

## Science books in Bangla possible, says Dr. Kazi Motahar

By Khalilur Rahman

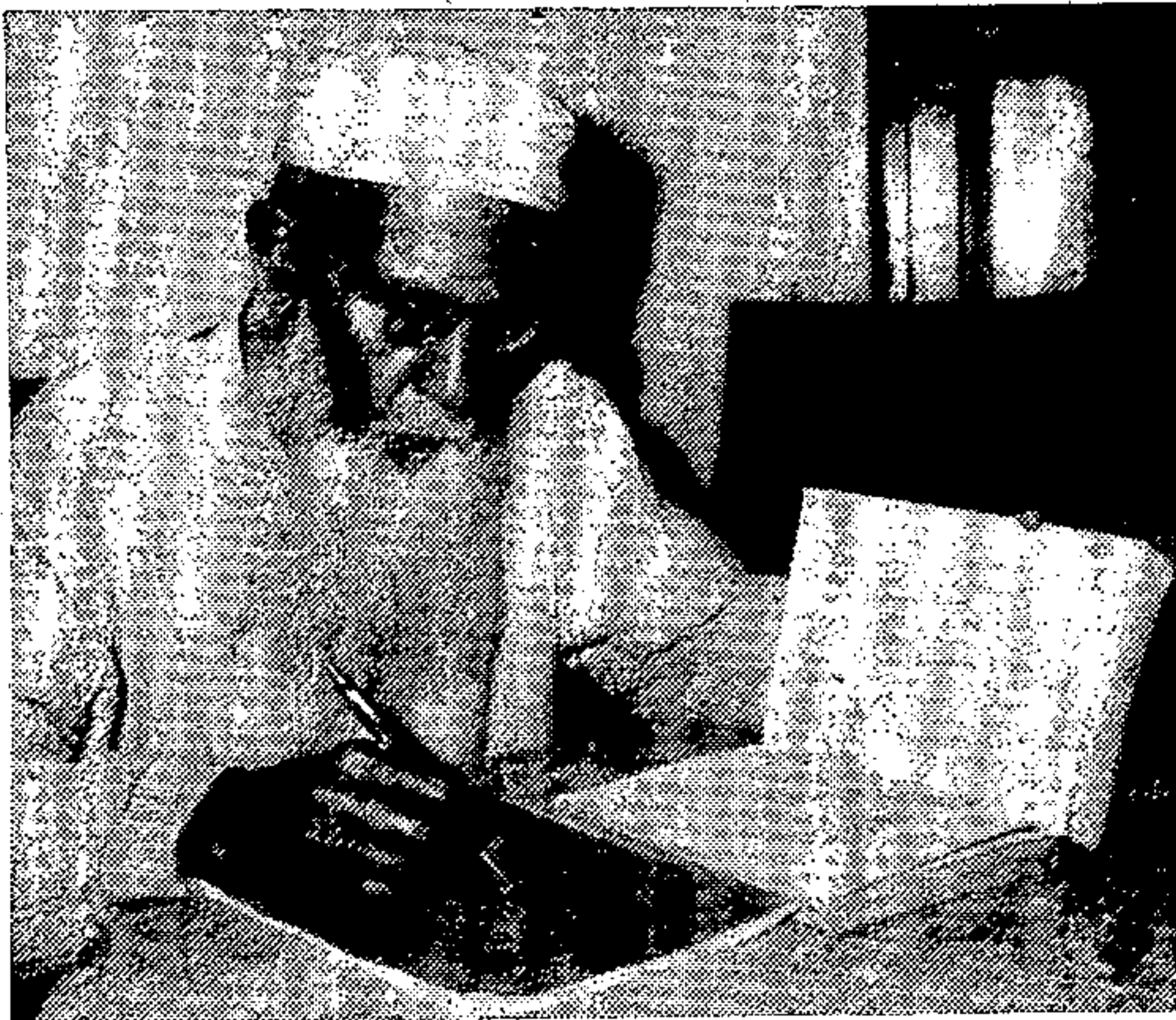
Text books on every branch of science can be written in Bangla without much difficulty if sincere efforts are made. The general belief that books on basic science is too difficult to be produced in Bangla was refuted by the eminent scientist and national Professor Dr. Qazi Motahar Hossain in an exclusive interview with the Bangladesh Observer on Friday.

Talking to me at his Segunbagicha residence, the celebrated educationist and author of a number of science books in Bangla said that Bangla books on science were written at least some 80 years ago. Internationally acclaimed Bengalee scientists Sir Jagadish Chandra Bose, Dr. Meghnad Saha and Dr. Satyendra Nath Bose wrote Bangla books on the most intricate and fundamental science long ago, Dr. Hossain added. Of course the humble scientist Dr. Hossain who was very much close to Mr. Satyen Bose did not include his name in the panel of those writers.

Immediately after the establishment of the Dacca University Dr. Qazi Motahar Hossain joined as a demonstrator in the Department of Physics in 1921. During this time he came in close contact with Professor Satyen Bose and under his guidance Dr. Hossain obtained doctorate in statistics and theory of numbers from the Indian Statistical Institute in 1930. He became Professor of the Dacca University in 1954 and Professor Emeritus in 1969. Dr. Hossain was made National Professor by the Government of Bangladesh.

Recalling the supreme sacrifice made by the martyrs of Language Movement of

1952 the doyen of scientists who will attain 81 years of age on July 30 next opined that their sacrifice would be meaningful if the language for which they shed their blood can be introduced at all levels. The souls of the martyrs would rest in peace only when education can be imparted in Bangla. He reg-



retted that the path of eminent scientists who took the initiative of teaching science in Bangla was not followed in subsequent days and so the progress in this regard has been retarded. The standard of education has also deteriorated over the years he added.

Dr. Motahar Hossain asserted that for the sake of education and in the interest of widening the horizon of knowledge of our students

Bangla must be given top priority in every sphere of our life. English which is an international language should be given next preference and then comes other languages he observed. An author of international repute Dr. Hossain felt the need that educationists should come forward and write Bangla books on

different subjects. "Long ago when I was Dean of the Medical Faculty of the Dacca University I urged the teachers in the medical profession to write medical books in Bangla" Dr. Hossain reminisced.

Dr. Qazi Motahar Hossain who had a brilliant academic career was born on July 30, 1897 in Luxmipur village under Bhaluka police station of Nadiya district. His ancestral home was in the district

of Sandhur. His father was Quazi Gauharuddin. He was the eldest among his six sisters and two brothers. His predecessors came from Arabia for the propagation of Islam and some of them served in the Mughal Empire in Delhi. The Mughal court awarded them the title 'Qazi'.

Dr. Hossain passed his Matriculation Examination in 1915 securing top position in Presidency and Rajshahi Divisions. In 1917 he passed I.Sc. securing fourth place. In 1919 Professor Hossain qualified in Honours examination in Physics from the Dacca College. He stood first in the Honours examination in East Bengal and Assam zones. He passed M.Sc. in Physics in 1921.

A former editor of the monthly Shikha (flame) Dr. Hossain wants that the flame of education be spread among all the people in the country. Some of his famous books in Bangla include "Shancharan" (articles published in 1937) "Nazrul Kabva Parichiti" (discussion on Nazrul's poem published in 1955) "Jyamiti Prabesh" (Geometry published in 1951) "Tathya Ganit" (theoretical arithmetic published in 1969) "Ganit Shastrer Iti-hash" (history of arithmetic published in 1971) etc.

An outstanding chess player Dr. Hossain won championship in All India Chess Brilliance Competition in 1925. He has two sons and six daughters. The eldest son Quazi Anwar Hossain is a writer and publisher. The youngest son Qazi Mahbub Hossain is a reputed chess player. His three daughters Sanjida Khatun, Fahmida Khatun and Mahmuda Khatun are renowned Tagore songstresses.