

Online Condolences Meeting Held to Commemorate Prof. Rashid Ahmed Hassen Bhikha

In a heartfelt tribute to the late Prof. Rashid Ahmed Hassen Bhikha, who was founder of Ibne Sina Institute of Tibb, Johannesburg, South Africa and Founder Trustee of World Unani Foundation an online condolences meeting was organized on December 5th, 2023. Friends, family, and well-wishers gathered virtually to share memories and express their condolences for the departed soul.

The virtual event, attended by various scholars of Unani Medicine and followers of Prof. Rashid Ahmed Hassen Bhikha, from various corners of the globe, provided a platform for individuals to come together and support one another during this difficult time. Eulogies were shared by Prof. Shakir Jamil, Former DG CCRUM, Ministry of Ayush, Govt of India, Hakim Salim Khan, CEO Mohsin Health Clinic, United Kingdom & Founder Trustee World Unani Foundation, Prof. Dr. Stefan Reichmuth, from Institute of Arabic and Islamic Studies, Ruhr University Bochum, Germany, Prof. Munawwar Husain Kazmi, Unani Medicine Chair, Govt. of India at Hamdard University. Bangladesh, Prof. Mushtaq Ahmad, Former Unani Medicine Chair, Govt. of India at University of Western Cape, Cape Town, South Africa, Dr Asad Pasha, Former Joint Advisor (Unani). Ministry of Ayush, Govt. of India, Dr Claudia Preckel, Former Research Assistant, Dept. of Oriental & Islamic Studies, Rhur University, Germany, Dr Iftexhar Ahmad, Unani Practitioner, UAE, Dr Mobasshir Khan, Founder Trustee, International Unani Forum, Hakim Uzair Baqai, Prof. Mohammad Akram from Jamia Hamdard, New Delhi and Mohsin Dehlvi of Dehlvi Remedies and World Unani Foundation.

Speakers highlighted Prof. Rashid Bhikha's impactful contributions to the development and propagation of Unani Medicine globally and his enduring legacy.

Participants also spoke of Prof Rashid's kindness, generosity, and the positive impact he had on those around him. The online meeting allowed friends and family who couldn't physically attend to join in the mourning process, fostering a sense of unity despite the physical distances.

World Unani Foundation and International Unani Forum (Prof. Bhikha was an International Trustee of this forum) expressed gratitude for the participants who shared their experiences of working with Prof Bhikha and urged the gathering to take forward the vision and mission of departed soul and to support the family during times of grief.

Some condolence messages received were read out including that of Padma Shree Prof. Zillur Rehman, Founder Ibn Sina Academy of Medieval Medicine and Sciences, Aligarh India, Prof. MUZN Farzana, Sri Lanka, Mr Syed Tahir Naqvi, Delhi and 4 Former Research Scholars of Research Assistant, Dept. of Oriental & Islamic Studies, Rhur University, Germany namely Dr Gesche Johannknecht, Dr Sussane Kurz, Dr Claudia Preckel and Dr Kira Schmidt. . Other than the above participants, there was presence of Dr Younis Munshi, Incharge Director, National Research Institute of Unani Medicine for Skin Disorders, CCRUM, Ministry of Ayush, Govt. of India, Dr Benazir Qureshi from Dubai, Prof Shariq Ali Khan, Former Head, RRIUM, Aligarh and Dr Mohd Khalid, Asst. Drugs Controller / Licensing Authority (Unani), Directorate of Ayush, Govt. of NCT of Delhi to mention a few.

Mr Zain Bhikha, Ms Nasira Bhikha, Ms Naseema Bhikha, Ms Zaheera Bhikha along with Prof Bhikha's grand children were also present in the condolence meeting. Mr Zain Bhikha, Ms Naseema Bhikha and Ms Naseera Bhikha thanked the participants and the organizers for holding the condolence meet. They assured the participants that they will continue the legacy of Prof. Bhikha in promoting Tibb.

As the virtual condolences meeting concluded with prayers offered by Prof. Shakir Jameel, participants left with a shared sense of solace and the knowledge that Prof. Rashid Bhikha's memory would endure through the stories and memories shared during this poignant online tribute.