

On the Occasion of the Retirement of Professor Mir Masoom Ali
Department of Mathematical Sciences, Ball State University
Muncie, Indiana, USA
May 19, 2007

Good Evening! I am very glad to be able to say few words on behalf of the North America-Bangladesh Statistical Association as well as on my own behalf at this two-day statistics conference banquet in honor of Distinguished Professor Mir Masoom Ali on the occasion of his retirement and I feel privileged to have this opportunity.

Almost twenty years ago, Professor Ali and other fellow statisticians felt the need to create an organization for Bangladeshi statisticians living in the United States and Canada to enhance mutual professional enrichment. The Association was founded in Washington, DC and Professor Ali is the founding president of the association.

Professor Ali, on the occasion of your retirement, the members of the Association and the Executive Committee extend their heartfelt congratulations and express their deep gratitude to you for your vision, thoughtfulness and relentless support for the welfare of Bangladeshi statisticians in North America.

Ladies and Gentlemen: Professor Ali is among the most distinguished statisticians of Bangladesh. He has made significant contributions to statistics education both in Bangladesh - his country of birth and at Ball State - the university where he spent 38 years of his professional life. After receiving advanced degree and getting settled with a teaching position at Ball State University, he did not forget his responsibility of helping others back in Bangladesh in the advancement of knowledge in statistical sciences. In his visits to Bangladesh, he hardly forgot to visit his parent department at Dhaka University. He carried a mission of inspiring students and young colleagues there for higher education and I can tell you that Dr. Ali has been instrumental in bringing many Bangladeshi statisticians to this country who are now doing very well here professionally and some of them are present here tonight.

In recognition of his professional achievements and contributions and his service as overseas executive editor and associate editor of Journal of Statistical Studies and Journal of Statistical Research, respectively, the Bangladesh Statistical Association in Dhaka, Bangladesh awarded him the first Qazi Motahar Husain Gold Medal, the highest honor accorded by the association. This medal is named after the founding father of the Department of Statistics of Dhaka University, one of the oldest statistics departments in the Indian Subcontinent. I was privileged to have the opportunity of being part of the awarding process of this medal while I was serving the Bangladesh Statistical Association in Dhaka as the Secretary General at that time.

Professor Ali is retiring from one job, but he has many others beyond the four walls of his classroom. I am confident it will be hard for him to cease his desire to ignite the light of knowledge in the minds of others. There is nothing more enjoyable for him than acquiring new knowledge and sharing the knowledge with others in the journey of unveiling the unknown and improving our welfare. We acknowledge his leadership and professional contribution with deep respect.

Ladies and Gentlemen: Please join me in congratulating Professor Ali for his completion of a successful and distinguished professional career.

Thank you all.

Ashraf Ahmed, Ph.D.

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