

Obituary



Professor M. Nurul Haque Khan
(1931-2010)

Professor Dr. M. Nurul Haque Khan, a Fellow of the Bangladesh Academy of Sciences and a reputed biochemist passed away on 17 October 2010 at his Gulshan residence, Dhaka due to old age complications. He was born in Dhollah, Tangail on 01 October 1931 in a very respectable and illustrious Muslim family. His father was Late Golam Mostafa Khan and mother Late Ayesha Begum.

Dr. Nurul Haque Khan had his early education in Tangail and passed the Matriculation Examination from Nagarpur Jadunath High School in the year 1947 securing First Division. He passed I. Sc. examination from the Saadat College, Karatia in 1949 in First Division. He graduated with Honours in Chemistry in 1952 and obtained M.Sc. in Chemistry in 1953 from the University of Dhaka. He worked for about a year in a research project on medicinal plants and then joined the Department of Chemistry, University of Dhaka as a Junior Lecturer. In 1957 he was awarded Colombo Plan Scholarship for higher studies at the Department of Chemistry, University of Ottawa, Canada and was awarded Ph.D. Degree for his outstanding work on alkaloids.

On his return from Canada in 1960, Dr. Khan joined the Department of Biochemistry (presently, Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology), University of Dhaka as a Lecturer. He became Reader in 1964 and was appointed as a Professor of Biochemistry in 1975. He retired from the Dhaka University in 1997. Professor Khan was a recipient of SEATO Fellowship in 1970 and United Nations University Fellowship in 1984 to work on Vitamin-A and high protein food, respectively. He was elected a Fellow of the Bangladesh Academy of Sciences in 1978.

Professor Khan was a member of different scientific societies including Bangladesh Association for the Advancement of Science, Bangladesh Biochemical Society, and Nutrition Society of Bangladesh. He worked in different capacities in the Executive Committee of the above mentioned scientific societies. Professor Khan was elected a Member of Senate, University of Dhaka during 1989-1991.

Professor Khan served as a Member of NCST Subcommittee on BCSIR, as Convener of DDT Technical Subcommittee, Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation. He was a Member of the Editorial Board of Journal of Bangladesh Academy of Sciences, Bangladesh Journal of Biological Sciences, and Dhaka University Studies (Science).

Professor Nurul Haque Khan served for several terms as a Member of the Board of Governors of the Institute of Nutrition and Food Sciences, University of Dhaka. He published a good number scientific paper in national and international journals. His research interest included natural food products and nutrition. He presented scientific and technical papers in various national and international seminars, academy meetings, and conferences.

In the sad demise of Professor Nurul Haque Khan, the country lost a dedicated scientist and a devoted researcher, and the Bangladesh Academy of Sciences lost a distinguished Fellow. He was a man of very amiable disposition and pleasing personality. He left behind his wife Kamarun Nahar Khan, four sons, a daughter and a host of relatives, friends, students and admirers to mourn his death. May the Almighty Allah give courage to the bereaved family to bear this loss with fortitude and grant him eternal peace.

- Syed Mohammad Humayun Kabir