



Bangladesh

January-March 2022 Quarterly



The Political Profile and the Monumental Achievements of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman

Bangladesh: Journey of Growth with Resolute Steps

Language as a Basis for Nation-Building

Right to Information Act 2009: An overview



Bangladesh

QUARTERLY

Vol. 42, No. 3, January-March 2022, Magh-Chaitra 1428



President Md. Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina paid their homage by placing wreaths at the mausoleum of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on his 102nd birth anniversary at Tungipara in Gopalganj on March 17



Department of Films and Publications
Ministry of Information and Broadcasting
Bangladesh

Chief Editor

S. M. Golam Kibria

Senior Editor

M. Quamruzzaman
Senior DPIO

Sub-Editor

Hriday Kumar Barman
Md. Mazharul Hoque

Editorial Associate

Md. Mamun Hossain
Umma Halima

Cover Design & Layout

H. K. Barman

Photographer

Md. Nazim Uddin

Cover picture

Independence Tower
Suhrawardy Udyan

Published by**Department of Films and Publications
Tathya Bhaban**

112, Circuit House Road, Dhaka- 1000
Telephone : 88-02-8300697
Fax : 88-02-58310020
E-mail : bangladeshquarterly@yahoo.com
bdqtrly2@gmail.com
Website : www.dfp.gov.bd

Price : Tk. 30

Printed at

Barnalipi
200 Fakirapul, Dhaka.



Editorial

The 26th March is the Independence and National Day of Bangladesh. In the early hours on this day, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman declared the independence of Bangladesh in 1971. After nine months blood-soaked war the country got liberated from Pakistan and won victory on 16th December of the same year. Other significant and historic days that include 10th January-the Home Coming Day of Bangabandhu, 21st February-the Shaheed Day and International Mother Language day, 17th March-National Children's Day and the Birth Anniversary of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman fall in the first quarter of the English calendar year. The nation observed all the days with due solemnity and fervour at home and Bangladesh missions abroad.

Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was one of the greatest leaders in the world. He did his best for the country and the countrymen. He took various measures for the reconstruction of the war-ravaged country. He got only three years and seven months in two capacities as the Prime Minister and the President to rebuild and reform Bangladesh. However, in the last 50 years of independence, Bangladesh has made significant progress in economy and other areas as well. The present government under the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is working relentlessly to build Sonar Bangla (Bengal of Gold) as dreamt by the father of the nation. Although the Corona epidemic has disrupted normal life around the world, Bangladesh's economic growth rate is commendable.

In this last quarter of the extended Mujib Barsho (Mujib Year), this issue has accommodated the article on the political profile and the achievements of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, and also the write ups on importance of mother language, SDG, 4IR, health and wildlife.

Contents



The Political Profile and the
Monumental Achievements of
Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman
Dr. Md Matiur Rahman Khan
Page- 4



Language as a Basis for
Nation-Building
Dr. Helal Uddin Ahmed

Page- 28



Bangladesh: Journey of
Growth with Resolute Steps
Qazi Kholiquezzaman Ahmad

Page- 24

Right to Information Act 2009: An overview <i>Md. Quddus Khan</i>	32
Importance of Disaggregated Official Statistics in Monitoring SDG <i>Md. Alamgir Hossen</i>	36
4th Industrialized Revolution: How it impacts the life <i>Homayed Naser</i>	42
Occupational Therapy for women with Thumb Pain <i>Rabeya Ferdous</i>	45
Bears: The Most Threatened Mammals of Bangladesh <i>Professor Dr. A N M Aminoor Rahman</i>	47
Information and Broadcasting Ministry observes Historic 7th March	52
Department of Films and Publications organizes programme on the Independence and National Day	54
DFP participates in the Kolkata International Book Fair	56
DFP participates in the Agartala Book Fair	59
Development Chronology	61



The Political Profile and the Monumental Achievements of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman

Dr. Md Matin Rahman Khan

Public School at his 9 and thereafter he got himself admitted in a local Missionary School. But as ill luck would have it, he was attacked with berry-berry at his 14 in 1934, and one of his eyes had to be operated on in Kolkata. As a result, he had to undergo a break of study for about 4 years. He returned to school in 1937. Then, in 1938 when he was at his eighteen, married Begum Fazilatunnesa. They later became blessed with two daughters Sheikh Hasina (now the Prime Minister) and Sheikh Rehana, and three sons Sheikh Kamal, Sheikh Jamal and Sheikh Russel.

We find that the life of this great leader is full of exciting and thrilling episodes and bold occurrences. Such unusually exciting and thrilling occurrences began to happen from the very early life of Sheikh Mujib. It happened while Sheikh Mujib was a student of Gopalganj Missionary School in 1939. In the same year, the then Chief Minister of Bengal, A K Fazlul Huq, and the Commerce and Rural Development Minister Huseyni Shaheed Suhrawardy went to visit Gopalganj Missionary School. At that time, the students' hostel of the Missionary School was so dilapidated that rain water seeped in the room through the cracks and the pores

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, one of the greatest leaders in the world, greatest Bengali of the past thousand years, Supreme Command of the Liberation War, Father of the Nation, and sculptor of Bangladesh was born in an aristocratic and noble Muslim family on the 17th March, 1920 in the village of Tungipara under the present district of Gopalganj. He was the third child among four daughters and two sons of his parents Sheikh Luffar Rahman and Sheikh Sayera Khatun. His parents used to call him Khoka out of affection. Bangabandhu passed his childhood in Tungipara.

In 1927, Bangabandhu started his study at Gimadanga Primary School when he was 7 (seven) years old and after that he got himself admitted into Gopalganj



Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman with Huseyn Shaheed Suhrawardy in Rajshahi, 1954



Newly elected cabinet of Jukto Front, 3 April 1954

of the roof of the hostel building. The roof was not repaired despite repeated applications to the concerned authorities. However, after the school visit, while the two ministers were returning to Gopalganj Dak-Bungalow, they found a young student along with some of his classmates was standing on the way obstructing their passage. The ministers were surprised at the boldness of the boy. On approaching near the boy, the Chief Minister said to him "Who are you? What do you want? Why are you obstructing our way?" My name is Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and the others are my classmates. We have come here with a complaint, sir," the young student Sheikh Mujib replied. "Complaint, what type of complaint?" said Huseyn Shaheed Suhrawardy. "Sir, rain water seeps in our hostel room through the cracks and pores of the roof of our hostel building, and this water drenches and soaks our books and beds and we cannot sleep or stay in. We applied to the authorities for repair of the roof but they paid no heed to our appeal." The ministers were amazed at the bold but true statement.

Then the Ministers went to the Dak-Bungalow. Thereafter the Chief Minister declared a donation of Tk 1200.00 from his discretionary fund for the repair of the Gopalganj Missionary School Hostel. Then commerce Minister Huseyn Shaheed Suhrawardy created still a greater surprise by sending out a slip of paper to Sheikh Mujib with a request to meet him in the Dak-Bungalow that night. He then discussed many things with Mujib. Suhrawardy could understand that he got in him the merit and spark that he was looking for throughout his political life. Suhrawardy gave Mujib his address of residence in Kolkata and asked him to meet him there. Thus, Mujib got his political mentor and started gradually to be involved in politics with Suhrawardy and began developing his political career. In 1940, Sheikh Mujib joined the Nikhil Bharat Muslim Chhatra Federation (All India Muslim Students Federation) He was elected councilor for one year term.

He then passed the Entrance Examination in 1942 from Gopalganj High School. And then for higher study, he left his school for Islamia College in Kolkata, where he had lodgings at Baker Hostel. He then became actively involved in politics and became elected councilor of Muslim League in 1943. In 1944, he joined the conference of the All Bengal Muslim Students League held in Kushtia, where he played an important role and was elected secretary of Faridpur District Association, a Kolkata based organization of the residents of Faridpur.

In 1946, he was elected General Secretary of Islamia College Students Union. In 1947, he obtained the Bachelor of Arts (B.A) degree from Islamia College under Kolkata University. And then after the partition of Pakistan and India, when the communal riots broke out in the wake of the partition of India and the birth of Pakistan, he played a pioneering role in protecting the Muslims and trying to control the violence.

In 1948, Bangabandhu, got himself admitted into the Law Department of the University of Dhaka and founded the Muslim Students League on 4 January. He rose in protest on 23 February when Prime Minister Khwaja Nazimuddin in his speech at the Legislative Assembly declared: "The people of East Pakistan will accept Urdu as their state language". Khwaja Nazimuddin's remarks touched off a storm of protest across East Pakistan. Sheikh Mujib built a strong movement against the heinous design to make Urdu the only state language. Sheikh Mujib contacted students and political leaders. Then a meeting of the workers of different political parties was held on 2 March. The meeting was held at Fazlul Huq Hall



Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was conferred with the title 'Bangabandhu' (Friend of Bengal) during a mass reception at Racecourse ground, 23 February 1969



Bangabandhu with others following his release from the Agartala conspiracy case (from left) Mohiuddin Ahmed, Maulana Bhasani, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and Maulana Abdur Rashid Tarkabagish, 1969

and the meeting approved a resolution placed by Bangabandhu to form an 'All-Party State League Action Council'. The Action Council called for a general strike on 11 March to display its protest against the conspiracy of the Muslim League for Bangla language. While holding a demonstration in front of the secretariat building, Bangabandhu and some his colleagues were arrested. The student community of East Pakistan rose in protest following the arrest of Bangabandhu. In the face of the strong movement of the student community, the Muslim League government was compelled to release him and other student leaders on 15 March. Bangabandhu was again arrested on 11 September, 1948 with the allegation that he led movement against Cordon system in Faridpur.

However Bangabandhu was released from jail on 21 January, 1949. At that time the employees of 3rd and 4th classes of Dhaka University were on strike for realizing their demands. The generous Bangabandhu expressed his solidarity with the employees and extended his support to their legitimate demands very strongly. The university authorities could not take it in good spirit, rather they became furious with him, and imposed a fine on him illogically. He rejected the unjust order with contempt. Later, police arrested him at the front of the Vice Chancellor's residence on the charge that he joined the sit-down strike and instigated the employees to continue the strike. However, he was released from jail in late June. Immediately after his release, he began organizing an agitation against the prevailing food crisis. In September, he was again arrested for violating the order passed under section 144.crpc.

In 1954, the first general elections were held on 10 March. The United Front won 223 seats out of a total of 237, including 143 captured by the Awami League. Bangabandhu swept the Gopalganj constituency, defeating the powerful Muslim League leader Wahiduzzaman. On 15 May, Bangabandhu was given charge of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forest when the new Provincial Government was formed. On 29 May, the Central Government arbitrarily dismissed the United Front ministry.

In 1958, Pakistan's President Major General Iskandar Mirza, and the Chief of Pakistan's Army, General Ayub Khan imposed martial law on 7 October and banned politics. Bangabandhu was arrested on 11 October and since then he had been continuously harassed through false case after case. After 14 months he was released.

On 31d January 1968, the Agartala Conspiracy Case was filed by the Pakistan regime of AyubKhan against 35 officers including Sheikh Mujib as an accused no 1. Later, the Pakistan regime under pressure of mass movement was compelled to release him on 22nd February 1969. On 23rd February about 10 lakhs of people including students, leaders, and people from all walks of life gathered at the then Race Course Maiden and the "Central Students' Struggle Council" arranged a hearty reception for Sheikh Mujib. In that hearty reception, the title 'Bangabandhu.' was formally conferred on Sheikh Mujib.

Later on, political scenario gradually changed. Ayub Khan resigned and Yahya took over the charge. Thereafter, a new episode began in the life of Bangabandhu with the participation in election held on 7th December, 1970. In the election, Bangabandhu came out victorious with the great majority of 98% votes. But in spite of overwhelming and strong majority, blood-thirsty dictator Yahya hatched a deep-rooted conspiracy. He started to dilly-dally and shilly-shally to hand over the

powers to the elected leaders. He plotted a conspiracy to annihilate the entire Bengali nation. Sensing the sinister motive of Yahya, Bangabandhu called a meeting on the 7th March, 1971 at the Race Course Maiden where there was a large and vast meeting. Bangabandhu made a clarion call to the large gathering for independence and said, "The struggle this time is the struggle for our liberation. The struggle this time is the struggle for our independence." Actually at the call of Bangabandhu, the non-cooperation movement started from 7th March, 1971 and continued till 25th March 1971.

Thereafter, on the black night of 25th of March 1971, the barbaric and brutish soldiers of Pakistan indiscriminately killed unarmed Bangalee men, women and children. They captured Bangabandhu from his residence, took him to West Pakistan and put him in a lock-up there. Liberation war started in full swing and continued for about 9 (nine) months. During the Liberation War of 1971, 30 lakh of people embraced martyrdom and about 2 lakh of women were violated, tortured, outraged of modesty, and the county was ravaged by the marauding barbaric soldiers. Bangabandhu was confined in a lock-up in West Pakistan. His grave was dug by the lock up to bury him there. But dauntless, heroic, brave and valiant Bangabandhu did not give in nor did he yield to any fear or favour of the Pakistan Army.

His genuine love for the country and the countrymen gave him courage, strength and hope to live in. The blessing, benediction and prayer of the people for him, above all, the kindness of Allah saved him from the hands of the barbaric Pak Army. Indira Gandhi, the then Prime Minister of India took vigorous steps and wrote letters to 67 governments of the important countries with a request to put pressure on Pakistan government to stop the trial of travesty, save his life and release him from captivity of Pakistan. Again Indira Gandhi personally met the governments of 5 European countries and the government of the USA and worked hard in order to create the situation in favour of Bangladesh. By this time international pressure in order to release him mounted on Pak Army to such a great extent that at one stage the Pak Army was compelled to release him on 8 January, 1972. Bangabandhu returned home on 10 January, 1972. He was given a warm, great, enthusiastic and rousing reception in Dhaka.

On 12 January 1972, Bangabandhu became the Prime Minister of Bangladesh. In the middle of 1972, students of Dhaka University launched movements in demand of having educational degrees at BA, Bsc, Bcom levels without appearing at the examinations. Their arguments were that they could not study or take preparation during nine months. The students shut down the doors of the office room of the then vice-chancellor, and the doors of the rooms of some of the then professors and imposed the condition that they would not allow the vice-chancellor and other teachers concerned go out until the university authorities fulfilled their demands. On hearing the incident, Bangabandhu started from his office and came in front of the room of the vice-chancellor of Dhaka University within ten minutes. When the students came to know the arrival of the Bangabandhu, they became speechless in reverence and devotion.

Then and then the students opened the doors and deep silence prevailed over there in the campus of the university. About four or five thousand students became quiet. The Bangabandhu said to the teachers, "Sir, come out and go home. Have your lunch and take rest there." This fearless leader whose head is held ever high managed to send them home and then he left the university.



The winner of the elections of 1970 Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman greets the people at his residence in Dhanmondi

On another occasion in one afternoon, the vehicle that carried the Prime Minister came to a halt near the Dhaka University. Then the Prime Minister himself got out of the vehicle and walked to a tree-- a little distance away. Near the tree two students-- a boy and a girl were having a chat sitting together. The Bangabandhu approached them and said, "Hey, girl! now you are supposed to be at home to help your mother in her household work. And also you are supposed to bring a napkin and a pot filled with water for ablution of your father who will return home tiredly from office. But instead, (without performing all those things) what are you doing here? Go, and go home now." The girl felt ashamed and left the place as fast as she could. Then the turn of Bangabandhu came for the boy and he said to the boy, "In the afternoon, you are supposed to play on the field to maintain and improve your health. But without doing this, you are having a chat here? Your mother wears rent sari, father uses torn lungi, and they send you money in the hope that you will acquire education and will be a qualified man and then will alleviate their misery and eliminate their poverty. Have you forgotten the responsibility? As a reasonable person if you evade your responsibility, then by whom shall I build up the country?" Then Bangabandhu left the place. It is possible only for a leader of great heart and broad mentality.

However, after some years, on 25 January 1975 the country switched over to the presidential system of governance and Bangabandhu became the president of the country.

The independence that we enjoy now is the result or consequence of the bold, brave and courageous activities organized and undertaken by the leadership of Bangabandhu. That is why he is called the "Father of the Nation."

Bangabandhu did his best for the country and the countrymen. He took various measures for the reconstruction of the war-ravaged country. When he was heading and leading the country to the development, a group of derailed and defected members of the armed forces on the night of 15th August, 1975 killed him along with the other members of his family. Thus, he embraced martyrdom. This brutal killing has caused irreparable loss, and has lowered and tarnished the image of Bangladesh. Now, in his absence, the whole nation is mournful. However, he will remain vivid in the mind of people for ever. And his monumental achievements will keep him alive among the people.

His Monumental Achievements

Amid the miserable condition of Bangladesh, Bangabandhu had to take over as Prime Minister of Bangladesh. At that time the country was surrounded by mountain-high problems and difficulties. Problems like reconstruction of the country, revival of economy, achievement of the international diplomatic recognition, trial of the killers and collaborators, trial of prisoners of war, repatriation of the Bangladeshi stranded in Pakistan, collection of arms from freedom fighters, return of Indian soldiers to their country and many others.

In order to solve those problems, Bangabandhu continued his hard work to rebuild and reform Bangladesh. He got only about three years and seven months in two capacities as the Prime Minister and the President of Bangladesh.

However, during his brief period as head of the government and head of the state, he performed monumental and significant achievements and adopted many major reforms. Some of them are in brief as follows:

1. Framing and Promulgating of the Constitution of Bangladesh: The Constitution of a country is the highest law. It is the most sacred and sanctified document that contains the state principles and guidelines for running the country and guarding the rights of the citizens. The constitution determines the responsibilities of the state towards the people and similarly at the same time it fixes its responsibilities towards the citizens. The Constitution is the symbol and hallmark of the separate entity of an independent and sovereign country or nation.

Framing a Constitution is a very hard and tough task. It takes a long time. But the Constitution of Bangladesh under the government of Bangabandhu was written and adopted only in 6 months and 16 days. The Constitution of Bangladesh was adopted (approved/ ratified) on 4 November, 1972 and was effective from 16 December, 1972. It was a very short time compared to the time of framing and adopting the Constitutions of other countries. The time for drafting and adopting of Indian Constitution was four years. Pakistan took nine years for drafting and adopting her first Constitution, the second one took four years and the third one took one year and a half. Vietnam took 17 years to adopt her Constitution.

2. Four Amendments of the Constitution during Bangabandhu's Rule: The

Bangladesh Constitution was amended four times during the rule of Bangabandhu. These amendments are as follows:

a. First Amendment: This amendment was made on July 15, 1973 for the trial of the war criminals. Here the Article 47 was amended and 47(3) and 47(a) two new paras were incorporated.

b. Second Amendment: This amendment was made on September 22, 1973. In this amendment a new clause was added to the Constitution empowering the President of the country to declare state emergency whenever he deemed it fit to safeguard the country.

c. Third Amendment: This amendment of the Constitution was made on November 28, 1974 about the land boundary of Bangladesh. Bangladesh and India on May 16, 1974 in Delhi signed agreements on the land boundary and some other issues between the two countries. In order to make the agreements operative and functional, the Constitution had to be amended.

d. Fourth Amendment: This amendment was introduced on January 25, 1975. By this amendment Presidential rule was enforced and the parliamentary government was abolished and scrapped. In this amendment the President was given the real executive powers to rule and select the cabinet including the Prime Minister.

3. Joliot-Curie Award: In a statement released from Helsinki, Finland on 10th October 1972, the World Peace Council awarded Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman its highest award 'The Joliot-Curie Medal of Peace' in recognition of his extraordinary contributions in the struggle for realizing the rights of the exploited and repressed masses as well as in establishing global peace. In the process Bangabandhu was presented the award on 23rd May 1973.

4. Recognition by Pakistan and Joining OIC Summit: Following the country's independence, 39 countries had recognized Bangladesh up to April 1972; this number reached 140 by 1973. Pakistan accorded recognition to Bangladesh on 22 February 1974. After that, Bangabandhu went to Pakistan on 23rd February to join the summit of the Organization of Islamic Conference there.

5. UN Membership and Address in Bangla at the UNGA: Bangladesh became a member-state of the United Nations on 17 September 1974. Then Prime Minister Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman joined the UN General Assembly and delivered his speech in Bangla on 25 September 1974 at a session of the General Assembly, which was the first such instance in world history.

6. Banning of all anti-Islamic Activities: In accordance with his pledge to ban wine and gambling in the country, Bangabandhu stopped horse racing competitions at Ramna Racecourse ground in 1972.

7. Rehabilitation of 10 million refugees: After returning to Bangladesh in 1972 Bangabandhu rehabilitated 10 million refugees who had fled from Bangladesh to India and staying in the refugee camps in the border area.

8. Measures taken for Reconstruction of Destroyed Agriculture Sector: Some of the steps and measures that were taken to reconstruct agriculture sectors are as follows:

a. Exemption from Tax: Bangabandhu's government exempted forever the cultivators from paying the land tax up to a ceiling of 25 bighas.



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

b. Supply of Seeds: During the crisis of seeds, his government supplied on emergency basis 454 tons of jute seeds, 1037 tons of wheat seeds and 16,125 tons of paddy seeds free of cost or at a nominal cost to the farmers in 1972.

c. Supply of Pumps and Tube Wells: For large scale irrigation water, his government supplied 40,000 power-driven low lift pumps, 2900 deep tube-wells, and 3000 shallow tube wells to the cultivators at a highly reduced price before 1972 was out.

d. Certificate Cases: About one million certificate cases that were instituted against peasants and cultivators during Pakistan period were withdrawn and the arrear of agriculture loans including interest were waived.

e. Rationing System: The rationing system was introduced by his government for the poor farmers to help them.

f. Free Education System: Free education system for the children of the poor farmers was introduced by his government in order to facilitate the education of children of the farmers.

g. Fixation of Minimum Price: In order that the growers get the minimum fair prices for paddy, jute, tobacco, sugarcane and some other agriculture products, minimum price was fixed for them by the government.

h. Fixation of Land Ceiling: At that time 35% of farmers were landless in the country. In order to increase the availability of more land other than the existing Khas land for distribution among the landless farmers, his government fixed 100 bighas of land as the highest ceiling per family.



Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman affixing his signature on the draft of the constitution of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

1972 under the Presidential order no 129 This bank was set up in order to promote industrial sectors of the country by providing financial assistance.

12. Bangladesh Institute of Bank Management: This institute was formed on December 31, 1974 in order to train up senior and mid-level officials of the banking and financial sectors. The other activities of the institute are holding workshops, seminars and talks on relevant financial and banking matters and issues.

13. Bangladesh Insurance Academy: This academy was founded in 1973 to promote professional efficiency and development of those who were involved in insurance sectors. This academy arranges and organizes workshops, trainings, seminars and symposiums relating to insurance sectors.

14. Bangladesh Krishi (agriculture) Bank: As per the President's order no 27, the Bangladesh Krishi Bank was formed in Bangladesh in order to grant and provide loans, financial and technical assistance to farmers and rural handicraft industries. In Pakistan it was known as Pakistan Agriculture Development Bank which was set up in 1961.

i. Water Share: Bangabandhu in principle agreed with India for distribution of Ganges waters and was able to have a share of 44,000 cusecs of water for Bangladesh.

9. Bangladesh House Building Finance Corporation: During Pak rule it was established in 1952 and was known as Pakistan House Building Finance Corporation. But later in Bangladesh it was set up as Bangladesh House Building Finance Corporation under the Presidential order no 7 in 1973. Its main purpose is to grant loans to people living in different parts of the country for constructing buildings, houses and apartments.

10. Bangladesh Shipping Corporation: The Shipping Corporation of Bangladesh was set up on February 8, 1972 by the government in order to import and export goods. The head office is in Chattogram. This corporation made its first sheep in 1974. The ship was named 'Banglar Duut.' The shipping Minister is the ex-officio Chairman of the corporation.

11. Bangladesh Shilpo (industrial) Bank: This bank was established in

15. Declaration of Amnesty: The trial of the collaborators under the Collaborators Act of Bangladesh began in 1972 and many prisoners were convicted in the trial of the crimes they committed. But the trial could not proceed and had to be halted in 1973 as Bangabandhu declared general amnesty on November 30, 1973 for the prisoners. It is learnt that this amnesty declaration was not applicable to all. Those who committed crimes against humanity such as rape, arson, murder, loot etc. did not come under the purview of the declaration of amnesty. They had to serve sentence. But minor offenders, old offenders and women were released.

16. Supply of TV Sets and Radios: During the rule of Bangabandhu the Television sets and radios were very expensive and not easily available. In the circumstances, he passed several orders to the concerned ministries to make TV sets and radios available and offer them at a low price to schools, colleges, community centers and people. He understood TV sets and radios were essential but not luxury.

17. Establishment of Bangladesh Military Academy: A Military Academy for facilitating modern training for the army was established in Cumilla Maynamati following the order from Bangabandhu Sheik Mujibur Rahman on January 11, 1974. The Bangabandhu government founded the military academy in order to build up a strong and well disciplined army in the country. The core message of the Bangladesh Military Academy is "Chiro umoto momo shir" (my head ever held high). In the inaugural speech Bangabandhu addressed the Jawans saying they would have to cooperate with the government in eradicating smuggling and other kinds of corruption.

18. Bangladesh Shisu (child) Hospital: This is a specialized hospital for the treatment of children and is located in Dhaka. Bangladesh government first started the child hospital of 50 beds in a house at Dhanmondi in Dhaka in 1972. Later in March 1975 the Prime Minister Sheikh Mujib approved the project for constructing a 250-bed hospital. Then the hospital was shifted from Dhanmondi to Sher-e-Bangla Nagar where it started its operation from June 1977.

19. Bangladesh Atomic Agriculture Institute: The Bangladesh Atomic Agriculture Institute was founded in the Mymensingh Agriculture University in 1973 with a view to using atomic emissions for inventing better breeds of paddy, jute, pulse tomato etc.

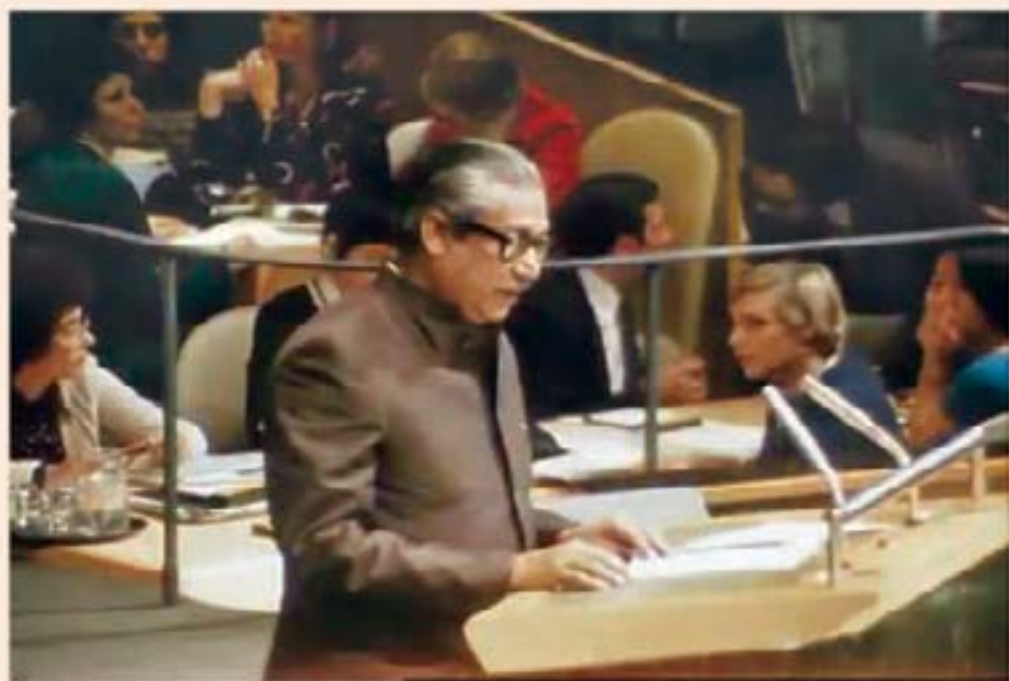
20. Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission: Bangabandhu took special interest to set up this commission and it was founded on February 27, 1973. The purpose of establishing the atomic energy commission was to serve mankind through research on agriculture, health and medicine sectors and radiation level in different food products.

21. Bangladesh University Grants Commission: The University Grants Commission was set up during the Bangabandhu's government in 1973 by the President's order no 10. The main functions of the university grants commission are to receive funds from the government, provide grants to the public universities, carry out development activities, provide funds to universities for research work, advice the government to expand the existing universities, found new universities etc.

22. Bangladesh Bar Council: The Bangladesh Bar Council was set up during the Bangabandhu's government by the President's order no 46 in 1972. The main



(From left) Algerian President Houari Boumediene, Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and Pakistan Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto at the Islamic Summit in Lahore in 1974



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

purpose of it is to list the lawyers, conduct tests for their licenses, cancel the registration in case any gross misconduct. Attorney General is the Chairman of the Bar Council.

23. Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics: The Bangabandhu government founded the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics in August, 1974 in order to conduct research in economic sectors, gather and analyze data and carry out surveys on national census, agriculture census, industries census, household census and study. Currently there are offices of Bureau of statistics in all upazilas.

24. Bangladesh Healthcare Research Council: As per the order of the Bangabandhu, this organization was established in 1972 under the Health and Family Welfare Ministry. The main purpose of the council was to identify the problems about medical and health care, determine the priority sectors for the healthcare systems, train up public health workers, build up a strong workforce in healthcare system, carry out research and publish results.

25. Bangladesh-India Friendship Treaty: The first international treaty between Bangladesh and India was signed by Bangladesh premier Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and Indian premier Indira Gandhi on March 19, 1972 in Dhaka. The treaty included issues of bilateral interests such as international relations, defense policy, and economic development, cooperation in science and technology, cultural relationship, electricity, irrigation, flood control and so on. The 25-year long treaty was considered and proved effective from the day it was signed.

26. Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation: After independence the jute sector became very wretched in condition. Jute growers were deprived of fair prices of jute. Bangabandhu took initiatives to make sure of the fair prices for the jute growers. With this end in view, he founded on April 17, 1972 four new corporations. They were: Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation, Bangladesh Sugar Corporation, Bangladesh Textile Mills Corporation and Bangladesh Gas and Oil Corporation. Of those Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation was the most important one.

27. Bangladesh Public Service Commission: Two separate Commissions, namely Public Service Commission (one) and Public Service Commission (two) were set up during the Bangabandhu's government in 1972 as per the President's order no 34. The chairman and members of the Commission are selected by the President of Bangladesh as per recommendation from the Prime Minister. The Commission is a constitutional body for the recruitment of the government officials. The main functions of the Commission are: to select government officials through competitive examinations and interviews, arrange examinations in order to assess merits, conduct promotion examinations of public service holders, and recommend promotion policy and employment to the government.

28. Betunia Earth Station: It is a satellite station with which weather forecast, television pictures can be received and telephone connection can be extended worldwide. Bangabandhu set up the first earth satellite on June 14, 1975. It is situated in Kanganmati at a height of 1.16 billion feet above the Indian Ocean.

29. Status of Birangana (brave woman): On February 26, 1972 Bangabandhu went to the Uttar Bashantapur village of Pabna's Nagarbari to inaugurate the construction of the Mujib Dam. There at the end of the vast rally he began his speech by saying women who were violated by the Pakistani forces were not



Bangladesh Prime Minister Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and Indian Premier Mrs. Indira Gandhi signing a 25-year Friendship and Cooperation Treaty on 19 March 1972



Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman with Soviet Leader Leonid Brezhnev in Soviet Union (USSR), 3 March 1972

ordinary women such women were the 'Biranganas' (brave women) because they sacrificed their honor for the country and their contribution was no less than that of freedom fighters, rather a few levels higher. Therefore, they have to be given the status of 'Birangana' and be honored.

30. Development of Telecommunications: During Liberation War, the Pakistani forces totally destroyed the telecommunication system and burnt documents. After the independence, Bangabandhu had to install 5000 telephone sets, reestablish 31 trunk lines, import telephone equipment and 2000 kilometer-long telephone wire including one hundred skilled workers. And by 1974, his government had completed connections of 55,000 telephones.

31. Finalization of the National Flag: In the first meeting of the newly formed cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on January 13, 1972, the national flag of Bangladesh was finalized.

32. Finalization of the National Anthem: In the first cabinet meeting with Bangabandhu in the chair held on January 13, 1972, the national anthem was finalized. Ten stanzas of Rabindranath Tagore's song 'Amar Sonar Bangla (My Bengal of Gold)' was selected as the national anthem. It was also decided that the first four stanzas would be played with instruments on formal occasions.

33. Formation of the National Economic Council: The National Economic Council was formed in the meeting of the cabinet on Tuesday, January 25, 1972 and Bangabandhu was made the Chairman. This is the highest economic policy making forum in Bangladesh. The Planning Division Minister was to play the role of Vice-Chairman. Its assigned tasks were: to scrutinize all policy recommendations, approve development schemes over Tk. 2 crore and the five-year plan.

34. Formation of National Pay Commission: Right after independence, the government of Bangabandhu formed the national pay commission in 1972 in order to recommend for reformation of salary structure. The commission also recommended that the government employees would be divided in 10 grades. Government implemented the recommendations.

35. Formation of the Prime Minister's Relief Fund: Bangabandhu formed the Bangladesh Prime Minister's Relief Fund on March 5, 1972 and urged the wealthy people of the country, local and international organizations to donate to it generously.

36. Formation of the Planning Commission: Bangabandhu's government in January 1972 formed the Planning Commission to chalk out the 5-year plan for rebuilding the war-ravaged country. The Commission came up with the country's 5-yr plan in 1973. This 5-year plan was the principal financial document for the development of the country. The main functions of the commission were: to advise, execute and coordinate the goals, priorities, strategies, and policies to be undertaken for pursuing economic growth. Later, in January 1975, a separate division "Project Implementation Bureau" (PIB) was formed. Some days later, the responsibility of acquiring foreign resources were given to a separate "External Resources Division" currently "Economic Relations Division" (ERD.)

37. Job Priority for Freedom Fighters: In the weapons surrender ceremony of Gonobahini at Basabo in Dhaka, Bangabandhu declared that freedom fighters would get priority in jobs. The freedom fighters according to their qualifications



Bangabandhu with US President Gerald Ford at the White House in 1974



Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman with Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, the founding father and ruler of United Arab Emirates (UAE), 18 December 1974

would be enrolled in the Militia, Police, and the Armed Forces.

38. Inauguration of Adamjee Jute Mill: Adamjee Jute Mill was the biggest jute mill in the world. The then government declared it as abandoned in 1971. After the independence, Bangabandhu took steps to reopen the mill. He realized that to make the economy of the newly independent country prosperous, production had to be increased. That is why he took the steps to reopen the biggest jute mill in the country to enhance production and provide jobs for the workers.

39. Rampura Television Building: Once Bangladesh Television was at the DIT Building and used to air only 3 hours program a day. It used a mere 300 kilowatt transmitter which covered only 10 miles in radius. The Bangabandhu government shifted the station to the bigger premises in Rampura to make Bangladesh Television equal to the needs of an independent Bangladesh. Bangabandhu was to inaugurate the new TV building on the afternoon of 6 March of 1975. As he was in Khulna and could not make time, Vice-President Syed Nazrul Islam cut the ribbon on Bangabandhu's behalf.

40. Introduction of New Banknotes and Currency: A new type of tk 10 and tk 5 notes were released on June 2, 1972 and were circulated through Bangladesh Bank's Dhaka, Chittagong, Khulna and Bogura offices. The notes had Bangabandhu's portraits on them.

41. Liberation War Gallantry Awards: In recognition of the brilliant and selfless contribution of the freedom fighters during the great Liberation War, Bangabandhu awarded special state titles to a number of valiant freedom fighters. He awarded seven brave freedom fighters the title of Bir Shreshtho, 68 of them were awarded the title of the Bir Uttam and 426 freedom fighters were awarded the Bir Pratik title. The list of the awarded freedom fighters was published in the government gazette on January 15, 1973.

42. Muktiyoddah Kalyan Trust (Freedom Fighters Welfare Trust): Bangabandhu took special initiatives to form the Trust and it was formed in September, 1972 through the President's order no 95, 1972. The Trust was formed for the rehabilitation and welfare of families of deceased freedom fighters and those injured in the Liberation War. Government handed over 19 industrial and commercial organizations to the Trust to develop a fund. Monthly allowances and medical services were also provided to freedom fighters' families.

43. Nationalization of Banks, Insurances and Mills: The government of Bangabandhu on March 26, 1972 declared the nationalization of banks, insurance, jute, textile, sugar mills, foreign trade and water transport. Twelve banks were nationalized and amalgamated to form six state owned banks, namely Janata, Sonali, Pubali, Agrani, Uttara and Rupali. Besides, 67 jute mills, 15 sugar mills, 64 textile mills and 6 internal water transport companies were nationalized. A total of 146 industrial firms were nationalized on 26 March alone.

44. Establishment and Nationalization of primary school: Bangabandhu took initiatives to bring all primary schools under government control and during his tenure especially from 1972 to 1973, 11 thousand new primary schools were established and 40 thousand primary schools were nationalized. Thus, he introduced a new era in the education sector of Bangladesh.

45. Registration of National Doctors: Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on January 12, 1973 ordered immediate registration of doctors who had passed

from the National Medical Institute. The Prime Minister ordered the Health Minister not to waste any more time to give doctors their registrations.

46. Formation of Power Development Board: The Power Development Board was formed for the production and distribution of electricity to all of Bangladesh. In the then East Pakistan it started its journey as the Water and Power Development Authorities.

47. Bangladesh Bank: After the independence, as per the President's order no 127, Bangladesh Bank was established by the government of Bangabandhu as the central bank of the country with effect from December 16, 1971 and with its journey Bangladesh Bank inherited all the properties of the Dhaka branches of the Pakistan State Bank. The main office of the bank was established in Dhaka. Then its branches were opened in Chattogram, Khulna, Rajshahi, Sylhet, Bogura, Rangpur and Barisal. The main functions of Bangladesh Bank are: to mint currency/coins, control monetary policy and credit system, determine exchange rate and keep the currency stable.

48. Prize Bond Scheme: Bangabandhu government introduced the Prize Bond Scheme from June 1, 1974, starting with bonds worth tk 10 to encourage low income people in savings. It is a kind of loan to the government which took interest free credit from the people by selling prize bonds. The lottery draws on the prize bonds are held at specific intervals and the winners of prize bonds are given monetary awards. Bangladesh Bank is the government agent for implementing the prize bond scheme.

49. Uttara Ganabhaban: Initially, Uttara Ganabhaban was the residence of the royal family in Dighapatia. The residence covers about 43 acres of land. During the rule of Ayub Khan of Pakistan, it was the 'Second Presidential Residence.' Thereafter, the then Governor of East Pakistan Abdul Monem Khan declared the palace 'Dighapatia Governor House' on July 24, 1967. After independence, Bangabandhu on February 9, 1972 declared the former Dighapatia Palace as the 'Uttara Ganabhaban.' Currently it is known as the official northern residence of the head of the People's Republic of Bangladesh or the 'Uttara Ganabhaban.' Various official meetings are held here.

50. Formation of Islamic Foundation: Bangabandhu felt the need to form a religious organization for research and exploration, spread of Islamic ideals and values, morals and ethics. And from those feelings, he set up the Islamic Foundation on March 22, 1975. It needs to be mentioned that Baitul Mukarram Society and Islamic Academy were established in 1959 in Dhaka. After independence the Islamic Academy was shut down in 1972. Then Bangabandhu renovated and reformed the shut down Islamic Academy and turned it into the Islamic Foundation. This Foundation started its operations from March 28, 1975. Islamic Foundation Act was passed on July 14, 1975 by the Parliament. Currently this Islamic Foundation is an autonomous body under the Ministry of Religious Affairs. It has its office in each district.

51. Foundation of the Civil Service Training Academy: The Civil Service Training Academy was founded in 1973 in order to train up the government officials. This academy is the merged form of the former 'National Institute of Public Administration and Gazetted Officers Training Academy'. During Pakistani rule the training institute for central civil service officers was in Lahore.

But Bangabandhu established the academy for training of the newly appointed officers.

52. Foreign policy of Bangabandhu: The foreign policy is the diplomatic strategy of a government in dealing with other nations. The main objective of foreign policy is the use of diplomacy in talks, meetings, making agreements on trade, military defense, sanction, intelligence, foreign aid, global environmental policy etc. with foreign nations instead of using force. Bangabandhu was the founding architect of foreign policy of Bangladesh. He often spoke, "Friendship with all and enmity with none" and often said, "I want Bangladesh to be the Switzerland of the East" By dint of his deft strategy he could manage the recognition of 121 countries within his short tenure. Another side of Bangabandhu was that he became the member of all of UN's specialized organizations situated in Washington DC, New York, Geneva, Vienna, London and Rome before becoming the full member of the United Nations. Thus, he could set up unparalleled examples in the field of foreign policy.

53. Educational Reforms in Bangladesh: Education is the backbone of the nation and it is the driving force of people for existence and survival in the world. In the war-devastated Bangladesh, the overall picture and image of education system was very dismal. Students did not have any benches to sit on, class rooms were shattered, the tin sheet roofs were broken and rain drops came in. The teachers ever got their salaries. To get rid of those miserable conditions, a high level committee was formed. to pay off all the outstanding salaries of the teachers.

54. Membership of Bangladesh to international organizations: During the tenure of the Bangabandhu government, besides the membership of the United Nations and the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), Bangladesh gained the membership of the Commonwealth, the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), the World Bank, the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and some other international bodies.

55. Framing of laws and promulgating of president's orders: To conduct the state functions, maintain peace and security and promote law and order, Bangabandhu government framed and promulgated about more than 131 Acts, Ordinances and President's Orders within the short tenure of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

Conclusion: Bangabandhu had been in power only about 3 years and 7 months. He had to start development activities from the zero of the war devastated country. But within this short time he, as a pioneer, led the country to a stance of considerable development. But he could not get time to realize his full dream. He is no more with us physically but he is always with us in our mind. We pray for the salvation of the departed souls of the great leader and his family members.

In the words of a poet:

"As long as the Padma, Jamuna, Gouri, Meghna remain flowing,
Marks of your deeds will remain glowing,
Oh, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman."

The writer is a former Joint Secretary to the People's Republic of Bangladesh



Bangladesh: Journey of Growth with Resolute Steps

Qazi Kholiquzzaman Ahmad

from India and there were innumerable people inside the country who had witnessed the destruction of their family-based economy. All these destitute people were dependent on relief supplies for food intake. After returning to the country on 10 January 1972 and assuming responsibility of the state, He got only three and a half years for the purpose. But he was able to lay a foundation for advancing the nation within this short period. A famine-like situation was created in the country in 1974 due to excessive rains, repeated floods, resultant disruptions in communication system and hoarding of food by some greedy people. He overcame this disaster very swiftly and again concentrated on planning the path of the country's progress towards the end of 1974.

Bangabandhu announced a plan for building a cooperative-based state and accelerating national development at the start of 1975. He expressed the firm resolve to follow that path with the goal of building a golden Bangla in line with the spirit of independence. That is, he spoke about forging forward through fair inclusion of all, so that people could live with human dignity in a society free from exploitation and discrimination and enjoy all human rights in accordance with the proclamation of independence. The plan envisaged one cooperative in each village. Land and property belonging to any person could not be seized, but various economic activities would have to be run collectively by the villagers. The owners of land or other properties would get a fair share of the outputs and income. The cooperatives would get a share, and from that the workers would elicit their dues with a portion deposited in state treasury. Village development funds were envisaged under each village cooperative. A chunk of this fund would come from the cooperative itself, but needed funds would also be allocated from government budget. It was quite a progressive idea, where growth and inclusivity would have journeyed together. The government would have directly received the required wealth for building a poverty-free modern state.

The Bangladesh economy was in crisis immediately after independence. Agriculture was stalled, industries were closed, infrastructures including communication network were devastated, the banks were without money and the foreign exchange reserve was empty. The state machinery was crippled and the number of countries according to recognition to Bangladesh was only two (India and Bhutan). Besides, about 10 million refugees had returned

Discrimination is now on the rise in market economies. The government extracts negligible amounts through taxation, especially from direct tax. Even after combining the direct and indirect taxes, the Tax-GDP ratio is less than 9 % in Bangladesh, whereas it is 18 % in neighbouring Nepal. After the announcement by Bangabandhu in 1975, the vested quarters saw that they would not be able to pile up their wealth and power if Bangabandhu's proposed development path was executed. I feel that these fortune-seekers also joined hands with the local and foreign conspirators to remove Bangabandhu quickly through conspiracy, and they were successful. After the brutal assassination of Bangabandhu, a process was started for running the economy in a different direction. The country started to walk on the path of market economy and capitalism. The progress achieved during the decade of 1980s was however negligible. Development could not be expedited even during the 1990s. But the Awami League government led by Sheikh Hasina took a laudable measure in the second half of that decade, which was to extend agricultural subsidies. The country was highly aid-dependent even at that juncture. The international aid agencies and the countries who were bilateral development partners strongly objected to that subsidy. But ignoring this, the then Sheikh Hasina government extended substantial amounts of subsidies, as a result of which Bangladesh became almost self-sufficient in food-grain production by 2000.

The average growth rate of the economy was 5.8% from 2000 to 2010, but it lacked continuity. Development could not be expedited in other sectors as well. Rather, there was a visible shakiness. Starting from the fiscal year 2010-11 up to 2019 fiscal year followed by the outbreak of Covid-19 pandemic, continuous and accelerated growth was achieved in both economic growth as well as some vital social indicators. The growth rate was over 6 per cent during the first five years. It was 7 per cent during the following three years, and it was 8.2 per cent in 2019. Not many countries of the world could witness this kind of sustained progress. Side by side, remittance receipts also increased very fast. It rose to 18.2 billion US dollar in 2019-20 from 9.6 billion US dollar in 2008-09. As a consequence, the per capita income also rose and reached 1909 US dollar in 2019. Besides, the export receipts, especially readymade garments export, rose significantly. Due to rapid rise in remittances and export receipts, the foreign currency reserve also piled up quickly. If we look at the social indicators, it is seen that life expectancy at birth has jumped to 73 years, which was only 46 years in 1972. The maternal and child mortality rates have declined notably, and Bangladesh now leads the South Asian countries in the area of women's empowerment. The literacy rate rose to 74 per cent in 2019, which was 47 per cent in 2007. There has been a massive construction drive in educational infrastructure sector, especially for buildings of educational institutions belonging to different levels across the country. Enrolment rate at the primary level has now reached almost 100 per cent. The drop-out rates at both primary and secondary levels have gone down noticeably.

Swift progress has been achieved in the rural economy in both farm and non-farm sectors. Both the sectors are receiving official supports. Especially, subsidies and credits have been significantly enhanced in the agriculture sector. The poverty rate came down to 20.5 per cent in 2019, which was 40 per cent in 2005. The hard-core poverty rate was about 11 per cent. Alongside agricultural development and other measures, food for works program, allowances for the aged, maternity allowance etc. under the social safety net program of the government, and other poverty

alleviation endeavours have played a part in the reduction of poverty. About 2.6 per cent of GDP was spent in this sector during the fiscal year 2019-20.

It could materialise mainly for two reasons. One was a favourable official policy framework and supports; the other has been the hard labour of all citizens in the surrounding environment. They included the farmers, the farm labourers, other workers, entrepreneurs ranging from very small to large ones, educationists, trainers, those who play advisory roles, and all other concerned people.

Programs are being consciously run for tackling the impacts of climate change. Climate change strategy paper and action plan have been formulated in Bangladesh. They provide guidelines about management, required actions, project concepts, setting of priorities and implementation of programs. Sustained pressure is being exerted on the developed countries and developing nations undergoing rapid industrialisation for reducing Greenhouse Gas emissions swiftly and adequately. Similar pressure is also being exerted for extension of financial and technological assistance to low income countries by the developed nations. Besides, adaptation programs are being especially implemented for tackling the impact through own funding and management as well based on own capacity. Still, that is quite insufficient compared to real need. Foreign assistance is therefore urgently needed, but its receipt has been minimal till now. However, Bangladesh's adaptation programs are being lauded everywhere. In the final analysis, if the developed world does not reduce Greenhouse Gas emissions quickly, the situation would deteriorate very soon on a massive scale, which would be very difficult to tackle effectively by both developed and developing states. In any case, the situation in Bangladesh is already fragile. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina of Bangladesh has been highlighting this situation on the global stage quite forcefully for a long time. She did the same during the COP-26 conference held in Glasgow recently.

I have briefly presented the achievements of Bangladesh that was lauded by the global community prior to the pandemic. I have also mentioned about climate change, which is hampering socioeconomic advancement, and I also pointed out the efforts for overcoming this challenge. Now, let us dwell on the other challenges. In this respect, the Covid-19 pandemic comes first. This pandemic has been striking Bangladesh in varying degrees since March 2020. But while many countries stumbled, Bangladesh led by Sheikh Hasina has shown lot of efficiency and success in both saving lives and ensuring livelihoods. Saving lives entailed testing for the novel corona virus, treatment of those infected, making arrangements for inoculation after procuring vaccines, making people aware about preventive measures against the virus, and extending assistance (food and financial) to those whose livelihoods have been threatened. Incentives have also been extended to entrepreneurs for sustaining their production and service ventures. Notable successes have been achieved in these areas, as a result of which rates of infections and deaths are under control. Many capable individuals and institutions have joined hands with the government for extending assistance to the socioeconomically devastated citizens. As a result, not much lamentation is observed.

Bangladesh has achieved enviable success in the area of economic growth during the pandemic times. Most of the countries in the world have recorded negative growth rates during 2020 and 2021. But Bangladesh has been among a few

countries that could achieve positive growth. Not only that, Bangladesh is one of the handful-few who could achieve around 5 per cent growth rate during the episode. The per capita income has therefore risen to 2,554 US dollar towards the end of 2021. The growth rate is projected to rise further during the current year, as the economy has started to bounce back swiftly. If the pandemic does not worsen much, then Bangladesh would return to the path of accelerated growth after overcoming the crisis. But more emphasis should be placed in this recovery and rejuvenation process on those who have lagged behind – especially the micro and small entrepreneurs cum businesses as well as those whose poverty situation has exacerbated. Otherwise, discriminations in the country would rise, as a result of which the process of sustainable development would be seriously hindered. There is a need for paying special attention to this area.

Apart from the pandemic, a few other vitally important problems have also been identified. Many of those were mentioned in the election manifesto of the Awami League in 2018. Urgent steps should be taken for resolving these problems, especially for implementation of sustainable development goals and for building the country in the spirit of the liberation war. The identified problems in the manifesto were as follows:

Democratic values and spirit shall be upheld; there shall be unfettered scope for obtaining legal refuge and assistance for all citizens; the independence of the judiciary shall be preserved and upheld; proper arrangements shall be made for ensuring human rights of all, and any attempt to violate human rights shall be resisted; an efficient, corruption-free, just, service-oriented and accountable administrative system shall be built up; allocation of responsibilities at different tiers of local government shall be specified, and these would be made effective through trained manpower and funding; work shall continue for grooming people-friendly law enforcement agencies; 'zero tolerance' policy against corruption has been announced; stringent measures shall be taken for combating bribery, unearned incomes, black money, extortion, loan-defaults, tender-captures and muscle-power, and corruption cum criminality shall be eliminated; a resolute stand shall be taken for zero tolerance against militancy, communalism, terrorism and drugs; and plans and programs shall be strengthened alongside enhancing financial allocations for reinforcing these to remove discriminations. Identification of these problems demonstrates the farsightedness of the Awami League leadership, especially that of Sheik Hasina. Identification of problems is in fact a precondition for their solution.

Bangladesh is advancing forward, and we seek to express the resolve that it will continue to do so. I want to have faith that we shall march ahead with resolute steps with the objective of implementing sustainable development goals by 2030, transforming the country into an inclusive higher middle-income country by 2031, and building a golden Bangla of Bangabandhu based on the spirit of liberation war under the leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina by solving newly-emerged problems, and through consolidation of our positive attributes.

The writer is a freedom fighter, economist, social thinker and winner of Independence Award and Ekushey Padak

Translation: Dr Helal Uddin Ahmed

Courtesy: Press Information Department



Language as a Basis for Nation-Building

Dr. Helal Uddin Ahmed

language. In fact, 'Bengal' was a term coined by the British colonial rulers, and the word itself had emerged from the Portuguese 'Bengala' and the 'Bangalah' of the Sultani era. Much earlier, there was a verse by Bhusukhu in the ancient 'Charyapada' script that claimed, 'You have become a Bangali today'.

Language is in fact the foremost force for building the structure of human societies. It would not be an exaggeration if one calls it a catalytic force. Man's language lays the main foundation of human societies that can also be termed as a super-structure. Humans enhance the strength of their societies by using own languages. It widens and nourishes the scope for exchanging ideas, and psychologists have often described the discovery of alphabets and written languages as the starting point of civilisations. Following the partition of British India in 1947, the mother language Bangla of the Bangali residents of East Bengal attracted the wrath of the ruling coterie in newly independent Pakistan. The Bangalis had to witness the unjust behaviour of this vicious coterie. But to uphold the honour and prestige of mother-language Bangla, they launched a vigorous struggle in 1948 for making it the state language, which continued up to the Language Martyrs' day on 21 February 1952. And as a continuation of that event, the Bangali nation ultimately joined the armed liberation war of 1971, resulting in the ushering of a crimson dawn of freedom on this land in 1971. As a fitting tribute to the language martyrs of Bangladesh, the day is now recognised globally as the International Mother Language Day.

Sociologists claim that it is essential to know the anthropological origin of any population, as it is a major element in building any society, nation, or state. The Bangalis also have distinct cultural and anthropological traits including the mother

Mother languages may be compared to a mother's milk because of the joy and freedom associated with expressing in mother-tongue. Bangladesh is a land where the name of the country as well as language has remained inseparable. Although the people of Bangladesh were not free from colonial subjugation over long stretches of time, they continued to call their land as a country (Desh) instead of a 'Subah' or province over many centuries. Therefore, linguists of foreign origin have had the notion that the ethos of an independent state has stayed at the core of this habitat, where people spoke the Bangla or Bengali



Language Martyrs in 1952

tongue Bangla. In fact, the ancient inhabitants of Bangladesh territory like the Austric race had originally laid the foundation of Bangla language. They preceded the ancient Dravidians, and these two linguistic races subsequently intermingled with each other. Following the Dravidians, the people of Aryan linguistic race arrived here after emerging from Europe.

Various critical ingredients were absorbed or assimilated in the erection of society and culture in ancient cum medieval Bengal. It appears that the influence of outlook cum lifestyle, faith and customs of the Austric people was intensely felt in the agro-based rural society of ancient Bengal. These cultural ingredients were embraced by the nascent Bangali society in such a way that it erased the distinction between classes and colours. The Bangali life and Bangla language were also enriched socially through this process. Not only Austric ingredients, inputs from innumerable races and tribes later including the Aryans and Non-Aryans, Dravidians and Mongoloids, Arab-Farsi-Turkish-Afghan-Portuguese-French-English features have mingled with these Creole attributes of Bangali culture, which cannot be viewed separately. The strength and adaptability of Bangla language has been so extraordinary that instead of becoming weaker due to the influence of other powerful languages and cultural traits, it has become stronger.

The Turko-Afghan military commander Ikhtiyar al-Din Muhammad Bakhtiyar Khalji conquered the territory of Bangla in the year 1203. The Muslim society of Bangla emerged after that. The Arab traders set up colonies here after arriving for commercial purposes and their numbers gradually increased. According to

historians and sociologists, most of the Bangali Muslims had originated from three sources, viz. Hindu converts from the higher classes, lower-class converts, and a few who arrived from other places. The linguist and renowned scholar Dr Muhammad Shahidullah had emphasized, 'Just as it is true that we are Hindus or Muslims, it is truer that we are Bangali. It is a reality. Mother nature has put such a stamp of Bangaliness on our looks and language that it cannot be hidden by mala-tilak-tiki (garland-sandal paste mark-tuft of hair of Hindus) or tupi-lungi-dari (cap-loin cloth-beard of Muslims)'.

The pioneers of 'Bengal Renaissance' during the 19th century occupy a luminous spot in our history, as it lifted the Bangla language from a provincial status to that of global recognition. Raja Rammohun Ray, Michael Madhusudan Datta, Bankimchandra Chattopadhyay and Akhsay Kumar Datta exposed Bangla language to the realm of global knowledge and philosophy. Although the people of medieval Bengal did not get the opportunity to embrace geographic discoveries, industrial revolution, progress of science and technology, rationalism and abolition of the supremacy of church or religion, the 'Bengal Renaissance' demonstrated sagacity and foresight in putting 'man' above all else. The famous poem of the medieval Bangali poet Chandidas claiming the supremacy of humans may also be recalled here. Similarly, the 'human avatar' extracted from the hearts of pre-modern Bangla by Lalou Shah Fakir, and the worship of humanism filtering from the West were articulated simultaneously in Bangla language. It is therefore evident that the roots of Bangali culture and Bangla language went deep inside the native soil and acquired the needed strength for blossoming in the global arena.

The Hindu-Muslim communalism and two-nation theory emerged towards the fag-end of the independence movement waged in British India because of the absence of an appropriate nationalistic ideal and the backwardness of contemporary outlook. Ultimately, communalism replaced nationalism, and the two separate states Pakistan and India came into being on the premise of communalism. But the Muslim state of Pakistan immediately faced problems centring on state-language, national culture, autonomy, and Constitution. Therefore, Bangali nationalism soon replaced Pakistani nationalism in East Bengal or eastern wing of Pakistan, and Bangladesh was ultimately established through a blood-drenched war in 1971. None of the attempts aimed at creating a lingua-franca, a Pakistani brand of nationalism, and the framing or launching of a Pakistani Constitution were successful. The people in this part of the state reacted sharply to any arrangement or effort that went against the newly-awakened Bangali nationalism. The aspiration for autonomy based on this nationalism soon took the shape of a people's movement, which originally germinated from the movement for state-language Bangla.

The language movement simultaneously carried the desire for a distinct identity, democracy, share in governance, and socio-economic justice for the people of East Bengal. Bangalis from all strata of society identified themselves with this spirit. The people who opposed it were very few in number. The subjects of nation and state-building were also juxtaposed with the issue of state-language. Not everything was crystal-clear at one go, and everything evolved stage by stage. The consciousness that took shape following the events of February 1952 deepened and flourished through the observance of Martyrs' Day during subsequent years. The progressive ideals proliferated among the populace, and the intellectuals and artists played an exceptional role in this journey. Extraordinary strides were made



Birmingham, UK built in 2011



Tokyo, Japan built in 2005



Toronto, Canada built in 2017

Shaheed Minars abroad

in the cultivation of knowledge, literature and fine arts through application of Bangla. The 21-points of the Jukto Front political alliance in 1954, the 6-points of the Awami League in 1966, 14-points of National Awami Party, 11-point education-movement of the Students' Action Council, the mass upsurge of 1969, national awakening and independence war of 1971, everything happened like a continuum through the unfolding of the Spirit of Ekushey February.

To sum up, the Bangalis of Bangladesh dreamt of a state of their own by synthesizing historical trends and waged movements by sacrificing lives during 1952, 1954, 1962, 1966, and 1969 for upholding the honour of their language, demand for autonomy, and self-determination. All these historical forces made the emergence of Bangladesh quite inevitable as an independent, sovereign, secular and democratic nation-state in 1971. Bangladesh was ultimately transformed into a nation-state from the status of an ethnic community through this process.

There are many other large linguistic ethnic communities in the Indian sub-continent, such as the Punjabi, Sindhi, Pashtun, Gujarati, Tamil, Telegu, Marathi, etc. But none of these could become the possessor of an independent nation-state. Only the Bangalis are now the proud possessors of a state and nation of their own. This miracle could happen because of the ceaseless struggles of the Bangali people over decades for the rightful place of Bangla, Bangali, and Bangladesh in the comity of nations.

Dr. Helal Uddin Ahmed is a retired Additional Secretary and former Editor of Bangladesh Quarterly. Email: hahmed1960@gmail.com



Right to Information Act 2009: An overview

Md. Quddus Khan

availability of the information through the development of digitization and information technology in the world, after a few decades of Independence, the Government had decided to enact 'Right to Information Act first in 2008' and finally in 2009 to keep pace with the democratic world. The Government of Sheikh Hasina deserves credit for enacting this much deserved vital Act. Why is it important? Because it is necessary, necessary for holding rulers/ actors of the state accountable. It is an accountability legal instrument like constitutional instruments such as, ombudsman, C&AG etc.

2. What is meant by right to Information?

According to the Right to Information (RTI) Act, 2009, 'subject to provisions of this Act, all citizens will have the right to get information from the relevant Authorities on requisition from the citizens and the authorities shall also be bound to provide this information (Section 5)'. Again, to ensure right to information every authority shall prepare catalogue of its all information and will also index it, preserve it in a proper safe manner. Within reasonable time Authority will preserve information in computer with countrywide networking (Section 5 (2)) .

Under section 2 of the Act Authority means, a) any institution created under constitution of Bangladesh. b) Any Ministry , Division or Office created under the Rules of Business (under Article 55 (6) of the Constitution) Any Statutory body or Institutions d) Any non-Government organization or an Institution run by the funding of the Government or with the assistance of the financing of Government e) Any foreign aided non-Govt organization or an Institution f) Any non-Govt. Organization or institution or an Institution entrusted with the responsibility of

According to the preamble of the Act, the Right to Information Act 2009 (Act xx of 2009) is basically an Act to make an accountable Government, autonomous body, statutory body, and non-government organization created or run by the financing of the Government and foreign aid. Why this accountability? The preamble says that it is for the empowerment of the people who are the real owners of all powers of the Republic (State). It (Preamble) also says that it is necessary for establishing the Constitution and rights of citizens; say right to thought, conscience and freedom of speech.

Because of the easy

conducting Govt. Programmes on behalf of the Govt or doing the same as per contract with the Govt. or Govt. Organization or Institutions g) Any other organization or Institution determined by the Govt. from time to time, by official Gazette notification. According to Section 2 (Gha) of RTI Act, Information Unit means, a) any Department, Directorate, or Head Office, Divisional Office, Regional Office, District Office and Upazila Office attached to or under any Ministry, Division or Office b) Head office of the authority, Divisional Office, Regional Office, District Office or Upazila Office.

Information Commission

Under section 11 Information Commission will be established with its head-office in Dhaka and branches elsewhere in the country as required.

Under Section 12 of the Act, Information Commission will be constituted with one Chief Information Commissioner (CIC) and two other Information Commissioners (ICs). Among them one must be female. They must be man or woman of standing under section 15(5) of the Act.

What is information?

According to Section 2 (Cha) of RTI Act Information means, 'any memo regarding formation of the Authority, structure and memo of official activities, books, sketch, map, contract, data, log-book, order, notification, document, sample, letter, report, statement of accounts, project proposal, photo, audio, video, painting, film, any information processed through electronic device, any machine readable documents and it will also include any substance containing information or its copy irrespective of its structural formation or other characteristics.'

3. Right to Information Act 2009 may be broadly discussed under the following heads:

- (a) Formation of authorities or identifying authorities which will be responsible for implementation of the Act.
- (b) Procedure for submission of requisition for information and procedure for obtaining it, with time-schedule and time-limit.
- (c) Supply of information: (i) Information which may be supplied (ii) Information which may not be supplied for security and other reasons.
- (d) Procedures of appeal in case of denial of information, punishment etc.
- (e) Formation of Information Commission: its powers and Functions and Limitations:

In a nutshell, every Authority must appoint a Responsible Officer (RO) for each information Unit to supply information (Under Section 10 of the Act). Any person can submit requisition for information to the RO in writing or electronically or by e-mail under Section 8 (1) of the Act. Payment of reasonable / prescribed fees to be made for it. However, Government may waive this fee in consultation with Information Commission in specified cases or classes. The Act (RTI) also provides guideline for time-limit of supplying information which is 20 working days if sought from single authority and maximum 30 working days from more than one authority effective from the receipt date (Section 9). But in case of Appeal the Information Commission will take ordinarily 45 days to dispose off the

complaint from its receipt but not exceeding 75 days under Section 25 (10). However, primary information regarding birth-death, arrest and release from jail has to be provided within 24 hours. The RO will provide special assistance to the disabled people to get the information. However, in case of denial of information, there is scope for appeal to the next higher authority including Information Commission (The details can be seen from Information Act). The fundamental consideration in RTI Act is the type of information which can be and which cannot be supplied to the citizens. Section -6 gives details about the information which may be published and made available to the citizens by the Authority in every possible ways e.g. reports, manual, publications, press-release etc. It says every Authority shall publish indexes on decisions, activities or programmes executed or proposed etc. and publicize it, making it less costly and easily available to its citizens (Section 6). Every RO can seek information from any officer who is under obligation and it is mandatory for them to supply Information under the Act (Section 10(5)). Information Commission will make regulations regarding the publicity of information and receiving of information by the Authority (Section 6). Section 7 provides that it is not mandatory to publish or supply some information, such as, if publication of the information is a threat to security, indivisibility and sovereignty of the state, threatens relation with foreign state, causes contempt of court, may harm special privilege of Jatiya Sangsad, early information about examinations or marks obtained in the examinations, decisions of the Cabinet or Council of Advisors etc. (Detail information available in section 7). This Act is not applicable in case of country's special organizations i.e. NSI, DGFI, SB, CID, RAB, NBR Intelligence cell, SSF and Defense Intelligence units under the Schedule of the Act.

Information Commission is formed with one CIC and two ICS. Of them one must be a woman. They will be appointed by the Honorable President of the state on recommendations of the Selection Committee headed by an Appellate Division Judge of the Supreme Court nominated by the Chief Justice (CJ). The Commission will have the authorities to dispose of any complaints received from any person under the Act. The Commission on allegation or Suo moto can investigate any allegation under this Act. The Commission can exercise powers under Code of Civil Procedure, 1908, in applicable cases. The CIC & ICS of the Commission can be removed only by the same process by which a Justice of the Supreme Court can be removed. The budget of the Commission will be approved by the Government (Section 20). The Commission fund is mostly consisted of Govt. grant and grant from other institutions with the approval of the Govt. The Information Commission will have financial freedom. They can spend budgeted amount without prior permission of the Govt. However, the expenditure is auditable by the C&AG. The Information Commission (IC) is the appellate authority against the decision of the ROs (Section 24). The Commission has the authority to fine upto a maximum of Tk. 5000/- (five thousand) only (Section 27(1)). In addition, the Commission has the authority to recommend departmental action against the delinquent RO to their concerned Authorities (Section 27 (3)). The Commission can order compensation (Section - 25). The Commission will have to submit Annual Report to the Honorable President who will arrange to lay it before the National Parliament (Section 30).

4. A few comments about the RTI Act:

(1) It is an innovative Act in Bangladesh. Therefore, it needs wide publicity among the people and stake-holders such as, Govt., NGOs (Govt. & foreign aided), Govt Organizations etc.

(2) The Authorities in our country who are responsible for providing information are usually conservative in attitude to provide information because of our colonial legacy both in the British and in the Pakistan period. The official secrets Act, 1923 and RTI Act, 2009 may be amended simultaneously to remove contradictions and confusions existing between these two Acts.

(3) The ROs of the Authorities responsible for providing information need extensive training on RTI Act. They must have clear understanding about the information which can be supplied and which can not be supplied to the citizens and rationale behind it. If the rationale is clear to them (ROs), they will be able to distinguish between the two. This will help removing confusion over the matter. The ROs must be positive in attitude. A man with negative attitude should not be appointed RO for the purpose.

(4) RTI Act may provide for arbitration committee of co-ordination nature with stake-holders at district level to be appointed by the Information Commission to facilitate the supply of information in addition to punitive action. The Committee may be headed by DCs of the districts. This will help the Commission activities to be a part of the national administrative system instead of becoming isolated ones.

(5) Punitive action under the Act provides for a maximum of fine of Tk. 5,000/- (five thousand) which is considered too meagre to be effective. The fine may be raised to maximum of Tk. 1,00,000/- (one lac) only. The Act provides that fine to be paid by the ROs only but we suggest in addition, its should also be paid by their concerned Authorities: The Act may be amended accordingly. This will help to minimize refusal to supply information on flimsy grounds and make Authorities more accountable.

(6) The negativelist of information may be revisited by the Information Commission with the approval of the Government so that it does not turn to be a sanctuary of corrupt people in the garb of negative list.

(7) The functions of Information Commission may be further extended not only as a regulator but also as a developer. The Information Commission should play its role as a facilitator to establish accountable governance in the country. The Commission must apply their power of awarding compensation under section 25(11) (Dirghau) in appropriate cases – it is expected.

Conclusion

The Right to Information Act is a milestone in the history of our quest for good governance. Therefore, Information Commission has a great role to play. The people with dynamic attitude and vision of good governance may be chosen for the Commission under section 15(5) of the Act. Finally, the success of the Information Commission will mainly depend on their positive efforts to create an environment and culture of easily availability of information to all concerned.

The writer is a retired Secretary to the Govt. of Bangladesh. He was a former Assistant Professor of Politics in Chattagram University



Importance of Disaggregated Official Statistics in Monitoring SDG

Md. Alamgir Hossen

In September 2015, 193 members of the United Nations, including Bangladesh, agreed on a future agenda for sustainable development and signed up to a contender package of goals for sustainable development. There are 17 goals and 169 targets in that package. All the Governments of United Nations member states bear responsibility for their country's implementation and monitoring of progress of their developments.

For this purpose, they agreed that data needed for monitoring will be reported by the countries, with the principal role of National Statistical Offices (NSOs) of the respective countries. The Inter-Agency and Expert Group on SDGs suggested a flow chart showing the pathways of data collection, monitoring and validation process to ensure data upgradation for each of the SDG indicators.

Timely and reliable official statistics are the lifeblood of policymaking as they comprise an integral part of designing, monitoring, and evaluating development priorities. The data for monitoring SDGs need to be of high quality, accessible, timely, reliable, and disaggregated by income, sex, age, race, ethnicity, migration status, disability, geographic location, and other characteristics relevant in national contexts.

The requirements of disaggregated information on population groups extend the focus on the far side national trends and averages towards distinguishing



subgroups of the population that were unnoticed with relevance specific development targets. Disaggregated statistics add values as a vital input for an added concentrated policy-targeting. On the other hand, non-availability of timely and high-quality disaggregated data will, however, contribute to monitoring the progress of achieving SDGs ineffective.

Role of Custodian Agencies for Quality Statistics

Custodian agencies are usually United Nations bodies (or in some cases, non-UN international organizations) which are responsible for compiling and verifying country data and metadata, and for submitting the data, along with regional and global aggregates, to the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD). These agencies may publish the country data in their own databases and use it for thematic reporting. The country data need to be internationally comparable. To this end, the agencies are also responsible for developing international standards and recommending methodologies for monitoring (United Nations, 2020).



The writer is being seen at the 3rd UN World Data Forum 2021 in Bern, Switzerland is seen along with the renowned data leaders from Bangladesh

nutrition, food security, gender equality, empowerment etc. A few notable names among the custodian agencies are UNICEF, World Bank, WHO, IMF, UNESCO, FAO, UN Women, IOM etc. As a custodian agency, WHO found with the highest responsibility in terms of number of SDG indicators (34 indicators).

There are 45 agencies that work in partnership with custodian agencies. Those are responsible for collaborating and supporting the Custodian Agencies in compiling and verifying country data and for submitting the data and working to address different specific global issues in different specific areas like water and sanitation hygiene, labour rights, energy, refugee response etc. The partner agencies include 45 agencies including UNICEF, UNEP, Eurostat, ILO, UN-Water, UN-Energy etc. As a Partner agency, UNEP is partnering for the highest number (51) of indicators data.

Role of Inter-agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators (IAEG-SDGs) for Quality Statistics

The United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC), in its 46th session held in March 2015, formed a highly technical group namely the Inter-agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators (IAEG-SDGs), composed of Member States and

A total number of 54 (Fifty-four) international agencies are responsible as custodians of SDG Indicators. The list of custodian agencies includes different organizations working in diversified thematic areas including poverty, economic growth, public health and

including regional and international agencies as observers. The IAEG-SDGs was assigned to develop and implement the global indicator framework for the Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda. The global indicator framework was developed by the IAEG-SDGs and agreed upon, including refinements on several indicators, at the 48th session of the United Nations Statistical Commission held in March 2017. (UNSC, 2020).

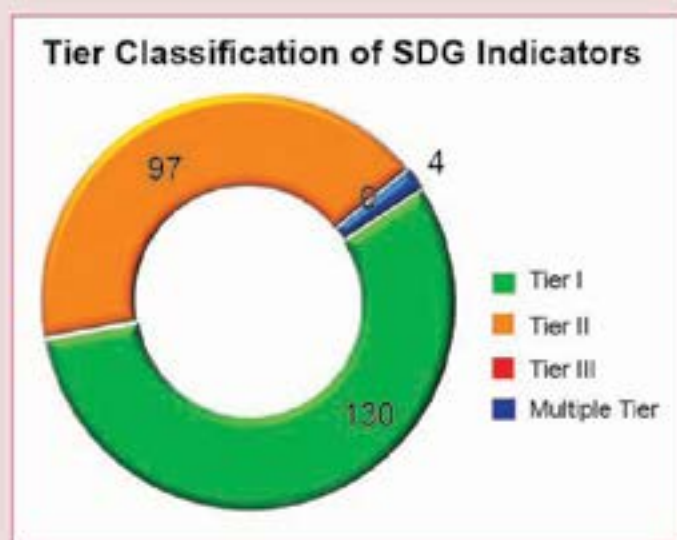
Tier Classification of SDG Indicators

There are 231 unique indicators decided to be evaluated. A unique number of 130 indicators are categorized as Tier I while 97 unique indicators were marked as Tier II. Furthermore, 4 indicators have marked in multiple Tier.

Tier 1: Indicator is conceptually clear, has an internationally established method and standards are available, and data are regularly produced by countries for at least 50 per cent of countries and of the population in every region where the indicator is relevant.

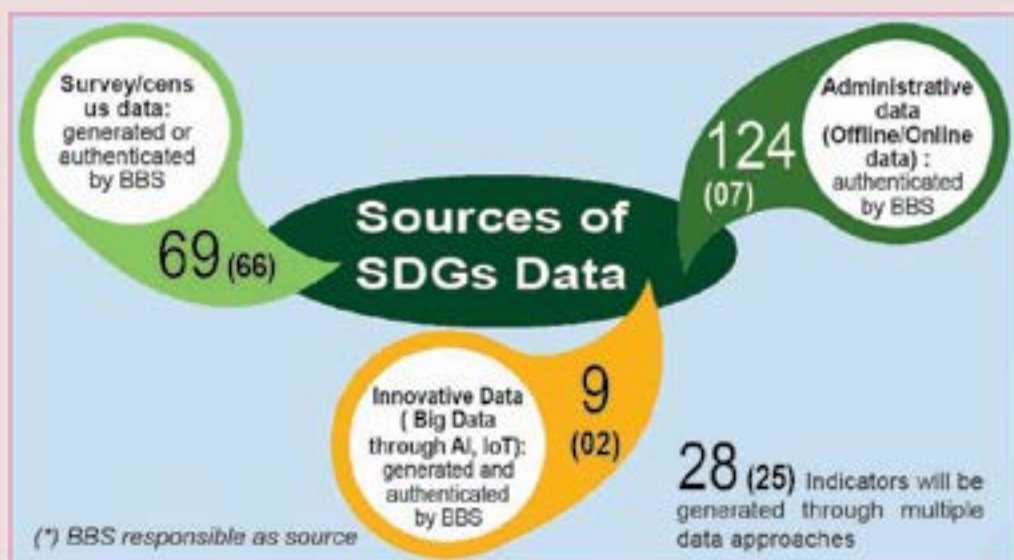
Tier 2: Indicator is conceptually clear, has an internationally established method and standards are available, but data are not regularly produced by countries.

Tier 3: No internationally established method or standards are yet available for the indicator, but method/standards are being (or will be) developed or tested. As of the 51st session of the UN Statistical Commission, the global indicator framework does not have any Tier III indicators.



Different Approaches of Data Generation by the Government

Data for Sustainable Development Goals are generated, collected, and compiled from different type of sources. Considering the number of indicators, data for the highest number of indicators (124) will be compiled from different administrative data sources. Statistical surveys and census will provide the second the second greatest number of indicators' (69) data of which, most of the surveys and censuses are conducted by the National Statistics Office (NSO), the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS). Data for reporting 28 indicators will be generated through multiple type of sources or in combination of different approaches. Only 9 indicators will be generated through innovative data approaches including the big data initiatives comprising machine learning, artificial intelligence, internet of things etc.



Minimum Disaggregation Dimensions of SDGs Data

To ensure the spirit of SDGs 'Leave No One Behind (LNOB)' it is vital to visualize the vulnerable groups left behind through statistics. It can be only ensured if disaggregation of data for the relevant indicators are generated and published. In this document the possible minimum disaggregation and its categories have been identified for each of the indicators considering the national contexts. The disaggregation dimensions and categories are differing on demographic, geographic and other relevant measures such as gender, age group, geographical region, residence and so on. Some of the indicators also bring economic, health-related, and other relevant components like aid, financing, migration, disability status etc. As a disaggregation dimension, 'sex or gender' has been identified against highest number of indicators (96) followed by Age is for 81 indicators, residence (urban-rural) is for 68 indicators, subnational level (division/district/upazila) for 62 indicators and so on.

Data Generating Agencies in the National Statistical System in Bangladesh

The largest source of SDG data (against 105 indicators) in Bangladesh has been identified as the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS), the National Statistics Office of Bangladesh. The 2nd most data providing responsibility is to Economic Relations Division-ERD (23 indicators) followed by Department of Environment-DoE (17 indicators); Directorate General of Health Services-DGHS (15 Indicators), Forestry Department-BFD (12 indicators), and so more. Data against 35 indicators will be reported data will be reported from the international sources. World Health Organization (WHO) is noted as the highest source of data in terms of number of indicator's data derived from international sources.

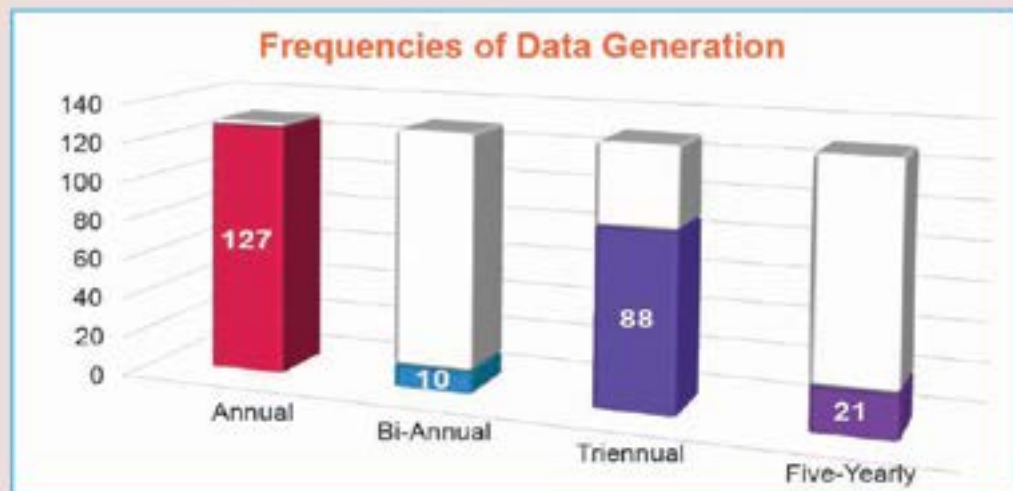
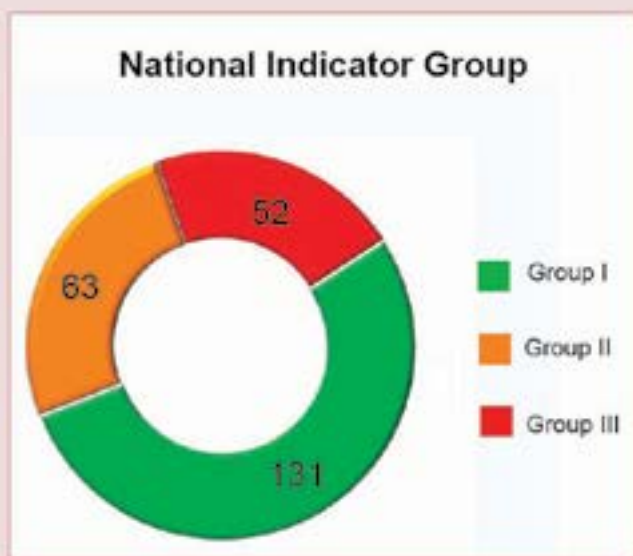
Capacity of Generating Official Data and Local Indicator Group

The SDGs Indicators are classified into 3 major groups considering the preparedness for generating data in the national statistical system of Bangladesh. Total 131 indicators showed in Local Indicator Group-I as those are being generated regularly in the existing set up of statistical system. Total 63 indicators

are classified as Group-2 which are completely new for the Statistical System of Bangladesh and the those are being under process of adopting in the existing sources. Total 52 indicators are still in Group-3 which writes down that the national statistical system needs capacity building in terms of training and financing to understand, adopt and undertake actions for generating in the statistical system.

Frequencies of data generation in Bangladesh

Indicator's data from various sources are expected to be reported in different time intervals. These time frames are categorized as annually, bi-annually, triennially, and five-yearly. Total 127 indicator's data will be generated annually, followed by 88 indicators are in triennially and 21 indicators once in five years and 10 indicators will be generated bi-annually.



Role of National Data Coordination Committee (NDCC)

A high-level comprehensive committee namely 'National Data Coordination Committee (NDCC)' has been formed headed by Secretary, Statistics and Informatics Division (SID) with the approval of Hon'ble Prime Minister for coordination of data issues. The NDCC comprises the representatives from all official data generating ministries/divisions/agencies of the government. Representatives from private sector and Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) are

also members of the committee. The main responsibility of the committee is to streamline the data generation system, reducing the overlapping and prioritizing the areas of the survey, identify data gaps, ensure the availability of quality data and coordinate among ministries and divisions to make data available for SDGs as well as for other international agenda and indexes.

SDG Tracker- the Development Mirror of Bangladesh

SDG Cell of Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) under Statistics and Informatics Division is managing the 'SDG Tracker', the national online portal of SDG reporting backstopping ICT support from a2i Programme of ICT Division. All the data generating agencies are connected to provide data on the SDG Tracker. One official as 'Data Provider' and one higher official as 'Data Approver' are nominated from each of the sources who have their log-in identifications to enter or approved data on behalf of their respective offices. All the data published in SDG Tracker are considered as 'official statistics' as those are authenticated and published finally by Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics as per the Statistics Act, 2013.

In addition to collaboration and coordination among the data providing agencies, BBS also provides technical support including training on methodologies, metadata preparation, data interpretation, user engagement, and so more. The SDG Tracker is also harmonised with this the action plan for data reporting and data generation at disaggregated level.

Data Authentication for SDGs

According to the Statistics Act, 2013, BBS, as the NSO is mandated to authenticate all the official statistics generated for national and international reporting. BBS is the regulatory body to authenticate of data provided by the data providers in the SDG Tracker from all the ministries/divisions/agencies. The 'SDG Technical Working Committee' headed by Director General of BBS reviews and authenticates all the data submitted and approved to the SDG Tracker before bring it open to public. The nominated Cluster Focal Points of BBS coordinates with the data generating sources to ensure quality data according to the global metadata guidelines.

Bangladesh has taken a comprehensive implementation plan to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in continuation of the success in Millenium Development Goals (MDGs). Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS), the National Statistics Office (NSO) of Bangladesh performs the duties as of main data repository and being treated as a professional organization in the National Statistical System (NSS). Compared to the past, BBS is now working with a new vibe through its efficient and devoted staff members and relentlessly contributing in developing a happy and poverty and discrimination free nation. A better investment and career plan for the staff members of the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) will enhance the culture of professional and quality statistics based on evidence-based planning for the country. Comprehensive and timely efforts would be highly appreciated for fostering the speed to direct the power of professionalism towards a common flow of working environment in achieving SDGs.

Md. Alamgir Hossen, Focal Point and Deputy Director, SDG Cell, Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics, Email: alamgir.hossen@bbs.gov.bd



4th Industrialized Revolution: How it impacts the life

Homayed Naser

drones to virtual assistants and software that translate or invest. Impressive progress has been made in AI in recent years, driven by exponential increases in computing power and by the availability of vast amounts of data, from software used to discover new drugs to algorithms used to predict our cultural interests. Digital fabrication technologies, meanwhile, are interacting with the biological world on a daily basis. Engineers, designers, and architects are combining computational design, additive manufacturing, materials engineering, and synthetic biology to pioneer a symbiosis between microorganisms, our bodies, the products we consume, and even the buildings we inhabit.

Challenges and opportunities

Like the revolutions that preceded it, the Fourth Industrial Revolution has the

We stand on the brink of a technological revolution that will fundamentally alter the way we live, work, and relate to one another. In its scale, scope, and complexity, the transformation will be unlike anything humankind has experienced before. We do not yet know just how it will unfold, but one thing is clear: the response to it must be integrated and comprehensive, involving all stakeholders of the global polity, from the public and private sectors to academia and civil society.

Already, artificial intelligence is all around us, from self-driving cars and



Self driving car



Inside view of a modern industry

potential to raise global income levels and improve the quality of life for populations around the world. To date, those who have gained the most from it have been consumers able to afford and access the digital world; technology

has made possible new products and services that increase the efficiency and pleasure of our personal lives. In the future, technological innovation will also lead to a supply-side miracle, with long-term gains in efficiency and productivity. Transportation and communication costs will drop, logistics and global supply chains will become more effective, and the cost of trade will diminish, all of which will open new markets and drive economic growth.

In addition to being a key economic concern, inequality represents the greatest societal concern associated with the Fourth Industrial Revolution. The largest beneficiaries of innovation tend to be the providers of intellectual and physical capital—the innovators, shareholders, and investors— which explains the rising gap in wealth between those dependent on capital versus labor. Technology is therefore one of the main reasons why incomes have stagnated, or even decreased, for a majority of the population in high-income countries: the demand for highly skilled workers has increased while the demand for workers with less education and lower skills has decreased. The result is a job market with a strong demand at the high and low ends, but a hollowing out of the middle. This helps explain why so many workers are disillusioned and fearful that their own real incomes and those of their children will continue to stagnate. It also helps explain why middle classes around the world are increasingly experiencing a pervasive sense of dissatisfaction and unfairness. A winner-takes-all economy that offers only limited access to the middle class is a recipe for democratic malaise and dereliction.

The impact on business

On the whole, there are four main effects that the Fourth Industrial Revolution has on business—on customer expectations, on product enhancement, on collaborative innovation, and on organizational forms. Whether consumers or businesses, customers are increasingly at the epicenter of the economy, which is all about improving how customers are served. Physical products and services, moreover, can now be enhanced with digital capabilities that increase their value. New technologies make assets more durable and resilient, while data and analytics are transforming how they are maintained. A world of customer experiences, data-based services, and asset performance through analytics, meanwhile, requires new forms of collaboration, particularly given the speed at which innovation and disruption are taking place. And the emergence of global platforms and other new business models, finally, means that talent, culture, and organizational forms will have to be rethought.

Overall, the inexorable shift from simple digitization (the Third Industrial Revolution) to innovation based on combinations of technologies (the Fourth Industrial Revolution) is forcing companies to reexamine the way they do business. The bottom line, however, is the same: business leaders and senior executives need to understand their changing environment, challenge the assumptions of their operating teams, and relentlessly and continuously innovate.

The impact on government

As the physical, digital, and biological worlds continue to converge, new technologies and platforms will increasingly enable citizens to engage with governments, voice their opinions, coordinate their efforts, and even circumvent the supervision of public authorities. Simultaneously, governments will gain new technological powers to increase their control over populations, based on pervasive surveillance systems and the ability to control digital infrastructure. On the whole, however, governments will increasingly face pressure to change their current approach to public engagement and policymaking, as their central role of conducting policy diminishes owing to new sources of competition and the redistribution and decentralization of power that new technologies make possible. But such an approach is no longer feasible. Given the Fourth Industrial Revolution's rapid pace of change and broad impacts, legislators and regulators are being challenged to an unprecedented degree and for the most part are proving unable to cope. To do so, governments and regulatory agencies will need to collaborate closely with business and civil society.

The Fourth Industrial Revolution will also profoundly impact the nature of national and international security, affecting both the probability and the nature of conflict. The history of warfare and international security is the history of technological innovation, and today is no exception. Modern conflicts involving states are increasingly "hybrid" in nature, combining traditional battlefield techniques with elements previously associated with non state actors. The distinction between war and peace, combatant and noncombatant, and even violence and nonviolence (think cyber warfare) is becoming uncomfortably blurry.

Shaping the future

Neither technology nor the disruption that comes with it is an exogenous force over which humans have no control. All of us are responsible for guiding its evolution, in the decisions we make on a daily basis as citizens, consumers, and investors. We should thus grasp the opportunity and power we have to shape the Fourth Industrial Revolution and direct it toward a future that reflects our common objectives and values.

In the end, it all comes down to people and values. We need to shape a future that works for all of us by putting people first and empowering them. In its most pessimistic, dehumanized form, the Fourth Industrial Revolution may indeed have the potential to "robotize" humanity and thus to deprive us of our heart and soul. But as a complement to the best parts of human nature—creativity, empathy, stewardship—it can also lift humanity into a new collective and moral consciousness based on a shared sense of destiny. It is incumbent on us all to make sure the latter prevails.

Homayed Naser, Student, Dept of Computer Science, IUT, Gazipur, Bangladesh



Occupational Therapy for women with Thumb Pain

Rabeya Ferdous

etc.

The main symptom of dequervain's tenosynovitis is pain or tenderness at the base of thumb. Patient might also feel pain in forearm. The pain may develop slowly or come on suddenly. It may get worse when you use your hand, thumb, or wrist.

Other symptoms include

- ❑ Swelling near the base of your thumb.
- ❑ Numbness along the back of thumb and index finger.
- ❑ A 'catching' or 'snapping' feeling when during moving time of thumb.
- ❑ A squeaking sound as the tendons move within the swollen sheaths.

Occupational Therapy treatment

Firstly, occupational therapist assesses the patient and according to assessment occupational therapist provide following treatment:

- ❑ Provide splint for restricted the movement which causes pain. The splint allows the Adductor Pollicis Longus (APL) and Extensor Pollicis Brevis (EPB) tendons to rest, giving them a chance to begin to heal.
- ❑ Advice patient to stop repetitive wrist movement
- ❑ Occupational therapist make the work environment ergonomically fit. Therapist try to reduce or eliminate the cause of irritation of the thumb tendons. Then they check patients' workstation and the way

Hand is the vital part of our body. We do every work by using both hands. Without hands we cannot think any work. Female are using their hands in maximum activities. They faces pain in thumb which called DeQuarvein's Tenosynovitis (DQT). It is a disorder which is caused by over uses of hand movement. Female are more suffered than male.

DeQuarvein's Tenosynovitis is a painful condition affecting the tendons on the thumb side of wrist. Exact cause is unknown. Repetitive hand movement may responsible for this condition. E.g. cutting, washing, or other household activities, gardening



Thumb spica splint for DQT patient



Lots of repetitive movement may increase the risk of DQT

of his/her work task. They may provide suggestions about the use of healthy body alignment and wrist positions, helpful exercises, and tips on how to prevent future problems.

- ❑ Therapist may Cool the area for 20 minutes at a time on the painful area - 3 times a day
- ❑ Provide the patient with a pressure glove and discuss elevation to reduce swelling in the area.

Post-surgical Rehabilitation

Rehabilitation is more involved after surgery. Full recovery could take several months. Pain and symptoms generally begin to improve after surgery, but patient may have tenderness in the area of the incision for several months.

Keep the hand elevated above the level of heart. Patient should move their fingers and thumb occasionally during the day. Keep the dressing on patient's hand until they return to the surgeon. Avoid getting the stitches wet. Patient's stitches will be removed 10 to 14 days after surgery.

Although the time required for recovery is different for each patient, as a general rule, they will probably need to attend your Occupational Therapy sessions for six to eight weeks. Therapist will begin by doing active hand movements and range-of-motion exercises. They may also use ice packs, soft-tissue massage, and hands-on stretching to help with the range of motion.

When the stitches are removed, therapist may start carefully strengthening the hand and thumb by squeezing and stretching putty and other hand activities. Occupational Therapists also use a series of gentle stretches to encourage the thumb tendons to glide easily within the tunnel.

As they progress, Occupational Therapist will give you exercises to help strengthen and stabilize the muscles and joints in your hand and thumb. They may also use other exercises to improve fine motor control and dexterity. Some of the exercises therapist may recommend are designed to get patient's hand working in ways that are similar to their work tasks and sport activities. At the end of session, Occupational Therapist will teach the patient a number of ways to avoid future problems.

After treatment, de Quervain's tendinosis can be prevented by changing the activities that cause pain. Taking breaks and avoiding the actions that cause pain, can help lessen the chance of the condition happening again after treatment. It is important to follow occupational therapy advice on what activities aggravate the condition and what you should avoid. Limiting these activities could prevent future issues with De Quervain's tenosynovitis).

Rabeya Ferdous, Occupational Therapist, Department of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation National Institute of Neurosciences & Hospital (NINS & H) Sher-e-bangla Nagar, Dhaka, Email: rabeya1988@gmail.com



Bears: The Most Threatened Mammals of Bangladesh

Professor Dr. A N M Aminoor Rahman

'doglike' carnivorans) within the order Carnivora. Their closest living relatives are the pinnipeds (seal or walrus.), canids (dogs, wolves, jackals) and mustelids (weasels, badgers, otters, ferrets, martens, minks). The modern bears comprised of eight living species in three subfamilies, namely Ailuropodinae (monotypic with the giant panda), Tremarectinae (monotypic with the spectacled or short-faced bear), and Ursinae (containing six species divided into 1-3 genera, depending on the authority). The scientific classification or taxonomy of bear, for example, according to the Integrated Taxonomic Information System (ITIS), is therefore:

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: Mammalia

Order: Carnivora

Suborder: Caniformia

Family: Ursidae

Subfamily: Ailuropodinae

Genus: *Ailuropoda* (Panda)- one species

Subfamily: Tremarectinae

Genus: *Tremarctos* (Short-faced bear)- one species

Subfamily: Ursinae

Genus: *Helarctos* (Sun bear)- one species

Genus: *Melursus* (Sloth bear)- one species

Genus: *Ursus* (Bears)- four species, American black, Asian black, brown and polar bear

Although, only eight species of bears are surviving (extant) in the universe, more than 100 species have been found to live, which are now extinct. Bears are widespread across the Americas and Eurasia. Although, their habitats are generally forests, but some species live in grassland and savanna regions, and others such as the polar bear inhabits in arctic and aquatic regions. Most bear

Bears are large-bodied doglike carnivorous mammals with stocky legs, long snouts, small rounded ears, shaggy hairs, plantigrade paws having five non-retractile claws and short tails. The English word 'Bear' came from the Old English 'Bera', which means 'Brown', so that 'Bear' would mean 'The Brown One' might be indicated the brown bear. The taxon names Arctoidea and *Helarctos* came from the ancient Greek *arktos* meaning bear. On the other hand, taxon such as Ursidae and *Ursus* came from Latin word *Ursus/Ursa* meaning he-bear/she-bear. The bear family Ursidae is one of nine families in the suborder Caniformia (meaning

species are 1.2–2.0 metres (m) long having 3–20 centimetres (cm) long tail. But polar bear is 2.20–2.44 m long, and some brown bear can grow up to 2.8 m. Sun bear is the lightest of all bear species that weigh only 35 kilogram (kg) and the polar bear is the heaviest, which can weigh up to 726 kg. While the polar bear is mostly carnivorous and the giant panda feeds almost entirely on bamboo, the remaining six species are omnivorous that means they feed on varied diets. With the exception of breeding period and mothers with their young, bears are typically solitary mammals. This diurnal and nocturnal mammal has an excellent sense of smell. Despite its heavy size and awkward gait, is an expert runner, climber as well as swimmer. Bear uses shelter, for example caves and logs, as its den. Most of the species occupy their dens during the winter period for hibernation, which may last up to 100 days. Bears have been hunted since prehistoric times for their meat and fur and although, the poaching and international trade of these most threatened mammals are prohibited, but still ongoing.

Of the eight species of bears, three species namely sloth bear, Malayan sun bear and the Asiatic black bear are known to occur in Bangladesh. The biogeographic location of Bangladesh under Indo-Malayan biographic zone favoured the presence of these species in the country. Although, all the three species are considered vulnerable globally in the IUCN red list, however, the Malayan sun bear and Asiatic black bear are critically endangered in Bangladesh. On the other hand, the myrmecophagous (feeding on ants) sloth bear, which is only native to the Indian subcontinent is suspected to be extirpated from the country according to Bear Specialist Group. Like the sloth bear some authorities consider the Malayan sun bear as regionally extinct in Bangladesh, although recent reports suggest occasional presence of the species in some parts of northeastern (Sylhet division) and southeastern (Chittagong division) regions of the country recently. Now-a-days bears became one of the most threatened group of mammals in Bangladesh. The three species of bears and their present status in Bangladesh are briefly described below:

Sloth bear (*Melursus ursinus*): The species was once roamed in the evergreen and semi-evergreen forests of northeastern and southeastern regions, occasionally in the deciduous forests of the northern part (Mymensingh division), and rarely in the savannas, scrublands and grasslands of northwestern (Rajshahi and Rangpur division) Bangladesh,



A sloth bear walking in the bear moat, Hyderabad Zoo, India

especially in Rangpur and Dinajpur. However, except one report in 1995, there is no sighting record in the last fifty years from Bangladesh, therefore IUCN, Bangladesh considered the species as regionally extinct. The species had been historically rare, although widely distributed in Bangladesh. Sloth bear is also known as honey bear, stickney bear, labiated bear or lip bear. Its Bangla name is monthor bhaluk or monthor bhalluk. It is



A sun bear in nature reserve, Sabah, Malaysia

now distributed in India, Nepal, Bhutan and Sri Lanka.

The black and bulky creature is 130-190 cm in length and its tail is 10-13 cm. Height at the shoulder is 60-90 cm and weight is 55-145 kg. The body of sloth bear is covered with shaggy and coarse black fur. Face is grey and the hairs on the shoulders are long. Ears are hairy and claws are whitish. A prominent V-shaped whitish mark present on the breast. Males are larger than the female.

The sloth bear lives in grassland, thorn scrub, outcropping in rocks to evergreen forests. This nocturnal mammal occurs solitary or in small group, which can climb and swim. It mainly feeds on insects, termites, honey, bird's eggs, fruits etc. Mainly breeds in May to July and the female usually delivers 1-2 cubs after 6-7 months of gestation. Cubs are mature in 3-4 years. Lifespan in the wild is not known, but in the captivity is up to 40 years.

Sun bear (*Helarctos malayanus*): This very rare and critically endangered (now probably extirpated from the country) species of bear is also known as Malayan sun bear. Bangla name is sur bhaluk, surjo bholluk, Malaydesio bhaluk or choto bhaluk. Smallest bear species in the world. Historically it occurred in the dense part of evergreen and semi-evergreen forests of northeast and southeast regions and occasionally in deciduous forests of the north. In the recent years, especially after 1970s the sun bear population in Bangladesh started dwindling and that trend continued till date. Except a few recent reports in Satchari National Park in Habiganj, Korerhat in Mirsharai Forest Range and, Rangamati and Sangu-Matamuhuri reserve forest in Banderban it is not seen elsewhere in the country. Outside Bangladesh, it is distributed in northeastern India, southern Yunnan of China, south and east to Sumatra and Borneo.

The sun bear is 110-140 cm in length and the tail is 5 cm. Height and weight are 70 cm and 35-80 kg, respectively. Body is covered with smaller, fine and jet black fur. Legs are longer than the body. Face is dirty-whitish, ears are small and rounded. 'U' or half-crescent shaped whitish, yellowish or golden mark



A sun bear in artificially created natural habitat in Hyderabad Zoo, India



Asiatic black bear in Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Safari Park, Dulahazra, Cox's Bazar

up to three years. Lifespan is 12-24 years in the wild and 25-28 years in the captivity.

Asiatic black bear (*Ursus thibetanus*): This rare and critically endangered species is also known as Himalayan black bear, Tibetan black bear or Moon bear. Bangla name is kalo bhaluk, bhaluk, bholluk, bhalu or boro bhalluk. The literal meaning of its scientific name is moon bear of Tibet. The species lives in bamboo clumps, tall grass, forested steep hills and tea gardens of mixed evergreen forests of northeast and southeast regions. According to authentic sources the population from the moist deciduous or sal forests of northern Bangladesh has disappeared completely. Except Bangladesh, the species also inhabits in Iran, Afghanistan, Pakistan, India, Nepal, Bhutan, Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, China, Japan and Russia.

The Asiatic black bear is easily distinguishable by the crescent shaped area of white fur on its chest. Its head-body length is 120-220 cm and the tail is 7-10 cm. The height and weight are 75 cm and 90-180 kg, respectively. Body is covered with smooth and jet black hairs of moderate length. Face is yellowish-grey with a pointed nose and big-sized ears. Lower lip is white with a distinctive narrow horse-shoe or crescent shaped white markings on the breast. Male is bigger than the female.

This diurnal and nocturnal mammal occurs solitary, pairs or in small family group. It is a good climber and swimmer. The species is omnivorous that means it eat fruits, insects (mainly termites), honey, carrions, crops etc. Breeds in November to February and usually delivers 1-2 cubs every



Asiatic black bear on the top of a tree in Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Safari Park, Dulahazra, Cox's Bazar



Asiatic black bear in Nainital Zoo, Uttarakhand, India

other year after 6-8 months of gestation. Cubs mature in 4-5 years. Lifespan in the wild is about 25 years, but in captivity it is recorded up to 32 years.

In Bangladesh, once bears were distributed in the central (Dhaka division and Cumilla) to the north, northeast, northwest, east (Barishal division and Noakhali) and southeast regions. Only three decades ago their sightings were not rare. But due to a number of reasons such as deforestation, fragmentation and

loss of habitat; hunting for consumption and medicinal use they have almost completely disappeared from their distributional ranges. The present population of sun bear and Asiatic black bear (Sloth bear already became extinct) is confined only to the forests along the Myanmar and India borders. But rapid rate of forest clearing, cultivation shifting and increasing human population pressure, the remaining small and fragmented habitats may no longer support the viable bear population. Due to threats and human-bear conflicts in the jhuming areas in southeast regions killing of bears occur occasionally. If these process continue then the total bear population will wiped out from the country within very short time. Therefore, urgent conservation measures need to be taken to restore degraded forest and habitats for saving the invaluable bears of Bangladesh.

References

- Ahmed ATA, Kabir SMH, Ahmad M, Ahmed ZU, Begum ZNT, Hassan MA and Khondker M (eds.) 2009. *Encyclopedia of Flora and Fauna of Bangladesh, Vol. 27. Mammals*. Asiatic Society of Bangladesh, Dhaka, 264 pp.
- Islam MA, Uddin M, Aziz MA, Muzaffar SB, Chakma, Chowdhury SU, Chowdhury GW, Rashid MA, Mohsanin S, Jahan I, Saif S, Hossain MB, Chakma D, Kamruzzaman M and Akter R 2013. Status of bears in Bangladesh: going, going, gone? *Ursus*, 24(1):83-90.
- Islam MA, Uddin M, Aziz MA, Muzaffar SB, Chakma, Chowdhury SU, Chowdhury GW, Rashid MA, Mohsanin S, Jahan I, Saif S, Hossain MB, Chakma D, Kamruzzaman M and Akter R 2010. Baseline survey of Bears in Bangladesh, Wildlife Trust of Bangladesh, Dhaka, 44 pp.
- IUCN Bangladesh 2000. *Red Book of Threatened Mammals of Bangladesh*. IUCN- The World Conservation Union, Dhaka, 72 pp.
- IUCN Bangladesh 2015. *Red List of Bangladesh Volume 2: Mammals*. IUCN, International Union for Conservation of Nature, Bangladesh Country Office, Dhaka, Bangladesh, 232 pp.
- Khan MAR 2015. *Wildlife of Bangladesh: Checklist and Guide*. Chayabithi, Dhaka. 568 pp.
- Khan MMH 2018. *Photographic Guide to Wildlife of Bangladesh*. Arannayk Foundation, Dhaka, Bangladesh. 488 pp.
- Rahman ANMA 2015. *Wildlife of Bangladesh*. Department of Films and Publications, Dhaka, 240 pp.
- Sarker, MSU 2006. The status and conservation of bear in Bangladesh. In: *Understanding Asian Bears to Secure Their Future*. Japan Bear Network, Ibaraki, Japan, pp. 41-44.

The writer and photographer of this article is a Wildlife Biologist, Veterinarian and Professor of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Agricultural University, Gazipur-1706

Information and Broadcasting Ministry observes Historic 7th March

The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting held a discussion meeting, documentary film show and a cultural programme on the occasion of historic 7th March at Tathya Bhaban. Minister Dr Hasan Mahmud MP attended the function as the chief guest.

Expressing deep respect to Bangabandhu, the Minister said that the Father of the Nation had practically declared the independence of Bangladesh but had done so in such a way that the Pakistani rulers had nothing to do but watch. This speech not only inspired the Bengalis for liberation, but it was also an inspiration for the liberation of all the oppressed people of the world from age to age.

In the programme Additional Secretary Mizan UI Alam, Syed Anwar Hossain, Professor of Bangabandhu Chair of BUP, Principal Information Officer Md. Shahinoor Miah, Director General of the Press Institute of Bangladesh Zafar Wazed, and Director General of the Department of Films and Publications S.M. Golam Kibria were also present among others.

Senior officials of the ministry and attached departments, and also Amjad Ali Khandaker, who was awarded the Ekushey Padak, were present on the occasion. Amjad Ali was one of the crew members, who recorded the 7th



Photo Exhibition at Suhrawardy Udyan



Information and Broadcasting Minister Dr Hasan Mahmud MP delivering speech

March speech of Bangabandhu, and later he saved it by evading the eyes of the enemy. The discussion was followed by a cultural programme.

The Department of Films and Publications (DFP) and Press Information Department (PID) jointly organized a day long photo exhibition at Suhrawardy Udyan on this occasion. The photo exhibition was inaugurated by Additional Secretary of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting Md. Mizan Ul Alam while Principal Information Officer Md. Shahinoor Mia, Director of DFP Mohammad Ali Sarker were also present in the morning.



Audience at the function

- Md Nazim Uddin

Department of Films and Publications organizes programme on the Independence and National Day

The Department of Films and Publications organizes a programme that includes a discussion meeting and a dance-drama based documentary film show titled 'Aporajeyo Bangladesh (Invincible Bangladesh)' followed by a cultural programme on the occasion of the Independence and National Day at Tathya Bhaban. Secretary of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting Md. Mokbul Hossain PAA was present as the chief guest while Additional Secretary of the Ministry Md. Faruque Ahmed, Principal Information Officer Md. Shahinoor Miah, DG of NIMC Shahin Islam, ndc, DG of Department of Mass Communication Md. Zashim Uddin, DG of Bangladesh Betar Ahammad Kamruzzaman, DG of BTV Shohrab Hossain and DG of PIB Zafar Wazed attended the function as special guests. Director General of the Department of Films and Publications S.M. Golam Kibria presided over the discussion meeting. The welcome speech was delivered by Mohammad Ali Sarker, Director (admin) of DFP.

The speakers reminisced about the horrific days of the Liberation War and described the brutality of the Pakistani occupation army and their collaborators. They also highlighted the contribution and sacrifices made by Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman to the independence of Bangladesh.

Senior officials of the ministry and other departments including Joint Secretary (Admin) Md. Nazrul Islam, Joint Secretary S.M. Mahfuzul Haque, DG of Bangladesh Film Archive Md. Nizamul Kabir, Additional DG of



Information and Broadcasting Secretary Md. Mokbul Hossain PAA delivering speech



Director General of DFP S. M. Golam Kibria delivering speech

NIMC Faizul Haque and Vice Chairman of Bangladesh Film Censor Board M. Saifullah were also present among others.

The discussion was followed by a cultural programme. Senior official and PRO of the Ministry Mir Akram Uddin Ahammad recited poem at the function.



Audience at the function

- Umma Halima

DFP participates in the Kolkata International Book Fair

M. Q. Zaman



One of the Entrances of Book Fair

The 45th International Kolkata Book Fair was held from 28 February to 13 March 2022. After a gap of one year, the Kolkata Book Fair returned to its former glory. In 2021 due to the pandemic, the book fair did not take place. This year Chief Minister of West Bengal Mamata Banerjee and Bangladesh State Minister for Cultural Affairs, K. M. Khalid inaugurated the fair.



Book Stalls of foreign countries



Bangladesh Pavilion

The venue was set up at the salt lake central park as before. This year Bangladesh was the theme country focusing the 50 years of its independence. The Department of Films and Publications set up a stall in the fair. The officials of this department participated in the fair in two groups that include M. Quamruzzaman, Israt Jahan, Rubel Rana, Saleh Ahmed Mozumder, Mita Khan, Khirod Chandra Barman and Shahjahan.



Crowded in the Bangladesh Pavilion



Stall of Department of Films and Publications

stalls from different countries including the USA, Italy, Japan, Mexico, France and Iran joined the fair.

The crowd of various interested readers at the DFP stall was noticeable. The people of West Bengal were especially interested in books published on Bangabandhu and albums related to tourism and wildlife. This year DFP sold a record amount of books compared to other years – equivalent to one hundred and fifty thousand taka. The fair was open from 12 pm to 8 pm everyday.



Visitors posing with a publication on tourism at DFP Stall

There were 9 entry gates and ample open space at this year's fair keeping pandemic restrictions in mind. A medical and health check-up booth, supported by Peerless Hospital, equipped with a first-aid kit and a doctor was in place.

There were 600 stalls and 200 Little Magazines in the fair. There was also a food court in the open space at the last end of the premises.

The historic 7th march speech of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was engraved on the wall of the Bangladesh pavilion. Apart from DFP, about 50 government and non-government organisations and publishers participated in the fair. At the International complex,

DFP participates in the Agartala Book Fair

Md. Mazharul Hoque



Entrance of Agartala Book Fair

The Tripura government hosted the 40th Agartala Book Fair for 12 days from March 25 to April 5, 2022 at International Fair Ground in Agartala. After a year's break due to Covid-19, the fair returned to its former glory. Tripura usually hosts the Agartala Book Fair every year and its major participants are the publishers and writers from West Bengal and Bangladesh. State Minister for Cultural Affairs of Bangladesh KM Khalid was present on the day of inauguration.

The Department of Films and Publications participated in the fair and the officials joined the fair in two groups that include Mohammad Ali Sarker, Tajkia Akbari, Md. Abdus Saleque Bashunia, Subarna Seal, Sanjida Ahmed and Muhammed Mazharul Hoque.

The fair was open in between 2 pm and 9 pm in weekdays and an extended half-an hour on weekends. Tripura government provided free bus service from different locations of the city to ferry book lovers to the fair ground. Around 160 stalls with publishers and booksellers from Kolkata, Guwahati, Delhi and Dhaka participated in the book fair. Four govt. organizations and 2 private publishers from Bangladesh took part in the fair. This year the theme of the fair was 'Amar Tripura, Amar Gharva (My Tripura, My Pride)'. Agartala Book Fair started in the year 1981 and is the only state government-sponsored fair in the country.



Prof. Ganga Prasad Prasain, Vice Chancellor of Tripura University inaugurates Bangabandhu Corner at the Central Library of the varsity on April 5, 2022

Tripura University introduced Bangabandhu Corner at the Central Library on 5 April 2022. The Corner was sponsored by the Department of Films and Publications, which was inaugurated by Vice Chancellor Prof. Ganga Prasad Prasain. It is the first university, which has introduced special collections of Bangladesh under the name of the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.



Participants from Department of Films and Publications at the fair premises

Major National Events

January-March

1 January, 2022

Dhaka International Trade Fair begins at Purbachal

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina inaugurated the 26th Dhaka International Trade Fair (DITF) declaring ICT products and services as the "products of the year 2022" on January 1.

The largest annual commercial and trade event of the country is being held at its permanent venue – "Bangabandhu Bangladesh-China Friendship Exhibition Centre" – at Purbachal, on the outskirts of the capital, for the first time.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina inaugurated the fair virtually from her official residence Ganobhaban.

This year a total of 225 stalls, including 23 pavilions, 27 mini pavilions, 160 stalls and 15 food stalls, have been leased out to various local and international organisations. Traders from more than 11 countries are participating in the fair.

The venue will feature a prayer room, children's play area, office rooms, medical rooms, guestrooms for officials and store rooms. The fair will open at 10 am every day and close at 9 pm. On government holidays, the fair will run till 10pm.

This year, the fair has been organised keeping in mind the birth centenary of Bangabandhu, the Golden Jubilee of Independence and the development activities of the government.

A documentary on the development of the country, especially trade and commerce, was screened at the programme. *Source : The Daily Star*

5 January, 2022

Two solar plants get cabinet nod

The cabinet committee on government purchase during a virtual meeting on January 5 approved the installation of two solar plants totalling 120-megawatt capacity.

By approving two proposals, officials said, the committee gave the Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB) the go-ahead to sign power-purchase deals with sponsor companies.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina virtually inaugurated the 26th Dhaka International Trade Fair (DITF) 2022 from her official residence Ganobhaban on January 1

One plant with a 70-MW facility will be set up at Iswardi upazila in Pabna district and another 50-MW plant be established at Muktagachha in Mymensingh.

Both the plants got the all-clear under the Quick Enhancement of Electricity and Energy Supply (Special Provision) Act 2021.

The 70-MW plant will be set up by a consortium of two Korean companies-Daehan Green Energy Co Ltd and HI Korea Co Ltd, and local developer Pabna Solar Power Ltd.

The plant will be set up on a build-own-and-operate basis on 182 acres of land.

The 50-MW plant will be developed by a consortium of France-based Total Eren S.A., Norwegian Renewables Group AS and Urban Services Ltd Bangladesh on a build-own-and-operate basis.

The BPDB will buy electricity from both the plants at \$0.1015/kWh under a 20-year deal. *Source : The Financial Express*

6 January, 2022

Military Museum will inspire youths to join armed forces: PM

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina January 6 said the state-of-the-art Bangabandhu Military Museum (BMM) would inspire the young generation to join the armed forces to protect the country's independence and sovereignty.

'Young generation will be encouraged being imbued with patriotism by the Bangabandhu Military Museum and to join the armed forces---army, navy and air forces---to defend the country's independence and sovereignty,' she said.

She came up with the statements while inaugurating the museum virtually from her official Ganobhaban residence.

The premier said the museum would be a milestone initiative for the country's armed forces through which the youths would know about the armed forces' contribution to the independence. *Source : The Financial Express*

7 January, 2022

2022 to be a milestone in infrastructure dev: PM

The year 2022 will be a milestone in the development of Bangladesh's infrastructure, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said on January 07, as she delivered her address to the nation on the completion of the third year of her administration's current term.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina inaugurating the Bangabandhu Military Museum in Dhaka, joining virtually from her official residence Ganobhaban on January 06

In June, the much-discussed Padma bridge will be opened to traffic. In October, the 'Karnaphuli tunnel', which aims to increase connectivity throughout the country, is to be inaugurated. And, in December, Dhaka residents will get their first chance to use the metro rail when a section from Uttara to Agargaon opens.

'Work is also proceeding on other major infrastructure projects across the country,'

The PM said. The first unit of the 1,200 MW Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant, the most expensive infrastructure project in Bangladesh's history at Tk 1.13 trillion, is expected to begin operating in April next year, she added. *Source : The Financial Express*

9 January, 2022

Govt to build cancer hospitals in 8 divisional cities

The government has taken an initiative to set up specialized cancer hospitals in eight divisional cities of the country.

A 14-storey specialized hospital dedicated to cancer, kidney and heart patients will be established in the Kurmitola Hospital compound in Dhaka, while 17-storey cancer hospitals will be established at medical college hospitals in Chittagong, Mymensingh, Barisal, Khulna, Rangpur, Rajshahi and Sylhet, according to the details of the project.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will lay the foundation stones for the cancer hospitals virtually from Ganobhaban on January 9.

A top official of the Health Ministry said the project was currently named the Establishment of 100-bed Full-fledged Cancer Centre at Government Medical College Hospital in Divisional City.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina laid the foundation stones for the cancer hospitals virtually from Ganobhaban on January 9



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina addressing the nation on January 07

Each hospital will have 120 general beds, 14 cabin beds, and 6 post-operative beds for cancer patients. 40 beds will be allocated for cancer patients who need intensive treatment, such as chemotherapy.

The Source said, "Such specialized hospitals for cancer, kidney and heart patients will be a milestone in our health sector.

Source : The Dhaka Tribune

10 January, 2022

Keep up pace of development, says PM

The historic Home coming Day of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the greatest Bangalee of all time, was observed January 10 across the country in a befitting manner.

Bangabandhu, the undisputed leader of the nation and supreme commander of the country's Liberation War, returned to the sacred soil of independent Bangladesh via London and New Delhi on January 10 in 1972, after 290 days of confinement in Pakistan jail.

Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's Birth Centenary Celebration National Implementation Committee and the ruling Awami League (AL) chalked out elaborate programmes marking the day. *Source : The Financial Express*



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina pays homage by placing a wreath at the portrait of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in front of the Bangabandhu Memorial Museum at Dhanmondi on the 10th January morning on the occasion of his historic Homecoming Day

13 January, 2022

Govt to promote health research, says PM

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on January 13 said the government is taking measures to promote health research substantially, aiming to achieve successes like in agriculture and other sectors of the country.

'We're definitely a little bit behind in health research. In fact, research on health issues is hardly conducted in our country. Actually, our physicians are not interested in research as much as in providing services to patients. A handful of them conduct research. But we're taking steps in this regard,' she said.

The Prime Minister said this while inaugurating the newly constructed National Science and Technology Complex in the city's Agargaon area.

She opened the complex, joining a function virtually from her official residence Ganobhaban. Others concerned got connected with the virtual event from the



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina inaugurating the newly-constructed National Science and Technology Complex (NSTC) in the city's Agargaon virtually from her official residence Ganobhaban on January 13

complex constructed by the National Museum of Science and Technology (NMST).

The PM said it is essential to conduct health research in the country. 'We've made good progress in the case of research in other sectors. We'll have to go forward further.' Source : The Financial Express

16 January, 2022

President stresses transparency, accountability in govt activities

President Md. Abdul Hamid on January 16 called for ensuring transparency and accountability in the government activities to make democracy more effective.

'Democracy needs to be made more effective by ensuring proper participation of the people in all government activities,' he said while addressing parliament in the New Year's first session.

The president said the government's expenditure has risen due to huge increase of government's development activities over the past one-and-a-half decade.

He also called for maintaining caution in all matters related to projects to prevent misuse of government funds. 'It is necessary to ensure 100 per cent implementation of the projects by adopting time-bound action plan,' he added.

Source : The Financial Express

Govt wants to build technology, knowledge-based society: PM

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on January 16 said the government wants to build a developed and prosperous nation imbued with modern and technological knowledge.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina inaugurating the newly-constructed 10-storey 'Rangpur Divisional Headquarters Complex Building' through video conferencing from her official Ganobhaban residence in the capital on January 16

'We want to build a nation imbued with modern and technological knowledge to make Bangladesh developed and prosperous,' she said while inaugurating newly-constructed Rangpur Divisional Headquarters complex building.

The programme was held at the Multipurpose Hall of the building while the Prime Minister joined it virtually from her official residence Ganobhaban.

'Rural people will live in their villages and get all facilities of the urban areas, people will no longer need to rush to the capital as employment opportunities will be created in the villages,' she said.

'Our aim is to make Bangladesh developed and prosperous one by 2041, InshAllah this will also be achieved, no one will not able to stop the forward march of Bangladesh,' she said. *Source : The Financial Express*

18 January, 2022

Work ignoring fear, greed

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on January 18 asked the Deputy Commissioners (DCs) to perform their duties overcoming all kinds of fear and greed to ensure welfare of the people and steer the country towards prosperity.

'For the welfare of people, you'll have to rise above all kinds of fear and greed, and perform your lawful duties,' she said while addressing the inaugural session of the DCs' Conference 2022 at Osmani Memorial Auditorium, virtually joining it from her official residence Ganobhaban.

She added it is the goal of her government to materialise Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's dreams- building a prosperous Bangladesh and enabling the Bangalee nation to move on the global stage keeping its head ever high.

At the conference, the Prime Minister issued a 24-point directive to the deputy commissioners (DCs) linking hassle-free services from public offices to removing corruption from the ongoing development programmes. *Source : The Financial Express*

23 January, 2022

Uphold democracy, discharge duties with professionalism: PM tells police

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on January 23 asked police personnel to discharge their duties with utmost professionalism and uphold democracy in the country apart from maintaining peace and stability.

Sheikh Hasina said this while inaugurating the Police Week 2022 from January 23 to 27 with the theme 'Skilled Police, Prosperous Country, Bangabandhu's Bangladesh'.

The programme was held at Rajarbagh Police Lines in the capital while the Prime Minister joined it virtually from her official residence Ganobhaban.

Besides, 25 personnel will get the BPM-Service and 50 the PPM-Service awards for their outstanding performances in unearthing mystery of important cases and controlling crimes and for commendable contributions with skills, piety, integrity and disciplinary behaviour.

In 2021, another 115 members of the police and RAB got the prestigious BPMs and PPMs for their outstanding performances in 2021.

১২০২২ খ্রি.



Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan, on behalf of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, giving away awards to members of the police force for their outstanding performance at a function marking the Police Week-2022 at Rajarbagh Police Lines on January 23. The Prime Minister joined the programme virtually from her official residence Ganobhaban

Of the awardees, 15 will receive the BPM-gallantry, 25 the PPM-gallantry, 25 the BPM-Service and 50 the PPM-Service awards.

Source : *The Financial Express*

7 February, 2022

PM Orders migration cost reduction, end to exploitation

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on February 7 asked the authorities concerned to take measures to check high

migration costs and exploitation of the overseas job seekers and protect them from deceptions.

She ordered more campaigns to encourage overseas job aspirants to take loan from Probashi Kallyan Bank instead of selling land and homesteads to take the financial Support to meet their migration costs.

The Prime Minister gave the instructions while presiding over the weekly cabinet meeting virtually from her official residence Ganobhaban. Her cabinet colleagues joined the meeting at the Cabinet Division.

'The Prime Minister has asked the authorities concerned to make sure that overseas job aspirants do not sell their land and pay extra to go abroad,' cabinet secretary Khandker Anwarul Islam told a press conference at the cabinet division conference room. Source : *The New Age*

8 February, 2022

50th anniv of diplomatic relations

BD eyes strategic ties with Japan

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said the solid foundation of bilateral relations between Bangladesh and Japan is poised to be raised from 'comprehensive partnership' to 'strategic partnership' in the near future.

She said this in a video message on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of bilateral relations with Japan on February 8. Japan officially recognised Bangladesh as an independent state on 10 February 1972.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is delivering a video message on February 8 on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of bilateral relations between Bangladesh and Japan

Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida also issued separate goodwill video message.

Both the Prime Ministers committed to strengthening bonds of amity and cooperation. They congratulated the people of the two friendly countries on this momentous occasion.

Source : The Financial Express

15 February, 2022

Spread Bangladesh's vibrant cultural activities: PM

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on February 15 stressed the need for spreading the country's vibrant cultural activities like fairs and festivals to every district to attract the young generation to Bengali language, literature, and culture.

'Once cultural events and discussions and literature practices used to be held in every district and sub-district in the past. But this practice has largely declined. It's essential to resume these to glorify our culture,' she said.

The Prime Minister made the remarks while inaugurating the Amar Ekushey Book Fair-2022, the annual event of booklovers and publishers, in the capital.

She opened the country's biggest book fair, joining its inaugural ceremony at the Bangla Academy virtually from her official residence Ganobhaban. *Source : The Financial Express*

17 February, 2022

Prepare universal pension scheme for all above 60: PM

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on February 17 directed the authorities concerned to work out a universal pension scheme for people aged above 60 and those who worked in the informal sectors in line with the election manifesto of Bangladesh Awami League.

She made the directive while witnessing a presentation on 'Introduction of Universal Pension System' at her official residence Ganobhaban.

The Finance Division made the presentation, said PM's assistant press secretary MM Emrul Kayas.

'The Prime Minister directed all concerned to design a universal pension scheme for all those aged above 60 and who worked in public and private sectors, and the informal sector,' he said.

She also issued a directive to set up an authority on the universal pension scheme, he added. *Source : The Financial Express*



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina addressing after inaugurating 'Amar Ekushey Book Fair 2022' through videoconference from her official residence Ganobhaban on February 15



Guests, along with the recipients of Ekushey Padak 2022, pose at the award ceremony at Osmani Memorial Auditorium in Dhaka on February 20. The Prime Minister joined the programme virtually from her official residence Ganobhaban

20 February, 2022

Govt to promote Bangla further abroad: PM

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on February 20 promised to spread further the great Bangla, its literature and the country's culture and heritage across the world as Bangladesh's rich diversity has its own strength.

The Prime Minister said this while distributing the Ekushey Padak, the country's second highest civilian award, among 24 eminent personalities in recognition of their contributions to various fields.

The programme was held at the Osmani Memorial Auditorium. The Prime Minister joined it virtually from her official residence Ganobhaban. Liberation War Affairs Minister AKM Mozammel Huq distributed the prestigious award among the recipients on behalf of the Prime Minister.

This year Mostafa MA Matin (posthumous), and Mirza Tofazal Hossain Mukul (posthumous) have been recognised for their roles in the Language Movement. Zeenat Barkatullah has been recognised for her contributions to dance while Nazrul Islam Babu (posthumous), Iqbal Ahmed, Mahmudur Rahman Benu for music, and Khaled Mahmud Khan (posthumous), Afzal Hossain, Masum Aziz for acting. Alhaj Md Motiur Rahman, Syed Muazzem Ali (posthumous), QABM Rahman, Amzad Ali Khandaker have been recognised for their contributions to the Liberation War. MA Malek got the recognition for contributions to journalism while Md Anwar Hossain for role in science and technology, and Prof Gautam Buddha Das for education. SM Abraham Lincoln and Sangharaj Gyanasree Mahather have been recognised for their contributions to social work and Kamal Chowdhury, Jharna Das Purkayastha for contributions for language and literature. Dr Md Enamul Huq, Dr Shahanaj Sultana and Dr Jannatul Ferdous as a team and Dr Abdus Sattar Mandal as an individual got the Ekushey Padak for their contributions to research this year. *Source : The Financial Express*

21 February, 2022

Nation pays homage to language heroes

The nation on February 21 paid homage to the martyrs of the 1952 Language Movement, marking 'Amar Ekushey' and International Mother Language Day.

The great Language Movement, a significant event in the nation's history, was aimed at establishing the right of the mother tongue as well as protecting self-entity, and culture and heritage.

President Md Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina paid tribute to the martyrs of the Language Movement at the start of day.

On behalf of the president, his Military Secretary Major General SM Salahuddin Islam placed a wreath at the Central Shaheed Minar at one minute past midnight.



Military Secretaries on behalf of the President and the Prime Minister place wreaths at the Central Shaheed Minar in the early hours on February 21 marking the International Mother Language Day

On behalf of the prime minister, her Military Secretary Major General Naquib Ahmed Chowdhury placed a wreath at the Central Shahid Minar in Dhaka at one minute past midnight.

President Md. Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina paid rich tribute to the language heroes.

Sheikh Hasina also released a special commemorative postage stamp, an opening day cover and a data card marking 70 years of Amar Ekushey and Golden Jubilee of observing Amar Ekushey in the independent Bangladesh. *Source : The Financial Express*

23 February, 2022

PM urges Biman to take steps to improve services

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on February 23 asked Biman Bangladesh Airlines to take effective measures to provide world-class passenger and cargo services making it more profitable.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina addressing the golden jubilee celebration of the national carrier Biman Bangladesh Airlines at Balaka Bhaban at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport virtually from her official Ganobhaban residence on February 23

'For effective and skilled ground handling system, we want to create a separate unit. For this, training and manpower is needed,' she said while addressing the golden jubilee anniversary programme of the national carrier.

She said the separate unit is needed as soon as possible so that the government could provide appropriate manpower there for ensuring better passenger services.

The programme was held at Balaka Building of Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport. The PM joined the programme virtually from her official residence Ganobhaban.

The PM also released a special commemorative postage stamp, an opening day cover and a data card marking the golden jubilee of Biman Bangladesh Airlines.

She unveiled the Tk 10 commemorative postage stamp, the Tk 10 opening day cover and the data card worth Tk 5 at a ceremony held at her official residence.

Sheikh Hasina received a souvenir from Biman on its 50th anniversary. *Source : The Financial Express*

24 February, 2022

PM pins hope on youths to materialise Vision 2041

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on February 24 said the new generation will take the country to a great height as youths are the soldiers of the Vision 2041.

Sheikh Hasina said this while unveiling the covers of 11 books published in the 'Mujib Year' through a colourful function at the auditorium of the International Mother Language Institute (IMLI) in the capital. She joined it virtually from her official residence Ganobhaban.

Hasina said the government has laid out the Vision 2041 to build Bangladesh as a prosperous and dignified country. 'The new generation will be the soldiers of that and take forward the country. We'll gradually become a developed country from the developing one.' *Source : The Financial Express*

27 February, 2022

Help youths learn about our national heroes

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina February 27 emphasised on informing the youth about the struggles and sacrifices behind the achievements of the country.

Hasina said this while inaugurating a 150-foot-long scroll painting on the life of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. The programme was held at National Museum at Shahbagh with the PM joining it virtually from Ganobhaban.

'We have many historical events... our children, youths and generations have to know this history. Knowing this, they will be imbued with patriotism and inspired to devote themselves to the welfare of the people,' she said.

She suggested placing it permanently at Bangabandhu Mausoleum in Tungipara, the birth place of Bangabandhu.

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's Birth Centenary Celebration National Implementation Committee organised the event.

Shahjahan Ahmed Bikash painted the longest scroll painting of the country illustrating Bangabandhu's life and works. *Source : The Financial Express*

1 March, 2022

Make insurance sector fully digital: PM

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on March 1 said the insurance sector will have to be brought under complete automation and digitalisation to render hassle-free services and encourage people to get insurance.

She was addressing a function as chief guest, marking observance of 'National Insurance Day' at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre (BICC), joining virtually from her official Ganobhaban residence.

The finance ministry and Insurance Development and Regulatory Authority jointly organised the function.

The PM asked all concerned, particularly the public and private insurance companies, to take effective measures to create awareness among the people about forming insurance policies using modern technologies.

On behalf of the PM, Salim Ullah handed over the 'Bima Padak' to five people for their outstanding contribution to the sector and 'Bangabandhu Surokhya Bima Policy' to two children with disabilities. *Source : The Daily Star*

3 March, 2022

Ensure use of research knowledge for people's welfare: PM

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina urged on March 3 the researchers to ensure that their research knowledge is used for the wellbeing of the country's people.

'The practical application of your invented knowledge should be for the welfare of the people. So, I also want to see what would be the impact of the research you are doing now,' she said.

The PM came up with the remarks while conferring 'Bangabandhu Science and Technology Fellowship,' 'NST Fellowship' and distributing special research donation among teachers, scientists, researchers and science students of different universities and research institutes.

The Science and Technology Ministry arranged the ceremony at Osmani Smriti



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina clapping while on her behalf Science and Technology Minister Architect Yeafesh Osman conferring 'Bangabandhu Science and Technology Fellowship,' 'NST Fellowship' on researchers at Osmani Memorial Auditorium on March 3, joining the event virtually from her official residence Ganobhaban

Auditorium, while the PM joined the event virtually from her official residence Ganobhaban.

This year a total of 4,182 cheques of Bangabandhu Fellowship, NST Fellowship and special research donation have been disbursed.

Source : The Financial Express



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina addressing the Mujib Borsho passing-Out Parade of the 41st batch of the Marine Fisheries Academy on its campus in Chattogram joining the ceremony virtually from her official residence Ganobhaban in the city on March 6

6 March, 2022

Blue economy potential in full focus, says PM

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on March 6 said her government has been taking required measures to leverage full potential of the blue economy to further expedite the country's development.

'We have already announced the blue economy policy giving importance on marine resources. We can make our economy more vibrant, stronger and solid using the marine resources and we're taking various measures to this end,' she said.

The premier was addressing the Mujib Borsho Passing-Out Parade of the 41st batch of the Marine Fisheries Academy on its campus in Chattogram, attending it virtually from her official residence Ganobhaban in the city. *Source : The Financial Express*

7 March, 2022

PM pays homage to Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on March 7 paid rich tributes to Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on the occasion of the historic March 7.

She paid the homage by placing a wreath at the portrait of the Father of the Nation in front of the Bangabandhu Memorial Museum at Dhanmondi in the city morning.

After laying the wreath, she stood in solemn silence for some time as a mark of profound respect to the memory of Bangabandhu, the architect of the independence.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina pays homage by placing a wreath at the portrait of the Father of the Nation in front of the Bangabandhu Memorial Museum at Dhanmondi on March 7

Bangabandhu in an announcement declared, 'the struggle this time is for our freedom, the struggle this time is for independence' at the then Race Course Maidan (now Suhrawardhy Udyan) on March 7 in 1971.

The historic March 7 speech of the Father of the Nation was included in the Memory of the World International Register, a list of world's important documentary heritage maintained by UNESCO on October 30 in 2017.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina released a commemorative postage stamp, a first-day cover and a data card marking the historic March 7.

She unveiled a Tk 10 commemorative postage stamp, a TK 10 opening day cover and a Tk 5 data card using special canceller at her official residence Ganobhaban.

Source : The Financial Express

8 March, 2022

People will surely support motherly leadership like hers, says PM

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on March 8 said if any female leader governs a country with a motherly affection like her, people will surely extend their support to her.

'Women aren't only women, but also mothers. If you run a country with a motherly affection, people will definitely support you,' she said.

The Prime Minister made the remark while replying to a question at a high-level power panel titled 'Redefining the Future for Women' held at the Women's Pavilion in the Dubai Expo 2020 arranged marking the International Women's Day.

Hasina said she has won the support and trust of people in governing the country and that is her main strength. "People have realised that if I'm there, they'll surely be benefited," she said. *Source : The Financial Express*

11 March, 2022

Pandemic, war won't derail progress: PM

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is confident that Bangladesh's progress will not be hampered by grave international events like the coronavirus pandemic and the war in Ukraine.

'There's been one setback after another. Just as we were overcoming the impacts of the pandemic, a war has broken out. This has caused a few problems. But I believe the Bengali nation can tackle any adversity and move forward.'

The Prime Minister, who is currently in the United Arab Emirates on a five-day



Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE, in a bilateral meeting at the Dubai Exhibition Centre on March 8

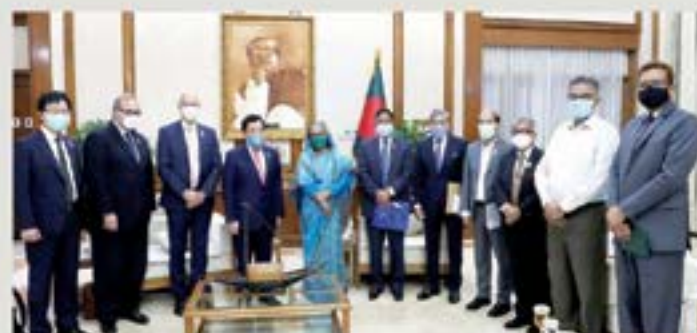
trip, made the remarks at a reception arranged by expatriate Bangladeshis on March 11. She joined the event virtually from Abu Dhabi.

Drawing on Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's historic Mar 7 speech, Hasina reiterated her father's assertion that 'no one can suppress Bengalis'. *Source : The Financial Express*

13 March, 2022

PM proposes FAO to establish International Seed Bank

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has proposed that the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) set up an International Seed Bank.



A delegation of FAO of the UN led by its Director General QU Dongyu posing with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina during the meeting at the Ganobhaban on March 13

'Establish an International Seed Bank which may have the potential to tackle food crisis during any natural disasters over the centuries,' she said when FAO Director General (DG) Qu Dongyu called on her at the latter's official Gonobhaban residence in the city.

The Prime Minister also stressed the need for considering the experience of the Netherlands as an example to do so. She told Dongyu to form a consolidated fund for taking projects on digitization and innovation, where Bangladesh will remain ready to contribute.

Source : The Financial Express

17 March, 2022

Not chanting 'Joy Bangla' undermines liberty : PM

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on March 17 slammed those who still refuse to chant the national slogan 'Joy Bangla' the inspiration of the liberation war.

'Those who still don't chant the 'Joy Bangla' slogan actually don't believe in the independence of the country, the spirit of Liberation War and the ideology of independence of



President Md. Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina offering prayer after placing wreaths at Bangabandhu Mausoleum marking Bangabandhu's 102nd birth anniversary and National Children's Day at Tungpara on March 17

Bangladesh, she told a discussion meeting virtually from her official residence Ganobhaban.

Bangladesh Awami League arranged the discussion at Bangabandhu Mausoleum Complex, Tungipara in Gopalganj on The Occasion of the 102nd birth anniversary of Bangladesh's founding president Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and the National Children's Day-2022. *Source: The New Age*

21 March, 2022

Every house illuminated, says PM

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on March 21 said that every house of the country now came under electrification as she announced electricity coverage with inaugurating 1,320 MW Payra Thermal Power Plant, the largest of kind.

'This is the biggest thing that we have been able to light house of every people,' she said at a function in Patuakhali.

With Opening the coalfired Payra thermal power plant with eco-friendly ultra-supercritical technology, Bangladesh has achieved another milestone implementing the government's pledge to bring 100 percent people Under electricity coverage by Mujib Year which is going end on March 31.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina inaugurates the country's largest 1320 MW Payra Thermal Power Plant at Patuakhali on March 21

Sheikh Hasina thanked the Chinese President and the Prime Minister for their cooperation in setting up the Payra Power Plant.

The Payra power plant is built on 1000 acres of land at a cost of 2.48 billion US dollar beside the Ramnabad River at Kalapara upazila of the southern Patuakhali district and Bangladesh has become 13th country among the world in using the ultra-supercritical technology in producing power.

The Payra Thermal Power Plant was developed by Bangladesh China Power company Limited, a 50:50 joint venture between the China National Machinery Import and Export Corporation and Bangladesh's state owned North-west Power Generation Company Ltd. *Source: The New Age*

22 March, 2022

BR fleet to swell with 200 coaches

The railway fleet is going to expand as the government has endorsed a Tk 17.04-billion project to procure 200 more broad-gauge passenger coaches.

The Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (ECNEC) approves

the Bangladesh Railway (BR)'s passenger carriage project along with 11 others at a total outlay of Tk 157.44 billion.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina presided over the weekly ECNEC meeting joining it virtually from her Ganobhaban official residence on March 22.

About the approved projects, he said the meeting endorsed the Tk 17.04-billion project to procure 200 broad-gauge passenger coaches.

According to the project proposal, the BR will import the carriages during the period from October 2021 to June 2025 for upgrading its passenger services.

The European Investment Bank would bankroll the project with its Tk 13.31-billion loan support. *Source: The Financial Express*

23 March, 2022

Cinema should help reform society

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina urged on March 23 that the film industry to focus more on the country's Liberation War and sacrifice of the masses besides providing entertainment.

'Besides providing entertainment, films can reform the society, educate the people, inspire their patriotism and advance the country towards prosperity,' she said.

The PM was speaking at a function marking the distribution of the National Film Awards-2020 among the winners in 27 categories.

The event was organised at the capital's Bangabandhu International Conference Centre (BICC), with the premier joining it through video link from the Ganobhaban.

She mentioned that films can spread the facts among the mass people about the real history of the country's independence.

The PM said people can learn about many unknown national events through films. Cinemas have the power to help remove irregularities and indiscipline from the society, she added.

She said she plans to equip the country's film industry with modern technologies. "For that we need to transform the cinema halls at the upazila level into cineplexes."

The premier said the government has created a Tk 1,000-crore fund for this purpose.

She also put emphasis on transforming the analog system of old cinemas into digital one for the new generation.

On the PM's behalf, Information and Broadcasting Minister Dr. Hasan Mahmud handed the awards to the 32 winners in 27 categories.

The minister, and Chairman of Parliamentary Standing Committee on Information and Broadcasting Ministry Hasanul Huq Inu also spoke at the programme, among others. *Source: The Daily Star*

24 March, 2022

WB to provide \$500m budgetary support

A sum of US\$500 million is expected from the World Bank for bridging huge gap

between income and expenditure targets in the current Bangladesh budget.

In the first tranche, the Washington-based development financier is set to disburse US\$250 million in budget support by next month, Economic Relations Division (ERD) on March 24.

The government of Bangladesh had recently completed negotiations with the WB for the budgetary support as the country needs recovery from the economic losses inflicted by massive attack of the coronavirus over the last couple of years.

The government is now deemed under pressure following the offering of higher incentives for the industries and businesses, lower revenue collection against targets, waiver of VAT and taxes on different products and sectors, and expenditure for stimulus packages.

'The proposed \$500 million budgetary support will help the government minimise the income-expenditure gap,' he says.

In addition to the WB dollop of budget aid, the Asian Development Bank has also confirmed another \$500 million budgetary support to minimise the deficit, he adds.

The senior ERD official says the proposed \$500 million worth of WB budget support titled 'Resilience and Recovery Development Policy Credit (DPC)' has been offered after a prolonged stagnancy in such kind of support.

'The budget-support proposal is likely to be placed before the WB board end of this month. After approval for the assistance, we are ready to sign a loan deal for getting the \$250-million aid within next month,' says another senior ERD official.

Source: The Financial Express

25 March, 2022

Genocide Day observed recalling horrors of March 25

The nation on March 25 observed Genocide Day, recalling the horrors of one of the worst genocides in modern history committed by the Pakistani occupation forces against the unarmed people of Bangladesh on the night of March 25, 1971 and after wards.

The day was observed through elaborate programmes undertaken by the government at the national level.

Different political, social and cultural organisations also held separate programmes to observe the day with due solemnity.

The country put the light out all over for a minute from 9:00pm in remembrance of those who were killed the Operation Searchlight launched by the Pakistani military on the dreadful March 25 night.

The Ministry of Liberation War Affairs took up the programme While the key point installations and the essential establishments remained out of the blackout event.

In a statement, the international Coalition of Sites of Conscience urged the United Nations General Assembly and other international entities to formally recognise the Bangladesh genocide of 1971.

The government on March 21, 2017 declared March 25 Genocide Day following a parliamentary resolution adopted on March 11 the same year.

President Md. Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina issued separate messages on the eve of the day, paying rich tributes to the martyrs of the 1971 genocide.

National dailies published special supplements while television and radio channels aired special programmes to highlight the significance of the day.

Special prayers were offered at the mosque and other religious institutions, seeking eternal peace for the martyrs, who were killed on March 25, 1971.

All Bangladesh missions abroad also observed the day, paying rich tributes to the martyrs of March 25.

About 30 lakh people were savagely and systematically killed during the subsequent nine-month-long liberation war, two lakh women violated and about one crore people forced to leave the country with the help of local collaborators.

The crackdown set off the nine-month-long liberation war led by Mujibnagar government in exile which culminated in the emergence of Independent Bangladesh on December 16, 1971. *Source: The New Age*

26 March, 2022

President, PM pay homage to martyrs

President Md. Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina paid rich tributes to the Liberation War martyrs at Savar's National Memorial on March 26 morning.

The head of the state first placed a wreath at the altar of the memorial, followed by the Prime Minister, marking the 52nd Independence and National Day.

After placing wreaths, the President and the Prime Minister stood in solemn silence for a while, as a mark of profound respect to the memories of the martyrs of the Liberation War.

A smartly turned-out contingent drawn from the Bangladesh Army, Navy and the Air Force paid the state salute on the occasion, while the bugles played the last post.

The country celebrated the 52nd Independence and National Day with a fresh vow to take the nation towards prosperity, with the Liberation War's spirit.



President Md. Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina observe silence after paying tributes to the martyrs of the Liberation War by placing wreaths at the National Memorial in Savar on March 26, marking the 52nd Independence and National Day



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, joining virtually from her official residence Ganobhaban, addresses the 5th BIMSTEC Summit taking place in Sri Lankan capital Colombo on March 30 morning.

March 30 called for collective efforts of the seven Bay of Bengal countries at tapping the full potential of the region for the benefits of their people

‘We need to find common strategies to rebuild a sustainable and resilient Bay of Bengal region by tapping the full potential of the region,’ she said while addressing the 5th BIMSTEC Summit that opened in Sri Lankan capital Colombo.

Joining the summit virtually from her official residence Ganobhaban, the Prime Minister said the summit meeting gives an opportunity to expedite the collective efforts and find out common solutions to the multiple challenges.

BIMSTEC of Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation comprises Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand bringing together 1.54 billion people of the resource-rich region.

Sri Lanka is hosting the 5th BIMSTEC Summit in hybrid mode with the theme ‘BIMSTEC-Towards a Resilient Region, Prosperous Economies and Healthy Peoples.’ Sri Lankan President Gotabaya Rajapaksa formally inaugurated it.

Source: *The Financial Express*

Report Compilation: Md. Mazharul Hoque, Mamun Hossain, Umma Halima

On the occasion, the PM also paid tributes to the Father of the Nation by placing a wreath at his portrait in front of Bangabandhu Memorial Museum at Dhanmondi-32.

Flanked by party leaders, Hasina, also president of the Awami League, placed another wreath on behalf of the party.

Later, the Prime Minister entered Bangabandhu Memorial Museum and spent some time there.

On the occasion, the prime minister also greeted all the freedom fighters.

Sheikh Hasina also unveiled a commemorative postage stamp on Salimpur Wireless Station, the receiving and transmitting station of the declaration of independence by Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

She released the stamp of Tk 10, along with an opening day cover of Tk 10 and a data card of Tk 5. Source: *The Daily Star*

30 March, 2022

Rebuild a sustainable Bay of Bengal region

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on



6.15 km long Padma Bridge : The longest road-rail bridge of the country



Department of Films and Publications
Ministry of Information and Broadcasting
Bangladesh