

# Motahar Hussain dead

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University two years back. The questions were put by Sumana Sharmin in July, 1978.

Dr. Qazi Motahar Husain gave the following written answers to Sumana's questions in her autograph book:

Q: How old are you?

Ans: I am 82 years old now. I shall be 83 by July 30.

Q: What is your favourite food?

Ans: Milk and curd.

Q: What are your favourite sports and games?

Ans: Chess, tennis, diving and swimming.

Q: How do you spend your leisure time?

Ans: In reading.

Q: Who is your favourite friend?

Ans: My students.

Sumana Sharmin, daughter of Mr Sakhawat Ali Khan, teacher, Mass Communication and Journalism Department, Dacca University, secured 16th position in the competition.

## LIFE SKETCH

BSS adds: Dr. Qazi Motahar Husain has a long background of more than 40 years in the literary and cultural field as a writer, litterateur and educationist. Known for his liberal and progressive views, Dr. Husain was closely involved in the late twenties and early thirties with the progressive movement of Muslim Sahitya Samaj founded by Qazi Abdul Wadud, Syed Abul Hussain and other to liberate intellect from slavery of dogmas. He was the Editor of quarterly 'Shikha'. The mouthpiece of the movement in its second and third year of publication.

During his long intellectual career, he wrote wide variety of subjects including literature, poetry, Islam, science and mathematics. He was known for his close association with

Aebel Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam and had acquaintance with novelist Sarat Chandra Chatterjee.

He was born on July 30, 1897 at village Laksmipur under Kumerkhali Police Station of Kushtia district. His paternal home was at village Bagmara under police station Pangsa of Faridpur district.

Qazi Motahar Husain had his early education at his family Maktab at Bagmara. He passed Matriculation Examination in the First Division standing first amongst candidates of Rajshahi and former presidency divisions from Kushtia H. E. School in 1915. In 1917 he passed I.Sc. Examination in First Division he stood first in the B.A. examination with honours in Physics in the then East Bengal and Assam zones from Dacca College in 1919. In 1921 he topped the list of successful candidates by standing first in the second class M.A. examination in Physics from Calcutta University immediately after its establishment in June, 1921. In 1938 he was inspired by eminent scientist, Professor Satyendra Nath Bose to study statistics in the Indian Statistical Institute under the eminent statistician Dr. Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis. After completing the study successfully he was appointed a lecturer in Statistics in Dacca University. In 1958 he obtained Ph.D. for his thesis 'design of experiments' which was highly praised by the world famous statistician professor fishers. He was appointed Professor of Dacca University in 1964 and was Dean of the Faculty of Science of Dacca University from 1955 to 1958. He retired from the service in 1964. Later he was appointed Supernumerary Professor of Statistics of Dacca University. He was Director of Statistical Institute till

1966.

In 1968 he was the President of Pakistan Science Conference. In 1969 he was appointed Professor Emeritus of the Dacca University. In 1974 he was conferred D.Sc. an Honourary Doctorate by Dacca University in a special convocation. Dr. Qazi Motahar Husain was appointed National Professor in 1975. The same year he was conferred the title 'Vidya-agar'.

Besides being a distinguished scholar and educationist, Dr.

Qazi Motahar Husain was an eminent litterateur. His book 'Sancharan' a literary collection published in 1937 earned praise from Rabindranath Tagore, Prof Motha Chowdhury and Upendranath Gangopadhy. 'Sancharan', Nazrul Kabyo Parichiti and 'Sei Poth Lokkho Ko e' are his original literary works while 'Plato's Symposium', 'Nibedon', 'Brohi', 'Kutzzmala' and 'Birohini' are translations. Excepting 'Plato's Symposium' the rest are the translations from the Hindi poetical works of Kazi Ashraf Mahmud. His text books are 'Gymitree (geometry)', 'Pro-besh', 'Pakistan O Prith-besh', 'Elements of Statistics', 'Tamer Itihas', 'Intermediate Geometry', 'Tohya Gonet', 'Gonet Shaster Itihas' besides numerous writings by him were published in dailies, weeklies and periodicals both at home and abroad.

Dr Kazi Motahar Husain had keen interest in games like chess, football, badminton, tennis and swimming. He was particularly known as a brilliant chess player and stood first in the All India Chess Brilliancy competition sponsored by the daily Statesman in 1925 by securing 101 marks out of the total 103. For a long period from 1929 to 1933 he was the sole champion in chess competitions of Bangladesh and consecutively won championship for seven times in the all India and South Africa correspondence chess competition. He became champion in the lawn tennis competition held in Dacca in 1951. Sarat Chandra Chattopadhyaya was among his close and regular chess mates.

Dr Kazi Motahar Husain had also keen interest in music. He was a good singer and sefari. Two of his daughters are outstanding in the field of Tagore songs.

Dr Kazi Motahar Husain was outspoken against conspiracies to impose Urdu as the only state language of the then Pakistan. He earned displeasure of the then Pakistani authorities for his progressive views.

Dr Kazi Motahar Husain was amiable, soft spoken, honest and sober. He performed the holy Hajj with his wife in 1960.