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Notes and References should be cited as follows:

1. P.J. Marshall, *Bengal: The British Bridgehead, The Cambridge History of India*, (Cambridge 1987), p. 77.
2. Willem Van Schendel, 'Economy of the Working Classes'. Sirajul Islam (ed.), *History of Bangladesh 1704-1971*, Vol. II, (Economic History), (Asiatic Society of Bangladesh 1992), pp. 542-99.
3. W.H. Morris-Jones, "Pakistan Post-Mortem and the Roots of Bangladesh", *Political Quarterly*, Vol. 18 (April-June), 1972, pp. 187-200.

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BOOK REVIEW

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Editor's Note

Since the beginning of this year, we have been passing a new normal situation. New normal is defined as a previously unfamiliar or atypical situation that has become standard, usual or expected. It has been caused by the outbreak of the pandemic called Covid 19. The outbreak began in December 2019 from a wholesale food market in Wuhan city in China. It is believed that it emerged from a bat-borne virus infecting human body and causing death. Until November 3, the total corona virus cases worldwide stand at 47,326,715, deaths 1,211,421 and recovered 34,035,878. For Bangladesh the figure is 410,988, deaths 5,966 and recovered 327,901.

The new normal situation has brought about changes in the life style of the people around the globe reflected in specific health rules for protection, quarantine, effective treatment for sick persons, social distancing leading to lockdown, accelerated use of e-commerce, shut down of educational institutions, economic sluggishness, etc. The world is also witnessing a massive research in developing a successful vaccine to prevent this deadly pandemic. Until the vaccine is available, all human beings have to get used to this new normal situation. It is relevant to say that the world has not witnessed such a pandemic in the last one hundred years since the Spanish flu in 1920. The epidemics like plague, small pox or cholera occurred in human history at different stages but never a pandemic like Covid 19 spread to all most the whole globe in such a rapid speed. It is not only a new disease but a new situation too, causing both economic and psychological shocks to societies. A very pointed remark of WHO Chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus about failure of the world leaders in terms of time and preparation to tackle the situation points to haphazard policies and steps in this pandemic time. On the other, there has been attempt to politicise the cause of the origin of the pandemic by some western countries, especially the USA.

We in the Asiatic society of Bangladesh have been facing similar situation like others. Its normal function is greatly affected. The Council and other sub-committees meeting, trust fund and monthly lectures are organised on the Zoom app. Our publication programme has also been affected to some extent. We could not bring out vol. 65 no.1 of the Journal of the Asiatic Society (Humanities) in time. A great deal of editorial work and correspondence with the authors and reviewers were carried on email and paperless.

A very big loss to ASB occurred now when many of its prominent members and fellows passed away due to Covid and non-Covid reasons. We record our deep condolences and remember their invaluable contributions to the Society activities. They were Professor Sufia Ahmed, Professor. Jamilur Reza Chowdhury, Professor Nazmul Karim Chowdhury, National Professor Anisuzzaman, Professor Kaiyum Chowdhury, Professor A B M Hussain, Professor Mokbula Manzoor, Professor Quazi Abdul Fattah, Dr. M Ali Asgar, Professor Emajuddin Ahamed and Professor Murtaja Baseer. The void they left in the intellectual, literary, fine art and cultural arena of Bangladesh cannot be compensated.

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