

Humayun Rasheed Choudhury

Speaker of Bangladesh Jatiya Sangsad (National Assembly), Humayun Rasheed Choudhury, 73, died of a heart attack on 10 July. He was buried the following day in his home district of Sylhet.

Humayun Rasheed Choudhury was born on 11 November 1928 into a respectable political family in Sylhet in the then province of Assam. His late father, **Abdur Rasheed Choudhury**, was a member of the Assam Provincial Legislative Assembly (1933-36) and later of the central Legislative Assembly in New Delhi (1937-40). His late mother, **Serajunnessa Choudhury** was a member of the Pakistan National Assembly (1961-64).

Humayun Rasheed Choudhury obtained a BSc degree from the Aligarh Muslim University (1947), was called to the bar in London and joined the Pakistan Foreign Service in 1953. At Aligarh, he was cultural secretary of the students' Union (1946-47) and in London secretary (1951) and president of the Pakistan Students Federation (1952).

In 1971, he joined the Awami League's Bangladesh movement and became the chief of the Bangladesh mission in New Delhi. In December he also signed the first economic cooperation agreement with India.

In 1972 he was appointed as the country's first ambassador to the then Federal Republic of Germany. In 1976, he was sent to Saudi Arabia as ambassador after Riyadh had recognised the new country and established full diplomatic relations with Dhaka. He was concurrently accredited as ambassador to Jordan, Oman and the OIC (Organisation of the Islamic Conference) Secretariat at Jeddah. In 1981, he was appointed secretary of the ministry of foreign affairs in Dhaka and in 1982, he was ambassador to the United States. He returned to Dhaka in July 1984 to serve briefly as foreign affairs adviser to the president of Bangladesh and later as foreign minister (1984-88).

As his country's foreign minister, Humayun Rasheed Choudhury was a member of the OIC mediation mission during the Iran-Iraq war of the 1980s.

Recipient of the UN Peace Medal in 1987, Humayun Choudhury received the Mahatma Gandhi Peace Prize from the College of William and Mary in Virginia, USA. He was his country's candidate for the office of the OIC secretary general at the 27th Islamic

Foreign Ministers Conference at Kuala Lumpur, June 2000. Although the office was to have gone to an Asian, it went to an Arab, Morocco's Abdelouahed Belkeziz, because both the Asian candidates, Humayun Rasheed Choudhury and Turkey's **Yasar Yakis**, were regarded as too secular.

In July 1996, he was elected speaker of the assembly. In a moving tribute to the late speaker, the outgoing prime minister, **Mrs Hasina Wajid**, recalled how he had sheltered her and her sister **Rehana** in Germany after her father, Bangabandhu Shaikh Mujibur Rahman, and other members of their family were killed in the wake of the 15 August 1975 coup. 'We two sisters will never forget that he consoled us with a fatherly affection. At his death, we feel orphaned a second time.'

Mir Lutful Kabir Saadi

Mahbub Anam

Veteran journalist, editor of the now defunct *Bangladesh Times*, an eminent columnist and author, Mahbub Anam, 70, died on 9 July 2001 at a hospital in Dhaka. Born on 28 March 1931 in Mymensingh, he was an eminent literary figure as well as among the top leaders of the [Pakistan] Awami League. He also served as a minister in the central government.

Mahbub Anam had been active in public life from his student days. He was secretary of the Calcutta Islamia College student union; editor of the college magazine (1950-51); and general secretary of the Mymensingh Anandamohan College student union when he took part in the language movement in 1952 for which he spent a period of detention. He was detained again in 1954 while he was the general secretary of Salimullah Muslim Hall of Dhaka University. Later, **President Ziaur Rahman** awarded him the *Bhasa Andoloner Bir Sainik Padak* in recognition of his contribution to the language movement.

Mahbub Anam obtained master's degree in philosophy from Dhaka University in 1955 and studied law in London before joining the *Pakistan Observer* as a senior executive. After the creation of Bangladesh, he became editor of *Bangladesh Times*. He had also been a senior vicepresident and executive committee member of the Bangladesh Editors Council. He served as the president of the Nattyanmancha Bangladesh and the Bangladesh

Sahitya Sangskriti Kendro (Bangladesh Literature-Cultural Centre).

Sanaullah Noori

Noted Bangladesh journalist, editor, litterateur and novelist, Mohammad Sanaullah Noori, 73, died of cardiac arrest at his home in Dhaka on 17 June 2001. He left behind his wife, five daughters, one son and a host of relatives and admirers. He was buried at Mirpur Intellectual Graveyard the following afternoon. His father, **Maulana Muhammad Salamattullah** was a leading figure in the Khilafat movement.

Sanaullah Noori started his career as a journalist in the *Daily Sangbad* in 1948. In a 50-year career, he went on to work in various newspapers, including *Azad*, *Ittefaq*, *Dainik Bangla*, *Dinkal*, *Dainik Desh* and *Dainik Janata*. He also served as editor of *Dainik Desh* and *Dainik Janata* and founded and edited his own newspaper, *Kishor Bangla*. Widely travelled, he also authored over 50 works of fiction, poetry and translation.

As an active member of Tamaddun Majlis, Noori had played an active role in the Bengali language movement in 1952. He was closely involved with several socio-cultural and literary organisations and was central president of the youth organisation, *Fulkuri*.

Noori's death was widely mourned, among others, by the former prime minister and Bangladesh National Party (BNP) chairperson, **Begum Khaleda Zia**, former president and Jatiya Party chief H M Ershad and the *amir* of Jama'at-e-Islami Bangladesh, **Maulana Mutiur-Rahman Nizami**.

Mir Lutful Kabir Saadi

Anthony Quinn

Son of an Irish father and an Aztec-Mexican mother, mostly the noble savage of Hollywood films, Anthony Rudolph Oaxaca Quinn, 86, died on 3 June 2001. He acted in more than 130 films, including *Lawrence of Arabia* (1962), *Zorba the Greek* (1964) and the Syrian-American film director **Mustafa Akkad's** *The Message* (1976) and *Omar Mukhtar*, *Lion of the Desert* (1981).

Financed mainly by **Col Qadhafi** and backed by Morocco and Kuwait, the controversial *Message* film's apologists claimed Anthony Quinn had been immensely affected by his role. He was fascinated by the Qur'an and wanted to learn Arabic, they said.