

Day Awards distributed

By A Staff Reporter

President Ziaur Rahman on Thursday distributed Independence Day awards for 1977, 1978 and 1979 at Bangabhaban Darbar Hall.

The Independence Day award is the highest national award of the country. The Government in 1977 instituted this award in recognition of excellence in and special contribution to various fields of national life such as science and technology, medical science, education, literature, fine arts, games and sports, rural development, social service, population control, public service and other fields determined by the Government.

The award carries a gold medal and Taka ten thousand in cash.

Every year since 1977, the names of persons awarded this highest national honour had been announced. Distribution ceremony of this award could not be arranged so far due to various reasons.

During the last three years in all 27 persons have been honoured with the award. Of them total ten persons received the award posthumously.

The yearwise award winners are as follows:

1977 — Late Moulana Abdul Hamid Khan Bhashani (social welfare), late Kazi Nazrul Islam (literature), late Silpacharya Zainul Abedin (painting), late Dr Mokarram Hussain Khandaker (science and technology), Mahbubul Alam Chashi (rural development), Brig Mahmudur Rahman

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Choudhury (medical science), Dr. Mohanmad Zafarullah Choudhury (population control), Begum Runa Laila (music), Havildar Mustaque Ahmed (sports), late Enayet Karim (public service).

1978 — Late Poet Jasimuddin (literature), late Dr Mazharul Haq (education), late Ranada Prashad Shaha (social welfare), Dr. Mohammad Ibrahim (social welfare), Dr. Shah Mohammad Hasanuzzaman (science and technology), Mr. Abdul Ahsd (music), Mr. Mahfuzul Haq (rural development) and Mr. Alamgir M.A. Kabir (population control).

1979 — Late Abul Mansur Ahmed (literature), Dr. Kazi Motahar Hussain (science and technology), late Dr. Muzaffar Ahmed Choudhury (education), Mrs. Firoza Begum (music), Mr. Samar Das (music), Ustad Fuljhuri Khan (music), Mr. Qamrul Hahan (painting), Begum Tahera Kabir (social welfare) and Mr. Nur Mohammad Mandal (population control).

As the Government was still to take a decision as to who will receive the posthumous award for late Kazi Nazrul Islam, it was not distributed on Thursday.

Begum Alema Bhashani received the award on behalf of her late husband Maulana Abdul Hamid Khan Bhashani, Begum Jahannara Abedin on behalf of her late husband Shilpacharya Zainul Abedin, Begum Nurun Nahar Khandaker on behalf of her late husband Dr. Mokarram Hussain Khandaker, Additional Foreign Secretary Mr. Ataul Karim on behalf of Begum Hosne Ara Karim wife of late Mr. Enayet Karim (as she is abroad on

Government posting), Begum Momtaj Jasimuddin on behalf of her late husband Poet Jasimuddin, Begum Rajsunnissa Haq on behalf of her late husband Dr. Mazharul Haq, Mrs. Jaya Bati on behalf of her mother Mrs. Ranada Prashad Shaha who could not come to receive her husband's award due to illness, Mr. Mahbub Alam on behalf of his mother Mrs. Abul Mansur Ahmed who also could not come to receive her husband's award due to illness and Begum Fathema Khatun on behalf of her husband Dr. Muzaffar Ahmed Choudhury.

Begum Alema Bhashani clad in white sari and chaddar was first to receive the award from the President. With tears in her eyes of the wife of the great leader of the masses received the official honour of her late husband. She also talked for some time with the President.

The hour-long ceremony was attended, among other by two former Presidents Mr. Justice Abu Sayeed Choudhury and Mr. Mohammadullah, Vice-President Mr. Justice Abdus Sattar, Prime Minister Shah Azizur Rahman, Secretary General of ENP Dr. A.Q.M. Badruddozza Choudhury, Ministers, MPs, prominent citizens, diplomats and high civil and military officials.

Cabinet Secretary Mr. Karamat Ali read out the citations.



President Ziaur Rahman giving Independence Day Award for 1979 to Dr. Quasi Motahar Hosain in recognition to his significant contribution to science and technology at Bangabhaban on Thursday. —PID