

Janaza at DU mosque today Prof. Aftab succumbs to bullet injuries

Varsity Correspondent

Prominent Political Scientist and former Vice-chancellor of National University Prof. Dr Aftab Ahmed, who was critically injured in a gun attack on Saturday evening, died at Combined Military Hospital on Tuesday morning.

CMH doctors said Dr Aftab expired due to heart failure at 7 a.m. Two bullets were still lying in his

body as the doctors failed to remove those after surgery.

Doctors declare him dead at about 10.30 a.m. Body of Dr. Aftab has been kept at the mortuary of CMH. His Namaj-e-Janaza will be held at Central Mosque of Dhaka University today (Wednesday).

The death news of Dr Aftab (See page 15 Col. 2)

DATA shocked

The Dhaka University Teachers' Association (DATA) Tuesday expressed deep shock over the death of Professor Aftab Ahmed, a teacher of the Political Science Department of the Dhaka University, reports BDNews.

As soon as the news of Professor Aftab's death reached the DU campus, the members of the teachers' association brought out a silent procession from Aparajeyo Bangla which ended on the Central Shaheed Minar premises.

They also held a brief meeting there. Professor AAMS Arefin Siddique said that the death of the former Vice Chancellor of the National University compelled everyone to think over security matters as the assailants managed to enter the house of Dr. Aftab in the residential area and flee away.

The teachers and students of the DU were in an insecure state following the killing of Professor Taher of Rajshahi University and the killing of Dr. Aftab, he added.

Professor Tajmeri SA Islam said that as the teachers spoke in national interest, they felt a fear that their voice would be stopped, he added.

Professor Akhtaruzzaman said that the terrorists entering and fleeing from a well-protected

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DATA

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house was an event with no parallel.

Suspecting involvement of a 'government agency' in the killing, he said that it was a pre-planned attack.

He said that the government had to either find the killers or take the responsibility.

Professor Harun-or-Rashid, dean of the Social Science Department, Prof Sadrul Amin, dean of the Humanities Department, Prof Sirajul Islam, dean of Business Studies, Prof Dr. Md. Anwar Hossain, dean of Physics Department, Prof AK Azad Chowdhury and Prof Dalem Chandra Barmon, were present at the meeting.

Prof Aftab

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came as a jolt to his family and colleagues, as sources said, Dr Aftab had talked to his family early hours of Tuesday.

Gunmen opened fire on Dr Aftab, a senior Professor of Political Science Department of Dhaka University at his Fuller Road residence on Dhaka University campus at about 8 p.m.

He was first rushed to Shamaria Hospital with bullet wounds in his chest, thigh and back and later shifted to the Combined Military Hospital (CMH). Dr Aftab was under intensive care at the military hospital.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia visited the Combined Military Hospital to see the mortal remains of Prof Aftab.

She consoled the wife of Aftab and his family members. Mosaddek Ali Falu, MP and the Dhaka University Vice Chancellor Prof. SMA Faiz and pro-VC Prof. Yusuf Haider were present.

Education Minister Dr. Osman Faruk, members of the cabinet, lawmakers also visited CMH to see the body of Dr. Aftab. They expressed their shock at the death of Dr Aftab.

Teachers of Dhaka University and his colleagues took to the streets to protest the attack on the former National University Vice-Chancellor. They demanded immediate arrest and punishment of the killers. They also demanded to ensure security of teachers on the campus.

Dhaka University Teachers Association (DATA) staged a rally at the foot of Aparajeyo Bangla premises and brought out a protest rally at the death of Prof. Aftab Ahmed.

President Prof. Dr Iajuddin Ahmed and Prime Minister Khaleda Zia expressed profound shock at the death of Dr Aftab Ahmed.

In a condolence message, the President recalled the contributions of Dr Aftab to Bangladesh's education sector and said the

country has lost an eminent academician at his death. He prayed for salvation of the departed soul and conveyed his sympathy to the bereaved family members.

The Prime Minister, in a separate condolence message, recalled the role of Aftab as a student leader in different movements, particularly in 'Swadhiker Andolon' and also as an organiser of the War of Liberation.

Khaleda Zia termed Dr Aftab as a courageous person for upholding his own opinion and said, "after the country's independence Prof Aftab had strongly raised his voice as a journalist writing against various laws and regulations and one-party rule in different times."

She said such cowardly attack on Prof Aftab is condemnable and abhorrent. "It's more condemnable if the attack was made for his belief and opinion."

The Prime Minister asked the authorities concerned to arrest the attackers and ensure their punishment as per law of the land.

Federation of Bangladesh University Teachers' Associations (FBUTA) also expressed deep sorrow at the death of Dr Aftab Ahmed.

In a statement, FBUTA President Dr M Nuzrul Islam and General Secretary Dr Mainul Islam strongly condemned the savage attack on Prof Aftab and demanded exemplary punishment of the perpetrators.

Dr Nuzrul Islam told journalists that all university teachers associations will bring out mourning rallies on their respective campuses on Wednesday protesting the killing of Dr Aftab.