

2010 Field Survey Report

Intangible Cultural Heritage Safeguarding Efforts in Bangladesh

In collaboration with Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy



2010 Field Survey Report | Intangible Cultural Heritage Safeguarding Efforts in Bangladesh

Field Survey Report

Intangible Cultural Heritage Safeguarding Efforts
in the Asia-Pacific
2010

Intangible Cultural Heritage Centre for Asia and the Pacific

In collaboration with Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy

Preface

The International Information and Networking Centre for Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region proposed by the Korean government was finally approved as a category 2 centre under the auspices of UNESCO at the 35th session of the UNESCO General Conference last October. Over the course of the next year, the Centre and the Korean government prepared for the establishment of the UNESCO category 2 centre which is intended to become a hub for the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage in Asia and the Pacific region.

As a well intentioned objective for the future activities of this centre, ICHCAP initiated the 2009 Field Survey Project of the Intangible Cultural Heritage Safeguarding Efforts in the Asia-Pacific Region.

In 2010, ICHCAP worked in collaboration with institutions from seven countries which include: Bangladesh, Bhutan, Indonesia, Nepal, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, and Tajikistan to carry out the field surveys. The purpose of the field survey project was to obtain a grasp on the current situation of ICH safeguarding, along with specific details on each country's efforts in inventory making and relevant policies, laws, organisations, etc. The centre will continue this project over the next several years to cover all of the countries within the Asia-Pacific region.

The centre will serve Asia-Pacific Member States as an information and networking centre for the safeguarding of ICH. The final report from the project will serve as a resource that will help determine particular needs and provide direction for new cooperative projects for the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage. It will also be used as a resource for states within the region to strengthen their understanding of intangible cultural heritage of other countries in the region.

Lastly, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the institutions and researchers who actively cooperated with ICHCAP on the field survey project.

Seong-Yong Park, Ph.D

Executive Director

Intangible Cultural Heritage Centre for Asia and the Pacific



Contents

Intangible Cultural Heritage Safeguarding Efforts in Bangladesh

Preface	001
Introduction	005
Field Survey Report	
I. Safeguarding system & policy	008
II. Intangible Cultural Heritage Inventory	036
III. Relevant Organisations	038
IV. Meetings on Intangible Cultural Heritage	071
V. The Representative List of the ICH of Humanity	072
VI. Living Human Treasures System (LHTS)	087
VII. Pending issues & urgent needs on safeguarding of ICH	088
List of co-researchers	093

Annex 1 The Asiatic Society of Bangladesh	095
---	-----

Annex 2 Photographs	107
-----------------------	-----

Introduction

Asia and the Pacific region is an area rich with various elements of intangible cultural heritage. Intangible cultural heritage has been handed down from generation to generation and has contributed to the development of cultural diversity and the creativity of humanity. Intangible cultural heritage for social development is well recognised as it represents the evolvement of historical traditions and the cultural identity of a society embodied in creative expression.

Over time, the form and substance of intangible cultural heritage has become vulnerable to deterioration. In particular, rapid social change and globalisation have made this situation even more pressing. Fortunately, there has recently been an increase in global awareness in relation to the value of intangible cultural heritage and its safeguarding.

In this regard, ICHCAP has created a survey study plan to collect all the necessary information related to current safeguarding systems for intangible cultural heritage in the region. ICHCAP has been preparing this survey since 2008, and 2010 is the second year of the implementation of this project.

ICHCAP has collected relevant data from reports, workshop books, meeting resolutions, internet databases, etc. While the information is valuable, in many cases, the data is neither accurate, nor up to date. This is the reason ICHCAP has prepared a new survey to accumulate more current pertinent data.

The field survey was carried out by respected researchers in each country. For this project, ICHCAP developed a questionnaire to guide the research teams conducting the field surveys in each country. The questionnaire encompassed topics pertaining to safeguarding the present system & policy; intangible cultural heritage inventory; information regarding relevant conferences, symposiums and workshops; national and local pending issues and urgent needs within the field of intangible cultural heritage safeguarding.

Lastly, the information and data may be open to the public and ICHCAP will share necessary data with other Member States to support the implementation of the most effective and appropriate practices for the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage. We expect the project will assist in strengthening regional capacity and solidarity as well as international cooperation for the safeguarding of ICH in the region.

Field Survey Report

I . Safeguarding system & policy

1. ICH safeguarding system

The importance of culture has been significantly underscored in postliberation days. Bangladesh is committed for equal rights of people in every sphere of life. The urgency of protecting cultural heritage was strongly felt through the struggle for autonomy & independence. Immediately after independence state obligation was clearly envisaged in the new **constitution** of the country back in 1972.

Article-23 of our constitution says *“The State shall adopt measures to conserve the cultural traditions and heritage of the people, and so to foster and improve the national language, literature and the arts that all sections of the people are afforded the opportunity to contribute towards and to participate in the enrichment of the national culture.”*

Article-24 of the constitution envisaged: *“The State shall adopt measures for the protection against disfigurement, damage or removal of all monuments, objects or places or special artistic or historic importance or interest”.*

The highest legal instrument reflects commitment of the people and State in conserving cultural traditions & heritage and protection of cultural expressions of the people within its territory.

2. Law & other legal instruments

For proper preservation and maintenance, flourishing and development of national culture and cultural traditions as in our National Policy of Culture was proclaimed in 2006 to uphold the traditional cultural heritages, beliefs and religious faiths of all the groups of people including all small ethnic groups inhabiting Bangladesh in accordance with the prevailing traditions of our country.

3. National Policy of Culture, 2006

A. Introduction

Culture is the expression of every aspect of the lives of the people of a community, society or a nation. It retains and reflects the day to day life of a people and their activities. Basic components of culture are: knowledge, beliefs, ideology, education, language, ethics, laws and regulations, customs and many others, with the help of which a man identifies himself as a member of a particular society and a nation.

Bangladesh has given priority to uphold her cultural -identity. Article no 23 of 'Basics of Governance' in the constitution of Bangladesh describes: "the state will make arrangements to preserve and protect cultural traditions and heritage and to nourish and develop the national language, literature and arts in the way people from all walks of life can have opportunity to contribute to and participate in the flourishing of national culture." In addition, Article no. 24 describes: "The state will make arrangements to protect the places of historic importance, arts, relics or artifacts from distortion, damage or removal."¹¹ In the light of these two Articles of the constitution, cultural affairs were first incorporated into a body under the Ministry of Education in Bangladesh in 1972. Now 'the Ministry of Cultural Affairs,' as an independent ministry, has been playing a vital role for the preservation and development of the country's cultural heritage.

Bangladesh has its own rich cultural heritage to glorify the image of the country in the world. It is possible to strengthen the position of the country as a nation through a perfect development of this culture and cultural heritage. Cultural activities can also be included with the economic development of the country. It is possible to develop a living cultural economy through an interactive patronization among cultural activities, cultural traditions, tourism and trades.

The area of culture in Bangladesh is wide and extensive. Along with the Ministry of Cultural Affairs, the Ministry of Information, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Commerce, the Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism, the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs and the Ministry of Religious Affairs can play an important role in preserving, nourishing, fostering and flourishing the cultural heritage and traditions. Endeavour has been made to reflect the relevant aspects of these ministries in the National Policy of Culture.

The government considers it to be of prime necessity to have a National Policy of Culture in Bangladesh for preservation, nourishment and proper nourishment of the glorious national culture for the sake of the overall development of the country. The National Policy of Culture is prepared for proper preservation and maintenance, nourishment and development of national culture and cultural traditions in compliance with UNESCO'S "Preliminary Draft of a Convention on the Protection of the Diversity of

Cultural Contents and Artistic Expression-2004, WTO'S TRIPS, Copyright Act, Rome Convention (1961) and Berne Convention as per national ideology and Articles 23 and 24 of the second part of the constitution of the People's Republic of Bangladesh on a greater perspective.

B. Objectives of National Policy of Culture

- 1) To uphold the cultural identities, beliefs and religious faiths of all the groups of people and communities inhabiting Bangladesh in accordance with the prevailing traditions of Bangladesh.
- 2) To protect the national culture from being degraded and to integrate cultural activities with the economic development of the country.
- 3) To develop properly the cultures of all small ethnic groups inhabiting Bangladesh and to consolidate social harmony in all communities.
- 4) To recognize positive aspects of other cultures in keeping pace with the norms of globalization and to prevent all evil trends of culture.

C. Basics of National Culture

- 1) To take integrated actions to uphold the history of the struggles of the people over the years, the Language Movement, the ideals of the War of Liberation and the religious faiths and beliefs of the people of the country.
- 2) To take necessary steps for flourishing of national culture and for prevention of its degradation and to integrate it with the national development.
- 3) To take comprehensive measures for proper development, publicity and expansion of every aspects of culture.
- 4) To ensure preservation and development of cultural traditions of all tribal groups of Bangladesh.

D. Strategies for Implementation of National Policy of Culture: The Ministry of Cultural Affairs

The Ministry of Cultural Affairs shall take active measures for preservation, maintenance, publicity and development of cultural heritage, arts, language and literature, history, traditions and cultural resources, folklore and folk-arts, books and libraries and fine arts ; to inspire the archaeologists, artists and literary figures at national levels for making contribution to their respective fields ; and to coordinate among different government, statutory and autonomous bodies or organizations under this ministry for protection of Intellectual Property (IP) rights.

E. Institutions and organizations under the Ministry of Cultural Affairs:

The institutions and organization under the Ministry of Cultural Affairs shall play an active role for implementation of National Policy of Culture in

compliance with the provisions of and rules enacted under the concerned laws and Ordinances. With this in view, the concerned laws, ordinances, provisions, rules and other government instructions have been briefly described below:

- 1) In accordance with the Antiquities Act, 1968 (Act No. 14 of 1968) the Department of Archaeology shall take necessary arrangements for collection and acquisition of antiquities, surveys and excavations, preservation of all immovable historic achievements and movable archaeological finds and for researches in these fields and to take active initiatives for implementation of the objectives of this policy.
- 2) Bangla Academy shall implement, according to the Bangla Academy Ordinance, 1978 (Ordinance No. 21 of 1978), relevant aims and objectives of the Policy along with its own activities for development and promotion of Bangla language, literature and culture.
- 3) National Archives established under the N.A. Ordinance 1983 (Ordinance No. 39 of 1983) shall implement properly the relevant objectives of the Policy along with its own activities of collection, preservation and maintenance of various public documents and publications.
- 4) Bangladesh National Museum established under the B.N.M, Ordinance 1983 (Ordinance No. 53 of 1983) shall make arrangements for preservation and exhibition of historical, ethnic and archaeological objects and work for the overall development of the Museum in the light of this Policy.
- 5) Nazrul Institute, established under Nazrul Institute Ordinance, 1984 (Act No. 39 in 1984), shall ensure proper tune of Nazrul's song as per its notation and shall arrange to offer training on it and inspire the scholars from home and abroad to undertake research on Nazrul's works and to implement relevant objectives of the Policy.
- 6) Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, established- under the Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy Act, 1989 (Act No. 22 of 1989), shall implement the objectives of the Policy under its purview along with its own activities.
- 7) Bangladesh Folk and Art Foundation, established under the Bangladesh Loka O Karushilpa Act, 1998 (Act No. 8 of 1998), shall make necessary arrangements for preserving historic and folk-arts and crafts, imparting training on it, setting up an Art Museum and developing folk-arts and crafts and implementing the aims and objectives under its purview.
- 8) According to the Copyright Act, 2000 (Act No. 28 of 2000) and rules enacted under it, Copyright Office shall take effective steps for protection of copyrights of literary works, dramas, music, films and other related publications and implement the aims and objectives of the Policy under its purview.

- 9) Department of Public Library established in 1984 shall play an effective role in removing illiteracy from the society, preserving and spreading acquired knowledge, creating environment for being self-educated, flourishing social and democratic awareness and values, developing a healthy culture against all evil trends of culture, disseminating information and so on.
- 10) National Book Centre shall, in respect of book publication and its use, take an effective initiative to implement National Policy of Culture in accordance with the National Book Policy, 1994 and shall properly execute the aims and objectives of National Policy of Culture under its purview.
- 11) Other departments, organizations, statutory and autonomous bodies under the Ministry of Cultural Affairs shall, according to their respective acts and provisions, play an effective role to propagate, nourish and develop cultural traditions and, at the same time, implement aims and objectives of National Policy of Culture under their purview.
- 12) Tribal cultural organizations shall play an effective role in their respective fields to preserve, propagate, nourish and develop cultural traditions and, at the same time, implement the aims and objectives of National Policy of Culture under their purview.

F. Other Ministries

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Information, the Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism, the Ministry of Science, Information and Communication Technology, the Ministry of Commerce and the Ministry of Religious Affairs shall take necessary actions and steps for implementation of the aims and objectives of National Policy of Culture in their respective fields. The Ministry of Cultural Affairs will extend necessary cooperation and assistance to them in this respect.

G. Establishment of Organizations and Enactment of Laws

Initiatives shall be taken to set up government, semi-government, statutory bodies and organizations and various other organizations at private levels with a view to implementing National Policy of Culture and, if necessary, new laws will be enacted for implementation of the aims and objectives of National Policy of Culture.

H. Organizations and Guidelines for Implementation of National Policy of Culture

1) The Ministry of Cultural Affairs:

The Ministry of Cultural Affairs shall take effective steps to implement National Policy of Culture through mutual coordination among different government and statutory bodies and organizations for maintenance, development, publicity and propagation of cultural traditions in Bangladesh.

• Arts

Tangible and intangible elements of cultural traditions are an integral part of culture. From time immemorial, these elements have enriched the culture of Bangladesh. These are also important through for recreation.

2) Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy

Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy has been working for proper nourishment of cultural items. The Academy shall take following steps or programmes for nourishment, flourishing and proper development of cultural items

- To take necessary steps to uphold tangible and intangible cultural heritage and rich culture of Bangladesh before the people.
- To develop and nourish various works of art including music, dance, dramatics and fine arts and to undertake necessary researches on them.
- To introduce the Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy Award for recognition of contribution in different fields of culture, particularly in various fields of fine arts, and to organize competitive events in various subjects of fine arts at local, national and international levels.
- To make arrangements for proper development and flourishing of and researches on folk-song and classical music, to protect the tune and form of folk music from extinction and to ensure its local notation and proper tune for familiarizing it internationally.
- To take necessary steps for preservation, publicity and development of all sorts of traditional folk and regional songs of Bangladesh such as *jarigan*, *sarigan*, *gazir gan*, *kabigan*, *gambhira*, *Lalan* song, songs of Hason Raja, *palagan*.
- To prepare CD, VCD and brochures for publicity and propagation of cultural traditions of Bangladesh at home and abroad such as folk-songs, folk dance, *Lalon* song, *Nazrul* song, *Rabindra* song, fine arts, handicrafts.
- To introduce Certificate and Diploma courses in different subjects of fine arts.

- To preserve arts at all levels and install new pieces of art, architecture and sculpture for upholding the ideals of the Language Movement, mass-upheaval and the War of Liberation.
- To ensure reflection of our cultural traditions in different cultural functions to be organized for foreign delegations at national levels and participation of children in different cultural functions at national levels.
- To ensure publicity and propagation of the traditional *Palli* songs, Lalon song, Nazrul song and other folk-songs of Bangladesh by translating them into different foreign languages.

3) Rajbari Acrobatic Centre

This training complex has been established to consolidate and strengthen the study of fine arts, dramatics, music, dance, musical instruments, acrobatics, crafts and needle works through training in accordance with the culture, manners and socio-economic condition of Bangladesh. The centre will take necessary measures for preservation and development of the country's cultural traditions and to continue the trends of healthy culture and, at the same time, to increase skills by arranging various training programmes on different subjects of culture. Besides, the centre will adopt specific programmes to generate self-employment for women and to develop their socio-economic conditions by imparting training on traditional crafts, handicrafts and needle works and opening sales centres.

4) Language and Literature: Bangla Academy

Bangla Academy has been working for development of Bangla language and literature. The Academy shall implement or take the following programmes for development of Bangla language and literature and for study and research on them:

- To put emphasis on research on Bangla language by employing linguists, experts on English and Bangla languages in Bangla Academy.
- To take necessary steps to offer residence scholarships in different periods (not exceeding six months) under cultural agreements for the poets, novelists, playwrights, writers, literary critics and scholars of friendly countries for study of Bangla language and literature.
- To take necessary measures with the cooperation of the government to extend the study of Bangla language in those countries including those in Europe and America, where a large number of Bangla-speaking people are living so that no apathy develops in the next generations of Bangladeshi citizens living abroad towards learning Bangla language.

- To create scopes for study and research on different dialects of Bangladesh and other languages connected with .Bangla language such as Sanskrit, Arabic, Persian and Pali.
- To publish literary journals regularly to inspire creative literary activities of the country.
- To organize conferences on Bangla language and literature at gradual successions with the assistance of diplomatic missions of Bangladesh in different countries of the world, and to take initiatives to introduce curriculums of Bangla literature in those foreign universities where there are departments of South and South-East Asian studies.
- To conduct research on the history and evolution of Bangla language and to patronize scholars from home and abroad.
- To arrange to translate masterpieces of Bangla literature into different foreign languages for the readers of the other countries of the world and those of world literatures into Bangla for the Bangla-speaking readers; to undertake research on other old languages connected with Bangia language.
- To publish books written in ethnic languages and to exhibit them in the Ekushay Book-fair.
- To ensure proper spelling and pronunciation of Bangla words and to take necessary steps for development and publicity of Bangla language and literature.
- To make arrangements to translate important titles written by noted literary persons of the country into English and other foreign languages and to send them to the Bangladeshi missions abroad for exhibition, sale and publicity.
- To establish an institute of ethnic languages keeping in harmony with the spirit of international mother language day in the University of Dhaka,. in order to inspire the ethnic people living in Bangladesh to study their own languages and to preserve and undertake research on them.

5) Preservation of History, Heritage and Cultural Objects

Historical papers, documents, other articles and archaeological heritage bear a thousands years of history and cultural heritage of Bangladesh. Department of National Archives and Library, Bangladesh National Museum and Department of Archaeology have been collecting, preserving and fostering these cultural traditions. With a view to implementing National Policy o Culture, these institutions shall take following steps:

- Department of Archives and Library
 - To take necessary steps to modernize the archives for collection and preservation of cultural heritage, national history and traditions, and historical papers and documents and other administrative documents.
 - To adopt necessary measures to establish archives locally at divisional administrative offices and other organizations including district collectorates under Department of National Archives and to collect and preserve necessary papers and documents and historical artifacts at district levels.
 - To expand the National Advisers' Committee for Archives with active participation of the historians and researchers for giving suggestions to the government for collection, preservation, evaluation and publication of historical documents and to use them for research purposes.
 - The Department of Archives will take initiative to prepare a manual for acceptable to all concerned for management of current files.
 - To prepare documentary films, guide books, news letters, leaf-lets, posters and juvenile documentary films on the importance of archives and to propagate them among the researchers, administrators, policymakers, teachers, students and common people.
 - To ensure necessary training and other facilities to develop and modernize Department of Archives like the national archives of other countries in the world and to make it a digital archives through digitalization of the process of collecting and preserving information and of old documents in the present age of e-in format ion.
 - To take necessary steps to collect the documents of colonial age from England and India and the documents of Pakistan period, related to the history and traditions of Bangladesh from Pakistan.

- Bangladesh National Museum

Bangladesh National Museum is one of the institutions for collection, preservation and exhibition of our history and heritage. To preserve the history and cultural heritage of Bangladesh, National Museum shall take following actions:

 - To preserve and exhibit historical and cultural objects of Bangladesh.
 - Bangladesh National Museum shall take initiatives to establish museums based on different disciplines in the country.

- To integrate the archaeological assets hitherto discovered by maintaining coordination between the Archaeology and Museum Act and administration..
- Bangladesh National Museum, by ascertaining the upholding of cultural heritage all over the country, shall establish regional museums at all divisional centres in view of historical and administrative importance of other places of the country for upholding cultural heritage and traditions locally.
- The institutions, which preserve the cultural heritage, shall make arrangements on their own initiative to classify, survey the cultural objects preserved in different museums or all immovable cultural objects scattered outside the museums, to prepare a list through registration, to collect and update it and preserve it into computer centrally under Bangladesh National Museum for the use of researchers.
- Bangladesh National Museum shall collect and preserve the photographs, such as slides, sketches, maps, designs of the cultural objects inside Bangladesh and relevant cultural objects of other countries.
- To take necessary steps to preserve the documents of the project based on the history of Liberation War in Bangladesh National Museum, to collect more documents in future and to publish researches on collected documents and relevant other titles under an independent office.

- Department of Archaeology

To preserve history and heritage the responsibility of the Department of Archaeology, as a government organization, is to discover all kinds of movable and immovable archaeological finds and to preserve those finds without destroying their originality. In view of this the Department shall take the following steps:

- To carry on excavation regularly with a view to exploring the ancient human habitation and finds that are on the verge of extinction, to publish expert-reports on excavated places of historical interest and to take measures for marketing and propagation of these reports.
- To prepare lists of movable and immovable cultural assets for the researchers after making survey of the assets throughout the country.
- To take pragmatic steps for the proper preservation of all the important immovable historical monuments of the country.

- To sign exchange programmes with the neighbouring countries and the countries having the same climatic conditions for archaeological research and preservation.
- To establish an Institute of Archaeology for training of the officers and staff regarding collection and preservation of archaeological finds and objects.
- To continue the work of establishing new museums in places of archaeological interests and to modernize the museums which have already been established.
- After proper preservation and registration of the movable and immovable archaeological finds under the Department of Archaeology to prepare a list of them and to make it available on the website for the researchers at home and abroad.

6) Books and Libraries

Books contribute immensely to the making of the cultural life of a country, Our cultural activities must ensure the publication of books and their qualitative development, preservation, and use. The Public Library, Bangladesh National Library and the National Book Centre under the Ministry of Cultural Affairs play various roles in materializing these activities. These organizations shall undertake the following programmes for the development of books and libraries and to extend better facilities and opportunities for the use of libraries to the readers at all levels:

- Department of Public Libraries
 - To develop the Central Public Library into a modern and standard reference library like the Central Library of the developed countries of the world by providing it with modern technologies and making it a computerized one.
 - To develop the Central Public Library into an e-library to make books on electronics including high standard periodicals and magazines on various subjects available to the research scholars on the internet.
 - To take necessary steps for training on modern and scientific library science in its more than one aspects for library administration.
 - To construct buildings with special architectural design and style befitting of a library for the libraries belonging to the divisions and districts.
 - To take steps for the establishment of libraries in cities, towns, villages and *mahallas* with a view to developing the reading habit at the grassroots level of the country and for the

coordination of all the public and private libraries at all the divisional and district levels.

- To popularize the public libraries, necessary steps shall be taken to make them suitable for all readers including children, women and the handicapped and to make arrangements for holding discussion and seminars on juvenile literature and scientific books and storytelling and book reading competitions for children.
 - To make necessary arrangements for giving training to the concerned officers and staff for improving their professional skills with a view to developing the standard of services they are supposed to render.
 - To take necessary steps to increase international cooperation with foreign libraries and such other agencies.
- National Library
 - To develop the National Library as the only legal depository of the country under copyright law with a view to ensuring the publication of national bibliography by co-coordinating the creative writings as e-publications, published regularly in Bangladesh in the form of CDs, microfilms etc. and those published regularly in the various branches of knowledge outside Bangladesh and to collect all the new publications.
 - To establish branches of National library at divisional and district levels if necessary with a view to ensuring the collection of creative writings from various regions of the country and to publish all kinds of books including national bibliographies regularly.
 - To introduce 'Best Book Award' on various subjects to encourage creative publications including the holding of 'Book Publication Ceremonies' to inform the people of the new publications and to collect and preserve other resourceful information like CDs, microfilms **etc.** besides various books.
 - To develop Bangladesh National Library into a modern digital library on the model of the national libraries of the different countries of the world as found in this age of e-publication and e-information service.
 - National Book Centre
 - To follow National Book Policy of 1994 in the field of book publication and their use in Bangladesh.
 - To ensure the recognition of dignity of labour and intellect of concerned professionals including writers, translators, editors and designers involved in production of books and also to ensure the preservation of intellectual property.

- To take necessary measures to enhance professional skills at all levels, to ensure publication of books of international standard and to create a class of capable and meritorious publishers.
- To encourage the educated people to come forward in the field of publication, to arrange training courses, in-service trainings, workshops, seminars and symposia for the professionals dealing with publications in the country and to encourage them to participate in similar kinds of training programmes and seminars abroad.
- To encourage the professionals to establish their own organizations with a view to creating professionalism at all levels of publication and also to extend them all possible help and cooperation.
- To encourage import of printing materials particularly the machinery suitable for the printing of scientific and technological books with a view to making the publication sector modern and dynamic, and, at the same time, take necessary steps to encourage the manufacturers to produce improved quality of paper, ink and other printing materials.
- To encourage writing, printing and publishing of attractive textbooks, creative works of literature and scientific books for children in the language suitable for them.
- To encourage the publication of books that would satisfy the needs of the readers of different tastes and also to encourage the promising young writers.
- To encourage establishment of private libraries even at the grassroot level of the country to increase reading habit among people from all walks of life and develop the service to the readers of private libraries to materialize the reading habit programme of the government and also to extend necessary help and co-operation to those libraries.
- To hold book fairs regularly and participate in foreign book fairs with a view to expanding national book market at home and abroad.

7) Discussions on particular poets/writers at national level

One of our responsibilities for preservation of our culture is to hold programmes for discussing the works of writers, poets, litterateurs and artists and at the same time to preserve their works. With this end in view particular organizations have already been established and are being established. The Nazrul Institute after the national poet Kazi Nazrul Islam has already been established. There are organizations like Lalon Academy Complex at Kushtia, Mir Mosharraf Hossain Memorial Centre, Acrobatic Centre at Rajbari, Begum Rokeya Memorial Centre at Pairabandh. Soon Rabindra Memorial Centre will

be established at Shilaidaha in Kushtia, frequented by Tagore during his life time. These organizations play a significant role in our cultural arena in so far as discussions and research on individual poet/writer and development are concerned.

- **The Nazrul Institute:**

Nazrul Institute plays an ancillary role in the promotion of the literary works and songs of poet Nazrul Islam at national level. This institute shall take the following steps to promote all kinds of practice and research on Nazrul's literary works at home and abroad:

- To take pragmatic steps to give training on songs in their original notations and lyrics and to preserve them and to arrange workshops under recitation training programmes.
- To include compulsorily Nazrul's works in the syllabus of schools, colleges and universities to evaluate Nazrul's literature.
- To collect important information and materials regarding Nazrul's life and works, to encourage researchers from home and abroad to do research on Nazrul and to introduce awards to this end.
- To translate life and works of Nazrul in different languages of the world and to take necessary steps for the propagation of those translations preferably of some major languages, through our foreign embassies.
- To attract tourists and Nazrul-lovers from home and abroad by preserving and developing places besmeared with the memories of Nazrul and to make the Nazrul Museum of the Institute more worth-seeing and attractive.
- To hold 'Nazrul's Song Conference' at the national level at least once a year along with celebration of 'Nazrul's Birth Anniversary' at the national level.
- To propagate Nazrul's patriotic songs and pieces of literature and philosophy of life through plays, cinemas, telefilms etc. to imbue the people with national spirit.

- **Rabindra Memorial Centre**

Established for the purpose of comprehensive study on Tagore, this institute shall take the following steps keeping in view its aims and objects:

- To take necessary steps in establishing Rabindra Memorial Centre in the places like Kushtia's Shilaidaha, Patisar, Dakshin

Dihi, Phultala, Shahjadpur that are besmeared with Rabindranath's memories.

- To preserve the memories of Rabindranath Tagore and undertake research on his literary works and work of art.
- To take initiatives in propagating the art and literary works of Tagore at the national and international levels.
- To propagate and publicize Tagore's songs called *Rabindra Sangeet* in their original notations and lyrics following Tagore's *Sarabitan*.
- To include compulsorily Rabindranath Tagore's works in the syllabus of schools, colleges and universities to evaluate Tagore's literature.
- To collect important information and materials regarding Tagore's life and works, to encourage researchers from home and abroad to do research on Tagore and to introduce awards to this end.
- To translate life and works of Rabindranath Tagore in different languages of the world and to take necessary steps for the propagation of those translations preferably of some major languages, through our foreign embassies.
- To attract tourists and Rabindra-lovers from home and abroad by preserving and developing places besmeared with the memories of Rabindranath and to establish an attractive Rabindra Museum.
- To take necessary steps to exhibit and preserve poet Rabindranth Tagore's works of art.
- To take necessary steps to preserve and exhibit Tagore's works of art, particularly, those related to Bangladesh and also their replicas and photocopies by collecting from other countries if necessary.

- Lalon Academy Complex, Kushtia
- The Lalon Academy shall take necessary initiatives to preserve the memories and works of the mystic poet Lalon Shah, to promote the research work on Lalon's songs and to propagate and publicize them at national and international levels.
-
- Mir Mosharraf Hossain Memorial Centre, Rajbari
- Mir Mosharraf Hossain Memorial Centre shall take necessary steps to preserve the literary works and memories of Mosharraf Hossain to undertake research on his literary works and to promote and publicize them at national and international levels.
-
- Begum Rokeya Memorial Centre
- Begum Rokeya is called the pioneer who worked for the awakening of womenfolk in the subcontinent. Begum Rokeya

Memorial Centre has been established so that the women of Bangladesh are inspired by the memories, life and works of this learned woman. The Centre shall take the following steps:

- To undertake comprehensive researches on the life and works of Begum Rokeya, to collect, preserve and publish her writings and to take measures to translate them into different languages and to publicize them at national and international levels.
- To inspire the comparatively disadvantaged women of the country in education for realizing the ideals of the great lady, to generate self-employment opportunities by offering them basic education and vocational training and to establish a rich museum by collecting information regarding various aspects of Women Movements in Bangladesh and different objects of folk culture.
- To take initiatives for the publicity of the writings of women writers through this centre.
- To introduce 'Begum Rokeya Literary Award'.
- To collect different folk materials and ensure their marketing for commercial purposes.
- To take necessary steps for introducing Begum Rokeya Memorial Award on various aspects of women development.

8) Other Organizations

To preserve, develop, promote and publicize the creations of the established writers, poets, authors and artists, more organizations of this kind shall be established by turns. These kinds of specialized organizations, whenever they will be established, shall be run by the specialized Cultural Institutions Act.

- **Bangladesh Folk Arts and Crafts Foundation**

Bangladesh Folk Arts and Crafts Foundation shall take the following steps for preservation, manifestation and development of folk arts and crafts.

- To establish a separate institute for collection, preservation and dissemination of folk traditions and folk literature and to make arrangements for undertaking necessary researches and organize training on this discipline.
- To preserve traditional folk arts and crafts, objects of folk arts and crafts and to encourage traditional folk arts and crafts.
- To establish Folklore Museum at different regions of the country.
- To establish a folk village at Sonargaon, situated in the district of Narayanganj.

- To undertake researches based on folk arts and crafts and publish the information gained by researches and to offer scholarship in this field.
- To make policies for the development of folk arts and crafts and to implement them and to help and cooperate any person or organization engaged in this research work.
- To prepare the 'Folk Arts and Crafts Development Policy' and to give the government, local authority or any other organizations suggestions in this regard and to develop it through mutual cooperation.
- To undertake joint programmes with the foreign and international folk arts and crafts organizations with the prior approval of the government.
- The Ministry of Cultural Affairs, the Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism and the Ministry of Commerce shall jointly develop a 'Mini Bangladesh' into the Foundation so that the local and foreign tourists, foreign heads of states and governments and other important guests may keep abreast of our culture, civilization, and the life of the ethnic groups, arts and crafts, rural life, forests, hills and seas and so on.

- **Copyright Protection: Copyright Office**

The Copyright Office is working for the preservation of copyright of creative writings. To make it more dynamic and updated the office shall take up the following programmes:

- To take necessary measures regarding related matters under the Copyright Act, 2000 and the laws made under it for the preservation of creative writings and prevention of the piracy of sculpture.
- To establish a copyright network in all divisional cities by expanding the working area of copyright office under the Copyright Act.
- As a signatory to the Berne Convention, TRIPS Treaty and WIPO Convention Bangladesh is to abide by all the rights, duties and responsibilities in respect of copyright as mentioned therein and to arrange seminars and training programmes regularly to increase public awareness in this regard.
- To execute all the steps as described in the National Book Policy and to include copyright as a subject in the syllabus of Library Science and Law Department.
- To develop a link between copyright and trade-mark and to make the writers, publishers, CD, audio-video, film and software makers aware of copyright.

- **Development of Tribal Cultures**

There are about fifty to fifty seven big and small ethnic groups with their own individual cultures and traditions in Bangladesh. Some institutions have already been established for the development of their own cultures and traditions. These institutions shall make proper arrangements for the preservation, use and development of the languages, cultures and traditions of different tribes like Chakma, Marma, Tipra, Tonchanga, Murang, Baum, Pankhura, Khumi, Khyang, Chak, Lusai and the others. To nourish, foster and develop the languages, cultures and traditions of the ethnic people and to integrate them with the mainstream, these institutions shall arrange the following programmes

- To preserve, study, practise and develop the respective languages and cultures of the tribal people of three hill districts, to take necessary steps for the development of those aspects and to arrange to teach them Bangla language and to introduce and integrate them with the mainstream of Bangladeshi traditions and culture.
- To undertake research on the manners and customs and traditions of the different peoples including Rakhain community of Cox's Bazar district, one of the tourism centres of Bangladesh and to strengthen actions and activities of Cox's Bazar Cultural Centre for gradual enrichment of their culture by preserving their cultural antiquities.
- To take necessary steps for protection, study, development and nourishment of the cultures of different tribes like Garo, Hajang, Koch, Banai, Hadi, Dalu, Barman and others living near the border areas of greater Mymensingh and Sunamgonj through Birishiri Tribal Cultural Academy of Netrokona.
- To take necessary steps for the study, development, flourishing and improvement of the cultures of concerned tribes and the ethnic people through Manipuri Lalitakala Academy of Kamalganj at Maulabhibazar and Rajshashi Tribal Cultural Institute.
- All tribal organizations, as mentioned above, shall preserve and develop their respective cultural traditions and arrange to teach all the tribal peoples Bangla language and literature compulsorily and thus to introduce and integrate them with all spheres of the mainstream of national culture.

- **Bangladesh Foundation for Culture and Traditions:**

The purpose of the establishment of 'Bangladesh Foundation for Culture and Traditions' is to develop the culture of Bangladesh and to preserve the glorious past and present cultural traditions

of Bangladesh, Necessary steps shall be taken at government and private levels by this Foundation to preserve the tangible and intangible cultural assets of the country and to patronize it. This foundation shall collect necessary funds from the sources at home and abroad and invest them for development of the cultural and historical evidences, archaeological excavation, archives and libraries etc. of Bangladesh and for renovation of the country's cultural heritage like Buddha Biharas, mosques, temples, churches and for floureshment of ethnic cultures.

- **Folk Culture Institute**

Steps shall be taken very soon to establish a Folk Culture Institute in Bangladesh for the collection, preservation, propagation and development of folk traditions and folk literature. The Folk Cultural Institute shall carry out the following responsibilities:

- To recognize, collect and preserve the folk traditions nationally; and to undertake researches on it.
- To make arrangements for display, documentation and propagation of the country's folk cultures nationally and internationally.
- To include Folk Culture in the curriculums of higher education and to encourage such initiatives.
- To preserve the diversity of national folk traditions for its propagation and development and for undertaking researches on it; and to help financially to encourage it.
- To prepare a data base of folk arts and traditions of Bangladesh.

- **Cultural Activist Welfare Foundation, Artist Welfare Trust and other assistance and grants related policy**

The following steps shall be taken for this purpose by the Ministry of Cultural Affairs

- To help the cultural activists who are financially weak, libranes and other cultural institutions for a healthy development of the culture of the country.
- To give welfare allowance to the poor, retired poets/writers and the artists for their medical treatment and other purposes.
- To extend financial grants to different cultural institutions and theatre groups for the flourishing of the country's cultural traditions and for encouraging the cultural study.

- To take necessary steps for the welfare of the artists concerned with arts, literature and different cultural activities of Bangladesh through 'Artist Welfare Trust'.
- To extend financial assistance to the libraries of the country at private levels.
- To take necessary steps for increasing the funds of "Cultural Activist Welfare Foundation" and "Artist Welfare Trust".
- To spend the collected money of the funds for the welfare of the artists who are indigent financially and sick.

- **Ministry of Foreign Affairs**

The following steps shall be taken in the related fields by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for propagating the cultural traditions of Bangladesh in different countries of the world:

- The Ministry of Foreign Affairs shall highlight the cultural history and tradition of Bangladesh to those countries of the world where a good number of Bangladeshi people live ; it shall also take necessary steps to establish 'Bangladesh Cultural Centre' in every country for the propagation of cultural activities of Bangladesh. That Cultural Centre will be attached with the Bangladesh embassy or consulate office. A cultural activist or an officer from the cadre service experienced in dealing with cultural activities will be in charge of this centre. The cultural centre will be run by the Bangladesh embassy with the assistance of the Bangladeshi people living in that respective country. The centre will make necessary arrangements for preservation, propagation, nourishment and development of different cultural traditions of Bangladesh. For example, arrangements shall be made for propagation and development of Bangla language, music, dance, drama etc. and for exhibition, observance of National Days, folk and crafts fairs. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Cultural Affairs shall take necessary initiatives for this purpose on the basis of mutual cooperation.
- To set up a Bangladesh Library in each Bangladesh Embassy abroad. Arrangements shall be made to keep in the library sufficient books focussing all areas of Bangladesh. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Cultural Affairs shall jointly take initiatives to establish the library.
- Various posters, leaflets, brochures etc. on history, traditions and culture of Bangladesh to be prepared by concerned ministries shall be arranged to display in Bangladesh Missions or in Bangladesh Cultural Centres abroad to introduce Bangladesh to the foreigners. Booklets, Posters,

Tourist Handbooks, CD, VCD, etc. on the attractive tourist spots and historical places of Bangladesh to be prepared by Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism and Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation shall be arranged to display and distribute to attract a great number of foreign tourists.

9) Local Administration

The local administration at the district and upazilla levels of Bangladesh shall take the following initiatives locally at government and private levels for the proper flourishing, preservation and development of cultural traditions of Bangladesh.

- To make arrangements locally for the development and preservation of cultural traditions of the country.
- To take steps locally to observe different days and to arrange cultural programmes, cultural competitions, exhibitions of pictures, fine arts and handicrafts, *pitha* fair and different kinds of folk based festivals by local administration with the help of local people at the division, district and upazilla levels.
- To take initiatives from local administration to connect the people from all classes and occupations with these festivals.
- To arrange different kinds of cultural competitions locally for the students of schools, colleges and universities.
- To take necessary initiatives by local administration for observing the traditional cultural days.
- Any personal or collective activities made at private levels for preserving cultural heritage of Bangladesh and for practising, nourishing and developing a healthy culture shall be encouraged by central and local administration.
- To take steps to publish, by re-establishing the District Gazette Office, a monthly bulletin containing important information from all the districts of the country and a detailed District Gazetteer at every five years.

10) The other areas of culture

The following initiatives shall be taken in this case:

- **Education: Ministry of Education/Ministry of Primary and Mass Education**
 - Ministry of Education shall take necessary initiatives to introduce higher education on Fine Arts in the universities by opening departments of Music, Dance, Photographs, Fine Arts, Folk Arts, Dramatics, and Folk Cultures at graduation (honours) and post graduation levels.

- To coordinate the courses on Fine Arts in all the universities of the country and at government level, the Ministry of Primary, Secondary and Higher Secondary Education, Primary and Mass Education shall also take further initiatives to publish articles for the curriculums on Fine Arts such as on dance, music, arts and dramatics and on history and traditions.
 - Ministry of Education shall take necessary steps to introduce courses on History, Islamic History, Anthropology, Sociology, Bengali Language, Folk Culture, Archaeology, Muscology, Archives & Library Science, Dramatics, Music, Fine Arts and various other disciplines of culture at graduation (honours) and post graduation levels in all government and private universities and colleges of the country.
 - Ministry of Education shall organize institutional programmes to celebrate different days in connection with culture like Pahla Baishakh, Birth Anniversaries of Nazrul and Tagore, International Mother Language Day, Victory and Independence Days, etc. and it will also organize annual cultural competitions regularly at the educational institutions.
 - Efforts shall have to be made to incorporate Bengali language including disciplines related to Bangladeshi culture and heritage in the curriculum of foreign universities and language institutes. Ministry of Education shall prepare the curriculums and make arrangements to offer courses on Bengali language and to flourish Bangladeshi culture and heritage through Bangladeshi missions abroad.
 - National Curriculum and Textbook Board along with Bangladesh University Grants Commission shall take necessary steps to prepare curriculums and introduce courses on the disciplines regarding cultural heritage and culture to preserve, propagate and flourish the cultural heritage of Bangladesh and give the students proper ideas and education on this discipline from primary schools.
 - Ministry of Education shall take necessary initiatives to introduce Diploma / Degree courses on Film and Television at graduation and post-graduation levels.
- **Religious Culture and Traditions: Ministry of Religious Affairs**
 - To take necessary steps to carefully preserve and develop religious culture, heritage and history of all the people living in Bangladesh.
 - To ensure the proper use of media for developing the religious traditions and cultures of all the people, publishing religious researches and celebrating religious festivals.

- To coordinate development of human resources and national progress by encouraging fellow-feeling, fraternity, values and religious spirit at national and international levels.
- The fundamentals of all religions are truthfulness, human welfare and restoration of peace. To take necessary steps, on this context, to prevent misinterpretation, mispropagation or misuse of all religious messages for restoring peace, security and stability in the society.
- To take initiatives through proper implementation of the fundamentals of all religions - equality, human welfare, brotherhood to enhance mutual tolerance and fellow-feeling and to take measures for propagation of humanitarian messages of all religions, for holding international religious conferences, seminars and various other programmes to restore peace and development in social, national and international levels.
- To properly preserve and develop the ancient and historical religious institutions belonging to all religious communities of Bangladesh like mosques, temples, churches and pagodas etc.
-

• **Radio, Television and Films: Ministry of Information**

- To take initiatives to telecast cultural and educational programmes to uphold the country's history, culture and traditions through all government and private radios and television channels including Bangladesh Betar and Bangladesh Television.
- To take necessary measures to discourage strictly all government and private radios and satellite channels to transmit any local or foreign programmes which go against national interest, history, traditions and culture.
- Necessary rules and acts should be made to prevent access of avil cultures through the programmes aired and transmitted in cable TV networks. They should be consistent with designed to develop Bangladeshi culture.
- It has to be ensured that all Bangladeshi government and private radios and television channels shall transmit children's programmes for the mental development of the children,
- It is necessary to ensure that radio, television and other media shall telecast all kinds of songs including Nazrul and Rabindra songs entuned with their proper notations.
- Effective steps shall be taken to air important parts of good local and foreign films in our radio and television programmes.
- To uphold country's image, positive and constructive news/reports shall be transmitted through government and private radio and television channels.

- It is required to prepare and make government policies / laws / regulations by the Ministry of Information so that no evil culture can enter into the advertisements transmitted by the government and private radios, television channels and films.
- Film Development Corporation shall take effective steps to produce films which will ensure healthy practice and development of culture in Bangladesh.
- Bangladesh Film Archives shall arrange to continue the Cinema, History and Film Appreciation course regularly.
- It is expected that positive information of government activities shall be propagated and published by film and publishing organizations.
- It shall be ensured that anything repugnant to national culture, traditions and ideology and the religious belief of any person or group residing in Bangladesh, evil culture, unhealthy and negative things shall not be reflected in the films.
- Film Development Corporation shall take a coordinated measure to ensure facilities for making exportable national films.
- For overall development of film industry, it is required to provide special subsidy to the producers and filmmakers to import good movies on a limited scale to create fair competition and export market.
- It is necessary to promote film-culture among the educated young people of the country by arranging for them partial technical training along with training on film-history, film language, film-script writing in the Film Institute.
- To arrange international film festivals in the country and participate in different international film festivals. To make specific action plans to send representatives in such programmes.
- To give importance for producing juvenile and educative films.
-

- **Theatre & Jatra**

- To establish a modern scientific national theatre stage with all facilities in order to ascertain proper study of theatre. It is necessary to establish permanent theatre stages by turns, initially in the divisional towns and then in the district towns.
- Government may establish a theatre academy at Dhaka for training in every aspect of theatre and necessary measures may be taken to open departments of dramatics in the concerned universities of Bangladesh.
- It is required to establish a *Jatra* Academy at Dhaka and subsequently in the divisional towns for the overall betterment, development and improvement of quality of *Jatra*.

- Necessary measures shall be taken by preparing rules and regulations to preserve the quality of *Jatra* and to keep it free from evil culture.

- **Culture for Development of Children's Creativity**

- Children are the future citizens of the country. To ensure perfect development of children's talent and intellect, various cultural competitions shall be arranged at national, district and upazilla levels by Bangladesh Shishu Academy and the winners shall be rewarded to inspire them.
- It is necessary to include various subjects representing and upholding a healthy and developed national culture in the competitions to be arranged by Bangladesh Shishu Academy. Besides competitions, various cultural programmes and fairs shall be arranged with the participation of children at district and national levels.

- **Tourism, Trades and Culture**

Tourism and trades play a vital role for the development of the country. Mutual development is possible through coordination among tourism, trades and cultural activities. Besides, trades and tourism can also play an important role for preservation, propagation, promotion and development of cultural heritage of Bangladesh. With this in view, the following steps shall be taken:

- To connect tourism with culture for their development and to take necessary measures on mutual cooperation between the Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism and the Ministry of Cultural Affairs.
- To attract a large number of tourists and to develop a sustainable economic culture, Ministry of Cultural Affairs and Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism shall take necessary steps to arrange jointly at tourist centres cultural programmes and folk and handicrafts fairs.
- For the development of culture, trades and economy, Ministry of Cultural Affairs and Ministry of Commerce shall jointly take various measures to arrange different cultural programmes, exhibition of cultural objects and folk and handicrafts fairs to attract a large number of customers at different trade fairs to be held at home and abroad.
- Ministry of Commerce shall arrange to send, by incorporating Ministry of Cultural Affairs and Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism, a cultural troupe to participate in different trade fairs to be held abroad.

- To take necessary measures, in accordance with the international rules of conduct in tourism, to preserve and develop the sea-beach, memorials, museums, archaeological sites, historical places and cultural objects of Bangladesh and to keep them open for the tourists and visitors; and to ensure all sorts of facilities including communication for the tourists.
- To ensure proper maintenance, security and development of cultural structures and tourist spots and to make efforts to enhance their beauty.
- To take necessary steps for the expansion of Nazrul-Tourism programmes.

11) Financing in Cultural Programmes

Government allocation of budget plays a basic role in the cultural, programmes of Bangladesh and in their development. On this context, activities of different ministries, departments and offices directorates / statutory organizations under them are run with the revenue budget of the government. A certain budgetary allocation is made annually for the purpose. In addition, it is possible to accelerate cultural development by the existing development projects run with the cooperation of different ministries, departments and organizations, government and various international organizations. Grants of new projects shall have to be utilized for implementation of the programmes undertaken in this policy. Dependence on revenue budget shall be reduced. All out efforts and comprehensive measures shall be taken to generate sources of their own income in every organization. It is possible to develop a cultural economy in this way and thus culture can be established as a factor for economic development.

Necessary arrangements shall be made to use a portion of the income earned from the visitors of the cultural structures and monuments.

12) International Cooperation for Cultural Development

Bangladesh has cultural agreement/contract with 38 countries of the world at present. Under this agreement cultural-exchanges have been carried out. According to these cultural exchanges the following activities shall be more strengthened for development of education, culture and sports of the country.

- To exchange cultural troupes, journalists, writers and researchers.
- To give scholarships in the different fields of culture.
- To extend help to research programmes.
- To give scholarships in researches on education and sports.

- To accept positive culture of the developed countries and to develop our culture accordingly.
- To extend assistance for more training in education, culture and sports.
- To exchange publications, movies, fine arts and radio and TV programmes.
- To exchange teachers, researchers, scientists and craftsmen at school, college and university levels and to make government grants available for all kinds of training.
- To exchange research programmes and scholarships in different fields of Archaeology and Museum.
- To take initiatives, if necessary, for signing cultural agreement and for exchange programmes with other developed and developing countries of the world in future.
- To take necessary measures to extend international cooperation for development of the country's culture by signing cultural agreement and exchange programmes with various international organizations.

13) Implementation of National Policy of Culture and Evaluation

For implementation and reviewing the progress of these rules it is necessary to form a national committee consisting of famous cultural personalities and secretaries of all concerned ministries and headed by the minister / state minister of the Ministry of Cultural Affairs. The committee shall work to ensure implementation of National Policy of Culture. The committee shall meet in an inter-ministerial conference after every six months and shall discuss the progress of different programmes and give necessary directions.

To ensure the implementation of National Policy of Culture successfully, the secretary of the concerned ministry shall work as a head and meet in every month to discuss its progress. He shall chalk out specific programmes with the directions of National Committee formed by the government and give necessary guidelines to all concerned for proper implementation of National Policy of Culture.

13. Conclusion

Culture reflects all aspects of the lives of people from all walks of society or a nation. The people of Bangladesh feel proud of their culture and heritage. The issues of cultural development are also well-defined in our Constitution. By proper implementation of National Policy of Culture prepared under the Constitution of Bangladesh, preservation, promotion and nourishment of history and culture and traditions of Bangladesh is possible.

Cultural activities of Bangladesh are one of vital factors for development of its economy. An effective measure can be adopted to develop a sustainable

economy and to remove poverty by integrating tourism and commerce with cultural activities. This will add a new dimension to the development of the country's economy and culture. Besides, culture and traditions are the most vital instruments for upholding the country's image and identity to the world. It is possible to uphold our dignity before the world community by nourishing, fostering and fully developing and flourishing the country's traditional culture.

Proper development of the cultural institutions and mutual cooperation and coordination among themselves are impossible for perfect nourishment of the culture and traditions of Bangladesh. Not only government but also non-government initiatives should be taken for the purpose. On this context, it is necessary to initiate various complementary programmes on the basis of mutual cooperation for development, preservation and patronization of the country's tangible and intangible cultural heritage.

National policy of culture can play a pioneering role for cultural as well as overall development of the country. Bangladesh, as a nation, will be able to uphold its dignity and glorious identity through perfect development of its culture and traditions. National Policy of Culture will inspire all of us to work unitedly for national development.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Ministry of Cultural Affairs
Section-7
Notification
Date: 1st Kartik 1413/16 October 2006

No. Sabim/Sec:7 Miscellaneous-04/2006/1680—National Policy of Culture, 2006, approved by the government, is published for information of the people.

[Source : Bangladesh Gazette, Supplementary, Published in November 29, 2006]

II. Intangible Cultural Heritage Inventory

In fact Bangladesh does not have a comprehensive inventory on ICH. But as we have mentioned elsewhere that Asiatic Society of Bangladesh, a private organization working for the protection and promotion of Intangible cultural heritage in Bangladesh has completed the Cultural Survey of Bangladesh and printed their findings in 12 Volumes which definitely can be considered as an inventory. This project was supported by the Government of Bangladesh. The titles of the Volumes are as follow:

- Chief Editor: Professor Sirajul Islam
- Managing Editor: Professor Sahjahan Miah

Series	Editors
1. Archaeological Heritage	Professor Sufi Mostafijzur Rahman
2. Architecture	Professor ABM Husain
3. State and Culture	Professor Emajuddin Ahmed Professor Harun-or-Rashid
4. Cultural History	Professor KM Mohsin Professor Sharif Uddin Ahmed
5. Indigenous Communities	Mesbah Kamal Professor Zahidul Islam Sugata Chakma
6. Language and Literature	Professor Abul Kalam Manjur Morhed
7. Folklore	Professor Wakil Ahmed
8. Art And Crafts	Lala Rukh Selim
9. Bangla Proverbs (Bangla Edition Only)	Professor Sirajul Islam
10. Folk Songs (Bangla Edition Only)	Mohammad Nurul Huda
11. Living Traditions (Bangla Edition Only)	Professor Henry Glassie Dr. Firoz Mahmud
12. Performing Arts (Bangla Edition Only)	Dr. Israfil Shaheen

Besides this, there were different inventories on separate forms, such as:

- *Prubabanga Geetika (6 Volumes)*, compiled and edited by Dinesh Chandra Sen Collected by Chandra Kumar Dey, (Volume 4: title *Mymensingha Geetika*), 1920s to 1930s)
- *Haramoni (10 Volumes)*, by Muhamad Monsur Uddin, 1961, Bangla

Academy

- *Pracheen Purbabaanga Geetika (A collection of Folkre of East Bewgal), 1950s, by Kshiteesh Moulik, (5 Volumes)*
- *An Encyclopeadia of Bengali Folk-Songs (4 Volumes), by Dr. Ashutosh Bhattacharya, 1966, West Bengal Folklore Research Council, Kolkata, India.*
- *Sangeet Kosh (Encyclopedia of Songs), Korunamaya Goswami, 1985, Published By Bangla Acamedy.*
- *Identification, Valuation and Intellectual Property of Protection of Traditional Cultural Expressions of Bangladesh, WIPO, 2010, Edited by Mohammad Nurul Huda, Former Director, Bangla Academy, Dhaka.*
- *Hajar Bachharer Bangla Nattyo (Bangla Drama of Thousand Years), By Jamil Ahmed, Department of Drama, University of Dhaka*
- *Indigenous Theatre of Bangladesh, By Jamil Ahmed, Department of Drama, University of Dhaka*
- *Bangla Academy Folklore Archives: Catalogue and Index of Oral Literature (5 Volumes), by Bangla Academy.*

2. Provision

Ministry of Cultural Affairs has already taken a decision to make a complete inventory very soon. In fact they have already started the job and gathered some information. Bangladesh will have a complete inventory by the end of the year of 2011.

III. Relevant Organisations

1. Governmental organisations

A. Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy

Website: www.bdshilpakala.org

Phone: 88-02-9562836

Fax: 88-02-9562853

Address: Shegunbagicha, Ramna, Dhaka.

It is the national academy of fine and performing arts. The academy was established through an act of Parliament in 1974 as a statutory organization under the Ministry of Cultural Affairs. But subsequently the Act of 1974 of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy was amended through a new act of Parliament in 1989. The academy is headed by a Director General.

The overall direction for the functioning of the academy is provided by an Executive Council (Shilpakala Academy Parishad) headed by the Minister in charge of the Ministry of Cultural Affairs. The Director General of the academy is responsible for its administration. He is also responsible for the implementation of decisions taken by the council. He is assisted in his work by an executive committee which is elected by the Council.

The duties and responsibilities of the academy include promotion of the arts and national culture and creation of necessary facilities for their development. The activities of the academy also include organizing workshops, seminars, discussion meetings, short-term specialized trainings, providing scholarships and financial grants for talented artists, organizing competitions in the various field of fine and performing arts. The Academy consists of the following departments, each headed by a Director, excepting administration, which is headed by the Secretary of the Academy.

- Department of Fine Arts
- Department of Dramatics
- Department of Music and Dances
- Department of Research and Publication
- Department of Training
- Department of Programme Production
- Department of Administration and Finance

- Executive Body

01. Hon'ble Minister, Ministry of Cultural Affairs	President
02. Mr. K.M. Khalid, MP, Mymensing-5	Member
03. Mr. Chyan Islam, MP, Serajganj-6	Member
04. Mrs. Tohura Ali, MP, Women Seat-19	Member
05. Secretary, Ministry of Cultural Affairs	Vice-President
06. Representative from Ministry of Finance	Member
07. Representative of Secretary, Ministry of Information	Member
08. Representative of Secretary, Ministry of Education	Member
09. Vice-Chancellor, University of Dhaka	Member
10. Director-General, Bangla Academy	Member
11. Director-General, Bangladesh Television	Member
12. Director-General, Bangladesh National Museum	Member
13. Director-General, Bangladesh Betar	Member
14. Director, Arts Institute, University of Dhaka	Member
15. Prof. Mahfuja Khanam (Cultural Personality)	Member
16. Cultural Adviser, Ministry of Cultural Affairs	Member
17. Mr. Golam Sarwar, Editor, The Daily Samakal	Member
18. Mr. Khairul Anam Shakil, Music Artist	Member
19. Mrs. Pinu Khan, Dance Artist	Member
20. Mr. Ramendu Majumder, Drama Artist	Member
21. Mr. Amin Ahmed Chowdhury, Cultural Personality, Mymensing	Member
22. Mr. Ahmed Iqbal Haider, Cultural Personality, Chittagong	Member
23. Mr. Moley Bhowmic, Cultural Personality, Rajshahi	Member
24. Prof. Md. Bazlul Karim, Cultural Personality, Khulna	Member
25. Advocate Manabendra Botbal, Cultural Personality, Barisal	Member
26. Mr. Akramul Islam, Cultural Personality, Sylhet	Member
27. Mr. Biplab Prasad, Cultural Personality, Rangpur	Member
28. Director-General, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy	Member-Secretary

B. Bangla Academy

Website: www.banglaacademy.org.bd

Phone: 88-02-8619577

Fax: 88-02-8612352

Address: Burdwan House, 3, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Ramna, Dhaka-1000.

Now Bangla Academy is being run in accordance with The Bangla Academy Ordinance, 1978 (the Bangla Academy Adyadesh 1978). The Bangla Academy Ordinance, 2008 has been published in the gazette on 31 December 2008. But as it was not made into an act, it has not been put into action. Arrangement has been made to prepare a proposal a new on the basis of the expert opinions for updating the ordinance. Bangla Academy was established on 3 December 1955. As a glorious symbol of Bangladesh's great independence and cultural heritage, it is committed to work mainly for the development of the bangle language, literature and culture. With this end in view, Bangla Academy since its very inception, has been engaged in developing and promoting the bangle language, literature and culture and arranging to translate the world classics into Bangla and Bangla Classics into foreign languages.

The programmers and activities generally run by Bangla Academy are as follows:

- To prepare and publish treatises and research works on various branches of Bangla Language and literature, a complete history of the Bangla Literature, biographies of outstanding Bangla Literary figures;
- To produce and publish dictionaries and compendiums;
- To publish complete works of great Literary figures, lists of writings in old periodicals, souvenirs and memorial volumes, Ekushey volumes and commemorative volumes on great Bengali writers;
- To arrange to translate classics of different languages like English, French, German, Arabic, Sanskrit, Pali etc. into Bangla and the Bangla classics into foreign languages.
- To produce and publish juvenile books on Bangladesh's heritage, nature and life.
- To organize seminars and cultural functions on different occasions which include a month long Ekushey celebrations, Independence Day,

Victory Day, Martyred intellectual Day, Bengali New year, Eid-e-Miladunnabi, Bangla Academy Foundation Anniversary and so on. Besides. It celebrates birth and death anniversaries of Rabindranath, Nazrul Islam and Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and to organize discussion-meetings on the birth and death anniversaries of prominent personalities. Bangla Academy also organizes functions on national levels in collaboration with the government

- To publish a monthly journal, 'Uttaradhikar', a quarterly research journal, 'Bangla Academy Patrika', two six-monthly juvenile journal called 'Dhanshaliker Desh'. It also publishes a newsletter called Bangla Academy Barta covering cultural news almost all over the country along with the events of Bangla Academy.
- To produce and publish textbooks and references on various branches of physical sciences, engineering, biology, agricultural sciences, social sciences, humanities, gender, environment, law and commerce;
- To conduct training for proper use of our mother language Bangla in offices and courts, to offer courses to teach foreigners Bangla, and to ensure use of standard Bangla words everywhere;
- To arrange computer training under the digitalization programmers of the present government;
- To produce and published scientific researches;
- To produce and published books on science in every day life/ popular sciences and biographies of scientists;
- To identify and remove difficulties in scientific studies in Bangla;
- To take steps for renovating and modernizing the Bangla Academy press;
- To help scholars and researchers with rare and important books, old and rare punthies and documents preserved in the Bangla Academy Library;
- To prepare a detailed description of the activities of Bangla Academy and to make it open for the people;
- To arrange the annual general meeting of Bangla Academy;
- To preserve books and journals published by Bangla Academy, to make them available in the market and to advertise them, to arrange the Ekushey Book-Fair and to participate in the book-fairs organized at home and abroad.

C. Bangladesh National Museum

Website: www.bangladeshmuseum.gov.bd

Phone: 88-02-8619303

Fax: 88-02-8615585

Address: Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Shahabag, Dhaka.

1) Ordinance



The Bangladesh Jatiya Jadughar was established by the Ordinance No. LIII of 1983.

2) Date of establishment

The Bangladesh Jatiya Jadughar is the successor to the Dhaka Museum established in 1913 A.D. In 20th September, 1983 it was established as Bangladesh Jatiya Jadughar (Bangladesh National Museum) by the Ordinance No. LIII of 1983. Bangladesh National Museum has a Board of Trustee that consists of 15 members. Out of which 9 members including the Chairman are appointed by the government and rest 6 members are appointed as ex-officio.

3) Main functions

- To collect, preserve and display the antiquities, works of art, ethnological specimens, relics connected with the Liberation Struggle of Bangladesh, specimens of flora and fauna, traditional crafts and artifacts, products of intellectual activities, audio-visual documentary evidence, and such other objects and items related to the cultural and natural heritage of Bangladesh.
- To collect, preserve and display material evidence of different aspects of various world civilizations.
- To publish and sell periodicals, books, anthologies and reproductions of objects.

- To organize exhibitions, conferences, lectures, seminars and assemblies on cultural and natural heritages of Bangladesh.
- To organize, with prior approval of the Government, exhibitions outside the country in order to project cultural and natural heritage of Bangladesh.

4) Other information

The functional and administrative controls of the Bangladesh National Museum are being carried out with the help of 7 Departments. These are : a. Department of History and Classical Arts, b. Department of Ethnography & Decorative Art, c. Department of Contemporary Art & World Civilization, d. Department of Natural History, e. Department of Conservation Laboratory, f. Department of Public Education, g. Department of Administration, Finance & Security. More than 86.000 objects and antiquities have been collected till November 2009. These objects and antiquities are being displayed in 44 galleries in the National Museum.

- **Branch Museums** : Ahsan Manzil Museum, Dhaka; Zia Memorial Museum, Chittagong; Osmany Museum, Sylhet; Shilpacharya Zainul Abedin Sangrahasala, Mymensingh.
- **Facilities** : The Bangladesh National Museum has three auditoriums (Shahid Zia Auditorium, 700 seats, Kabi Sufia Kamal Auditorium, 200 seats and Sculptor Novera Hall, 180 seats) for holding seminars and cultural functions and two temporary exhibition halls (Nalinikanta Bhattashali Exhibition Hall and Sculptor Novera Exhibition Hall for arranging special exhibitions. The Zia Memorial Museum has a Seminar Hall, the Shilpacharya Zainul Abedin Sangrahasala has a Seminar Room cum Gallery and a Open Stage Circle for seminar, exhibition and cultural function. All auditoriums and exhibition halls remain closed on Thursday, morning shift on Friday and other Government holidays. The scholars and researchers may get the information regarding research and use the museum library. Expert guide lecturers lead the visitors in the gallery.

D. Nazrul Institute, Dhaka

Website: www.nazrul institute.org.bd

Phone: 88-02-9114602

Fax: 88-02-9118051

Address: Kabi Bhaban, Road No-28(Old), House No.330-B, Dhanmondi R/A, Dhaka.



Nazrul Institute has been established by **THE NAZRUL INSTITUTE ORDINANCE, 1984 (Ordinance No. XXXIX of 1984).**

*Nazrul Institute has been established in 1985.

1) Functions of the Institute

- To promote the study of the works of the poet (Kazi Nazrul Islam);
- To collect the poet's songs and other works from home and abroad and to compile, preserve and publish them;
- To make necessary arrangement for research on, and publication of the literature of the poet and for publicity thereof;
- To organize conferences' lectures, debates and seminars on matters relating to contributions of the poet on sangeet, literature and in other fields.
- To establish library of books, records, tapes and other preservative ensemble relating to Nazrul sangeet and literature;
- To prepare musical notation for propagation of Nazrul sangeet in their true spirit, style and system and to supervise their presentation in acceptable standard in gramophone records, commercial tapes, films and books of published notation in Bangladesh;
- To provide for proper training in Nazrul sangeet and recitation of the Nazrul poems;
- To award prizes and rewards to authors who, in the opinion of the Institute, have made significant contributions in the field of research on the works of the poet;

- To do such other acts and things as may be considered necessary for carrying out the purposes of this Ordinance.

2) Activities

- Nazrul Institute has so far published 359 books on and about poet's life, literature, songs as well as his complete contributions.
- Published 32 audio-CD.
- Nazrul Institute has a collection of 1224 Nazrul songs and other songs, taken from the original records.
- The Institute has so far published 825 correct musical notations of Nazrul Song in 33 volumes. These were done and attested by the authentication committee of Nazrul song. The lyrics and musical notes of songs have been kept as were in original records.
- Training on lyrics and tunes as well as recitation of the works of the poet are going on by the teachers and established trainees.
- There is a Nazrul Museum, where some of his manuscripts belongings, Photographs and Paintings done by the famous artists of Bangladesh have been displayed. The Museum is open for all.
- There is a rich library. Consists of more than 10,000 books on and about Nazrul, and other remarkable works of famous writers too.
- Several seminars, discussion, meetings are held on the occasion of the death and birth anniversary of the poet.
- The Institute has an Air conditioned auditorium, consists of 300 seating arrangements with some other modern facilities. The auditorium can be booked on schedule with some terms and conditions.
- The Institute has a rich book sales centre.
- To establish 'Nazrul Archives' at Nazrul Institute.
- Nazrul Award have been given Nazrul researcher and Nazrul sangeet Artist for the excellent contribution on Nazrul literature, research and sangeet.
- Regular participation in Dhaka International Book Fair, Ekusey Book Fair, Kolkata International Book Fair and other book fairs too. Arranged book fair for Centenary Birth Anniversary of Nazrul at Nazrul Institute.
- Established two Nazrul memorial centre Kazir Simla Darogabari and Darirampur Bichutia Baparibari at Trishal in Mymensingh (June 2007).
- Nazrul Institute website address is **www.nazrul institute.org.bd**

E. Directorate of Archives & Libraries

Website: www.nanl.gov.bd
Phone: 88-02-9129992
Fax: 88-02-9135709
Address: 32, S.M. Morshed Sarani, Agargaon, Sher-e-Bangla
Nagar, Dhaka.

1) Ordinance

The Government has promulgated a National Archives Ordinance in 1983 in order to provide for the establishment of National Archives and for the collection, preservation, maintenance and administration of permanent records and archives of the Government.

2) Objectives

The main objectives of the National Archives are:-

- To ensure official custody and physical safety of the archives of all public offices and to make them available for reference and research;
- To serve as the legal depository of all the records of the Government;
- To increase knowledge by providing information to the government agencies and to the public;

3) Functions

The principal functions of the National Archives are:-

- To acquire and preserve government and private collections;
- To provide research facilities for the administrators and researchers and the public;
- To give advice to public offices on records preservation management;
- To serve as the national repository for archival materials and to act as the custodian for the preservation and conservation of the nation's documentary cultural heritage;

To co-ordinate and maintain linkage with similar local and foreign organizations.

F. National Library of Bangladesh

1) Aim and objectives

To develop maintain a comprehensive National Collection, to ascertain equitable access of citizen to that collection in view of enhancing learning capacity and total competitive power of the nation as a whole in addition to collect and preserve the intellectual creative printed materials.

2) Functions

Following are the major functions of Bangladesh National Library:

- To collect new books and other publications published in the country under the copyright law of the land.
- To compile and publish National Bibliography, Abstract and Indexes to the newspaper articles, Directory of Publishers, etc.
- To maintain and develop a national collection.
- To provide various information services to the concerned multidisciplinary users.
- To provide modern facilities of library services to the users including quick and easy retrieval through the automation of the collection.
- To preserve the library and information materials in modern and scientific manner.
- To act as country's international bibliographical/documentation centre including the distribution of ISBN.

Provides informative assistance/guidelines to the Government/ Professional Associations in formulating country's Library Act, Policy, and in planning and promoting library's systems and services of Bangladesh.

G. Department of Public Libraries

Website: www.publiclibrary.gov.bd
Phone: 88-02-8610422
Fax: 88-02-8628205
Address: 10, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Shahabag, Dhaka.

The Central Public Library was opened to the public on March 22, 1968 with a stock of 10040 books. The Library was intended to be the leader of the public Library system in the province East Pakistan of the then Pakistan. The Department of the Public Libraries was established with Bangladesh Central Public Library as its headquarter in 1984.

The overall superintendence, development and management of Public Libraries in the country are the main functions of this organization. It has been playing an important role of country's socio-economic development by aiding people of their formal and informal learning.

At present, the Library has 15,56,554 books in its collection, including a good collection of old and rare books and manuscripts of immense historical value for research and reference. Bengali and English are the main languages covered. Besides there are books on other oriental languages such as Urdu, Hindi, Persian etc. The BCPL subscribes almost all the national newspapers and periodicals and a selected number of foreign journals. Anglo-American cataloguing code and the Dewey Decimal Classification (DDC) system with minor modification to suit the local need are followed for organizing library materials.

Library Hours: The library was remained open for the users from 8.00 a.m. to 8.00 p.m. on all days except Fridays and Govt. holidays. But after the declaration of "Library and Quality Education year 2003" by the Honorable Prime Minister, the authority started 24 hours reader service from the last July 26, 2003 except holidays. The district and branch libraries remain open from 11.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m. on all days except Fridays and Govt. holidays.

H. National Book Centre

Website: www.nbc.org.bd
Phone: 88-02-9555743
Fax: 88-02-9572211
Address: 5/C BangaBandhu Avenue, Dhaka.

The National Book Centre is an autonomous organization. The role of National Book Centre (NBC) is to execute objectives of UNESCO to launch world wide programme of book development with a view to making a systematic and sound promotion of books within the country. The aims and objects of NBC are to develop the book industry of the country in proper and effective manner and stimulate the activities of the government and private sectors in book industry.

A 17 members Governing Body headed by the Secretary, Ministry of Cultural Affairs is working for its smooth functioning.

I. Copyright Office

Website: www.copyrightofficebd.com
Phone: 88-02-9119632
Fax: 88-02-8111384
Address: National Library Building (2nd Floor), 32, S. M. Morshed Sarani, Agargaon, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka.

Copyright Office is a quasi-judicial organization. The activities of the office are being governed by the Copyright Act, 2000 (amended in 2005). The Registrar of Copyright is head of the office.

Copyright is a subject-matter of statutory protection of Intellectual property in Bangladesh. It was originated from the British copyright system and later on in 1962, a copyright ordinance amalgamating the different copyright laws which were existed at that time, was promulgated, namely, the copyright ordinance of 1962. This ordinance was administered up to 1999. After that, a new law contain different provisions in the line of International standard was enacted in 2000, namely, the Copyright Act, 2000 (No 28 of 2000) and it is amended up to 2005.

The Copyright Act, 2000 (amended in 2005) contains, among others, the subject-matters of the TRIPS agreement in respect of Copyright and Related Rights, computer programmers, database, rental rights, cinema, broadcasting rights, performer's rights, Phonograms rights etc.

Bangladesh has been extending Co-operation with the World Trade Organization (WTO), World Intellectual property Organization (WIPO) and UNESCO for enriching her copyright system.

An attempt is underway to establish a development project in the name of strengthening 'Copyright System in Bangladesh'. Which is now at primary stage?

The main Activities of Copyright Office are as follows.

- Copyright registration: Registration of copyright under the copyright Act is Voluntary and not obligatory. The certificate issued by the registrar of copyright constitutes prima-facie evidence of ownership of copyright.
- Civil remedies: The copyright board consists of a chairman and not less than two or more than six members. The board acts as an appellate authority and is deemed to be civil court. The board hears the appeal submitted before it by an affected person for infringement of copyright. The judgment of the board is appeal able to higher courts
- Compulsory licensing: The copyright Act includes some provisions relating to compulsory licensing for translation or reprint of foreign works as granted to developing countries by the two copyright conventions (Berne and universal conventions).The copyright board is empowered to hear application by Bangladesh nationals in this regard after giving an opportunity to the foreign copyright owners to be heard before finally deciding the questions.
- Transfer of copyright: Copyright is transferable in Bangladesh. The transfer may be in the form of licenses of contracts. The owner of copyright may assign the copyright to any person either wholly or partially or subject to limitation and either for the whole term of copyright or any part thereof. The assignment shall be in writing by the assignor by his duly authorized agent.
- Copyright piracy: Copyright office believed that piracy is an impediment in the way of development of education, science and culture and it, not only deters creative activities of a nation but also

discourages the growth of publishing industries and investment thereof, relating to books music's, films, art and sound recordings etc, which are based on the protection of copyright and related rights and are essentially needed for the purposes of promotion of culture and education.

- Collective administration of copyright: The copyright Act contains a number of provisions for collective administration of copyrights. It provides that there shall be copyright societies for administration of rights of various categories of right-holders and in that case, right-holders of the owners of copyright will get opportunities to exercise their rights including collection and distribution of
- Copyright registration: Registration of copyright under the copyright Act is Voluntary and not obligatory. The certificate issued by the registrar of copyright constitutes prima-facie evidence of ownership of copyright.
- Civil remedies: The copyright board consists of a chairman and not less than two or more than six members. The board acts as an appellate authority and is deemed to be civil court. The board hears the appeal submitted before it by an affected person for infringement of copyright. The judgment of the board is appeal able to higher courts
- Compulsory licensing: The copyright Act includes some provisions relating to compulsory licensing for translation or reprint of foreign works as granted to developing countries by the two copyright conventions (Berne and universal conventions).The copyright board is empowered to hear application by Bangladesh nationals in this regard after giving an opportunity to the foreign copyright owners to be heard before finally deciding the questions.
- Transfer of copyright: Copyright is transferable in Bangladesh. The transfer may be in the form of licenses of contracts. The owner of copyright may assign the copyright to any person either wholly or partially or subject to limitation and either for the whole term of copyright or any part thereof. The assignment shall be in writing by the assignor by his duly authorized agent.
- Copyright piracy: Copyright office believed that piracy is an impediment in the way of development of education, science and culture and it, not only deters creative activities of a nation but also discourages the growth of publishing industries and investment thereof, relating to books music's, films, art and sound recordings etc, which are based on the protection of copyright and related rights and

are essentially needed for the purposes of promotion of culture and education.

- Collective administration of copyright: The copyright Act contains a number of provisions for collective administration of copyrights. It provides that there shall be copyright societies for administration of rights of various categories of right-holders and in that case, right-holders of the owners of copyright will get opportunities to exercise their rights including collection and distribution of royalties, which will be greatly beneficial to authors/ owners and thus it will promote creative activities in the country.
- Importation of infringing copies: The copyright office, in collaboration with custom authorities is empowered to inspect any vehicle, ship, air-craft, dock or premises on the basis or a complaint lodged by the owner of a copyright or his duly authorized agent and can take action to prevent importation of illegal

J. Bangladesh Folk Art & Crafts Foundation

Website:	www.sonargaonfolkmuseum.bd.com director@sonargaonfolkmuseum.bd.com
Phone:	06723-56331
Fax:	06723-56230
Address:	Sonargaon, Narayanganj.

- 1) Established Bangladesh Folk Art & Crafts Foundation was established on 12th march in 1975.
- 2) The Law of the Foundation : Bangladesh Folk Art & Crafts Foundation Law -1998 (8 nos Law of 1998).
- 3) Aims and objectives : Collection of the traditional monuments of Bangladesh folk art & crafts elements along with preservation and exhibition artistically and to restore for the present and future generation.
- 4) Short description: A nation's self identity is born by its own culture. Virtually, folk art and culture is the driving force of our nationalism. Just after the war of liberation and the achievement of sovereign and independent Bangladesh the culture has got its own dignity and status.

For the development of culture Father of the nation Bangabhandu Sheikh Muzibur Rahman directed the establishment of this foundation. According to his advice and financial assistance Shylpacharya Zainul Abedin started the establishment of the foundation. Now the foundation has two folk art & crafts museums to hold our thousand years old traditional & perpetual resplendent beauty of folk culture and handicrafts. It has also an eye catching lake, Ponds, library, Documentation Center, Sales Center, Cafeteria, three Craft Bridges, one Craft Village and a Craft Art Village.

5) Location : It is 24 km from the capital Dhaka in the away of Dhaka – Chittagonj highway.

6) Executive Board: There are 17 members of the board. Honorable Minister of the Cultural ministry is the chairman of the board.

7) Chief Executive : Director (Appointed by the government)

The functions of Bangladesh Folk Art & Crafts Foundation are:

- To preserve traditional Folk Art & Crafts of Bangladesh;
- To create training facilities on traditional folk art & crafts;
- To establish folk art & crafts Museum in different regions of the country;
- To establish a crafts village at Sonargaon;
- To conduct research on folk art & crafts and publish the research findings;
- To preserve folk art & crafts;
- To formulation and implementation of plan, programmes and projects for the development of folk art & crafts;
- To help and cooperate with individuals and organizations engaged in research on folk art & crafts;
- To assist the Government in formulating folk art & crafts policy and advise the Government, local authority or any other organization in the matter;
- To identify areas of cooperation and chalk out joint programmes on traditional on traditional folk art & crafts with other countries; and
- Other related and supplementary activities.

8) There are 10 galleries in folk art & crafts museum

- Gallery for wooden crafts.
- Environment for village life gallery.
- Gallery for scroll painting and mask.
- Gallery for different kinds of boats of Bangladesh.
- A Tribal life gallery.
- Gallery for folk musical instrument and pottery Terracotta Doll, Tile.
- Gallery for agricultural implements and other iron products.
- Gallery for Brass and bell metal.
- Gallery for folk ornaments.
- Gallery for Bamboo, cane crafts.

9) Two galleries are in shilpacharja Zainul Abedin folk Art & Crafts museum

- Gallery for wooden crafts.
- Jamdani sare and Nakshikantha gallery.

K. Library & Documentation center

1) Information about on-going of development project

- Project's name : Expansion of Physical Infrastructure & Security facilities of Bangladesh Folk
- Art & Crafts Foundation (Phase-1)
- Implementation period : January 09 to June 2011.
- Project cost : 980.00 Lac.
- Current year allocation (2009-10): 700.00 Lac
- Present condition: The procedure of Consultant Appointment is going on.
- Major components : Boundary wall, Vertical extension of Museum building, Construction of staff quarter, Folk stage, Gate, Parking zone , Public toilet, Bridge, Internal road ect.

2) Work Plane of the foundation

- Establishment of Sculpture of the Banganandhu Sheikh Mujibur

Rahman.

- Digitalization (Collection, preservation & Display system of the Museum antics)
- Picnic spot development.
- Land Development (South-east side of administrative building)
- Establishment of Sculpture of the Sheikh Rasal
- Beatification.
- Procurement of sound system.
- Collation of Museum antics.
- Library development.
- Research & Publication.
- Arrangement of different cultural function & Publication.
- Celebration of different government days etc.

L. Cox's Bazar Cultural Centre, Cox's Bazar

Website:	www.ccc.com.bd
Phone:	0341-64517
Fax:	0341-64517
Address:	Cox's Bazar, Chittagong.

1) Introduction



This is an organization which arranges various seminars, conducts various researches on the customs and traditions of different communities of people including the Rakhain community living in Cox'sbazar. It also publishes magazines, books for keeping the originality of their cultural heritage which is about to be lost. With a view to establishing an individual

Cultural Institute, the Government turned the regional office of Cox's Bazar situated at 'Rangamati Tribal Cultural Institute' into 'Cox's Bazar Cultural Centre" on 05th January 1994 to add the local culture with the main stream of the national culture.

2) Location

It is situated at Kalatali Road, Cox's Bazar, at the middle of tourism spot.

3) Aims and Objectives

The aim and objective of establishing this organization is to research on the customs, history, heritage of the local inhabitants including the Rakhain community, to enrich their cultural heritages preserving the originality and providing facilities of infrastructure and to put together them with the main stream of the national culture.

4) Activities

- To impart training on the Rakhain songs and dance.
- To celebrate various national days, social and cultural festivals.
- To arrange cultural program in honour of the national guests.
- To demonstrate dramas and assist various organizations concerning dramas.
- To conduct the program of exchanging inter-district cultures.
- To arrange competitions on cultural events including drawing and essay writings.
- To collect the local history and heritage, language and folk-culture, the particulars of folk art and culture and conduct researches on these.
- To make and display the authentic film on the social and cultural heritage of Cox'sBazar, collecting and preserving rare pictures, printing view cards arranging slide shows and photographs.
- To publish various books, periodicals, magazines research papers etc. concerning social and cultural factors.
- To arrange seminars and symposiums concerning social, cultural and traditional heritage.
- To establish a library.
- To establish a museum.
- To rent the auditorium for various programmes following the Govt. rules.

5) Contact point

- Name : Lila Murung
- Designation : Director (Acting)
- Contact No : Land Phone: (0341)-64517, Mobile phone-01553411131.

M. Tribal Cultural Institute, Bandarban

Phone: 0361-62424

Fax: 0361-62840

Address: Bandarban, Chittagong Hill Tracts.

1) Introduction



Bangladesh our beloved motherland is the unique playground of the enchanting beauties of nature. On one extremity of the endless Bangladesh plains lie the deep waters of the Bay of Bengal; and the cool breezes blowing over the expanse of endless waves of the blue seas touch the sky-touching proud peaks of a remote wild hilly locality nature's beloved daughter of diversity that we all call Bandarban. Diversity lies everywhere in this piece of tropical hills --- in its

nature, fauna and rich ethnic and cultural diversity; diversity that is melt into a warm melody of unity, a harmony one can feel from one's own heart. Only in Bandarban Hill District one can see the presence of all the eleven tribal peoples of the greater Chittagong Hill Tracts, i.e. Marma, Mro, Tripura, Bawm, Tanchangya, Chakma, Chak, Khyang, Khumi, Lushai and Pangkhua. There is no other district in Bangladesh where such a large number of tribal communities live with diversified identities, yet in a harmony. Since time immemorial the presence of a multi-cultural and multi-lingual society has rendered this serene corner of our lovely Bangladesh as an exemplary entity rich in cultural traditions, racial harmony tied into a bond of amity. And Bandarban --- nature's belle --- has become the focus of the rich colourful traditions of the area and rendered it as the most peaceful area in the Chittagong Hill Tracts. Yet the lives of these tribes have remained far removed from the mainstream national culture due to its remote nature and inaccessible hills.

2) On which law was the office/organization established

The Tribal Cultural Institute, Rangamati was established in 1978 vide Memo. F.2/49/76-(C)/500/7 dated: 22-6-1976 of the Ministry of Education (Sports and Culture) with a view to carrying out research about the ways of life of the tribal people and their customs and practices and highlighting the common elements that exist between the tribal people and the people of the other parts of the country, so that, they could be brought in the mainstream of the national and cultural life. Since then the Institute had been run as a project of the Chittagong Hill Tracts Development Board till it was taken over by the Ministry of Education (Sports and Culture) and brought under its administrative control in July 1981. Later on, under the kind approval of the Honourable President on 30/03/1985 a regional office at Bandarban (and another at Cox's Bazar) was established on 13/06/1985 vide Memo. Sha.Saw. 2/2-17/81/565 dated: 31-3-1985 of the Cultural Affairs division of the Ministry of Education.

Another Autonomous Tribal Cultural Institute was established at Bandarban Hill District town vide Memo. Sha.7/USaI/6-7/87 dated: 4-8-1988 AD/ 20-4-1395 BE of the Ministry of Cultural Affairs on 1 July 1988 with the kind approval of the Honourable President on 05/04/1988 in order to develop, preserve and continue the varied tribal cultural traditions and smooth operation of activities; and the regional office of Rangamati Tribal Cultural Institute at Bandarban was transformed into the head office of Bandarban Tribal Cultural Institute (Please See Annexure Ka-1). Later on, Bandarban Tribal Cultural Institute was handed over to the Bandarban Hill District Council after the agreement between the government and the council signed on 21/11/1993 (effective from 1 May 1993 AD/ 18 Boishakh 1400 BE) vide section 23(Kha) of the Bandarban Hill District Local Government Council Act, 1989 (Act 21 of 1989).

3) When the office/organization was established

In the year 1988 (Date of establishment : 1 July 1988)

4) Functions of the office/organization

The broad functions of the Tribal Cultural Institute are as under

Collecting information's and data regarding the tribal ways of life, their languages, literature, customs, beliefs, rites, rituals etc. and carrying out research on those subjects.

- Organizing tribal language courses for the officers and staff of the Government and autonomous bodies posted in the tribal areas.
- Collection of folklore, manuscripts etc.
- Publication of books, journals, periodicals etc.
- Organizing seminars, cultural festivals, literary and music competitions, art exhibition etc.
- Organizing music (vocal & instrumental) and dance training courses long term as well as short term.
- Organizing cultural shows, drama etc. on national days, important social and public occasions, V. I. P. visits etc.
- Organizing inter-tribal and inter-district cultural exchange programmes.
- Recording and preservation of traditional tribal songs, ballad etc.
- Collection and display of specimens of tribal arts and crafts, dress, ornaments, musical instruments, coins, weapons, tools and such other exhibit depicting their ways of life.

N. Tribal Cultural Institute, Rangamati

Website: www.tcirbd.com
Phone: 0351-63389
Fax: 0351-62192
Address: Rangamati, Chittagong Hill Tracts.



This institute was established in 1978 under the Ministry of Education (Culture and Sports) in order to promote, preserve and develop tribal cultures of the Chittagong Hill Tracts region and to bring such activities in the mainstream of the national culture of Bangladesh. Since then the Institute had been run as a project of the Chittagong Hill Tracts Development

At present it is under the Ministry of Cultural Affairs. The institute has its own office building, modern auditorium and a unique Tribal Museum cum Library building in its own land.

The broad functions of the institute are carrying out researches about the ways of life of the Tribal peoples and their customs and practices and highlighting the common elements that exists between the tribal peoples and the people of other parts of the country, so that, they could be brought in the mainstream of our National and Cultural life. The functions also include of the instituted collecting information and data regarding the tribal ways of life, their languages, literature, customs, beliefs, rites and rituals, organizing Tribal language course for the officers and staff of the Government and autonomous bodies posted in the tribal areas of the Chittagong Hill Tracts, publication of books, journals, periodicals, organizing seminars, cultural festivals, literary and music competitions, art exhibitions etc.

O. Tribal Cultural Academy, Birisiri

Phone: 09525-56042
Fax: 09525-56156
Address: Birisiri, Durgapur, Netrokona.

1) Information of Birisiri Tribal Cultural Academy

- The Government has established this Biriairi Tribal Cultural Academy by as order of govt. vide No. under sports and culture divisions office memorandum no.Sv111/2-83/78/60/8 (S&C) dated the 26 February,1982 under the ministry of information, Broadcasting, Sports and Culture.
- This Cultural Academy has established in 1977.
- The Government has established this Cultural Academy for Preservation, promotion nurture development of Culture the greater Mymensingh district. It has two part one each cultural wing another one is Recherché wing.
- Birisiri cultural Academy has establish in 1977 to preserve and to nurture the culture of the indigenous people.
- It is situated at Birisiri, P.S- Durgapur Under the District of Netrakona. It has two part

P. Khudra Nri-Ghosty Shanskritik Institute, Khagrachhari (Small Indigenous Group)

The institute is working for protecting cultural heritage of Khudra Nri-Ghosty.

Q. Rajshahi Bivaghaia Khudra Nri-Ghosty Cultural Academy, Rajshahi (Small Indigenous Group)

The institute is working for protecting cultural heritage of Khudra Nri-Ghosty.

R. Manipuri Lalitkala Academy, Maulavibazar (Academy Fine Arts)

The academy has been established for development & protection of culture of monipuri indigenous people.

S. International Mother Language Institute (IMLI)

IMLI is an autonomous institution established with specific mandate to protect and promote lignuistic diversity in Bangladesh as well as in other parts of the world.

T. The main objectives of the Institute are:

- In recognition of the exalted position of 21 February as "International Mother Language Day" by the UNESCO, the Institute

will conduct research on development and preservation of all languages of the world including Bangla

- To collect, preserve, analyse, review and exchange information regarding various mother languages, alphabet, books, cassettes, videos and CDs etc
- To preserve, if available, information regarding languages that are now extinct
- To undertake works of translation of the writings on history, philosophy, science and technology etc. into other languages from Bangla and vice-versa
- To develop expertise, through appropriate training, for instant interpretation of lectures from any language to meet Govt. and non-Govt. requirements
- To help the Govt. to prepare a Language Policy
- To induce people to learn various languages of the world by organizing cultural functions of different countries
- To establish linkage with different universities and to invite language specialists of different countries to undertake research works on languages including Bangla
- To announce 'Awards of Honour' for distinction in the field of language & literature

2. Non-governmental organizations

A. Asiatic Society of Bangladesh

Established in 1952, the Asiatic Society had been known as Asiatic Society of Pakistan, and since 1972 renamed as Asiatic Society of Bangladesh. In establishing the Society, the leading role was played by Ahmad Hasan Dani, the great archaeologist and Indologist of world repute. The other scholars involved in the foundation of the Society were Muhammad Shahidullah, ABM Habibullah, Abdul Halim, and many others. The founding scholars of the Society intended to make the organisation a centre of learning specialising on Asian studies.

The Asiatic Society of Bangladesh is a non political and non profit research organisation registered under both Society Act of 1864 and NGO Bureau, Government of Bangladesh. A premier learned organisation in the country, the Society is managed by a 17-member council elected by members. The tenure is for two years. While the day-to-day affairs are managed by the General Secretary and Secretary, the policy matters are being discussed and adopted by the Council. There are several standing subject committees to help the Council in undertaking its policies. The Council meets mandatorily at least once a month. The office bearers and members of the Council work on honorary basis.

B. Udichi Shilpi Gosthi

- 1) Address: 14/2 Topkhana Road, Dhaka-1000
- 2) Phone:+8802-712718
- 3) Website: www.udichi.org.bd
- 4) Email: udichi_bangladesh@yahoo.com
- 5) President: Golam Mohammad Idu
- 6) General Secretary: Habibul Alam

Udichi is the largest Non-government Cultural Organisation in Bangladesh having 240 branches all over the country and abroad. Its external branches are in UK, USA, France and Australia. It was established in 1968 under the guidance of Sattyen Sen, a renowned journalist, litterateur, lyricist and music composer. He was also the first President of the organisation. Just after the inception the organisation started working amongst the agricultural and industrial workers through cultural activities to fight for freedom. It staged several street dramas, many patriotic songs throughout the country.

Generally, it became the most influential organisation in the cultural arena of this country after the liberation of Bangladesh.

This organisation can be well intrudes or defined if its objectives are explained. Some of them are as under:

- To create an environment in the country where self-development, easy transaction of opinions and culture and making the liberation fruitful to the life of general mass is possible.
- To be involved in overall cultural development of the country and to create an environment positive for proper development of national cut lure.
- To plan and execute its cultural activities in the light of emancipation of working mass.
- To coordinate in country regional cultural activities and to pay its all-out effort for its development and revival.
- To make fraternal relation with all the positive activities of the countries of the world.
- Udichi wants friendly relation amongst all people irrespective of religion, colour, caste, community and nationality.
- As war is the enemy of humanity, civilisation and culture, Udichi's cultural activities will be against war and for world peace.
- Udichi will assimilate with itself all the creative and positive efforts of all poets, litterateur, dramatist, musicians, lyricists, artist, both renowned and promising in the country.
- As illiteracy in one of the main barriers to social development, Udichi will plan its cultural activities aiming elimination of illiteracy from the country
- Udichi will work for revival, practice and safeguard our traditional cultural expressions i.e. all sorts of songs, folk dramas, festivals, musical instruments and al other cultural heritage items.
- Udichi will introduce our cultural expression internationally.
- Udichi will establish schools for training of music, art, drama, dance, etc.

Udichi has a good record of organising and managing large and small-scale events and art festivals. It has also organised many art workshops and seminars in various educational institutions, libraries, community centres, youth clubs and housing estates.

C. Chhayanaut

Chhayanaut is a cultural organisation in Dhaka, Bangladesh. Founded in 1961 in Dhaka, Chhayanat remains one of the most influential cultural groups in the country. As in the case of many similar organizations, it was established during the Pakistani rule in Bangladesh to promote and nurture the cultural and musical heritage of Bengal. Every year, Chhayanat arranges the biggest program in order to celebrate the Pahela Boishakh, the first day of Bangla new year.

D. Pally Baul Samaj Unnayan Sangstha

In order to preserve and promote our folk tradition and to establish the value and the socio-economic status of Baul artists and the folklore community, Pally Baul Samaj Unnayan Sangstha (PBSUS) was established in 1998. Later in 2001, the organization got registration from the Social Welfare Department (Registration Number: Dha -07028). In 2006, it also got NGO Bureau Registration (Regd.no: 2060, Dated-24/01/06).

Pally Baul Samaj Unnayan Sangstha aims to preserve and revive the cultural traditions at one hand and develop the socio-economic status of the Folklore community on the other, organization intends to develop the capacity of the Bauls and involve them in the immense potential and the ever-creative mind of a folklore artist, if properly nourished, can be utilized in the successful implementation of the social development efforts, particularly in social campaigning and advocacy field.

1) Postal Address: Pally Baul Samaj Unnayan Sangstha

23/A, Dilu Road, New Eskaton, Dhaka - 1000

2) Tel: 01711-316276, 01711-361535

3) E-mail: pallybaulfolk@yahoo.com / info@pallybaulfolk.org

4) Objective

- To establish the value of Baul Artists of the society, in remote area, through organizing training for them and to highlight the abolishing folk culture through organizing entertaining cultural program.
- We work relentlessly to promote the thousand year rich Folk Cultural heritage of Bangladesh to the world.

- To related the Folk artists/Bauls in different social and economic activities e.g. awareness raising of the community people through organizing musical programs highlighting the development issues, like rehabilitation of disabled children, environmental pollution, gender discrimination, family planning, social exploitation, organize forming personal hygiene, E.P.L, safe (Arsenic free) water, sanitation. Child-rights, child labor etc and to promote secular culture and outlook in social life.
- To provide financial assistance for employment generation for Folk Artists.
- To accumulate the capital by growing saving tendency within the Folk Artists community.
- To organize seminar and symposium with the help of Folk researchers and intellectuals in different parts of the country with a view to highlight the tradition of the country.
- To aware and train the Folk artists regarding abolishing Folk music, composer and poets. We also take initiative to restore the abolishing traditional Folk culture of late artists. And collect, preserve, reproduce and present to the community those songs (which songs are at risks of extinction or once sung during religious festivals, plantation, rice husking, boat racing, wedding ceremony etc).
- To restore the traditional musical instruments (like Dhool, Ektara, Dotara, Khajani, Sarinda, Flute, Drum, Khomok etc.), use those in our Folk songs and take back our Folk and ancient culture.
- Organize Baul Mela, Kabi gan, Jari gan, Pala gan, special day program (like observation of 1st Baisakh), seminars etc.

5) Previous Projects

- Awareness building programme regarding environmental pollution in collaboration with Ministry of Environment of Government of Bangladesh in year 2002.

- Awareness building programme regarding Arsenic effect with partnership with Public Health Department of Ministry of Local of Bangladesh and UNICEF in the year 2003.
- Awareness-building programme on personal hygiene in collaboration with Unilever Bangladesh in the year 2003-2004.
- Awareness-building programme on HIV/AIDS in collaboration with KOINONIA in the year 2006.
- 'Preservation of Music and Cultural Traditions' in 2004 -2005 with The Embassy of The United States of America, Dhaka, Bangladesh.

6) On going Projects

- 'Preservation & Awareness Raising on Folklore Tradition' (2007) with The Embassy of The Federal Republic of Germany
- Awareness building programme on Disabled, Tribal people and Gender Dissimilarity through cultural performance with RDRS.

E.Bishwa Sahitya Kendra

(Bengali: বিশ্ব সাহিত্য কেন্দ্র, meaning 'World Literature Center'), is a non-profit institution in Bangladesh to promote reading habits, enlightenment and progressive ideas among students and general public.^[1] Popularly known as just **Kendro**, this institution was established by famous writer, television presenter, organizer, and activist Abdullah Abu Sayeed. Sayeed was given the 97th Ramon Magsaysay Award in Journalism, Literature, and Creative Communication Arts for "... cultivating in the youth of Bangladesh a love for literature and its humanizing values through exposure to the great books of Bengal and the world" - which was a recognition of the contribution of Kendro.

Bishwa Sahitya Kendra offers classes on world literature for Higher Secondary students, and also provides every book for those classes. For Secondary and Junior school level it operates a nation-wide reading program, and provides books for the students. In 2007, it had 500 schools under this program, and over 100000 active student members.

Besides these programs, Bishwa Shahitya Kendro actively maintains libraries across the nation. It pioneered the concept of mobile library in Bangladesh, which carries books around the country. Since books are expensive and libraries are not available at all - these mobile libraries are getting very popular. Bishwa Shahitya Kendro also arranges reader's forum and discussions, which are open to everyone who is interested. These events are open to new thoughts and encourages thoughtful logical discussions. Through these endeavors Bishwa Shahitya Kendro is continuing its works with a motto that says - "We just want enlightened humans".

The Kendro activities are mostly based in Bangladesh. It also has an office in New York.

F. Bangladesh Academy of Fine Arts Limited

Bangladesh Academy of Fine Arts Ltd. consisting of leading artists and cultural personalities of the country began to its advancement in June, 2009 with a view to saving the country from the increasing aggression of satellite culture and promising our next generations brining up within our main stream of culture and perpetual values.

Though the organization/academy is very tender in age, but its Board of Directors, Executive body and teachers have name and fame throughout the whole country.

Our principal aim is to establish indigenous culture kicking out exotic culture for the sake of nation's welfare. Our objective is to set up a drug-free and terror-free society where the teenagers of the future generation will develop and lead a healthy life. The Boards of Directors are determined to execute its duty properly.

- Head office: 743, Satmasjid Road, Dhanmondi R/A, Dhaka - 1209, Bangladesh.
- Dhanmondi Campus: Kakoli High School, 179 Satmasjid Road, Dhanmondi R/A, Dhaka - 1209

G. Centre for Research on Art and Culture (CRAC)

Centre for Research on Art and Culture (CRAC), a research based organization, essentially organizes and conducts intense and elementary research on Art and Culture. Furthermore, based on these research outcomes, CRAC takes initiatives to do some corporal and sensible activities to promote artistic arena of different culture. Though CRAC is interested in Art and Culture of every isolated corner of the world, it starts up with the Art and Culture of Bangladesh. CRAC has started its journey, officially as a research based organization since 2009.

1) Vision

Flourish the cultural sector, preserve the heritage of Bangladesh, and bent a worldly country where all community can perform their cultural activities in a spirited manner.

2) Mission

Bangladesh has bestowed with rich cultural heritage and significant artistic tradition. CRAC wants to investigate and explore those obscured chapters of Art and heritage, and bring them out in front of mass people and civic society. Simultaneously, through various research and programs, CRAC wants to recognize the elements, motifs and styles of cultural heritage, which are going to be faded away or already wiped out.

3. Intangible cultural heritage preservation associations

- A. Sammilita Sanskritik Jote (Federation of all Cultural Organizations, 182 Organizations of Dhaka City are members of the federation)
- B. Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation- 92 Organizations
- C. Abriti Samannay Parishad-100 Organizations
- D. Bangladesh Sangeet Sangathan Samannay Parishad-61 Organizations
(List of the Organizations: Bangladesh Rabindra Sangeet Shilpi Sangstha, Bangladesh Nazrul Sangeet Shilpi Parishad, Udichi, Benuka Lalitakala Academy, Surer Dhara, Nibedon, Dharmarajik Lalitakala Academy, Sangeet Bhuvan, Surgam Lalitakala Academy, Rishab, Bansuria, Baul Prachar Sangstha, Bhawaia Angan, Bhawaia Academy, Abhyudoy, Padatik Sangeet Songshad, Rabirag, Rabirashmi, Nandan, Geeti Satadal, Dolon Champa, Jagoroni Shilpigoshthi, Jagoran Sangeet Charcha Kendra, Rishij, Kranti, Altaf Mahmood Sangeet Bidya Niketon, Geetisatra, Mridanga, Mandira Shilpi Gosthi, Sangeet Samaj, Boitalik, Katha Lalitakala Academy, Uttarayan, Geetanjali, Bonhishikha, Suratirtha, Dakshini Rabindra Sangeetangan, Banglar Baul Samaj, Prateeti, Pratyay, Amra Suryamukhi, Sangeet Chakra, Hindol Sangeet Academy, Performing Media Centre, Srijon, Bandhan, Nazrul Parishad, Bitopi, Banglar Mukh, Bhawaiya, Murchhana etc.)
- E. Bangladesh Nritto Shilpi Sangstha-70 Organizations
- F. Bangladesh Pathanatok Parishad- 100 Organizations

IV. Meetings on Intangible Cultural heritage

There were two meetings recently held in Bangladesh related to Intangible Cultural Heritage. One meeting was headed by the Secretary, Ministry of Cultural Affairs. High level Government officials from different Institutions like Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, Bangla Academy, Bangladesh National Commission for UNESCO, Copy Right Office etc were present in the meeting. The meeting focused on ICH Convention and its implementation in Bangladesh. A sub-committee was formed in this meeting to formulate policy for the better implementation of ICH Convention.

Another meeting was the meeting of the Sub-Committee. This meeting ended with a decision to request Bangla Academy to translate the Convention into Bangla so that everybody related to ICH can better understand the Convention. Another important decision was taken in the meeting. That is to convene a large consultation meeting with the heads of the relevant organisations both in GOs and NGOs.

V. The Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity

1. Baul Songs



Baul Songs, originally proclaimed in 2005, is inscribed in 2008 on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

The Bauls are mystic minstrels living in rural Bangladesh and West Bengal, India. The Baul movement, at its peak in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, has now regained popularity among the rural population of Bangladesh. Their music and way of life have influenced a large segment of Bengali culture, and particularly the compositions of Nobel Prize laureate Rabindranath Tagore



Bauls live either near a village or travel from place to place and earn their living from singing to the accompaniment of the ektara, the lute dotara, a simple one-stringed instrument, and a drum called dubki. Bauls belong to an unorthodox devotional tradition, influenced by Hinduism, Buddhism, Bengali, Vasinavism and Sufi Islam, yet distinctly different from them. Bauls neither identify with any organized religion nor with the caste system, special deities, temples or sacred places. Their emphasis lies on the importance of a person's physical body as the place where God resides. Bauls are admired for this freedom from convention as well as their music and poetry. Baul poetry, music, song and dance are

devoted to finding humankind's relationship to God, and to achieving spiritual liberation. Their devotional songs can be traced back to the fifteenth century when they first appeared in Bengali literature.

Baul music represents a particular type of folk song, carrying influences of Hindu bhakti movements as well as the shuphi, a form of Sufi song. Songs are also used by the spiritual leader to instruct disciples in Baul philosophy, and are transmitted orally. The language of the songs is continuously modernized thus endowing it with contemporary relevance.

The preservation of the Baul songs and the general context in which they are performed depend mainly on the social and economic situation of their practitioners, the Bauls, who have always been a relatively marginalized group. Moreover, their situation has worsened in recent decades due to the general impoverishment of rural Bangladesh.

The creator and greatest composer of baul songs was Lalon Shah (1774-1890). The place of his birth was the village Bharra in Kushtia or the village Harishpur in Jessore, according to another tradition. He lived the life of a devotee at a saint's shrine at Chheuriya in Kushtia and there he died. He collected about himself a large band of followers and these followers collected their own followers and thus a large community of baul singers was organised. Lalon



used to sing himself the baul songs he composed. His disciples like Duddu Shah, Panju Shah, Pagla Kanai also composed and sang a number of baul songs following their master. Their songs of Lalon number 2,000 to 2,500. His disciples added a few hundred more. Baul singers are spiritual

devotees. Their quest is to attain spiritual bliss through transcending the human body. They seek union of the human body with the absolute. Baul songs have a few variety branching out from this philosophy of devotion. The bauls have no attachment for home; they are ascetics. The languorous mood of their songs is weighed down by sadness. Therefore baul songs do not rouse the spirits but induce escapism. Bauls believe that from the human body transcendence to the soul is possible and so they put much value upon the human soul. "O my mind, you know not farming, such valuable human farmland lies fallow, if you farmed it you could reap gold." This is the baul belief. They are the promoters and purveyors of humanistic religion which surmounts all distinctions of caste and

creed. Rabindranath Tagore called it human religion. In consideration of the humanistic angle of baul songs UNESCO, an organ of the United Nations, has decided to preserve these songs for their value as a heritage. The body-soul doctrine of devotion in baul songs has many mystical aspects expressed through devotion to the master (*Gurutattva*) and to the Creator (*Srishtitattva*) underlined by a yearning for a great union with the Absolute. A famous baul song written by Lalon Shah:

How the strange bird resides into the cage
 And migrates out of it
 If I could but catch it I would tether it with iron chains
 It has eight chambers and nine doors
 With latticed windows at intervals
 Above that is the main chamber
 On which is the hall of mirrors.
 Had I but good fortune
 Could the bird behave this way?
 Opening the cage
 To which woodland does my bird flee.
 my mind, you only craved for the cage
 Which is made of frail bamboo
 Any day it may come down crumbling
 Says Lalon with tears.



Dotara (musical instrument)

The main accompanying instrument of baul songs is *ektara* (one-stringed), variously known as *lau*, *gopijantra*, *thunthuney*. Some baul singers keep a small drum tied to his waist. With the left hand they strike the drum and play the *ektara* with the right and sing and dance either singly or in a group. Song, dance and instrument, the three combine to work up to a crescendo of beauty and emotion. Song is a part of their spiritual quest. Baul structurally is akin to *bhatiyali*; it also has elongated note but it possess many other characters which have made it distinctive. The melancholy tune of mystical baul songs can make a deep appeal in the minds of all sections of people. In Bangladesh Kushtia is the place of origin of baul songs; gradually it caught on in neighbouring Jessore, Faridpur Pabna, and then in Dhaka, Mymensingh, up to Sylhet. Similarly, in West Bengal this song spread to Nodiya, Bordhoman and Birbhumi districts. It is now being sung by educated artistes and is being admired at home and abroad.

1) Safeguarding Measures



Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy recently has conducted a project in cooperation with UNESCO Dhaka for the safeguarding of Baul Song. The title of the Project is Action Plan for the Safeguarding of the Baul Songs (Bangladesh).

2) Project Brief

The Bauls are minstrels who travel from village to village, earning their living by singing. Their music, poetry and way of life have profoundly influenced Bengali culture. Bauls do not identify themselves with any organized religion nor with the caste system. They emphasize the importance of the human body as the place where God resides.

While Bauls are scattered all over the country as well as in west Bengal (India), the project concentrates on the Baul community from the Kushtia region where a great Baul Guru of Bengal, Lalon Shah, lived and created a tradition of intergenerational transmission of Baul songs. The project aims at ensuring the proper transmission of Baul songs through a series of workshops bringing together gurus and young Baul apprentices. Gurus, experts and scholars will study and evaluate the transmission process with a view to extend it to other regions with Baul communities. In parallel, a census of Bauls all over the country will be made to establish a register of minstrels and gurus. Meanwhile, documentation will be gathered leading to the publication of notations and recordings of Baul songs. A book on Baul songs for promotional purposes and the organization of Baul Melas (fairs) will raise awareness among the general public of the Baul heritage and of the importance of supporting its bearers.

The Action Plan focused on the following main components:

- Pilot project for the transmission of Baul Song
- Field Survey and documentation
- Promotion through the organization of *Baul Melas (fair)*

The project was carried under the supervision of a Steering Committee which will have a balanced representation of relevant organizations and of the community of the tradition bearers. The Bangladesh National Commission for UNESCO (BNCU) and Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy will in charge of the general co-ordination of the action plan.

3) The Budget repartition was as follows:

Coordination cost	6,800\$	10.00%
Transmission of Baul Song	19,720.00	29.00%
Field Survey and Publications	18,120\$	26.00%
Promotion through the organization of Baul Melas (fair)	13,860\$	20.00%
UNESCO Dhaka monitoring and evaluation mission and coordination costs	1500.00\$	2.00%
Overhead cost of UNESCO	7,800.00\$	13.00%

4) Details of the Project

- Situation Analysis:
The situation of the 'Baul song' is not good. Very rapidly they are declining day by day. So we need to "Safeguard" the 'Baul song' of our country.
- Objectives
 - To ensure that new generation of Bauls are properly trained in performance and/ or transmission of Baul songs;
 - To identify the Baul communities of Bangladesh;
 - To raise awareness among the population of Bangladesh about the Baul Songs
- Specific : Restore & promote the 'Baul song'
In order to 'safeguard' and promote the Baul Song, as well as to create awareness the mass to restore Baul songs by arranging seminar, symposium and Baul evening at different levels will be done like District, Division, National & International levels. Baul

songs and the best Baul performance will be identified and those would be in the CD/VCD for archives.

- **Implementation Arrangements**
Bangladesh Shilpakaia Academy will act as the administrative and managing the program. Director of Research and Publication will act as Project Director to DG, will co-ordinate the programs at different levels of the country as schedule. The development partner will be involved in preparing, executing, and following up the whole the program. The development partner will release fund in 4 installments through the Ministry of Cultural Affairs after getting specific requisition. Shilpakaia Academy will spent money as per approved TPP following PPR 2008. The Sub-department of finance of the Bangladesh Shilpakaia Academy will provide the accounting support as per rules and regulation and the provision of TPP.

5) Project inputs and Work Plan

- **Pilot project for transmission:**
Baul is a Guru based system. Gurus train their disciples in the Baul cult. They will therefore be supported to effectively transmit the wealth and know-how of Baul apprentices. A series of workshops should not only support the proper transmission in order to prevent further distortion. They should also sensitise the the importance of transmitting and performing Baul songs faithfully to the tradition to avoid distortion of this heritage, series of four workshops will be organised in Kushtia regions. Before and after these training workshops, two seminars with scholars, researchers, Baul gurus and other members of the community will be evaluate the needs and the gained experiences. Two advisers will part workshops and seminars and provide the midterm reporting as well as the final of this project and formulate recommendations for extending experiences to other regions.
- **Field Survey and Documentation:**
While the Baul community of the Kushtia, and the neighboring districts is quite well known, there are Bauls in many other regions Bangladesh. It is therefore important to take census of the gurus and minstrels all over the country. A team composed of 3 researchers will survey a number of areas. In addition to the identification of the practitioners, Bauls songs will be collected and

registered. The Field survey will result in a comprehensive registry of Baul practitioners with view to get a better understanding of the situation of this heritage in the various regions. This will serve as a basis for the continuity of the project and the extension of the transmission support to other regions, beyond the duration of this project: In addition, Baul Songs has not been studied in detail. Most of the documents on the chronological development o the Baul songs have been lost or remain inaccessible. No attempt has yet been made to write down Bauai music in notation and no anthology of representative Baul Songs is available. Although the Baul heritage relics on oral transmission, as Bauls are mostly illiterate, there is an urgent need to collect songs, notate them and provide scholars, researchers, as well as the general public with a compilation of notations and documentation of Bauai songs. 50 songs among the collected Bauai song texts and music will be selected and prepared for notation. These notations will be published in a book and an audio CD. This publication is expected to serve as a reference for scholars, aficionados and researchers. Meanwhile, there is a need to promote the Bauls and to raise awareness among the public on their heritage. The educated people in the so-called urban society are little interested of the Baul community and their songs. A general book on Baul (history, development, currents stakes, Baul literature, excerpt of Baul songs, etc.) will be published in both Bangla and English for large distribution.

- Organization of Baul Melas for promotion

There is an urgent need to promote Baul songs among the society to encourage people at local, national and international level to support the community. Baul fairs, or Melas, will be organised with the triple objective to sensitize the population and regain popularity of Bauls songs, to provide support to the community of tradition bearesrs and to create links between Bauls of different regions, especially with the Bauls from West Bengal, i.e. India. These major events, assembling 50 Bauls and hundreds of participants will constitute major events that will be covered by the media and will ensure the promotion of Baul songs at local national and international level.

- Expected Output:
Get a congenial environment to 'Safe guard' the 'Baul song.

6) Outcome of the Project

- DVD of 50 songs, 500 Copies
- A book of 500 songs with transtation and notation of 100 songs

2. Provisional inscribed items (to be examined)

At present Bangladesh does not have any ICH on Provisional List. But Ministry of Cultural Affairs has taken a decision to submit the following two items of the Intangible Cultural Heritages for the inscription in the Representative List in the month of March 2011. Those are:

- A. The Festival of Pahela Baishakh (Celebration of Bengali New Year)
- B. Nakshi Kantha (Embroidered Quilt)

A. Festival of Pahela Baishakh

Pahela Baishakh, the first day of Baishakh, coincides with the first day of the Bangla New Year. It has been a festival of the Bengalis for a long time. It is said that *Pahela Baishakh* has its origin in the Mughal period when Emperor Akbar introduced the Bangla calendar to ease tax collection. Actually no one knows when and how this day of celebration began.

Baishakh is the first month of the Bangla calendar. Most of the events in rural Bangladesh still take place according to this calendar. Baishakh is considered to be the most auspicious month for undertaking any business venture. The day starts with partaking of a heavy breakfast of *cheera*, *gur* and yogurt. Then people get dressed to go to the fairs which take place every year at an appointed place, it being inevitably either the cool shade of a banyan tree or a riverfront usually at the bend of a river. The fair brings commodities of every sort, food of every variety, and sweets of endless kinds. The sight of clay dolls and toys made of plastic and rubber delight the children. A small boy hanging on to his father's arm stubbornly insisting on buying a toy of his liking, his father cannot afford, is a common sight. But tears vanish as soon as the boy sees his favorite puppet show or a clown wearing a mask. Each year the celebration of *Pahela Baishakh* turns

into a human sea in parts of Dhaka. In the morning, processions called *Prabhat Pheri* come out with many fanfares. Cultural programs are organized to celebrate the New Year. *Baishakhi melas* (fairs) are held in the city. People of all ages throng these *melas* to buy toys, handicrafts, and sweets. Snake charmers, jugglers, and magicians mesmerize the enthusiastic crowd.

The following information derived from Wikipedia

- Bengali New Year celebration in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

Bengali New Year (Bengali: *Nôbobôrsho*) or Poyela Boishakh (*Pôhela Boishakh* or *Pôela Boishakh*) is the first day of the Bengali calendar, celebrated in both Bangladesh and West Bengal, and in Bengali communities in Assam and Tripura. It coincides with the New Year's Days of numerous Southern Asian calendars.

Poila Boishakh connects all ethnic Bengalis irrespective of religious and regional differences. In India, in West Bengal and Assam it is a public (state) holiday and is publicly celebrated in mid April. In Bangladesh, it is a national holiday celebrated around 14 April according to the official amended calendar designed by the Bangla Academy.

- Names

Bengali New Year is referred to in Bengali as "New Year" (Bengali: *Nôbobôrsho*, from Sanskrit *Navavarṣa*) or "First of Boishakh" (Bengali: *Pôhela Boishakh* or *Pôela Boishakh*). *Nobo* means new and *Borsho* means year.

History

The Bengali calendar is closely tied with the Hindu Vedic solar calendar, based on the Surya Siddhanta. As with many other variants of the Hindu solar calendar, the Bengali calendar commences in mid-April of the Gregorian year. The first day of the Bengali year therefore coincides with the mid-April new year in Assam, Burma, Cambodia, Kerala, Manipur, Nepal, Orissa, Punjab, Sri Lanka, Tamil Nadu and Thailand.

Under the Mughals, agricultural taxes were collected according to the Hijri calendar. However, as the Hijri calendar is a purely lunar calendar, it does not coincide with the harvest. As a result, farmers were hard-

pressed to pay taxes out of season. In order to streamline tax collection, the Mughal Emperor Akbar ordered a reform of the calendar. Accordingly, Fatehullah Shirazi, a renowned scholar and astronomer, formulated the Bengali year on the basis of the Hijri lunar and Hindu solar calendars. The new Fasli San (agricultural year) was introduced on 10/11 March 1584, but was dated from Akbar's ascension to the throne in 1556. The new year subsequently became known as *Bônggabdo* or Bengali year.

Celebrations of Pohela Boishakh started from Akbar's reign. It was customary to clear up all dues on the last day of Choitro. On the next day, or the first day of the new year, landlords would entertain their tenants with sweets. On this occasion there used to be fairs and other festivities. In due course the occasion became part of domestic and social life, and turned into a day of merriment. The main event of the day was to open a *halkhata* or new book of accounts.

- In Dhaka



Students of Charukala (Fine Arts) Institute, Dhaka University preparing for Pohela Boishakh



Colorful celebration of Pohela Boishakh in Dhaka

New Year's festivities are closely linked with rural life in Bengal. Usually on Pohela Boishakh, the home is thoroughly scrubbed and cleaned; people bathe early in the morning and dress in fine clothes. They spend much of the day visiting relatives, friends, and neighbours. Special foods are prepared to entertain guests. This is one rural festival that has become enormously big in the cities, especially in Dhaka.

Boishakhi fairs are arranged in many parts of the country. Various agricultural products, traditional handicrafts, toys, cosmetics, as well as various kinds of

food and sweets are sold at these fairs. The fairs also provide entertainment, with singers and dancers staging *jatra* (traditional plays), *pala gan*, *kobigan*, *jarigan*, *gambhira gan*, *gazir gan* and *alkap gan*. They present folk songs as well as *baul*, *marfati*, *murshidi* and *bhatiali* songs. Narrative plays like Laila-Majnu, Yusuf-Zulekha and Radha-Krishna are staged. Among other attractions of these fairs are puppet shows and merry-go-rounds.

Many old festivals connected with New Year's Day have disappeared, while new festivals have been added. With the abolition of the zamindari system, the *punya* connected with the closing of land revenue accounts has disappeared. Kite flying in Dhaka and bull racing in Munshiganj used to be very colourful events. Other popular village games and sports were horse races, bullfights, cockfights, flying pigeons, and boat racing. Some festivals, however, continue to be observed; for example, *bali* (wrestling) in Chittagong and *gambhira* in Rajshahi are still popular events.



Observance of Pohela Boishakh has become popular in the cities. Early in the morning, people gather under a big tree or on the bank of a lake to witness the sunrise. Artists present songs to usher in the new year. People from all walks of life wear traditional Bengali attire: young women wear white saris with red borders, and adorn themselves with *churi* bangles, *ful* flowers, and *tip*(bindis). Men wear white *paejama* (pants) or *lungi*(dhoti/dhuti) (long skirt) and *kurta* (tunic). Many townspeople start the day with the traditional breakfast of *panta bhat* (rice soaked in water), green chillies, onion, and fried hilsa fish.

Panta Ilish - a traditional platter of leftover rice soaked in water with fried Hilsa, supplemented with dried fish (*Shutki*), pickles (*Achar*), lentils (*dal*), green chillies and onion - a popular dish for the Pohela Boishakh festival.

The most colourful New Year's Day festival takes place in Dhaka. Large numbers of people gather early in the morning under the banyan tree at Ramna Park where Chhayana artists open the day with Rabindranath Tagore's famous song, *Esho, he Boishakh, Esho Esho* (Come, O Boishakh, Come, Come). A similar ceremony welcoming the new year is also held at the Institute of Fine Arts, University of Dhaka. Students and teachers of the institute take out a colourful procession and parade round the campus. Social and cultural

organisations celebrate the day with cultural programmes. Newspapers bring out special supplements. There are also special programmes on radio and television.

The historical importance of Pohela Boishakh in the Bangladeshi context may be dated from the observance of the day by Chhayanat in 1965. In an attempt to suppress Bengali culture, the Pakistani Government had banned poems written by Rabindranath Tagore, the most famous poet and writer in Bengali literature. Protesting this move, Chhayanat opened their Pohela Boishakh celebrations at Ramna Park with Tagore's song welcoming the month. The day continued to be celebrated in East Pakistan as a symbol of Bengali culture. After 1972 it became a national festival, a symbol of the Bangladesh nationalist movement and an integral part of the people's cultural heritage. Later, in the mid- 1980s the Institute of Fine Arts added colour to the day by initiating the Boishakhi parade, which is much like a carnival parade.

Today, Pohela Boishakh celebrations also mark a day of cultural unity without distinction between class or religious affiliations. Of the major holidays celebrated in Bangladesh, only Pohela Boishakh comes without any preexisting expectations (specific religious identity, culture of gift-giving, etc.). Unlike holidays like Eid ul-Fitr, where dressing up in lavish clothes has become a norm, or Christmas where exchanging gifts has become an integral part of the holiday, Pohela Boishakh is really about celebrating the simpler, rural roots of the Bengal. As a result, more people can participate in the festivities together without the burden of having to reveal one's class, religion, or financial capacity.

In Chittagong Hill Tracts

In the Chittagong Hill Tracts three different ethnic minority groups come together to merge their observance with Pohela Baishakh. Boisuk of Tripura people, Sangrai of Marma people and Biju of Chakma people have come together as Boi-Sa-Bi, a day of a wide variety of festivities that is observed on the last day of Chaitra i.e. 13 April. The day is a public holiday in the Chittagong Hill Tracts.

B. Nakshi Kantha

In one long narrative poem, Jasim Uddin, the *Pallykoby* (the Poet of the Village) made the *nakshi kantha* into the most famed of the traditional arts

of Bangladesh. The poet tells of the love and marriage of a man and a woman. When the man is forced to leave his home, the woman sorrows, stitching her sad life into an embroidered quilt that will cover her grave at death. Suffused with the soft melancholy of village life, the poem won acclaim for its author, but no matter how fine his verse, the *nakshi kantha* would not have so risen in significance were it not, in itself, a thing rich with beauty and meaning.

One meaning of the *nakshi kantha* lies in the silent, private associations that a woman develops in her work, creating traditional motifs that hold memories for her alone. Each stitch traps time. Her work becomes a text of recall and remembrance. Another dimension of meaning lies in her craft. The sari in which a woman wraps her body is a single, seamless piece of cloth. Woven into unity, uncut, her cloth is an emblem of wholeness and oneness. After it is frayed and torn beyond use, her sari is not discarded. It is pieced and stitched into a quilt. Cloth decays into rags that are reunited in a new entity, much as the clay of the *murti* decays into the silt out of which new statues are shaped. The quilter's act of reassembly locates her in the cyclical patterns of the cosmos that turn through birth and death and rebirth. The quilt, the *kantha*, exemplifies the Bangladeshi pattern of recycling in which useless fragments are combined into useful wholes. Men take broken bits of china and glass, fitting them together in intricate *chinitikri* mosaics that cover the walls of the mosques with bright floral patterns. Comparably, women piece rags into patchwork quilts. Patchwork is common in Bangladesh, but Bangladeshi women do not carry patchwork to the heights achieved by rural women in the United States. Instead, they pile up layers of old sari cloth and baste them together, creating a wide white field that they embroider with colored thread raveled from the borders of old *saris*. They finish the work by filling the white background with white stitchery that surrounds the colored motifs and quilts the whole into unity. The great art of the women of Bengal is embroidery, not patchwork. In the past, embroidered quilts exhibited distinct regional styles in the north, south, and west of the nation, forming a rough complementary distribution with the fine cane mats of the east. The great exemplary work was the *nakshi kantha* of Jessore.

At the center expands a radially symmetrical lotus. The lotus rides upon the water as a symbol of the power that abides in dampness, the power of God in nature. Power upon power: the lotus blooms upon the water to provide the seat of the deity, of Laksmi, the goddess of wealth, of Sarasvati, the goddess of wisdom, of Ganesa, the Lord of Beginnings, who is, like the

quilt itself, an embodiment of rebirth, of life despite death. Toward the colorful lotus at the center, linear forms point from each corner. They might be trees of life, signs of the soul in ascent, or they might be flame-like, leaf-like *kalkas*, familiar from the shawls of Kashmir. Then the whole is bordered, protected by a running arcade of mihrabs, each enclosing flowers that stand like the pious at prayer. Framed by its Muslim borders, centered by its Hindu lotus, the field of the *nakshi kantha* is filled, packed with the images we have come to expect in Bangladesh.

There are depictions of nature's beauty and power: flowers and birds, butterflies and fish, horses and elephants. There are the artifacts of common life: agricultural tools, household implements, and village houses. There are the objects of a woman's desire: jewelry, mirrors, and a glorious wedding procession. And there are images that evoke religion: Muslim amulets and Hindu temple cars. With its run of floral mihrabs and its rolling temple cars, the masterpiece of the *nakshi kantha* artist, like the mystical song of the Baul, seeks a synthesis of the land's spiritual traditions, but other quilted and embroidered works are rigorously Islamic. Women make bags to protect the Holy Koran, stitched in abstract geometric designs, and they embroider prayer mats with stylized mosques.

The recent *nakshi kantha* of Rajshahi, cross-stitched on a red ground, made for prayer, carries a domed mosque like the ones woven in cane on the eastern side of the country. Significant in its technology of recycling, significant in its decorative display, the classical *nakshi kantha* was also significant in its social purpose. It was given away to maintain familial bonds of duty and affection. Made as a gift to a daughter, the *nakshi kantha* was taken by the bride to her new home, where it obliterated distance in memory. Every stitch reminded a daughter of her mother's love. Made for a son or husband, the *nakshi kantha* was a transportable piece of the home. It gave him



Map of Bangladesh on a NakshiKantha

comfort when he was gone. Out on the road, rolling himself for sleep in a warm *kantha*, the man wrapped himself in cloth worn soft by the body of a beloved woman. Touching the rippled, densely worked surface, he felt the care she had lavished on her gift to him. A soft sheath of comfort and protection, the *nakshi kantha* incarnates affection, a mother's embrace,

and it is fitting that when the new nation of Bangladesh was born, its fresh constitution was wrapped tenderly in an old *nakshi kantha*.

Meticulous in its execution, demanding in its craft, the *nakshi kantha* belongs to the intimate circle of the family. It becomes the story of one woman, a symbol of [Type a quote from the document or the summary of an interesting point. You can position the text box anywhere in the document. Use the Text Box Tools tab to change the formatting of the pull quote text box.]

her life and an apt topic for the poet, when she gives it the fullness of her devotion, repayment. Art made of love, is unfit to commercial production, in which time must be repaid in cash. Yet, since the 1980s, the craft has become a part of a commercial revival designed to get money to poor women and attractive, evocative commodities to prosperous consumers. Now there are *nakshi kantha* pillow covers and purses, bedspreads and pictorial wall hangings, that recycle traditional imagery for financial gain.

The agencies that effected the revival, training women to the needle and distributing their products for sale, will ensure the continuity of the craft. Art is another matter. The *nakshi kantha* is no longer fastidiously composed of soft, worn scraps. It is made of new cloth. One of its meanings has vanished. Careful stitching can continue to exhibit the quality of a woman's hand. Embroidered motifs can continue to carry deep meanings. But when a woman is pressed to labor for wages and when she is supplied designs to copy, then it is difficult for her to maintain the integrity of her craft or to invest her imagery with personal significance. It is difficult but not impossible, because there are artists who still work alone, stitching with seriousness and creating their own designs, and there are artists who have upheld their personal standards while adjusting their work to meet the demands of the market.

The *nakshi kantha* demands many types of stitch, and each one must be performed with precision. The women in her atelier quilt and embroider large bedspreads with a geometrical interlace of fanciful motifs. They quilt and embroider small mats for prayer. Like the cane mats of eastern Bangladesh, the embroidered mats of western Bangladesh make space sacred, and they become, like the *murti* of the potter, a tool used in ritual, an aid to communication with God. Significance endures as the fine old tradition, so precious to Bangladesh, shifts out of the intimate, familial realm to meet the challenges of a new age.

VI. Living Human Treasures System (LHTS)

Not exactly, as it is elaborated in UNESCO website. But Bangladesh Fine Art and Crafts Foundation, a government institution initiated a project almost with a view to achieve same result. The programme was taken in 1996 and it was functional up to 2001. Under this programme a family of each of the individual art and craft such as pottery, weaving of Jamdani saree, weaving of Cane Mat etc was selected and invited to stay at the *Karu Palli* (Village of Arts and Crafts) at the premises of the Foundation. They were given grants for the subsistence of their entire family and they were allowed to stay there for one year. They could also make a profit from the selling of the goods they produced here to visitors especially to the foreign tourists. At the same time their youngsters were getting the training from the elders. This project was supported solely by the Government of Bangladesh. Apparently the programme was working well at first. But there was a problem that these people were out of their roots for one year. After one year they found difficulty to settle in their old community. So gradually they became less interested to come to the *Karu Palli*.

During our survey we have seen that people like the idea of conducting similar project like The Living Human Treasures. We also recommended to the Government and NGOs and Private Organisations to take specific programmes for the safeguarding of Living Heritage those are on the verge of extinction. As for example, we have found Mr. Tugia Rema from the Garo community, a minority tribe living in the district of Netrokona. He is 74 now and probably the only surviving priest (they call *Khamal*) who knows the *mantras* for observing different festivals such as during the planting season, harvesting season etc.

VII. Pending issues & urgent needs regarding the safeguarding of ICH

Q1. Is any of the intangible cultural heritage in your country in danger of disappearance or transformation?

The fact that Bangladesh is a small country by area but culturally it is so varied that conducting a complete survey with a small project is very difficult, almost impossible in fact. What we have seen that many of the cultural expressions have already become extinct or on the verge of the extinction.

a) Muslin: Bengal has been renowned for fine muslins since ancient days. In Mughal times, merchants came from as far away as Turkey and Arabia, seeking exquisite textiles in the market of Demra, east of Dhaka. The muslins named for Dhaka were a technical marvel, carried by commerce across the world. During the early nineteenth century, British colonial policy succeeded in destroying the textile industry of Bengal, and reducing the people to poverty. Bengalis became suppliers of raw cotton and consumers of cloth woven in England. But the English mills could not produce a fabric as fine as the muslins of Dhaka. The weaving of cloth in normal grades declined abruptly, but the weaving of muslins, beyond the reach of British machines in fineness, continued. As metalwork today, when plain vessels are made by Hindus and engraved by Muslims, the textiles of the past divided by taste. Hindus wove fine, plain muslins. Muslims flowered them with embroidery or brocade. The *jamdani* will be a sari, one and a half yards wide, six yards long. Quality and cost depend on the fineness of the warp and the weight of the design. The weavers



Jamdani- the finest hand made cloth in the world

divide designs into light and heavy. Light designs consist of small motifs sprinkled neatly into an overall pattern. Heavy designs have larger, interconnected motifs. All leave space to display the astonishing transparency of the ground, the woven air on which brocaded motifs float, and all have rich, running borders like those of Middle Eastern carpets. According to the Master Showkat Ali, the weavers know one hundred and sixty designs. New designs have been supplied by agencies for development in Dhaka, but the weavers do not use them, unless they are pressed by special commissions. They prefer the designs they learned when they learned to weave.



During the past two centuries, the center for brocades, for the textiles called *jamdani*, has shifted north in Narayanganj district, from Sonargaon to Rupganj. Across from Demra, the village of Rupshi runs north along the eastern bank of the Shitalakshya River. The weavers there, all of them Muslims, estimate that there are two to three thousand *jamdani* looms in the region.

But the art of the weaving Jamdani is on the verge of disappearance. It's because skill of weaving were transmitting to the next generation automatically. Now new generation are not interested to learn them from their parents as it can not ensure their smooth livelihood. A good quality Jamdani needs 15 days to one moth, sometimes even more. But the wage they get for this is much more lower in comparison to other business. That is why there is a huge transformation of profession in the community of the artist of Jamdani, the proud successor of Muslin, now itself is in risk.

In fact lot of items of ICH in Bangladesh are in danger of disappearing soon unless some drastic actions are taken. These are as bellow.

- Setar (three stringed musical instrument), very few persons can now play this amazing musical instrument which must be safeguarded.
- Esraaj (stringed musical instrument), similar to Setar.
- Sarinda (stringed and bowing instrument) similar to Setar
- Vatialy, a form of folk song on the verge of disappearance.

- Dhamail, a form of folk song on the verge of disappearance
- Gambhira, a form of folk song on the verge of disappearance
- Alkap, a form of folk song on the verge of disappearance
- Jarigan, a form of folk song on the verge of disappearance
- Palagan, a form of folk song on the verge of disappearance
- Puppet show, a form of performing arts on the verge of disappearance

Q2. What are the reasons the heritage is in danger and what type of safeguarding measures have been taken? Please be specific.

The basic problem of lack of safeguarding awareness in Bangladesh came out during our interview with Professor Sirajul Islam, President, Asiatic Society of Bangladesh. He made the most important point so far. That is, the essence of being careless of our very rich cultural traditions lies in the very mindset of the people of Bangladesh. As it is a Muslim majority country and Islam actually downgrades the importance of worldly things and give priority on the things of the other world after death. So basically people are unaware of the preservation and protection just opposite in the western society as it is materialistic.

Secondly, the trend of globalization as it is common all over the world has a huge influence for being careless about the root of the ancestors. The young people have a general tendency to become a world citizen where there is little value of upholding your own culture. More and more people are becoming cosmopolitan day by day. Rapid transformation of the society from agrarian to urban contributes a lot in ignoring age old traditions.

Thirdly, many people don't have adequate knowledge and means of preserving various items of ICH.

So far the safeguarding measures are limited to the performance of the various forms of music and dance. Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy and Bangla Academy have taken some specific measures to conduct massive survey nationwide and at the same time to produce a complete inventory and a good number of books have been published which should be reprinted for the mass distributions. And we feel, more comprehensive study should be conducted to gather all kinds of information about safeguarding measures.

Q3. What are the pending issues for safeguarding ICH in your country that you have found through interviews and the field survey?

We have seen that the Institutions are not well aware of safeguarding the ICH. They need some motivational training. The existing legal instruments also need to be amended to meet the changing situations. In most cases, the Organisations are undermanned and under-equipped.

Q4. What kind of problems and difficulties were encountered during the safeguarding projects?

All the institutions working in the process of safeguarding were very helpful during the projects. People are very enthusiastic to do their jobs. But they have limitations in terms of human and machine capacity.

Q5. What future plans are there for the safeguarding of ICH (programme information)?

What we have seen that there are efforts for the safeguarding of ICH in scattered way. Sometimes they are not aware of it. Or, if they are aware they are not serious about it. If they are serious they don't have the capacities- both machine and human- to execute their plan.

To that end, we have talked to the government agencies. They have a plan to conduct at first massive awareness building programme among the stakeholders of ICH- such as policy makers, practitioners, officials in charge of safeguarding ICH in Bangladesh. They have a plan to conduct workshops and seminars and formulate policy for the better safeguarding of the ICH.

Q6. What type of contributions and cooperation from the international society is needed for the safeguarding of ICH in your country?

Training of the officials of the relevant Institutions/Organisations is much needed. At the same time they need motivation for performing their jobs. International society may extend their cooperation in joint venture with the Government of Bangladesh to enhance the capacity of the Institutions/Organisations who are working in the field of ICH.

Q7. What role do you expect ICHCAP to play in the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage in the region in terms of programmes, projects, etc.?

ICHCAP may impart their knowledge they have gained from other countries regarding the safeguarding measures of ICH. We need to complete a comprehensive inventory on ICH. ICHCAP can share their knowledge regarding this. ICHCAP can play a pivotal role to conduct National Conference for the Safeguarding of ICH in Bangladesh.

Q8. Please include any requests and/or suggestions you have on this matter.

ICHCAP may render project aid to launch **Living Human Treasures System (LHTS)** in Bangladesh so that we may safeguard some of the endangered elements of ICH.

Q9. What should be considered to encourage or to ensure active involvement from the community in safeguarding intangible cultural heritage?

Just to conduct awareness building programme among the community. It is quite universal that people don't care about safeguarding their ICH simply because it is not on their priority list. Similar is the case in Bangladesh. True safeguarding process must involve the community. They will have to see the real benefit of safeguarding their ICH.

Conclusion

Bangladesh is a small country by area but it is highly rich in terms of number and varieties of cultural expressions. It's because the village based society was self-sufficient and self content. So it is very difficult, almost impossible, to have complete idea about its huge varieties of cultural expressions and gather complete information by such a small project about the safeguarding measures taken by our intelligentsia throughout the years. More over we had time constraint to conduct the survey. Still we think that the findings of this project will be vital for future activities in the field of ICH in Bangladesh-whether it is launched by the Government or other International Organisations.

List of co-researchers

Name	Affiliation	Contribution to the survey	Field of research
Mr Taz Uddin	Bangladesh National Commission for UNESCO	Focal poin Data Collection, Compilation & Report t	Intangible Cultural Heritage
Mr Debabrata Chakraborty	Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy	Data Collection, Compilation & Report	Intangible Cultural Heritage
Mr Narottom Chakrobrorty	Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy	Data Collection, Compilation & Report	Intangible Cultural Heritage
Mr Kazi Omar Faroque	Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy	Data Collection, Compilation & Report	Intangible Cultural Heritage

Annex 1 | ***The Asiatic Society of
Bangladesh***
Constitution

The Asiatic Society of Bangladesh

Constitution

1. Name

The name of the organisation governed by this constitution shall be THE ASIATIC SOCIETY OF BANGLADESH.

2. Objective

The objective of the Society shall be the advancement of the study of man and nature of Asia.

3. Chief Patron

The President of the Peoples' Republic of Bangladesh shall be the Chief Patron of the Society.

4. Patron

There shall be Patrons of the Society the number of whom be unlimited.

5. Membership

- (i) Bangladesh nationals and persons of all other nations irrespective of caste, creed, or sex, shall be eligible, under rules as hereafter mentioned, to become members of the Society.
- (ii) The Society shall consist of Members, Life Members , Honorary Members, Fellows and Associate Members.
 - (a) Members, the number of whom shall be unlimited.
 - (b) Life Members, the number of whom shall be unlimited; normally they shall be from among members of the Society with high academic achievements; at the expiry of two years as a member one shall be eligible to apply.
 - (c) Honorary Members, the number of whom shall not exceed 15, and who shall be persons wellknown for their literary and scientific attainments, but who are not likely to apply for Membership.
 - (d) Fellows, the number of whom shall be limited to maximum 30, and who shall be persons eminent for their knowledge of, and contributions to Sciences or Humanities. Fellows shall be entitled to use after their names the abbreviation of the Society, i.e., F. A. S. B.
 - (e) Associate Members, the number of whom shall be unlimited and will generally include students and other interested persons who are not eligible to become Members.

Members and Fellows

Elections

6. (a) The election to Members shall be on the basis of principles laid down by this constitution and rules and procedures framed by the Council from time to time.
(b) The candidates for Membership, Life Membership /Associate Membership shall be proposed by one member and seconded by another member in a prescribed form. On being previously scrutinised by a standing committee the name of the candidate, his/her proposer and seconder shall be laid before a meeting of the Council, and on being approved, shall be recommended for election, if necessary by ballot, at the next Monthly General Meeting of the Society.
7. The candidates in favour of whom majority of the members present at such Monthly General Meeting vote shall be deemed to be duly elected.
8. The General Secretary shall communicate the result of the election to candidates duly elected and shall forthwith send a copy of the constitution of the Society to each of them.
9. The admission fee and membership subscription as determined by the Council from time to time, shall be realised from the person elected for membership within three months from the date of communication of election. In default of payment within three months of communication such election shall automatically stand cancelled.
10. No person, although duly elected according to the foregoing rules shall be entitled to exercise the rights and privileges of membership nor shall his name be entered in the list of Members without the payment of admission fees and first yearly subscription.
11. For the purpose of election as Honorary Members names of desired persons shall be proposed to a Monthly General Meeting of the Society by the Council, which shall at the same time, state the grounds and desirability of such election. The proposed persons in favour of whom at least three-fourths of the members present at the meeting vote shall be deemed to be duly elected.
12. The election to the distinction of Fellowship shall be made by the Council in accordance with rules prescribed by itself, and ratified by the Monthly General Meeting of the Society. Names of Fellows so elected, shall be announced at the Biennial General Meeting of the Society.
13. In case of Associate Membership, the Council shall be empowered to elect candidates for it and such election need not be referred to the Monthly General Meeting of the Society for ratification.

Privileges

14. Members/Life Members shall be entitled to the following rights and privileges
- (a) To be present and to vote at all General Meetings;
 - (b) To propose and second candidates for Membership/Life Membership;
 - (c) To contest election for any office of the Society;
 - (d) To have personal access to the Library and other public rooms of the Society, and to use its collections;
 - (e) To borrow books and other collections from the Library;
 - (f) To receive a Journal and other publications of the Society under rules determined by the Council.
15. Honorary Members and Fellows shall be entitled to all the privileges except (b) (c) of the Rule 14 They can serve on any Committee appointed by the Council, save that they shall not be entitled to vote except on such committees .
16. Associate Members shall be entitled to utilise the Library and Reading Room of the Society, attend the General Meeting save that they shall not be entitled to vote.

Subscriptions

17. The rate of subscription for Membership/Life Membership and admission fees shall be recommended by the Council and such recommendation shall be ratified by the majority members present at the Monthly General Meeting.
18. The subscription shall be paid annually and the full annual subscription and admission fees shall be due from the candidate on election. For the purpose of subscription the year shall be counted from 1st July to 30th June.
19. A Life Member shall pay a lump sum of money once for all, as determined under rule 17. A Life Member shall have rights and privileges of the Member.
20. No admission fee or subscription shall be due from Fellows and Honorary Members.
21. No admission fee shall be due from the Associate members, who, however, shall pay annual subscriptions as determined by the Council.
22. The Council may require the members who reside abroad to pay the postal charges for receiving Society's publications.

Cessation of Membership

23. Any Member/Life Member may withdraw membership. after having paid in full all his dues to the Society by signifying his desire to do so in a letter addressed to the General Secretary.
24. A Member failing to pay his/her subscription for two consecutive years shall be liable to be removed from membership of the Society by the Council with a report to the Biennial General Meeting.

25. If any Member/Life Member wilfully acts against the interest of the Society, disobeys the Rules or the orders of the Society or the Council, he/she shall be liable to be removed under Rule 26 from the membership.
26. Whenever there shall appear cause for the removal of a Member/Life Member from the Society, the Council shall investigate the matter and, if the case is established prima facie, shall recommend to the Monthly General Meeting the removal of the Member/Life Member concerned. The President then shall announce such a case to the Monthly General Meeting and getting consent from at least three-fourths of the members present, his/her name shall be struck off the rolls.

Source of Revenues

27. (a) Members' subscriptions, Government grants, donations, sale proceeds of publications, etc. shall constitute the sources of revenue of the Society.
(b) The accounts of the Society shall be audited every financial year by an accredited Chartered Accountants.

Administration and Officer- bearers

28. The administration, governance and management of the affairs of the Society shall be entrusted to a Council composed of a President, three Vice-Presidents, a Treasurer, a General Secretary, a Secretary, ten Members, elected under Rules 32-36, and two Fellows to be co-opted by the Council. No office-bearer shall hold more than one office of the Society at a time.
29. The casual vacancies in the Council caused by reason of death, resignation, or some other reasons, may be filled by the Council from amongst suitable members of the Society subject to ratification of the same in the next Monthly General Meeting.
30. Enlightened persons making substantial donations , as determined by the Council from time to time. may be elected as Patrons by the Council and such election shall be ratified in the next Monthly General Meeting. The Patrons shall enjoy all the rights and privileges of a Member except for voting and contesting election.
31. To perform various functions of the Society the Council shall constitute several committees, such as, Editorial Board/s, Organization Committee, Publication Committee, Library Committee, Finance Committee, Research and Seminar Committee and other special Committees set up by the Council as and when necessary.

The Council

32. The tenure of the Council shall extend over two consecutive calendar years beginning from January.
33. The election of office-bearers and other Members of the Council shall take place on the expiry of the term of the sitting Council.

34. The candidates for election may be proposed in the prescribed Form in the form of a panel of names for the office-bearers. All such proposals shall be received by the General Secretary, on being duly proposed and seconded by bonafide Members and also signed by every eligible candidate. Such proposals shall be received by the 30th of November of the second year of the Council and the Council shall peruse the proposals and place them before the Members for voting through ballots at the Biennial General Meeting, provided that when there is no more panel than one, the said one shall be declared duly elected.
35. Candidates securing the majority of votes cast shall be declared elected. In case of an equal number of votes for any two or more candidates, the case shall be decided by drawing lots.
36. No Member shall hold the same office in the Council for more than two consecutive terms, and no Member shall be on the Council for more than three consecutive terms. A Member completing two/three consecutive terms as the case may be, may, however, seek election again at the expiry of another term of the Council.

Functions

37. The functions and duties of the Council shall be
- (a) To manage the affairs of the Society, and for such purpose to make such regulations as may appear to them conducive to the good administration of the Society and the attainment of the object of its foundation, provided that such regulations do not clash with the Rules herein laid;
 - (b) To approve the budget prepared by the Treasurer;
 - (c) To determine the rate of subscriptions, admission fees, and other dues of Members and to review the rate so fixed from time to time;
 - (d) To determine the rate of concessions that the Members may enjoy while purchasing Society's publications;
 - (e) To appoint, subject to confirmation by the next Monthly General Meeting, as many salaried office staff and employees as they may deem necessary, and to define their duties, salaries, allowances, etc. and to suspend, remove or dismiss them as the occasion may arise;
 - (f) To receive and administer research funds, fellowships and scholarships;
 - (g) To fill in the casual vacancies in the Council that may occur by reason of death, resignation or any other factor;
 - (h) To appoint Editorial Board/s, Editor/s, Associate Editor/s and Advisory Board/s;
 - (i) To consider, in the first instance, and before submission to a Monthly General Meeting, all communications addressed to the Society, and to regulate the order and manner in which such communications shall be placed before the Monthly General Meeting;
 - (j) To acquire Trust Funds and any other property for the Society;
 - (k) To take, when necessary, on behalf of the Society any legal action against any defaulting member or any individual or individuals or company causing damage to the Society;
 - (l) To prepare and submit to the Biennial General Meeting a report on the activities of the Society ;
 - (m) To prepare agenda for the Biennial General Meeting; (n) To frame rules on matters not covered by this Constitution; rules so framed shall be ratified by the Monthly General Meeting;

- (n) To elect, under Rule 12, Fellows;
- (o) And to appoint the Members of committees under Rules 48-54 and other special committees when necessary.

The President

38. The functions and duties of the President shall be

- (a) To guide the Society and its Council in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution;
- (b) To preside over meetings of the Society and its Council;
- (c) To speak for and represent the Society when appropriate;
- (d) To ensure that due effect is being given to the Rules and Resolutions made by the Council under Rule 37.

The Vice-Presidents

39. There shall be three Vice-Presidents, seniority of whom shall be determined by age.

40. They shall take part in Council meetings and act in place of the President in his absence.

41. One of the Vice- Presidents, to be determined by the Council, shall normally act as the Chairperson of the Publication Committee.

42. One of the Vice-Presidents, to be determined by the Council, shall act as the Chairperson of the Editorial Board.

43. One of the Vice-Presidents, to be determined by the Council, shall act as the Chairperson of the Organization Committee.

44. The Vice-Presidents shall normally be Chairpersons of the various Boards of Trustees,

The Treasurer

45. The functions and duties of the Treasurer shall be

- (a) To be in charge of the funds of the Society and of the Trust Funds and be responsible for their accounts, maintenance and disbursement;
- (b) To collect subscriptions and the proceeds of sales of the Society's publications ;
- (c) To make all payments for the Society, with no single payment in excess of Tk. 500.00 to be made without prior approval of the Council;
- (d) To prepare the annual financial statement of the Society and to submit it before the Council by December of every year; and also to present the audited report of the previous financial year in accordance with the rules;
- (e) To operate the Society's bank account jointly with the General Secretary.

The General; Secretary

46. The General Secretary shall act as the Executive Head of the Society's establishment, and as the Executive Head his functions and duties shall be
- (a) To conduct the correspondence of the Society, and of the Council, and to sign all letters and papers emanating from the Society;
 - (b) To attend the meetings of the Society and of the Council and to take minutes of the proceedings of such meetings and report in the next meeting for their confirmation
 - (c) To read the communication at the Monthly General Meeting;
 - (d) To prepare and maintain a list of Members;
 - (e) To run the routine officework and preserve record of all the proceedings. meetings and correspondences etc. connected with the business of the Society;
 - (f) To exercise general supervision over various Trust Funds and fellowships/ scholarships;
 - (g) To exercise general supervision over the affairs and staff of the Society, and to assist in carrying out the rules, regulations, etc. made by the Council:
 - (h) To convene in consultation with the President. the meetings of the Council and General Meetings of the Society and prepare agenda for those meetings:
 - (i) To edit the information bulletin (NEWSLETTER, etc.);
 - (j) To convene the statutory committees, and to coordinate the activities of various special committees;
 - (k) To prepare the Society's Reports and present them in the Biennial General Meeting;
 - (l) To perform any other functions entrusted to him/her by the Council.

The Secretary

47. The functions and duties of the Secretary shall be:
- (a) To assist the General Secretary in the discharge of his/her duties;
 - (b) To discharge the functions and duties of the General Secretary in his/her absence:
 - (c) To convene the meetings of the special committees constituted by the Council, and maintain their proceedings;
 - (d) To manage various Trust Funds, fellowships, scholarships, medals. etc.
 - (e) To perform any other functions entrusted to him/her by the Council.

Committees

Organization Committee

48. There shall be a standing Organization Committee, appointed by the Council in its first meeting and composed of at least five Members, with one of the Vice Presidents as its Chairperson. This Committee shall consider and make recommendations to the Council on the following
- (a) ways and means in furthering the objectives of the Society including stimulation and encouragement of scholarly endeavours by Members, as well as nonmembers,
 - (b) programmes for General Meetings, as well as for special meetings, when appropriate;
 - (c) fund raising and other financial and development aspects of the Society;
 - (d) co-operation with other similar organizations in furtherance of the objectives of the Society;
 - (e) and promoting the image of the Society in the academic world.

Editorial Board

49. There shall be Editorial Board/s for the publication of the Journals of the Society. Each Journal shall have a separate Editorial Board consisting of a Chairperson and

five other members. The Editor of the Journal shall be ex-officio Member Secretary of the Board. Each Journal shall have an Editor, an Associate Editor and an Advisory Board.

Publication Committee

50. There shall be a Publication Committee consisting of a Chairperson and Editor/s of Journal/s and two members from among the Council including the General Secretary. Its functions shall be

- (a) To evaluate manuscripts and monographs submitted to the Society for publication
- (b) To arrange printing the Journals and other publications:
- (c) To make arrangement for distributing the Publications among Members
- (d) To promote the sale of the Society's publications.

Library Committee

51. There shall be a Library Committee consisting of five Members having one of them as Chairperson. The functions and duties of the Committee shall be

- (a) To maintain the Library:
- (b) To make purchase of books, periodicals and other research materials
- (c) To maintain a list of acquisitions and to take stock of the acquisitions every year:
- (d) To promote the library service.

Finance Committee

52. There shall be a Finance Committee consisting of the Treasurer as its Chairperson and four other Members to be nominated by the Council. Its functions shall be

- (a) To look after the management of funds, preparation of budget:
- (b) To raise funds and make recommendations regarding funding.

Research and Seminar Committee

53. There shall be a Research and Seminar Committee consisting of one of the Vice-Presidents as Chairperson and five other Members to be nominated by the Council. Its functions shall be

- (a) To consider and initiate research proposal;
- (b) To hold seminars, wrkshops,lectures, etc.

Special committee

54. There may be such temporary and special Committees as the Council may choose to appoint, and their composition and responsibilities shall be determined by the Council.

Meetings of the Society

55. Meetings of the Society shall be of three kinds

- i. Monthly General Meeting.
- ii. Biennial General Meeting.
- iii. Extra-ordinary General Meeting.

56. (a) Monthly General Meeting shall be held at least once a month to transact the usual business of the Society.

- (b) Meetings shall be convened, subject to Rule 57, by the General Secretary in consultation with the President.

- (c) The quorum of the meeting shall be formed by the presence of at least ten members of the Society.
 - (d) The meeting shall be presided over by the President; in his absence, by one of the Vice-Presidents in order of seniority by age, and if all of them are absent, the Members present shall elect by a majority vote a Chairperson from amongst themselves.
57. (a) The Biennial General Meeting shall be held in early January . In case of inability to hold the Meeting as prescribed, notice should be circulated among Members giving satisfactory explanations for the lapse. But under no circumstance the Meeting shall be deferred for more than one month from the first of January.
- (b) The Biennial General Meeting shall be inaugurated by the Chief Patron of the Society or by an eminent academician.
58. Extra-ordinary General Meeting shall be convened by the President when majority of the Council Members make a requisition for the same on a special business of importance, or when at least twenty five Members submit a written requisition stating the reasons for it. The notice for such a meeting shall be announced, at least. 24 hours before the stipulated meeting, in two national dailies, one English, another Bangla

Meetings of the Council

59. (a) The Council shall meet normally once a month.
- (b) In consultation with the President. the General Secretary shall convene the Meeting;
- (c) The President or any five members may convene a special Meeting, giving clear three days notice to all other members;
- (d) At least five members shall form a quorum for normal meeting and nine members for special meeting;
- (e) The President, or in his absence, one of the VicePresidents according to seniority by age, shall take the chair. If all them are absent the members present shall elect, by a majority vote, a chairperson from amongst themselves.

Amendment to the Constitution

60. The-Council or at least twentyfive members may bring proposal for amendment to the Constitution. Amendment may be in the shape of introducing new Rule, or alteration or repeal of any existing Rules
61. (a) If the proposed amendment is initiated by the Council. the amendment proposal shall be studied by a committee set up by the Council for the purpose. The Council shall go through the committee Report and adopt a resolution on the proposed amendment. The resolution shall be circulated among the members through registered letters. If the majority from amongst those responding are in favour of

- it. the proposed amendment shall be declared by the Council as passed and the decision be announced by the President in the Monthly General Meeting. The amendment shall take effect on its being confirmed in the subsequent Monthly General Meeting. The amendment shall be declared in the next Biennial General Meeting.
- (b) if the proposal for amendment is initiated by at least twenty five members, the proposed amendment shall be moved in the Monthly General Meeting in the form of a proposal and such proposal should reach the General Secretary at least fifteen days prior to a Monthly General Meeting. If the proposal is accepted by two-thirds members present at the meeting, the proposal shall be circulated and decision be taken as under Rule 61(a).
62. No member appointed to any office in the Society to which a salary or employment is attached, shall have the privilege of voting in the elections. Such a salaried member shall, however, enjoy all other rights and privileges of a member.
63. Authors whose works shall be published by the Society shall be entitled to royalties. The rate, terms and conditions of such royalty, however, shall be determined by the Council, and which shall be laid down in an agreement with the author concerned.
64. To promote research the Society may receive endowments bequeathed by the willing donors. Such endowments shall be administered by a Board of Trustees consisting of representatives of the Society and the donors.

Annex 2 | *Photographs*

Photographs



Snake charmer's dance



Performance group



Artists performing Baul songs



Bangladesh folk dance



Bangladesh folk dance



Bangladesh folk dance



Bangladesh folk theatre

Publisher

Intangible Cultural Heritage Centre for Asia and the Pacific (ICHCAP)

Director of the Publication

Seong-Yong Park

Editor-in-chief

Weonmo Park

Editorial Staff

Boyoung Cha

Design and Layout

Yongjin Kim

Tel. +82-42-820-3508

Fax. +82-42-820-3500

Email. ichcap@ichcap.org

Add. 82 Munji-ro Yuseong-gu Daejeon 305-380

National Research Institute of Cultural Heritage Bldg. (4F)

©2010. Intangible Cultural Heritage Centre for Asia and the Pacific

This publication is copyright. No part may be reproduced by any process with out written permission.

The contents herewith are entirely the product of the researchers and do not represent the views of ICHCAP.
