

Gen Osmany

Gen. (Retd.) M. A. G. Osmany, who was Commander-in-Chief of the Bangladesh Liberation Forces (Mukti Bahini) and Chief of the Jatiya Janata Party, died in a London hospital today, according to an official message received in Dhaka, reports BSS.

He was 66.

Gen. Osmany, who had been suffering from old age ailments since late last year, went to London in December for medical treatment.

Messages from London said General Osmany breathed his last at the St. Bartholomew Hospital at about 10 a.m. London time (about 4 p.m. BST). He died of prolonged old age complications.

General Osmany who had been under treatment at the Combined Military Hospital in Dhaka since March last year, went to London last December for a more thorough medical examination and treatment he was admitted to St. Bartholomew Hospital where his condition started deteriorating since last Monday.

According to a message from London, the body of General Osmany will be taken to East London Mosque in the afternoon where it will lie overnight. The Janaza will be held at the mosque tomorrow after Juma prayer.

Efforts are being made to send

the body to Dhaka by Biman on Sunday, the message said.

According to Bangladesh High Commission sources, General Osmany died of liver failure, hepatitis and primary cancer.

After initial treatment under oncologist Prof. C. Malpas General Osmany responded favourably and was discharged from the hospital. He was subsequently undergoing routine treatment in the hospital as an out-door patient.

Early this month, General Osmany was again hospitalised for treatment of light fever and rashes followed by hepatitis infections. On February 13, when his condition deteriorated due to

non-functioning of liver, he was attended by liver specialist Dr. P. Dawson. The General finally developed "tremor" in his body and went beyond treatment, the High Commission sources said.

National flag will fly half-mast all over Bangladesh today (Friday), as a mark of respect to the late General.

Gen. M. A. G. Osmany rose to the peak of a soldier's career as Commander-in-Chief of the Bangladesh Liberation Forces in 1971 but later emerged as an elderly political personality known for rare qualities of political integrity, honesty and statesmanship.

A man of medium height, slim

Nation mourns death

By A Staff Reporter

The news of the death of General (ret'd) M A G Osmany, which spread like wild fire, cast a pall of gloom in the city on Thursday.

People from all walks of life telephoned the Bangladesh Times office to confirm the news as well as to pay glowing tributes to the late General, who in the capacity of the Commander-in-Chief of Bangladesh Liberation Forces during the War of Independence, had been instrumental in the emergence of independent Bangladesh. A number of political and so-

cio-cultural organisations condole the death of General (ret'd) M A G Osmany, the chief of the Jatiya Janata Party and Commander of the Liberation Forces during the War of Independence.

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Democratic League chief Khandker Moshtaque Ahmed expressed profound grief at the death of Gen Osmany.

In a condolence message he recalled the glorious role of Gen Osmany as C-in-C of Bangladesh Liberation Forces.

In his death the nation lost a fearless patriot and an out-

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dead

and fit, and proud possessor of a well-maintained handlebar moustache the 66-year-old soldier was a man of austere personal discipline all through his life and never compromised his convictions and political beliefs.

Born in 1918 in Sunamganj under Sylhet district, Gen. Osmany graduated himself from the Aligarh Muslim University and later joined the then British Indian Army in 1939. Commissioned in 1940, Osmany made his first mark in his career when he at the age of 23 became the youngest Major in the British empire.

Gen. Osmany served as Colonel in the Pakistan Army for ten years before being retired in 1967. He joined politics in late sixties and was elected to the then National Assembly as an Awami League candidate. When the Liberation War began in 1971 Osmany was appointed Commander-in-Chief of the Bangladesh Liberation Forces.

After emergence of Bangladesh Osmany was promoted to the rank of a full General on December 16, 1971 in recognition of his service to the nation. He later vacated his appointment as the C-in-C. and reverted to the retired list in April, 1972 to resume his political career.

Gen. Osmany was appointed a Cabinet Minister in the same

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He will be remembered by 90m people : Ershad

President and Chief Martial Law Administrator Lt. Gen. H. M. Ershad expressed his profound grief at the demise of Gen. M. A. G. Osmany at a London hospital on Thursday, reports BSS.

In a condolence message, "the

President said, the entire nation joined him at this moment to mourn the passing away of this valiant freedom fighter and in offering our heartfelt condolences to the members of the bereaved family."

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Ershad

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President Ershad, in his message, said that contribution of General Osmany to the cause of war of liberation leading to the emergence of a free, sovereign and independent Bangladesh is a "household word".

As a soldier, politician and statesman, Gen. Osmany, the Commander-in-Chief of the Liberation Forces, "will always be remembered by the 90 million people of Bangladesh", the President said and prayed to Almighty Allah for the eternal peace of his departed soul.

Following is the text of President's message:

"It is with a profound sense of grief that I have learnt about the sad demise of Gen. M. A. G. Osmany, the Commander-in-Chief of the Liberation Forces of Bangladesh, who breathed his last in a London hospital today after prolonged illness (Innalillahi Wa Inna Ilaihe Rajeun).

The entire nation joins me at this moment to mourn the passing away of this valiant freedom fighter and in offering our heartfelt condolences to the members of the bereaved family.

The contribution of Gen. Osmany to the cause of the War of Liberation leading to the emergence of a free, sovereign and independent Bangladesh is a household word. As a soldier, politician and statesman, Gen. Osmany will always be remembered by the 90 million people of Bangladesh.

May Allah, the Almighty, rest his soul in eternal peace."

Osmany dead

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month and was given the portfolio of Shipping, Inland Water Transport and Aviation. He was elected to Parliament again on Awami League ticket in the 1973 general election.

In January 1975, he resigned from his Parliamentary seat in protest against the introduction of one-party system of BKSAL. After the political changes in August same year, Gen. Osmany became the Defence Adviser of the then government.

After Political Parties Regulation of 1977, Gen. Osmany floated his own political party "Jatiya Janata Party" and later contested the presidential election in 1978 as a combined opposition candidate against late President Ziaur Rahman. He also contested unsuccessfully the presidential election in November, 1981.

During the last two years of his life, Gen. Osmany virtually retired from active politics and used to spend most of his time in his village home in Sylhet. He took up writing as a serious pastime and was preparing an autobiography. But his health started deteriorating and he was first admitted to the Combined Military Hospital in Dhaka in March 1983 with haemoglobin deficiency and other complaints.

After months of careful observation and treatment at the CMH, specialists here felt that the ailing General be sent abroad for a more thorough examination. In December last he was admitted to St. Bartholomew Hospital in London.

A lifelong bachelor, Gen. Osmany breathed his last at 10 a.m. (London time) today at the hospital.

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standing nationalist.
Mr. Ataur Rahman Khan, Chairman of the Jatiya Jote paying rich tributes to the memory of the late General said that he was an independent personality who always remained loyal to the democracy.