

A K Shamsuddin dead

5/3/78

By A Staff Reporter

Mr. Abul Kalam Shamsuddin, renowned editor and litterateur, died here on Saturday noon at the PG Hospital. He was 82.

Mr. Shamsuddin was suffering from ailment of the heart and chronic bronchitis. He was undergoing treatment at the PG Hospital since January 27.

His condition was reported to have improved on Friday, but he suffered a massive 'pulmonary embolism' attack at about 11 a.m. on Saturday, which brought an end to the long and eventful life of one of the most illustrious journalists of the subcontinent.

Offices of all the newspapers will remain closed today (Sunday) as a mark of respect to the departed soul of Mr. Shamsuddin.

Within moments after Mr. Shamsuddin breathed his last a pall of gloom fell on the Press circle, and a large number of journalists rushed to the hospital to catch a last glimpse of the giant of the fourth estate who served the profession for half a century. Among those who went to the hospital were Presidential Adviser for Information and Broadcasting Mr. Shamsul Huda Chowdhury, editors and senior journalists.

The mortal remains of Mr. Shamsuddin were taken to his Aga Masih Lane residence at about 2 p.m. Among those who visited the residence of late Mr. Shamsuddin were poet Moynuddin, poet Nasiruddin, Sufi Zulfiqar Haider, Principal Ibrahim Khan, Dr. Sirajul Islam Chowdhury, Mr. Ataur Rahman Khan and Mr. Shahed Ali.

The noted journalist was to inaugurate the conference of Dacca Union of Journalists today (Sunday). He had given notes to Mr. Mahfuzullah, his son-in-law and Assistant Editor of Dainik Bangla, to prepare his speech for the conference.

Mr. Shamsuddin asked it to be made short and precise, a hallmark of his writing. Mr. Mahfuzullah was working on the draft when the news of the death of the former Editor reached him.

The Namaj-e-Janaza of Abul Kalam Shamsuddin was held at the Baitul Mukarram after Maghrib prayer on Saturday. Hafeez Maulana, Mukhlesur Rahman, the Imam of the mosque led the prayer.

Mr. Ataur Rahman Khan, Presidential Adviser for Information and Broadcasting, Mr. Shamsul Huda Chowdhury and a large number of journalists, admirers, relatives and people from all walks of life attended the janaza.

The mortal remains of Mr. Shamsuddin were later buried at the Azimpur (old) Graveyard at about 9 p.m.

He is survived by his wife, five daughters and two sons.

LIFE SKETCH

BSS adds: Mr. Abul Kalam Shamsuddin was born in November 1897 at village Dhanikhola under Trisal thana of Mymensingh district.

According to the life sketch compiled by the Press Ins-

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titute of Bangladesh he passed the Matriculation Examination from the Collegiate School of Dacca in 1917. He passed I.A. from Dacca College in 1919 and B.A. from Ripon College, Calcutta, in 1921.

Mr. Shamsuddin joined "Mohammadi" in 1922. Then he associated himself with the weekly "Muslim Jagat". Later he joined "The Musalman" in 1925 and continued there for three years.

The celebrated journalist worked with the daily "Sul-

tan" during 1929-30. He held responsible posts in the weekly 'Mohammadi' monthly 'Mohammadi' and the vernacular daily "Azad" for 32 years from 1930 to 1962. He was Editor of the daily "Azad" from 1940 to 1962.

A big personality in the realm of journalism Mr. Shamsuddin became Editor of the daily "Jehad" in 1963.

He was later appointed Editor of the then "Dainik Pakistan" in November, 1964 and remained there till 1971.

A man of strong principle, Mr. Shamsuddin renounced the "Sitara-e-Quaid-e-Azam" award during the mass upsurge of 1969 in protest against the repressive policy of General Ayub.

Mr. Shamsuddin was elected member of the then East Pakistan Legislative Assembly on Muslim League ticket in 1946. But he resigned from the Legislative Assembly in protest against the police fir-

ing during the historic Language Movement on February 21, 1952 and also because of his difference of opinion with the Government on the language issue.

He visited China, Egypt, Iran and Indonesia. He was personally known to Subash Bose, Dr. Bidhan Roy, J.N. Sengupta, M.N. Roy and President Soekarno of Indonesia.

Besides journalism, he made his mark in the field of literature, adept in original works and translation. His books "Nutan Chin", "Nutan Desh", "Otit Diner Smriti" and translation of Turgenev's "Virgin Soil" were acclaimed by the literary critics.

His enlightened speech while inaugurating a course of the Press Institute "on development of journalism" on November 1, 1977, reflected his depth of knowledge in this field.

