also keenly appreciates biological realism—overbreeding of the human species and consequent decimation of other forms of life. Dwijen Sharma has written widely on nature and biodiversity in lucid Bangla. His prose is pleasantly plain with a sublime lyrical touch." Dr Ahmed is the author of such critically acclaimed books as *The Fading Horizon: Science and Technology* in Bangladesh and *JibBigganir Shomajbhabna* (Sociobiology: Thoughts from A Biologist's Perspective).

After coming back home in 2000, he was invited by the Asiatic Society of Bangladesh to join them as an editor and translator of biology. He served as vice president of Asiatic Society for three years. An encyclopedia of the flora and fauna of Bangladesh in 56 volumes was published by the Asiatic Society of Bangladesh while he was the president of the publishing committee. "Most of the work was done by others. I didn't do much," he says unassumingly. He proves that true knowledge makes one humble and kind rather than arrogant, egotistic and self-complacent.



PHOTO COURTESY: DWIJEN SHARMA

Dwijen Sharma, 2nd from right with renowned scientist late Jamal Nazrul Islam, 3rd from right.



PHOTO COURTESY: DWIJEN SHARMA

In front of Moscow Bolshoi Theatre.

Naturalists like Dwijen Sharma recognise that science is fallible. Its self-correction, its continual increase in breadth and accuracy, give them confidence in the resources they borrow from physics, chemistry and biology. It takes patient observation, but witnessing the inner workings of nature is exhilarating to them— from the discovery of a new species to the complex interrelationships of ecological systems.

Dwijen Sharma aspires to think in a scientific spirit. It's a vague phrase, but one might start to explain it by emphasising values like curiosity, honesty, accuracy, precision and rigour. He doesn't just pay lip-service to those qualities — that's easy — but actually exemplifies them in practice — the hard part. The scientific spirit suggests that experiments ought to be done where experimentation is the likeliest way to answer a question correctly. Dr Jyotiprakash Dutta, eminent writer and professor at City University of New York says via email, "Adopting a rational and scientific attitude toward life as championed by Dwijen Sharma is extremely essential for the modern times but a majority of the population, particularly in our part of the world, have a hard time understanding it, mostly because of religious beliefs, superstition, lack of education."

His apartment where he lives with his wife Devi Sharma, a PhD in Philosophy from Moscow University who retired as professor at Central Women's College, is practically a library— everywhere you look there are books, most in English. His son, a doctor lives in Moscow and daughter, a