

Mohammad Safdar

(17th July 1937 – 23rd July 2007)



Mohammad Safdar, also known as Safi Safdar, in the literary circles, was born on 17th July 1937 in Julunder, East Punjab. Along with his family, he migrated to Pakistan on partition in 1947. His family suffered great losses during migration phase. His Grand Father was a Hakeem of famous Maharajah Kuthputla family. At the time of migration his family preferred to bring along with them books instead of other valuables due to limited baggage allowance. He studied at Central Model School, Lahore and later took his M.A in Fine Arts through Government College Lahore in 1963. He joined Lawrence College Murree as a Lecturer and later was a Resident Director, Pakistan National Centre, then called Pakistan National Council for Integration, Islamabad until 1974. He also acted as Deputy Election Commissioner of Pakistan. He joined Zambian Civil Service in 1974 on a training assignment which also involved curriculum development for Specialist Art Teachers and Graphic Artists. He also taught cultural history. In 1979, he joined Kaduna polytechnic as a Lecturer to teach at the Department of Architecture.

Mr Safdar has been writing on Art and allied subjects as well as poems since his University days and has held several one man shows in Pakistan and abroad. He hosted a PTV programme “Sanjhan” and interviewed many renowned politicians including Ministers, Writers, Poets and other Intellectuals. He worked with Late Hakeem Saeed on Monthly Magazine, “SCAN”.

Mr Safdar gave numerous talks on SBS and local Multicultural Radios on various subjects including his very popular and informative talks on various renowned personalities. He has done Murals besides Portraiture landscape and Calligraphic Paintings. He has always been actively contributing to the Pakistan Association of Western Australia including being Secretary of the Association in 2002-03. His love for Pakistan and Islam was very strong and irrevocable. He recently wrote a book to guide Pakistani Associations worldwide on how to organize various functions, which is yet to be published. He has served Islamic Council of Western Australia for years as Public Relations Officer and published the council newsletter.

Mr Safdar worked for Volunteering WA as a Referral Officer for years. His volunteering services will always be remembered. He interviewed many volunteers and these were compiled and published by Volunteering WA. His passion was to encourage Muslims to come up and volunteer themselves for the Muslim community and the community at large that is all Australians.

Mr Safdar is an author of a book of Punjabi poetry, "Sukay Pattar" and several articles on major artists of Pakistan in particular, a book on Nagi. He wrote for various periodicals and national dailies. His most recent book is "Islam in a Multicultural Environment". This book will be launched soon, Insha'Allah. Amongst his close friends in the literary circles of Pakistan were Hakeem Saeed from Hamdard, Nagi, Sadqain, Anwar Masood, Sikandar Shaheen, Zameer Jaafary and many more.

In nutshell, Mr Safdar was a noble friend and a noble member of his family. He was a great poet and a thinker. He will always be missed and remembered by the Muslim community in general and Pakistani Community in Pakistan and Australia in particular.

Mr Safdar passed away due to sudden heart attack on the evening of 23rd July 2007. He left behind his wife, Talat, his son, Adil and two daughters, Aalia and Aeysha in his immediate family. We pray to Allah SWT that May Allah SWT grant him a special place in Paradise and patience to his bereaved family and friends.