

Abu Zafar Shamsuddin dead

Noted litterateur and veteran journalist-columnist Abu Zafar Shamsuddin died of a cardiac arrest at his Mominbagh residence in Dhaka on Thursday morning. He was 78, reports BSS.

The recipient of a number of awards for his literary works and journalism, Abu Zafar Shamsuddin is survived by his wife, four sons and five daughters.

Mr. Shamsuddin, who was active in his literary endeavours and known for his penchant column in the daily Sangbad with the pen-name 'Baihashik' till on Wednesday, suffered a stroke while having his morning walk on Thursday. He died before doctors could provide him medical aid.

See Page 10 Col. 1



Abu Zafar

From Page 1 Col. 4

The namaj-e-janaza of the deceased was held at Baitul Mukarram mosque after Jahr prayer. Friends and admirers including leading intelligentsia and political leaders attended.

After janaza his body was taken to his village home, Dakkhin Bagh under Kaligonj Police Station, by a truck for burial.

Abu Zafar Shamsuddin was born in Dakkhin Bagh village under Kaligonj Police Station in greater Dhaka district in 1911. He started his journalistic career in Calcutta and became an editorial member of Daily Azad.

Mr. Shamsuddin also worked for Ittehad, Star of India, Pakistan Observer, Purbadesh and lately in the Daily Sangbad.

Mr. Shamsuddin also worked in the Bangla Academy as chief translator. As humanist he was closely associated with Mr. M. N. Roy. He wrote about 30 books including novels, short stories, plays and essays. Many of his literary works were translated in foreign languages including English, German, Hindi, Urdu and Marathi.

Abu Zafar Shamsuddin received many awards for his contribution to literature and journalism. The awards include Bangla Academy Literary Award, Ekushe Padak, Begum Zebunessa-Kazi Mahbubullah Gold Medal, Zahur Hossain Smriti Sarna Padak, Muktadhra Literary Award, Samakal Sahitya Puruskar, Shahid Nutun Singh Smriti Sarna Puruskar, etc.

The late Shamsuddin's epic novel "Padma Meghna Jamuna," which is a volume of 1155 pages, was acclaimed both in Bangladesh and West Bengal.

He was connected with many organisations. Mr. Shamsuddin was President of Bangladesh Peace Council, Vice-President of Afro-Asian Writer's Union, Bangladesh-India Friendship Society, Bangladesh Humanist Society and founder member of Bangabandhu Parishad.

Prime Minister Moudud Ahmed expressed his deep shock at the sudden death of noted litterateur and veteran journalist Abu Zafar Shamsuddin on Thursday.

Awami League President Sheikh Tasina and General Secretary Begum ajeda Chowdhury in a joint statement on Thursday condoled the death of Abu Zafar Shamsuddin. They said that late Abu Zafar Shamsuddin was struggling against exploitation, repression and autocracy.

Bangla Academy

The Bangla Academy held a condolence meeting on Thursday with Director General Prof. Abu Hena Mostafa Kamal in the chair. It was addressed by Messrs. Shamsuzzaman Khan, Bashir Al-Helal, Nurul Huda, Shubrata Barua and Asad Chowdhury.

Among others who condoled the death of Abu Zafar Shamsuddin were the Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB), BSD (Khaleq), the Central Students Action Committee, Awami Shilpi Goshti, Jatiya Janata Party, Sammilite Sanskritik Jote, Bangladesh Lekhak Union, Institute of Diploma Engineers, Bangabandhu Parishad, Bangladesh Chhatra Union, National Awami Party and Samajtantrik Chhatra Front.