

Obituaries



Dr. Saifur Rahman Dar (Photo: Riffat Dar)

**Contributions of Dr. Saifur Rahman Dar
Published in Journal of Asian Civilizations (JAC)**

Mueezuddin Hakal

Dr. Saifur Rahman Dar (1939-2024) was one of the few eminent scholars of archaeology in Pakistan, who devoted entire life to the studies of archaeology and museology. He was born in Gujranwala, and studied at the University of Punjab. At this University, at the age 22, he completed his Master Degree of Arts in History during 1961. In the same year, he joined the Department of Archaeology and Museums. He continued his studies and completed PhD in 1973 from the University of Salonica (Greece) at the age of 34. After returning from Greece, he joined the Directorate of Archaeology and Museums, Government of Pakistan, at first in Peshawar, then in Karachi where he also served at the National Museum of Pakistan (1973-74). Afterwards, in August 1974 he joined Lahore Museum as the Director; therefore, he served this Museum for 24 years till his retirement in 1998.

During his service he wrote numerous books on arts and crafts of Punjab, and two books about Punjabi folklore in Punjabi language. In recognition of his outstanding contributions in the field of archaeology, in 1989 the President of Pakistan awarded him the *Tamgha-e-Imtiaz* (award was invested on 23 of March 1990). After his retirement, he always remained active in serving archaeology and continued contributing archaeology in various fields, including the training of various students, the facilitation of the establishment of Department of Archaeology at University of Punjab, and worked as founding Director General of Punjab Department of Archaeology.

During his service ten articles and one paper during his post retirement life were published in Journal of Asian Civilizations. Among them, his two papers (1983b, 2003) represent his capabilities of understanding Proto-History of Indus. Further, his five essays (1979, 1980, 1983, 1990, 1998) are giving a different insight and approach to study Gandharan Art and Architecture. Similarly, his unique observations of feminine expressions in Kargah Buddha are narrated (1985). Two among all of his contributions (1981, 1992) record and study the history Muslim period. Another important paper (1996) discusses the role and contributions of Pakistani scholarship in understanding history. Therefore, he visibly expresses his multi-dimensional capabilities of archaeology in his contributions, which will be remembered.

After his lifelong contributions to the archaeology of Pakistan, he passed away to the eternity on 17th of December 2024. I Pray for this soul to rest in Eternal Peace.

List of Contributions in JAC formerly Journal of Central Asia

Dar, S.R. (1979) Toilet Trays from Gandhara and the Beginning of Hellenism in Pakistan, *Journal of Central Asia*, II (2): 141-184.

Dar, S.R. (1980) A Fresh Study of Four Unique Temples at Takshasila (Taxila), *Journal of Central Asia*, III (1): 91-138.

Dar, S.R. (1981) Marot Fort Inscription of the Time of Akbar, Dated 876 AH/AD 1569, *Journal of Central Asia*, IV (2): 147-163.

Dar, S.R. (1983a) Taxila and the Classical World, *Journal of Central Asia*, VI (1): 113-139.

Dar, S.R. (1983b) Khadian Wala: The First Kot-Dijian Site Discovered on the Right Bank of River Ravi, *Journal of Central Asia*, VI (2): 17-34.

Dar, S.R. (1985) Rock-cut Standing Figure at Kargah near Gilgit; Some Thoughts on its Identification, Origin and Date, *Journal of Central Asia*, VIII (2): 191-212.

Dar, S.R. (1990) Criteria and Problems of the Study of Gandharan Art, *Journal of Central Asia*, XIII (2): 149-190.

Dar, S.R. (1992). Mausoleums of Hazrat Lal Eisan at Karror: A so far Unrecorded Monument in Multan Style of Architecture, *Journal of Central Asia*, XVII (1 and 2): 15-68.

Dar, S.R. (1996). Historical Studies and Researches in Pakistan, *Journal of Central Asia*, XIX (2): 137-149.

Dar, S.R. (1998) Gandhara Art in Perspective, *Journal of Asian Civilizations*, XXI (2): 71-118.

Dar, S.R. (2003) Nari: The first early Indus Valley site discovered between the Salt Range and the River Jhelum. *Journal of Asian Civilizations*, 26 (2): 1-65.