



Agha Mehdi Hussain dead

Dr. Agha Mehdi Hussain, one of the renowned Muslim historians of the Sub-continent, died early on Saturday morning at the P. G. Hospital at the age of 80, reports BSS.

He was suffering from diabetes and other complications.

The Namaz-e-Janaza of Dr. Mehdi, who was a supernumerary teacher of the Department of Islamic History and Culture, University of Dacca from 1971 to 1975 was held at the Masjidul Jamia, after Zohar prayer. The janaza was attended by Vice-Chancellor Dr. Fazlul Halim Chowdhury, teachers, students, employees of Dacca University and friends and well-wishers of Dr. Mehdi. He was buried at the private graveyard of Mr M. M. Ispahani at Tejgaon.

Dr. Mehdi is survived by his wife, his son Dr. Agha Alamdar Hussain, an unmarried daughter and his younger sister, all of whom live in Pakistan.

The right leg of Dr. Mehdi was seriously fractured on November 17 last year when the rickshaw he was travelling on collided with a jeep. He was admitted to Dacca Medical College Hospital and from there shifted for operation to Shahid Suhrawardy Hospital. When better, he was taken by Mr Rahimullah Chowdhury, a local industrialist, to his own house. He was again admitted to P. G. Hospital under the sponsorship of Mr Rahimullah Chowdhury on December 24, last year.

A meeting will be held at the Teacher-Student Centre, University of Dacca, on February 13 to condole the death of Dr. Mehdi. Classes and offices of the University will remain suspended from 12-20 to 1-30 p.m. to enable students, teachers and employees of the University to attend the meeting.

LIFE-SKETCH

Dr. Agha Mehdi Hussain, son of Mr. Hakeem Ahmed Reza, was born on December 18, 1898.

He passed his B.A. (Hons.) and M.A. examinations in History from the University of Punjab in 1918 and 1919 respectively. He obtained his Ph.D. degree from the University of London in 1935 and D.Lit. from the University of Paris in 1936.

He began his more than 40 years of teaching career at Agra College as Asstt. Professor in 1920. Later, he worked for 25 years at Calcutta University in the Department of Islamic History and Culture as a Senior Lecturer till 1965. He was then assigned a research project by the University Grants Commission of India, which he completed in 1967. After this he returned to Pakistan and was engaged in writing a comprehensive history of Muslim rule in India.

He joined the University of Dacca as a supernumerary teacher in the Department of Islamic History and Culture in January 1971. He continued in this capacity till January 1975. He was then engaged in research work for the University Grants Commission of Bangladesh on a fellowship till 1977.

A renowned Muslim historian of the Sub-continent, he has to his credit a large number of scholarly and authoritative publications. He knew Arabic, French, Bengali, Hindi, Persian, Sanskrit, German and Urdu. His publications include: "Rise and fall of Muhammad Bin Tughluq" (London, 1938), "The Rihla of Ibn Battuta" (Baroda, 1940), "Bahadur Shah II" (Delhi 1962), an English translation of "Tutuhus Salatin" of Isami (Aligarh, 1968), and an edition of the same in Persian (Agra, 1938), "The Sultanate of Delhi" in French (Paris, 1936).