

February 2022

DIPLOMATS WORLD

The Only Diplomatic Magazine in Bangladesh

International Mother Language Day

50 Years: A new Era of Japan Bangladesh Friendship

Maritime Connectivity through the Indian Ocean:
Prospects and Drawbacks for Bangladesh





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HEAD OFFICE & FACTORY:
Nowpara, Madhabdi,
Narsingdi-1604 Bangladesh
Phone : +88 09610 110 220-5
www.jajbhuiyangroup.com

CORPORATE OFFICE:
Gawsia Kashem Centre, 7th Floor,
10/2 Arambag, Motijheel, Dhaka-1000.
Phone : +88 02 41 070 208 -15
+88 09610 110 220-5

BARIDHARA DOHS OFFICE:
House no- 322 (Ground Floor),
Road no-5, Phone : +88 02 8416905

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Address: House-58, Road-03, Block-B, Niketon Society Gulshan-1, Dhaka-1212, Bangladesh
Phone: +88 024881 2430, Hotline: +880 1972344788, email: info@diplomats.news
www.diplomats.news

Founder & Fmr. Editor

Dr. A.K.Abdul Momen

Hon'ble Foreign Minister, GoB

Editor

Shahed Akhtar

Fmr. Ambassador & Secretary, GoB

Executive Editor

Nazinur Rahim

Assistant Editor

Marzana Safat

AKM Sayedad Hossain

Creative Editor

Lutfun Nahar Taposhi

Cultural Editor

Rucksana Rahman

Sr. Editing Assistant

K. M Mostak Ahmed

Co-ordinator

Sheikh Nazia Hasan

Contributors

AKM Sayedad Hossain

Lutfun Nahar Taposhi

Syed Alamgir

Syed Md Atiqul Islam Atique

Sakhawat Khan

Aminur Rahman

Dr. Mohammed Faruque

Abul Hasan Chowdhury

Mohammad Shafiqul Islam

Design & Layout

Affia Mahjabeen

Publisher

Nazinur Rahim

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**INTERNATIONAL MOTHER
LANGUAGE DAY**

EDITOR'S NOTE



February is a significant month in Bangladesh. This month is dedicated to the martyrs of the language movement in Bangladesh. This year also coincides with Bangladesh's 50th year of Independence and the Birth centenary of Father of Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. Diplomats would like to take the opportunity to pay homage to the great statesmen under whose leadership people gained their independence.

Bangladesh was earlier known as a country vulnerable to natural calamities. It has outperformed much larger and better endowed than – India and Pakistan – in some socioeconomic indicators. It was once called a “basket case”, is now considered a role model. Bangladesh's national income has multiplied 50 times, per capita income 25 times, higher than India's and Pakistan's, and food & fisheries production four times. Population growth contained, rising per capita income, exports have grown 100 times and poverty is down to 20 percent from 60pc in 1990. Life expectancy has risen to 72 for make and 74 for females. The value of the Human Development Index increased 60 percent.

Even though the Omicron Covid variant has affected our lives and our overall health, some businesses are struggling to get back to the pre-covid position. The sectors like tourism, education, travel, etc. are worst affected. The good news is that many countries including Bangladesh have relaxed the covid stringent rules and opened up educational institutions.

“Diplomats” has put together write-ups of experts, researchers, economists, and scholars covering issues like Language movement; Liberation war; Rohingya issue; Decentralized Internet; Bio-fuel energy solutions, and other issues of topical interest.

Diplomats take the opportunity to express their gratitude to our readers who have inspired and shown interest in the magazine.

Shahed Akhtar
Fmr. Ambassador & Secretary, GoB
and Editor, Diplomats Publication

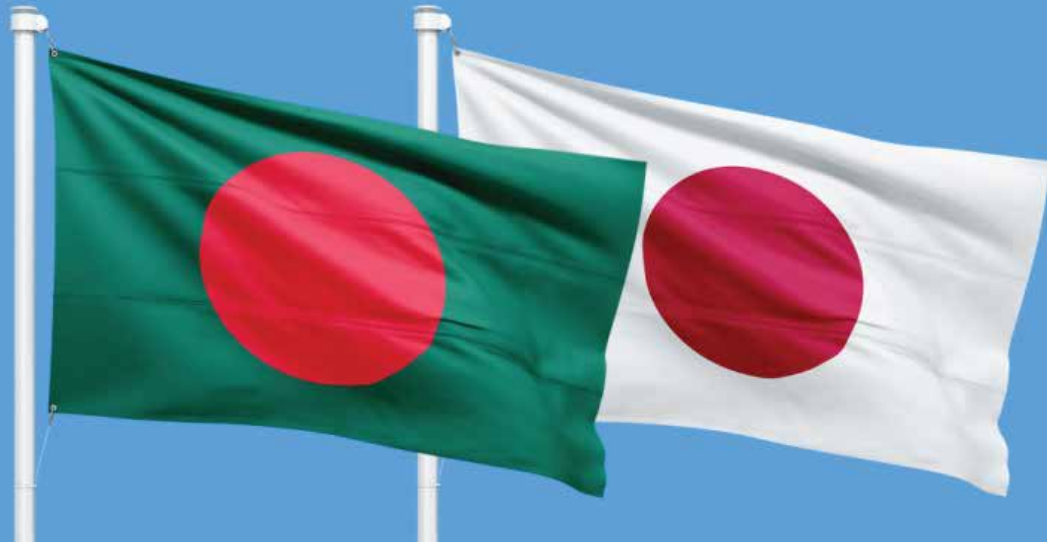
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50 YEARS: A NEW ERA OF JAPAN BANGLADESH FRIENDSHIP

-AKM Sayedad Hossain

If the words of the American billionaire Warren Edward Buffett are taken as true, then the values of the people of Japan are very high. They are the ones who are nurturing the most valuable 'object' in the world; that is 'honesty'.

Due to its cultural values, religious influences and people-friendly system, it has been possible to establish a society based on honesty in Japan. The imprint of that honesty is clear from personal life, social life to the highest level of the state. The result is the building of a beautiful system in that country.

The relationship between Japan and Bangladesh is a trusted and time-tested one. Bangladesh became Japan's biggest

recipient of official development assistance in 2020. Since the Covid-19 pandemic started more than a year ago, there has been a lot of talks and anticipation about Japanese businesses moving base to Bangladesh.

Ever since Bangladesh achieved independence, Japan has been standing by the country through thick and thin like a trusted friend.

Japan was among the countries that first recognized Bangladesh within two months of its victory on December 16, 1971. Japan recognized the People's Republic of Bangladesh on February 10th, 1972, soon after its independence. Japan was thus one of the earliest countries to officially recognize Bangladesh. Its embassy opened in Dhaka in March 1972. It soon sent Takashi Hayakawa, then the

parliamentarian and president of Japan Bangladesh Friendship Association, to visit a war-torn Bangladesh to assess the need for Japanese assistance.

The historic official visit of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman to Japan in October 1973, which laid the rock-solid foundation of the bilateral relations between the two countries.

The Father of the Nation, Bangabandhu, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman visited Japan from October 18 to 24, 1973 as Prime Minister with his daughter Ms. Sheikh Rehana and his son Mr. Sheikh Russel. Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib met with His Majesty Emperor Hirohito and Her Majesty Empress Kojun.



Bangabandhu is being greeted by Japanese Prime Minister Mr TANAKA Kakuei

During his stay in Japan, Bangabandhu also had talks with Prime Minister TANAKA Kakuei and Foreign Minister OHIRA Masayoshi. Along with the programs in Tokyo and its suburbs, Bangabandhu also enjoyed a local trip to Wakayama, Osaka and Kyoto.

Then in 1974, Japan committed to the Official Development Assistance (ODA) loan and established the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) office in Dhaka. Bangladesh has seen exponential growth since its independence, and the ties with Japan have remained as strong as ever.

Since Bangladesh's independence, over 100 loan projects and more than 150 grand aid projects involving thousands of crore taka have been signed, with more than 20 technical cooperation projects ongoing every year. From investing in infrastructure and energy to supplying safe water and public health services, Japan has been playing a significant role in Bangladesh's development.

Japanese Ambassador to Bangladesh H.E. Ito Naoki has said Japan will keep working towards

improving regional connectivity through infrastructure projects in the country.

At the same time, Tokyo will support Dhaka's efforts at development and stability, "Japan will promote practical cooperation with Bangladesh to realize the vision of "Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP)" for peace, stability, and prosperity in the region," he added.

Terming Japan the largest development partner of Bangladesh, the envoy said large-scale infrastructure projects that symbolize the country's rapid

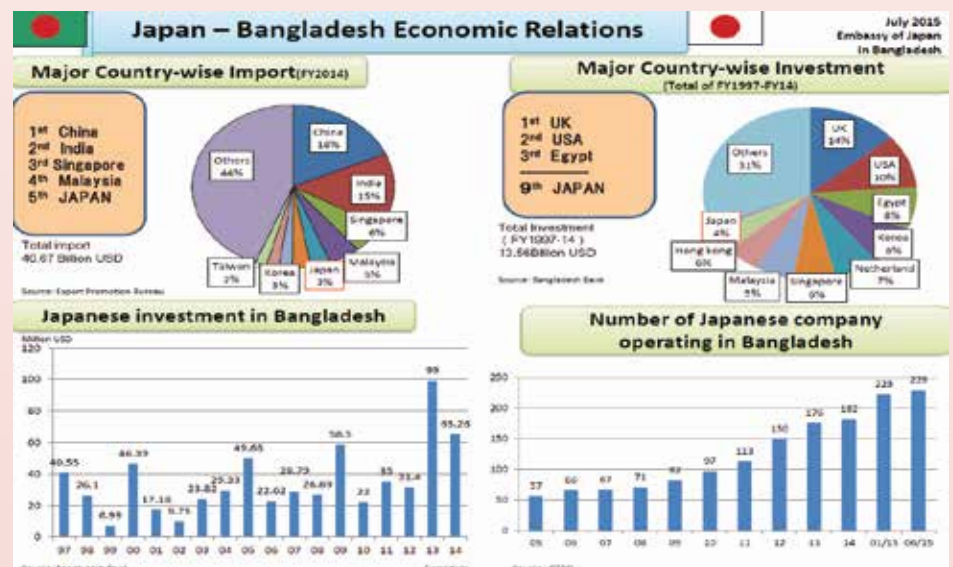
economic growth are steadily underway.

The flagship projects are Dhaka Metro, expansion of Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport, Jamuna Railway Bridge, and Matarbari Deep Sea Port. At the same time, we will redouble our efforts to improve the investment climate for Japanese companies as they expand their investment and their business. We will continue to address customs clearance, overseas remittance, import transaction settlement, and taxation challenges," said the ambassador.

Resolving the issue of the Rohingya refugees is also crucial from the perspective of realizing FOIP, he said.

"The recent situation in Myanmar since the coup last February has made the repatriation of refugees more difficult," said the envoy.

As the crisis is protracted, he said, it is urgent to improve the condition of refugee camps in Cox's Bazar, including education, skill training, and livelihood.



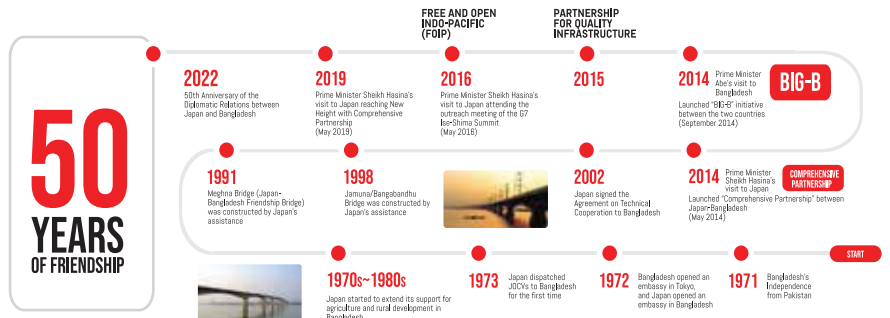
The envoy said they welcome the MoU recently signed between the government of Bangladesh and UN refugee agency to cooperate in the relocation plan of the refugees to Bashan Char Island.

"Japan will work with the international community for humanitarian assistance and the repatriation of the displaced people," H.E. ITO Naoki said.

The COVID-19 pandemic significantly impacted economic activities and cultural and people's exchanges between Japan and Bangladesh during the Two years.

"Even amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, it has been a year of deepening friendly and cooperative relations between the two countries," said the ambassador.

"The gift from the Japanese people was to meet the needs of the people of Bangladesh facing the threat of COVID-19 infection," said the ambassador adding that they will also continue their efforts to make the vaccination available further to Japanese citizens in



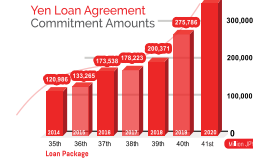
Reaching New Height in Financial, Technical Cooperation & Grants

At a Glance

Year	Yen Loan	Grant	TA	Total
2014	248.96	17.36	43.37	307.7
2015	331.86	8.93	34.37	375.16
2016	394.13	24.05	42.5	461.27
2017	1227.67	40.32	44.67	1312.66
2018	1082.25	65.62	31.41	1179.28
Subtotal	3581.40	506.65	1061.20	9709.16

(Million USD)
(Net disbursement)

ODA Loan



Bangladesh.

But why is Japan so supportive towards Bangladesh? To understand the bond between the two countries with around 5,000 kilo meter of distance between them, one has to go back 70 years.

A Bengali judge, born in Kushtia district of the then East Bengal in 1880s, played a crucial role in the love and respect Japanese

people have for Bangladeshis in the present day.

"There is history behind it but there is no written record. The role of Judge Radhabinod Pal is very significant here," said Prof Abul Barakat, chairman of the Department of Japanese Studies at Dhaka University.

Radhabinod Pal was an Indian jurist, who was one of the three Asian judges appointed to the

FOIP FREE AND OPEN INDO-PACIFIC

3 PILLARS

- Pursuit of economic prosperity by improving connectivity and strengthening economic partnership
- Promotion and Commitment for peace and stability
- Establishment of rule of law

MAKING BANGLADESH A REGIONAL INDUSTRY HUB

BIG-B BAY OF BENGAL INDUSTRIAL GROWTH BELT

REGIONAL INDUSTRY HUB

- LOGISTICS HUB
- POWER & ENERGY HUB
- WATERFRONT INDUSTRY HUB

JAPAN'S COMMITMENT TO MID

BANGLADESH'S FAST-TRACK PROJECT

MOHESHKHAL-MATARBARA INTEGRATED INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE (MIDI)

Through introducing **QUALITY INFRASTRUCTURE**, Japan is committed to contributing to the **REGIONAL CONNECTIVITY** in the context of FOIP (Free and Open Indo-Pacific) and under the initiative of **BIG-B** (Bay of Bengal Industrial Growth Belt) as well as to the growth of Bangladesh towards Sustainable Development Goals, or SDGs.

JAPAN'S ODA SINCE FOR MID **818.65 BILLION JPY**

- 42%** TOTAL POWER GENERATED
- 42%** SUPPLY OF RENEWABLE ENERGY
- HIGH EFFICIENCY POWER PLANTS**
- BIGGEST DEEP SEA PORT**
- 39%** HANDLING CAPACITY OF CONTAINERS IN BANGLADESH
- REGIONAL ENERGY GATEWAY**
- WATER RESOURCES**
- DEVELOPING ROAD CONNECTIVITY**

BILATERAL RELATIONS

ODA

BIGGEST BILATERAL DONOR

Partnership for Development & Prosperity since 1972

USD 6 BILLION IN 4 YEARS

During PM Sheikh Hasina's 2014 visit, Japan-Bangladesh Comprehensive Partnership Branches with Japan committing financial assistance.

In 2020 Bangladesh-Japan signed 41st Official Development Assistance (ODA) deal, involving approximately \$3.2 billion for implementing 7 projects.

TRADE & INVESTMENT

310 Japanese Companies Now Operating in Bangladesh

433.34 MILLION USD (as of March 2020) Japan's FDI Stock in Bangladesh

1365.7 EXPORT (2019/20) (Million USD) **20.86%** Increase from Previous FY

49.35 REMITTANCE (2019/20) (Million USD) FROM JAPAN

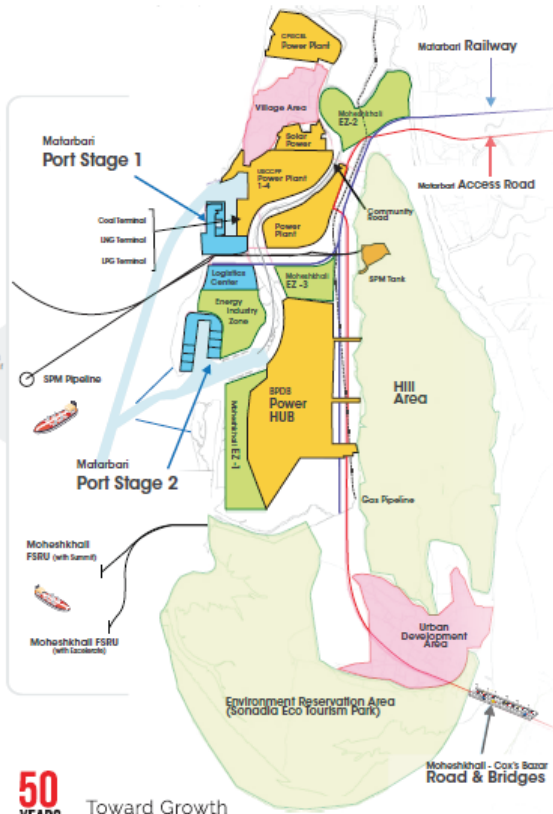
Toward Growth Beyond Borders

BIG-B BAY OF BENGAL INDUSTRIAL GROWTH BELT

REGIONAL INDUSTRY HUB

- Logistics Hub
- Power & Energy Hub
- Waterfront Industry Hub

MIDI Moheshkhali-Matarbari Integrated Infrastructure Development Initiative



MIDI MOHESHKHALI-MATARBARI INTEGRATED INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE

BANGLADESH'S FAST-TRACK PROJECT



50 YEARS
Toward Growth
Beyond Borders

Through introducing **QUALITY INFRASTRUCTURE**, Japan is committed to contributing to the **REGIONAL CONNECTIVITY** in the context of **FOIP** (Free and Open Indo-Pacific) and under the initiative of **BIG-B** (Bay of Bengal Industrial Growth Belt) as well as to the growth of Bangladesh towards Sustainable Development Goals, or SDGs.

Legend: Landscape (Green), Living Zone (Pink), Economic & Industry Zone (Yellow), Port Development & Logistics (Blue), Power Development (Orange), Access Road (Red), Railway (Purple), Gas Pipeline (Black).

International Military Tribunal for the Far East, popularly known as the "Tokyo Trials" of Japanese war crimes committed during the Second World War.

Among all the judges of the tribunal, he was the only one who submitted a judgment which insisted all defendants were not guilty. While he fully acknowledged Japan's war atrocities — including the Nanjing massacre — the judge said they were covered in the Class B and Class C trials, according to a New York Times report published in 2007.

Judge Pal also described the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki by the United States as the worst atrocities of the war, comparable to Nazi crimes. And that's why the judge garnered the respect of the Japanese people.

While visiting India in 2007, the then Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe had paid tributes to Judge Pal in a speech to the Indian Parliament in New Delhi and then travelled to Kolkata to meet the judge's son who was living there.

"Justice Pal is highly respected even today by many Japanese people for the noble spirit of courage he exhibited during the International Military Tribunal for the Far East," the New York Times report cited Abe as saying at the Indian Parliament.

"Had Radhabinod Pal not given such a verdict, the history of Japan could have been different," Prof Barakat said.

During the Liberation War, the then Japanese Emperor helped Bangladesh in different ways and



● Overview of Channel



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina & Japanese Prime minister Shinzo Abe

even after independence, Japan never voted against Bangladesh's interest in any international forum including the United Nations, he said.

"I think this is their [Japanese] way of showing gratitude towards Judge Radhabinod," he said.

Bangladesh's transform from "one of the world's poorest countries" into "one of the world's

fastest-growing economies" and Japan's part in that story. Today, the world looks with admiration at what Bangladesh has achieved in its first half century: an RMG powerhouse; a leading contributor to peace and security, especially as a provider of troops to UN peacekeeping missions, and one of the most influential global voices on climate change, as we have just seen at COP26 in Glasgow.

Modern links between Japan and Bangladesh include trade and investment, a mutual vision of a modern 21st-century partnership bound by strong historical ties. We look forward to strengthening these bonds of kinship and culture through the dynamism of our strong people-to-people links, for the next 50 years and beyond. Japan Bangladesh Friendship!

Akm Sayedad Hossain

Secretary, Bangladesh Export Forum
& Assistant Editor,
Diplomats Publication

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MARITIME CONNECTIVITY THROUGH THE INDIAN OCEAN: PROSPECTS AND DRAW BACKS FOR BANGLADESH

-Lutfun Nahar Taposhi

The Bay of Bengal, which spans over 21,73,000 square kilometres has gained prominence in recent years. The increasing strategic and economic imperatives of Bay compel its formal recognition as a geopolitical territory. Growing economic interdependence in the post-globalization era, along with the strategic growth of India and China, has re-emphasized the importance of marine connection. This is especially true in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR), which is bordered by several littoral countries that are growing economically and politically. Both India and Bangladesh have reinvigorated their inter-Bay connectivity in light of the opportunities and difficulties that

abound in this marine zone.

The Bay of Bengal, which is connected to the Indian Ocean, is closer to our dwellings. The bay is teeming with unexplored natural resources, including some of the world's greatest stocks of gas and other seabed minerals, as well as the possibility of oil. The Bay of Bengal, which connects the Indian and Pacific Oceans, is unique in that it maintains a pivotal place in world economic movements. As a strategic conduit to the Malacca Straits and Lombok Strait, the region has become increasingly crucial in the geopolitical calculations of the world's big powers, particularly China and Japan, as well as India. The main reason for this is the

Bay of Bengal's economic influence on the east-west maritime trade. Half of the world's container traffic travels through this region, and its ports handle nearly 30% of global trade, making it the "economic highway of the globe." "...66 percent of India's, Japan's, and China's oil exports and 33 percent of the world's bulk freight" pass through these waterways. Its global significance is further emphasized by the fact that it is one of the world's major fishing grounds, accounting for roughly 15% of global fish capture which is approximately 9 million tons per annum.

The Maldives, Sri Lanka, India, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia,

Bhutan, and Nepal are all part of the Bay of Bengal area. More broadly, the region's demographic, economic, and security trends have significant ramifications for Asia and the global order. For the past few years, the densely populated Bay of Bengal, with a total gross domestic product of close to US\$ 2.8 trillion, has been able to maintain average annual rates of economic growth between 3.4 and 7.5 percent. Despite its global importance as a significant maritime hub and all of its economic promise, the region's potential is hampered by a lack of deep economic integration among the countries that call it home.

A complex web of factors such as historical animosity, ill-defined land, and maritime borders, a cross-border affiliation of ethnolinguistic and religious groups, economic conflict, sharing of common rivers/natural resources, and a tumultuous process of nation-building accompanied by numerous interstate conflicts, as well as a mix of regional and extra-regional factors, have gradually transformed this region into a hotbed of mistrust and tensions. Because of the gridlock between India and Pakistan, SAARC has been unable to function fully. Maritime challenges aren't even a priority in the BIMSTEC, which excludes countries like the Maldives, Indonesia, Singapore, and Malaysia from membership.

Oceans cover 72 percent of our blue planet's surface, according to the Blue Economy research paper. Oceans provide a variety of services to life. Oceans offer sustenance for the entire world's population and are vital for transportation and trade. The

marine and coastal environments are both vital resources for the world's most important tourism business. The ocean also provides a tremendous amount of renewable "blue energy." Tide, wind, and so on. Furthermore, the ocean is the most important mode of mass transportation.

The terms "Blue Economy" and "Maritime Economy" have grown trendy in recent years. It has recently gained popularity in Bangladesh. Bangladesh is also becoming aware of the magnitude of the problem. After establishing a large maritime border with Myanmar and India, there has been a surge in interest. In the Bay of Bengal, Bangladesh today has a total marine area of 121,110 square kilometres, including an Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).

The government has recently taken some key actions, such as planning to establish policies and mobilizing resources after the boundary has been reached. The effective and efficient utilization of maritime resources is a critical instrument for achieving sustainable development. As a coastal and riverine country, Bangladesh is heavily reliant on maritime resources and channels.

Ports now play a significant role in

the national economy and trade. Around 30 million Bangladeshis are directly dependent on the maritime sector, which includes commercial shipping and other services. Maritime routes also play a significant part in the globalization process. Furthermore, sea shipping is critical for Bangladesh's socio-economic prospects. Because maritime transportation both efficient and effective. This allows for the transportation of a wide range of items in huge quantities at a lower cost than other modes of transportation.

The shipping sector is crucial to the three pillars of sustainable development (social, economic, and environmental). It facilitates the global economy, generates income, and produces job opportunities, all of which have a significant impact on human well-being. It benefits the entire country in this way. Maritime channels account for over 90% of freight commerce in Bangladesh. It has become increasingly important as a result of globalization. Bangladesh has recently experienced rapid growth in the maritime shipping sector or sea-based transportation functions. Bangladesh has recently made progress in the export and import sectors. A large





Coastal Shipping Propel Ties Between India and Bangladesh

number of foreign ships call at our ports. Bangladesh has made significant progress in the shipping sector, and indigenous maritime companies should be encouraged to do much more.

It entails using medium-sized ships to convey national and international freight at regular intervals and to and from adjacent countries. Bangladesh's Coastal Shipping number is increasing because of its lengthy coasts along the Bay of Bengal. Coastal shipping, sometimes known as feeder transport, is a type of maritime point-to-point transit. Containers are distributed from the main hub ports to lesser ports or landlocked countries via the feeder service. These are effective and efficient services. It is incredibly cost-effective, saves time, and creates a large number of work opportunities.

By providing the necessary equipment, the shipbuilding industry contributes to the current function. There are almost 300 shipyards and workshops in Bangladesh. Almost all of them necessitate a large number of tools and infrastructure

improvements. Around 15 ships are repaired in our country's dry docks each year, earning a significant amount of foreign currency. Furthermore, for more than two decades, Bangladesh's ship recycling business has contributed a massive amount of materials to steel, shipbuilding, and other industries. It also exports to a few other South Asian countries. Steel is made up of 80-90 percent of a ship's scrap metal. Bangladesh has a lot of prospects in this industry, and it has to be cultivated correctly.

The Port Authority of Thailand (Rawang Port) and the Chittagong

Port Authority of Bangladesh recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). Bangladesh's Ministry of Foreign Affairs provided this information on December 21, 2021. The MoU is expected to boost trade between Bangladesh and Thailand by improving maritime communication between the two nations in the Bay of Bengal, according to the press release. This is part of Bangladesh's larger plan to improve connection with its neighbours, such as the ASEAN, BIMSTEC, and SAARC regions. The Memorandum of Understanding will encourage both sides' business communities to look into more trade and investment possibilities. Information exchange and collaboration in port management, operations, information technology, communications, port connectivity, coastal shipping, port-related industries, and investment promotion will benefit both port authorities.

Bangladesh should focus on finding new export markets, such as unexplored markets in the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), Latin America, and Africa. Bangladesh's commerce



Container Cargo



India Bangladesh Trade

ministry is collaborating with the business sector to broaden the country's export portfolio and tap into hitherto untapped markets like Africa, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Malaysia, and Australia. The African region, according to AHM Ahsan, deputy chairman of the Export Promotion Bureau, is a common customs union that may

be the doorway to 290 million new clients. If a product reaches a member country, it can simply transit across the continent without encountering customs problems. As a result, Bangladesh should make every effort to sign preferential or free trade agreements with African countries. Though uncontrollable piracy, the

Somali coast could pose a serious threat to this endeavour.

Bangladesh has a negative trade balance, despite its geographical location being perfect for global trade due to its convenient access to international sea and air connections. Woven clothes, knit garments, leather and leather products, jute and jute goods, agricultural products, and frozen foods made up 92 percent of the country's total export in fiscal 2019-20. To earn more foreign money, the local IT, pharmaceutical, light engineering, and ceramic industries, as well as the oceangoing shipbuilding industry, require more attention. Considering all these prospects for Bangladesh, increasing maritime connectivity could surely be considered as the Broadway of Export for the coming days.

Lutfun Nahar Taposhi

Creative Editor

Diplomats Publication



ব্যাংকিং সেবা এখন আপনার আঙিনায়...

GIB এজেন্ট ব্যাংকিংয়ের মাধ্যমে আপনার সব ধরনের ব্যাংকিং প্রয়োজন মেটাতে পারবেন খুব সহজেই।

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HALAL PRODUCTS: A UNIQUE CUSTOMIZATION

-Syed Alamgir

When the 'Aromatic Halal Soap' was launched back in the 1990s, it upended everything for others. The halal soap from Jamuna Group was an immediate sensation that saw its sales soar and competitors found themselves out of breath.

Who does not know Philip Kotler in today's world, a renowned professor in the area of marketing? His book Principles of Marketing is considered the Bible of marketing. It is no wonder that each and every marketing graduate is aware of the name and of Philip Kotler. Because they are to study Kotler's book in many phases of life particularly his Principles of Marketing” is

prescribed as text book in most School of Business, worldwide.

About his much-talked-about marketing concept 'halal soap', it gets remarkable success in the country as well as the globe as it is now being used by many multinational companies, including McDonald's. "Philip Kotler, a famous professor of marketing, included a case study on my concept halal soap in his book titled "The Principles of Marketing" describing it a smart and clever idea."

The marketing guru Kotler has been using rewarding yet

practical examples from around the globe in his marketing book for decades. Surprisingly, Bangladesh being such a small country in proportion could set an example for Kotler's book too. People all around would see the name of Bangladesh in a case study whereby an exemplary marketing proposition- “The 100% Halal Soap” has been included. Also, this may be the first time ever a Bangladeshi Marketing intellect.

"We said Aromatic soaps are "100% Halal" because, 'the soap was produced, strictly following the manufacturing Code of Islamic consumer products. The Product does not contain any 'Haram' ingredients', resulting to



Marketing Superstar

For his invaluable contribution to
halal product marketing in Bangladesh

an immediate and wide scale acceptance of our Aromatic soap by the Muslim consumers. Now the customers ask for Halal certification before they buy any product. Even the travelling industry is opting for Halal certification." However, this example is a huge achievement and branding for Bangladesh since it increases the visibility of our country

internationally. It also proves that we have the international acclamation of 'clever marketing positioning', which, Kotler aptly mentioned in his book.

In a question to what gives me the Inspiration to this concept, he said "I came up with the idea from a need, the need of my people, I think it is where all the unique ideas originate." The

halal appeal, depending largely on core values, calls for consumers to trust the authenticity and cleanliness of the product, and thus, draws on brand loyalty that will be difficult to shrug off.

I believe honesty builds trust. Trust is the basis of a relationship. Dishonesty breaks down the trust and therefore the



relationship with the consumer by destroying its very foundation.

"Industries assess a newly graduated student based on education, set of skills and mindset. So, the universities should give importance to improving skills (relevant transferable experience and qualities) and mindset (attitude, interests and initiatives) of their students for producing ready business graduates".

Mentioning that a very few partnership projects are in place between the universities and businesses, the renowned marketer thinks constant collaboration and mutually beneficial projects and study need to be designed and implemented by the universities.

"Our current practice needs to change as four-year business study and three-month internship gives very little to

graduates for skill development. Students should be involved with the business right from the beginning of the study,"

To the young generation, "Any idea is a good idea and Life's too short to get one chance to prove that idea, so just try it!"

At a time when the global economy has been severely damaged by the Corona pandemic, Bangladesh's economy is turning around again under the visionary and prudent leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

We admire the government for the way the pandemic situation

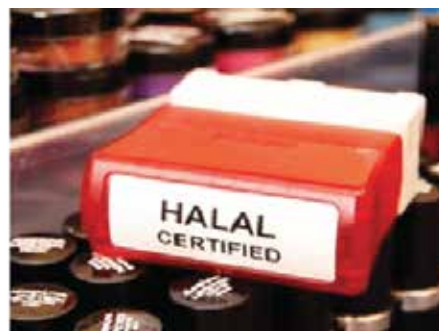
was handled, especially Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for her series of meetings with district-level officials to tackle the pandemic, also for her support programs for businesses under incentive packages during the pandemic period.

"Despite skepticism, Bangladesh did splendid job under the pandemic situation, and Bangladesh surpassed India in terms of per capita income.

"It is our responsibility to remain safe and cooperate with the government to tackle the pandemic effectively."

According to a report from the Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Bangladesh exported halal products, including food and cosmetics, worth about \$1 billion in the 2020-21 fiscal year (July-June), 70% of which went to Middle East. Exporters are able to build capacity also selling into a domestic halal consumers' market worth \$107 billion, the second-largest after Indonesia worldwide, according to the report.

Bangladeshi halal-certified food is overwhelmingly red meat, poultry and processed poultry food products, said the chamber. Producers seeking to





export such products have been struggling with limited certification capacity in Bangladesh, but this is now expanding. Until this year, the only body able to issue halal certificates was the Islamic Foundation Bangladesh, a

state-run body, which has been issuing certificates since 2007. However, the Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institute (BSTI), another government body, has secured authority to also issue halal certificates for food products. Meanwhile, the

Islamic Foundation has submitted a draft Halal Certificate Policy 2021, which it says will enable it to better approve certification for large-scale exports.

Syed Alamgir

Managing Director &
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LATA MANGESHKAR: BANGLADESH'S TRUE FRIEND

-Syed Atique

Lata Mangeshkar enthralled audiences of all generations with her magical voice throughout eight decades. Known as a singing voice for generations of actresses in the Hindi-language films of Bollywood, from Madhubala and Meena Kumari in the 1950s and 1960s to Kajol and Preity Zinta in the 1990s and 2000s, she leaves a legacy of more than two thousand and five hundred songs. Most of these were in Hindi. She sang in other Indian languages, including Marathi,

Bengali, Tamil, Kannada, and Gujarati as well. For her valuable contribution to Indian culture, she received the Bharat Ratna, the country's highest honor, in 2001.

Lata Mangeshkar is known for her strong ability to portray emotion when she sings. She could deliver emotions of on-screen characters as she does playback. She recorded some of Bollywood's biggest hits, including "Pyaar Kiya To Darna Kya" (Why Fear to Be in Love)

from the 1960 film "Mughal-e-Azam." She had a gifted voice to sing in a wider range of scales. Dilip Kumar, who played the prince in Mughal-e-Azam, called Mangeshkar's voice "a miracle of nature's creativity."

Lata Mangeshkar played minor roles on screen. But she found her comfort in singing. So, she said in an interview for a book published in 2009 written by Nasreen Munni Kabir "The day I started working as a playback



Lata Mangeshkar and Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman

singer, I prayed to God: ‘No more acting in films,’”. “He listened to me and I got a fairly good position in playback singing. People ordering you about, say this dialogue, say that dialogue. I felt so uncomfortable,” she added.

Lata Mangeshkar also had a career as a live performer, usually appearing onstage in an understated white or cream-colored sari. India’s first Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru, was said to have been moved to tears by her rendering of a patriotic Hindi song, “Aye Mere Watan Ke Logon,” after India’s war with China in 1962.

Lata Mangeshkar was born on 28 September 1929, in the city of Indore. She was the oldest of five children born to Shuddhamati Mangeshkar and her husband, Pandit Deenanath Mangeshkar, a well-known classical musician active in Marathi language Theater. Her sisters Meena, Asha, and Usha, and her brother, Hridaynath are also musicians.

The family was prosperous, living in a large house in the city

of Sangli, of Maharashtra. Her father was her first music teacher and she acted in plays as a child, though her father was reluctant to let his daughters appear on stage. Mangeshkar spent much of her childhood on the road, as the family accompanied her father’s theater company on tour across the region. Mangeshkar gave up formal education on her first day of school. She had brought her 10-month-old sister, Asha, with her, and the teacher refused to allow the baby into the classroom.

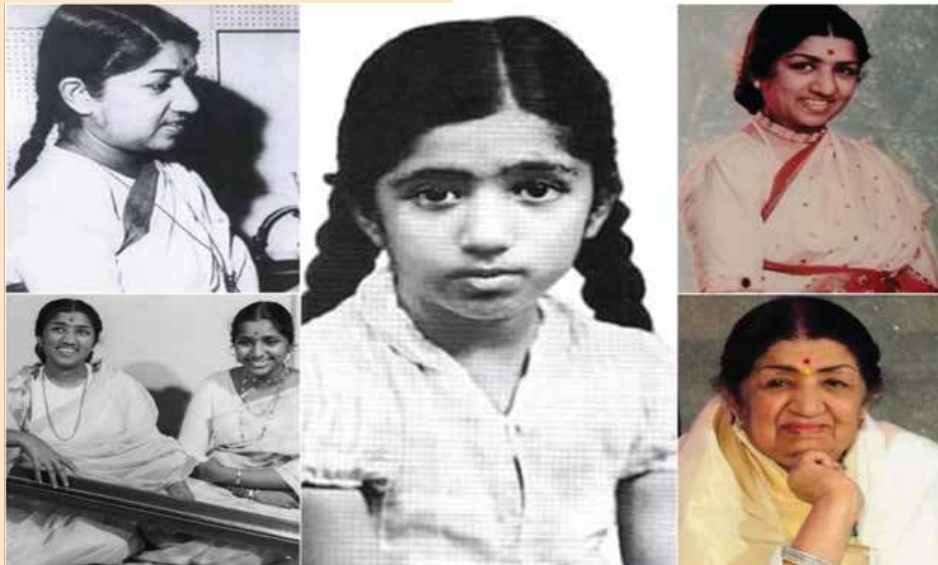
In the late 1930s, the family fell on hard times after her father produced several films that did badly. The theater company closed in 1940, and the Mangeshkar family was forced to sell their house and move to Pune. Lata began singing regularly, alongside her father, at classical music concerts, which became the family’s main source of income.

In 1942, when she was 13, her father died. To support the family, she joined the Navyug Chitrapat Film Company and began acting in Marathi- and Hindi-language films, playing minor roles. In 1945, the company moved its operations to what was then Bombay and Lata Mangeshkar’s family moved into a one-bedroom apartment.

Her fortunes began to change in 1947 when the era of the singing film star was coming to an end, and filmmakers had begun hiring professional singers to record the vocal parts. Lata Mangeshkar’s voice caught the attention of several film



Lata Mangeshkar with her family.



India's Nightingale Lata Mangeshkar

composers and directors, and then she began working as a playback singer.

In 1949 came her first hit: "Aayega Aanevala" (The One Who Is Meant to Return Will be Back), from the movie "Mahal," a ghost story that was also a breakthrough for the actress Madhubala.

When "Aayega Aanevala" was first released as a record, Mangeshkar's name was nowhere to be seen on the label. But as it got radio airplay, listeners began calling to ask who the singer was. Public broadcaster All India Radio contacted the record company and announced Mangeshkar's name on-air, making her a star overnight. Still, she spent the next few years working long hours under difficult conditions, recording songs after the day's shoot had finished. Playback singers would make their recordings first, with the actors later lip-syncing to them on camera. Eventually, singers like Mangeshkar worked in studios, but in the early years, they recorded on the film sets,

which were usually dusty and hot. Fans couldn't be turned on because of the noise they made.

Lata Mangeshkar never got married. For years, she supported her mother as well as her siblings, until they began their careers. Her sister Asha Bhosle, 88, is also a well-known playback singer.

"Music is my life and God," Lata Mangeshkar said in Kabir's book. "Music is my prayer; it is

like a father and mother to me."

Bangladesh is fortunate to have a legendary singer by her side during the glorious Liberation War in 1971. She raised funds from musical events performed across India that were channelized for the upkeep of refugees who had crossed over to India from Bangladesh during the war in 1971. She gathered international opinions in favor of Bangladesh's Liberation War in 1971 by traveling to different cities in Indian Air Force planes.

Lata Mangeshkar was part of an Indian cultural delegation that paid a visit to Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and his family in Bangladesh, immediately after the Liberation War of 1971.

Among the delegation, Lata Mangeshkar was accompanied by actress Waheeda Rehman, a young Sanjay Dutt, and his father Sunil Dutt. Remembering the 1971 Liberation War, Lata Mangeshkar shared an anecdote on her official Twitter account.



Lata Mangeshkar, one of India's biggest cultural icons and a singer who defined music and melody for generations of her countrymen and beyond, has died at the age of 92.



Lata Mangeshkar was laid to rest at Shivaji Park in Mumbai

She reminisced about the time she graced the post-war-stricken country with her melodious musical performances. She wrote on 14 September 2019, “Namaskar. As soon as the 1971 Bangladesh liberation war ended, we went to Bangladesh and we did several events with Sunil Dutt’s group. At the time, we used to commute all around by military Plane.”

She did a playback song “O Dada Bhai Murti Banao”, composed by Salil Chowdhury for the film “Raktakto Bangla”, which was released in December 1972. It is the only song sung by Lata

Mangeshkar in Bangladeshi films. The movie starred Biswajit Chatterjee, Kabori, and Golam Mustafa, among others. Mumtaz Ali directed the movie.

Lata Mangeshkar was admitted to Breach Candy after testing positive for Covid-19 with mild symptoms on 8 January 2022 when she was 92-year-old. She breathed her last on 6 February 2022 at Breach Candy Hospital Trust in Mumbai. West Bengal’s music fraternity paid rich tributes to legendary singer Lata Mangeshkar who collaborated with some top music directors like Sachin Deb Burman,

Hemanta Mukherjee, and Salil Chowdhury not only to produce memorable songs in Hindi but also in Bangla.

Mangeshkar, who sang close to 185 songs in Bangla, is remembered by her fans in Bangladesh for classics such as “Akash Prodip Jwole”, under the direction of Satinath Mukherjee and “Prem Ekbar Esehchilo Nirobe”, composed by Hemanta Mukherjee.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina expressed deep condolences at her death. She said in her condolence message “Lata Mangeshkar’s demise has created a great void in the subcontinent’s musical arena”. Sheikh Hasina recalled ‘the empress of music’ with gratitude for her role in the Liberation War of 1971 against Pakistan. “I have deep respect and gratitude for Lataji for her role in the Liberation War of Bangladesh. She, along with her fellow Indian artists, contributed immensely towards promoting the cause of Bangladesh,” Sheikh Hasina said in a press release.

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PRAGMATIC ENGAGEMENT WITH MYANMAR FOR THE REPATRIATION OF ROHINGYA REFUGEES

-Sakhawat Khan

The ethnic anthropology & geopolitical history of Arakan i.e., the Rohingya Communities were integrated into a complex settlement under transfers of ruling regimes. Procrastinated animosities & civil conflicts under authoritarian interventions contributed to the deterioration of ethnic harmony & intra-religious relationships. The influx of Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh territory is not a new case. Several small & medium-level exoduses took place many times in the past. The exodus of Rohingya Refugees from Myanmar that took place in August 2017 was the largest in magnitude & fastest in the timeframe. It was premeditated with a motif of

ethnic cleansing through inhuman atrocities by Myanmar armed forces. Presently Bangladesh has been hosting more than one million Rohingya refugees in several camps of Cox's Bazar. It is one of the most concentrated refugee camps in the world, aptly termed the "refugees warehousing". The number of refugees might increase to 1.5 million by the year 2025. At the very advent of the influx, they were guests of honor to all Bangladeshi Muslims.

The government of Bangladesh took an emotional position "mother of humanity" out of the influx. UNHCR & its subsidiary NGOs started hue & cries as they already found a long-term

refugee business. At the very beginning of the crisis, the Indian Prime Minister gave a courtesy call to Aung San Suu Kyi & declared his solidarity with her for the extradition & extermination of Muslim Rohingya from the holy land of Buddhism. Indian RSS-led government is keen on creating connectivity through the territory of Myanmar. The government embarked on a policy of empathy for the Hindu Rohingyas i.e., Rohingya Refugees from the Hindu denomination would be allowed to seek temporary asylum in Indian Territory. India has a strong lobby in the World Bank and has close ties with the RSS-led government. World Bank played an unprecedented role &



The challenges of repatriating the Rohingya

adopted a stand for the Rohingya that was contrary to 1951 Geneva Convention. No one has the right to decide to disown the motherland of an indigenous community. It was indeed a pragmatic decision of the Bangladesh Government to turn away the World Bank proposal of Rohingya integration & naturalization in Bangladesh.

An international human trafficking group emerged out of the host communities to make quick funds by smuggling women & children to affluent countries by oceanic transport. Another trade group under the patron of local hoodlum started using refugee camps and the refugees in drug trafficking at a massive scale. The International communities started to expose their sense of humanity but failed to convince Myanmar Government to take back the Rohingya Refugees through a repatriation process. India has been assisting Myanmar Government through exporting military hardware & weapons. China is a trading nation &

nourishes very little interest to engage in the settlement of the Rohingya problem. Myanmar is one of the old ally of China. China wants strategic ports & geostrategic locations of Myanmar to be used to its advantage. We should not expect any support from China for the repatriation of Rohingya refugees. It is a government of benumbed senses on global violation of humanity or human rights. NGOs/ UN activists are engaged with humanitarian business & protection enterprises with the plights of Rohingya refugees. They have been looking for a long-term fat-cat employment opportunity until their retirement. Repatriation of Rohingya is not on any agenda of INGOs or UN agencies since repatriation would lead to an end to their humanitarian businesses.

A letter addressed to former Foreign Minister Ali Hasan Mahamud dated 11th May 2016 with the support of a DO letter no 18.00.0000.001.14.001.16-442

from a former Cabinet Ministry of GoB. It was indicated to engage Bangladesh Government with a diffusive intervention on possible disruption of our national security by the use of indigenous people of Myanmar. The Government was duly informed about the possible influx by one of the experienced UN Staffer. Bangladesh embassy in Yangon was not in a position to assess the crackdown situation while it was prerogative to acquire information on the possible crackdown of armed forces on Rohingya communities in the Rakhine estate of Myanmar. Some former Army Official of Myanmar knew well ahead of time about the crackdown & extradition. It was believed that an early diplomatic intervention & bilateral negotiation from Bangladesh could have defused the melting ground of genocide & ultimate exodus of refugees into Bangladesh.

No powerful friends of Bangladesh such as India, Russia & China will be keen on supporting Bangladesh in favor of repatriation of Rohingya Refugees to their country of origin due to respective vested interests. It is, therefore, of paramount importance to bring Myanmar Government to the table of discussion with Bangladesh.

Bangladesh has been spending enormous time, energy & money to strengthen bilateral relations with India. We had handed over many Indian secessionist leaders to the Government of India to ensure frontiers' security between the two countries. Myanmar is one of



Myanmar Rejects Rohingya Refugee Visit to Rakhine State to Inspect Conditions For Repatriation

our neighbors having common borders with Bangladesh but we seldom displayed gestures of goodwill rather, Myanmar was always an ignored neighbor of Bangladesh. We could have availed the opportunity to invite the Nobel laureate Aung San Suu Kyi after the formulation of the Myanmar Government under her leadership. Aung San Suu

Kyi used to be a captive leader under the authoritarian rule of the Myanmar Army. Our constructive engagement could have unveiled the threat to the democracy of Myanmar. At the same time, we could have developed a close collaboration with the Armed Forces of Myanmar. We had a hidden but antagonistic relationship with

Myanmar due to notorious drug trafficking, leaving us little scope to address the problem at the source. In recent years, Bangladesh Government has been investing millions of dollars in the procurement of modern military hardware to strengthen our combat capability. Such actions on our part may put Myanmar into a threat of psychological warfare with us. Instead, we should put our diplomatic efforts to connect with the military ruler of Myanmar for a peaceful resolution of the issues between the two countries. The following approaches could be taken into consideration for the smooth repatriation of Rohingya Refugees:

1. Military Regime of Myanmar may be invited to Bangladesh to strengthen trade, commerce & economic relations without bringing Rohingya Refugees



A Rohingya man at the refugee camp in Cox's Bazar



Influx of Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh amid military-led crackdown in Rakhine state of Myanmar.

issues to the table. We also need to establish people to people contact between the two nations.

2. In case option no.1 fails despite our diplomatic efforts & lobby with due diligence, the alternative way to bring pressure to Myanmar's Army Junta. We have to engage ourselves with the Government of Thailand for technical

support & access routes to reach assistance to the local resistance groups.

3. We have to engage with the USA on the Myanmar issue since the US government has no territorial ambitions in Myanmar. The USA would be more interested to counter Russia & China through a proxy intervention by assisting the struggle for the restoration of

democracy in Myanmar.

It is highly recommended that Bangladesh undertakes a serious diplomatic & intelligence intervention to address the Myanmar problem. It is more pragmatic to provide the necessary support to the internal struggles against the Military Junta should diplomacy fail.

Sakhawat Khan

Executive President
Sheba Bangladesh Foundation



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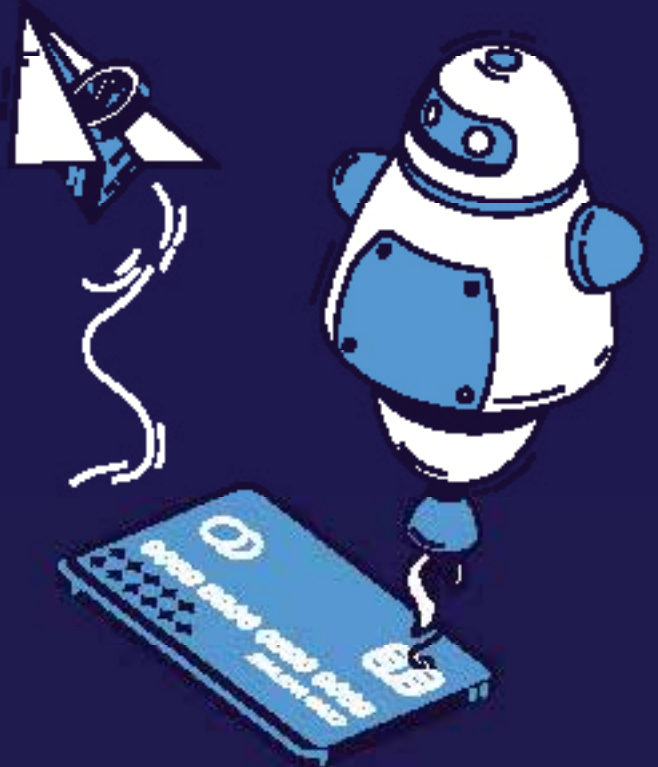


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DECENTRALIZED GOVERNANCE OF INTERNET SYSTEM

-Aminur Rahman

Decentralization refers to the fact that the Internet is governed by a large number of people. It consists of millions of devices that are connected to a public channel. The Internet and the World Wide Web remained to be the world's largest decentralized communication systems. This was part of the plan all along: the Web's creators wanted everyone to be able to generate and access information. However, the advantages of a decentralized Internet are

dwindling. When we focus our online activity on just a few social networks and messaging applications, as billions of people do, our Web experience narrows to one in which we are only shown material that appeals to our interests in search results and social media streams. Rather than being producers, we are consumers here. The Internet's underlying concept is that all online material should be treated equally. This is referred to as "net neutrality." Many telecoms

would rather charge different tariffs and give different speeds for different sorts of material for financial reasons, preventing people from picking their internet experience freely. As a result, it's good for the Internet that net neutrality regulations have emerged in many nations, including India, the United States, and the European Union.

By some counts, the decentralized Web is booming, yet we're on our way to a future of vertically integrated silos



controlled by a few huge entities. We must discover strategies to strengthen decentralization to create a healthy Internet. For businesses to grow and users to have real choices, we need robust competition. However, yesterday's competitive rules and legal institutions are ill-equipped to deal with today's realities. Technical solutions may be among the most effective. Decentralization is essential for ensuring that the Internet stays a public resource that is healthy and accessible to all of us, rather than becoming monopolized by a small number of governments and corporations. If we can do this, the Internet will most likely continue to be a force for human liberty and innovation. Otherwise, the future will very certainly be more dismal. The worldwide Internet industry is dominated by a limited number of corporations, including Facebook, Google, Apple, Tencent, Alibaba, and Amazon. While these businesses provide enormously important services to billions of people, they are also concentrating power over human communication and money to unprecedented levels.

Consider the smartphone

market, which is dominated by only two companies: Google (Android) and Apple (iOS). These two firms have complete control over everything from the phone's operating system to the apps available in their app shops.

Our digital information superhighway, which we use so frequently nowadays, is the Internet. The term "online" has become interchangeable with "internet." We are nearly constantly online, and we are sometimes unaware of it. This is due to the service transparency provided by Internet Service Companies (ISPs) and cellular phone providers. Our Internet subscription and smartphone service allow data access to the Internet 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. We utilize the Internet for more than simply online shopping and general research. We also utilize the Internet to pay payments, RSVP to invites, share images from our daily lives, and even place grocery orders. It has become such an integral part of our life that we don't seem to be able to live without it.

In my opinion, the Internet would not have reached mainstream acceptance if it

hadn't been for the success of five key innovations. These are the following:

- The standard set of data communications protocols used on the Internet is TCP/IP (Transmission Control Protocol/Internet Protocol). Robert Kahn and Vint Cerf worked on it for DARPA (DOD Advanced Research Projects Agency). The Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF) maintains it as a defacto standard. To mention a few, these protocols offered the Internet e-mail, file transfer, newsgroups, web pages, instant messaging, and voice over IP. This is similar to a universal language that computers use to communicate over a network.

- Tim Berners-Lee is credited with creating the World Wide Web and HTML, a framework that allows documents to be connected to other nodes. This marked the start of hypertext, which is a set of connections to information held on other computers on a network. HTML (Hypertext Markup Language) hyperlinks would eliminate the necessity for users to know the exact location or machine name to access information. As a result, a resource known as a website may be visited, which contains these mouse-clickable links.

- Browser-Without a software application known as a browser, the World Wide Web would be meaningless. In 1993, Mosaic was the first web browser to be developed. Before browsers, there was a program called Gopher that allowed users to view webpages, but it was



inconvenient and difficult to use.

- Search Engines-Search engine software was required to obtain information and content from the Internet. Gopher was one of the first search engines. When browser-based search engines became widespread, they became less popular. Lycos, Yahoo, and WebCrawler are examples of web-based systems that have evolved. Then, in the late 1990s, Google arrived and quickly became the most popular search engine.
- Providers of Internet Service- A dial-up modem linked to a telephone line with data rates of 14.4-28.8 kbps was necessary for the early days of the Internet. Because most Internet traffic was text-based in the late 1980s and early 1990s, this was adequate to fulfill data demands. More information demanded greater internet rates as the Internet became more popular and companies sought to utilize it.

Beyond bitcoin, blockchain technology is rapidly gaining traction. While many bitcoin supporters regard the blockchain as merely a competitor to conventional

payment systems or gold, I believe blockchain technology is the forerunner of something the world has never seen before. Entire sectors are mechanized through software, venture capital and stock markets are circumvented, entrepreneurship is expedited, and networks acquire sovereignty through their digital currency in a world with numerous blockchains and hundreds of tradable tokens constructed on top of them. This is the next step in the evolution of the internet. Bitcoin startups have received over \$1 billion in venture capital financing so far, and the whole sector was built on the shoulders of VCs. Despite this, Ethereum, a blockchain system that allows anybody to encode arbitrarily complicated financial transactions and have them implemented in a provably precise way by a distributed network, has only received a small amount of venture capital funding. Instead, open participation crowdsales powered by Ethereum-based financial contracts have raised more than \$250 million from backers all across the world. The Internet is currently beset by a slew of problems and challenges at all levels. The present

multi-faceted embedded centrality of the Internet, from the client-server communication structure to Public Clouds and Cloud-based applications, has clear correlations with most of these challenges, such as transparency, data integrity, authenticity, data privacy, and security.

A more flexible and scalable Internet architecture that can handle such difficulties and accommodate a greater variety of functionality is necessary to revitalize the Internet. The Internet's centralization is the result of the Internet's and its services' progressive development over time, rather than a single night. The development of centralized services brought convenience while also hastening the Internet's maturation. Because of the rapidity brought on by centralization, it has become extremely reliant across the Internet. Although these centralized services have contributed to the modern Internet's developments, the bottom line is that a centralized service would still display the weaknesses of a concentrated network, putting the network at risk. Users that rely on a centralized service are vulnerable to numerous forms of assaults, such as Distributed Denial-of-Service (DDoS), which might have been avoided with decentralization. Decentralization and Blockchain can be used to combat this centralization. Due to its significance in offering a decentralized solution for communication and transaction, blockchain has



always been described as a disruptive technology. As a result, the consensus algorithms of Blockchain are capable of imposing equal responsibilities between peers. This enforcement would help avoid centralized authority by keeping these internet services in check. With the trend of incorporating Blockchain into the Internet of Things (IoT), and to account for scalability to accommodate the Big Data of the future Internet, the desire for decentralization has grown.

By allowing “trust” to be exchanged across connected networks, blockchain allows the Internet to create a distributed state of the network. The concept of a web of trusts between nodes in the Blockchain is based on this “trust.” Furthermore, the decentralized Internet initiatives listed in Sect. 2.3 have linkages to Blockchain. Those initiatives have several unique characteristics, such as the

importance of P2P, data storage, and encryption in each. Blockchain has these characteristics as well. The technology has been rigorously inspected and monitored throughout the years concerning Blockchain technology. Since its conception and origin, blockchain has evolved into a system capable of being incorporated into a variety of technologies. Although there are alternative ways to achieve decentralization, we are confident in our decision to use Blockchain as a decentralization facilitator.

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Aminur Rahman

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Globe Pharmaceuticals Group of Companies Ltd. is a leading national business house engaged in pharmaceuticals business over the last 30 years. As part of the diversification in business venture it entered in the FMCG market since 1998 with Biscuits and Candy. Then with further expansion stepped in Beverage business. At the same time to be more stable in Pharmaceutical market Globe setup a state-of-the-art Bulk Drugs (API) plant. Globe Soft Drinks Ltd. (GSDL) & AST Beverage Ltd.: GSDL started its operation on 17th July 2002. GSDL is able to produce carbonated and non-carbonated drinks, fruit drinks and mineral water in its plant. The plant is well equipped with hi-tech and modern fully automated production line from European origin. With the pharmaceuticals background the company is committed to maintain quality and innovation in manufacturing of all its Soft drinks and Energy drink brands. All the products are manufactured and packaged in a manner designed to ensure highest quality as the products and packages are done by latest PLC based sophisticated machineries. Export: Since 2007 Globe Soft Drinks Ltd. started export of its Popular Brands: Uro, FizzUp, Lychena, Mangolee, Black Horse, Royal Tiger Energy Drinks to exported more than 30 countries. Globe Biscuits & Dairy Milk Ltd. (GBDML) is a member company of Globe Pharma Group and it is situated besides Maijdee Road, near Choumuhuni Noakhali district. GBDML has been established with the goal to meet a desired satisfaction to our valued consumers by supplying healthy and delicious food products. GBDML has achieved ISO-9002 certificate for its Quality Management Systems Since 2006.



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50 YEARS OF JAPAN BANGLADESH FRIENDSHIP



Bangabandhu and Tanaka, the Prime Minister of Japan



Bangladesh's Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina shakes hands with Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe

Japan recognize Bangladesh on February the 10th 1972. So, this month we are going to celebrate 50 years of our diplomatic relations. Japan and Bangladesh have been time-tested friends. We are a very close partner in the international community.



Now Japan is working on infrastructure development on the basis of this vision, Big-B, Bay of Bengal industrial growth belt. This initiative was launched between the two Prime Ministers, Honorable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Prime Minister Abe Shinju in 2014 notable projects of these Big B are, of course, the Dhaka Metro Rail, 3rd terminal of Dhaka airport & Matarbari deep seaport project.

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman visited Japan in October 1973, which was a wonderful visit, which really paid the way for the substrate cooperation and friendship between the two countries.

ITO Naoki
Ambassador of Japan to Bangladesh



Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman visited Japan from October 18 to 24, 1973. as Prime Minister with his daughter Ms. Sheikh Rehana and his son Mr. Sheikh Russel.



Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman receiving the guard of honor on his visit to Japan. Present with him is the Prime Minister of Japan kakuei Tanaka (October, 1973)



Diplomats team meets with Ambassador of Japan



EVM-IS BANGLADESH READY TO ADAPT TO THE FUTURE OF MOBILITY?

-Dr. Mohammed Faruque

Electronic Voting Machine or in short EVM is a new concept in our country. It is an electronic device used for recording digital votes. It has been used in many countries of the world. However, this machine was first introduced in Bangladesh in the 2018 National Election to resolve the problems of using the Paper Ballot System.

Our Government has been struggling to take advantage of using this Electronic Voting Machine for the last few years. It offers some advantages as well as disadvantages along with some challenges. Most people still do not know much about this device and the technology involved in it. Whenever the

government tries to introduce it in any election, the oppositions come forward with strong criticisms for its negative implications. It was first successfully used in 2007 for the Election of the Working Committee of Dhaka Officers' Club. Since then, EVMs have been used sparingly in various city corporation elections in the country. In 2018 it was used in six constituencies for the first time in a General Election.

Bangladesh Government's vision of 'Digital Bangladesh' is ensuring people's democracy, human rights, transparency, and delivering government services through the maximum use of modern technologies. However,

the Bangladesh Election Commission making an effort to implement Electronic Voting Machines (EVM) in the Parliamentary General Election on an extended scale due to the lack of acceptance concerning EVM accuracy, easy accessibility, and security. This paper describes an implementation of a low-budget and securely accessible solution for the Electronic Voting Machine feasible for Bangladesh with the benefit of verifying the registered voters with a central database through a biometric identification process and maintaining the secrecy of the voters. The proposed system uses low-profile microcontrollers (Arduino Uno),



ballots required to make an election happen in the ballot paper system. By rejecting paper ballots, it helps to improve our environment.

4. The Presiding Officers at any time can press the “close” button to disable the EVM Machine, preventing any intruders from taking control of the polling booth. So it helps to reduce social crime and violence.

5. EVM helps uphold the accuracy and integrity of the result by preventing manual miscounts or any other mix-ups.

6. The records of votes are completely safe and confidential. There is no chance of losing data and highly stable memory.

which reduces the device’s cost to approximately half of the price of other available versions of EVM. The system can communicate with the database to store voter information and vote counts that make the system secure against any fraudulence during the election process and eliminate manual vote tallying problems.

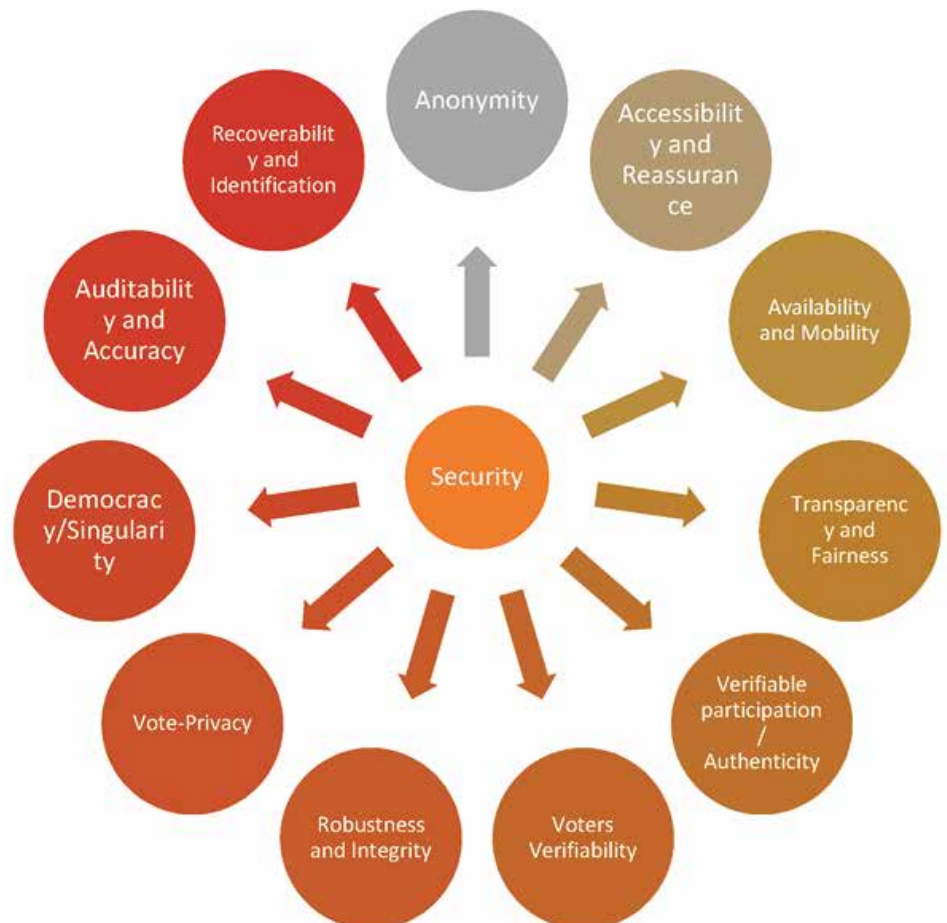
deal with the ballot paper, count votes and prepare results and spend a huge amount of public money for this work.

3. This system can also save the cost of simply printing and distributing the millions of

The use of EVM is very easy and simple. The advantages of this machine are as follows:

1. No need of using millions of tons of ballot papers in the EVM system that wastes a huge amount of public money. By using EVM we can save a significant amount of money that can be used in other necessary departments such as Health Care, Poverty Alleviation, and so on.

2. In the EVM system the vote casting, counting, and displaying results – all are being done by the machine. So there is no need of deploying thousands of people across the country to





Bangladesh uses EVMs for general election

7. The EVM is better operated. Hence there is no need for electricity here. Vote records can be retrieved despite the damage to the device.

8. EVM is re-usable and cost-effective. Ensures a faster and more accurate collection of votes. There is no chance of delaying the vote count or changing the result under the cover of the delayed announcement.

9. The EVMs are user-friendly as it makes casting votes easy. Further, it safeguards against vote-rigging because no one else can cast the vote of a valid voter.

10. It reduces the total number of rejected votes since voters know when their choice is recorded; they are not allowed to

choose more than one candidate, eliminating the possibility of choosing more than one, which reduces the likelihood of a vote-getting rejected.

11. This system leads to the strengthening of democratic institutions and better representation of marginalized and vulnerable segments of society. It reduces electoral fraud and helps to make elected officials more accountable.

12. The EVM can increase voter turnouts, integrity, and security, and thus defend democracy.

13. The concept of electronic voting has garnered widespread political support, seen as both a cost-saving measure and a possible way of boosting turnout

in an era of declining voter representation.

14. We have already been able to produce EVM locally and there is a great potential for flourishing this industry that would not only save lots of foreign currencies, but it will create many jobs in the country.

In a nutshell, apart from the direct benefit of digitalizing the system, the EVM offers some important indirect benefits in our social, cultural, environmental, technological, political, and economic life which is evident from the above points.

In our country, there are some disadvantages of EVM systems and they are as follows:



Voting lines in Bangladesh

1. Some people have raised concerns relating to security, reliability, accuracy, confidentiality, access, and privacy. Other security concerns include the ability of the system to combat: a) organized and individual fraud, b) sabotage, c) hackers, and d) viruses.

2. In terms of reliability and accuracy many people have concerns about the logical capacity of the system whether it would be able to cope with the number of people trying to access the system or would crash.

3. People fear the loss of anonymity and confidentiality, if they cast their vote electronically it would be possible to trace both whether

and how they had voted.

4. The issue of privacy is linked to the location of potential electronic methods. The privacy of the booth at polling stations is felt to be intrinsic to the secrecy of voting.

Considering all the advantages and disadvantages of the EVM, we must have to modernize the voting system for the greater interest of our country. To implement it successfully, we can learn from the experience of other countries. Many countries have been using EVM successfully for several years such as India, Brazil, Venezuela, Belgium, the Philippines as well as the USA. Some countries have abandoned the use of EVM due to some problems such as

Finland, the Netherland, Malaysia, and so on. Therefore, to take the advantage of this unique technology we have to face some challenges in the following areas.

- All the issues relating to the disadvantages must have to be addressed.
- There should be a guarantee that the vote must have to be secret, secured, and accountable, and no vote be given away, stolen, or forced.
- Build-up trust among all the political, social, and citizen groups.
- Continuous research and development are needed for innovating appropriate ‘foolproof’ devices suitable for our country.

Gradually people have been becoming familiar with this device due to some government efforts. Mixed reactions have been coming out from the people who have experienced this device, some of the positive and negative as well. So this is high time to think, evaluate and take appropriate actions regarding the utilization of this device for the benefit and welfare of our country.

Dr. Mohammed Faruque
CEO & Chairman, Orchard Group
& Advisor, Diplomats Publication

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INTERNATIONAL MOTHER LANGUAGE DAY

-Abul Hasan Chowdhury

As the wheel of time turns, we are once again in February. To reflect, solemnly recall, and pay homage to the martyrs of the language movement.

No other nation has made such tremendous sacrifices to establish its right to speak in its mother tongue. Blood was shed to honor more than our language it was a statement of our identity and our being. In the fullness of time, the seed that was planted would germinate into national consciousness leading to our liberation and independence. Naturally, this heroic act would be declared international Mother Language Day.

Mother tongue is a divine gift. From the holy Quran, we come

to know that the most merciful Almighty has bestowed a mother tongue upon every caste, creed, and color. The mother tongue is, so important that the people of a country express their ideas, thoughts, feelings, emotions, etc. clearly through the mother tongue. But it is an irony of fate that the then rulers of Pakistan tried to impose Urdu as mother tongue upon us instead of Bangla.

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

From the very inception of Pakistan, protests were made to denounce the oppressive notion of denying the Bengalese to speak in their mother tongue.

The young leader of Bengal, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman then has raised his voice and was as a consequence hurled into prison. When the epic struggle broke out the activists were guided by Bangabandhu from behind the iron walls of a prison cell. Culture and language defined Bengali nationalism. This was in the effect the cradle which inspired the supreme sacrifice to earn our ultimate freedom.

On 21 March 1948, Mohammed Ali Jinnah, the Governor-General of Pakistan, declared that Urdu would be the only official language for both West and East Pakistan. The brave and patriotic people of East Pakistan (now Bangladesh),

whose main language is Bangla, started to protest against this. So the people of Bangladesh country raised their voices against this unlawful decision. 21 February 1952, (8 th Falgun 1359 in the Bangla calendar), students in the present-day capital city of Dhaka called for a provincial strike. The government invoked a limited curfew to prevent this and the protests were tamed down to not break the curfew. But the people of our country raised their voices against this unlawful decision. 'The Mother Language Sangram Parishad' started the movement for the due honor of Bangla.

At nine o'clock in the morning, students began gathering at the University of Dhaka premises in defiance of Section 144. The Dhaka University Vice-Chancellor and other officials were present as armed police surrounded the campus. By a quarter past eleven, students gathered at the university gate and attempted to break the police line. But suddenly, the Pakistani police

fired tear gas shells on the students despite these peaceful protests, and some students were killed. Abdus Salam, Abdul Jabbar, Abul Barkat, Rafiq Uddin, and many other persons were killed.

Rafiq wrote a letter to Mr. Kofi Anan to take a step for saving all the languages of the world from the possibility of extinction and to declare an International Mother Language Day on 9 January 1998. Rafiq proposed the date as 21 st February on the pretext of the 1952 killing in Dhaka on the occasion of the Language movement. Rafiq established "A Group of Mother Language of The World" with Abdus Salam, 2 English, 1 Hindi, 1 German, and 1 Cantonese-speaking people. Rafiq-Salam continued communication with the Canadian Government. Mr Hasan Ferdous advised Rafiq-Salam to contact the Director of Language Division of UNESCO Mr. Joseph Pod. Mr. Joseph advised contacting Anna Maria of UNESCO. Anna Maria (all through played a very





strong positively active role. We are grateful to this lady who advised them to formally place the request by 5 member countries, Canada, India, Hungary, Finland, and Bangladesh.

Now every year the Language Movement has a major cultural impact on Bengali society. It has inspired the development and celebration of the Bengali language, literature, and culture. 21 February, celebrated as Language Movement Day or 'Shohid Dibosh' or Martyrs' Day, is a major national holiday in Bangladesh. A month-long event, the Ekushey Book Fair is held every year to commemorate the movement. "Ekhushey Padak", one of the highest civilian awards in Bangladesh, is awarded annually in memory of the sacrifices of the movement.

Since Bangladesh's liberation in 1971, 21 February was being observed as the 'National Mourning Day.' On November 17, 1999, UNESCO recognized our unique sacrifice for our mother language and declared 21 February is the International

Language Day. From then onwards, this day is being observed in all the member countries of UNO. Now it is great pleasure for us that, UNESCO has recognized the sacrifices of the martyrs for establishing the rightful place of Bangla. It is a great tribute and glowing homage paid by the international community to the language martyrs of Bangladesh. The sacrifices of all the martyrs for championing the cause of their mother tongue

have received now a glorious recognition by the people of the world.

The Shaheed Minar is a national language martyr monument of Bangladesh and it is established in the capital (Dhaka) for the martyrs, who were killed during the mother language movement on 21st February 1952. On that day (February 21, 1952), at least dozens of students and political members were killed by the Pakistani police forces for the rightful place of the Bangla (Bangla) language. The first Shaheed Minar was built on 22nd February 1952 but four days later on 26th February 1952, it was fully destroyed by the Pakistani police and army. But in 1963 a language martyr monument was reestablished by the Awami League government in that place. Again in 1971, the Pakistani Army demolished the national language martyr monument, and finally, after the liberation war of Bangladesh, it





Japanese Ambassador ITO Naoki pays tribute to Bahasa Martyrs at Central Shaheed Minar



Ambassadors of Brunei, Vietnam and Singapore lay wreaths at the altar of Central Shaheed Minar in honor of Bahasa Martyrs



Ambassadors, High Commissioners and Diplomats from different countries pay homage to the language martyrs at the altar of Central Shaheed Minar.

is re-established. Here “Shaheed” means “Martyr” and “Minar” means “Monument”.

International Mother Language Day is a great Pride of Bangladesh. So, 21 st February is a memorable day for Bangladeshis. This recognition of the sacrifices of the martyrs for establishes the rightful place of Bangla. Every year Bangladeshis remember this day with solemnity and pay them profound tribute. This is on observance held annually on 21

February worldwide to promote awareness of linguistic and cultural diversity and multilingualism. Its observance was also formally recognized by the United Nations General Assembly in its resolution establishing 2008 as the International Year of Languages. International Mother Language Day originated as the international recognition of Language Movement Day, which has been commemorated in Bangladesh (formerly East Pakistan) since 1952 when some

University of Dhaka students were killed by the Pakistani police and army in Dhaka during the Bengali Language Movement protests.

It was after assuming power in 1996 that hon’ble prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, the daughter of the greatest Bengali and father of the Nation embraced the cause of recognizing the heroic struggle of the Language movement. Voices from various parts of the world and in particular from Canada were provided the utmost support leading to the recognition during the prime ministership of Sheikh Hasina.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said, this year’s theme of International Mother Language Day – “Using technology for multilingual learning: Challenges and opportunities” – is very befitting, as the government has been working for a long time to implement an equitable and inclusive education policy through the use of digital technology.

“We have established the International Mother Language Institute, taken initiatives to preserve endangered languages and protect their dignity, and ensured the use of the Bangla language in the ICT. Also, the government is continuing its efforts to get Bangla recognized as the official language of the United Nations, she said.

Abul Hasan Chowdhury

Fmr. State Minister
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
& Executive Advisor, Diplomats Publication

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FLEDGLING AVIATION & AEROSPACE INDUSTRIES IN BANGLADESH



-Mohammad Shafiqul Islam

Bangladesh has experienced a stunning turnaround over the last half-century of its founding. "Bangladesh's promotion to a "developing country" from a "least-developed country" by the United Nations is a milestone achievement for the nation. The country and its people have embarked on magical strides on their way to become a South Asian powerhouse. Over the previous five decades, Bangladesh has made incredible progress in terms of human development. Inclusionary growth strategies, wise fiscal management, local and international job creation, and a comprehensive social security program have reduced both moderate and extreme poverty. The country has been putting in place, well-thought-out strategies and channeling resources to improve educational access. The literacy rate in the country has increased from 26.8% in 1974 to 74.7 percent in 2019.

Bangladesh rose to prominence in South Asia as a result of its successful export-led development strategy. Since the 1980s, export revenues have

made a significant contribution to Bangladesh's economy. Bangladesh has witnessed a strong headway in terms of access to electricity in fifty years. In 1991, the access to electricity was 14% and in 2021 it reached 99%. Health industry has undergone a quiet revolution in the previous five decades. Bangladesh's founding year had a life expectancy of 46.6 years. The life expectancy in 2020 is 72.6 years.

The government established various IT advancements and computerized businesses through the employment of the vast Human Resource of the nation. That is how the ICT sector has made tremendous progress under the present government. The domestic market growth for ICT items along with IT-empowered administrations is set to reach \$5 billion income target within the stipulated time.

Her economic performance is now known as the 'Bangladesh Wonder'. For its 170 million people, the country has attained near-self-sufficiency in food production. It has developed

into a model export powerhouse. Bangladesh's GDP grew at an annual rate of 8.15 percent in 2019. Its per capita income has risen through \$2064 in 2020. Country's GDP is expected to surpass that of Denmark and Singapore very soon, according to the International Monetary Fund. Both public and private investments have been critical in boosting Bangladesh's economic progress. BD government modified its policy direction in the 1980s, creating an investment-friendly policies, ordinances, and regulations in order to boost domestic and foreign investment. The service industry grew at a consistent rate of 3.6 percent to 6.7 percent between 1980 and 2010.

It is time for Bangladesh Aviation Industries to go full throttle. For any highly industrialized nation with well developed, military industry, aerospace industry is the final stage of military industrialization. To reach the stage of fighter aircraft production, the industry has to step through at least five major preparatory stages; they are:



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina Inaugorating Bangabandhu Aeronautical Centre at Kurmitola, Bangladesh Air Force Base, BB

1. Develop aviation Engineering (HRD)
2. Start aircraft overhauling and maintenance
3. Start small and light aircraft assembly and production.
4. Start producing aircraft with technology transfer from the supplier country.
5. Start production of aircraft of own design and technology.

Bangladesh's Aviation and Aerospace Chapter

Aviation activities of Bangladesh, was initiated during our glorious War of Liberation in 1971. A handful of patriotic Bengali airmen and technicians from Pakistan air force joined by a few pilots from Pakistan International Airlines and Pak army aviation corps formed the newly established Bangladesh air force on 28th September, 1971. BAF's rudimentary inventory consisted of a Vintage DC-3 Dakota, DHC-3 Otter and an Alouette-III helicopter. Despite being outmoded and civilian outfit, one of these airplanes and a helicopter were skillfully modified by BAF technicians to carry bombs, rockets and weapon aiming systems for ground attack role. Valiant pilots

of BAF flew numerous successful day/night bombing and rocketing missions with those rickety aircraft against the enemy targets without any incident or accident. The war of Liberation ended with an outstanding mission success and flight safety record on the part of BAF.

Immediately after the liberation war, BAF inherited a few severely damaged F-86s and one T-33 abandoned by the hastily retreating Pakistani air force. War time experienced technical personnel quickly made those aircrafts fly worthy with their innovative technical skills. BAF started its journey with an inventory of two F-86 Saber jets, one T-33 fighter trainer,

one DC-3 Dakota, one DHC-3 Otter and an Alouette-III 6 helicopter. Some days later, one Westland Wessex 6 helicopter from UK joined the fleet. Bell-212 helicopters were inducted towards the beginning of 80s. Presently Bell helicopters are being completely overhauled in BAF's MRO at Tejgaon.

By mid-1973, air force received supersonic Mig-21MF/UM, AN-24/26 Transport aircraft, Mi-8 helicopters and ground based Air Defense RADARs. Such a huge surge of highly sophisticated equipment of that time posed an immense challenge for a fledgling air force like BAF. A massive program was undertaken to train pilots, engineers and technicians from the then Soviet Union and India. Critical operational and maintenance infrastructures were being built to cater for the newly induced aircraft and other associated equipment. Soviet Specialists were deputed to BAF for training the BAF personnel on all aspects of repair and maintenance of soviet supplied aircrafts. Presently MI-8/MI-17s are overhauled in BAF's maintenance and Repair



Changdu F- 7BG Overhauled from 214 MROU of Bangabandhu Aeronautical Centre, Bangladesh Air Force



Falcon 9 rocket launching with Bangabandhu-1

facilities. In the year 1977, induction of Chinese fighters F-6/FT-5 and PT-6 Basic Trainer followed by induction of FT-6 and A-5 some years later gave a huge boost in developing BAF's aviation technical manpower. Decades ago, PT-6 Primary trainer's Overhaul facility was set up at the BAF Academy's technical area.

Bangabandhu Aeronautical Centre (BAC), a state owned major defense contractor and aerospace, arms, defense and advance Technology Company, headquartered at Kurmitola Dhaka. It was formed by the Ministry of Defense in 2011, and is managed by Bangladesh air force. BAC is one of the largest defense contractors in aerospace, military support and security provider in Bangladesh.

To develop Human Resources in Aerospace sector, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Aerospace and Aviation University (BSMRAAU) had been established on 28th September 2018. BSMRAAU would be conducting the academic and research oriented Laboratory activities while Practical part of the lessons for the students would be conducted in the Maintenance

Repair Organizations of both military and civil aviation facilities. BSMRAAU has signed an agreement with the AIR BUS on 8th of December 2020, to ensure the EASA (European Aviation and Safety Authority) Certification for Graduates. Bangladesh has also made significant technological advancements in a variety of areas, including telecommunications, internet connectivity and speed, digitization, and media. The government's pledge of a Digital Bangladesh has resulted in significant ICT advancements.

Bangladesh entered the space age on May 12, 2018, when its first satellite, 'Bangabandhu-1' was successfully launched. Bangladesh became the 57th country to have its own satellite in orbit. All these advancements would directly support in its effort to Aviation industrialization.

Other than BSMRAAU, Bangabandhu Aeronautical Complex, BAF Technical Organizations, Biman Bangladesh MROs, MIST (Military Institute of Science and Technology), different services, divisions, and other government elements – including the Ministry of

Defense, the Ministry of Industries, the Ministry of Education and ICT Division – will be required to work together in resource provision and talent hunting to support the Aerospace Industries and its sub sectors like, Avionics, Radar, Artificial Intelligence, Quantum Computers, Directed Energy and many more evolving technologies. Different private foundations and associations of business people would be required to play a significant part in leading the aerospace industry to a success. -A synergy can take place between Industry, Educational Institutions and the military workshops and facilities. Presently, light Unmanned Aerial vehicle (UAV) is being manufactured at BAF facilities for the use of various security forces.

Bangladesh is in process of procuring, two dozen German Grob G-112TP, Primary trainer aircraft along with technology transfer. Developing the technical facility and start assembling the aircraft from the knockdown stage, and thereafter, proceeding towards complete aircraft manufacturing is a timely step in a right direction.



Satellite BANGABANDHU – 2 is ready for Launch



A typical advance Fighter aircraft manufacturing plant

Grob airframe is made out of very advance ultra-light composite material. Most of today's aero plane manufacturers are making extensive use of such materials for making the airframe. Our know-how on Grob's advance technology would greatly benefit us while making later generation of aircraft by ourselves, both for civil and military needs. Composite materials would be the key elements in manufacturing Military drones, UAVs and latest generation of stealth/semi-stealth fighters. Most challenging stage of aviation industrialization is the production of a sophisticated fighter air craft through technology transfer from a friendly country.

Technologically not all foreign aviation industries are same and no country would be willing to share their cutting edge aviation technology with us and therefore we are not likely to go for joint production of 5th Generation multi engine fighters as of now,

but Bangladesh would be in a position to jointly manufacture 4+ Gen category fighters like US F-16 Viper, Chinese J-10 CB, Swedish Grippen-E single engine multirole fighters within next 5 years. For Bangladesh, Russia, China, Pakistan, Turkey, KSA could be joint development/production partners. For such joint venture, Bangladesh has to invest billions of dollar and setup high tech aviation industrial complexes. Judging from the past, it is evident that, Bangladesh would not hesitate to take a giant leap towards aviation Industrialization. Roop pur Nuclear power plant and Bangobandhu series Satellite Launch program are a few of such triumphant examples of our nation's resolve.

Initially Bangladesh will be in a position to manufacture Airframe and some major aircraft components. Licensed production of most of the components and spares has to be initiated after a reasonable

period of joint production with the original country of manufacture. Decades back when Turkey followed by Egypt received the F-16s from USA, neither of the countries was in a position to manufacture any components of F-16 but now both the countries produces most of the components of American F-16s in their own country.

Bangladesh is resolutely on track to produce single engine 4+ Generation fighters by 2030.

In her quest for Aerospace Industrialization, Bangladesh has to guard against the phenomenon of 'Technology Dumping' by some of the rapidly advancing Aviation Industrialized countries. Some countries supply military aviation technology with a very high cost and stringent strings attached to it. Such type of deal is very detrimental to a smooth advancement of the aviation industry of the host country which also has a direct ramification on the country's security. Bangladesh must choose a country as an industrial partner, which is technologically advanced, a proven friend with shared values, common strategic, cultural, political and economic interests. Self-reliance and self-sufficiency is the ultimate way out for Bangladesh aviation industries to surge forward.

Air Commodore M Shafiqul Islam

ndc, AWC, psc (Retd)
Advisor, Diplomats Publication

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