



AIBS

American Institute of Bangladesh Studies

3rd Quarterly Activity Report (January-March 2022)

Bangladesh Office

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AIBS at a Glance

The American Institute of Bangladesh Studies (AIBS) is a consortium of institutions of higher learning in the United States aimed at promoting scholarly understanding between Bangladesh and the United States. This is the only umbrella organization in the United States that brings together universities working on and about Bangladesh. Currently, 25 universities are members of the AIBS, including the University of Chicago, Cornell University, University of Texas at Austin, Johns Hopkins University, Columbia University, and University of California-Berkeley. AIBS has also signed Memorandums of Understanding for cooperation with 25 Bangladeshi leading universities, including Dhaka University, Jahangirnagar University, Rajshahi University, Jagannath University, Bangladesh Agricultural University, BRAC, IUB, Chittagong University, ULAB, and NSU. AIBS is a member of the Council of American Overseas Research Centers (CAORC). CAORC is a private not-for-profit federation of 22 independent overseas research centers that promote advanced research, particularly in the humanities and social sciences, with a focus on the conservation and recording of cultural heritage and the understanding and interpretation of modern societies. CAORC fosters research projects across national boundaries, encourages collaborative research and programmatic and administrative coherence among member centers, and works to expand their resource base and service capacity.

1. Renewal of MOUs between AIBS and Bangladeshi Universities

AIBS promotes collaboration between Bangladeshi and U.S. universities in order to facilitate intellectual capabilities through academic exchange, research fellowships, and knowledge and cultural interchanges between Bangladesh and USA. To gain this mutual understanding and cooperation, AIBS signed memorandum of understandings with 25 Bangladeshi universities both public and private. The duration of the MOUs is generally for five years. AIBS renewed the MoUs with several of these universities between January-March 2022. Currently, AIBS has 25 member universities in the U.S. and 25 partner universities in Bangladesh.

2. Fellowship Programs (2021-2022) for Bangladeshi Citizens

AIBS announced and administered calls for fellowship for Bangladeshi scholars and graduate students. AIBS created three distinct categories of fellowships:

- Professional Development Fellowships for Bangladeshi academics in Bangladesh
- Graduate Student Fellowships for Bangladeshi graduate students studying in a U.S. university
- Travel Grants for Bangladeshi academics to attend conferences and seminars in the U.S.

4 professional development fellowships and 7 graduate student fellowships have been offered through a rigorous competitive process by the AIBS fellowship committee chaired by Professor Jason Cons, University of Texas at Austin. Details about these fellowships are provided below.

2.1 AIBS Professional Development Fellowships for Bangladeshi scholars to the U.S.

AIBS prioritizes to create professional development opportunities for Bangladesh young academics in the US universities. AIBS has currently reviewed the applications and finally selected the 4 applicants for the 2021-2022. Fellows are selected through high competitive and rigorous process and only high standard proposals are funded. Under this fellowship program, several scholars of Bangladesh will conduct research on the burning issues of Bangladesh in collaboration with the member institutions in the U.S and finally publish an article in the peer reviewed journals in USA.

As visiting fellows, selected Bangladeshi scholars will work with U.S. faculty members at their host universities to develop research agenda, utilize library facilities, and receive hands on training on academic writing and publication.

2.1.1 List of the recipients AIBS Professional Development Fellowships for Bangladeshi scholars to the U.S for 2021-2022

1. Kajalie Shehreen Islam,
Associate Professor
Department of Mass Communication and Journalism

University of Dhaka

2. Md. Rabiul Islam,
Professor
Institute of Social Welfare & Research
University of Dhaka

3. Farjana Islam Aovi
Assistant Professor
Department of Pharmacy
Faculty of Allied Health Sciences
Daffodil International University

4. Tanjil Sowgat
Professor
Urban and Rural Planning Discipline
Khulna University

2.2 AIBS Bangladeshi Graduate Student Fellowship

These fellowships program has been offered to Bangladeshi graduate students studying in the U.S. universities for conducting their research and outreach activities in Bangladesh.

The American Institute of Bangladesh Studies is pleased to announce research fellowships for Bangladeshi graduate students studying in the U.S. The fellowships are intended to help PhD and Masters students meet expenses related to scholarly research and creative endeavors in Bangladesh.

2.2.1 List of the Recipients of AIBS Bangladeshi Graduate Student Fellowship

1. Bushra Nayeem, University of Kansas
2. Farzana Kazi, Syracuse University
3. Md Mizanur Rahman, University of California, Santa Cruz
4. Md Muhibbur Rahman, University of Texas at Austin
5. Md Sariful Islam, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University
6. Shehzad Arifeen, University of Texas at Austin
7. Sharbana Tahura Zaman, University of California, Berkeley

Through its program of fellowships, AIBS seeks to advance Bangladesh studies by increasing professional development opportunities for Bangladeshi academics and supporting cutting edge research on Bangladesh. The recipients have been informed that the **Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Government of Bangladesh** has provided funding for these fellowships. The recipients are planning to travel to Bangladesh and the USA.

2.3 International Travel Grants for Bangladesh scholars to the U.S.

Under this program, several Bangladeshi scholars from the partner institutions receive travel and accommodation grants from AIBS to present their work in a conference/seminar/workshop in the

U.S. The American Institute of Bangladesh Studies (AIBS) is inviting application for funding international conference travel to the United States for Bangladeshi scholars based in a **AIBS partner university** in Bangladesh. A lump sum of up to \$2,500 will be available for each grantee to cover international travel related costs including airfare, ground transportation, meals, and lodging. Conference/workshop presentations must focus on topics relevant to Bangladesh Studies. The deadline for submitting application is June 1, 2022

3. A Webinar on 50 Years of US-Bangladesh relations: Critical Reflections and Ways Forward

Description

The American Institute of Bangladesh Studies (AIBS) organized a Webinar on March 31, 2022, to mark the 50th year of US-Bangladesh relations. With ongoing cooperation between two countries and recent stress due to sanctions imposed on the Rapid Action Battalion (RAB) and its officers, the webinar offered a space for open discussion. Policymakers and commentators from both Bangladesh and the U.S. reflected on the past fifty years and shed light on the future trajectories. The webinar was moderated by Professor Ali Riaz, President, AIBS. The event was virtual and open to the public. **297** people registered for the online Zoom event. About **90** people attended the webinar. The program was **live broadcasted** on AIBS' Facebook page.

Speakers:

Mr. Syed Shah Saad Andalib

Mr. Andalib is currently serving as Director of the Americas Wing at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Dhaka. He joined the foreign service in 2012. He previously served at the Maritime Affairs Unit and the South Asia Wing of the Ministry.

Mr. Jon Danilowicz

Mr. Danilowicz is a member of the State Department's Senior Foreign Service with extensive experience in South Asia, including three tours each in Bangladesh and Pakistan.

Dr. Imtiaz A. Hussain

Dr. Hussain is an Advisor of Global Studies & Governance Department and Executive Director, Center for Pedagogy, Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB).

Mr. Michael Kugelman

Mr. Kugelman is Asia Program deputy director and senior associate for South Asia at the Woodrow Wilson Center. He is also a columnist for Foreign Policy and writes its weekly South Asia Brief newsletter.

Moderator: Dr. Ali Riaz, President, AIBS & Distinguished Professor at the Dept. of Politics and Govt. at Illinois State University

4. Upcoming Events:

AIBS celebrated Golden Jubilee of Bangladesh's independence by organizing two virtual seminars in the spring of 2021. The first seminar focused on the achievements and challenges of

Bangladesh economy and the second one discussed the transformation of culture. In continuation of these events, AIBS is going to organize the following events in the next year:

4.1 Follow up Seminar on Rohingya Issue: Policy Focus

Proposed Date: October 13-14, 2022

Location: Berkley Center for Religion, Peace, and World Affairs, Georgetown University, Washington DC

AIBS will organize a daylong conference on Rohingya refugee crisis with a particular focus on policy issues in the spring of 2022 at Washington DC. The seminar will create opportunities for both scholars and practitioners to share their empirical work along with policy recommendations on how to bring sustainable solutions to the crisis. Previously, AIBS cosponsored conference and panel discussion titled as “Rohingya—Beyond the Crisis Narrative: Statelessness and its implications for Myanmar and Bangladesh” in 2020. The follow up 2021 seminar plans to collect and publish the policy recommendations.

4.2 Bangladesh Conference

Proposed Date: November 2022

Location: University of Texas at Austin, USA

AIBS will organize a two-day long conference at the University of Texas at Austin, USA to celebrate the 50 years of Bangladesh’s independence. The conference will bring together Bangladesh scholars and practitioners from all over the world to present their work on the themes of Governance, Economy, Environment, Culture, and Future Directions of Bangladesh. The conference will be recorded and shared on the social media for a wider reach of audience.

5. Building relationship between Bangladesh and U.S Citizens through AIBS Activities

AIBS is relentlessly working to improve the people-to-people relationships between Bangladesh and the United States through several exchange, outreach, and scholarship programs. AIBS regularly organizes conferences, seminars, and webinars that focus on critical issues related to Bangladesh. Scholars, students, and practitioners from both Bangladesh and the United States participate in these events. AIBS’ fellowship programs also create firsthand research and professional development opportunities for Bangladeshi and U.S. scholars. For example, AIBS organized Webinar on March 31, 2022 to mark the 50th year of US-Bangladesh relations which was attended by about 100 participants from Bangladesh and the U.S. Besides, AIBS invites Research Grant Fellows and other intellectuals from Bangladesh or USA as international scholars for presenting their field of knowledge and sponsors seminars, workshops, conferences, and professional development programs jointly with these partner institutions at their campuses. AIBS also undertakes joint research projects for attracting combined funding from various organizations to carry on research programs of mutual interest. AIBS pursues joint publications in refereed national and international journals, periodicals, and magazines on different issues of Bangladesh. AIBS periodically invites the US scholars from the partner institutions and arranges the lectureship programs in different universities of Bangladesh for the students.

Annex 1: AIBS Partner Institutions in Bangladesh

Asian University for Women (AUW)
Bangabandhu Sheikh MujiburRahman Science and Technology University (BSMRSTU)
Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU)
BGMEA University of Fashion and Technology (BUFT)
BRAC University (BRACU)
Begum Rokeya University, Rangpur (BRUR)
Comilla University (CU)
Daffodil International University (DIU)
Hajee Mohammad Danesh Science & Technology University (HSTU)
Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB)
Institute of Bangladesh Studies (IBS) at the University of Rajshahi
Jagannath University (JnU)
Jahangirnagar University (JU)
Jessore University of Science and Technology (JUST)
Khulna University (KU)
Leading University (LU)
North East University Bangladesh (NEUB)
North South University (NSU)
Pabna University of Science and Technology (PUST)
Shahjalal University of Science and Technology (SUST)
Southeast University Bangladesh (SEU)
University of Barisal (BU)
University of Chittagong (CU)
University of Dhaka (DU)
University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB)

Annex 2: AIBS Member Institutions in the U.S.

Boston University
Columbia University
Connecticut College
Cornell University
Illinois State University
Indiana University
Johns Hopkins University
Monmouth University
New York University
North Carolina State University
Syracuse University
The University of Chicago
Tufts University
University of California, Berkeley
University of Hawaii at Manoa
University of Massachusetts Boston
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
University of Oregon
University of Pennsylvania
University of Texas at Austin
University of Washington
University of Wisconsin, Madison
Wake Forest University
Winona State University
Yale University

Annex 3: AIBS Board of Trustees

Ali Riaz

Distinguished Professor, Department of
Politics & Government
Illinois State University
Normal, Illinois

Rachel Brule

Assistant Professor
Global Development Policy
Boston University
Boston, Massachusetts

Kris Manjapra

Associate Professor, Department of History
Program Director, Colonialism Studies
Tufts University
Medford, Massachusetts

Rebecca Manring

Professor, Department of Religious Studies
and Dhar India Studies Program
Adjunct Faculty, Comparative Literature
Indiana University
Bloomington, Indiana

Golam Mathbor

Professor, School of Social Work
Monmouth University
West Long Branch, New Jersey

Rachel McDermott

Professor, Asian and Middle Eastern
Cultures
Columbia University – Barnard College
New York, New York

Projit Mukharji

Associate Professor, Department of History
& Sociology of Science
Martin Meyerson Assistant Professor,
Interdisciplinary Studies
University of Pennsylvania
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Executive Director, Institute for South Asia
Studies
Director, Chowdhury Center for Bangladesh
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Clinical Associate Professor, Liberal Studies
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Winona, Minnesota

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Anna Stirr

Director, Center for South Asian Studies
Associate Professor, Department of Asian Studies,
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Rick Spees

Executive Director,
Council of American Overseas Research Centers

Annex 4: AIBS Executive Committee

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President

Department of Politics and Government
Illinois State University

Rebecca Manring

Vice President

Department of Religious Studies and
Dhar India Studies Program
Indiana University Bloomington

Rachel McDermott

Treasurer

Asian and Middle Eastern Cultures
Columbia University – Barnard College

Dina M. Siddiqi

Secretary

Liberal Studies
New York University

Jason Cons

Member At-Large

Department of Anthropology
University of Texas at Austin
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Bangladesh Leadership

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Professor, Institute of Social Welfare and Research (ISWR)

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Annex 5: AIBS Bangladeshi Graduate Student Fellowship Announcement

These fellowships program has been offered to Bangladeshi graduate students studying in the U.S. universities for conducting their research and outreach activities in Bangladesh.

The American Institute of Bangladesh Studies is pleased to announce research fellowships for Bangladeshi graduate students studying in the U.S. The fellowships are intended to help PhD and Masters students meet expenses related to scholarly research and creative endeavors in Bangladesh.

Deadline:

Tuesday, February 1, 2022, 11:59 pm U.S. Eastern Time

Eligibility

1. Bangladeshi citizen
2. Currently enrolled PhD, MA, MS, or MFA students at a U.S. based institution
3. Research projects must be from one of the following disciplines:
 - Humanities and Sciences
 - Social Sciences
 - Education and Public Health
 - Music and Fine Arts
 - Social Policies and Management
 - Other relevant fields and interdisciplinary studies
4. At the time of the application, graduate students should be in the later stages of their programs.
5. Applicants who have applied before and have not received an award may apply again.

Award

- The maximum award amount is \$3,000
- Awards must be received before June 30, 2022
- Awards will be dispersed by the AIBS Dhaka office in Bangladesh in BDT after the awardees has made the research trip to Bangladesh
- Awards will only fund research project related expenses in Bangladesh

Review process

Applications are evaluated based on the following criteria:

- Impact and significance of project and its relevance to expanding Bangladesh studies
- Approach and innovation of the project
- Feasibility of the project
- A letter of recommendation from the student's faculty advisor that discusses the feasibility of the plan and the ways that the research will contribute towards the student's progress towards degree (please visit: www.aibs.net).

Annex 6: AIBS Professional Development Fellowships for Bangladeshi scholars to the U.S. Announcement

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As visiting fellows, selected Bangladeshi scholars will work with U.S. faculty members at their host universities to develop research agenda, utilize library facilities, and receive hands on training on academic writing and publication.

Deadlines:

Tuesday, February 1, 2022, 11:59 pm U.S. Eastern Time

Eligibility

1. Be a Bangladeshi citizen
2. Currently employed at one of the AIBS partner universities in Bangladesh. For a full list of Bangladeshi partner universities,
3. A letter of invitation from a faculty member at the U.S. institution the scholar will be visiting.
4. Applicants who have applied before and have not received an award may apply again.

Award

- Fellowship amount: \$4,000
- Fellowship duration: Six weeks
- Fellowships must be **received** before June 30, 2022
- Fellowship amount will be dispersed by the AIBS Dhaka office in Bangladesh in BDT
- This fellowship will only fund professional development related expenses including transportation to the host university, lodging, food, purchase of educational materials and software, etc. and will not exceed the stipulated amount.

Application Process:

The following documents will be needed to successfully complete the application:

- An online application form with basic biographical details and outlines of the goals and outcomes for the visit, the way that the funds will be used, and the visit timeline (500 words max)
- A recent CV

A letter of invitation from a faculty member at the institution you will be visiting. The letter should outline if there are any additional resources on campus to support the scholar during their visit and outline plans for a public facing event while the scholar is in residents (a community-based seminar, a public talk, a zoom seminar, etc.) that will showcase the researcher's work and/or the collaborations emerging from the visit (please visit: www.aibs.net).

Annex 7: International Conference/Lectureship Travel Grants for Bangladesh scholars to the U.S. Announcement

Under this program, several Bangladeshi scholars from the partner institutions receive travel and accommodation grants from AIBS to present their work in a conference/seminar/workshop in the U.S. The American Institute of Bangladesh Studies (AIBS) is inviting application for funding international conference travel to the United States for Bangladeshi scholars based in a **AIBS partner university** in Bangladesh. A lump sum of up to \$2,500 will be available for each grantee to cover international travel related costs including airfare, ground transportation, meals, and lodging. Conference/workshop presentations must focus on topics relevant to Bangladesh Studies.

Eligibility and Criteria

Must be a Bangladeshi citizen

- Must be a Ph.D. candidate or faculty member at an AIBS partner university in Bangladesh.
- Travel awards are capped to one per person per year
- Travel awards must be received from the AIBS Dhaka Office before June 30, 2022
- \$200 will be withheld from the award until a final report is received
- Each applicant is responsible for his/her own visa to the US. A complete application for this travel grant consists of the following:
 - Completed online application
 - Applicant's CV
 - E-mail or PDF evidence of your paper having been accepted from the conference or organization
 - Brief explanation of how the workshop will advance the applicant's scholarly agenda/career (200 words)

APPLICATION DEADLINE: June 1, 2022 at 11.59 PM (U.S. Eastern Time)

Thank you