

Professor Dr. Abu Musa Mohammad Arif Billah, former chairman, department of Persian and Urdu, university of Dhaka, is an internationally renowned scholar, writer and poet.

He had been offered a scholarship by the University of Dhaka to pursue a PhD degree in the Department of South Asian Languages and Cultures, School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London and got his PhD degree awarded on 31 July 2009. His PhD thesis entitled *Influence of Persian Literature on Shah Muhammad Sagir's Yusuf Zulaikha and Alaol's Padmavati* published by Abu Rayhan Biruni Foundation, Dhaka in 2014.

Dr. Billah is skilled in several languages such as Arabic, English, Persian, Urdu, Hindi, Dari, Sanskrit and Bengali. Indo-Persian socio-political, cultural, religious, historical and literary traditions, particularly poetic traditions, are among the fields of his main interest. He has been writing poems since his adolescence. His first collection of poems – *ami prolay dekhechi* (I have seen the catastrophe) – was published in 1995. His another most celebrated book is "Midnight Dreams", a collection of poems in six languages – English, Persian, Urdu, Hindi, Arabic and Bengali – composed in London during his stay there for his PhD studies at SOAS, University of London. This collection is published by – *Annyaprokash*, Dhaka, in 2010.

He taught Bengali and Hindi languages at King's College London and Bengali at SOAS from 2003 to 2010. He also worked as a course curriculum developer, exam questions moderator and setter with Asset Language, University of Cambridge and OCR University of Oxford from 2006 – 2009. And former EEA, Department of South Asian Languages and Cultures.

Dr. Billah, on his return from England, has established Abu Rayhan Biruni Foundation in Dhaka in 2011 and organized five International conferences and three international seminars since its establishment. He attended many national and internal conferences and seminars at home and abroad: Heidelberg, Iran, Pakistan, India, England, South Korea etc. and published twelve books and more than 50 research articles.

Dr. Billah worked as a visiting professor at the University Tehran, Iran; and Gyeongsang National University (GNU) at Jinju in South Korea.