



By An Observer

With the passing away of Prof. Abul Fazal, whose literary works will remain a treasured heritage, the nation has lost yet another of her brilliant sons. He made his mark as a socially alert writer well before the partition of the subcontinent. 'Chauhur', his first novel, drew the attention of the reading public for its bold social message, and so did 'Jibon Pather Jatri'.

A conscious artist all through his life, he wrote about the common people. The unlettered village folk, the downtrodden masses and the landless ploughmen constitute his fiction. Like a lone crusader he championed their causes and tried to expose the social malaise and ills. His essays speak of a rare analytical mind.

A conscientious man and a dedicated educationist, Prof. Abul Fazal has left behind his creative works and his sense of values that will inspire us for all times to come.

Prof. Fazal began his literary career at the early age of 15 when he associated himself with 'Anjuman-e-Ulama-e-Bangla' 'Bangyo Musalman Siksha Sammelan' 'Bangyo Musalman Sahitta Sammelan' and 'Bangyo Musalman Chhatra Sammelan'.

During 1925-27, Prof. Fazal came in close association with some eminent personalities like

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Syed Abul Hossain, Kazi Abdul Wadud, Kazi Motahar Hossain and others. He also became an active member of 'Al-Mamun' club which was formed for the culture of free intellect (mukt'a buddhir charha) of Muslim students.

In 1926, he played an active role in the formation of Muslim Sahitta Samaj, which later turned into a movement for freedom of intellect (Mukta Buddhir Andolon).

In 1927 he went to Calcutta to study law and came in close touch with Calcutta literary circle. In 1929 he lost his father and gave up his study.

In 1931 he joined the well-known journal 'Shikha' as its Editor. In 1938 famous litterateur Ananda Sankar Roy went to Chittagong as Deputy Magistrate and a close and lasting friendship developed between the two free thinkers-Abul Fazal and Ananda Sankar Roy.

Abul Fazal retired from government service in 1959 and was given a civic reception by the people of Chittagong.

During the country's Liberation War in 1971 he went into hiding and composed his famous book 'Durdiner Dirjipi.'

He led the Bangladesh goodwill delegation to Soviet Union and Czechoslovakia in 1972, and also went to Patna to attend the conference of Indo-Soviet Maitri Samity the same year. Next year he visited England to attend the fifth annual Congress of the Vice-Chancellors of Commonwealth Universities.

Prof. Fazal's literary works include: 'Chauhur' novel (1927) 'Nari-o-Purush' 'Quotaner Bani' 'Ayesha' 'Sahitta-o-Sanskriti Sadhana' 'Abul Fazaler Shrestho Galpo' 'Sahitta-o-Sanskriti-o-Jiban' 'Rekhachitra' (Autobiography) 'Sayambara' (drama) 'Samaj, Sahitta-o-Rashtira' 'Samakalin Chinta.'

His other famous works are 'Lekhaker Rozi Namcha' Russian writer Nicholai Gogole's 'The Government Inspector' 'Sahitta-o-Myanyo Prasingha' 'Safarnama.'

In 1976 Prof. Fazal received fellowship from the Commonwealth Council for Education Administration and visited Nairobi to attend the general conference of UNESCO. The following year he visited Britain at the invitation of British Council. He also attended the Commonwealth Summit conference on Education, held in Accra, Ghana.

Since falling seriously ill two years ago Prof. Fazal lived a quiet life except for writing a series on retired life.