

Editorial Note:

**CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF DHAKA:
A PRIDE FOR THE ZOOLOGICAL EDUCATION AND RESEARCH**

The University of Dhaka, the prime educational institution of the Bengal delta, flourish with many new areas of subjects and research. The graduates and alumni of this university not only contributed for the country, but have been serving the world in competency.

The biological education was first introduced in the Bengal Delta at the University of Dhaka in 1939 under the leadership of Professor Panchanan Maheshwari. At that time Biology was taught to the students of B.Sc. Pass at 'Dacca Agriculture Institute'. In December 1951, Professor G.P. Majumder, a retired Professor of the Presidency College, Calcutta, was appointed as the Head of the Department of Biology for a term of three years. Professor Majumder started Honours course in Zoology in 1952 and started M.Sc. in Zoology in the same year. Students of Zoology were first awarded Honours degree in 1954 from the biology department. The Executive Council of the University at its meeting held on 24th April, 1954, decided to establish separate departments of Botany and Zoology by abolishing the Biology Department.

The birth of an independent Zoology Department was in July 1954 under the Headship of Professor H.K. Yusuf Zai. After his death, Kazi Md. Zaker Husain, then the senior most Reader, took over the headship in October 1967. From 1973, the position of 'Chairman' was introduced, and Prof KZ Hossain became the first Chairman of the department. Up to the centennial year 2021, two Heads and 19 Chairman served the department.

The radiation of demand driven specialization in Zoology is great. Earlier, M.Sc. was offered only in Cytology, Genetics and Fisheries. At present the department is offering MS, MPhil and PhD in the fields of Fisheries, Entomology, Wildlife Biology, Parasitology, and Genetics & Molecular Biology.

The department plays the key revolutionary role in applied zoological sciences in Bangladesh. Graduates from the department have been playing the key role in development of biology education, and of agricultural, fisheries and medical sciences of the country. The department also houses one of the oldest societies the 'Zoological Society of Bangladesh'. At present 'Dhaka University Nature Conservation Club' and 'Dhaka University Zoology Alumni Association' are also housed in the department. The society publishes the 'Bangladesh Journal of

Zoology' since its establishment for the scientific communities and researchers.

As a research hub, the department undertakes continuous efforts on research and collaborations to generate knowledge for the improvement of zoological sciences education, food security, biodiversity conservation, natural resources management, biotechnology, epidemiology, mosquito management, pest control, public health issues, etc. The outcome of the early efforts is incredible. The graduates established Zoology departments at the public universities of Rajshahi, Chattogram, Jahangirnagar, Jagannath, National and Open, Noakhali Science & Technology as well as hundreds of departments in post-graduate university-colleges. In addition, the graduates provide quality education in thousands of biology department at school and colleges. Many researchers are now serving as scientists in National Agricultural Research System (NARS) and other national and international scientific organs. Former faculties and graduates of this department are the architects for establishing the Fisheries and Entomology departments at the Bangladesh Agricultural University, Mymensingh.

The Department also provides advisory and community services to the government and private sectors concerned with pest control, management of fisheries and aquaculture, biodiversity conservation and environmental protection.

We wish all the best to the University of Dhaka on the 100 years of celebration. Thanks to this historical alma miter for its support in the continuous development of zoological sciences for the benefit of the nation and of the world. We wish that the Zoology Department will prosper in the line of attaining continuous excellence in teaching and research in the next 100 years to come. The 'Bangladesh Journal of Zoology' will always be a supporting vehicle for expressing new knowledge of scientific communities.

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