



Bangladesh Academy of Sciences

NEWSLETTER

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Condolence Meeting and DOA Mahfil for Late Prof. Dr. Naiyyum Choudhury



Late Professor Dr. Naiyyum Choudhury
Former Vice President, BAS

A Condolence Meeting and Doa Mahfil for Late Professor Dr. Naiyyum Choudhury, Former Vice President, BAS was held on 10 October 2019 at 3.00pm in the seminar room of the Academy, NMST Bhavan, Agargaon, Dhaka 1207. Prof. Dr. ZN Tahmida Begum, Treasurer was in the Chair. Prof. Dr. Abdul Matin Patwari, Fellow, BAS; Prof. Dr. Hajera Mahtab, Fellow, BAS; Dr. Sajid Muhaimin Choudhury, son of Late Professor Dr. Naiyyum Choudhury and Prof. Dr. Mesbahuddin Ahmed, Secretary, BAS took seat at the dais.

Prof. Dr. Mesbahuddin Ahmed opened the meeting and said that Late Professor Dr. Naiyyum Choudhury expired on 07 September 2019 in a City Hospital. He also briefly mentioned the life and work of Late Professor Dr. Naiyyum Choudhury and his dedicated contribution as Secretary and Vice President of the Academy, particularly about his success in getting BAS Endowment and BAS-USDA Endowment Fund.

Professor Ahmed then requested Moulana Jasim Uddin, Khatib, Baitun Noor Juma Mosque, West Agargaon to recite from the Holy Qur'an.

Dr. Idris Ali, Prof. Dr. M Shamsheer Ali, Prof. Dr. AK Azad Choudhury, Prof. Dr. Zahurul Karim, Prof. Dr. Abdul Matin Patwari and Prof. Dr. Hajera Mahtab, Fellows of BAS mentioned many important moments during their association with Late Professor Choudhury and commented on his dedicated work. Dr. Sajid Muhaimin Choudhury son of Prof. Naiyyum Choudhury mentioned many important and valuable events with Choudhury as a loving father, as a guardian, as a friend and as a human being.

Dr. MA Mazed, Director, BAS mentioned that Prof. Choudhury was a guardian of the employees of the Academy and helped them in their needs.

All Fellows prayed to Allah, The Most Gracious, The Most Beneficent for emancipation of the departed soul of Professor Choudhury and for welfare of his family members.

The Chairperson, Prof. Dr. ZN Tahmida Begum in her speech remembered the contributions of Professor Choudhury for the Academy and said that the Academy lost a leader and the country lost a great scientist.

Prof. Mesbahuddin Ahmed then requested Moulana Jasim Uddin, Khatib of Baitun Noor Juma Mosque, Agargaon to lead DOA for the salvation of the departed soul and welfare of the family members of Late Professor Choudhury. Moulana Jasim Uddin led the prayers with all present in the meeting.

NATIONAL EVENT

I. BAS-TWAS-CASAREP Young Scientist Meeting, 28-29 September 2019, Dhaka, Bangladesh

Bangladesh Academy of Sciences (BAS) and World Academy of Sciences (TWAS)-Central and South Asia Regional Partner (CASAREP) with the financial assistance of Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA) organized an International Young Scientists Meeting on Impact of Climate Change – A Way Forward held during 28-29 September 2019 in the Conference Room of Designated Reference Institute for

Chemical Measurements (DRICM), Bangladesh Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (BCSIR) at Dr. Qudrat-e-Khuda Road, Dhaka, Bangladesh.

In total, 5 resource persons and 12 young scientists from India, Bhutan, Kyrgyzstan, Maldives, Malaysia, Nepal and Sri Lanka participated in the meeting. From Bangladesh, 22 resource persons, 28 young scientists and researchers from universities, R & D organizations, 13 BAS Fellows and senior scientists also participated in the meeting.

There was an Advisory Committee for BAS-TWAS-CASAREP Meeting formed of 9 members from BAS, TWAS-CASAREP, AASSA, Higher Education Commission of Pakistan, IAP-SEP, and Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS).

The Young Scientists Meeting was inaugurated by Prof. Dr. V Krishnan, Co-ordinator, TWAS-CASAREP and chaired by Prof. Dr. Quazi Abdul Fattah, President, BAS. Prof. Dr. Mesbahuddin Ahmed, Secretary, BAS delivered welcome address and moderated the meeting. Prof. Dr. M Shamsheer Ali, Chair of the Organizing Committee presented the objectives of the meeting.



Address by Prof. Dr. V Krishnan, Co-ordinator, TWAS-CASAREP



Address by Prof. Dr. Quazi Abdul Fattah, President, BAS

On the 2-Day meeting there were five technical sessions devoted to (i) Impact of Climate Change on Natural Resources and Biodiversity, (ii) Impact of Climate Change on Health, Food and Nutrition (iii) Impact of Climate Change on Physical and Chemical Environment (iv) Impact of Climate Change on

Plant and Animals and (v) Advocacy and Policies related to Climate Change. There was also a session on **Experience from the Stakeholders/public participants**. Two shrimp farmers practically experienced with losses in their shrimp cultivation presented their experiences on loss caused due to salinity intrusion in their protected shrimp growing fields as a result of climate change.

From this Young Scientists Meeting, the young scientists from this region could share their experience on climate change in various ways on land, environment, policies and other key areas.

It was an effective, successful and beneficial meeting for the young scientists of countries of this region needing science and technology on climate change.



Participants present



Group photos of participants

The Concluding Session was chaired by Prof. Dr. M Shamer Ali, Chairperson of the Organizing Committee. Prof. Dr. Abdul Matin Patwari, Former Vice Chancellor, Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET), Islamic University of Technology (IUT) and University of Asia Pacific (UAP) was the Chief Guest.

The concluding session was followed by a **Cultural Program presented by the local artists and a farewell dinner**. Local electronic and printing media publicized the events of the meeting adequately.

II. Election of BAS Council (July 2019-June 2022)

The election of BAS council (July 2019-June 2022) was held on 30 November 2020. Prof. Dr. KM Sultanul Aziz, Head of Election Commission for BAS Council Election (July 2019-June 2022) declared the following fellows for various positions of BAS Council as per Art. 11 of the BAS Constitution and Regulations:

Prof. Dr. AK Azad Chowdhury	- President
Prof. Dr. Zahurul Karim	- Vice President
Prof. Dr. Choudhury Mahmood Hasan	- Vice President
Prof. Dr. Z N Tahmida Begum	- Treasurer
Prof. Dr. Haseena Khan	- Secretary
Prof. Dr. Yearul Kabir	- Associate Secretary
Dr. M. Idris Ali	- Member
Prof. Dr. Md. Anwar Hossain	- Member
Prof. Dr. Liaquat Ali	- Member
Maj. Gen. Prof. Dr. ASM Matiur Rahman	- Member
Prof. Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmed	- Member
Dr. Firdausi Qadri	- Member

III. 4th BAS Young Scientist Congress on “Young Scientists for Achieving SDGs” 13-15 December 2019, Dhaka, Bangladesh

The 4th BAS Young Scientist Congress on “Young Scientists for Achieving SDGs” was organized during 13-15 December 2019 at the National Museum of Science & Technology Bhaban at Agargaon, Dhaka, Bangladesh. About 300 Participants from diverse organizational background, ranging from academia to industry and Public to For-profit private sector, attended the event.

The Inaugural Ceremony of the Congress was held at 15.30 hrs on 13 December 2019. Emeritus Prof. Dr. AK Azad Chowdhury, President of the Bangladesh Academy of Sciences, chaired the Ceremony, and Architect Yeafesh Osman, Honorable Minister, Ministry of Science & Technology, Government of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh graced the Occasion as the Chief Guest. The Special Guest of the Ceremony was Mr Muhammad Munir Chowdhury, Director General (Additional Secretary), National Museum of Science & Technology and Mr. Omar Frooque, Managing Director, Union Bank Ltd. and Prof. Dr. KM Sultanul Aziz, the Chairperson of the Organizing Committee delivered the Address of Welcome, and Prof. Dr. Haseena Khan, the Secretary of the Bangladesh Academy of Sciences introduced

the activities of BAS to the audience. The Vote of Thanks was offered by Prof. Dr. Liaquat Ali, the Organizing Secretary of the Congress.



Address by Chief Guest



Participants of inaugural session

All the Speakers emphasized the need for prioritization of science and technology for the economic and social prosperity of the country. It was also expressed that time has now come to give more concentration on the quality aspects of science education and research parallel to their quantitative development. Highlighting the pro-science policies of the Government of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh, the Honorable Chief Guest assured his whole-hearted support to the initiatives of BAS. Citing a number of examples the Chairperson of the Ceremony inspired the young scientists to emphasize on the innovation aspects of science & technology to counter the problems in the country and assured them for all possible support by the Academy.

The Inaugural Ceremony was followed by the Theme Lecture delivered by Dr M Shamsul Alam, Member (Senior Secretary), Planning Commission, Ministry of Planning, Govt of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh. In the perspective of global initiatives he elaborated the policies and programs of the GoB

on SDGs and he specially emphasized the role of Science and Technology in achieving these goals. The program of the day ended through a Reception.



Address by Emeritus Prof. Dr. AK Azad Chowdhury, President, BAS



Address by Prof. Dr. Haseena Khan, Secretary, BAS

On the second day of the Congress there were 1 Plenary Lecture, 9 Invited Lectures and 65 Oral Presentations. The Plenary Lecture was delivered by Prof Dr M Shamser Ali (Fellow, BAS) which was chaired by Prof Dr Abdul Matin Patwary (Fellow, BAS). All the Invited Lectures and Oral Presentations were held in 4 parallel Sessions divided into the following 4 Tracks: i) Biological & Agricultural Sciences; ii) Physical, Chemical & Environmental Sciences; iii) Mathematical, Engineering and Computer Sciences; and iv) Health, Nutrition & Pharmaceutical Sciences. In parallel to the Lectures and Oral Presentations 48 posters were displayed in the Poster Area (on the same 4 tracks) and poster discussion were held at prefixed times.

In the evening a Cultural Program, dedicated to the Memory of the Shahid Intellectuals was held and it was participated by the Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendra Artist Shahin Samad and Anondon. The Congress Dinner was organized after the program.

On the second day of the Congress there were 1 Plenary Lecture, 10 Invited Lectures and 40 Oral Presentations. The Plenary Lecture was delivered by Prof. Dr. M Salehuddin Ahmed (Professor, BRAC University and Former Governor,

Bangladesh Bank) and it was chaired by Prof. Dr. Zahurul Karim (Fellow, BAS). All the Invited Lectures and Oral Presentations were held in 4 parallel Sessions divided into 4 Tracks as mentioned for the previous day.

The Concluding Session of the Workshop was held at 17:15 hrs on 15 December 2019. Prof. Dr. Tahmida Begum, Treasurer of the Bangladesh Academy of Sciences, chaired the Ceremony, and Emeritus Prof. Dr. AK Azad Chowdhury, President of the Bangladesh Academy of Sciences, attended the Session as the Chief Guest. Prof. Dr. KM Sultanul Aziz, the Chairperson of the Organizing Committee, and Prof. Dr. Haseena Khan, the Secretary of the Bangladesh Academy of Sciences delivered their remarks and Prof. Dr. Liaquat Ali, Organizing Secretary of the Congress moderated the discussion. A lively discussion followed and important suggestions were made on the continuation and organization of the Congress and activities of the Academy in general.



Address by Prof. Dr. ZN Tahmida Begum, Treasurer, BAS



Participants of the congress

IV. Academy Seminar, 18 December 2019, Dhaka, Bangladesh

Bangladesh Academy of Sciences (BAS) in collaboration with the Department of Applied Mathematics, University of Dhaka organized a seminar on **“Why mathematics—the nature and role of mathematics in human development, and its relevance to Bangladesh”** at the Rezaur Rahman Auditorium, *A F Mujibur Rahman Ganit Bhavan*, Dhaka University, Dhaka 1000. Prof. Dr. Saleh Tanveer, Expatriate Fellow, BAS and

Professor of the Department of Mathematics, Ohio State University, Columbus, USA, was the speaker at the seminar.

Emeritus Prof. Dr. A K Azad Chowdhury, President, Bangladesh Academy of Sciences was present in the seminar as the Chief Guest and Prof. Dr. Zahurul Karim, Vice President, BAS presided. Professor Dr. Haseena Khan, Secretary, BAS moderated the seminar.



Prof. Dr. Saleh Tanveer, delivering his keynote speech



Prof. Dr. Saleh Tanveer, responding to questions

About 200 participants including BAS Fellows, teachers and the taught of the university were present in the seminar. Prof. Dr. Zahurul Karim at the very start introduced Prof. Dr. Tanveer and mentioned the highlights from his academic and professional achievement. Then he invited Prof. Tanveer to present his seminar lecture. Prof. Tanveer talked about the impact of Mathematics in modern society and mentioned that every area of science and engineering, social sciences, financial transactions and medical imaging depend upon Mathematics. If, anybody, any time goes beyond qualitative understanding, mathematics is a must. He said that algorithms originated from Mathematics are used in modern computers, mobile phones or machine learnings etc. Epidemic modeling, appointment of personnel in service industry, to remove bottle necks in traffic management Mathematical theories are used. Prof. Tanveer further said that proper Mathematical education is an essential

component of training the industrial workforce. He mentioned the shining examples of Bangladesh International Math Olympiad Teams in recent years.



Address by Emeritus Prof. Dr. A K Azad Chowdhury, President, BAS



Address by Prof. Dr. Zahurul Karim, Vice President, BAS

In conclusion, Professor Tanveer recommended that Mathematicians and science educators need a greater say in government policies. They need to influence contents of texts taught in schools and reform examination systems. Bangladeshi youngsters proved their talents in the national and International Olympiads. It would be in fortunate if Bangladesh could find the means to retain or attract even a fraction of these extremely talented youngsters. A world class independently run Math Institute with right leadership will fill this void.

Prof. Dr. A K Azad Chowdhury, President, BAS in his speech encouraged the math teachers and students to be world class scientists and raise prestige of the country. He also commented that in this country, scientists are not recognized and honoured like those in other countries. Prof. Chowdhury called upon the new generation of scientists to fulfill this expectation.

Prof. Dr. Haseena Khan, Secretary, BAS expressed hearty thanks to all participants and declared the seminar closed.

BAS-USDA Endowment Program

Day-long Presentation of Project Proposals under 4th Phase

Seventy nine (Crop = 31, Fisheries = 19, Livestock = 14, Agricultural Market Development = 02, Health & Nutrition = 06, Others = 07) out of 338 preliminary project proposals (Crop = 147, Fisheries = 51, Livestock = 66, Agro-forestry = 7, Agricultural Market Development = 7, Health & Nutrition = 20 and others = 40) were short-listed by the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), BAS-USDA Endowment Program. **Forty four** out of **79 detailed project proposals** were selected for presentation by TAC. The presentation of these 44 project proposals was held at the Seminar Room of Bangladesh Academy of Sciences (BAS), NMST Bhaban, Agargaon, Dhaka 1207 on 3, 9, 13 and 20 October 2019. The Principal Investigators of 44 project proposals made presentations on their project proposals in presence of the Fellows of BAS and members of TAC & Board of Trustees (BoT), BAS-USDA Endowment Program, Mr. Tyler Babcock, Agricultural Attaché, Foreign Agricultural Service, Office of Agricultural Affairs, American Embassy, Dhaka were present on 2nd day.



Mr. Tyler Babcock delivering his speech



Fellows of BAS and Members of TAC & BoT

Day-long Discussion Meeting for improvement/ modification of project proposals under 4th Phase

A day-long discussion meeting for improvement/ modification of project proposals under 4th Phase was held at the Seminar Room of the Academy, NMST Bhaban, Agargaon, Dhaka-1207 on 5 December 2019. The members of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and the Principal Investigators of 23 projects attended the meeting.

Prof. Dr. Zahurul Karim, Chairperson, Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), BAS-USDA Endowment Program in his introductory speech explained the purpose of the discussion meeting. He requested TAC members to advise the respective Principal Investigators (23 PIs) for modifying the projects considering some points like incorporation of technical comments given during presentation, budget, MoU, the matters to be included or excluded etc.

In his concluding remark, Prof. Dr. Zahurul Karim thanked TAC members for providing their valuable advice to the Principal Investigators for modifying the project proposals.



Discussion on modification of project proposals going on

BAS-USDA Project Monitoring

Prof. Dr. Paritosh Kumar Biswas, Dept. of Microbiology and Veterinary Public Health, Chittagong Veterinary and Animal Sciences University (CVASU), Chittagong has been implementing the research project entitled “Detection and molecular characterization of highly pathogenic H5N1 and low pathogenic H9N2 avian influenza viruses and their relative impacts on commercial poultry farms” under 3rd Phase of BAS-USDA Endowment Program. Prof. Dr. KM Sultanul Aziz, Fellow, BAS & Member, TAC, BAS-USDA Endowment Program and Mr. Md. Mokshead Ali, Program Manager, BAS-USDA Endowment Program monitored the project activities in Technical and Financial aspects on 05 September 2019. A PowerPoint presentation on the on-going activities of the project so far carried out was given by the PI Prof. Dr. Paritosh Kumar Biswas at CVASU. The details of the project activities were explained elaborately by the project team.



Presentation and discussion session at CVASU

Prof. Dr. MA Salam and Prof. Md. Sazzad Hossain, Dept. of Aquaculture, Faculty of Fisheries, Bangladesh Agricultural University, Mymensingh has been implementing the research projects entitled “Aquaponics: food safety and human health through good aquaculture practice” and “Quality assessment of commercial and farm-made fish feed available in Khulna region of Bangladesh to ensure food security” respectively under 3rd Phase.

Prof. Dr. Abu Tweb Abu Ahmed, Member, TAC and Prof. Dr. Md. Jahangir Alam, Dept. of Fisheries Biology and Aquatic Environment, BSMRAU, Gazipur monitored the technical activities of Dr. Salam’s and Dr. Hossain’s projects respectively. Mr. Md. Habibur Rahman, Finance & Accounts Officer and Mr. Md. Mokshead Ali, Program Manager, BAS-USDA Endowment Program monitored the financial activities of these two projects on 26 September 2019.



Lab visit by the Monitoring Team at the Dept. of Aquaculture, BAU

INTERNATIONAL EVENT

I. 12th HOPE meeting, 9-13 March 2020 in Tokyo, Japan

Bangladesh Academy of Sciences, nominated 3 young scientists for participation in the 12th HOPE meeting to be held during 9-13 March 2020 in Tokyo, Japan.

Md. Mohasin Ph.D (UK)

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Md. Manzurul Hasan

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II. Nomination for the 70th Lindau Nobel Laureate Meeting, 28 June-03 July 2020, Germany

Bangladesh Academy of Sciences, nominated the following young scientists to participate in the 70th Lindau Nobel Laureate meeting to be held during 28 June-3 July 2020, Germany:

Mr. Sahadat Hossain

Field Research Supervisor
Maternal and Child Health Division
International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh (icddr,b)
Matlab Health Research Centre, Matlab, Chandpur
Bangladesh
Mobile: +88 01766-305105
Email: sahadathossain.phi.ju@gmail.com

Ms. Afifa Anjum

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Department of Public Health and Informatics
Session: 2017-18
Jahangirnagar University
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The successful participants of Lindau Nobel Laureates Meeting were instructed to submit reports about their experience in the meeting. Academy will arrange a special meeting where the participants will present their reports in person.

III. 19th Science Council of Asia (SCA) Conference, 3-5 December 2019 in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar

The 19th Science Council of Asia (SCA) Conference, to be held during 3-5 December 2019 in Nay Pyi Taw Myanmar invited the President, Bangladesh Academy of Sciences, Prof. Dr. Quazi Abdul Fattah to attend the conference or to nominate a representative to the conference. The President BAS nominated Prof. Dr. M Shamsher Ali, Past President, BAS submitted an abstract of a paper entitled "Inclusive lifelong learning for making sustainable development: a reality not merely a slogan" to be presented in the conference and it was accepted by the conference program committee and Professor Ali was also invited to Chair a session in the conference.

The Academy provided Professor Ali with actual travel cost to attend the 19th Science Council Asia (SCA) conference, 3-5 December 2019 in Myanmar. The local hospitalities were provided by the conference organizers.

UPCOMING EVENTS

I. Sub-regional Consultation: Strengthening National Academies of Science in least developed countries in support of the 2030 Agenda

The Director General, National Museum of Science and Technology (NMST) forwarded a letter to the Academy on 30 November 2019 regarding nomination for the sub-regional Consultation: **Strengthening National Academies of Science in least developed countries in support of the 2030 Agenda forwarded from the Ministry of Science and Technology.** The President, BAS nominated Prof. Dr. Mesbahuddin Ahmed, Immediate Past Secretary, BAS to the consultation meeting to be held during 3-4 February 2020 in Bangkok, Thailand. All costs for attending the meeting will be borne by ESCAP.

II. Nomination of Representative to the Science Education Committee of AASSA

Prof. Yoo Hang Kim, President, AASSA sent a letter to Prof. Dr. M Shamsher Ali, Past President of the Academy and informed him that AASSA has established the Science Education Committee.

The Executive Board also appointed Prof. Mooha Lee as the Chair since he is an ex-officio member of the IAP-SEP and asked him to coordinate the IAP's and AASSA's science education activities. Prof. Lee has been contacting the committee members to devise the Committee projects for the next year.

Bangladesh Academy of Sciences nominated Prof. Dr. Mesbahuddin Ahmed, Immediate Past Secretary, BAS to the Science Education Committee of AASSA.

III. Nomination of one expert in Climate Change and Health to IAP-AASSA to conduct a research project on "Climate Change and Health (CC&H) beginning early in 2020"

Prof. Yoo Hang Kim, President, AASSA, informed the President, BAS that IAP has launched a global project **"Climate Change and Health (CC&H)."** In the CC&H kickoff meeting held on 4-5 November 2019 at Halle, Germany, IAP asked its four affiliate networks (AASSA, EASAC, IANAS and NASAC) to begin the project immediately.

President, AASSA requested to nominate one expert on the topic who will represent the country and participate in this project for AASSA. The nominee will be asked to prepare a national report in accordance with a template which will be provided soon and present it at a workshop to be held early next year in Malaysia.

The Academy nominated Emeritus Prof. Dr. AK Azad Chowdhury, President, BAS to represent the country and participate in the project of AASSA.

IV. BAS-FSIBL Science Olympiad 2020

The 11th BAS-FSIBL Science Olympiad 2020 at Divisional Level will be held on Friday 10 January 2020 at 6 centers in the metropolitan Dhaka and 23 centers throughout the country.

The BAS-FSIBL National Science Olympiad 2020 will be held Friday 24 January 2020 at Curzon Hall Campus, University of Dhaka, Dhaka 1000. The Science Olympiad 2020 has been sponsored by the First Security Islami Bank Ltd (FSIBL).

Editorial Committee

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Prof. Dr. Liaquat Ali	Member
Prof. Dr. Mesbahuddin Ahmed	Member

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