

## Obituary



### **Professor Dr. Quazi Abdul Fattah**

Professor Dr. Quazi Abdul Fattah, was an internationally reputed plant scientist, educationist, an outstanding researcher and teacher. He had a great contribution to the development of Biological Sciences and addressing the environmental problems of Bangladesh. He was a Fellow, Council member, Vice President, and President of the Bangladesh Academy of Sciences.

Professor Dr. Quazi Abdul Fattah, son of Late Alhaj Kazi Abdus Samad and Late Mosammat Zobeda Khatun, was born on 2 April, 1934 at Magura, the then Jessore district. Prof. Fattah earned his M.Sc preliminary degree in Botany from the University of Dhaka in 1952, securing First Class First position and M.Sc degree with First class First position in 1953. In 1961 he participated in Summer Science Course for Biology teachers of Universities and Colleges from all over the then Pakistan and stood first.

In March 1954, he joined the Botany Department, Sunamganj College, Sylhet, then joined Dhaka College, Dhaka in 1954 and continued up to September 1957. In September 1957, he went to the University of Bristol, U.K., with Colombo Plan Scholarship and earned Special Honours in Botany with subsidiary Zoology and Microbiology in 1960. After coming back from abroad, he joined as a lecturer in Botany in Eden Girls College in 1960 and then transferred to Murari Chand College in Sylhet in 1962. In November 1962, he joined as Senior Lecturer in Botany, Dhaka University, where he retired as selection grade Professor in 1996. He was then honoured to be supernumerary Professor, Botany Department, Dhaka University for 3 Years (1997 to 1999). In 1966 he was offered Central Overseas Scholarship to pursue his PhD degree from the University of British Columbia, Canada. On returning to Bangladesh, he continued to serve as a teacher at Dhaka University. He also served as the Chairman, Botany Department, Dhaka University for 4 years

(1978 to 1981). He served as Professor and Head of the Department of Crop Sciences, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Maiduguri, Nigeria, from September 1981 to 30 September 1985.

Prof. Q. A. Fattah introduced Plant Biochemistry and Horticulture courses in the Dept. of Botany. He had extended research experience in Plant Physiology, Plant Biochemistry, Horticulture and Plant Anatomy with special emphasis on the use of plant growth regulating substances (PGR) on the physiological and biochemical parameters with a specific emphasis on increasing the focus yield of important agricultural and horticultural crops in Bangladesh.

He supervised 60 M.Sc theses and project students, two M.Phil and eight Ph.D. Students. He examined four Ph.D. thesis from India and from different Universities of Bangladesh. He published 80 research publications in national and international journals of repute.

Prof. Quazi Abdul Fattah published a large number of scientific articles on environmental issues *viz.* effects of different kinds of pollution on human beings.

Prof. Q. A. Fattah served as a member, secretary, Vice-President and President of the Bangladesh Botanical Society; Vice-President Asian Environment Society (1979-81); Founder Senior Vice-President, Association of Plant Physiologists of SARC countries; Member, British Society for Plant Growth Regulation; Ex-Member of the Executive Board of Society of Conservation of Nature and Environment (SCONE); Ex-Member, Canadian Botanical Society; Senator of the First Senate of the University of Dhaka; Life Member and Fellow, Asiatic Society of Bangladesh. He was the founder President, Dhaka University Botany Alumni Association.

Prof. Q.A. Fattah attended many international and national scientific conferences. Thus, he attended and presented a joint paper at Pan Indian Ocean Science Congress held in Karachi in 1960. In 1968 he presented scientific research findings in the North-West North American Science Conference held in Spokane, Washington, USA; International Botanical Congress held in Seattle, USA in 1969; attended the 1<sup>st</sup> (in the Philippines) and the 2<sup>nd</sup> (in Sri Lanka) International Conference on Winged Bean as an invited delegate by the Asia Foundation; in 1979 he attended Asian Environmental Society meeting in Tokyo and presented a country report on "Environmental Problems in Bangladesh"; he attended two seminars organized by UNESCO, New Delhi, one was "Indo-US Workshop on Photosynthesis" in 1988 and another "Botany 2000 in Asia" in 1992.

Prof. Q. A. Fattah received a UNESCO award in 1962 for being the first author of a Text Book in Biology, "*Saral Jibbiggan*", published by then East Pakistan Text Book Board. He was also awarded a Gold Medal as an eminent Botanist in 2005, and Honorary Fellow of Bangladesh Botanical Society and Asiatic Society of Bangladesh received Paul Harris Fellow (PHF) of the Rotary International.

Prof. Q. A. Fattah is survived by his wife, Dr. Khurshida Banu Fattah, a botanist and an eminent educationist, and Ex-Principal of Govt. College of Home Economics. They have two sons. The elder one, Dr. Kazi Riaz Fattah and his wife, Dr. Farjana Jahan Fattah, got Ph.D. in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology from the University of Minnesota, USA. The younger one, Engr. Dr. Kazi Parvez Fattah got M.Sc. and Ph.D in Environmental Engineering from the University of British Columbia (UBC), Vancouver, Canada and his wife, Engr. Farah Laj Chowdhury earned M.Sc. in Environmental Engineering from UBC, Canada. Professor Fattah and Mrs. Fattah have one grandson and two grand daughters .

Because of his polite and amiable nature, sharp memory and sympathetic attitude towards students, staff and friends he earned the love and respect of thousands of colleagues, friends and former students, many of whom are holding reputed positions in Bangladesh and across the globe. With the sad demise of Professor Quazi Abdul Fattah Bangladesh Academy of Sciences lost an active and dedicated fellow scientist. We, the Fellows and staffs of BAS, pray to the Almighty Allah, Most Gracious and Most Merciful, to grant eternal peace to his departed soul. We also pray for giving strength and courage to the members of his family and friends to bear the loss with fortitude.

- Z N Tahmida Begum