

## **Profile of Convocation Speaker Dr. Kamal Abdul Naser Chowdhury**

A widely known Bengali poet, Dr. Kamal Abdul Naser Chowdhury (Kamal Chowdhury) has contributed immensely towards academia especially in research in anthropology and literature. Besides being a career bureaucrat with 34 years of experience in the Civil Service of Bangladesh served in different positions in the Ministries and Divisions including the Principal Secretary to the Honourable Prime Minister of Bangladesh. He has contributed towards the historic task as the Chief Coordinator of the ‘National Implementation Committee for the Birth Centenary of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman’

Kamal Chowdhury is the recipient of many awards including three prestigious National Awards such as the second highest civilian award of the country Ekushey Padak 2022, Bangla Academy Literature Award 2011, and National Film Award as the Best Lyricist in 2019.

He has published more than thirty books, many articles in different journals and news papers. His poems have been translated in different languages. Other than English, his selected poems have been translated in Arabic and Hindi and published from Cairo and Delhi respectively.

He has delivered lectures as a guest speaker in different universities and training institutes including Dhaka University, Rajshahi University, open University, Monash University, Australia, Independent University, BPATC etc. This year he has delivered Dr. Shamsuz Zoha memorial lecture in Rajshahi University.

He was the Secretary of Ministry of information, Ministry of Education, and senior Ministry of Public Administration. He represented Bangladesh at the UNESCO Executive Board for the term 2014-2017. He was also the Chairman of the Committee on Conventions and Recommendations of the UNESCO Executive Board. Formerly he was also President, Governing Board, Islamic University of Technology (IUT), a subsidiary organ of OIC, Gazipur, Bangladesh. He was also

- Member, Executive Council, ISESCO,
- Chairman, National Curriculum Coordination Committee, Bangladesh,
- Syndicate Member, Dhaka University,
- Syndicate Member, National University,
- Member, Board of Governors, Bangladesh Open University,
- Syndicate Member, Jahangirnagar University, Dhaka,
- Member, Board of Trustees, Asian University for Women, Chittagong, Bangladesh,
- Member, Board of Governors, Islamic Foundation of Bangladesh,
- President, Bangladesh Administrative Service Association,
- Chairman, Bangladesh Government Employees Welfare Board,
- Chairman, Board of Governors, Bangladesh Government Employees Hospital,
- Chairman, Bangladesh Film Censor Board,
- Chairman, Bangladesh Film Development Corporation.

Dr Kamal Chowdhury was born on 31 December 1957 in the district of Cumilla. He completed his Masters in Sociology and PhD in Anthropology from Dhaka University. He has received foreign and

training at Smithsonian Institute, USA; Duke University, USA; Birmingham University, UK; Civil Service College, Singapore; World Bank Institute, Washington DC, USA, etc.

Kamal Chowdhury is married to Iffat Ara Kamal and blessed with two children. He is now fellow of Bangla Academy and life member of Asiatic Society Bangladesh and President, Dhaka University Sociology Alumni.

Other honours and awards received by him include:

- Rudro Prize for Literature, 2000.
- All India Bangla Poetry Festival Honours 2003 at Haldia, Paschimbanga, India
- Shouharda Sammanona (Honour for Friendship), 2003, awarded by the Shouharda'70s, a poetic society representing the poets of the 1970s in Kolkata, Paschimbanga, India
- Kobitalap Literature Prize 2004
- Poet Jibonananda Prize 2008
- Citi-Anonda-Alo Literature Prize 2010
- Dorianagar (Cox's Bazar) International Poetry Prize 2010
- Assam University Honours 2011, Shilchar, Assam
- Khalekdad Choudhury sristi Puroskar 2019
- Channel I Music Award 2020
- Gitanjali award 2020 etc.