

Life and Works of S. M. Imamuddin (1924-1998)

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Abstract: The second death anniversary of Professor Dr. S.M. Imamuddin, a well-renowned teacher of the Department of Islamic History and Culture at Dhaka University and an internationally reputed historian, fell on ninth of April 2000 AD. The author of this paper considers this to be a vantage point to remember and pay homage to the memory of this great teacher who professed and practiced the lofty ideals of teaching with devotion and carried out intensive research. With this purpose in view this is a modest attempt to put together the bits and pieces of information that could be collected and collated about his life and career and works. On the whole, this paper is a tribute to an ideal dedicated educator and an outstanding researcher. There is no iota of doubt that S.M. Imamuddin represents that rare generation of high quality university-level teachers vis-a-vis thoroughbred researchers like the ones which may not be seen in the days to come.

S.M. Imamuddin who served the Department of Islamic History & Culture, University of Dhaka, for long 34 years was an ideal teacher and a celebrated scholar and a humanist. He wrote extensively on the history of medieval India, Spain and the Arab Middle East. This paper is a humble attempt to first discuss briefly the life and professional career of S.M. Imamuddin and then to give an idea about his contribution in the field of research.

For the sake of convenience and easy understanding, this paper is divided into two sections. In section I we shall have an overview of S.M. Imamuddin's life and career, while in section II we will discuss his research contribution.

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I

Saiyyid Muhammad Imamuddin was born on January 1, 1924¹ in the village Eksari, post office Pachna in the district town of Monghyr located in Bihar.² His father's name was Mir Abdul Aziz and mother's Saiyidah Kabirah Khatun. He was brought up and educated in Calcutta. He passed Matriculation with 2nd division in 1937 from Calcutta Muslim High School and Intermediate Arts in the 1st division from Calcutta City College.³ In 1941, he secured second Class First position in the BA Honours examination from the Persian Department of Calcutta Islamia College. Later on in 1948 he also obtained a second Honours securing second class First position from the Islamic History and Culture Department, Calcutta University. Prior to that from the same Department in 1943 he also passed the MA examination being placed in the second class First position.⁴ He enjoyed the Calcutta University Post-Graduate Research Fellowship from 1944-47 and R.G. Casey Research Fellow 1949-50 offered by Asiatic Society of Bengal, Calcutta.⁵

We shall now proceed to give a connected account of his professional career. On completion of his Masters in 1943 S.M. Imamuddin very earnestly took up the noble and pedagogic profession of teaching. Before joining the University of Dhaka in 1951 he had already gained more than 3 years teaching experience. He was a Lecturer for two years from 1947-49 at the Calcutta Islamia College and for one and half year as a part-time Lecturer at Calcutta University up to December, 1950.⁶

S.M. Imamuddin joined as whole time Lecturer on August 12, 1951 and served in this post for long duration of 11½ years when he was promoted to the post of Reader since November 15, 1961. He was confirmed in this post from November 15, 1963.⁸

From November 1972 onwards he became Associate Professor and in April 1973 he was the senior-most Associate Professor of Dhaka University.⁹ He applied for the post of Professor on November 9, 1973 which was duly recommended by the Vice-Chancellor Professor Abdul Matin Chowdhury and the Syndicate approved his appointment as a temporary Professor from April 13, 1974. Fulfilling the service conditions he became permanent in this post from April 16, 1977.¹⁰

During his teaching career in Dhaka University, Dr. S.M. Imamuddin was also appointed from 27 August, 1962 as temporary part-time teacher in the Diploma course of the Department of Library Science (opened in 1959), Dhaka University.¹¹

S.M. Imamuddin was of great help in the organizational work of the Department, nay in the entire paraphernalia of Dhaka University. According to A.B.M. Habibullah, "he has been of great assistance to him in administrative work of Department."¹² His capability in this aspect has been further demonstrated by the fact that Dr. S.M. Imamuddin has been the only teacher in the Department of Islamic History and Culture who has adorned the executive chair as many as four times.¹³ Twice he was the Head of the Department firstly from July 1971 to December 1971 and then from December 1972-July 1973. When the nomenclature was changed to Chairman, Dr. S.M. Imamuddin was the first Chairman from July 1973 to September 1975. Again he became Chairman from June 1976 but willingly gave up his Chairmanship from October of the same year "because of his engagement in research work."¹⁴ It is pertinent to note here as a Chairman he tried his best to use Bangla in course of executing his official duties.¹⁵

As to his contribution to the development of the general corporate and cultural activities of the students of the Dhaka University, he very ably performed this function when he was attached firstly to Fazlul Huq Muslim Hall since 1956 and then to Surja Sen Hall from 1972. In this respect M. Saifullah and Dr. Mir Fakhruzzaman both Provosts of Fazlul Huq Hall highlights the fact vide their confidential letters to the Registrar dated October 3, 1963. and November 25, 1967 respectively that “ the services of Dr. S.M. Imamuddin were always available whenever sought for actively participating in functions arranged for this purpose”. Professor Lutfur Kabir, Provost of Surja Sen Hall (March 10, 1972- October 31, 1977) vide his letter dated August 3, 1977 gives a similar picture. All these letters regarding his active participation in corporate activities were applicable in the event of Dr. S.M. Imamuddin to cross the EB, i.e., efficiency bar.

Recommending S.M. Imamuddin for the same purpose A.B.M. Habibullah observes, “ I have great pleasure in recommending that S.M. Imamuddinbe allowed to cross the efficiency bar from the date it has become due. By his impressive list of research work and publications of standard merit and by his conscientious and able teaching, as also his assistance in the efficient administration in the Department, he has established his reputation as a scholar and efficient teacher.”¹⁶

By putting in five years of efficient active service as a second lieutenant in the UOTC (University Officers Training Corps) now Bangladesh National Cadet Corps (BNCC), S.M. Imamuddin has added yet another feather to his cap. He led the cadets in their different outdoor camps and the students during their study tour to different places of historical interests.¹⁷ Besides this, he has been a widely traveled man journeying and traversing extensively through south and north India, Pakistan, Spain, Spanish Morocco,

Tangier, England (where he particularly visited important cities of London, Cambridge, Oxford), France and Italy. He has to his credit of being for 18 years the member of Executive Council, Asiatic Society of Pakistan (now Bangladesh); he was also the member of Pakistan Historical Society and Itihas Parishad.¹⁸

On June 30, 1984 he completed his service career in Dhaka University. One curiously finds that during the span of over three decades he had tried quite a number of times to seek fresh avenues of job outside. As early as 1956 when he was only a Lecturer he applied for Readership in the Department of Islamic History and Culture, University of Karachi. Then in 1959 he applied for the post of Secretary to the Inter-University Board of Pakistan. Next, on 22.2.1960 he applied for the post of Librarian cum Reader in Rajshahi University. Naturally there is a query as to what then was the basis to apply for such a technical post like Librarian? The answer lies in the fact that he studied a number of courses pertaining to Library Science and passed the examinations in the courses for the Technical Formation of Librarians and Archivists organized by the National Library of Spain. Don Jose Ibanez Cerda, General Secretary of National Library of Spain issued a certificate to him dated July 15, 1956 to this effect.¹⁹

It is further observed that on 22 August 1969 he also applied for the post of Professor of Islamic History and Culture in the Karachi University. When he was almost reaching the age of retirement in Dhaka University, S.M. Imamuddin dispatched an application on 8.10.80 for the post of an Instructor in Islamic History or Research Officer at Islamic Secretariat, Jeddah which in his own words was aimed "to have greater contact and to widen knowledge as well as to complete some of my research works still incomplete due to the shortage and non-availability of materials."²⁰ All these events form an integral part of his

lengthy service in Dhaka University where he had all along discharged his duties most conscientiously and to the best of his ability.

After his retirement from Dhaka University, Professor Imamuddin settled in Pakistan where he first joined the Hyderabad University in Sindh. Then he joined the Karachi University in 1992. For nearly $3\frac{1}{2}$ years he was a Professor in the dignified Ishtiaq Hussain Qureshi Chair. It is worth mentioning here that the noteworthy historian Dr. I. H. Qureshi was an honourable member of the Selection Committee held on 28.10.61 in which Dr. S. M. Imamuddin was appointed as a Reader in the Department of Islamic History & Culture, Dhaka University.

During the tenure of his service in Karachi University he delivered as many as five memorial lectures and as already pointed earlier arranged an International Conference in May 1993.²¹ During these days of life he used to miss Dhaka University very much.²² S.M. Imamuddin passed away quietly on April 9, 1998 at the ripe age of 74 years in his residence located at Federal 'B' Area of Karachi.²³

II

Having dealt with his life and career, we now come to the important aspect of this paper, that is, the contribution of S. M. Imamuddin towards research. In 1951 S.M. Imamuddin's thesis which consists of a critical edition of *Ni'amaullah's Makhzan-i-Afghani Taarikh-i-Khan-i-Jahani* with Introduction earned for him a DPhil (Arts) Degree from the Calcutta University which was his *Alma Mater*.²⁴ This voluminous thesis of 1000 pages was accepted by the Asiatic Society of Bengal, Calcutta for publication in their *Bibliotheca Indica* series. Later on in 1953 he became the first scholar in the then Pakistan to

receive Spanish Government Scholarship from 1953-56 which enabled him to undertake studies related to the Muslim West in the Spanish University of Madrid. In fact almost a year before, i.e. in May 1952 he had completed a draft of the history of Muslim rule in Spain which to a great extent formed the nucleus of his dissertation *The Analysis of the Sources of Economic History under the Umayyads (711-1031 AC)*. He was conferred upon a DPhil and DLit in History in 1956 for this thesis.²⁵ He obtained an outstanding qualification unanimously securing a First Class.²⁶ Yet after all these great achievements this great scholar characteristically demonstrated modesty, humility and meekness which formed the salient traits of his lofty personality.

S.M. Imamuddin had proficiency in Urdu, English, Persian and Spanish and possessed a working knowledge of Arabic, French, Portuguese and Bengali. With these language skills in both Oriental and European tongues he delved deep into the discipline of history and by carrying out extensive research he produced as many as 11 authentic text books and references in 13 volumes, five being on Muslim Spain alone.²⁷ His major notable works as enumerated below are:²⁸

1. *A Political History of Muslim Spain 711-1492 A.D.*, (Revised and enlarged edition), Karachi, 1974.
2. *The Economic History of Spain under the Umayyads (711-1031 A.C.)*, Asiatic Society of Pakistan, Publication no.11, Dacca, 1965.
3. *Some Aspects of the Socio-Economic and Cultural History of Muslim Spain*, Leiden, E.J. Brill, 1965.
4. *Muslim Spain-A Sociological Study*, Karachi, N.B.F. 1982.
5. *Hispano-Arab Libraries (A Memorie)*, Karachi, 1961.

6. *A Political History of the Muslims* (2 Volumes in 3 parts)-Vol. I-*Prophet & Pious Caliphs*; Najma & Sons, Dacca, 1966; Vol-II, Part-A: *Umayyads* Part-B: *Abbasids*, Dacca, 1967.
7. *A Modern History of the Middle East and North Africa* Vol. I (1258-1939), Dhaka-1960 and Vol.-II (1939-1961), Dhaka, 1970.
8. *Arab Muslim Administration (622-1258)*, Karachi, 1976.
9. *Arabic Writings and Arab Libraries* . London, 1982, and
10. *Some leading Muslim Libraries of the World*, Dhaka, 1982.

It is pertinent to observe here that this great teacher of Dhaka University had a sincere intention to translate his works into Bangla for the sake of better understanding and easy comprehension by the students. Such an endeavour was taken by him in July 1977 as is evident from the list of research works forwarded by him from the Department of Islamic History & Culture to the Registrar, Dhaka University on July 30, 1977.²⁹ Long 22 years elapsed before his cherished dream could be fulfilled. The Bangla version of S.M. Imamuddin's *A Political History of Muslim Spain* entitled *Muslim Spain Rajnaitik Itihas* saw the light of the day in January 1999.³⁰

That from the core of his heart S.M. Imamuddin nourished a great affection for the students of Dhaka University is amply reflected by his declaration in the Authority letter to the editor of the Bangla version that the entire sales proceeds of this book be properly utilized for the sake of needy but meritorious students pursuing M. Phil and PhD research studies in the Department of Islamic History and Culture.³¹

This great writer also has to his credit some other edited works, which include:³²

- a. *The Tarikh Khan-i-Jahani of Khwajah Niamatullah, Vol. I & Vol. II*, Asiatic Society of Pakistan, Dhaka, 1961 and 1962.
- b. *The Tarikh-i-Sher Shahi of Abbas Khan Sarwani, Vol. I & II*, Dhaka University, 1963 and 1964.
- c. *The Tarikh-i-Bangalah of Munshi Salimullah*, Asiatic Society of Pakistan, Dhaka, 1980.

Let us now analyze the edited works of S.M. Imamuddin. *The Tarikh Khan-i-Jahani*-his *magnum opus* deals with the general history of the Afghan rulers of India from the time of Bahlul Lodi (855AH/1451AC) till the death of the last Afghan chief Khwajah Uthman (1021 AH/1614 AC). It also contains a good deal of additional materials with regard to the genealogy of the Afghan rulers of India. It is thus clear that this is the only complete history of the Afghan period. Its author Khazah Niamat Allah, son of Khazah Habib Allah of Herat, is an Afghan author and historian who composed this work in 1018 A.H. (1612 A.C). His patron was Nawab Khan-i-Jahan Lodi. The original contribution of S.M.Imamuddin in editing *The Tarikh Khan-i-Jahani* lies in the following points :-

- (a) its a critical survey of the Afghan and non -Afghan sources for the reconstruction of the history of the Lodis and the Surs.
- (b) its an attempt to solve the confusion regarding the two recensions of the work- *The Tarikh Khan -i-Jahani* (larger recension) and *the Makhzan -i-Afghani* (the shorter recesion).
- (c) its a critical biographical study of Niamat Allah.
- (d) its a critical account of the origin of the Afghans.

- (e) its a critical account of the life of Khan-i-Jahan Lodi, the patron of the author, and
- (f) its an attempt to identify , correct and fill up obscure topographical names and lamentable lapses in facts.

As to the subject matter of the *Tarikh-i-Sher Shah*, this important work deals with the life and works of Sher Shah Sur, the precursor of Akbar the Great, the third Mughal Emperor of India. The Afghans produced two outstanding Sultans viz, Sikandar Lodi who represented the Lodis and Sher Shah who represented the Surs. It was the brilliant work of the Lodis, which culminated in the outstanding achievement of Sher Shah including the conception and organization of a system of fairly centralized government and efficient administration. The political sagacity and military prowess of Sher Shah are expressed here. It is the only detailed and authentic account of Sher Shah. The author Abbas Khan Sarwani composed this work at the order of Akbar the Great that formed originally the first chapter of the 3rd part of the *Tuhfah-i-Akbar Shahi*. S.M. Imamuddin's critical edition revealed the fact that work is extant and Abbas Khan Sarwani could not complete his work as expected either due to his unemployment or early death in 994 AH/1586 AC There are two volumes of this edited work –Vol.I deal with the Persian while Vol. II is the English translation.

S.M. Imamuddin's *The Tarikh-i-Bangalah of Munshi Salimullah*, is an improvement over the abridged translation into English by Francis Gladwin, a British journalist, member of the Asiatic Society of Bengal and the editor of the *Calcutta Gazette*. Finding Gladwin's work short and unreliable S.M. Imamuddin actually under took the preparation of the Persian text of *The Tarikh-i-Bangalah* in 1968. On the completion of that work he translated it into

English. This work is an authentic contemporary history of the Nawabs of Bengal (1695-1756) written only 6 years after the Battle of Plassey (1757 AD) Munshi Salimullah, an indefatigable chronicler, wrote this work in Persian as a token of esteem and affection for his patron Henry Vansittart, then the Governor of Fort William at Calcutta from 1760-64. It is considered to be an important source of the contemporary history of Bengal.

S.M. Imamuddin contributed more than 50 research papers about 30 being again on Muslim Spain in different internationally reputed journals like *Al-Andalus, Islamic Culture, Islamic Studies, Calcutta Review, Egyptian Institute Magazine, Dhaka University Studies, Journal of Asiatic Society of Pakistan, Journal of Pakistan Historical Society, the Voice of Islam, Kalini Kanta Bhattasali Commemorative Volume, Dacca Museum, 1961, Muhammad Shahidullah Felicitation Volume, Asiatic Society of Pakistan, Dacca, 1968.*

He also presented scholarly papers in different national and international Conferences like the All-India Oriental Conference held at Nagpur in 1946, All Muslim Countries Seminar held at Madrid in November 1955, International Symposium on the contributions of the peoples of Central Asia to the Development of Science on 29-9-1970 at Islamabad, International History Conference held at Dhaka in May 1973, and International History Conference held at Karachi, May 1993.³³

It is important to point out here that three of Imamuddin's research articles in Bangla were published in the *Itihas*, mouthpiece of Itihas Parishad. Munshi Salimullah's *Tarikh-i-Bangalah* was presented in the International History Conference held under the auspices of the Bangladesh Itihas Parishad in May 1973 and also published on the same occasion.³⁴ Prior to this, two Bangla

research papers of Imamuddin entitled "Arabi Lipi Tattha" and "Madhyajuge Spainer Sadharon Snanaghar O Christan Samaj" were published in other issues of *Itihas*.³⁵ His books and research papers on Spain has made the rich Spanish Muslim culture known to the English speaking world and established its great impact on other European cultures.³⁶

In particular his thesis on *The Analysis of the Sources of Economic History of Spain during the Umayyad period (711-1031 A.C)* for a Doctorate degree has been a highly commendable performance. Emillio Garcia Gomes who was senior most examiner in the Tribunal of five Professors for awarding the Doctorate degree "complemented S.M. Imamuddin on the contribution he had made to an aspect of medieval history of Spain, which was of an original naturehe was the first Pakistani among Orientals who had been awarded this doctorate."³⁷ Prof. Garcia, the greatest Arabist in Spain and Director, Hispano-Arab Culture Institute "recognized the value of his work which throws new light on the economic life of Medieval Spain and the Mediterranean world in this epoch." He expressed the hope that it "is bound to yield in future rich results."³⁸ Due to such great works on history of Muslim Spain, S.M.Imamuddin is aptly considered to be "a standard authority in this important and fascinating branch of medieval history" along with Reinhart Dozy whose treatise represents "the first notable work" on the history of Muslims in Spain.³⁹

S.M. Imamuddin emphasized the point that the scientific foundation of all historical studies is its correlation to geographical setting. Like Ibn Khaldun, Arnold John Toynbee, Wall Bank, Taylor, James Edgar Swain, S.M.Imamuddin had underlined the fact that History and Geography are sister disciplines; they are complementary and supplementary. His flair for the proper

use of geographical knowledge as an useful aide to writing and teaching of history has been testified by Professor M.Z. Siddiqui of Calcutta University under whose supervision S.M.Imamuddin worked for six years as a research scholar of the Asiatic Society of Bengal.⁴⁰ This style of Dr. S.M. Imamuddin finds ample expression in most of his works.

Therefore, it is not surprising that at the very outset of his *A Political History of Muslim Spain* he gives a broad description of the geographical features of Spain adding relevant maps and illustrations.⁴¹ In another work, he observes:

“As history and geography are interrelated and interdependent and as man can never be scientifically studied apart from the ground he tills and lands on which he trades it is necessary to know something about the land⁴²

Like Thomas Walter Wall Bank and Alastair M. Taylor who are considered to be an authority on history of civilizations, S.M. Imamuddin also articulated the point that “the Banks of the great rivers and lower hills near the sea are the seats of civilization. Mountain and desert are a world altogether different. In this connection he essentially focuses on how the river- valley cultures have played a vital role in history and are the lineal ancestors of modern civilization.”⁴³ This great teacher did not pay mere lip-service to this methodology of historical study.

He used to carry maps, charts, illustrations etc. to the classroom. In particular he used to point out to the pupils the exact location of places that he would come across in the course of his lectures. In this way he used to link the mind of the keen student of history to its geographical frame. He did not stop there but went one step forward to encourage the students to practice drawing maps, charts, graphs and illustrations so as to apply these techniques in

their answers for making the same qualitative and exceptional. This is how S.M. Imamuddin as an ideal teacher of history tried hard to make this discipline all the more interesting and scientific. Maps, plates and charts supported his works to a great extent. Thus his 537 pages monumental work-*The Economic history of Spain under the Umayyads 711-1031 AC* has 2 maps and 48 plates.⁴⁴ There are 8 charts supporting his *The Tarikh Khan -i-Jahani of Khwajah Ni'amatullah, Vol. I & Vol.II*.

A marked feature of S.M. Imamuddin's works on political history is that they clearly show how the natural phenomena of centripetal and centrifugal tendencies have contributed immensely to the rise and fall of nations. In his works he has also dealt at length on social mobility which forms the goading force of any society. He dealt with multifarious aspects like art, architecture, culture, administration, statecraft, economics, demography, law and justice, foreign relation, trade and commerce, navigation, armed forces, etc. His historical works thus portray various problems in bigger canvas.

Yet another uniqueness of his works lay in the proper critical study of original sources and treatment of controversial points in the light of historical data. Even the biased views of certain Western orientalisists have been incorporated after comparative studies of their views with original and secondary sources. He has taken a balanced point of view whenever controversial and dubious issues have arisen.⁴⁵

In the preparation of work he tried to strike a balance by making pragmatic use of both Oriental and Occidental historians like Shibli Numani, Saiyid Sulayman Nadvi, Hamid Allah, Shah Muin al-din Nadvi, Alal al Fasi, Hans Kohn, George Kirk, Philip Khuri Hitti, George Lenczowski, Sir Reader Bullard, Neville Barbour and Sir

William Muir. His books were reviewed and appreciated by internationally recognized scholars like Professor P. Hardy, Emilio Garcia Gomez, Rafael Castejon, J.M. Millas Vallicrosa, Simon Digby, H.K. Sherwani, Professor W.H.A. Shadani, B.J. Gokhale, M.Z. Siddiqui, A. Halim, A.B.M. Habibullah and others. In almost similar tune all these renowned historians praised his scholarly bent of mind, great love for research and analysis in the discipline of history and described him "as a most active industrious researcher and dedicated teacher whose zeal and enthusiasm and efficiency were all the more keenly felt by those around him."⁴⁶

We have already seen how the Spanish-Arabist Emilia Garcia Gomez has commended his thesis in glowing terms. ⁴⁷ Neville Barbour observes, "Dr. S.M. Imamuddin deserves thanks for the quite impressive, concise yet comprehensive modern history of the Middle East and North Africa which has filled in the gap covering the period from downfall of the Abbasides in 1258 to the eve of World War II in 1939." ⁴⁸ Commenting on his edited work *The Tarikh Khan-e-Jahani of Khwajah Ni'amatullah*, P.Hardy congratulates "Dr. S.M.Imamuddin and the Asiatic Society of Pakistan on their achievement and admits that by this one of the pre-conditions of critical history is met.....all praise to Dr. S.M.Imamuddin for an excellent piece of work performed in face of many trials." ⁴⁹ While reviewing the same work B.G.Gokhale described it as "perhaps the most comprehensive and significant. It is now for the first time critically edited..... This is a work of painstaking research carried out under adverse circumstancesThe editor has very ably handled the work of preparing the first critical edition of an important work on Afghan history."⁵⁰

While reviewing his yet another edited work *The Tarikh-i-Sher Shahi of Abbas Khan Surwani* and comparing

it to Qanungo's work on Sher Shah, Simon Digby observes, "We must be grateful to him (Imam al-Din) for providing something so much better to take its place."⁵¹ About his book, *A Political History of Muslim Spain*, Haroon Khan Sherwani comments, "No Indo-Pakistan can be more eminently qualified to write a history of the Muslim hegemony over Spain than the author of this book, who has a double doctorate.....he is an author of note and has applied himself to the compilation of a history in some detail, a topic which was in need of being dealt with by a present day Muslim."⁵²

W.H.A. Shadani described him as "a very earnest scholar exclusively devoted to his subject. Dr. S.M. Imamuddin's work on *Tarikh Khan-e-Jahani* is of considerable importance and has conclusively and ably removed the controversy regarding the authorship of the two recessions of the book." Irfan Habib has also admitted: "their value and importancethe book is a real piece of valuable research."⁵³

Abu Mohamed Habibullah expressed "great pleasure in recording appreciation of the high qualities of S.M. Imamuddin" who was one of his favourite pupils in the Department of Islamic History & Culture, Calcutta University. He further observes: "Dr. Imamuddin has the distinction of having two Doctorate degrees from the University of Calcutta and Madrid and has published number of learned papers in Journals of international reputation. His readiness to learn and a capacity for sustained work are qualities which would help him to widen his outlook and enrich his understanding of Islam's cultural history." It was Habibullah who strongly recommended "a scholar like himto utilize the resources in the US and to work with American scholars in this field."⁵⁴

It is important to observe here that S.M.Imamuddin did apply for Fullbright Hays Award, a nine-month lectureship in an American University on March 18, 1967, which was duly recommended by the proper authority to the Executive Secretary, United States Educational Foundation in Pakistan located at Karachi.⁵⁵ He was offered a post of Asiatic Professorship for one year but could not avail the same because of the delay in sanctioning of leave by Dhaka University and also as the grant was not increased to one for US \$ 10,000 by the Fulbright Grants Committee as prayed by him.⁵⁶ Prior to this, another offer of Visiting Professorship could not be availed because of 1965 Indo-Pak War.⁵⁷

To all those who have seen and known him, S.M.Imamuddin was a self-made man who used to call spade a spade. Professor Abdul Halim (of the Department of History who also rendered a yeoman's service when the Department of Islamic History & Culture was established in 1948 and was infact its founding Head to March 1950) described him as possessing "an excellent character." He led a well-regulated life characterised by high thinking and plain living. He was an orthodox Muslim who believed in freedom of thought and expression. Broad heartedness and spontaneously helping others in need were the hallmark of his calibre. His fine demeanor, pleasant mannerism and docile yet firm behavioural pattern were admired and adored by the colleagues, staff and students alike. To his innumerable pupils he is an ideal, remarkable and exemplary educator and an effective nation-builder.

As a historian who had hold on and working knowledge of both European and Asiatic languages he tried to analyse and assess history in its proper perspective by giving an objective presentation of facts, figures and events in its chronological order. By dint of his standard works so brilliant and so profound and valuable research contribution

he emerges as a scholar *par excellence*. In him there is all the flair and traits of a modern illustrious historian. Such a doyen of learning does not die with his demise.

By enriching a very important aspect of the history of the Islam and unfolding it in an even more impressive manner to the western world, S.M. Imamuddin has left a permanent imprint on the sands of time. In his journey from this mundane world to eternity he has traversed the horizontal cum spatial distance covering this sub-continent—he was born and brought up in India, East Bengal (changed to East Pakistan from March 23, 1956 and now Bangladesh) was the centre-stage of his professional career and scholarly activities and ultimately he lies in eternal rest in Karachi of Pakistan. Through his achievements and contributions Professor Dr. S.M. Imamuddin had succeeded in proving once more that scholars and intellectuals and the learned cannot be confined to any man-made boundary. They are universal.

Notes

1. Dhaka University Records Personal File (hereafter cited P.F.) no.2 /Islamic History/Teacher/1950-76-77, p.319; also see Agreement for Study Advance between the University of Dacca and S.M. Imamuddin to avail the Spanish Government Scholarship in October, 1953; interview with Professor Dr. Salar Khan, Honorary Advisor to the Bangladesh National Herbarium and former Chairman, Department of Botany, University of Dhaka.
2. Monghyr is situated to the north of West Bengal approximately 221 miles from Calcutta.
3. P.F. no. 2, p.319.
4. *Ibid.*
5. *Ibid.*
6. P.F. no. 2, p.319. see overleaf.
7. P.F., pp.202-203.

8. P.F., pp.232-234.
9. P.F., p. 316. See brief summary of representation to Dr. A.M. Choudhury, Vice-Chancellor, University of Dhaka, dated 30th April, 1973.
10. P.F., p.375. See Registrar's letter dated October 25,1977.
11. P.F., p.207.
12. P.F., p.231.
13. See Honour Roll Board of Head of the Department and Chairman of the Department of Islamic History and Culture, University of Dhaka; also see *Muslim Spainer Rajnaitik Itihas*, ed., Ayesha Begum, Dhaka, 1999. Professor A.B.M. Habibullah had been in the main chair thrice - March 1950-October 1954, November 1955-June 1971, and April 1972-December 1972.
14. P. F., p.352.
15. P. F., p. 337.
16. P. F., p. 269.
17. P. F., p. 198.
18. P. F., p. 198 see reverse.
19. P. F. See true and certified translation from original certificate in Spanish language signed by J.I. Cerda.
20. P. F., p. 379.
21. See *Muslim Spainer Rajnaitik Itihas*, ed. Ayesha Begum, Dhaka, 1999.
22. Professor Dr. Tajul Islam Hashmi, Director, School of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Independent University of Bangladesh has revealed this bit of information while discussing this paper as a reviewer in the seminar held on 11.5.2000. Dr. Hashmi met late Professor S.M. Imamuddin in 1989 at his Karachi residence when the latter expressed this feeling to the former.
23. *Ibid*. See also *Muslim Spainer Rajnaitik Itihas*, ed. Ayesha Begum, Dhaka, 1999.
24. The Board of Examiners for this thesis included Sir Jadunath Sarkar (CIE. MA, D.Lit). Professor M.L. Siddiqui, MA, BL, PhD. and Professor M. Habib, BA (Oxon) Barrister-at-Law.

25. P.F. no.2., p. 319.
26. In Spanish terminology this distinction is referred to as *sobre saliente*.
27. See S.M. Imamuddin, *Arab Muslim Administration* . Najma & Sons, Karachi, 1975.
28. *Ibid.* see also P.F., p. 291; Consolidated list of publications.
29. P.F., p. 374.
30. *See Muslim Spainer Rajnaitik Itihas*, ed Ayesha Begum, Dhaka 1999.
31. *Ibid.* see 'Sampadaker katha' (Editor's note); this translated version has been included in the Reading List of Course 206 for the students of BA (Hons) 2nd year in the Department of Islamic History and Culture.
32. See S.M. Imamuddin , *Muslim Spain*, Leiden, E.J. Brill, 1981; cf. *Muslim Spainer Rajnaitik Itihas*, ed. Ayesha Begum, Dhaka, 1999.
33. An idea of exhaustive list of his research papers can be gathered from such list forwarded by him to the Registrar on different occasions.
34. See letter of S.M. Imamuddin to the Registrar, Dhaka University, dated 30 July 1977 through the Chairman of Department of Islamic History and Culture which then was chaired by late Professor M.R.Tarafdar (1928-1997).
35. See *Itihas*, Dacca. 1973; also see *Itihas*, 6th year, Number 1, 1379 BS
36. S.M. Imamuddin , *Arab Muslim Administration* , Najma & Sons, Karachi, 1975, Note on Author.
37. P.F., p.319: see Appendix: letter dated 16 May 1956 written by H.S. Suhrawardy, Pakistan's Ambassador to Spain, simultaneously to the Vice-Chancellor of Dhaka University of Pakistan and the Ministry of Education, Government of Pakistan.
38. P.F., p.319: see true and certified translation from the original certificate in Spanish given by Professor Garcia, Director, and Hispano-Arab Culture Institute.
39. See Reinhart Dozy, *Spanish Islam: A history of the Moslems in Spain*, tr. Francis Griffin Stokes, Frank Cass, London, 1913

40. P.F., p.319; see Annexes.
41. S.M. Imamuddin, *A Political History of Muslim Spain*, Karachi, 1974; see Preface, p.xiv, pp. 1-15.
42. S.M. Imamuddin, *A Political History of Muslims* (Vol.I), Dacca, 1965; see Introduction.
43. *Ibid.*
44. See S.M. Imamuddin, *Economic History of Spain under the Umayyads (711-1031 AC)*, Asiatic Society of Pakistan, Dacca, 1965.
45. S.M. Imamuddin, *A Modern history of the Middle East and North Africa*, Najma & Sons, Dacca, 1960; see Introduction.
46. P.F. no.2, p.319; see Appendices.
47. *Supra.*, p.5.
48. P.F., p. 276(G).
49. P.F., p. 276(H).
50. P.F, p. 276(I).
51. *Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society*, London September, 1967.
52. P.F, p. 276(J); also see *Islamic Culture*, Hyderabad, April, 1962.
53. P.F., p. 319; see Appendices.
54. *Ibid.*
55. P.F., pp. 263-264.
56. P.F., p. 291.
57. P.F., p. 319; see reverse.