

## Faizunnesa Choudhurani (b. 1834 - d. 1903)

Historically speaking, women have played an influential role in the rise and development of Islamic culture and civilisation. During the early days of Islam, when the Prophet Muhammad had no one to help and support him, it was his wife Khadijah bint Khuwailid who became his foremost supporter and benefactor. Other early Muslim women who had played a pivotal role in the development of Islamic thought and culture included Aishah bint Abi Bakr, Hafsa bint Umar and Amrah bint Abd al-Rahman.

Subsequently, during the Umayyad and Abbasid periods, the contribution and achievements of women like Zainab ibn Ali, Rabi'a al-Adawiyyah, Khayzuran bint Atta and Zubaida, the wife of Abbasid Caliph Harun al-Rashid, were noteworthy. Later, during the Muslim rule of the subcontinent, women like Sultan Razia, Nur Jahan and Mumtaz Mahal, among others, had played their part in the development of Muslim culture and heritage in that part of the world. These heroic and pioneering Muslim women had played their part in the emergence of Islam as a global faith and culture.

The example set by the early Muslim women subsequently inspired others to transcend social, economic and cultural barriers to carve out a unique place for themselves in the annals of Islamic history. Like the rest of the Muslim world, Bengal also produced many outstanding and inspirational Muslim women. Faizunnesa Choudhurani was one such remarkable lady who by the sheer dint of her character and personality left her indelible marks in the history of Muslim Bengal.

Faizunnesa Choudhurani was born into a wealthy and devout Muslim family in the village of Pashchingaon in Laksham town in the district of Comilla (located in present-day Bangladesh).....

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To read this full BIOGRAPHICAL ENTRY by **Muhammad Mojlum Khan**, please see his long-awaited book,

**THE MUSLIM HERITAGE OF BENGAL:**  
*The Lives, Thoughts and Achievements of Forty Great Muslim Scholars, Writers  
and Reformers of Bangladesh and West Bengal*

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