



There doesn't appear to be an unproductive moment in **Abdullah Abu Sayeed's** life. As a young man, Sayeed wrote poetry and prose, leading a vibrant literary movement in the 1960s as editor of the magazine *Kanthashar* (The Voice). After the independence of Bangladesh, he became the host of *Shaptabarna* (Seven Colors), a Bangladesh Television programme, and subsequently hosted a succession of popular shows.

Sayeed founded the *Biswa Sahitya Kendra*, or World Literature Centre in 1978 to restore interest in reading especially in the younger generation. With support from the Education Ministry, this rapidly grew branches to become a nation-wide programme. Today, there are five hundred branches in fifty-four districts in Bangladesh, with hundreds of thousands of graduates. The Centre also now boasts a library and is also a publishing house.

Professor Sayeed, who taught for thirty years at Dhaka University and is known to all of his students affectionately as "Sayeed Sir", also started a nationwide mobile library programme in 1998. The sight of buses loaded with books making their way around the city on weekends serves as a visual of how much one man can reach the masses.