

Obituary News

An obituary to Professor A K M Rafiquddin : Words cannot express our grief

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The doctors' community and the patients are in profound grief on the loss of yet another scholar of medical science as Professor A K M Rafiquddin has died on 18th October, 2013 suffering from adrenocortical malignancy and renal failure.

Known as 'Selim' to his friends and family, Professor Rafiquddin was borne in 1949. He completed his graduation from Mymensingh Medical College in 1972 and obtained FCPS in medicine in 1980. He served in different areas of Bangladesh and in different medical colleges. He served for a long period, starting as Assistant Professor to Professor of Medicine, in Rajshahi Medical College. He retired from government job from Dhaka Medical College as the head of medicine department in 2006. He enlightened the medicine department of Enam Medical College as its head till death. He was the founder president of non communicable disease foundation (NCDF) and was tireless in contributing his expertise and advocacy for treatment and prevention of non communicable disease. He had more than 100 national and international publications to his credit.

Professor Rafiquddin was one of the best clinicians of our country who always gave emphasis more on history and clinical examinations rather than investigations for

diagnosis. Students and trainee doctors were frequently astonished to see him obtaining a lot of information from the patients asking only a few questions. He was very rational regarding laboratory investigations and always taught his students to consider the economic condition of the patient during writing investigations. He was miser during writing drugs and always tried to cure his patients with minimum number but specific medications ignoring all the provocations of pharmaceutical companies. A man of such ideals and ethics is becoming a rarity in our society.

It's said that a teacher teaches, a good teacher demonstrates but a great teacher inspires. Professor Rafique was a passionate, hard working and committed teacher putting his heart and soul in to teaching. He used to be and will remain as a reference for knowledge and skill in clinical medicine & numerous students he left behind all over the country will be following the example set by Professor Rafique in their life time. I heard many promising specialist doctors saying proudly that he/she had been a trainee of Professor Rafique Uddin. Chairs and benches in the class of Professor Rafique were always outnumbered by the spell bound students even in the early morning class of 7.30 AM. I saw trainee doctors from different institutions rushing towards Dhaka Medical College to learn the art of history taking and clinical examination from him. Although a friendly teacher in the classroom and bed side, Professor Rafique was a very tough examiner in the postgraduate examinations who never compromised regarding quality and set a high standard for passing.

A good doctor-patient relationship is a medium through which data are gathered, diagnostic approach is

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formulated, treatment is executed and compliance is accomplished. But there has been much criticism regarding doctor-patient relationship in our country that the doctors do not pay adequate attention and do not explain anything to the patient. Professor Rafique was an exception. He used to listen to the patients complaints, both in hospital and private practice, with utmost patience and sympathy. He had a way of communicating with the patients that resonated far beyond what most specialists ever manage to achieve. The Students, junior doctors or trainees, whoever it is, had to pay the penalty if any one was seen to misbehave with the patients.

Personally, I have many sweet memories with Professor Rafique starting from the very first day I joined as Assistant Professor in 1988 in Rajshahi Medical College where he was a legend among his students and patients. He arranged a house for my living and managed a chamber for private practice with in short period. Together we used to travel between Dhaka & Rajshahi for many years. His heartfelt warmth and love along with the helps he extended towards me brightened my days of Rajshahi that I still cherish in my mind. But I also found

a strong personality and strict principle behind his gentle smile and polite behaviour. I can remember one day I was returning to Dhaka along with Professor Rafique to attend PCS examination for Associate Professor and incidentally he was one of the examiners of PSC of my exam. But he did not give slightest hint about the examination or probable questions. In the examination board, in his turn to ask me questions, Professor Rafique said that he would not ask me anything on principle as I had been known to him personally for prolong period. But he kept a keen eye so that I was not deprived and fortunately I stood first. He had always been my friend, guide, counselor and mentor. Words can not express my grief at his early departure.

No national award has been announced for him nor a floral wreath with an obituary message for his coffin. But Professor A K M Rafiquddin will always be remembered by his students whom he taught the art of medicine, by his colleagues, senior and junior doctors who felt the warmth of his company and obviously by his patients whom he served in his life time. We do not want to mourn his death rather we are thankful to God that such man lived among us.

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BMA would like to express deep condolence on deaths of the following notable physicians in recent past :

Serial Number	Name	Age	Name of District	Date of Death
1	Dr Sayed Uddin Talukder	88	Barisal	07/10/2013
2	Professor A K M Rafique Uddin	63	Dhaka	18/10/2013
3	Dr Zohora Khatun	81	Gaibanda	21/10/2013
4	Dr Zakaria Chowdhury	86	Chittagong	21/10/2013
5	Dr Faruk-Uz-zaman	68	Comilla	21/10/2013
6	Dr Istifen Mridha	-	Bagerhat	23/10/2013
7	Dr Badal Chandra Paul	62		26/10/2013
8	Dr Swapan Kumar Mandol	89	Bogra	02/11/2013
9	Dr J B Roy	-	Kishorgonj	13/11/2013
10	Dr Ferdoush Alam Sibbi	60	Barisal	16/11/2013
11	Dr Gouranga Chandra Das	52	Khulna	17/11/2013
12	Dr Moazzem Hossain	85	Noakhali	18/11/2013
13	Dr Rafiqur Rahman Chowdhury	62	Chittagong	18/11/2013
14	Dr Mahe Alam	-	Dhaka	30/11/2013
15	Dr Shafique Chowdhury	98	Sunamgonj	01/12/2013
16	Dr Md Maklukur Rahman Murad	30	Tangail	08/12/2013
17	Dr Alhaj Syed Abdur Rahim	85	khulna	10/12/2013
18	Dr Md Mir Quashem	70	Cox's Bazar	19/12/2013
19	Dr Md Mizanur Rahman Dipu	49	Dhaka.	21/12/2013
20	Dr Abdul Awal	58	Sirajgonj	24/12/2013
21	Dr Md Nazrul Islam	72	Gaibandha	25/12/2013
22	Dr Md Ansar Ali	85		30/12/2013

May Almighty bless the departed souls.

Our heartiest commiseration to the deceased's family. Our prayers are with them during this difficult moment of their life.

Corrigendum

We apologize to our readers for the unfortunate error in Bangladesh Medical Journal Vol. 42 No. 3 September 2013. The title of 'On Being a Doctor' in the index in cover page would be '**Why should we pay a doctor who is from our own locality**' instead of '**Experiences of a general practitioner in rural areas: Memories of twenty years back.**' Title of 'On Being a Doctor' in the text in page 98 would be the same.