

THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER

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Dr. Qudrat-e-Khuda

It is with a shock that the nation has received the news of the death of Dr. Qudrat-e-Khuda. He died on Thursday of cancer in the urinary bladder at the Institute of Post-Graduate Medicine at 4.15 P.M. The tragic end was preceded by days of struggle with death.

The only consolation with which his death can be taken is that he died at the ripe old age of 77—covering more than one generation and an eventful history of political and social changes. What must however depress us most is that with him seems to have come to an end the era of outstanding academic and scientific preoccupation and achievement for a country like Bangladesh. His death has thus left a void which will be hard to fill soon.

Dr. Khuda's distinguished status as scholar, patriot, academician, scientist and researcher in science is based not on adventitious facts of office and detached or uninvolved association with the world of education and scholarship. His was an active role of the participating activist in the field of his interest, in science and outside of science. In him one cannot fail noticing a versatility which includes sound contributions to fields other than science. This width of intellectual and scientific interest and performance has earned him a well-deserved reputation both at home and abroad. And in the academic field he remains thus the solitary figure enjoying such wide-ranging fame. Original research and investigation in chemistry (which was his subject) and allied subjects carried on by him with immense devotion resulted in publication of works published in local and foreign journals. His scientific

interest indeed was so blended with such solicitude for the spread of knowledge of science on specialised as well as popular level that he produced works of science for all classes of readers down to school students, preferring the vernacular for its medium for the latter. It will be no exaggeration that as a pioneer in scientific research in this country (beginning from the days of Pakistan) and promoter of that research on an extensive scale Dr. Khuda's contribution is very vitally sizable.

Brilliant as student, then equally brilliant and distinguished in his career as professor and later principal of the Presidency College, Calcutta, till the days of intense involvement in the task of advancing science and knowledge of science and Bengali language and culture Dr. Qudrat-e-Khuda will be surely missed not only by the present generation of students, scholars and intellectuals in this country but also by the coming generations for quite some time to come. The fittest tribute to his memory would be to look upon him as a model of dedicated scholarship in scientific study and research and use his example in our academic and research effort toward advancement of science and technology in a more committed and original way.

Deeply shocked at the death of the eminent scientist President and Chief Martial Law Administrator Major-General Ziaur Rahman in a condolence message said that it would not be easy to fill the vacuum caused by his death. We join the President in his prayer for the salvation of the departed soul and expression of sympathy for the members of the bereaved family.