



Gaudi or *Megadhan Prakrit* (or derivative of Sanskrit).

In 1944 Shahidullah retired from Dhaka University for the first time as a Reader and Chairman of Bengali Department and subsequently joined the Bogra Azizul Haq College as the Principal.

Workaholic Dr. Shahidullah after his retirement as a teacher, however, did not take retirement from work. During 1959-60 he worked as editor of the Urdu Abhidhan Prakalpa (Urdu dictionary project). In 1960 he also worked for Bangla Academy as Editor-in-Chief of the Regional Dialect Dictionary. In addition, he also worked for Islamic encyclopedia project (1961-1964) of the same academy. During his stay in Bangla Academy, perhaps his most important work was to introduce a revised Bangla Calendar.

Dr. Muhammed Shahidullah played a pivotal role in our language movement. Even before partition of the sub-continent, he reasoned in favour of Bangla as the future state language of the proposed Pakistan. Besides, Dr. Shahidullah discarded the communal notion of some Muslim League Leaders of that time towards the language Bangla and Bengali community and argued, later in 1952, as a teacher of DU, he actively participated in the language movement.

In addition to research works, he wrote for children. He also translated and edited a number of books. Noteworthy among his books are Sindabad Saodagarer Galpa (The stories of the merchant Sindbad, 1922), Bhasa O Sahitya (Language and literature, essays, 1931), Bangala Byakaran (Bangla grammar, 1936), Diwan-i-Hafiz (Poems of Hafiz, translation, 1938), Shikwah O Jawab-i-Shikwah (Questions and their answers, translation from Iqbal, 1942), Rubaiyat-i-Omar Khaiyam (Quatrains of Omar Khayyam, translation, 1942), Essays on Islam (1945), Amader Samasya (Our problems, essays, 1949), Padmavati (Volume I ed, 1950), Bangla Sahityer Katha (History of Bangla literature, Volume I in 1953, Volume II in 1965), Vidyapati Shatak (Collection of Vidyapati's songs, text analysis, 1954), Bangla Adab Ki Tarikh (History of Bangla literature, essays, in Urdu, 1957), Bangla Sahityer Itihas (History of Bangla literature, 1957), Bangala Bhasar Itibrtta (History of Bangla language, 1959), Qur'an Sharif (The Qur'an, 1963), Amarkabya (Unforgettable poetical works, 1963), Sekaler Rupkatha (Fairy tales of ancient time, 1965), etc.

For his outstanding contributions to knowledge he was honoured by many Institutions of home and abroad. He was awarded the 'Pride of Performance' by the Pakistan government, made Professor Emeritus by the University of Dhaka (1967) and awarded 'Knight of the Orders of Art and Letters' by the French government (1967) for his lifetime achievement in research on language and literature.

Dr. Shahidullah died in Dhaka on 3 July 1969 and was buried on the campus of Shahidullah Hall of the university.

(**Sources:** 1. State Master Encyclopedia, USA (www.statemaster.com) 2.Banglapedia 3. Muhammad Shahidullah & His Contribution to Bengali Linguistics (www.ciil-ebooks.net) 4. Wikipedia)

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