



Professor Jamal Nazrul Islam

Scientist Jamal Nazrul Islam passes away

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EMINENT scientist Professor Jamal Nazrul Islam is no more. The celebrated mathematician, physicist, and cosmologist breathed his last at a city hospital in the early hours of Saturday. He was 74.

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last at a city hospital in the early hours of Saturday. He was 74.

Professor Jamal left behind his wife, two daughters, and a host of relatives and well-wishers at home and abroad to mourn him.

Sheikh Hasan Al Mamun, who supervised his treatment at the Intensive Care Unit of Chittagong Metropolitan Hospital, said the scientist was admitted to the hospital with cardiac and other complications on Wednesday and died at around 00:30am on Saturday.

His first namaj-e-janaza was held at Chittagong University in the morning. His body was kept in the afternoon on the Chittagong Central Shaheed Minar premises, where people from different strata of life thronged to pay homage and their last respects to the great scientist and academician. He will be buried at the Garibullah Shah Shrine after his second janaza at the Jamiatul Falah Mosque after the asr prayers on Sunday.

Sadaf Saaz Siddiqui, daughter of the late professor, while talking to reporters on the Shaheed Minar premises, said her father had returned home from abroad as he loved his country.

He was shocked at the sad condition of science

education in our country, as there is no alternative to becoming well versed in science for building a prosperous country,' she said.

Sadaf also said her father had the rare capacity to love all human beings and bring them close to him. The people of this country have many things to learn from such a magnetic personality, she added.

Lawmaker Nurul Islam, Chittagong University of Engineering and Technology vice-chancellor Jahangir Alam, assistant high commissioner of India in Chittagong Somnath Ghosh, Communist Party of Bangladesh Chittagong city unit general secretary Shah Alam, and representatives of different political, social, and cultural organisations paid homage to the deceased scientist, placing wreaths on his body at the Shaheed Minar.

Chittagong University vice-chancellor Anwarul Azim Arif, while addressing the janaza at the university, said Professor Jamal had worked for the wellbeing of the people throughout his life.

He introduced the country abroad and his demise is an irreparable loss for us,' the VC said, adding that books authored by the late scientist were taught at different universities across the world.

Professor Jamal was born on February 24, 1939

at Jhenaidah in Jessore. He completed his primary, secondary, and higher secondary schooling at the Model School in Calcutta, the Collegiate School in Chittagong, and the Lawrence College of Pakistan respectively.

He received his BSc degree in mathematics from the St Xavier's College of Calcutta University. He obtained his master's degree on completion of another bachelor's degree from the Trinity College of Cambridge University. Jamal Nazrul Islam obtained his PhD degree in applied mathematics and theoretical physics from Cambridge University in 1968 and Doctor of Science degree from the same university in 1982.

He was decorated with the Ekushey Padak by the Bangladesh government in 2001 and the Bangladesh Science Academy Gold Award in 1985.

The Cambridge University Press published several books by Professor Jamal, including The Ultimate Fate of the Universe, Rotating Fields in General Relativity, Sky and Telescope, The Far Future of the Universe, Introduction to Mathematical Economics and Social Choice, and An Introduction to Mathematical Cosmology. His books were translated into at least seven languages, including French, Japanese,

Italian, Portuguese, and Yugoslav.

He was a postdoctoral fellow at the physics and astronomy department of the University of Maryland from 1963 to 1965, a staff member at the Instituté of Theoretical Astronomy of Cambridge University from 1967 to 1971, a visiting associate in physics at the California Institute of Technology from 1971 to 1972, a senior research associate at the astronomy department of the University of Washington from 1972 to 1973, a lecturer in applied mathematics at King's College in London from 1973 to 1974, a science research council fellow at the University College of Cardiff from 1975 to 1978, a lecturer and reader at the mathematics department of City University in London from 1978 to 1984.

He joined as a professor of mathematics at Chittagong University in 1984 and was the founding director of the university's Research Centre for Mathematical and Physical Science. He was also a professor emeritus of the university.

Professor Jamal was a syndicate member of the Chittagong University of Engineering and Technology and an advisory board member of the Shahjalal University of Science and Technology.