

He leaves behind his wife Neerada and son Anand Rao and our condolences go to them. She is a good writer in Kannada and fond of classical Karnatak music, which I am sure will keep her grief subdued to some extent. He leaves many friends and admirers who miss his jovial company and his accurate horoscopic predictions.

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Y.N. RAMA RAO



Fakharuddin Ahmad
(1916-1996)

Prof. Fakharuddin Ahmad was born at his ancestral village Ahmadpur, Barabanki district, Uttar Pradesh in a Zamindari family on 4th January, 1916. He breathed his last on 22nd March, 1996 at King George Medical College, Lucknow. His father, Mr. Raziuddin Ahmad was a barrister, who practiced law at Gonda. Prof. Ahmad got his early education at the Government High School, Gonda. He did his intermediate from Government Inter College, Faizabad, in 1934. The same year he joined Aligarh Muslim University as a student of B.Sc. class. Subsequently he did his M.Sc. in geography with I division obtaining II Position in 1938. He was later enrolled as a research scholar and obtained his Ph.D from Aligarh Muslim University in 1948. In between he worked as a Lecturer in the Department of Geography, Aligarh Muslim University for a few months.

Dr. Fakharuddin Ahmad joined Geological Survey of India in 1941 where he served with distinction for a period of about 23 years. He left the Survey in 1964 and joined Aligarh Muslim University as Professor and Head, Department of Geology. Prof. Ahmad carried out his M.Sc. in Geology from University of Tasmania, Australia in 1953, under Colombo Plan. Prof. Ahmad served the Department of Geology, Aligarh Muslim University, for 12 years (1964-1975), which was possibly the most productive period of his scientific and academic life. It was during this period that Prof. Ahmad came to the forefront of Indian Science. He became a Fellow of Indian National Science Academy, New Delhi, Fellow of Indian Academy of Science, Bangalore and Fellow of Geological Society of India, Bangalore.

Prof. Ahmad went on deputation to Jammu & Kashmir as Commissioner, Department of Geology & Mining where he served for over five years, from 1975 to 1981. Concurrently he was holding charge as Managing Director, Jammu & Kashmir Minerals Ltd., a public sector organization engaged in mineral exploration from 1977 to 1981. After retiring from the service Prof. Ahmad joined Kashmissa Industries Ltd., as General Manager from 1981 to 1987, where he was responsible for exploration of bauxite deposits in Jammu and Kashmir.

Prof. Ahmad received the Chrestien Gondwanaland Gold Medal in 1969 for his contributions to the study of Gondwanaland, the only non-white to be so honoured. He also received Rode Award for research in Geology, 1990 by the Indian Science Congress. Prof. Ahmad contributed significantly towards the exploration of coal deposits in the Trans-Indus Salt Range and the Gypsum deposits in Salt Range in 1943. He put Uttar Pradesh on the coal map of India through his work on the coal deposits in the Singrauli Coalfields (U.P. & M.P.), during 1947-1954. During the period 1954-1961 Dr. Ahmad was responsible for the groundwater exploration in different parts of the country. He was a founder member of the Groundwater Division in the Geological Survey of India, which eventually developed into present day Central Groundwater Board. Dr. Ahmad guided and organized exploration of Pb-Zn deposits in Sopore (1975-1977) and marble deposits in Kupwara (1971-1981), Kashmir.

Prof. Ahmad was extremely knowledgeable about the stratigraphy of the Gondwanaland countries. It was this area of activity where Prof. Ahmad will be remembered by the scientific community. His devotion and hard work on the Palaeogeography of Gondwana land bought him lot of fame. The research contributions of Dr. Ahmad on the Gondwana Geology have been numerous. Amongst his landmark contributions was the Geology of Gondwana system in Gondwanaland and its bearing on the Continental Drift Hypothesis (*Mem. Geol. Surv. Ind. Vol.90, 1959*). It will be difficult to surpass Dr. Ahmad's grasp of Gondwana Stratigraphy in near future. His devotion and hard work for long hours that he spent in the Library of the Geological Survey of India are difficult to match in our present day research set up.

Prof. Ahmad was a widely travelled person who had international exposure and experience which included field works in Australia, China, Tibet, Soviet Union, Afghanistan. He travelled to England, France, East Germany, Australia, Saudi Arabia and participated in several International conferences, the list of which will be very exhaustive.

He developed and diversified research at the Aligarh Muslim University in various fields of Geology which included Sedimentology, Groundwater Geology, Micro-Palaeontology and Glaciology. The development of infrastructural facilities and induction of teachers from Universities other than Aligarh was a tribute to his foresightedness which paid dividends towards the rapid growth of the Geology Department during Prof. Ahmad's time.

Prof. Ahmad in words of Professor S.W. Carey, "was a first class organizer with a capacity for thorough details. He had temperate habits and sincerely devoted to his faith, yet he was completely tolerant and respectful to the creeds and habits of others. I have found him to be a man of the highest moral outlook, integrity and ethics. He was a devoted father and deeply beloved of his family. Prof. Ahmad was a true gentleman. This by nature, not merely a superficial veneer. For he was innately sympathetic, kind and courteous and most generous. In Australia he rapidly endeared himself to all, both to children and humble

folk, as well as to senior professional and business executives. He was a splendid ambassador for India in Australia, and the bonds of goodwill and understanding between our two countries were the richer and stronger for his having been here."

Prof. Ahmad was a keen researcher till the end. The last scientific lecture he gave was the key note address "Gondwanaland, Plate Tectonics and Expanding Earth in the Indo-Tibetan Region" during the National Conference on the Evolution of Gondwanic Crust held in January, 1996 to commemorate 80 years of Professor Ahmad. Prof. Ahmad was active and alert till the end came on 22nd March, 1996, when he breathed his last at King George Medical College, Lucknow.

Prof. Ahmad was a brilliant Geologist, a loving teacher and an outstanding researcher, who will always be remembered by every one, who came in contact with him. He is survived by his wife, a son and a daughter.

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IQBALUDDIN

It is with deep sorrow and regret that we place on record the demise of two of our Life Fellows - Dr. S.R.N. Murthy (on 19.5.96) and Prof. K. Naha (on 24.5.96).

— Ed.