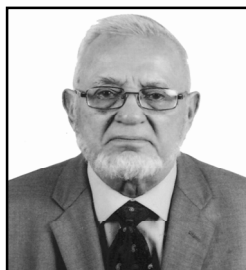


Obituary



**Professor Dr. Aminul Islam
(1935-2017)**

A nationally well known Soil Scientist, teacher and academic administrator and the former President of Bangladesh Academy of Sciences, Professor Emeritus Dr. Aminul Islam breathed his last on 29 November 2017 in Ibne Sina hospital in Dhaka. Professor Dr. Aminul was born on 1st January 1935 in a respectable Muslim family of Comilla.

Professor Dr. Aminul Islam obtained B. Sc. (Honours) degree in Chemistry and an M. Sc. degree in Soil Science securing first class first position from University of Dhaka in 1955. He received his Ph.D. degree in Soil Science from Michigan University, USA in 1962. He joined the Department of Soil Science of Dhaka University as a Lecturer. Later on, he joined Soil Survey Project of Pakistan as a Deputy Director in January 1963. He came back to his academic profession in DU and retired as a selection grade Professor of Soil Science in 1996. He was Vice-Chancellor of Daffodil International University (2001-2011); Vice-Chancellor of National University, Bangladesh (1996-2000); three times Dean of the Faculty of Biological Sciences, DU; Director, Biotechnology Research Center and Center for Advanced Research in Biological Sciences, DU. Until death, he was Professor Emeritus of Daffodil International University. He became President, Bangladesh Academy of Sciences in 2016.

He published 129 articles in the national and international journals, 9 articles in the Proceedings of Symposium, Conference and Seminar and 2 chapters of a book. He was also a member, Editorial Board of Bangla Academy Science Encyclopedia; Editorial Board Member of Banglapedia published by Asiatic Society of Bangladesh.

As a consultant in International and National Organizations, Dr. Islam worked as Soil Management Expert, FAO (1993); Agricultural Research Evaluation specialist, World Bank (1988); Soil Research Evaluation specialist, FAO (1987); Agronomy Expert in Sri Lanka; Senior Soil Scientist for SARM in FCD Project, 1989; and Senior Soil Scientist for Hazra Engineering International (1984-85).

Professor Aminul Islam was a Fulbright Scholar (1959-62), SEATO Fellow (June-July, 1965); Nuffield Foundation Fellow (1968-69); and DAAD Fellow (Jan-April, 1978). He participated, presented papers and led delegations at International Seminars/Symposia held in China, Chili, Hong Kong, India, Malaysia, New Zealand, North Korea, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Thailand, UK and USA.

Professor Islam got Life Long Achievement award in Teaching and Research in Soil Science by the Soil Science Society of Bangladesh in 2013; Renowned Soil Scientist of Bangladesh in 1993 by Association of Ex-students, Association of DU Soil Science Department; Comilla Foundation Gold Medal, 1991 Science and Education; Independence Day Gold Medal, 1990; Third World Academy of Sciences and Bangladesh Academy of Sciences Joint Gold Medal, 1986; and President's Gold Medal, 1981 for contribution in Agricultural Research in Bangladesh.

Professor Aminul Islam a was Senate and Syndicate member of the University of Dhaka. He was as President of the Bangladesh Academy of Sciences (May 2016 – till death), Bangladesh Soil Science Society, Bangladesh Association for the Advancement of Sciences (BAAS); General Secretary of BAAS and Bangladesh Academy of Sciences (BAS); Council Member of BAS, Editorial Board of BAS, Editorial Board of Journal of Sciences of BAAS. He was a Life Member of Bangla Academy, Asiatic Society of Bangladesh, Bangladesh Soil science Society, Bangladesh Chemical Society, Dhaka University Alumni Association, and Salimullah Muslim Hall Alumni Association. He acted as Treasurer of Bangladesh Football Federation and University of Dhaka Students' Union.

Professor Dr. Aminul Islam left his wife, Mrs. Helen Islam, a daughter and a son and also a host of well-wishers, students, colleagues, relatives and friends.

In his sad demise, the Academy lost a valued fellow scientist and the nation a great son. We pray to the Almighty Allah, Most Gracious and Most Merciful, to grant eternal peace to the departed soul and to give strength and courage to the members of his family to bear the loss with fortitude. *Amen.*

- Quazi Abdul Fattah