

Ex-DU VC Prof Maniruzzaman passes away

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former Dhaka University (DU) vice chancellor (VC) Prof M Maniruzzaman Miah passed away at a hospital in the capital yesterday. He was 81.

The noted educationist breathed his last around 11:45am while undergoing treatment at the Intensive Care Unit, Square Hospital's marketing and business development officer, Achintya Chakraborty, told The Daily Star.

He had been admitted two days back with various ailments.

The DU authorities declared a holiday today, exempting exams, in his honour, said a press release.

A pro-BNP intellectual, he was the chairman of Zia Parishad and member of Shoto Nagorik Jatiya Committee, a pro-BNP intellectual platform.

Born in May 1, 1935, Prof Maniruzzaman passed matriculation in 1951 and ISC in 1953. He completed his masters in geography from Rajshahi University in 1957. He started his career the next year by joining Jagannath College.

After obtaining PhD from the University of Paris in 1966, he joined the geography department of DU where he taught for many years. He became a professor in 1986, and was also involved with academic and administrative activities.

He was appointed as DU VC in March 24, 1990 and served until November 1, 1992. He went on retirement in 1992.

Prof Maniruzzaman was a talented teacher, said DU VC Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique in a condolence message.

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"His contribution to the university will remain alive," he said, praying for the salvation of the departed soul and conveying his sympathy to the bereaved family.

Prof Maniruzzaman was made ambassador to Senegal in 1992 during the tenure of the BNP-led government. He was the chief of the Education Commission formed in January 2003. He also served as a commissioner to the now defunct Bureau of Anti-Corruption between 2004 and 2007.

He was a confirmed bachelor.

Sayrul Kabir Khan, a staff member of BNP chairperson's media wing, said the body of Prof Maniruzzaman, now kept at Square Hospital's mortuary, would be brought to his Banani residence around 10:00am today.

The body will be taken to the department of geography and environment of DU around 11:00.

The first namaz-e-janaza will be held at the DU Central Mosque after the Zohr prayers while the second at Gulshan Azad Mosque after the Asr, said Sayrul, adding that he would be buried at the Banani graveyard.

In a condolence message, BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia said Prof Maniruzzaman was the reflection of an ideal teacher and his death created a vacuum in the country at a "critical juncture".

Civil Aviation and Tourism Minister Rashed Khan Menon and BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir also expressed shock at his death.

Chapai Nawabhanj Journalist Forum, Dhaka and DIAAR, a socio-cultural organisation, expressed condolence at his death.