

## Mahbubul Alam

The passing away of Mahbubul Alam has created a void in the realm of literature and journalism of Bangladesh. The country has lost a brilliant son in him who, to quote the Acting President Mr. Justice Abdus Sattar, 'has left a positive mark towards the development of Bengali literature'. He was also an ardent lover of freedom and peace. Such a loss is irreparable indeed. And yet we have to surrender to the will of Allah.

Mr. Alam lived a long active life enriched with achievements in the fields of literature and journalism. Apart from publishing and editing the Chittagong weekly 'Zamana' that later became a daily, he also wrote a good number of books. He is the author of sixty-six titles covering various fields of literature. Of all, his memoir 'Paltan Jibaner Smriti' which was serialised first in the famous periodical 'Muhammadi' of Calcutta and autobiographical novel 'Momener Jabanbandi' made him eminent in the then undivided Bengal. 'Momener Jabanbandi' was translated into English and Urdu. In his early

age, he was a soldier. He joined the 39th Bengal Paltan, the first Bengali Army group raised in British India and fought in the First World War at Ut Al-Amara, Iraq, during 1914-17. His war experience later inspired him in his creative writings. 'Paltan Jibaner Smriti' was his war memoir.

His outstanding contribution to the field of literature did not go unrecognised. He was awarded Ekushe Padak and Bangla Academy Award (and also President's Award and Adamjee Award during the then Pakistan time).

We have indeed lost him physically. But the truth remains that, as the Acting President has noted in his message, 'through his memorable works, he has created abiding inspiration for the people of this part of the world to achieve independence from the colonial rule'. And we shall cherish his memory with love and respect for ages to come. We extend our heart-felt sympathy and condolence to the bereaved family and also pray for eternal peace of the departed soul.