

Obituary



National Professor Nurul Islam
(1st April, 1928 - 24th January, 2013)

National Professor Nurul Islam was born in 1928 in Chittagong, Bangladesh. He passed MB, Calcutta, 1951; TDD, University of Wales, 1955; MRCP, 1956; FCCP, American College of Chest Physicians, 1962; FCPS, 1963; FRCP Edin, 1966; FRCP Lond, 1977; DSc, Ansted University Malaysia, 1999; FCGP Bangladesh. He had done his specialization - in the field of medical science. He was a successful physician, teacher and research scientist and an outstanding personality of Bangladesh. He was a dreamer and architect of tobacco-free society who first launched the anti-tobacco movement in Bangladesh through establishment of ADHUNIK meaning 'Amra Dhumpan Nibarun Kori', the first national anti-tobacco organization.

He served and obtained positions as Director & Professor, IPGMR, 1965-87, Founding Dean, Faculty of Postgraduate Medicine, DU, Physician to Founding Father of Bangladesh Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, 1971-75, Founding Councillor, Pakistan & Bangladesh Colleges of Physicians & Surgeons, Chairman, Bangladesh First National AIDS Committee, Founder Chairman, Janasheba Foundation & Institute of Applied Health Sciences (IAHS), Founder President, ADHUNIK (National antitobacco organization), Founder Chief Adviser, Coalition Against Tobacco (CAT), Chairman, Editorial Board, Tobacco News, Vice Chairman, Hamdard Foundation Bangladesh, Founder President & Founder Vice Chancellor, University of Science & Technology Chittagong, 1992 till date. In the international field : Member, WHO Expert Advisory Panel on HMD (1976-1992), Member, WHO Expert Advisory Panel on Tobacco & Health, 1992-, Emeritus Adviser, Royal College of Physicians, Edinburgh, Foreign Fellow, Pakistan Academy of Sciences.

He has to his credit over 100 publications on health and drugs in international journals and over 100 articles on anti-tobacco movement only published in national and international dailies and journals. He wrote over 27 books including some on Tobacco & Health eg Tobacco Smoking : Opinions, Questions & Answers; Medical Diagnosis & Treatment; Tropical Eosinophilia; Essential Drugs for Village Practice; Prescription and Professionals; Something About Health; Some Thoughts; Jibon Srotay (In the stream of life); History of IPGMR; Bangabandhu (in the eyes of his personal physician); Thoughts on Complementary Medicine; Tobacco Control In Bangladesh: The Man Behind (a compilation of his anti-tobacco articles appreciated by the world leaders of anti-tobacco movement).

As an educationist, medical scientist, social worker, researcher and anti-tobacco leader Prof Islam has been awarded many Medals and Commemorative Certificates. Some are: President's Gold Medal (1963); Gold Medal-Bangladesh Academy of Sciences (1982); Daymi Award for Religion and Social work (1986); Rangdhanu Academy Award (1986) for Social Service; Highest National Award - The Independence Day Award (1997); WHO Commemorative Medal worthy of international recognition for tobacco control in 1990 & 1992; Ibn Sina Medal (1995); Gold Medal-RCP Edin (1999); Social Service Award by the Govt of Bangladesh (2000); Bangladesh Nutrition Society Award (2002); Hussain

Shahid Suhrawardi Award for tobacco - free society (2003); Bangla Academy Award (2003); Dr BC Roy Gold Medal and 'Chikitsa Ratna' Award for Medical Science, Kolkata (2003); Enriching Communal Harmony & Human Rights Award, Kolkata University, India (2004); WHO, DG's Special Award for outstanding work in the field of tobacco control in the South- East Asia Region (2005); Prime Minister's National Science Writers' Award (2005); Marie Curie Award for Medical Science (2006).

He visited almost all countries of Asia and the Middle East, USSR, UK, Germany, Norway, Italy, Turkey, Belgium, Sweden, Switzerland, France, USA, Argentina, Brazil, South Africa, Egypt, Libya, Tunisia, Ethiopia, Morocco, Sudan, etc.

He got Fellowship and membership of other organizations as Pakistan Academy of Sciences, Bangladesh College of General Practitioners, Royal College of Physicians (Edin & Lond, Emeritus Regional Adviser 1998), Bangladesh Academy of Sciences, Bangladesh Society of Allergy and Immunology, Bangladesh Association for Advancement of Medical Science.