

Special Issue



Bangladesh

October-December 2021 Quarterly

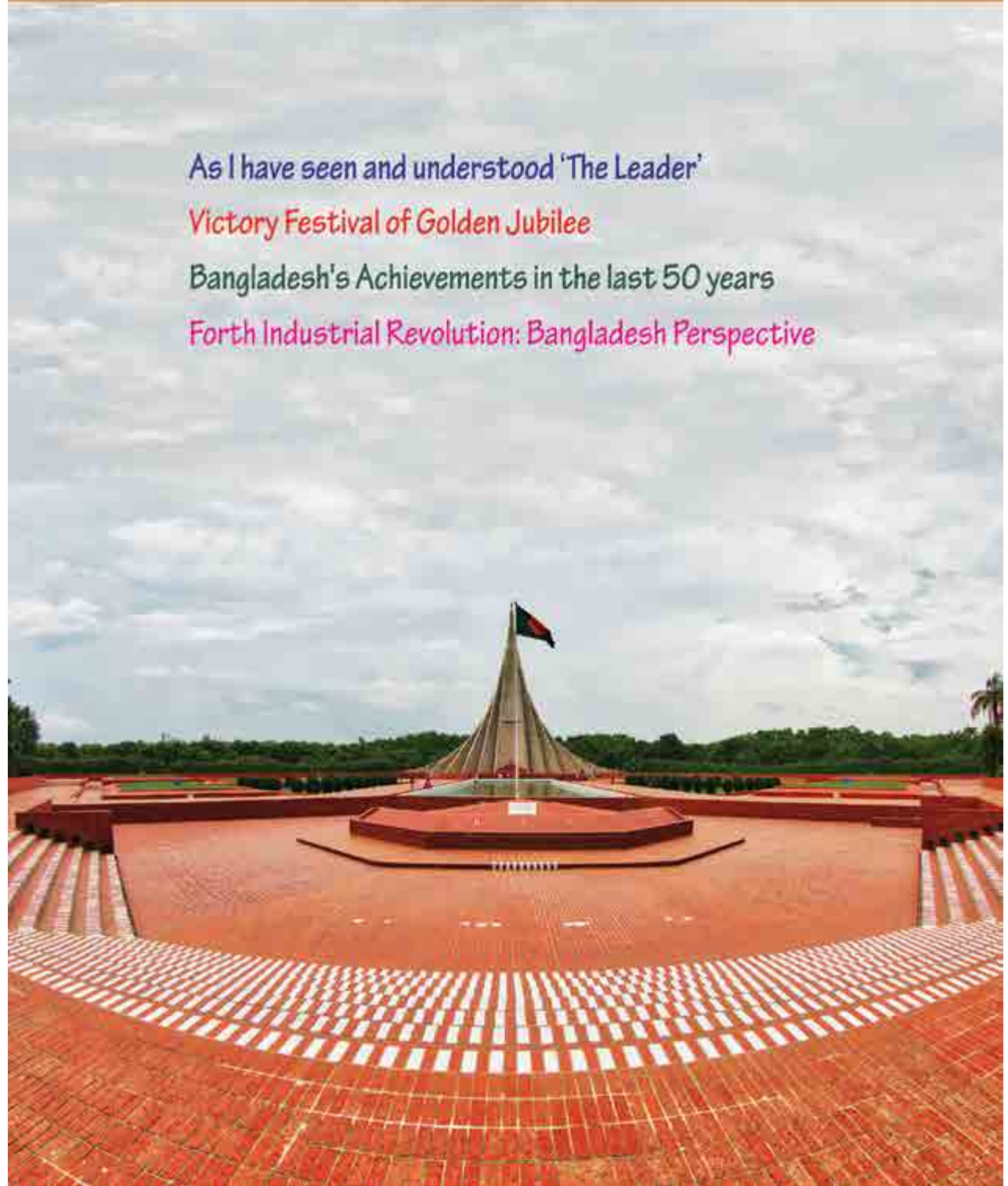


As I have seen and understood 'The Leader'

Victory Festival of Golden Jubilee

Bangladesh's Achievements in the last 50 years

Forth Industrial Revolution: Bangladesh Perspective



Bangladesh

QUARTERLY

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Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina administers an oath to the nation to mark the birth centenary of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and Bangladesh's Independence Golden Jubilee celebrations at South Plaza of National Parliament Building on 16 December while Sheikh Rehana, younger daughter of Bangabandhu, stood beside her



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Bijoy Dibosh, the glorious Victory Day on 16th December, is one of the most significant days in the history of the country. This year Bangladesh is celebrating the 50 years of this glorious Victory as well the Golden Jubilee of the Independence. Bangladesh gained independence from Pakistan on this day in 1971 after nine months Liberation War that started in 26th March of the same year. This blood-soaked war cost lives of millions of people. The military and freedom fighters jointly fought for the war, which was ended following the surrender of General AK Niazi, commanding officer of Pakistani forces at Ramna Racecourse in Dhaka. The government as well as different political parties and social organisations chalked out various programmes to celebrate this day throughout the country and Bangladesh missions abroad also held different programmes in a befitting manner. Print and electronic media also published special issues and broadcast special programmes highlighting the day. In this Mujib Barsho (Mujib Year), the nation also recalls the historic role of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in achieving the Independence of Bangladesh.

In the last five decades Bangladesh made significant progress in many sectors like industry, agriculture, health and some other social indicators. As for example, in 1972-73, the contribution of agriculture sector to GDP was 49.5%, while the contribution of the service sector was 38% and the contribution of the industrial sector was only 12.5 %. At present the contribution of the agriculture sector decreased to 13% while the contribution of service sector increased to 56% and the industrial sector increased by 31%. The per capita income was only US\$ 88 in 1972-73 and now it is US\$ 2,227. The average life expectancy of men and women was 46.2 in 1974 and it increased to 72.8 in 2020. After the independence, the literacy rate of Bangladesh was below 20% which has been increased by 75% in 2021.

Articles on the above subjects have been accommodated apart from the write-ups on historic 7th Match speech of Bangabandhu, role of Mujib Bahini during the Liberation War, wildlife, tourism and poem have also been accommodated in this current issue.

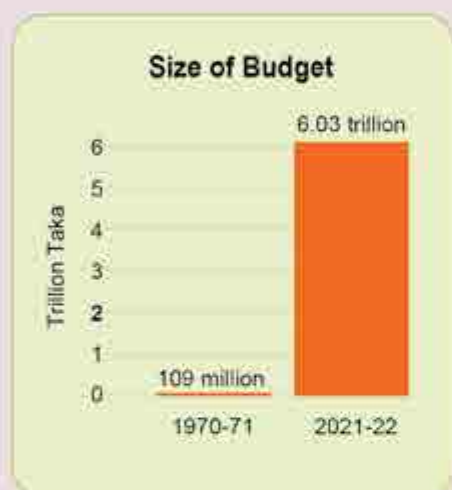
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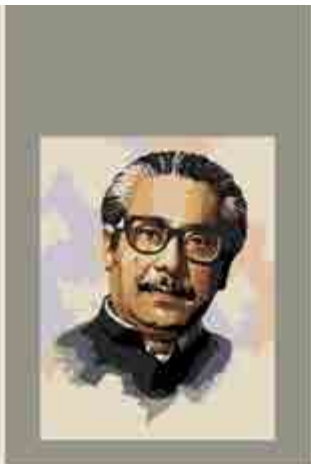


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As I have seen and understood 'the Leader'

Md. Quddus Khan

of the adjoining buildings. The leader came and started speaking after local leaders have spoken. At one stage of his speech heavy rain started pouring. But surprisingly, none left the meeting's venue; they listened to the leader with rapt attention though they were drenched in rain.



Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on his way to the special tribunal set up to try the Agartala conspiracy case, January 1969.

As I have seen and understood the 'leader' as a student of politics. The 'leader' is our beloved leader Bangabandhu (Friend of Bengal) Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, father of the nation of Bangladesh. I have seen him personally on four occasions – First in 1966 in a Public meeting at Ambika Maidan of Faridpur District Town when I was a student of Xgrade of Faridpur Zilla School. The meeting's date, I can not exactly remember, but I remember that the meeting was on 6-point demand. The meeting was largely attended, attendance went beyond 'the Maidan' and extended up to the adjoining roads and by-lanes. People thronged on the roof-tops

None of them tried to take shelter from the rain. It appeared nothing was more important than the speech of the leader and any suffering was acceptable for the cause.

Secondly, so far I remember, in 1970 (when I was a Dhaka University student of Political Science Department) on auspicious Mother Language day of Ekushe February, I saw the leader at the Shaheed Minar in the early morning where he went to pay homage to the language martyrs along with others – partly leaders, politicians, students, intellectuals and the masses. Among the crowd, I tried to near him as far as possible and succeeded. I listened to him from a few yards distance. I saw and heard him saying, 'I am not going to compromise the interest of the



Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman delivering a speech at a mammoth rally arranged in support of 6-Point demand at Racecourse Ground, 7 June 1969

people (Bangladesh), no sufferings can deter me from my commitment.' Possibly, so far I could remember, it was a rapid answer of Bangabandhu to a query asked by any journalist of that time referring to Pakistani Military Junta.

Thirdly, in 1969 (when I was a student of Dhaka University) on February 23 at Race Course Maidan (Now Suhrawardy Udyan), a reception was given to Sheikh Mujib by Kendriya Chatra Sangram Parishad. In this assembly of people and students, Sheikh Mujib was conferred the title of Bangabandhu. In this meeting Bangabandhu extended his support to the 11-point demand of the students which included 6-point demand. As a member of crowd I saw him from a long distance. But I heard his voice and committed speech, which energized me along with others. His speech motivated me and grew a belief in me, that the 'leader' was a great patriot and committed brave fighter who can deliver what he wants for his nation.

Fourthly, historic 7th March speech which was delivered at Race Course Maidan (Now Suhrawardy Udyan) on 7th March, 1971, I attended that meeting as a DU student. As a member of the crowd I saw and listened to the leader from along distance. I saw the leader, a tall man wearing Punjabi, Pyjama and Mujib coat climbing with utter confidence to the Dias step by step, looking thoughtful but not perturbed. He addressed the gathering saying boldly '*Bhayera amar*' (My brothers). He pronounced these two magical words, 4 times in his speech at the beginning of every specific topic of the speech. First time he described the background of his speech. He said, "23 years of history is the history of oppression and blood-shedding of Bangalees. 23 years' history is the history of the crying of the dying Bangalees." He also described his failed negotiation with Pakistani Military Janta. In the second time, he gave pre-conditions for attending next National Assembly Session scheduled to be held on March 25(1971). The

pre-conditions were: withdrawal of Martial Law, sending military platoons back to barracks immediately, holding inquiry into killings of innocent people of East Pakistan and above all, peaceful transfer of power to elected representatives. In the third time he declared his non-cooperation movement. Until his demands were met, all offices, courts, educational institutions would remain closed sine die. He said, 'I do not want Prime Ministership. We want rights of the people.' He said that if bullets were used again against his people, they should go for resistance and make every household into a fort even if he was not there to order for it. He could foresee the future. Later the guerrilla war took place but he could not lead it as he was interned by the Pakistani Junta. But his words came true.

In the fourth time and at the end of his speech he declared his goal, 'This time our struggle is for emancipation, this time struggle is for independence.' And hurriedly left the meeting venue.

Now let me discuss about how I understood the leader from his memoir '*Ashamapto Attojiboni*' (Unfinished Memoirs) and '*Bangabandhu Bhashon (BV)*' - Speeches of Bangabandhu. Bangabandhu was born in 1920 and died in 1975. '*Ashamapto Attojiboni* (AA) is comprised of the memoirs of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman up to 1955. The editor of the book is Honorable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, daughter of Bangabandhu. She has added a chapter on political life of Bangabandhu from 1955 up to his death in 1975. '*Ashamapto Attojiboni*' described the life, struggle, and political agenda of Bangabandhu up to 1955 since his birth in 1920. He also described the politics and political history of the time (1938-1955). In our view, there lies the importance of the book (AA) to the students of Politics and students of history.

In British India he was a Muslim fighting for Pakistan. After the establishment of Pakistan he first became Bengali Muslim Nationalist and then opted for secular politics and became Bengali Nationalist with respect for religion in politics. He said that secularism does not mean religiouslessness. His secularism differ from many other countries. He meant non-communalism by secularism. After creation of Bangladesh some people wanted to blame Islam for division of Pakistan and creation of Bangladesh. But it was not a fact. Bangabandhu believed that it was not for Islam, but it was for disparity (both economic and governance) between East and West Pakistan. It was also the killings, oppression and suppression of Bangalees by them were responsible for division of Pakistan and creation of Bangladesh. On return from Pakistan Jail that is, on his home-coming day (January 10, 1972) he said 'I do not want desecration of Islam. I want to say in unequivocal language that our country will be democratic, secular and socialist country, where farmers, laborers, Hindus and Muslims - all will live in happiness and peace (BV- P-22)'. In his AA he has described how his political philosophy evolved. He described his school life and described how he was first jailed in his life in a case filed at the instigation of a Hindu Mahasabha leader (Gopalganj Town) Mr. Surendra Banerjee and how Hindu S.D.O refused to grant him bail (because of his Muslim identity). He also narrated how his Hindu friend Nani's aunt compelled Nani to wash their entire house, because Nani took Mujib to their (Aunt's House) bedroom. All these and other incidents made Mujib think to believe that Muslims will not be safe in the hands of Hindu leaders in undivided India. So, he writes in his AA, 'I believe with heart and soul that Muslims will

have no existence in undivided India (AA-Page-36).’ So, he took part in Pakistan Movement based on historic Lahore Resolution (1940) as a student of Calcutta Islamia College and as a worker of All India Muslim League and Bengal Muslim League. During 1943 famine in Bengal, lakhs of people died. His leader Civil Supply Minister Mr. Huseyn Shaheed Suhrawardi ordered him to open Langar-Khana (Alms house/feeding center for the poor) to save the famine-stricken people. Mujib helped a lot in opening of many Lagar-khanas at that time. Mujib writes ‘I also jumped into the service of the famine-stricken people leaving my studies (AA- Page 18).’ At that time, he himself used to sleep on the table of Muslim League office in Calcutta and passed the night (AA- Page 18). Such was his service for the humanity. During the 1946 General Election on Pakistan issue he was the in-charge of volunteer core of a District (Faridpur) of Muslim League to help the election. He participated in the Sylhet referendum on the same issue. After the election victory in favour of Pakistan, sensing British attitude against Pakistan, all India Muslim League leader Mr. Muhammad Ali Jinnah declared Direct Action Day on August 16, 1946 to press home their Pakistan demand. Congress led by Hindus did not like it. As a result, Hindu-Muslim riots started in Calcutta and other parts of India (Noakhali and Bihar). Mujib joined Muslim League volunteer core and played a vital role during Hindu-Muslim riots to safeguard the Muslims. He sometimes also gave shelter to Hindus. It is a fact that he was for Muslims but not against the Hindus. This speaks eloquently of his non-communal character. He carried sacks of food in cart to different riot centers open for Muslims pushing cart by himself and his friends taking life risks. Thus, here we find the leader as a dedicated social and political worker who risked his comfort and life for the cause of his people and humanity. During the partition of India his image emerged as a Muslim nationalist but at the same time non-communal and humanist.

After the creation of Pakistan he came to East Pakistan in September, 1947 and admitted himself to Law Department in Dhaka University. He fought for the interest of the 4th class employees of Dhaka University and suffered expulsion from the University along with others. He helped to



Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on a train during election campaign

create Gonoratrik Jubo League (Democratic Youth League) just after independence of Pakistan to fight for communal disharmony and establish communal harmony. Mujib thought that the priority of time was for establishing communal harmony and not the issue of economic emancipation at that time (later it became an issue).

As a perfect reader of aspiration of the people he rightly identified the issue of communal harmony as a priority, as partition of India into two states -- India and Pakistan was based on communal politics. Hence, establishing communal harmony was the prime consideration of the politics of the time. Because though partition of India took place on Hindu-Muslim majority concept, a sizeable member of Hindus and Muslims remain in both sides as minority, Hindus in Pakistan and Muslims in India.

After the creation of Pakistan Mujib realized that basis of politics changed from conflict of religion i.e. Hindu-Muslim conflict to conflict of mundane interest (Economic and governance) between East and West Pakistan. Famous language movement for recognition of Bangla as one of the state languages of Pakistan made it very clear that West Pakistani leaders of Pakistan were not in favor of recognizing legitimate and genuine interest of the East Pakistan. Rather they were opposed to it. They wanted to make Urdu (2.5% of the population of Pakistan spoke Urdu) only state language of Pakistan as opposed to Bengali 56% of the people of Pakistan spoke in Bangla. Mujib failed the need for the creation of organization – both student and political to unite people of East Pakistan to fight the West Pakistani rulers of Pakistan. As a result, East Pakistan Muslim Student League was created in 1948. Some student leaders like Oli Ahad opposed to using the word Muslim in Student League name by terming it as communal but Mujib and many others were of firm opinion that it was not the right time to expunge the word Muslim from student politics. East Pakistan Awami Muslim League was created in 1949 of which he became Joint General Secretary. Mujib contributed a lot to the creation of both these organizations. In 1954 East Pakistan Awami Muslim League (EPAML) formed United Front with Krishak Sramik Party of A. K. Fazlul Huq and other parties and fought the General Election of provincial Assembly on the 21-point demands (which included demand for autonomy for East Pakistan and recognition of Bengali as one of the state languages). United Front secured landslide victory in the same election of 1954 (UF secured 223 seats as against Muslim League securing only 9 seats and others 5 out of total 237 Muslim seats) but soon after the formation of UF Government, after seven months it was dissolved by the central Government of Pakistan under section 92 KA of Govt. of India Act-1935. Mujib was the only minister of UF Government who was arrested just after the dissolution of the UF Government. Earlier, Mujib also suffered imprisonment for taking part in the historic Language Movement.

The refusal of Pakistan Government to recognize Bengali as one of the state languages and dismissal of UF Government arbitrarily made it very clear to Sheikh Mujib that expectation of justice for East Pakistan from West Pakistan led Pakistani central Government was a myth. He also realized that Pakistan Government was depriving the people of East Pakistan in the name of religion (Islam) but Islam stands for justice and not injustice. Pakistan Government was far away from justice in this case. It is a fact in British Indian politics religion (Islam

and Hinduism) played a vital role, but after a few years of partition of India into Pakistan and India, the political scenario was totally changed. The mundane issue of politics, that is, governance and economic issues came to the forefront taking changing issues into consideration, Mujib suggested that the use of the word 'Muslim' might be omitted from the name of East Pakistan Awami Muslim League and it should be renamed as East Pakistan Awami League. It was finally done in 1955 in Council of Awami League. In 1958, Martial Law was declared in Pakistan and



Bangabandhu at Karachi Airport after arrested from his Dhanmondi residence at 1:30 am in the early hours of 26 March 1971

activities of all political parties were banned. Mujib was jailed for fourteen months. In 1962, Martial Law was lifted and Mujib was released. In 1964, Awami League was revived and Mujib was made General Secretary of Awami League. The next event was indo-pak war in 1965. This war made it very clear to Sheikh Mujib that two wings of Pakistan— East and West Pakistan separated by more than thousand mile of foreign hostile territory (India), it became almost impossible for the movement of goods, services, and manpower between the wings. So, complete autonomy, both economic and governance, was imperative in geo-political situation. So, Sheikh Mujib came up with his historic 6-point demand on the basis of historic Lahore Resolution (1940) which envisaged two independent Muslim majority states in north-west (West Pakistan) and eastern part of India (East Pakistan). 6-point demand proposed a loose federation on the basis of historic Lahore Resolution with only two subjects centre, that is, defense and foreign affairs. Separate currency, separate taxation system, right to trade directly with foreign countries etc. were suggested for a financial system-based on two economy for two wings of the country. Separate para militia was also demanded for East Pakistani's defense. Mujib called 6-point demand as the Magna-Carta of East Pakistani Bengali people. People of East Pakistan endorsed 6-point demands overwhelmingly within a short space of time. He became the national hero of the Bengali people of the East Pakistan. Awami League for the first time made him the President of the party from the post of General Secretary. In 1969, Chatra Sangram Parishad endorsed his 6-point demand and came up with 11-point

demand (which included 6-point demand). In 1970, General Election of Pakistan, Awami League included its 6-point demand in the manifesto and achieved a landslide victory. Awami League won 167 seats out of 300 (of which 169 seats were from East Pakistan) seats of National Assembly of Pakistan. Awami League also got victory bagging 288 seats out of 300 seats of Provincial Assembly of East Pakistan. This election result entitled Sheikh Mujib to be the Prime Minister of Pakistan but Pakistani rulers could not digest the idea of Sheikh Mujib becoming Prime Minister of Pakistan. Mr Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, Chief of Pakistan People's Party (PPP), who won majority National Assembly seats in West Pakistan in the election, came up with the demand for sharing power with Sheikh Mujib. But Mujib could not accept this demand because his party alone achieved majority seats in the National Assembly of Pakistan securing 167 seats out of 300 seats of the National Assembly. President of Pakistan General Yahya Khan called National Assembly session on March 3, 1971 in Dhaka. Mr. Zulfikar Ali Bhutto not only refused to attend National Assembly session but also threatened to make National Assembly session venue a butcher shop. General Yahya Khan postponed the National Assembly session without consulting the majority leader Sheikh Mujib which gave clear message that Pakistani military junta was not ready to hand over the power to Sheikh Mujib. Mujib said, 'we shall not let it go unchallenged.' On March 7, 1971 at Race Course Maidan (Now Suhrawardy Udyan) Mujib declared non-cooperation movement. He also declared, **'The struggle this time is a struggle for our emancipation. The struggle this time is a struggle for independence.'** The writer was also present in the meeting as Dhaka University student. In the night following March 25, 1971 and in the early morning of March 26, 1971 Mujib sent a wireless message, in which he said, 'this may be my last message, from today Bangladesh is independent.' The message called for resistance against Pakistani Occupation Army. On March 27, 1971, a Bangali Army Officer also called for independence in the name of Bangabandhu from Kalurghat Betarkendra, Chattagram. It was leader's (Bangabandhu) call that was important for the people and for the world. On March 10, 1971, Revolutionary Government of Bangladesh was formed with Bangabandhu as head of the state (though he was then in Pakistan jail). On 17th March, 1971 the Biplobi Sarkar of Bangladesh took oath of Office at Amrokanon of Boidyanathtala under Meherpur subdivision (Now District). Muktijuddha (Liberation War) started under the leadership of '*Biplobi Bangladesh Sarkar*' then led by Acting President Syed Nazrul Islam and Prime Minister Tajuddin Ahmad. Of course, Muktijuddha was conducted in the name of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. After nine months of Muktijuddha with the help of Indian Army, Muktibahini fought side by side and achieved the independence of Bangladesh de facto on December 16, 1971 after the surrender of Pakistan Army to the joint command of Indian Army and Muktijoddhas. After this event of surrender within a few weeks Pakistan Government on January 8, 1972 was compelled to release Sheikh Mujib from Pakistan jail. Sheikh Mujib came to Bangladesh via United Kingdom and India on January 10, 1972. He gave a historic speech on his home-coming day at Race Course Maidan. In his speech he remembered those who laid down their lives in Muktijoddha and also those who were wounded in the warfare. He thanked his colleagues who conducted Muktijoddha at his call in his absence. He also thanked the International Community, especially India, Russia and others who helped

Muktijoddha. He reiterated, 'I am a Muslim, I am a Bangali, Bangla is my country, Bangla amar Bhasha. I do not want desecration of Islam. my country will be democratic, secular and socialist country.' He called to UN to form International Tribunal to try war-criminals who committed genocide in Bangladesh. He did not forget to remember his vision of Bangladesh. He said, 'Only prayer of my life is that people of Bangladesh should get food, shelter and achieve a decent life (BV- Page 22).' Within less than one year of independence Bangabandhu's Government was able to give constitution to the people of Bangladesh whereas Pakistan took long nine years to frame their constitution. The Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) played a vital role to get recognition of Bangladesh by Pakistan on February 22, 1974. On next day, that is, 23rd of February, 1974 he went to Pakistan to attend the OIC Conference there. It was reported that a Bureaucrat-turned Adviser of India advised Bangabandhu not to attend OIC Conference. Bangabandhu flatly refused to accept his advice and said that he did not require political lesson from a Bureaucrat-turned-Adviser as because he was capable enough to take right decision as a leader of the independentsovereign country. His joining of OIC speaks of his political sagacity and understanding of recognizing 'natural friends' in the international politics.

In 1975, he introduced Presidential system in Bangladesh in place of Parliamentary system and assumed the charge of Presidency of Bangladesh. He also introduced one-party system, namely, Baksal (Bangladesh Krishak Sramik Awami League) and termed it National Party with the honest hope of unifying the



Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman addressing United Nations General Assembly in 'Bangla' for the first time. 25 September 1974

whole nation. He thought that formation of National Party will help improving law and order situation and unite the people.

As a student of politics I felt to understand how a leader like Bangabandhu, who was the product of democracy, could change over to the opposite. I have no explanation of it when I read his speeches. He said, 'Theory is very good. Theory written in pen and paper is very valuable. We can get peace in reading it. But if theory does not match in practical work, theory remains confined only to pen and paper. It does not materialize (BV- Page 102)'. He also said, 'I am the leader of these helpless people. I have become leader because they made me so (BV- Page 73)'. Democratic culture is imbedded in our people and in our history.

His views on freedom, democracy, socialism, political party, govt. servants, constitution, corruption, rule of law and Sonar Bangla etc. are very pertinent to understand him. He said:

Freedom: 'Meaning of freedom is to live with honor and dignity (BV – Page 25).'

Democracy and Socialism: 'But where there is socialism there is no democracy. But from the soil of Bengal I want to show that I shall establish socialism through democracy (BV- 61).'

Politics: 'Political Institutions need 4 things i.e. leadership, manifesto or ideals, dedicated workers and organization (BV- Page 105)'

Govt. Servants: 'From now on you (Govt. employees) to shun bureaucratic attitude and work as a Khadem (servant) of the people (BV- Page 33).'

Constitution: 'A country without constitution is a boat without Majhi (sailor), a boat without a hull. Constitution should not only include rights of the people but also include the duties and responsibilities toward them (BV- Page 82).'

Secularism: 'Secularism does not mean religiouslessness (BV-Page 83).'

Corruption: 'You can not weed out corruption only with Law and force. For this you are to form public opinion like the days of freedom struggle. You are to create public opinion in the soil of Bengal against the corrupt people, bribe-takers and oppressors. I believe only then Bangladesh will be free from corruptions (BV- Page118).'

Sonar Bangla: 'You can even smash Sheikh Mujibur Rahman into spice and eat up but can never build a *Sonar Bangla* (Golden Bengal) unless you are able to give birth to perfect human beings or *Sonar Manush* (Man with rich qualities) (BV – Page 72).'

The leader I have seen and understood is a leader of the people, a charismatic leader, a democratic leader with socialist vision, a leader who formed his political agenda from reality of his time, a leader who owes his birth to helpless people of grassroot level, a leader who is brave in decision-making and had the skill of choosing right political tactics. Finally, he was a patriot of the highest order and a leader of man and humanity.

The writer is a retired Secretary to the Govt. of Bangladesh and a former Assistant Professor of Politics in Chattogram University



Victory Festival of Golden Jubilee

Muhammad Zafar Iqbal

read about those experiences in books and periodicals, but they will never be able to feel that fully. Actually, it is not possible to even imagine that sheer ecstasy of achieving independence by defeating the cruellest monsters in the world.

When the common people went out of their homes for the first time after achieving victory in 1971, they did not know that a terrible pain was awaiting them. There was no communication among the people in besieged Dhaka during the last few days of the war. The Indian fighter jets were flying in the sky throwing out leaflets for the Pakistani military. The leaflets read: 'Surrender to us, otherwise the freedom fighters will catch you'. The treacherous tyrants were also not sitting idle. When they realized that our victory was certain, led by the Jamaate Islami's affiliated organization Islami Chhatra Sangha and the Al-Badar force, these traitors detained and killed many prominent poets, litterateurs, doctors, engineers and journalists of the country. That killing process was also inhuman; e.g. the heart of a heart specialist was cut, the eyes of an eye specialist were gouged out. I am astonished when I find that some mainstream political parties of this country do not have the slightest hesitation in doing politics with the Jamaate Islami!

There was another apprehension among us during that Victory Day of 1971, which revolved around Bangabandhu as he was still in Pakistani prison. Ultimately, the Pakistani government was forced to release Bangabandhu in the face of global pressure. Bangabandhu returned to his countrymen on 10 January 1972. I do not know of any other occasion in the world where such incomparable scenes of people's spontaneous love could be observed.

I do not know of any experience more amazing in a man's life than that of witnessing the day 16 December 1971. It was a day of unbelievable joy; but astonishingly, there were tears in the eyes of many during that juncture of real triumph. Although a floodgate of euphoria was opened up in the hearts of millions of people of this land on the occasion of victory, many wiped their eyes unknowingly by remembering those dear ones who were lost while snatching the moment of triumph.

We have not forgotten that day the slightest even after the lapse of half a century. The generation of people among us who could watch that day with their own eyes is gradually shrinking. They would leave this world one day while holding in their bosom the sheer joy of directly experiencing that day. The people of this land may



Hilarious people of Dhaka city celebrating victory

At that time, there were millions of uprooted people. Families were bereft of fathers, mothers had lost their children, and there were dishonoured women, crippled freedom fighters, and people sunk in extreme poverty. They did not have houses or dwelling places, no apparel to wear, no food in their mouths. The country suffered from absence of roads and ports, bridges, transports, schools, colleges, textbooks and writing papers. The economy was in tatters. There was only a huge expectation in the hearts of the people. Bangabandhu busied himself then for the reconstruction of the nation.

But he was not allowed the time to build up a country that was accorded birth by him. Bangabandhu was killed along with his family members through one of the most brutal killings in world history at dawn of 15 August after a mere three and a half years. Even a child, newly married wives and pregnant woman were not spared. The

soil of this wretched land was dyed by the blood of Bangabandhu. As Bangladesh and Bangabandhu was synonymous, therefore attempt was actually made to demolish Bangladesh by assassinating Bangabandhu. Born with the ideals of the liberation war, Bangladesh then lost its way in the blind alleys of illusion.

The war-criminals came out of jails within one year after that; the country became a safe haven for the anti-liberation elements. A huge frustration engulfed the freedom fighters, which was accompanied by intense pain and perturbation.

Finally, Bangabandhu's daughter Sheikh Hasina took charge of the country. She has revived a country that was sliding backward instead of going forward, on its main path once again. Not only that, she has freed the country from any stigma by holding the trials of the war-criminals. We can again observe our Victory Day by holding our head high on the occasion of the golden jubilee of Bangladesh.

But has all our dreams really materialised? Has everything that was supposed to be achieved really taken shape?

2.

Alongside economic progress of the country, resolution of the problems related to food, clothing and housing of the people was initiated. If we try hard after looking at the faces of our children and teenagers, we shall surely be able to free our children who are captive in coaching centres pursuing memory-based joyless education. Our universities will certainly be upgraded to international standard if their responsibilities are reposed on genuine educationists. Areas of research will have to be developed in this country. It may also become possible one day to put clinical and health services on a solid footing. The country may be saved from the bite of climate change through implementation of proper plans. We may be able to witness healthy democracy in the country when all political parties – large and small – start to believe in the dreams of the liberation war.

But as long as victory is not attained in overcoming our biggest challenge, we shall not be able to take pride in our country in a loud voice despite so many achievements. All of us now know what that big challenge is; it is nothing else but the poisonous air of communalism. Can everybody feel the bleeding in the country's heart due to this venomous air?

3.

Nobody can deny that despite remaining in a dark domain during a major part of the past fifty years, we have ultimately accomplished many great achievements. But these huge achievements would become pale if even a single child of this land has to spend the night with suppressed fear because of having a different religion. One of the easiest ways to gauge how a country is faring is



Bangabandhu attending a huge public rally for the first time in liberated Bangladesh at Dhaka Racecourse Ground, 10 January 1972

to ask someone belonging to the minority community about their wellbeing. If they say they are fine, then it can be understood that the country is fine; if they feel that they are not okay, then it has to be inferred that the country is not well.

Based on that simple criterion, we can recognise that our country is not well. Memories of the incidents at Ramu, Nasirnagar and Cumilla are actually mere visible components of the core problem, which is not observable like an iceberg. A huge problem that still prevails is eating away our dreams, and that problem is the horrific poisonous air of communalism.

People across the globe now know that among all assets in a country, population diversity is the biggest one. We can realize that after looking at the world. We ourselves also know very well how beautiful a flower looks when surrounded by green leaves of a tree. There would have been no beauty if the leaves, flowers, and buds of the tree were of the same monotonous colour. In fact, it is from diversity that beauty emanates. That holds true for the people of our country as well. If the Hindus, Buddhists, Christians, Santals and Garos of the hills did not live side by side with the larger Muslim population of the country, then we would have been deprived of our greatest asset. It is really unfortunate that population diversity in our country is minimal. Therefore, whatever remains should be guarded wholeheartedly – for our own sake!

We can dream of a second victory on the occasion of the golden jubilee of our Victory Day. That victory shall be against communalism. For achieving this new victory, we shall have to wage another war like the War of Liberation – even without arms. We also know the pathway for winning that war. That war shall be multi-faceted; justice, governance, and law shall be the arenas of that visible war; and the accompanying long-term war shall be through education. While noticing the comments of ordinary people in the social media, none can fail to understand how polluted their minds have become due to communal outlook. The new generation must not be allowed to get polluted by that poisonous air. They should be taught to respect other religions before they are taught to love their own religions. We shall have to teach even the infants that the greatest beauty of this world is the love of the people for others belonging to other religions, colours and languages.

We are really fortunate that a leader like Bangabandhu was born in this land – who gifted us this country. He was non-communal from head to foot. We shall fail to show due respect to Bangabandhu if this country does not become fully non-communal – both overtly and covertly.

Nobody should harbour any doubt that the victory of golden jubilee will have to be over communalism. That is required not only for our success – but also for our survival.

Writer : Educationist & Novelist

Translation: Dr Helal Uddin Ahmed

Courtesy: Press Information Department



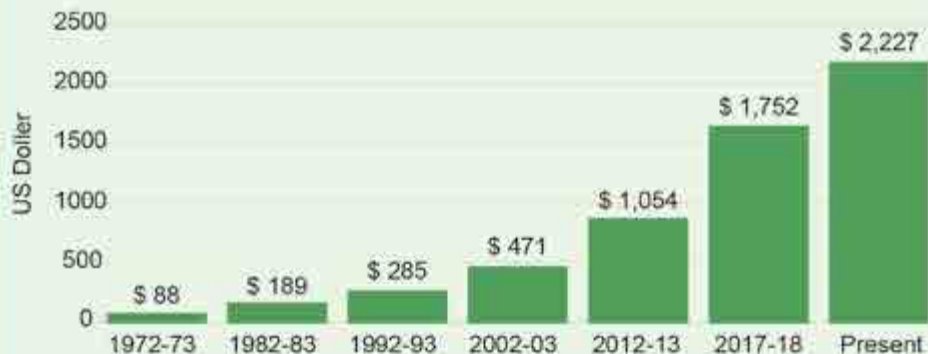
Bangladesh's Achievements in the last 50 years

Md. Azgar Ali

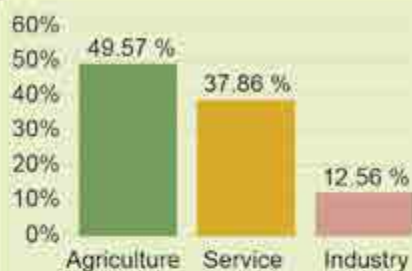
Bangladesh emerged as an independent and sovereign state with a red and green flag on 16 December 1971. 50 years later, the golden jubilee of our glorious victory falls on this year. Five decades back Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, in his thunderous voice said, no one will be able to suppress my 75 million Bengalis. This passion and eloquence of Bangabandhu has inspired the whole nation to achieve an independent state.

At this moment of the golden jubilee of victory, we, the 168 million people of the country, have high expectations. As such, appropriate action plan is required to meet the expectations though we have already achieved a lot. Following in the

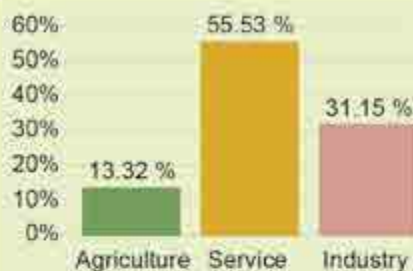
Per Capita Income



Contribution to GDP



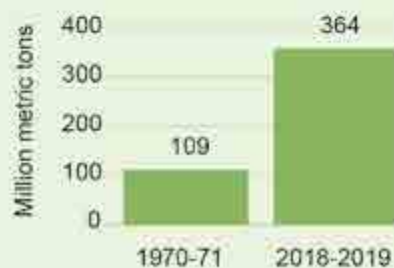
1972-1973



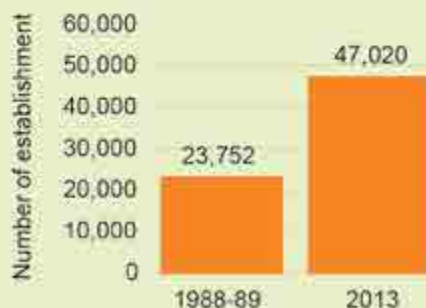
2018-2019

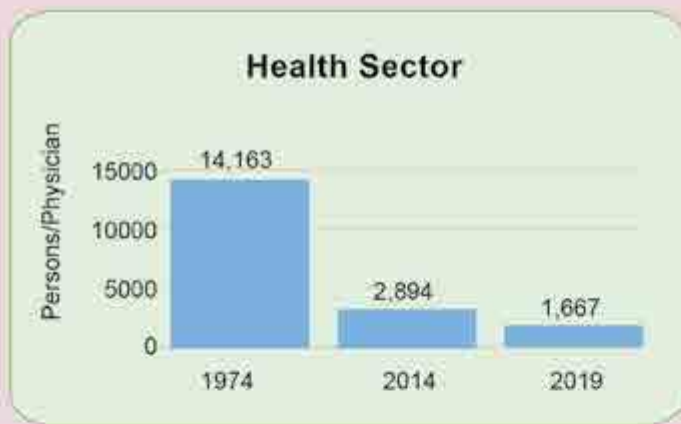
footsteps of Bangabandhu, in this long journey, the unimaginable change that has taken place in all the indicators of socio-economic development of Bangladesh shines only when one looks at Bangladesh 50 years ago. Bangladesh is now a country of immense potentials. The continuous development and progress of Bangladesh over the decades is quite visible in many areas. Bangladesh is now one of the most respected countries in the world economy. Characteristics of this economy include moderate annual growth, import dependence on energy, and capital equipment, declining dependence on foreign aid, and rapid growth in industry and services as the agricultural sector contracts. Since independence in 1971, Bangladesh's economy has prospered very rapidly. Until the 1980s, Bangladesh's economy was largely dependent on exports of jute and jute products. The garment sector is now one of the largest industries of Bangladesh. As for example in 1978, Bangladesh exported 10,000 shirts to French a buyer Hollander which value was only 427 thousand Taka in Bangladesh currency. Since then, the garment industry has made the biggest contribution to the economic development of the country. At present, more than 82 per cent of the total exports come from this sector. Bangladesh is currently the third largest exporter of readymade garments in the world. Before Corona, however, Bangladesh was in the second position.

Rice Production



Industrial Development



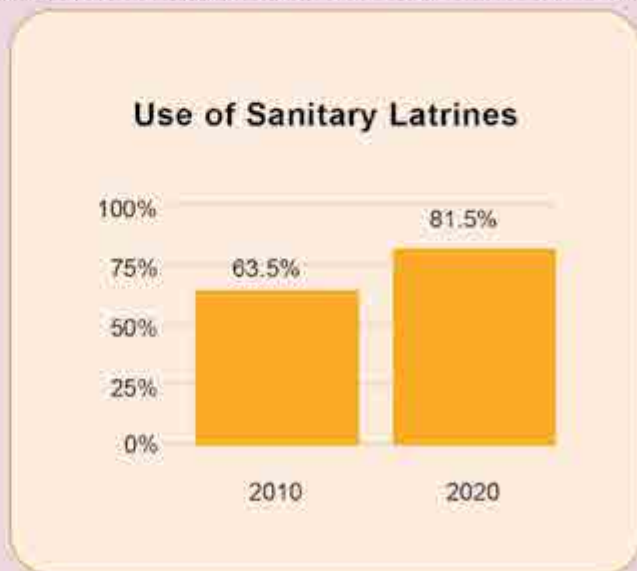


In 1972-73, the contribution of agriculture sector to GDP was 49.57 percent. At the same time, the contribution of the service sector was 37.86 and the contribution of the industrial sector was only 12.56. But in course of time, the contribution of the agricultural sector decreased to 13.32

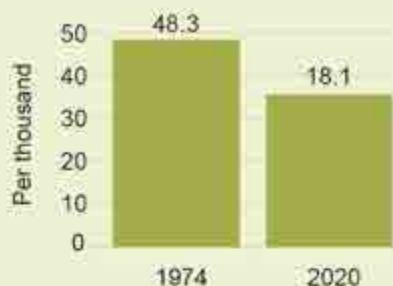
percent in 2018-19. At the same time, the contribution of service sector increased to 55.53 while the industrial sector increased by 31.15 per cent. The country's export income is also increasing for more than three decades the industry has been booming in the country's economy, maintaining its uniqueness and accelerating at a breakneck pace. The total number of industrial establishments was 23,752 in FY 1988-89 while it has increased to 47020 as per the economic census of 2013. With the growth of economic institutions, the average annual growth of national production does not go down. From 2001-2002 to 2008-2009, the total national annual growth rate was 5.6%, then it has increased by more than 6% every year and it has been increased to 8.2% in 2020-21.

The per capita income was US\$ 88 in 1972-73, \$189 in 1982-83, \$285 in 1992-93, \$471 in 2002-03, \$ 1054 in 2012-13, \$ 1752 in 2017-18 and now it is US\$ 2227.

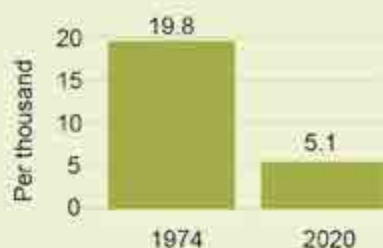
Bangladesh is not lagging behind in other social indicators either. While the poverty rate was 48% in 2000, it has come down to 20.5% in 2018. The extreme poverty rate was 34.5% in 2000 which has come down to 10.5% in 2018. The overall demographic situation of the country has also been improved. In 1974, the crude birth rate per thousand was 48.3 and in 2020 it has come down to 18.1. At the same time, the crude death rate was 19.8 per thousand and it has come down to 5.1 in 2020. On the other hand, the infant mortality rate was 153 per thousand in 1974, which has come down to 21 in 2020. Child mortality rate under five years per thousand was 212 in 1974 and decreased to 28 in 2020. The average



Crude Birth Rate



Crude Death Rate

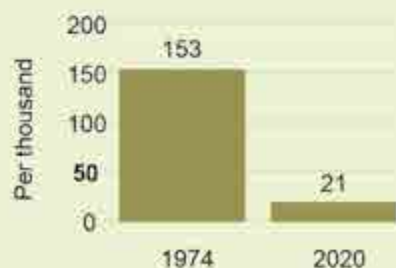


life expectancy of men and women was 46.2 in 1974 and it increased to 72.8 in 2020.

In 1974, there was one doctor for every 14,163 persons, while there was one doctor for every 2,894 people in 2014. As per World Bank data, in 2019, it came down to 1667. On the other hand, in 1974, there was 1 bed for every 5,651 people in the hospital, which has been increased as 1 bed for every 1,169 people in 2017. Household electricity supply was 54.6% in 2010 and increased to 96.2% in 2020. The use of sanitary latrines in households also increased from 63.5% in 2010 to 81.5% in 2020.

It is very much astonishing that the total production of rice has increased more than three- times to 364 million metric tons in 2018-19 from 109 million metric tons in 1970-71. Bangladesh is ahead of India and Pakistan in the World Hunger Index 2021. At present Bangladesh ranks 1st in the world hilsha fish production. In terms of production of jute, readymade garments, jackfruit, goat's milk and outsourcing, Bangladesh placed 2nd while 3rd in vegetables and inland wetland fish production, 4th in rice production, 6th in potato, 8th in mango, guava, foreign remittance and 10th in tea production respectively.

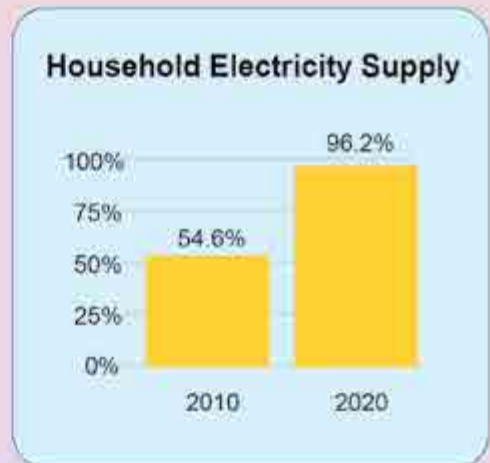
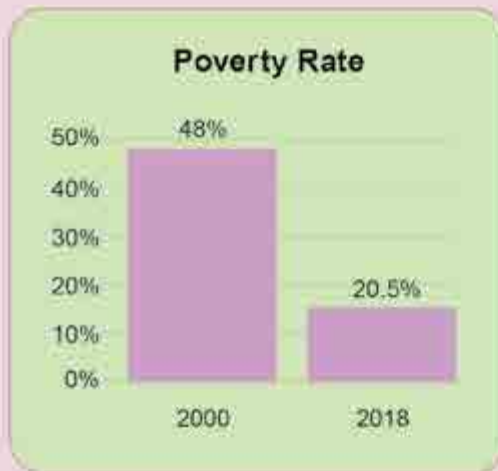
Infant Mortality Rate



Child Mortality Rate

(Under 5 Years)



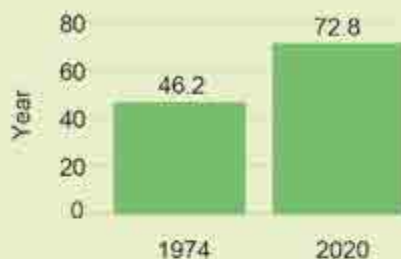


Despite the limitations of resources, the total size of the budget of Bangladesh in 1972-73 was only Tk 7,860 million, which has now increased to Tk 6.03 trillion in the fiscal 2021-2022. In 1977-78, the number of expatriate Bangladeshis was 16.9 thousand and the remittance was less 92 million. On the other hand, in 2016-17, the number of expatriate Bangladeshis was 880 thousand and the remittance was 14,982 million. Despite the negative impact of Covid-19 remittances of US 21.76 billion have been added to the economy of Bangladesh in 2020.

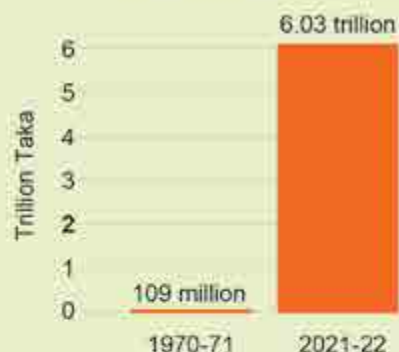
Immigration has become an important part of Bangladesh's development. At present Bangladesh ranks 6th in the world in sending migrants and 8th in receiving remittances. Employment in the agricultural sector has decreased from 78.7 per cent in 1974 to 40.6 per cent in 2016-17. On the other hand, employment in industry and services has increased from 21.3 percent in 1974 to about 60 percent in 2016-17. In post-independence Bangladesh, the total export income in the fiscal year 1973-74 was 297.41 million US dollars, while it was increased to 36,668 US dollars in 2016-17.

One of the great achievements of Bangladesh in the last 50 years is coming out of the vicious circle of LDC. On November 24, 2021, the 40th Plenary Session of the 76th Session of the UN General Assembly approved the recommendation to upgrade Bangladesh from a Least Developed Country to a Developing Country. As a result, even though Bangladesh officially got the status of a developing country, its completion will take place in 2026. Undoubtedly the UN General Assembly's resolution to transform Bangladesh from a least developed country to a developing country was a rare honour for the country. This is a landmark achievement as we are celebrating the birth centenary of the Father of the Nation and the golden jubilee of independence and victory. Going from a least developed country to a developing country is as glorious as it is challenging. Bangladesh will not get all the facilities that it used to get as LDC. Therefore, it is necessary to take necessary measures so that there is no adverse impact in the post-LDC economy. In case of export, we need to increase dynamism instead of stability in export trade. There are many things that need to be done to address the challenges ahead. We have to prepare accordingly. We have to move forward with the planned schedule.

The average Life Expectancy



Size of Budget



Bangladesh, in terms of economic and social development, has achieved unimaginable success in the last 50 years by increasing its growth in various indicators such as GDP, per capita income, national budget, labour productivity, export trade, agricultural production, education, health and average life expectancy. These things are reflected in the areas of electrification, rural and urban road reconstruction, industrialization, housing, urbanization, expansion of trade and commerce, poverty alleviation and telecommunication, etc. Moreover, determining maritime boundaries with India and Myanmar and launching Bangabandhu satellite into space adds unique milestones to Bangladesh's triumph of success. Metrorail, Karnafuli tunnel and self-financed construction of Padma Bridge has proved the capability of Bangladesh. Bangladesh ranks 41st in the world economy.

The Delta Plan 2100 has been formulated to address the adverse effects of climate change. Not to mention the construction of bridges over different big rivers, did anyone ever think that like other developed countries, our country will also have flyovers on the highway! In Dhaka, 8 flyovers have been constructed so far. In 50 years of independence, there has been a great change in our economy. The 50 years of statistics mentioned in the article show that Bangladesh is now on the development highway. Therefore, the continuity of development must be maintained. In the development plan of the country, importance should be given to electricity, gas, energy, communication, vocational education, creation of new employment opportunities and heavy industry. We should adopt an investment programme so that we can reach the desired goal ahead of time. In order to become a high middle income country by 2030 and a prosperous developed country by 2041, we will have to join the fourth industrial revolution. Therefore, research and innovation in all fields including agriculture, industry, science and technology need to be increased. In this regard we need to increase our capabilities in artificial intelligence, robotics, drones and space technology also. It is hoped that if social and political stability is maintained, Bangladesh is expected to be a developed country by 2041.

The writer is a researcher and columnist



My First Encounter with a Great Patriot

Syed Fakhruddin Mahmood

wielded enormous influence throughout Bengal. One day, my brother told me proudly while vacationing at home, "There is a student leader hailing from Gopalganj of Faridpur district named Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. We all call him Mujib bhai. His courage and power of oratory is awesome. Even Prime Minister Suhrawardy is fond of him, and he visits the Prime Minister's residence quite frequently". I felt proud and elated on hearing this description.



Sheikh Mujibur Rahman consulting with close associates

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was assassinated along with his family members on the dark night of 15 August, 1975. A pall of gloom overpowers me as I write this article in the month of August. I only see the dark shadows of grief all around me. This is nothing new; each August since the tragic death of Bangabandhu, I find myself very sad and despondent.

I first heard about him during my childhood from my elder brother – the then student leader Syed Salehuddin Mahmood. That was back in 1946. Both of them were then studying at Calcutta Islamia College. At that time, the students of Islamia College

After this episode, I longed to know more about Sheikh Mujib. In one word, I became his ardent fan and follower without even seeing him. Six years later, in February 1952, I got the first opportunity to see Sheikh Mujib from a close distance at the Faridpur Jail gate. He was released on that day after spending three years in jail without trial. I was then a second-year student of Faridpur Rajendra College. We went to the Jail-gate to receive him. He was on hunger strike at the time of his release and so was naturally very weak. He was taken to Dhaka that



Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman with Awami League leaders and workers, 1952

same day and was admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital for check-up. After that first meeting, I met him many times later, talked with him and learned innumerable things from him. Many of those conversations were historically significant. Reminiscence of the first among those colourful encounters is chronicled below along with a commentary on Bangabandhu.

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman is one of those immortal personalities who led a whole nation to freedom by imbuing the populace with nationalism, and by providing strong and correct leadership for breaking the shackles of age-old colonial subjugation. He has been rightly dubbed as the greatest Bangali in the thousand-year-old history of the Bangali nation. In terms of courage, valour and heroics, he was without parallel. I was indeed fortunate to be able to come close to that great patriot. I was always impressed by his magnetic personality, his deep sense of patriotism, and his fathomless love for the people of his land.

I was politically very conscious since my school days, and although the intensity of that consciousness rose during the college years, I never held any post in any student organization. The reason for my saying so is that, I was not attracted to Bangabandhu out of any greed or expectation. It was his unique patriotic qualities that attracted lakhs of youths like me. Bangabandhu was aware of this huge following as well as the selfless love they harboured for him. He could read the minds of the people and make quick inroads into their hearts. He could also instantly recall the names and faces of his innumerable followers. This was a God-gifted talent. He used to enquire about the welfare of his followers whenever

he came across one. The followers felt gratified by this gesture from their leader.

One month after getting released from jail, Sheikh Mujib came to Faridpur to address a public meeting. The venue of the meeting was Ambika Hall maidan. The place was crowded with people much ahead of schedule. There was no room left, and people even climbed on trees and rooftops to listen to the fiery speech. I listened to Mujib bhai's speech for the first time on that day. Occasionally, it seemed to me as if I was listening to the drama 'Sirajuddowla' played by Nirmalendu Lahiri on gramophone record. What a beautifully resonant and vibrant voice, how impressive the pronunciations were. Stated briefly, he made people dance with his oratory. We students were mesmerized. Our respect for him increased manifold. We also observed with amazement that the famous Principal of our Rajendra College Sri Abani Mohan Chakraborty was listening to the speech of his former student with rapt attention. Once, this very principal had expelled Sheikh Mujib for taking part in political activities while he was a student of intermediate class.

I met Mujib bhai face to face for the first time on Saturday, 23 Ashwin, 1360 Bangla (1953 CE), at the Faridpur residence of renowned lawyer late Abdus Salam Khan. Mujib bhai was staying with his team in that house after coming to Faridpur to address a public meeting at our Pangsha thana.

The background of this meeting was quite interesting. The popularity of the Muslim League government was then nearing zero. A mass awareness was being created against them and the largest opposition party Awami Muslim League was gradually gaining ground. In the backdrop of prevailing political situation, my elder brother Syed Salehuddin Mahmood requested Sheikh Mujib to address a public meeting to be arranged at our home-town Pangsha.

A letter of consent was received within a short time. A list of leaders along with a tour program was also sent with the letter. Sheikh Mujib's entourage included Messers Abdul Hamid Chowdhury and MollaJalaluddin. The date set for the Pangsha meeting was Monday, 25 Ashwin, 1360 Bangla (1953 CE). Public meetings were also slotted for Faridpur and Rajbari on 23 and 24 Ashwin respectively. Through local initiatives, Sher-e-Bangla A K Fazlul Haque and Moulana Bhashani were also invited to the Pangsha meeting. Both of them gave their written consent to the invitation. We, local leaders and workers then made all necessary arrangements for the meeting with much enthusiasm, and undertook non-stop publicity throughout the length and breadth of Pangsha. As a result, a huge turn-out was expected on the appointed day.

But when preparations for the meeting were successfully completed, Sher-e-Bangla intimated that he would not be able to attend; it was like a bolt from the blue. He wrote in the message, "Pardon me, and please arrange some other date". We were very upset because an all-party meeting was contemplated and Sher-e-Bangla was exceedingly popular among the people; in fact, he was the main focus of our publicity effort. And then we read in the newspaper that Moulana Bhashani was admitted to Khulna district hospital with serious ailment. We now apprehended that if Sheikh Mujib also canceled the Pangsha meeting, then we would not be able to save ourselves from people's wrath. As a precaution,

I was then sent to Faridpur.

I reached Faridpur at noon on 23 Ashwin, 1360 Bangla and met Sheikh Mujib at the residence of renowned lawyer late Abdus Salam Khan. When I disclosed my identity, he embraced me and enquired whether I had taken food and where I was staying. I told him about the developments with regard to the Pangsha meeting and gave him the telegram sent by Sher-e-Bangla. After reading the telegram he said, "Pangsha will be our main public meeting, we are only attending other public meetings after keeping the Pangsha meeting in our mind, so no question of canceling that meeting". After saying this, he asked Abdul Hamid Chowdhury to send a telegram to Syed Salehuddin Mahmood with the message, "Don't worry, we are reaching Pangsha in time. – Mujib bhai".

I went to the post office immediately and despatched the telegram. I then heaved a sigh of relief and felt very elated. I was greatly impressed by this sincerity of the great leader. Before getting introduced, I was rather fearful of talking with him, and could not imagine that he was so simple-minded and warm-hearted. That fear was now transformed into spontaneous respect and reverence, which is still embedded inside me.

On that day, a big public meeting was held at Ambika Hall maidan of Faridpur. The next day, we went to Rajbari. Microphones were rented for the meeting at Rajbari from Faridpur. In those days, microphones were not available everywhere. Lokman Hakim of the famous Meeraphone Company was in charge of those mikes. Mujib bhai was pleased when we gave him the mikes, because his throat was already sore due to mike-less speeches during the previous few days.



Bangabandhu rushed to the distressed people after the devastating tidal bore that killed hundreds of thousands of people, 12 November 1970.

The meeting in Rajbari was held at the Railway Tennis ground in the afternoon. At night, a dinner was arranged at the residence of Mujib bhai's cousin Dr. Sheikh Ehya. We walked towards that residence with Mujib bhai and was crossing the railway football ground when Mujib bhai, who was holding my hand, started to utter, "Mao Tse Tung, Maozibar, Mao Tse Tung, Maozibar". After a few minutes I asked him, "Do you wish to be Mao Tse Tung"? He said, "Why not, let's see what happens". Mujib bhai had visited Mao Tse Tung's China a few days earlier. His prophetic words on that night in the Rajbari railway ground came true after two decades. Mujib bhai could really become the Mao Tse Tung of the Bangali nation.

The next day, on 25 Ashwin, 1360 Bangla, we reached Pangsha by train at eight in the morning. From the door of the railway compartment, I could see a large crowd waiting on the platform. I signaled our arrival by unfurling a handkerchief from a distance. The leaders got down from the train with much difficulty due to the rush of the waiting crowd. They were garlanded profusely by the people. Arrangements were made at the Pangsha George High School for their stay.

The venue of the public meeting at Pangsha was the school playground. Crowds started to pour into the ground from ten in the morning. By twelve noon, both the fields were full to the brim and were looking like a sea of people. No space remained unoccupied. Some people even climbed to tree-tops to have a glimpse of their leaders. It was a memorable gathering previously unseen and unheard of in Pangsha. And happily, everything progressed as per our expectation.

The meeting started at two in the afternoon and ended at five. The welcome address was delivered by Syed Salehuddin Mahmood. He was followed by veteran local leaders late Kazi Abdul Majid, Sri Subodh Chandra Saha and late Abdur Rashid Tarkabagish. The last speaker was our charismatic Mujib bhai, who seemed to be immensely popular with the audience. The meeting was conducted by Abdul Hamid Chowdhury.

After the meeting, Sheikh Mujib and his entourage left for Dhaka the same night. But before he left, there was an incident that I should mention here. In the darkness of evening, Mujib bhai went behind the school-building with a pot of water to wash himself. When he came back, he asked me to bring a lamp. When I went close to him with a light, I saw that the middle of his forehead was swollen with a deep cut. I started to cleanse the spot with water and complained to him, "You did not even allow us to bring the lamp before rushing off. You could have even died from this injury". On hearing my words, Mujib bhai smiled and replied, "I will not die, not me. It will be possible to get things done by Sheikh Mujib; things will be done, will certainly be done". And things were indeed done when Bangladesh was liberated in 1971 under Sheikh Mujib's leadership. Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib indeed brought about the freedom of Bangladesh in 1971.

Translation: Dr Helal Uddin Ahmed

Syed Fakhruddin Mahmood (1936-2011) was a banker and associate of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman



The Mujib Bahini during the Liberation War

Dr. Helal Uddin Ahmed

constituted as a check-and-balance to the Mujibnagar government headed by Prime Minister Tajuddin Ahmad as well as the leftist elements in the political and military leadership of Bangladesh.

Initially, the sector commanders of Mujib Bahini operated from Barrackpur, Shiliguri, Agartala and Meghalaya bases of India. Tofail Ahmed, Sirajul Alam Khan, Abdur Razzak and Sheikh Fazlul Haq Moni were the central commanders with Moni acting as the commander-in-chief. This force was trained under the

The Mujib Bahini, also known as Bangladesh Liberation Force (BLF), was constituted during the War of Liberation in 1971 alongside the regular Mukti Bahini commanded by Colonel MAG Osmany. While the Mukti Bahini was directly affiliated with the Bangladesh Government-in-Exile or the Mujibnagar Government, the Mujib Bahini remained outside its control. The force maintained its separate identity till the end of the liberation war on 16 December 1971. It was mainly composed of activists drawn from the Awami League and its students' front 'Chhatra League'. It enlisted over 5000 fighters who were deployed in four sectors of Bangladesh with a 19-member central command at the top. It was perceived to be



A team of eighty members of Mujib Bahini who received training in Dehradun, India



Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman with the top leaders of Mujib Bahini

direct supervision of Brigadier (later Major General) Sujan Singh Uban of India at the Dehradun Hills. General Uban was a renowned counter-insurgency cum guerrilla warfare expert who had been previously handpicked to lead the Special Frontier Force (SFF) under the Research and Analysis Wing (RAW) of the Indian Government. Sheikh Moni was put in charge of the eastern region comprising Sylhet, Chittagong and Comilla districts. Abdur Razzak was in charge of the western region comprising greater Mymensingh and Sirajganj areas. Sirajul Alam Khan was in-charge of the northern region while Tofail Ahmed was in charge of the southern region comprising Kushtia, Jessore, Khulna, Barisal, Patuakhali, Pabna and Faridpur districts. Other leaders of Mujib Bahini included Abdul Quddus Makhan, Shahjahan Siraj, Nure Alam Siddiqui, Kazi Arif, Abdul Mannan, Amir Hossain Amu, Ilias Chowdhury, M A Bari, Mofizul Islam Kamal, Marshal Moni, Swapan Chowdhury, Sheikh Shahid, Dr. Chanchal, Hadiuzzaman, Rabiul Husain, Nimchandra Bhowmik, Mostafa Mohsin Montu, Khasru, Hasanul Haque Inu, Nurul Ambia and Mahbulul Haque. Many Mujib Bahini fighters including Swapan Chowdhury had embraced martyrdom while waging guerrilla warfare in Bangladesh territory during 1971.

It was claimed that the Mujibnagar Government was not informed about the formation and training programmes of Mujib Bahini. Besides, the Bahini or Force never made any formal declaration of allegiance to the Mujibnagar Government. So, controversies were created within and outside the Bangladesh Government-in-Exile regarding the formation of Mujib Bahini. For resolving this

dispute, some senior civil and military officials of India like D P Dhar, General Manek Shaw and General Jagjit Singh Arora mediated between the Mujibnagar Government and the Mujib Bahini leaders. The Government of India provided the Force with modern weaponry including one C-4, one N-12, and an old Dakota aircraft along with trucks and jeeps.

Many believe that the Mujib Bahini was formed to face the emergence of any alternative leftist leadership in the event the liberation war was prolonged. Others opine that the leaders of Mujib Bahini created this force because they were not satisfied with the workings of Mujibnagar Government and the leadership of Prime Minister Tajuddin Ahmed. They were also suspicious about the activities of a few leftist and rightist factions of the Awami League as well as the Communist Party radicals and the Bhashani-led National Awami Party activists.

In the battlefield, the Mujib Bahini fought shoulder to shoulder with other freedom fighters, but there were problems of coordination and linkages with the regular Mukti Bahini fighters. The latter aspect was often the subject of complaint by the Commander-in-Chief of Mukti Bahini Colonel Osmany. Mujib Bahini carried out daring raids inside the Pakistani occupation army's positions in the south, the south-west, and some areas around Dhaka. It was especially trained in guerrilla warfare and was equipped with comparatively better weapons supplied by RAW.

The activities of the Mujib Bahini were elaborately discussed with the Indian authorities during the visit to Delhi by Acting President Syed Nazrul Islam and Prime Minister Tajuddin Ahmad in August 1971 at the invitation of the Indian



Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman along with Sheikh Fazlul Haque Moni, Chief of Mujib Bahini and Tofail Ahmed, one of the top leaders of Mujib Bahini at Arms Surrender Programme at Dhaka Stadium on 31st January 1972

Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. At this time, Colonel Osmany had become quite impatient about the manner in which the Mujib Bahini was being operated. The Acting President and Prime Minister held discussions with the Indian Principal Secretary P N Haksar and the RAW Chief Rameshwar Kao on the subject. This resulted in agreements on the following points: (a)



Four leaders of Mujib Bahini surrendering their arms to Bangabandhu at Dhaka Stadium on 31st January 1972

supply of military arsenal by India for the Mukti Bahini; (b) Bringing the Mujib Bahini under some kind of control; (c) Provision of direct assistance and support to the Mukti Bahini by the Eastern Command of the Indian Army; (d) Specific instructions to be issued by RAW to Brigadier Uban, as the Indian Manager of Mujib Bahini, to cooperate with Colonel Osmany. All these resulted in an improved situation on the warfront and the gearing up of the liberation war in Bangladesh territory.

The concept of Mujib Bahini appears to have been developed in the middle of the 1960s. It remained as an academic theme for a long time within the confines of Dhaka University and among some nationalist intellectuals. It was the core members belonging to Mujib Bahini who had forged the Sharbadaliya Chhatra Sangram Parishad (All-party Students' Action Council) and propagated the eleven-point programme of Chhatra League in 1969. They were also at the forefront of the mass upsurge of 1969. It was this very group that led the nationalistic struggle for independence of Bangladesh from 1 March 1971, declared independence on 3 March at Paltan Maidan of Dhaka, and organised subsequent preparations for an eventual War of Liberation.

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Bangabandhu's Historic 7th March Speech A Masterpiece by a Poet of Politics

Taslima Akter



A good number of addresses delivered by the veteran world leaders are now included in the academic courses at various levels. However, the address by Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman before over 1 million people at the Racecourse Maidan (now Suhrawardy Udyan) on 7th March, 1971 is a unique one in many considerations. The Speech of the thunderous voice of Bangabandhu inspiring millions of Bangalees to lay down their lives for liberating the motherland has a special position to the learners specially to those with literature background. Another important dimension of this historic speech is the effective application of all the skills of communication of public address making it a textbook example for the communicators specially for the teachers. Universally all the leaders are good teachers or communicators. This uniqueness has been more pronounced in case of Bangabandhu. When any teacher listens to Bangabandhu's 7th March Speech, he or she would surely get some ingredients to absorb at least in terms of communication proficiency.

No legend speech like that of Bangabandhu has been able to stir the world to that extent. If anyone clicks online, a huge stockpile of literature on the speech would be visible within second. Journals, compilations, articles, features, research findings, press reports, seminars, symposiums etc. on threadbare analysis of the historic speech are coming out every day. The American news magazine the 'Newsweek' in its 5 April, 1971 issue published a special article on Bangabandhu's 7th March Speech in which the Great Leader was described as a 'Poet of Politics'.

As a student of literature, I think, a political leader is a some sort of poet, who leads the followers to a world of dream. Bangabandhu had also been such a poet who was able to hypnotize his people with a dream of having an independent country breaking shackles of subjugation of thousands of years. However, a poet may or may not think of realizing his or her dream. From a poetic position, the speciality of Bangabandhu is, he had been able to materialize what he dreamt and what he made his people dream. So many leaders in this land dreamt of independence and carried out long struggle accordingly but failed in the long run. But Bangabandhu was unique in achieving thousands years old long cherished

goal. And that is why Bangabandhu is the greatest Bangalee of the all times, the founder of the Bangalee nation based state, the architect of the Independent Bangladesh and the father of the Nation of Bangladesh. Bangladesh and Bangabandhu are inseparable. As long as Bangladesh remains, the name of Bangabandhu will also remain. The conspiracy to undermine Bangabandhu in the chronicles of Bangladesh has never been successful, rather the conspirators themselves were thrown in the garbage of the history.

The 7th March Speech, the ground breaking event towards achieving the most coveted freedom, has tagged Bangabandhu as the Poet of Politics. Bangabandhu delivered a huge number of speeches throughout his political life. He was an extra-ordinary orator. Each and every speech delivered by him was a poem. The best masterpiece was the 7th March Speech. His political acumen, charismatic leadership, undisputed command, sagacious thinking, profound wisdom, tower personality, invincible courage, indomitable spirit, sky-high confidence-everything was in climax while he was delivering the speech. The freedom fighters during the War of Liberation used to listen to this speech to boost up their moral strength. Even after half a century, whenever we listen to this iconic speech, we feel a stirring in our blood. The wording of this speech is tied in a miracle way that, not a single unit can be changed. No one would be able to put pen on it changing even a word. Whenever we read it, we find it as an extra-ordinarily inspiring poem, not prose.

Along with an exceptional skill of making a prompt public address, Bangabandhu was also blessed with an enormous potentiality of writing. We see his journalistic zeal in the then Daily Ittehad and other newspapers and periodicals. We also witness Bangabandhu's distinctive creative writing spirit in his autobiography "Oshomapto Attojiboni" (Unfinished Memoirs), "Karagarer Rojnamcha" (Prison Daily Life Diary) (daily life diary written Bangabandhu during his about 13 years



Bangabandhu walking up the stage

imprisoned life) and "Amar Dekha Naya Chin" (The New China as I Saw), "Pakistani intelligence report on Father of the Nation" and "Smritikatha" (memoirs) (compilation yet to complete).

As a part of the under-graduate and graduate course syllabuses under the Department of English, the students



Historical speech of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on 7 March 1971 at Ramna Racecourse Ground, Dhaka

have to go through detailed analysis of the 7th March Speech of Bangabandhu. The students are also to study some other world renowned speeches. These include 'The Gettysburg Address' by U. S. President Abraham Lincoln, 'I have a Dream' by American Civil Rights Activist Martin Luther King Jr and 'Long Walk To Freedom' (autobiography and addresses) by South African Anti-apartheid Leader Nelson Mandela. Some other epoch-making addresses come as references. Addresses by British Prime Minister Winston Churchill, Soviet Leader Vladimir Lenin, Founding Father of the People's Republic of China Mao Tse-tung, Vietnamese Leader Ho Chi Minh, India's Non-violent Resistance Movement Leader Mahatma Gandhi and the First Indian Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru are notable.

Among all the world renowned addresses, the 7th March Speech of Bangabandhu is the most acclaimed one. This is the best speech of all the times. The specialty of this speech is; Bangabandhu delivered it fully extempore without having any script or talking points or even hints. The script of the speech now available was prepared from its audio-tape. Moreover, Bangabandhu delivered the speech in a life and death critical moment and none of the world leaders mentioned above delivered speech in such a nerve-breaking pressure. Abraham Lincoln's highest rated the Gettysburg Address was a three minute long with less than 275 words. The well scripted speech was delivered at a ceremony recalling the soldiers killed in the 'Battle of Gettysburg'. And British Prime Minister Winston Churchill

delivered his outstanding speech "Never was so much owed by so many to so few" commemorating the pilots of the Royal Air Force killed in the 'Battle of Britain'.

Bangabandhu was under extreme pressure from the then ongoing movement activists to declare independence without any delay. There was also a reasonable ground for such declaration after dilemma of the Pakistani Junta to hand over power to the people's representative following the election results. On the other hand, the Pakistani Junta was out to quell such one sided declaration branding it as a separatist movement. Bangabandhu as a leader of the majority people of Pakistan had never been ready to take the blame. International support and sympathy needed for the Independence Struggle was also in his consideration. So, he had to be very thoughtful and strategic in selecting his words in the speech. How strategic he was! In the address, calling upon the countrymen to get ready to face the enemy in the imminent war with whatever the weapon they had, Bangabandhu finally proclaimed, 'The struggle this time is a struggle for our emancipation. The struggle this time is a struggle for independence.' He, in the speech, detailed various necessary preparations, and gave all out directives for the war.

However, about in the middle of the address, Bangabandhu gave four conditions like withdrawal of Martial Law, sending back army personnel to barracks, investigation into the killing of the Bangalees and transferring power to the representatives of the people – for thinking of to join the Assembly Session called on 25 March. Declaring strongest combat against the Pakistani Army, Bangabandhu commanded, "We will strive them (Pakistani soldiers) into submission. We will submerge them in water" Just immediately Bangabandhu pointing to the Pakistani soldiers in a soft voice said, "You are my brothers, stay in your barracks and no harm will come to you." In the address, Bangabandhu declared the continuation of the ongoing general strike in the government and semi-government offices and courts, but exempted rickshaws, horse-carts, launches, etc considering the suffering of the poor people. Thus we get both the soft hearted humanitarian and hardliner uncompromising Bangabandhu in his legendary address.

The conversation style although the address made it more attractive. The total history of exploitation and repression on the Bangalees by the Pakistani rulers came in his brief but powerful and soulful speech. Bangabandhu, through his thunderous voice kept the huge audience surging like waves of the roughest ocean. His unwavering call touched the heart of every Bangalee and mobilized the whole nation to get prepared for the ultimate sacrifice.

Bangabandhu's 7th March Speech is also a matter of interest from the language communication point of view. From our language learning knowledge, we know, a person can deliver highest 3 words in a second for an understandable communication. This should be one third for a huge crowd using hundreds of loud speakers of microphone as had been on the Racecourse Ground on that day. The total number of words in the about 19 minute long age winning speech was 1107.

The seasoned orator Bangabandhu maintaining that standard communication rule pronounced on an average 58 to 60 words in every minute. There was no repetition of word or redundancy in the speech. However, repetition of some words in one or two spots was just to give emphasis or reinforce the inner meaning. The inborn and inbuilt leader Bangabandhu, through his robust voice, articulation, body language, gesture and posture was so communicative that every individual of the huge gathering had been able to follow what he meant. While delivering speech, the way he was moving towards every direction to draw attention of audience of all sections of the gathering was also unique. The use of local dialect in the speech made it more effective.

Bangabandhu developed this unparalleled oratory skill over the years. He delivered most of his speeches instantly, without any prior preparation. He was gifted with an extra-ordinary intellect of drafting speech just seeing the audience from dais. His memory was so sharp that he could recall any one he had talked to anywhere, any time even long before. He had always been with an extra-ordinary talent to read the mind of the people. And that is why he was the leader of the mass people of the whole country.

The 7th March Speech of Bangabandhu was inscribed as a documentary heritage in the Memory of the World International Register of UNESCO on 30 October, 2017. Earlier, the members of the International Advisory Committee of the UNESCO during its meeting from 24 to 27 October, 2017 in Paris thoroughly reviewed the 7th March Speech that had created a nation state. They had greatly been amazed seeing how a very tall statured leader through his fiery words kept a human sea of a mammoth rally up roaring with slogans all the time. UNESCO in its declaration said, the message imbued in the speech is still relevant and inspiring today as it calls for more inclusive and democratic societies in which the political, economic and cultural aspirations of all groups are fulfilled.

The High Court in a verdict on 8 September, 2021 directed the authorities concerned to include the historic 7th March Speech of Bangabandhu in the academic curriculum of secondary, higher secondary and university levels. The Supreme Court Bench while hearing a writ petition filed by a lawyer on the issue 4 years back asked the Ministry of Education to form an expert committee for incorporating the speech in the textbooks of different classes. The court also ordered the authorities to build a sculpture of Bangabandhu with the expression of delivering the historic 7th March Speech at the same location of the Suhrawardy Udyan. Following the instruction of the highest court bench delivered on 25 February 2020, the government already declared the 7th March as a 'Historic National Day'.

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Forth Industrial Revolution : Bangladesh Perspective

Md. Imam Hossain

Klaus Schwab, author of the book, 'The Fourth Industrial Revolution' and Founder and Executive Chairman of the World Economic Forum (WEF). It is marked by the connected world that has been made possible by the earlier digital information technology-driven transformative changes taking place all around us. It is profoundly affecting our lives by connecting everything with everything that humans do in an unprecedented way. One big issue that is being talked about in business, the academia and every forum concerned about human problems nowadays is the Fourth Industrial Revolution. The subject matter of all such discussions is how it is going to impact us and how to prepare ourselves to welcome it once it crashes onto our shores.

The First Industrial Revolution that occurred in between 1760 – 1840 C.E., used water and steam power to mechanize production. The Second one occurred in the early 19th century, used electric power to create mass production. The Third Industrial Revolution used electronics and information technology to automate

The 4th Industrial Revolution (4IR/4I) is a fusion of advances in Artificial Intelligence (AI), robotics, the Internet of Things (IoT), Genetic Engineering, Quantum Computing, and more. It is a way of describing the blurring of boundaries between the physical, digital, and biological worlds. The phrase 'Fourth Industrial Revolution' was first coined by the German economist

Internet Of Things





ATM booths of Commercial Banks



Apps of Mobile Banking

production since late 50s in the last century. Now the Fourth Industrial Revolution is building on the Third, the digital revolution that has been occurring since the middle of the last century. The Fourth Industrial Revolution is not just about technologies. In the words of the Klaus Schwab himself, 'It is characterization of fusion of technologies that is blurring the lines among the physical, digital, and biological spheres'. From that point of view, Professor Klaus Schwab's labeling such transformations as the 4IR. The 4IR or Industry 4.0, also sometimes referred to as IIoT or Industrial Internet of Things (Smart Manufacturing), Marries Physical Production and Operations with smart digital technology, machine learning, and big data to create a more holistic and better connected ecosystem that focus on manufacturing and supply chain management.

The Internet of Things (IoT) is now a buzzword. The Internet of Things will be when all the objects around us communicate and network among themselves through the Internet. In the meantime, we've already heard about Google Home and Amazon's Alexa. As a result, it is possible to control many things in the house including lights, sound system doors.

The Industrial Revolution is called the process of increasing production and improving its quality with the help of scientific instruments instead of manual labour. The first industrial revolution took place in 1784 with the invention of the steam engine, the second industrial revolution with the invention of electricity in 1870. The Third Industrial Revolution in 1979 with the invention of the Internet and now the fourth industrial revolution are going to happen with the digital revolution. Bangladesh is ready to adapt to the technology of the future.

Beginning from 1765 through the present day, we've seen an amazing evolution. The third submarine cable is coming in 2023. Skilled manpower is essential for the Fourth Industrial Revolution. To this purpose 39 high-tech parks have been established as well as various groundbreaking programs are being taken and implemented. The next high-tech park in Bangladesh will be Silicon Valley. All 4,501 Union Parishads in the country's 64 districts have already been included in the digital network.

The main services of the government especially land registration, birth registration, university admission or job application etc. are being delivered digitally to the doorsteps of the citizens. Digital technology has made the provision of basic services easier and more affordable. Therefore, in the overall analysis, Digital Bangladesh means a more efficient, equitable and prosperous

Bangladesh. The mobile banking system of Bangladesh has changed a lot through bKash, rocket, Ucash, Mcash, Cashbaba and CDM, ATM, etc. Cloud computing, the Internet of Things, and Artificial Intelligence will play a major role in achieving the Fourth Industrial Revolution. Bangladesh that has already made great advancements in information technology is also ready to adapt to future technology. Apart from formal and informal education, e-governance, Service Delivery, Public Policy and implementation, Information Technology, Decentralization, Urban Development and Planning, and Challenges to SDG implementation and administrative Policy Strategies will be introduced with public servants and cloud server, Internet of things, training on artificial intelligence will be provided to them.

Bangladesh is now connected to two submarine cables, the third submarine cable is being connected. In the continuation of development, Bangladesh has launched its own satellite in the sky. Bangladesh's high-tech parks will be Silicon Valley in the future. Major government services -land registration, birth registration, university admissions or job applications, are being delivered digitally to the doorsteps of citizens. There is no alternative to digitization to make the Fourth Industrial Revolution fruitful. Bangladesh has already been able to achieve the title of Digital Bangladesh.

IBM Watson with artificial intelligence is providing 85% perfect legal aid by analyzing the document review process automatically. The courts in Bangladesh come forward to using this technology. Although not 100% technology-dependent, the country has recently been able to achieve success in a number of areas, including the technology to show video footage as evidence. The law of Bangladesh still mentions that business cannot be done without taking a 'square foot' office by a formal agreement. However, with the national identity card, online business can be done with an internet connection sitting at home and creating a global business by getting registered and opening a bank account. In order to make the Fourth Revolution a hundred percent success, it is necessary to amend these so-called provisions of the law. Considering the discussions being held on the outcome of the Fourth Industrial Revolution and its various advantages and disadvantages, it can be said that Bangladesh has already started all preparations to make the Fourth Industrial Revolution its own accord.



5G Tower

The second decade of the 21st saw another transformative change taking place before eyes of those who in their youth were awed by the wonders of computer and the automation it made possible. Now has begun the fourth industrial revolution with the computerized archives of data and information lying in faraway locations across the world through the global online network, the internet. The fourth industrial revolution is basically a merger of the different scientific disciplines and the technologies they promote.

Take the case of the artificial intelligence. It is going to be one of the key drivers of the 4I as it with its power of discerning patterns in data, of analysis and reaching conclusions will be able to make possible ever newer mergers and interfaces between diverse fields of human interest. Another feature of the 4I is the Internet of Things (IoT) where the physical and the digital worlds merge. Systems are getting smarter as devices are getting digitally interconnected. Evolving robotics making robots work in collaboration with humans are so-called cobots. They promise to make production environments less monotonous and risk-free.



Sheikh Hasina Software Technology Park, Jashore

The meeting of the real world and the digital world creates new experience for humans, an enriched immersive experience. The upshots are Virtual and augmented realities made possible by computers. Big data are another feature of 4 I. Enormous amount of data could be crunched, mined with help from artificial intelligence creating information for use of business, advancement of scientific research. 3D printing is around for some three decades and undergoing major improvements. It creates three dimensional copies of things, prototypes, by putting layer upon layer of two-dimensional components of objects. It promises revolutionizing manufacture yet another step further. But 4D takes advantage of material science and properties of new kind of plastics and biomaterials that have



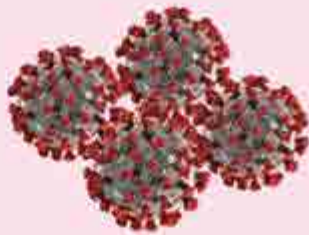
Computerized Textile Industry, Madhabdi, Bangladesh

the ability to evolve into different shapes over time. The full potential of 4D is yet to emerge.

Bangladesh Government believes that rapid industrialization is a key to the country's economic development. Given the present environment of global competition, the private sector is playing an important role in the industrialization of the country. Among them, lack of positive and favorable industrial policy, small savings, want of capital, lack of infrastructural facilities, lack of technological know-how, unskilled manpower, political instability, and lack of proper govt policy are the main causes of backwardness in the way of industrialization. Bangladesh has significantly moved towards cleaner and greener manufacturing in recent years. The fourth industrial revolution (4IR) is changing the landscape of global economy and industrialization in particular, Bangladesh cannot be left alone.

Many developed countries of the world did not even think about launching 5G but Bangladesh has done it. 5G has been launched on 16th December to mark the 50th anniversary of the victory. Bangladesh is on the beginning of the fourth industrial revolution that will change the eternal pattern of human life. There will be so many changes that are unimaginable. Change is inevitable; people need to be prepared to adapt to this change. Bangladesh has done all its needs to prepare for digital integration during or after the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

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History of Pandemic

Modhurima Guha Neogi

Pandemic is a global outbreak of a disease while epidemic is the rapid spread of disease across a particular region or regions. Diseases are often epidemics, which sometimes become pandemics. As example, HIV was considered before becoming a pandemic in the late 20th century.

The latest outbreak of the Corona virus epidemic in 2020 is known as Covid-19. This is probably the first time in history that a deadly virus has been transmitted the people of whole world, where more than two hundred countries are currently infected with this disease and millions of people are being infected every day. This Corona virus originates from Wuhan, China in

December 2019. As per statistics, 267 million cases of corona virus are found worldwide and 240 million people have been recovered so far. According to WHO, 5.30 million people have died from this disease.

The period from 2.5 million years ago to 1,200 BC is generally categorized in three archaeological periods like the Stone Age, Bronze Age and Iron Age. This division was based upon the type of tools humans used. There was a transformation from a culture of hunting and gathering to farming and food production. The Paleolithic period was roughly 2.5 million years ago to 10,000 BC. The Mesolithic period was about 10,000 BC to 8,000 BC and Neolithic period about 8,000 BC to 3,000 BC. The Bronze Age was from about 3,000 to 1,300 BC and Iron Age from about 1,300 to 900 BC. During these three periods agriculture, art and religion all became more sophisticated, and writing systems and written documentations including alphabets begin to emerge, assuring in the early historical period.

Plague was one of history's deadly diseases—then we found a cure. Known as the Black Death, the much feared disease spread quickly for centuries, killing millions; the bacterial infections still occur but can be treated with antibiotics.

Yersinia pestis is the bacterium responsible for causing plague. This bacterium disables the immune system. Many



Female patient with Bubonic Plague in India, 1897



A painting shows the streets of London during the Great Plague of 1665

small mammals act as hosts to the bacteria, including rats, mice, chipmunks, prairie dogs, rabbits and squirrels. Fleas that live on rats and other small animals jump to a new host when the previous host dies and come often to humans.

Bubonic plague refers to telltale buboes—painfully swollen lymph nodes—that appear around the groin, armpit, or neck. The skin sores become black, leading to its

nickname during pandemics as “Black Death”. Initial symptoms of this early stage include vomiting, nausea, and fever.

Pneumonic plague is the most infectious type which moves into the lungs. During this stage, the diseases pass directly person to person though airborne particles coughed from an infected person’s lungs. If untreated Bubonic and Pneumonic plague can progress to Septicemic plague, infecting the blood stream. Pneumonic and Septicemic plague kills almost 100% of those it infects.

The deadliest pandemic in the history was the Spanish Flu of 1918. The virus infected an estimated one-third of the world’s population and was responsible for causing deaths between 20 and 50 million people.

The 1957-58 Asian Flu pandemic killed an estimated 1.1 million people in the world. The 1968 Hong Kong Flu pandemic killed an estimated 1 million people worldwide. The Swine Flu pandemic of 2009-2010 was caused by a new strain of the same virus that caused the Spanish Flu. It



Emergency hospital during the 1918 influenza pandemic at Camp Funston, Kansas

infected an estimated 700 million to 1.4 billion people but mortality rate was far less than the Spanish Flu. Seasonal flu causes 290,000 to 650,000 deaths per year although an effective vaccine is available.

About infamous plagues, three especially well-known pandemics occurred before the cause of plague was discovered.

The Plague of Justinian: This began in 542 AD and killed up to 10,000 people a day in Constantinople (modern-day Istanbul, Turkey). Modern estimates indicate that half of Europe's population—almost 100 million deaths—was wiped out before the plague subsided in the 700s. The most infamous plague outbreak was called the "Black Death", a multi-century pandemic that wiped through Asia and Europe. It was believed to start in China in 1334, spreading along trade routes and reaching Europe via Sicilian ports in the late 1340s. The plague killed an estimated 25 million people, almost a third of the continent's population.



During the Spanish Flu pandemic, a typist wearing her influenza mask, New York City, 1918

The most recent global outbreak started in China in 1860 and didn't officially end until 1959. This pandemic caused roughly 10 million deaths. From teeth of these plague victims, scientists discovered that the strain from the Justinian plague was related to, but distinct from other strains of the plague.

Plague in modern society: Most cases have

appeared in Africa since the 1990s. Between 2004 and 2014 the Democratic Republic of Congo reported the majority of plague cases worldwide with 4,630 cases and 349 deaths. Scientists link the prevalence of plague in DRC to the ecosystem—primarily mountain tropical climate. In 2017, in Madagascar, more than 2,300 cases were reported. The US, China, India, Vietnam and Mongolia are among other countries that have had confirmed human plague cases in recent years. The US average is 7 human cases of plague each year, emerging primarily in California and the Southwest. Today, most people survive plague with rapid diagnosis and antibiotic treatment. Good sanitation practices and pest control minimize contact with infected fleas and rodents to help prevent plague pandemics.

Cholera: In 1820, Cholera reached in epidemic in India, killing millions of people. Many diseases were got from Europe to the Americas. For example, Christopher

Columbus and his crew brought smallpox to the Taino people of Hispanola. Europeans have developed some immunity and knew how to treat the disease. However, the Taino people of Hispanola had no immunity or similar knowledge and within 50 years, their population of perhaps of 8 million became virtually extinct.



Peoples at a camp for Covid-19 Vaccine. Bangladesh

Epidemic diseases led to a general decline in the Amerindian population. This led to increased dependence on Europeans and reduced capacity to resist their invasion. The African slave trade introduced malaria, which the indigenous population of America had no protection against malaria.

“Mayflower” was a popular name for many ships. One such ship carried pilgrims to what is today the USA and a disease was transmitted through the passengers to other resettled families.

In 1820, Cholera became epidemic in India. Cholera killed millions of people. Later, cholera spread to many other countries around the world. There was an outbreak of this disease till 1824. At the same time, Russia and Persia also fell victim to a terrible epidemic. Two hundred thousand people died. The world at that time didn't get any antidote to prevent Cholera. Between 1817 and 1821, there were five outbreaks of Cholera in India. In the same century, 45,000 people died in the Yellow Fever epidemic in Philadelphia, USA. The disease caused severe pain all over the body, including high temperature, which led to horrible deaths due to excessive bleeding. One type of mosquito was the carrier of the disease.

As we stated at the beginning, the covid-19 pandemic has affected almost every country of the world. The most affected country is the USA. More than 50 million cases have been found so far and death toll is more than 800 thousand there. According to number of deaths, the top 12 countries are: USA, Brazil, India, Mexico, Russia, Peru, UK, Indonesia, Italy, Iran, Colombia and France. Bangladesh is the 30th on the list and 1.57 million cases have been found, and number of deaths is 28,000 so far.

Fortunately, a number of vaccines have been produced, which seem reliable, and are beginning to reach people in many countries. Bangladesh government successfully ensured at least 100 million doses of Covid-19 vaccines for its people as of now, with assuming that every person requires two doses that's enough to have vaccinated about 32% of the country's population.

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The Father of Nation

Mostafizur Rahman

Bangabandhu, The father of nation
He motivated us with due passion
He, who loved our country as
loved mother
He loved our country people
as his soul
He dreamt an August dream
It was the utmost thirst of liberty
He declared the independence of all people
He invented a new nation with sovereignty
Bangabandhu, the grantor of independence
He will never die
He will revive into the
heart of mine.

The author is a poet and writer

The Father and Flag

Asad Mannan

The flag of victory means
Mujib's eternal standard

The Mujib Flag means the banner of Bangali's freedom
The flag that spread the dreams in water, land and sky
Scattering the seeds of glory in the womb of drought-hit soil.
Like the boat of Noah In the unremitting flood of blood
A thousand rivers floated boat on the water in his name;
The Krishnachura bloomed in blood, the buds of stars glittered,
The valiant nation holds the flag of Mujib in its bosom.

When the Tagore songs resonate in the heart
In a flow of melody, I then feel like lighting the lamp
Made from sun by putting it on our father's tomb;
As if someone unseen says a mantra in my ears incessantly:
That is not a grave – it is Bengal's nest – your address;
Keep the father and flag with you before falling asleep.

2.

Years one to fifty have passed quickly amid storms and gales
Ignoring the poison-teeth of snakes, killer-bullets of bastards,
Even the dead wake up in the language of rippling waters
By spreading the fragrance of eternal glory.
The flocks of varied birds flutter their wings in great festivity
Engrossed in the colours of greenery; embracing the winds –
How fearlessly the sailor stands beside the coast of sea!
Mujib's blood-drenched flag flutters inside the hearts.

The garden of life resonates today with the song of victory
The thunderous words of immortal father float in the garden.
Disregarding death in his luminous miraculous steps
When the father arrives to stand on a scorched habitat
The roars of lion are paused by the cries of deer –
Who can stop someone who sings the song of triumph!

Translation: Dr Helal Uddin Ahmed

Writer: Member of Public Service Commission

Courtesy: Press Information Department



Unstoppable Bangladesh

Kbd. Sk. Md. Muzahid Nomani

Oh, Father of the Nation, Bangabandhu!
You are asleep at Tungipara since 1975
But your two daughters are still awake
after losing everything.

Holding Sheikh Hasina's hand
Bangladesh today is a unique Nation
Since taking the helm of Bangabandhu's boat by Sheikh Hasina
the country is moving fast across the country,
No one can stop it.

From Teknaf to Tetulia,
agriculture, education, health
The country has advanced in many developments
One-storey, two-storey flyovers,
the four-six-eight-lane highways
look great and nice.

In the free sky of independent Bangladesh,
The new aircrafts- Shetbalaka, Gangchil, Achinpakhi
and Rajhangsho are flying with proud.
Under the strict orders of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina,
all are destroyed- militant-terrorism, drug and corruption.

The metro rail is coming to ease the traffic jam and sufferings
Riding on the Padma Bridge,
passing through the Karnaphuly tunnel
Bangladesh is now in space on Bangabandhu Satellite.

Kissinger's 'Bottomless basket' is no more Bangladesh.
The country is now full of rice, clothes, meat and fish
The days of hunger, poverty and unrest are almost over
The development is moving forward.

Unstoppable one and that is in digital Bangladesh!
The amazed world look- what a surprised Bangladesh!
the development of which is not finished yet!

Oh, Father of the Nation Bangabandhu !
Promise of the Mujib Year- Your Sonar Bangla, the country of gold-
The vision will come true by the year 2041,
A developed Bangladesh, full of happiness and prosperity.

(Translated by M. Q. Zaman)

The poet is an agriculturist and recipient of Bangabandhu National Agricultural Award



Achieving Inclusive Growth through Tourism

Md. Ziaul Haque Howladar

The global Tourism industry that witnesses a great devastation by pandemic Covid-19 has started to bounce back following the withdrawal of lockdown. In some countries it is moving cautiously and in some countries it is at a slower pace. Nonetheless tourism industry is turning around. Tourism industry owing to its innate nature can turn around rapidly, if it gets a congenial environment. The industry has embarked on thriving again in Bangladesh since the government issues a green signal on August 19 this year for its reopening. At present, the industry is witnessing a glimmer of hope especially due to the growing number of domestic tourists in Bangladesh.

According to the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), global tourism restarts to reimburse its financial losses and achieve gradual growth. The designated theme of this year's World Tourism Day is 'Tourism for Inclusive Growth'. This year the theme is intimately intertwined to the second principle of



The Sundarbans, world's largest mangrove forest covering an area of 6,000 sq. km, World Heritage site declared by UNESCO in 1987



Sixty-Dome Mosque, Bagerhat (built in 15th century), a UNESCO World Heritage site inscribed in 1985

Global Goal 2 (No Hunger), i.e. 'Leave No One Behind'. The essence of the theme is that no one will be deprived of his due benefits generating from tourism industry. Everyone will be able to make a livelihood by getting involved in this industry as per their own position, talents and skills. People irrespective of creed, race, castes, genders, professions and especially able and of all ages will have the equal opportunity to participate in tourism activities. No one can be kept away or paid less because of caste, religion and age, above all, under-privileged people. The bottom line is that a country's tourism development plan must include universal and public welfare for all walks of people

Bangladesh has undertaken some plans and programmes in line with the theme. Some projects are being implemented underlining the designated theme of this year. It is well-known that Bangladesh has emphasized inclusive growth in its recently-formulated 8th 5-Year Plan, the perspective plan and in the Delta Plan underling the SDG targets. Bangladesh is committed to achieving SDGs by 2030. Tourism has already been recognized by the United Nations as an important sector in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. Achieving SDG 1 (poverty alleviation), 5 (gender equality), 8 (decent work and economic growth) and 10 (reduction of inequality) have linkages in multiple ways to the tourism industry. Tourism industry substantially can contribute to the achievement of every goal of the SDGs. Therefore, in order to ensure the welfare of all participation of the people in the implementation of the tourism project have to be undertaken. The views of the local people have to be taken into consideration. The sustainable use of local resources and optimal utilization of resources must be ensured among the local population. We must ensure benefit cascade down to all in the society. Tourism development issue has to be linked and reflected in the presently being

implemented election manifesto of the government – ‘Transforming villages into Towns. Recreational services need to be extended to the villages through development of tourism industry. We need to ensure participation and equal opportunities for all in the tourism industry. In addition, inclusiveness in tourism industry has to be ensured by protecting rural history-tradition-customs and especially the culture of all indigenous and ethnic groups.

Tourism is the fastest growing and single largest industry in the world today. According to the UNWTO, one out of every ten employed-people in the world is involved in the tourism industry. In other words, ten percent of the world's employed population is getting the opportunity to earn their livelihoods in the tourism industry. The participation of women worldwide in this industry has also notably increased. According to the Commonwealth statistics, one out of every four youth globally is involved in tourism activities. Tourism industry especially the domestic tourism is also booming as expected in Bangladesh. The tourism industry is primary industry of all industries. Because it is directly and indirectly associated with 220 sectors.

Tourist attractions are scattered in all districts and upazilas of Bangladesh. If we can offer proper packages of rural history, archaeology, folklore, traditional food, boat rides, local sports, traditional cakes etc as tourist attractions, then participation of all kinds of people in the tourism industry will be ensured. When this participation is tangibly ensured, we can say that Tourism for Inclusive Growth is taking place. Only the tourism industry can highlight the immense beauty of all kinds of history-tradition-perpetual Bangla of each district. The community tourism project has to be implemented in the whole country to present those to tourists.

All the 64 districts of Bangladesh possess their own unique features. Under the direction of the Prime Minister, each district administrations is branding own



Kantjau Temple, Dinajpur, built in 1740, famous for its terracotta on the walls



Paharpur Buddhist Vihara, Naogaon (built in 8th century), Asia's largest Buddhist Monastery. UNESCO World Heritage site designated in 1985.

district portraying own uniqueness in collaboration with a2i. Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation has already identified 1700 tourist attractions across the country. Branding activities of these attractions will be carried out in phases through a2i. Given that tourism attractions are spread out all over Bangladesh, local people around these attractions or sites need to be motivated to engage and earn livelihood through tourism activities. Active participation of local people in tourism industry is sine-quo-non. As for instance, the active participation of people dwelling around Paharpur world heritage site at Badalgachi of Naogaon, Mahasthangarh of Shibganj in Bogura, Kantjeu Temple at Kaharul of Dinajpur, Sixty Dome Mosque under Bgaerhat and the Sundarbans in Satkhira and Khulna districts need to be encouraged to engage in various tourism activities for their livelihoods. The glaring activities may be tour guiding, preparing and selling of local food, exhibiting local handicrafts, organizing traditional cultural programmes and sports etc. We need to develop community based leadership (CBL) and community based organizations (CBO).

Tourism has been stagnant for the past one-and-a-half year due to pandemic Covid-19. Now tourism is seen reopening cautiously in Bangladesh as elsewhere in the world. Number of employment is gradually increasing and thus income is on upward trend. Inclusive tourism has to be underpinned in line with the SDGs so as benefits is trickled down to people of all ages, classes and ethnicities. We will be able to achieve SDGs by 2030, if we can undertake short-medium and long term tourism programmes focusing the equal participation and due benefit of all in the society.

Md. Ziaul Haque Howladar is Manager Public Relations, Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation



Russet Sparrow: The Newest Bird of Bangladesh

Professor Dr. A N M Aminoor Rahman

Kangchenjunga- the third highest peak (8,586 meter height) in the Himalayas. Although it was a cold winter morning, but not foggy and we were getting a wonderful view of the Kangchenjunga. As we waited to see how the white peaks of the Kangchenjunga, was becoming tinted red by the sunrise, we were lucky enough to witness the beauty of Kumbhakarna or Jannu (7,711 m), Siniolchu (6,888 m) and Lama Angden mountain peaks (5,868 m) as a bonus. At exactly six o'clock the sun started to rise. The event that we were waiting for eagerly, took around 20 minutes to occur and then the redness of Kangchenjunga gradually faded away.

After that in the early morning light, we got into an engine-driven van and headed for Tulsia Bil in Shalbahan Union, 10 kilometers away from Tetulia. In winter, the bil (marshy land) harbours various species of resident and migratory water birds.



A flock of Russet Sparrow feeding the seeds from sugarcane flower

Until a few days ago, Bangladesh had only two species of sparrow in its national bird list. But very recently the list has been enriched with another new species of sparrow- the Russet Sparrow. It is the 3rd species of sparrow for the country and 718th Bird of Bangladesh sighted for the first time by the author himself. Here, the author describes his encounter with this bird.

It was 11th November 2017. Before the sunrise, my elder brother Md. Mijanur Rahman and I were sitting next to the district board Dakbanglow in Tetulia upazilla of Panchagorh district- enjoying the serene beauty of

Kanchenjunga and some other Himalayan peaks stand like a giant behind the marshy land. And so we headed to the bil to click photographs of flying birds with Kanchenjunga in the background.

After departing from the Tetulia Dakbungalow we reached the Mathfata point of Tetulia at around 7:45 am, where the narrow canal-like Gobra River ran along the road. The weather was great,



A juvenile male Russet Sparrow sitting on the Sugarcane at Tetulia, Panchagarh

but the sun was a bit too intense. Although we had a rush to visit Tulsia bil, we were stunned by the picturesque view of Mathfata and got out of the van to walk along the river and its surroundings. While taking photographs of the area, suddenly a flock of sparrow comprising of 25-30 birds came down to the sugarcane field on the opposite side of the river. Some of them began to eat the seeds from the sugarcane flower, while others roosted on the bare

branches of the dead trees nearby. The juvenile birds looked very similar to House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*), a very common bird of Bangladesh. As the sun shone diagonally and the birds sitting on the sugarcane flower were facing the sun, most of the photographs came out dark. As we were in a hurry to go to Tulsia bil and also didn't think of the 3rd species of sparrow for Bangladesh was discovered for the first time. So I never felt the need to check and identify the bird as a different species of sparrow after returning from that spot.

Between October 16 and 18 of the following year, I saw the same species of sparrow in Bhutan. The first sighting was near the bank of the Wangchu River at Thimphu and the second was beside the basecamp hotel at Paro. Although, I myself identified the sparrow of Bhutan, but that time didn't think about the sparrows of Tetulia which I photographed in 2017. After long four years, on the night of 26 November 2021, Khukon Thounajam, a bird photographer from Sreemongol, sent some pictures of bunting for identification. While I was trying to identify them, I suddenly remembered the sparrow photographs which I took at Tetulia. Then I quickly checked the photographs from Tetulia thoroughly. After increasing light intensity of the photographs, I noticed that the heads of some of the birds were red, but not grey as House Sparrows'. Moreover, there was a yellowish touch in their underparts. Bunting and sparrow are closely related birds and they have many similarities, especially in their beaks and eating habits. At least one of the birds sent by Khukon had some similarities with the birds of Tetulia. So, I checked them minutely and found that they were not bunting but sparrow. Immediately, I sent some of the photographs to the country's prominent ornithologist, Professor Dr. M Monirul H Khan. In the meantime, I checked the photographs of buntings and sparrows in different field guides and the internet, and found similarities between the sparrows of Tetulia and those of Bhutan in 2018. A few minutes later, Professor Monirul Khan confirmed that it was indeed the same sparrow as I assumed. I was thrilled to witness the new species of sparrow for the first time in Bangladesh and add it to the country's national bird list as the 718th bird.

The story that I just narrated on the sparrow of the sugarcane field of Tetulia is the

newest bird of Bangladesh, the Russet Sparrow. It is also known as Cinnamon Sparrow or Cinnamon Tree Sparrow. As this has been sighted for the first time in Bangladesh, therefore, it has no Bangla name for our country. But, considering its plumage colour, meaning of English and Scientific name it can be named as Daruchini Chorui, Morcheronga Chorui, Morcheronga Gecho-chorui or Tamate-lal Gecho-chorui. But, I personally prefer Daruchini Chorui. However, in West Bengal recently it is called Lal Chorui, which is possibly a translation from its Hindi name Lal Gouriya. The chunky little seed-eating passerine bird belongs to the order Passeriformes and family Passeridae. The Russet Sparrow has usually been placed in the genus *Passer*, and within this genus it is seen as a part of the "Palearctic black-bibbed sparrow" group that also includes House Sparrow and Eurasian Tree Sparrow. Looking at its history, it is found that English ornithologist John Gould described the bird as the Russet Sparrow based on a specimen collected from the Himalayas. Its specific name came from the New Latin word *cinnamomeus* i.e. cinnamon-coloured. On the other hand this sparrow was described as *Fringilla rutilans* by the Dutch zoologist Coenraad Jacob Temminck from a specimen collected from Japan. However, most taxonomists give priority to Gould's publication and use the binomial name *Passer cinnamomeus* for the russet sparrow. Until today, 13 subspecies have been described, but only three are widely recognised, which mainly differ in the colour of their underparts. The subspecies *P. c. rutilans* and *P. c. intensior* breed in parts of Eastern Asia, where they are usually found in light woodland; and the nominate subspecies *P. c. cinnamomeus* breeds in the Himalayas, where it is usually associated with terrace cultivation.

The Russet Sparrow is a gregarious mountain bird, which mainly inhabit the Himalayas and the parts of eastern Asia. In the Himalayas, the species breeds from the mountainous Nuristan in Afghanistan to Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh of India, Nepal, Bhutan as well as Southeastern Tibet. In eastern Asia, the sparrow is distributed through Southern China and Taiwan and the hilly parts of Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur and Mizoram of India as well as Myanmar, Laos and Vietnam, where it is mostly resident. It is also found in Sakhalin, the Kuril Islands, a small part of mainland Russia, Japan, southern Korea and part of Northern China and Northern Thailand, where it is mostly migratory. In the Himalayas, the species make short movements to lower altitudes between November and April in many areas. The sparrow is found in



A pair of adult Russet Sparrow sitting near the bank of Wanchu River in Thimphu, Bhutan

the Indian states of Meghalaya followed by Darjeeling part of West Bengal, Sikkim and the nearby country Bhutan. Hence it was speculated to be found near Sylhet district. But instead of being spotted in Sylhet region, it was found at Tetulia in Panchagarh, which is located at a comparatively greater distance from Darjeeling, Sikkim and Bhutan. Although, the species was included in several lists for birds of the Sunderbans without any details by a number of authors, however, it is unlikely for a hilly species that occurs at its closest distance in Manipur of India, to be found in the Sunderban mangrove forest. In reality, this species was not sighted by others in any part of the country before the author spotted it at Tetulia in 2017. Therefore, it can be considered as hypothetical. The global population of Russet Sparrow has not been quantified, it is assessed for the IUCN Red List as Least Concern for global extinction.

The Russet Sparrow is a chunky little bird. The length and weight of this medium-sized sparrow is 14 to 15 centimetre and 17 to 22.5 grams, respectively. The general plumage colour is warm rufous above and grey below. The sexes differ in plumage colour and have a similar pattern to that in the corresponding sex of House Sparrow. However, as mentioned earlier there is a subtle difference among the three subspecies, especially on the yellowness of the underparts. The subspecies *P. c. rutilans* is off-white on its cheeks and sides of the neck, and have pale grey underparts; whereas the subspecies *P. c. intensior* has a pale yellow wash on its underparts and cheeks, as well as darker upperparts. On the other hand, the nominate subspecies *P. c. cinnamomeus*, which was seen in Bangladesh, has a heavy yellow tinge on its underparts.

The breeding male has beautiful rufous-chestnut or bright-cinnamon crown and back, streaked black on the back. It has a broad and a narrow whitish wing-bar; chin and centre of the throat are black, sides of the throat are dull yellow; cheeks are whitish; breast and flank are yellowish-grey, and centre of the belly is pale yellow. It has a very thin white supercilium- a stripe running from the bill to the rear of the head. The side of the cheek and neck are off-white or yellowish. Shoulders and greater coverts are chestnut and the median coverts are black at the base with white at the tips. The rest of the wing is light brown with black tinges. The tail is blackish-brown, edged with ashy-brown. The non-breeding male differs little from the breeding male, being paler with more orange upperparts. The only species with which the male is easily confused is the Eurasian Tree Sparrow, which differs in its black cheek spot and brown back. The iris is chestnut. It has a thick bill suited to eat seeds, which is black in breeding male, horn-coloured in non-breeding male and yellowish with a dark tip in female. The legs of both sexes are pale brown to pinkish-brown. The female looks similar to the female House Sparrow except the slightly darker and russet-tinged plumage. It is brown above with a conspicuous whitish supercilium. The back is streaked with dark brown and wing-bars are white. The underparts are dull ashy-yellow. The juvenile resembles the female, though more pale and sandy. As the young male reaches its first winter, it resembles the adult, differing in less bold chestnut and a dusky bib.

The Russet Sparrow is a well-attired small songbird typically living in mid- to high-elevation hills and light woodland and nearby farms, fields and open forests throughout its range. Found in less intensively developed areas than House and Eurasian Tree Sparrows, sticking to villages and pastures and staying away from large city centers. The species is the typical sparrow of human habitations in towns where the House and Eurasian Tree Sparrows are absent, which prefers gardens

and less built up areas. In the southern part of its range, the Russet Sparrow prefers higher altitudes, but in the north it breeds by the sea also. In the winter, migratory birds occur in open cultivated land and riverine grasslands near shrubs or trees.

In many aspects of its behaviour, the Russet Sparrow is similar to the House and Eurasian Tree Sparrows. It gleans grains and grass seeds on the



A male Russet Sparrow sitting on the exposed branch of a dead tree at Tetulia

ground as well as plucks them from the growing stalks. It is fond of perching on exposed branches or top branches of dead trees and telephone wires. Outside its breeding season, the Russet Sparrow is gregarious and forms flocks to find food, though it infrequently associates with other birds like finches. Wintering flocks tend to keep away from human habitation. The russet sparrow is also social at night during the winter, and forms large communal roosts in trees and bushes. In the breeding season, the female roosts in the nests and the male nests in foliage nearby. The adults mainly feeds on the seeds of herbs, weeds and grains; and during the breeding season also eats berries and insects. This type of diet makes it a minor pest in agricultural areas, but also a predator of insect pests. On the other hand, nestlings are fed mostly on insects, especially caterpillars and larval beetles obtained on trees and flying insects. The vocalization is sweet and musical chirps, softer and more musical than the House Sparrow, which when strung together form a song. Although, basic call is a *cheep* or *chilp*, similar to that of other sparrows, but the song is interspersed with sibilant *chu-swik* notes similar to those of the White Wagtail. During territorial disputes, males give a rapid *chit-chit-chit* call. The flight is swifter of all sparrows.

The Russet Sparrow's breeding season is short, lasting more or less than three months. Depending on the subspecies and geographic distribution breeding seasons varies from March to August; but the nominate subspecies *P. c. cinnamoneus* from May to July. During the breeding season the species is not gregarious and its nests are dispersed uniformly rather than clustered. The nests are frequently built in tree cavities, chimney tubes, cavities of stone walls, eaves, embankments and disused woodpecker or swallow nests. Sometimes it builds nests in black kite nests, electric junction boxes as well as the outer walls of monasteries, often alongside the Eurasian Tree Sparrow. The male chooses the nest site before finding a mate and uses the nest for display, spending much time calling nearby. When a female comes near a male at the nest the male begins to display by raising the head, drooping the wings, pushing the chest forward, and lowering the tail. The male then bows up and down in front of the female, who will lunge and then fly away if unreceptive. Once became pair, both sexes take part in building the nest that consists of a loose, untidy bunch of dry grass and pine



A female Russet Sparrow sitting on the branch of a dead tree beside the Sugarcane field

needles which fills the nesting cavity, lined with hair and feathers for warmth.

Usually female lays two clutches of eggs and brood twice in a breeding season. The elongated oval eggs are slightly glossy with a fine texture, mostly similar to those of the Eurasian Tree Sparrow. The overall colour is whitish with a grey tinge and brown spots, streaks, or blotches. Usually, four to six eggs are laid in a clutch. Incubation of eggs and feeding of the young is shared

by both sexes, with the male often being more active in feeding the nestlings. Eggs are hatched in about 13 days and the nestlings fledge at 14 to 15 days of age. Lifespan is about 5 years.

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Dr. Augustine Cruise

A poet of universal appeal of humanity through the marvel of God's creation

Reviewed by : M. Mizanur Rahman

The Shining poet Dr. Augustine Cruise of this suntanned earth has endeavored a lot to present his verses to the world of ours covering the Eastern, Western, Northern and Southern hemisphere weaving enormous Bengali words of verse through his following anthologies-

1. *Amar Jonmo Hoeche Bolei* (Because I am born)
2. *Emon Jodi Hoto* (Had it been like this)
3. *Bidhatar Ichche* (God willing) and
4. *Tobey Tai Hoke* (Then let it be like that).



Dr. Augustine Cruise

Dr. Augustine Cruise was born in 1942, village Mausaid of Uttar Khan in Dhaka. He did his PhD in Philosophy (major work in religion) in the USA. Though he is a student of philosophy, he has interest in literature, nutrition science, archaeology, human psychology and other mysterious aspects in life.

Here I quote a few lines of the first book of verse,
"I got a name because I am born"

*"Amar Jonmo hoeche bole- akta nam ache
Amar namey amar gumaguner bichare amar porichoy ache
Ami onubhob kori ami manus namey khato
Amar dehanney bissoy rohossey karjokaron rohossa
srostatey prosno rakhi..."*

"... I got a name because I am born
I have been introduced with my qualities against my name
I feel that I am famous for my name
There's mystery in my body for the reason why
I question my Creator..."

Dr. Augustine Cruise has said in the introduction to this book "I have thought over the realm of my imagination where nature is innate in me. My mental world is all pervading wonderland of creativity. That inspiration behooves me in the realm of mystery of creation in details and I go on searching them through studies of science and philosophy. In my solitude calmly and silently thousands of questions relating nature and its phenomena overwhelm my mental horizon."
Here's quoted another poem,

(Hay Isswar tumi kemon)
"How do you look O God?"

Even I couldn't see your shadow under your sway

I couldn't discern your foot-print
while you walk on the desert way, how is it,
I couldn't see you ever travelling river-lane by boat
I couldn't see you riding the chariot
resisting the mete or fall

In the winter mist and in the mid-night spring
I didn't find you walking

Even you didn't speak
anything of your thought to my ear
Merely some Godly words, I assume here and there
pell-mell you put in my ear
as it were, you are my breath...

As it were I am not in my breath
He is, as it were, the Great Power
Somewhere evanesced as the single soul
Where the existence of life remains
That's the existence of algae
Where light's ray touches life

Where human beings spring forth
with youth and age regenerate
by creation and destruction in eternity
and indestructible time carried them on
and on its own axis
and I myself, as it were, emotionally,
stay indestructible!
That you are in me existing eternity
flowing unseen under your sway
You got no youth, no age,
and without beginning and end
Having no birth history you remain alone
Merely you are the architect
of creation and destruction
and you are ever my eternal companion
To me, without you everything remains
imaginary fabricated and fictitious.

(Tr. M.Mizanur Rahman)

Every living being on earth is helpless at the clutch of nature. Hence the poet Dr. Augustine Cruise of the anthology " *Emon Jodi Hoto* (Had it been like that)" has very clearly woven a very good poem, '*Mair Keet Ami* (I am the worm of the soil):

...Sometimes I think beyond any measure
that my father was made of earth's juice.
My father brings me up also by earth's juice.
Hence I analyze the soil that
there's the comparative elements of soil
also exist in my body



Cover page of Four publications of Dr. Augustine Cruise

otherwise my body would have been inactive,
So a living human being, I belong to the soil.
...Hence I came out of the soil

I shall go back to the soil also!

Therefore I belong to the soil

I shall go back to the soil also..."

Hereafter we may take note of another relevant anthology, i.e., "*Bidhatar Ichche* (God willing)"

Fearlessly
On the way to life
the body is beset with dust mud and clay
to submit the self on the feet of God
bowing down the head on the dust
as saying, O God! I have come back
with dust laden body, how can I say,
'Would you accept me?'

Hoping that I am born crying
as my body's soaked with tears!

It's convincing that you'll accept me
It's dusty way to life
rolling about on the clay
and it's your topsy-turvy way
to life with hullabaloo-hue and cry

and I swear that I got no doubt
you won't take it as crime

and you won't let me down
as my body's smeared with dust and clay
And I am convinced that

I got your unconditional love.

Then let it be
that you accept me as I am made
of your artistic interests
and I am speechless of your majestic learning

and I aspire after your gracious company
and I submit myself to your feet fearlessly.

(Tr. M. Mizanur Rahman)

Then let it be like that God willing, the poet is convinced of Almighty God in all. Dr. Augustine Cruise, the poet under discussion, has submitted himself unconditionally to the will of God. His every poetic word in his books under discussion appears to be authentically an unconditional submission to God, Almighty where everything on earth is subjected to unseen God's commandment. Here the poet is helplessly seeking God's blessings. His poem-

I remain helpless at the feet of God:

Some win while others court defeat
All creativities are running on time
 for living beings' benefit
 in accordance with the order of the Creator.
There's construction and destruction like the river
breaks one bank on erosion
 while another bank rises by nature.

On the condition of newer creation
here ups and downs like defeats and wins at war
on the spree of destruction
newer comers crowd fore
and till the land for crops newer
and the sun warms up the land from its fire womb.

Here I live in every breath on the plain land
in my own identity being the fruit of time.
Here the defeat of Hitler is inevitable
rebellion against imperialism..

(Tr. M. Mizanur Rahman)

Dr. Augustine Cruise has endeavored to bring pseudo-political and religious fervour in the gamut weaving Bengali words in rhymes from earth to heaven above. While weaving Bengali words in rhyme it appears that he used to follow Jibonandio style to some extent using Bengali colloquial and classical words. As a matter of fact his entire idea is likely to be philosophic. At last he has submitted himself to Almighty God for every chaos and confusion regarding socio-religious and political aspects in life on earth that's God willing! However all poems are textured well with sweet Bengali words at pleasure that the readers are likely to appreciate.

All books above under discussion are published by Gankosh Prokasoni, Banglabazar, Dhaka. The price is reasonable. Let the poetry lovers enjoy reading each poem of the distinguished poet Dr. Augustine Cruise with due appreciation.

Thanks the author in all.

Mr Mizanur Rahman

The reviewer is columnist, essayist and poet

DFP observed 57th Birth Anniversary of Sheikh Russel



Information and Broadcasting Minister Dr Hasan Mahmud spoke on the occasion

The 57th birth anniversary of Sheikh Russel, the youngest son of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, observed on 18th October 2021 at Tathya Bhaban. The programme was attended by Information and Broadcasting Minister Dr Hasan Mahmud as a chief guest and former State Minister Dr. Murad Hassan as special guest. The discussion programme was organized by the Department of Films and Publications.

On the occasion, a photo exhibition was followed by a discussion meeting. The speakers condemned the killers of innocent child Sheikh Russel and reminisced about his childhood activities.

The meeting was presided over by Director General of the Department of Films and Publications S.M Golam Kibria. Zafar Wazed, Director General of Press Institute, also spoke at the function.



Chief guest, special guests and other officials at the function

DFP celebrated the Golden Jubilee of Bangladesh's Independence



Information and Broadcasting Minister Dr Hasan Mahmud delivering speech at the function

The Department of Films and Publications organized a week-long programme to mark the birth centenary of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and celebration of Golden Jubilee of Bangladesh's Independence at Tathya Bhaban.

The programmes include a week-long photo exhibition, a 3-day book exhibition and a discussion meeting that commenced on 19th December 2021. On that day, a film show was followed by a discussion meeting attended by Information and Broadcasting Minister Dr Hasan Mahmud as the chief guest while Secretary Md.



Film show



Photo Exhibition

Mokbul Hossain was present as the special guest. Besides, Principal Information Officer Md. Shahinoor Miah, Director General of Department of Mass Communication Bidhan Chandra Karmokar and Vice Chairman of Bangladesh Film Censor Board Md. Zashim Uddin were also present. Director General of Department of Films and Publications S.M. Golam Kibria presided over the discussion meeting.

The speakers highlighted the various aspects of life and struggles of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and progress of Bangladesh achieved in the last five decades.

In the beginning, Hasan Mahmud inaugurated the photo exhibition on the life and works of Bangabandhu. DFP set up a book stall-cum-sale centre at the office premises. Special publications on the life and works of Bangabandhu and the Bangladesh freedom fight were sold at 50% discount on the occasion.



(From left) S.M. Golam Kibria, Director General of Department of Films and Publications, Md. Shahinoor Miah, Principal Information Officer of PID and Md. Zashim Uddin, Vice Chairman of Bangladesh Film Censor Board visiting the book stall

Major National Events

October-December

1 October, 2021

PM inaugurates Bangladesh House in Maryland

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has inaugurated the newly-constructed "Bangladesh House" in Maryland, US.

She opened the house at 4:30pm on September 29 (local time), said PM's Press Secretary Ihsanul Karim.

The premier earlier planted a fringe tree on the premises of the house. Hasina also planted a honey locust tree and unveiled a bench at the UN gardens in memory of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on the occasion of his birth centenary.

Hasina later exchanged pleasantries with Bangladeshi diplomats in Bangladesh missions in the US and their family members.

The PM reached New York on September 19 to attend the 76th Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) after a two-day stopover in Finnish capital Helsinki.

During her stay in New York, she attended the UNGA at the UN Headquarters and took part in high-level events and meetings. *Source: The Daily Star*

4 October, 2021

Refugees are 'business' to some, PM tells media

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said some people made a business out of refugees, referring to a potential reason for the stalemate in repatriation of the Rohingya people to Myanmar.

"For some of them, refugees are just a business. If there weren't any refugees, they wouldn't have jobs. Nobody wants to say it out loud, but I will," she said at a press conference in her official residence Ganobhaban in the capital on October 4.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina waters the sapling of a fringe tree on the premises of "Bangladesh House" in the USA. She inaugurated the newly-constructed house on September 29

The briefing was arranged to inform the media about the outcomes of her recent visit to the United States for joining the 76th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in New York.

"It's difficult to stop the crimes. I warned the international community about this, but I am sorry to say they have not taken concrete steps to advance repatriation efforts." *Source: The Financial Express*

6 October, 2021

Work as servants of people

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on October 6 stressed the importance of good governance, and asked the government officials to devote themselves to serving people to make society a better place.

"I hope you'll devote yourselves to serving people while remaining faithful to the constitutional responsibilities," she said.

The PM was addressing the certificate-giving and closing ceremony of the 119th and 120th Law and Administration Training Courses at Bangladesh Civil Service (BCS) Administration Academy in the capital through a video-conference from her official residence Ganobhaban.

She asked the new officers to go to the grassroots and work as servants of people to ensure their welfare. *Source: The Financial Express*

10 October, 2021

2nd nuclear power plant in southern region: PM

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on October 10 said the government is looking for a suitable place in the Southern region to build another nuclear power plant to meet the country's growing demand for electricity.

Sheikh Hasina said this while addressing the installation programme of the reactor pressure vessel (RPV) of unit-1 of Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant (RNPP) project.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina inaugurated the installation work via video conference from her official residence of the Ganobhaban.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, joining virtually from her official Ganobhaban residence in Dhaka, inaugurating the reactor pressure vessel-installation work of the first reactor building of the Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant Project on October 10



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, joining virtually from her official Ganobhaban residence in Dhaka, unveiling a book titled 'Durjog Sahonshil Bangladesh Binirmane Sheikh Hasina' (Sheikh Hasina in building disaster-resilient Bangladesh), marking 50 years of the Cyclone Preparedness Programme (CPP) and the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction (IDDRR) on October 13

"This will ensure power generation, which will reach the rural people and elevate their socio-economic condition."

The Rooppur power plant project is being implemented by Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission and is being constructed with technical and financial support from Russia.

Source: *The Financial Express*

13 October, 2021

BD now a role model in disaster risk cut: PM

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on October 13 said Bangladesh is now a

role model for the globe in disaster management as it has been able to ease disaster risks remarkably.

"Today, Bangladesh is appreciated for effective disaster management for the initiatives we've taken following the footsteps of Father of the Nation," she said while addressing a virtual programme from her official residence Ganobhaban.

The Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief arranged the programme marking the 50 years of Cyclone Preparedness Programme (CPP) and International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction 2021.

The audience was connected from the Osmani Smriti Auditorium in the capital and Muktijudda Field in Cox's Bazar. Source: *The Financial Express*

14 October, 2021

Culprits to be brought to book: PM

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on October 14 said those who are behind the Cumilla incident will be hunted down to give them proper punishment to stop the recurrence of such communal acts.

"A thorough investigation is on. We're getting huge information. We'll definitely trace those who carry out such incidents and we'll do so...this is the age of technology," she said, mentioning October 13 Cumilla incident.

The Prime Minister made the remarks while exchanging greetings with Hindu devotees at the Dhakeshwari National Temple virtually from her official residence Ganobhaban on the occasion of Durga Puja.

Sheikh Hasina said proper action will surely be taken against the culprits, no matter what religion they belong to. "They must be found out. We did so in the past and will do it in the future, too. They must face the due punishment. We want



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on exchanging greetings with Hindu worshippers at the Dhakeshwari National Temple virtually from her official residence Ganobhaban on the occasion of Durga Puja on October 14

such punishment so that none dare to do so (engage in communal incident) in future," she said. *Source: The Financial Express*

15 October, 2021

BD ranks 76th in Hunger Index-2021

Bangladesh secures 76th position out of 116 countries in the Global Hunger Index (GHI)-2021 with a 19.1-point score on October 15.

With a notch slip from the previous year's rank, the country is still the second best performer in South Asia next to Sri Lanka (65th).

According to the index, Bangladesh is way ahead of Pakistan, India and Afghanistan as these countries are placed at 92nd, 101st and 103rd spots respectively.

Bangladesh ranked 75th out of 107 nations in 2020, 88th out of 117 in 2019, and 86th out of 119 in 2018.

The GHI is a tool made to comprehensively measure and track hunger at global, regional and national levels.

The scores are calculated each year to assess progress and setbacks in combating hunger at all levels.

On the other hand, the index measures hunger on a 100-point scale, with 0 (zero) being the best score (no hunger) and 100 being the worst.

The latest report categorises Bangladesh's score as moderate. *Source: The Financial Express*

16 October, 2021

Don't waste food as crisis looms over many countries: PM

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on October 16 urged all to stop wasting food as many countries in the world are going to face a famine-like situation.

"Wasting food has to be reduced. There's a scarcity of food on one side of the world and heavy wasting on the other... there shouldn't be any food wasting," she said.

Sheikh Hasina said this while addressing a World Food Day programme held at



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is unveiling the portrait of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman with a new variety of paddy named 'Bangabandhu Rice-100' invented by BRRI scientists, as the premier, joining virtually from her Ganobhaban residence, marking the World Food Day held at Hotel Intercontinental in the city on October 16

Hotel InterContinental joining from her official residence Ganobhaban.

The theme of this year is "Our actions are our future-Better production, better nutrition, a better environment and a better life".

The Prime Minister urged scientists to think about the reuse of excess food and conduct research in this regard.

Sheikh Hasina also unveiled a book titled 'Agricultural Development in Bangladesh' and a portrait

of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman with a new variety of paddy 'Bangabandhu Rice-100' invented by BIRRI scientists.

She asked all to remain vigilant so that Bangladesh never runs into a food crisis and no one can conspire to push the country into a famine.

"All need to be watchful, Inshallah, we'll fulfil the demand for food and ensure food security." *Source: The Financial Express*

17 October, 2021

A burden for Bangladesh: 'They're putting pressure on economy' PM.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on October 17 called the displaced Rohingyas and stranded Pakistanis "a burden for Bangladesh", saying they are putting pressure on the country's economy.

"Three years have already passed after Rohingya influx in Bangladesh and it's a burden for us," she said.

The Prime Minister said this while newly appointed Ambassador of the Netherlands to Bangladesh Anne Gerard Van Leeuwen paid a courtesy call on her at her official residence the Ganobhaban.

She added that the Rohingyas are also destroying the environment and forest resources of Cox's Bazar.

Talking about the Rohingya issue, the Netherlands envoy was apprised of his talking about the issue with the refugees and NGO activists. *Source: The Daily Star*

17 October, 2021

Germany to support BD in climate adaptation

Germany said on October 17 it is ready to cooperate with Bangladesh, particularly in the areas of climate change and energy sector.

Newly-appointed German Ambassador to Bangladesh Achim Troester said this

when he paid a courtesy call on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her official residence Ganobhaban.

The German envoy mentioned that the two countries are passing 50 years of their diplomatic ties and their bilateral relations are excellent.



Newly-appointed German Ambassador to Bangladesh Achim Troester calls on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her official residence Ganobhaban in the city on October 17

Achim Troester appreciated Bangladesh's overall development and the government's mechanisms to tackle the Covid-19 situation successfully.

On the climate change issue, Hasina said Bangladesh has started the adaptation and mitigation programme with its own resources.

Recalling with gratitude Germany's cooperation during Bangladesh's Liberation War in 1971, she said many German families adopted 'war babies' after the Liberation War. *Source: The Financial Express*

18 October, 2021

Groom children well for future: Hasina

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on October 18 urged the people of the country to properly groom their children with love and affection to make their lives meaningful and successful.

"Today's children are tomorrow's future. So, I would like to urge the people of the country to ensure their safety and give them love, develop their lives well, and



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina unveils the cover of a book titled "Sheikh Russel: Shaishabe Jhore Jawa Phul" (Sheikh Russel, a fallen flower) joining virtually the inaugural and award-giving ceremony of Sheikh Russel Day-2021 from her official residence Ganobhaban on October 18

thus make their lives successful and meaningful," she said.

The Prime Minister was addressing the inaugural and award-giving ceremony of Sheikh Russel Day-2021 and Award virtually from her official residence Ganobhaban.

Sheikh Russel Jatiya Shishu-Kishore Parishad arranged the function under the supervision of the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Division at the Bangabandhu International Conference Centre (BICC) in the city. *Source: The Financial Express*



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is laying the foundation stone for upgrading the Dhaka-Sylhet and Sylhet-Tamabil highways to six lanes via videoconferencing from her official residence Ganobhaban on October 24

24 October, 2021

Vested quarters out there to tarnish Bangladesh's image: Sheikh Hasina

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on October 24 said vested quarters are out there to stage various types of incidents in the country to tarnish its image before the world.

"Bangladesh will march forward, no one will ever be able to pull Bangladesh back. Some incidents are happening..vested quarters unleashing these deliberately to tarnish the country's image, and you all are aware of that," she said.

The Prime Minister said this while inaugurating Paira Bridge over the Paira River and laying the foundation stone of six-lane (including service lane) Dhaka-Sylhet and Sylhet-Tamabil highways from her official residence Ganobhaban.

She said vested quarters are also engaged in spreading negative propaganda against Bangladesh.

"Whatever development we achieve, one section of people is out there and they're busy demeaning the country," she said.

That is why, she mentioned, this section of people never sees the development of

the country. "Instead, they want destruction. This is the reality. The people of the country need to remain aware about it," the PM added. *Source: The Financial Express*

25 October, 2021

South Asian nations should work together

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina October 25 said South Asian nations should work together to eliminate hunger and illiteracy for the wellbeing of the people of this region

She said this when newly appointed Pakistani High Commissioner to Bangladesh Imran Ahmed Siddiqui met her at the Ganobhaban.

The premier said the cardinal principle of Bangladesh's foreign policy, enunciated by Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, is "Friendship to all, malice to none".

During the meeting, the high commissioner said Pakistan wants to promote relations with Bangladesh. He presented an original copy of Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan's message.

The PM thanked the envoy for handing over the historic souvenir related to the memories of Bangabandhu.

She appreciated the publication of the calligraphy book in Bangla by Pakistan on the occasion of the Golden Jubilee of Bangladesh's independence.

Ambassador-at-Large Mohammad Ziauddin and Principal Secretary Ahmad Kaikaus were present. *Source: The Daily Star*

26 October, 2021

Focus on research to diversify export: PM

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on October 26 asked the private entrepreneurs to identify new market demands and trends across the world to diversify the country's export items.

"We've to find out through market research what new items we can produce to give a big boost to our exports...we need to focus on that," she said.

The Prime Minister said this while inaugurating Bangladesh Trade and Investment Summit 2021 at Bangabandhu International Conference Center (BICC).



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina speaking at the inaugural ceremony of the Bangladesh Trade and Investment Summit 2021 at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre in the city on October 26, joining it virtually from Ganobhaban

She joined the programme from her official residence Ganobhaban.

The Commerce Ministry and the Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI) jointly arranged the week-long summit to mark the Mujib Year and the Golden Jubilee of the country's Independence, aiming to connect traders and investors from around the world.

Hasina said the exporters have to identify which country looks for what types of products, and the producers and manufacturers should think about producing those items.

"I request business organisations, especially the private sector, to give due attention to this issue because, I think, we need to increase the number of items in our export basket," she said. *Source: The Financial Express.*

30 October, 2021

Vulnerable nations need urgent funds to battle climate change: Hasina

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has urged rich nations to finally make good on their pledge to provide \$100 billion a year to fund carbon emission reduction and climate adaptation projects in developing countries.

Such redistribution is climate justice-and "we will not succeed in curbing our carbon emissions unless the world's poorest and most affected by climate change are shielded from the costs of the energy transition", according to an opinion piece co-written by Hasina in Newsweek with Patrick Verkooijen, CEO of the Global Center on Adaptation, on Oct 30.

The article comes in the run-up to the 2021 United Nations climate change conference, which will begin in Scotland's Glasgow. It is the first conference since the 2015 iteration, where 196 parties signed the Paris Climate Accords to limit

global greenhouse gas emissions. *Source: The Financial Express.*

1 November, 2021

BD scraps 10 coal-based plants: PM

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on November 1 said Bangladesh has cancelled 10 coal-based power plants involving 12 billion dollars of foreign investment, just to supplement its efforts against the adverse impacts of climate change.

"We've cancelled 10 coal-based power



United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres and British Prime Minister Boris Johnson welcome Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina upon her arrival at the COP26 UN Climate Summit in Glasgow on November 1

plants worth 12 billion dollars of foreign investment," she said while addressing the 26th Session of the Conference of the Parties (COP26) of United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

Sheikh Hasina mentioned that the government has established the "Bangladesh Climate Change Trust Fund" in 2009 to address this challenge. "We've doubled climate-related expenses in the last seven years. Currently, we're preparing the National Adaptation Plan." *Source: The Financial Express*

2 November, 2021

Women bear the brunt: Hasina

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina November 2 said structural inequalities in human society along with inherent social customs were causing disproportionate impacts of climate change on women.

"Generally, women across the world don't have equal access to resources. In addition, in many societies, they don't have the decision-making power and are often engaged in low paid and unpaid jobs and activities. All these factors contribute to more adverse impacts of climate change on women than on their male counterparts," she said.

The PM was addressing the "Women's Climate Leadership Event-COP26: High-Level Panel on Women and Climate Change" at the Scottish Pavilion in Glasgow.

Sheikh Hasina said most vulnerable and marginalised people around the world are also the greatest victims of the adverse impacts of climate change for a number of socio-economic and cultural factors. "Women and girls are major among them."

Source: The Daily Star



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina addresses the "Women's Climate Leadership Event-COP26: High-Level Panel on Women and Climate Change" at the Scottish Pavilion in Glasgow on November 2



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina delivering her keynote speech titled "Call for Climate Prosperity" at the Scottish Parliament on November 2

Hasina mentioned that extreme temperature, erratic rainfall, flood and drought, more intense tropical cyclones, sea-level rise, seasonal variation, river erosion, ocean acidification are causing severe negative impacts on the lives and livelihoods of millions of the people of Bangladesh and other climate vulnerable countries. *Source: The Financial Express*

3 November, 2021

PM Calls for reset in relations with UK

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has called for a reset in Bangladesh-UK bilateral relations as she addressed the British parliament in London.

'Indeed, it is time for a reset in Bangladesh-UK bilateral relations. We need to change the traditional lens we use to view our partnership,' she said.

The Prime Minister also sought an active role of the international community to send back the Rohingyas to their homeland Myanmar in safety and dignity. She also said the role of the UK to this end remains critical.

She was addressing a programme titled 'Bangladesh at 50: The Resilient Delta' at

2 November, 2021

World must share the responsibility: Hasina

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has said the world has to share the responsibility of climate migrants and address the issue of losses and damages caused by climate change.

"Without ambitious mitigation efforts, only adaptation measures are not enough to slow stop and reverse the adverse impacts of climate change," she said.

The Prime Minister said this while delivering her keynote speech titled "Call for Climate Prosperity" at the Scottish Parliament on November 2.

Speaker Alison Johnstone received Sheikh Hasina on her arrival at the Scottish Parliament. Sheikh Rehana and CVF Thematic Ambassador Saima Wazed Hossain were present.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina addressing titled 'Bangladesh at 50 : The Resilient Delta' at the state rooms, speakers house, Westminster in London on November 3.

the state rooms, speaker's house, Westminster in London on November 3.
Source: The New Age

4 November, 2021

Excellent resources for researchers

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has said the publication of "Secret Documents of Intelligence Branch on Father of the Nation, Bangladesh: Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman" will be excellent resources for researchers on Bangladesh's politics and history as these unveiled how the Pakistani government snooped on Bangabandhu and his family.

"The real and complete history of the country from Language

Movement to Independence will be found here; people across the globe will get ideas about the sacrifice and struggle of Bangabandhu," she said.

Hasina said this at the international launching ceremony of the two publications titled "Secret Documents" and "Mujib & Introduction" at a hotel in London on November 4.

The Secret Documents is a



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and her younger sister Sheikh Rehana looking at a photo of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman displayed at the international launching ceremony of two publications titled "Secret Documents" and "Mujib & Introduction" in London on November 4

collection of the Intelligence Branch Reports on the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and Bangladesh during the Pakistani period. The Prime Minister unveiled the cover of the two publications at the programme. *Source: The Daily Star*

7 November, 2021

Deliver due services to expatriates Hasina to diplomats

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on November 7 asked Bangladeshi diplomats to work sincerely so that the expatriates across the world can avail of proper services from them.

“You need to deliver proper services to the expatriates and look after their wellbeing,” she said.

The PM said this while virtually inaugurating the extended chancery premise of Bangladesh High Commission in London from her place of residence.

Hasina said the people of Bangladesh across the world are contributing to their homeland and the countries they are living in. The traditional diplomacy no longer exists as it has turned into economic diplomacy, she added.

She asked the diplomats to blend diplomacy with trade and commerce, investment expansion and Bangladesh’s development.

Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen and High Commissioner Saida Muna Tasneem also spoke on the occasion.

Information and Broadcasting Minister Dr Hasan Mahmud, PM’s Private Industry and Investment Adviser Salman F Rahman were, among others, also present.

Source: The Daily Star

9 November, 2021

Dhaka, Paris sign LoI on defence ties

Bangladesh and France have signed a Letter of Intent (LoI) on defence



Bangladesh and France signed a Letter of Intent on defence ties in presence of visiting Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and French PM Jean Castex at the latter’s official residence in Paris on November 9

cooperation as the two countries stated their will to further develop the defence and security component of their partnership.

"Yes, we did it [signed it]. However, it relates to training and technology transfer," Foreign Minister Dr AK Abdul Momen told .

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and French President Emmanuel Macron had a bilateral meeting on November 9 and discussed the issues of mutual interest and cooperation.

To that end, the two countries agreed to strengthen dialogue and continue their cooperation, particularly in the area of training, which was launched during this visit.

They committed to stepping up cooperation in the area of defence equipment based on the needs expressed and each party's ability to respond to them, including through capacity building and potential technology transfer in this regard, according to a joint statement. *Source : The Financial Express*

11 November, 2021

Declare online learning as public good

Hasina urges UNESCO

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on November 11 asked UNESCO to declare remote learning and online education as a global public good as these are creating a new divide.

"I also call upon UNESCO to work as a matter of priority with Governments, private sectors and other stakeholders to rally partnership and resources to make this happen," she said while delivering her speech at the 41st General Conference of UNESCO held at its Headquarters.

The Prime Minister said the pandemic has undermined the hard-earned achievements while it has revealed a major fault line in the education system.

According to UNESCO, close to half of the world's students are affected by partial or full school closures, she said. *Source : The Financial Express*

11 November, 2021

BD wants to work for global community

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina November 11 expressed



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina along with senators poses for a photograph during her visit to the French Senate in Paris on November 11



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is handing over the 'UNESCO-Bangladesh Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman International Prize for the Creative Economy' to Noel Collin Kajabwango, business and operations lead of MoTIV - an Uganda-based integrated creative studio - at the UN body's headquarters in Paris on November 11. Director-General of UNESCO Audrey Azoulay was present

Bangladesh's desire to contribute to the socio-economic development and technological advancement for the betterment of the global community.

Acknowledging the 'kind support' of the international community in the development of her country over the decades, she said, "We also wish to contribute to the socio-economic development and technological advancement for the betterment of the global community despite our limited capacity."

The Prime Minister was addressing the UNESCO-Bangladesh Bangabandhu International Prize for the "Creative Economy" awarding ceremony at the UN body's headquarters.

The Prime Minister has announced the name of winner and handed over the prize and certificates to the recipient.

PM's younger sister Sheikh Rehana was present on the dais.

MoTIV was selected among 69 nominations submitted for the creative economy prize and will receive \$50,000 USD in recognition of its innovative work to promote youth entrepreneurship in the creative economy.

Sheikh Hasina said she believes that establishing the UNESCO-Bangladesh Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman International Prize for the "Creative Economy" is the most befitting tribute to Bangabandhu's contribution to the global humanity and peace. *Source : The Financial Express*



Clock wise from left : Metro Rail, Karnaphuli Tunnel, Elevated Express Way, Padma Bridge



Department of Films and Publications
Ministry of Information and Broadcasting
Bangladesh