

2023-10-23

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Climate scientist Saleemul Huq dies

Staff Correspondent  29 October, 2023, 08:30[Share](#)[Post](#)[Email](#)[Share](#)[Print](#)

Professor Dr Saleemul Huq. -- File photo.

Renowned climate scientist professor Saleemul Huq died at his home at Gulshan in the Dhaka city on Saturday night.

Saleemul, director of the International Centre for Climate Change and Development, was 71.

He is survived by his wife Kashana Huq, son Saqib Huq and daughter Sadaf Huq.

He died at about 10:00pm on Saturday following a cardiac arrest. He was buried at Banani Graveyard in the capital after his namaz-e-janaza at about 4:30pm at Gulshan Society Jame Masjid, said ICCCAD deputy director professor Mizan R Khan.

Environment, forest and climate change minister Md Shahab Uddin, deputy minister Habibun Nahar and the standing committee chairman of the ministry and also special envoy of the prime minister for environment and climate affairs Saber Hossain Chowdhury expressed deep shock at the death in separate condolence messages.

Shahab Uddin said that the death of Saleemul Haque was an irreparable loss to Bangladesh even to the world.

Professor Saleemul was born in 1952, and received his early education in Germany, Indonesia and Kenya.

He later went to the United Kingdom and received his Bachelor of Science degree in Botany from the Imperial College at London University in 1975.

He also received a DIC and a PhD in Botany from the same university in 1978.

He was appointed Officer of the Order of the British Empire in the 2022 New Year Honours for services to combating international climate change.

A professor at Independent University Bangladesh, Dr Saleemul was an associate of the International Institute on Environment and Development in

the United Kingdom.

Besides, he was the chair of the Expert Advisory Group for the Climate Vulnerable Forum and also senior adviser on Locally Led Adaptation with Global Centre on Adaptation headquartered in the Netherlands.

He was an expert in adaptation to climate change in the most Vulnerable developing countries and had been a lead author of the third, fourth and fifth assessment reports of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

He also used to advise the Least Developed Countries group in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

He was affiliated with the UN Food System Summit for 2021 as co-chair of the Action Track 5 on Building Resilience to Vulnerabilities, Shocks and Stress.

He published hundreds of scientific as well as popular articles and was recognised as one of the top twenty global influencers on climate change policy in 2019 and top scientist from Bangladesh on climate change science.

Recently he was appointed as one of the external members of a new Scientific Advisory Board of the United Nations.

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