



High Commissioner



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## Press Release

### **Bangabandhu Centre for Bangladesh Studies in Canada (BCBS) inaugurated**

On the twin historic occasions of the Birth Centenary of Father of Nation and the Golden Jubilee of the Independence of Bangladesh Bangabandhu Centre for Bangladesh Studies in Canada was inaugurated today, 26 March 2021 at 10 am (CDT) in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada (at 2100 hrs Bangladesh Time) by the Foreign Secretary (Senior Secretary), Ambassador Masud Bin Momen.

This is one of the initiatives of Dr. Khalilur Rahman, the new High Commissioner of Bangladesh in Canada, who would also serve as the Chief Patron of the Centre. Mr. David Gerald Newman QC, Co-Chair and Founder of Peace Building Committee of Rotary Club of Winnipeg, a former Justice Minister/Attorney-General of Manitoba, would serve as the Canadian Patron of the Centre.

With today's formal inauguration, the journey of BCBS has formally commenced. The Centre is located within the Conflict and Resilience Research Institute Canada (CRRIC) at the St Paul's College, University of Manitoba. This is the only Centre of its kind in the world which is founded keeping in view to "provide research, advocacy, scholarly dissemination, and academic exchange support for aspiring faculty members and researchers who conduct Bangladesh-focused studies."

BCBS would provide cutting-edge interdisciplinary research support on Bangladesh's social, economic, and environmental issues and support faculty-exchange (semester-long teaching programs) in Canada and Bangladesh. In 2021, it plans to submit exhibits about the 1952 language movement and 1971 genocide to the Canadian Museum for Human Rights based in Winnipeg, Manitoba. It would also undertake a significant research project in evaluating the impacts of the Rohingya Crisis in Bangladesh and facilitate policy dialogue on Bangladesh-Canada issues in this year.

Following distinguished guests were in attendance during the inauguration ceremony:

- Honorable Foreign Secretary (senior secretary) of the government of Bangladesh, Mr. Masud Bin Momen (video message).
- HE honorable High Commissioner of Bangladesh in Canada, Mr. Khalil Rahman (Chief Patron of BCBS).
- David G. Newman, QC (Canadian Patron of BCBS).
- Professor Dr. Harun or Rashid (former VC National University)
- Professor Dr. Emdad ul Haque (University of Manitoba).
- Professor Dr. Sadeka Halim (Dean Social Science, Dhaka University).
- Professor Dr. Akm Mazharul Islam (SUST).
- Dr. Mehedi Chowdhury (Bournemouth University (UK);
- Freedom Fighter Dr. Matiur Rahman (retired, University of Manitoba).

Dr. Kawser Ahmed (executive director, CRRIC) and Dr. Syeed Khan (director, innovation & development, CRRIC) moderated the session.

The activities of the center can be found at [www.bcbscanada.org](http://www.bcbscanada.org)