Obituary

National Professor Dr. A. K. M. Aminul Haque (1929-2022)

National Professor Dr. A. K. M. Aminul Haque was born on 02 July, 1929 in Char Jamail village of Husainpur upazila under Kishoreganj district and died on 29 August 2022 at the age of 93 in Gulshan, Dhaka, Bangladesh. He left behind two sons, one daughter, a wife and many relatives.

Professor Haque was the eminent Fisheries Scientist who had remarkable contribution to Fisheries Biology, especially Cetacean (dolphin, porpoise and whale). He is the Founder of Fisheries education in Bangladesh since he introduced the first ever fisheries education as a distinct academic and development discipline in this subcontinent by establishing the Faculty of Fisheries at Bangladesh Agricultural University, Mymensingh, in 1967.

Professor Haque was exceedingly meritorious with the record that he received a merit-based scholarship at the most public examinations from primary education to Ph.D. degree study. He passed the Matriculation examination under Calcutta University in 1946, securing first division with the 10th position among all students and first position among all Muslim students in the whole university. He passed I. Sc. examination under Dhaka University in 1948, obtaining first division, B. Sc. from Dhaka University in 1950, acquiring first division with distinction, and M. Sc. from Panjab University in 1952, getting a first class. He obtained a Ph.D. from Nottingham University in 1957 and did SEATO Post-doctoral study at Tokyo University from 1970-1971.

Professor Haque has a brilliant and outstanding professional career. He started his career as a Lecturer of Zoology at Dhaka University during 1952-1954; Senior Lecturer of Zoology at Dhaka University during 1957-1962; Reader of Zoology at East Pakistan (now Bangladesh) Agricultural University (BAU) during 1962-1967; Professor of Fisheries at BAU during 1967-1989; Dean of the Faculty of Fisheries for 12 years from 1968 to 1980; Visiting Professor of Tokyo University, Japan in 1970-1971; Guest Teacher, Chulalongkorn University, Thailand in 1971. He was the Vice Chancellor of Bangladesh Agricultural University for eight years, during 1980-1988.

Professor Haque received many prestigious awards, honors and distinctions, notably UNESCO prizes for a school textbook (1961-1962) and a book “Chil-Myna-Doel-Koel” (1963-1964), Fish Fortnight Gold Medal 1996 & 2003, National Teachers Day Gold Medal Award in the University Category 2003, Dr. S. D. Chaudhuri Gold Medal 2004, National Professorship 2006, Life Time Achievement Award 2008, and CSRL, GROW and OXFAM Award 2011. He was a BAS Fellow from 1988 until his death.

Professor Haque was interests in other aspects such as wildlife and environment conservation, bird-watching, dolphin and whale watching, star-gazing, and community welfare. He is recognized as an extraordinarily talented and successful teacher, researcher and science writer. Professor Haque will remain ever reminisced in the minds of thousands of his favorite students, colleagues, friends, and well-wishers at home and abroad.

- M. Jahiruddin