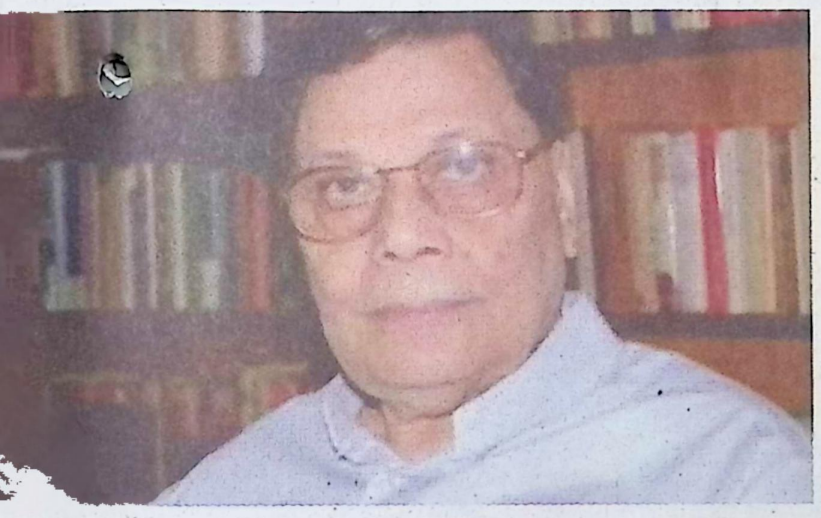
house in Brixton with five other East Bengal students. They were Sarwar Murshid, AMM Khan, Gholam Rabbani, Abu Imam and Ali Akbar. After a few months of my arrival, when a room became available in that house, he invited me to take that room. We all had a very good time, particularly during the weekends. I recall happily going with him to the LSE every morning, carrying brief cases and wearing colourful LSE scarves.

In 1959, he attended my wedding. He did not fail to attend the wedding receptions of my three sons in Dhaka and remembered to attend the inauguration ceremony of my first book at the Dhaka Club in 2006. Incidentally, in a chapter of that book on "The Dhaka University Years", he was prominently mentioned. While he fully participated in the celebrations, his only complaint was that they were a bit lavish and a waste of money. He gently reprimanded me as a teacher should and had the right to. Whenever I visited Dhaka from abroad, he would expect me to visit him and have a long *adda* session. On most of these occasions, my senior friend, Dr AMM Khan, whom both Mosharraf Hossain and I used to call *Chacha* from our good old London days in the mid fifties, accompanied me. When he visited Washington on a couple of occasions, he invariably contacted me for a get together.



Mosharraf Hossain, a remarkable teacher.

> He had a fairly large library in his house with a wide and interesting selection of books on economics, politics and social issues.

Mosharraf Hossain was a progressive, secular person and an anti-imperialist in international outlook. He was not an activist in his student years in Dhaka and London but empathised with just causes in Pakistan and other countries and used to take interest in our leftist social and political views. He was a nationalist who would never compromise with the best interests of East Bengal and later Bangladesh. I believe Professor Akhlaqur Rahman and later Professor Abdur Razzak had some influence on his studies and thinking.

In the late nineteen- seventies and the eighties, he organised and presided over the Bangabanndhu Parishad – an activity which could not have been popular with the people in power. He neither sought nor received any recognition for this valiant stand when a more favourable regime came to power. I know that reward was never in his mind – he acted due to the call and courage of his conscience. During General Ershad's time, he consistently joined a few of his friends in the civil society in raising voice to ensure civil liberties, good governance and the rule of law. In discussions I had with him during the democratic regimes after 1990, he expressed frustrations with the politics of both the major parties. I got the feeling that he was deeply troubled and pained about the goings-on and unable to see light at the end of the tunnel.

He had a fairly large library in his house with a wide and interesting selection of books on economics, politics and social issues. That library was open to others to study. In later years, he liked to speak more about poverty and nutrition issues in Bangladesh. I am not knowledgeable enough to speak about his research and contributions in these fields, but he told me that he regularly spent the weekdays of his retired life at the National Archive in Dhaka. Whatever his achievements in the academic or research fields, he would be principally remembered by his students and friends as a fine human being, a reliable friend and a thoroughly interesting and enjoyable person. ■