



PROF. RAFIQUUL ISLAM

NAZRUL STUDIES

PROF. RAFIQUUL ISLAM is an eminent educationist, scholar, author and cultural activist of Bangladesh. Besides being a retired professor of Dhaka University, he is also the retired Vice-Chancellor of the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB).

Professor Rafiqul Islam was born on January 1, 1934. His ancestral home is in the district of Chandpur. He completed his Secondary School education from Dhaka. His Higher Secondary education was in Dhaka Govt. College. He completed his MA in Bangla Language and Literature from Dhaka University in 1956. Soon after, Islam joined the University of Dhaka as a research scholar-cum-lecturer.

Professor Rafiqul Islam received a Fulbright Scholarship and proceeded to the United States to study linguistics in 1959. After attending the Summer School at Yale University, he went to Cornell University. There, he studied General Linguistics and Cultural Anthropology, and obtained a Masters degree in 1960. He joined the department of Bangla in the University of Dhaka as an Assistant Professor in 1961.

In 1963 he was back in the United States and joined the MS Peace Corps as a Linguistics consultant for Bangla Language Programmes in Vermont and the University of Minnesota. During this period, he prepared a manual of 'Eastern Bengali Dialect' for the Peace Corps volunteers coming to the then East Pakistan. This manual was published by the University of Minnesota as a monograph.

While teaching in Dhaka University, he devoted himself to researching the life and works of Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam which earned him a PhD degree in 1977. Prof. Rafiqul Islam has become an authority on Kazi Nazrul Islam and a leading Bengali linguist. After the emergence of Bangladesh,

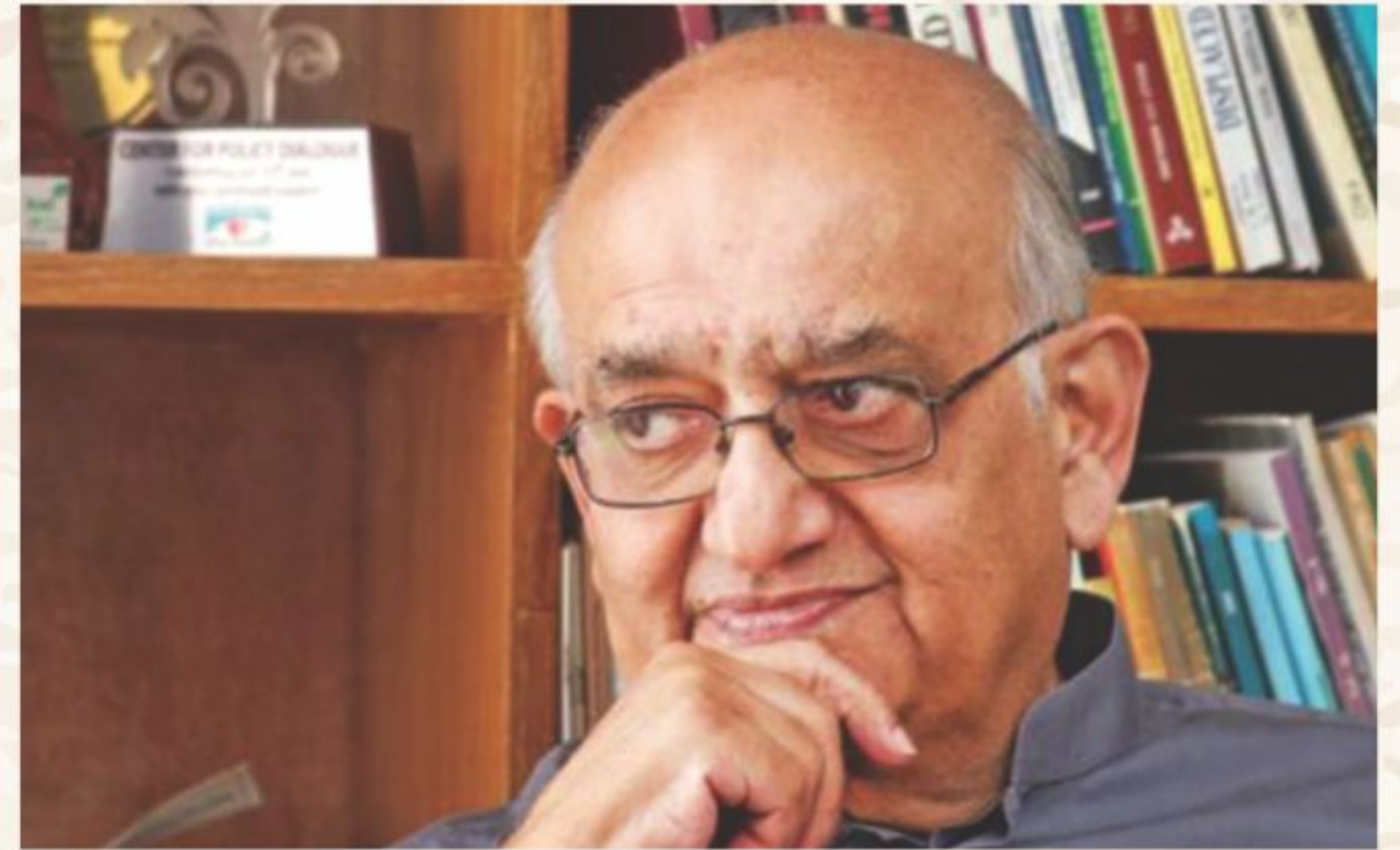


He is a prolific writer and has written more than thirty books on the language, literature, history and culture of Bangladesh.

Prof. Rafiqul Islam participated in three summer schools on Linguistics, one held in the Central Institute of Indian languages in Mysore and two in USA, at the East West Centre, Hawaii and at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. He also participated in two North American Nazrul conferences held in Boston and Florida. He led the cultural delegation from Bangladesh to London and Paris on the occasion of Poet Rabindranath Tagore's 125th Birth Anniversary and Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam's birth centenary.

At present, Professor Islam is serving as an Emeritus Professor and Adviser of the Center for Bangla of ULAB. He is also the chairman of the Nazrul Institute. He is a prolific writer and has written more than 30 books on the language, literature, history and culture of Bangladesh.

In recognition of his contribution towards the development of Bangladesh he has been awarded the Nazrul Institute prize, Bangla Academy Literary prize, Ekushey Padak, and Shadhinota Puroshkar by the government of the Peoples' Republic of Bangladesh.



PROF. REHMAN SOBHAN

ECONOMICS

PROF. REHMAN SOBHAN is a Bangladeshi economist born in Calcutta on March 12, 1935. He played an active role in the Bengali nationalist movement in the 1960s and was also a freedom fighter during 1971. He was a member of the first Planning Commission in Bangladesh and a close associate of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. Presently, Prof. Sobhan heads the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), a non-governmental research organisation in Bangladesh.

Prof. Sobhan was educated at St. Paul's School, Darjeeling, Aitchison College, Lahore and Cambridge University where he was awarded an MA in Economics. He began his working career at the faculty of Economics, Dhaka University in 1957 and retired as Professor of Economics in 1977. He served as Member, Bangladesh Planning Commission, in-charge of the Divisions of Industry, Power and Natural Resources; Chairman of Physical Infrastructure; Research Director, Director General and Emeritus Fellow, Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies; and as a Visiting Fellow, Queen Elizabeth House, Oxford. He was a Member of the Advisory Council of the President of Bangladesh in 1991, in-charge of the Ministry of Planning and the Economic Relations Division. He is the founder and Executive Chairman of Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD). He has been the Executive Director, South Asia Centre for Policy Studies (SACEPS); a visiting scholar, Initiative for Policy Dialogue, Columbia University; and a Senior Research Fellow at the Ash Institute for Democratic Governance, Harvard University.

Professor Sobhan has held a number of important professional positions. He was a member of the Panel of Economists to review the Third and Fourth Five Year Plans of Pakistan; Editor, *Pakistan Economic Journal* and

Editor, *Forum*, a monthly magazine of *The Daily Star*. He served the independent Government of Bangladesh as Envoy Extraordinary with special responsibility for Economic Affairs, during the Liberation War in 1971. He was President, Bangladesh Economic Association; Member, Bangladesh National Commission on Money, Banking and Finance; Member, U.N. Committee for Development Planning; Member, Governing Council of the U.N. University, Tokyo; Member of the Commission for a New Asia, Kuala Lumpur; Member of the Board of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development, Geneva; Member of the Executive Committee of the International Economic Association; Member of the Group of Eminent Persons appointed by the Saarc Heads of State to review the future of Saarc; Chairman, South Asia Centre for Policy Studies; Chairman of the Board of Grameen Bank; Member of the BIDS Board of Trustees; and Member of the International Advisory Committee of the Ash Institute, Harvard University. He is currently a member of the Board of Trustees of the Freedom Foundation, Bangladesh, Chairman of the Pratiche Trust (Bangladesh) set up by Nobel Laureate Amartya Sen and Board Member of SACEPS, Kathmandu.

He has published 27 books, 15 research monographs and 140 articles in professional journals. His principal publications include: *Basic Democracies, Works Programme and Rural Development in East Pakistan, Public Enterprise in an Intermediate Regime, The Crisis of External Dependence: The Political Economy of Foreign Aid to Bangladesh, Debt Default and the Crisis of State Sponsored entrepreneurship in Bangladesh, Planning and Public Action for Asian Women, Rethinking the Role of the State in Development: Asian Perspectives*, and *Bangladesh: Problems of Governance*.