



Vol. 26, No.1, January - June, 2020

### Editor's Note

Never before in the history of Asiatic Society of Bangladesh (ASB) has it suffered such an unprecedented crisis thanks to the spread of Covid-19. It has unsettled the whole country, its economy, society and politics. With many resolves, the new Council set afoot in January this year.

But its journey fell halfway through. Like the whole nation, the ASB went through lockdown; lest its staff and members be infected by corona virus. Consequently, the routine functions of ASB were to keep suspended. Meanwhile, we lost some of our valuable members whose contributions to the development of the Society are immeasurable.

We deeply mourn the deaths of our members: Professor Emeritus ATM Anisuzzaman, National Professor Sufia Ahmed, Professor Jamilur Reza Chowdhury, Professor Nazmul Karim Chowdhury whose demise amount to an irreparable loss to the Society. Their memories will remain as fresh as ever, so long as the Society exists.

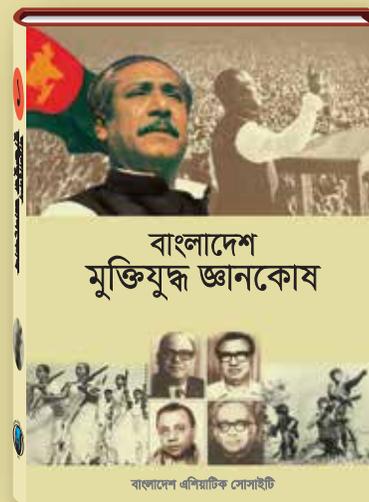
We are also shocked at the death of thousands of fellow countrymen at home and abroad due to corona virus. On behalf of the Society, we share our pain and sympathy with the family members who died of virus infection. We hope and pray their family would be able to stand up recovering the loss they have already incurred.

Dear members, we had the plan to make our Society vibrant with lots of creative activities. But, we could not live up to your expectations as Covid-19 tore apart our planning. On the contrary, the whole country is still facing this unassailable pandemic. The number of the infected patients is alarmingly increasing. The procession of death is still on. Under this condition, it appears that corona pandemic will remain as new normal for some time to come. Keeping the scenario in view, we may have to continue our activities on a limited scale through online communication. This might not fulfill your expectations hundred percent. But we have no other alternatives to keep our members safe from corona infection.

Last but not the least we ran a small survey about the likely impact of corona virus during the post-Corona period. A large number of our Members responded to our call and shared their opinions. We have decided to publish their opinions in this issue. Professor S. M. Mahfuzur Rahman, Treasurer of the Asiatic Society of Bangladesh conducted this survey, then compiled and edited these write-ups. I would like to extend my thanks to him for this hard work.

Stay home and stay safe.  
Looking forward to meeting you soon  
Thank you all in advance.

### New Arrival book



Pre-Publication sale at 50% discount price going on.  
Last date: 20 November 2020  
(For details see next page)

### ASB Celebrates its 68th Founding Anniversary

The 68th Founding Anniversary of the Asiatic Society of Bangladesh was observed on 3rd January 2020 in its Auditorium. Professor Mahfuza Khanam, President of the Society presided over the function.



Professor Mahfuza Khanam, President of ASB is inaugurating 68th Founding Anniversary Program

## Pre-Publication Sale

### Encyclopedia of Bangladesh War of Liberation

### বাংলাদেশ মুক্তিযুদ্ধ জ্ঞানকোষ

#### About the Encyclopedia

The Asiatic Society is publishing a 10-volume comprehensive Encyclopedia of War of Liberation War with financial assistance from the Government of Bangladesh as well as other sources including the Asiatic Society itself. The volumes contain chronicle and analysis of circumstances leading to the liberation war together with various events and personalities involved in the war both at home and abroad, lives of Bengali refugees in India, role of people of all walks of life, Mukti Bahini, locally organized forces and regional and global powers with a special focus on India, details of important battles, unspeakable genocide, atrocities and violations of women by the Pakistani occupation army in collusion with their local collaborators, and the final victory of the people with the assistance of India and other friendly countries. The focus of the work will be on the heroic role of the people of Bangladesh characterizing it as a truly people's war. The Encyclopedia contains about 4000 independent entries covering 492 Upazilas, biographies of gallantry awardees, friends of Bangladesh, female freedom fighters, a number of concept articles and so on.

Once published, this will be a further contribution to the previous magnum opus created by the Asiatic Society– the Banglapedia in terms of contribution. The Encyclopedia will be dedicated to the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and will come out in December 2020 as a part of his Birth Centenary Celebration. The Hon'ble Prime Minister of the Government of Bangladesh Sheikh Hasina, MP has kindly consented to launch this monumental work.

Pre-publication sale at 50% discount  
**(First Come, First Serve Basis)**

Price of 10 Volumes: Taka 6,000

Original Price: Taka: 12,000

Last Date of Discount: November 20, 2020

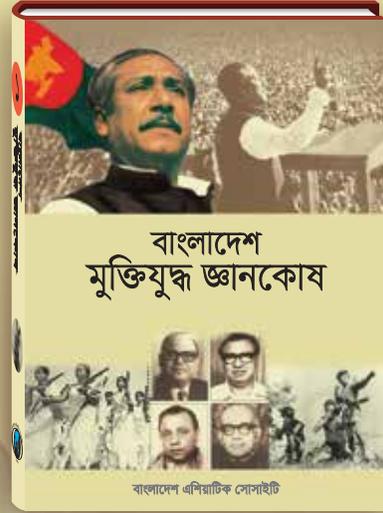
#### Payment Procedure

The Encyclopedia will be sold only as a set of 10 volumes at the price mentioned above. It can be ordered by paying the required price through bKash (A/C no. 01755576447) applications to the respective account mentioned in the attached form. The order will be confirmed upon receiving the amount as well as the filled-out form. Payment can also be made in cash to the sales counter of the Asiatic Society of Bangladesh at 5, Old Secretariat Road, Nimali, Dhaka-1000 adjacent to Ananda Bazar. The volumes will be sent to your address, if you so wish, soon after the stipulated official launching in December 2020, which will cost you a little extra-charge (please see the attached form).

#### Request for Early Booking

Given the immense importance of the Encyclopedia as well as its 50% discount during pre-publication sale, we foresee a rush of bookings. Hence we humbly request you to book your sets as early as possible so as to receive the volumes at the discount price. We look forward to your kind cooperation and response.

প্রাক-প্রকাশনা বিক্রয়  
বাংলাদেশ মুক্তিযুদ্ধ জ্ঞানকোষ  
১০ খণ্ড



বাংলাদেশ এশিয়াটিক সোসাইটি

Price of the Encyclopedia of Bangladesh War of Liberation **50% OFF**

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Regular Price

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Bangla Edition (10 vols) ~~Tk. 12,000~~

✓ Tk. 6,000

Pre-publication sale closes on 20 November 2020 or earlier if sold out  
Payment may be made in cash only

#### RESERVATION ORDER FORM

(Asiatic Society Sales Counter)

Herewith I pay cash Tk. .... for ..... set/s of  
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ENCYCLOPEDIA OF  
BANGLADESH WAR OF LIBERATION

Professor Dr. Sabbir Ahmed, General Secretary of the Society, gave a welcome address to the audience on this auspicious day. He presented a report on the progress that took place in the Asiatic Society of Bangladesh during the last two years (2018 and 2019). He mentioned that the Council 2018 and 2019 ended its term in December 2019.



**Professor Dr. Sabbir Ahmed, General Secretary, ASB is delivering his speech on the 68th Founding Anniversary of the Asiatic Society**

General Secretary further pointed out that the Council 2018 & 2019 took charge of the ASB with the mission of ensuring accountability and transparency in ASB's all kinds of activities. When the Council (2018 & 2019) embarked upon its routine work, it faced numerous difficulties but despite having these challenges the Council tried to overcome these with great efforts.

Professor Sabbir Ahmed added that over the last two years, the Society published 17 books of which 11 books were new and 06 got reprinted and as the publications increased, so its impact had on the sales. He also mentioned that ASB, in the last two years, has broken its previous record of sales. He further added that the Society published 12 issues of two Journals in time and there was no backlog passed on to the new Council 2020 & 2021.

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.

General Secretary concluded his speech thanking the Ministry of Cultural Affairs, valuable Members of the Asiatic Society of Bangladesh and wishing a Happy New Year to all. Professor Abul Momen, writer and journalist was the speaker of Foundation Day. He delivered the Foundation Day Lecture on *জ্ঞান চর্চা, শিক্ষার হালচাল ও সমাজ বাস্তবতা।*



**Flower bouquet handover to Professor Abul Momen, Writer and Journalist the Speaker of the 68th Foundation Day of ASB**

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

## ASB Council Election was held on 28th January 2020

The Election of the office-bearers of the Council of the Asiatic Society of Bangladesh for the years 2020 and 2021 was held on Tuesday, 28th January 2020 in the Society's Compound.



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

Two Panels were received by the ASB Office. One was headed by Professor Mahfuza Khanam and the other was by Professor Sharif uddin Ahmed. Professor Mahfuza Khanam Panel won majority seats of the Council in the election.

## Photos of the New Council for 2020 & 2021



**Mahfuza Khanam**  
President



**Mesbah-us-Saleheen**  
Vice-President



**Khondoker Bazul Hoque**  
Vice-President



**Ahmed Abdullah Jamal**  
Vice-President



**S. M. Mahfuzur Rahman**  
Treasurer



**Sabbir Ahmed**  
General Secretary



**Md. Abdul Karim**  
Secretary



**Najma Khan Majlis**  
Member



**Syed Anwar Husain**  
Member



**Harun-or-Rashid**  
Member



**Muhammad Abdul Mazid**  
Member



**Biswajit Ghosh**  
Member



**Yearul Kabir**  
Member



**Mohammad Siddiqur Rahman Khan**  
Member



**Eshani Chakraborty**  
Member



**Nusrat Fatema**  
Member



**Suraiya Akhter**  
Member

## 18th Biennial General Meeting

The 18th Biennial General Meeting of the Asiatic Society of Bangladesh was held on 29th January 2020 in the auditorium of the ASB. Professor Mahfuza Khanam, President, ASB presided over the function. Professor Jamilur Reza Choudhury, National Professor, Vice Chancellor, University of Asia Pacific and Honorable Fellow of the Asiatic Society of Bangladesh graced the program as the Chief Guest.



Professor Jamilur Reza Choudhury is inaugurating 18th Biennial General Meeting of Asiatic Society of Bangladesh

Professor Jamilur Reza Choudhury delivered his experience on current Mega Project of Padma Bridge. At the end of the program, General Secretary Professor Sabbir Ahmed declared the Election Commission's results before the audience.

## Monthly General Meetings

### The 1st Monthly General Meeting was held on 25th February 2020

The topic of the Monthly lecture was শিক্ষাগুরু মুহম্মদ আব্দুল হাইয়ের বিদ্যা ও বৃত্তান্ত / Professor Ahmad Kabir (Retired), Department of Bangla, University of Dhaka was the speaker.

The speaker in his lecture presented a biography on his beloved mentor Muhammad Abdul Hye who was a Bengali educationist, researcher and linguist. The speaker pointed out that following the language movement of 1952, Bengali language, literature and culture was passing through a crisis. It was because of hostile attitude of the Pakistan regime. They resorted to such controversial issues like writing Bangla in Arabic, frequent use of Arabic, Persian and Urdu words in Bangla, discarding Hindu subjects from Bangla literature, avoiding Tagore songs from the mass media. During this cultural crisis, Abdul Hye moved forward with bold steps displaying professional responsibility and moral commitment. After he returned to the Department of Bangla, University of Dhaka in February 1952, he reorganized the department by recruiting able and efficient teachers.

The speaker further mentioned names of some popular books; *Bhasha O Shaihitya*, *Bilete Share Satsho Din*, *Dhoni Biggan O Bangla Dhoni Tottya*, *Shahitya O Sangaskritya*, *Toshmod O Rajnitir Bhasha*, *Bangla Shahityer Eitbitya* written by Muhammad Abdul Hai and he also specified that Muhammad Abdul Hai was not merely an expert of Phonetics but also a pioneer in the field of Sociolinguistics.

Following the talk, the speaker answered the queries from the audience on the subject. While summing up the discussion the Chairperson Professor Mahfuza Khanam thanked Professor Ahmad Kabir for his valuable presentation.

## The 2nd Monthly General Meeting was held on 9th March 2020

The topic of the Monthly lecture was ৭ই মার্চের ভাষণ: একটি ভাষাতাত্ত্বিক বিশ্লেষণ / Mr. Anis Ahmed, former Assistant Professor, Department of English, University of Dhaka and Multimedia Broadcaster, Voice of America was the speaker and he took part in discussion on the subject.

The speaker in his lecture presented a linguistic analysis of the speech delivered by Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on 7th March 1971.

The speaker pointed out that the historical 7th March speech was ornamented with multiple linguistic and ideological strategies in such an inextricably way so that the speech could communicate multi-functionality towards its audience: the citizens of Bangladesh as well as the government of (West) Pakistan. More specifically, through his diction and style of language, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman served the purpose of a mirror for the audience to see and realize the suppression and domination of the then (West) Pakistan and the struggles of East Pakistan (Bangladesh).

The speaker also mentioned that his frequent and ubiquitous use of vocative adjuncts, multiple pronouns, mood blocks, modality, tense, and the cohesiveness of his paragraphs, while showing the past, the present and the future of Bangladesh made the speech more powerful, concrete, appealing and persuasive.

In conclusion, the speaker pointed out that as a whole, this historical speech, through its compact and dialogical form, not only demonstrated Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's charismatic characteristics both in oratory and leadership skills, but also echoed the suppressed Bangladeshi people's long-felt dream of being independent from the tyranny of political, social, economic and cultural domination.

Following the talk, the speaker answered the queries from the audience on the subject. While summing up the discussion, the Chairperson Professor Ahmed Abdullah Jamal thanked Mr. Anis Ahmed for his presentation.

## Special Lecture

The Asiatic Society of Bangladesh organized a Special Lecture from January to June, 2020.

### The first Special Lecture of the year 2020 was held on 23rd February 2020. The topic of this Special Lecture was *Diplomacy of Bangladesh: Historical Perspectives*.

Dr. Abul Kalam, Former Professor, Department of International Relations, University of Dhaka was the speaker. He delivered his lecture on the above topic.

The speaker pointed out that diplomacy in Bengal/Bangladesh context would seem a "notional complex"; yet historically Bengal carried a civilization image as a power to reckon with, which had precisely deterred power aspirants like Alexander the Great.

The infusion of softer variants of diplomacy flowed into Bengal from the Islamic Holy Land during the lifetime of Prophet Mohammed (pbuh) himself and introduced mainly into territories what have been Bengal/Bangladesh. The region has also historically witnessed diffusion of personalized diplomacy as well as state-based diplomacy, enabling Bengal to develop relations with powers in the neighborhood like China. However, Bengal has also suffered from recurrent "partition syndrome" of some order prior to the founding of the present sovereign entity of Bangladesh. Diplomacy through history as a tool has often been abused for asymmetrical dominance; Bangladesh for its liberation has set an example battling such dominance. With its current commitment to "peace with all" such pursuits must continue for a better world than what is currently being afforded.

Following the talk, the speaker answered the queries from the audience on the subject. While summing up the discussion the Chairperson Professor Mahfuza Khanam thanked Professor Abul Kalam for his interesting presentation.

## Life Before and After Covid-19



### How would Covid-19 Change Life in Bangladesh: Ideas of ASB Members

Valued ASB members deserve sincere gratitude for their response to the call for expression of opinions on what changes they think would come, after Corona ends, in the behavior of the people and society in Bangladesh, in personal habits and practices, as well as in workplaces, places of social gathering, travels and tours, banks, markets, and in buying and consumption.

In review of the write-ups received we have found that most of them were not specific on areas that we had mentioned to focus on. Some of the write-ups however, covered a number of issues as mentioned above and here we are publishing, with minor editing, the contents of the write-ups that reflect relevance to the call.

One or two of the write-ups received may be considered for publication in journals, but some additional work is to be done in order to make them publishable as a research paper. We can try to arrange such work at some later stage. Meanwhile, here are the extracts of the write-ups by ASB members reflecting comments in line with our call.

**Dr. Abdul Hannan**  
Writer and Researcher

It is now the time to change our habits. In families we will have to fix who should do what and when. Family jobs cannot be the responsibilities of women only; the male members also should take part. In addition, children are to be relieved of the burden of work they should not be loaded with and we need to create an environment that paves the ways for their proper growth and development.

**Dr. Forkan Uddin Ahmed**  
Former DDG, Bangladesh Ansar and VDP, Writer  
Columnist and Researcher

Mankind faces problems like mistrust and misunderstanding and lack of leadership. We will have to establish social equity and equilibrium, fight with might and maintain tolerance, mutual trust and sense of belongingness. After Corona, people will have to be more caring about health; responsive and responsible, tolerant and sympathetic, positive in attitude and manner; duty-bound, time-bound, disciplined, and effective; law-abiding, united, and sincere in maintaining ethics and morality; proactive and energetic; careful and cautious, and also bold, self-reliant, courageous and confident; and religious and God fearing. What changes we actually want? We want: a decent quality of life for all; human rights and empathy as the topmost priority; social work to be a part of our education system; videos to be made on the good initiatives and love; and children to be shown films and told stories with people at the center as examples of real success.

On the economic front, the government can take steps to keep cash flowing to workers and businesses and work with employers and organizations and trade unions to come up with practical solutions,

keep people safe and protect jobs. We are hopeful that the world will overcome the miseries caused by the pandemic and people will smile again.

**Dr. M. Shamsheer Ali**  
Former Vice Chancellor, Bangladesh Open University,  
Former Vice Chancellor, South East University

Apart from the damage that Covid-19 has been causing in terms of death and depletion of resources, it is doing what the politicians of the world could not do for decades. Politicians sat and debated at Rio, Cancun, Tokyo and at other places over biodiversity, global warming and climate change. They could achieve little, while the lockdown halted pollution as carbon emission decreased due to the temporary stop of hauling of transports and of the work of factories. Air and water quality has started improving.

Man's actions have been rampant. He has denuded forests and sent many wild lives on the verge of extinction; he has grabbed water bodies and destroyed greenery. It is now the time to think that we are to choose an environment-friendly life style, which would be sustainable in the actual sense of the term.

Man has so far been always on the run in meeting and chasing people for increasing his wealth and property and for enlarging his sphere of influence in the society. He has not been giving adequate time to his family members, relatives, friends and neighbors. Now it is the time to change.

**Dr. Jebunnesa**  
Associate Professor, Department of Public Administration  
Jahangirnagar University

The education system in our country suffers from some corrupt practices. It is now the time to establish a fair education management and a system with transparency, accountability and responsibility, anything short of which will break down the entire education sector.

Once the Corona situation is over, students of all levels may be given ID numbers and passwords to a gateway that would deliver them course materials, instructions, test and exam information and results. Institutions need to maintain academic schedules and hold exams on time. The whole education system should be free from discrimination and should allow freedom in access to and use of knowledge in the interest of human quality development and nation building.

**Dr. Khan Ferdousur Rahman**  
Post Doctoral Research Fellow,  
Asian Institute of Technology, Thailand

Covid-19 brought our world order to face a new challenge - the old order that favors interests of capital and ignores public health and environment is no more morally acceptable and also, is not effective in many ways. Today's world order is full of anomalies and cannot lead to real development. The order does not allow meaningful coexistence of man and nature.

People of all walks now realize that today's pompous world is in fact sick and no matter how capitalism is hailed for supremacy, the system is fragile and has torn apart all social bonds.

It is now a burning question whether the world will create a new global order that would be friendly to mass people and climate or it will forget the Covid-19 experience and allow states and their communities to continue to behave in the same way as they had been doing before.

**Afroza Pervin**  
Writer, Essayist and Columnist

Corona will go away some day but life will not be the same as before. Things may change in many ways. There will not be any handshake or embracing when people will meet and greet; physical distancing may become part of social behavior. Pattern of

interactions in religious events, community rituals, meetings and conferences/seminars will be significantly changed.

People will fight with own thoughts and minds. Everybody will be in constant fear of own hands touching mouth, nose or eyes or being close with others. People will be more careful in maintaining cleanliness and choosing foods; they will pay more attention to helping each other, at least in own families. People will avoid travels and entertainment and even visits to friends and relatives. Work in offices, banks, shops, educational and other institutions will be run more online and with use of technology to avoid physical contacts or movements as far as possible. Globally, there will be more experiments in reforming activities in education and business to conduct them online. Role of media will be strengthened. Rules/codes of conduct in transport and hotels and restaurants will be changed. Healthcare and hospital services will be improved. The world economy will face a number of problems and some of the problems in short run are:

The threat of a global slowdown and fall in production and sales leading to rise in unemployment and fall in incomes;

The need for more spending in recovery of damages caused by Covid-19, and therefore shortage of funds for initiatives to mitigate climate change;

Shrinking of opportunities for migration in search of jobs overseas and likely tightening of immigration laws in many countries in order to protect own economies and shrinking of funds for humanitarian aid;

The global community may however, realize that problem in one country is no more a local one today; it does have effect on many others and therefore, nations might not be selfish any more. The countries of the world may come up with initiatives to show sympathy to one another and build a better international community together.

#### **A. K. M. Khorshed Alam, PhD**

Former DG, Geological Survey of Bangladesh

People of Bangladesh are now getting used to a whole new set of concepts like social distancing, isolation, lockdown, etc. Also, the people have become more conscious and careful about personal and community hygiene, practices of basic hygiene such as washing hands, using masks for protection against germs and infections, refraining from spitting on streets or any open place and the like.

In addition, Covid-19 has made people realize the importance of being sympathetic and gentle to others, and self-restraint and maintaining norms of good social conduct. People also get the lesson that they should build up self-reliance, develop the capacity to face adversaries, adapt in changed situation, develop resilience and have a practice of savings for future. Hopefully these new learnings and practices will not go away with the end of Covid-19 and will change personal and community life in many respects.

The spread of Corona virus forced men and women to stay at home and spend most of their time with members of the family. This probably helped most people in knowing and understanding family members better and creating stronger family ties.

Covid-19 took away jobs and incomes of a large number of people in urban and rural areas. Local community leaders, representatives of local government, social workers, young men and women now stand by the side of the needy and distressed, provide food to the poor, assist them in harvesting crops, take care of health and safety of the suffering people. Hopefully the approach would not be faded away with the end of the pandemic.

Apart from the above, there are changes in pattern of community gathering including in religious rites and rituals, political and

business meetings and intellectual meets like seminars and conferences. Another dimension is the expansion in use of IT in personal and social life, as well as in education and business. People now use internet much more extensively than before, universities and many colleges and even schools have introduced online classes, people are adept in telemedicine and call center services, work from home, video conferencing, e-commerce, cashless transactions, etc. and are going through new experiences like virtual courts.

Local government authorities in rural and urban areas are seen to be more active in maintaining cleanliness. The environment got a temporary relief from pollution of air, water and soil because of lockdown in mills and factories, substantial reduction in carbon emission thanks to restricted movement of vehicles on roads, highways, waterways and air routes. Rivers had been free of motorized boats, beaches and public places got 'auto-sanitized' as people stopped visiting these places.

One important impact of Covid-19 is probably the realization that our healthcare system is fragile and we need to innovate more, invest more and care more to face epidemics, do more studies and research in microbiology, public health, vaccines and medicine, and disaster management.

#### **Abul Quasem Haider**

Founding Chairman, Eastern University and Islamic Finance and Investment Ltd, Ex Vice President, FBCCI, BTMEA, BGMEA and Association of Private Universities

Covid-19 has changed the life of mankind in different ways, which will definitely have their impact on our future pattern of life. Here is a brief account of the changes.

Covid-19 reinforced the feeling of fear in the minds of the people calling them to submit to the Almighty Creator of the Universe and to correct their thinking and behavior.

People everywhere have become more careful in maintaining personal and community hygiene.

People now realize that sudden situations like the one created by Covid-19 can disrupt the normal course of life and economy in a big way, the living, jobs, and businesses may be at jeopardy, crucial sectors that support income and employment may lose momentum and may even be halted, and education in institutions, sports and entertainment or social and cultural meets may be suspended due to lockdowns or 'forced holidays'.

Covid-19 frightened people by putting them in the danger of infections and in many cases, the fear led them to maintain distance even from members of their own families, friends and relatives at the time when they need the support most although in some cases, we see instances when community people or individuals come forward with sympathy and help to the affected people.

The government, businesses, institutions providing education, health, banking, trade and other services are restructuring their decision making and operation through online arrangements.

Covid-19 now leads us to think about the importance of our resilience and strengthen our efforts in agriculture, especially food security, public health, growth in research and application of IT.

So, the point is: Covid-19 will leave its impression in changes in our thinking and behavior in the light of the realizations as mentioned above.

**Compiled and Edited by  
Professor Dr. S.M. Mahfuzur Rahman,  
Treasurer, Asiatic Society of Bangladesh**

## Obituary

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



Asiatic Society of Bangladesh deeply mourns the death of our beloved Fellow, National Professor ATM Anisuzzaman who passed away on 14th May 2020 at Combined Military Hospital in Dhaka.

Professor ATM Anisuzzaman was an outstanding scholar well-recognized at home and abroad. He was awarded Ekushey Padak and Swadhinata Padak, the

highest state awards given by the Government of Bangladesh, for his contribution to education. The Indian government had awarded him Padma Bhusan, the country's third highest civilian honour, for his distinguished service in the fields of Bangla literature and education. He was a member of the Planning Commission of Bangladesh during the Liberation War and a member of the National Education Commission set up by the government after independence. He was a pivotal figure in translating the Constitution of Bangladesh in Bangla in 1972. He also served as chairman of the Trustee Board of the Nazrul Institute and also was the president of Bangla Academy from 2012 till the last day of his life.

Professor ATM Anisuzzaman played a significant role by actively participating in all democratic movements from the Language Movement of 1952, the Liberation War in 1971 to the restoration of democracy in Bangladesh in the 1980s. His active role for the trial of war criminals distinguished him from many other public intellectuals. He appeared as a witness before the International Crimes Tribunal. He remained a champion for the cause of secularism. His scholarly works in Bangla literature, selfless love for his country remain as a source of inspiration to all generations.

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We have also lost our honorable Fellow, National Professor Jamilur Reza Choudhury who breathed his last in the early hours of 28th April 2020.

Professor Jamilur Reza Choudhury was a famous scholar well reputed at home and abroad. He played a vital role in the country's infrastructural development by leading the experts' panels of Bangabandhu Bridge, Padma

Multipurpose Bridge, Dhaka Elevated Expressway, Karnaphuli Tunnel and many other ongoing development projects of Bangladesh. He was honored with numerous awards along with the Ekushey Padak by the Government of Bangladesh in the category of science and technology.

This year his presence as our Chief Guest in our 18th Biennial General Meeting graced the occasion.

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We have also lost our National Professor Sufia Ahmed who was selected as the first female National Professor of Bangladesh in January 1994. She died at United Hospital in Dhaka on 9th April 2020.

Professor Sufia Ahmed was a professor at the Department of Islamic History and Culture in University of Dhaka. She was the wife of former Advisor to the Caretaker Government Syed Ishtiaq Ahmed.

Professor Sufia Ahmed took part in the Language Movement in 1952. She was one of the female forerunners to break the Section 144 on Dhaka University campus on February 21, 1952. Professor Sufia Ahmed was awarded with Ekushey Padak in 2002 and Sufia Kamal Award in 2015.

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We have lost our Member and Ex-Treasurer, Professor Nazmul Karim Chowdhury who died of Corona infection in May 2020 at ICU of Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Professor Nazmul Karim Chowdhury was a professor of Tourism and Hospitality Management of the University of Dhaka. He is an internationally recognized educationist and well known to us as a writer, researcher, lawyer and an adviser.

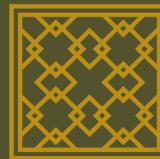
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## Forthcoming book

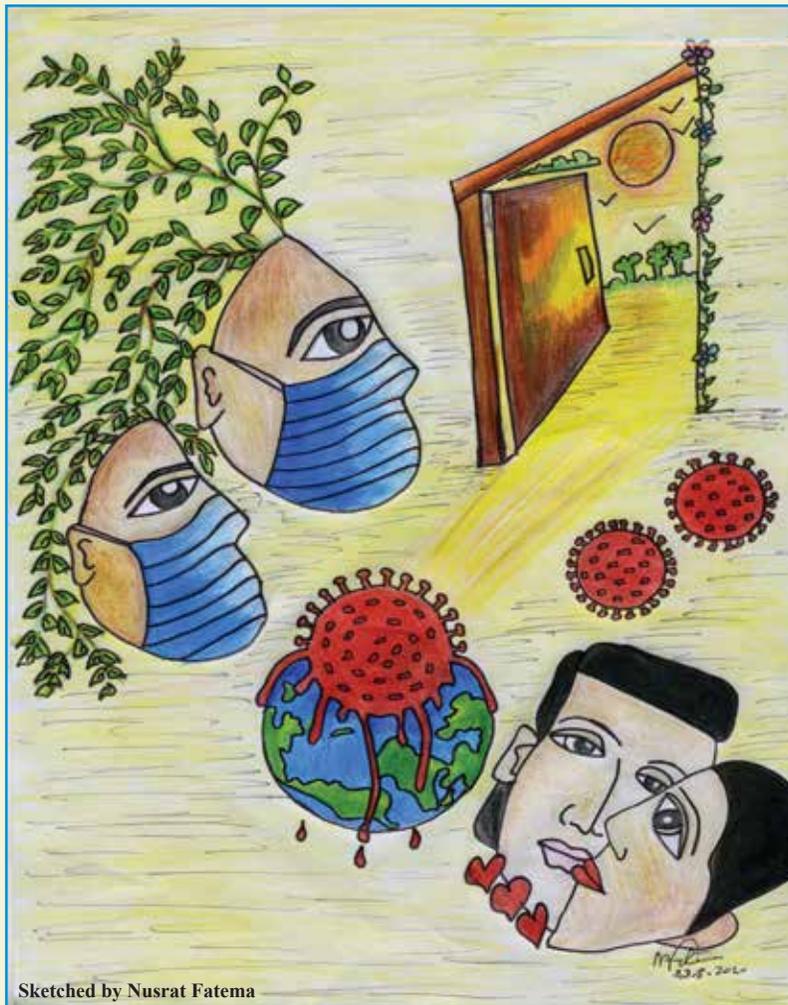
### নবাবী বাংলার অভিজাত শ্রেণি রাজনীতি সমাজ ও সংস্কৃতি

মোহাম্মদ হিদিরুর রহমান খান



বাংলাদেশ এশিয়াটিক সোসাইটি

আলোচ্য গ্রন্থটিতে নবাবী বাংলার সামাজিক শক্তি অভিজাত শ্রেণির গঠন, বৈশিষ্ট্য এবং সমকালীন রাজনীতি, সরকার, অর্থনীতি, সামাজিক ও সংস্কৃতিতে তাঁদের ভূমিকা ও অবদান নির্ণয়ের চেষ্টা করা হয়েছে। পলাশির যুদ্ধকে বাংলার নবাবী শাসনের অবসান এবং ব্রিটিশ ইস্ট ইন্ডিয়া কোম্পানির শাসনের সূচনা পর্ব বলে বিবেচনা করা হয়। সমকালীন অভিজাতদের ভূমিকা সর্বস্তরের বিচার-বিশ্লেষণের প্রয়াসও রয়েছে বর্তমান গ্রন্থটিতে। গ্রন্থটির বিষয়বস্তুর অনুসন্ধান এবং আলোচনায় সমাজতাত্ত্বিক দৃষ্টিভঙ্গি ও পদ্ধতির প্রয়োগের চেষ্টা করা হয়েছে। আলোচনার সুবিধার্থে ভূমিকা ও উপসংহার ব্যতীত গ্রন্থটিকে মোট সাতটি অধ্যায়ে বিন্যস্ত করা হয়েছে। পুস্তকটির মূল্য: ৪০০/=।



Sketched by Nusrat Fatema

“The secret of change is to focus all of your energy, not to fighting the old, but on building the new.”- Socrates  
Let's hope for a Covid-19 free tomorrow.

If undelivered, please return to:

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