

## Mahbubul Alam's life-sketch

CHITTAGONG, Aug. 8: Mr. Mahbubul Alam, Eminent Litterateur of the country is the author of 66 titles covering all spectrum of Bengali literature including novel, short story travelogue economic writings, fiction and satire reports BSS.

As recognition of his outstanding contribution for the enrichment of Bengali literature Mr. Mahbubul Alam was given President's award of the then Pakistan Government and Ekushe Padak of Bangladesh Government.

Born in 1898 at Fatehabad, Chittagong, a place enriched with heritage of medieval Bengali literature Mr Mahbubul Alam was the second son of his parents Mvi. Asiruddin and Mrs Azimunnisa, matriculated with distinction from Fatehabad High School in 1914.

Pending unfinished academic career the young student joined Indian Army the same year to form the 39th Bengali Paltan. The first Bengali army group raised in British India. He actively fought in First World War at Ut-Al-Amara Iraq during 1914-1917.

The war over Mr Alam retired from army and joined Bengal Registration Department as Sub-Registrar. He retired from Government service in 1954 as Inspector of registration Eastern Circle of the then East Pakistan.

After his retirement from Government Mr Alam along with his literary performances devoted himself to the promotion of journalism in the country. For the purpose, he started Weekly Zamana from Chittagong in 1954 which was converted into a daily in 1960 under his editorship.

He broke into literary fame in 1933 with his war memoir novel 'Platan Jibaner Smriti' serially published in famous 'Mohammadi' of Calcutta. Mr Alam wrote autobiographical novel 'Momener Jabanbandi' which placed him firmly as a pioneer novelist of Bengali Muslim Renaissance in undivided Bengal. This famous novel was translated in English and Urdu.

His other note worthy literary works are 'History of Chittagong' in three volumes, 'Resources of East Pakistan' in six volumes and commissioned by UNESCO. 'History of Bangladesh Liberation war' in three volumes and a number of volumes on notable families of Chittagong. Of his fictions the prominent are 'Mofizon' and 'Gayar Maya' while the prominent short story is 'Tajya'. His renowned satire is 'Gofan Sandesh'. In 1959 Mr Mahbubul Alam visited United States under international visitors programme of the US State Department. Besides, President's award and 'Ekushe Padak' he received 'Adamjee award' and Bangla Academy award. He was also awarded literary pension.