



**11 October 1937 to
09 March 2025**

Obituary

PROF. T A CHOWDHURY
Professor of Obstetrics & Gynaecology

Prof T A Chowdhury was born on 11th October 1937 in Kolkata, India. He was the third of eight children of Mr. M A Chowdhury, an employee of the Government of British India and Mrs. Nurun Nahar. After Partition, the family moved to Dhaka where Dr. Chowdhury finished his secondary and higher secondary education. In 1960, he passed the MBBS final exams from Dhaka Medical College with honors marks in obstetrics and gynecology. Two years later, he went to the UK on a government scholarship where he completed FRCS in pelvic surgery and MRCOG in obstetrics and gynecology. He joined the Pakistan Government Health Services soon after his return. The following six years were spent at Mitford Hospital as Assistant Professor. During the liberation war of 1971, Dr. Chowdhury was posted at Chittagong Medical College. In 1972, only months after the independence of Bangladesh, he joined the Institute of Post Graduate Medical Research (IPGMR) as Associate Professor; years later he served both as Professor and Director of the same institution until his retirement. In 1994, he joined BIRDEM to provide honorary services where Dr. Chowdhury established a full-fledged OBGYN department and dedicate himself to academic activities. He continued his honorary post that included clinical services and postgraduate and undergraduate teaching until his death on 9th March 2025 at the age of 87 years.

Throughout his career, Dr. T. A Chowdhury was an excellent clinician and surgeon eager to learn and apply new methods and techniques. He was a pioneer of endoscopic surgery and modern fertility treatment in Bangladesh. He was a legendary teacher among his students who remember him for his unique method as well as dedication to teaching. He is now widely known as “the teacher of all teachers” in OBGYN in Bangladesh. His many awards and felicitation include an honorary PhD from BSMMU. A legend at home, his fame as a teacher traveled across national boundaries, and for his contribution to postgraduate education in Nepal, he received their highest civilian award *Gorkha Dakshina Bahu*. The Asia Oceania federation of OBGYN (AOFOG) also awarded him an honorary fellowship. In 2017, for lifelong services to the medical field, Dr. T. A. Chowdhury received Bangladesh's highest civilian award, *Swadhinata Padak*.

Dr. Chowdhury is remembered for his organizational skills. He was the president of multiple professional organizations, many of which he also founded. They include BCPS, OGSB, FSSB, SAFOG (South Asian Federation of OBGYN), He was also vice president of AOFOG. Dedicating his life to the physical and social welfare of women in Bangladesh, Dr. Chowdhury not only established his private OBGYN institute and fertility center offering affordable services in Dhaka, he also established M. N. Chowdhury Memorial High School for rural girls and boys in his hometown Senbagh in Noakhali.

Dr. T. A. Chowdhury was a man of simple living with childlike enthusiasm for knowledge, whether a new medical treatment or digital technology. He proved that age was no barrier when it came to learning. He enjoyed travelling and visited more than fifty countries in his lifetime. A voracious reader, he was up to date on current affairs, ranging from politics to entertainment. Photography was one of his passions, and when time was less scarce, he loved spending time with his camera. Though eager to try out different cuisines, Dr. Chowdhury's comfort food was homecooked fish and vegetables which he enjoyed until the end.

Dr T. A. Chowdhury is survived by his wife, Dr Farida Khatun, his partner and professional collaborator of more than fifty years, three daughters and three grandchildren. He also left behind a much larger family of dedicated students in and beyond Bangladesh who continue to carry and apply his teaching through their work, and thousands of patients and their families whose lives he changed through expertise, knowledge, empathy, and care.



Obituary

PROFESSOR SUBHAGATA CHOUDHURY

Professor of Medical Biochemistry

Professor Subhagata Choudhury was a distinguished person in the field of medical biochemistry, widely regarded for his profound contributions to health science education in Bangladesh. Famous for his engaging teaching style and dedication to his students, he became a beloved professor who inspired many aspiring health professionals. In his academic role, he was a prolific writer, producing a wealth of popular literature on health science that made complex topics accessible and understandable to the general public. His legacy lies not only in his scholarly work but also in the numerous lives he touched through his passion for education and awareness on health issues.

He conducted his extensive research on health care at the St Thomas' Hospital in London, gaining invaluable insights into various aspects of medical science. His professional journey included significant roles such as the principal of Chittagong Medical College, where he not only shaped the curriculum but also inspired countless students in their pursuit of medical education. He also served as the dean of the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Chittagong, further solidifying his influence in medical academia.

He took on the role of director of laboratory services at BIRDEM, of Diabetic Association of Bangladesh Dhaka, a prominent institution focused on diabetes and endocrine disorders. His expertise was widely recognised, leading him to become an advisor to the Association of Nutritionists and Dieticians for Social Services (ANDSS), where he contributed to public health advocacy. Moreover, Professor Choudhury was honoured to be an elected fellow of the New York Academy of Sciences, a testament to his dedication and contribution to the scientific community.

In addition, to his research and teaching endeavors, Professor Choudhury dedicated his life to educating the general public about the importance of healthy eating habits and active lifestyles. His efforts transcended the academic realm, making him a household name for raising awareness about health through his engaging writings. Over his prolific career, he authored 62 books in Bengali and penned more than 50 articles in prominent medical journals, focusing on critical areas such as biochemistry, nutrition, and medical education. In recognition of his significant contributions to literature and science, he received the prestigious Bangla Academy Literary Award in 2021 in the category of science, science fiction, or environmental science. Professor Choudhury passed away in January 2025 at his residence in Dhaka. His work inspires and educates many, reflecting his unwavering commitment to improving public health and understanding.

Professor Arup Ratan Choudhury
BDS, PhD, FDSRCS(England)

Visiting Professor, Department of Dental Surgery, BIRDEM General Hospital