



# Center For Asian Studies (CAS)

**Director**

**Dr. Bhuian Md. Monoar Kabir**

**Professor**

Department of Political Science  
University of Chittagong

## Contact

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## MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF ADVISORS

**Dr. Talukder Maniruzzaman**

National Professor  
Former Professor of Political Science  
University of Dhaka  
Dhaka  
BANGLADESH

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Professor Emeritus  
Department of History  
Former Vice-Chancellor  
University of Chittagong  
Chittagong  
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**Dr. Anupam Sen**

Vice-Chancellor  
Premier University, Chittagong  
Former Professor of Sociology  
University of Chittagong  
Chittagong  
BANGLADESH

**Dr. Borhanuddin Khan Jahangir**

Director  
Center For Social Studies  
Gulshan, Dhaka  
Former Professor of Political Science  
University of Dhaka  
Former Pro-Vice Chancellor  
National University  
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**Dr. Moinul Islam**

Professor  
Department of Economics  
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BANGLADESH

**Dr. Mahmudul Huque**  
Professor  
Department of History  
University of Chittagong  
Chittagong  
BANGLADESH

**Dr. Haroon-or-Rashid**  
Professor of Political Science  
University of Dhaka  
Dhaka  
Currently, the Vice Chancellor  
National University  
Gazipur  
BANGLADESH

**Dr. Mahbubur Rahman**  
Professor  
Department of History  
Rajshahi University  
Head of Heritage Archive  
Rajshahi  
BANGLADESH

**Mr. Humayun Kabir**  
Vice President  
Bangladesh Enterprise Institute (BEI)  
Former teacher in the Department of Political Science,  
University of Dhaka  
Former Ambassador to Washington D.C. and Foreign Secretary  
Dhaka  
BANGLADESH

**Mr. Ashfaqur Rahman**  
Former Ambassador to China  
President  
Center for Foreign Affairs Studies (CFAS)  
Dhaka  
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**Dr. Al Masud Hasanuzzaman**  
Professor  
Department of Government and Politics  
Jahangirnagar University  
Savar, Dhaka  
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Professor  
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University of Dhaka  
Dhaka  
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**Dr. Amena Mohsin**  
Professor  
Department of International Relations  
University of Dhaka  
Dhaka  
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**Dr. Abdur Rob Khan**  
Professor  
North South University, Dhaka  
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# **Center For Asian Studies (CAS)**

Department of Political Science

University of Chittagong

Chittagong, Bangladesh

## **Brief Statement About the Center for Asian Studies (CAS)**

The Center for Asian Studies (CAS) is dedicated entirely to the study of various aspects of Asian Affairs. They involve history, culture, politics, economy, security, strategic and other aspects of various Asian countries and regions. The Center is approved by the Department of Political Science, Faculty of Social Sciences, Academic Council, and finally, the Syndicate of the University of Chittagong in 2014. Scholars and Researchers interested in the above issues from all over Bangladesh, Asian regions and beyond are warmly welcome to use the Center (CAS) to do their research.



## **Detailed Statement, Objectives, Functions and Constitution of the Center**

The continent of Asia is the largest continent in the world. The continent is geographically divided into several regions, sub-regions, and theaters such as West Asia (commonly called the Middle-East), South Asia, and East Asia. East Asia is a huge region covering countries east of South Asia and mostly located along the Pacific coast. East Asia itself is divided into two sub-regions: Northeast Asia covering the countries located north of Vietnam and Southeast Asia with the countries located in the south of China and east of Indian northeast and Bangladesh. The sub-regional group ASEAN has 10 members. Central Asia is composed of the breakaway Muslim republics from Kazakhstan in the east to Tajikistan (or arguably Afghanistan) in the west. In addition to these clearly defined regions and sub-regions, eastern and southeastern parts of Russia belong to northeast Asia and Russia used to have and still has significant presence in Asian Affairs. So has the United States. It, as a global power, has presence all over Asia and is involved in almost all issues of Asian Affairs. Australia and New Zealand also are Asian players as they, especially Australia, get involved in many of the issues of Asian countries. The Peoples' Republic of China (PRC) -- or simply China - - is located at the center of Southeast and Northeast Asian sub-regions. It, indeed, belongs to all three sub-regions. It also has borders with Russia, Central Asian and South Asian countries. South Asia is formed with three separate states (India, Pakistan and Bangladesh) of the Indian Sub-Continent and its peripheral countries like Nepal, Bhutan, Sri Lanka, the Maldives and Afghanistan. Countries west of South Asia form West Asia, commonly known as the Middle East.

While some people, being oblivion to history, tend to argue that only with the rise of China as one of the world economic and military powers and steady rise of India as a regional power in the future, the U.S involvement in Afghanistan and Pakistan in the name of fighting Islamist terrorism and Leon Panetta's announcement of deployment of sixty percent of its naval force in the Asia-Pacific to contain China

have made Asia a hotbed of politico-military, and economic activities, the fact of the matter is that Asia has always been a focal point of all these activities.

The whole region with few exceptions was under Western imperialism and colonial rule for centuries which have changed Asia - - mostly regressively -- to a significant extent. West-led devastating World Wars were fought in Asia and then two real “hot” wars -- the Korean War and Vietnam War -- during the Cold War era were also fought here in Asia. Significantly, none was fought elsewhere either in Europe, or in the Americas or even Africa.

Asia has always been a center of Civilization -- the Chinese, Indian, Islamic, or one may call Japanese. All major powers like the U.S., Russia, China, Japan, India, Kazakhstan, even the Koreas and Pakistan, are located or deeply involved in Asia. Asia is the only continent which has world's only two countries with billion plus population. All these provide a good enough reason and a broad scope to do research on any of numerous aspects such as politico-cultural-historical as well as geo-political-military-security-strategic aspects of Asia.

Although the Asian countries, in general, were identified as backward and underdeveloped by the west and there was an ingrained idea that these countries were not capable of developing on their own, that was not supported by historical facts as up to 18-19<sup>th</sup> centuries, Asia had produced great civilizations. Only since the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century that due to domestic oppression, weak and corrupt leadership, Euro-American Imperialism and Colonialism that Asia had fallen behind. Euro-American or West-centric development paradigm was dominant for almost the entire period of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. But, since the decolonization of Asia in the aftermath of the Second World War, Asians again began to try to develop themselves. Different Asian countries have followed different paths of development. But the situation began to change at the end of the last century. Particularly, after the end of the Cold War in 1989, the whole global situation began to change. From then on, attention of the global community has increasingly been shifted towards Asia. The situation is such that the

major global actors are determining their national and international policies keeping in their view the rise of Asia.

Chinese initiative to establish linkage with the economies of Europe, Africa and Asia for making a huge market may not please the western powers. NATO, in particular, has become very concerned about the rise of China as well as Asia which is reflected in the statement of various US officials. In an annual international security conference held in Singapore on 31 May 2012, US Defense Secretary Leon Panetta disclosed that the US navy will deploy 60% of its military forces, including six aircraft carrier battle groups, to the Asia-Pacific region by 2020, as compared to the current 50%. He further declared "Make no mistake -- in a steady, deliberate and sustainable way, the U.S military rebalancing and bringing an enhanced capability to this vital region." He further emphasized, "We were there then, we are here now, and will be here for the future." This statement makes it clear that the U.S.A and primarily its western allies are determined to engage themselves intensively.

It is beyond any question and doubt that Asia has become one of most crucial regions from the overall politico-economic, cultural, and geo-political context. It is also a fact that the global power has already begun to shift towards Asia and China is the prime force. Under such circumstances political systems of the Asian countries, nature of their economic development, domestic and international policies of the Asian countries, security strategy of the Asian nations and the geo-political importance of Asia have become a major field of research.

Bangladesh, being an Asian country with growing economy, increasing strategic value to other Asian players like India, China, U.S., Russia and even the Koreas, Pakistan with huge manpower with Muslim majority, has an enormous stake in understanding through research on various aspects and areas of Asian history, society, culture, political-economy, geopolitical strategic issues and their continuity and changes. Spectacular and significant changes that have been taking place in Asia for the last few decades and recent politico-economic and military strategic changes and moves by various major Asian players are going to have long term significance for Bangladesh and we should intellectually be prepared to devote ourselves to study

and conduct extensive research to understand these trends so as to cope with the constantly changing and evolving situations to help protect and maximize Bangladesh's interest by helping to formulate appropriate strategies.

These reasons above justify the establishment of the *Center for Asian Studies* to study conduct serious research. The primary and sole purpose of the center would be to study and research various issues, aspects, and regions, sub-regions, countries to have greater understanding to formulate proper strategies which are going to help our policy makers to make policy decisions to protect and enhance Bangladesh's interests and work for peaceful South, Southeast, Northeast, and West Asia, and for that matter, the whole of Asia.

The Center for Asian Studies (CAS), a non-partisan, non-profit research organization of the academics and researchers interested in doing research and study various aspects and issues related to Asia, intends to establish a channel of communication and network among the researchers, academics, specialists and professionals concerned at home and abroad by exchanging views, conducting research, publishing research products and the activities related to enhancing knowledge about the overall process of change and continuity in Asia.

## **2. Objectives and Activities of the Center for Asian Studies (CAS)**

2.1 The Center (CAS) shall maintain its nonpartisan identity in conducting its activities. In no way, shall it promote or oppose any ideology, sect, political party, group or person, country.

2.2 The objectives of the CAS are as follows:

a) There will be several wings of the Center (CAS) for each of the regions of Asia. They will be: 1. South Asian Wing; 2. Southeast Asian Wing; 3. Northeast Asian Wing; 4. Central and West Asian Wing; 5. Asia-Pacific Wing that includes Australia and New Zealand; and 6. China Wing. Research on any issue of

any of these regions will be done through and handled by the respective wing.

b) To conduct research and study history, culture, nature and tradition, society, politics, foreign policy, strategic issues of the various countries of different regions and sub-regions of Asia including Bangladesh.

c) To study the impact of Asia's transformation on South and Southeast Asia.

d) To conduct research on geopolitical dimensions of Asia's transformation.

e) To study the security perspectives of the South and Southeast Asian countries in particular and Asian countries in general.

f) To study the impact of the rise of China on the balance of power in both Asia as well as the world.

g) Conducting research on the emergence of China as a major source of foreign loan and aid and its significance.

h) To study the necessity, problems and prospects of democratization in Asia.

i) To study the problems and ways of protecting ecological balance in various regions and sub-regions of Asia.

j) To study the strategic importance of water sharing among the Asian countries and find out solution to the disputes regarding the sharing of water of international rivers.

k) Conducting research on bilateral and multilateral relations of the Asian countries.

l) To study the energy crisis in Asia.

j) To provide training and consultancy service to those who are interested in Asian studies.

**3. The Activities of the Center are:**

- a) To organize seminars, conferences and workshops related to history, culture, economy, politics, security, administration, internal and external policies, conflict and cooperation among the Asian countries.
- b) To provide training and consultancy service to those who are interested in Asian studies.
- c) To weave a network by establishing linkage with the national and international research organizations and academic institutions concerned with Asian studies.
- d) Publishing books, journals, monographs and research papers on different issues concerning Asia.
- e) Organizing short-term training program for the young researchers interested in conducting research on strategic, geopolitical and other important aspects of Asia.
- f) Conducting collaborative research with governmental and nongovernmental organizations on different important issues on Asia.

# **Center for Asian Studies (CAS)**

## **Constitution**

### **Part I: INTRODUCTION**

#### **1.1. Name**

1.1.1. The name of the organization shall be the Centre for Asian Studies (CAS).

1.1.2. The address of the Center is: Room No. 222, Department of Political Science, Social Science (Dr. Mohammad Yunus) Building, University of Chittagong, Chittagong 4331, Bangladesh.

#### **1.2. Definitions**

1.2.1 Center means the Center for Asian Studies.

1.2.2 The word ‘member’ shall mean and include: Fellows, General Members and Associate Members.

1.2.3 Board will mean the Executive Board of CAS.

#### **1.3 Objectives and Activities**

1.3.1 The Center shall be entirely a nonpartisan organization. It shall not have any support or opposition to any political parties, ideologies, or views. It, however, will give emphasis on protecting Bangladesh’s interests preferably through cooperative manner.

## **Part II: MEMBERSHIP**

### **2.1. Membership**

2.1.1 Membership of the CAS is open only to those scholars who are interested in history, culture, tradition, geopolitics, political systems, democratization, governance, public policy, foreign relations of Asian countries.

2.1.2 Membership of the CAS shall become effective upon approval of a completed application and the receipt of stipulated membership fees. The Board of Executives (Board) shall preserve the right to accept or reject any application for membership of the CAS.

### **2.2. Types of Membership**

2.2.1. The Center shall have the following types of members who shall have to follow the general rules made from time to time by the Board:

2.2.1.1 Type A: General Member – anyone involved in teaching and/or research on issues concerning history, culture, tradition, geopolitics, political systems, public policy, foreign relations of Asian countries.

2.2.1.2 Type B: Associate Member – anyone interested in the study of issues related to the process of multifarious changes in Asia.

2.2.1.3 Type C: Fellow – anyone with outstanding contribution to different areas related to economic, political, strategic, socio-cultural, internal and external aspects of Asian countries.

### **2.3 Fees and Subscriptions**

2.3.1. The amount of annual subscription of the various types of members to be payable within 31 December each year shall be determined by the Board.



## **PART III: THE BOARD OF EXECUTIVES**

### **3.1 Members of the Board**

3.1.1 The Centre shall have an Executive Board (or the Board of Executives). It shall be composed of a Director and five other members. The other members of the Board shall be nominated by the Director. The following members will constitute the first Board:

#### **Director**

Dr. Bhuiyan Md. Monoar Kabir  
Professor  
Department of Political Science,  
University of Chittagong  
Chittagong  
BANGLADESH

#### **Board Members**

Dr. Muhammad Abdul Hakim  
Professor  
Department of Political Science  
University of Chittagong  
Chittagong  
Former Member  
University Grants Commission of Bangladesh  
Dhaka  
BANGLADESH

Dr. Nizam Ahmed  
Professor  
Department of Public Administration  
University of Chittagong  
Chittagong  
BANGLADESH

Dr. Mahfuzul H. Chowdhury  
Professor  
Department of Political Science  
University of Chittagong  
Chittagong  
BANGLADESH

Dr. Anwara Begum  
Professor  
Department of Political Science  
University of Chittagong  
Chittagong  
BANGLADESH

Dr. Mustafizur Rahman Siddiqui  
Professor  
Department of Political Science  
University of Chittagong  
Chittagong  
BANGLADESH

### **3.2 Functions of the Executive Board**

3.2.1 The board of Executives shall take all major policy decisions necessary to attain the objectives of the Centre. The Board shall:

- a. take and implement decisions;
- b. prepare the budget of the Centre;
- c. attend daily affairs of the Centre;
- d. approve work plans ;
- e. approve application for membership;
- f. prescribe membership fees;
- g. establish committees and subcommittees;
- h. enter into transaction on behalf of the centre.

## **PART IV: MEETINGS**

### **4.1 Meetings of the Executive Board**

4.1.1 The Board shall meet as and when required. For every meeting of the Board of Executives, all the Board members shall be notified of the meeting at least three days in advance. Fellows and associate members may attend a meeting and speak on the issues included in the agenda, but they shall not have the right to vote.

4.1.2 Half of the members of the Board shall constitute a quorum. No business shall be transacted by the Board unless a quorum is present. If a quorum is not present, the meeting shall be adjourned. The Director shall decide the date, time and venue for a subsequent meeting.

### **4.2 Voting and Decisions**

4.2.1 Decisions shall be taken as far as possible on the basis of consensus.

4.2.2 Any member present at a meeting can request a vote on an issue. Each member present is entitled to one vote. In the event of an equality of votes, the presiding member shall have a casting vote.

### **4.3 Minutes of Meetings**

4.3.1 Minutes of all resolutions and proceedings of a meeting shall be recorded in a minute book. Every minute signed by the Director of the meeting shall be sufficient evidence of the facts as stated there in.

4.3.2 Decisions taken in the general/special meetings and recorded as such in the minute book shall be final unless revoked in any subsequent meeting.

## **PART V: BOARD OF ADVISORS**

### **5.1 Members of the Board of Advisors:**

5.1.1 The Center (CAS) will have a Board of Advisors.

5.1.2 It will be called the Advisory Board of the CAS (ABCAS).

5.1.3 The number of members of the ABCAS will vary and the Board of Executives (the Board) of the Center (CAS) will nominate the members of the ABCAS from time to time.

5.1.4 Accomplished scholars and experts on any aspect of any country, sub-region, or region of Asia will be eligible for the membership of the ABCAS.

5.1.5 Primary responsibility of the ABCAS will be to advise the Board of Executives (the Board). Its members can offer advice individually or as a body in the meetings of the ABCAS.

5.1.6 Director of the Board of Executives (the Board) will call the meetings of the ABCAS as and when the Director determines it necessary to call such a meeting of the ABCAS.

**Present Advisors include:**

Dr. Talukder Maniruzzaman  
National Professor  
Former Professor of Political Science  
University of Dhaka  
Dhaka  
BANGLADESH

Dr. Alamgir Mohammad Serajuddin  
Professor Emeritus  
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Former Vice-Chancellor  
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Former Director  
Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies (BIISS)  
Dhaka  
BANGLADESH

## **PART VI: AMENDMENT OF THE CONSTITUTION**

### **6.1 Amendment Procedure**

6.1.1 Any amendment, alteration or modification of the Constitution shall be effected at a special meeting of the Board convened for the purpose by at least two-thirds of the members entitled to vote.

## **PART VII: MISCELLANEOUS**

### **7.1 Sources of Fund**

7.1.1 The funds of CAS shall consist of subscription fees, sponsorship, grants and donations, interest from investments and such other sources as the Board determines.

### **7.2 Inspection of Records**

7.2.1 Subject to any privacy legislation, records and documents of the CAS shall be open to inspection, free of charge, by any member of the CAS.