THE SUBIR & MALINI CHOWDHURY CENTER FOR BANGLADESH STUDIES

The Subir & Malini Chowdhury Center for Bangladesh Studies, established in 2013 with a generous gift from the Subir and Malini Chowdhury Foundation, champions the study of Bangladesh’s cultures, peoples and history. The first of its kind in the US, the Center’s mission is to create an innovative model combining research, scholarships, the promotion of art and culture, and the building of ties between institutions in Bangladesh and the University of California.

The pioneering force behind the Center is Subir Chowdhury. Mr. Chowdhury, originally from Chittagong and trained as an engineer, is a renowned business consultant, author of many books, and is one of the world’s leading management gurus particularly known for his emphasis on quality.

In addition to promoting and integrating interdisciplinary scholarship, the Chowdhury Center will sponsor lectures and conferences and provide three scholarships (see box on right).

CHOWDHURY CENTER FELLOWSHIPS

• THE SUBIR CHOWDHURY FELLOWSHIP ON QUALITY OF LIFE IN BANGLADESH IS FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS AND WILL BE MATCHED BY THE UNIVERSITY’S GRADUATE FELLOWSHIP MATCHING PROGRAM.

• THE MALINI CHOWDHURY FELLOWSHIP ON BANGLADESH STUDIES IS FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS IN ANY FIELD CONCENTRATING ON BANGLADESH STUDIES AND WILL ALSO BE MATCHED BY THE UNIVERSITY’S GRADUATE FELLOWSHIP MATCHING PROGRAM.

• THE SUBIR CHOWDHURY UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP WILL BE AWARDED TO STUDENTS CONCENTRATING IN SOUTH AND SOUTHEAST ASIAN STUDIES AT BERKELEY AND WILL BE MATCHED BY THE FORD CHALLENGE, A FUND PROVIDED BY A BERKELEY DONOR TO MATCH UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP GIFTS.
The Born in Chittagong, Bangladesh, Subir Chowdhury is a leading quality management thinker and chairman and CEO of ASI Consulting Group, LLC. The Subir and Malini Chowdhury Foundation has provided $1 million in seed funding to help the center move well beyond the headlines to support research that will improve lives in Bangladesh and showcase the country’s culture, history, talent and resilience in the face of intense trials.

“It’s my dream come true,” said Chowdhury.

UC Berkeley Chancellor Nicholas Dirks, an internationally renowned anthropologist and scholar of Indian ethno-history, said the Subir and Malini Chowdhury Center for Bangladesh Studies is a perfect fit with UC Berkeley’s aspirations.

“The Subir and Malini Chowdhury Center for Bangladesh Studies underscores UC Berkeley’s commitment to provide our faculty and students with expanded options for engagement with global issues,” Dirks said. “We have a great deal of expertise to share, and much to learn from others as we confront challenges that know no national border.”

HIGHLIGHTING PROGRESS

It has been over 40 years since the 1971 Concert for Bangladesh at Madison Square Garden raised awareness about Bangladesh and relief funds for those hurt by the war for independence and the 500,000 killed by the strongest cyclone ever recorded. Chowdhury wants to raise the country’s profile again, but this time, around its successes. For example, the World Bank just recognized Bangladesh for its economic progress and the country will co-host a global meeting on migration April 28-29.

The center, the first of its kind in the United States, will heighten awareness about globally important work being done by Bangladeshis in the United States, and by Americans in Bangladesh.

As an example, Chowdhury noted UC Berkeley professor and Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory scientist Ashok Gadgil, whose work on a treatment system to remove deadly arsenic from drinking water can save millions of lives in Bangladesh and

THE CHOWDHURY CENTER WILL EMPHASIZE:

- **Exchange and Scholarship Programs** to take UC Berkeley student and faculty researchers to Bangladesh to study, work and exchange ideas.

- **Academic Partnerships** like one in the works with Bangladesh-based BRAC University, which is funded by the largest international, non-governmental development organization.

- **The Study of Bangla Culture, History and Language.**

- **Support for Graduate Students through two annual graduate fellowships focused on the quality of life in Bangladesh and pursuing Bangladesh Studies, and for undergraduates through one annual scholarship studying South and Southeast Asian Studies.**

- **Development of a Bangladesh component that can be incorporated in other courses in areas ranging from public health to engineering or metropolitan studies.**

BANGLADESHTAKESCENTERSTAGEWITH SUBIR & MALINI CHOWDHURY CENTER

By Kathleen Maclay

Media Relations, UC Berkeley

Bangladesh may be known mostly for its poverty, environmental vulnerability and deadly factory fires, but the new Subir and Malini Chowdhury Center for Bangladesh Studies at the University of California, Berkeley, is ready to prove that this South Asian country of over 160 million people has a lot more to teach the rest of the world.
Ahmed Badruzzaman, an energy scientist and a visiting scholar at the center, said his home country of Bangladesh in the low-lying Ganges Delta is in a unique position to share lessons from its experience dealing with critical issues such as climate change, economic sustainability, natural resource stewardship and maintaining a democracy.

He said the country has made great strides and has even surpassed its better endowed neighbors in many measures of development. But whether Bangladesh will overcome its challenges, sustain its growth, and “remain a beacon for underdeveloped countries” are questions scholars will debate for years, said Badruzzaman. “The Subir and Malini Chowdhury Center for Bangladesh Studies will be a major hub of such deliberations.”

Lawrence Cohen, ISAS director and a social anthropologist with extensive experience in India, said the new center will highlight and enhance the significant research contributions and partnerships already underway in this developing region, while likely spurring new efforts.

SUBIR CHOWDHURY

has been a thought leader in quality management strategy and methodology for more than 20 years. Currently Chairman and CEO of ASI Consulting Group, LLC, he leads Six Sigma and Quality Leadership implementation, and consulting and training efforts.

Subir’s work has earned him numerous awards and recognition. The New York Times cited him as a “leading quality expert”; BusinessWeek hailed him as the “Quality Prophet.” Thinkers50, sponsored by Harvard Business Review, named Subir as one of the “50 Most Influential Management Thinkers in the World”. He is an honorary member of the World Innovation Foundation (WIF) and has been inducted into the Engineering, Science and Technology Hall of Fame and the Automotive Hall of Fame. Subir is a recipient of the Society of Manufacturing Engineers’ Gold Medal, the Society of Automotive Engineers’ (SAE) Henry Ford II Distinguished Award for excellence in Automotive Engineering and the American Society of Quality’s first Philip Crosby Medal for authoring the most influential book on Quality. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security presented the ‘Outstanding American by Choice Award’ to Subir for his contributions to the field of quality and management.

Capitalizing on Campus Expertise

Chowdhury said UC Berkeley is well suited to the task. He said that its Institute for South Asia Studies (ISAS) is a leading South Asia research institute and since 2005 has boasted a thriving beginning and intermediate Bangla language program, with support from both West Bengal and Bangladesh expatriates. The program will now become permanently endowed due to the recently concluded fundraiser by the Bangladeshi community. It also has about 50 students enrolled.

The Chowdhury gift signing. (from left) ISAS Chair Lawrence Cohen, ISAS Executive Director Sanchita Saxena, Subir Chowdhury, UC Berkeley Chancellor Nicholas Dirks

SUBIR & MALINI CHOWDHURY FOUNDATION

focuses on the education of those less fortunate in the world. The foundation helped found the Global Quality Awareness (GQA) campaign, a worldwide initiative to raise awareness of quality in all areas of life. The Foundation also provided a lifetime endowment for the Frances Hesselbein Medal for Excellence in Leadership and Service, awarded annually to a United States Military Academy West Point cadet who demonstrates “excellence in mentorship and leadership by example.”

In addition to establishing the Subir & Malini Chowdhury Center for Bangladesh Studies at UC Berkeley, the foundation also awards the annual SUBIR CHOWDHURY FELLOWSHIP ON QUALITY AND ECONOMICS via Harvard University and London School of Economics and Political Science to a doctoral student to research and study the impact of quality in the economic advancement of a nation.

Born in Chittagong, Bangladesh in 1967, Subir received his undergraduate degree in Aeronautical Engineering from the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Kharagpur, India and his graduate degree in Industrial Management from Central Michigan University, Mt. Pleasant, Michigan. He has received Distinguished Alumnus Awards from both universities, as well as an honorary doctorate of engineering from the Michigan Technological University.
affiliated faculty and more than 200 courses on issues concerning South Asia and Bangladesh. In addition, ISAS co-hosted a 2013 international conference on Bangladesh development. The Subir and Malini Chowdhury Center for Bangladesh Studies will host the event in 2015.

Many Institute-affiliated faculty are experts in topics important to Bangladesh. Chowdhury singled out sociologist Raka Ray, who he met 15 years ago when first introduced to Berkeley; Ananya Roy, an authority on global poverty and microfinance; Isha Ray, who studies sustainable rural development and access to safe drinking water; development economist Pranab Bardhan; and Subir and Malini Chowdhury Center for Bangladesh Studies Director Sanchita Saxena, an expert on the textile and garment industry.

Chowdhury said the UC Berkeley faculty’s quality and passion are impressive. “When you have that kind of energy, there’s no doubt that we will have more Bangladesh success stories,” he said.

STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES

Students are enthusiastic too.

Caitlin Cook, a public health master’s degree candidate, just received the Subir Chowdhury Quality of Life Fellowship to further her research with Bangladeshi mothers and infants to learn more about antibiotic resistance in a pandemic. Nafisa Akbar, a Ph.D. candidate in political science and the new Malini Chowdhury Fellow, is investigating why political parties in Bangladesh use violence as a campaign strategy.

Akbar said election violence by political parties happens in Bangladesh and other countries, such as Kenya, India and Nigeria.

“If we can identify the motivations behind why political parties use violence as a pre-election repertoire, perhaps we can determine solutions to deterring parties from doing so,” said Akbar. “Such solutions may be the key to changing what we consider ‘weak’ democracies into ‘strong’ democracies that function more along the lines of what we see in the U.S. Perhaps then voters in these countries can vote freely and without fear of repercussions, which is one of the basic requirements of a democracy.”

“Bangladesh is ripe with research questions waiting to be addressed,” said Saxena. “Our hope is that through the wide range of activities of the Subir and Malini Chowdhury Center for Bangladesh Studies, students and scholars will recognize that the study of Bangladesh’s economy, society and culture is a critical part of their education and future career paths.”

THE SUBIR AND MALINI CHOWDHURY CENTER FOR BANGLADESH STUDIES AT UC BERKELEY WILL FORMALLY LAUNCH IN SPRING 2015
is fueled only by images of dismal labor conditions and unsuitable factories, national trading regime. That time, many of the "unexpected" countries like Cambodia, Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka with powerful players in the industry. In contrast to the conventional wisdom of their own interests and would not want to compromise their intimate relationship needed for the sector. The subtext was that these groups would be too focused on stakeholders would never be able to work together to make the necessary changes ket share. The prime reason for this pessimism was the notion that the various quotas were lifted, many of the "smaller" countries would drastically lose mar-

Most studies conducted prior to the 2005 quota phase out predicted that once the world. The MFA, in place after more than thirty years, was finally phased out restricted garment and textile imports to the United States, Canada, and the Euro-

To quell the fear of job losses to countries in the Global South, northern coun-

The garments and textiles sector is one of the oldest export industries and has

often served as the "starter" industry for many countries, especially in Asia. The garments and textiles sector is one of the oldest export industries and has

made in bangladesh, cambodia, and sri lanka

the labor behind the global garments and textiles industries

by sanchita banerjee saxena

cambria press, june 2014

new book announcement

the bangla studies endowment at uc berkeley supports the instruction in bangla language and literature at berkeley. the only one of its kind, specifically designated for the study of bangla language and culture at an american university, it allows isas to:

• teach the bangla language at the introductory, intermediate and advanced levels
• help prepare researchers who wish to conduct field work in bangladesh or india
• train development practitioners, entrepreneurs and ngo activists to work in the field
• fund scholarships for berkeley students focusing on west bengal or bangladesh or for bangla or bangladeshi graduate students pursuing graduate studies at uc berkeley
• create new and innovative materials to enhance the study of bangla
• increase berkeley’s library holdings in bangla literature
• create lecture series to bring bangla scholars, artists and performers to the bay area.

we are very grateful to all our supporters of bangla @ berkeley
High rates of antimicrobial resistance have been reported from developing countries including from South and Southeast Asia. The Indian subcontinent including India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh has recently been proven to be a major source for the worldwide transmission of antimicrobial resistance (AMR). Of particular concern is the rising resistance against third generation cephalosporins (3GC) and carbapenems in Gram-negative bacteria as these resistance mechanisms are often linked with resistance against a wide range of antibiotics. Gram-negative bacteria are extremely medically relevant as they are the etiologic agent for many respiratory tract, urinary tract, and gastrointestinal tract infections. As they become increasingly resistant to antibiotics, clinicians are forced to rely on older and more toxic treatments. For some infections, there are no clinical options.

While much of the attention has been focused on India and Pakistan, much less is known about the situation in Bangladesh. Bangladesh is a densely populated country of approximately 160 million inhabitants living on land about the size of Wisconsin. The situation of antimicrobial resistance in Gram-negative bacteria in Bangladesh is alarming. A recent study showed that 3.5% of all Gram-negative organisms are positive for New Delhi metallo-b-lactamase-1 gene (NDM-1), and are resistant to almost all available antibiotics (Islam, et al., 2012). NDM-1 is carried by plasmids, which co-transfer other antibiotic resistance genes including the major ESBL genes. The majority of these organisms are E.coli, which cause extra-intestinal infection, particularly urinary tract infections. The dissemination of these resistance genes in the environment is a particularly intriguing aspect of this issue. Previous studies have found NDM-1 and other ESBL genes in standing water around Dhaka, and I chose to look at the prevalence in the food supply, particularly in the bacteria living on fresh produce samples. This had the potential to be a large but previously overlooked reservoir for these dangerous bugs.

The Subir Chowdhury Fellowship on Quality of Life in Bangladesh gave me the opportunity to work for three months at the world-renowned International Center for Diarrheal Disease Research, Bangladesh (ICDDR,B), to collect fresh produce samples from all corners of Dhaka. With the help of the researchers in the laboratory of Dr. Aminul Islam, we found really intriguing preliminary results. Even more exciting is that this project is able to carry on through a productive collaboration with the lab of Dr. Lee Riley here at UC Berkeley, now that I am back on campus for the fall semester.

Dhaka is a city unlike any other, and I was fortunate to develop close friendships with my colleagues at the ICDDR,B as well as with other researchers from all over the world, and I’m excited to carry this project forward.
Election violence affects daily life, education, the economy and growth, as well as the overall democratic environment in the country. Various events – such as the very public killing of Biswajit Das by Chhatra League cadres or the burning of vehicles and their occupants during the BNP-led hartals in late 2013 – have marred the most recent national elections in January 2014 as one of the most violent and undemocratic since Bangladesh’s independence in 1971. In sum, over the past year, Bangladesh has been a hotbed of acts of violence perpetrated by political parties against voters, which makes it an ideal case to study the use of pre-election violence.

Why do political parties in Bangladesh initiate acts of violence against voters as a campaign repertoire? The literature in political science outlines a relationship of “give and take” between voters and political parties. Parties need votes from voters and voters need various services, goods, or other benefits from their representatives. Thus, parties work towards pleasing voters to gain the public’s favor; if parties are successful, voters reward them with their support at subsequent elections (Lipset and Rokkan 1976, Kitschelt 1995, Kitschelt 2000, Chandra 2004, Scheiner 2006). And yet, despite the established theory on this relationship, parties in Bangladesh have consistently used acts of violence to control, intimidate, or terrorize voters for election purposes. Understanding the motivation behind parties’ counterintuitive use of violence against voters is the primary focus of my dissertation.

From November 2012 to July 2013, I conducted fieldwork in Bangladesh to study the motivations behind why political parties use pre-electoral violence as a tool to win elections. I interviewed party workers, top government officials, academics, and journalists, learning not only about the motivations, but also the intricate ways in which such violence is produced. During the pre-election period of the most recent national elections, I also ran an experimental survey to understand how the general public internalizes the use of various campaign repertoires. Currently, I am studying actual episodes of pre-election violence that occurred from September 2013 to January 2014 using data collected from six Bangladeshi daily newspapers. By identifying the reasons why political parties use violence as a pre-election strategy, I hope that my research will help in developing possible solutions that will minimize election-related violence in weak democracies like Bangladesh’s.

Providing an answer to why parties use violence during pre-election periods may serve as a first step towards fixing some of the problems that mar elections and disrupt daily life in Bangladesh.
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Bangladesh Research Notes is published by the Chowdhury Center to promote dialogue and exchange between scholars who work in inter-disciplinary fields related to Bangladesh, as well as to convey to the wider public the variety of exciting projects going on at Berkeley. Bangladesh Research Notes are available at chowdhury-center.berkeley.edu/research.

— MEDIA COVERAGE

MAKING IT HAPPEN
MD SHAHNAWAZ KHAN CHANDAN, THE DAILY STAR, MAY 9, 2014

SUBIR CHOWDHURY PUTS BANGLADESH STUDIES ON UC’S MAP
RICHARD SPRINGER, STAFF REPORTER, INDIA WEST, APR 23, 2014

UC BERKELEY’S NEW CENTER FOR BANGLADESH STUDIES
KPFA’S APEX EXPRESS INTERVIEW OF SANCHITA SAXENA, DIRECTOR, CHOWDHURY CENTER, FEBRUARY 27, 2014

A BANGLADESHI’S MILLION DOLLAR GIFT TO BERKELEY
SOHARA MEHROZE SHACHI FOR DHAKA TRIBUNE. FEBRUARY 23, 2014

AVAILABLE AT HTTP://SOUTHASIA.BERKELEY.EDU/CHOWDHURY-CENTER-MEDIA

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