



**YOUTH LEADERSHIP  
SUMMIT 2011**

**The role of courage in leadership**



**Journey to the Light of Hope**

Journey to the Light of Hope depicts a ship caught in a stormy night, and the captain of the ship is leading the crew towards a safe island, which is a peaceful place covered with the warmth of the glowing sun. However, leadership is not easy. Hence, the leader is passing through a stormy night which represents the obstacles he needs to overcome. With his wisdom and experience he is inspiring the crew and providing direction. His goal is to reach the island, and therefore, the ship is moving slowly but surely, towards his goal with the participation of all the sailors. Thus, it exhibits the sense of solidarity among everyone and highlights an important part of leadership - teamwork.

*Abutaieb Khan, Amiya Atahar, Farah Naz Rahman, M. M. Sayeef Abdullah, Ovick Alam & Tazrian Robi Shorno (Group: Shoptorshee, BYLC Batch III)*

200 Delegates.  
50 Speakers.  
3 days of Inspiration.

## WELCOME MESSAGE

March 3, 2011

DEAR DELEGATES,

Welcome to the Youth Leadership Summit 2011. We are especially pleased to bring you to this event in the month of March, which commemorates a defining point in our national history. On this month, forty years ago, Bangladesh emerged as an independent state to meet the hopes and aspirations of our people. With independence also came the right to make choices for ourselves and to face the consequences of those choices. We organized this Summit to create an opportunity for all of us to collectively reflect on how our choices have contributed to the major challenges facing our country today, and to explore what new choices we can make to move our country forward.

While there are no easy answers to complex problems such as ecological devastation, chronic poverty and widening and deepening socio-political and economic inequities, we do believe that our country needs a new generation of compassionate and competent leaders to address these challenges. This leadership has to come from you, the young generation, because our future depends on the choices that you will make during your lifetime. For our first Summit, we chose courage as our theme because it stands as one of the fundamental virtues in a good leader. Courage is about doing the right thing, not necessarily the popular thing. Courage is about respecting deeply held values and norms, but at the same time stepping out of our comfort zone to make progress on society's most urgent needs.

Central to courage is competence, and competence comes from knowledge. It is with this conviction that we have organized the different plenaries and panels on global citizenship, entrepreneurship, human rights and ethics, media and journalism, climate change, politics,

liberation war, innovation, health, and education to provide you a broad intellectual understanding of Bangladesh's contemporary challenges. This breadth of knowledge is especially critical for exercising leadership in the 21st century as many of our toughest problems are interconnected, and hence require a multifaceted competence across different disciplines. In the course of the next three days, you will be hearing from speakers who have distinguished themselves as leaders in their fields. Despite their busy schedules, they have all come to spend time with you because they care about your development. I hope that you will take this opportunity to actively engage in the sessions with both your intellect and your heart, and learn as much as you can.

I also hope that you will use the breaks in between sessions and the social events to get to know each other and to build lasting relationships. All 200 of you have been selected as delegates from a large number of applications because you are bright and capable of achieving great things in life. It is, therefore, a great opportunity for you to develop a powerful network with like-minded motivated youth from all over Bangladesh. This network will be useful for you, both in the present and in the future.

And finally, I want to leave you with a closing thought. The story of life, unlike the movies we see in theatres, is only recorded once, and that's what makes life both beautiful and challenging. All the speakers that you will be hearing from have made a difference in the world in different capacities. They have defined and exercised courage in their own ways. As you listen to their stories, ask yourselves two questions: What would courage look like in your life, and your career? And what story would you leave behind for the world?

I wish you an enjoyable and memorable journey at the Youth Leadership Summit 2011.

Warmly,



Ejaj Ahmad

Founder & President, BYLC

## OUR STORY

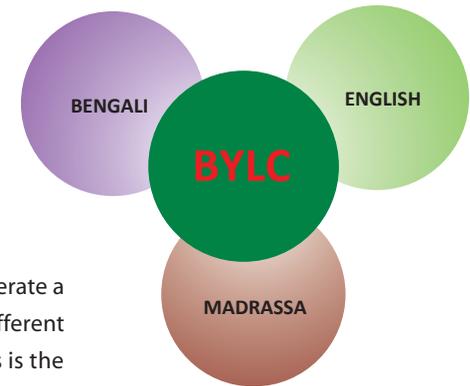
The concept of a youth leadership center was originally developed at Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government in January 2008. The proposal for a month-long leadership program, Building Bridges through Leadership Training (BBLT), was jointly developed by Ejaj Ahmad, then a graduate student at Harvard, and Shammi S. Quddus, then an undergraduate student at Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). The proposal won the Kathryn Davis Projects for Peace Prize in March 2008.

Ejaj and Shammi jointly ran the pilot phase of BBLT in Chittagong in the summer of 2008 with support from MIT Public Service Center. Building on the success and lessons learned from the pilot, the BBLT program was encapsulated within the framework of a non-profit organization, the Bangladesh Youth Leadership Center (BYLC). In October 2008, BYLC formed its Governing Board. In early 2009, it was registered with the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies and Firms in Bangladesh as a non-partisan social venture committed to creating an inclusive, tolerant and just society by training the next generation of leaders.

Subsequently, BYLC developed relationships with several leading international organizations and expanded its programs. It has since received support from the US State Department, the British High Commission in Bangladesh, the World Bank Institute and the private sector in Bangladesh for ten of its BBLT and BBLT Junior programs. In the short run, BYLC will be relocating to a new office with training facility in Dhaka, and begin scaling up its activities. With support from the people of Bangladesh, BYLC aspires to be at the forefront of Asia in ten years as one of the continent's most respected and trusted names in leadership education.



# THREE COMPONENTS OF OUR PROGRAMS



## Building Bridges

Diversity, a catalyst for progress, helps combine voices from many varied positions to generate a broad and inclusive perspective. However, when there are gaps in communication and different groups of people fail to interact with each other, diversity can lead to divisiveness. This is the scenario in our country, where there are three types of educational systems - English medium, Bengali medium and Madrassa. Students from these three backgrounds rarely come together as a team. This divisiveness in society prevents the cooperation necessary to move Bangladesh forward. Therefore, one objective of our leadership program is to unite participants from diverse backgrounds.

## Leadership Training

Leadership is a heavily discussed and widely misunderstood concept in our country today. While the dearth of leadership in society is deeply felt, the right perspective and the right knowledge for exercising leadership are equally scarce. Another objective of our program, therefore, is to instill value-driven leadership ideas in the young generation. In teaching leadership, BYLC makes the crucial distinction between authority and leadership - that the latter is not about the person, but rather about the work that needs to be done to move society forward. Our program participants are also equipped with diagnostic tools to understand social systems and to mobilize groups effectively.



## Active Citizenship

Leadership as a position of authority alone is of no use unless it delivers positive results for others. We believe that training in itself is not good enough if it is not followed by action. The third objective of our program, therefore, is to help participants apply their skills and knowledge in a real world setting by serving their local communities. Through this community engagement BYLC inculcates values of public service and active citizenship in the next generation of leaders in Bangladesh.

## OUR JOURNEY SO FAR

### March 2008

The proposal for a pilot BBLT program wins the 2008 Kathryn Davis Projects for Peace Prize



### April 2008

BYLC launches pilot BBLT in Chittagong with support from MIT Public Service Center



### January 5, 2009

BYLC is registered as a non-profit with the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies and Firms



### March 18, 2009

BYLC and Entrepreneurship Development Forum of BRAC University organize a lecture on 'Leadership for the 21st Century'



### April 9, 2009

BYLC hosts a workshop on 'Exercising Leadership' at IBA, University of Dhaka



### June 19, 2009

Vice Chancellor of Dhaka University, the then Secretary of Ministry of Youth and Sports, and then Principal of Viqarunnisa School at the BBLT 2 Opening Ceremony in Dhaka



### July 23, 2009

Zafar Sobhan, chairperson of BYLC, addressing graduates at the BBLT 2 Graduation Ceremony in Dhaka



### July 23, 2009

James F. Moriarty, US Ambassador to Bangladesh, inaugurates Karushilpo, a social enterprise initiated by BBLT graduates



### August 12, 2009

BBLT 2 graduates organize a health camp to provide free medical services on International Youth Day



### November 27, 2009

BYLC organizes emergency winter clothes collection campaign for the residents of Malibag slum after a devastating fire breakout



### December 5, 2009

Barrister Manzoor Hasan OBE, member of the governing board of BYLC, speaks at the Inaugural Ceremony of BBLT 3 in Dhaka



### December 16, 2009

Ejaj Ahmad, president of BYLC, speaks to BBLT 3 students at the BYLC Victory Day Rally in Mohakhali, Dhaka



## OUR JOURNEY SO FAR

### January 9, 2010

H. E. Stephen Evans, British High Commissioner to Bangladesh, distributes certificates to students at the BBLT 3 Graduation Ceremony in Dhaka



### February 21, 2010

BYLC launches Young Scholars Program, a scholarship program for underprivileged secondary school students



### March 26, 2010

BYLC organizes Independence of Thought, an inter-school creativity competition on the occasion of our Independence Day



### March 6, 2010

BYLC holds its first AGM at the Lake Shore Hotel in Dhaka



### June 26, 2010

Opening Ceremony of BBLT Junior 1 - first leadership training program for secondary school students was held in Dhaka



### July 10, 2010

BBLT 4 Opening Ceremony in Chittagong - program is expanded to four months



### July 22, 2010

BBLT Junior 1 graduates receive certificates from Shireen Manzoor at the Graduation Ceremony in Dhaka



### August 12, 2010

BYLC and Star Campus organize a roundtable on youth leadership to celebrate the International Youth Day



### October 6, 2010

Ejaj Ahmad, president of BYLC, receives the 2010 International Youth Foundation Global Fellowship Award from Nobel Laureate Martti Ahtisaari at the Finnish Embassy in Washington DC



### November 4, 2010

James F. Moriarty, US Ambassador to Bangladesh, speaks at the BBLT 5 Inaugural Ceremony in Dhaka



### December 16, 2010

BBLT 4 graduates organize a health camp in Satkania, Chittagong, to serve over 200 underprivileged people



### February 1, 2011

Garrett Wilkerson, Cultural Affairs Officer of the American Center, speaks at the BBLT Junior 2 Inaugural Ceremony in Dhaka



# AGENDA

## Thursday, March 3

<b>9:00 AM - 9:45 AM</b>	Registration
<b>9:45 AM - 11:00 AM</b>	<i>Opening Ceremony</i>
	Welcoming Remarks <b>Ejaj Ahmad</b> , Founder & President, BYLC
	Introductory Remarks by the Chair of the Ceremony <b>Mohamed Mijarul Quayes</b> , Member, International Advisory Board of BYLC & Foreign Secretary of Bangladesh
	Remarks by <b>Professor Abdullah Abu Sayeed</b> , Founder, Bishwa Shahitya Kendra
<b>11:00 AM - 11:30 AM</b>	Tea Break
<b>11:30 AM - 1:15 PM</b>	<i>Ice Breaking Activities</i> Facilitated by <b>Quazi M. Ahmed</b> , Lead Consultant & CEO, FutureLeaders
<b>1:15 PM - 2:15 PM</b>	Lunch
<b>2:15 PM - 3:15 PM</b>	<i>Team Building Activities</i>
<b>3:15 PM - 3:45 PM</b>	Tea Break
<b>3:45 PM - 5:00 PM</b>	<i>Global Citizenship</i> Chaired by <b>Farooq Sobhan</b> , President, Bangladesh Enterprise Institute (BEI)
	Panel includes: <b>Dr. Justin Lee</b> , Australian High Commissioner to Bangladesh <b>Nihad Kabir</b> , Senior Partner, Syed Ishtiaq Ahmed and Associates <b>Dr. Sanjay Kathuria</b> , Lead Economist, The World Bank
<b>5:00 PM - 5:30 PM</b>	Departure for Cadet College Club
<b>5:30 PM - 6:00 PM</b>	<i>Debrief</i>
<b>6:00 PM - 8:00 PM</b>	Networking Event & Barbeque Dinner at the Cadet College Club

## Friday, March 4

<b>8:45 AM - 9:15 AM</b>	Arrival
<b>9:15 AM - 10:30 AM</b>	<i>Leading in Times of Uncertainty</i> <b>Ejaj Ahmad</b> , Founder & President, BYLC <b>Ivdad A.K. Mojlish</b> , Director of Youth Leadership Programs, BYLC
<b>10:30 AM - 11:00 AM</b>	Tea Break
<b>11:00 AM - 12:15 PM</b>	<i>Entrepreneurship</i> Chaired by <b>Mamun Rashid</b> , former CEO, Citibank NA
	Panel includes: <b>Geeteera Safiya Choudhury</b> , Chairman, Adcomm Limited <b>A.K. Azad</b> , President, The Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) <b>Niaz Rahim</b> , Group Director, Rahimafrooz
<b>12:15 PM - 2:15 PM</b>	Lunch and Prayer
<b>2:15 PM - 3:30 PM</b>	<i>Three Concurrent Sessions</i>
	<i>Climate Change and Renewable Energy</i> Chaired by <b>Dr. Ainun Nishat</b> , Vice Chancellor, BRAC University
	Panel includes: <b>Munawar M. Moin</b> , Managing Director, Rahimafrooz Renewable Energy Limited <b>Syeda Rizwana Hasan</b> , Executive Director, Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association (BELA) <b>Dr. M. Aminul Islam</b> , Assistant Country Director for Climate Change, Environment and Disaster Management, UNDP
	<i>Human Rights and Ethics</i> Chaired by <b>Sara Hossain</b> , Member, Governing Board of BYLC & Partner, Dr. Kamal Hossain and Associates
	Panel includes: <b>Dr. Ananya Raihan</b> , Executive Director, D.Net <b>Asif Saleh</b> , Founder, Drishtipat <b>Dr. Faustina Pereira</b> , Director of the Human Rights and Legal Services, BRAC

# AGENDA

## Saturday, March 5

	<i>Media and Journalism</i> Chaired by <b>Zafar Sobhan</b> , Chairperson, BYLC
	Panel includes: <b>Farah Kabir</b> , Country Director, ActionAid <b>Jamil Ahmed</b> , Chief of Journalism Training & Research Initiative, BRAC University <b>Shariful Islam</b> , Founder, Bangladesh Brand Forum
<b>3:30 PM - 4:00 PM</b>	Tea Break
<b>4:00 PM - 5:00 PM</b>	<i>Youth Survey Project</i>
<b>9:00 AM - 9:30 AM</b>	Arrival
<b>9:30 AM - 10:45 AM</b>	<i>Education and Career</i> Chaired by <b>Dr. Hafiz G. A. Siddiqi</b> , Vice Chancellor, North South University
	Panel includes: <b>Homayara Ahmed</b> , Govering Board Member of BYLC & Assistant Professor at IBA, University of Dhaka <b>Fahim Mashroor</b> , CEO, BDjobs.com <b>Arif Shahriar</b> , COO and Group Head of HR, Rahimafrooz <b>Qahir Dhanani</b> , Consultant, The Boston Consulting Group
<b>10:45 AM - 11:15 AM</b>	Tea Break
<b>11:15 AM - 12:30 PM</b>	<i>Three Concurrent Sessions</i>
	<i>Health</i> Chaired by <b>Dr. Omar Rahman</b> , Vice Chancellor, Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB)
	Panel includes: <b>Fizza Kabir</b> , Executive Director, SAJIDA Foundation <b>Mridul Chowdhury</b> , CEO, ClickDiagnostics Inc. <b>Dr. Muhammad Abdus Sabur</b> , Public Health Professional
	<i>Politics and Leadership</i> Chaired by <b>Dr. Amena Mohsin</b> , Professor, Department of International Relations, University of Dhaka
<b>7:15 PM - 8:00 PM</b>	
<b>8:00 PM - 9:00 PM</b>	

	Panel includes: <b>M. Shahriar Alam</b> , Member of Parliament <b>Mahi B. Chowdhury</b> , former Member of Parliament <b>Mohammad A. Arafat</b> , Lecturer, Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB)
	<i>Innovation and Critical Thinking</i> Chaired by <b>Sabbir Hasan Nasir</b> , Managing Director, OTOBI Limited
	Panel includes: <b>Pial Islam</b> , Member, Governing Board of BYLC & Managing Partner, pi Strategy Consulting <b>Nazim Farhan Choudhury</b> , Managing Director, Adcomm Limited <b>Taufiq Rahim</b> , Visiting Fellow, Dubai School of Government
<b>12:45 PM - 2:00 PM</b>	<i>Courage and Liberation War</i> Chaired by <b>Lt. Col. Jafar Imam</b> (retd.), Bir Bikram
	Panel includes: <b>Akku Chowdhury</b> , Trustee, Liberation War Museum <b>Matin Chowdhury</b> , Managing Director, Malek Spinning Mills Limited <b>Major Didar A. Hossain</b> (retd.), Trustee, Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB)
<b>2:00 PM - 3:00 PM</b>	Lunch and Prayer
<b>3:00 PM - 4:00 PM</b>	<i>Inaugural Annual General Meeting of BYLC Alumni Association</i>
<b>6:15 PM - 7:15 PM</b>	Summit Closing at Bangabandhu International Conference Center Chaired by <b>Dr. Gowher Rizvi</b> , Member, International Advisory Board of BYLC & Advisor to the Honorable Prime Minister of Bangladesh
	Keynote address by <b>Dr. Dipu Moni</b> , Honorable Foreign Minister of Bangladesh
	Remarks by <b>James F. Moriarty</b> , US Ambassador to Bangladesh <b>Ellen Goldstein</b> , World Bank Country Director for Bangladesh
<b>7:15 PM - 8:00 PM</b>	<i>Awards Distribution</i>
<b>8:00 PM - 9:00 PM</b>	Dinner

## SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES



### **Ejaj Ahmad**

Ejaj Ahmad is the founder and president of BYLC. Ejaj's inspiration for BYLC came from his family's grassroots connection, its commitment to public service, and his own longstanding desire to change the quality of public leadership in Bangladesh. Prior to founding BYLC, Ejaj's outer journey in life included academic and professional exposures in four continents and more than ten years of community campaign organizing and public speaking experience. Ejaj's work on leadership development has been recognized by The Washington Post, Asia Society, Foundation for Youth Social Enterprise and the International Youth Foundation. In his former career, Ejaj worked as an economist and entrepreneur in Bangladesh. He holds an MA (Hons) in Economics from St. Andrews University and a Masters in Public Policy from Harvard University.



### **Homayara Ahmed**

Homayara Ahmed, a founding governing board member of BYLC, is an assistant professor at the Institute of Business Administration (IBA), University of Dhaka, where she teaches courses on human resource management in both undergraduate and graduate programs. Previously, Homayara worked in the financial sector. Prior to that, she was an associate at Monower Associates, a leading management and HR consulting firm in Bangladesh, and was responsible for advising clients on process development for human resource management, and conducting training programs. Homayara graduated with BBA and MBA from IBA, University of Dhaka. She is an external consultant of Monower Associates, and a member of University & Industry Alliance, a non-profit management and educational consulting center under University of Dhaka. Homayara has a keen interest in languages - she learnt Japanese and French recently and is still trying others. She is musically inclined and most of her spare time these days is spent playing with her two-year old son.



### **Jamil Ahmed**

Jamil Ahmed worked with several national and international agencies including The Daily Star, ActionAid, Save the Children, USAID, Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) and CARE. Jamil has extensive insight into civil society, policy advocacy, anti-corruption and information dissemination from over fifteen years of experience working with national and international agencies on program development and management. Currently, he is serving as the Chief Executive of Journalism Training & Research Initiative (JATRI), an initiative implemented by IGS, BRAC University and funded by USAID. He also serves as moderator and presenter in several radio TV programs and talk shows. Jamil obtained his MA in English Language and Linguistics from Jahangirnagar University.



### **Quazi M. Ahmed**

Educated in Bangladesh, USA, Japan and Norway, Quazi takes pride in his excellent track record as a motivational speaker, corporate coach and HRD specialist. He has provided consultation, training and action research services in areas of human resources development for private, nonprofit and public sectors for the last 15 years. A former university teacher, he founded FutureLeaders™ in 2001 with a mission to strengthen human resource development in the country. In 2009, he co-founded In4Future, a joint venture in the IT industry supported by the B2B Program of Danish government. Quazi has recently been elected as the Secretary General of the Nordic Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Bangladesh (NCCIB), a recently launched chamber comprising of businesses in Bangladesh from Denmark, Finland, Norway, Sweden and Iceland. Quazi's recognition as a social entrepreneur came when he was elected as an Ashoka Affiliate in 2004 for his contributions to youth development in Bangladesh.



### **M. Shahriar Alam**

Shahriar Alam is an elected Member of Parliament from Rajshahi, Bangladesh. As a member of the Parliamentary Committee for the Ministry of Information, he was actively involved in finalizing the draft of the Right to Information (RTI) Act. Shahriar has advocated for RTI during various orientation programs for newly elected MPs. He is the vice chairman of All Party Parliamentary Group on Climate Change, Education and Poverty Reduction. Since 1995, Shahriar has also distinguished himself as an entrepreneur in the textiles industry, and he has created employment opportunities for more than 25,000 workers so far. For his contribution to the business sector, Shahriar was awarded the National Export Trophy in knitwear category for 2007-2008. He holds an MBA from the Institute of Business Administration, University of Dhaka.

## SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES



### **Mohammad A. Arafat**

Mohammad A. Arafat was born in Rajshahi in 1973. He was raised in Dhaka and then went abroad for higher education. He pursued undergraduates studies in international business at Oklahoma State University and completed his MBA from Texas A&M in USA.. He is one of the founders of the social organization SHUCHINTA which is active in social research, communication and welfare activities. He returned to Bangladesh in 2005 and joined Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB) as a faculty member. He is also the convener of SHUCHINTA BANGLADESH and executive director of SHUCHINTA FOUNDATION. He takes a keen interest in foreign policy, particularly relating to regional cooperation, water sharing with India and other neighboring countries. He regularly writes and speaks on these issues in the media.



### **A.K. Azad**

A.K. Azad is a former president of Bangladesh Chamber of Industries and the current elected president of the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI), the national apex trade body. After graduating with honors in Applied Physics from Dhaka University, he started his own garments industry in the mid 80s. His company, Ha-meem Group, employs more than thirty thousand people and is now comprised of more than 40 industries which include garments, textiles and jute. In recognition of his contribution to the export of readymade garments, he was given C.I.P status and Gold Export Trophy by the Government of Bangladesh. He is also the publisher and owner of the Daily Samokal, a leading Bengali national daily and the managing director of Channel 24, which is expected to go on air soon. He is the founder of several schools and a hospital for children, a life member of Faridpur Diabetic Samity and Medical College Hospital in Faridpur, and a sponsor director of Shahjalal Islamic Bank and Sonar Bangla Insurance Company.



### **Geeteara Safiya Choudhury**

Geeteara Safiya Choudhury is Chairman of Adcomm Limited, one of the leading advertising and communication companies in the country. Ms. Choudhury began her career in the advertising industry as a sub-editor in the then Pakistan Observer and then served as the executive vice president of Interspan Advertising Limited, a leading advertising agency at that time. When she relocated to Karachi, Pakistan, she joined as a senior assistant editor for She Magazine, a progressive magazine for women. In 1974 she took a bold step and established her own advertising agency Adcomm. Ms. Choudhury has been recognized for her professional achievements both nationally and internationally. She was selected for The Leading Women Entrepreneurs of the World 2000 by Fortune Magazine, IBM and Christian Dior, The Best Women Entrepreneurs Awards 2008 by Arthakantha and The Outstanding Woman in Business of the Year 2002 by The Daily Star and DHL. Ms. Choudhury was also the first woman to be elected President of Dhaka Club. She served as an Adviser to the Ministry of Industries, Jute & Textile, Social Welfare and Women & Children Affairs of the recent past Caretaker Government.



### **Mahi B. Choudhury**

Mahi B. Choudhury, a former member of parliament and a presidium member of Bikolpodhara Bangladesh, is the son of Prof. A. Q. M. Badruddoza Chowdhury, an eminent physician and the former president of Bangladesh. He completed his undergraduate studies in political science with minor in political economy from Santa Clara University in USA. Mahi was elected in parliament twice in 2002 and 2004. He is now working as a leader of Bikolpodhara with the aim to replacing the current politics of hatred, corruption and confrontation with "alternative politics". He runs an entertainment company called ER Media and is also a Director of K. C. Memorial Clinic Limited. Mahi is married to Ashfah Huque Lopa, a media personality, and is blessed with a daughter and a son.



### **Nazim Farhan Choudhury**

Nazim Farhan Choudhury, managing director of Adcomm Limited, has played a pivotal role in advancing his company. Over the past 16 years, he has worked with multinational clients such as Nokia, Unilever, Standard Chartered Bank, Johnson & Johnson and Coca-Cola. Some of the local brands that he helped develop like Agora, Mojo, Citycell and GMG Airlines are now giants in the market. Farhan is also a frequent writer for The Daily Star and an advertising critique for the Bangladesh Brand Forum Magazine. He is a senior adviser to Jaago Foundation, a youth organization that provides English medium education to underprivileged children. In 2008 he was selected as a delegate to the prestigious Asia Society's Asia 21 Summit held in Tokyo, Japan. In 2010, he helped to compile the Next Generation Report which surveyed the attitude and mindset of Bangladeshi youth. Farhan was also chosen in the "Faces for the Future" of the New Age newspaper's Heroes Edition in 2007, and in the same year was selected for the "Brand Leadership Award" at the 17th Asian Brand Congress.

## SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES



### **Arif Shahriar**

Arif Shahriar, corporate chief operating officer and group head of human resources at Rahimafrooz Bangladesh Limited, has more than twenty three years of corporate experience in multinational environment, including overseas exposure in senior HR roles in British American Tobacco (BAT) Australia. During his tenure in BAT Bangladesh, he served in different capacities including senior management positions both in operations and human resources. Arif holds an engineering degree from USA and an MBA from North South University. His areas of expertise are change management, employer branding, leadership, and overall strategic management.



### **Dr. Hafiz G. A. Siddiqi**

Professor Siddiqi has been leading North South University (NSU) for over twelve years as former chief executive officer, founder dean of the School of Business and the current vice chancellor. Before joining NSU in 1993, Dr. Siddiqi served as a director of the Institute of Business Administration (IBA), University of Dhaka. In the US, he taught international business and management at Ohio State University and Minnesota State University. He has worked as a consultant to several international organizations including the World Bank, Asian Development Bank, UN/ESCAP as well as universities abroad. He has previously advised the government of Bangladesh on issues relating to management development, marketing and globalization. Dr. Siddiqi obtained his PhD from Manchester Business School, University of Manchester, UK and MBA from Graduate School of Business, Indiana University, USA, MPIA (Master of Public and International Affairs) from Graduate School of Public and International Affairs, University of Pittsburgh, USA.



### **Farooq Sobhan**

Farooq Sobhan has been serving as the president of the Bangladesh Enterprise Institute (BEI) for past ten years. BEI is a non-profit independent think-tank that focuses on private sector development, foreign and economic policy, security and regional and sub-regional cooperation. Prior to his engagement at BEI, he spent thirty five years as a career diplomat for the government of Bangladesh. Ambassador Sobhan served as the Ambassador and Deputy Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the UN. He also served as High Commissioner of Malaysia, Ambassador to the People's Republic of China, High Commissioner to India, as well as the Foreign Secretary of Bangladesh. He served as the Executive Chairman of the Board of Investment and as Special Envoy of the Prime Minister. Currently, he is a member of the International Advisory Committee of the Asia Society (US), the Round Table (UK), the Ramphal Center's Commission on Migration and Development and the South Asian Center for Policy Studies Board.



### **Zafar Sobhan**

Zafar Sobhan, founding chairperson of BYLC, is a media and communications consultant, currently on contract with the World Bank and Dhaka Courier. He writes a weekly column for The Sunday Guardian, and has to his name numerous articles, features, interviews, book chapters, and essays in publications such as TIME, Himal, EPW, Outlook, YaleGlobal, and others. Prior to taking up his current position, he has served as editor of Forum, executive editor of The Independent, and opinions editor of The Daily Star. Zafar, who has a B.A. and M.A. in English literature and a J.D. in law, is also a licensed New York City public school teacher and a member of the New York State Bar. He was a 2009 World Fellow at Yale University, was a delegate to the Asia21 Young Leaders Summit in Tokyo in 2008, and was selected as a Young Global Leader by the World Economic Forum in 2005.



### **Abdullah Abu Sayeed**

Abdullah Abu Sayeed is the founder of Bishwa Sahitya Kendra and a former professor of Dhaka College. During the 1960s, Professor Sayeed ushered in a new wave in the Bangla literary movement as the editor of Kanthashar, a noted literary magazine of that time. Since the advent of Bangladesh Television, Professor Sayeed championed both educational and entertainment shows. For 28 years, he has led in the nationwide "Alakita Manush Chai" movement which aims to build a prosperous Bangladesh through enlightenment. He has been awarded several prizes for his active role in social reform. They include "Jatiya Television Purashkar" (1977), "Mahbub Ullah Trust Purashkar" (1998), "Rotary Seed Purashkar" (1999), "Bangladesh Book Club Purashkar" (2000), "M. A. Haque Foundation Sharnapadak" (2001), Sheltech Padak 2006, "Paribesh Padak" (2009), and "Mercantile Bank Padak" (2009). In 2004, Professor Sayeed was awarded the 97th Ramon Magsaysay Award in Journalism, Literature, and Creative Communication Arts. He was awarded the prestigious "Ekhusey Padak" in 2005.

## SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES



### **Syeda Rizwana Hasan**

Syeda Rizwana Hasan, a lawyer of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh, is the Chief Executive of Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association (BELA). She has fought against pollution, ship breaking, reckless land usage and commercial shrimp cultivation. Her notable publications include 'Laws Regulating Environment in Bangladesh' and 'Judicial Decisions on Environment in South Asia'. Rizwana is an elected vice-chairperson of the Federation of NGOs in Bangladesh (FNB), the largest network of NGOs in Bangladesh. She is also the chairperson of RDRS, a leading Bangladeshi NGO. She received the 'Annanya Top Ten Award' given by a reputed journal of Bangladesh and the prestigious Goldman Environmental Prize in 2009 for her contributions to environmental justice. She is also amongst the first five South Asian women to receive the 'Celebrating Womenhood' award (2008) given by the Creative Statement and South Asia Partnership based in Nepal. Her name appeared in the list of environmental heroes in a recent issue of TIME Magazine. In her personal life, Rizwana is married and has three children.



### **Sara Hossain**

Sara Hossain, a founding governing board member of BYLC, is a lawyer practicing in the Supreme Court of Bangladesh, mainly in the areas of constitutional law, human rights law and family law. She is also a Partner at Dr. Kamal Hossain & Associates. She was educated at Oxford University, called to the Bar from Middle Temple in 1989, and enrolled as an Advocate of the Dhaka Bar in 1990. Sara writes and speaks widely on public interest litigation, women's human rights and access to justice, and the impact of the religious right. Her most recent publication is entitled, 'Wayward Girls and Well Wisher Parents: Habeas Corpus,' in Forced Marriage (ed., Aisha Gill, 2010). She is a member of the Human Rights Committee of the International Law Association (ILA), a member of the Advisory Committee of the Women's International Coalition on Gender Justice (WICGI), a founding member of the national human rights organization, Ain O Salish Kendra (ASK). Sara is also a recently elected Commissioner of the International Commission of Jurists (ICJ).



### **Didar A. Husain**

Major Didar A. Husain (retd.) joined the liberation war as a student of Dhaka University and was commissioned in the First batch of Officers in the Bangladesh Army in October 1971. He was posted to 10 East Bengal Regiment during the war, where he served as Company Commander of "Charlie" Company. He served in the Bangladesh Army in various capacities including as an Instructor of Tactics for Junior Officers at the School of Infantry and Tactics of the Bangladesh Army. Following his retirement from the Bangladesh Army, Mr. Husain entered the textiles business and subsequently served as the vice chairman of Bangladesh Textile Mills Association (BTMA). Mr. Husain is involved with many non-profit organizations such as CRP-Bangladesh (Center for Rehabilitation of the Paralyzed), Bangladesh Youth Advice and Help (BYAH) Center. He also is a founder trustee of the Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB).



### **Lt. Col. Jafar Imam (retd.), Bir Bikram**

Lt. Col. Jafar Imam (retd.) was commissioned in the then Pakistan Army in 1965. When the liberation war broke out in 1971, he left the Pakistan Army to join the Bangladesh Army. During the war, he commanded a sub-sector in Sector Number 2, and was in charge of Rajnagar. He was also the Commanding Officer of East Bengal Regiment during the same time. Mr. Imam was a valiant soldier in the liberation war of Bangladesh and was awarded the title Bir Bikram for his courageous leadership in the battle of Belonia. He served as a cabinet minister to the People's Republic of Bangladesh from 1979 to 1990. He was also the secretary general of Bangladesh Olympic Association. Mr. Imam holds a bachelor of arts degree from the University of Dhaka, and a masters degree from Punjab University, Pakistan.



### **M. Aminul Islam**

M. Aminul Islam, PhD, is associated with UNDP since 1996. Currently he is serving as the Assistant Country Director and Head of Climate Change, Environment and Disaster Management Cluster in UNDP, Bangladesh. Dr. Islam worked as the Team Leader of the Disaster Mitigation Project of UNDP, Vietnam. He was the founder faculty of the Department of Environment Management in the Independent University, Bangladesh. He also taught at the post graduate level in the Institute of Bangladesh Studies of Rajshahi University and also taught as an adjunct faculty of the Population Science Department in Dhaka University.

## SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES



### **Pial Islam**

Pial Islam, a founding governing board member of BYLC, is Managing Partner of pi Strategy Consulting that helps its clients develop innovative strategies to attain operational excellence and set long term strategic directions. Pial brings over 12 years experience at the international level. He was a Global Leadership Fellow with the World Economic Forum, where he received leadership and management training specially designed and offered by LSE, INSEAD and Columbia University on topics including innovation strategy. Pial also worked with several global management consulting firms in the US and Canada, including PricewaterhouseCoopers and Capgemini. He has provided strategic advice to clients such as Cisco, Bell Canada, General Motors, Zurich Financial, Government of Canada, Grameen Bank, BRAC University, and Rahimafrooz. Pial has an MBA from UBC and an MPA from Harvard University, where he was a Mason Fellow. He has been published in Kennedy School Review, Harvard University, interviewed by magazines, and invited to speak at international conferences.



### **Shariful Islam**

Shariful Islam is the founder of Bangladesh Brand Forum (BBF), a non-profit that has the vision of transforming Bangladesh through applying branding ethos. Bangladesh Brand Forum through its multiple initiatives aims to inspire Bangladeshi managers and leaders to take their organizations to the next level. Shariful also runs the first brand consulting firm in Bangladesh, Brandzeal, which develops strategic roadmaps for businesses. He was recognized as one of the outstanding marketing persons of Asia in 2008 by Ad Asia, Asia's leading marketing journal in Singapore. Prior to launching his own enterprise, Shariful worked for Unilever, Novartis and New Zealand Dairy in the marketing field. He did his MBA from the Institute of Business Administration, University of Dhaka and MSS from the same university. Shariful is passionate about his country, and is committed to making a difference by promoting strong branding practices.



### **Farah Kabir**

Farah Kabir is the current Country Director of ActionAid in Bangladesh. She began her long career in development and research with the Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies (BISS). She worked with the British Council for almost a decade. In the UK, she worked as a consultant on participative democracy for the British Council Governance Team, and previously she was the assistant director of Governance for the British Council in Bangladesh. She was a member of the Governance Board of Napier University and the Board of Trustees for Zero Tolerance. Ms. Kabir was also a member of several national review committees with focus on women in politics. Presently, she is a member of the Campaign for Popular Education (CAMPE) Board, Education Watch and the Funding Committee of Civil Society Education Fund (CSEF). As a long-time advocate for women's rights, gender equality and children's rights, she has widely written and researched on women in politics. She is popularly known for her role as a newscaster on both national television and radio.



### **Nihad Kabir**

Nihad is the Senior Partner of Syed Ishtiaq Ahmed and Associates, a leading corporate and commercial law firm of Bangladesh. She obtained her BA (Hons) degree in Law from Cambridge University, UK in 1988. She was called to the Bar of England and Wales from Gray's Inn, London in 1989, completed her LLM, also from Cambridge University, UK in 1991 and was granted her MA in 1993. Nihad was enrolled as an Advocate in Bangladesh in 1990 and as an Advocate of the High Court Division of Bangladesh in 1991. In 2002 she was enrolled as an Advocate of the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh. Nihad regularly provides opinions to and advises foreign and local commercial entities, as well as non-governmental organizations on various aspects of local laws including, company, taxation and banking law and appears in court on their behalf. She is the independent and depositor director on the board of BRAC Bank Limited, and a director of the Infrastructure Development Company Limited. She is a member of the National Education Policy Committee and is currently a member of the board of the South Asian Center for Policy Studies.



### **Zahida Fizza Kabir**

Zahida Fizza Kabir has a masters degree in International and Intercultural Management from the School of International Training, Brattleboro, Vermont, USA. She has been instrumental in bringing SAJIDA Foundation from a very small education program for underprivileged children to one of the leading NGOs in Bangladesh. She was the recipient of the Begum Rokeya Shining Personality Award 2006 for poverty alleviation, elected as general body member of PKSF (an apex body of NGOs in Bangladesh) and being chosen by the US Government to represent the NGO sector from Bangladesh in 2008 at the 'International Visitors Leadership Program' as a guest of US Department of State. She has extensive experience in program planning and management, training and institution development, fundraising and strategic management.

## SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES



### **Sanjay Kathuria**

Sanjay Kathuria is the World Bank's Lead Economist for Bangladesh, based in Dhaka since September 2009. He has earlier worked in the Latin American and East European regions of the Bank, and worked on a diverse range of less developed and middle income countries. Prior to joining the World Bank, he was a Fellow at the Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations in New Delhi. He studied at the Delhi School of Economics and did his doctoral dissertation from Oxford University. His research interests include issues relating to economic growth, international trade and trade policy, competitiveness, technology development, fiscal policy, and financial sector development. He has to his credit several books and academic as well as popular articles on these topics. Apart from economics, his interests include Hindustani classical music, cricket, and Hindi movies. He has also played table tennis for India in his younger days.



### **Dr. Justin Lee**

Dr. Justin Lee, a career departmental officer, was most recently Assistant Secretary, Consular Policy Branch. Prior to this he was Counsellor and Head of the Political Section at the Australian Embassy in Jakarta (2005-08). Dr. Lee also served overseas as Third and later Second Secretary at the Australian High Commission in Port Moresby (1999-2001). Among other positions in Canberra, Dr. Lee worked in the Indonesia Section (2002-04) and was the Director of the Media Liaison Section (2004-05). He holds a BA (Jur.) (Hons), a PhD in Development Geography from the University of Adelaide and a Graduate Diploma in Foreign Affairs and Trade from Monash University. He is married and has two children. Dr. Lee is a fluent Indonesian speaker.



### **Fahim Mashroor**

Fahim Mashroor, founder of Bdjobs.com Limited, has been working as its CEO for the past eleven years. Beginning with only three members, Bdjobs.com Limited is currently one of the fastest growing IT companies in the country, and is widely regarded as the best e-Commerce success story of Bangladesh. Fahim currently heads a team of forty well-qualified professionals. He is involved in strategic decision, financial management, corporate affairs, branding and major operational issues of the company. Apart from running Bdjobs.com Limited, Fahim serves as the current Senior Vice President of BASIS (Bangladesh Association of Software and Information Services). Fahim is also a governing body member of D.Net, a non-profit development organization working in the fields of promoting ICT for social development purposes.



### **Amena Mohsin**

Amena Mohsin teaches in the Department of International Relations, University of Dhaka. She graduated from the same department and later received her MA and PhD degrees from the University of Hawaii, USA and Cambridge University, UK. Amena has received several national and international fellowships, which include the CIDA International Fellowship, Commonwealth Staff Fellowship, SSRC Fellowship and Freedom Foundation Fellowship. She has written extensively on rights issues, state, democracy, civil-military relations and human security. She is the author of "Politics of Nationalism: The Case of Chittagong Hill Tracts" (South Asia Books, 1997), "The Chittagong Hill Tracts, Bangladesh: On The Difficult Road To Peace" (Lynn Rienner Publishers, 2002), "Ethnic Minorities of Bangladesh: Some Reflections the Saontals and Rakhaines" (Programme for Research on Poverty Alleviation, 2002).



### **Munawar Misbah Moin**

Munawar Misbah Moin is the Managing Director of Rahimafrooz Renewable Energy Limited and Group Director of Rahimafrooz. Munawar also established Bangladesh Carbon - a carbon project development service. On behalf of the Rahimafrooz board, he led the V2015 program to transform Rahimafrooz into one of the most admired and trusted enterprises with global operations. He is also the Managing Director of Rural Services Foundation (RSF), a non-profit of Rahimafrooz. Munawar completed his undergraduate studies from St John's University, Minnesota, USA.

# SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES



## **Ivdad Ahmed Khan Mojlish**

Ivdad Ahmed Khan Mojlish is currently working as the director of Youth Leadership Programs at BYLC. Besides organizing the different programs, Ivdad also works as a leadership facilitator in BYLC. He has successfully attended the workshop on 'The Art and Practice of Leadership Development' conducted by Ejaj Ahmad, president of BYLC. Prior to joining BYLC, Ivdad worked at Standard Chartered Saadiq. Ivdad also represented Bangladesh globally in multiple youth development and business plan competitions. Most recently, he participated in the NGO Management of Youth Programs in the US under the International Visitors Leadership Program of the US Department of State. Ivdad holds a bachelors degree in Business Administration from the Institute of Business Administration (IBA), University of Dhaka.



## **Dr. Dipu Moni**

Dr. Dipu Moni is the Foreign Minister of Bangladesh. She is also the Secretary for Women's Affairs of the Bangladesh Awami League, historically Bangladesh's largest political party and a Member of the Foreign Affairs Sub-Committee of the Party. She has been, and continues to be, deeply involved in the electoral and institutional reform and action program developed by her party to bring a resolution to the crisis which has faced the country before and after the dissolution of Parliament in October, 2006. Dr. Moni is a strong advocate of representative politics and women's participation in the political decision-making process. She is one of two Master Trainers for Women Political Activists and has trained women political activists of her own and other political parties under a program that she helped design and implement with the NDI of the United States. Dr. Moni was educated at the Johns Hopkins University School of Public Health (MPH), Dhaka Medical College, the country's premier Medical School (MBBS), and at the University of London (LLM).



## **James F. Moriarty**

James F. Moriarty is the U.S. Ambassador to the People's Republic of Bangladesh. He is a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, rank of Minister-Counselor. Prior to this assignment, Mr. Moriarty served as U.S. Ambassador to Nepal between 2004 and 2007. Before moving to Nepal, Ambassador Moriarty served in 2002-2004 as Special Assistant to the President of the United States of America and Senior Director at the National Security Council. He was responsible for advising on and coordinating U.S. policy on East Asia, South Asia, and the Pacific region. Ambassador Moriarty also worked in the White House in 2001-2002 as National Security Council Director for China Affairs. Ambassador Moriarty earned his Bachelor of Arts in History, summa cum laude, from Dartmouth College and joined the Foreign Service in 1975. He speaks Chinese, Nepali, Urdu, French and Bangla. Among Ambassador Moriarty's numerous awards are individual State Department Superior Honor Awards for his work in China (2000) and on Yugoslavia (1993) and two Group Superior Honor Awards. For his reporting and analysis in Pakistan, Ambassador Moriarty won the Director General's 1987 Award as the State Department's best reporting officer.



## **Sabbir Hassan Nasir**

Sabbir Hasan Nasir joined Otobi Limited as the CEO in 2006. In five years, he transformed a medium enterprise into one of the largest local corporate houses in Bangladesh. With a first class degree in mechanical engineering from the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET), Sabbir began his career at the Bata Shoe Company as the senior efficiency officer in 1996. At Bata, he implemented time motion engineering and developed the industrial production line. Later, he oversaw the entire Dhaka segment as Area Manager and simultaneously completed his MBA from the Institute of Business Administration (IBA), University of Dhaka. His prior professional engagements include leadership positions in International Development Enterprises, Golfrate H & PC Limited, Dekko Accessories Limited, and TetraPak Asian Emerging Market.



## **Dr. Ainun Nishat**

Dr. Ainun Nishat is currently the vice chancellor of BRAC University. Prior to joining BRAC University, he served as a senior advisor at the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), where his areas of expertise included water resource development and management, environment management, biodiversity conservation, coastal zone and wetland conservation and management, disaster management, adaptation to climate change and climate variability and related policy advocacy. Before joining IUCN, Dr. Nishat was a professor of Water Resources Engineering at Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET). He has been a member of the Bangladesh National Water Council, Indo-Bangladesh Joint River Commission, Bangladesh National Agricultural Commission and the National Council on Science and Technology. Dr. Nishat had played an important role in the Ganges Water Treaty negotiations, water sector policy formulation, agriculture sector policy revision and strategy formulation.

## SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES



### **Faustina Pereira**

Dr. Faustina Pereira is a lawyer, human rights activist, and author. She obtained her Doctorate in International Human Rights Law in 1998 from the University of Notre Dame, USA. In 2002 she completed a Post-Doctorate at the Centre for Human Rights, National University of Ireland, Galway, as a Bank of Ireland Fellow. While in Ireland, she also taught the Master of Laws (LL.M) course on Gender, Feminist Legal Theory and Human Rights. She has worked closely with international and regional organisations specialising in advocacy on access to justice. Her areas of strength are in public interest law and litigation, legislative advocacy and policy reform, constitutionalism, and critical feminist and human rights jurisprudence. She has authored the book, "The Fractured Scales: The Search for a Uniform Personal Code" (2002, UPL and Stree) which was awarded a Gold Medal by the Asiatic Society of Bangladesh for its ground-breaking significance to the issue of gender and social justice in Bangladesh. She is also the author and co-author of several national and international papers on gender, human rights, and state obligations. In 2006 she was named Young Global Leader by the World Economic Forum.



### **Mohamed Mijarul Quayes**

Mohamed Mijarul Quayes, Foreign Secretary of Bangladesh, is a founding member of the international advisory board of BYLC. Previously, he was the Ambassador of Bangladesh to the Russian Federation and served as the Bangladesh High Commissioner to the Maldives. Ambassador Quayes was educated at Dhaka University and Harvard Kennedy School. At Harvard, he was an Edward S. Mason Fellow in Public Policy and Management. He has extensive multilateral experience on the subject of human rights, migration and refugee issues, disarmament and the environment. He has served as Vice-Chairman of the Biological Weapons Convention 4th Review Conference (1996), rapporteur of the Annual Council of the International Organization for Migration (1997) and as expert on the Human Rights Commissions on Migrants and Human Rights (1997-1998). Ambassador Quayes has taught at North South University and BRAC University and has been a resource for the Foreign Service Academy, the National Defense College and the Public Administration Training Center. He also teaches aesthetics and the history of art at the National Academy of the Arts in Dhaka.



### **Dr. M. Omar Rahman**

Professor M. Omar Rahman is currently the vice chancellor (in charge) of Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB). He is also a professor of demography and the executive director of the Center for Health, Population and Development at IUB. Professor Rahman has been the principal investigator on several large data collection and analysis projects funded by the US National Institutes of Health (NIH), UNFPA, the Global Health Forum, etc. He is the author of multiple peer-reviewed articles and editor of two books. His current research interests are health and higher education policy in the developing world as well as mental health and the impact of social networks on health. Dr. Rahman received his MD from Northwestern University Medical School and both his MPH in Health Policy and Management and his D.Sc. in Epidemiology from Harvard University. Prior to joining IUB in 2003, Professor Rahman was an associate professor of Epidemiology and Demography at Harvard University, and a Research Fellow in Psychiatry at Harvard Medical School.



### **Niaz Rahim**

Niaz Rahim is the Group Director of Rahimafrooz (Bangladesh) Limited, one of the most trusted companies of Bangladesh for over 56 years. He played pioneering role in exporting Automotive Batteries to international markets and making Solar Renewable Energy commercially viable. Mr. Niaz also successfully established the country's first retail chain supermarket - Agora. Besides serving as Group Director of Rahimafrooz, Mr. Rahim is the chairman of RZ Power Limited and Rural Services Foundation as well as director of Dhaka Chamber & Commerce and Industries. Additionally, he was the general secretary of Bangladesh Judo & Karate Federation and the National Champion in Judo for 7 years. He completed his LL.B (Hons) degree from the University of Dhaka and an MBA in Marketing Management from Concordia University, Canada. Mr. Rahim and his wife are blessed with three sons.



### **Taufiq Rahim**

Taufiq Rahim is a Visiting Fellow and Development Advisor at the Dubai School of Government, where he focuses on issues of regional and international geopolitics and the ecosystem of engagement between the West and Muslim communities. He also contributes to the School's work on social entrepreneurship in the Middle East. In addition, Taufiq is the Executive Director of Globesight, a small advisory group for emerging markets strategy and analysis based in the UAE. He writes and contributes frequently to online and print media, including on his blog, TheGeopolitico.com. Taufiq is a graduate of the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard (M.P.P.) and Princeton University's Woodrow Wilson School (A.B.). Previously he has worked McKinsey & Company's Middle East Office, the Aga Khan Foundation's Rural Development Program (including in Syria), and the United Nation's Special Coordinator for Lebanon (UNSCOL).

## SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES



### **Dr. Ananya Raihan**

Dr. Ananya Raihan is the Executive Director of D.Net (Development Research Network). Dr. Raihan is also the E-Governance Adviser to the Access to Information Program at the Prime Minister's Office and a member of Digital Bangladesh Task Force. As a researcher, Dr. Raihan's research interests include access to information and knowledge, informatics, corporate social responsibility, and SME development. He has consulted and conducted research projects for a range of national, regional, and global organizations. A social entrepreneur, Dr. Raihan developed the 'Pallitathya Model' to improve access to knowledge and information among poor and marginalized communities. Dr. Raihan was awarded the Ashoka Fellowship in 2004 in recognition of his contribution as a social innovator. He is a member of Editorial Board of the Journal of Community Informatics. Dr. Raihan holds a Masters and Ph.D. in Economics.



### **Mamun Rashid**

Mamun Rashid, former Citi Country Officer, is a highly successful and experienced banker and economic analyst with a proven track record in building very profitable and respectable banking franchises in the midst of global economic downturns and the ever changing face of local transition economy. In his capacity as the Citi Country Officer, he was instrumental in driving the growth of Citi business in Bangladesh from a \$10 million franchise to almost \$70 million in 8 years. He has more than 25 years of experience at home and abroad in the areas of treasury, transaction services, integration and change management, corporate governance, structured finance, institutional and corporate banking. Mr. Rashid holds an MBA in strategic management from Henley Business School, UK, a masters degree in economics from Jahangirnagar University, Bangladesh.



### **Dr. Gowher Rizvi**

Dr. Gowher Rizvi, International Affairs Advisor and Special Representative of the Prime Minister of Bangladesh, is a founding member of the international advisory board of BYLC. Dr. Rizvi earlier served as the Vice Provost for International Programs and Professor of Global Affairs at the University of Virginia. Prior to that, Dr. Rizvi was the director of the Ash Institute for Democratic Governance and Innovation at Harvard Kennedy School, and Ford Foundation's Representative to New Delhi, during which he oversaw the Foundation's activities in South Asia. Before moving to the United States, Dr. Rizvi spent over two decades in Britain teaching at the University of Oxford and University of Warwick, and has also held a number of concurrent appointments in international organizations. He was a MacArthur Scholar & Fellow in Politics and International Relations at Nuffield College, Oxford; and the Pro-Director of Queen Elizabeth House Oxford, the University's Center for International Development. Dr. Rizvi has published over 150 scholarly and policy articles, and is the author and editor of a number of books.



### **Dr. Muhammod Abdus Sabur**

Dr. Muhammod Abdus Sabur, a public health physician, has been trained in Bangladesh and UK. Initially he had worked in the Government of Bangladesh's Health and Family Planning programs. Subsequently, he also provided technical assistance to the MOHFW of Bangladesh. In a career spanning nearly three decades, he has had leadership positions in WHO, UNFPA, Save the Children, Care, WaterAid and DFID. Dr. Sabur is a strong advocate for reforms in the health sector. He believes in empowerment of people to take more control over their health. He was involved with many policy formulation and program development in the health sector of Bangladesh. Dr. Sabur is engaged in research and teaching. He has traveled extensively throughout Asia, Africa, America, Australia and Europe.



### **Asif Saleh**

Asif has extensive experience in top global financial and technology companies, including Glaxo Wellcome, NorTel and IBM. For over twelve years, he worked with Goldman Sachs in various management roles, including as an Executive Director. In 2008, he decided to return to Bangladesh and work in the development sector. While abroad, he started Drishtipat (Take Notice) as a forum for concerned expatriates. Drishtipat is now a global organization that focuses on human and economic rights of Bangladeshis. As the head of Drishtipat, Asif works closely with social entrepreneurs, NGO activists and media personalities from various organizations. Recently, he served as a policy specialist for the UNDP funded project Access to Information Program (A2i) and facilitated various ICT initiatives by developing communication strategies and building crucial partnerships. In 2008, his work was recognized in the Asia 21 program by the Asia Society. His contributions have also been recognized by Bangladeshi American Foundation in 2007. Asif has a BA in Computer Science and an MBA in management from New York University Stern School of Business.

# SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES



## **Arif Shahriar**

Arif Shahriar, corporate chief operating officer and group head of human resources at Rahimafrooz Bangladesh Limited, has more than twenty three years of corporate experience in multinational environment, including overseas exposure in senior HR roles in British American Tobacco (BAT) Australia. During his tenure in BAT Bangladesh, he served in different capacities including senior management positions both in operations and human resources. Arif holds an engineering degree from USA and an MBA from North South University. His areas of expertise are change management, employer branding, leadership, and overall strategic management.



## **Dr. Hafiz G. A. Siddiqi**

Professor Siddiqi has been leading North South University (NSU) for over twelve years as former chief executive officer, founder dean of the School of Business and the current vice chancellor. Before joining NSU in 1993, Dr. Siddiqi served as a director of the Institute of Business Administration (IBA), University of Dhaka. In the US, he taught international business and management at Ohio State University and Minnesota State University. He has worked as a consultant to several international organizations including the World Bank, Asian Development Bank, UN/ESCAP as well as universities abroad. He has previously advised the government of Bangladesh on issues relating to management development, marketing and globalization. Dr. Siddiqi obtained his PhD from Manchester Business School, University of Manchester, UK and MBA from Graduate School of Business, Indiana University, USA, MPIA (Master of Public and International Affairs) from Graduate School of Public and International Affairs, University of Pittsburgh, USA.



## **Farooq Sobhan**

Farooq Sobhan has been serving as the president of the Bangladesh Enterprise Institute (BEI) for past ten years. BEI is a non-profit independent think-tank that focuses on private sector development, foreign and economic policy, security and regional and sub-regional cooperation. Prior to his engagement at BEI, he spent thirty five years as a career diplomat for the government of Bangladesh. Ambassador Sobhan served as the Ambassador and Deputy Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the UN. He also served as High Commissioner of Malaysia, Ambassador to the People's Republic of China, High Commissioner to India, as well as the Foreign Secretary of Bangladesh. He served as the Executive Chairman of the Board of Investment and as Special Envoy of the Prime Minister. Currently, he is a member of the International Advisory Committee of the Asia Society (US), the Round Table (UK), the Ramphal Center's Commission on Migration and Development and the South Asian Center for Policy Studies Board.



## **Zafar Sobhan**

Zafar Sobhan, founding chairperson of BYLC, is a media and communications consultant, currently on contract with the World Bank and Dhaka Courier. He writes a weekly column for The Sunday Guardian, and has to his name numerous articles, features, interviews, book chapters, and essays in publications such as TIME, Himal, EPW, Outlook, YaleGlobal, and others. Prior to taking up his current position, he has served as editor of Forum, executive editor of The Independent, and opinions editor of The Daily Star. Zafar, who has a B.A. and M.A. in English literature and a J.D. in law, is also a licensed New York City public school teacher and a member of the New York State Bar. He was a 2009 World Fellow at Yale University, was a delegate to the Asia21 Young Leaders Summit in Tokyo in 2008, and was selected as a Young Global Leader by the World Economic Forum in 2005.



## **Abdullah Abu Sayeed**

Abdullah Abu Sayeed is the founder of Bishwa Sahitya Kendra and a former professor of Dhaka College. During the 1960s, Professor Sayeed ushered in a new wave in the Bangla literary movement as the editor of Kanthashar, a noted literary magazine of that time. Since the advent of Bangladesh Television, Professor Sayeed championed both educational and entertainment shows. For 28 years, he has led in the nationwide "Alakita Manush Chai" movement which aims to build a prosperous Bangladesh through enlightenment. He has been awarded several prizes for his active role in social reform. They include "Jatiya Television Purashkar" (1977), "Mahbub Ullah Trust Purashkar" (1998), "Rotary Seed Purashkar" (1999), "Bangladesh Book Club Purashkar" (2000), "M. A. Haque Foundation Sharnapadak" (2001), Sheltech Padak 2006, "Paribesh Padak" (2009), and "Mercantile Bank Padak" (2009). In 2004, Professor Sayeed was awarded the 97th Ramon Magsaysay Award in Journalism, Literature, and Creative Communication Arts. He was awarded the prestigious "Ekhusey Padak" in 2005.

# OUR STUDENTS

*"Being an English medium student, I had never met a Madrassa student before, nor had a proper conversation with anyone from a Bengali medium school. Since I will pursue my undergraduate studies in the USA, I would not have gotten this chance without BYLC. Here, we were all thrown together. Our class of 30 was a reflection of Bangladesh: its different voices, feelings and needs. Over the first two weeks, we learned how to understand each other so that we could work together for a cause, and not just for ourselves."*

*Alaka Dhara Halder, BBLT 2 Graduate  
& Class of 2014, Princeton University*



*"Under the mentorship of BYLC's instructors, we found ourselves challenged to think outside the box, to interact with different types of people, to leave behind prejudice and work towards a shared value. At the end of this program, I am not only taking with me life lessons but also fond memories and wonderful friends."*

*Injamam Alam, BBLT 3 Graduate  
& Class of 2014, Institute of Business Administration*



Program	No. of Applications	Enrolled	Acceptance Rate	Male	Female
<b>BBLT 1</b>	96	30	<b>31.3%</b>	12	18
<b>BBLT 2</b>	250	30	<b>12%</b>	17	13
<b>BBLT 3</b>	586	42	<b>7.2%</b>	27	15
<b>BBLT 4</b>	468	38	<b>8.12%</b>	25	13
<b>BBLT 5</b>	811	42	<b>5.18%</b>	27	15

*"The lessons in BYLC have changed my understanding of a leader and leadership. Leadership is not only about a leader or the qualities of a leader; it is about working as a group, unity and partnership. BYLC has helped us face and seek solutions to adaptive challenges. Leadership is about working as a community for the betterment of the human condition. And lastly, BYLC has instilled in me the value of patriotism; we need to love our country in order to do anything good for it. BYLC made me realize that we should not only think about ourselves, but also about others in the community who face difficulties every day. Small attempts on our part can make a huge difference."*

*Papia Tanchangya, BBLT 4 Graduate  
& Class of 2014, Asian University for Women*









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