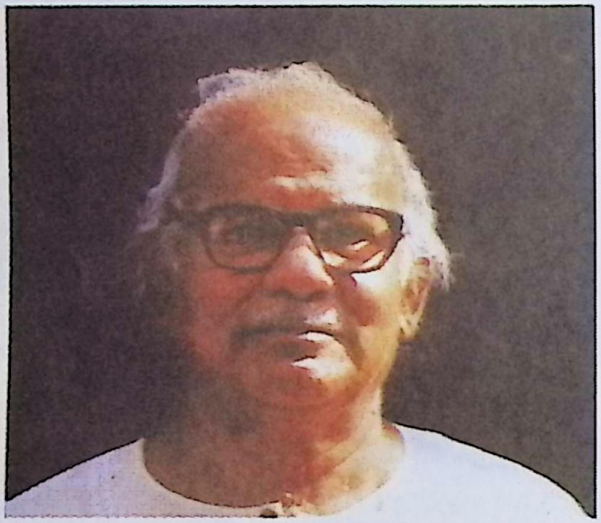
Waheedul Haq Passes Away

The death of veteran journalist and noted Tagore song specialist Waheedul Haq on January 27 has left a void in the cultural arena of the country. He died at the city's Birdem Hospital at 5:00 pm. Suffering from pneumonia, lung and kidney diseases, the 75-year-old finally passed away peacefully leaving behind his wife, two sons, two daughters, relatives, thousands of music lovers, cultural activists and the journalist community to mourn his death.



Born on March 16, 1933 to Mazharul Haq and Mewa Begum at Bhawal Monoharia village under Keraniganj upazila, Waheedul was the eldest among three brothers and two sisters. His father was a member of the Bengal Legislative Assembly in 1946. His brother Rezaul Haq is a journalist and his other brother Ziaul Haq was a martyr of the Liberation War.

A household name right from the golden age, Waheedul Haq founded the Chhayanaut, an epitome of Bangali culture and music, which also played a significant role in expressing the feelings of independence and freedom amongst the people in the late 1960s prior to the country's Liberation War. He also founded a number of prominent cultural and poetry recitation organisations like -- Kanthashilon, Nalonda and Anandadhani.

Waheedul served in major newspapers for 55-year years in dailies like The Daily Star, where he worked as the joint editor. He was a shift in-charge of the daily Observer in the 1960s. Besides, he worked in The People, The Morning News and the New Nation. He also taught at the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet) as a part-time teacher.

He was also a pioneer in spreading secular spirit in the country. During the Hindu-Muslim riots in the 50s, he was there beside the minorities and always resisted the communal force.

He formed the Jatiya Rabindra Sangeet Sammilon Parishad in 1980. Haq was also involved with filmmaking and film movements.

An eminent thinker, Waheedul was very active in political and cultural movements in the country over the last half of the century. Once involved with left-leaning politics, he contested for parliament elections from Keraniganj. Later on, he left politics and devoted himself to music.

Waheedul's close friends claim him to be one of the most amazing human beings they had ever met. He was well versed and knew a lot about physics, chemistry, and literature and was known to be a self effacing person. He donated his body to the medical students.

The body of Waheedul Haq was kept at Chhayanaut Bhaban for a day last week from 9:30am to 11:30am, at the central Shaheed Minar from 12:00 pm to1:00 pm and at the Jatiya Press Club at 1:30pm for his well wishers to pay their homage.