



# SUSTAnthroTale



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## 'Let's Talk and Listen,' called 'Anthro Agora,' was organized between the teachers and students of the Department of Anthropology.

Department of Anthropology, Shahjalal University of Science and Technology (SUST) has a reputation for excellent communication between teachers and students. After 19 months of shutdown due to Covid-19, the Anthropology Society organized a significant event for all the department members right after the campus reopened. The anthropology department has been coming up with dynamic ideas to improve the existing relationships among the department members as a community. This event aimed to minimize the distance created during the pandemic. An open discussion meeting titled 'Let's Talk and Listen' was held among the teachers and students at SUST jointly under the joint initiative of the Anthropology Department and Anthropology Society. The discussion was held at the University's Mini Auditorium on Thursday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Head of the Department of Anthropology, Prof. AFM Zakaria, was present at the presidency. In the open discussion meeting, 15 students from the 25th to the 20th batch of the department presented their views and opinions to the department.

Contrary to the students' opinion, all the department teachers presented their statements. Ifran Bhuiyan, a postgraduate student of the department, said that through the open discussion meeting, we got an idea from the department about our various demands and how to improve the quality of education. In addition, these discussions have created enormous opportunities for students to give feedback and deepen the student-teacher relationship. Prof. AFM Zakaria mentioned that students are the lifeblood of any department; they are the primary stakeholders. It is essential to seek their advice before the start of the semester. He expressed his gratitude to the Anthropology Society and all those involved in organizing it.

## Celebration of 50 years Victory Day

With a fresh vow to deploy full strength to build the country as a developed, prosperous and non-communal 'Sonar Bangla,' the Department of Anthropology of SUST hosted a celebration to commemorate the country's Golden Jubilee of Independence. And this year's festival was very exceptional indeed, with much gaiety and fervor on the premises of Academic Building-D of the university in the early hours of December 16. Since afternoon, teachers and students of the Anthropology Department started thronging the venue to celebrate Victory Day, and they eagerly waited until the zero hours of the night. Apart from Anthropology, enthusiastic students from other departments also gathered on the premises of Academic Building-D. As soon as the clock struck at 12:01 am, Victory Day was celebrated by lightening fifty candles, releasing colorful flying lanterns, and fireworks in the sky, and it continued



until late into the night. Students and teachers of the Anthropology Department brought out a victory rally on the campus marking the Victory Day of the country's independence. As part of the celebration, students, teachers, officials, and department staff also gathered on the premises of the Central Shaheed Minar after parading critical points of the university. They later paid homage to the martyrs of the Liberation War by placing wreaths at the Central Shaheed Minar. Clad in green and red dresses with bunches of flowers in the hair bun and hands, students and teachers thronged the Central Shaheed Minar area, the center point of the festival, to celebrate Victory Day, rendering the national anthem, singing songs, reciting poems, and dancing. Following the health guidelines, the students

and teachers of the Anthropology Department remembered the martyrs of the Liberation War and wished for peace, progress, and prosperity for the country. Besides, they pledged to take necessary steps to ensure a fair and academic-friendly environment on campus. AFM Zakaria, Head of the Department of Anthropology, said they want to present the authentic history of the Liberation War before the new generation. "We think our new generation needs to prepare themselves with the spirit of the Liberation War and ideal of Bangabandhu aimed at building a non-communal, knowledge, and science-based progressive society to lead the country towards development and prosperity," he added.

## Anthro Agora: Sports Program

A variety of sports were organized on November 3, 2021, by the Anthropology Society to bridge the gap created by the long 19 months considering the students' mental health. The day started with colorful decorations at the Basketball ground, SUST, by the most junior batches. It was divided into a few segments: opening ceremonies, sports events, and informal discussions among senior juniors. The thoughts of 'Anthro Agora' rose, considering a few crucial things. The educational institutions in the country were declared sine die on March 16, 2020, due to the global pandemic; the government started taking online classes as a brand new

addition to the country's education system. Many students lose interest in studying during the pandemic and become emotionally disturbed by the uncertainty of the future. In this context, complex mental disorders such as suicide and suicidal tendencies were also observed among them. Many people move from the feeling of loneliness to internet-based communication, which further increases their internet addiction. Mental health is directly related to internet addiction. Due to regular online classes, homework, assignments, term tests, and viva, they had to use electronic devices most of the day, which has been effective in causing diseases



like eye and migraine pain in many students. The Government of Bangladesh considered the mental health and future of the students; finally, in November 2021, the educational institution was opened following the health rules, and various departments accepted the students through multiple processes.

However, the Department of Anthropology, as always, maintains its uniqueness. The sports program commenced with the batting and bowling of faculties.

With the spontaneous participation of seniors and juniors in Pillow Passing, Mini Cricket, Balloon Popping, and Cock Fight, the basketball ground turned into a gathering place, which helped them to return to their glory after a long year and a half. The competition was full of fun and enjoyable among all batches. Seniors and juniors were out of control in sharing their emotions and fervor.

## A Message from the President, Vice-President, Treasurer, & General Secretary

By the grace of the Almighty, we are able to publish the first bulletin for the Department of Anthropology, SUST, arranged and coordinated by the Anthropology Society. We hope this endeavor will be continued. This is the first volume of such publication for the year 2022. We try to organize it with current news and events. It may

contain more content in the future, such as batch-wise introduction, student writing, higher education scholarship feature, research experiences, scholar vision, and the success and struggle story of students, faculty, and alumni. We are announcing the name of the Bulletin as 'SUSTAnthroTale.'

## Change in Departmental Leadership

Since joining Shahjalal University of Science and Technology (SUST) as a Lecturer in the Department of Anthropology in 2004, AFM Zakaria has been serving as the Executive Member of the SUST Teachers' Association, Assistant Proctor, Student Adviser of the Department of Anthropology, General Secretary of the SUST Club and Treasurer of the Anthropology Society. As a Professor, Mr. Zakaria took charge of the departmental headship on October 16, 2021. Immediate past head of the department, Professor. Dr. Nur Muhammad Majumder was praised for his excellent

leadership in the past four years. A mini reception and farewell were held to mark the date in the calendar. The newly appointed head expects cooperation from all the stakeholders to run the department successfully. Teachers from the Department of Anthropology and members of the Anthropology Society greeted both Heads while handing over the responsibilities to the new Head of the Department. Professor Zakaria expressed the view that more sincere efforts would be made to increase regular funding for fieldwork, internships, and thesis, to organize talks, and seminars on a regular basis.



## 'Glorious Career' of Prof. Dr. Abdul Awwal Biswas!

Professor Dr. Abdul Awwal Biswas was given a farewell reception on Wednesday, 24th November 2021, evening at the University's Mini Auditorium through a discussion and reminiscence program titled 'Glorious Career' organized by the Department of Anthropology. The event was held on the occasion of the farewell of

this favorite teacher. Colleagues from his own and other departments were attended along with students, officials, staff, and other guests. Professor reminisced about spending a long time on campus and said, 'There are many memories made from this green campus. "At every walk, I got to the side of the students. I have



thoroughly enjoyed every moment spent on the SUST campus and am carrying a wonderful memory from this campus”, said Professor Biswas. He further added, “Today is my day made by the department where I worked” in my life.

This program was chaired by Professor A F M Zakaria and moderated by Associate Professor. Choudhury Farhana Jhuma. Professor Dr. Tulshi Kumar Das (President of the Teachers Association), Professor Dilara Rahman (Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences), Professor Dr. Md. Abdul Gani (Department of Sociology), AKM Mazharul Islam, Dr. Nur Muhammad Majumder, Mokhlesur Rahman, Associate Professor Zafrin Ahmed Liza, Assistant Professors Amina Khatun, Sanjay Krishno Biswas, Dr. Md. Shahgahan Miah, Mohammad Javed Kaisar Ibne Rahman, Korima Begum, Dr. Mohammad Monjur-Ul- Haider, Md. Salim Miah, Lecturer Navila Kawser, Subarna Nandi Majumdar, Professor. Dr. Biswas's wife, Nurunnahar Begum, President of Anthropology Alumni Association

Mr. Oli Hammad Ahmed Chowdhury, Alumni members Rezaul Islam, Abed Abedin, and others were present on that occasion and delivered their speeches. Speaking on occasion, Prof. AFM Zakaria said, “Professor Dr. Biswas has contributed a lot to reach the Department of Anthropology a comfortable zone. He deserved such a reception at the farewell for his colorful academic career, said AFM Zakaria.

Professor Biswas was a former director of the university's Institutional Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC). Before that, he was the Dean of The Faculty of Social Sciences and Head of the Department of Anthropology. He is also a life member of the Bangladesh Asiatic Society, Indian Anthropological Society (Kolkata), Indian Sociological Society (Delhi), and North-East India Council for Social Science Research (NEICSSR). He has been contributing to anthropological research, the development industry of Bangladesh, and the development and research of South Asian society, culture, and ethnography.

## Vice Chancellor's visit to the Department of Anthropology

Honorable Vice-Chancellor Professor Farid Uddin Ahmed made a brief, two-hour-long courtesy visit along with IICT Director Professor Dr. Mohammed Jahirul Islam in the Department of Anthropology on 24th November 2021. During that visit, Honorable VC met and listened to every faculty member and encouraged them to do more of what they were doing to shape the

department of anthropology better by sharing his vision and expectations. Moreover, he was happy to see well-equipped and renovated classrooms, a newly added anthropology computer lab, a visual lab, and the mini ethno-museum. All faculties were invigorated when he re-confirmed his endless efforts towards developing infrastructural facilities of this department. In the end,



VC sir had his launch with the faculties. He expressed his good wishes for the newly appointed Head of the department AFM Zakaria and outgoing retired Professor

Dr. Abdul Awwal Biswas. Before his departure, he agreed to be photographed in the same frame.

## Mushtaq Rahman and Peter Hoare Scholarship

With great pleasure, the Department of Anthropology has been awarding prestigious undergraduate scholarships since 2018. The awards are named after two philanthropists: Mushtaq Rahman Scholarship and Dr. Peter Hoare. The scholarship is based on examination results and significant improvements in academic performance; expression of interest (one to two pages); participation in extra-curricular activities; financial condition; attitude, conduct, and manners. Each scholarship is carried worth the 'local equivalent' of £150. Evaluation metrics are like: examination results and significant improvements in academic performance (40%), expression of Interest (How you cultivate it) (25%), participation in extra-curricular activities (20%), financial condition (10%), attitude, conduct, and manners (5%) on a value of (100%). To apply for this scholarship, the required documents are a C.V., Academic Transcript, Evidence/Certificates of Extra-curricular Activities, and Financial Solvency Certificate. The applications are reviewed and ranked by the jury board, and it is notified the Philanthropists, and then the successful applicant's names are announced on the departmental notice board and website.

In 2018, two applicants from the first year named Ramisa Fariha & Ruhul Amin and three applicants from the fourth year named Chand Mia, Md. Aktaruzzaman Rana & Ayesha Khatun Sumi were granted scholarships. Next year two applicants from the first year named Abdullah Al Rifat & Sanjida Yesmin Shuvra and two



applicants from the fourth year named Md. Ashrafal Haque & Fahmida Akter Liza were granted scholarships. In 2020, two applicants from the first year named Musaddik Billah & Biplobi Roy and five applicants from the fourth year named Md. Shakil Morshed, Anindya Sarker, Noor-E-Afroz Promei, Maliha Samiha Zaman & Faria Binte Arif were granted scholarships.

Last year, three applicants from the first year named Chowdhury Anika Farah, Md. Sadikur Rahman & Sawmraj Paul and three applicants from the fourth year named Md. Masum Billah, Taspia Mohammed Marina & Tawfiqur Rahman Nihal were granted scholarships.

## We are Sixty different souls from different districts of Bangladesh : The 20th Batch of Anthropology

Entering a university after finishing college life is a mixed emotion for the new arrivals. We are the 20th batch of the Department of Anthropology, SUST. We started our journey with 66 different souls from different districts of Bangladesh. Our batch bonding started with the first batch picnic in Lalakhal, Sylhet. Our interpersonal relationships had grown massively through the arrangement and performance of both the back and front stages in the orientation program for our junior batch. Faculties and the audience appreciated our efforts in that program.

Together we experienced two field tours which worked as a refreshing for all of us, and we had to attend one group seminar presentation and one viva-voce. Working in a group, we learned how to conduct teamwork and to

play as team players. We have the greatest number of football players in the department football team who brought the champion trophy; our girl's presence in the female handball made us prouder.



We always missed those who did not continue their master's program with us. When we started our master's journey, the pandemic hit us badly. Before the lockdown, our national tour in Saint Martin was another memorable tour for all of us. After coming back, we started online classes. In that period, some of us suffered, but our respected faculties stood by their side. We never thought that we could ever meet our beloved batch. However, when our master's final examination was taken in offline, we reunited. During the crisis, our faculties arranged a small farewell program outside of the campus; gratefully, we attended as farewell is a platform where we can share our last words and

emotions throughout the journey. We already have researchers, NGO leaders, bankers, BCS cadres, teachers, higher studies candidates, singers, dancers, reciters, and players from our batch. We feel lucky to have these versatile people and found the best friends from this batch. Moreover, we are proud to see the devotion of some of our friend's engagement in voluntary work (social service) in their locality.

Before concluding, we would like to thank our entire faculty, who supported and appreciated us with our every step. We all owe them. We promise we will make you prouder by our deeds.

## Dear fellow scholars of Anthropology: 21st Batch

It's a day for us to celebrate, the celebration for the end of our journey here at SUST, and a celebration for the upcoming days of hope. We hope for new opportunities to create a society with prevalent peace. Our days spent here were very diverse. Early morning classes, late-night study, and interacting with people from different backgrounds, all these, as a whole, are like a memento of life. The life we got here will always be vivid in our memory. It was a great privilege for all of us to be a student of Anthropology here at SUST. As human beings, we all make mistakes but its important what we learn from them. Today, on the verge of departing from each other's company, we'd like to say sorry to all because we believe that greatness begins with accepting our faults. With this in mind, we'll always try to thrive in every sphere of our life to keep our motto vibrant. Today



we take an oath to keep the "Human Beings" in all of us dominant and upright. After all, we'd like to thank all our faculty members and officials who shared their knowledge and gave their valuable effort to make our journey smooth. Let's keep each other in our prayers. Thank you.

## Knowledge and skill-building digital lab: Speaking Dr. MD Shahgahan Miah, lab Instructor



We are proud that the anthropology department established a computer lab in 2021. The prime purpose of this lab is to train our students on various social sciences software. The software training will include the qualitative data analysis software ATLAS.ti. and

NVIVO, statistical package for the social sciences (SPSS), Endnote maintain reference, and Turnitin to check plagiarism. Therefore, using modern technologies, students, teachers, and machines will be connected to identify social problems and the potential solvency of the issues.

Like all the other digital classrooms in the department, the lab room is equipped with an interactive smart board, multimedia, and thirty desktop computers. Teachers and students can access various online educational resources, interactive lessons and save options taught in class. Besides, considering the students' comfort, the lab room is furnished like a gallery and fully air-conditioned. To maintain security, the department set up a close circuit camera, ensuring ethical and privacy issues for teachers and students.

## 'Dhanmondi 32 'vs' Novice 'Final Quiz Competition: Celebrating The birth centenary of the Father of the Bengali Nation

On the occasion of the centenary of the birth of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the Department of Anthropology organized a unique quiz competition on March 17, 2020 to further expand the scope of knowledge about the life of the best Bengali of the millennium and the history of Bangladesh. To celebrate the birth centenary of the Father of the Bengali Nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the quiz competition was held in Room No. 1006 of the department with the cooperation of the Anthropology Society and the spontaneous participation of students of different years studying in the department. In the presence of the teachers of the Department of Anthropology, the program was conducted by the Assistant Professor of the Department of Anthropology, Md. Salim Miah, who is simultaneously acting as the Treasurer of the Anthropology Society.

Six teams participated in the competition with three students from the same semester. There is much variation in the names of each group. For example - Dhanmondi 32, Novice, Sadhinota, Bangabandhu 1920, Bijoy, Cetonay Mujib, March, and Three Tigers. The



final round was held between 'Dhanmondi 32' of the 2/1 semester and 'Novice' of the 5/1 semester. The competition became more intense at the last minute due to the fierce fight between the two teams. In the end, Dhanmondi 32 team was declared the winner as it was ahead by a single point of difference. The teachers of the Department of Anthropology handed over the prizes to the winners and members of the winning team at the end of the competition.

## A Glimpse of My Ph.D. Fieldwork with Ethnographic Method: A story from an Alumni



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When I arrived in the village, I was a little enthusiastic since I would visit this village regularly over the following few months to do my research.

During the summer, the weather was sunny and hot. I wore a simple dress, T-shirt, jeans, and sandals that were perfect for the temperature. When I arrived in a three-wheeler village, I saw a little marketplace nearby. In a tiny café, a group of locals was conversing and drinking tea. I thought this would be an excellent chance to speak with many folks at once.

I introduced myself as a Ph.D. student and discussed my research as well as its benefits of it. They offered me tea, and I gratefully accepted their offer. It was a process of establishing a rapport with them. I maintained rapport

building and developed a good relationship with villagers, poultry farm owners, workers, poultry dealers, pharmaceutical and poultry feed reps, and veterinarians over nine months in the study area. Building rapport and participant observation with the study participants are essential tools of the ethnographic method in studying complex issues. My research was complicated regarding improper practices of commercial poultry farming in Bangladesh. In this context, the ethnographic method was utilized to explore political and economic forces and power dynamics among stakeholders for commercial poultry farming and antibiotic transaction for poultry production. Thanks to this method, I did my fieldwork in natural settings, uncovering complex social and cultural realities and interactions that would otherwise be concealed, inexplicable, and unknown to outsiders. It is the study of people's behavior and living patterns, which includes language, culture, symbols, values, and meanings of everyday life when people behave in standard ways. I revealed the disparities between what people say about them and what they do in their daily lives by interviewing participants and observing their surroundings. I learned more about people's actions, why they do activities, and how people interpret their efforts with others' actions.

## Football Champion, 2019



The Directorate of Physical Education, Shahjalal University of Science and Technology, organized the Inter-Departmental Football Tournament 2019, in which 27 departments participated. The event was held from 13th March to 24th March 2019 at the Central Playground at SUST; In a true sense, the real Champions are the teachers of the department who have always encouraged us.



## Talk from a Champion of the Handball Team

Around 2015 I saw a senior sister Ashoka from the CEP department at the Handball Ground wearing white trousers, and tee jumped so much higher and scored a goal. As much as I remember, in 2016, a respected senior brother Rana, called me from back in the corridor and asked, 'Jarín, why don't you girls make a handball team?' After so many efforts of many people, we made the Women's team.

## Dr. Mohammad Monjur-Ul-Haider's Reaction on Ethno-Museum

It is a matter of pleasure that we have collected many types of artifacts, including artistic tools, domestic utensils, agricultural equipment, and so on. This collection of artifacts and other objects (of artistic, cultural, historical, or scientific importance) come from Archeology students of different batches and from their familial heritage. We are thankful to them for encouraging and supporting us. Along the way, we received generous institutional aid from the Department of Anthropology, SUST, through University authority. Without a gentle push from the current head of the department AFM Zakaria, exuberant scholar Javed Kaiser Ibne Rahman, and Dr. Nur Muhammad

Majumdar, it would not be possible to display this collection of material culture. We hope this conservation and documentation of material culture will serve the researchers and specialists to provide to new meanings in social sciences studies. My colleagues at the Shahjalal University are very generous; they are cordial for putting it up and assisting with its primary needs and demands. I am unsure about many things, but I am sure this temporary effort will flourish and be permanent once again. We hope that our integrated dreams will come true one day, and we will be able to establish a full-fledged archaeological laboratory soon.



## Anthropology Society Committee 2020-2021

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