




CENTRE FOR  
**GENOCIDE  
STUDIES**  
UNIVERSITY OF DHAKA

Few universities could take pride in what Dhaka University had achieved in its lifetime. It was established in 1921, but in less than a hundred years of its establishment it made significant contributions to the history of Bangladesh, particularly in the making of the nation. Two events are noteworthy.

The first one relates to the historic language movement of 1952, when students of Dhaka University laid down their lives for making Bangla as one of the national languages of the state of Pakistan. The event is now nationally observed on 21 February and Dhaka University is the official host of the event. National leaders, foreign dignitaries and millions of people, all barefooted, congregate at the footsteps of shaheed minar (martyrs monument) located at Dhaka University on 21 February to pay homage to the "brave sons of the soil." It may be mentioned that UNESCO has declared the day as the International Mother Language Day. Dhaka University could only take pride in hosting the event and having the day internationally recognised.

Secondly, Dhaka University is the only university in the world where the students raised the flag of the country and handed it over to the national leaders. This took place on 2 March 1971, incidentally some three weeks before Pakistan military's recourse to genocide and the declaration of independence. This flag became the rallying call for independence and the symbol of the new nation during the nine-month liberation struggle.





On the night of 25 March 1971 Dhaka University became a predictable target of the Pakistan military. But who were the victims?

M.A. Rahim, a professor of history, while reflecting on the 'last sixty years' (1921-1981) of Dhaka University and the role the latter played in the nationalist movement culminating in 1971, stated:


*The Dacca University Campus was made one of the principal targets of attack by the army. The military leaders considered that the Dacca University was the centre of the Bangladesh movement, and hence intended to cleanse it once for all. . . . It is estimated that about 200 students were killed in the Iqbal Hall (later Zahirul Haq Hall). Many of these dead bodies were removed by the soldiers. Two days after 30 bodies were found still lying there. . . . It is estimated that about 300 persons, including 10 teachers and 26 other employees were killed in the University in the night of 25th and morning of 26th March.*

The commentary of US Consul General, Archer K. Blood, on the Pakistan military's attack on the University was more telling:

*We saw traces of two mass graves in the campus, one near Iqbal Hall, the other near Rokeya Hall. . . . The students at Iqbal Hall, some of who had weapons, were either shot in their rooms or mowed down when they came out of the building in groups. Rokeya Hall, a dormitory for girl students, was set ablaze and the girls were machine gunned as they fled the buildings. The attack seemed to be aimed at eliminating the female student leadership since many girl student leaders resided in that Hall.*

Both the accounts give an impression that the University was at the 'centre' of the movement and that the Pakistan military was targeting the 'armed students' or militant population residing there. There is an element of truth in so far as the first account goes but not so much the second account. The victims, apart from faculty members and students, included caretakers, gardeners, security guards, sweepers, canteen owner and even a peon. Put differently, not only scholars and students but also unarmed and relatively marginalized people were brutally murdered.





A critical question however remains, what role must Dhaka University play for being what can be regarded as an epicenter of genocide? It is an irony and somewhat sad that such a question is raised nearly four decades after the gruesome killing of its members, which included gardeners, peons, caretakers, security guards, canteen owner, students, teachers, officials, and many more. One thing is certain that Dhaka University as the epicenter of genocide and for sacrificing so much for the cause of democracy and emancipation has lot to offer not only to the nation and the world but to humanity as a whole.

Therefore, the Centre for Genocide Studies aims to play a critical role in expanding the discourse on mass murder and genocide. While providing academic training to young researchers, the centre also aims to conduct research on historical genocides of different parts of the world. Creating new knowledge in this field, we believe, will certainly lead to better understanding on preventing mass slaughters in different cultural settings.

### Academic Programs of the Centre

#### Diploma in Genocide Studies (DGS)

The aim of this program is to provide a comprehensive introduction to Genocide Studies. Key texts by major authors on this subject matter will be analyzed in an attempt to enable students to become able to compare various forms of mass violence and hate crimes committed in the history of mankind. Although the Center for Genocide Studies (CGS) aims to focus on Bangladesh, a number of genocidal events will be discussed during this three-month program.

Moreover, the multi-disciplinary approach is a key feature of this program that will enable students to think critically about the nature of violence and genocide.





## Program Participants

The diploma degree is designed for practitioners, journalists, lawyers, academic researchers in government, non-government, and higher learning and research institutions. Junior and mid-level public servants, military officers and executives working for private organizations will also find the degree relevant.

## Faculty and Institutional Facilities

The course will be conducted by faculty members from relevant departments of the University of Dhaka. In addition, experts/ guest speakers, both national and international, will also be invited regularly to supplement the curricula of different courses.

## Application Procedure

Applications are invited through newspaper advertisement and official circulation. Applications forms are available at the office of the CGS, Room 402, Centre for Excellence in Social Sciences (beside TSC Building), University of Dhaka, Dhaka-I000.

## Course

Diploma in Genocide Studies (DGS) includes 4 full unit courses (each of which is of 30 credit hours) comprising 120 credit hours. Major themes to be covered in different courses are as follows:

DGS I01: Introduction to Genocide Studies

DGS I02: Nation, State and the Politics of Mass Murder

DGS I03: Case Studies on Genocide and Mass Violence

DGS I04: International Law, Trials and Tribunals



## Eligibility for Admission

Applicants must have a graduation degree from recognized universities/institutions of Bangladesh and abroad. All candidates selected for the program must be proficient in English. The application form and prospectus can be collected from the office of the CGS at the cost of Tk. 200. Each application must be supported by relevant documents that have been specified in the application form. Applicants must possess a second class Bachelor degree and second divisions in the S.S.C (Secondary School Certificate) and H.S.C (Higher Secondary School Certificate) or equivalent examinations. A selection committee will scrutinize the application forms and a list of the successful candidates will be posted in the notice board of the office. A maximum number of 50 students will be accepted for admission.

## Admission Fees

Taka 20,000 (twenty thousand) or US \$ 250 will be charged as admission fees for the diploma program, payable to the Centre for Genocide Studies (CGS), University of Dhaka. The fees include registration, tuition, course materials and other logistic support. Accommodation, travel, typing, stationeries, and other personal expenses will be covered by the participants. The fees are to be paid in two installments: Tk. 15,000 is to be paid at the commencement of the program. The remaining Tk. 5,000 is to be paid midway through the course.





#### Address

Centre for Genocide Studies (CGS)  
Room 402, Center for Advanced Research in  
Arts & Social Sciences (CARASS)  
University of Dhaka, Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh.  
Telephone: PABX 880-2-9661900, Ext. 4647  
E-mail: [info.cgs.bd@gmail.com](mailto:info.cgs.bd@gmail.com)  
Blog-Site: <http://dugenocidestudies.blog.com/>