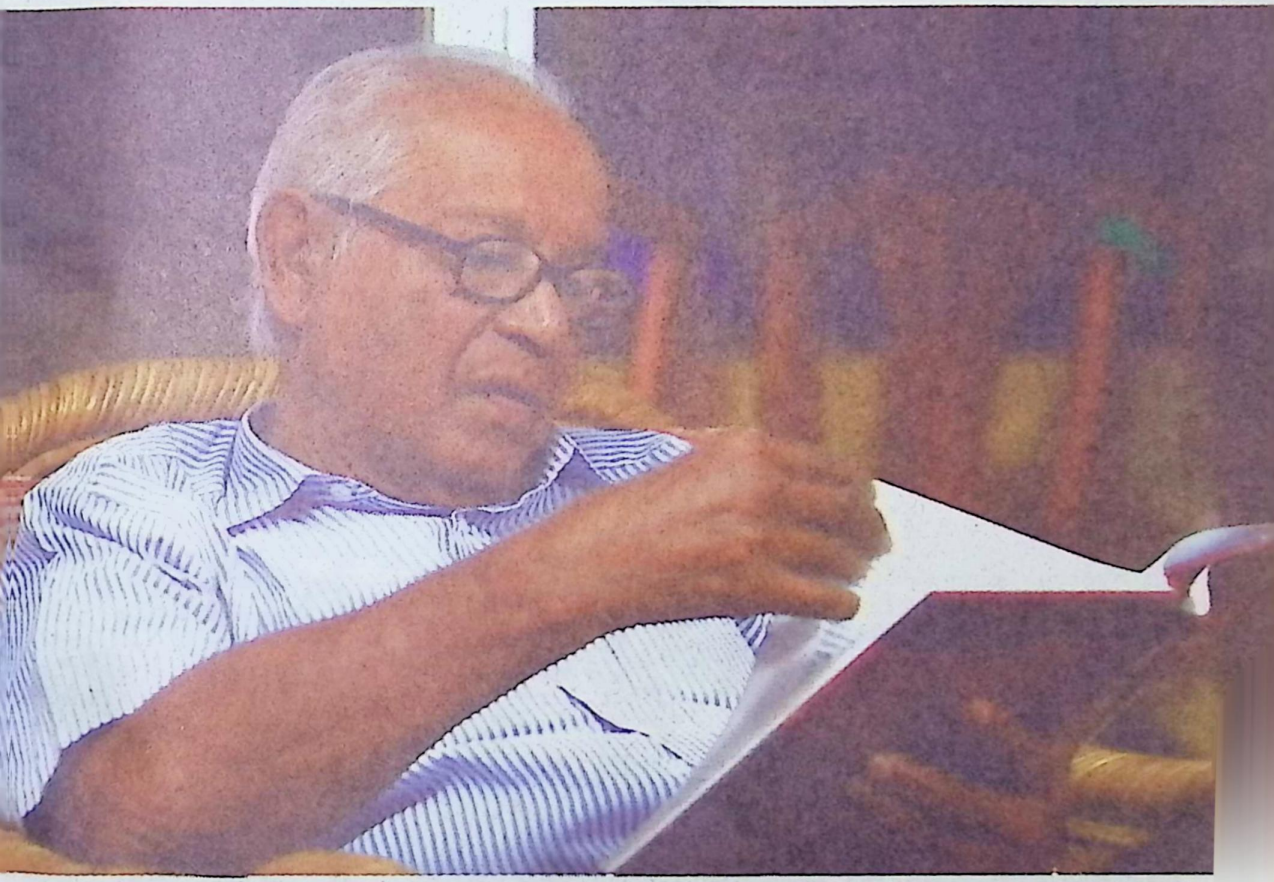
and collect botanical specimen on the way. Perhaps he was inspired by Henry David Thoreau's classic 1862 essay *Walking* which extolled the virtues of immersing oneself in nature and lamented the encroachment of private ownership upon the wilderness. This inquisitiveness and love for nature took Dwijen Sharma, born on May 29, 1929 in Shimulia in Borolekha, Sylhet to many countries in the world. His father, Vishak Chandrakanda Sharma was a famous *Kabiraj* (a doctor specialised in Ayurvedic practices), mother Magnamayi Devi, a social worker. At home his father had a large library that helped shape his enlightened worldview. After getting his MSc in Botany from Dhaka University in 1958, he joined the B M College in Barisal and taught there till 1962. He took part in the education movement in 1962 and got arrested and stayed in security prison for three months in Barisal. "My goal was to undertake PhD in a foreign university. But I had to give up on that dream because I would not get a passport due to the 'prison record'. So I started doing research at Dhaka University. Two more years and I would have obtained the PhD. Then I got an offer to work as a translator for Progress Publishers of the then Soviet Union. I left for Russia in 1974," says Sharma.

A recipient of numerous awards including the Kudrat-i-Khuda gold medal, Bangla Academy Award, M Nurul Qader Children's Literature Award, Nature Preservation Award by Channel i, he has more than 30 books to his credit. His *Shamoli Nishorgo* (Green Nature), *Shomajtontre Boshobash* (Living in Socialism), *Jiboner Shesh Nei* (No End To Life), *Phoolgulo Jeno Kotha* (Each Flower Is A Word), *Biggan Shikkha O Daiboddhotar Nirikh* (Science Education and Our Responsibilities) *and Nishorgo Nirman O Nandonik Bhabna* (Building the Environment and Related Thoughts) are considered classics by critics and readers alike.



Dwijen Sharma believes that the relationship between science and socio-economic development ought to be clear to the scientist.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Dr Zia Uddin Ahmed, visiting Professor of Microbiology at Jahangirnagar University says via email, "Reinforced by a strong biological background Dwijen Sharma is an ardent naturalist with a deep conviction in Darwinian doctrine as the driving force of life on this planet. A stern proponent of biodiversity conservation Dwijen Sharma