Syed Humayun Kabir 1931-2015

Syed Humayun Kabir, chairman of Renata Ltd and founder and patron of SAJIDA Foundation, died at 6:36pm on July 7th, 2015, in the capital's Apollo Hospital, aged 83. He was among the country's most respected business professionals whose career had long been associated with leading multinational organizations. He graduated in chemistry from Dhaka University and studied pharmacology at the University of Strathclyde, Glasgow. He was the first Managing Director of Pfizer Ltd, Bangladesh, which later turned into Renata Ltd, and had been its Chairman for 21 years till his death.



Syed Humayun Kabir served as Chairman and President of the Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industries, Bangladesh Employers Association, Foreign Investors' Chamber of Commerce and Industries, American-Bangladesh Economic Forum, and Transparency International Bangladesh. He was also board members of several banks, an insurance company and a trustee of the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD).

He had board-level association with BRAC since 1972.

Syed Humayun Kabir had devoted his life to reaching out to the poor and marginalized and thus SAJIDA Foundation came into being, a seedling planted during his 25th wedding anniversary when it was founded as a gift to his wife, Sajida Humayun Kabir.

The organization has come a long way since its humble beginning in 1993, reaching out to the poor families and helping them break out of poverty traps. He accredited the growth of SAJIDA to the competence and professionalism of its personnel and the organization's strong focus on empowering the mother in order to empower the family. The organization is driven by a strong family unit. He inculcates the same strong social values within his organization that have been in the family for generations and continue to grow – that of family unity.

Syed Humayun Kabir's humble and philanthropic worldviews, his wife's ambitious and hard working personality and their children's strive and commitment to SAJIDA have structured the organization's unique set of values. Such qualities are responsible for the organization's current and continued successes.

Going forward, Syed Humayun Kabir emphasized the need to better understand and build knowledge about the poor. He believed that in order to work with and help the poor it is necessary to develop a greater understanding about how they think and react in different situations. As such, he highlighted knowledge at the field level as an important factor in achieving poverty alleviation goals.

In spite of his success and recognition in both corporate and social work, Syed Humayun Kabir remained - true to his personality - a humble, selfless and straightforward human being sensitive to the plight of his fellow people and dedicated to fulfilling his responsibilities towards his country. It is through his simple values of sharing and achieving goals that he has changed thousands of lives. The exemplary journey of his life and work is inspiration for future generations to make the world a better place.