

## ***Obituary***



**National Professor Dr. Nurul Islam**  
(1<sup>st</sup> April, 1928 - 24th January, 2013)

National Professor Dr. Nurul Islam breathed his last at Dhaka city's Lab Aid Hospital on On 24th January, 2013 Thursday night following a cardiac arrest at the age of 85. After Three Namaz-e-Janazas (Islamic pre-funeral prayers) on Saturday he was laid to rest at the premises of the University of Science and Technology, Chittagong (USTC) of which he was the founder president and vice chancellor.

Born on April 1, 1928 in Chittagong of a middle class family, Prof. Islam rose to national and international prominence by dint of his extraordinary merit, perseverance and dedication. His higher education included: 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.

In the field of medical education, his other major contributions were his distinguished services as the director and professor of IPGMR (Institute of Post Graduate Medicine and Research) now BSMMU (Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University) and founding dean of the postgraduate medicine department at the University of Dhaka (famed as the Oxford of the East).

Prof. Islam had to his credit over 100 publications on health and drug issues in international journals and over 100 articles highlighting the deadly effects on health of tobacco use and how to counteract the menace which were widely covered in national and international dailies and journals. He wrote over 27 books including some on Tobacco & Health

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).

A self made and humble personality, Prof. Islam will be ever remembered gratefully by the nation for his noble deeds and the lofty ideals he cherished in a country where selfless service, morality and ethics are increasingly becoming a rarity.