

Bangladesh

July-September 2022

Quarterly

History could have been different if I could leave Dhaka

Bangladesh Population & Housing Census Data : Forerunner of all Development Planning

Historic Mosques of Bangladesh



Bangladesh

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Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina delivered her speech in Bangla in the 77th session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York on September 23, 2022



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Editorial

The National Mourning Day has been observed in a befitting manner nationwide and Bangladesh missions abroad on the 15th August. Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and most of his family members were assassinated on this day in 1975. The nation paid rich tributes to them on this occasion. The government, different political & socio-cultural organisations chalked out various programmes in this connection. Two articles and two poems written in this regard have been accommodated in this current issue of the Bangladesh Quarterly.

The Population & Housing Census has been conducted in the country from 15 to 21 June 2022. It was the 6th census of Bangladesh after the independence. Earlier five censuses took place in the year 1974, 1981, 1991, 2001 and 2011. As per the primary report released by the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics, the number of total population of Bangladesh is now 165 million while it was 144 million in the last census. The density of population at present is 1119 persons per square km. and the average growth rate in 1.22%. The male-female sex ratio is 98:100.3. The percentage of urban population of the country is now more than 30%. The literacy rate (7 years & above) is 75%, which was 52% in 2011.

From the 7th century, Sufi Auliyas and saints from Arabia started coming to this country to spread the great message of Islam. Since then, Islam has spread widely in this land and that is how it has become a Muslim majority country. After that the present territory of Bangladesh came under the Sultanate rule for about 400 years from the beginning of the 13th century followed by the Mughal rule from mid 16th century to mid 18th century. Hundreds of mosques were built throughout the country during this medieval period.

Articles on the above subjects along with other write-ups on poets Kazi Nazrul Islam and Rabindranath Tagore, Padma Bridge, tourism and wildlife have also been accommodated in this July - September issue.

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History could have been different if I could leave Dhaka

Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya, Bir Bikram

general secretary Mozaffar Hossain Paltu and I Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya were assigned responsibilities for making the 15 August program orderly and successful. We held threadbare discussions at the office of Dhaka City Awami League at Purana Paltan on the previous 14 August night on how to make the program successful. At the same time, we were waiting for the instructions of Gazi Bhai. He later talked to us towards 11 pm at night about our responsibilities. The next moment, Gazi Bhai ordered me and Pahari to accompany him. We did not know where we were heading to. He told us to climb the car. We got inside the vehicle of the chairman of Red Crescent Society. The vehicle went to Bangabandhu's Dhanmondi road-32 residence and stopped in front of it. We then went inside Bangabandhu's house. Gazi Bhai told us to sit in the ground floor and take tea while he went upstairs to meet Bangabandhu. We remained seated in the ground floor as per his instruction. After some time, Gazi Bhai came down speedily and told us, 'Let's go'.

I and Pahari went to the TSC towards 12.30 midnight to observe the preparations for the gathering. On seeing me, many students rose and told me after coming near, Sheikh Kamal Bhai had arrived in TSC. We became cheerful on hearing

Today is 15 August, a scandalous day for the nation. On this day in 1975, we lost our greatest leader, the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. He was scheduled to attend the convocation ceremony of Dhaka University in the morning. There were therefore sounds of preparation in schools, colleges and universities all over the country – let us all go to Dhaka University, make Bangabandhu's meeting successful. But ultimately he could not come to the university. Bangabandhu was killed on that dark night along with his family members. The soul of Bangladesh was thus extinguished.

The then president of Dhaka city Awami League Gazi Golam Mostafa,



Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at his residence office

this and went inside. We saw Sheikh Kamal Bhai holding a preparatory meeting at TSC with hundreds of students. He rose on seeing me and then embraced me. Both I and Kamal learned playing Sitar from the same teacher. We used to play Sitar together. We also indulged in gossiping sessions at the Spandan group of artistes established by him. There existed close friendship between us. On seeing us, Sheikh Kamal wanted to know what tasks we were assigned exactly. I replied, the City Awami League had been instructed to remain present from PG Hospital (currently Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University) up to the varsity campus. We took tea and snacks together. While departing, I asked him, 'Won't you go now'? Kamal replied, 'No, I won't go. I shall stay at TSC with the students'. I later came to know that Bangabandhu had asked him to return home on that night. If Kamal had stayed back at TSC on that night, then history might have been different today.

I reached home from TSC towards 2 am. I asked my wife Reena and grandma to wake me up towards the time of Fajr prayer. I had to go to Bangabandhu's gathering. After that, I went to sleep. But after some time, my grandma came inside flabbergasted and told me, 'Get up, some people are saying over radio that they have killed Bangabandhu'. On hearing this, I rose from my bed by jumping up and opened the radio quickly. I then heard the voice of the murderer Major Dalim, 'We have killed Bangabandhu. Now Mostaq is the president'. I shivered on hearing this, and sat down in silence. No words were coming out from my throat. It seemed as if someone was choking my throat. But I could not believe at all that Bangabandhu had been killed. Becoming very anxious to know the truth, I went out on to the road riding my 50 cc Honda. When I was going towards



Bangabandhu & Begum Fazilatunnesa with their sons Sheikh Kamal & Sheikh Jamal, and daughters-in-law, 1975

Bangabandhu's residence from the side of the university after emerging from the capital's Chankharpool area, I saw that people were assembled at different spots and whispering among themselves. And people were also listening to the radio if there was one in any tea-shop.

The city of Dhaka had gone silent. On moving farther, I saw uniformed army-men standing with tanks with their faces turned towards Gulistan. Some of the people recognized me. They said, 'Maya Bhai, please don't go farther. The army-people have surrounded the place, they are saying on television that Bangabandhu has been killed'. Army-men were saying, 'Go away, move', they were chasing away people in this manner. When people advanced a bit, the army-men chased them again. On seeing this, I turned back and moved away from the place. I decided instantaneously, let me first communicate with other top leaders of the party. At that time, Mahbub Bhai was the SP of Dhaka. Paltu Bhai and Mahbub Bhai used to live in the same house. I was the general secretary of Wari union Awami League, and executive committee member of the City Awami League at that juncture. Sardar Enayet was the president. As the sun was rising, I entered Purana Paltan and saw people assembled there. When I knocked on the doors of Paltu Bhai's house, the guard said, 'Maya Bhai, where are you going'? I said, 'I will meet Paltu Bhai'. He told me that Paltu Bhai and Mahbub Bhai had gone out at dawn. I then thought of going to the house of Gazi Bhai at Paltan. On exiting the gate, I met Paltu Bhai's friend Osman. He asked, 'Where are you going'? I replied, 'Gazi Bhai's house'. He said, 'Don't go there. Army-people have surrounded the house; I heard he went out of the house in the morning; there is nobody in the house'.

I therefore returned to my residence from there. On coming back, I found that the same words were being repeated on television: 'Bangabandhu has been killed, Khondaker Mostaq is the president'. And the officials were issuing one statement after another declaring their allegiance to him. My mind could not rest at home. There was a strange feeling. Much of it was restlessness. I again went out. While debating inside my mind where I should go, I went to the house of Jagannath College teacher Amjad sir. I did not return home at night, I stayed back there. I went out the next day on 16 August morning. At that time, the national leader A H M Qamaruzzaman Hena Bhai was the president of Bangladesh Awami League. M A Aziz was the last president of Muktiyoddha Sangsad, and I was the general secretary. The murderers had linkages beforehand with some pseudo freedom fighters around that time. In that situation, Naeem and Mahfuz left the committee of Muktiyoddha Sangsad and issued injunctions against us. We later gave reply to that. I suddenly remembered about M A Aziz Bhai. We then met and went together to Matin Bhai's house. But we learnt on reaching there that he had gone to his village-home in Manikganj out of fear.

We then went to Hena Bhai's house. He was the works minister. On reaching there, we found him sitting there silently. We thought he was feeling some pressure inside. He had no communications with anybody else during the previous one and a half day. And Bhabi was also not present in the house; she had gone to her father's village home with children. On seeing us, Hena Bhai embraced us and started to cry loudly. We also cried. Hena Bhai said, 'You please take me to the other bank'. Aziz Bhai was then sent to the Lalkuthi of Sadarghat. No boat could be arranged on that day. We went there again and rented a boat for going to Eliotganj of Cumilla at a fare of Taka 800. Later, when we went to Hena Bhai's house, he said, 'How can I go now, your bhabi was coming with two daughters, but the car turned turtle. There is no guarantee whether they will survive. All the injured have been taken to Bogura cantonment'. Hena Bhai added, 'You please wait. We all shall go after they recover'. We therefore could not go after facing this debacle. When we next went to Hena Bhai's house for the third day, we could not enter. The army-men had taken possession of the house, and Hena Bhai was not there. Later, the guard of that house took us secretly to a double-storied house opposite the Dhanmondi Lake. On seeing us there, Hena Bhai again cried. He said, 'Please wait for your bhabi and children for two more days. We shall go by taking them along'. We consented and then came back. When we again went to that house on the night of 20 August to meet Hena Bhai, the guard informed, 'Sir has been taken to his previous home by army people, and he is now under house arrest'.

We saw on 22 August night that Mansur Ali Bhai was giving an interview on television. He had been arrested. I was reading a book on learning how to offer Namaz after going to Amjad sir's house on the night of Shabe Barat on 23 August. While I was reading that book, I saw on one page that it was good to offer prayers together with the family on that night. I then went home to offer prayers there. After taking bath, I went to the High Court Mazar to visit and pray at my mother's grave. But finding a crowd, I did not go to the grave and instead returned to my

The Martyrs of 15th August



Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman



Begum Fazilatunnesa



Sheikh Kamal



Sheikh Jamal



Sheikh Russel



Sultana Kamal



Parvin Jamal Rosy



Sheikh Abu Naser



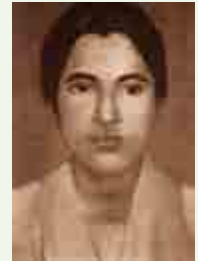
Sheikh Fazlul Haque Moni



Begum Arzoo Moni



Abdur Rab Serniabat



Baby Serniabat



Col. Jamiluddin Ahmed



Shahid Serniabat



Arif Serniabat



Sukanto Abdullah



Abdul Naim Khan Rintu

Narinda residence towards 3.30 am late at night. As the women of the house were offering prayers then, I did not go inside the house. I sat outside on a stool. After the prayers were over, I lied down on my bed. But before Fajr, my grandma came and said the police have surrounded the house. I saw that they were roaming around in lines. There were army jeeps in front, and policemen on the rear-gate. Consequently, there was no scope for fleeing. They then knocked on the door and asked grandma, 'Where is Mr. Maya'? She replied, 'Inside'. Then I asked who they were. They said, 'Are you Maya'? I replied, 'Yes'. They then said, 'We shall come inside'. They then entered and looked at everything by going round. They later asked, 'Don't you have any arms'? I replied, 'Yes'. They then asked, 'Do you have licence'? I replied, 'Yes'. After that, they took those and said, 'Come with us, the SP has summoned you at Suhrawardy Udyan'. I climbed on the police vehicle. As the vehicle entered Suhrawardy Udyan with me inside, the sound of the call to Fajr prayers could be heard. On reaching, I saw some people sitting there including Pahari, Anwar Jung MP, and the country's first finance minister Khandakar Asaduzzaman. Asaduzzaman was shouting in abusive language, 'Why have you brought me here? Do you know me? I shall show you ...' etc. After that, the MP of Manikganj Delwar, and Qamaruzzaman Bhai were brought. The number of detained people continued to rise. Lastly, Mansur Ali, Tajuddin Ahmad and Syed Nazrul Islam were brought in. In this way, 21 people were taken there on 23 August. We were all sitting; meanwhile we saw that Major Dalim was coming. Immediately after entering, he said, 'Stand up'. We all stood up. Only Mr. Tajuddin was sitting. He wanted to know our names. Everybody uttered their names out of fear. After some time, we saw a carpenter getting inside. A police acquaintance whispered in the ears of Nazrul Bhai, 'A court will be set up here. You will be tried and sentenced here'. We were all praying to Allah. Meanwhile, a wooden court-room was set up. The day seemed to be very long. In the meantime, an Additional SP entered and said, 'You will all be sent to jail'. Two micro-buses then came to take us to prison. While climbing the micro-bus, I saw that a brother-in-law of Bangabandhu was also brought. He was tortured after detention. We entered the jail towards 2.45 pm on 23 August. I was arrested on 23 August 1975, and came out of jail on 23 November 1977 after filing a writ petition in the High Court. Of course it is true that I got release from the jail. But once I was set free, I found that the power of my beloved country was in the hands of a new autocrat. a new struggle-days of sorrow and pain began. After so much struggle, the freedom of the people finally came in 1996 by the hand of the incumbent Prime Minister, the heir to the blood of Father of the Nation. Father, till today I survive as a humble worker of your ideals. I would like to stay as a worker forever. On this day, I pray for salvation of the departed souls of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and other martyrs who had embraced martyrdom on 15 August.

Translation: Dr Helal Uddin Ahmed

The writer is a presidium member of Bangladesh Awami League, and former minister for disaster management and relief

Courtesy : Press Information Department



Neutral probe on Bangabandhu's murder now demands of time

Zafar Wazed

most the two words—‘Freedom’ and ‘Independence’. With the aim to materialize his dream to establish the nation’s right to self-determination, he proclaimed, “... the struggle this time is a struggle for emancipation, the struggle this time is a struggle for independence...” He concentrated on strengthening the organization to bring independence for Bangalees. He travelled for miles—sometimes on foot, sometimes riding on bicycle and sometimes on boat—to boost up the party activists. Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman sacrificed his life for strengthening Awami League. The party succeeded to prove its strength in 1971. Even, he could reorganize a war-ravaged country within three and half year of its independence. Earlier, he efficiently dealt with the man-made famine. His every steps were taken for establishing a peaceful atmosphere for people. His heart was full of confidence. He could not even sense that Bangalees might commit any heinous offence. But the reality was different. The anti-liberation forces, which were defeated in 1971, were still active for reprisal.

The vested quarter started hatching conspiracy to destabilize the country. When Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was working hard to take forward the

A talent like him is born once in a blue moon. His valour and personae can be compared to the grand Himalayas. He has overcome the impossible difficulties with vigour and bravery. And following that grandiose he has stepped towards the freedom of humanity. He has made all the impossible turn possible, overcome all the barriers, bearing all the pain for the humanity. He converted a suppressed nation into a troop of valiant fighters. The national got its own motherland and sovereignty in exchange struggle, bloodshed and supreme sacrifice. He awarded the nation with the red and green flag. He taught the national to sing the song of Sonar Bangla. He sacrificed everything of his life to liberate the nation. He like



Historic house of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at Dhanmondi (No. 677, Road- 32), now Bangabandhu Memorial Museum, Dhaka

country, the vested quarter trying to retard the pace of the country's growth. They did not let Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman to run the country peacefully. So, the question is raised that who assassinated Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and why the assassination was carried out? Its' answer is now becoming visible to the countrymen after 47 years of his assassination. As the country's president, could Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman sense the assassination plot? He trusted Bangalee people. He believed that no Bangalee person bears the mentality of killing hurting him. So, the issue of assassinating him remains far away. He tried to develop life standard of the countrymen. In returns, he received bullets in his chest. He did not flee the scene, rather he faced it. His demise was more shocking than Greek Tragedy. His assassination was carried out not for only to topple his government. Rather, it was triggered by vengeance of conspirators. Not only Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, rather the entire family was assassinated. The conspiracy was against the country's independence, against the spirit of liberation war and against the four principles of the constitution. The killer Dalim uttered the word 'Islamic Republic of Bangladesh' in his radio speech on August 15 morning. All these were not happened suddenly. Rather, everything was pre-planned.

The conspirators tried to ruin the National by assassinating Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman 47 years ago. They expanded communal politics instead of secularism, they expanded autocracy instead of democracy. Jamaat leader Golam Azam, who fled the country on the eve of the liberation war, initiated a 'Project to regain East-Pakistan'. He spent huge amount of money to destabilize the country.

Golam Azam was brought back in the country by the then autocratic ruler Ziaur Rahman after assassination of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. The perpetrators, who were against liberation war, were rehabilitated in politics. Even, they were made ministers. They were moving in cars fluttering the National Flag. Even, successors of the war criminals recurred it in the 21th century.

The nation's most disastrous day was August 15. It was Friday. The perpetrators assassinated Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on the holiday for Muslims. The assassination was pre-planned and its' impact was far-reaching. Not only some misguided army officers, but also a group of internal and external conspirators along with the anti-liberation force was behind the assassination. Even, a section of bureaucrats, businessmen and religious fundamentalists also joined hands with the killers. The massacre was an irreparable loss for the nation that is still paying for it. An instable situation prevailed during the regime of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. Secret killing, looting, attacking on food-carrying vehicles and other criminal activities were going on full-fledge. All these small criminal groups joined hands with anti-liberation forces and got involved with the conspiracy. A chaotic situation was created across the country. Rivalry, enmity, propaganda and rumour engulfed the society. But the conspirators could not gain success, despite repeated attempts. Finally, they took the most heinous way and assassinated Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

Taking the chance of such instability, many ill-motivated people were trying to secure their self-interest. Purbo Bangla Communist Party leader Abdul Haque in 1974 met with Bhutto in Dhaka and sought financial and arms support to topple the government of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. This is stated in Bhutto's autobiography.

When Bhutto was staying in Dhaka, he held multiple meetings with some pro-



Bangabandhu with Begum Fazilatunnesa

Chinese parties and groups. They mainly discussed on ousting the government. Some misguided army personnel, who were involved with the killing, were tried later. Some others are still fugitive. The plotters' plan was far-reaching. After 1975, they succeeded to cripple the country and

dampen its spirit of liberation. The plotters could sense that their evil-motive would not be successful, if Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman is alive. It is now clear that domestic and external forces joined hands together to execute the heinous plot. Different political parties, including a



Bangabandhu delivering speech at Gahira High School on his way to Betbunia, Chittagong in June 1975

chunk of opportunists in Awami League, created the ground for executing the plot. Though the trial of Bangabandhu murder is over, the plotters and many of their associates are still untried. Those, who conspired the assassination as well as executed the terrible deed, are being discussed for 47 years. If the actions, political involvement and ideals of those plotters are analyzed, some enlightening clues are bound to unravel. Even a number of researchers possess distinguished amount of information in this regard. It is merely a decision that has to be taken to try those conspirators. Moreover, the issue of forming investigation commission of Bangabandhu murder case has been discussed for long. Even it is said that, in many countries there are investigation commission apart from judicial trial. This particular commissions are formed to unfold the entire conspiracy in broad daylight. As a result, the state would learn to avoid such anomaly in future. We have observed that after the assassination of John. F. Kennedy, Mahatma Gandhi, Indira Gandhi, Rajib Gandhi, this type of commissions was formed. However, it is never too late for us to expose the real plot of Bangabandhu murder. There is no lack of data, documentaries and even eye witnesses.

Khandakar Moshtaq, the person who appreciated the murderers as 'Patriots', is the real culprit and has been benefited most. He has shared his privileges with General Zia. These two benefited people are most likely to be the conspirators. In spite of difference in designation, they were united by the same interest. If a thorough examination is done over their attitude to the Awami league during the war of liberation, their military motivations and their roles, it will be clear that they were the real mapmakers of Bangabandhu murder.

Both Moshtaq and Zia played negative roles during the war. Moshtaq, who was the



Tomb of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at Tungipara

foreign minister of Mujibnagar government intended to build confederation with Pakistan. Further, he has been under close surveillance of the government. There was a complain against Mushtaq that his role during the war was of an opponent. Even, he was excluded from the team sent to the UN by the acting government. According to former Justice Shamsuddin Chowdhury Manik, Zia and Mushtaq were directly involved in the murder. Their roles during and after the war suggest that they were not for the independence of Bangladesh. Besides, Zia's ideas were those of a Pakistani. His boyhood, education, youth all were spent in Pakistan which shaped his Pakistani ideals. He came to Bangladesh in the middle of year 1969. Interestingly, when this member of Pakistan intelligence fled to Bangladesh, Pakistan did not take any action against him! On the contrary, they kept his wife in Dhaka cantonment with utmost care. However, the real face of Zia was unmasked during his taking over power after the killing of Bangabandhu. Thus, it is inevitable to form an investigation commission to unveil the conspirators as Zia and Mushtaq.

If we look back, we will be able to observe that, as soon as Zia usurped the power, he started to turn Bangladesh into Pakistan. His first attack was to turn the historical place of Bangabandhu's 7th March speech to a children's amusement park! In addition, to protect the killers, Zia and Moshtaq announced indemnity. They did it to protect themselves too. Their deed proves that the murder was a political act. This explains how they spent their regime smoothly. Their Pakistani values are well reflected in their action. Furthermore, during the war, their entente with Pakistan, US, along with Taher Uddin Tagore and Mahbub Ali Chashi and their alliance worked to hasten the confederation proposal with Pakistan. Nevertheless,

Bangladeshi government handled it sternly. We had to exchange the proposal as a pre requisition of Bangabandhu's release from jail.

Still, Moshtaq kept on his anti-liberation activities. It seems that, Zia and Moshtaq were counting the moments down when the assassins brutally attacked Bangabandhu and his family. Otherwise, how come they became so active right after the horrendous act? How could he, right after Dalim's announcement on Bangladesh radio, form the new government without any delay? It was observed that, the chiefs of three major military offices along with the BDR delivered speech on radio supporting the murder; followed by the newly formed government. As if they knew what was going to happen, what would be the follow up and even the aftermaths. Everything happened so fast! In fact, General Zia's duty was to inform the senior officers in case he knows about any treason, which he did not perform. As a military chief he was supposed to take action, but he did not do anything about it! On the contrary his response to the news of the president's murder (informed by another office) was, "So what?" It is worth mentioning that Faruk, the self-claimed assassin, has said in his 1976 interview with ITV that Zia was involved in the issue. However, few military officers were fired who were spotted to be directly involved in the matter. Unfortunately, most of them were saved and even, rewarded by Zia and Moshtaq, who assigned those criminals at foreign embassies. In fact, Zia's ambition made him engaged to the crime. It is not unknown that Moshtaq and his collaborators used to hold meetings in Comilla BARD joined by some Bengali officers, who were transferred to Bangladesh CSP from Pakistani administration. It is not unlikely that they would nurture Pakistani sentiments. One of them is buried there. Another is still fugitive. He was associated with Mahbub Ali Chashi during the war of liberation. Though most of the officers fled from Pakistan to Bangladesh to join the war, after the war they stood against Bangladesh itself. Even one formed Revolutionary Soldiers' Association and led the massacre of 7th November. In fact, most of those soldiers were trained at Kabul, Pakistan and right after the independence they started to play the role of spy of Pakistan. Another point to note is that, our Chief Commander Osmani was displeased with Zia's pro-Pakistani attitude during war.

However, the choice of 15th August for this brutal act is worth of notice. Bangabandhu was supposed to join Dhaka University Convocation as the Chancellor that very day. To dismiss the grand event there were bombing on the afternoon of 14th August. Even a strike was called by an armed political party. To sum up, an ambience of terror was created. Unfortunately, It proves the frailty of the security system. Astonishingly, the security system of Bangabandhu's residence was also changed. The charge was given to a troop led by a pro-Pakistani officer. To conclude, both national and international forces conspired the royal murder. Still, many people and organizations that were involved in the plot are unidentified. It's high time to unfold the mystery and punish the hidden killers. Therefore, there is no alternative to the formation of investigation commission.

The writer Zafar Wazed is Director General of Press Institute Bangladesh, and Ekushey Padak winning journalist



Please Father, Come Back

Aslam Sany

We sit here father
Your companions of good and bad old days
The people of your cherished bazaars and turfs
Labourers of factory
Politically conscious brilliant boys of varsities;
Those who wait for your orders forever –
Sitting below the open sky – on green grass,
Those silenced by the terrible news of your inhuman murder
– Who turned into stones amid a sea of grief!

Come back father, please see after coming out –
We sit and wait for you while looking at your trail,
Do you still reside in that house
At Dhanmondi road thirty-two?

O' the eternal emperor and father of Bangla
Do you still sit on that easy-chair made of cane
And ponder about the millions of hungry-naked people –
Living on the banks of Padma, Meghna, Jamuna
In this huge Bangla from Teknaf to Tentulia –
On Bangali's freedom, Bangla's emancipation?

Do you still speak in that vigorous voice –
On the dais of Suhrawardy Udyan:
‘The struggle this time is for our freedom
The struggle this time is for independence’?
Or worry about the food, attire, education, health, shelter
Of Seventy million people, or about economic freedom –
The second revolution?

O’ the greatest son of seven and a half crore Bangali –
Bangabandu Mujib, the ideal teacher, noble father
Representing the Bangali nation –
A Third-world developing land called Bangladesh,
Do you still utter in a brave voice on the stage of United Nations –
‘The world is divided into two parts – the exploiters and exploited,
I am on the side of the exploited’, or
While standing before a mouthpiece, shaking the whole assembly
Do you still shout by roaring like a lion –
‘Even if my lot becomes like that of Chile’s Allende
Even then shall I not bow my head to imperialism’.

Say father, do you still speak those words,
Even now worry about this soil and its people?
We sit here in wait for you
We are still awake without any sleep in our eyes
Inside, the fire of a volcano burns within us –
We remain seated in wait for your unambiguous order.

You shall say after coming to this sea of people –
‘Be prepared with whatever you have
Enemy has to be faced, build up fortresses in all your homes’.

Come father, say – here we remain seated
In the Golden Bangla of Robi Thakur, Bangladesh of rebel Nazrul
We remain seated –
With grief-stricken strength in this bosom and fire in our eyes
Please come father on this stretch of green grasses
We remain in wait –


Please come another time, in this Bangla
In the embrace of Bangalis’ love
O’ father, please come once again.

Translation: Dr Helal Uddin Ahmed

Courtesy : Press Information Department

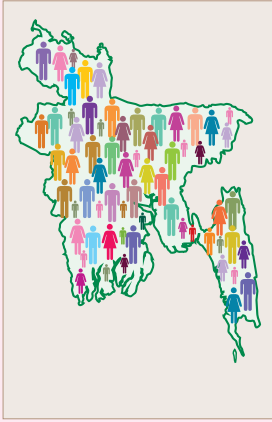
The Name of the Picture is Bangabandhu

Azgar Ali



This picture is of the father of our nation,
Bengali's self-identity and utmost destination.
This picture is of our imperishable soul,
All reverend and bowed in respectful.
Everyone, irrespective of caste and religion.
This picture Praised from generation to generation.
The symbol of this image is a red-green flag,
This picture bears the aesthetical tag.
This picture is a collection of thousands of years of light.
This picture is eternally dignified, and bright.
This picture will speak from time to time;
The passion of this picture is endless.
And it speaks uprightness,
The victory of liberation lies in this picture.
Which awakens consciousness and devotion in the heart.
This picture is a source of inspiration to dreamers.
This picture is unstable in the respect of the prisoner;
This picture is about Bengali nationalism and self-awakening.
This picture won the release in a good mood;
This takes a stand against the exploitation of emancipated people;
This picture enchants the audience like a spell,
As rings the pleasure bell,
This picture has a strong voice of direction,
And firm determination, and foundation
This picture is the sting of the roaring index finger on March 7, 1971.
This picture is a great gift of generosity forgetting hatred and violence.
This picture is of a world leader.
Julio Currie, a symbol of peace dealer.
This picture is very serious.
But there is no anxious,
The great vow of this picture is self-sacrifice,
This picture teaches us to fight; it holds us against oppression and obstacles.
This picture reminds about the hellish killings and sacrifices
That took place in the bloodbath number 15 August 1975.
This picture is eternally precious in the national mourning, as the abstract symbol of
our existence.
Which our pathetic resistance!
This picture is the whole of Bangladesh.
This will not banish
This picture is of Bangabandhu, our eternal love.
Will be done, through the ages, after ages,
This picture's vastness belongs.

Azgar Ali is a poet, researcher and columnist



Bangladesh Population & Housing Census Data: Forerunner of all Development Planning

Md. Azgar Ali

The 6th ‘Population and Housing Census’ was conducted nationwide from 15 to 21 June 2022. It was scheduled to be held in 2021. Due to the onslaught of Covid-19 pandemic it has been delayed. However, earlier five censuses took place in the year 1974, 1981, 1991, 2001, and lastly 2011. With a view to improving the quality of census data and widening its scope, Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics has been introducing modifications according to UN and other Partner Organizations from time to time. These changes have earned a degree of reliability of Bangladesh census data. No wonder, Bangladesh census is recognized as one among the well planned censuses of the world. The population censuses are being conducted in this territory since 1872. From then population censuses has been taking place in this region in the first year of each decade with an exception in 1971. That time the census was conducted in 1974 instead of 1971 because of involvement of the nation in liberation war. However, the census of this year is completely different from the last five censuses.

History of the Census

The word census derived from the Latin word ‘Censere’ means ‘to assess’ and dates back to 38th century B.C. Censuses are not new. Looking back at history, it seems almost impossible that the ancient Pharaohs and Hebrews would have experienced to censuses. The first recorded census was taken by Prophet Moses (PBH) when he and his followers were oppressed mercilessly by Pharaohs and Moses led Israelites from Egypt. The Holy Torah narrates stories of several causes. The Book of Numbers (which have been descended on Moses) describes a divinely –mandated censuses which occurred in 3800 B.C and that time there were 601,730 people in Israel. Since then, censuses were taken many parts of the world for many purposes.

The modern census is defined as “The total process of collecting, compiling evaluating, analyzing and publishing socio-economic and demographic data pertaining to all the persons inhabiting a defined territory at a particular point of time. In order to provide a numerical profile of the nation, population censuses are being conducted to collect the evidence-based data at all levels that can be used in decision-making process.

It is thought that the total human population at the time of Christ was around 200 to 300 million, and that it had increased to about 500 million by 1650. Today some 8 billion people inhabit in the present world.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina inaugurated week-long 6th 'Population and Housing Census 2022' on June 6

Importance of census in the context of Bangladesh

While the population of Bangladesh estimated to be around 10 million in 1650 it became tripled- 28.9 million by 1901. In 2001, the total population of Bangladesh stood at 124 million. That means the country's population has increased about 4.5 fold in the last hundred years. On the other hand the population growth rate has decreased gradually in these five decades from 1974 to 2022- which are 2.48 in 1974, 2.35 in 1981, 2.17 in 1991, 1.59 in 2001, 1.37 in 2011, and now 1.22 in 2022.

The Population and Housing Census data collected this year can be the forerunner of all development planning of Bangladesh. This census can also play a vital role in public administration. All government offices at national and local levels can use the census data in the administration formulation and evaluation of public policy. At the time of natural calamity, Disaster Management Department needs to know the number of population when floods, droughts, tornadoes, cyclone etc. occur in a particular area. The election constituencies, national resources, job quotas and other services are appropriated on the basis of latest population data. Local governments use it heavily as well. Policy makers and planners very earnestly look at demographic, socio-economic and housing trends over the time to determine changes and their impact. Planners set plan for the future on basis of the population and housing data. The future plans include how many new educational institutions, hospital, roads & highways, public transports, bridges & culverts etc. are needed to be constructed. Business men and investors make plan to explore business opportunities according to population by age, sex, income, occupation, education, economic and social status. Researchers and planners cannot prepare plan for the future without looking at what is happening today and comparing it to the past. The solution to this problem should be sought in controlling, regulating, and measuring the size of the population which are one of the key factors to consider when thinking about development.

Key Indicators of Population and Housing Census 2022

The 6th Population and Housing Census started across the country on 15 June and continued up to 21 June 2022 with an eye to counting total households and population of Bangladesh. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina inaugurated the week-long census, which was conducted digitally for the first time in the country to make it flawless and successful. On the first day, enumerators counted floating and homeless people from 12:00 midnight to 6:00 am at 20,000 selected spots countrywide. Later, they started collecting information from households. 365,697 enumerators were appointed for collecting data and each enumerator collected data from 100 households using the tabs.

	Key Indicators	Population and Housing Census 2022	Population and Housing Census 2011
1.	Population		
	Bangladesh	165,158,616	144,043,697
	Male	81,712,824	72,109,796
	Female	83,347,206	71,933,901
	Transgender	12,629	-
2.	Rural		
	Total	113,063,587	110,480,514
	Male	55,166,842	54,580,004
	Female	57,890,462	55,900,510
	Transgender	6,283	-
3.	Urban		
	Total	52,009,072	33,563,183
	Male	26,545,982	17,529,792
	Female	25,456,744	16,033,391
	Transgender	6,346	-
4.	City Corporation		
	Barishal	419,351,351	328,278
	Chottagram	3,227,246	2,581,643
	Cumilla	439,414	-
	Dhaka North	5,979,537	6,970,105
	Dhaka South	4,299,345	-
	Gazipur	2,674,697	-
	Khulna	718,735	663,342
	Mymensing	576,722	-
	Narayanganj	967,724	-
	Rajshahi	552,791	448,087
	Rangpur	708,384	-
	Sylhet	532,426	479,837

	Key Indicators	Population and Housing Census 2022			Population and Housing Census 2011		
5.	Ethnic Minority Population and Percentage						
	Total	1,650,159 (1.00%)			15,86,141 (1.10%)		
	Male	824,751 (1.01%)			797477 (1.10%)		
	Female	825,408 (0.99%)			7,88,664 (1.10%)		
6.	Average Annual Growth Rate	1.22			1.46 (Adjusted 1.37)		
7.	Density of Population	1119			976		
8.	Sex Ratio	98.0			100.3		
9.	Dependency Ratio						
	National	52.64			73.00		
	Rural	56.09			77.00		
	Urban	45.63			69.00		
10.	Marital Status (%) (10 Years and above)						
		National	Male	Female	National	Male	Female
	Never Married	28.65	35.6	21.95	31.99	38.90	25.10
	Currently Married	65.26	63.02	67.41	63.12	60.30	65.90
	Widow	5.31	0.96	9.51	4.89	0.80	9.00
	Divorced	0.42	0.21	0.62			
	Separated	0.37	0.22	0.51			
11.	Religious Composition (%)						
	Muslim	91.04			90.39		
	Hindu	7.95			8.54		
	Baddish	0.61			0.62		
	Christian	0.30			0.31		
	Others	0.12			0.14		
12.	Literacy (%) (7 Years and above)						
	National (Both Male and Female)	74.66			51.77		
	Male	76.56			54.11		
	Female	72.82			49.44		
13.	Disability (%)						
	National	1.43			1.41		
	Male	1.63			-		
	Female	1.23			-		

	Key Indicators	Population and Housing Census 2022	Population and Housing Census 2011
14.	Mobile Phone Users (%) (5 years and above)		
	National	55.89	-
	Male	66.53	-
	Female	45.53	-
15.	Internet Users (%) (5 years and above)		
	National	30.68	-
	Male	38.02	-
	Female	23.52	-
16.	Number of Households		
	National	41,010,051	32,173,630
	Rural	27,820,341	24,671,590
	Urban	13,189,710	7,502,040
17.	Number of Households and Population in Slum		
	Slum		
	Population	1,800,486	-
	Number of Households	507,486	-
	Number of Floating Population		
	Population	22,185	1,47,674

Some new socio-economic aspects of 2022 census

On 27 July 2022, Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) released the country's first digital as well as the world's first digital Population and Housing Census preliminary report. This Census 2022 has created many unique and surprising features. For the first time, the number of women has increased more than men in the country.

According to the sixth census, the number of men in the country is 81.71 million, which is 49.50 per cent of the total population while the number of women is 83.35 million or 50.50 percent. There are 1.64 million more women than men. After 50 years from now, may be finding a male for marriage will be difficult. An imbalance between men and women may prevail in future.

Moreover, this is the first time that third gender people have been officially included in the census. They took another step forward in implementing the long-standing demand of third gender people to get assessed in all areas of the state. According to census 12,629 people are third gender.

Dhaka's population has increased by 3.31 million to 10.28 million in 2022 from 6.97 million in 2011. Dhaka South City Corporation is the densest area where 39,353 persons live per sq km followed by 30,474 persons per sq km in Dhaka North City Corporation.

In terms of religion, the Muslims are 91.04 per cent while the Hindus 7.95 per cent, the Buddhists 0.61 per cent, the Christians 0.30 per cent and the other religion 0.10 per cent.

The rate of marriage is highest in Rajshahi district while divorce rate is highest in Khulna district. Rajshahi division is ahead in terms of proportional rate of new families and married people in the country and there 69% of people are married. On the other hand, the people of Khulna are leading in terms of family break-up and divorce and the rate is 0.46 percent. The average of married people in the country is 65.26 percent while 28.65 percent people are unmarried. The national average for family break-ups in the country is 0.37 percent. Divorce is the least liked by the people of Barisal and the family break-up rate there is only 0.31 percent.

The advancement of technology has changed the pattern of human life. And we can see that 55.89 percent of the country's population aged five years or older has a mobile phone. 66.53 percent of men and 45.53 percent of women have mobile phones in this age group. As for internet usage, 30.68 percent of the country's population over five years of age uses the internet.

The number of slum dwellers has decreased and currently stands at 1.8 million only. That means people are moving out of slums and living in houses. Currently there are only 22,000 floating people in the country. But in many developed countries this number is more.

The number of households has also increased to 41.01 million in 2022 from 32.17 million in 2011. But the household size has declined to 4.0 from that of 4.5 in 2011. The size is bigger in rural areas at 4.1 against 3.9 in urban areas.

According to census data, the number of young manpower aged in between 15 and 24, stands at 31.56 million which was 26.16 million in 2011. The census shows the youth (15-24 years) have increased to 19.11 per cent of the total population from 18.16 per cent in 2011.

The number of elderly people in the country is increasing significantly. This number now stands at 15.33 million, which is 9.28 percent of the total population. But in 2011, the rate of elderly people in the country was 7.47 percent. The data of 2022 census also reveals that the number of dependent people has decreased, which gives hope that there are more working people in the country. The ratio of total dependent population in the country now is 52.64 while in 2011 it was 73 in the country. As per the census some 97.61 per cent of the total population have come under the electricity.

The census is a complete snapshot of time that reflects the socio-economic conditions of a country as a whole. It is how we measure ourselves to see how we have changed and plan for the future. It is hoped that the policy makers, planners, social scientists and statisticians make best use of the census data for formulating, measuring the policies and plans, evaluating the population dynamics, impact of development goals and vision in the future.

The author is researcher, columnist and Deputy Director of Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics

Padma Bridge –Tapping the Tourism Potentials

Md. Ziaul Haque Howlader



With the inauguration of Padma Bridge, the development trajectory of Bangladesh attains another milestone. Padma Bridge, a man-made wonder erected on mighty river the Padma, is now open for embarking on economic development activities between the South-west and whole Bangladesh. Dreamt Padma Bridge is now a reality, which has been in some years back as the discourse of probability. Padma Bridge has already draws many congratulations to the government from home and abroad. Padma Bridge is the symbol of pride, our ability and reflection of people strength as well as an insult to the conspirator as mentioned by the Hon'ble Prime Minister in her speech during the inauguration of it. The eighteen minutes speech by the Hon'ble Prime Minister reflects her firm courage and strong backbone. It is now world-wide much-talked issue where Bangladesh could accomplish it owing to the strong leadership of Sheikh Hasina. The mental faculty and immense courage remind us the famous phrases of Lord Alfred Tennyson – 'To strive, to seek, to find, and not to yield'.

In fact, Padma Bridge coins the pride and a landmark symbol of Bangladesh's development trajectory, which is steadily steering by the Charismatic Captain, who is also an emanation of immense inspiration H E Sheikh Hasina. She deserves our whole-hearted accolades. The indomitable characteristic and invincible mental courage reminds us the famous quotes from Shakespeare, 'Some are born great, some achieve greatness, and some have greatness thrust upon them.'

Given that Padma Bridge is now a reality, we may focus how to tap the optimal benefit from it for tourism development. Economic benefit, social benefit and community benefit and all other issues have already been analyzed by the expert. But, tourism development issue is now coming to forefront with the opening of Padma Bridge.

At the present day of rampant economic globalization connectivity is the key issue for industrialization, tourism development, employment generation, poverty reduction, youth development, women empowerment and above all the sustainable development. The South-west and middle-south of Bangladesh that includes 21 districts get a momentum of development in terms of easy movement of goods, seeds, fertilizer, and human resources. Tourism development activities in those districts will be augmented in both public and private sector.



Padma Bridge at Mawa end

A strong coordination and planning for harnessing the potentials of such a strong connectivity caused by the Padma Bridge is required. The Padma Bridge has opened up a new horizon for the tourism industry of Bangladesh. The tourism potentials in Gopalganj especially Tungipara centering the birth place and mausoleum of the Father of the Nation, Barishal, Patuakhali, Bagerhat, Narail will reach a new height because of the reduction of time and distance and hassle. Family visitors, Family Interaction Training (FIT), Visiting Friends and Relatives (VFR) will increase in this area like all other economic activities. South-west and south-middle Bangladesh are full of many natural attractions that lure the tourists from time-immemorial. However, connectivity was a hindrance for movement. Now, Bhumra land port and Benapole land port will see a sharp rise in terms of international tourist arrivals. The off-shore islands are required to be developed for foreign tourists. We need to invest more for the infrastructure development in these off-shore islands. If Cruise ships are allowed by offering visa and customs formalities, Mongla Port will see a rise of foreign tourist arrivals. This will help government earning more revenue and employment generation in the tourism and



Mausoleum of Bangabandhu, Tungipara



Sixty-Dome Mosque, Bagerhat

hospitality industry.

The rail connectivity through Padma Bridge is another milestone for tourism development across the country. The less-time and cheaper cost always help increasing the tourist movement. The Padma Bridge offers these opportunities. The more tourist movement means the more economic rolling among the destinations. Tourism will help expanding jobs, youth employment, women empowerment and economic benefit to the local people of the south Bengal. We



The Sundarbans, Khulna-Bagerhat

need to create tourism training institute in Barishal divisional town for skilled human resources. Both public and private sector investment will takes place in the form of establishing hotels, motels, resorts and restaurants that will require more manpower. Those trained manpower will get employment to these hotels, motels and resorts. Tourism development to southern Bangladesh will help achieving the SDG by 2030 by jobs creation, youth development through innovation and women empowerment as well as rural development. However, to harness the optimal benefit of Padma Bridge for tourism industry, foreign investment is sine-quo-non, which will contribute to the GDP growth of Bangladesh.

The writer works in Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation as Manager



Poet Rabindranath Tagore and Nationalism

Imam Hossain

of dividing Bengal is one of the most important events of that time. Rabindranath himself introduced this Rakhi Bandhan, that event was done for the unity of Bengal. It is a known fact that Rabindranath opposed British imperialism and supported Indian nationalist's movement in the early years. During that time, Tagore wrote many poems and composed many songs which are basically patriotic and still regarded as the best tool in the struggle of the free Bengali nation.

Tagore's perception of nationalism has highly relied on ancient Indian philosophy, where the world was accepted as a single nest. In this way Tagore was striving to dissociate himself from the general belief of conventional nationalism and trying to associate it with ideas - peace, harmony and welfare. Humanity all over the world does not require a narrow but a broad sense of nationalism. Therefore, it should be formulated through various means of life. Tagore's idea of humanism goes beyond any boundaries or barriers and seeks at large a common place where humanity comes before any other kind of identity. He adds further that the saints such as Nanak, Kabir, Chaitanya ignited the flame of humanism in Indian minds. But unfortunately, it was faded over the time with an aggressive rise of racism

Nations are usually defined as a community which possesses a particular land and share their own culture and practice it. This community will share a common value, culture, custom, heritage and corporate will. Year after year people are talking and numerous writings are coming from every corner of the world about it.

Rabindranath was born in 1861, a year during which the nationalist movement in India was crystallizing and gaining momentum. Rabindranath is one of the pioneers of Indian nation who always guided his people in time of crisis. He appreciated the art and culture of the English people and the power of knowledge but never accepted the regime of British government or the rule of Company and strongly got involved in the protest against it. Both Gandhi and Nehru supported him. They expressed their appreciation of the important part Tagore took in the national struggle. Rabindranath's criticism against British administration consistently grew more intense and stronger. Swadeshi Movement or Nationalist Movement is very much related with him. Rakhi Bandhan for the protest

and caste-based disintegration of the society.

Rabindranath Tagore, a versatile genius, a true nationalist and above all an indisputable humanist has been inspiring generations of intellectual and empathetic minds irrespective of their religion, race, language and also the barrier - the state and nation. The spread of fanatic nationalism during the First World War might have forced him to interpret and blame it as an evil epidemic. He was trying to subvert the popular idea of nationalism which was a political justification that encouraged grabbing other nations and their resources.

Rabindranath, Early in his career in 1901, wrote an essay in Bengali on 'nation' in which he said that Indian nationhood is founded on the

collective memory of the past and the desire to build on that memory. In a essay, '*Abastha o Babastha*', he permits himself the use of the mixed metaphor of a male and a female figure in suggesting that there is a deity that invites all Hindus, Muslims, Christians in India, irrespective of their separate identities, to a grand festival. She makes them sit together and serves them food with her own hand. In a more well-known essay called '*Swadeshi Samaj*', which he wrote in 1904, Rabindranath hopes that, Hindus, Muslims, Buddhists and Christians won't kill one another in India ; instead, they will work for unity. Writing in a very different vein, and on a different subject, he, however, said in 1938, that we, Bengalis, are Bengalis because of our language. ('*Bangalvasha Parichay*,' Introduction to the Bengali language).

Tagore's critique of nationalism emerges most explicitly in his essays and lectures such as 'Nationalism in the West,' 'Nationalism in Japan,' 'Nationalism in India,' 'Construction versus Creation' and 'International Relations.' It is also foregrounded in his novels - *The Home and the World* and *Four Chapters*, as well as in several poems of *Gitanjali* and '*The Sunset of the Century*.' In these works, he roundly criticizes nationalism as 'an epidemic of evil' or a 'terrible absurdity,' posing a recurrent threat to mankind's 'higher humanity' through the canonization of 'banditry' or the 'brotherhood of hooliganism'.

Rabindranath says in one of his three lectures, "We [the Indians] neither have the right nor the power to exclude this people (the British) from the building of the destiny of India." (Nationalism, p 49-50). He thinks that the kingship of the British was 'providential' for the Indians to achieve progress and national unity. To read Rabindranath Tagore's lectures on Nationalism delivered in 1916 in Japan and in USA are to feel that he positively detested it. He believed in his Indian identity and, next only to M. K. Gandhi, the most well-known and effective promoter of the unity of India. When he spoke to the West in the three lectures and also in other writings, his voice was that of an Indian taking pride in his eastern background.



Artist Rabindranath Tagore

The fact is that the two positions he takes with regard to nationalism are not paradoxical anyway; they don't contradict each other. The target of his attack was the political nationalism of the West, by which he really meant Capitalist Imperialism.

Using simile in one of the lectures in a beautiful and very appropriate way, Rabindranath likens the modern state to the railway heading towards a terminal station and society to the tree with no particular movement. Rabindranath's political ideas are of a noble mind that wanted man to be free morally, economically and intellectually. His views deserve to be considered with care, not only for understanding him but also for knowing the historical and ideological context to which they belong. His insight, foresight and poetic power of expression may remain unattainable for others, but his sympathy for the misery of the people of his own country and of the world at large, his courage of conviction and his refusal to compromise are exemplary and can guide future generations.

Being a romantic poet Rabindranath's continuation for Bengali literature became unparalleled but his coherent sight even makes him more pivotal for the Bengali



Rabindranath Tagore's first visit to Japan in 1916

nation. In his writings *Ghare Baire* (The Home and the World), where we see the nationalist Sandip with his charm and powerful words, convincing everyone and justifying his deeds merely for his comfort in the name of patriotism. On the other hand, Nikhilesh wishes peace and comfort for everyone by working silently. His view was not only to the land, but also to maintain the land and to establish

claim over it people should work. Nikhilesh became Tagore's mouth-speaker in the novel. One recalls that in his play *Rakta Karabi* (Red Oleanders, 1922), Rabindranath offers a very realistic picture of the devastation. Capitalism is capable of causing, but stops short of calling it by that name. Instead he suggests that the play is centered on a conflict between two contrary civilizations, one of agriculture and the other of industrialization. In the play, the king, who is the victimizer as well as a victim, is rescued from his confinement in the industrial-capitalist system by a girl, called Nandini, who represents the spirit of both freedom and open-space in the agricultural fields.

To Tagore, since nationalism emerged in the post-religious laboratory of industrial capitalism, it was only an organization of politics and commerce that brings harvests of wealth or a carnival of materialism by spreading tentacles of greed, selfishness, power and prosperity, or churning up the baser instincts of mankind and

sacrificing in the process the complete man to make room for the political and the commercial man, the man of limited purpose. *Chandalika*, a short lyrical play, brings out of the cardinal truth that all caste and class distinctions are false and that all human beings are equal. *Mukta Dhara* has a political tone and the theme of the play is defiance through passive resistance. In *Chitra*, Tagore presents the evaluation of human love from the physical to the spiritual. The *Cycle of Spring* and *Red Oleanders* are some of his other notable plays.



Rabindranath delivering speech at a public meeting in Singapore in 1927

Tagore found the fetish of nationalism, a source of war and mutual hatred between nations. The very deification of nation, where it is privileged over soul, god and conscience, cultivates absolutism, fanaticism, provincialism and paranoia. Thus every nation becomes inward-looking and considers another a threat to its existence, while war is hailed a legitimate or even ‘holy’, action for national self-aggrandizement or self-fulfillment. Both its existence and success, as an institution or a discourse, is grounded in the binary of self/other, us/them; every nation operates



Poet Rabindranath Tagore was given reception after winning the Nobel Prize at Shanti Niketon in November 1913



Samadhi (Funeral place) of Poet Rabindranath Tagore in Kolkata

for itself, and
the presence of
the other is but
a recurrent and
looming peril to
itself.

Where the
mind is without
fear and the
head is held
high; Where
knowledge is
free;

Where the world
has not been
broken up into
fragments by
narrow domestic
walls;

Where words come out from the depth of truth;
Where tireless striving stretches its arms towards perfection;
Where the clear stream of reason has not lost its way into the dreary desert sand
of dead habit;

Where the mind is led forward by thee into ever widening thought and action
Into that heaven of freedom, my Father, let my country awake.

The world that the poet envisions in the above poem stands superior to the violent, war-ravaged world of “getting and spending” (Wordsworth’s phrase), of jealousy, suspicion and mutual fear that we currently undergo. It is a world of love, truth, harmony, creativity and conscience, with no artificial walls to separate its people or to keep their souls, or personal humanity. We pay deep homage and tribute to Rabindranath Tagore in his 161th celebration of birthday.

Rabindranath’s final approach to nationalism towards the world is the amalgamation of all men, where they will come with their own uniqueness and offer it to others and will mingle to be richer, “to give, to take, their mixed mixing make.../ Their way they will not retrace”. He rejected the violent part of nationalistic activity. The most important thing was he addressed the idea nationalism as the coming threat and talked about it not in a political ground rather from a philosophical and cultural ground. To talk about this matter, we need to understand what the term nationalism actually means. But Rabindranath found it as an artifice and “deceitful” agency manufactured by the Western world. Rabindranath used to believe that whether it is the land or the mind, it must be free from the fear and narrowness and all this will be done by the courageous thinking and firmness of human. Because this world is for human and it is their duty to keep it a suitable place of living.

The poet died on 7th August 1941 in Calcutta.

The writer is Controller / Program Manager, Bangladesh Television



Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam : Protagonist of Universal Humanism

M. Mizanur Rahman

famous lines as follows where Nazrul could be singled out:

‘Not marble, nor the gilded monuments
Of princes, shall outlive his powerful rime;
But you shall shine more bright in these contents
Than unswept stone besmeared with sluttish rime...’

Nazrul’s genius beside Rabindranath Tagore (1861-1941) like a comet brought about a new era of revolution in Bengali literature swaying the most powerful British imperialistic colonial rule so vehemently that his predecessors could not but wonder. He fought the imperialists by his rebellious pen and won Independence for the distressed masses of people. His poem ‘*Bidrohi*’ (The Rebel) is unmatched and unparalleled along with other fiery poems of ‘*Agni-Bina*’ ‘*Bisher Banshi*’ and songs ‘*Bhangar Gaan*’, etc. He was not only a great poet but also a great journalist of his age. He edited ‘*Dhumketu*’ (The Comet), through which he inspired the dormant people and awakened them. He could voice here the voice of freedom very highly in a mode of Declaration:

‘We do not want autonomy. We want complete Independence. Not a single thing

Kazi Nazrul Islam (1899-1976) was one of the great exponents for the freedom of human spirit having the outstanding expressive quality of love for humanity in the realm of his poetical works. He is the National Poet of Bangladesh. His eminence for universal love for humanity in literary works has been far-reaching beyond the periphery of our boundary as one of the greatest poets of the world. He spread his humanitarian thoughts far and wide. He was violently rebellious against the ills of society in the then colonial unjust governance and illogical so-called religious traditions and its hegemonistic parochialism. Consequentially his love for humanity is based on social, political and economic equality free from all sorts of want and slavery. He is rebellious against the unjust and the tyrant. But his soft heart in the core is full of sweet and sublime notes of music and songs. Like William Shakespeare’s (1564-1616)



Kazi Nazrul Islam as a soldier in his youth

‘Let men of all ages and times
 From every race and country
 Unite and set together
 And hear the song of unity.
 Today let us all be equal and free’
 If anyone of us is hurt
 Let us all feel the pain in equal degree.
 Let the disgrace of one be considered a shame
 to the whole of mankind.’ (Tr. Sajed Kamal)

Nazrul felt that human values must be appreciated equally without any distinction. All evil desires of the crooked elements among the human beings must be nipped into the bud. So he said,

‘No dirty, greedy and voluptuous ones
 should have any place on this sacred earth.
 This garbage must have to be burnt into ashes
 in the oven of the hell.’

of India shall remain under the foreign domination. The responsibility of ruling India and safeguarding its freedom will be in the hands of the Indians alone.’

Subsequently he edited the ‘*Langol*’ (The Plough) which became the mouthpiece of the Indian proletariat. He believed in Islamic socio-economic equity and equality discarding capitalistic exploitation of the poor.

Each fiery and revolutionary poem of Kazi Nazrul Islam inspired and imbibed the revolutionaries like Jugantor created havoc for the imperialistic colonial rule in India. ‘British Raj’ reacted and proscribed works of Nazrul one after another. Even the poet was languished in jail for his rebellious writing but he was firm to advocate voice of truth fearlessly and undauntedly.

Nazrul proclaimed freedom from human slavery and chains professing equal rights of all mankind and synchronizing human race into a single entity as enunciated in Islam. He opined in his poem ‘*Coolee*’ (The Laborer)

Basically Nazrul never put himself on rest on any political ideology except the ideology of social and economic equality for mankind as enunciated in Islam. So he is frank and candid about the aim in life :

‘I do not understand any ‘ism of any politics

What I know and believe is love of one Allah for all.

Those who preach distinctions between the humankind are but

the agents of devil Satan that must fall.

Now their days are numbered.’
(Tr. By M Mizanur Rahman)

As a matter of fact, Nazrul could track the philosophy of the religion of Islam which always prefers social and economic equality between human beings irrespective of their ritual creeds to diplomacy of politics. Here Nazrul is absolutely non-communal personality who sang of inalienable victory of humanity in his poetical works- ‘*Samyabadi*’ (equality)’

Now a phrase ‘Poverty Alleviation’ is on the run. It can never be achieved unless economic equality is restored fully in human society which is the basic principle of Islam. It is obviously reasonable that man cannot live by bread alone but his thoughts must be construed to benefits of mankind also. Otherwise the devils of lust, greed, and avarice will eat out the vitals of humanity.

That is what happening throughout the world where the true poet puts the standard of protest to awaken the distressed people in the truest sense of the terms. Man is fighting for existence. But death caused by man against man is barbarous and the worst. Human qualities are supposed to be beneficial to human kind.

Nazrul is confident of unequivocal coherent identity of mankind irrespective of religious differences and cultural diversities due to age-old customs and traditions. The oneness of human identity is already acknowledged by Islam earlier. Hence Nazrul’s poem ‘*Manush*’ (Man) is required to be adjudged to that extent without any distinction or discrimination.

‘I sing of equality-

There’s nothing greater and nobler than the human.

Beyond all differences between countries and its people

Beyond all sorts of nationalities, beyond all sects of faiths

In all countries, in all times, let there be perfect human relation.’

*(Allah is, in each room, related to everyone without distinction.) (Equality of the human- Tr. M. M. Rahman)



Lyricist Kazi Nazrul Islam

According to Carl Sandburg (1878-1967)-

‘The sea has fish for every man.
Every blade of grass has its share of dew.
The longest day must have its end.
Man’s life? A candle in the wind, hot-frost on saone.
Nothing more certain than death
and nothing more uncertain than the hour.’

Our life is sustainable to economic liberty but our moral aspects of life are absolutely desirable to us. So what Sandburg philosophised life before us with acute perceptions?

‘Money is power: so said one.
Money is a cushion : so said another.
Money is the root of evil: so said still another.
Money means freedom: So runs an old saying.
And money is all of these- and more.
Money pays whatever you want –
if you have the money.
Money buys food, clothes, houses, land, guns, jewels,
men, women, time to be lazy
and listen to music.
Money buys everything except love,
personality, freedom, immortality,
silence and peace.’

Nazrul understood all these phenomena of money in life and he himself became



Kazi Nazrul Islam, sitting behind, on his 74th birthday listens to a song rendered by his family members along with Anjali Mukhopadhyay and Renu Bhowmick in 1972

truly a love-
 Iorn bohemian
 poet dedicated
 to universal
 humanism in
 lyrical romance
 of poetry of life.
 Accordingly he
 presented us a few
 thousand romantic
 love-songs, be
 they liberal or
 devotional or
 rebellious. Let me
 entertain a few of
 them to my readers
 rendered into
 English by me :

What do you look
 for the endless
 sky?

That far-away God
 is with you at your
 home.

At times, she pats you at her lap as a Mother
 While as a Father He keeps you abreast
 and becomes the dearest friend
 always giving himself up.

O blind mind, what makes you travel abroad as a pilgrim
 and for which shrine?

Open your eyes and throw light around you.

You see Him smiling. It appears illusive.

He is an image of every shadow.

In different forms, in the guise of friend or foe, He comes quietly,
 quietly to you. -

In various names He calls you

And He calls you in various names.

2

Your mind reflects in the mirror of the sky.

What an illusion for you O wayfarer Baul?

With the song of the lightning

the boat of my mind fares

along with the tide of the river.

What does lightning speak to the bewildered air
 on the North-Western end of the sky?



Kazi Nazrul Islam with his extended family at his old age



Tomb of National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam at the premises of Dhaka University

The madness of the water heaves abreast you
and takes away your every trifle.
Don't mind, keep everything away
and come with me on my way.

3

After your name I become baul on the dusty way
Lord Sham, in my one-string music your song is attuned.
Now I put out the lamp of my room for you are with me
and wherever I go my Brojodham is there
under the shady groves of the banyan tree.
You took my worries away, the begging-pot I bear.
Do you fill there your love I desire?

4

Brother, I am a mad baul. My temple is my body.
My Allah does not stay away from me.
He remains in the core of my soul.
In weal and woe He is with me.
My love and adoration stand for Him.
I salute Him...

*Allah is related to each human being without any distinction.

As a matter of fact, Nazrul is the poet of mankind. He believed in the solidarity of humanity irrespective of different faiths in vogue. He believed in the equality of human beings irrespective of color or creed. His ideals in poems and songs adhere to peaceful abodes with social and economic equality for each one living on earth. The poet died on 29th August 1976 in Dhaka and was buried at Dhaka University Central Jame Masjid premises.

M. Mizanur Rahman is a poet, essayist, translator and columnist

My Love I Miss You

Fouzia Huda

You left me in eternity beyond my sight
Tears fall out from my eyes hover over me aright
I try to rub off tears from my eyes but I can not
You are beyond my reach but never ending
in my thought.

Your lovely room in our cottage bedecked
with flowres of various colors,
as it were, the light house of the will o the wisp!

I hear there a painful cry as if some
walls are falling apart

Overwhelming the depth of my broken heart
It's all that deep sense of my painful heart crying out
that I cannot rub off from my mental horizon
though days and nights are gone!

It's all that I have lost you
and depth of it is never- ending

And the soil is pasted its smell till now
where there are cluster of Madhobi flowers
rolling on love
clinging along the veranda railings above!
But none takes care of me
and writes the story of the moon-lit night!

Today I am without you. I am to go on the way alone!

I appear to be alone on the breach!
I become unknown to me!
The path appears to be difficult.
Secretly I rub off my tears
I go on searching my loving but the precious past
and valued shares.

Translated by: M. Mizanur Rahman

[This poem is dedicated to my late husband Dr. Mohammad Mosharraf Hossain]

Fouzia Huda is a noted poet, story writer and script writer



Historic Mosques of Bangladesh

M. Q. Zaman

From the 7th century, Sufi Auliyas and saints from Arabia started coming to this country to spread the great message of Islam. Since then, Islam has spread widely in this country. After that the present territory of Bangladesh came under the Sultanate rule for about 400 years from the beginning of the 13th century followed by the Mughal rule from mid 16th century to mid 18th century. Many mosques were built throughout the country during this medieval period. The number of mosques rich in historical value spread in different parts of the country is more than hundred. Out of them the most important mosque is the Shat Gambuj Masjid (60-domed mosque) located in Bagerhat district, which has been declared as the 'World Heritage' by UNESCO in 1985. Division-wise a brief description along with pictures of selected mosques is given below.

Dhaka Division

Lalbagh Fort Mosque

It is one of the oldest mosques in Dhaka. This three-domed mosque is located in the middle of the western end of the Lalbagh fort. It is considered the standard among three-domed mosques in the country. Other three-domed mosques built later imitating its design and style. The Lalbagh Fort Mosque was built by Mughal Shahzada Azam in 1678-79. Brick, lime and mortar have been used in the construction of the mosque. The eastern wall of the mosque has three arched doors and the western wall has three mehrabs. There are rectangular panel designs above and on the sides of the entrance.

Haji Khawaja Shahbaz Mosque

This red-coloured mosque on the north-eastern corner of Doyel Chattar at the southern



Lalbagh Fort Mosque



Haji Khawaja Shahbaz Masjid

end of Suhrawardy Park in Dhaka remains as a witness of times. Some of the locals call it ‘Jiner Masjid’. One saint named Hazrat Khawaja Shahbaz built this mosque in 1679. It is a prominent one among the old mosques of Dhaka. Built in accordance with the style of Mughals, the 3-domed mosque has a size of 20.72 m. x 7.92 m. There are 4 octagonal minarets on four corners of the mosque. The architectural design of the mosque bears similarity with the Musa Khan Mosque.

Khan Mohammad Mridha Mosque

This beautiful mosque with extra ordinary features stands at Atishkhana of old Dhaka to the west of Lalbag Fort. The mosque was built by Khan Mohammad Mridha upon the orders of a Qazi Ibadullah during the rule of the then Deputy Governor of Dhaka, Farrukh Siyar in 1706. The mosque was laid on a 5 metre



Khan Mohammad Mridha Masjid

high platform. There is a long corridor below the platform having small vaults by its side. To reach the mosque, one has to cross 25 steps from the ground. This 3-domed mosque has a size of 14.63 m. x 7.31 m. The interior is divided into three bays and each bay contains a mehrab.

Saat Gambuj Mosque

The historic ‘Saat Gambuj Masjid’ (7 domed Mosque) is located at Mohammadpur area of Dhaka. It is presumed that the Nawab Shaista

Khan had built this mosque in 1680. But it is known from another source that Bujurga Umid Khan, elder son of Nawab Shaista Khan, built this mosque. There are three large domes on its roof, as well as four small domes on the four corners.

That is why it is called the seven-domed mosque. Its premises are rectangular in shape and the outer periphery has a size of 17.68 m. x 8.23 m.. Three folded arches on its eastern wall make it very attractive. There are three mehrabs on the western wall.



Saat Gambuj Masjid

Binat Bibi Mosque

The Binat Bibi’s Masjid is the oldest mosque of Dhaka. This single-domed small mosque was built on the north of the Hayat Beparir Pool (bridge)

beside the then Dholai Khal (canal) about 600 years ago. It is gathered from the inscriptions on the wall of the mosque that a trader named Arakan Ali built this mosque here for offering prayers. At that juncture, Arakan Ali's daughter Binat Bibi died all of a sudden. According to the inscriptions engraved on the dome, the mosque was built in 861 AH or 1456 CE. The architecture of the mosque dates back to the pre-Mughal period. The mosque was rebuilt during the rule of Sultan Jalaluddin Fateh Shah (1481-86) – the last ruler of the Ilyas Shahi dynasty. Having thick walls of 1 m. width, the internal size of the mosque is 8.23 m. x 6.71 m.



Binat Bibi's Masjid

Gowaldi Mosque

This mosque is located 1.5 km north of Folk Art and Crafts Foundation Museum. This single-domed mosque was built during the Sultani era by Molla Hijbar Uddin in 1519. Among the mosques built during the reign of Sultan Alauddin Husain Shah at different places of the kingdom, this mosque was a prominent one. The square-shaped mosque has 3 entrances on the eastern wall. Besides, there is one entrance each of the north and south wall. Terracotta ornamentations are observed on the stones and bricks laid in the interior and exterior of the mosque. Among the three mehrabs inside the mosque, the middle one is relatively larger. It is made of black stone with engraved ornamentations. The mosque was later reconstructed.



Gowaldi Masjid

Terracotta ornamentations are observed on the stones and bricks laid in the interior and exterior of the mosque. Among the three mehrabs inside the mosque, the middle one is relatively larger. It is made of black stone with engraved ornamentations. The mosque was later reconstructed.

Baba Adam Mosque

This historic mosque is located at Rekabi, 6.5 km to the north-west of Munshiganj town. The Baba Adam Mosque is a prominent one among the medieval era mosques of Indian subcontinent. It has six domes and its interior has an area of 6.64 m. x 10.23 m. Made of bricks and clay, the walls without plasters are 1.98 m. wide. There are three concave mehrabs having terracotta decorations on the western wall. Similarly, there are three doors having pillars on the eastern wall. It is said that a saint (Pir) called Baba Adam came to this region for preaching Islam during the period 1158-79. The mosque was named after him. According to stone inscriptions, Malik-ul-Moazzam Malik Kafur had built this mosque in 1483 during the reign of Sultan Fateh Shah.



Baba Adam's Masjid



Shah Mahmud Masjid

are built in square shape. The Shah Mahmud Mosque has a two-roofed gateway, which is locally known as the ‘Balakhana’. It was built by a trader named Shah Mahmud during the rule of Subedar Shaista Khan in the 16th century. The mosque was laid on a short platform of 9.7 m. × 9.7 m. area surrounded by walls. Some picture-slabs of the Sultani era are noticeable in the interior and exterior of the mosque. The dome of the mosque is quite beautiful. There are 4 octagonal minarets on four corners of the mosque. There are 3 doors on the eastern wall, and 3 mehrabs on the western wall.



Sadi Masjid

son of Sheikh Shiru during the reign of emperor Shahjahan in 1652. This mosque has 4 minarets on four corners and there are 3 doors on the eastern wall. The middle door is comparatively larger. The internal mehrab is decorated on all four sides. Devoid of walls, the mosque stands on an open space.

Atiya Mosque

This mosque is one of the most outstanding ones among all Muslim architectural heritages of Bangladesh. It is located at the Delduar upazila about 8 km from Tangail town. The renowned founder of the zamindar family of Karotia Sayeed Khan Panni built this mosque in 1608. It is the oldest mosque of Tangail. Built by combining the architectural styles of the Sultani and Mughal eras, the total area of the mosque including the Qibla and veranda was 17.70 m. x 12 m. The wall of the mosque was 2.22 m. wide. The veranda was 3.82 m. x 7.5 m. in size. There are four huge octagonal minarets atop the roof.



Atiya Masjid

Shah Mahmud Mosque and Sadi Mosque

In the historical fort area of Egarosindhur in Pakundia upazila, 16 km away from Kishoreganj district town, one of the two mosques of Mughal period is ‘Shah Mahmud Mosque’ and the other is ‘Sadi Jam-e-Mosque’. The distance from one to the other is 250 metres and both the mosques have one dome and

The other mosque is known as the ‘Egarosindhur Sadi Jam-e-Masjid’. It is known from the stone inscription that this mosque was built by Sadi,

about 650 years’ old traditional Uchail Shankar Pasha Shahi Mosque of Habiganj is a picturesque artistic

Sylhet Division

Shankar Pasha Mosque

About 650 years’ old traditional Uchail Shankar Pasha Shahi Mosque of Habiganj is a picturesque artistic

relic. It was built during the rule of Sultan Alauddin Hosain Shah (1493-1519 A.D). It was erected with a veranda in the form of a prayer-hall. Each arm of the square prayer-hall is about 3.35 m. long, and the veranda is 1.60 m. wide. The roof of the prayer-hall is covered with a big semi round dome. Here the number of dome is three. One of the attractions of the mosque is the artistic design engraved on the wall with adequate ornamented bricks. According to popular belief, the builder of the mosque Shah Majlis Amin is laid to rest there. He is known as a Muslim victor of this region.



Shankar Pasha Masjid

Chattogram Division

Historic Shah Suja Mosque

The Shah Suja Mosque is located at Mughaltuli of Cumilla town close to the river Gumti. This mosque is one of the oldest mosques in this subcontinent. It is assumed that this 3-domed mosque was constructed in 1658. The central dome is bigger in size than the two other adjacent domes. Recently two rooms measuring 7 m. at its two ends and in its front side a veranda measuring 7.3 m. wide have been raised.



Historic Shah Suja Masjid

As a result, the original shape of the mosque has been changed to some extent. A towering minaret has been raised on the north-east corner of the mosque. It may be mention that there is another mosque in the same name located at Alipur village under Hajiganj union of Hajiganj upazila of Chandpur district.

Arifile Mosque

The Arifile Mosque is located in Sarail upazila 15 km away from Brahmanbaria District. It is known that the mosque was built by Begum Arfan Nessa, wife of Dewan Nur Mohammad in 1662 CE. This square shaped mosque has four minarets in its four corners and the outer surface of the walls contains square holes in rows. This 3-dome mosque has 3 entrances on the east wall. The mosque is a unique example of Mughal architectural design.



Arifile Masjid



Ulcha Para Masjid

Ulcha Para Mosque

This three-domed mosque which is located in the village Ulcha Para on the south-east side of the town of Brahmanbaria. It is known from stone inscription that the mosque was built by Syed Mohammad Murad in 1143 Hijri (1727 CE). All features of Mughal architecture are seen in this mosque. There are four octagonal turrets in the four corners of the mosque. Beautiful artistic designs are on view on the front wall of the rectangular

mosque. This mosque was built very simple and well decorated with parapet. Usually such beautiful architectural work is not found in any other mosques.

Alipur Shahi Mosque and Shah Suja Mosque



Alipur Shahi Masjid

These two mosques are located in the village of Aulipur in Hajiganj union under Hajiganj upazila of Chandpur. The bigger Alipur Shahi mosque is also known as Alamgir Mosque. This 5-domed mosque was built by Emperor Aurangzeb during the years 1682-83. This is a triangular mosque without veranda and windows. There are geometric and niche-like designs on the walls of the mosque. They have lost their original shape due to the recent reformation. There lie

a large pond and a Dargah beside the moque.

The smaller Shah Suja mosque is located 200 m. north of this mosque, which was built in 1650 by Shah Suja, the second son of the Emperor Shahjahan.

Ancient Mosque of Sharshadi Village



Ancient Mosque of Sharshadi Village

This ancient mosque of Sultani era is located in the village Sharshadi under Feni sadar upazila of Feni district. The mosque was built in the 16th century. The wall of this ancient mosque is about 2 metres thick. There are 6 domes atop of the mosque and 4 turrets in the four corners of the mosque. There are three doors to enter the mosque and the exterior walls have eye catching craftsmanship.

Barishal Division

Kasba Mosque

This mosque stands on the bank of a large Dighi in Kasba village near Gournadi Upazila Sadar. It is also called 'Allah's Mosque' or 'Mysterious Mosque' too. This historic mosque was built about in the middle of the 16th century. According to legend one Sahabi Khan built this mosque. The mosque measures about 12×12 m. and walls are 2.18 m. wide. This mosque made of brick-dust has four round minarets and on the upper side, there are 9 domes in three rows. Three entrance gates are found in the front wall of the mosque. Inside this mosque, there are 3 niches in the west wall, and 4 pillars made of stones are at the centre. The architecture of the mosque is similar to nine domed mosque of Bagerhat.



Kasba Masjid

Uttar Korapur Miabari Jam-e-Mosque

This Mosque is situated at Uttar Karapur village of Barishal Sadar. The Mosque which is constructed in beautiful flower-like design has three domes and eight minarets. It is guessed that benevolent Zamindar of Umedpur Hayat Mahmud, a rebel against the English, founded this mosque. According to historians the mosque was built in the 18th century. Built on a high basement, there is a wide staircase to climb the top floor outside of the mosque. The mosque is 13.49 m. long and 6.10 m. wide. Recently, it has been repaired and painted. As a result, it has lost most of its old features. The architecture of the mosque is similar to Kartalab Khan mosque located at Begumbazar of Dhaka.



Uttar Korapur Miabari Jam-e-Masjid

Khulna Division

Burakhan's Mosque of Koyra

This mosque is located on the bend of Kobadak River at the Masjidkur village under Koyra upazila of Khulna district. This nine-dome mosque is also called Masjidkur Masjid. Its architectural style bears the imprint of the 15th century. Inside the mosque there lie stone pillars and prayer niches with artistic beautiful work. At some places on the wall, instead of plaster, bricks are laid with magnificent ornamental work. According to hearsay, a close companion of Khan Jahan Ali- Burakhan and his son Fatekhan built this mosque.



Burakhan's Mosque of Koyra



Shat Gambuj Masjid (Sixty-dome Mosque)

Shat Gambuj Masjid (Sixty-dome Mosque)

The historic sixty-dome Mosque is located in Bagerhat district. This mosque is the biggest of all the ancient mosques in Bangladesh and it is one of the attractive evidences of the Muslims sculptures in Indian subcontinent. According to historians, eminent saint and administrator Khan Jahan Ali (R) founded the mosque in the middle of the 15th century. Centering on this Shat Gambuj Masjid, Hazrat Khan Jahan Ali conducted administrative management of Bagerhat-Khulna regions until his death (1459 AD). The measure of the inner side of the huge mosque is 44 x 27 m. Though the name of the mosque is sixty-dome mosque, it has 77 domes on the roof, 4 domes at 4 corners and in all it has 81 domes. There are in all 10 semi-round mehrabs (prayer niches). The UNESCO declared the Shat Gambuj Masjid as the ‘World Heritage’ in 1985.

Ronbijoypur Mosque

This mosque stands at Ronbijoypur village on the south side of the road about 2 km to the east of the house of Khan Jahan Ali (R). It is also known as Fakirbari Mosque. The walls made of bricks are about 3.1 m. wide. There is a big dome on the mosque in the shape of an upside-down cup. The diameter at the bottom of the dome is 10.9 m. A mosque with such a big dome is found nowhere in Bangladesh. It is



Ronbijoypur Masjid

guessed that the style of construction and archeological strategy were developed during the life time of Khan Jahan Ali (R). Recently the Archeological Department has reformed the mosque. The Singair Mosque, Bibi Begni Mosque and Chunakhola Mosque located in Bagerhat were built in similar pattern and architectural design.

Nine-dome Mosque

This mosque is located at about half a km. away towards the south-east

from Khan Jahan Ali Mausoleum on the west bank of Khanjeli Dighi. There are nine domes on the square mosque made of bricks. The entire structure of the mosque studded with artistic designs of terracotta. In terms of construction and style, the mosque is contemporary with Khan Jahan Ali's (R) time. One subordinate of Khan Jahan Ali (R) built the mosque in the 15th century.



Nine-dome Mosque

Probajpur Shahi Mosque

Probajpur Shahi Mosque is located in Probajpur village under Kaliganj upazila of Satkhira district. It is known that during the Mughal rule, Subadar Parvez Khan built this mosque for the army to offer prayers on the order of the Emperor Aurangzeb in 1693. Later the village was named Parvezpur after Subadar Parvez Khan, which has been colloquially changed to Probajpur. During the reign of Emperor Aurangzeb, his Faujdar Nawab Nurullah Khan donated tax-free 17 acres of land in the name of this mosque. This beautiful four-domed mosque is decorated with beautiful terracotta plaques. The length of each arm of this square mosque is 6.55 metres. There are 3 entrances on the eastern wall and 3 decorative mehrabs (prayer niche) on the western wall of the mosque.



Probajpur Shahi Masjid

Sheikhpura Jam-e-Mosque

Sheikhpura, a flourishing village, on the way to Sagardari, is 12 km away from Keshabpur upazila headquarters of Jashore district. Relics of some buildings of the Mughal Period are found in this village. Of those relics, Sheikhpura mosque is one of them. This three-domed mosque was built after the Mughal architectural fashion. It could not be possible to renovate the veranda of four pillars on the eastern side of the mosque and its eastern courtyard is surrounded by a wide wall not more than one m. high. There are two entrances on the south and the north of the courtyard. It may be mentioned here that poet Michael Modhusudan Dutta used to learn Parshian language at this mosque in his childhood.



Sheikhpura Jam-e-Masjid

Galakata Mosque

This mosque is situated on the south bank of a large pond known as Galakata Dighi about 1.5 km to the west from the Barobazar Bus Stand. It is a six-domed mosque. There are 3 niches inside the west



Galakata Masjid



Gorar Masjid



Shailkupa Shahi Masjid



Jhaudia Shahi Masjid

wall along the three doors on the east side of the mosque. In the outside, 4 octagonal turrets on the four corners are noticeable. The inner side of the mosque especially the niches were decorated with ornamental design on terracotta and tiles. It is supposed that the Galakata Mosque was built in 16th century, because of the similarity of tiles-design and construction technique with that of Jorh Bangla Mosque.

Gorar Mosque

Gorar Mosque or Gorai Mosque which is 2 km away from Barobazar union under Kaliganj upazila of Jhenaidah district is an excellent evidence of the Islamic traditions. The 3 domed mosque is square in size. Its walls are 1.5 m. wide. There are 3 entrances on the eastern side and 3 Mehrabs on the western wall. There are 4 black stone pillars on the west, north and south walls, and there are terracotta designs on the walls.

Shailkupa Shahi Mosque

This mosque is situated at Shailkupa upazila 20 km away from Jhenaidah town. The measure of the mosque is 13 X 11 m. It is presumed that it was built in the 15th century. This mosque in the shape of Joiynpuri has four pointed high turrets in four corners. In the past there were ornamental works of terracotta on the surface of the wall of the mosque. But as a result of local renovations, the original appearance of the mosque has been changed now.

Jhaudia Shahi Mosque

Jhaudia Mosque which is an achievement of the Mughol Period is located about 20 km to the south-west from Khustia town. This mosque is similar to the Ghoraghat Fort Mosque (1740-1741) of Dinajpur in respect land planning and other

specialties such as open concrete made courtyard in front of the prayer hall, domed shape hollow turrets on the south-east and north-east corners and geometric and flowery designs on the plaster. It is presumed from the style of construction work that the Jhaudia Mosque was built sometime in the middle of the 18th century. This mosque has recently been renovated.



Bagha Masjid

Rajshahi Division

Bagha Mosque

The historic Bagha Mosque stands on the southern bank of a huge pond in Bagha upazila, 40 km south-east of Rajshahi city. This famous mosque was built by Sultan Nusrat Shah in 1523. The length of the mosque is 23 m. and width is 13 m.. The 10-dome mosque is supported by 4 columns made of black stone. Inside the mosque there are 3 mehrabs on the western wall, 5 archways on the eastern wall and 2 each on the northern and southern walls. The internal and external walls of the mosque are decorated with bricks inscribed with Arabic calligraphy. Displaying terracotta drawings and designs of various creepers, plants, fruits, flowers etc. on its walls, this beautiful mosque is a precious historical relic of the Mughal era.

Chhoto Sona Masjid (Sona Mosque)

Famous as the ‘Jewel of Sultani Architecture’ or the ‘Jewel of Gaud’, the Sona Masjid or Chhoto Sona Masjid (smaller mosque of gold) is located in Shahbajpur union of Shibganj upazila of Chapai Nawabganj district. It may be mentioned that there is a mosque of a larger size at the site of ancient Gaud on the Indian



Sona Masjid

Territory, which is known as Bara (large) Sona Masjid. For this reason, this mosque is called Chhoto Sona Masjid. It stands on the south-western bank of a huge pond. According to a stone inscription, it was built during the reign of Sultan Alauddin Husain Shah (1493-1519) by Mansur Wali Muhammad Bin Ali. As a thin coating of gold was applied on the upper part of the mosque’s domes, they appeared to be made of gold in the sunlight or moonlight. The coating no longer exists.

Having domes numbering 15, this mosque is 25 m. in length from the north to the south, 16 m. wide from the east to west, and 6 m. tall. A principal feature of this mosque is that the inner and outer walls are covered with granite stones. The inner walls are decorated with terracotta plaques. There are five entrances on the eastern front-side of the mosque, while the number of doors on the northern and southern walls is three each. Inside the western wall are five semi-circular mehrabs. There are 8 columns inside the mosque, and 15 domes were built atop the four walls of the mosque.



Darasbari Masjid

from north to south and 20 m wide from east to west. There is a 5 m wide veranda in front of the mosque. The number of domes was 24. Besides, there were 7 entrances on the eastern wall and 4 more entrances on the north and southern side of the mosque. The interior and exterior of the mosque is decorated with terracotta plaques. This mosque is a wonderful relic of Islamic architecture of the medieval era during Muslim rule in Bangla.

Darasbari Mosque

The Darasbari Mosque is located 550 m west of Baliadighi Bazar, which at a distance of about 1 km on the northern side of the historic Sona Masjid of Chapai Nawabganj. According to stone inscription, the mosque was built by Sultan Shamsuddin Yousuf Shah of Ilyas Shahi-II dynasty in 1479. The outer walls of the mosque is 34 m long



Khaniadighi Masjid

three smaller domes atop the verandah and 3 archways for entering the mosque from the verandah. There are four octagonal towers on four corners atop the mosque. Experts opine after examining the materials of Khaniadighi Mosque that it was built during the 15th century.

Khaniadighi Mosque

The Khaniadighi Mosque is also known as ‘Rajbibi Masjid’. The mosque is located near to the Sona Mosque of Chapai Nawabganj district, on the western bank of Khania Dighi pond. Mainly built with bricks, each arm of this square mosque is about 9 m. long. On the eastern side, there is a 9 m. long verandah having 3 m. width. The roof of the main part of the mosque was built in the shape of a spherical dome. On the other hand, there are

Dhanichak Mosque

This mosque stands on the western bank of a dry pond about one km. to the



Dhanichak Masjid

of a dry pond about one km. to the south of Khaniadighi Mosque in the Bangladesh part of the ancient city of Gaud. The Bangladesh Archaeology Department has renovated the mosque including its northern and southern walls up to the roof, as well as the stone pillar inside the mosque. It is assumed that the mosque was built in the 15th century. The mosque was late reconstructed.

Kusumba Mosque

This mosque is situated in the village Kusumba under Manda upazila of Naogaon district on the west of the river Atrai. One Sulaiman built the mosque during the reign of Sultan Giasuddin Bahadur Shah. According to a stone inscription put on its central entrance on the eastern side, the construction period of the mosque was 966 AH (1558-59 CE). This mosque was severely damaged during the earthquake of 1897. Although the mosque's main structure is made of bricks, its outer and inner walls up to the pendentive arch are covered with coatings of stones. The Mehrabs (prayer niches) have been decorated with designs on engraved stones. Many tourists visit the mosque everyday.



Kusumba Masjid

Kherua Mosque

The Kherua Mosque is located about one and a half km to the south of Sherpur upazila headquarters. It is known from an inscription placed on the mosque that the son of Jawhar Ali Khan Kakshal – Nawab Mirza Murad Khan built it in 989 AH (1582 CE). It may be noted that a Muslim society was formed here in the second half of 16th century comprising the Kakshal community. The mosque was built at the end of Sultani era and during the initial phases of Mughal rule when revolts were staged by the Baro Bhuiyans and the Afghan chiefs living in Bangla. The rectangular 3-dome mosque is 17.34 m. long from north to south and 7.5 m. wide on east to west. The surrounding wall is 1.83 m. thick. There are four octagonal minarets in the four corners of the mosque. There are 3 doors on the eastern wall for entering the mosque and 3 semi-circular Mehrabs on the western wall.



Kherua Masjid

Shahjadpur Dargah Mosque

This mosque is located beside the shrines of Makhdum Shahdoula (R) and Shamsuddin Tabrizi. No authentic information is available



Shahjadpur Dargah Masjid

about the builder and construction period of the mosque. It is presumed that the mosque was built in the 15th century with the financial support of a Sultan of Gaud. Built in a rectangular plan, the length of the mosque is 19.13 m. from north to south, and 12.60 m. from east to west. The wall has a thickness of 1.57 m. The Shahjadpur mosque is covered by a total of 15 domes, in three rows of five. This mosque, one of the oldest in Bangladesh, had all the features of the mosque architecture of the early Sultanate period. But as a result of the present reforms, all the ancient features have been disappeared.



Sura Masjid

percent construction work of this mosque has been done with black stones. The outer area on the north-south of the mosque is 12 m. and on the east-west 8 m.. A 1.83 m. wide path is connected with the main room of the mosque. Historian professor Ahmed Hasan Dani thinks that the mosque was built during the period (1493-1518 AD) of Sultan Alauddin Husain Shah of Goud.



Ghagra Khan Bari Masjid

Rangpur Division

Sura Mosque

This old mosque is located at west Chaugachha Mouza on Hili Road 6 km away from Ghoraghat upazila Sadar of Dinajpur. The mosque is constructed on one metre high platform. On the surface of the walls of the mosque, there are terracotta ornaments containing motifs of chains and bells. There is a 3-domed verandah in front of the one-domed square mosque. 75

Mymensingh Division

Ghagra Khan Bari Mosque

This historic mosque is located in the village Ghagra Laskar at Hatibanda union under Jhenaigati upazila, 14 km away from of Sherpur district. The length of each arm of this more than 200-year old single-domed mosque is 8 m. There are 4 turrets in the four corners of the mosque. Inside, flower vases and floral motifs have been drawn on the mehrab and walls. Its year of establishment was inscribed as 1228 AH (1808 CE).

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White tiger breeding in Bangladesh should be discouraged

Professor Dr. A N M Aminoor Rahman

white cubs were born naturally, not by the choice or plan of the zoo or safari park authorities.

Now, look back to the history of these white tigers. It was an old custom of the Kings and Maharajas of India to organize hunting expeditions for guests or dignitaries. And if it was tiger hunting, then there is no question. On 26 May 1951, a similar tiger hunt was organized by Sri Martand Singh, the late Maharaja of Rewa in Madhya Pradesh, India. On this tiger hunting expedition he killed four tigers and brought back one alive; all were members of the same family. The one that was captured was a male tiger cub. Among those who were killed in the hunting expedition were the mother and three other siblings of the captured cub. But the captured cub was not an ordinary tiger at all. Although the coat color of his mother and siblings was just like the normal



Shuvra at 11 months of age- resting at the Chattogram Zoo

On 30 July 2022, four white tiger cubs were born at the Chattogram Zoo from the Royal Bengal tiger couple named Raj and Pari. Earlier on 19 July 2018, the same couple gave birth to the country's first white tigress, Shuvra. I visited Chattogram Zoo, met Shuvra, her sibling and parents on 13 September 2018 and photographed them. A few days after the birth of Shuvra, another white tiger was born on 8 August at the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Safari Park, Gazipur. After about 4 years later, another white tiger cub was born on 5 April 2022 at the Bangladesh National Zoo, Mirpur, Dhaka. However, the parents of all these white tiger cubs are not white at all but are normal golden-yellow coloured individuals. Moreover, these



Shuvra walking in her cage at the Chattogram Zoo

captive breeding centers of different countries.

According to old records, the first known sighting of a white tiger was in 1820. However, it was only a lifeless specimen. According to Pollock, the first living white tiger was seen in 1900 in the Jaintia Hills of Meghalaya, India. According to another source, several white tigers were hunted between 1892 and 1922 in different areas of India, namely Pune, Assam, Odisha, Bilaspur of Chhattisgarh and Cooch Behar of West Bengal. Several of them are now preserved in Kolkata Museum as well as Mika Camp and Tisri in Bihar. On 22 January 1939, the then Prime Minister of Nepal hunted a white tiger at Barda Camp in the Terai of Nepal. Two white tigers ('boga tigers' in local language) were once spotted in a tea garden in Assam and from that the area was known as 'Boga Bagh Estate'.

The white tiger became well known nationally and internationally through the Maharajas of Rewa in Madhya Pradesh, India. In December 1915, Gulab Singh, the then Maharaja of Rewa, captured a two-year-old white tiger from Sohagpur, Madhya Pradesh and kept it at his summer palace, Govindgarh, for five years. After the captive white tiger's death in 1920 it was mounted and gifted to the King George V, as a token of loyalty. The specimen is still kept in the British Museum. According to the Rewa Palace hunting records, 8 more white tigers were seen in the forests around Rewa between 1900 and 1950. The last known white tiger was hunted in 1958 in Bihar's Hazaribagh forest.

Martand Singh, the Maharaja of Rewa had many dreams with Mohan. He used to think how to increase white tigers from Mohan. So when Mohan grew up, he was allowed to live with a naturally coloured tigress named Begum. The couple gave birth to two

Royal Bengal tiger, but him was extraordinarily different. Therefore, the Maharaja managed to catch him without killing, saying that he would rear the cub. Maharaja named that cub as Mohan and kept that treasure at the Govindgarh palace, 12 kilometre (km) away from Rewa.

Mohan, the white tiger of Rewa, was the father of all the white tigers of the world. Mohan's descendants are now scattered in zoos, safari parks and other such



A creamy-white tiger at Alipore Zoological Garden, Kolkata, India



White tigers at Nehru Zoological Park, Hyderabad, India

normal coloured cubs on 7 September 1953. Then in 1955 and 1956 they gave birth to 8 more cubs, 4 each time, but none of whom were white. The Maharaja was deeply saddened by this result. So he sold Begum to Ahmedabad Zoo. Mohan was then placed with a tigress named Radha. On 20 October 1958, the Maharaja's efforts to breed white tigers were successful. On that day, 4 cubs were born to Mohan and Radha named Raja, Rani, Sukeshi and Mohini, all of whom were white. Since then the programme of breeding white tigers in real sense started with enthusiasm. Sukeshi was in Govindgarh as Mohan's partner till her death. Mohan, Radha, Raja, Rani, Sukeshi, Mohini, Himadri and Chandni were among the tigers who contributed to the breeding of the white tigers.

One may ask what is a white tiger, is it a separate species, subspecies or what? Contrary to popular belief, the answer is white tiger is not a separate species, but a mutant form of the normal coloured i.e. orange-yellow tiger of continental subspecies. There is only one species of tiger (*Panthera tigris*) exists in the universe. Although, earlier 8 subspecies (with 3 extinct) of tiger were recognised. But recently scientist re-categorised these subspecies as only two—the Continental (*Panthera tigris tigris*) and the Sunda (*Panthera tigris sondaica*) tiger. The Continental subspecies is found on the Asian mainland, which comprises Bengal, Malayan, Indochinese, Amur, Caspian (extinct) and South China (functionally extinct) tiger populations. On the other hand, Sunda subspecies that was once found across several parts of the Sunda Islands in Indonesia, but today all remaining Sunda tigers are found only in Sumatra, and those lived in Java and Bali are extinct.

The white tiger is a result of a rare genetic mutation of the Continental tiger subspecies, especially Bengal and sometimes the Siberian or Amur tiger populations, or a hybrid between the two and the most efficient way to breed them is by using two tigers who have the recessive genes needed to produce offspring with a white coat. In captive breeding facilities these two individuals are often related, making inbreeding common. White tiger is characterised by white or creamy white coat, dark brown or black stripes, and blue eyes. This rare colour mutation is known as leucism that also occurs in many other animals and birds. For a white tiger to be born, both parents must carry the unusual gene for white colouring, which only happens naturally about once in 10,000 births. The mutation results from the mating of two tigers that carry the recessive allele that produces white fur in their offspring. A white tiger's pale coloration is due to the lack of one of the major types of the pigment melanin, known as pheomelanin

pigments that normally produce the red, orange, and yellow colouration, which appear in a tiger's fur. This had long been attributed to a mutation in the gene for the tyrosinase (TYR) enzyme. White tigers do, however, possess eumelanin (black and brown pigments), the pigment that colours the tiger's eyes and the hairs of its stripes. Leucism differs from albinism in that the latter is caused by a complete absence of melanin.

Although there are records of colorlessness or albinism in tigers, white tigers are not completely colorless or albino tigers. Of course, many people had such an idea before. In 1922 two albino tigers were reported to have been hunted in Cooch Behar. There are some differences between albino and white tigers and they are easy to spot if looked carefully. Albino tigers have pink eyes and brown body stripes that are very light or inconspicuous, which can only be seen from certain angles. In other words, albino tigers usually look completely white. On the other hand, white tiger's coat colour is white to cream and eye colour is ice blue. The stripes on the skin are dark or reddish-brown or chocolate in color and bright, which are easily noticed from any angle. White tigers also have greyish-pink spots on their noses and lips.

Apart from the white tiger, the other tigers that have been reported in the world are the black tiger and the full black or unstriped black tiger. The coat color of the black tiger is black but the stripes are coppery yellow or white. In October 1922, a black tiger skin measuring 8.5 feet was recovered from smugglers in Tis Hazari, Old Delhi, India. Since February 1993 it has been kept at the Natural History Museum, New Delhi. However, till date no black tigers or their photographs have been found. All-black or unstriped black tigers have pitch black bodies and the colour of their stripes is black, so the stripes cannot be recognizable. There have been reports of the existence of such tigers, but no skins or photographs have been found to date. The white, colorless or albino, black and unstriped black etc colour variations are mostly seen in the Bengal and sometimes in Amur tiger populations, but not in others. In nature, this kind of colour variations in tigers is seen only in Bengal tiger in India, which was never seen in our Sunderbans.

The government of India took notice of the white tiger breeding programme of the Maharaja of Rewa and started thinking about white tiger conservation. As a result the government made an agreement with the Maharaja, under the terms of which Raja and Rani would go to the New Delhi Zoo for free. In exchange the government will maintain the Mohan-Sukeshi pair of Govindgarh; and the cubs born from them shall be divided equally between the government and the Maharaja. Technically Sukeshi also became the property of the New Delhi Zoo, and in a sense India had nationalized the captive white tigers of Rewa. The Mohan-Sukeshi pair of Rewa had given birth too many cubs, some of which were sent to various zoos in India and around the world. Where a normal coloured tiger was sold for US\$500, a white tiger sold for US\$8,000, 15 times more. Tigers in Rewa gave birth 58 times and produced 170 cubs in total, 114 white and 56 normal coloured. Mohan, the father of these white Bengal tigers died on 18 December 1969 at the age of 19 years and 7 months. After the death he was buried in Govindgarh.

In 1960, Mohan's daughter Mohini was bought by the Radio Corporation of America from Maharaja for US\$10,000 (Rupees 49,000) and donated to the Institute of Zoology in Washington DC. There she was involved in the breeding programme of white tigers. And since then the white tiger started attracting worldwide attention.

Of the several zoos in India that have started programmes to increase the number of white tigers, the Delhi Zoo has been the most successful. And this was possible only because of the earnest efforts of the then Director of Delhi Zoo, Kailash Shankhala.

In the 1980s, wildlife biologists made major strides in white tiger research. They analysed data from various zoos that breed white tigers and found that breeding them is more likely to cause harm than gain. As mentioned by Kailash Shankhala the white colouration is the results of inbreeding depression that was common in captive populations; these tigers suffered from a range of significant health problems. The wildlife biologists also claimed that, although the white tigers grow bigger than normal one, but they are not at all healthy. Because, their body's immune system is quite weak and that's why they are more prone to disease than normal tigers. They need to be vaccinated in double doses. Common diseases or disease conditions include spinal deformities, defective organs, and immune deficiencies. Outside of India, inbred white tigers have been prone to crossed eyes, a condition known as strabismus which is never seen in normal tigers. Other genetic problems include shortened tendons of the forelegs, club foot, kidney problems, arched or crooked backbone and twisted neck. Reduced fertility and miscarriages, noted by "tiger man" Kailash Sankhala in pure Bengal white tigers, were attributed to inbreeding depression. A condition named "star-gazing" in which the head and neck are raised almost straight up (as if the affected animal is gazing at the stars) is associated with inbreeding, has also been reported in white tigers. Moreover, the rate of birth defects and stillbirths is relatively high among them. So the researchers suggested stopping the white tiger breeding programmes.

In fact, the zoo authorities of different zoos are currently thinking of reducing their numbers rather than increasing their population. Dr. William Conway of New York Zoological Park was reluctant to use up his zoo's limited resources by breeding white tigers. Because of this, the Cincinnati Zoo authorities stopped the breeding programme of white tigers. This zoo in the United States had the largest number of white tigers. Mr. Karanth, a wildlife biologist from Mysore, India said that since white tigers really have no conservation value and they are not endangered, therefore, they should not be bred.

Captive tiger cubs, including white tiger cubs, generate a large amount of revenue. Small tiger cubs are relatively easy to care for, but the constant stream of new cubs needed by many facilities for photo ops or cub handling for paying customers creates a bigger problem when they reach adulthood. Adult tigers are expensive to care for and require larger and more secure enclosures. To reduce their numbers, some captive facilities, especially in China and some other countries, kill their tigers once they reach adulthood and sell their parts to supply the illegal tiger trade, making a profit for a second time. The reality of the situation is that white tigers aren't an endangered populations, their white coat is simply the result of a genetic anomaly which doesn't require conservation. As long as captive facilities continue to supply tigers, their parts and products into the illegal trade that fuels the demand for tiger products, wild tigers will always be at risk. Therefore, breeding of white tigers need to be stopped worldwide immediately.

Finally, I am sharing some of my experiences about white tigers. In 1998, when I visited Canada's famous Metro Toronto Zoo, there was only one white tiger. The zoo authority was not interested in raising more white tigers. From 2000 to 2002, I visited various zoos in Australia and did not see a single white tiger. During



Creamy-white tigers at Singapore Zoo, Singapore

my stay in Malaysia from 2004-2008, I never seen any white tigers in any zoo in that country. However, in December 2006, I saw a white tiger at the Dusit Zoo in Bangkok, the capital of Thailand. On the other hand, I saw two white tigers in Singapore Zoo in 2008. But during a visit to Italy in 2010, I did not see a single white tiger in the famous and ancient Rome zoo there. However, during my visit to India in 2016-2019, I saw white tigers in the Kolkata and Hyderabad zoos. On the contrary, during my visit to England in 2017, I didn't find any white tigers in the renowned London Zoo. In fact, many well-known zoos in the West are no longer interested in keeping or exhibiting white tigers. However, if breeding of white tigers is discouraged and strict measures are taken to stop breeding, then the era of white tigers will soon be over, which will be good for nature.

While this is the case with white tigers in different countries, two zoos and a safari park in Bangladesh are quite happy with the white tigers born recently in their facilities as a result of inbreeding. Because the visitor numbers increasing to see them and the income of zoos and safari parks is also increasing, therefore, they, especially the Chattogram Zoo, are enthusiastically breeding white tigers. Currently, out of the total 7 white tigers in the country, 5 are staying in that zoo. But they have to stop this encouragement soon. Like other countries of the world, the breeding of white tigers must be discouraged and abolished in this country. The sooner this can be done, the better it will be for the wildlife, the country and the people.

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‘Bajrakantho’ unveiled

A booklet on the speeches of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, titled ‘Bajrakantho (Thunder Voice)’ published by the Department of Films and Publications (DFP) was unveiled by Information and Broadcasting Minister Dr. Hasan Mahmud at the meeting room of the Ministry on 7th September 2022.

Information and Broadcasting Minister Dr. Hasan Mahmud, MP, Director General of the Department of Films and Publications S.M. Golam Kibria, and other officials were present on the occasion.



Information and Broadcasting Minister Dr. Hasan Mahmud (middle), S.M. Golam Kibria, DG, DFP (right) and Mir Akram Uddin Ahammad, Director (PR) of the Ministry (left) along with journalists and media personalities posing after unveiling the book ‘Bajrakantho’ on 7th September 2022

16 speeches of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman delivered during 1971 – 72 at different places at home and abroad have been accommodated in this book. It was first published in 1972 by the then *Tathya Daftar* (Information Department) in 1972. Considering the historic value and demand of the readers, the Department of Films and Publications has reprinted this book on the occasion of *Mujib Barsho* (Mujib Year). The Minister thanked the Department for taking this initiative and lauded the book describing its importance.

The programme was well covered by the electronic and print media.

- Mir Akram Uddin Ahammad

DEVELOPMENT CHRONOLOGY

Major National Events

July-September



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina delivered speech on the occasion of founding anniversary of President's Guard Regiment. She joins the function virtually from her official residence on July 5

5 July, 2022

President's Guard Regiment founding anniversary celebrated

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on July, 5 said she is thinking of introducing area-based load shedding for a specific time to save the fuel that is used for power generation.

‘Today, I think that I will tell (authority concerned) to reduce electricity production for some time (everyday) to save the fuel that is used for power generation,’ she said.

The Prime Minister said this at a function at the PGR Headquarters in Dhaka Cantonment to mark the President's Guard Regiment's (PGR) founding anniversary. She joined the programme from her official residence Ganobhaban.

Source: *The Financial Express*

7 July, 2022

PM inaugurates new eight-story office building of the Foreign Ministry



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina addressing virtually from Ganobhaban to mark the inauguration of a new eight-storied office building of the Foreign Ministry on July 7

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina urges the US and its allies to eschew imposing sanctions as the world economy, already hard-hit by Covid and Ukraine war fallouts, now roils for the embargo against Russia.

Listing the grave impacts of the sanctions against Russia on other countries for no fault of their own, she said on July, 7 that a

policy that punishes people of the whole world ‘in the name of punishing one should not be followed’.

Likening it to human-rights violation, she notes that the global supply chains are heavily disrupted due to the sanctions, triggering crisis of essential commodities across the planet. *Source: The Financial Express*

13 July, 2022

Ensure integrated education facilities for children with autism: PM

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on July, 13 called for ensuring integrated environment of education to help flourish talents and creativity of special children with autism and neuro-development disabilities.

‘Environment of integrated education is very much important to flourish merit and creativity of special children,’ she said while witnessing the architectural design of the ‘National Academy for Autism and Neuro-Development Disabilities (NAAND) Complex’ at her official residence Ganobhaban.

PM said open and natural environment play an important role in physical and psychological development of children with autism and neuro-development disabilities.

The Prime Minister called for utilisation of daylight, ensuring open air or oxygen, preserving necessary reservoir, appropriate fire extinguisher and sufficient open space in designing NAAND Complex. *Source: The Financial Express*



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina witnessing the architectural design of the ‘National Academy for Autism and Neuro-Development Disabilities (NAAND) Complex’ from her official residence Ganobhaban on July 13

21 July, 2022

PM distributes new houses and land for 26,229 families

The government will ensure home for everyone irrespective of their political affiliation and views, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said on July, 21.

She said it’s her responsibility as Prime Minister to provide decent life to the countrymen.

She made the remarks at the handing over ceremony of houses to homeless people



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina handed over houses and land to 26,229 homeless families of five upazilas. She joins the programme virtually from Ganobhaban on July 21

in five districts under the third phase of Ashrayan-2 Project, connecting virtually from her official residence Ganobhaban in the city.

On the day, she distributed 26,229 more houses to homeless families of five places in the five districts connecting virtually from Ganobhaban with the venues located in Charkalakopa Ashrayan Project under Ramgati Upazila in Lakshmipur District, Gaurambha Ashrayan Project under Rampal Upazila in Bagerhat district, Char Velamari Ashrayan Project under Nandail Upazila in Mymensingh District, Mahan Para Ashrayan Project under Panchagarh Sadar Upazila in Panchagarh District and Jangalia Ashrayan Project under Mohammadpur Upazila in Magura district.

The Prime Minister also declared Magura and Panchagarh as landless-and-homeless free districts at the function.

Apart from nine upazilas of Magura and Panchagarh districts, she simultaneously announced another 43 upazilas of different districts across the country as landless-and-homeless free.

Regarding the houses which are being given to the homeless people, the Prime Minister said: ‘This is not just a house; it is the future, shelter and address of you, your family, and your next generation.’ *Source: The Financial Express*

23 July, 2022

PM distributes Bangabandhu Public Administration Award 2022

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on July, 23 asked the public servants to devote themselves to the welfare of the people who pay taxes for their salaries, comforts and luxuries.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina speaking virtually at a programme marking the National Public Services Day and distribution of Bangabandhu Public Administration Award 2022 held at Osmani Memorial Auditorium in the city on July 23

‘All of you are getting salaries and perks from the money paid by the mass people as taxes. All including your comfort and luxury are coming from the money of the people. So you have to work for them, for their interest and welfare,’ she said.

PM was speaking at a programme marking the National Public Services Day and distribution of Bangabandhu Public Administration Award 2022 held at Osmani Memorial Auditorium. She joined the programme virtually from her official residence Ganobhaban. *Source: The Financial Express*

24 July, 2022

PM urges to set up export-oriented fish processing industries

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on July, 24 urged the youths to set up export-oriented fish-processing industries to help boost the country’s foreign-exchange earnings.

‘We can process the fish or we can produce various types of products from fish and export those,’ she said while launching the National Fisheries Week 2022.

The premier hoped that the new generation will come forward further to set up such industries that will create employment opportunities for the jobless.

This year’s July 23-29 Fisheries Week began with the theme ‘Nirapad Machhea Varbo Desh, Bangabandhur Bangladesh (The country will be filled with safe fish, Bangabandhu’s Bangladesh)’.

The programme was held at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre, joined virtually by the PM from her official residence Ganobhaban. *Source: The Financial Express*

27 July, 2022

BBS reveals primary report on Population Census

The total population in Bangladesh now stands at 165.16 million. The provisional data of the latest census, done by the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS), revealed the figures at a function in Dhaka city on July 27. The BBS collected the countrywide population and household data from June 15-21. Speaker Dr Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury attended the function as the chief guest with planning minister MA Mannan in the chair.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina releasing fish fry into a lake inside Ganobhaban as she inaugurates National Fisheries Week 2022 on July 24

The population has increased by 15.38 million from 149.77 million 11 years ago in 2011, according to the preliminary findings of the Population and Housing Census-2022. The population density has increased to 1,119 per square kilometre in 2022 from that of 976 in 2011.

In the latest census, it was recorded that the population has grown at 1.22-per cent rate per annum from 1.37 per cent of the last census data in 2011.

The male population has declined significantly as the male-female ratio has stood at 98:100.3. According to the BBS, 1.80 million live in slums. The total slum households in the country are 0.05 million. The country has 22,185 floating people. Some 97.61 per cent of the total population have come under the electricity coverage in 2022. *Source : The Financial Express*

28 July, 2022

PM inaugurates 24 new Technical Training Centres

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on July, 28 underlined the need for focusing on export to earn foreign currencies instead of depending on remittance.

‘We have to more focus on export to earn foreign currencies instead of only depending on remittance,’ she said.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina speaks as she virtually inaugurates 24 Technical Training Centres in different upazilas. The function was held at Osmani Auditorium in Dhaka on July 28

‘That means, we will have to give more attention to export-oriented foreign exchange earnings,’ she said.

The Prime Minister also asked all concerned to diversify local products to explore new markets abroad.

She was inaugurating 24 Technical Training Centres (TTCs) including Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Centennial TTC at the upazila level, joining virtually from her official Ganobhaban residence.

The Bureau of Manpower Employment and Training (BMET) organised the function at the Osmani Memorial Auditorium in city. *Source: The Financial Express*

31 July, 2022

Skilled manpower playing key role in investments

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on July, 31 said her government is focusing on developing skilled manpower to transform the country’s demographic advantage into dividends.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina delivering inaugural speech at the first meeting of the Governing Board of the National Skill Development Authority (NSDA) at her office on July 31

She said this while delivering her inaugural speech at the first meeting of the Governing Board of the National Skill Development Authority (NSDA) at her office (PMO).

Each year in Bangladesh, up to 2.2 million young people arrive in the labour market, she mentioned stressing the need for providing them training to hone their skills so they turn into entrepreneurs rather than only looking for jobs.

The premier said that the government wants to accelerate country's progress towards achieving the Vision 2041 utilising the demographic dividend.

The PM said her government wants that the youth utilise their potentials in the world market as skilled manpower.

'We want that future generations of the country will be equipped with modern technology-based knowledge. We want to create skilled manpower keeping the fourth industrial revolution in our mind,' she said. *Source: The Financial Express*

2 August, 2022

Development spree to continue: PM

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on August, 2 said that the country's development spree might continue as Bangladesh has reached this position overcoming many setbacks.

'We've reached this position conquering many setbacks. (I want) this trend of development might be continued,' she said at her introductory speech at the regular meeting of the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (ECNEC) at NEC Conference Room.

The premier joined the meeting virtually from her official residence Ganobhaban.

The Prime Minister said her government is working with some specific goals to ensure houses for all homeless people, food security, medical treatment facility and education etc. *Source: The Financial Express*

7 August, 2022

Global womenfolk can follow Bangamata's life: PM

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on August, 7 said not only the Bangladeshi women, but also the women of the entire world can follow the life of Bangamata Sheikh Fazilatunnesa Mujib.

'I think, not only the women of our country, but also many women of the world can follow the example of her life,' she said.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina addressing the opening ceremony of the two-day international conference titled 'Bangamata: A Paragon of Women's Leadership and Nation-Building in Bangladesh' at Senate Building Auditorium of Dhaka University on August 7

The Prime Minister said Bangamata was a person who sacrificed everything of her life for the independence of the nation, for the country and its people.

She said this while addressing the opening ceremony of the two-day international conference titled 'Bangamata: A Paragon of Women's Leadership and Nation-Building in Bangladesh' at Senate Building Auditorium in Dhaka University as the chief guest.

The premier joined the function virtually from her official residence Ganobhaban. At the function, the Prime Minister also inaugurated Bangamata Sheikh Fazilatunnesa Mujib Centre for Gender and Development Studies established by Dhaka University.

Bangla Academy President Selina Hossain made a keynote presentation on Bangamata. *Source: The Financial Express*

Asia can work together to face challenges, says PM

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on August, 7 said the South Asia, South East Asia and China could work together for economic progress by facing challenges arisen from the Russia-Ukraine war.



Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi called on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at latter's official residence Ganobhaban on August 7

Referring to the Russia-Ukraine war, sanctions and counter sanctions, she said, 'People (across the globe) are suffering from all these reasons. The South Asia, South East Asia and China can work together for economic progress.'

The Prime Minister made the remarks when Chinese Foreign

Minister Wang Yi paid a courtesy call on her at her official Ganobhaban residence in the city.

Sheikh Hasina said Bangladesh values its friendship with China, reiterating that it believes in ‘One China Policy.’ *Source: The Financial Express*

8 August, 2022

Five women awarded Bangamata Begum Fazilatunnesa Mujib Padak 2022

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on August, 8 revisited the history of country’s protracted independence struggle extracting Bangamata Begum Fazilatunnesa Mujib’s key-shadow role in major turning points.

‘The decisions of my mother on major political issues helped us a lot in achieving the independence,’ the premier said as she distributed an annual award named after Begum Fazilatunnesa .

Five distinguished women were awarded the Bangamata Begum Fazilatunnesa Mujib Padak-2022 for their outstanding contributions to various fields at the function.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina joined the Bangamata Begum Fazilatunnesa Mujib Padak-2022 giving ceremony virtually from her official residence Ganobhaban on August 8

Women and Children Affairs Ministry organised the function at the Osmani Memorial Auditorium coinciding with Bangamata’s 92nd birth anniversary while the premier joined the event virtually from her Ganobhaban official residence.

Source: The Financial Express

15 August, 2022

National Mourning Day observed

The National Mourning Day, marking the 47th martyrdom anniversary of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, was observed on August, 15 across the country and at Bangladesh missions abroad with due respect and solemnity.

Bangabandhu and most of his family members were brutally killed by some disgruntled army men on the fateful day of August 15, 1975 and this carnage is termed the ugliest chapter of the nation’s history.

The government drew up elaborate programmes in observance of the day at the national level. The national flag was hoisted half-mast at all government, semi-government, autonomous and educational institutions and private buildings



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina pays homage to Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at Tungipara Mausoleum on August 15 on the National Mourning Day

including Bangladesh missions abroad.

As part of the state program, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina paid homage to Bangabandhu, the architect of independent Bangladesh, by placing wreaths at his portrait in front of Bangabandhu Memorial Museum at Dhanmondi Road No. 32 at 6.30 am in the capital.

Armed Forces gave a state salute at that time, while the bugle played a tune of grief and somber to the last post.

From Dhanmondi, Sheikh Hasina went to the Banani Graveyard where her mother Bangamata Sheikh Fazilatunnesa Mujib, brothers Sheikh Kamal, Sheikh Jamal, and

Sheikh Russell and other martyrs of August 15, 1975 were laid to eternal rest. She placed wreaths and spread flower petals on their graves and also offered prayers for eternal peace of the departed souls of the martyrs of August 15.

Later, Sheikh Hasina went Tungipara in Gopalganj district, to pay tributes to Bangabandhu by placing wreaths at his mausoleum there. The premier then offered Fateha and munajat at the grave seeking eternal peace of departed souls of the Father of the Nation, Bangamata Begum Fazilatunnesa Mujib and other martyrs of August 15, 1975 massacre. Prayers were also offered seeking continued peace, progress and prosperity of the nation. *Source: The Financial Express*

17 August, 2022

Rohingya must go home to Myanmar, PM tells UN rights chief

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on August, 17 reiterated her call to Myanmar to take back home the country's more than one million Rohingya nationals from their temporary shelter in Bangladesh.

'The Rohingyas are the nationals of Myanmar and they have to be taken back,' the Prime Minister told the visiting UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet who called on her at her official residence Ganobhaban.

PM as telling the UN rights chief that Myanmar neither refuses that Rohingyas are not their nationals, nor is taking them back to their homeland.

Bachelet, a former president of Chile, proposed to increase opportunities for education and work for the Rohingya nationals sheltered in Bangladesh.

Source: *The Financial Express*

24 August, 2022

WB lauds country's socio-economic Development

The World Bank's outgoing country director, Mercy Miyang Tembon, on August, 24 commended Bangladesh's overall socio-economic development, including women empowerment under the leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

She expressed her appreciation while she paid

a farewell call on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at the latter's official residence, Ganobhaban, in Dhaka.

The Prime Minister's press secretary, Ihsanul Karim, briefed the newsmen after the meeting.



UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet calls on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at the latter's Ganobhaban residence in Dhaka on August, 17



World Bank's outgoing country director Mercy Miyang Tembon pays a farewell visit to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at the Ganobhaban on August 24

The WB country director said that she had visited several places across Bangladesh and was overwhelmed seeing the development of its grassroots level. Source: *The New Age*

30 August, 2022

BD will never face economic crisis like Sri Lanka: PM

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on August, 30 made it clear that Bangladesh will never face an economic crisis like Sri Lanka as her government has been developing the country in a planned way.

‘There is no use of making false accusations against us. Bangladesh will never become Sri Lanka and it can’t be,’ she said.

The premier was addressing a commemorative meeting organised jointly by Awami League’s Dhaka north and south city units at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre to mark the National Mourning Day of August 15, the day the country’s founding leader Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was assassinated along with most members of his family in 1975. *Source: The Financial Express*

4 September, 2022

Bangamata Bridge over Kacha River in Pirojpur opens

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on September, 4 said her government has been developing a modern transport system by implementation of different projects to accelerate the country’s economic growth.

‘We’re developing a modern transport system,’ she said while opening the 1493-metre ‘Bangamata Begum Fazilatunnesa Mujib 8th Bangladesh-China Friendship Bridge’ over Kacha River at Bekutia in Pirojpur, which established the uninterrupted road connectivity between Khulna Division and Barishal Division.

The premier joined the opening ceremony of the bridge through a virtual platform from her office here in the capital.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina virtually inaugurates ‘Bangamata Begum Fazilatunnesa Mujib 8th Bangladesh-China Friendship Bridge’ over Kacha River at Bekutia in Pirojpur district from her office in Dhaka on September 4

The construction work of the bridge was started on November 1 in 2018.

The Roads and Highways Department constructed the bridge at a cost of Tk 8.94 billion.

The Chinese government provided Tk 6.55 billion as project assistance for the bridge while the Bangladesh government spent Tk 2.39 billion. *Source: The Financial Express*

6 September, 2022

Dhaka, Delhi sign seven deals and unveil projects

Bangladesh and India on September, 6 signed seven accords demonstrating cooperation in a number of areas, including water sharing of the Kushiya River.

One of the memorandums of understanding (MoUs) was signed between the Ministry of Water Resources, Bangladesh, and the Ministry of Jal Shakti, India, on withdrawal of water by Bangladesh and India from the common border river Kushiya.

The MoU between the Ministry of Railways (Railway Board), India, and the Ministry of Railways, Bangladesh, was signed for training of Bangladesh Railway personnel in India.

On the other hand, an MoU between the Ministry of Railways (Railway Board), India, and the Ministry of Railways, Bangladesh, was signed on collaboration in IT systems such as FOIS and other IT applications for Bangladesh Railway.



Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and her Indian counterpart Narendra Modi posing after signing MoU at the Hyderabad House in New Delhi on September 6

The National Judicial

Academy, India, and the Supreme Court of Bangladesh signed an MoU on training and capacity-building programme for Bangladesh judicial officers in India.

The MoU on scientific and technological cooperation was signed between Bangladesh Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (BCSIR) and Council for Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR), India.

The two sides signed an MoU on cooperation in the area of space technology.

The MoU between the Prasar Bharti and Bangladesh Television (BTV) was signed on cooperation in broadcasting.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and her Indian counterpart Narendra Modi witnessed signing of the bilateral instruments after holding bilateral talks at Hyderabad House in India's capital city as the two countries seek enhanced cooperation. *Source: The Financial Express*

7 September, 2022

Indian, Bangladeshi youths need to interact more closely: Sheikh Hasina

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on September 7 asked the youth of Bangladesh and India to interact more closely and work in close collaboration like their leaders did in the past.

“We feel, youths of both the countries need to interact more closely and connect to the shared history because they are the future leaders and leaders across the borders must work in close collaboration, like our leaders did in the past,” she said.

The Prime Minister was addressing a function marking the distribution of Mujib Scholarship awards among the direct descendants of soldiers or officers of defence



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina handed over 'Mujib Scholarship Award' to the families of martyred or critically wounded soldiers or officers of defence forces of India, during the Liberation War of Bangladesh in 1971. The function was held at ITC Maurya Hotel in New Delhi on September 7

forces of India who had been martyred or critically wounded during the Liberation War of Bangladesh in 1971.

Bangladesh has introduced the scholarship in honour of the country's founding leader Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

Indian Foreign Minister S Jaishankar thanked Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for her precious and generous gesture for introducing the scholarship. He said that the existing

good relations between the two neighbouring countries will deepen further in the coming days. *Source: The Financial Express*

11 September, 2022

PM distributes Sheikh Hasina Youth Volunteer Award 2022

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on September, 11 asked the youth to grow as the worthy citizens of the country acquiring education and technological knowledge for the coming fourth industrial revolution.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina addressing an event to mark the distribution of 'Sheikh Hasina Youth Volunteer Award 2022' in the city on September, 11

‘Youth folks are most important for any nation. I want that the youth of the country will be the worthy citizens by getting education, training and acquiring technological knowledge,’ she said.

The Prime Minister said this while addressing an event to mark the distribution of Sheikh Hasina Youth Volunteer Award 2022 in the city.

Youth and Sports Ministry organised the programme at Osmani Memorial Auditorium where she joined virtually. *Source: The Financial Express*

14 September, 2022

PM inaugurates newly built Super Specialized Hospital at BSMMU

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on September, 14 asked the physicians to dedicate themselves to extensively serve the general people and behave well with patients.

‘I would like to request the doctors to dedicate themselves more extensively in providing healthcare services to the general and poor people of the country. You’ll have to go to villages and take care of the rural people. You’ll have to behave well



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is inaugurating BSMMU Super Specialised Hospital, the first of its kind in Bangladesh, via videoconferencing from Ganobhaban on September 14

with them,’ she said.

The premier said this while inaugurating the newly constructed Super Specialized Hospital in Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) through a virtual platform from her official residence Ganobhaban. *Source: The Financial Express*

Outgoing Indian High Commissioner paid a farewell visit to PM

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has said any issue of concern with neighbours can be solved through discussions.

She said this when outgoing Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Vikram Kumar Doraiswami paid a farewell call on the Prime Minister at the latter’s official residence Ganobhaban in the city on September, 14.

The PM said Bangladesh wants sustainable development of the entire South Asia for the sake of the greater benefits of the people of the region.

She praised the leadership of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The Indian High Commissioner said his country highly praises the leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for strengthening the Bangladesh-India relations and the overall socio-economic development of Bangladesh. *Source: The Financial Express*



Leader of the Opposition and Head of the Labour Party Sir Keir Starmer speaks with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at the meeting room of Clarisse Hotel in London on September 17

17 September, 2022

UK Labour Party Leader calls on PM

Leader of the Opposition and Head of the Labour Party Sir Keir Starmer on September, 17 said ‘Bangladesh and the UK are bound by excellent ties and further reinforced by the British-Bangladesh diaspora’.

He observed this during his meeting with Prime Minister

Sheikh Hasina at her place of residence here.

The Prime Minister is in London on a four-day visit to attend the state funeral of Queen Elizabeth II.

The two leaders discussed the impact of the war in Ukraine, particularly on the Global South.

PM Hasina underscored the need for a negotiated settlement of the conflict to protect common people around the world from food, energy and financial insecurities. *Source: The Financial Express*

20 September, 2022

Bangladesh win SAFF Women’s Championship 2022

Bangladesh made history by clinching their maiden title in the SAFF Women’s Championship with a 3-1 win over hosts Nepal in the final at the crowd-packed Rangasala Stadium in Kathmandu on September, 20.

Krishna Rani Sarkar scored a brace after substitute forward Shamsunnahar Jr had



Bangladeshi football players, winners of the SAFF Women’s Championship 2022, was giving reception at Shahjalal International Airport in Dhaka on September 21

given Bangladesh an early lead to propel Bangladesh to South Asian supremacy, breaking the hearts of the hosts.

After taking a 2-0 lead in the first half on a rain-soaked pitch, Bangladesh came under tremendous pressure from the hosts, who pulled one back in the 70th minute with a powerful diagonal attempt by forward Anita Basent.

However, Krishna, who scored the second goal for Bangladesh in the 42nd minute of the match following the opener in the 13th minute, ensured Bangladesh's victory with another expert finish in the 77th minute, placing home past the Nepal keeper and captain Anjila Tumbapo Subba. *Source: The New Age*

PM addresses at a meeting of the UNGA Platform of Women Leaders

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on September, 20 laid emphasis on the integration of women in decision-making process, saying that it is important to have them in leadership team to reflect on the solutions and benefit from their experiences and perspective.

'Women are disproportionately affected during crises. It is, therefore, important to integrate women in decision-making for finding an effective solution to the crises,' she said.

Sheikh Hasina noted that women are shining in each and every sector, breaking all the stereotyping and showing indomitable courage and leadership skills.

The premier made this remarks while addressing a 'High Level Meeting of the UNGA Platform of Women Leaders Convened by the President of the



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina addresses a high-level meeting of the UNGA Platform of Women Leaders at the Trusteeship Council in the United Nations Headquarters on September 20



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina meets United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi at hotel Lotte Palace in New York on September 20

General Assembly Csaba Korösi' at Trusteeship Council in the United Nations Headquarters.

The theme of this year's conference is 'Transformative Solutions by Women Leaders to Today's Interlinked Challenges'. Source: *The Financial Express*

R o h i n g y a Repatriation: PM seeks stronger UN, int'l community role

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on

September, 20 reiterated her call to the international community and the United Nations to play a stronger role in solving the Rohingya crisis by repatriating the Myanmar nationals to their motherland.

She made the call when UN High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi paid a courtesy call on her at the Lotte New York Palace hotel.

Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen briefed journalists about the PM's activities on the sidelines of the 77th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA).

During the meeting, Hasina emphasised enhancing the UNHCR's activities in Myanmar on Rohingya issues. Grandi in reply said he would visit Myanmar soon.

The premier reiterated that the Rohingya crisis could only be resolved through the repatriation of the forcibly displaced Rohingyas. The UNHCR high commissioner agreed with her on this matter. Source: *The Daily Star*

22 September, 2022

US can be our most robust partner in graduation from LDC: PM

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has invited the US investors to come to Bangladesh to tap into its liberal investment policy for mutual benefits.

'I would like to invite US investors to invest in renewable energy, shipbuilding, automobile, pharmaceuticals, heavy machineries, chemical fertilizers, ICT, marine resources, shipbuilding, medical equipment, and COVID-19 vaccine manufacturing in Bangladesh,' she said.

The premier made the call while delivering her speech at a high-level policy roundtable arranged by the US-Bangladesh Business Council at Lotte New York Palace Hotel on September 22.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina speaks at a high-level policy roundtable organised by the US-Bangladesh Business Council at hotel Lotte Palace in New York on September 22

She said Bangladesh is establishing 100 special economic zones (SEZs) and several Hi-tech parks in different parts of the country. Having more than six hundred thousand (600,000) free-lancing IT professionals, Bangladesh is the right destination for IT investments, she added. *Source: The Financial Express*

23 September, 2022

Put an end to Ukraine war immediately

Hasina says at UNGA in NY

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on September 23 demanded an immediate end to Ukraine-Russia war and resulting sanctions for the sake of lives and livelihoods of the people throughout the world.

‘We want the end of Russia-Ukraine war. Due to sanctions, and counter-sanctions, not a single country, rather the entire mankind including women and children is punished,’ she said.

The Prime Minister made the call while delivering her speech in the 77th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA).

She mentioned that the impact of Russia-Ukraine war does not remain confined to



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina delivering speech in the 77th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in New York on September 23

one country, rather puts the lives and livelihoods of the people of all nations in greater risk, and infringes their human rights. People are deprived of food, shelter, healthcare and education. *Source : The Financial Express*

26 September, 2022

Japan may give \$600-700m in budget support

Bangladesh can expect budget support of \$600-700 million from Japan as the development partner has responded positively to the country's request for financial assistance to help the economy weather the storm caused by the Ukraine war. The disclosure was made by Planning Minister MA Mannan following a meeting on September 26 with the outgoing and incoming chief representatives of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

Ichiguchi Tomohide, chief representative of the Bangladesh office of the Japan International Cooperation Agency, meets MA Mannan, planning minister, at the office of the minister in the planning ministry in Dhaka on September 26.

In the past two fiscal years JICA provided Bangladesh with \$620 million in total to help the country manage the impacts of the pandemic. Both the top JICA officials were positive about the proposal for budget support.

The government is expecting \$2.5-3 billion by June next year from multilateral lenders, according to an estimate made by the ERD, which manages foreign debt repayment activities, in June. *Source : The Daily Star*

27 September, 2022

EC free to hold fair polls

PM tells VoA, says Rohingyas must return home

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has said the Election Commission is 'completely free and independent' and there's a system that allows the EC to hold free and fair elections in Bangladesh. She said this in an interview with the Bangla service of Voice of America (VoA) that aired on September, 27. The PM on a visit to the US, responded to a number of questions on democracy, human rights, Rohingya crisis, Digital Security Act and other issues.

She said Bangladesh has made huge strides during her party's three consecutive terms in power. The poverty rate has been cut and people are getting food, education and healthcare. 'We're fulfilling all their basic needs.'

Former UN high commissioner for human rights Michelle Bachelet, during her visit to Bangladesh in the last month, encouraged the government to create an 'independent, specialised mechanism' that works closely with the victims' families and civil society to investigate the allegations of enforced disappearances and extrajudicial killings.

Asked about it, Hasina said there is a human rights commission that always takes necessary steps. 'If there is any allegation, they look into it.' 'We are not abusing human rights, we are rather protecting them,' she said, adding that her government has made people aware of their rights and has ensured that they can enjoy their rights. *Source : The Daily Star*

Report Compilation: Hriday Kumar, Mazharul Hoque, Mamun Hossain



Tanguar Haor in the rainy season, Sunamganj



Department of Films and Publications

Ministry of Information and Broadcasting

Bangladesh