CONCLUSION

Prophet Muhammad (P.B.U.H.), at his last sermon addressed to a mammoth gathering at Arafat, asked the audience present there to propagate his message to those who did not happen to be present there. So many learned scholars, Muhadditheen and Mufassireen spread out far and wide with the message of Islam. Some of them came to Bengal with the traders who had long been acquainted with the land. They found the land to be inhabited by the idolaters, so they felt urgency to spread the message of Tawhid among them. Initially they were confronted with many hardships, because they were not in the good books of the Hindu rulers. When the Muslim rulers were established in Bengal by Ikhtiyar ud-Din they felt great advantages because the Muslim rulers patronized them liberally.

The first Quranic injunction which was revealed to the Prophet was 1 which means, 'read in the name of Allah who created you. This verse clearly exposes what a great importance Islam attaches to the acquisition of knowledge. Each and every Muslim ruler very much believed in this injunction. So they founded many

1. Quran, Al Khalaq, LXXXVI, 1.
mosques, madrasahs, maktabs and other academic institutions, the relics of which are still available in many places. The tradition of establishing religious and academic institutions continued even beyond the end of Muslim rule in Bengal. Apart from this, the Muslims have contributed a lot in the creation of many immortal literatures. Arabic and Persian languages were in vogue but Persian was more prevalent, as compared to Arabic, because of the following factors. The majority of the Muslim rulers of Bengal were either Persian or Turkish and naturally they were more in favour of this language. From the very beginning they adopted it as official language. The Muslim intelligentsia also undertook literary activities more in Persian. As far as origin of the language is concerned, Persian and modern Indo-Aryan languages belong to the common sub branch of the great Indo-European family of languages. Apart from the Muslims, this soft language was equally dear to the Hindus. The Muslim as well as Hindu writers had profusely used Persian words in their Bengali literature. In this way Bengali literature was greatly enriched.

On the other hand Arabic belonged to a completely different family of languages. It is semite in origin.
Arabic was never spoken in Bengal and produced a few authors of eminence. Despite of all these difficulties, Arabic was a dignified language to the Muslims as it is the language of the Quran and the Hadith. This was the reason that this language was mainly confined to religious circle. Because of the afore mentioned factors there was a profusion of Persian works as compared to Arabic in the medieval Muslim period of Bengal.

The Muslim scholars also took to writing in Bengali and produced a lot of valuable works both religious and romantic with an aim to counteracting the deleterious effects of Hindu literature over the common Muslim masses and helping the same for better appreciation of the complex religious matters.

So it can be safely concluded that the Bengal's contribution to Islamic Studies is not a mere conjecture but is an established fact.

-----