

## Amader Jatiswattar Bikashdhara (A History of Evolution of our Nationhood)

**By:**

**Mohammad Abdul Mannan**

Mohammad Abdul Mannan is a prominent banker working as the Managing Director of Islami Bank Bangladesh Limited. He has also a great contribution in the literary field writing a large number of articles and books on diverse subjects.

Before joining IBBL in 1983, Mohammad Abdul Mannan was a senior journalist for about 17 years. He was Assistant Secretary General of Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) during 1980-1983.

Abdul Mannan is a prolific writer on History. He has a keen interest in the “History of Bengal” and “Bengali Muslim Heritage”. Prominent among his research-oriented books are “Bangobhango Thekey Bangladesh (From partition of Bengal to creation of Bangladesh)”, “Bangla O Bangalee: Mukti Sangramer Mooldhara (Mainstream liberation struggle of Bengal)”, “Amader Jatiswattar Bikashdhara (A History of Evolution of our Nationhood)”, “Gobeshonar Nity O Paddhaty (Principles and Methods of Research)”, “Islami Bank Byabastha (Islamic Banking System)”, “Banglar Muslim Jagorone Dui Pathikrit : Shah Waliullah Dehlawi O Jamaluddin Afgani (Two Pioneers of Muslim Renaissance: Shah Waliullah Dehlawi and Jamaluddin Afgani)”, “Sonar Desh Bangladesh (Golden Bangladesh)”, “Saudi Arobey Bangladeshi Obhibasi : Ekti Sorejomin Shomikkha (Bangladeshi expatriates in Saudi Arabia: a survey”.

A number of his books on History, Culture & Travels are also awaiting publication. Amder Jatiswattar Bikashdhara (The History of Evolution of our Nationhood) is first published by Darus Salam publications, Dhaka, Bangladesh. The late National Professor Syed Ali Ahsan has given his introductory comments and recommendations highlighting the importance of learning the true history of Bengali nation.

In Amder Jatiswattar Bikashdhara (The History of Evolution of our Nationhood) the author has emphasized the importance of the knowledge of the heritage of an individual or a nation. He has established that for the future development of a confident, self-respecting, proud nation we should know about our rich, cultural, religious, socio-political, economic and educational past that has shaped the people and the society over hundreds of years culminating in the creation of the present Bangladesh.

In the introductory chapters the author has given a brief history of ancient Bengal. He has discussed about the geographical boundaries. In a lucid language, he has described ethnic origin and religious diversity of its people.

The ancient Bengal had a flourishing Dravidian civilization. It was invaded by Aryans. Later it was ruled by the Palas who had contributed immensely for the growth and development of Bengal. The invasion by the Senas saw the destruction the Buddhist heritage and establishment of caste system.

Although Islam had made its way to Bengal through Muslim traders and Sufi preachers in the early days, it was Ikhtiaruddin Muhammad bin Bakhtear Khiljee who was credited with establishing Muslim rule here for the first time in history. During Muslim rule Bengal has flourished in socio-culture, economy, literature and other spheres of life.

During the colonial period the Muslims were at the receiving end. Disadvantaged by the lack of English education and a hostile attitude of the ruling class, the Muslims faced a real disaster. Not only they were treated with contempt by the English rulers, they were exploited and extorted by the local Hindu Zeminders. A number of attempts were made and movements were initiated to improve the life of the downtrodden Muslims but most of them were unsuccessful. It is no surprise that Muslims of Bengal voted overwhelmingly for a Muslim homeland that created Pakistan.

The author discussed in details the issues facing Pakistan from the outset. The misunderstanding between regions, lack of honest leadership, internal and external conspiracies and abandonment of the founding principles brought down Pakistan. Even after creation of Bangladesh, people have a long way to go before realising their potential and goal. This is vitally important that people of Bangladesh know their roots and heritage. A confused people or a confused nation is like a rudderless ship that is most likely to waste all its vital energy before submerging deep under the ocean. This is an important book every citizen of Bangladesh should read.

(Muhammad Akhteruzzaman, BMRI, UK)