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Qudrat-e-Khuda

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The death of Dr Mohammad Qudrat-e-Khuda has brought the curtains down on an illustrious and eventful career in science. A devoted student of chemistry, Dr Qudrat-e-Khuda had always thought that the utility of scientific discourses lay in their application to the problems of living. His career in science which spanned more than four decades was therefore dotted with innumerable researches on the use of chemistry for developing indigenous resources and for improving the standard of living of the common man.

He had to tread virgin lands for solutions which best suited to our conditions. What made the endeavours of Dr Qudrat-e-Khuda, often a lone ranger in the laboratories, singularly remarkable was that he fought an uphill task against resource constraints and lack of facilities. The conditions in which he worked were definitely not ideal always. But these proved no dampers in the process. He had the enthusiasm of a pioneer breaking new grounds. The Bangladesh Council for Scientific and Industrial Research stands today as a glowing example of the organisational skill and the missionary zeal of the departed scientist.

Dr Qudrat-e-Khuda proved to be an able educationist. In various capacities he made his contribution to the systems of secondary and higher education in this country. He was a proponent for imparting scientific instructions in the mother tongue. This was one of the ways, he believed, science could be taken out of the cloisters of advanced institutes and made a companion of the man in the street. He wrote technical books in Bengali, and while he was associated with the Bengali Development Board, he helped in the publication of several text-books on science.

What makes Dr Qudrat-e-Khuda's life and achievements noteworthy is the fact that he had shunned the superficial glories of living and working abroad and chose to serve his country. The glamour of foreign institutes was not able to entice this brilliant man of science from the needs of the motherland. Such a sense of devotion to the cause of the country kept him apart from the crowd. In his own way he had waged a struggle for achieving economic and political self-reliance. But his innumerable students and admirers will remember him not only for his erudition and the contributions he made to science, but for the spirit that was behind the noble endeavours.

There should be efforts to preserve the memory of the man whose eminence in his own field will provide inspirations for the future.