

THE SECOND ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE BANGLADESH PHILOSOPHICAL ASSOCIATION

The second annual conference of the Bangladesh Philosophical Association was held from the 9th to the 11th March, this year, under the auspices of the University of Rajshahi. The conference was inaugurated by Mr. Sayed Nazrul Islam, the Vice-President of Bangladesh, while Dr. Mafizuddin Ahmad, Chairman of the Department of Philosophy, University of Rajshahi, acted as the General President. In his inaugural speech, the Vice-President highlighted the important role of philosophers in any civilized society, and urged upon the philosophers of Bangladesh to help their motherland grow and prosper with their thoughts and considered views. In his presidential speech Dr. Ahmad outlined the main currents of philosophical thinking in Bangladesh and expressed the hope that, if due patronage is provided, philosophy can definitely see better days in this country and play a significant role in its national life.

Prof. S. Rahman, the President of the Philosophical Association, in his address, drew the attention of philosophers to the problems of human welfare and exhorted them to work for the eradication of human sufferings without being solely concerned with abstract theoretical problems.

About a hundred delegates from different parts of Bangladesh attended the conference. The occasion was also graced by three distinguished delegates from abroad, viz., Dr. S. S. Barlingay from the University of Poona, Dr. S. K. Nandy from the Presidency College, Calcutta, and Dr. Hiltrud Rüstau from the University of Humboldt, GDR. In a special session arranged for the foreign delegates, Dr. Barlingay and Dr. Rüstau read illuminating papers, on metaphysics and Marxist philosophy, and Dr. Nandy gave an excellent talk on aesthetics. Both the papers and the talk, which were attended by other persons besides the delegates, were received with great enthusiasm.

The other special features of the conference were two symposia on "the nature and value of philosophy" and "social justice" and sectional meetings on logic and metaphysics, moral, and political philosophy, and Bangladesh Darsan. Discussions in all the sectional meetings were all lively and illuminating.

On the whole, the conference was a great success, which of course, was largely due to the Local Organizing Committee, and specially due to the personal interest the Vice-Chancellor of the Rajshahi University took in the matter. The academic aspect apart, other arrangements were excellent. The whole conference was a clear testimony to the fact that the people of Bangladesh have a genuine interest in philosophy as a high stratum of intellectual culture and as an integral part of their individual as well as national life.

Abdul Matin

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