

তারিখ ... ১৫/২/৭৪ ...  
পৃষ্ঠা ... ৫ ... কলাম ... ১ ...

## Agha Mehdi Hussain

We have lost an historian of outstanding calibre in the death of Dr. Agha Mehdi Hussain. His part in reconstructing the history of the sub-continent on a sounder basis distinguishes him as a scholar whose pursuit of truth never got deterred in the face of adversity. His unquenchable thirst for knowledge took him across the subcontinent many a time and also overseas. He worked selflessly and silently amid the ruins of history, along the corridors of knowledge and in the museum of mementos. What moved him from place to place was neither the craving for financial gain nor comfortable living.

His productive career spread over nearly fifty-six years — full of distinctions, replete with achievements. He has to his credit a large number of authoritative publications. Prior to his death he was working on travels of Ibn Batuta in greater perspective, like trying to delineate the socio-political situations of the places visited by the great traveller. Going back, Agha Mehdi's works on 14th century India are considered of fundamental importance. His knowledge of the subcontinent's main languages, including Bangla, helped him collate and corroborate facts with greater ease and accuracy. Aside from his original works, he translated 'Futuhus Salateen' into English. Through his books the subcontinent comes alive in the minds of those who love the pursuit of history.

Dr. Agha Mehdi Hussain is among the vanishing breed of pioneers who worked to find the treasures of his native land at a time when the glitter of the West was holding greater appeal for most of the scholars of this region. This aspect of the man merits special attention because there is still much work left to be done to bring into full focus philosophies propounded by thinkers of this region, our ancient history and culture. Should this be done, it will be possible, in the foreseeable future, to give an orientation to our education and thought which will be predominantly based on our heritage.

His brief association with Dacca University enlivens his memory in more immediate terms and there should be a conscious effort to preserve and continue his work.