

Abul Kalam Shamsuddin

Another distinguished personality in the realm of letters, particularly journalism, is gone. Mr. Abul Kalam Shamsuddin, a widely known and respected figure in the subcontinent's journalism, passed away yesterday at the Post-Graduate Hospital at the age of 82 years. Inna lillahe wa inna ilaihe rajeoon.

Although he did not die prematurely and he retired from active life half a decade ago, his sad death has further widened the void in the field of our journalism with which his association in various capacities was spread over fifty years, from 1922 to 1971. In his death we have lost an outstanding journalist who combined the rare qualities of head and heart and we are deprived of the benefit of age, experience and wisdom.

In the glorious tradition of an honest and fearless journalist, who firmly believed in freedom of the press and therefore, in freedom of thought and expression, the fundamental liberties of man, Mr. Abul Kalam Shamsuddin was always guided by his conscience and never allowed expediency and fear or favour to impair or in any way influence his principle. His allegiance to professional ethics was unquali-

ed which enabled him to place honour and conviction above everything including the comfort and security of the highest position in the profession. He resigned from the then East Pakistan Legislative Assembly of which he was a member belonging to the Muslim League Party in protest against police firing on February 21, 1952, during the historic Language Movement. And he did not hesitate to renounce Sitara-E-Quaid-E-Azam during the mass upsurge of 1969 in protest against the repressive policy of General Ayub Khan. That took courage and he did not lack it even though he knew that a demonstration of it might have cost him dearly. A quiet sort of man, he stood fearlessly against the repressive authority of the day.

'Naton Chin Naton Desh', 'Otit Diner Smriti', among other titles by him, bear impressive testimony to his intellectual capabilities. Unostentatious and plain-living, Mr. Abul Kalam Shamsuddin will live for ever in his literary and journalistic accomplishments and in our esteem and admiration. We condole his death and pray for the salvation of the departed soul.