Price of two Volume Set: BD Tk. 4000.00/-
Please order you copies in Bangladesh directly to:

Dr. Sabbir Ahmed
General Secretary
Phone: (880+2) 9576391, (880+2) 9586714 (Ext. 23)
Email: asiaticsociety.bd@gmail.com
or

Mr. Zulfikar Ali Bhutto
Sales Officer
Phone: (880+2) 9586714, Mobile: +88 01712128086
Email: asbzali@yahoo.com

For India and Abroad
Pathak Shamabesh Kolkata
Abdul Rashid, Manager
3/1, College Row (Opposite College Street Market)
Kolkata- 9
Phone: +918697127988, +918336018278
Email: pathakshamabeshkolkata@gmail.com
or
See the web address of Pathak Shamabesh
www.pathakshamabesh.com

Asiatic Society of Bangladesh
5, Old Secretariat Road
Nimtali, Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh
Phone: (880+2) 9576391
www.asiaticsociety.org.bd
Asiatic Society of Bangladesh proudly announces the publication of *The History of Bangladesh: Early Bengal in Regional Perspectives (up to c. 1200 CE)* in two volumes edited by Professor Abdul Momin Chowdhury and Professor Ranabir Chakravarti under the project titled ‘History of Bangladesh: Ancient and Medieval’. Vol. 1 is on *Archaeology, Political History and Polity* and Vol. 2 is on *Society, Economy and Culture*. In these two volumes the remote past of the region called Bengal (Bengal before 1947) has been explored and studied by going beyond the boundaries of modern nation states.

**Professor Emeritus Romila Thapar** (of Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi), internationally acclaimed authority on early Indian history, has graced the volumes by writing the Foreword.

The chapters in the two volumes have been penned by established experts who belong not only to Bangladesh and India, but to various parts of the globe.
The first volume looks into the historical geography of the ancient region and its inhabitants by combining perspectives of historical geography and anthropology; it also pays meticulous attention to the pre-literate phase in the early history of Bengal. One of the salient features of this volume is the thrust on field archaeological materials which offer the most reliable window to grasp the transition from the pre-literate to the early historic times (up to c. 300 CE). Elaborate discussions on political history have been also accommodated as new epigraphic and numismatic sources have led to the considerable rewriting of the political history of the regions and sub-regions (especially of the Pala period and of Southeastern Bangladesh). The understanding of the polity and nature of the state forms another important aspect of discussion in the first volume.

Volume 2 takes a close look at economic life, circulation of money and different media of exchange, social life (including the relevance of the varna-jati norms and the question of gender), everyday life, religious beliefs and practices (Brahmanical, Buddhist, Jaina and Ajivika), art activities (terracotta art, sculpture, iconography, painting and architecture) and language and literature. The last point is of crucial significance as the language Bangla is the quintessential marker of identity of the
inhabitants of Bengal; it is from the ninth-tenth centuries that the earliest traces of the vernacular, Bangla, are traceable in historical sources. Each chapter combines the state of the art of the subject concerned with the specific researches of the contributor(s) who have meticulously highlighted the regional features and the sub-regional diversities. Rich in empirical details, the chapters offer critical analyses of available data in view of the current historiographical issues and debates.

The two volumes are expected to fill a long-felt gap in the historiography of early Bengal and will possibly serve as a standard reference work for both the specialist scholars and the general readers.
CONTENTS

VOL. 1: ARCHAEOLOGY POLITICAL HISTORY POLITY

1. Historical Geography
   Abdul Momin Chowdhury and Aksadul Alam

2. People of Early Bengal: An Uncharted Territory
   Ranjit Kumar Bhattacharyya

ARCHAEOLOGY

3. Archaeological Cultures: An Overview of Pre-literate Phase
   Introduction
   3.1 West Bengal
      Bishnupriya Basak
   3.2 Bangladesh
      Shahnaj Husne Jahan

4. Settlement Patterns: Pre and Proto Historic Phase
   Md. Mozammel Hoque

5. Select Archaeological Sites
   Introduction
   5.1 Antichak
      Rajat Sanyal
   5.2 Bhitargarh
      Shahnaj Husne Jahan
   5.3 Bodhgaya
      Rajat Sanyal
   5.4 Chandraketugarh
      Sharmi Chakraborty
   5.5 Jagaddala
      Md. Mahabub-ul Alam
   5.6 Jagjivanpur and Bangarh: Northern West Bengal
      Sheena Panja
5.7 Mahasthan
Jean-François Salles

5.8 Mainamati
Mokammal H Bhuiyan

5.9 Moghalmari
Rajat Sanyal

5.10 Nalanda
Rajat Sanyal

5.11 Northwestern Bangladesh: Sites and Settlements
Swadhin Sen

5.12 Paharpur
Swadhin Sen and Md. Shafiqul Alam

5.13 Pandu Rajar Dhibi
Kaushik Gangopadhyaya

5.14 Sabhar
Md. Mozammel Hoque

5.15 Southwestern Bangladesh: Archeological Explorations
Md. Shafiqul Alam

Appendix I
Rethinking the Archaeological Remains of Bharat Bhayna
Afroza Khan Mita and A K M Syfur Rahman

5.16 Tamuluk
Kaushik Gangopadhyaya

5.17 Vikramapura
Sufi Mustafizur Rahman, M. Mamun Dewan, Muhammad Mahbubul Alam, Mohammad Shohrab Uddin, M. Aiwlad Hossain; Chai Huanbo, Li Yiyuan, Mo Linheng and Yuan Wei

5.18 Wari-Bateshwar
Sufi Mustafizur Rahman and Muhammad Habibulla Pathan

Appendix II
Excavations at Wari-Bateshwar: 2016-17
Md. Mahabub-ul Alam
POLITICAL HISTORY AND POLITY

6. Early Bengal (up to c. 3rd Century CE)
   Abdul Momin Chowdhury

7. Bengal and the Gupta Realm
   Abdul Momin Chowdhury

8. Threshold of Regional Political Entity
   Abdul Momin Chowdhury

9. Emerging Political Entities in South-East Bengal
   (Vaṅga-Samataṭa-Harikela)
   Shariful Islam

10. Pāla Realm: Making of a Regional Political Power
    Abdul Momin Chowdhury

11. The Sena Rule: Towards the Integration of Sub-regions
    Abdul Momin Chowdhury and Chitta Ranjan Misra

12. State Formation and Polity
    Ranabir Chakravarti
VOL. 2: SOCIETY  ECONOMY  CULTURE

SOCIETY

1. Everyday Life in Early Bengal
   Suchandra Ghosh and Sayantani Pal

2. Social Life: Issues of Varṇa-Jāti System
   Ryosuke Furui

3. Social Life of Women
   Shahanara Husain

Appendix I
   Social History of Women in Ancient Times:
   Emergent Methodological and Historiographical Issues
   Nupur Dasgupta

ECONOMY

4. Economic Life: Agrarian and Non-Agrarian Pursuits
   Ranabir Chakravarti

5. Agricultural Technology
   Md. Shahinur Rashid

6. Media of Exchange: Reflections On Monetary History
   Susmita Basu Majumdar

CULTURE

7. Brahmanical Religions
   Kunal Chakrabarti

8. Buddhism
   Sarita Khettry

9. Jainism
   Nupur Dasgupta
Appendix II
The Ājivikas in Eastern India and Bangladesh
Susmita Basu Majumdar

10. Terracotta Art
    Sima Roy Chowdhury

11. Sculpture
    Asok K Bhattacharya

    Jinah Kim

13. Brahmanical Iconography: Aspects of Form and Meaning
    R. Mahalakshmi

14. Iconography of Stone Sculptures
    Gouriswar Bhattcharya

15. Architecture
    Ganapathy Subbiah and Remya V.P.

16. Illustrated Buddhist Manuscripts
    Jinah Kim

17. Sanskrit Literature
    Nupur Dasgupta

18. Caryāpada
    Syed Mohammad Shahed

19. Origin and Development of the Bangla Script
    Shariful Islam

20. Bengal and Southeast Asia: Commercial and Cultural Linkages
    Aksadul Alam

Appendix III
Buddhist Cultural Linkages between Bengal and Southeast Asia
Suchandra Ghosh
CONTRIBUTORS

Aksadul Alam, Ph.D.
Professor of History, University of Dhaka, Bangladesh

Md. Mahabub-ul Alam
Assistant Director (Dhaka), Department of Archaeology, Bangladesh

Md. Shafiqul Alam, Ph.D.
Director General (Former), Department of Archaeology, Bangladesh

Muhammad Mahbubul Alam
Deputy Director, Oitihya Onneswan, Bangladesh

Bishnupriya Basak, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Archaeology, University of Calcutta, India

Ranjit Kumar Battacharyya, Ph.D.
Director (Former) of Anthropological Survey of India

Susmita Basu Majumdar, Ph.D.
Professor of Ancient Indian History & Culture, University of Calcutta, India

Asok K Battacharya, Ph.D.
Professor (Retired) of Ancient Indian History & Culture, University of Calcutta, India

Gouriswar Battacharya, Ph.D.
Professor (Retired) of Indian Philology and Art History, Free University of Berlin, Germany

Mokammal H Bhuiyan, Ph.D.
Professor of Archaeology, Jahangirnagar University, Bangladesh

Kunal Chakrabarti, Ph.D.
Professor of History, Jawaharlal Nehru University, India

Sharmi Chakraborty, Ph.D.
Fellow, Centre for Archaeological Studies & Training, Eastern India

Ranabir Chakravarti, Ph.D.
Professor (Retired) of History, Jawaharlal Nehru University, India
Abdul Momin Chowdhury, Ph.D.
Professor (Retired) of History, University of Dhaka, Bangladesh

Sima Roy Chowdhury, Ph.D.
Researcher and Trustee at Boonton Historical Society and Museum, USA

Nupur Dasgupta, Ph.D.
Professor of History, Jadavpur University, India

M. Mamun Dewan
Deputy Director, Oitihya Onneswan, Bangladesh

Ryosuke Furui, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Asian Studies, University of Tokyo, Japan

Kaushik Gangopadhyaya, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Archaeology, University of Calcutta, India

Suchandra Ghosh, Ph.D.
Professor of Ancient Indian History & Culture, University of Calcutta, India

Preeti Gulati
Doctoral Student, Jawaharlal Nehru University, India

Md. Mozammel Hoque, Ph.D.
Professor of Archaeology, Jahangirnagar University, Bangladesh

Shahanara Husain, Ph.D.
Professor of History, University of Rajshahi, Bangladesh

M. Awlad Hossain
Assistant Director, Oitihya Onneswan, Bangladesh

Chai Huanbo, Ph.D.
Professor, Hunan Provincial Institute of Cultural Relics and Archaeology, China

Shahnaj Husne Jahan, Ph.D.
Professor of Archaeology, University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh

Shariful Islam, Ph.D.
Deputy Keeper, Bangladesh National Museum

Dev Kumar Jhanjh
Doctoral Student, Jawaharlal Nehru University, India
Devdutta Kakati
M.Phil. Student, Jawaharlal Nehru University, India

Sarita Khettry, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Ancient Indian History, Culture and Archaeology, Visva-Bharati, India

Afroza Khan Mita
Regional Director (Khulna), Department of Archaeology, Bangladesh

Jinah Kim, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of History of Art & Architecture, Harvard University, USA

Abhimanyu Kumar
Doctoral Student, Jawaharlal Nehru University, India

Mo Linheng
Associate Professor, Hunan Provincial Institute of Cultural Relics and Archaeology, China

R. Mahalakshmi, Ph.D.
Professor of History, Jawaharlal Nehru University, India

Chitta Ranjan Misra, Ph.D.
Professor of History, University of Rajshahi, Bangladesh

Sayantani Pal, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Ancient Indian History & Culture, University of Calcutta, India

Sheena Panja, Ph.D.
Associate Professor (Retired) of Ancient Indian History, Culture and Archaeology, Visva-Bharati, India

Muhammad Habibulla Pathan
Researcher, Bangladesh

Sufi Mostafizur Rahman, Ph.D.
Professor of Archaeology, Jahangirnagar University, Bangladesh
A K M Syfur Rahman  
Assistant Director (Khulna), Department of Archaeology, Bangladesh

Monalisa Rakshit  
Disaster Management Specialist, Disaster Management & Civil Defence, West Bengal, India

Sujata Rakshit  
Doctoral Student, Jawaharlal Nehru University, India

Md. Shahnur Rashid  
Assistant Professor of Islamic History & Culture, Hazrat Shah Ali Mahila College, Bangladesh

Remya V.P., Ph.D.  
Assistant Professor of Ancient Indian History, Culture and Archaeology, Visva-Bharati, India

Jean-Francois Salles, Ph.D.  
Director (Former), France-Bangladesh Archaeological Mission

Rajat Sanyal, Ph.D.  
Assistant Professor of Archaeology, University of Calcutta, India

Swadhin Sen, Ph.D.  
Professor of Archaeology, Jahangirnagar University, Bangladesh

Syed Mohammad Shahed, Ph.D.  
Professor of Bangla, University of Dhaka, Bangladesh

Ganapathy Subbiah, Ph.D.  
Professor (Retired) of Ancient Indian History, Culture and Archaeology, Visva-Bharati, India

Mohammad Shohrab Uddin  
Assistant Professor of Archaeology, Comilla University, Bangladesh

Yuan Wei  
Assistant Professor, Hunan Provincial Institute of Cultural Relics and Archaeology, China

Li Yiyuan, Ph.D.  
Associate Professor, Hunan Provincial Institute of Cultural Relics and Archaeology, China
EDITORS

Abdul Momin Chowdhury studied at the University of Dhaka (1956-1960) and the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London (1962-1965). He taught at the University of Dhaka (1960-2005) and retired as Professor of History. He spent an academic year (2013-2014) at the Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tennessee, U.S.A., as a visiting scholar with a Senior Fulbright Fellowship. In 2014 he was made a Fellow of the Asiatic Society of Bangladesh. His *Dynastic History of Bengal c. 750-1200 A.D.* (Dhaka, 1967) was acclaimed as an authentic work for the period covered. Among his other publications mention may be made of *Bāṅgāḷeśeśeṛ Itihās* (Dhaka, 1973) and *Prācin Banglār Itihās O Sanskrīti* (Dhaka, 2002). He has a number of contributions to edited volumes, and himself edited many volumes including *Bangladesh in the Threshold of Twenty First Century* (Dhaka, 2004), *A Revered Offering to Nalini Kanta Bhattasali, A Versatile Scholar* (Dhaka, 2016).

Ranabir Chakravarti has just retired as Professor of Ancient History, Centre for Historical Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. He specializes in the socio-economic history of early India with a particular interest in the Indian Ocean maritime history. A regular contributor to international peer-reviewed journals, Chakravarti has authored/edited *A Sourcebook of Indian Civilization* (Hyderabad, 2000), *Trade in Early India* (New Delhi, 2001), *Trade and Traders in Early Indian Society* (New Delhi, 2007), *Indo-Judaic Studies in the Twenty First Century: A View from the Margins* (New York, 2007) and *Exploring Early India up to c. AD 1300* (New Delhi, 2016). He has annotated the English translation (by Giles Constable) of a 14th century Latin Crusade text (*How to Defeat the Saracens*, Washington DC, 2012).
EXCERPTS FROM ROMILA THAPAR’S FOREWORD

Reading the manuscript has been a source of my discovering occasional new information and the fresh interpretation of known information: both of which enhance one's understanding of the region.

Although the main title describes the volumes as the history of Bangladesh, the contents cover much beyond that. The sub-title is the more appropriate description. The volumes cover the history of the region that was called Bengal - in its variant versions - and which in earlier times was more extensive as a single region, than that which lies within either of the current demarcations associated with the name, Bengal.

These volumes cover the evolution of the societies that went into the making of the region of Bengal. There were initially simple social and economic forms. Gradually they changed into more complex polities accompanied by developments in the patterns of living. This is illustrated for instance, in the economic forms arising from agriculture and commerce, in the social stratification that incorporated the variations in the status and occupations of castes, in the temples and shrines dedicated to older deities as well as the new deities arising from the inter-mixing of belief systems, in the new forms of devotional worship, and in the slow transformation of a popularly used language into a sophisticated literary idiom. Stages of these processes come into the discussion in these volumes.

In the context of the history of the sub-continent, regional histories are beginning to play a significant role. The historical importance of new sources, both texts and artifacts, is being recognized.

In charting the evolution of regional cultures, we have to recognize the plurality of cultural patterns, as well as the inter-face of the regional pattern with the larger trans-regional pattern. These volumes help us to see these complex phenomena in the history of Bengal.

New Delhi
April 2018

Romila Thapar
Professor Emeritus
Jawaharlal Nehru University, India