



Quadrat-e-Khuda passes away

By A Staff Reporter

Dr. Mohammad Quadrat-e-Khuda died on Thursday of cancer in the urinary bladder with diabetic complications at the Institute of Post-Graduate Medicine at 4-15 p.m. He was 77.

His widow, a son and three daughters, grand children and friends, relatives, students and colleagues were at his bedside when the end came. Also at his bedside was Dr. Matur Rahman and members of the board of physicians who fought the grim battle for the past 40 days before death snatched away yet another illustrious son of Bangladesh.

An eminent scientist of the sub-continent by his own right and a dedicated educationist, Dr. Khuda was a name that became ideal for hundreds of young votaries of science.

With his death came an end of an era which witnessed a selfless dedication to the cause of science, the cause which could help the commonman.

Dr. Khuda chose a difficult untrodden path to find out answers to common problems faced by the people of this country and fought with unflinching determination to develop facilities where these problems could be solved. It resulted in the establishment of the Pakistan Science and Industrial Research Council, now renamed Bangladesh Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (BCSIR) perhaps Khuda would have earned that easy fame if he would have chosen other paths and worked in distant lands. But Khuda's world was the world of men nearer at hand, the men whom he found hurtling through the non-existence. Therefore his efforts to produce men and facilities to solve the problems of these men went unrelented. 'Science Laboratory' as is popularly known is one such success.

He was in the oxygen tent for past one week and lost consciousness about 24 hours before the end came.

The Namaj-e-Zanaja of Dr.

Khuda will be held today (Friday) at the Dacca University mosque after Juma prayers.

The body of Dr. Khuda was removed to his home at Road No 27, Dhanmondi Residential Area in the evening.

LIFE SKETCH

Born in a respectable Muslim family on December 1, 1900 (26 Baishakh, 1307) at village Margram under Birbhum district of West Bengal, the eminent scientist Dr. Mohammad Quadrat-e-Khuda had his early education at Margram High School and Woodburn M. E. School of Calcutta, says BSS.

Having an excellent academic career from his boyhood, Dr. Khuda passed Matriculation examination in the First Division in 1918.

As brilliant student of Calcutta Presidency College and Calcutta University, Dr. Khuda got First Class in Chemistry in M.Sc. He was awarded the "Premchand-Rajchand" scholarship and gold medal by the Calcutta University for his Post-Doctorate researches. He was the only Muslim in the sub-continent, who was awarded all

Contd. on page 12 col. 3

Contd. from page 1
these distinctions for his extraordinary academic career.

PRINCIPAL PRESIDENCY COLLEGE

In 1929, Dr. Khuda obtained his D.Sc. and DIC degrees from the University of London and Imperial College of Science and Technology, London. He joined Calcutta Presidency College as Professor of Chemistry, in 1931 and became head of the department in 1936. Later, Dr. Khuda became the Principal of the Presidency College. Before leaving for the then East Pakistan, Dr. Khuda served the Calcutta Islamia College and became an honourable member of Calcutta University syndicate also.

FIRST DPI

The reputed educationist Dr. Khuda was the first DPI of former East Pakistan and a member of the Executive Council of the Dacca University. He represented Pakistan at the UN-ESCO conferences in 1949 and 1951 abroad. He was also appointed Scientific Adviser to the Ministry of Defence, Government of Pakistan in 1949 and represented the country in different scientific conferences of Commonwealth of Defence — Science.

CHAIRMAN BSE

Dr. Khuda was also the Chairman of the Board of Secondary Education, from 1952 to 1955 and a member of Pakistani delegation to the conference of Commonwealth DSIR held in Australia in 1952. An architect of former East Regional Laboratory (Science Laboratory), Dr. Khuda was appointed its Director in January 1953 and continued in that capacity till his retirement in 1966.

Dr. Khuda was appointed Chairman of the Education Commission set up after independence.

Apart from his contribution to the cause of education, Dr. Khuda had a pioneering role in the country's scientific researches. He conducted a research on the modification of Strair Hypothesis and made important contribution culminating in his work on Kotocyclolol Tentomism. He also carried out a large volume of work on stainless character of monocyclic rings.

CONTRIBUTION OF CHEMISTRY

Dr. Khuda's contribution to the Chemistry of Steroisomeric Camphoric Acid Esters is an important landmark in the field of Chemistry of Camphoric Acid. These have gone into the latest publication on Organic Chemistry and formed the basis of conformational ideas in Organic Chemistry.

Besides, many of his fundamental contributions and inventions, Dr. Khuda made a lot for the country's students and teachers in publishing a book on Organic Chemistry in Bengali. In 1966, while deeply associating with the Central Bengal Development Board, he helped publication of a number of scientific books in Bengali for the higher studies. He had also written a text book on science for matric standard students which was prescribed for high schools of Bengal during the forties.

During his long 77 years lifetime, he was associated with a number of national and international educational and scientific bodies. He was a fellow, London Chemical Society, Member, Society of Chemical Industries, London, Member, American Chemical Society, Fellow, Indian Chemical Society, founder Member-Fellow and lastly the President of Pakistan Association for the advancement of science, Dr. Khuda was also the President of Bangla Academy and Chairman of the Central Board for the Development of Bengali.

A dedicated soul for the advancement of science, Dr. Khuda was also elected Chairman of the Society for Arts and Philosophy in 1974. According to an assessment, Dr. Khuda published more than 156 research works in the scientific research journals of home and abroad. During the late 60's when attack was made on Bengali culture, the cultural organisation in the country put up a resistance under his leadership.

He left behind two sons and four daughters. The eldest son Dr. Mahub-e-Khuda is a Geologist and the second son, Dr. Manzoor-e-Khuda, is a Chemical Scientist serving Dacca Science Laboratory.