The Creator of Post-Modern Bengali Literature



Shahidul Jahir

If we think of the real founder of post modernism in Bengali literature we have to recall the works of Shahidul Jahir (September 11, 1953 – March 23, 2008). His extraordinary style of writing novels and short stories made him a distinguished figure of Bengali literature. We remember this eminent literary personality on his 6th death anniversary.



The first book of Shahidul Zahir, then Shahidul Haque.





- Born in 1953 in Dhaka, Shahid's actual name was Shahidul Huq
- Shahidul was also a distinguished civil servant of Bangladesh Government and served as a Secretary
- He was a confirmed bachelor
- In an interview he had said about his single life, "I can't say anything about this. It has just happened."
- Shahidul was extremely reclusive and hardly gave newspaper interviews.

- Shahidul had distinguished himself by his surrealist approach to fiction
- *Parapar*, his first book of short stories, was published in 1985
- The book reflects his tendency to portray human character in an intricate language, a perfect example of magic realism in Bengali literature
- For his post-modernist approach in Bengali literature, Shahidul was called the Márquez of Bangladesh

- Shahidul Jahir published only six books during his lifetime
- His popular novels are *Jeeban O Rajnaitik Bastabata, She Raate Poornima Chhilo and Mukher Dike Dekhi*
- His short story collections are *Parapaar , Dumurkheko Manush O Onnanno Galpo, Dolu Nodir Hawa O Onnanno Galpo*
- The name of his last published story was " Miracle of Life"
- Shahidul admitted the influence of two contemporary novelists: Shamsul Haque and Akhtaruzzaman Elias, in addition to Syed Waliullah

- Phulkumar a film by Ashiq Mostofa is adapted from his short story "Ei Shomoy"
- His another short story "Choturtha Matra" was the basis of an award winning video film by Nurul Alam Atique
- Nurul Alam Atique also made a television drama named *Kothay Pabo Tarey* from the story titled also as *Kotay Pabo Tarey* in 2009
- For his literary works Shahidul was awarded with the Kagoz Literary Award and Alaol Sahitya Puroshkar
- Shahidul died of cardiac arrest on March 23, 2008

— MD SHAHNAWAZ KHAN CHANDAN