengal and Professor Subha Sankar Sarkar, Vice-Chancellor of NSOU, Kolkata initiated the beginning session with emphasizing the relevance of this collaboration and the importance of organizing such seminar.

Abul Mansur Ahmed is one of the most brilliant and historical names in the politics and social life of undivided Bengal. His political and literary activism has gained importance in the past and subsequent Bengali people. After the emergence of the state of Bangladesh, his thinking and writing as a 'public Intellectual' influenced contemporary times. His extensive work was spread throughout Mymensingh district of undivided Bengal, then in Calcutta and later in Dhaka, Bangladesh. The activities and literature of Abul Mansur Ahmed have been created at different stages of the 'East-Pakistan' rule of the British-ruled undivided Bengal, the partition of Bengal and the best newly emerged independent Bangladesh. His thoughtfulness has been developed through the combination of responsible activist conscience and honest journalism with political activism. The period during which his life flowed throughout Greater Bengal is a decisive moment in Bengali life of the twentieth century. Abul Mansur Ahmed took his place in the workplace of the best Bengali political leaders. One of the best surprises is that he created literature among these; the literature that has faithfully leaked the socio-economic and political tensions and rise and fall of Bengali life of nearly fifty years. Sometimes even digging into his personality is a complex confrontation of the collective mind.

This new round of discussions with Abul Mansur Ahmed Smriti Parishad is our new addition. One of the goals of this project is to bring several unpublished chapters of literature and humanities to the topic of discussion on partition and liberation war. To that end, the response of essential

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personalities and people of contemporary Bengal during the Partition and Liberation War is coming up in a new way. Versatile initiatives and plans in the cultural arena, the context of literary reading sheds light on the subject in this regard. Under the project, field survey reports, excavations, translations etc. of selected interview interviews will be published periodically. A digital repository on the memory of partition and liberation war is being prepared. Our collaborator of the project is the Department of English of Khulna University of Bangladesh. The seminar ended on a note of thanks from Mahfuz Anam, editor and publisher of The Daily Star, one of Bangladesh's English language newspapers. Prof. Manan Kumar Mandal, Professor in Bengali & Director, School of Humanities, distributed certificates to all the participants and invited speaker.