

SYED HUMAYUN KABIR SIR: IN FOND MEMORIES

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When I was in a training session in 1988, I unexpectedly noticed a stalwart passing by with an elegant and majestic gait. He was togged up in simple outfit but looked incredibly handsome, like Adonis. I mistook him as a foreigner because of his exceptionally fair complexion & graceful manner until I got the chance to see him once again at motel Saikot in Chittagong in 1991. He was the Managing Director of the then Pfizer (BD) Ltd. Then he just returned from Urir Char after distributing relief materials to the cyclone-stricken people with his own blissful hands. Till then, little did I know about his altruistic spirit & noble gesture before getting a rare opportunity to have the supper with him on the eventful night. He had enquired into the wellbeing of the employees first then shared the woes of cyclone battered people with a heavy heart. Soon after a brief conversation, he was about to take his grip, noticed only two lobster dishes meant for the two topmost figures as per hierarchy on the table. Spur on the moment, surprisingly he sieved out the two most junior officers and generously asked the host to give it to them. Fortunately I was one of them. Still the incident shivers me and I become marveled realising the level of his delicate sense & sensibility. From then I have always fancied him as an iconic character and a man to be followed.

Another nugget is also jogging my memory immensely which I would like to adduce is his magnanimous soul. One of my fellow colleagues was posted in Rangpur district who applied for one-year leave through his reporting Manager for completing M.Phil Degree. His manager forwarded the application recommending the leave without pay. On receiving the application, Humayun Kabir Sir asked the manager over phone "How would he carry on his studies with an empty stomach?" Sir then recommended the leave with one year of full salary. By the two nuggets his profundity of prudence and generosity can be imagined. By far, he was very folksy, conversable and nonpareil in nature.

Apart from this, he was also a towering figure in the realm of BD Pharma industry & one of the best Pharma Directors the industry ever had. But I think, above all he was a good human being and a man of great stature. He was a visionary leader, powerful yet humble, known for his integrity and always gracious and generous to others. We have lost a fatherly man, an entrepreneur of extraordinary caliber, a humanist and a great patriot. He has gone but never be forgotten. He will be fondly remembered forever for his checkered career & notable contribution.

Adieu Sir! Adieu the magnanimous soul!!! Hats off to you. We are much beholden to you for all that you have done for us. Oh ALLAH! Rest his soul in eternal peace and grant him Jannat-ul-Ferdous, Ameen, Ameen, Allahumma Ameen.
