



DR. MOHAMMAD ALI REZA KHAN
WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

DR. MOHAMMAD ALI REZA KHAN, an eminent wildlife conservationist, spends most of his time spreading awareness about the importance of protecting the biodiversity of the world. Born on January 1, 1947 in Manikganj, Dr. Khan completed his HSC from Manikganj Debendranath College. In 1965, he began his tryst with nature and animals during a trip with his teacher and mentor, Kali Narayan. During his stint at Notre Dame College, he went on several nature excursions with his teacher, Dwijen Sarma. This only served to intensify his love for nature. He completed his PhD in Ornithology from Bombay University in 1977 under the supervision of one of the most eminent ornithologists of the subcontinent, the 'Birdman' of India, Salim Ali.

In 1983, he moved to the UAE to take on the role of the curator of the Al-Ain Zoo and Aquarium. He became Head of Dubai Zoo in 1989 and then went on to become a Specialist in Wildlife and Zoo Management in 2010. The Government of Dubai has so far published four of his books including, *Indigenous Trees of the UAE*, and *Birds of Dubai – A Pictorial Guide*.

As recognition of his outstanding contribution to wildlife conservation, he was awarded the Sheikh Mubarak Award for Wildlife Conservation in 2001. He also received the National Bangabandhu Award in 2010 for his contributions towards the conservation of wildlife in Bangladesh. A former member of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Species Survival Commission and World Commission on Park and Protected Area, Dr. Reza Khan is currently serving as specialist on Wildlife & Zoo Management (Public Parks & Horticulture Department) in Dubai.

One of his most significant

contributions to wildlife conservation efforts is *Wildlife of Bangladesh – Checklist and Guide*, the first book on wildlife in Bangladesh that not only provides Bangla, English and zoological names, distribution and status of animals, but is also a field guidebook on almost all of the 1,082 species of wildlife in the country. The book contains a few lines of descriptions of 64 out of 66 amphibians, 174 out of 180 reptiles, 711 out of 730 bird species, and 133 out of 140 mammals that live or are likely to live in the present territory of Bangladesh. The book, complete with accompanying pictures, also identified three new species of birds and animals existing in Bangladesh, including the crab-eating frog and the *Choto Daini Badur*.

Dr. Khan has over 24 books, 50 publications, memberships and recognitions under his cap. He also taught at Rajshahi University for a short time, and during his tenure there, he collected a large number of specimens for the university's museum. He also unveiled the Kudum Cave located in Teknaf to the public. His research on the biodiversity of Saint Martin's enabled the inclusion of six new species of fish, and one new species of crabs in the list of the country's wildlife.

An inspiration to every young man and woman of the country, Dr. Reza Khan continues to work tirelessly to protect the nature that he is always surrounded by and the wildlife that he takes to be a part of his own existence.



MOHIUDDIN AHMED
PUBLISHING

MOHIUDDIN AHMED is an internationally recognised expert in publishing management. He has become a force that has challenged and changed book publishing in Bangladesh in deep and lasting ways. It is thus only fitting that Bangladesh Academic and Creative Publishers' Association awarded him the title of emeritus publisher in 2014.

Born in Parshuram, Feni, in 1944, the son of a high ranking officer in the British Indian Postal Service, the ardent publisher started taking an interest in publishing and editing from his student days at the Notre Dame College where he was the managing editor of *Blue and Gold*, the college magazine. Later, while studying journalism at the University of Punjab under the Pakistan Council Scholarship, he edited the *Punjab University Chronicle*. He was also a student leader.

Upon finishing his MA, he joined the department of journalism as an assistant professor teaching Mass Communication and Public Relations. But his true calling was in publishing. Thus, in 1969 when the Oxford University Press (OUP), Pakistan Branch offered him the editorial position, he gladly accepted it. After independence, following a two year stint as the chief executive of OUP, Dhaka Branch, he established the University Press Limited in 1975.

Under his leadership, UPL has won the National Book Centre award 16 times since 1981; he won a gold medal in 1991. He was also one of seventeen publishers from around the globe to be invited by the Norwegian Prime Minister in recognition of his work on environmental issues. In May 1988, he was conferred a Cultural Doctorate in Publishing Management by the World University's international secretariat at Benson, Arizona.

He published books written not only by Bangladeshi authors but also by

well-known academics and scholars from other countries, among them Eirik G Jansen, Beth Roy, Betsy Hartmann, Clarence Maloney, Thérèse Blanchet, Kirsten Westergaard, Mary Francis Durham, Rob Gallagher, Ellen Bal and Yasuhiro Takami. He exported books published here to the UK, putting the one-way trade of books between the two countries into reverse. Today, UPL exports a significant share of the total national export of books from Bangladesh, catering to academic destinations around the world.

In the early 1990s, upon realising the need for recording an objective history of the country, he initiated a series of publications called the *Road to Bangladesh*, a collection of books that presents a well-rounded narrative of events of 1971. The series is a gem to students and scholars interested in South Asian affairs. In 1998, he spearheaded the effort to collect interviews of 28 Pakistani military high officials and scholars who had direct or indirect link with the 1971 war. The interviews were later edited in a volume called *Pakistanider Drishtite 1971*, jointly edited by himself and Muntassir Mamun. A number of books published by him were used as evidence by the International Crimes Tribunal (ICT).

In 2012, Ahmed published Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's *Oshomapto Atmajibani* ((The Unfinished Memoirs)), and also arranged for the book to be simultaneously published in Bangladesh, India and Pakistan in English language. The book was published upon adequate and world-standard verification of the originality of the manuscript.

He has been an active campaigner against any form of copyright infringement that takes place anywhere in the creative industry.