

Bangladesh

October-December 2022 **Quarterly**

December 16 - The Day of Emergence of the Bengalis as a Nation of Heroes in World Map



Bangladesh

QUARTERLY

Vol. 43, No. 2, October-December 2022, Kartik-Poush 1429



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina waves a green flag as she inaugurates the country's first-ever metro-rail service in Dhaka on 28 December 2022



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Ministry of Information and Broadcasting
Bangladesh

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Published by**Department of Films and Publications**

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Website : www.dfp.gov.bd

Price : Tk. 30

Printed at

S R Printing Press Ltd.

85/1 Naya Paltan , Dhaka- 1000



Editorial

The 16th December is one of the most significant days in the history of Bangladesh. The Bengalis breaking the shackles of subjugation experienced the taste of independence for the first time on December 16, 1971 after nine months blood-soaked war. The whole nation celebrates this glorious day to commemorate the victory over the Pakistani occupation army. The day has been observed throughout the country and missions abroad in a befitting manner.

Bangladesh enters into metro rail era as Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina waved the green flag and the country's first-ever metro rail began to roll on 28 December 2022. The premier termed it as 'another feather of pride to the crown of Bangladesh's people'. The entirely elevated and air-conditioned rail service will run initially on the 11.73 km long Uttara-Agargaon route before eventually expanding the service to 21.26 km by 2025, covering 17 stations. Hope, the metro rail service would help reduce the city's traffic jam significantly.

Human Rights Day is a very significant day in human history. Every year this day is celebrated almost all over the world on 10th December. It may be mentioned that the General Assembly of the United Nations Organization (UNO) adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) on 10 December in 1948. The Constitution of Bangladesh embraces and embodies the principles and provisions of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Food security has always been a great concern throughout the world. Millions die of starvation every year. Bangladesh is now almost self-sufficient in food grain production. The country now produces about 38 million metric tons of rice per year against only 9 million metric tons in 1971. Bangladesh has now emerged as the 4th largest rice producing country in the world.

Other than the write-ups on the above topics, articles on different subjects and issues, poems have also been accommodated in this October-December issue.

Contents



December 16 - The Day of
Emergence of the Bengalis as a
Nation of Heroes in World Map

Mozaffar Hossain Paltu

Page - 4



Recent Tremors and the Continental
Drift

Mahmuda Aktar

Page-34



Food Security: Bangladesh Perspective

Md. Azgar Ali

Page-22

POEM

For a Golden Rose 11
Nirmalendu Goon

Effective Use of Community Radio in
Hakaluki Haor Area 27
Nasrin Jahan Lipi

Human Rights Day and Human Rights in
Bangladesh 12
Dr. Md. Matiur Rahman Khan

POEM

If you want to live on earth 41
M. Mizanur Rahman

Importance of Occupational Therapy for
Children with Developmental Disabilities 42
Rabeya Ferdous

Environmental Changes in Chalan Bil 45
Manzur-E-Alam Firozee

Migratory Birds: Not Our Guest, but
Part of the Nature 50
Professor Dr. A N M Aminoor Rahman

Development Chronology 56



December 16 - The Day of Emergence of the Bengalis as a Nation of Heroes in World Map

Mozaffar Hossain Paltu

seemingly transpired a new message '*Joy Bangla*' *banglar joy* (victory of Bengal), *purbo diganta surya utheche, raktalal, raktalal, raktalal*, (The sun casting a red blood look rises in the east.) The day of a great victory with a great enthusiasm enlivened the nation with a new excitement stirring to be vibrant. The Bengalis, exploited and deprived for the ages, with tears of happiness in eyes marched forward taking a formidable vow. The small dreams finally converged into the edge of life. "*Bishwakabir sonar bangla, Nazruler Bangladesh, Jibanandar ruposhi Bangla, ruper tahar naiko shesh, Bangladesh amar Bangladesh.*" ("Golden Bengal of the World Poet, Bangladesh of Nazrul, beautiful Bangladesh of Jibananda, she is with endless beauty, Bangladesh my Bangladesh"). The Bangalis, as if, searched out their own entity.

The ancient Bengali cultural and socio-economic life, the chivalry and boldness of the Bengalis which were in the peak of development seemed to spark once again. The first spark hit up on the 21st February of 1952. On that very day, the

Just quoting the poet, "The time of river goes for ever. The sea of eternity gets lost into the ocean of oblivion. But as the ever flowing river leaves mark of cruel agony of huge erosion of habitation on its two sides, it also leaves inspiring alluvial growing a huge golden crops. Similarly, time also imprints some of its unforgettable memories, some age-winning events, which we call history. Many things of those bygone days pass away, those have lost from our life indeed, but 1971 remains as the beam of the shining sun."

The Bengalis breaking the shackles of subjugation experienced the taste of independence for the first time on December 16, 1971. A new sun rose in the sky of the nation's fortune casting away the servitude of 24 years. The red beam of the rising sun of the dawn fell on all over Bangladesh. A voice of chorus

demands of the Language Movement amid the blasting Fagooon orchestrated with fisted hands of the agitating masses. The world witnessed with a shocking surprise the first laydown of lives for the sake of language. From that movement, the Bengalis started the struggle of breaking shackles. The Bengalis launched its fight of existence with the blood stained scratch beginning the jostle with the Pakistanis. The Independence of Bengal that was lost in the Amrakanonof Polashi in 1757 was regained in 1971 because of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. The spark that originated in the capital Dhaka in 1952 gradually spread in the every corner of the country. The fire that was burning us engulfed all around.



Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman announces 6-point movement at Lahore in 1966

The fiery discontent of the Bengalis as if spread among thousands of Bengalis. The Bengalis crossing through the movements of 1962, 1969 and 1970 stood up face to face in 1971. Even the Pakistanis did not stay away from making their own calculation of loss and gain. They also got engaged in calculating out how the Bengalis could be subjugated for the ages. In their consideration, that was the most deserving for the Bengalis. The countdown finally proclaimed the turn to repay. And finally the golden weapons emerged from the extreme darkness. Bangabandhu, the poet of the age, the creator of the epic from the mammoth human sea of the 7th March of 1971 declared in his thundering voice, “ The struggle this time is a struggle for our emancipation, the struggle this time is a struggle for freedom. Since we have already had to shed blood, we’ll have to shed a lot more of it; by the grace of Allah, we’ll be able to liberate the country.” The Bengalis seemed to get a crystal clear direction from this single utterance of Bangabandhu. The Bengalis were getting ready for the final combat. It was clear to the Bengalis that the time of the final bite was imminent. Even the Pakistanis did not remain sitting idle. On 25 March at the dead of night, they pounced upon the sleeping people with deadly weapons to silence the whole nation. The extermination of the Bengalis began. Stench of corpses was in the air and the sky was covered with the gunpowder and smoke. It seemed to turn into a hell. Aggressive claws of the vultures were in the sky; in the earth, there had been mourning of the helpless people. Oh, Bangladesh!

Is it Bangladesh! It looked like a burning cemetery. However, the heap of the bones and skulls in course of time turned into alluvial. Oneday, the sons of the Bengal crazy for liberation took up the arms on their shoulders to snatch the red sun of independence. People of all walks of life – students, teachers, intellectuals, cultivators, labourers, smiths, potters took part in this struggle. The more the time elapsed, the more sharpened the weapons of the freedom fighters. The heroic Bengalis kept advancing with firm determination fixing the target to extinct the enemies. In the meantime, international support for the movement of self-rule of Bengalis became explicit. The neighbour India got involved in the war of fortune of Bengalis. This war reached the peak stage at the end of December. And finally a new dawn emerged in the history of Bengalis ending nightmare of nine month. The irresistible victory of the War of Liberation was heralded with the dawn of 16 December. Through this, the liberation desired for thousands of years was achieved. On this day, the Bengalis achieved the rights to control their own fortune. The independence was earned by the Bengalis in exchange of 30 lac martyrs and chastity of 2 lac mothers and sisters. The Victory Day marks an immemorable glorious day of thousand years of valour and heroism of the Bengali nation. This day is a day of emergence of a heroic nation. The day is the day of declaring of an independent land named Bangladesh in the world map. Independence was achieved through Bangabandhu led Language Movement from 1948 to 1952, six point movement of 1966, Mass Upsurge of 1969, the 7th March historic Speech of Bangabandhu, proclamation of independence by Bangabandhu in the small hours of 26 March following the beginning of mass killing on 25 March, formation



Mass movement of 1969

of the Mujibnagar government on 17 April, 30 lac martyrs and self-sacrifice of 2 lac mothers and sisters. The ultimate victory was achieved through the surrender of the Pakistani soldiers on 16 December, 1971. Accordingly, the last Victory Day marked 50 years of victory. The country and the nation celebrated the birth centenary of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and the golden jubilee of independence last year.

The Bengali nation subjugated for thousands

of years never experienced such a great inspiring time like that of 1971. The Bengalis had never seen earlier in such a heroic, ‘united and determined fighters’ role despite the risk of laying down life at every moment. Fifty one years have passed since the victory of great Liberation War and Independence. In



Freedom Fighters during liberation war

In this historic moment, we, still alive, are undoubtedly fortunate. A huge number of freedom fighters who celebrated the jubilation of Independence in the liberated motherland on 16 December of 1971 have not been able to witness Bangladesh enlightened by development marking the golden jubilee after 51 years of independence. They have not been able to join such a historic glorious ceremony. What a mysterious change Bangladesh has gone through! How an undeveloped, poverty stricken, starvation prone land could be turned into a self-reliant, affluent, that is, an ultra-modern society illuminated by development, technology based communication- today’s Bangladesh is a unique role model for that. People like us who have witnessed the events from the War of Independence to the prevailing Bangladesh as it is now, to recall again, are really fortunate. As we were celebrating the golden jubilee of the victory of the War of Liberation last year, we recollected the self-sacrifice of lacs of people in 1971. To ensure a better future for us, they immolated their present at the altar of independence. Thirty lac martyrs and a few lac mothers and sisters endured their supreme sacrifice for the cause of this freedom. The days of the great liberation war of 1971 would open up the windows of memories of the elderly people today. When they reminisce those days, they could see agonies of crores of people. Their memories would surely be profounded by those heart-rendering events of tears and bloods of uncountable number of people who were forced to find their beloved motherland as a death-valley.

In this December, the scene of surrender of the Pakistani occupation forces of General Niazi in the late afternoon of 16 December in the historic Race-Course Maidan (now Suhrawardi Uddyan), which is a glorious remembrance for the Bengalis, obviously would stir memory. Series of unique events beginning from the general election held in December, 1970 to victory in the election and then victory in the War of Liberation under the leadership of unanimous leader of the



Bangabandhu waving hands to the people after the victory in the general election in 1970

Bengali nation Bangabandhu would roll up before eyestoday. It appears to be an incident of a few days back! However, 51 years have passed. Events focusing self-sacrifice and undaunted courageous struggle for 23 years by Bangabandhu, the most cherished leader of the people of Bengal with an indomitable vow to liberate the country from the clutch of a fanatic, communal, military ruled state named Pakistan, were also shining like the north-star in our memory in the month of December of the golden jubilee. It may be said, the movement of self-rule led by Bangabandhu following the assault of language-culture and economic discrimination on the people of Bengal since the inception of Pakistan, culminated in the War of Independence in 1971. Bangabandhu prepared the ultimate plan even in 1966 to reach the goal of independence. That history is now known to all. Bangladesh is now reaping the golden harvest of the hard earned freedom of 1971.

The imperialist powers who once were skeptical about the survival of Bangladesh as an independent country, who tried to undermine the new-born country branding it a bottomless basket, now advise the least developed and poor countries to follow Bangladesh as a role model of development. Bangladesh, by adopting its own strategy has been elevated as a self-reliant developing country. Bangladesh has been changed during the last one decade under the extra-ordinary leadership of Bangabandhu's daughter Deshratna Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. Presently, Bangladesh is a country of rapidly developing economy. On very logical ground, we need to look on our expectation and attainment after crossing through long

50 years. All the festivities will take a gloomy look in this Bangladesh achieved through the pool of blood of 3 million martyrs if Bangladesh can not emerge as 'sonar bangla' in all spheres as envisioned by Bangabandhu. We are proud of the achievements. However, if the flow of development cannot be harnessed in the coming days, that will be a silent sigh for the lacs of martyrs and a disappointment for our successors; which can never be a desire for the people who love the country. The position Bangladesh has gained throughout 51 years after the War of Liberation is not less glorious. Alongside with the glorious achievements, however, there are some stigmas also. The home coming of the Architect of the Independence, Father of the Nation Bangabandhu on January 10, 1972 glorified the victory. To endure the disastrous shock of the assassination of Bangabandhu along with his family members had been impossible indeed. This unbearable blow came when the Father of the Nation, after home coming, was working hard day and night to pull out the war-ravaged country from the debris, when achieving recognition as an independent Bangladesh from different states of the world reached a satisfactory level and when attaining membership of the different world bodies including the United Nations had brought a huge familiarity for Bangladesh at the global arena. Through the assassination of Bangabandhu, Bangladesh had not become guardianless only, but also the dream of building up that very state philosophy imbued with progressive spirit and that very non-communal state free from exploitation had been shattered. The four national leaders were also assassinated so that no leadership could grow to helm the state in absence of Bangabandhu. Eventually, communal politics in the name of religion had sprouted dividing the nation's unity forged in 1971, evil consequences of which Bangladesh is suffering from till today. Fanatic communism following the Pakistani philosophy got state level support.

Bangladesh had been driven against the spirit of the War of Liberation from 1975 to 1995 with the military rule for most of the time either in uniform or in civil dress. It, however, brought fortune for individuals, but



Allied forces entering Dhaka



Bangabandhu in liberated Bangladesh on 10 January 1972

Bangabandhu had not been the victim of the local and international conspiracy, if he could survive only 10 years more, Bangladesh in its golden jubilee could ensure its glorious position as one of the wealthy countries of the world. But that dream was shattered through the assassination of the Father of the Nation by a grave conspiracy hatched by local and foreign forces including the superpowers who were against the spirit of the War of Liberation. Though it is delayed, Bangabandhu's able daughter Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, meanwhile, has gone a long way to materialize 'sonar bangla' as dreamt by the Father of the Nation. Bangladesh, by this time, has attained a prestigious position in the world. But, still a long way to go to establish Bangladesh, in the true sense, as a happy and prosperous country, sonar bangla which was a life long dream of Bangabandhu.

Translated by Taslima Akter

Writer: Member, Advisory Council and Chairman, Youth & Sports Sub-Committee, Bangladesh Awami League

Courtesy : Press Information Department

the fate of the people in general had not changed. The poor became poorer. The issue of social safety had never been thought even. Social safety for the distressed and the poor is an inevitable programme for a polite state. But, even to implement that very programme, Bangladesh had to wait till the government led by Sheikh Hasina of 1996. This can be comprehended from this very single incident that how the welfare of the common masses of the country can be ensured following the progressive modern philosophy. The unimaginable progress that Bangladesh has made in the economic and technological fields during the last decade is also a wonder to the world community. If

For a Golden Rose

Nirmalendu Goon

Not the softness of moon, seeking a sizzling sun.
Do not want the calm winds of spring,
Let the sun-drenched days of Choitra become desirable,
Let people be satisfied with Boishakh's evening storm.

Some of us came out with torches
From the black hole of exploitation;
We mingled with the crowd of struggling masses,
A familiar sound was heard at a distance.
We remembered on looking at the red brick
An evening when blood was spilled; dipping
And only dipping!

Some people stood up,
But that was not the end of it, that boy
In the front row with fighting spirit shouted:

Not decrepit like the patient of winter,
One must be fearless like the urban masses.
Nothing to fear on seeing the blood's colour –
Rejoice – O' the free people of sovereign land.

A jingling sound was heard at a distance,
It seemed as if a nymph-like dancing beauty
Untied the ringing bells tangled on her
Ankle forever; the iron-gate was smashed;
The Krishnachura became red with heat of light,
And we saw while watching the blood-red sun
The golden rose of an illumined future.

Translation: Dr. Helal Uddin Ahmed

Courtesy : Press Information Department



Human Rights Day and Human Rights in Bangladesh

Dr. Md. Matiur Rahman Khan

Human Rights Day and Its Observance: Every year on December 10, the Human Rights Day is observed all over the world, because the General Assembly of the United Nations Organization (UNO) adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) on December 10, 1948. Actually the formal inception of Human Rights Day dates from 1950, the year in which the General Assembly of the United Nations Organization passed resolutions and invited all the states to adopt December 10 each year, as the Human Rights Day. At this call, most of the states agreed to adopt the date as Human Rights Day based on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, a document wherein human fundamental rights are enshrined. These human rights are equally applicable to all human beings without any discrimination between the rich and the poor.

Every year, Human Rights Day follows a different theme. In the previous years, the themes of Human Rights Day were used as Equality (2021), Recover Better (2020), and Youth Standing up for Human Rights (2019) and so on. But this year's (2022) theme of Human Rights Day is "Dignity, Freedom, and Justice for All."

Human Rights Day is a very significant day in human history. This day is celebrated almost all over the world to highlight and point up the efforts undertaken by the government, and the role played by the human rights activists and organizations against violation or for protection of human rights. During the observance of the day, the participants convey and disseminate the message, and promote the idea that all human beings irrespective of race, color, caste, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, or other status are equally entitled to fundamental rights which are inalienable and to which a person is inherently entitled simply because he or she is a human being. And as a human being, he

or she has the rights to life, health, education, freedom of speech, and thoughts. And there shall be made no distinction on the grounds of political, jurisdictional or international status of the country or territory to which a person belongs.

Objectives of Human Rights: Day People observe the Human Rights Day almost worldwide in order to achieve or fulfill some objectives for human beings. Some of the important objectives as to why the day is celebrated are to:

Promote the awareness about human rights among people all around the world;

Improve the physical, social, cultural and spiritual well-being and welfare of the vulnerable group of people almost all over the world;

Emphasize the endeavors of the United Nations General Assembly in order to improve and promote the overall conditions of human rights;

Get together and celebrate in cooperation to discuss and highlight the specific issues of human rights;

Encourage the vulnerable group of people like women, minorities, youths, poor and disabled persons, indigenous people, and so on to take part in this event-celebration and decision-making.

Origin and Forerunners of 20th Century Human Rights: Human rights of 20th century originated from certain earlier documents that asserted individual rights, such as (a) the Magna Carta (1215), (b) the English Bill of Rights (1689), (c) the French Declaration on the Rights of Man and Citizen (1789), and (d) the US Constitution and Bill of Rights (1791). Those written documents were the sources and forerunners to many of today's human rights documents. But many of those forerunner-documents, when originally translated into policy, excluded women, and members of certain social, religious, economic, and political groups. Nevertheless, oppressed people throughout the world have drawn on the principles of those documents to support and assert their rights.

Concept of Human Rights and Establishment of UNO: Towards the end of the sanguinary World War II (1939-1945), the Nazi party of Germany killed about 6 million Jewish men, women, and children—over two-thirds of Jews in Europe. That Nazi Party also killed many members of other ethnic groups, especially Gypsies, Poles, and Slavs. Some historians estimated that about 11 million people were killed, including the Jews. That mass murder (the Holocaust) was committed to implement the part of the plan of Adolf Hitler. Moreover, after that tragic and terrible war, trials were held in Nuremberg and Tokyo. In the trials, Nazi leaders, business executives, officials and so on faced charges of committing aggressive acts and war crimes. In the trial some of them were sentenced to death, and some of them were sentenced to life long imprisonment. At the huge loss of life and property, some of the world leaders became extremely worried or frightened. They started thinking to save the world from war that might happen again, and to protect humanity or human rights of people on earth. With that end in view, the representatives from those countries which opposed Germany, Italy, and Japan

in the war decided to take initiatives against breaking out of such a World War again. So, they met in San Francisco, California, USA, in April 1945, and worked out a plan for a world organization to help keep peace in the world. This plan was described in a document called the Charter of the United Nations. In June 1945, 50 nations signed the UN Charter. On October 24, 1945, the U.N. Charter came into force upon its ratification by the five permanent members of the Security Council and a majority of other signatories. Thus, the United Nations Organizations came into being with 50 nations as members. At present the number of member-states to UNO is about 195.

Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR): After the establishment of the UNO, the major innovative concept that focused on the harrowing and painful experience of the World War II, particularly the genocides committed by the Nazi regime, emerged to protect the human rights of people on earth, and accordingly the world leaders became unanimous and arrived at a decision to prepare documents in order to protect the innocent people and their rights. Thereafter, to implement the decision, a Commission on Human Rights was set up. The Commission on Human Rights in the General Assembly of the United Nations Organization adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) under the guidance of Eleanor Roosevelt's (wife of American President Franklin D. Roosevelt) forceful leadership and captured the world's attention.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights begins with the basic promises that "all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights." It states the basic rights and fundamental freedoms to which all human beings are entitled. It declares that human rights are universal – to be enjoyed by all people, no matter who they are or where they live. It includes civil and political rights, like the right to life, liberty, security, freedom of speech, privacy, equal pay for equal work, just and favorable remuneration and rights to form and join trade unions. It also includes economic, social and cultural rights, like the rights to social security, health and education. The UDHR contains about 30 (thirty) articles where basic human rights are enshrined. It embraces the rights to a standard of living adequate for well being, including food, clothing, housing, medical care etc.

International Human Rights Organizations: There are many human rights organizations around the world. They work and dedicate their efforts to protect human rights and try to stop human rights abuses. They investigate and publish reports calling for remedial action against human rights violation. There are about 178 human rights organizations in more than 100 countries. Some of the international human rights organizations are given below:

Amnesty International: This organization has worldwide movement of people who work throughout the world. It campaigns for internationally recognized human rights for all. It has more than 3 million members, subscribers, supporters and activists in more than 150 countries. The members conduct research and generate action to prevent and end grave abuses of human rights and demand justice for those whose rights have been violated.

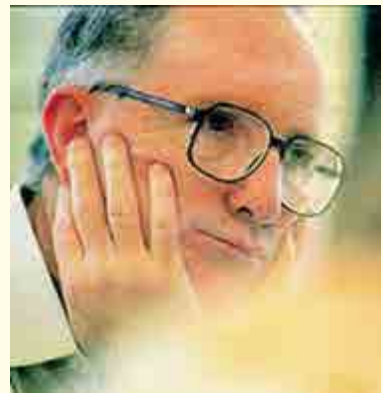


Amnesty International Headquarters, London

Global Rights: It promotes and protects the rights of marginalized populations through capacity building. It is an international human rights non-governmental organization that works in different countries. Through broad-based technical assistance and training, it strengthens the partners to document and expose human rights abuses, conduct community outreach and mobilization. It advocates for legal and policy reform.

Human Rights Action Center: The Human Rights Action Center is a nonprofit organization based in Washington, DC, headed by Jack Healey, world-renowned human rights activist and pioneer. The Center works on issues of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and uses the arts and technologies to innovate, create and develop new strategies to stop human rights abuses. They also support growing human rights groups all over the world.

Human Rights Watch: It is dedicated to protecting the human rights of people around the world. They investigate and expose human



Jack Healey : Founder of Human Rights Action Center, USA

rights violations, hold abusers accountable, and challenge governments and those who hold power to end abusive practices and respect international human rights law.

International Federation for Human Rights: It protects human rights defenders, ensures effective human rights, respect, and justice for all. It works for wounded soldiers.

Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC): It is a humanitarian, non-governmental organization which promotes and protects the rights of people affected by displacement. This includes refugees and internally displaced persons who are forced to flee their homes as a result of conflict, human rights violations and acute violence.

Human Rights Foundation: The Human Rights Foundation (HRF) is a non-profit organization that promotes and protects human rights globally, with a focus on closed societies. It ensures that freedom is both preserved and promoted. The Human Rights Foundation mission is to unite people in the common cause of defending human rights and promoting liberal democracy.

Protection International: Protection International (PI) is an international non-profit organization dedicated to the protection of human rights defenders (HRDs). Its mission is to enhance the security and the protection of threatened civil society actors with non-violent means, especially those who fight for their legitimate rights and for the rights of others as they are guaranteed by the international humanitarian law and the human rights conventions.

Human Rights in Bangladesh: Bangladesh is a land of communal harmony. Here, the Muslims, Hindus, Christians, Buddhists live in harmony with one another. Most of the people of Bangladesh love peace and believe in peaceful coexistence. Here, human rights are respected and treated as basic rights. People in Bangladesh can move and speak freely and can have recourse to law in the case of human rights at stake. Here, law and order situation is preferably good and here prevails a congenial atmosphere for investment, trade and commerce. In a word, it is an ideal country to enjoy and uphold human rights.

It is true that Bangladesh is committed to ensuring political, economic, social, cultural and civil rights including rights to development and freedoms to all its citizens without any discrimination. It is committed to building a society free from exploitation in which the fundamental rights, freedom, equality, justice and human rights are secure. It believes in universality, indivisibility and independence of human rights. Bangladesh is also committed to the promotion, protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms of all the citizens. Bangladesh served in the Commission on Human Rights with distinction during 1993-2000 and was elected to commission for the term from 2006-2008. Most of the human rights of the citizens of Bangladesh are enshrined in its Constitution.

The Constitution of the People's Republic of Bangladesh: The Constitution of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, which embraces and embodies the principles

and provisions of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, is the supreme law and guardian of Bangladesh. This supreme law or constitution guarantees, among others, the following fundamental, political, economic, social and human rights, to all its citizens without any discrimination:

Democracy and human rights: The Republic shall be a democracy in which fundamental human rights and freedom and respect for the dignity and worth of the human person shall be guaranteed and in which effective participation by the people through their elected representatives in administration at all levels shall be ensured (art. 11).

Provision of basic necessities: The provision of the basic necessities of life including food, clothing, shelter, education and medical care are responsibilities of the state (art.15 (a)).



A classroom at a Primary School in Bangladesh

Free and compulsory education: The state shall adopt effective measures for the purposes of establishing a uniform mass-oriented and universal system of education and extending free and compulsory education to all children to such stage as may be determined by law (art.17 (a)).

Equality of opportunity: The state shall endeavor to ensure equality of opportunity to all citizens (art.19 (1)). The state shall endeavor to ensure equality of opportunity and participation of women in all spheres of national life (art. 19 (3)).

Equality before law: All citizens are equal before law and are entitled to equal protection of law (art.27).

Discrimination on grounds of religion: The state shall not discriminate against

any citizen on grounds only of race, caste, sex or place of birth (art.28 (1). Women shall have equal rights with men in all spheres of the State and of public life (art. 28(2). No citizen shall, on grounds only of religion, race, caste, sex or place of birth be subjected to any disability, liability, restriction, or condition with regard to access to any place of public entertainment or resort, or admission to any educational institution (art.28(3). Nothing in this article shall prevent the State from making special provision in favor of women or children or for the advancement of any backward section of citizens (art.28 (4).

Right to protection of law: To enjoy the protection of the law, and to be treated in accordance with law, and only in accordance with law, is the inalienable right of every citizen, wherever he may be, and of every other person for the time being within Bangladesh, and in particular no action detrimental to the life, liberty, body, reputation or property of any person shall be taken except in accordance with law (art.31).

Protection of right to life and personal liberty: No person shall be deprived of life or personal liberty saves in accordance with law (art. 32).

Prohibition of forced labor: All forms of forced labor are prohibited and any contravention shall be an offence punishable in accordance with law (art 34 (1).

Protection in respect of trial and punishment: No person shall be convicted of any offence except for violation of a law in force at the time of the commission of the act charged as an offence, not be subjected to a penalty greater than, or different from, that which might have been inflicted under the law in force at the time of the commission of the offence (art.35). No person shall be prosecuted and punished for the same offence more than once (art.35 (2). No person accused of any offence shall be compelled to be a witness against himself (art. 35(4). No person shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman, or degrading punishment or treatment (art.35 (5).

Freedom of movement: Subject of any reasonable restriction imposed by law in the public interest, every citizen shall have the right to move freely throughout Bangladesh, to reside and settle in any place therein and to leave and re-enter Bangladesh (art. 36).

Freedom of assembly: Every citizen shall have the right to assemble and to participate in public meetings and processions peacefully and without arms, subject to any reasonable restrictions imposed by law in the interests of public order or public health (art. 37).

Freedom of association: Every citizen shall have the right to form associations or unions, subject to any reasonable restrictions imposed by law in the interests of morality or public order (art.38).

Freedom of thought and conscience, and of speech: Freedom of thought and conscience is guaranteed (art. 39 (1). The right of every citizen to freedom of speech and expression; and freedom of the press, are guaranteed (art.39 (2) (a) (b).

Freedom of profession or occupation: Subject to any restrictions imposed by law, every citizen possessing such qualifications, if any, as may be prescribed by law in relation to his profession, occupation, trade or business shall have the right to enter upon any lawful profession or occupation, and to conduct any lawful trade or business (art.40).

Freedom of religion: Every citizen has the right to profess practice or propagate any religion; every religious community or denomination has the right to establish, maintain and manage its religious institutions (art. 41(a) (b)).

Right to property: Subject to any restrictions imposed by law, every citizen shall have the right to acquire, hold, transfer or otherwise dispose of property, and no property shall be compulsorily acquired, nationalized or requisitioned save by authority of law (art.42 (1)).

Conventions or Treaties: Besides, the constitutional protection of human rights, Bangladesh signed or ratified a lot of international conventions or treaties on human rights. These conventions or treaties will underpin and strengthen human rights. Some of the conventions or treaties are mentioned below:

1. Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
2. International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination
3. Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women
4. International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
5. International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
6. Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others
7. Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment
8. Convention on the Rights of the Child
9. Convention Concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labor
10. Convention concerning Forced or Compulsory Labor
11. International Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities
12. Equal Remuneration Convention
13. Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations
14. First Optional Protocol to the International Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities
15. Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations
16. Geneva Convention for the Amelioration of the Condition of the Wounded and Sick in Armed Forces in the Field

The purposes of signing or ratification of the above conventions or treaties are to protect and safeguard and respect human rights in Bangladesh. In addition, there are a lot of human rights organizations that work to ensure and secure human rights in Bangladesh.



Human rights organisations in Bangladesh

Human Rights Organizations in Bangladesh: Bangladesh is devoted to promoting and improving human rights of its citizens, and to serve the purpose, the government established on December 9, 2007, a statutory autonomous body, ‘The National Human Rights Commission’ (NHRC). Its functions are to hold surveys regarding perceptions about human rights and to launch campaigns against human rights abuses in Bangladesh. It is an independent body. Moreover, there are many more friendly organizations working for human rights development in Bangladesh. It is learnt that about more than 50 human rights organizations and thousands of activists are working in Bangladesh.

They play very important role and extend their services up to the far-flung areas of the country. When the natural calamity or disaster such as flood, flesh flood, cyclone, or tornado strikes the country or part of the country and causes heavy destruction or damage and affect human rights miserably, the human rights activists rush to the distressful people of the distressed areas and stand by them with humanitarian assistance. Moreover, when they find the violation of human rights, the human rights activists raise a storm of peaceful protest and bring it to the notice of the government. In case of any disrespect of human rights, they become loud and vociferous and come forward to extend all sorts of help including legal assistance.

Some of the organizations, for example: Ain O Shalish Kendro; Amnesty International, Bangladesh; Adhikar; Asian Cultural Forum on Development (ACFOD) Bangladesh; Assistance for Legal and Humanitarian Affairs, Bangladesh (ALHAB); Association for Social Advancement (ASA); Center for Victims of Human Rights Violations (CVHRV); Bangladesh Mahila Parishad; Bangladesh Manabdhikar Bastabayan Shangstha (BMBS); Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee (BRAC); Humanitarian Agency for Development Services (HADS);

Democracy Watch; Bangladesh National Women Lawyers Association; and Working for Better Life (WBL) are working in Bangladesh.

Celebration of Human Rights Day in Bangladesh: Like other countries, Bangladesh also celebrates the human rights day on December 10, with due solemnity and fervor. The day is observed in the capital and in other different parts of the country with a call to all citizens of Bangladesh to ensure, secure and respect human rights. Elaborate programs including colorful processions, rallies, human chains, street-corner meetings, and discussions to mark the day are chalked out. Human rights organizations, human rights-activists, Human Rights Commission, and people from all walks of life spontaneously participate in the programs. In the discussion-meetings the speakers emphasize on the protection of human rights including the transparency and accountability of the country's institutional system. The speakers become very loud against the violation or for the protection of human rights. Corruption, illiteracy and poverty, among other factors, are held responsible for violation of human rights.

The celebration of the Human Rights Day makes the people aware that the UN General Assembly proclaimed December 10 as Human Rights Day. The day brings to the notice of the people of the world that the Universal Declaration of Human Rights is the common standard of achievement for all people and for all nations.

Conclusion: In conclusion it may be said that Human Rights Day is celebrated to create awareness and to mobilize political will to promote respects for the rights and freedoms enshrined in the Universal Declaration of human rights adopted by the United Nations Geneva Assembly in 1948. We are human beings, and we must have human rights on earth. We must have rights to life, religion, property, health, food, clothes, freedom of speech including all other basic rights. The Declaration of Human Rights serves as a basic and fundamental human rights document wherein 30 articles on human rights for men, women and children are enshrined. About 195 countries have become signatories to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights-document to ensure and secure human rights in their respective countries. Many international human rights organizations and activists are working to promote, protect, safeguard and improve the quality of human rights.

In Bangladesh, the Constitution of Bangladesh plays an important role as a guardian against violation and abuses of human rights. The Constitution as a guardian guarantees protection and accords respect to human rights. Bangladesh has Human Rights Commission which takes care of human rights. Moreover, there are more than 50 important human rights organizations and thousands of human rights activists working throughout the country to ensure human rights. Furthermore, Bangladesh has signed or ratified many international documents which advocate for human rights. Considering the steps taken by Bangladesh for the protection of human rights, it can be claimed that Bangladesh is a country where human rights are respected, protected and upheld.

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Food Security: Bangladesh Perspective

Md. Azgar Ali

practice and reformation of rice-eating is a gift of the civilization and culture of the Austric-speaking Aboriginal people. Starting from the highest number of people to the lowest number of people, rice is the staple food of all, and ‘No cooked rice, this is the biggest sorrow of Bengali life! While the history of the Bengali staple food, rice, is steeped in the luxury of literary feasts, it is also one of the causes of past famines due to the tyranny of excessive profiteers and mismanagement. Based on eating this rice, the folk tales, stories, poems, dramas and novels of this country have been created as a meaningful source of emotions, feelings, and love. On the other hand farce and satire are also present in equal measure. Along with that, our literary treasure has also been enriched. Again, this led to royal frenzy and often uproar.

Trends of Food Production

Although Bangladesh is prone to various natural disasters due to its geographical location, it has the ideal advantage of monsoon climate which is considered as a blessing of nature, along with the country’s fertile soil, favorable for agriculture and food crop production. It has a favorable environment not only for the production of grains such as rice, wheat and maize, but also for the production of vegetables, fish, animal husbandry, poultry and various types of seasonal fruits. In 1971, there was a food shortage of 3.50 million tons for seven and a half million Bengalis. Bangladesh now produces 37.61 million metric tons of rice per year as against only 9 million metric tons in 1971. That is, food production has increased almost four times in the last five decades. In the fiscal year 2019-20, a total of 38.14 million metric tons of food grains was produced in the country, which was 32.90 million metric tons in the fiscal year 2008-09. Not only food grains but also other crops are increasing in production. In the last financial year 2020-2021, the amount of potato produced was 988 hundred thousand metric tons, which was only 526 hundred thousand metric tons in the financial year 2008-09. Apart

Historical Background of Food Habits

Bengali has a rich history in terms of people’s food and drink. And so the extensive description of Bengali food and drink that we find in the history of medieval Bengali literature and the subtle sense of taste and flavour that was evident in it goes without saying and deserves praise for the Bengali’s intelligence and imagination in this aspect of life. It is not surprising that rice will be the staple food in a country where grain has been the first and main crop in the vast fields of the country since the dawn of history. It is said that this



Vast paddy field

from this, currently the country's crop cultivation intensity has increased to 198%, which was 179% in the fiscal year 2008-09. According to the latest published 2021 Year Book of Agricultural Statistics, Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS), the total gross cropped land in the country is 16057000 hectares. Among them, the amount of cultivable land is 8.13 million hectares, respectively current fallow land is 431 hundred thousand, one crop land is 2.11 million, 2 crop land is 41.25 million, 3 crop land is 186 hundred thousand and 4 crop land is 23,000 hectares. Bangladesh has emerged as the 4th largest rice producing country in the world. On the other hand, the production of wheat in the country is limited compared to the demand. Wheat production in the country was 1.10 million, 1.02 million, 1.03 million, and 1.09 million tons in the financial years 2017-18, 2018-19, 2019-20 and 2020-21 respectively.

Constraints of Reduced Food Production

Houses, educational institutions, rapid urbanization, government administrative infrastructure, industries, brick kilns, fish farms and other non-agricultural structures are being built indiscriminately without following any rules and regulations, filling the agricultural land related to food production. As a result, about 70,000 hectares of arable land is going to non-agricultural sector every year in the country. Experts have expressed fear that there will be no agricultural land in Bangladesh by 2050 if land degradation continues at the current rate. Chemical fertilizers are important materials for increasing food production. The total demand of urea fertilizer in the country is more than 2.8 million tons. Out of this, 1 million tons are produced in the country and the rest has to be imported. Due to natural calamities, increase in the price of fuel for irrigation, the production of agriculture has decreased. In addition, the sale of products at low prices in proportion to the cost of production is also considered as an obstacle to reduce food production.

Food Waste, Marketing, and Supply Bottlenecks

In 2021, the United Nations Environment Agency published a report called UNEP Food Waste Index, in which it is said that 1.6 million tons of food is wasted in Bangladesh annually. Food waste per capita in Bangladesh is 65 kg. Food waste occurs in several stages in Bangladesh. The greatest wastage occurs in the intermediate stages of food from the crop field to the market. Among these, there is one type of wastage at the harvesting stage, then wastage during storage and marketing through traders.



Poultry farm

Geopolitics and International Trade Barriers

To deal with food shortages, many countries import food grains from food producing countries to avoid potential risks during emergencies. Sometimes there is no favorable environment in world politics apart from natural disasters. Currently, due to the war between Russia and Ukraine, about 48 countries in the world

are one of the examples of food import risk. Bangladesh imports 1.0 million tons of rice and 4.5 million tons of wheat from the world market almost every year.

Inconsistency of Food Grain Production Data

According to the data of Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS), currently the population of Bangladesh is 165158616 and the annual rice requirement is only 22.1 million metric tons. But in the fiscal year 2020-21, the production of rice in the country was 37.6 million metric tons. If the calculation is correct, there should be 15.2 million metric tons of rice surplus in the country at that time. On the other hand, people of the country are reducing the amount of rice they eat as an alternative to rice. Per capita consumption of rice was 416 grams in 2010 and decreased to 367.2 grams in 2016 (HIES, BBS). We have been learning about food self-sufficiency for the past few years, and some countries have also exported rice. Now the opposite is seen. But millions of tons of food grains are being imported from abroad to meet the hunger of the people of the country. Bangladesh imported 2.65 million tons of rice in 2020-2021 business year. According to the USDA report, Bangladesh has now become a major importing country a crop shortfall. This means, if the production is low in any year, Bangladesh imports rice, which is not unusual. But still the demand remains. Now is the time to focus on objective and accurate statistics. However, if there is correct information and statistics of the food grain production



Cattle Farm

sector, knowing where there are lumps, what kind of planning and action needs to be taken, the problem can be solved easily with practical steps.

People Tend to Consume More Rice Compared to Other Countries

As compared to the people of other countries in the world who eat rice, the people of Bangladesh eat twice as much rice,



Fisheries

so there is a shortage of rice. Commenting on the issue of eating less or more rice has also been made fun of by many people on social media. However, there is no doubt that we have a reputation as rice-eating people and it is not unfounded. Each person in Bangladesh consumes 135 kg of rice per year, respectively India 72 kg, China 100 kg, Philippines 133, Indonesia 103 and Sri Lanka 115 kg.

Indifference of the Appropriate Authorities in Enforcing the Agricultural Land Protection Act

According to the ‘Agricultural Land Protection and Land Zoning Act 2010’, agricultural land cannot be used for any purpose other than agriculture. There is a nominal law stating that houses, industries, brick kilns or any other non-agricultural structures cannot be built on agricultural land. A private bill has been introduced in Parliament on March 31, 2022. The proposed law is called the Agricultural Land (Proper Use and Conservation) Act-2022. If this law comes into effect, anyone who uses agricultural land for non-agricultural purposes will be punished with fine and imprisonment. The government needs to pay attention to this. We have to remember that if we do not rein in the land that is left now, the situation will go out of control; otherwise Bangladesh will be a country of acute food shortage in the near future.

Guidance on potential pathways to transition from risk

It is important to insist on all the reforms and development of the country’s agricultural system rather than depending on imports, which has no alternative. Although industrial production in the country is quite promising, agriculture is the source of rice and a place of comfort for the people of this country. Government should maintain ongoing support to increase agricultural production. Priority should be given to increasing domestic food production. For this purpose, the availability of various agricultural inputs including fertilizers, diesel, pesticides and seeds should be ensured. Farmers should also make arrangements to sell their produce directly to the consumers. Not only that, the control of middlemen in marketing and marketing system of produced agricultural products should be strictly suppressed. Along with this, communication with the inter-related parties



Vegetable fields

should be continued so that the shipment of food products which have to be imported from abroad can reach the country on time. In order to increase food production and provide nutrition, importance should also be given to the production of fish, meat, milk, eggs and fruits. However, the most important thing in this case is that the land for paddy cultivation should not be reduced in any way. Fishing should be discouraged by cutting the land for paddy cultivation. That is why we need to create a suitable environment for fish farming in wetlands, canals and rivers of the country. Moreover, agglomeration method should be adopted for the construction of educational institutions and

government administrative buildings in order to protect the under-cropped land. And also modern engineering model should be adopted in road construction so that arable land is not lost. According to the recently published preliminary report of the population census 2022, the total population of Bangladesh is 165,158,616 people, a few days later the final report of the census will add several more population, among them there are 1.2 million Rohingya people sheltered in various refugee camps of Cox's Bazar and Noakhali, who were forcibly expelled from their own land Myanmar. As soon as these Rohingya people return to their homeland, at least the additional food supply will be reduced to some extent. All this goes without saying that Bangladesh will have to make continuous efforts to provide food to more than 170 million people in the coming days. Meanwhile, the food crisis in the country is gradually intensifying. The prices of daily necessities have skyrocketed. In this dire situation of possible global food shortage, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has strongly appealed to the countrymen to increase food production and ensure that no land (one inch of land) is left fallow to maintain food security in the country. To deal with the food crisis, the farmers must be protected first. The government should make arrangements so that they get all the necessary materials for crop production at affordable prices. Last but not least the need for food is inextricably linked to human life. There is no alternative to nutritious food for a better environment, better life, and beautiful and sustainable environmental protection. The current world situation is temporary, keeping in mind the near future, if we cannot ensure the food security of our people, we will have to face various crises including humanitarian disasters, and whatever needs to be done to overcome this should be implemented without delay tomorrow.

Md. Azgar Ali, Researcher and Columnist



Effective Use of Community Radio in Hakaluki Haor Area

Nasrin Jahan Lipi

Community radio is a radio service that can be defined as the third model of radio broadcasting as the first two are commercial and public broadcasting. In terms of management of different disaster phases, community radio can play very strong role in disaster preparedness, warning and rehabilitation part by transmitting warning signals, providing preparedness related information, broadcasting disaster related programmes. Local community people can play both as listeners and participant. In addition to broadcast, there are mechanisms for many-to-many discussions and community feedback. In Bangladesh, listener clubs of the community radio are the most influenced feedback giver and also give active participations as the volunteer.



River erosion in haor area



Community radio reporter interviewing a boatman

After the country's independence in 1971, the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman started to take initiatives for disaster management. Media has been used as the strongest tool to create people's awareness, announce signals-emergency notices and broadcast disaster related news and different programmes. Day by day, with the technological advance of broadcasting network, government uses radio network because of its rate of coverage is comparatively high than the television media. Print media is also getting lower target response because of the literacy rate of the people. But radio is for all; even an illiterate person, except the person of hearing disability, the disable persons can hear the disaster related audio programmes.

Due to the global climate change issue, the degree of the vulnerability of population has dramatically increased in recent years. Every year, sympathetic news has been published in print media and broadcasting in electronic media. Though up to 1993, Bangladesh government did not recognize the riverbank erosion as the 'disaster', thus the affected people had to be absent in government's relief and rehabilitation project. But the prevention programme to stop riverbank erosion was still active then. Now, the government under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, the paradigm has been shifted in the course of disaster management and identifying vulnerable communities for rehabilitation programme, in case of disaster due to riverbank erosion also. As a result, Bangladesh has attained a position in the world as a disaster-resilient country. Sheikh Hasina was awarded various prestigious international awards including the '2015 Champions of the Earth Award'- is the highest environmental honour given by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) since 2004.

The policy for community radio was formulated as ‘the voice of the voiceless’, because the radios are run by the community and for the community. As the most interactive media tool to disaster management, Bangladesh government had introduced the community radio from 2011 as the 2nd South Asian country. Sheikh Hasina introduced the idea of community radio in her party’s election manifesto of 2008, enhanced the idea in the further announced election manifesto of 2014 and 2018 also. Again, the Digital Bangladesh formation by the same leadership has created unprecedented opportunities for reporting and distributing journalistic content, in arena of community radio also.

According to the Community Radio Installation, Broadcast and Operation Policy 2018 by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh, where A Community is considered to be a group of people who have common folk heredity socio-economic and cultural attributes, who are living in a specific geographic location such as in a specific town, village or locality, and they share indifferent social and economic livelihood by participating in mutual exchange of business-trade, marketing, service and goods.

Government issued licence for community radio to research and development organizations which are working for marginalized or disadvantage people, educational and training institutions like BRAC, Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) etc. At present, 18 community radios are broadcasting 160 hours program in a day in remote areas of the country. More than 1000 youths and youth women are working there, 70 lacs people are being benefited from 125 upazilas of 25 districts. The policy instructed them to broadcast mostly awareness raising programmes to raise the consciousness of the rural people. Internationally recognized and accepted fundamental principles of community radio are being followed in Bangladesh where disaster management has been included in the broadcast programme schedule of the community radios.

UKAID and the NGO Shongjog presented ‘Guideline for the broadcasting live radio programs on disaster preparedness and response through community radio stations that strongly recommended for the audience friendly programme. For such kind of programme, characteristics of the message should be simple, clear, concise, true and complete. According to that guideline, every disaster-related programme should be set with the following objectives:



Community Radio



Pallikantha: A community radio band

- ❑ Spreading information of disaster as it is necessary for people's **preparedness**.
- ❑ Including institutional programmes and statements to build communities' **confidence**.
- ❑ Educating people to face disaster related problem as it is helpful for **adaptation and mitigation**.

Proper participation of the community people is the main objective as it is helpful to **raise their voice**. Then "VOICE" can be effectively the expression of Value, Opportunity, Information, Consistent and Convenient, Entertaining.

Effective use of Community Radio in vulnerability reduction in Hakaluki Haor area

The degree of the vulnerability of population due to bank erosion has dramatically increased in the Hakaluki Haor area of Moulvibazar district that is located on the banks of the Manu River. Radio Pallikantha 99.2 FM is the first licence getting community radio which is run by BRAC as the initiative of BRAC Community Empowerment Programme based in Chadnighat union of Moulvibazar. The station is broadcasting within a 17 km radius, reaching roughly 400,000 people to raise awareness and consciousness on a variety of social issues such as education, agriculture, healthcare, women's empowerment, alongside other important areas related to the community like community faced disaster of flood, flash flood, thunderstorm, riverbank erosion etc.

The radio is broadcasting two different types of programmes in total four days of a week. One programme is a 20 minutes long magazine programme named '*Banvasi*' (Flood affected people), broadcasted in 6:00 pm in every Thursday and Sunday. Another programme is a drama serial of 10:57 minute's duration named '*Vangon*' (Bank erosion) and broadcasted in 6:00 pm in every Monday and Wednesday. It should be noted that the better time for women listeners is after noon when they get leisure time. The programme can be broadcasted at least one day at the proper time convenient for women listeners, because they are the most vulnerable as well as participatory community for the disaster management.

Analysis of the programmes

According to the guideline, community radio should broadcast audience friendly programme that is very easily understandable by the specific community. In the both programmes of Radio Pallikantha, use of local dialect is appropriate to

the community listeners. The words used by local people are: *Hunra* (you will listen), *Oi* (yes), *Haraya* (after losing), *Boiya* (sitting), *Amrar* (Us), *Lahan* (like), *Voira* (full), *Loge* (with), *Loiya* (with someone), *Aito* (will come) etc. Though the local people use the word 'Khora' for the bank erosion rather than 'Vangon'. The interviewee uttered the word once in 'Banvasi', every time consciously using of 'nodi Vangon'. The use of '*par* (riverbank) *vangon*' is also used by the local people but it was not used also. There was no mention of 'Khora' in the programme '*Vangon*'.

Unknown or unfamiliar word to the community should be avoided. In the programme '*Banvasi*', the reporter uttered 'Ontosthito' in the line- '*Nodi beshi shakhaproshakhai bivokto hoye porle onosthito chorshomohe par vange*' (If the river creates more branches, then the banks of the raised land in between the affluent erode.). The meaning could be expressed in this simple sentence part instead of the unknown, unfamiliar and hard spelled word of '*Ontosthito*'.

In the interview programme, interviewer should be careful in questioning. Same meaning of a question in different sentence is not appropriate to get correct answer. Natural flow of questions is better than the prior setting questions. In the interview session of '*Banvasi*', the listeners could understand that the interviewee tried to share a success story of stopping bank erosion by his village people. He mentioned the event but the interviewer did not follow the conversation rather than he did the prior set question- 'What do you need to do before the bank erosion? What is your suggestion?' He could ask the detail of the experience that the interviewee mentioned.

In the programme '*Banvasi*', sound of trolley in the background had been used in the interview part to give the feeling that the interview was taken at the riverbank. No other sound effect was used. Music was joyful but, it should be noted that the joyful music is not appropriate for a serious disaster related programme where the sufferings of affected people were presented. The sound effect of falling soil into the water could be used. In the drama '*Vangon*', sound of river water, chicken call and rural people's working sound was used to create rural surroundings.

Feedback from the listeners of the community

Two programmes have a vast number of listeners of all ages. According to the information given by the station manager of the Radio Pallikantha, there are 769 listeners clubs with 20-25 listeners living in the same geographical area who are being formed with the help of radio staffs. These listeners clubs are a kind of voluntary clubs to assess the effectiveness of the programmes in that community. The Radio authority provides radio to the club. The members listen to the programmes together, share their opinions and practice the awareness activities together. Thus the listeners clubs can ensure the community involvement and ease the inclusiveness of the community people with the radio programmes.

While commenting on the content, interesting finding came out. The listeners do not like so much information at a time. Priority of the local content in local dialect and the participation of local people are appreciable by the listeners. Use of local dialect as the broadcasting language is ultimately saving the local language, culture

and heritage. But uses of long sentence create problem to some group of listeners as the finding came out. In the drama 'Vangon', information giving sequence is constructive, but could be more elaborate for giving more information with the counterpart performer's dialogue. For the programme 'Banvasi' the presentation style of reporter was sometimes monotonous, asking same question while the interviewee answered that "I already gave the answer".

Involving listeners is a unique way of audience friendly programme. The listeners stated in the discussion that they like practical and true stories of affected people. The presentation of these stories need clear, engaging manner and more interactive. Some of the participants complained about quality of transmission. They demanded for better network and wider coverage of frequency.

Effective 'voice' of the 'Voiceless'

Radio programmes are found effective to create awareness to riverbank erosion that leads to vulnerability reduction of Hakaluki Haor area. More funds for audience friendly disaster related programmes could increase the efficiency by increasing planned process of broadcasting schedule, research behind the programmes and training on disaster management inclusive radio programmes.

As an example, Radio Pallikantho 99.2 is serving 4 Lac (Approximate) of population while the community people is listening the radio by using radio set and mobile. Radio's coverage area is only 17 kilometers radius. The largest NGO of the world, BRAC Bangladesh gave main financial support to radio Pallikantha. The station is also getting support from sponsor programme and a few portion of advertisement from local companies. All the employees (100% of the manpower of permanent and project based) are getting salary. The yearly expenditure is approximately 5 million by calculating salary and establishment expenditure along with license fee, house rent, electricity bill and others. Considering the covering population range, the cost per listener is only 12.50 taka. If we consider the creative input in monetary terms, cost per listener would be 20 Taka.



Programme organised by a community radio

Thus the radio offers very much inexpensive and affordable cost. Again, the outcome is much greater not only in the case of disaster management but the awareness build up and knowledge sharing. Now, some consideration must be focused to increase the effectiveness of the



Affected people of haor area listening to community radio

community radio programme. Like, there are bulletins aired by the Bangladesh Radio from time to time during the flood season but not on riverbank erosion during the occurring period also; however, such bulletins need to be understood by rural illiterate people. In the programme 'Banvasi' and 'Vangon', the real time information needs to be added time to time following the type of the programme. In 'Banvasi', the information may come in the report or disseminating information. In 'Vangon', story line would be drawn by putting real time event and the suggestion would come by the characters that would guide the listeners in reality to what to do in the said situation.

As the educated group seems less interested in the radio, the community radio can broadcast the interview of the political leaders, local MP, government officials on the prevention issue of riverbank erosion. Again, the general people are actively responding to the entertaining programme like music, seriously being involved with the educational programme 'Au English Hiki' (Let us learn English), but are not so much active with the disaster risk reduction related programme. They think the problem of disaster should be solved by the government; people's participation will come after that.

Community Radio services has already included in Charter for Change under the Freedom of mass media and information. One must appreciate the challenges the first generation Community Radio as community exposure they had, media experience they lacked. As the regulator, the government is playing the main role to implement and opportunely revise the legislation for Community Radios to create an enabling environment to do so. National and local government officials need more understanding on the principles of Community Radio and effectively implement the policy and support them by transparent, competent licensing, monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to reduce risk to be vulnerable in Disaster Management question. The ultimate goal is the sustainable Community Radio sector in Bangladesh in terms of vulnerability reduction in not only in Hakaluki Haor area, but for the whole country.

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Recent Tremors and the Continental Drift

Mahmuda Aktar

mountains, and continents. Today's earthquake is still ongoing. Do we know that these continents are still moving! One continent is moving away little by little from another. It may sound surprising but it is fact.

In recent times, large earthquakes in different parts of the world have made the scientists worried. As for example, this year a 6 magnitude earthquake was held in Afghanistan in the last June and the death toll was 1,400. Last year a 7.2 magnitude earthquake occurred in Haiti in August. The death toll was about 2,500. In the last two decades, the most devastating earthquake and tsunami occurred in the Indian Ocean in December 2004 that claimed more than 225,000 lives across a dozen countries including Indonesia, Sri Lanka, India, Maldives, and Thailand.

Earthquakes have been occurring since the creation of the earth. We know that in the distant past, millions of years ago when no life existed on Earth, massive upheavals created seas, oceans,



Ruins on the coastal area of Sumatra after the Earth quake and Tsunami in the Indian Ocean occurred in 2004



In geology, this movement is called continental drift. If we look closely at the shape of the continents in the map, we can see that one edge matches the other edge. You will find that Africa on the east side of the Atlantic Ocean and South America on the west side matches the grooves. Likewise Europe's Norway and Finland are inserted into North America's Hudson Bay, it will completely be matched. Again, the southern end of the Indian peninsula penetrates between the two peaks of the northern part of Australia. More surprising, strange similarities are found between the rock formations on both sides of the Atlantic Ocean.

These evidences prove that the lands of the earth, which we know as continents, were once together. According to geologists, 250 million years ago the earth was like this. In the past there was no such thing as the Atlantic Ocean. There was no Pacific Ocean too.

The present seven continents of the world were a single land mass, which formed 29% of the total land mass of the world. It is called 'Pangea' and was surrounded by only one ocean with 71% of water, which is known as 'Panthalassa'.

German climatologist and geologist Alfred Wegner was the first to mention continental movements in 1915. According to him, 350 million years ago, all the land mass of the earth was together and he called it 'Supercontinent'. Then it was divided into two parts. The Northern part is called Laurasia and the Southern part is called Gondwanaland. In the middle there was a sea called the Tethys Sea. The surrounding area, he named it the Proto-Pacific ocean.

Now, let's come to the point, how the present seven different continents the five oceans were created. We live in the uppermost part of the sphere called the Earth, where there are mountains, rivers, streams, plants and the water and bottom of the oceans, this part is called the crust. Its thickness ranges from a minimum of 3 miles to a maximum of 44 miles. This part is floating on some kind of liquid below. That's why the continents are gradually moving away from one another. This motion still exists.

The total diameter of the planet





Kola Superdeep Borehole, Russia (inset : sealed cap of the borehole)

Earth is about 8,000 miles. Actual radius is 3,977 miles (6,400Km). Theoretically, one could reach the center of the earth by digging four thousand miles. But it is still not possible today. Why? It is impossible for any instrument to go so deep in the earth. This is because the temperature inside the earth increases by 1.2 degrees Celsius in every 100 meters. Attempts were made in Russia in the last century to make such a hole. This excavation in 1970, work began and the project was called 'Kola Superdeep Borehole'. A 9-inch diameter hole has been excavated. After several years digging, it was possible to enter only 8 mile deep (12,262 metres). Because of higher-than-expected temperatures at this depth and location, 180 °C (356 °F) instead of the expected 100 °C (212 °F), drilling deeper became impossible. Eventually the project was closed in 1995.

In terms of true vertical depth, it is the deepest borehole in the world. For two decades, it was also the world's longest borehole in terms of measured depth along the well bore until it was surpassed in 2008 by the 12,289-metre-long (40,318 ft) Al Shaheen Oil Well in Qatar.

Let's get back to the main focus. The internal structure of the earth consists of a combination of three layers:

1) First layer: Crust - average depth 5-70 km (3-44) Miles) and average density 5.5 g/sq. cm. the main ingredients are Silicone and Aluminum, in short, which is called 'Sial'.

2) Second layer: Mantle - average depth 2,900 Kilometers (1,800 miles) and an average density is 5.6 g/sq. cm. The main ingredients are Silicon and Magnesium, in short, which is called 'Sima'.

3) Third layer: Core - average depth 3,500 Kilometers (2,200 miles) and an average density is 11.5 g/sq. cm. The main ingredients are Nickel and Iron, in short which is called 'Nife'. Its average temperature is 5,000 degree Celsius.

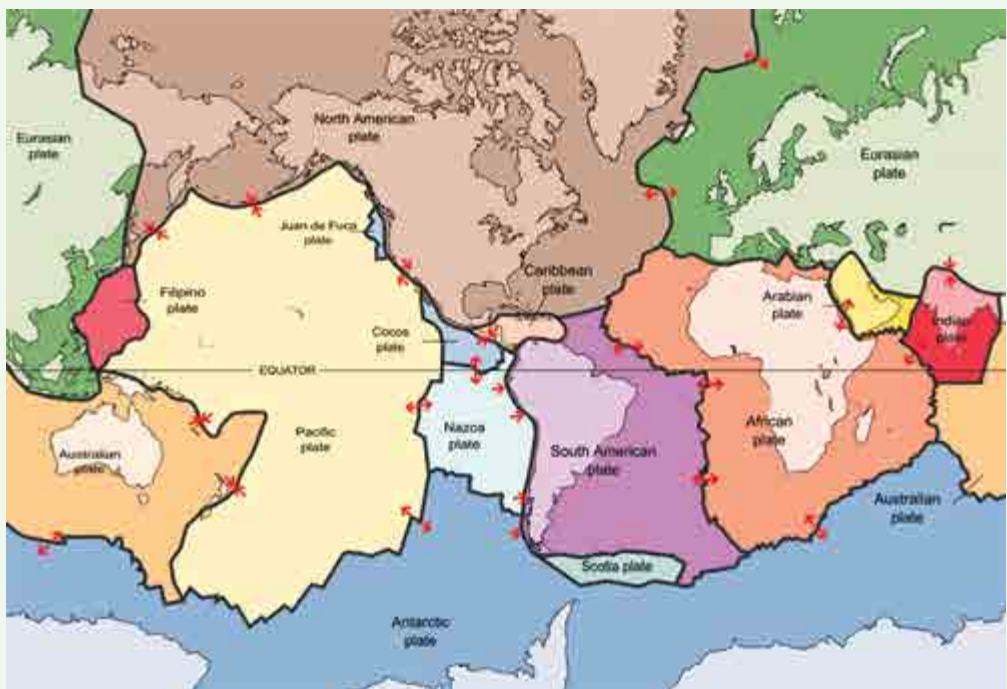
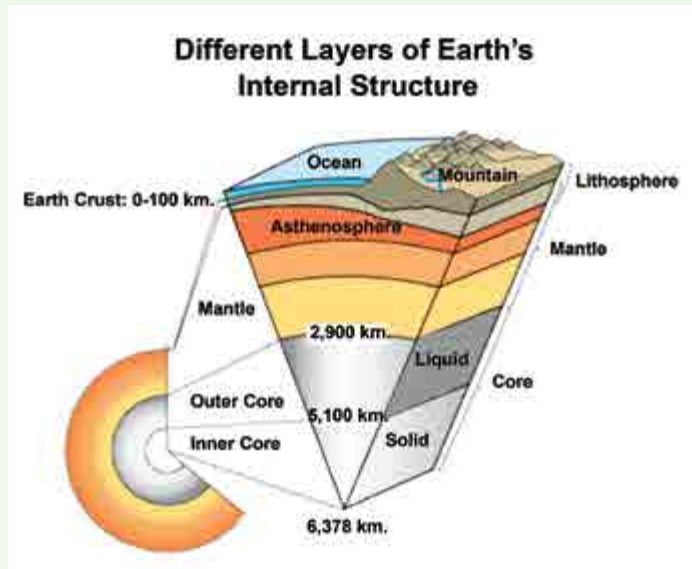
Below the crust and above the mantle there exists a flexible layer called the asthenosphere. The asthenosphere extends from about 60 miles (100 km) to about

450 miles (700 km) below earth's surface. The continents and the ocean floors are formed by rigid and hard pieces. These are called plates. These plates float above the asthenosphere and the continents are still moving because of this floating state.

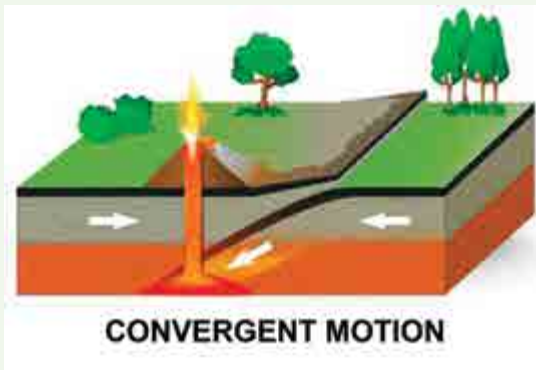
There are usually two types of plates –
 1) Continental plates
 2) Ocean plates

These plates are made of less dense materials.

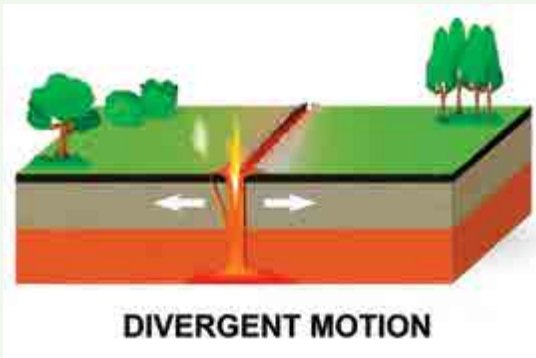
So they were divided into smaller parts. The number of largest plates is 7, the number of medium sized plates is 8. Moreover there about 20 smaller plates. These plates are moving continuously along their border and moving away at a rate of 10 mm-160 mm per year. The plates sometimes collide with each other. This causes earthquakes. Sometimes Magma comes out of the interior through the



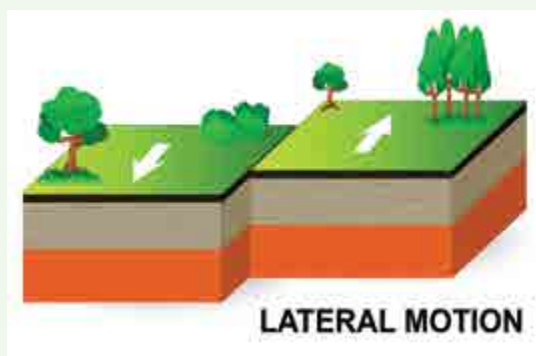
Major continental and oceanic plates



the continental plate. As a result, severe earthquakes occur at plate boundaries. Lava comes out of the underground and the volcano originates. On the other hand, the front of the continental plate will be folded under the influence of strong lateral pressure and form mountains. For example, the Pacific Plate subducted under the Southern Continental Plate,



when two plates move away from each other is called divergent motion. If two plates are displaced, the surface pressure at the boundary is greatly reduced and the underground materials liquefy. Then the igneous material easily escapes and accumulates in the void space of the plate boundary. As a result of this continuous flow of lava, vast areas were covered under molten lava and gradually formed a solid layer several kilometers thick on the sea surface and this is how the ocean



loose part of two plates, which we know as lava.

The motion of the plates can be divided into three types:

1. Convergent motion: In this process, the plates collide head on with each other or their motion face each other. This motion forms mountains. If there is an oceanic plate between two moving plates, the oceanic plate is pushed under the continental plate. As a result, severe earthquakes occur at plate boundaries. Lava comes out of the underground and the volcano originates. On the other hand, the front of the continental plate will be folded under the influence of strong lateral pressure and form mountains. For example, the Pacific Plate subducted under the Southern Continental Plate, creating the Andes Mountains on the western edge of South America. And if two continental plates collide, then the edges of both plates can rise and form mountains. Thus the collision of the Eurasian Plate and the Indian Plate resulted in the creation of the Himalayan Mountains.

2. Divergent motion: The motion when two plates move away from each other is called divergent motion. If two plates are displaced, the surface pressure at the boundary is greatly reduced and the underground materials liquefy. Then the igneous material easily escapes and accumulates in the void space of the plate boundary. As a result of this continuous flow of lava, vast areas were covered under molten lava and gradually formed a solid layer several kilometers thick on the sea surface and this is how the ocean floors were formed. This process continues at the bottom of every ocean. Oceanic ridges are thus formed by long-term lava flows.

3. Lateral motion: If two adjacent plates begin to move in opposite directions along their boundaries, this motion is called lateral motion. In this case, if both the plates are continental plates, then a fault or deep trench will be created at the

plate boundary. For example, the Anatolian fault in Turkey and the Alpine fault in New Zealand.

Earth's rotational tension and equatorial tension still pull the continental landmasses towards each other. For example, Greenland is still slowly moving towards North America.

Some time ago, a huge fissure appeared in South West Kenya. Even the national highway has been damaged due to the impact of the crack. Sometimes there are earthquakes. This crack is growing slowly. The crack occurred in the Suswa region, part of the Rift Valley in East Africa. But now that crack is growing at a very fast speed and it is getting a huge size. The length of the Rift Valley is three thousand kilometers - to the north of which lies the Gulf of Aden and to the south is Zimbabwe. According to geologists, this crack in Kenya is spreading across the entire Rift Valley. The crack in some parts of Kenya has become so severe that many people in those areas have been forced to leave their homes.

Geologists say, Africa began to separate due to the tectonic activity. Many years ago the entire continent of Africa was on a single tectonic plate but it gradually split into two plates and the Somali and Nubian plates were formed. Because of the opposite pull of the plates, the two plates do not want to stay together anymore - slowly moving away from each other. As per opinion of the geologists, one day the two plates will be separated completely. Not only these two, there is another plate active here and that is Arabian plate. This Arabian plate also wants to pull



Continent of Africa and movement of the Somali and Nubian plates



A huge crack in the Suswa region of Kenya

a part of the African continent towards itself. The Arabian Plate is moving away from Africa by an inch every year.

The above mentioned factors are responsible for the current situation in Kenya. Kenya is located on three plates together. And this is why three plates are trying to pull Kenya from three directions. Geologists believe, the Great Rift Valley has such a geological structure along this crack that half of Somalia and Ethiopia, and completely Kenya and Tanzania may have once separated from the African mainland in future. Then a new ocean will form in place of this crack. And thus it may take about 5 million years for the continent to completely split into two parts. It may be mentioned here that for the past 30 million years, the Arabian plate has been moving away from the African plate. This is exactly how the Red Sea originated in this region. The frequent tremors experienced in Assam, India in recent times are caused by the movement of these plates. Earlier a deadliest earthquake with 7.7 magnitude was held in Gujrat, India in 2001.

The plate tectonic movement is still active in different regions of the world. Due to this, earthquakes are occurring in different places of many countries. When and where this movement will take place, it cannot be known in advance. That is why it is not possible to avoid or predict the earthquake damage.

The writer is lecturer in the Department of Geography at Dhaka Public College

If you want to live on earth

M. Mizanur Rahman

If you want to live on earth keep your pecker up.
You are to face many an odds in life whatever tough.
It's not easy to pass everyway, there's rough terrain.
You should go on steady everywhere since life began.

Believe in the Almighty Unseen Who created you
and payoff what's His due.
He does not want anything from you
except the acts of the sincerest love and adoration.

Evaluate yourself how you came on earth and what you did.
You can understand yourself the simple exploration
through your good deed or misdeed.

'Struggle' is the word that lays all in your life until death.
You cannot avoid struggling each moment of time so long you got breath.

Life is transitory that you must have in your mind;
hence no mischief, trickery, fraudulence, malice, jealousy
doing other acts of crimes hold any good for time behind.

So live and let live others who live around you graciously.

Remember, the cunning time is so funny
that takes away your soul out of the body in the air
at any moment faring away in all weather.

leaving your all materials behind dealing in no lust or money.

The poet is essayist, translator and columnist



Importance of Occupational Therapy for Children with Developmental Disabilities

Rabeya Ferdous

consult with qualified therapist for therapeutic treatment which plays a great for proper development of child.

Problems of child with developmental disability

- Communication difficulty
- Difficulty in social interaction
- Memory problem
- Developmental delay
- Poor gross motor and fine motor skills
- Poor attention skills

How can occupational therapist help for children with developmental disabilities?

Occupational therapy is a profession which works for patient's functional independence as much as possible. It works for fine and gross motor, self-regulation and sensory skills.

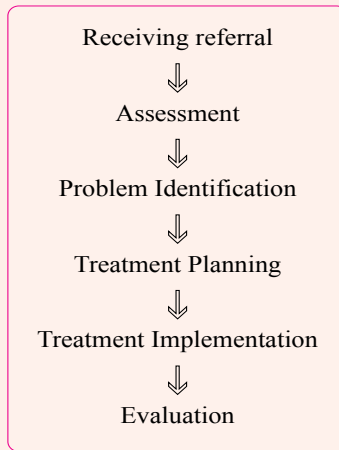
Children with developmental disabilities are increasing day by day. One study reported that over 50 million children in the world have developmental disability. In Bangladesh there are many children suffering from developmental disabilities.

Developmental disabilities are a group of conditions due to an impairment in physical, learning, language, or behavior areas. Following disorders are developmental disorder:

- Autism
- Attention Deficit Hyperactive Disorder (ADHD)
- Communication Disorder
- Learning Disability
- Intellectual Disability
- Movement Disorder
- Conduct Disorders
- Cerebral Palsy
- Visual & Hearing impairment

If you see your child have developmental problems, then immediately consult with pediatric neurologist for medical treatment. Then

Occupational Therapists are maintaining following treatment process:



Occupational therapist provides following treatment

1. Play skills

Occupational therapist are uses play as a treatment media for developmentally delay child. There are different types of play like pretend or imaginary play, constructive play, interpersonal (play with others) or intrapersonal (solitary play) interactions. These play skills grow according to age.

2. Sensory Skills

Sensory skills are very important for brain development of a child. There are different types of sense which includes: Tactile, Auditory, Visual, Taste, Smell, Vestibular, Proprioceptive and interception sense.

Tactile senses: It is the senses of touch.

Auditory Sense: It is the sense of hearing sound.

Visual Sense: It is the sense of ability to see. Visual sense includes color, shape, orientation and motion.

Olfactory (Smell) Sense: It is the sense of good or bad smell.

Vestibular: It is the sense of balance and orientation of body position.

Proprioception: It is the joint sense.

Interception: Interceptors are internal sensors that provide a sense of internal organs. For example: fallings of hunger.

We do everyday activities by using these sense.

According to child's sensory problem Occupational therapist do a sensory diet for child with sensory difficulties and provide sensory integration therapy.

3. Hand Skills

Occupational therapists are specialist in upper limb. They properly assess the child's hand skills and according to assessment therapist provide treatment for enhancing hand function. Hand function includes hook grip, heavy grip, light



Occupational therapist helps children to perform their daily activities
pinch, heavy pinch, lateral pinch, light grip and opposition.

4. ADL's

Children do different work at their home like brushing, combing hair, eating, playing etc. Children who have sensory problem and physical problem, they cannot perform their daily activities. Occupational therapist helps the child to do their daily activities like: cooking, cloth washing, room cleaning etc.

5. Schooling

As a student children have their own role. School is the best way to learn different skills beside academic knowledge. Children with neurodevelopmental disorder suffer different problems like unsuitable classroom, lots of noise, lack of appropriate training of teacher etc.

6. Social Skills

Childs with developmental disabilities have difficulty in normal social manner. They cannot communicate with maintained proper manner.

7. Cognitive skills

Child with neurodevelopment disorder have difficulty in cognitive skills. It includes attention, memory, problem solving and perception. Occupational therapist provides cognitive skills training for reducing cognition problem.

Basically occupational therapists are providing therapy individually and grouply. Family education is another important part which provides by qualified occupational therapist. Most of the poor family with developmental disability believe different types of stigma. That's why they do not want their child interact with others. They isolated their child from outer world. Occupational therapy is the only one profession who work for their functional independents.

Rabeya Ferdous, Occupational Therapist, Department of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation, National Institute of Neurosciences & Hospital (NINS & H)



Environmental Changes in Chalan Bil

Manzur-E-Alam Firozee

The Chalan Bil is one of the largest marshy lands of Bangladesh. Initially, its area was more than 1000 sq. km. But, at present, its area is more or less 400 sq. km. that extends over of Natore, Pabna and Sirajganj district. Now, Chalan Bil refers to a collection of ponds and ditches that have no current during the monsoon season. During the dry season, its vast areas become crop fields and paddy fields, and once completely waterless. Chalan Bill is a great reservoir of moving water. Its past heritage is like a fairy tale. All around is water and water. As if there is no limit, no limit. Like the waves of the sea, the big huge waves hit one another and reach the shore, breaking the bank. Tons and tons of fish were caught every day, but the fish did not run out. Like a fish reservoir under the Bil. In the afternoon, flocks of thousands of birds would fly from east to west, north to south. The entire Chalan Bil area was buzzing with guest birds. But where did the water go, where did the fish go and where did the birds go? Once upon a time, the movement Bil has evolved into its current state.

Origin and Structure: Only two thousand years ago there was no body of water called Chalan Bil. This Bil was underwater. Once the area was merged into the ocean. As the sea recedes over the course of time, the Chalan Bil region is originated. Even in the Van Parva of Mahabharata, the account of the Pilgrimage Version states that the sea extended up to the southern tip of Bogura district. The topography of Chhalan Bil differs greatly from that of any other region of Bangladesh. Bangladesh is mainly a riverine country. Mountains have an inseparable relationship with the formation of rivers. The distance between the Himalayas and the Bay of Bengal on Chalan Bil is about 380 km to 420 km. And



Embankment in Chalan Bil at Natore district

most of the rivers of this country originate from the Himalayas. According to Ainun Nishat and Maniruzzaman Khan, there is an interesting fact on the map of Bangladesh, and that is that the Chittagong Hill Tracts, Mainamati-Lalmai Region, Madhupur Garh and Barind Tract lie roughly in an angular line. Most of the rivers of this country flow through the plains of the unconnected areas of these highlands. East of Madhupur is Sylhet's Haor and to the south-east of Barendra lies Chalan Bil.

Geologists believe that the region was submerged in the sea approximately 20-22 million years ago. The Himalayan sediments have built up this land layer by layer. It is to be noted that only 300 years ago the current Yamuna river used to flow in a small stream. The old Brahmaputra river of that time is today's Jamuna river. Some speculate that the vast area between the Padma and the Jamuna was formed by the delta formation process of smaller rivers like Teesta, Karatoa, Atrai, Mahananda and Koshi.

Mr. Abul Kalam Mohammad Zakaria is of the opinion that the present external features of the land formation of Bangladesh began at the end of the Pliocene period. Even just 2,000 years ago Chalan Bil lived in Samudryagarbha. The Bay of Bengal, though moving southward from the Himalayas, still extended up to Mahasthanharh. Gradually, the Bay of Bengal moved southward. At some point it gets submerged. Then the relationship with the sea is almost over. Perhaps the Padma and Yamuna rivers were not yet named. In the past the Ganga and Brahmaputra flowed around the Bil.

From where the Bhagirathi flows, the relatively lower eastern tributary of the

Ganges, the Padma, and the western tributary of the Brahmaputra flow through the Chalan Bil. Sardar Abdul Hamid, quoting Pramathnath Bishi, said in his famous book Chalan Bil history, "It would not be wrong to assume that this Bil was prevalent in most places of Rajshahi, Pabna, Bogura 400 years ago. At the confluence of the Brahmaputra and the Padma, Chalan Bil prevails in the northwestern part. It would not be an exaggeration to call Chalan Bil the hub of North Bengal's river basin, looking at its location, shape and nature."

Location: Singra, Gurdaspur and Baraigram of Natore district and Chatmohar and Bhanura of Pabna district, Tarash, Raiganj, Solanga and Ullapara upazilas of Sirajganj district. It lies between 24.35 North latitude to 24.70 North latitude and 89.10 East to 89.35 East longitude.

Nomenclature: Bil generally refers to a closed body of water. But this definition does not apply in the case of Chalan Bil. Many tributaries of Padma and Yamuna such as Atrai, Baral, Nandakuja, Gumani, Beshani, Bhadravati, Karatoa, Ichhamati etc. flowed through 14 river banks, so its water was moving or moving like a river current rather than being static like other closed banks.

Size: Chalan Bil covers 4 districts, 8 upazilas, 60 unions, 1600 villages, and 14 rivers of Rajshahi division. Besides, there are many small and big rivers, reservoirs.

Population: Its population is near 20 lac. Over 90% of the population are agriculturists. The rest are fishermen, traders, blacksmiths, potters, tantubayas, blacksmiths, goalas, barbers, blacksmiths, goldsmiths and jobbers.

Religion: Muslims, Hindus, Christians and other ethnic minorities live in Chalan Bil area. More than 85% are Muslims, 10% are Hindus and the rest are other religions. About 10,000 Christians live in the entire Chalan Bil area.

Magnificence: Many tourists, writers, poets have composed many rhymes, poems, stories, essays, dramas in awe of the vastness of Chalan Bil and the scenic view of the vast reservoir touching the horizon, rows of boats and flocks of beautiful guest birds from abroad.

During the month of *Chaitra-Baishakh*, the fishermen and the people of Bil area used to catch fish without counting. Outside the submerged part, the entire area was filled with IRRI paddy fields. At that time, wild buffaloes appeared in places where there was more water in the Bil. The natives chased the buffaloes with bows and arrows. Right from the middle of Jaishtya, the soil of Bil area starts to get wet and from the onset of monsoon, it gets rejuvenated again.

In the past Chalan Bil was a very remote and dangerous area. At that time, hearing the name of Chalan Bil, people's heart would start to palpitate. During the rainy season, running a boat or launch in the face of the angry waves of the Bil was something of impossibility. Many would get a noble burial in the morning while showing courage. If the boat fell in the strong waves, it would disappear completely. In those days each wave was 3/4 feet (1 metre) high.

Boats and Boating in Chalan Bil: Rows of boats are not seen in Chalan Bil like before. Earlier, thousands of boats used to move through the rough waves of Chalan Bil. Chalan Bil was the grazing ground of all kinds of boats common in Bangladesh including *Goya, Chip, Dinghi, Kosha, Ghasi, Pansi, Bajra*. When hundreds of barge boats bought paddy or loaded with various other products from

the upstream and left for the country of Bhatia, the voices of the boatmen-Mallas could be heard Bhatiali songs of different areas, different tunes; The sweet melody of those songs echoed far, far away with the ripples of the water.

Earlier, boat trips were held in Chalan Bil area several times a year. The entire Chalan Bil area was in a festive atmosphere centered around boats. Boating was one of the cultural activities of the people of this area. It wasn't just boats. Rather, it was a celebration of the joy of the people of this region. Boating was the tradition of people from all walks of life. It was a social competition. The rich people of the society used to patronize boat races. Moreover, the members of the groups coming from far away are fed chira-muri-dai-gur. On this occasion, drums were played in distant bazaars. As a result, many boats used to gather from Mymensingh, Faridpur regions in addition to the riverine districts of the northern region. The sailors wore colorful special clothes.

From a high place in the area the competition started. There would be a referee, there would be a jury. Volunteers were stationed in the channels where the competing boats crossed. At the end of the competition, the leading persons including the chairman, members of the area distribute prizes among the winners. Now the boating is rare, even during the rainy season it is not as exciting as it used to be.

Chalan Bil as a fish reservoir: Earlier Chalan Bil was a fish reservoir. According to the Ministry of Fisheries and Animal Resources, there are 257 species of freshwater fish in Bangladesh. Earlier, all kinds of fish that grow in fresh and fresh water were caught in this Bil. *Boal, Chital, Id, Pangash, Chapila, Rui, Katla, Batka, Kalboush, Mrigel, Bain, Gochai, Kai, Shing, Magur, Shoal, Gajar, Gainna, Kaikalya, Tatkini.* Fish like *Vetki, Tengra, Golsha, Bailya, Prawn, Ghaira, Pabda, Daita Punt, Tit Punt, Elong, Mousi, Kauna, Rayek, Batasa, Taki, Khalshe, Chala, Mala, Dhila, Darka, Kachki, Chanda* etc. are caught throughout the year. During the monsoon season, the padma's hilsa flowed upstream and entered the



Fishing net in the Chalan Bil



Paddy cultivation in dry season

Bil boundary. And they were caught in the fishermen's nets. A number of studies have shown that over the past few decades, as production of Bil fish has declined, so have fish species. Many fish have become locally extinct. A survey conducted in 2006-07 recorded 81 species of fish in Chalan Bil, including 72 indigenous species and 9 non-native species.

Paddy grown in Chalan Bil area: In the past, only Aman paddy was grown across the vast area of Bil. Aman paddy grew along with the water. Even in some places the Aman tree grew up to 12/14 cubits tall. Now rice is grown twice a year. Rice is grown on thousands of hectares through irrigation. So it can be said that Chalan Bil area is more prosperous than before in the production of food grains. Everywhere one could look, there were only green and once golden paddy fields. Among the rice grown in this area are *Parangi, Hijli, Kotagemi, Shuli, Yatramatar, Digha, Sarasaria, Tenguria, Bhaulia, Metegrol, Bharalota, Dulai, Kaky, Kalamani, Parbatjira, Hida, Lal Kanai, Madrar, Khaguria, Magri* etc.

Birds in Chalan Bil: The descriptions of the birds in the Chalan Bil area by the elders are truly surprising. The description of the birds they hear from their elders sounds more like a story than their own experience. The entire Chalan Bil area was a bird sanctuary in the Indian subcontinent. Crow, Buck, Shalik, Machranga, Dahuk, Pankauri, Kora, Bulbul, Fenchkya, Myna, Tia, Parrot, Shalik, Khanjan, Pheasant calling and flying were interesting to the eyes. There were also nocturnal birds like chil, dairaj, dove, parabat, Harichacha, chatak, yellow warbler, falcon, vulture, gridhini, gang shalik, panikaur and owl, hutum, bat etc. There were Chakha, Bengihas, Belle Has, Digar Has, China Has, Trishul Sharali, Kodala, Ram Shalik, Bhewa, Kodale, Hargila, Chancha etc. The northern part of Chalan Bil, where the water was a little low, was filled with lotuses, saluk trees and flowers. Small birds used to jump and eat aquatic insects and fish on the



Birds flying over the Chalan Bil area

leaves. Kachuripana and hazaro cover a large part of the current Bil. It was full of vines and bushes. Thousands of birds used to sit in them.

There were many large water-tolerant mango, basak, palm, fig, and chhatian trees in the valley. Besides, there were very tall banyan trees. Thousands of bucks, haritals and machrangas used to live in these trees. The conch chil lived in higher banyan trees. At *Bhadra-Ashwin* the call of the conch-chill could be heard from far away on the water-filled Bil. Grandmothers used to say that the conch shell has called, now the water Bil will decrease.

In the month of Kartika, when the water receded in the Chalan Bil and the sound of winter's arrival rang out, the magical fate that descended was indescribable. Millions of guest birds gather here. Millions of passerines flocked from the icy regions of Russia's Siberia and further north. In the evening, in the wee hours of the night and at dawn, the entire Chalan Bil area was humming with the sound of millions of birds. Many birds floated on the water. As if water is their home. Many birds dived into the water and floated far away. At the end of winter, the birds would fly away again in flocks. Destination was towards the north. By the end of Falgun almost all the wintering birds are gone.

In the evolution of time, due to many reasons such as natural disasters, accumulation of water under the ground, Chalan Bil is disappearing from the map. Lack of suitable environment, excessive use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides, lack of food, aggression of predators, there are no more birds in the Chalan Bil region. That tradition of birds on the Bil is long gone. Now winter comes, but the water is not so. Flocks of birds do not come whether the water goes or stays.

The writer is Audit and Accounts Officer, Office of the Controller General of Accounts, Dhaka



Migratory Birds: Not Our Guest, but Part of the Nature

Professor Dr. A N M Aminoor Rahman

of birds have disappeared from the world in the last few centuries due to a number of reasons including population pressure, deforestation, forest degradation, habitat destruction, over-exploitation of resources, environmental pollution, scarcity of food, use of insecticides, poaching as well as illegal wildlife trade, uncontrolled tourism etc. Currently, about 1,200 species of birds are under threat due to various reasons. Among the total birds of this country, about 340 species are permanent residents, that is, they stay in this country throughout the year, lay eggs and raise nestlings. They are the resident birds of this country. Also, about 370 species of birds are migratory, i.e. they come to this country at a certain time of the year, live for a specific time and then return to their original homeland. These birds used to be known to the people of this country, even now, as ‘guest birds’.

A large part of these birds come to this country in winter, who are also known as winter migratory birds. These birds migrate from cold countries to Bangladesh, Africa, Australia and other Asian countries to escape from the unfitness of the habitat in the original country, lack of food and severe winter. It is an integral part of their life cycle and not a matter of traveling here, but is an urge to save their lives. So these countries can be called their second home or winter home. However, they do not breed in their wintering countries, except some species, for example, Pallas’s Fish Eagle that come to this country in winter to breed.

Although, migratory birds mainly refer to winter birds, some birds also migrate in summer, including cuckoos and pittas. Various species of cuckoos come to the country from March to April, lay eggs and raise nestlings in other suitable bird

In the winter season different species of guest birds coming from around the world are found in different areas of Bangladesh. Although in the old days, I heard the chirping of flying guest birds, especially ducks, in early morning or evening in the Dhaka city, now-a-days don’t hear this anymore. The guest birds, just now I mentioned about, are they really our guests? No, not at all. Strictly speaking, they are migratory birds. So, before talking about migratory birds, some facts about birds need to be known.

The world is home to about 9,930 species and 22,000 subspecies of birds. It is estimated that the total number of different species of birds is 20-40 thousand crore. While India is home to 1,311 species of birds, Bangladesh has about 719 species. According to various studies, 200 species



Critically Endangered Spoon-billed sandpiper Sonadia Islands, Cox's Bazar



Spotted Greenshank, Critically Endangered wader, Sonadia

nest, the nestlings grow up and leave the country for 7-8 months to their original habitat by October. They are known as summer breeder or summer breeding migratory birds.

Also the presence of several species of migratory birds is irregular in this country. Some may come one year, then may revisit the country after 5 or 10 years. They are, therefore, called vagrant or irregular birds. And their number is not low at all, they are one-third of all the migratory birds that come to Bangladesh. Also, some species of birds come to rest in this country for a short period of time during their migration to other countries, such as Asian Brown Flycatcher, Forest Wagtail, Amur Falcon etc. They are known as passage migrant or passage migratory birds. They stop for a short time in our country during their migration to another country in autumn (i.e. from September to October) and again in spring (i.e. from February to March) while returning to their original homeland.

A bird's migration is a regular seasonal phenomenon that usually takes place between its breeding and wintering grounds. The Arctic Warbler travels the longest distance from its breeding area at the North Pole to its wintering habitat at the South Pole. The Striped-tailed Grouse flies from Alaska to New Zealand, covering a flight path of about 11,000 km.

Bangladesh's unique geographic location in the Ganges-Brahmaputra-Meghna (GBM) basin with the year-round flow, the monsoon and tropical climate made it a very important site for migratory birds. When birds travel between their breeding and wintering grounds, they follow specific paths and set routes. These paths, which are called the flyways include suitable habitats where the birds can stop to rest and regain energy to continue their long migration. In true sense, these flyways are the super-highways in the sky for birds. Out of 9 such flyways across the world, Bangladesh falls in two major bird migratory flyways, namely the East-Asian Australasian Flyway and the Central Asian Flyway.



Pied Avocet at Muhuri Dam area, Feni



Painted Stork on Choroil Bil, Rohonpur



Eurasian Spoonbill on Choroil Bil, Rohonpur

Mainly two groups of birds migrate to Bangladesh. The first type is waders or shorebirds and other wetland birds including waterfowls, storks, herons, fish eagles etc. About 82 species of birds are included in this group; they are largest number of migratory birds in terms of total number. In this country, they mainly inhabit in six flyway habitat sites, such as Hakaluki, Tangua, and Hail Haor (including Baikka Bil), Sonadia Islands, Nijhum Dweep (including Damar Char) and Ganguira Char. In addition to Padma River and Charlands of Rajshahi, Choroil Bil of Gomostapur, Chapainbaganj, Charlands of Jamuna River, Meghna Estuary, Kaptai Lake, Sundarbans as well as across the coastal areas. Waders and waterfowls and storks include several Critically Endangered species, namely Spoonbill Sandpiper, Spotted Greenshank, Boer's Pochard, Painted Stork, Woolly-necked Stork, Eurasian Spoonbill etc.

The second group is the birds of forests, gardens, jungles and thickets. About 156 species are included in this group; they are the largest number of migratory birds in terms of total species. And their shelters are spread across the mixed evergreen forests of Sylhet and Chittagong divisions, deciduous forests or shalbanas of central (Dhaka division except greater Faridpur, and Cumilla) and northwestern regions (Rajshahi and Rangpur divisions), mangrove forests of Sundarbans and coastal areas as well as rural forests including shrubs, grass forests and bamboo forests.



Red-crested Pochard at Tangua Haor

Despite its small landmass and huge population, Bangladesh has an extraordinary diversity of birdlife due to its location in between those two flyways. However, some people believe that guest birds (migratory birds) share our food, destroy our environment through their feces by spreading various diseases, etc. And as birds are halal, so they prefer to hunt and eat them. But actually this is not true. In fact, migratory birds do not do us any harm, rather increase the



Eastern Marsh Harrier flying over the Feni River



Northern Lapwing on the Bank of Chotainna Khal, Tangua Haor



Rosy Starling at Baikka Bil, Sreemongol, Moulvibazar



Male Siberian Rubithroatat, Ikuria, Keranigonj, Dhaka

beauty of nature and environment, and thereby benefit us greatly. For example, they help control harmful insects in agriculture, keep the environment clean by eating garbage, their feces increase the fertility of land and are used as fish food, control environmental pollution, and act as environmental indicators. Recently bird watching has become a popular means of recreation among the people of this country. Bird watching helps to develop the growing global eco-tourism that has become a billion-dollar industry, and hence it is gradually becoming a potential source of bio-economy for the country.

Among the different species of migratory birds that visit the country every year, 8 are Critically Endangered, 6 are Endangered and 8 are Vulnerable. However, one of the main threat to these migratory birds is hunting, not only in Bangladesh, but also across their entire flyways. According to Bird Life International an estimated 25 million birds are killed every year, especially during migration. Another extremely pressing issue for migratory birds is the rapid loss of habitats all over their flyways. Natural wetlands and habitats are converted to farmlands and new human settlements. The existing rivers and wetlands are over harvested and inadequate food remains for the birds. Although there are possibility of transmission of zoonotic diseases from wild to domestic birds, because both share similar habitats. Therefore, extreme precaution is always necessary to avoid zoonotic diseases.



White-capped Water-redstart



Male Black-headed Bunting on the Padma river charland, Kustia



Male Hill Blue Flycatcher, Hobigonj



Male Siberian Blue Robin, Hobigonj

Finally, considering the above facts, we should regard them as part of our nature and environment instead of guests. It should be remembered that if these migratory birds are hunted and their numbers are reduced, some Critically Endangered birds may disappear from this country and, even from the whole world, which will certainly not be good for us. Therefore, everyone should come forward to protect the migratory birds of Bangladesh.

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Victory Day observed at DFP



Children took part in drawing competition on the occasion of Victory Day

The Department of Films and Publications organized a day-long programme to mark the Victory Day at Tathya bhaban on December 17, 2022.

The programme includes drawing competition for the children and a photo exhibition followed by a discussion meeting. On that day, the drawing competition was held among the school children in the morning. Around 100 students of various classes from different schools participated in the drawing competition. A total of six students were awarded in two categories. Besides, all participating children were given special prizes and certificates.

In the afternoon, a photo exhibition was inaugurated followed by a Film Show titled 'Aparajew Bangladesh', a cultural programme was held with



Information and Broadcasting Secretary Md. Humayun Kabir Khandaker inspecting Photo Exhibition organized on the occasion of the Victory Day at Tathya Bhaban



Information and Broadcasting Minister Dr Hasan Mahmud, MP delivering speech as Chief Guest in the discussion meeting

the participants of different artists and discussion meeting held at the Auditorium. Lastly Information and Broadcasting Minister Dr Hasan Mahmud, MP was present in the discussion meeting as the chief guest while Information and Broadcasting Secretary Md. Humayun Kabir Khandaker was present as special guest. Besides, Md. Zashim Uddin, Director General of Department of Mass Communication, Director General of Bangladesh Television Shohrab Hossain, Director General of National Institute of Mass Communication Shahin Islam, ndc and Vice Chairman of Bangladesh Film Censor Board M. Saifullah attended the programme. Director General of Department of Films and Publications S.M. Golem Kibria presided over the discussion meeting.

In the discussion, the speakers highlighted the sacrifices made by the Bengali nation as well as the struggles of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman to achieve the Independence of Bangladesh. Officials of the Ministry and other departments as well as dignitaries and media personalities were present in the day-long programme.



Officials and other dignitaries attended the Programme

Metro Rail Rolls into Reality



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina addressing the inaugural ceremony of Metro Rail in Dhaka on December 28

Bangladesh enters speedy electric-commuting era as its maiden metro rail service opened on 28 December 2022 on a section of mass rapid-transit line in Dhaka. At precisely 1:38 pm Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina waved the green flag and the country's first-ever metro began to roll, marking a major leap in the Bangladesh's transport sector.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said, we have added another feather of pride to the crown of Bangladesh's people today. Another feather added to the crown of the development of Bangladesh. 'We have taken six metro rail lines which will be implemented by 2030. I think that after implementing all these metro rails skill and eligibility of the people of Bangladesh will be increased along their scopes for employment apart of contributing to the GDP' she added. The Prime Minister made this comment at a programme marking the inauguration of the country's first metro rail at Uttara sector-15 playground. The premier said that the metro rail would help reduce the city's traffic jam significantly.

Hereafter, the country's first metro rail titled Mass Rapid Transit Line 6 (MRT 6) started operation partially from 29 December 2022 with 10-minute interval to and from the 11.73 km track from 8 am to 12 pm every day. The highest speed of this metro rail will be 110 km/hour and the seat capacity of each train is 2,308. MRT Line-6 will be capable of carrying around 483 thousand people a day between Uttara and Motijheel and the trip will take 38 minutes. Each train will have one reserved coach for women. The entirely elevated and air-conditioned rail service will run initially on the 11.73 km long Uttara-Agargaon route before eventually expanding the service to 21.26 kilometres by 2025, covering 17 stations. A commute from Uttara to Agargaon costs Tk 60 and the minimum fare is Tk 20. The complete service between the two stations is likely to start from March 26 next year.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and her younger sister Sheikh Rehana entering the Metro Rail Station Uttara North

The MRT Line-6 project was given the go-ahead in 2012 with a June 2024 deadline and a cost of Tk 220 billion. The project was revised this year to extend the line to Kamalapur and the project cost went up to Tk 335 billion. The new deadline was set at 2025. Japan is providing about 60 percent of the cost in soft loans.

The Prime Minister's sister, Sheikh Rehana, Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader and Japanese Ambassador IWAMA Kiminori were also present among others in the inaugural ceremony. *Source: Financial Express, the New Age and the Daily Star, 29 December 2022*



Country's first-ever Metro Rail starts operation in Dhaka City

Prime Minister said this while inaugurating the third bridge over Shitalakhya river and the first six-lane bridge in Bangladesh, over Madhumati river. She inaugurated the bridges through videoconferencing from her office.

Sheikh Hasina said that these two bridges will play an important role in expanding trade and commerce in this region, including Nepal, Bhutan and India.

‘Chattogram port, Mongla port, international airports in Dhaka, Chattogram and Sylhet have been opened to the friendly countries - keeping mutual benefits in mind,’ she said. *Source: The Financial Express*

11 October, 2022

ECNEC approves six projects worth Tk 70.18b

The Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (ECNEC) on October, 11 approved six projects including one to restore four canals in Dhaka at a cost of Tk 8.99 billion (899 crore).

Under the scheme, some 20-km of four canals -- Kalunagar, Jirani, Manda and Shyamnagar -- under the Dhaka South City Corporation would be restored to solve waterlogging and improve environment through beautification.

The approval came from the ECNEC meeting held at the NEC Conference Room. The meeting was presided over by ECNEC Chair and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina through virtual platform from her official residence Ganobhaban.

‘The meeting approved five fresh projects and one revised project. The total estimated cost of the six projects including the revised one is some Tk 7,018.73 crore,’ Planning Minister MA Mannan told a news briefing after the meeting.

Of them, Tk 4,362.63 crore will be mobilised from the government’s fund while Tk 269.62 crore from a concerned organisation’s fund and Tk 2,386.48 crore from the external sources as foreign debt, he said. *Source: The Financial Express*

BD elected as UNHRC Member for 2023-25

Bangladesh on October,11 won in the election for membership of the UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC) for the term of 2023-25 by securing 160 votes out of 189 cast.

This prestigious win is indeed significant as it was the most competitive international election of all Bangladesh faced since 2018, a spokesperson of the foreign ministry said.

Bangladesh, as the highest recipient of votes in Asia Pacific Group, has secured one of the four seats in the UNHRC competing with 7 aspirant countries from the Asia Pacific Group.

The other three countries from the region elected were the Maldives (154 votes), Vietnam (145 votes) and Kyrgyzstan (126 votes). Bahrain withdrew their candidature few days ago. Republic of Korea (123 votes) and Afghanistan (12 votes) lost the election.

State Minister for Foreign Affairs Md Shahriar Alam led Bangladesh delegation in the UN General Assembly during the UNHRC election. *Source: The Financial Express*

12 October, 2022

PM distributes the Bangabandhu Jatiya Krishi Puroshkar-1425 & 1426

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on October, 12 called for boosting the country’s farm products to help diversify the export basket and earn more in foreign exchange.

‘I think agricultural products can play a vital role in diversifying export basket. We must not be dependent on one or two export items only,’ she said.

The premier was virtually addressing a programme organised to hand over Bangabandhu Jatiya Krishi Puroshkar-1425 and 1426 (Bangla year), the highest state recognition in the agriculture sector from her official Ganobhaban residence.

The Ministry of Agriculture organised the function at the Osmani Memorial Auditorium.

On behalf of the Prime Minister, the agriculture minister distributed the award among 44 individuals and organisations for their contribution to the agriculture research and expansion, cooperatives, motivation, technology innovation, commercial farming, afforestation, rearing livestock and poultry and fish farming.

Each of the gold medal winners received Tk 0.1 million along with 18-carat gold medal weighing 25 grams, while each silver medal winner got Tk 50,000 along with a medal of 25 grams pure silver and each bronze medal winner received Tk 25,000 along with a bronze medal. *Source: The Financial Express*

13 October, 2022

Serve nation with professional efficiency

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on October, 13 asked the Bangladesh Army to serve the country with professional efficiency, dutifulness and integrity by remaining loyal to the leadership as well as being imbued with the spirit of the War of Liberation and ideals of the Father of the Nation.

The Prime Minister made the call while addressing the National Flag giving ceremony of the Headquarters’ ‘71 Mechanised Brigade’ ‘15 and 40 East Bengal (Mechanised)’ as well as ‘9 and 11 Bangladesh Infantry Regiment (Mechanised)’ at the CMP Centre and School in Savar Cantonment.

She joined the event virtually from her official residence Ganobhaban through video conference. *Source: The Financial Express*



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina joined the national flag giving ceremony of Bangladesh Army at CMPC&S parade ground, Savar Cantonment through video conference from Ganobhaban on October, 13



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Brunei's Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkhiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah witnessed signing bilateral instruments at the Prime Minister's Office in Dhaka on October, 16

16 October, 2022

Four MoUs signed between Bangladesh and Brunei Darussalam

Haji Hassanal Bolkhiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, who visited Bangladesh on October 15-16, gave the consent during his meeting with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on October, 16.

This was the first-ever visit by a Head of State of Brunei Darussalam to Bangladesh. The official talks between the Sultan of Brunei and the Prime Minister of Bangladesh was held in a warm and cordial atmosphere, where the two leaders reviewed the entire gamut of bilateral relations, according to a joint statement - issued after the meeting.

The leaders witnessed signing of four bilateral instruments and expressed their expectations for quick implementation of the provisions as envisaged in those instruments.

The MoUs were on - air services; employment/-recruitment of Bangladeshi workers; recognition of certificates issued under the provisions of the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watch-keeping for Seafarers 1978, as amended; and field of cooperation in supply of LNG and other petroleum products. *Source: The Financial Express*

17 October, 2022

World Food Day 2022 : PM asks to bring fallow lands under cultivation

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on October, 17 renewed her call to raise food production and bring fallow lands under cultivation to protect Bangladesh from the brunt of looming food crisis worldwide.



PM Sheikh Hasina addressing a programme virtually from her official residence Ganobhaban on the occasion of the World Food Day 2022 on October, 17

‘You will have to stop wasting food. You should try to produce your own foods on your own.... If we all work together, Bangladesh will face no effect (of the global food crisis). It’s my firm belief,’ she said.

The premier was addressing a programme held at the city’s Osmani Memorial Auditorium on the occasion of the World Food Day 2022. She joined the event through a virtual platform from her official residence Ganobhaban. *Source: The Financial Express*

18 October, 2022

Sheikh Russel Day observed

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on October, 18 urged all to shun war and violence to create a peaceful world for children.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and her younger sister Sheikh Rehana placed flower wreaths on the grave of their youngest brother Sheikh Russel at Banani graveyard in the capital, marking Russel’s 59th birth anniversary on October, 18

‘We don’t want war, devastation and arms trading. We don’t want any child to turn into a refugee and to be shot to death,’ she said.

The premier was virtually addressing a programme, marking the 59th birth anniversary of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman’s youngest son Sheikh Russel, at the Bangabandhu International Conference Centre in Dhaka, from her official Ganobhaban residence.

The programme also marked Sheikh Russel Day and distribution of Sheikh Russel Padak among winners.

The PM also inaugurated 5,000 Sheikh Russel Digital Labs and 300 Sheikh Russel Schools of Future across the country at the event. *Source: The Daily Star*



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina offering prayer after virtually inaugurates installation of the reactor pressure vessel at the second unit of Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant in Pabna on October, 19

19 October, 2022

2nd reactor at Rooppur nuclear power plant installed

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on October, 19 said that the people are getting electricity even though the government has imposed some austerity measures to navigate global crisis.

‘We are also maintaining austerity in some cases. We are compelled to do so for the present situation,’ she said while inaugurating the installation of a reactor pressure vessel at the second unit of the 2,400-megawatt Rooppur nuclear power plant (RNPP).

She joined the programme virtually from her official residence Ganobhaban while it was held at Ishwardi in the northern district of Pabna.

The country’s lone nuclear power plant, being constructed at Rooppur in Ishwardi at a total cost of US\$ 12.65 billion, has two units with a power-generation capacity of 1200 MW each. *Source: The Financial Express*

26 October, 2022

PM calls upon the businessmen to maintain fair price of goods

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina called upon the businessmen to do business thinking about their country and its people as the world is going through a crisis due to



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina addresses a meeting with importers and exporters of consumer goods at Ganobhaban in Dhaka on October, 26

the Russia-Ukraine war and the Covid-19 pandemic.

The PM made the remarks on October, 26 at a meeting with importers and exporters of consumer goods. The Prime Minister called upon the businessmen to sell all the essential commodities, including oil and sugar, at fair prices across the country.

The PM said that the government is importing LNG with higher prices and providing it at a cheaper rate to the businessmen.

Hasina said that to procure soybean and sugar, a team led by the Commerce Secretary will go to Brazil to negotiate directly for the TCB. *Source: The Financial Express*

27 October, 2022

PM launched new development projects at Payra

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on October 27 said the Payra seaport will be transformed into a deep-sea port in the future in the vein of the Matarbari and Moheshkhali ports.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina virtually inaugurates several development projects aimed at creating better facilities at Payra Seaport on October, 27

‘I’m really happy that the construction [of the port] is fully funded by Bangladesh. We’re using our reserve fund for this,’ said Hasina.

Sheikh Hasina said this while inaugurating some development projects, including capital dredging, at Payra Port, aiming to equip it with better facilities for smooth operations.

The other inaugurated projects included eight ships and vessels, the first terminal, construction of a six-lane approach road and a bridge at Payra Port.

She said the Payra Port has special importance as it is situated in between Mongla and Chattogram ports. This port has so far earned revenues worth over Tk 6.00 billion since operations started. *Source: The Financial Express*

1 November, 2022

National Youth Day: PM urges the youth to increase food production

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on November 1 urged the youth to make greater efforts for boosting food and agricultural production, and keeping Bangladesh free from any worldwide famine and economic recession.

‘I would like to call upon our youth to take more initiatives for the production and processing of food items in their respective areas. If so, we’ll be able to fulfill the local demand and also help other famine-hit countries,’ she said.

The premier was addressing the inauguration of the National Youth Day-2022 and the ceremony of National Youth Award-2022 at Osmani Memorial Auditorium through a virtual platform from her official residence Ganobhaban. *Source: The Financial Express*

7 November, 2022

PM inaugurates 100 bridges in 25 districts

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on November, 7 said the people of the country are now enjoying the benefits of the development works done by the Awami League government,



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina virtually launching 100 bridges in 25 districts in the country from her official residence Ganobhaban on November, 7

The premier said this while opening the 100 newly constructed bridges to traffic in 25 districts through a video conferencing from her official residence Ganobhaban. She said her government has been able to make enough socio-economic development for the people of the country. The per capita income has risen to US\$ 2824 in the country.

Describing the inauguration of 100 bridges all at a time as a historic incident, she said the construction of the bridges would help maintain the law and order as well as accelerate economic development in every respective area. *Source: The Financial Express*



Bangladesh National Women's football team hand over the SAFF Women's Championship trophy to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at a programme at the PMO in Dhaka on November, 9

9 November, 2022

PM distributes reward to BD National Women Football Team for clinching SAFF Women Championship-22

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina underlined on November, 9 the need for arranging more competitions and trainings to gain success in the international sports arena, urging the players to play with the attitude of victory.

‘We have to arrange more competitions alongside proper trainings to achieve success on the international sports stages. The more sports competitions will be arranged, the more our players will attain excellence,’ she said.

The premier was addressing a programme at the Prime Minister’s Office (PMO) in Dhaka to accord reception and distribute monetary reward among Bangladesh National Women Football Team for clinching the maiden SAFF Women Championship-22 title defeating Nepal by 3-1 goals.

Twenty-three players of the Bangladesh National Women Football Team have received a cheque for Tk 500 thousand (five lakh) each and 11 trainers and officers got a cheque for Tk 200 thousand (two lakh) each.

The players later handed over the trophy to the Prime Minister. *Source: The Financial Express*

20 November, 2022

PM inaugurates 50 industrial units in different economic zones

As 50 industrial units and setups get going in Bangladesh’s economic zones, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on November, 20 said investment is growing and that more foreign countries would get EZs.

She urged the industrialists to keep their factories running to ensure that the people of Bangladesh don’t suffer amid the global economic recession.

‘Many countries have announced that they are suffering from economic recession.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina virtually inaugurated 50 industrial units, projects and facilities from Ganobhaban on November, 20

But I can say that Bangladesh is still not in such a bad condition,’ she said. The government is taking measures to keep the wheel of the country’s economy rolling.

The premier was inaugurating and laying foundation-stones of 50 industrial units and commercial infrastructures in different economic zones on the occasion of the golden jubilee of Bangladesh’s independence. *Source: The Financial Express*

21 November, 2022

President, PM pay tribute to the martyrs in National Armed Forces day

President Md. Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on November, 21 paid glowing tributes to the martyred members of the Bangladesh Armed Forces on the occasion of the Armed Forces Day-2022.

The President, who is also the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, paid the tribute by placing a wreath at the altar of Shikha Anirban (as flame eternal) in Dhaka Cantonment in the morning and stood in solemn silence for a while as a mark of profound respect to the memories of the martyrs.

A smartly turned-out contingent of the Army, Navy and Air Force presented a salute at the time. President Hamid also signed the visitors’ book.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina pays tribute to the martyred members of Bangladesh Armed Forces by placing a wreath at the altar of Shikha Anirban (flame eternal) at Dhaka Cantonment on the occasion of Armed Forces Day on November, 21

Later, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina also paid tribute to the martyred members of Bangladesh Armed Forces on the occasion of Armed Forces Day-2022. *Source: The Financial Express*

22 November, 2022

ECNEC approves Taka 25.8 billion coastal towns climate resilience project

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina asked all concerned on November 22 to undertake and thus implement development projects without harming nature.

The premier also directed the authorities concerned to implement the development schemes maintaining ecological balance as well as implementing those in a speedy manner avoiding unnecessary revision.

The Prime Minister gave the directives while chairing a meeting of the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (ECNEC) held at the NEC Conference Room in the city's Sher-e-Bangla Nagar area.

Ministers, State Ministers, Planning Commission members and secretaries concerned attended the meeting. *Source: The Financial Express*

President Addresses NDC Graduates: Armed Forces playing significant role in upholding world peace

President Md. Abdul Hamid on November 22 asked the graduates of National Defence Course (NDC) and Armed Forces War Course (AFWC) to create their own identity at the national and international levels by making significant contributions to their respective fields.

'I hope the graduates of this prestigious course would be able to make significant contributions to their respective fields,' Hamid said.

President said this while the graduates of the NDC and AFW course-2022 paid a



President Md. Abdul Hamid addressing a programme for graduates of the NDC and AFW course-2022 at Durbar Hall of Bangabhaban in the city on November, 22

courtesy call on him at Durbar Hall of Bangabhaban in the afternoon. *Source: The Financial Express*

26 November, 2022

PM inaugurates south tube of the Karnaphuli tunnel

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina urged the countrymen on November, 26 contribute to the development of their own areas as the government is working for the overall progress of the country.

‘We are working for the development of the country. All of you (countrymen) should contribute to the development of your own areas,’ she said.

The premier said this while addressing the celebration ceremony of the civil works completion of the south tube of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Tunnel under Karnaphuli river in Chattogram.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina virtually inaugurates a function marking the completion of physical work on the south tube of the Karnaphuli tunnel from Ganobhaban residence on November, 26

She joined the function virtually from her official residence Ganobhaban in Dhaka.

Source: The Financial Express

28 November, 2022

Seminar on International Women Peace and Security

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on November, 28 underscored empowerment of women saying that they are most vulnerable section of society and suffer most during any conflict and disaster.

‘It is beyond question that women are the most vulnerable section of the society, especially in the third world countries. They suffer from various forms of violence, malnutrition, illiteracy and other basic needs. Their plights multiply during any conflict and disaster,’ she said.

The premier said this while speaking at the inaugural session of two-day seminar on International Women Peace and Security.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina addressing the inaugurating ceremony of International Women Peace and Security Seminar- 2022 held at the Army Multipurpose Complex in Dhaka Cantonment on November, 28

Armed Forces Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Bangladesh Police organised the seminar at Army Multipurpose Complex in Dhaka Cantonment.

Source: The Financial Express

6 December, 2022

PM inaugurates Bangladesh Special Economic Zone

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has called for more local and foreign investment in Bangladesh, citing the country as the ‘best place’ for investment,

‘Due to its geographical location, Bangladesh can create a bridge between the West and the East,’ the Prime Minister said at the inaugural ceremony of the Bangladesh Special Economic Zone (BSEZ) widely known as ‘Japanese Economic Zone’ on December, 6 via videoconferencing.

According to Bangladesh Economic Zones Authority (BEZA), the Japanese



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina virtually inaugurates Bangladesh Special Economic Zone at Araihasar upazila in Narayanganj from her official residence Ganobhaban on December, 6

economic zone would draw USD 1.5 billion in investment and create more than 10 million jobs. Forty foreign companies, including thirty from Japan, have expressed interest to invest there, BEZA said. *Source: The Financial Express*

09 December, 2022

Begum Rokeya Padak- 2022 distribution



Prime Minister Shiekh Hasina on December, 9 said that Bangladesh had to be built as a developed nation with the participation of all in unison amid the rise-and-shine of women.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina attends a ceremony on the occasion of Begum Rokeya Day-2022 and Begum Rokeya Padak-2022 distribution at the city's Osmani Memorial Auditorium on December, 9

‘Amid this rise-and-shine of women in the country, we all together have to

build Bangladesh, which has already attained the status of a developing country and will be a developed nation by 2041 and we want to do it,' she said.

The Prime Minister said this while addressing the ceremony of Begum Rokeya Day-2022 and Begum Rokeya Padak-2022 distribution in the capital's Osmani Memorial Auditorium.

At the ceremony, Begum Rokeya Padak-2022 was distributed to five distinguished women for their extraordinary contribution to various sectors in society. The Prime Minister handed over the Padak (medal) to the recipients.

The recipients are Rahima Khatun, professor Kamrun Nahar Begum, Farida Yasmin, Afroza Parveen and Nasima Begum.

Each of the recipients was given a gold medal, a cheque for Tk 4 lakh and a certificate. *Source: The New Age*



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, joining virtually from Ganobhaban residence, addresses the opening ceremony of a programme, titled 'The Global Hub on Locally Led Adaptation', in Dhaka on December, 11

11 December, 2022

PM seeks int'l support for \$230b climate change adaptation plan

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on December, 11 urged the international partners to support Bangladesh in implementation of its multi-billion-dollar national plan on adaptation to climate change.

The National Adaptation Plan (NAP) for 2023-2050 will require a total of US\$ 230 billion for its execution, the premier said while addressing the inaugural ceremony of a Global Hub on Locally Led Adaptation (LLA) at Foreign Service Academy through a virtual platform from her official residence Ganobhaban.

'We shall need 230 billion US Dollar for implementing our NAP from both domestic and international resources. Bangladesh continues to seek a 50-50 distribution between adaptation and mitigation from international climate financing,' she said.

She opened the global hub to reinforce Bangladesh's global leadership on LLA, building on the momentum generated during COP27.

Hasina said the NAP will complement the work being done under Bangladesh Delta Plan 2100 and Mujib Climate Prosperity Plan.

‘I invite our partners from the international public and private sectors to join us in this effort in the spirit of the Paris Agreement.’ she said. *Source: The Financial Express*

12 December, 2022

Smart Bangladesh by 2041: Prime Minister

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said, her government is working to transform the country into ‘Smart Bangladesh’ from a digital one by 2041. The premier said, her government is working to implement successfully the four bases of building Smart Bangladesh that included making smart citizens, smart economy, smart government and smart society. In the Smart Bangladesh, everything will be done through technology and the entire economy will be run through technology.

The prime minister said this while addressing a programme as the chief guest marking the Digital Bangladesh Dibos (day)-2022 and distributing prizes among the winners of the online quiz competition and Digital Bangladesh Puruskar (award)-2022 held on 12 December 2022.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina virtually inaugurates Joy Silicon Tower at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib High-Tech Park in Rajshahi, and Sheikh Kamal Information Communication Training & Incubation Centre in Barishal marking the Digital Bangladesh Dibos (Day)- 2022 on December, 12

At the programme, she also inaugurated the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib High-Tech Park in Rajshahi, having Joy Silicon Tower, Bangabandhu Digital Museum and a Cineplex and Sheikh Kamal Information Communication Training and Incubation Centre in Barishal district.

The Information and Communication Technology Division organised the function at the Bangabandhu International Conference Centre (BICC) in the capital city with the theme Advanced Technology, Inclusive Development. The prime minister also unveiled the cover of digital and print versions of two books on Sheikh Kamal and Digital Bangladesh. *Source : Daily Sun*

14 December, 2022

Martyred Intellectuals Day observed

Prime Minister and Awami League (AL) President Sheikh Hasina on December, 14 said her party never violates human rights rather protects it.



President Md. Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina pay tributes to the martyred intellectuals by placing wreaths at the Martyred Intellectuals Memorial in Dhaka's Mirpur area on the occasion of Martyred Intellectuals Day on December, 14

She criticized efforts of several countries which are out branding Bangladesh negatively despite the fact that they are protecting human rights of the killers.

‘The Awami League never violates human rights. It will give protection. AL ensures rights of the people,’ she said while presiding over a discussion meeting organized by the AL at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre (BICC) in the capital city on Wednesday marking the Martyred Intellectuals Day. *Source: Financial Express*

16 December, 2022

Victory Day Celebrated

The country on 16 December celebrated the 52nd Victory Day, the most joyous day when the nation emerged victorious after a nine-month war in 1971 at the cost of the supreme sacrifice of three million martyrs and the honour of nearly half a million mothers and sisters.

President Md. Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina paid homage at the National Memorial in Savar to honour the Liberation War martyrs.

The head of the state placed a wreath at the altar of the National Memorial at about 6:30am followed by the Prime Minister.

In a show of profound respect for the memories of the martyrs, they stood silently for a while after laying the wreaths.

A smartly turned-out contingent drawn from the Bangladesh Army, Navy, and Air Force presented the state salute on the occasion as the bugles played the last post. Later, The PM paid homage to the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh

Mujibur Rahman, by placing wreaths at his portrait at Bangabandhu Bhaban in the city's Dhanmondi-32.

Freedom fighters, their family members, foreign diplomats, leaders of Awami League, different political and social organisations, and people from all walks of life also paid homage to martyrs.

Along with the government, different socio-political, educational, and cultural institutions and organisations chalked out a series of programmes to celebrate the day.

Discussion meetings were held at the national level on the theme of “Empowering the spirit of the Liberation War and the best use of digital technology in building Sonar Bangla as dreamt by the Father of the Nation.”



President Md. Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina paid homage to the National heroes of the Liberation War at the National Martyrs' Memorial in Savar on the Victory Day on December, 16

The national flag was hoisted atop government, semi-government, autonomous and private offices across the country.

On this day, an exhibition of documentary films and posters based on the history and tradition of the Liberation War was organised at the “Swadhinota Stombha” and the Museum of Suhrawardy Udyan. *Source: The Daily Star*

18 December, 2022

PM attends the Golden Jubilee programme of Bangladesh Supreme Court

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on December, 18 asked all to keep vigil so that the country does not get trapped into ‘lawless situation’ again,

‘Bangladesh must not plunge into that (lawlessness) condition again,’ she said while addressing a programme marking the Golden Jubilee anniversary of Bangladesh Supreme Court.

Bangladesh Supreme Court organised the programme at Bangabandhu International Conference Center (BICC).



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina addressing at a programme on the occasion of Golden Jubilee of Bangladesh Supreme Court held at the Bangabandhu International Conference Centre (BICC) in Dhaka on December, 18

The premier said that Awami League government always tried to ensure that the apex court of the country is run independently.

‘For that purpose, I handed over the financial management to the Supreme Court which was previously in the hands of the government.’ *Source: Financial Express*

19 December, 2022

Boost food output to avert any crisis, says PM

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on December, 19 reiterated her call to increase food production to save the country from any possible trouble amid the global economic recession due to the Covid-19 pandemic and Russia-Ukraine war.

“We have to increase our production and preserve those so that our country must not plunge into any danger,” she said.



PM Sheikh Hasina virtually addresses a programme marking the 25th founding anniversary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Agricultural University in Gazipur on December, 19

The premier was speaking at the programme marking the 25th founding anniversary of the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Agricultural University (BSMRAU) and inauguration of a Technology Exhibition.

The programme was held at the Begum Sufia Kamal Auditorium while the PM joined it virtually from her official residence Ganobhaban. *Source: Financial Express*

20 December, 2022

BGB to be built as world standard force: PM

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said on December, 20 her government was working to transform the Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) into a world-standard force to protect the frontiers with modern technologies.

“We adopted the ‘Border Guard Bangladesh Vision-2041’ to turn it into a world standard and modern force,” she said joining a function to mark the Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) Day-2022 at Bir Uttam Anwar Hossain Parade Ground at Pilkhana in Dhaka.

“You’re playing the role appropriately. But, you have to be more active to ensure a peaceful border,” she said adding her government was implementing huge development works to enhance BGB’s capacity as part of its reconstruction plan.

On her arrival at the BGB headquarters she was ceremoniously received, given an honour guard while she witnessed a march-past and inspected the guard. *Source: Financial Express*

21 December, 2022

PM opens 100 highways as ‘gift’ to the nation in month of victory

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina asked the people on December, 21 to compare the development works done by other governments to that of the Awami League-led government.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina virtually from her office in Dhaka inaugurating 100 national, regional, and district highways in 50 districts across the country on December, 21

‘I expect that people of the country would at least consider how much development was done by those in power for nearly 30 years (1975-1996 and 2001-2009) and what the Awami League governments did,’ she said.

The premier was addressing the inaugural ceremony of 100 highways at her office in Dhaka.

Sheikh Hasina opened a record number of 100 highways to traffic in 50 districts through a virtual platform, within a month and a half after inaugurating 100 bridges in a single day. *Source: Financial Express*

26 December, 2022

Our goal is to ensure justice for all to establish accountability: PM

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on December, 26 said the government wants to ensure justice for all with quick disposal of the cases to establish transparency and accountability in the country.

‘We want that every citizen of the country will get justice,’ she said adding that her government wants quick disposal of cases for the sake of transparency and accountability.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina addressing the inaugural session of the 59th Annual Council of the Bangladesh Judicial Service Association in city's Bangabandhu International Conference Center on December, 26

The prime minister was addressing the inaugural session of the 59th Annual Council of the Bangladesh Judicial Service Association at Bangabandhu International Conference Center (BICC).

Hasina said whatever the government is doing is aimed at ensuring a better life for the people and establishing a bright and secured future for them.

‘Let us ensure rule of law for the people of Bangladesh so they get a better life, and we will establish the Bangladesh which was dreamt by the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman,’ she said.

Law Minister Anisul Huq, Law Secretary Md. Golam Sarwar and Bangladesh Judicial Service Association President AHM Habibur Rahman Bhuiyan also spoke at the programme.

A documentary on the Judicial Service was screen at the programme. *Source: Financial Express*

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Country's first metro rail started its operation on 28 December 2022



Department of Films and Publications

Ministry of Information and Broadcasting

Bangladesh