3rd INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON

Genocide and Mass Violence

24-25 March 2019

Muzaffar Ahmed Chowdhury Auditorium, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Dhaka.

Centre for Genocide Studies
University of Dhaka
The 3rd International Conference on Genocide and Mass Violence is being organized by the Centre for Genocide Studies (CGS), University of Dhaka on 24-25 March 2019. The conference will be held at the Muzaffar Ahmed Chowdhury Auditorium, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Dhaka. Professor Dr. Md. Akhtaruzzaman, Vice Chancellor, University of Dhaka will inaugurate the conference as the Chief Guest. Dr. Muntassir Mamoon, Professor of the Department of History, University of Dhaka will deliver the keynote address at the inaugural session on “Politics of Genocide”. Professor Dr. Nasreen Ahmad, Pro-Vice Chancellor (Academic), University of Dhaka will preside over the closing session of the conference. The “Dhaka Declaration-2019” will be presented in the closing session.

The two-day International Conference covers a wide range of themes related to genocide and mass violence in the world. The working sessions are organized based on these themes which include Genocide, Bangladesh and the World; State, Society and Violence; Genocide on the Rohingya; Memory of Genocide and Violence; Politics of Genocide, Trial and Transitional Justice; and Preventing Violent Extremism and Radicalization. CGS recognizes that University of Dhaka was the epicenter of genocide during the Liberation War of Bangladesh in 1971. The University lost many of its eminent teachers, academicians, students and employees during the Liberation War. CGS also recognizes the fact that in the past 150 years, tens of millions of people have lost their lives in genocide and mass atrocities. This is a stark reminder for us that every effort ought to be made to ensure that acts of genocide and mass violence would never happen again. The conference is an initiative of CGS in this direction.
3rd International Conference on
Genocide and Mass Violence
24-25 March 2019
Venue: Muzaffar Ahmed Chowdhury Auditorium, University of Dhaka

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>09.30 am-10.00 am</td>
<td>Registration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.00 am-10.10 am</td>
<td>Opening Remarks by Professor Imtiaz Ahmed, Director, Centre for Genocide Studies, University of Dhaka</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.10 am-10.40 am</td>
<td>Keynote Address: “Politics of Genocide” by Dr. Muntassir Mamoon, Professor of History, University of Dhaka</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:40 am-10:50 am</td>
<td>Remarks by the Chief Guest: Professor Dr. Md. Akhtaruzzaman, Vice Chancellor, University of Dhaka</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.50 am-11.00 am</td>
<td>Vote of Thanks by Professor Delwar Hossain, Department of International Relations, University of Dhaka</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.00 am-11.30 am</td>
<td>Tea/Coffee Break</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Session One: Genocide, Bangladesh and the World  
(11.30 am-2.00 pm)

**Chair of the Session:** Professor Rounaq Jahan, Distinguished Fellow, Center for Policy Dialogue, Bangladesh & Visiting Scholar, Columbia University

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Speaker/Topic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11.30 am-11.45 am</td>
<td><strong>Md. Abdul Hannan:</strong> The 1971 Genocide in Bangladesh: analyzing the politics of denying recognition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.45 am-12.00 pm</td>
<td><strong>Inzamam-Ul-Haque Chowdhury; Saikh Safat Shadhin:</strong> Liberation war, 1971 and architecture of Bangladesh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.00 pm-12.15 pm</td>
<td><strong>Md. Minhaz Uddin:</strong> Simon John Dring’s struggle for ‘genocide news report’ in Dhaka, 1971</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.15 pm-12.30 pm</td>
<td>Open Discussion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.30 pm-1.00 pm</td>
<td><strong>Concluding Remarks by the Chairperson</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.00 pm-2.00 pm</td>
<td>Lunch Break</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Session Two: State, Society and Violence  
(2.00 pm-4.00 pm)

**Chair of the Session:** Professor Ahrar Ahmad, Department of Political Science, Black Hills State University in Spearfish, South Dakota.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Speaker/Topic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2.00pm-2.20pm</td>
<td><strong>Ajay Das Gupta:</strong> Political protest: from non-violent to violent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.20 pm-2.40 pm</td>
<td><strong>Md. Al-Amin Parvez:</strong> The impact of income inequality on conflict initiation and violence: a panel data analysis of 85 countries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.40 pm-3.00 pm</td>
<td>Open Discussion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.00 pm-3.30 pm</td>
<td><strong>Concluding Remarks by the Chairperson</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.30 pm-4.00 pm</td>
<td>Tea/Coffee Break</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Session Three: Genocide on the Rohingya (4.00 pm-6.00 pm)

**Chair of the Session:** Professor Imtiaz Ahmed

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Presenter</th>
<th>Topic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4.00 pm-4.15 pm</td>
<td>Ruhi Naz</td>
<td>Asylum, vulnerability, protection: crisis of Rohingya women in South Asia and women refugees in Europe.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.15 pm-4.30 pm</td>
<td>Nazia Khan</td>
<td>Post-transition Myanmar and Aung Sang Suu Kyi’s policy towards Rohingya</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.30 pm-4.45 pm</td>
<td>Amarta Galib Chowdhury</td>
<td>The role of religion and the Rohingya persecution in Myanmar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.40 pm-5.00 pm</td>
<td></td>
<td>Open Discussion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.00 pm-5.30 pm</td>
<td></td>
<td>Concluding Remarks by the Chairperson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.30 pm-6.00 pm</td>
<td></td>
<td>Tea/Coffee Break</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

**Monday 25 March 2019**

**Session Four: Memory of Genocide and Violence (09.00 am-11.00 am)**

**Chair of the Session:** Professor Meghna Guhathakurta, Executive Director, Research Initiatives Bangladesh (RIB), Dhaka, Bangladesh

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Presenter</th>
<th>Topic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>09.00 am-09.20 am</td>
<td>Anika Saba</td>
<td>Tracing the Armenian genocide through testimonies of the Dildilian family in Armen T. Marsoobian’s book fragments of a lost homeland: remembering Armenia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09.20 am-09.40 am</td>
<td>Raymond Kwun-Sun Lau</td>
<td>The Darfur genocide reconsidered: the dilemma between civilian protection and criminal prosecution in ongoing conflicts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09.40 am-10.00 am</td>
<td></td>
<td>Open Discussion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.00 am-10.30 am</td>
<td></td>
<td>Concluding Remarks by the Chairperson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.30 am-11.00 am</td>
<td></td>
<td>Tea/Coffee Break</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Session Five: Politics of Genocide, Trial and Transitional Justice  
**Chair of the Session:** Mr. Mofidul Haque, Board of Trustees, The Liberation War Museum, Bangladesh

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Speaker</th>
<th>Topic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11.00 am-11.15 am</td>
<td>Ferdousi Begum</td>
<td>“A legal study of the peace process of Nepal: the role of the truth and reconciliation commission in establishing peace”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.30 am-12.00 pm</td>
<td>Open Discussion</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.00 pm-12.30 pm</td>
<td>Concluding Remarks by the Chairperson</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.30 pm-2.00 pm</td>
<td>Lunch Break</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Session Six: Preventing Violent Extremism and Radicalization  
**Chair of the Session:** Mr. Robert Stoelman, Project Manager, Partnerships for a Tolerant, Inclusive Bangladesh (PTIB), The United Nations Development Program (UNDP) Bangladesh.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Speaker</th>
<th>Topic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2.00 pm-2.20 pm</td>
<td>Shanto Kairy</td>
<td>The challenges of youth radicalization of Bangladesh and possible de-radicalization process</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.20 pm-2.40 pm</td>
<td>Tasmitha Tabassum Sadia</td>
<td>The legacy of religious terrorism in Bangladesh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.40 pm-3.00 pm</td>
<td>Md Saimum Parvez</td>
<td>The trends and patterns of violent extremism in Bangladesh: variations and responses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.00pm-3.20 pm</td>
<td>Open Discussion</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.20 pm-3.50 pm</td>
<td>Concluding Remarks by the Chairperson</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.50 pm-4.10 pm</td>
<td>Tea/Coffee Break</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Closing Session

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4.10 pm-4.20 pm</td>
<td>Remarks by Professor Imtiaz Ahmed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.20 pm-4.35 pm</td>
<td>Presentation of Dhaka Declaration-2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.35 pm-4.50 pm</td>
<td><strong>Chief Guest:</strong> Professor Dr. Nasreen Ahmad, Pro-Vice Chancellor (Academic), University of Dhaka.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.50 pm-5.00 pm</td>
<td>Vote of thanks by Professor Amena Mohsin, Department of International Relations, University of Dhaka</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.00 pm-5.30 pm</td>
<td>High Tea/Coffee Break</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Chief Guest of the Inauguration ceremony

Professor Dr. Md. Akhtaruzzaman, Honourable Vice Chancellor, University of Dhaka

Professor Dr. Md. Akhtaruzzaman is currently the Vice Chancellor, University of Dhaka, Bangladesh. Dr. Md. Akhtaruzzaman served as the Pro-Vice Chancellor (Administration) of the University of Dhaka (June 2016 – September 05, 2017). He was the Dean, Faculty of Arts (2014-2016), University of Dhaka. Dr. Md. Akhtaruzzaman served as the Chairman, Department of Islamic History & Culture (2008-2011) and Department of Arabic (2015-2016) respectively. Professor Dr. Md. Akhtaruzzaman was awarded the Justice Ibrahim Gold Medal for extraordinary research (2008). He did his B. A. Hons. (1st position) and M.A (1st position) in Islamic History & Culture, University of Dhaka. He earned his Ph.D in History from Aligarh Muslim University, India. He was a visiting Fulbright Scholar at Boston College, USA, and a British Council Visiting Scholar at the University of Birmingham, UK.

Professor Dr. Md. Akhtaruzzaman was the Provost, Kabi Jasimuddin Hall (2007-2013), University of Dhaka. He served in several professional bodies and elected positions that include General Secretary (2004, 2005 & 2006) and Vice President (2009, 2011) of the Dhaka University Teachers’ Association; Elected member to the Dhaka University Senate, Syndicate & Academic Council; He was Convener, Textbook Crisis Resolution National Committee (2008), Convener, Textbook Printing and Distribution Oversee and Advisory Committee (2009 & 2010); Member, Prime Minister’s Education Assistance Trust (2012- ); Member, National Education Policy 2010 Implementation Committee; Member, National Curriculum Coordination Committee (NCCC); Editorial Member, Journal of Serajul Haque Centre for Islamic Research and the Journal of the Asiatic Society of Bangladesh (Humanities); Editor, Bangladesh Itihas Parishad Journal Itihas (2009-2014); Council Member (2006-2009), Asiatic Society of Bangladesh; General Secretary (2005-2009) and Vice President (2016-), Bangladesh Itihas Parishad; and many others.

Professor Dr. Md. Akhtaruzzaman published more than 42 (forty two) research articles in referred journals and edited books. He authored books namely Muslim Itihastattwa (Muslim Historiography), Dhaka University, Dhaka, 2008; Society and Urbanization in Medieval Bengal, Asiatic Society of Bangladesh, 2009. He edited Liberation War of Bangladesh: Background and Event, Bangladesh Itihas Parishad, 2009; A Quest for Islamic Learning: Essays in Memory of Professor Serajul Haque, Asiatic Society of Bangladesh, 2011; Probandha Sankolon (An Anthology), Department of Islamic History & Culture, University of Dhaka, 2011
Chairperson of the Closing Session

Professor Dr. Nasreen Ahmad, Honourable Pro Vice Chancellor (Academic), University of Dhaka

Professor Dr. Nasreen Ahmad is currently the Pro Vice Chancellor (Academic), University of Dhaka. Born in July 1949 in Calcutta, Professor Nasreen Ahmad had been educated in Dhaka all through. Having completed her Senior Cambridge in 1965 from Viquarunnesa Noon School and Higher Secondary School Certificate Examination from Holy Cross College (1966), she completed her Honours and Masters in Geography from the Department of Geography (1970-71) and Master of Demography (1982) from the Institute of Statistical Research and Training, DU. She was awarded Doctor of Philosophy from the Department of Geography and Environment, DU, for her thesis on “Determinants of Landlessness in Rural Bangladesh.” Prof. Ahmad’s interests lies in Population Geography, Climatology and Agroclimatology.

Prior to her appointment as the Pro-Vice Chancellor (Academic) in June 2012, she carried out various academic and administrative responsibilities of the University. She was the Project Director and founder provost of Begum Fazilatunnesa Mujib Hall (2001-2005), the elected Dean of the Faculty of Earth and Environmental Sciences (2010-2012) and Chairperson of Dept. of Geography & Environment, DU (2011-2012). She has been elected to the Senate a number of times and has also been an elected member of the teachers association, DUTA.

Actively involved with primary research with focus being mostly on people and environment, Prof. Ahmad has more than thirty five publications in reputed journals, has authored two books, and edited books, journals and proceedings published by the Bangladesh Geographical Society. She attended seminars, conferences and workshops internationally and availed a management training program from the United Kingdom.

Apart from her involvement in different capacities in various academic and administrative committees of the University, Professor Ahmad is affiliated with a number of government, non-government organizations/institutions. She is a syndicate member of BUET and United International University. She is associated with a number of professional institutions/organizations, notably, Bangladesh Geographical Society, Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies, and International Geographical Union.

A student activist in her university days Prof. Nasreen Ahmad was elected as the Common room Secretary in the DUCSU election of 1970-71. She takes pride in her active involvement with the Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendra at Mujibnagar in 1971, where she read the English news regularly as “Zareen Ahmad” along with taking part in other programs.
Keynote Speaker

Dr. Muntassir Mamoon, Professor, Department of History, University of Dhaka

Dr. Muntassir Mamoon (b. 1951) was born in Dhaka, did his M.A. and Ph.D from Dhaka University. Currently he is a professor in the Department of History, Dhaka University. He is eminently known as a historian and also a writer. He has written a number of books in the different branches of literature. He is a recipient of many awards. Bangla Academy Award is one of them. His important research publications are: Unish Satake Purba-Banger Samaj, Festivals of Bangladesh, Smriti-Bismsritir Nagar-Dhaka, Inside Bureaucracy: Bangladesh (Coauthor) Struggle for Civil Society in Bangladesh (Co-author) and Unish Satake Bangladesher Sangbad Samyik patra (9 vol).

The Politics of Genocide: Genocide is an act of politics. It is a kind of distorted politics that deliberately creates grounds for genocide and then denial of the same. The history of the genocide committed in Bangladesh during the liberation war in 1971 follows the same pattern. The pre and post genocidal politics in Bangladesh witnessed the power play among various forces, which included the local, national, regional and international actors. It is ironic that despite the large-scale massacre and atrocities, which were committed in such a short span of time, this genocide failed to register in popular cognition. Historical narrative of the genocide is therefore critical to make a mark in public consciousness; else only memories will remain, which runs the risk of erasure. It is important to note that despite being the largest genocide in history, in terms of the time duration, the Bangladesh genocide remains unrecognized. Domestic as well as international politics is responsible for this non-recognition. Within Bangladesh, the prisoners of war issue, constitutional changes, religion based politics, cultural, structural changes and manipulation of education and history, the intimidation of the believers in the spirit of the liberation war of 1971 were critical intervening variables. At the international level, the USA, China, Saudi Arabia, and other Muslim majority countries were against the independence of Bangladesh; while the European countries tried to maintain a neutral position. Consequently after the liberation of Bangladesh, these powers tended to ignore the genocide. However, the setting up of the International Crimes Tribunal’s trial reverted the process of distortion of history. This Tribunal has examined the facts of pre-1975 history and has emphasized upon the brutal torture, genocide, and the role of the accused persons in perpetrating these acts. Preservation of the memory of genocide is important for the future generation as it will make them aware of the sacrifices of their ancestors for their homeland. It will help to eradicate fundamentalism and extremism from the society. The Pakistan army and its collaborators had unleashed unprecedented brutality during the liberation war; but this history of oppression and brutality has remained under documented; rather the history of valor in the battlefield has been celebrated in popular narratives and literatures in Bangladesh. On the other hand, European history has depicted the valor as well
the oppression in the same length. Then numbers and facts of the genocide in Bangladesh were questioned at home and abroad which is indeed a part of the ongoing pattern of distorted politics, alluded to earlier. Nevertheless, the emerging debate and growing interest on the issue of genocide is not necessarily a negative thing. Because it has created the scope for further study on the War of Liberation and genocide. It is expected that such studies will put an end to the politics of distortion of history and politics.

Paper Presenters and their Abstracts

Session One: Genocide: Bangladesh and the World

Md. Abdul Hannan: The 1971 genocide in Bangladesh: analyzing the politics of denying recognition

Md. Abdul Hannan: Md. Abdul Hannan is currently working as a Lecturer at the department of International Relations, under the Faculty of Security and Strategic Studies at Bangladesh University of Professionals (BUP). Mr. Hannan completed his BSS (Honors) and MSS from the department of International Relations, University of Dhaka. In both the exams, he secured the highest CGPA in his batch. He studied Chinese Studies at Yunnan University, China in 2016 under a student exchange program. Very recently he worked as a Research Coordinator of the project “Bangladesh: Sustainable Reintegration and Improved Migration Governance” funded by European Union and implemented by International Organization for Migration (IOM) in partnership with BRAC.

Abstract: Bangladesh is one of those countries which achieved independence in the Cold War period. However, the road to independence for this country was so sanguinary that it took as long as nine months for it to struggle to achieve the independence. In its struggle for independence, Bangladesh had to experience sheer brutality of the Pakistani armed forces that started with the infamous “Operation Searchlight” at the night of March 25, 1971. From that night onwards till December 16, 1971, Pakistani army committed horrendous atrocity upon the people of Bangladesh leaving accounts of systemic killing, rape, arson and communal hatred. There is convergence among huge number of academics and historians that the Pakistani atrocity upon the Bengali people in 1971 was in a form of ‘genocide’. But Bangladesh still has not got the recognition from the United Nations although four decades have passed on after the atrocity had occurred. Recently, despite the government of Bangladesh has decided to observe the 25th March as National Genocide Remembrance Day, the international recognition of calling it genocide is still out of reach. But the decision definitely renders the message that Bangladesh still strives to get that rightful recognition. Against this backdrop, this paper endeavors to focus on how the atrocity committed
by the Pakistani army in the then East Pakistan fits into the definition of genocide provided by the genocide convention of 1948 which came into force in 1951; why Bangladesh is still denied the recognition, what initiatives have been taken so far by the government and what more can be done in future. In this discussion, several critical areas like the then Cold War realities, internal politics of Bangladesh, trial of the war criminals and current power configuration of the world will be connected and highlighted.

Inzamam-Ul-Haque Chowdhury & Saikh Safat Shadhin: Liberation war, 1971 and architecture of Bangladesh.

Inzamam-Ul-Haque Chowdhury: Inzamam-Ul-Haque Chowdhury is an architect who completed his B.Arch. from Shahjalal University of Science and Technology, Bangladesh in 2017. The title of his final year thesis was ‘Suchitra Sen Memorial Complex, Pabna’. Mr. Chowdhury has been the Cultural Secretary (2015), Assistant General Secretary (2016) and Executive Committee Member (2017) for the students’ body at ARC SUST. He is the associate member of Institute of Architects, Bangladesh. His research interests include Architectural history and theory, Heritage conservation, Urban Planning and Landscape Architecture. At present, he is working as Junior Architect at Deconstruction Limited. Being an Architect, he always believes that Architect can play vital role in the society for a developing country like Bangladesh.

Saikh Safat Shadhin: After completing his B.Arch degree from Shahjalal University of Science and Technology, Saikh Safat Shadhin is currently working as an assistant architect in an architectural firm ‘Trimatric Architects’. As an architect his primary interest is in urban design and architectural conservation. His thesis topic which is “Re-thinking of Nilkhet Book Market Area” was a clear reflection of his interest. After his academic year his interest diversified a lot and he found interest in non-conventional architectural topic which can easily be found in his conference paper “How Language effects our architectural perception”. As an architect, his aim and accountability is to discover architecture with different perspective.

Abstract: War has always crisscrossed our geographical land with its manmade boundary. As a consequence, this boundary makes a huge difference of our culture and society and also creates marks on our architecture. But this process needs many years to take. It is little obscure to find any relation between war and architecture. Though, these two terms ‘War’ and ‘Architecture
‘seem to be totally opposite: one for construction and other is for destruction, there is direct relationship between them. From ‘ancient Alexandria’ to ‘Buddhas of Bamiyan’ or ‘Hagia Sophia’ to the most recent ‘Nimrud’, architecture has always been a toy for showing power.

The Bangladesh Liberation War was a revolutionary independence war in 1971 which established the republic of Bangladesh. This is the nearest and biggest war happened in this region. This study would like to draw the relationship between this influential war and architecture of this area. There are some particular objectives of the study. Firstly, this study explores the uses of Architecture during liberation war in any type of form, like: Barrack, Fort, Bunker etc. Secondly, it also scrutinizes on Architecture changed for war. For example: in 1971, several educational institutions and public buildings were used as army camps or armory. Thirdly, this research focusses on the topic of architecture becoming the causality of war. Lastly, it also discusses on the architecture type serving as a focus for memory of the war and genocide in the form of monument and status.

Significant methodology has been followed during this research work. (1) A timeline of the war is developed, (2) Seven sectors have been studied individually, (3) Architecture related to this war has been categorized into several classes in order to carry out the objectives of this study, (4) Several Literature and physical survey have been done to relate historical evidences with the report. The main focus of the research work is to bring out the history of architecture during this historical event of the country. Through this research work, it has been tried to discover this important section of the great liberation war of Bangladesh.

This study concludes that architecture is the vital materialistic memory of both war and genocide. Even when the war is over, architecture becomes the most reliable evidence of the war.


Md. Minhaz Uddin: Md. Minhaz Uddin joined the department of Mass Communication and Journalism, Jagannath University, Dhaka as a Lecturer in 2015. He received first class Honours and Masters degrees in Mass Communication and Journalism from the University of Dhaka. He was also awarded a postgraduate diploma with GPA : 3.50 in Genocide Studies from the center for genocide studies, University of Dhaka in 2018. Before joining teaching, he was a professional journalist for long time. He worked for ATN Bangla, Channel One and CSB news
also. Now, he is also working as a part time News Presenter in Jamuna TV. He got the `Liberation War Museum Award` in 2013 from liberation war museum for outstanding reporting on liberation war. Still he is writing articles regularly in different newspapers on history, culture and liberation of Bangladesh.

**Abstract:** Simon John Dring is a war day friend of Bangladesh in liberation war of Bangladesh in 1971. He is a key eye witness of infamous `Operation Searchlight`. Not only for Bangladesh but also for covering many war and conflict he is renowned all over the world. He was also a television producer and presenter. In 1971 he was working for The Daily Telegraph (UK). In 1971, midnight of March 25th, Pakistan Army launched one of the most heinous genocides in world history by the name of Islam and Integrity of a country which could put Halaku Khan and Adolf Hitler to shame due to the scale of the massacre. To hide this genocide Pakistan authority expelled all foreign journalists from Dhaka. But Simon Dring risked his life to tell the world what actually happed in Dhaka. He and AP photographer Michel Laurent travelled Dhaka University, Rajarbagh Police Lines, Dhanmondi and Old Dhaka for news report. Simon Dring published his horrific memories in a report titled `Tanks Crush Revolt in Pakistan: 7000 slaughtered, Homes burned` on 30th March 1971. This is the very first report of Pakistani genocide in Dhaka. This report revealed massacres in which it is estimated that more than a million people died, included a description of a massacre by Pakistani troops in Dhaka. In this paper, I want to know about the behind story of `Tanks Crush Revolt in Pakistan` news report and Simons account about Pakistani carnage in 1971. I want to know the situation of Hotel Intercontinental of 25th March midnight. I want to do this work by in depth interview of Mr. Simon John Dring and relevant news documents.

**Session Two:** State, Society and Violence

অজয় দাশগুপ্ত: রাজনৈতিক প্রতিবাদ: শান্তিপূর্ণ থেকে সহিংস

অজয় দাশগুপ্ত: সাংবাদিক ও গবেষক অজয় দাশগুপ্ত ১৯৭১ সালের মুক্তিযুদ্ধে সংগঠক ও সময়লী রণাঙ্গনের সশস্ত্র যোদ্ধা হিসেবে সফলভাবে রেখেছেন। ছাত্র জীবনে পড়াশোনার পাশাপাশি সম্পাদনা করেছেন জনপ্রিয় সাংবাদিক ‘জয়ধরনি’। ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় সিনেটের সদস্য ছিলেন। সফল ছিলেন ছাত্র আন্দোলনে। জগন্নাথ হল ও রসায়ন বিভাগের ছাত্র সংসদে সাধারণ সম্পাদক নির্বাচিত হয়েছেন। বর্তমানে দৈনিক সমকাল-এর উপসম্পাদক। প্রায় এক দশক ধরে ঢাকা ও জগন্নাথ বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ে খন্ডকালীন শিক্ষক হিসেবে পড়াশোনা ব্যবসায় সাংবাদিকতা। ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের প্রথমবর্ষের শিক্ষার্থীদের জন্য ‘চলমান জাদুঘর- পাথ্যখতে টু জেনেসাইড’ কর্মসূচির মূল কর্তা। লেখা ও গবেষণা কাজের পাশাপাশি বিভিন্ন টিভি চ্যানেলে রাজনীতি ও অর্থনীতি বিষয়ে আলোচনায় নিয়মিত অংশ নেন।

সারমর্মঃ বাংলাদেশ-ভারত-পাকিস্তান উপমহাদেশে রাজপথে রাজনৈতিক প্রতিবাদ শুরু হয় ব্রিটিশ আমলে। মহাত্মা গান্ধীর নেতৃত্বে শান্তিপূর্ণ আন্দোলন গুরুত্ব পেতে থাকে, যা শেষ পর্যন্ত রুপ পায় অসহযৌথ-সত্যজ্ঞান। ১৯১৯ সালে তিনি যে হরতাল কর্মসূচির সূচনা করেন, সেটা ছিল শান্তিপূর্ণ। পাশাপাশি সশস্ত্র বিদ্রোহের ধারা সহিংস হয়, ব্রিটিশরা যাচে `সত্যাসাবাদ’ হিসেবে অপব্যাখ্যা দেয়।
Md. Al-Amin Parvez: The impact of income inequality on conflict initiation and violence: a panel data analysis of 85 countries

Md. Al-Amin Parvez: Al-Amin Parvez is working in the field of academia and research with passionate aspiration to work at the frontiers of research and policy making. He completed his BSS (Hons.) and MSS from the Department of Economics, University of Dhaka, and started his career in the banking sector. After serving 3 years in bank, he enrolled himself in a Master’s program in International Economics and Finance under the Chinese Government Scholarship at the University of International Business and Economics, Beijing, China. He also worked as research assistant in various research organizations, renowned NGOs and Government of Bangladesh and with the leading economists in development sectors in various projects financed by organizations such as Water Aid, Save the Children, UNICEF, IDB, FAO etc. You can reach Parvez at alaminparvez.90@gmail.com.

Abstract: In the triumph of capitalism and globalization, countries around the world seem to be equally benefitted which should have a causal relationship in eroding inequalities in all spheres and specifically in the case of income. But that phenomenon is considered as one of the myths
since income inequalities have been growing rampant around the world and the developing and under developed countries are the worst sufferer. The upshot of this is not that the status of development of those countries in terms of popular statistics is getting worse, but conflict and violence is increasing in different forms. As the world is moving forward, new types of capital formation is on the rise and the stock of existing capital is also growing. Since capital and skilled labor are relative complements, the growing capital base lead to higher income inequality. Consequently, there is an emergence of conflicts and violent activities in countries with high income inequalities. To present some evidences in this regard, a panel data set with secondary data of 85 countries have been analyzed by applying both the general panel data analysis techniques and GMM model. It has been found that income inequalities and incidents of conflicts and violent activities are positively correlated. Hence, the policy formulations could focus on narrowing income inequalities which could be one of the effective factors to curve the trend of violent incidents so that a more peaceful and coherent society could be ensured across countries which would result in global peace in the long run and in greater extent.

**Session Three: Genocide on the Rohingya**

**Ruhi Naz:** Asylum, vulnerability, protection: crisis of Rohingya women in South Asia and women refugees in Europe.

**Ruhi Naz:** Ms. Ruhi Naz, a graduate in law is an advocate of Supreme Court of Bangladesh and a social activist who associates herself with Research Initiatives; Bangladesh (RIB) which is a research based organization practice and specialized in Participatory Action Research. It is by support of RIB through their various programs that a large section of disadvantaged and marginalized group has been hugely benefitted in claiming their rights and entitlements. She has represented RIB in various International seminars and workshops on RTI, migration, forced displacement and Rohingyas issues in South Asia.

**Abstract:** This paper looks into the system of international laws and conventions which offers protection to asylum seekers and refugees supposedly offers protection to all on a gender-neutral basis. There is a widespread assertion to the fact that most of international laws and conventions were formulated centering around the situation of male refugees and that, moreover, their application is often undermined by deeply discriminatory gender practices which fail to offer
protection to women because their persecution is not recognized as such under the so-called laws as well as an underlying assumption of a ‘public-private’ division, undermines the gender neutrality of refugee law and practice by creating situations in which women’s experience of political activity or of persecution is not seen as relevant to the law. Issues like domestic violence, threat of forced marriage, rape or violence, female genital mutilation, for example, are often not considered seriously as grounds for granting refugee status or asylum, or may be assigned to ‘cultural differences’. Also many times forms of persecution related to women’s are considered ‘private’ behavior, for example their refusal to adhere to certain dress codes, or to violence that takes place within the ‘private’ sphere of the family, such as violence committed by a husband, father or another family member, may not be recognized as grounds for granting refugee status or seeking asylum.

Women seeking asylum have often been refused refugee status in Europe as well as in South Asia because many times the violence and discrimination that they have experienced in their countries of origin are not regarded as ‘persecution’ within the sense of the Geneva Convention. This does not mean, however, that women are not persecuted. In fact, women worldwide are subject to a wide range of violence and persecutory treatments which are related to their social, economic and political status as women. So-called traditional practices such as female genital mutilation, forced marriage or dowry murder continue to harm some women, whilst others are subject to forced abortion or rape (particularly in times of war and conflict) or domestic violence. All of these forms of violence and persecution may force women to flee their homes and countries and seek international protection.

The attempt to consider gender issues in the politics of asylum and refugees reveals a complex and varied set of relations and representations, and in the wake of recent Rohingya crisis in South Asia it can be well argued that the very denial of refugees’ status and living condition of Rohingya women in camps expose them to some serious threats and vulnerability. There have been several reports surfaced suggesting the atrocities of violence these Rohingya women endured in their country of origin as well during deportation and while residing in the host country. There have been persistent efforts by some INGOs, NGOs and think-tanks because of whom the issue of gender-related violence and persecution has been put into international agenda but question always remains as to how effectively these agendas have been translated into policies which increase protection of women against gender-related violence.
Nazia Khan: Post-transition Myanmar and Aung Sang Suu Kyi’s policy towards Rohingya

Nazia Khan: She is pursuing PhD in the Centre for South Asian Studies, JNU. Her research interest is in religious extremism in South Asian region, comparative politics and politics of South Asia. Currently am working on a comparative study between Sri Lanka and Myanmar.

Abstract: The transition to democracy for Myanmar in 2011 has prompted various political and economic changes. Myanmar is a Buddhist majoritarian state with rights and citizenship fully enjoyed by only those who are Buddhists. According to 1982 citizenship law, Rohingyas are not even recognized as Burmese citizens. The authority refuse and have censored the term ‘Rohingya ‘and ‘Bengali ‘to be used in Myanmar to satisfy the popular discontent which prevails against them in the society. Rohingyas are considered as illegal immigrants from Bengal and are continuously targeted, attacked and basic rights snatched from them. The Rohingya have to face exclusion and with the rise of Buddhist nationalism there is also growing Islamophobia against them. This paper seeks to examine the post-transition phase of Myanmar with political and economic liberalization taking place. With democracy in place and the election of NLD (National League for Democracy), a lot was expected from Aung San Suu Kyi as a State Councilor. The stand of NLD on the issue of Rohingya is not different from the previous authorities in relation to the term Rohingya or the citizenship issue. Aung San Suu Kyi approach does not reflect adherence to democratic principles rather inclination towards majoritarianism is quite evident. Suu Kyi response have been mostly been the denial of the whole “ethnic cleansing” of Rohingyas. So, the paper will lay down the responses and policy of Aung San Suu Kyi towards the Rohingya crisis. In the absence of citizenship rights, the basic human rights of Rohingyas are also being trampled. Aung San Suu Kyi who herself was detained by the military junta and considered to be the torch bearer of peace for fighting the military junta is failing Rohingyas. In relation to this her role and responsibility will be interpreted. How the transition to democracy in Myanmar has changed its political dynamics? Is the rise of Buddhist extremism against the Rohingyas linked to economic liberalization? The multiple discrimination and ethnic cleansing of Rohingya because of their ethnicity and religion will be examined. The paper would also attempt to analyze the powers of Aung San Suu Kyi as a State Councilor under the scrutiny of military junta.
Abstract: Rohingyas are considered one of the most persecuted communities in the World. As of September, 2018; more than one million Rohingyas have taken refuge in Bangladesh. Among the many factors active behind the systemic persecution of Rohingyas, a very important one is religion. Myanmar has been one of the least understood countries in South and South-East Asia. Despite having strong historical ties, Myanmar has always been a mystery from a Bangladeshi perspective and a detailed understanding of its complex social, political and religious scenerio is relatively scarce. Ethnic conflict is nothing new in the modern history of Myanmar. The state has been fighting with insurgents since its independence. Most of the groups and ethnicities that are being persecuted by the state authority are not followers of Theravada Buddhism; the major religion of the country. During recent times, far right Buddhist groups like Ma Ba Tha or 969 Movement have also been accused of spreading religious violence and extremist teachings. This paper aims to understand the role of religion in Naypyidaw’s drive against Rohingya people. Taking the Rohingya persecution as case context, the study aims to find the place of religion by synthesizing the published literature regarding the topic. It aims to provide a detailed understanding of religious importance in the anti-Rohingya policies taken after Myanmar’s independence from the British realm.
Session Four: Memory of Genocide and Violence

Anika Saba: Tracing the Armenian genocide through testimonies of the Dildilian family in Armen T. Marsoobian’s book fragments of a lost homeland: remembering Armenia

Anika Saba: Anika Saba is a Lecturer in the Department of English and Humanities, BRAC University. She completed her second Masters in English Studies (Pathway: Writing in the Modern Age) from Queen Mary, University of London, in 2016. She did her first MA in English Literature and BA (Honours) in English from University of Dhaka. She also completed a postgraduate diploma from Centre of Genocide Studies in 2018. Her areas of interest are from modern to contemporary literature especially those related to war and trauma. She has published book chapter and articles in national and international journals. Email: anika.saba@bracu.ac.bd.

Abstract: The Armenian Genocide (1915-23) is often deemed as the first genocide of the twentieth-century and also credited for inspiring Raphael Lemkin to coin the term “genocide.” Thus, it is very significant in the historical and theoretical fields of genocide studies; but we know very little about the actual atrocities done by the Turks, besides some facts and figures. What happened to ordinary people, how were families separated and how they suffered, if they survived or not and how? These are some of the questions I will try to answer in my paper by studying Armen T. Marsoobian’s book Fragments of a Lost Homeland: Remembering Armenia published in 2015. Marsoobian’s book is a vividly comprehensive work that traces the history of the Dildilian family, the author’s ancestors on his mother’s side, where two generations of survivors have provided him with abundant memoirs, speeches, letters as well as maps, photographs, drawings. Marsoobian’s family had been lucky to survive and migrate to different parts of the world but they had been witness to the genocide and preserved many of the documents and photographs from that time. The author today lives in the US and was inspired to compile his family’s testimonies from an initiative started by his uncles but left unfinished. The work was passed on to Marsoobian who felt an obligation to complete this book which abounds in detailed textual as well as visual materials. My paper will analyse these materials and argue for the capacity of historical documents and testimonies to capture and tell the real story of genocide.
Raymond Kwun-Sun Lau: The Darfur genocide reconsidered: the dilemma between civilian protection and criminal prosecution in ongoing conflicts

Raymond Kwun-Sun Lau: Raymond Kwun-Sun LAU is a lecturer at the History Department, Hong Kong Baptist University. He holds a PhD in Political Science from the University of Queensland, Australia. His primary research focuses on the international response to genocide and mass atrocities in Africa, and the relationship between the Responsibility to Protect (R2P) principle and the International Criminal Court (ICC). He is the author of “Protection First, Justice Later? Stopping Mass Atrocities in Northern Uganda”, a book chapter in the edited volume, Civilian Protection in the Twenty-First Century: Governance and Responsibility in a Fragmented World (Editors Cecilia Jacob and Alistair D.B. Cook), published by the Oxford University Press in June 2016.

Abstract: There has been a change in international expectations since Rwanda and Srebrenica in relation to concerns about the need to respond to genocide and mass atrocities in a more effective and efficient manner. Perhaps the two most significant developments in this regard have been the establishment of the International Criminal Court (ICC) in 1998 and the emergence of the Responsibility to Protect (R2P) principle in 2001. These two response mechanisms represent an attempt to push the normative boundaries of the international community to such a degree that protecting civilians from genocide and mass atrocities as well as holding perpetrators accountable would become a prominent feature of international politics. With the conflict in Sudan’s western region of Darfur being widely acknowledged as ‘the first genocide of the 21st century’, this paper seeks to understand how the international community responded to the protection needs of civilians and focused on the prosecution efforts of the government of Sudan since this conflict erupted in 2003. While this is a significant case which demonstrates a textbook illustration of a government’s unwillingness to live up its responsibility to protect its civilians, it argues that the simultaneous use of protection measures (the deployment of a joint United Nations-African Union peacekeeping mission known as UNAMID) and prosecution efforts (the UN Security Council’s referral of the situation in Darfur to the ICC) created important tensions between R2P and the ICC. On the one hand, the peacekeepers’ need for consent and cooperation from Khartoum inhibited them from assisting the ICC. On the other hand, the ICC’s pursuit of criminal accountability created additional incentives for the government leaders to hold out in negotiations, withdraw cooperation from the UN, and demand that humanitarian organisations withdraw from the country, all of which made protection of civilians more difficult.
Ferdousi Begum: “A legal study of the peace process of Nepal: the role of the truth and reconciliation commission in establishing peace”

Ferdousi Begum: Ferdousi Begum is a Lecturer in the Department of Law, Daffodil International University. She has pursued her graduation and post-graduation from the Department of Law, University of Dhaka. She has pursued her second LLM on International Law in the South Asian University, New Delhi, India. She has received Siver Jubilee as well as Merit Scholarship from South Asian University for pursuing her LLM on International Law. Her research interest includes International Human Rights and Humanitarian Law, International Environmental Law and International Trade and Investment Law.

Abstract: The ‘People’s War’ (Maoist insurgency) started in 1996 in Nepal which costs the lives of 15000-16000 (officially) Nepalese, many of which were killed, disabled, abducted or disappeared. The socio-economic structure of Nepal had been destroyed for this war. The Comprehensive Peace Accord (CPA) ended the war in 2006. A Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) was established in 2015 in Nepal to deliver justice to gross human rights violations happened then. It also wants to establish truth as well as to create an environment of reconciliation in Nepal whereby people (having different backgrounds, origins, race, color, or sex) can live in peace in the society at large. This study will examine the outcomes of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) in Nepal. It will examine how the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) could play an important role in establishing the peace process in the society. To explore this role of the TRC of Nepal in bringing peace, this study will examine the background of the conflict in Nepal, the impacts of the conflict in Nepal, the composition, powers and immunities of the TRC of Nepal and its functions in establishing the peace process in Nepal. A comparative study of the TRC of Sierra Leone will be made to that of Nepal to understand the role of TRC’s in establishing peace process.
Abstract: Prosecuting international crimes is being considered as a legitimate concern of the international community to uphold global peace and security. In fact, the idea of setting up an international criminal tribunals to bring every individual perpetrator responsible for violation of international crime to justice goes back to the aftermath of First World War. The world witnessed the multilateral ad hoc military tribunals i.e. International Military Tribunal (IMT) in 1945 and International Military Tribunal for Far East (IMTFE) in 1946. Likewise, the UN Security Council through the creation of International Tribunal for Former Yugoslavia (ICTY) in 1993 and International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) in 1994 responded under chapter VII of UN Charter. Ironically, no such initiative was taken by UNSC to put an end to the impunity for the commission of international crimes during the 1971 warfare in the territory of Bangladesh. After the deliberate inaction of UNSC, Bangladesh as a first developing country made a historical record by enacting a domestic legislation entitled ‘International War Crimes (Tribunals) Act’ to penalize perpetrators of war criminals in 1973. However, after a prolong silence, a tribunal was reinstated in 2010 on the basis of the 1973 Act to prosecute international crimes: namely, crimes against humanity, genocide and war crimes. The tribunal in many cases has already prosecuted perpetrators for genocide and crimes against humanity. Unfortunately the tribunal did not yet frame any charge for the commission of ‘war crimes’, though section 3 (2) (d) of the 1973 Act explicitly incorporates ‘war crimes’ within the subject matter jurisdiction of the tribunal. This is perhaps because of the complexity in establishing such a plea under the existing Act.
The primary objective of the paper is to examine whether the prosecution of ‘war crimes’ is legally practicable under the present domestic legislation. In order to answer this core question, the paper will examine two major issues: first, whether there was a war in 1971 and if it is then whether it was an international, internationalized or non-international armed conflict; and second, how international tribunals interpreted the term ‘war crimes’ for prosecuting war criminals. At the outset, the paper is a modest effort to make a comparative analysis of the ‘war crimes’ related provision under ICTA 1973 and other cotemporary international treaty and customary laws. Though ICTA is purely a domestic tribunal, why is the comparison of the ICTA with contemporary international criminal law important? Even so it is quite significant in the language of the tribunal itself, that the tribunal shall not be precluded in seeking guidance from international references and evolved jurisprudence and it is indispensably required in the interest of fair justice. The paper concludes finding that the prosecution of ‘war crimes’ largely depends on the characterization of armed conflict either as non-international or international, while the domestic tribunal of Bangladesh appears to be reluctant to enter into this debate.

Session Six: Preventing Violent Extremism and Radicalization

Shanto Kairy: The challenges of youth radicalization of Bangladesh and possible de-radicalization process

Shanto Kairy: Shanto Kairy has done his graduation and post-graduation from the Department of International Relations, University of Dhaka. He is worked as Adjunct Faculty in Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB) and he is also working as an independent researcher. The core research interest areas are International Law, Law of the Sea, Foreign Policy, Bangladesh Studies, Foreign Policy of Bangladesh, Terrorism and radicalization, Security Studies, International Relations Theory, Political Economy.

Abstract: Radicalization process, as a threat for security and peace, in Bangladesh has radically fired up by several factors like politico-ideological factor leading to terrorist violence which threatens secularism, one of the core features of Bangladesh. Hizbut Tahrir, Harakatul Jihad, Jamatul Mujahedeen Bangladesh, Ansar-e Bangla team and others emerge as radical power and these groups are involving the youths, school, college and university students to the Jihadist
ideology. So with this discussion question like – “What are the main challenges that Bangladesh is facing because of youth radicalization process and what can be the possible de-radicalization process?” arises. The question is answered with social science approach and the method is qualitative with a little help of qualitative data. Some interviews were also conducted including experts, practitioners, bloggers. While reviewing literatures, psychological support to such ideologies, media propaganda, poverty, disease, illiteracy, bitter hopelessness, social inequality, marginalization and exclusion, political oppression, extreme poverty and the violation of basic rights, injustices, misery, starvation, drugs, exclusion are reasons to be radicalized. Educational institutes and systems sometimes harbor radicalization. Social networks and internet have become a medium of spreading radical ideologies and networks. Madrassas and mosques are sometimes blamed to spread radical ideologies involving with the radical groups. Several countries have introduced de-radicalization and counter-radicalization process what Bangladesh can easily follow. Flexibility and fluidity of Al-Qaeda’s content throughout the internet and. political party Jamat-e-Islam and its student wing Islami Chatra Shibir are brainwashing the youths to provoke and chose path of radical Islam. Sometimes no radical ideologies radicalize people by just blindly supporting a party. Government of Bangladesh is trying the best to combat this problem but still some cases failure is the result, especially the secular writer killings. Radicals are targeting creative and cultured people. Islamic ideology is now targeting six groups to purify the country. They are (1) “Hindu,” (2) “Christian,” (3) heretics or apostates, (4) Ethnic minorities, (5) those considered socially deviant, and (6) critical voices. Addressing the root causes and work with them and reverse the radicalization process will be a key change for Bangladesh. Ensuring democracy, quality education, and socio-economic security and social awareness like educating the Imams to talk against the radical force surely play the key role to encounter the youth radicalization process. Security sector reform, election management reform, and enhancing democratic norms can be sensibly introduce to the system. Very sensible approaches will be needed to deal with is rather than using hard forces.
Tasmiha Tabassum Sadia: The legacy of religious terrorism in Bangladesh

Tasmiha Tabassum Sadia: Tasmiha Tabassum Sadia is lecturer at department of International Relations, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Science and Technology University, Gopalganj. She completed her Honours and Masters in International Relations from University of Dhaka. Prior to joining as a lecturer Tasmiha has worked for Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies (BIISS) and Luminaries Research Ltd. Her areas of interest are international security, terrorism and climate change.

Abstract: The world is fighting hundreds of terrors every moment. The ongoing wave of terrorism took a different turn after the 11 September, 2001 attack. The post 9/11 era is characterized by the rise of religious extremism and terrorism in many parts of the world. Religious fundamentalism and political history of Bangladesh walk hand in hand. The rise of Ansarullah Bangla Team in the past few years and the Gulshan attack has created a great concern to take the issue more seriously. My paper will focus on the extremist groups, the legacy they have been carrying in Bangladesh and the current circumstances. My research questions are-

- Whether there is any nexus between homegrown and other international terrorist organizations.
- Identify the reasons behind the rise of extremism and the rapid radicalization of our youth.
- What might be the consequences of these on our national security?

From the beginning of our independence we can find riots, attacks on minorities in the name of religion many times. But the growth of religious terrorism found its way during the 1990s. Jamatul Mujahedeen (JMB), Harkat ul Jihaad these names are very much familiar to us. These terrorist groups had dreadful effect on our national life and security during the years 1998-2005. On August 2005, the bombing at 300 places at a time in Bangladesh is worth mentioning. But these activities lost its way after the execution of the top leaders of JMB in 2005. It seemed to have finally a peaceful settlement of this issue but ABT found its way for religious extremism back in 2007 naming Jamatul Muslemein but stopped working due to lack of funding. In 2013 we found their existence again followed by a series of assassination of free writers, bloggers, atheists, and teachers. From 2013 to 2015, five bloggers, a teacher and publishers have been killed which has raised question on people’s right to live and freedom of speech. Though in 2015 government passed ordinance to
ban this extremist group, it was not found to be fruitful. After 2016 July, Gulshan Terrorist Attack created a growing concern on religious extremism and radicalization nationwide. In my short literature review I would mention two or three articles on this issue. Among those, Siegfried O Wolf talked about the objectives of this organization in his article ‘ABT: A major threat for Bangladesh Democracy’. According to him, the extremist movements in Bangladesh aim at the radicalization of youths, local jihad for acquisition of power to establish Islamic rule. These organizations have been using cyberspace largely to spread their ideas, views and also creating hit lists openly. All these killings shook the world and the projection of Bangladesh as a secure democratic country. (Siegfried O Wolf, 30 January, 2016) As a result the issue needs far more attention now, we need to sort out their funding, networking as it poses grave threat to our national security as well as international security. Whether they have any link with the transnational religious fundamental groups like Al Qaeda or ISIS as the situation out there is much more dreadful. It won’t be impossible if there is any growing connection between these organizations, rather some incidents indicating towards the possibility, for example, the detention and deportation of 13 Bangladeshis in Singapore back in 2015. Though our government is denying the fact to have any sort of nexus among these organizations, anything is possible. According to Sudha Ramchanran, a researcher and journalist, “if these possibilities are true, the Bangladesh’s second wave of radicalism is likely to be not only prolonged but also more violent and intense.” (Sudha Ramchandran, 7 August, 2015)

So this issue needs to be addressed more seriously to make a clear idea of ins and outs of these radical networks in order to set up a durable framework to deal with the nightmare of religious extremism. For my research I will use a large amount of secondary materials available in newspapers and internet. The primary data will be based on interviews and expert opinions within limitations of time and resources.
Abstract: Bangladesh has a long history of political violence from the beginning of its independence in 1971. Many experts agree that violence is one of the defining factors of Bangladesh politics. Among the various forms of political violence, violent extremism is one of the important categories. Right after the independence, Bangladesh experienced a bout of leftist violent extremism which was fiercely suppressed by the government. From 1975-1991, the country has endured several military coups and counter-coups, and violence associated with the autocratic rule and protests against the regimes. Bangladesh has started to confront the rise of Islamic militancy in 1990s, when Afghan veterans started to come back after ousting the Soviets. At that time, the international media reported that Bangladesh was on its way to becoming a ‘cocoon of terror’.

A series of bomb blasts and suicide attacks in 2005 reinforced these apprehensions. Although the then ruling party was initially reluctant and denied the presence of militants, tremendous internal and external pressure compelled the government to start a crackdown on the militants. With unusually swift speed, the government conducted arrests, rapid trial and execution of the top leaders of the militant outfits. Although this crackdown was initially successful to disperse the militants, they re-organized and re-grouped, and re-emerged as a crucial threat to the country since 2013. According to an estimate, violent extremists in Bangladesh have killed at least 40 pro-secular writers and activists, foreigners and members of religious minorities. From 2013 to 2017, the number of VE incidents is 50, which resulted in 255 deaths and 942 wounded. Among these attacks, perhaps the most gruesome and well-known was the July 1, 2016 incident, when extremists stormed into Holey Artisan Bakery, a restaurant popular among foreigners at an upscale neighborhood in Dhaka, and hacked to death 20 hostages, including Indian, Italian, Japanese, and US citizens. A twelve-hour siege which was widely broadcasted around the world, ended with
the security forces’ operation. Two law-enforcers and four militants were killed in the gun-fight. Besides these incidents of violent extremism, rivalry between two main political parties and their coalitions often resorts to violent general strikes, road blocks, and skirmishes. This bitter and violent relationship between major political parties and their ‘zero-sum’ mentality to acquire or retain political power might create a favorable ground for the growth of radicalism.

Despite this visible presence of home-grown and international violent extremist groups, and a surge of attacks in recent years, number of empirical studies on violent extremism in Bangladesh is very limited. To prevent and counter violent extremism, and to implement CVE and PVE strategies, it is very important to understand the trend and nature of the threat. Against this backdrop, this proposed project will investigate violent extremism and CVE/PVE efforts in Bangladesh. In the first phase, this project wants to find out the major trends and patterns of violent extremism in Bangladesh. Based on the existing database of Bangladesh Peace Observatory (BPO) and other three international databases, it will explore who are the major actors involved in the VE incidents and what were the types of the violent extremist groups (Islamist, leftist, or lone-actors). This proposed project will also analyze the increasing and decreasing tendency of violent extremism with temporal and geographical variations. Lastly, any positive or negative correlation between political unrest, electoral violence in particular, and incidents of violent extremism will be explored. In the second phase, this proposed project will analyze the major PVE and CVE efforts and their effectiveness.
Chairpersons of the Working sessions:

Chairperson of the Session on “Genocide: Bangladesh and the World”:

**Dr Rounaq Jahan:** Professor Rounaq Jahan was a Senior Research Scholar and Adjunct Professor of International Affairs at the School of International and Public Affairs at Columbia University, USA. She was a Professor of Political Science at Dhaka University, Bangladesh and headed the women’s programme at the UN Asia-Pacific Development Center, Kuala Lumpur and the International Labour Office, Geneva. She was a Research Fellow at Harvard, Chicago and Boston universities in USA and Chr. Michelsen Institute in Norway. She was the Rajni Kothari Chair of Democracy at the Center for the Study of Developing Society (CSDS) Delhi, India. Professor Jahan received her PhD in Political Science from Harvard University. She is the author of several internationally acclaimed books and numerous articles. Most of her research is focused on issues of politics, governance, gender, development and health.

Chairperson of the Session on “State, Society and Violence”:

**Ahrar Ahmad, Ph.D.:** Ahrar Ahmad is currently Professor of Political Science at Black Hills State University in Spearfish, South Dakota, teaching primarily in the areas of comparative politics and international relations. He has published about 10 articles in peer-reviewed journals, 7 book chapters, 15 book reviews, several encyclopedia entries, and presented many papers and chaired various sessions at professional conferences. He has also served as a special guest speaker or as keynote speaker at the University of Berkeley in California, Russel-Sage College in New York, Iowa Wesleyan College, Carroll College in Montana, Truman Legacy Symposium in Key West, Florida, South Dakota State University, School of Mines and Technology in South Dakota, John A. Logan College in Illinois, and delivered the annual Chiesman Lecture on Democracy at his home institution in 2008. He has been a board member of BDI since 2003, and had also been a board member of the South Dakota Humanities Council and the Network of Spiritual Progressives. He had been elected to the Faculty Senate previously, and currently serves elected terms in the University Promotion and Tenure Committee.
and the Graduate Council, and has been nominated to the University Multicultural and Diversity Committee, and the University Appointments Committee. He was selected by the students to be Outstanding Faculty of the Year in 2001-2, by the faculty as the Distinguished Faculty of the Year 2007-8, and was designated the Carnegie Professor of the Year for the State of South Dakota in 2007. He also served as a Senior Fulbright Fellow for a year in 2007-8.

Chairperson of the Session on “Genocide on the Rohingya”:

Professor Imtiaz Ahmed: Imtiaz Ahmed, Professor of International Relations and Director, Centre for Genocide Studies at the University of Dhaka, Bangladesh. Currently, Executive Director, Regional Centre for Strategic Studies, Colombo, Sri Lanka. Professor Ahmed was educated at the University of Dhaka, Carleton University, Ottawa, and the Australian National University, Canberra. He is also currently Visiting Professor at the Sagesse University, Beirut, and Jahangirnagar University. His research interests include South Asian politics, religion and culture, tolerance and terrorism, the politics of development, refugees and migration, and women and the environment. Professor Ahmed is the recipient of various awards and honours. He has been a fellow in the following institutions: Ford Foundation Fellow at the University of Oxford; Asia Fellow at the Centre for the Study of Developing Societies (CSDS), Delhi; Rockefeller Fellow at the Rockefeller Foundation; Japan Foundation Fellow at the Yokohama City University; Research Fellow at the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies, Singapore; and Foreign Policy Fellow at the University of Maryland and College Park. He has authored, co-authored, or edited 18 books and 6 monographs. More than 110 research papers and scholarly articles have been published in leading journals and chapters in edited volumes. His publications include Contemporarising Tagore & the World (2013), Women & Militancy: South Asian Complexities (2011), and Terrorism in the 21st Century: Perspectives from Bangladesh (2009) and his recent publication is an edited volume titled: Human Rights in Bangladesh: Past, Present & Futures(Dhaka: University Press Limited, 2014). His forthcoming publication is People of Many Rivers: Tales from the Riverbanks (Dhaka: University Press Limited, i.p.).
Chairperson of the Session on “Memory of Genocide and Violence”:

**Dr. Meghna Guhathakurta:** Dr. Meghna Guhathakurta is executive director of Research Initiatives Bangladesh (RIB), a research support organization based in Dhaka, which specializes in action research with marginalized communities. From 1984 to 2007, she taught International Relations at the University of Dhaka. Her field of specialization has broadly been international development, gender relations, and South Asian politics. She is widely published on these issues. She serves as associate editor of the Journal of Social Studies published from the Centre for Social Studies in Dhaka. She is advisor to the International Chittagong Hill Tracts Commission, an advocacy watchdog, and has been project coordinator of RIB’s project in the official Rohingya camps as implementing partner of UNHCR since 2011. Guhathakurta graduated from the University of Dhaka and received her Ph.D. in politics from the University of York, United Kingdom.

Chairperson of the Session on “Politics of Genocide, Trial and Transitional Justice”:

**Mr. Mofidul Hoque:** Mr. Mofidul Hoque is a co-founder and one of eight Trustees of the Liberation War Museum. The museum, established in 1996, has become a peoples’ museum and has earned recognition both nationally and internationally. As Director of the museum’s education program, he has planned and executed its oral history project whereby students collect eyewitness accounts of the events of 1971 from senior family members. These accounts are then compiled in the museum’s archive of memory. He was deeply involved with the national democratic struggle since his student days and took active part in the liberation war of Bangladesh in 1971. The museum has recently established ‘Centre for Studies on Genocide and Peace’ with him as Director.
Chairperson of the Session on “Preventing Violent Extremism and Radicalization”

Mr. Rob Stoelman: Rob Stoelman, Masters in Managing Rural Development from SOAS, University of London. After 18 years’ of work experience in the private sector, he got introduced in 2002 in development work through a volunteer assignment in Bangladesh. He has been working for UNDP since 2004, first with UNDP’s Chittagong Hill Tracts Facility, after in Rakhine State, Myanmar, at the moment as project manager in the prevention of violent extremism. Rob has management experience in post conflict areas and is familiar to work in highly political sensitive contexts.
Conference Sub-Committee Members

Convener:

Professor Imtiaz Ahmed, Director, Centre for Genocide Studies, University of Dhaka, Dhaka.

Members:

Dr. Amena Mohsin, Professor, Department of International Relations, University of Dhaka, Dhaka.

Dr. Delwar Hossain, Professor, Department of International Relations, University of Dhaka, Dhaka.

Dr. Tanzimuddin Khan, Associate Professor, Department of International Relations, University of Dhaka, Dhaka.

Dr. Niloy Ranjan Biswas, Associate Professor, Department of International Relations, University of Dhaka, Dhaka.

Mr. G.M. Arifuzzaman, Research Associate, Centre for Genocide Studies, University of Dhaka, Dhaka.
Venue:

The conference will be held at Muzaffar Ahmed Chowdhury Auditorium, University of Dhaka, Dhaka, Bangladesh on **24-25 March, 2019.**
Contact:
Centre for Genocide Studies (CGS), Room 402, Center for Advanced Research in Arts & Social Sciences (CARASS) University of Dhaka, Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh
Email: cgs@du.ac.bd
Website: www.cgsdu.org
Phone: 880-2-9661900, Ext. 4647