



Bangladesh Academy of Sciences

NEWSLETTER

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In Memoriam: Emeritus Professor Dr. M. Shamsher Ali (1940–2025)

The Bangladesh Academy of Sciences (BAS) expresses its deep shock and profound sorrow at the passing of Emeritus Professor Dr. M. Shamsher Ali, a revered Fellow and former President of the Academy. Professor Ali, a distinguished scientist and academician, peacefully breathed his last on Sunday, 3 August 2025, at Labaid Cancer Hospital in Dhanmondi, Dhaka. (Inna Lillahi wa Inna Ilaihi Rajiun).



*Emeritus Professor Dr. M Shamsher Ali, FBAS, FTWAS
(1940-2025)*

Throughout his eminent career, he served with distinction as Former President and Fellow of the BAS, Former Director of the Atomic Energy Centre, Former Professor of the Department of Physics, University of Dhaka, Founding Vice Chancellor of Bangladesh Open University (BOU), Founding Vice Chancellor of Southeast University (SEU), Council Member of the World Academy of Sciences (TWAS), and Emeritus Professor of Bangladesh Open University.

In his sad demise, the world has lost a truly dedicated educator and a scientist of outstanding repute. The Fellows, Council, and staff of the BAS extend their heartfelt sympathy to the bereaved family of the deceased. We pray to Almighty Allah, the Most Gracious and the Most Merciful, to grant eternal peace to the departed soul of Professor Ali and to bestow strength and patience upon his family to bear this irreparable loss with fortitude.

NATIONAL EVENTS

BAS Academy Lecture Focuses on Gene Pyramiding and Nanoparticles for Rice Disease Resistance

The Bangladesh Academy of Sciences (BAS) successfully hosted a highly informative Academy Lecture on Monday, 5 May 2025, at the Seminar Room of the Administrative Building at Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University (SAU). The lecture, titled “*Pathotype Profiling, Pyramiding of Multiple Genes for Disease Resistance and Potential Use of Bio-Synthesized Nanoparticles in Rice Disease Management in Bangladesh*” was delivered by Dr. Md. Abdul Latif, Fellow of the Bangladesh Academy of Sciences (FBAS) and former Director of the Bangladesh Rice Research Institute (BRRI).



Dr. Md. Abdul Latif is presenting his lecture



Participants in the lecture

The session was organized by BAS to share cutting-edge scientific developments and was graced by several eminent personalities:

- ▶ Chief Guest: Professor Dr. Zahurul Karim, FBAS, Vice President of the BAS.
- ▶ Special Guest: Professor Dr. Md. Abdul Latif, Vice Chancellor of Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University (SAU).
- ▶ Presided Over by: Dr. M. Idris Ali, FBAS, Council Member of the BAS.
- ▶ Moderator: Professor Dr. Mirza Hasanuzzaman, FBAS.

Prof. Dr. Mirza Hasanuzzaman commenced the proceedings by formally introducing the speaker, providing a concise overview of Dr. Md. Abdul Latif's life, significant academic journey, and professional achievements. Dr. Latif's presentation detailed the promising strategies of gene pyramiding and the innovative application of bio-synthesized nanoparticles, both crucial areas for enhancing crop resilience and ensuring food security in Bangladesh.

The event attracted approximately 125 participants, including BAS Fellows, university faculty members, scientists, researchers, and students from various departments. The audience actively participated in the discussion, reflecting their strong appreciation for the lecture's relevance and depth.

BAS Lecture Explores FMDV Impacts on Veterinary Farming in Bangladesh: Past, Present, and Future

The Bangladesh Academy of Sciences (BAS) organized an insightful Academy Lecture on Wednesday, 28 May 2025, at the ASVM Seminar Gallery, Faculty of Animal Sciences & Veterinary Medicine, Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University (SAU), Dhaka.

The lecture, titled "*FMDV Impacts on Veterinary Farming in Bangladesh: Its Past, Present and Future*" was delivered by Professor Dr. Md. Anwar Hossain, FBAS, FTWAS. Dr. Hossain is a distinguished Professor in the Department of Microbiology at the University of Dhaka.

The presence of several eminent academicians and Fellows of the Academy marked the event:

- ▶ Chief Guest: Major General (Rtd.) Professor Dr. ASM Matiur Rahman, FBAS.
- ▶ Special Guest: Professor Dr. Md. Jahangir Alam, Dean, Faculty of Animal Sciences & Veterinary Medicine, SAU.
- ▶ Presiding Chair: Dr. Khan Shahidul Huque, FBAS.
- ▶ Moderator: Dr. Munirul Alam, FBAS.



Prof. Anwar Hossain is presenting his lecture



Presented participants

Dr. Munirul Alam initiated the program, providing a detailed introduction that highlighted Professor Hossain's significant professional achievements, academic background, and contributions to science.

Professor Hossain's presentation offered an authoritative and comprehensive analysis of the Foot-and-Mouth Disease Virus (FMDV), focusing on its historical context, current challenges in veterinary farming, and strategic future directions for mitigating the disease in Bangladesh.

The lecture was attended by approximately 170 participants, including BAS Fellows, faculty members, scientists, researchers, and students from various departments. The audience greatly appreciated the speaker's expertise, and the session concluded successfully, underscoring the Academy's commitment to advancing scientific discourse.

BAS Convenes to Honor the Legacy of Emeritus Professor Dr. M. Shamsheer Ali

The Bangladesh Academy of Sciences (BAS) convened a special remembrance meeting to pay tribute to the monumental legacy of Emeritus Professor Dr. M. Shamsheer Ali, a revered Fellow and former President of the Academy.

The gathering was held on Saturday, 30 August 2025, at 11:00 AM, in the Seminar Room of the Academy Office, located at the National Science and Technology Complex, Agargaon, Dhaka-1207.

The meeting brought together Fellows, Associate Fellows, and esteemed colleagues of the late Professor. Attendees shared heartfelt tributes to honor his memory and engaged in discussions highlighting his profound and significant contributions to science, education, and society, both at the national and international levels. The session served as a solemn recognition of his role as a legendary scientist and educationist.



Photo of the remembrance meeting to pay tribute to late Professor Dr. M. Shamsher Ali

Bangladesh Academy of Sciences Convenes Highly Successful Annual General Meeting (July 2024-June 2025)

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) for the fiscal year July 2024 – June 2025 of the Bangladesh Academy of Sciences (BAS) was successfully held on Saturday, 30 August 2025, at 2:30 PM. The meeting took place in the Seminar Room of the Academy Office, 3rd Floor, National Science and Technology Complex, Agargaon, Dhaka. The session was presided over by the President of BAS, Emeritus Professor Dr. A. K. Azad Chowdhury.

The AGM serves as the Academy's highest decision-making forum, gathering its membership to review past performance and strategize for the future. This year's meeting saw robust attendance, with approximately 79 Fellows, Expatriate Fellows, Foreign Fellows, and Associate Fellows present to contribute to the discussions.

The key agenda items and achievements of the 2024-2025 AGM included:

- **Review of Annual Activities and Achievements:** Presentation and discussion of the Academy's diverse activities and scientific achievements throughout the past fiscal year.
- **Approval of Financial Report:** Detailed presentation and formal adoption of the annual financial statement and budget utilization report.
- **Strategic Planning:** Deliberation and decision-making regarding next year's plan of activities, ensuring the Academy continues to meet its mandate of promoting science and technology in the nation.

A significant and ceremonial component of the meeting was the formal induction of new members. Six newly elected Fellows and six Associate Fellows were formally welcomed into the Academy in recognition of their outstanding contributions to science. Furthermore, the newly elected Council of the BAS for the 2025–2028 term was officially announced, and the members were warmly congratulated by the attendees. This transition ensures continuous, high-level leadership for the Academy's forthcoming endeavors. The highly comprehensive and productive meeting concluded with renewed enthusiasm for the Academy's future initiatives.



Welcome address by Emeritus Prof. Dr. AK Azad Chowdhury, President, BAS



A group photo of the BAS Fellows and Associate Fellows attending the AGM

Induction of newly elected Fellows for the year 2024 and signing the Charter Book of the Academy by the new Fellows



Inducted and elected Fellows of the BAS for the year 2024 (from left to right: Dr. Mustafizur Rahman, Prof. Dr. Md. Khaled Hossain, Prof. Dr. A.B.M. Badruzzaman, Prof. Dr. Md. Shahjahan, Prof. Dr. M. A. Rahim and Prof. Dr. Shafi Mohammad Tareq)

Distinguished elected and inducted Fellows of the BAS (FBAS) for the year 2024

Dr. Mustafizur Rahman

Senior Director
Infectious Diseases Division,
ICDDR,B, Mohakhali, Dhaka.

Prof. Dr. A.B.M. Badruzzaman

Vice Chancellor
Bangladesh University of Engineering
and Technology, Dhaka.

Prof. Dr. M. A. Rahim

Professor (Rtd.), Department of Horticulture
Bangladesh Agricultural University,
Mymensingh, and Professor, Department
of Agriculture of Daffodil University,
Dhaka

Prof. Dr. Shafi Mohammad Tareq

Department of Environmental Sciences
Jahangirnagar University, Savar, Dhaka.

Prof. Dr. Md. Shahjahan

Department of Fisheries Management
Bangladesh Agricultural University,
Mymensingh.

Prof. Dr. Md. Khaled Hossain

Department of Biochemistry and
Molecular Biology,
University of Rajshahi

Induction of newly elected Associate Fellows for the year 2024 and signing the Charter Book of the Academy by the new Fellows



Inducted and elected Fellows of the BAS for the year 2024 (from left to right: Dr. Md. Kamal Hossain, Prof. Dr. Sumon Saha, Prof. Dr. Abu Bin Imran, Dr. S M Yasir Arafat, Prof. Dr. Rokshana Parvin and Dr. Abdul Mannan)

Distinguished elected and inducted Associate Fellows of the BAS for the year 2024

Prof. Dr. Abu Bin Imran

Department of Chemistry
Bangladesh University of Engineering
and Technology, Dhaka-1000

Prof. Dr. Sumon Saha

Department of Mechanical Engineering,
Bangladesh University of Engineering
and Technology, Dhaka 1000

Dr. S M Yasir Arafat

Associate Consultant,
Department of Psychiatry
Bangladesh Specialized Hospital
1 Shyamoli, Mirpur Road, Dhaka-1207

Prof. Dr. Rokshana Parvin

Department of Pathology
Bangladesh Agricultural University
Mymensingh-2202

Dr. Abdul Mannan

Associate Professor, Department of Physics
Jahangirnagar University
Savar, Dhaka-1342

Dr. Md. Kamal Hossain

Bangladesh Council of Scientific and Industrial
Research (BCSIR)
Dr. Quadrat-E-Khuda Road, Dhaka 1205

Elected New BAS Council (July 2025-June 2028)



Vice-President

Prof. Dr. ZN Tahmida Begum



President

Prof. Dr. Zahurul Karim



Vice-President

Prof. Dr. Mohammad Abdur Rashid



Treasurer

Prof. Dr. Shariff Enamul Kabir



Secretary

Prof. Dr. Yearul Kabir



Associate Secretary

Prof. Dr. Md Tofazzal Islam



Member

Prof. Dr. Liaquat Ali



Member

Maj. Gen. Prof. Dr. ASM Matiur Rahman (Retired)



Member

Prof. Dr. Haseena Khan



Member

Prof. Dr. M. Jahiruddin



Member

Prof. Md. Abu Bin Hasan Susan



Member

Prof. Dr. Md. Anwar Hossain



Member

Prof. Dr. Md. Shahdat Hossain

INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

BAS President Represents AASSA at Key International Symposium in Islamabad



On August 19, 2025, Professor Dr. Abul Kalam Azad Chowdhury, the President of the Bangladesh Academy of Sciences, was featured in an exclusive interview on Radio Pakistan's PBC Planet FM 87.6. The interview was hosted by Dr. Aftab Ahmed and produced by Kamran Tariq.

Emeritus Professor Dr. A. K. Azad Chowdhury, President of the Bangladesh Academy of Sciences (BAS) and Member-at-Large of the Association of Academies and Societies of Sciences in Asia (AASSA), prominently participated in a major international event recently.

Professor Chowdhury travelled to Islamabad, Pakistan, to attend the AASSA-PAS Symposium on Radiation Strategies for Health and Environment, held from 18–20 August 2025.

During the symposium, Professor Chowdhury was warmly honored by the host institution, the Pakistan Academy of Sciences (PAS). Highlighting his esteemed position in the regional scientific community, he was invited to deliver a prestigious keynote address. Notably, his keynote presentation immediately preceded that of the representative from the Chinese Academy of Sciences, underscoring the respect accorded to the Bangladesh Academy of Sciences and AASSA.

Adding to his active participation, the Pakistan Academy of Sciences leveraged Professor Chowdhury's presence to organize a special interview. He was featured on Pakistan Radio, where the discussion centered on the vital topic of Science in South Asia from the joint perspectives of Bangladesh and Pakistan.

Readers can listen to the full audio of this insightful interview at the link below:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2_XFrwhRshY

BAS Contributor Highlights South Asian Challenges at 3rd AASSA WISE Symposium in Tokyo

The 3rd Annual AASSA WISE (Women in STEM) Symposium, held in collaboration with the Science Council of Japan (SCJ), took place at the Kavli Institute for the Physics and Mathematics of the Universe (IPMU) at the University of Tokyo from 4–6 August 2025. This high-profile international event served as a critical platform to enhance the visibility and engagement of women researchers across the Asia-Pacific region. The symposium saw widespread engagement, attracting 248 registered participants from 25 countries, including 75 attendees present onsite. The comprehensive program featured plenary talks, interactive sessions, and expert panel discussions led by distinguished international scientists. Key themes addressed included strategies for effective mentorship, institutional support, equitable career pathways, and sharing regional best practices. A key contribution from the South Asian region was delivered by Dr. Aliya Naheed, FBAS, Senior Scientist at icddr,b. Her presentation, titled "Challenges of Building a Research Career in Biomedical Sciences and the Way Forward: Women's Perspective of a Low- and Middle-Income Country in South Asia," offered vital insights. Dr. Naheed highlighted the systemic barriers specifically faced by women scientists in Bangladesh, such as (i) Limited funding opportunities; (ii) Persistent mentorship gaps; and (iii) Socio-cultural constraints within the research ecosystem. Crucially, she also shared practical and actionable insights on how regional networks, institutional policy reforms, and celebrating local success stories can be leveraged to foster a more inclusive and supportive research environment. The symposium, strongly supported by AASSA, the Science Council of Japan (SCJ), and the Kavli Institute, successfully reinforced its mandate to build long-term regional networks, share effective mentoring practices, and promote greater women's leadership across all STEM disciplines. Learn more about the presentations and outcomes on the official conference webpage:

<https://indico.ipmu.jp/event/469/>



A group photo of the 3rd Annual AASSA WISE SCJ Symposium

Editorial Committee

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