



Bangladesh Academy of Sciences

NEWSLETTER

Vol. 16, No. 1, January-April 2026

Pioneering the Future: The 6th Young Scientist Congress on Artificial Intelligence

The Bangladesh Academy of Sciences (BAS) successfully hosted the 6th Young Scientist Congress on Artificial Intelligence from April 4–5, 2026, at the National Science & Technology Complex in Agargaon, Dhaka. Bringing together nearly 300 delegates from academia, industry, government, and the private sector, the congress served as a premier multidisciplinary platform to explore the transformative potential, strategic implementation, and ethical governance of Artificial Intelligence in Bangladesh. The inaugural ceremony on April 4 was chaired by Prof. Dr. ZN Tahmida Begum, Vice-President of BAS, with Mr. Fakir Mahbub Anam, MP, Honorable Minister for Science and Technology, gracing the occasion as Chief Guest. Special Guests included Prof. Dr. Mamun Ahmed, Chairman of the University Grants Commission of Bangladesh, and Mr. Md. Anwar Hossain, Secretary of the Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST). The event commenced with welcome remarks from Maj. Gen. (Retd.) Prof. Dr. ASM Matiur Rahman, Chairperson of the Organizing Committee, followed by an overview of BAS activities by Secretary Prof. Dr. Yearul Kabir and a vote of thanks by Organizing Secretary Prof. Dr. Liaquat Ali.



Participants of the 6th Young Scientist Congress



Address by the Chief Guest Mr. Fakir Mahbub Anam, MP, Minister, Ministry of Science and Technology of Bangladesh

Throughout the opening addresses, leadership and policy leaders stressed the urgent need to prioritize science and technology as drivers of national prosperity. Discussions highlighted the targeted deployment of AI across critical sectors, alongside the necessity of robust regulatory frameworks to address data privacy, security, and rational usage. Speakers emphasized embedding AI into science education and research, balancing quantitative growth with rigorous qualitative development. Reaffirming the Government's pro-science agenda, Chief Guest Mr. Fakir Mahbub Anam assured wholehearted support for BAS-led initiatives, while Session Chair Prof. Dr. ZN Tahmida Begum urged young researchers to leverage AI-driven innovation to solve pressing national challenges.



Address by the Special Guest, Prof. Dr. Mamun Ahmed, Chairman, The University Grants Commission of Bangladesh



Address by the Special Guest, Mr. Md. Anwar Hossain, Secretary, Ministry of Science and Technology of Bangladesh



Address by the Chair, Prof. Dr. ZN Tahmida Begum, Senior Vice-President, Bangladesh Academy of Sciences



Address by Prof. Dr. Yearul Kabir, Secretary of the BAS



Chief Guest Mr. Fakir Mahbub Anam, MP, Honorable Minister for Science and Technology, and Special Guest Mr. Md. Anwar Hossain, Secretary, Ministry of Science and Technology, pictured with Fellows of the Bangladesh Academy of Sciences

Setting a visionary tone for the technical deliberations, Dr. Ehsan Hoque, Professor of Computer Science at the University of Rochester, USA, delivered the Keynote Theme Lecture titled “Showing Up: An Unconventional Path Through AI and Why Discipline Beats Talent.” Chaired by Prof. Dr. ZN Tahmida Begum, the session focused on a crucial premise: the global future of AI will be defined not merely by massive foundation models, but by adaptive systems engineered to function in resource-constrained, real-world environments. Prof. Hoque highlighted that Bangladesh is uniquely positioned to build its own tailored AI solutions, emphasizing that the primary bottleneck facing the country is not a lack of talent, data, or compute power, but effective national coordination.



Theme Lecture delivered by Professor Dr. Ehsan Haque



Plenary Talk by Professor Dr. Mohammad Ali Moni

The two-day scientific program featured three comprehensive plenary lectures that set the academic tone. Prof. Hasan Sarwar (United International University) examined “Human Intelligence vs. Artificial Intelligence” (chaired by BAS Fellow Prof. Dr. M Feroze Ahmed); Prof. Dr. Tanzima Hashem (BUET) addressed “Translational Artificial Intelligence: From Research to Societal Impact” (chaired by BAS Fellow Prof. Dr. Abu Borhan Mohammad Badruzzaman); and Prof. Dr. Mohammad Ali Moni (Charles Sturt University, Australia & WUST, USA) presented “AI for One Health: Building a Smart and Sustainable Ecosystem in Bangladesh” (chaired by BAS Fellow Prof. Dr. Haseena Khan). Across four parallel technical tracks—covering Biological & Agricultural Sciences; Physical, Chemical, Natural Resource & Environmental Sciences; Mathematical, Engineering & Computer Sciences; and Health, Nutrition & Pharmaceutical Sciences—delegates presented 16 invited lectures and 88 oral papers. In tandem, 144 research posters were displayed in dedicated poster sessions, fostering vibrant interdisciplinary dialogue among researchers.

Reinforcing academic integrity within the national ecosystem, Day 2 featured a specialized BanglaJOL Symposium titled “Publication Ethics: Bangladesh Situation.” Co-chaired by BAS Fellows Prof. Dr. Mesbahuddin Ahmed and Prof. Dr. Md. Atiar Rahman, the symposium featured expert presentations by Prof. Dr. Mirza Hasanuzzaman (Fellow, BAS), Prof. Dr. Md. Shahidul Islam Shaheen (Khawaja Yunus Ali Medical College & Hospital), and Dr. Md. Ashif Iqbal (Sapporo Dental College). The speakers examined critical aspects of scientific rigor, peer-review standards, and ethical publishing practices vital for sustaining high-impact research output in Bangladesh.

The congress culminated on April 5 with a high-level Concluding Session chaired by Prof. Dr. Shariff Enamul Kabir, Treasurer of BAS, featuring Ministry Secretary Mr. Md. Anwar Hossain as Chief Guest and Ms. Munira Sultana, NDC, Director General of the National Museum of Science and Technology, as Special Guest. Following remarks by committee leadership and an interactive open discussion moderated by Prof. Dr. Liaquat Ali, outstanding research contributions were recognized during the Best Oral and Poster Presentation Awards ceremony. Crucially, Chief Guest Mr. Md. Anwar Hossain outlined ongoing government measures to establish a coordinated National AI Strategy and Action Plan, formally inviting BAS and the scientific community to guide its execution. He highlighted that prominent expatriate scientists—including Keynote Speaker Prof. Dr. Ehsan Hoque and Plenary Speaker Prof. Dr. Mohammad Ali Moni—have pledged their active collaboration to support the Ministry and BAS in driving Bangladesh’s artificial intelligence roadmap forward.



Address by the Special Guest in the Concluding Session, Ms Munira Sultana, NDC, Director General, National Museum of Science and Technology, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh



Address by the Chief Guest in the Concluding Session, Mr. Md. Anwar Hossain, Secretary, Ministry of Science & Technology, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh



Winner receiving poster award from Mr. Md. Anwar Hossain



*Chair of Concluding Session Prof. Dr. Shariff Enamul Kabir
Treasurer, Bangladesh Academy of Science*

NATIONAL EVENTS

Nurturing the Future of Science: Highlights from the 15th BAS National Science Olympiad

The Bangladesh Academy of Sciences (BAS) marked another milestone in its commitment to scientific excellence with the successful hosting of the 15th National Science Olympiad 2026, conducted at both divisional and national levels.

The divisional phase commenced on Saturday, January 3, 2026, across 29 centers nationwide—including five in metropolitan Dhaka. Over 4,000 enthusiastic science students from secondary schools (Classes IX–X) and colleges (Classes XI–XII) participated in the competition.

The national phase took place on Saturday, January 17, 2026, at the historic Curzon Hall premises of the University of Dhaka. The grand event opened at 9:00 AM with the National Anthem and the ceremonial hoisting of the National and BAS flags, followed by the celebratory release of pigeons, balloons, and festoons by BAS Fellows and distinguished guests.



Address by Prof. Dr. Mohammad Kaykobad, Convener of the 15th Science Olympiad



Address by Prof. Dr. Yearul Kabir, Secretary, BAS

The inaugural session featured inspiring addresses by Prof. Dr. Mohammad Kaykobad (Convener, 15th Science Olympiad), Prof. Dr. Yearul Kabir (Secretary, BAS), Prof. Dr. Md. Abu Bin Hasan Susan (Fellow, BAS), Prof. Dr. Mohammed Almujaaddade Alfasane (Associate Fellow, BAS), and Dr. M. A. Mazed (former Director, BAS). In their remarks, the speakers urged students to dedicate themselves to scientific learning as a vital driver for national development and the vision of a Smart Bangladesh.



The BAS Fellows, renowned scientists, invigilators in the dais

The 90-minute examination commenced at 10:00 AM. Following the exam, answer scripts were evaluated by invigilators under the supervision of Prof. Dr. Mohammed Almujaaddade Alfasane, Associate Fellow, BAS.



Address by the Olympiad Speaker, Prof. Dr. Muhammad Ibrahim, former Professor of Physics, University of Dhaka

Following the examination, an interactive open discussion and Q&A session was held, featuring a seven-member panel of renowned scientists across various disciplines. The panel comprised Prof. Dr. Muhammad Ibrahim (former Professor of Physics, University of Dhaka), event convener Prof. Dr. Mohammad Kaykobad, and BAS Fellows Prof. Dr. M. Tofazzal Islam, Prof. Dr. Md. Abdul Alim, Prof. Dr. Md. Abu Bin Hasan Susan, Prof. Dr. A. K. M. Akther Hossain, and Prof. Dr. Hasan Mahmud Reza. Students engaged the panelists with an array of thought-provoking questions, creating a vibrant, interactive, and intellectually stimulating exchange.



Address by the Chief Patron Prof. Dr. Niaz Ahmed Khan, Vice-Chancellor, University of Dhaka



Address by Prof. Dr. Mohammad Kaykobad, Convener of the 15th BAS Science Olympiad

The Prize Distribution Ceremony commenced at 3:00 PM under the chairmanship of BAS Vice-President Prof. Dr. Z. N. Tahmida Begum. Mr. Md. Anwar Hossain, Secretary, Ministry of Science and Technology, graced the occasion as Chief Guest, while Prof. Dr. Niaz Ahmed Khan, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Dhaka, attended as Chief Patron.



Participants in the Curzon Hall, DU



Address by the Chief Guest, Mr. Md. Anwar Hossain, Secretary, Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Olympiad Convener Prof. Dr. Mohammad Kaykobad delivered the welcome address, while BAS Secretary Prof. Dr. Yearul Kabir presented the vote of thanks. Following the announcement of winners by BAS Fellow Prof. Dr. Md. Abu Bin Hasan Susan, the Chief Guest, Chief Patron, and BAS Fellows distributed cash prizes, medals, certificates, and science books to the top performers in both the school and college categories.



Address by the Chair, Prof. Dr. Z. N. Tahmida Begum, Vice President, BAS



Award receiving from the Maj. Gen. Prof. Dr. ASM Matiur Rahman, Fellow, BAS



Award received from the Chief Guest Mr. Md. Anwar Hossain, Secretary, Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Approximately 400 students competed in the national-level Olympiad, with every student receiving a certificate of participation. The grand success of the event was made possible through the dedicated efforts of BAS leadership, Fellows, Associate Fellows, script evaluators, staff, and volunteers.



Proud faces of the awardees with Chief Guest Mr. Md. Anwar Hossain, Secretary, Ministry of Science and Technology; Prof. Dr. ZN Tahmida Begum, Chair & Vice President, BAS; Maj. Gen. Prof. Dr. ASM Matiur Rahman, Fellow, BAS; Prof. Dr. Mohammad Kaykobad, Convener of the Olympiad; Prof. Dr. Yearul Kabir, Secretary, BAS; Prof. Dr. Md. Abu Bin Hasan Susan, Fellow, BAS and Dr. Md. Sirajul Islam, Fellow, BAS



Proud faces of the awardees with Chief Guest Mr. Md. Anwar Hossain, Secretary, Ministry of Science and Technology; Prof. Dr. ZN Tahmida Begum, Chair & Vice President, BAS; Maj. Gen. Prof. Dr. ASM Matiur Rahman, Fellow, BAS; Prof. Dr. Mohammad Kaykobad, Convener of the Olympiad; Prof. Dr. Yearul Kabir, Secretary, BAS; Prof. Dr. Md. Abu Bin Hasan Susan, Fellow, BAS and Dr. Md. Sirajul Islam, Fellow, BAS

Marking the successful conclusion of the Olympiad, the program officially closed with a vote of thanks delivered by BAS Secretary Prof. Dr. Yearul Kabir.

Academy Lecture: Impact of Climate Change on Aquaculture and Fisheries in Bangladesh by Prof. Dr. Gulshan Ara Latifa, FBAS

Bangladesh Academy of Sciences (BAS) organized an Academy Lecture on “Impact of Climate Change on Aquaculture and Fisheries in Bangladesh” on 28 January 2026 at the Professor Dr. Mahmud-ul Amin Auditorium, Department of Zoology, University of Dhaka. Prof. Dr. Gulshan Ara Latifa, Fellow of BAS, Member of Bangladesh Accreditation Council and former Professor of the Department of Zoology, University of Dhaka was the speaker.



Prof. Dr. Gulshan Ara Latifa delivering her Academy lecture on the Impact of Climate Change on Aquaculture and Fisheries in Bangladesh



Address by Prof. Dr. Yearul Kabir, Secretary, BAS



Address by Chair, Prof. Dr. Shefali Begum, Chairperson, Department of Zoology, DU

Prof. Dr. ZN Tahmida Begum, Vice President of Bangladesh Academy of Sciences was present at the Lecture as the Chief Guest. Prof. Dr. Shefali Begum, Chairperson, Department of Zoology, University of Dhaka presided over the occasion. Prof. Dr. Yearul Kabir, Secretary of BAS, moderated the lecture.



Address by the Chief Guest, Prof. Dr. ZN Tahmida Begum, Vice President of Bangladesh Academy of Sciences

BAS President Prof. Dr. Zahurul Karim Honored with Independence Award 2026 of Bangladesh

The Bangladesh Academy of Sciences (BAS) extends its warmest congratulations to its President, Prof. Dr. Zahurul Karim, on being conferred with the Independence Award 2026, the nation's highest civilian honor. A distinguished scientist, educator, and administrator, Prof. Karim's lifelong commitment to agricultural research, capacity building, and public service has made an indelible contribution to the advancement of Bangladesh.



Professor Dr. Zahurul Karim

Prof. Dr. Zahurul Karim earned his Bachelor of Science in Agriculture and Master of Science in Agronomy from Bangladesh Agricultural University with top honors, securing first position in both examinations. He subsequently completed his PhD at the University of Reading, United Kingdom. Throughout his illustrious career, he has served as an educator, scientist, research leader, and policymaker, distinguished by exceptional commitment and professional integrity.

Prof. Karim made transformative contributions to national agricultural research and development through leadership positions at the Bangladesh Rice Research Institute (BRRI), the Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute (BARI), and the Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (BARC). His pioneering efforts in crop management, research coordination, and technology transfer significantly strengthened Bangladesh's food security, agricultural productivity, and scientific infrastructure.

Demonstrating distinguished public service, Prof. Karim served the Government of Bangladesh as Secretary to the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock. In this role, he played a pivotal part in policy formulation and institutional capacity development for the sustainable growth of the agriculture and livestock sectors.

As a Fellow and President of the Bangladesh Academy of Sciences (BAS), Prof. Karim enjoys widespread national and international acclaim. His lifelong dedication to scientific excellence, research training, and national development continues to inspire generations of researchers, scholars, and public servants.

In recognition of his glorious and outstanding contributions to Science and Technology, the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh has conferred upon Prof. Dr. Zahurul Karim the Independence Award 2026, the nation's highest civilian honor.

Independence Award 2026 Conferred on BAS Fellow Prof. Dr. M. A. Rahim

The Bangladesh Academy of Sciences (BAS) extends its warmest congratulations to eminent Fellow Prof. Dr. M. Abdur Rahim on being conferred with the Independence Award 2026—the nation’s highest civilian honor. A distinguished agricultural scientist, scholar, and educator, Prof. Rahim’s lifelong dedication to horticultural science and higher education has made transformative contributions to Bangladesh’s agricultural development.



Professor Dr. M. Abdur Rahim

Prof. Rahim earned his Bachelor of Science in Agriculture and Master of Science degrees with distinction from Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU), subsequently completing his doctorate in Horticulture through advanced studies abroad. Over an illustrious career, he has devoted himself to teaching, scientific innovation, and academic leadership with exceptional dedication and distinction.

Throughout his tenure at BAU across key academic and administrative roles, Prof. Rahim earned widespread acclaim for his pioneering work in horticultural research, crop improvement, agricultural extension, and postgraduate mentorship. His groundbreaking research on fruits, vegetables, spices, and advanced horticultural technologies has directly boosted agricultural productivity, strengthened national nutritional security, and uplifted rural livelihoods.

As an esteemed Fellow of the Bangladesh Academy of Sciences, Prof. Rahim has played a vital role in advancing scientific research and shaping evidence-based policy. His extensive body of scholarly work and dedicated research supervision continue to inspire generations of scientists, academicians, and agricultural professionals.

In recognition of his glorious and outstanding contributions to Science and Technology, the Government of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh has conferred upon Prof. Dr. M. Abdur Rahim the Independence Award 2026, the highest state honor of Bangladesh.

BAS Secretary Prof. Dr. Yearul Kabir Appointed Vice-Chancellor of JUST

The Bangladesh Academy of Sciences (BAS) extends its warmest congratulations to its Secretary, Prof. Dr. Yearul Kabir, on his appointment as the Vice-Chancellor of Jashore University of Science and Technology (JUST).



Professor Dr. Yearul Kabir

A distinguished scientist and scholar, Prof. Dr. Yearul Kabir currently serves as Secretary of the BAS Council. He has made transformative contributions to higher education, nutritional science, and scientific leadership across Bangladesh. His unwavering commitment to academic excellence, institutional governance, and research innovation has earned him widespread national and international acclaim.

The Academy is confident that under his visionary leadership, Jashore University of Science and Technology (JUST) will achieve greater distinction in scientific education, research, and global collaboration.

On behalf of the Fellows, Council members, and Secretariat staff, the Bangladesh Academy of Sciences wishes Prof. Dr. Yearul Kabir every success, good health, and continued fulfillment in his new role as Vice-Chancellor.

Editorial Committee

Prof. Dr. M. Tofazzal Islam, FBAS	Editor
Prof. Dr. Mirza Hasanuzzaman, FBAS	Member
Dr. Aliya Naheed, FBAS	Member
Prof. Dr. AKM Akther Hossain, FBAS	Member

BANGLADESH ACADEMY OF SCIENCES
National Science & Technology Complex

Agargaon, Dhaka-1207, Bangladesh

Phone: +8802 41025084, +8802 41025086,

E-mail: office@bas.org.bd,

Website: www.bas.org.bd

Style & Design: **BCS Printing**

Cell: 01710-880728