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## Agha Mehdi Husain dead

By A Staff Correspondent

Dr. Agha Mehdi Husain, a celebrated historian of the subcontinent died at 4 a.m. on Saturday at the P.G. Hospital. He was 80.

Dr. Husain had been suffering from diabetes and other complications.

Late Dr. Husain was a Supernumerary teacher of the Department of Islamic History and Culture, Dacca University from 1971 to 1975. Son of late Hakeem Ahmad Reza, Dr. Husain started his teaching career at Agra College as Assistant Professor in 1920. Later, he worked for 25 years at Calcutta University in the Department of Islamic History and Culture as Senior Lecturer till 1965. He was then

assigned a research project by the University Grants Commission, India which he completed in 1967. Afterwards he came to Pakistan and was engaged in writing a comprehensive history of Muslim rule in India.

Dr. Mehdi Husain joined the Dacca University as a Supernumerary teacher in the Department of Islamic History and Culture in January 1971. He continued in this capacity till January 1975. He was then engaged in research work for the University Grants Commission on a fellowship till 1977.

A renowned historian, Dr. Husain has to his credit a large number of scholarly and authoritative publications. Besides Urdu, he knew Arabic, French, Bengali, Hindi, Persian, Sanskrit and German. His publications include 'Rise and Fall of Muhammad Bin Tughluq' (London 1938), the 'Rihla of Ibn Batuta' (Baroda 1940), 'Bahadur Shah II' (Delhi 1962), an English translation of 'Futuhus Salatin of Isami' (Aligarh 1968) and an edition of the same in Persian (Agra 1938) and the 'Sultanat of Delhi' in French (Paris 1936).

He passed his B.A. (Hons.) and M.A. examinations in History from the University of the Punjab in 1918 and 1919 respectively. He obtained his Ph. D. degree from the University of London in 1935 and D. Lit. from the University of Paris in 1936.

The Namaz-e-Janaza of Dr. Husain was held at the Dacca University mosque after Zuhr prayer. The Janaza was attended by Dr. Fazlul Halim Chowdhury, Vice-Chancellor, Dacca University, teachers, students and employees of the university and his friends and well-wishers. He was buried at the private graveyard of Mr. M. M. Ispahani at Tejgaon.

Dr. Mehdi is survived by his wife, son Dr. Agha Alamdir Husain, one daughter and his younger sister—all of whom live in Pakistan.

It may be mentioned here that Dr. Mehdi got his right leg fractured on November 17 last year when he fell from a rickshaw at the Dacca University campus. He was admitted to Dacca Medical College Hospital and from there shifted to Shahid Suhrawardy Hospital. After release from the hospital, he was taken by Mr. Rahimullah Chowdhury, an industrialist to his own house. He was again admitted to P.G. Hospital on December 24 last year.

A meeting will be held at the TSC on Monday next to condole the death of Dr. Agha Mehdi. Classes and offices of Dacca University will remain suspended from 12.20 p.m. to 1.30 p.m. enabling the students, teachers and employees of the university to attend the meeting.

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