

**Prof. Harun-ar-Rashid: A devoted
researcher, teacher, colleague, loving
human being: Statements of his stu-
dents and colleagues**

(For record of the Physics Department, University of
Dhaka, Bangladesh)



**Compiled By
Prof. Sultana N. Nahar
(A student of Prof. Harun-ar-Rashid)
The Ohio State University, USA
October 2021**

Prof. Dr. Tahmina Joy Rashid: Facts and a heartfelt eulogy from a daughter

From Dr. Tahmina Joy(Daughter of Late Prof. A. M. Harun ar Rashid)

Tahmina Rashid <tahminajbd@yahoo.com>

Thu 21/10/2021 02:53

To: Nahar, Sultana <nahar.1@osu.edu>

Dear Prof.Nahar:

I am Joy, the elder daughter of Late Prof. A. M.Harun ar Rashid.

I was forwarded the condolence messages that many of you have sent on learning the sad demise of my beloved father. It is Mr. Syeduzzaman uncle who has received many emails which he has forwarded to me.

I thank you from the bottom of my heart for the heartfelt email that you all have written , recognizing my father's contribution in your professional career. Yes, all of you were loved by him and he was very proud of all of you and your achievements.

For the last 20yrs my father has suffered from many serious ailments from time to time, and my mother and I devoted our total existence to taking care of him to our best abilities. My mother nurtured and cared for him that is a rare example.I have alone taken care of all my dad's health need decisions, care and treatment management with doctors as and when necessitated. I have taken care of his health and medication needs each and every day.The last 5 yrs for his dementia he was ailing more but my mum and I took care of him. With all my mental and physical strength I stayed by his side, when(he could not walk or talk as before)so that he knew he was never alone in that journey of facing health challenges alone in this selfish world.

I feel sad that a brilliant and dedicated professional and patriotic soul like my father did not get more recognition like National professor or professor emeritus that he deserved by virtue of his contribution to physics and to the nation. However, we don't care cause we know he was unparalleled in his field. He was actively involved in the language movement of 1952 and he was adored ny Bangabandhu. But my Abbu never sought favors from anyone. He preferred an ordinary life and our parents raised my sister and I with the (Plain living and high thinking view on life) and we did.

My sober, quiet, reserve, dad who never sought limelight anywhere never expected anything in return for his devoted and dedicated contribution to physics and to the nation. My father is a legend and it will remain so in the hearts of genuinely caring and good human beings who revered him.

I hope all of you, his beloved students will carry on the torch that he had handed down to you all.

Please keep my beloved Abbu in your prayers and my mother too.

Regards

Prof. Dr. Tahmina Joy Rashid MBBS, MPH, PhD(UK).

(proud daughter of Prof. A.M.Harun ar Rashid).1

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

Prof. Dr. Tahmina Joy Rashid: continues

Re: From Dr. Tahmina Joy(Daughter of Late Prof. A. M. Harun ar Rashid)
Tahmina Rashid <tahminajbd@yahoo.com>
Thu 21/10/2021 07:07
To: Nahar, Sultana <nahar.1@osu.edu>

Dear Prof. Nahar:

Assalamualaikum. Thank you so much for your prompt reply. I do hope someday we shall meet in person and maybe we can exchange some quality thoughts and ideas on overall education state of our country and perhaps the innovative approaches needed to inspire the future generation of students of all :disciplines.

I am taking this opportunity to give you a little background about myself. I am a medical doctor, graduate of Dhaka medical college with positions in the combined merit list in all professional medical exams conducted under Dhaka University which awards certification to medical colleges under its wings. I won the Commonwealth scholarship and did my PhD in UK in Clinical pharmacology. I ,later on during my professional life alongside work,also obtained an MPH degree(MPH) in public health. I was also ECFMG certified(certification for working as doctor in USA).

My professional life has encompassed teaching, research, mentoring, editing scientific medical articles, teaching research methodology and scientific article writing to medical professionals(clinicians and non-clinicians), being guest speakers on varied medical issues at reputed national institutes, and consultancy work in public health issues and other relevant avenues.

My sister who is junior to me, is an architect. She was also a brilliant student in her batch and graduated from BUET and later on did her Masters in architecture with AUSAID scholarship she won from Australia. She is settled there with her only daughter and husband.

My mother as you know was truly loved by my Dad who was basically not the openly affectionate type but deep inside had a caring heart whose heart beats were in our everyday pulses. My mother, Anjuman ara Rashid was known by her maiden name, Juthy Mirza when she was a famous singer of Nazrulgeeti and Adhunik songs,in national television and radio. She gave up her singing career to help Dad pursue his career with total uninterrupted devotion and dedication. My mother was the silent force behind my father's fame and glory and she has always taken pride to remain behind the scene for Dad to become known to the world.

Dad has won Ekushey padak, Independence award, President award. He is the only Bangladeshi to serve three times on Noble prize selection committee, he was the Bose professor, he has worked with renowned physicists, and yet this country did not do more to give him more honors he deserved. Anyway, as I said before , we have been brought up to believe that we will do our best for any great cause but never with the expectation of getting anything

Prof. Dr. Tahmina Joy Rashid: continues

in return. When one does something worthwhile one lives through the successors and that is the greatest reward.

I shared these with you because I felt you would appreciate a little information of our humble upbringing and ordinary journey in life with Abbu and Ammu but learning best things, good things as we also head towards our own graves.

My mother is in the green saree holding a red bad in the forefront of the physicists group photo. Prof Mozahar gave wrong information that my mother was not in the photo. My mum is in the forefront in green saree, as I stated earlier. Thank you for adding my letter in your compilations.

Regards

Prof.Dr. Tahmina Joy Rashid

Prof. Sultana N. Nahar, The Ohio State University, USA

Salam: PProf. Harun-ar-Rashid

Nahar, Sultana <nahar.1@osu.edu>

Mon 11/10/2021 22:40

To: physclass-du <physclass-du@osu.edu>; duphysalumni <duphysalumni@osu.edu>

Cc: Nahar, Sultana <nahar.1@osu.edu>

3 attachments (3 MB)

harunsir-news-dailystar21.pdf; harunsir4-dhakau17-c.jpg; rsawd12-harunsirawd.jpg;

Dear All,

Assalamu alaikum.

I just came to know the painful news of passing away of Harun Sir on October 9, 2021 in a hospital due to health related complications.

I have attached the news about him in Daily Star and a picture of him and I in his house in 2017. I became attached to him since my M.Sc. in University of Dhaka when he was teaching quantum mechanics and then a few other subjects under the Theoretical Physics program. He was also my thesis advisor for my M.Sc. He made a few decisions for my life and gave me free access to him anytime I would like. We remained connected through my each visit to Bangladesh. He helped me in 1995 in instituting the Razzaq-Shamsun annul prize and lifetime achievement awards under the University of Dhaka and was a permanent member of the committee. He was the first recipient of the lifetime achievement award (picture attached).

He had written number of Physics books and given me some of them as gifts. I keep them in my office. He liked our textbook "Atomic Astrophysics and Spectroscopy" (A.K. Pradhan and S.N. Nahar, Cambridge University press 2011) and proposed that we write together a version of it for Bangladesh physicists. I have always felt a strong bond with him and have always admired his unilateral devotion for physics. He missed couple of invitations to VC house for all of us because he did not want to take the time off from his research work in his office. I would watch him coming back to his office after lunch and work quietly in almost empty campus when I would be waiting for the Theoretical Physics classes and thought "he does not feel tired".

If we can make comments about Harun Sir to this email chain, we can pass it to the Physics Department of University of Dhaka for any use regarding Harun Sir.

May Allah bless Harun Sir's soul to the highest position in the Jannatul Fedeous and give strength to his family members.

With best regards and wishes,
Sultana/Keya

Prof. Sultana N. Nahar

APS Fellow, APS Woman Physicist of the Month, BPS Fellow, BAS Fellow

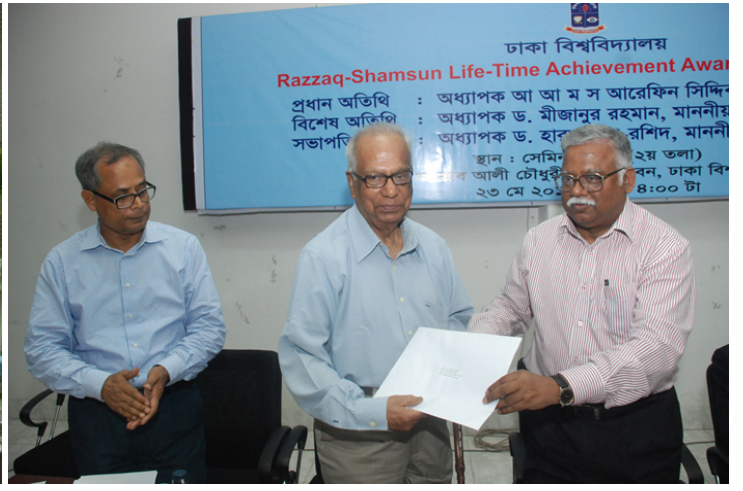
Dept of Astronomy, McPherson Lab, The Ohio State University

140 West 18th Avenue, AST, Columbus, OH 43210, USA

Tel: 1-614-292-1888, Fax: 1-614-292-2928, Email: nahar.1@osu.edu

Website: <http://www.astronomy.ohio-state.edu/~nahar>

Co-Director: APJ Abdul Kalam Center for STEM Education & Research of



Prof. a.m. Harun-ar-Rashid | The Daily Star

<https://www.thedailystar.net/supplements/star-lifeti...>

[E-paper\(http://epaper.thedailystar.net\)](http://epaper.thedailystar.net)

বাংলা(/BANGLA)

The Daily Star

[TODAY'S NEWS \(/TODAYS-NEWS\)](#) [Food Prices: Not coming down soon \(/news/bangladesh/news/food-prices-not-comi](#)
(/english)

Journalism Without Fear or Favour

TUESDAY, October 12, 2021



[Star Lifetime Awardees 2016 \(/supplements/star-lifetime-awardees-2016\)](#)

Physics

Prof. a.m. Harun-ar-Rashid



Fri Feb 5, 2016 12:00 AM



**Dr. Lutfur Rahman, Tyco Electronics Subsea Communications R&D, New Jersey,
USA**

Re: Salam: PProf. Harun-ar-Rashid
Lutfur Rahman <lutfur.of.nj@gmail.com>
Tue 12/10/2021 08:32
To: Nahar, Sultana <nahar.1@osu.edu>

Cc: physclass-du <physclass-du@osu.edu>; duphysalumni <duphysalumni@osu.edu>

Hello All

Hope and pray that all is well wherever you are, and whatever stations in life you occupy.

I'm very saddened to hear the news about Harun Sir's passing away. I didn't get to know him as well as many of you, but I had always looked up to him - a highly dignified, larger than life, scholar and human being. May Allah Bless his soul.

Regards
Lutfur

Prof. Swapan Gayen, The City College of New York, USA

Re: Salam: PProf. Harun-ar-Rashid
Swapan Gayen <sgayen@ccny.cuny.edu>
Tue 12/10/2021 00:25
To: Nahar, Sultana <nahar.1@osu.edu>; physclass-du <physclass-du@osu.edu>;
duphysalumni <duphysalumni@osu.edu>

Dear All:

I am deeply saddened to learn about the passing away of Professor A. M. Harun-ar-Rashid. He taught us in a course on Electricity and Magnetism in the third year B.Sc. (Honors) class, and Quantum Mechanics in the M.Sc. class. I remember him telling us to get a notebook "as thick as possible" to write down his lecture notes, which were meticulously prepared and as complete as a text book. He was the moving force behind the establishment of the Theoretical Physics Department at the University of Dhaka. He was very much devoted to his research, working at his desk till late in the afternoon. Sir was a gifted communicator of science for non-scientists both in English and Bengali. With his passing away one of the brightest stars in Bangladesh Physics sky and a defining presence at the University of Dhaka and the Departments of Physics and Theoretical Physics is lost.

May he rest in peace!

Swapan

Swapan K. Gayen
Professor
Department of Physics
The City College of New York
160 Convent Avenue
New York, NY 10031
Phone: (212) 650-5580

Prof. Mozharul Hoque

Remembering firends

Mozharul Hoque <mozharulhoque7@gmail.com>

Tue 12/10/2021 13:31

To: Nahar, Sultana <nahar.1@osu.edu>

Prof. Sultana Nahar, I got to know you from your posting in the e-mail this morning. I was one year senior to Prof. Harunar Rashid in the Physics Department yet we were very close friends. I have many remembrances of the time I had had with him and others. . Here Harunar Rashid is seen serving foods prepared at a picnic by the then students of the Dhaka University. Laila, standing on right became a Lawyer later and I have heard she had left (RIP) the World.

Dr. Shamsuz Zoha, with black trouser eating, while he was the Proctor of the Rajshahi University was killed by the police protecting the students from the firing squad. Standing on our left is. Dr Fazle Bari Malik, double honors in Mathematics and Physics died, I am told, in Dubai Airport while returning with his Japanese spouse to his home in Carbondale, Illinois.



Physics Group and the spouses

Mozharul Hoque <mozharulhoque7@gmail.com>

Sun 17/10/2021 20:43

To: Nahar, Sultana <nahar.1@osu.edu>; msyeduzzaman15@gmail.com
<msyeduzzaman15@gmail.com>

late feb-early march 2011 017 (2).jpg

Dr. Latif Chowdhury (front on our right) and Sadeq Khan (Second from our right) were my class friends from class III in Rajshahi Collegiate School, Farruk Aziz (Last row with long hair), I met him at the Rajshahi College but he was senior to me then. SyeduzZaman is on the right of Latif and Dr. Harunur Rashid is seen between Syeduzzaman and Latif in the back row. My friends with their spouses, I went to a picnic. Harun Sb.'s wife adhered to strict Islamic requirements of Purdah; so she is not in the group. This is one of my precious memorabilia amongst many others.

CORRECTION NOTE ON THE PICTURE BELOW: By Prof. Dr. Tahmina Rashid

"My mother is in the green saree holding a red bag in the forefront of the physicists group photo. Prof Mozahar gave wrong information that my mother was not in the photo. "



Prof. A.K. Mostofa Sarwar, University of New Orleans, USA

Re: Salam: PProf. Harun-ar-Rashid
Abu Kabir Mostofa Sarwar <asarwar@uno.edu>
Tue 12/10/2021 14:00
To: sgayen@ccny.cuny.edu <sgayen@ccny.cuny.edu>; Nahar, Sultana <nahar.1@osu.edu>;
physclass-du <physclass-du@osu.edu>; duphysalumni <duphysalumni@osu.edu>

Dear All,

With a broken heart I would like to share my poem with you on the passing of Harun sir, who was my teacher and later a colleague. Usually, poems do not get placed in . This poem on Harun sir has been placed on in Art s section of Bdnews24.com.

<https://arts.bdnews24.com/%e0%a6%aa%e0%a7%8d%e0%a6%b0%e0%a6%ae%e0%a6%bf%e0%a6%a5%e0%a6%bf%e0%>

I knew him before he joined DU. I used to visit his father Moksud Mama's house in Kakrail, very close to the residence of Moyeen Bhai's parents.

After he joined DU, I used to visit his DU residence. Juthi Bhabi was such good in hospitality that I have no words to explain. Harun bhai's brother Opu was very prudent and nice to have chats on multiple subjects.

I became familiar with classical music of Europe at Harun Bhai's residence. He used to play that music on his Grundig player.

He helped me a lot. It will take the space of a book to describe.

We lost an extraordinary man. It is a big loss.

Kind regards,

Sarwar

Abu (Mostofa) Sarwar, PhD, MS, MSc
Professor Emeritus of Geophysics
Ex-Associate Provost

Department of Earth & Environmental Sciences
2000 Lakeshore Drive
New Orleans, LA 70148

• The poem dedicated to Prof. Harun-ar-Rashid (next page) written by Prof. Mostofa Sarwar was at the top in the "Most read" category items of Bdnews24.com for over a week and then to the 2nd position of "Most read" items in October 2021.

প্রমিথিউস শুয়ে আছে কাফনের শ্বেতাস্বরে

মোস্তফা সারওয়ার | 10 Oct, 2021



(ড. হারুন-অর-রশীদ এর মহাপ্রয়াণে)

কার্জন হলে নক্ষত্রের পতন হলো
বিডিনিউজ চক্ৰিশের শিরোনাম
হৃদয় বিদীর্ণ – চোখ মেঘাচ্ছন্ন
আট হাজার মাইল দূর থেকে
দেখতে পেলাম
প্রমিথিউস শুয়ে আছে কাফনের শ্বেতাস্বরে।

মনে পড়ে
জ্ঞানের প্রোজ্জ্বল শিখা নিয়ে
কার্জন হলের প্রকোষ্ঠে প্রকোষ্ঠে
ছায়াপথের এক উজ্জ্বল নক্ষত্র মুনি
আলো ছায়ার পৃথিবীতে
এনেছিল হিরণ্ময় অনিরুদ্ধ প্লাবন।

মনে পড়ে
তাঁর ঢাবির বাসভবনে
গ্রন্থিক প্লেয়ারে
প্রমিথিউস আমাকে শনিয়েছিলেন
বেটোফেনের নবম সিম্ফনি
শিলারের ওড টু জয়।
অনাবিল আনন্দ

আজ কেন প্রমিথিউস শুয়ে আছে
কাফনের শ্বেতাস্বরে?

আজ কেন ফুলার রোডে
জারুল গাছের মর্মরে ধ্বনিত হয়
চায়কোব্‌স্কির বেদনা-রঞ্জিত
প্যাথোটিকার বিমূর্ত ক্রন্দন?

আজ কেন জ্ঞানের প্লাবন
স্তব্ধ হয়ে আছে?

আজ কেন প্রমিথিউস শুয়ে আছে
কাফনের শ্বেতাস্বরে?

Salam: PProf. Harun-ar-Rashid
Muttalib,Khandker A <muttalib@phys.ufl.edu>
Tue 12/10/2021 22:52

Harun Sir started the Theoretical Physics Department in DU and we were the first batch. There were 10 of us, and the entire department became a close-knit family. After finishing my M.Sc., I worked with Harun Sir on a project for a year (he arranged a fellowship for me). His enthusiasm and dedication to science was infectious, and it allowed me an opportunity to see what real research looks and feels like (it was later published in Physical Review D). He then encouraged me to apply for higher studies in the US and wrote letters for me. Later when I was trying to decide between various offers, he had a long discussion with me together with my father and eventually our decision was based on his recommendation. I am deeply indebted to him for his role as a mentor in my professional life.

My wife Flora was also Harun Sirs student, and he was quite enthusiastic about her research when she gave a talk at a conference in Dhaka few years ago. The last time we visited him he was very weak, but still asked us about our research works. While his dedication to science was what we as students saw and felt deeply, he was also a very loving person. Flora and I used to visit him often when we visited Bangladesh and we have many fond memories of visiting him at his house with our kids.

I am attaching a couple of memories. We lost an icon.

Muttalib



Dr. Dilruba Sultana, Ohio, USA

In the memory of our respected Harun Sir
Dilruba Sultana <dsultana.9@gmail.com>
Sat 16/10/2021 14:43
To: Nahar, Sultana <nahar.1@osu.edu>

Dear Keya Apa,
Salam. I wrote something but it does not convey my feelings entirely.
But, I hope this adds something more. Please see the attached file.
It was good to talk to you after a long time.
IA, talk to you soon.
My Doa and love to Al-Buruj.
With regards,
Molly

In the memory of respected Professor A. M. Harun-ar- Rashid

I am very sad to lose our respected Harun Sir whose contributions to all
of his students education and career has been so immense.

I was fortunate to do my master thesis under his guidance. He was the fatherly
figure whose guidance was most beneficial to my education. He was a very
soft spoken and very approachable teacher. We will miss him. I felt very sorry
that I could not meet him when I went to Dhaka last time. May Allah rest him
in peace and grant him the highest place in Paradise. We pray that Allah give
strength to his family to cope with this loss

Rokshad Faizi Khan, Engineer, Kentucky, USA

Assalaamoo Aalaaekoom,

Professor Tahmina Rashid,

I am Rokshad Faizi Khan and I am an alumnus of the Dhaka University, Department of Physics batch of 1973. I have been fortunate to be in the same class with Professor Sultana N. Nahar. I consider her a friend, a sister and a mentor. I am working for the government of Kentucky in the transportation Cabinet, Division of Highway Design, as an Engineer - In - Training II. I live in the city of Frankfort, Kentucky, USA. My wife is a Pharmacist, her name is Shaila Rahman Khan. We have been blessed with a daughter and a son.

I have had the opportunity, courtesy of, Professor Sultana N Nahar, to read your eulogy about your beloved father, our Professor, legendary, Dr. Harun -Ur - Rashid. He remains an icon whose relentless pursuit to acquire and impart knowledge continued till the last day of his glorious life.

I had heard about Professor Harun - ar - Rashid from his auntie, Syeda khala. My khala and Syeda khala were friends and I had seen her several times at my grandparents home in Azimpur, Dhaka. Syeda khala had much to say about her nieces and nephews and from what I remember, all the children were brilliant students. I would notice the pride and excitement in her, when she would talk about their achievements and successes, particularly that of our Sir, Professor Harun - ar - Rashid. She had mentioned of his extraordinary academic record, that he was always ahead of his class and that, he was into books and learning and knowing the unknown that had an approach to systematic knowledge and mathematical proof: a passion that lived within himself all his life. A very kind, polite and a down to earth gentleman was her nephew, talking about Professor Harun - ar - Rashid, I still picture her face, which would brighten up with words of admiration and praise for him. She was very fond of his wife, Juthi Mirza, a talented Rabindra Sangeet singer, who had attained fame through her melodious voice singing Tagore songs and that too at a time, when female artistes were discouraged to perform and render their voices over the media and on the stage.

The one thing of your father that lingers in my memory, is the walk he used to take to the Curzon Hall and back again to his home at the end of the day, with an umbrella in one hand and his books in the other.

He used to appear as though he was grateful, thankful and appreciative of the environment and enjoyed every step towards his destination, day after day, month after month, year after year. One could not miss his humble demeanor and the simplicity, which he always has been, an easy to reach genius, even as a Professor in the classroom or in the public. May his soul rest in peace, " Ameen".

Everything that you have written about your father is known to everyone, in fact you could have written more but for obvious reasons and to keep yourself within the context of his profession and on his contributions to

Rokshad Faizi Khan continues ...

Physics, thereafter towards his students, you may have tried to keep it concise. Your relevant question that you have raised; If I may quote you, "Dad has won Ekushey Padak, Independence award, President award. He is the only Bangladeshi to serve three times on Noble prize selection committee. He was the Bose professor, he has worked with renowned physicists, and yet this country did not do more to give him more honors he deserved.

Yes, Doctor Tahmina Joy Rashid, you need to make your point and in order to do so, you may need to make a list of the honours that he has been deprived of and are genuinely due. Along with a list of the honors that you deem applicable, you may approach the appropriate committee that has the authority to confer the pending honours you shall have mentioned in your petition which will have then, completed the void and thus earn him the deserving honours and respect. You shall have fulfilled his aspirations that he may have desired in his loving daughter. I have made a suggestion; it is you, who needs to give it a thought and make that happen. Professor Sultana N Nahar had forwarded an e-mail to me in which she had expressed the fact that you would have the support in obtaining the signatures if you were to write such a petition for seeking the deserving honours for Professor Harun - ar - Rashid, your beloved dad.

Regards,

Rokshad Khan.
November 18 2021
Kentucky, USA