



CENTRE FOR ASIAN AND
TRANSCULTURAL STUDIES

SOUTH ASIA
INSTITUTE



UNIVERSITÄT
HEIDELBERG
ZUKUNFT
SEIT 1386

Lecture Series on Governance and Politics in South Asia
Department of Political Science
Special Lecture on

Was India's 1947 Partition Inevitable?

by

Professor Harun-or-Rashid

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Professorial Fellowship, Heidelberg University

Against Congress's avowed goal and long cherished ideal of *Akhanda Bharat*, India came to be partitioned in 1947 in the wake of British withdrawal as a colonial power. However, it did not resolve many questions as the partition leaders had hoped. Hence, after more than seven decades the subject remains relevant at least for academic inquiry of the following historical puzzles: Why did India's partition occur? Was it inevitable? How did the three major actors—the British Raj, the Congress, and the Muslim League—play their roles to this effect? Should Jinnah be held instrumental in this respect or the mismatch in Congress's short-term strategy and long-term goal; in other words, did Congress's policy dilemma account for such a colossal divide? In this talk, attempts will be made to seek answers to these questions.



Professor Harun-or-Rashid, Professor of Political Science, University of Dhaka, Bangladesh, obtained his Ph.D. degree from the University of London in 1983 on a Commonwealth scholarship. He carried on post-doctoral research at different universities abroad. He is currently the Bangladesh Chair and recipient of the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Professorial Fellowship, at Heidelberg University (2021). He has served the Dhaka University as Dean and Pro-Vice Chancellor; National University Bangladesh as Vice-Chancellor; and the Asiatic Society of Bangladesh as General Secretary, in the past. Professor Rashid is the author of 17 books and numerous articles published at home and abroad. He is the Chief Editor of a 10-volume *Encyclopaedia of Bangladesh War of Liberation* being published recently. His major work is entitled *The Foreshadowing of Bangladesh: Bengal Muslim League and Muslim Politics, 1906-1947*.

Date: 22 November 2021 (Monday); **Time:** 1400–1600 hrs (CET)

Venue: CATS Lecture Hall 010.01.05 (Großer Hörsaal)

Online—Via Zoom

Registration: by email at polsai@sai.uni-heidelberg.de