

Mahbubul Alam dead

CHITTAGONG Aug. 7.—Mr. Mahbubul Alam an eminent litterateur and journalist died this evening at his Kazir Dewri residence here. He was 84 reports BSS.

Mr. Alam had been in coma since Monday night following an attack of cerebral thrombosis.

He is survived by his wives six sons eight daughters and a brother, Poet Wahidul Alam.

His Namaz-e Janaza will be held tomorrow at 8 a.m. at Kazir Dewri mosque premises. Another Namaz-e Janaza will be held at his village home Fatehabad at 9 a.m. where he will be laid to rest.

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.

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 at 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 he entered Chittagong College.

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

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Mahbubul Alam

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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 "Momenar 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 noteworthy literary works are "History of Chittagong" in three volumes, "Resources of East Pakistan" in six volumes and commissioned by UN ESCO "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 Gavar Mava while the prominent short story is "Taiya". His renowned satire is "Gofan Sandnesh".

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 "Adamic Award" and Bangla Academy Award. He was also awarded literary pension.

His first wife died in 1934 leaving behind two sons and two daughters. Mr. Alam had two sons and six daughters from his second wife who survived him.

His two brothers late Didarul Alam and Shamsul Alam were promising poet and writer. His only surviving younger brother Mr. Wahidul Alam is also a renowned poet and litterateur.

Mr. Alam's two sons Messrs Saiful Alam and Moinul Alam are the senior journalists of Dainik Bangla and Ittefaq respectively. His other two sons are artists and two daughters are poet and writer. While his eldest son in law is the eminent litterateur "Katha Shilpi" Professor Abul Fazal.