

# NEWSLETTER

Vol. 28, No.1-4, January- December, 2022

## A Note from the Editor

The Asiatic Society of Bangladesh (ASB) is a leading research organization in Bangladesh. Apart from the dissemination of knowledge and research, work is done here to nurture and develop democracy, ethics, and human values. These activities of the Society are managed by a Council democratically elected by the members of the ASB. The Society's last Council election was held on 17 May 2022. Two panels contested this election. These two panels were headed by Professor Khondoker Bazlul Hoque and Professor Sharifuddin Ahmed respectively. The panel led by Professor Khondoker Bazlul Hoque won an absolute majority in the election. The election results were officially announced at the Society's 19<sup>th</sup> Biennial General Meeting held on May 21, 2022. In June 2022, the newly elected Council of the Asiatic Society of Bangladesh assumed office. The Council (2022 and 2023) co-opted two ASB Fellows into the Council in its first meeting held on June 08, 2022. They are: (a) Prominent historian Dr. Abdul Momin Chowdhury, Professor (Retd.), Department of History, University of Dhaka and former Vice-Chancellor, National University and (b) Barrister Shafiq Ahmed, Senior Advocate, Supreme Court of Bangladesh and former Minister, Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh. All the statutory Committees, Boards, and other Committees of the Society were constituted in the same Council meeting.

Before beginning the tenure of a new ASB Council 2022 and 2023, it is worth making an objective stocktaking of the previous Council. When the Council (2020 and 2021) embarked upon its routine work, it faced COVID-19. Due to the prevailing epidemic situation, it was not possible to hold regular Council meetings and other activities in the early stages of the pandemic. But afterward, the Council and other Committee meetings were held regularly through online. Eminent scholars from home and abroad were invited to deliver lectures in the Monthly General Meetings, Trust Fund Lectures, and Special Lectures. In addition to these, many other routine works were completed smoothly amid the challenges of COVID-19.

It is a matter of pleasure for us that the Society turns 70 now keeping behind a rich, boastful, and an intellectual legacy. We celebrated the 70<sup>th</sup> Foundation Day of the Society with delight and enthusiasm on January 03, 2022, with a Foundation Day Lecture on "The Indomitable Bangladesh: An Amazing Journey of Inclusive and Sustainable Development" by Professor Dr. Atiur Rahman, former Governor of Bangladesh Bank.

As a tribute to the founders of the Society, I would like to say that we are working tirelessly to realize their dreams. With continuous efforts over the past seven decades, the Society is now considered a renowned academic and research institution in South Asia. Scholars of repute both nationally and internationally frequently visit the Society and contribute to its regular activities. It gives us immense pleasure when we think that the Society has made a remarkable progress in the field of publications also. Our list of flagship publications is not short. বাংলাদেশ মুক্তিযুদ্ধ জ্ঞানকোষ (১০ খণ্ড) has recently joined the bandwagon of the Society's flagship publications. The work of the English version of the book is also going in full swing.

It is further noted that the present Council (2022 and 2023) commenced its routine work from June 2022. So we are only half way through this year. But within a short period of time we tried to go in full speed ahead. We have organized five monthly lectures from June to December 2022. Also, a total of four Special Lectures and six Trust Fund Lectures have been organized during this period. In organizing these lectures, every effort has been made to maintain the tradition and standards of the Society.

I am glad to share with you that this year, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed between the Institute of Bangladesh Studies (IBS), Rajshahi University, and the Asiatic Society of Bangladesh for mutual cooperation in the field of research. This is the first MoU signed by the Society with any research institute in Bangladesh.

The Council members, office bearers and the staff of the Society believe in teamwork. In all our works, we strictly maintain this spirit. We have never acted on a single decision without the recommendation of the committee. I can assure that, there will be no deviation from this principle in decision-making in the future. Publication of newsletters is a regular activity of the Society. But due to various reasons, we could not publish the newsletter on time. I am sincerely sorry for that. We hope to publish the next volume of the newsletter soon.

On a happy note, I would like to thank our Chief Patron Advocate Abdul Hamid, Honourable President of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, for extending his kind support to us. We owe a great deal to the Ministry of Cultural Affairs for always being with us. We appreciate our members who are the inspiration for all our activities. Before I end, I wish all the Fellows, Honorary Members, Life Members, General Members, and Associate Members a Happy New Year.

## ASB Celebrates its 70<sup>th</sup> Founding Anniversary

The 70<sup>th</sup> Founding Anniversary of the Asiatic Society of Bangladesh was observed on January 03, 2022 with great enthusiasm and colorful festivity.

Professor Mahfuza Khanam, President of the Society presided over the function. Professor Dr. Sabbir Ahmed, General Secretary of the Society, gave a welcome address to the audience on this auspicious day. Paying tribute to the Founders of the Society, he presented a short report on the progress that took place in the Asiatic Society of Bangladesh during the last two years.



**The Inauguration of 70<sup>th</sup> Founding Anniversary of the Society**

Professor Sabbir Ahmed pointed out that the Council 2020 & 2021 took charge of the ASB with the mission of ensuring accountability and transparency in ASB's all kinds of activities. When the Council embarked upon its routine work, it faced numerous difficulties due to spread of COVID-19 but despite having these challenges the Council tried to overcome these with great efforts.

Professor Sabbir Ahmed mentioned that, it was a matter of pleasure for all that the Society turned 70 keeping behind a rich, boastful and intellectual legacy.

He further added that the Council had been successful to realize the dream- a dream to make the Asiatic Society of Bangladesh a centre for academic research and scholarly publications. Now the Society is considered to be the noted academic institution in South Asia. Scholars of repute both nationally and internationally are frequently visiting the Society and contributing to its regular activities.



**Professor Dr. Sabbir Ahmed, General Secretary, ASB is delivering his speech on the 70<sup>th</sup> Founding Anniversary program**

He further added that, it gives immeasurable pleasure to us when we think that we have made notable progress in the academic and publication sectors. The Society's flagship publications-Banglapedia (14 volumes both in English and Bangla), Junior Banglapedia (2 volumes both in English and Bangla), Flora and Fauna of Bangladesh (28 volumes both in English and Bangla), Cultural Survey of Bangladesh (09 volumes in English and 11 volumes in Bangla), History of Bangladesh (3 volumes both in English and Bangla), 18 books on Dhaka in Bangla and English under the Celebration of 400 Years of Capital Dhaka project of the Society and others have enhanced the Society's academic status and image at home and abroad.

The General Secretary expressed his gratitude to Advocate Abdul Hamid, Honorable President of the People's Republic of Bangladesh who is the Chief Patron of the Asiatic Society of Bangladesh for extending his kind support to the Society. Before concluding the address, the General Secretary reiterates his commitment to the institutional capacity through digitalization of ASB's functions and strengthening its human resources.

The General Secretary concluded his speech thanking the Ministry of Cultural Affairs, valuable Members of the Asiatic Society of Bangladesh and wishing a belated Happy New Year to all.

**Dr. Atiur Rahman**, Professor, Department of Development Studies, University of Dhaka and Former Governor, Bangladesh Bank was the Foundation Day speaker. He delivered the Foundation Day Lecture titled **The Indomitable Bangladesh: An amazing journey of inclusive and sustainable development.**

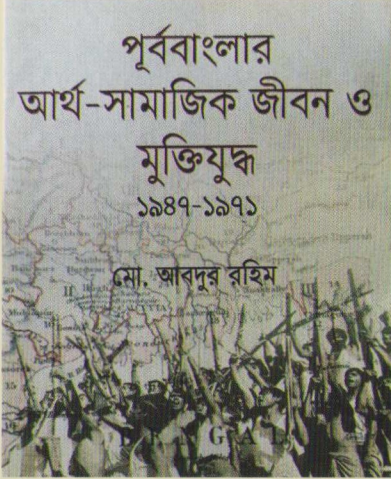


**Professor Atiur Rahman, 70<sup>th</sup> Foundation Day Speaker of the Asiatic Society of Bangladesh**

National Fellows, academics, scholars, educational luminaries, public figures, high officials, distinguished personalities, guests and members of the Society attended the Founding Anniversary program.

## ASB Participated in the Amar Ekushey Book Fair, 2022

Keeping practice with the old customs, the Asiatic Society of Bangladesh participated in the Amar Ekushey Book Fair, 2022 in the Bangla Academy premises at the Stalls no. 764 and 765. This year Amar Ekushey Book Fair began on February 15. Due to prevailing COVID-19, the fair continued up to (March, 17) birthday of Father of the Nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman instead of February 28.



The book published by the Asiatic Society of Bangladesh titled পূর্ব বাংলার আর্থ-সামাজিক জীবন ও মুক্তিযুদ্ধ ১৯৪৭-১৯৭১ was launched in the Amar Ekushey Book Fair, 2022 on February 06, 2022 at the premises of Suhrawardy Udyan. The author of the book is Dr. Md. Abdur Rahim, Professor, Department of Islamic History and Culture, University of Dhaka.

## ASB Council Election was held on May 17, 2022

The office of the Asiatic Society of Bangladesh received two panels. One was headed by Professor Khondoker Bazlul Hoque and the other was by Professor Sharif Uddin Ahmed.



The Election Commission is declaring the election result at the auditorium of ASB

The Election Commission headed by Professor Sharifullah Bhuyian fixed the election schedule in January 25, 2022 but due to the spread of COVID-19 the Election Commission further rescheduled the election date on May 17, 2022 instead of January, 25, 2022. Accordingly, the Council election for the years 2022 and 2023 of the Asiatic Society of Bangladesh was held on in the Society's Compound from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm on the re-scheduled date.

Just after completion of the vote casting counting was started before the both Panels. The panel headed by Professor Khondoker Bazlul Hoque won a land mark victory in the Council election.

## 19th Biennial General Meeting was held on May 21, 2022

The 19th Biennial General Meeting of the Asiatic Society of Bangladesh was held on Saturday, May 21, 2022 in the auditorium of the ASB. **Dr. Abdul Momin Chowdhury**, former Professor of History, University of Dhaka and former Vice-Chancellor, National University graced the occasion as Chief Guest and inaugurated the Biennial General Meeting.



Professor Abdul Momin Chowdhury is inaugurating 19th Biennial General Meeting of Asiatic Society of Bangladesh

Professor Abdul Momin Chowdhury delivered his feelings and experiences on the Asiatic Society of Bangladesh. At the end of the program, General Secretary Professor Sabbir Ahmed declared the Election Commission's results before the audience.



19th Biennial Program held on  
May 21, 2022

## New Council (2022 and 2023)

The following are the elected office-bearers and members of the new Council of the Asiatic Society of Bangladesh for the years 2020 and 2021:



### Asiatic Society of Bangladesh

#### COUNCIL 2022-2023

 <b>President</b> Professor Khondker Buzul Hoque	 <b>Vice-President</b> Professor Hafiza Khatun	 <b>Vice-President</b> Professor A.K.M. Golam Rabbani	 <b>Vice-President</b> Professor Sajahan Miah
 <b>Treasurer</b> Professor S.M. Mahfuzur Rahman	 <b>General Secretary</b> Professor Mohammad Siddique Rahman Khan	 <b>Secretary</b> Professor Mohammad Humayun Kabir	
 <b>Member</b> Professor Harun-or-Rashid	 <b>Member</b> Professor Ahmed Abdullah Jamal	 <b>Member</b> Professor Mahbuba Naureen	 <b>Member</b> Professor Md. Lutfur Rahman
 <b>Member</b> Professor Yeasul Kabir	 <b>Member</b> Professor Md. Abdur Rahim	 <b>Member</b> Professor Arifa Sultana	 <b>Member</b> Professor Shuchita Sharmin
 <b>Member</b> Professor Esham Chakraborty	 <b>Member</b> Professor Suraiya Akhter		

## Co-option of two Fellows onto the Council (2022 and 2023)

As per the Article 28 of the Constitution of the Asiatic Society of Bangladesh, the Council co-opted eminent historian Dr. Abdul Momin Chowdhury, Professor (Retd.), Department of History, University of Dhaka & former Vice-Chancellor, National University and Barrister Shafique Ahmed, Senior Advocate, Supreme Court of Bangladesh & former Minister for Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh as Fellows onto the Council of the Asiatic Society of Bangladesh for the years 2022 and 2023.



**Professor**  
**Abdul Momin Chowdhury**



**Barrister**  
**Shafique Ahmed**

## Monthly General Meetings

The 1<sup>st</sup> Monthly General Meeting was held on July 31, 2022

The topic of the Monthly Lecture was Bridge on the River Padma: Its Impact on Bangladesh & Beyond. **Mr. Ali Ahmed**, Former Member (Customs), National Board of Revenue (NBR), Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh was the speaker.

The speaker discussed the challenges faced by Bangladesh before and during the construction of the historic Padma Bridge. He said the Padma Bridge is a symbol of our ability and self-pride. Through the construction of the Padma Bridge, not only the economic capacity of Bangladesh but also our technological expertise in the construction of large structures has been proved. Bangladesh's capacity has been internationally recognized due to implementation of mega projects like the Padma Bridge.



**Mr. Ali Ahmed** was greeted with the flowers at the end of the lecture session in the 1<sup>st</sup> Monthly General meeting

The speaker highlighted the potential impact of the Padma Bridge in various fields. He pointed out that without foreign loans and aid, we may not be very proud of what we have, but we can look to the near future and assess the benefits this bridge will bring to us as a nation.

The communication system plays a vital role in the economic development of any country. Therefore, it is considered a tool for economic development. The speaker Mr. Ahmed said that the dream bridge over the Padma River has already been partially opened for traffic. As a result, communication and transportation of goods in the Southwestern region with the capital Dhaka have become faster and smoother. He said the Padma Bridge would play an important role in South and Southeast Asia's regional connectivity. Moreover, this bridge will be a part of the Trans-Asian Railway in the future.

Referring to some statistics, the speaker said Padma Bridge would significantly impact Bangladesh's economy. In addition, he mentioned that the construction of the Padma Bridge would flourish the tourism industry of Bangladesh. He also hinted at the impact of the Padma Bridge on our social life and environment.

In conclusion, the speaker added that the impact would be economical with its understandable and universally applicable consequences. The stagnant cultural conditions of an agricultural society, already astir with the onset of commercial activities a few decades before and the recent slow progress of industrialization, will, of necessity, expedite it, bring in changes in our known social structures, help usher in urbanization in more minor scales,

at first, and introduce the unwanted but inevitable alienation.

Following the lecture, some from the audience participated in the discussion and asked various questions to the honorable speaker. The speaker answered their queries.

While summing up the discussion, the Chairperson, Professor Khondoker Bazlul Hoque, thanked Mr. Ali Ahmed for his valuable presentation.

Finally, the President thanked everyone present for making the program successful and then concluded the meeting.

### **The 2<sup>nd</sup> Monthly General Meeting was held on August 30, 2022**

The topic of the Monthly Lecture was The Dream of Bangabandhu and Five Decades of Agricultural Development in Bangladesh. **Dr. Jahangir Alam**, Former Vice-Chancellor, University of Global Village (UGV) & Former Director, Bangladesh Livestock Research Institute (BLRI) was the speaker.

The speaker, in his lecture, pointed out that Bangladesh observed the birth centennial of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the architect of independence of the country, in 1971 very recently. At the same time, the country observed the Golden jubilee of independence. Both occasions overlapped in 2021. After the independence, five decades have elapsed. There was a significant development in the economy of Bangladesh, particularly in the agricultural sector, during that period.

The speaker presented essential strategies adopted by Bangabandhu during the first few years of his regime after independence and the development made so far in the agriculture sector of Bangladesh. He added that evidence showed significant growth rates in all sub-sectors of agriculture during the last fifty years. He also mentioned that much more development is needed to achieve the food and nutrition security of the country in the coming years. In conclusion, the speaker outlines the suggestions for future development of the agricultural sector in Bangladesh.

Following the presentation, some of the audience took part in an open discussion on the topic and made brief comments. At the end of the discussion, the Chairperson Professor Khondoker Bazlul Hoque presented his closing speech and thanked Dr. Jahangir Alam for his valuable presentation.

### **The 3<sup>rd</sup> Monthly General Meeting was held on September 27, 2022**

The topic of the Monthly Lecture was বিশ্বায়নের পরিস্থিতিতে বাংলাদেশে ঐচ্ছিক দ্বিভাষিক বিদেশি ভাষা শিক্ষাব্যবস্থা কয়েমের প্রয়োজনীয়তা. **Dr. A. B. M. Razaul Karim Faquire**, Professor & Director, Institute of Modern Languages, University of Dhaka was the speaker.

Speaker Professor Dr. ABM Rezaul Karim Faquire, in his speech, presented the need and importance of formulating and implementing an optional bilingual foreign language in Bangladesh's education system in the context of ongoing globalization. He noted that almost every country in the modern world has a language policy, which provides guidelines for the structure, status, and practice of national, classical, ethnic, and foreign languages. But Bangladesh has no specific language policy. That is why, despite its global importance, foreign language education has not started at our country's institutional level.

The speaker mentioned that when Bangladesh was established in 1971, the Bengali nationalist government was in power. This nationalist government realized the importance of foreign language education, which was later reflected in the first report of the Education Commission adopted by the Government of Bangladesh in 1974. However, later, due to the change in political regime, the report of the Education Commission was no longer implemented.

Professor Faquire proposed to introduce an optional bilingual foreign language education system in the country's educational framework, considering the labor market, higher education, business, and diplomatic needs in this era of globalization. Further, he outlined his proposal on what would be the guidelines of optional bilingual foreign language education at various levels of the existing education system in Bangladesh.

He finally mentioned that introducing the proposed foreign language education system would increase Bangladesh's participation in the ongoing globalization process, and Bangladesh would benefit more diplomatically, commercially, economically, and culturally from the globalization process.

At the end of the presentation, some of the audience participated in an open discussion on the content of the speech and asked questions to the speaker. The speaker answered the questions of the audience.

At the end of the discussion, the Chairperson, Professor Khondoker Bazlul Haque, presented his closing speech. He thanked the speaker for his thought provoking presentation. He also appreciated the audience for their presence.

### **The 4<sup>th</sup> Monthly General Meeting was held on October 25, 2022**

The topic of the Monthly Lecture was Hostility to Co-existence: Cross-cutting Ties & Hybrid Identity among the 'Immigrant Bangladeshi' and Indigenous Groups in the foothill border of Assam-Nagaland. **Dr. Antora Borah**, Assistant Professor, Omeo Kumar Das Institute of Social Change and Development, Guwahati, Assam, India was the speaker.

Speaker Dr. Antora Borah, in her speech, pointed out that Migration is a global phenomenon; and it will continue to do so in the near future. Post-partition Indian subcontinent has witnessed large surge of migration from one region to another. One such major migration is from the erstwhile East Bengal/East Pakistan and the present day Bangladesh to eastern and north-eastern parts of India has been an ongoing phenomenon. She added that, the migration from Bangladesh or erstwhile East Bengal/East Pakistan is a historical phenomenon and can be understood if we analyze the social and political history of the region and go beyond the history of Partition in 1947.

Dr. Antora Borah's presentation was an attempt to study on a foothill border of Assam-Nagaland where surge of migration happened in post-colonial India. One of the migrant groups is the 'Immigrant Bangladeshi' which is locally known as 'Miyas'. In spite of fierce resistance for the Miyas in the entire Northeast India, in the foothill border it is witnessed that hybrid identity like Semiya are formed out of the wedlock between Sema Nagas and 'Immigrant Bangladeshi'. She further added that, as per her present study, the behaviour and socio-economic interactions between indigenous groups and migrant groups will be analysed

and which will further question the existing dichotomies such as hill-valley, indigene-immigrant, and insider-outsider.

The speaker described that a minimum working relation is maintained among the different ethnic groups in the foothill society as a member of a social collectivity. In order to maintain social order and harmony there must be some social institutions which may not be formal political institutions like state, law, etc. She specified that the foothill villages/towns have a unique site of local cultural conflict management through a process of evolving socio-economic relations in the form of "Cultural Commons".

In the conclusion, the speaker mentioned that there are certain ways through cutting-edge negotiations occur which led to peaceful co-existence of migrant and indigenous groups. The inhabitants of foothill towns and villages try to avoid certain issues which may invite trouble to the groups concerned as well as to the wider foothill society/collectivity. In spite of various latent tensions and binary of hill-valley, indigene-immigrant, outsider-insider in the foothill border, the Miyas tries to raise their social status in the local social hierarchy but encounter several resistances from the indigenous communities.

While summing up the discussion, the Chairperson, Professor Khondoker Bazlul Hoque, thanked Dr. Antora Borah for her valuable presentation.

Finally, the President thanked everyone present for making the program successful and then concluded the meeting

#### The 5<sup>th</sup> Monthly General Meeting was held on December 06, 2022

The topic of the Monthly Lecture was Mahasthan Inscription Revisited. **Dr. Susmita Basu Majumdar**, Professor, Department of Ancient Indian History and Culture, University of Calcutta, West Bengal, India was the speaker.

The speaker in her lecture pointed out that Mahasthan located in the Bogra district of Bangladesh was known as Puṇḍranagara, the city of the Pauṇḍra people. The record was a chance discovery in November 1931 by Baru (Bari) Faqir of Mahasthangarh village. It was first published by Bhandarkar in 1931-32. The inscription consists of six lines engraved on a tiny piece of hard lime stone.



**Professor Susmita Basu is delivering her lecture in the 5<sup>th</sup> Monthly General Meeting held on December 06, 2022**

The speaker also mentioned that she got the opportunity to examine the record in the Indian Museum recently when it was displayed on the occasion of centenary celebration and is indebted to the authorities of the Indian Museum Kolkata to allow

her to examine and present her findings in a special lecture. This has led to a fresh reading and interpretation of the record.

The speaker specified that as there was an emergency situation due to flood, unhusked rice (for sowing) and in addition to this those who are facing severe or extreme emergency (for them financial aid copper coins from the treasury). She also pointed out that since this was a fragmentary record, we could only read 'nena' which may be 'anena' or 'vacanena'. If it was considered as anena then it indicated vide this order and if we assume it as vacanena then we have to consider that the order was a verbal order given by some authority to the mahāmātra stationed at Puṇḍranagara.

The Speaker further mentioned that the people of Sainvagīyas faced a calamity which arose due to water (probably flood) for which this aid both in cash and kind was extended to them to combat the emergency. She added that this record was for the authority at Mahasthan and the instruction was for the granary to provide grains/ unhusked paddy to the territory of Vanga locality. This token was of immense importance as it was an official document which would be required to be produced as evidence when needed especially when stock taking would be done and the officer incharge would have to explain the absence of a certain amount of grains from the official granary. By showing this official order the absence of the paddy sent to the neighbouring locality could be easily explained. The record also mentions that in case of severe emergency aid may be given in the form of copper coins.

After the presentation of the speaker, some of the audience raised their questions regarding the topic and placed their brief comments. While summing up the discussion, the Chairperson, Professor Khondoker Bazlul Hoque, thanked Dr. Sushmita Basu Majumdar for her valuable presentation. Finally, the President thanked everyone present for making the program successful and then concluded the meeting

## Special Lectures

#### The 1<sup>st</sup> Special Lecture was held on July 03, 2022

**Dr. Jon Wilson**, Professor in Modern History and former Vice-Dean (Education), King's College, London, UK was the speaker.



**Professor Jon Wilson was the Speaker in the 1<sup>st</sup> Special Lecture held on July 03, 2022**

The speaker delivered his lecture on Bangladesh and the Global History of the Nation State.

#### The 2<sup>nd</sup> Special Lecture was held on September 20, 2022.

**Dr. Rahul Mukherji**, Professor and Chairman, Modern Politics of South Asia, Director, South Asia Institute, Heidelberg

University, Germany was the speaker.

The speaker delivered his lecture on Is India's Democracy Dying?

**The 3<sup>rd</sup> Special Lecture was held on November 17, 2022**

**Professor Dr. Md. Golam Sharower**, Head, Department of Entomology, National Institute of Preventive and Social Medicine (NIPSOM), Mohakhali, Dhaka was the speaker.

The speaker delivered his lecture on Identification of various breeding sites of aedes mosquitoes and their effective control measures in Dhaka city.

**The 4<sup>th</sup> Special Lecture was held on December 26, 2022**

**Dr. Nurur Rahman Khan**, Professor (Retd.), Department of Bangla, University of Dhaka was the speaker. The speaker delivered his lecture on ভাষার বীজ থেকে একটি রাষ্ট্রের জন্ম.



**Professor Nurur Rahman Khan was greeted with flowers at the end of his lecture**

## Trust Fund Lectures

**Masterda Surja Sen Trust Fund Lecture 2022 was held on August 27, 2022.**

Professor Dr. Soumitra Sekhar, Vice Chancellor of Jatiya Kabi Kazi Nazrul Islam University in Trishal, Mymensingh, was the distinguished speaker. The lecture focused on ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় ও রবীন্দ্রনাথ. Professor Mahfuza Khanam presided over the lecture.



**Khan Bahadur Ahsanullah Research Grant Lecture 2019 (First Lecture) was held on September 08, 2022.**

Dr. Md. Alamgir, Former Keeper of the Bangladesh National Museum, delivered a lecture on বাংলার নারী শিক্ষা উন্নয়নে খান বাহাদুর আহছানউল্লাহর অবদান. Discussants included Dr. Muhammad Abdul Mazid, Former Chairman of the National Board of Revenue

(NBR), and Dr. Syed Md. Saikh Imtiaz, Professor in the Department of Women and Gender Studies at the University of Dhaka. Professor Sajahan Miah chaired the lecture.

**Khan Bahadur Ahsanullah Research Grant Lecture 2019 (Second Lecture) was held on September 15, 2022.**

Dr. Diba Hossain, Professor in the Department of Special Education at the Institute of Education and Research, University of Dhaka, delivered a lecture on Technological Revolution in Classroom: Primary Education in Bangladesh. Discussants were Dr. Muhammed Mahbubur Rahaman, Professor at the Institute of Education and Research, University of Dhaka, and Dr. Md. Mustafizur Rahman, Professor in the Department of Computer Science and Engineering at the University of Dhaka. The lecture was presided over by Professor Sajahan Miah.

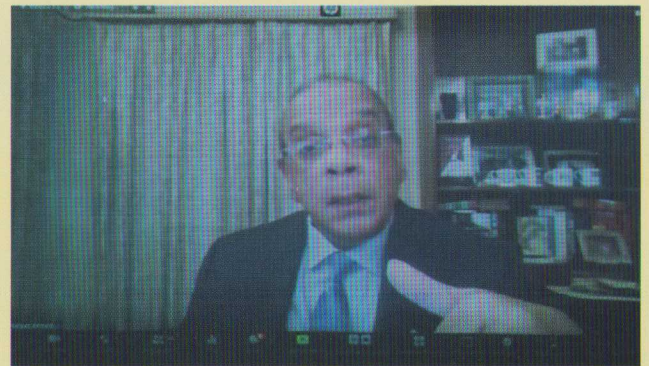
**Khan Bahadur Ahsanullah Research Grant Lecture 2019 (Third Lecture) was held on September 22, 2022.**

Dr. A. K. M. Kanak Pervez, Associate Professor in the Department of Agronomy and Agricultural Extension at the University of Rajshahi, spoke on Farmers' Participation on Climate Change and Adaptation Strategies to Climate Risks and their Determinants: Insights from the Drought-Prone Areas in Bangladesh. Dr. Jahangir Alam, Former Vice Chancellor of the University of Global Village in Barisal, served as the discussant. The lecture was chaired by Professor Sajahan Miah.

**Shafiqur Rahman Research Grant Lecture 2021 (First Lecture) was held on November 24, 2022.**

Mr. Md. Jahangir Alam, a PhD Researcher at the Centre for Higher Studies and Research, Bangladesh University of Professionals, delivered a lecture on Service Quality and its Impact on User Satisfaction in University Libraries of Bangladesh. Professor Sajahan Miah presided over the lecture.

**Barrister Syed Ishtiaq Ahmed Memorial Lecture 2022 was held on December 8, 2022.**



Barrister Manzoor Hasan OBE, Executive Director of the Centre for Peace and Justice at Brac University, discussed Bangladesh and the Protracted Rohingya Refugee Obligations – A Future Pathway. Justice Syed Refaat Ahmed chaired the lecture.

## Research Grants Awarded by the Trust Funds

### Sarathi Research Grant 2020

Ms. Samshad Nowreen, an Assistant Professor in the Department of Tourism and Hospitality Management at the University of Dhaka, has been granted funding for her research proposal titled

Potentials of Women Empowerment through Community Based Tourism in Shreemangal Upazila, Moulavibazar, Bangladesh. She has been allocated a grant of Tk. 4,00,000/- (Taka four lac only) for a two-year period.

#### **Faizunnessa Kabiruddin Rahmani Memorial Foundation Research Grant 2021**

Ms. Bibi Habiba Shampa, a Class Teacher for Class Five at Maple Leaf International School in Dhanmondi, Dhaka, has been awarded funding for her research project titled Socio-Cultural Transformation of Old Dhakaiya Women. She has been allocated Tk. 1,00,000/- (Taka one lac only) for a one-year duration.

#### **Khan Bahadur Ahsanullah Research Grant 2022**

Mr. Md. Farhad Hossain, an Assistant Professor in the Department of Statistics at Comilla University, has received funding of Tk. 2,50,000/- (Taka two lac fifty thousand only). Dr. Dulal Chandra Nandi, a Professor in the Department of Statistics at Comilla University, will be collaborating with him as a mentor, and Mr. Partha Chakraborty, an Assistant Professor in the Department of Computer Science and Engineering at Comilla University, will be a team member. The research project's title is Climate Change and its Impact on Population Displacement in Bangladesh: An Empirical Study of Three Delta Districts, and the research is expected to be completed within one year.

Furthermore, Dr. Jannatul Ferdous, an Associate Professor in the Department of Public Administration at Comilla University, has been granted Tk. 3,50,000/- (Taka three lac fifty thousand only) for her research proposal titled Social Protection Programmes for Sustainable Poverty Reduction: Evidence from Bangladesh. The research is planned for a duration of two years.

Finally, Dr. Md. Jahangir Alam, an Associate Professor in the Department of Japanese Studies at the University of Dhaka, has received funding of Tk. 3,80,000/- (Taka three lac eighty thousand only) for his research work exploring the Efficacy of Science and Technology Universities in Bangladesh to Produce Graduates for Sustainable Employment. The research work is anticipated to span two years in duration.

### **Opening of a New Trust Fund**

The deed signing ceremony for the Professor Dr. Fazlul Halim Chowdhury Memorial Trust Fund took place on January 06, 2022. This marks the 45<sup>th</sup> trust fund of the Society. Professor Sabbir Ahmed, the then General Secretary of ASB, signed the deed on behalf of the Society, and Professor Sadeka Halim signed as the founder.

Ms. Zakia Chowdhury and Professor Elora Halim Chowdhury, daughters of Professor Fazlul Halim Chowdhury, along with Professor Md. Abdul Karim, Secretary of ASB, signed as witnesses. The initial capital of the trust fund amounts to Tk. 10,00,000/- (Taka ten lac only).

The trust fund has been established with the intention of organizing annual lectures on topics related to Science and Technology, Humanities, and Social Sciences.

### **Asiatic Society Heritage Museum Celebrates its 4<sup>th</sup> Foundation Day Program**

The Asiatic Society Heritage Museum is the Society's pride and unique asset. The 4<sup>th</sup> Foundation Day Program of the Heritage Museum was held on Tuesday, October 11, 2022, at the Society's Auditorium.



**Dr. Dipu Moni, Honorable Minister, Ministry of Education, paid her visit to the Asiatic Society Heritage Museum on the occasion of its 4<sup>th</sup> Foundation Day**

Dr. Dipu Moni, MP, Honorable Minister, Ministry of Education, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, graced the occasion as Chief Guest. Archaeologist Professor Dr. Sufi Mostafizur Rahman presented a keynote paper at the function titled *ওয়ারি বটেশ্বর গঙ্গাঋদ্ধি সন্ধানে*. Professor Khondoker Bazlul Hoque, Honorable President of the Asiatic Society of Bangladesh, presided over the program.

Honorable Fellows, academics, scholars, and distinguished personalities of the state attended the program in person.

### **MoU was signed between the Asiatic Society of Bangladesh and IBS, University of Rajshahi**

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed between the Institute of Bangladesh Studies (IBS), University of Rajshahi (RU) and Asiatic Society of Bangladesh for mutual cooperation in the field of research. The MoU was signed in a formal ceremony at the Seminar Room of the IBS building on December 07, 2023. Professor Mohammad Nazimul Haque, Director, IBS and Professor Mohamamd Siddiqur Rahman Khan, General Secretary Asiatic Society of Bangladesh signed the MoU on behalf of their respective institutions.



**Professor Mohamamd Siddiqur Rahman Khan, GS, ASB and Professor Mohammad Nazimul Haque are signing MoU on behalf of their respective organization.**



Professor Golam Sabbir Sattar, Honorable Vice- Chancellor, University of Rajshahi and Professor Khondoker Bazlul Haque, Honorable President of the Asiatic Society of Bangladesh were present at the event, among others.

## New Members Enrolled

The following members have been enlisted at the Asiatic Society of Bangladesh during the year 2022.

### General Members

- 2731 Professor Dr. Md. Nasir Uddin  
Dean  
National University, Bangladesh
2732. Dr. Sonjoy Chakraborty  
Deputy Secretary  
Ministry of Home Affairs  
Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
2733. Dr. Umme Busra Fateha Sultana  
Chairperson and Associate Professor  
Department of Women and Gender Studies  
University of Dhaka, Dhaka-1000
2734. Dr. Md. Aatur Rahman  
Associate Professor  
Secondary Education Sector Investment Program  
(SESIP)  
Directorate of Secondary and Higher Education, Dhaka
2735. Dr. Mohammad Giasuddin Haider  
Additional Chief Engineer  
Public Works Department (PWD)
2736. Ms. Ishrat Jahan  
Senior Assistant Judge  
Bangladesh Judicial Service
2737. Dr. Mahfuza Hilali  
Associate Professor  
School of General Education  
Bangla Language and Literature  
Brac University, Dhaka-1212
2738. Ms. Tania Tahmina Sarkar  
Associate Professor  
Department of Bangla  
University of Rajshahi  
Rajshahi-6205
2739. Dr. Muhammed Shohrab Uddin  
Associate Professor  
Department of Archaeology  
Comilla University, Cumilla-3506
2740. Professor Mohammad Kamrul Ahsan  
Department of Philosophy  
Jahangirnagar University

2741. Savar, Dhaka-1342  
Ms. Kamrun Nessa Khondker  
Associate Professor  
Department of Archaeology  
Jahangirnagar University  
Savar, Dhaka-1342
2742. Dr. S. M. Hasan Zakirul Islam  
Professor  
Department of Political Studies  
Shahjalal University of Science & Technology, Sylhet
2743. Ms. Shamima Proddhan  
Assistant Professor  
Institute of Disaster Management and Vulnerability  
Studies  
University of Dhaka, Dhaka-1000
2744. Professor Mohammad Jamalul Akbar  
Chowdhury  
Department of History  
University of Chittagong  
Chittagong-4331

### Life Members

1700. Professor Dr. Sadeka Halim  
Department of Sociology  
University of Dhaka, Dhaka-1000
2228. Mr. Abdul Awal Mintoo  
Anchor Tower (10th Floor)  
108 Bir Uttam CR Dutta Road  
Dhaka 1205
2374. Mr. Chowdhury Mufad Ahmed  
Former Additional Secretary to the Government  
Flat # A-6, Nirvana, Rajshahi House, 98/5, Boro  
Moghbar Dhaka-1217
2381. Dr. Mayna Talukdar  
Professor  
Department of Sanskrit  
University of Dhaka, Dhaka-1000
2370. Dr. Mst. Shamim Ara  
Professor  
Department of Bangla  
Jagannath University, Dhaka-1100
2432. Dr. Mohammad Siddiqur Rahman Khan  
Professor  
Department of Islamic History and Culture  
University of Dhaka

Dear Member,  
Please pay your membership subscription and keep it up-to-date. If you have any changes in your profile or do not get sms notification from the ASB, please feel free to update it through email ([asb.members@gmail.com](mailto:asb.members@gmail.com))

## Book Received as Donation from Various Authors/Individuals

খান, আসাদুজ্জামান, আমাদের খানখানাপুর, ঢাকা: সেন্টার ফর পলিসি এন্ড প্রজেক্ট ম্যানেজমেন্ট (সিপিপিএম), ২০২১।

ইসলাম, মো: মইনুল, শেষ বেলাকার দিনলিপি, ঢাকা: আবীর পাবলিকেশন্স, ২০২১।

হোসেন, জাহাঙ্গীর, স্মৃতির পাতায় মালয়েশিয়া, ঢাকা: জাগতিক প্রকাশন, ২০২২।

মান্নান, মোহাম্মদ আবদুল, অলস হাওয়ার দিনে, ঢাকা: স্বদেশ শৈলী, ২০২২।

মান্নান, মোহাম্মদ আবদুল, সকল প্রাণ টানিছে পথপানে, ঢাকা: স্বদেশ শৈলী, ২০২১।

মান্নান, মোহাম্মদ আবদুল, কখন অকখন, ঢাকা: পলল প্রকাশনী, ২০২২।

চৌধুরী, মসিহ মালিক, কোভিড আলস্যের স্মৃতি, ঢাকা: উৎস প্রকাশন, ২০২২।

চৌধুরী, মসিহ মালিক, রোটোরি স্মৃতির উর্মিমালা, ঢাকা: উৎস প্রকাশন, ২০২২।

খান, আলমগীর (সম্পা.), উন্নয়ন কর্মবীর মোহাম্মদ ইয়াহিয়া, ঢাকা: প্রকৃতি, ২০২১।

রহমান, হাবিব, মোহাম্মদ ওয়াজেদ আলীর চিন্তাধারা, ঢাকা: বাংলা একাডেমি, ২০০৩।

সৈয়দ, আবদুল মান্নান, মোহাম্মদ ওয়াজেদ আলী, ঢাকা: বাংলা একাডেমি, ১৯৯৪।

উল্লাহ, শাহ মোহাম্মদ শফিক (সম্পা.) গাজীয়ে বালাকাট মাওলানা ইমাম উদ্দিন বাঙ্গালী (১৭৮৮-১৮৫৯ খ্রি.) সম্পর্কিত প্রবন্ধ সংকলন, চট্টগ্রাম: গলুই প্রকাশন, ২০২২।

ভৌমিক, দুলাল কান্তি ও সঞ্চিতা গৃহ (পার্শ্বদ্বার ও সম্পা.), বৈকুণ্ঠবিজয় ও সারস্বত-বৃত্তি-পঞ্জিকা (প্রভাবতী) স্ত্রী-প্রত্যয়-বিবেচন, ঢাকা: ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় গ্রন্থাগার, ২০২১।

লাহোরি, আবুল বারাকাত মুনির, মাসনাভি দার সিফাতে বাঙ্গালে, ঢাকা: ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় কেন্দ্রীয় গ্রন্থাগার, ২০২১।

বেগ, মাহফুজ আলম, মুক্তিযুদ্ধে নবম সেপ্টেম্বর, ঢাকা: জাতীয় সাহিত্য প্রকাশ, ২০২১।

শর্মা, নন্দলাল, নন্দলাল শর্মা রচনাসমগ্র-৪, সিলেট: ঘাষ প্রকাশন, ২০২২।

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মামুন, জওয়াহেরুল ইসলাম ও মমতাজ বেগম বকুল, সাজিম, জামালপুর: অনন্ত প্রকাশনী, ২০২১।

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মামুন, জওয়াহেরুল ইসলাম, পূর্বাপর, জামালপুর: অনন্ত প্রকাশনী, ২০২১।

সেলিম, ড. মোহাম্মদ (সম্পা.), জয়তু বঙ্গবন্ধু ২: ১৫ আগস্ট নির্মম হত্যাকাণ্ডের পূর্বাপর, ঢাকা: জগন্নাথ বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় নীলদল, ২০২২।

আফতাব, আমেনা, বহুমুখি প্রতিভার ধারক মোহাম্মদ সা'দত আলী ও তাঁর বর্ণন্য কর্মজীবন, ঢাকা: রূপ প্রকাশন, ২০২২।

বকুল, তাবেরার রসুল, সৈয়দ শামসুল হুদা জীবন ও সমকাল, সিলেট: নাগরী, ২০২২।

রহমান, মুহাম্মদ মুজিবুর, সময় সংলাপ, চট্টগ্রাম: বলাকা প্রকাশন, ২০২২।

রহমান, মুহাম্মদ মুজিবুর, দেখা থেকে লেখা, চট্টগ্রাম: বলাকা প্রকাশন, ২০২২।

গণী, আবদুল, প্রাচীন বাংলার ঐতিহাসিক ভূগোল, ঢাকা: আগামী প্রকাশনী, ২০২১।

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উদ্দিন, এ এম আমিন ও অন্যান্য (সম্পা.), ইতিহাসের মহানায়ক, ঢাকা: পাঠক সমাবেশ, ২০২১।

হাসনায়েন, ড. মুহাম্মদ এমদাদ ও ড. সারিয়া সুলতানা (সম্পা.), দুই বাংলার নান্দনিক কবিতা, ঢাকা: বর্ণ প্রকাশ লিমিটেড, ২০১৯।

হাসনায়েন, ড. মুহাম্মদ এমদাদ ও ড. সারিয়া সুলতানা, কুষ্টিয়ার তাঁতশিল্প, কুষ্টিয়া: কণ্ঠধ্বনি প্রকাশনী, ২০২২।

হাসনায়েন, ড. মুহাম্মদ এমদাদ ও ড. সারিয়া সুলতানা, ধর্মীয় ইতিহাস স্থাপত্যে কুষ্টিয়া, কুষ্টিয়া: কণ্ঠধ্বনি প্রকাশনী, ২০২০।

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## Obituary

This year the Asiatic Society of Bangladesh records its deep sense of sorrow and loss at the demise of the following noted personalities:

### 1197. Professor Husne-Ara-Shahed

Monorama Housing

Flat#106, House # 29, Road # 14/A,

Dhanmondi R/A, Dhaka -1209

**Died on 07 July 2022**

### 880. Dr. Kh. A. I. F. M. Mannan

Retired Professor of Physics, University of Dhaka

Apt# A3, House #59,

Road# 3/A, Dhanmondi, Dhaka

**Died on 07 July 2022**

### 1749. Justice Kazi Ebadul Hoque

Chirantoni

Apt. # 502, House # 39, Road #12/A

Dhanmondi R/A, Dhaka-1209

**Died on 14 July 2022**

### 1160. Dr. A.K.M. Anowar-Ul-Azim

Professor of Obstetrics & Gynecology, Flat # D/3, House # 72

Road # 11/A

Dhanmondi R/A Dhaka-1209

**Died on 17 July 2022**

### 1399. Mr. Md. Shawkat Ali Waresi

Project Director (Joint Secretary)

58/A Azimpur Govt. Officers' Quarter New Market, Dhaka

**Died on March, 2022**



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