

The Syed Humayun Kabir Memorial Research Symposium 2026



Justice, Capabilities and Wellbeing: Rethinking Human Development for a More Just Bangladesh



Grand Ballroom, Sheraton, 44 Kemal Ataturk Avenue, Dhaka



08:30 — 17.30 | Thursday, 17 September 2026

Session Details

08:30 — 09:30

Registration & Tea

09:30 — 10:30

Inaugural Session

| Justice, Capabilities and Wellbeing

- Welcome Remarks — **Ahmed Javed Chowdhury**,
Founder, Banglar Pathshala Foundation
- Opening Remarks — **Farooq Sobhan**, Chairperson, SAJIDA Foundation and
Dr. Sajeda Amin, Sociologist and Demographer; Senior Research Advisor,
SAJIDA Foundation
- Keynote — **Professor Kaushik Basu**, Cornell University
- Chair — **Professor Rehman Sobhan**,
Distinguished Economist and Chairman, Centre for Policy Dialogue

10:30 — 10:40

SAJIDA Overview

10:45 — 11:30

| Leading with Purpose: Governance, Transparency & Accountability

- **Farooq Sobhan**, Chairperson, SAJIDA Foundation
- **M Syeduzzaman**, Member, Board of Trustees, Centre for Policy Dialogue;
Former Finance Minister, Government of Bangladesh
- **Iftekharuzzaman**, Executive Director, Transparency International Bangladesh
- **Dr. Kamal Hossain**, Senior Advocate, Supreme Court of Bangladesh; Head
of Chambers, Dr. Kamal Hossain & Associates
- **Dr. Mohammad Helal Uddin**
Executive Vice Chairman, Microcredit Regulatory Authority
- **Shehzad Munim**, Advisor, SAJIDA Foundation &
Independent Director, Linde Bangladesh Limited
- **Moderator — Barrister Rashna Imam**
Senior Advocate, Supreme Court of Bangladesh

11:30 — 11:45

Tea Break

11:45 — 12:30

| Building for Tomorrow: Institutions, Innovation & Quality

- **Md Fazlul Kader**, Managing Director, Palli Karma Sahayak Foundation
- **Syed S. Kaiser Kabir**, MD and CEO, Renata Limited
- **Abdul Mueyed Chowdhury**
Member, Board of Trustees, BRAC University
- **Dr. Hameeda Hossain**, Human Rights Activist
- **Dr. Firdausi Qadri**
Emeritus Scientist, icddr,b; Founding Chairman and Lead, iDeshi
- **Moderator — Farabi Hafiz**, Journalist & News Anchor

12:40 – 13:25

Research Session

| Panel I – Health, Livelihood & Capability Expansion

Presentation on *Addressing Poverty and Health Disparities* by Jyotirmoy Saha & Shamira Mostafa, SAJIDA Foundation

- **Chair – Dr. Ahmed Mushtaque Raza Chowdhury**
Convener, Bangladesh Health Watch
- **Professor Dr. A. I. Mahbub Uddin Ahmed**, University of Dhaka
- **Dr. Imran Matin**, Executive Director, BIGD
- **Dr. Kazi Iqbal**
Research Director, Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS)

13:30 – 14:30

Lunch Break

14:30 – 15:15

| Panel II – Agency, Wellbeing & Urban Resilience

Presentation on *Assessing Interventions Addressing Vulnerability & Urban Poverty* by Namira Shameem, PPRC

- **Chair – Professor Sabina Faiz Rashid**
BRAC James P Grant School of Public Health
- **Barrister Farisa Kabir**, Senior Director
Social and Environmental Integrity, SAJIDA Foundation
- **Kabita Bose**, Country Director, Plan International Bangladesh
- **Dr. Lipon Mondal**, Associate Professor, University of Dhaka

15:30 – 16:15

| Panel III – Climate Adaptation, Knowledge & Structural Constraints

Presentation on *Strengthening Resilience in Climate Vulnerable Regions in Bangladesh* by Md Nurul Islam, SAJIDA Foundation

- **Chair – Dr. Ainun Nishat**, Professor Emeritus, BRAC University
- **Md Shamsuddoha**, Chief Executive, Center for Participatory Research and Development
- **Professor Shaheen Islam**, University of Dhaka

16:15 – 16:30

Tea Break

Concluding Session

16:30 – 17:30

| Panel Discussion – From Evidence to Programme and Policy

- **Dr. Shamaruh Mirza**, Senior Regulatory Specialist, Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care
- **Dr. Leslye Obiora**, Professor of Law, The University of Arizona
- **Farah Kabir**, Country Director, ActionAid Bangladesh
- **Dr. Tasnim Jara**, Physician-Entrepreneur and Science Communicator
- **Dr. Malabika Sarker**, Associate Dean for Global Engagement and Professor of the Practice, Brown University
- **Dr. Foara Tasmim Palmy**, Additional Director General (Planning and Development), Directorate General of Health Services
- **Moderator – Sara Hossain**
Senior Advocate, Supreme Court of Bangladesh

17:30

Vote of Thanks