

Recent Books from Bangladesh – Feb 2020

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Art

Journal of Bengal Art, Vol.25, 2020: The Silver Jubilee Volume (Dedicated to Dr. R. Nagaswamay) / (Ed) Enamul Haque
Dhaka: The International Centre for Study of Bengal Art, 2020
856p. ; Plates 482 B/W and Color 14.
Includes Bibliography
ISSN: 1607-1344
\$ 150.00 / PB
2450gm.
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Economics

Institutionalising Microfinance in Bangladesh: Players, Games and Outcomes / Lila Rashid
Dhaka: The University Press Limited, 2019
xxvi, 360p.
Includes Index; Bibliography
9789845062756
\$ 50.00 / HB
604gm.

The rural financial market of Bangladesh is now largely dominated by microfinance institutions and has changed dramatically in the last three decades. In 1983, the Bangladesh government provided regulatory support to Grameen Bank, the first microfinance bank in the country. With the formation of the Microcredit Regulatory Authority or MRA, it responded to another regulatory need for NGO microfinance activities (NGO-MFIs) in 2006, twenty-three years after its first response to Grameen. These two sets of regulations, their followup amendments, and other supplementary rules have had an immense impact in

institutionalising microfinance in Bangladesh. This book attempts to understand the regulatory role of the government, its background and purpose, evolving characteristics, implementation procedures, and the role of state agencies like Bangladesh Bank, the central bank of Bangladesh and the new regulatory authority for NGO-MFIs, the MRA. In doing so, this book takes an institutional approach, and uses a basic IAD (Institutional Analysis and Development) framework to analyse historical data. The data gathered is in the form of documents, interviews, focus group discussions, and surveys. The work shows that the regulatory response of the state is primarily driven by the government's political views and regulating agencies have had little independent role in the evolution of microfinance institutions in Bangladesh.

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Official Publications

Yearbook of Agricultural Statistics – 2018, 30th Series / Bangladesh
Dhaka: Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBC), Statistics and Informatics
Division (SID), Ministry of Planning, 2019

1v.

9789844750326

\$ 65.00 / PB

1340gm.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=684797>

Politics

Women, Veiling and Politics: The South Asian Conundrum / (Ed) Imtiaz
Ahmed

Dhaka: The University Press Limited, 2020

xvi, 284p.

Includes Index

9789845062749

\$ 35.00 / HB

512gm.

Never in the history of human civilization has the veil, hijab or purdah become so much of a contentious issue. At the root of the contention, however, it has always been politics. This volume mainly focuses on South Asia, where the veiling of women has been a part of its age-old civilization, indeed, more as a marker of civility and not always from the standpoint of masculinity. But then in recent times, the territoriality of

societies in the name of 'modern state' and the power of both patriarchy and masculinity reinforcing it made the veiling of women, in one form or another, an exercise in patriarchy, masculinity or gender politics, often crisscrossing national, ethnic, racial and religious boundaries, with women as its main victims. This volume attempts to overcome our 'ignorance' in so far as the veil is concerned. Demystifying the politics of veiling can certainly contribute to emancipatory politics in South Asia and beyond.

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