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DIPLOMATS WORLD

The Only Diplomatic Magazine in Bangladesh

**Awakening a Nation: Bangabandhu's
Inspiring Words on 7th March**

**Celebrating the Legacy of Bangabandhu:
The Eternal Flame of Bengali Nationalism**

Eternal Flames: The Legacy of Bangladesh's Seven Bir Sreshthas

Exploring Bangladesh: An Indonesian Perspective





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Diplomats World extends warm greetings to all its esteemed readers and wishes a blessed month of Ramadan is marked by fasting and prayers.

This month, Bangladesh commemorates its 54th Independence Day on the 26th of March. On this significant occasion, President Mohammed Shahabuddin and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina conveyed their hopes and aspirations for the nation's progress. President Shahabuddin emphasized the importance of people-oriented and sustainable development, advocating for good governance, social justice, transparency, and accountability to secure a desirable legacy. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina reiterated her government's commitment to uplifting the living standards of ordinary citizens through immediate, short-term-, medium-, and long-term plans for national development.

World leaders from the United States, China, India, Russia, and other nations expressed their steadfast commitment to strengthening friendship and cooperation with Bangladesh in their National Day messages.

For Bangladesh, March holds profound significance as a month of historic events. Diplomats magazine joins in commemorating the visionary leadership of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, which led to the emergence of Bangladesh as an independent nation. The 7th of March, 1971, stands out as a momentous day when Bangabandhu delivered a historic speech, a resounding call to arms for Bangladesh's independence. Recognized by UNESCO as a world treasure, Bangabandhu's speech remains a symbol of the nation's unwavering determination for freedom. The Independence struggle, marked by the barbaric massacre unleashed by the Pakistani Junta on unarmed Bengali civilians on the night of 25th March 1971, culminated in a nine-month liberation war, ultimately resulting in the birth of Bangladesh.

The President of Bangladesh extended an invitation to the King and Queen of Bhutan, who participated in the Independence Day celebrations. During their visit, three Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) were signed and also to enhance regional cooperation under the SAARC and BIMSTEC frameworks.

In this edition, Diplomats magazine presents a diverse array of articles covering topics such as relations with Russia, women empowerment, and insightful pieces on Bangabandhu as well as issues concerning Myanmar, catering to the interests of our readership on both national and international fronts.

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



২৬ মার্চ

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CELEBRATING THE LEGACY OF BANGABANDHU: THE ETERNAL FLAME OF BENGALI NATIONALISM

-Mohd. Abu Jafar Raju

In the quaint village of Tungipara, nestled within the embrace of the Gopalganj Sub-division, a luminary was born on the auspicious day of 17th March 1920. This luminous figure, known to the world as Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, would emerge as the preeminent Bengali of a thousand years in the annals of Bengal's storied history. His birth heralded the dawn of an era marked by unwavering patriotism, profound political acumen, and an indomitable spirit that would shape the destiny of a nation.

To encapsulate the essence of Bangabandhu's greatness is a

task not lightly undertaken, for his legacy transcends the confines of time and space. In the words of the esteemed journalist Cyril Dunn, Bangabandhu emerges as a titan among leaders, eclipsing even the revered names of George Washington, Mahatma Gandhi, and De Valera. His journey from humble beginnings to the pinnacle of political power is a testament to his innate brilliance and unyielding determination.

In the tapestry of Bangladesh's history, Bangabandhu's presence looms large, casting a radiant glow that illuminates the path of progress and liberation.

As a minister during the tumultuous pre-independence era, he navigated the treacherous waters of colonial rule with sagacity and foresight. With the birth of Bangladesh, he ascended to the roles of both Prime Minister and President, wielding influence and authority with a deftness unmatched by his contemporaries.

Yet, beyond the corridors of power, Bangabandhu's essence transcends the realm of mere politics. He embodies the quintessence of Bengali identity, resonating with the soul of the land and its people. In the eloquent words of Egyptian



Bangabandhu celebrated his last birthday surrounded by the joy and innocence of children, a poignant moment captured in time

journalist Mohamed Hassanein Heikal, Bangabandhu emerges as the quintessential Bengali leader, steeped in the rich tapestry of blood, race, language, culture, and birth that defines the Bengali ethos. His towering physical stature, resonant voice, and magnetic charisma enraptured the masses, transforming him into a veritable superman of his time.

Throughout his illustrious career, Bangabandhu stood as a beacon of hope and inspiration for millions, leading the charge against injustice and oppression with unwavering resolve. His vision for a just and equitable society found expression in his tireless advocacy for social and economic transformation, laying the groundwork for a nation built on principles of democracy and inclusivity.

As we commemorate the 104th anniversary of his birth, let us pause to reflect on the enduring legacy of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. His life story serves as a testament to the transformative power of

leadership, courage, and unwavering dedication to the service of humanity. In honoring his memory, we pay homage not only to the man himself but to the ideals for which he stood – freedom, justice, and the unyielding spirit of Bengali nationalism.

As long as Padma, Meghna, Gouri,
Jamuna flows on,
Sheikh Mujibur Rahman,
your accomplishments will also live on.
-Anandashankar Ray



Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman shares laughter and joy with children on his birthday, a cherished moment of pure delight

Throughout his life, Mujib was a man of action and a hero in leading powerful people's movements against Pakistan's colonial rule for more than 2 decades. He developed techniques of peaceful collective actions, non-violent civil disobedience against injustice, and finally re-modelled methods of mass protests through armed struggles under the compelling situation.

In his framework of social-economic transformation, politics is the real moving force. In his concept of political theory and practice, struggle and constructive work, democracy, and civil disobedience are combined together. Like Marx, his emphasis was on struggle but he first discarded the idea of violence. He tried to refine the Gandhian techniques of non-violence; by accepting non-violent methods of struggle but adding mass-based civil disobedience against injustice and exploitation.

He was a dedicated nationalist par excellence. His life is



Surrounded by smiles, Bangabandhu celebrates his birthday in the company of the nation's future leaders

entwined with Bangladesh. Bangabandhu became the international symbol of a free Bangladesh. His brutal murder was regarded as an international catastrophe. His place in humanity was measured not in terms of the 20th and 21st centuries but in terms of history. He was full of nationalist ideas. The Sheikh represented the season of youth and triumphant joy of an invincible spirit of fight

and uncompromising loyalty to the cause of freedom.

He is the patriot of patriots. His "Joy Bangla" slogan was the battle cry of our freedom fighters during our glorious Liberation War in 1971 and he roused the nation to a great patriotic height. He is the symbol of the heroism of the Bengalis of Bangladesh. Bangabandhu was a fountain of

zeal. All over the country tributes shall be paid to this great hero who fought for freedom and sacrificed his life for the cause of his people. Even today, the heroic spirit of Bangabandhu is an unfailing source of inspiration to the youth of the country. His courage, spirit of adventure and patriotism are an example to one and all. He is the great patriotic Bangladeshi political leader, Bangladesh has ever produced.

Turn the pages of Bangladesh's political history, and you are sure to find one man who clearly outshines all others and manages to attract the attention and interest of all, till date, -Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman! Rising from a modest and humble beginning, it was his sheer determination and honest effort that led him to the nation's highest office.

A devoted nationalist, he adapted to rapidly changing tides in Bengali politics, dedicating his



Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman with his son Sheikh Russel



In the warmth of youthful exuberance, Bangabandhu's birthday is marked with boundless energy and endless happiness shared among children

entire career towards the creation, and development of his homeland and its people. It was all for these reasons that he is rightly known as "The Father of the Nation". His birthday is a public holiday in Bangladesh and is celebrated throughout the country with due honour. The Sheikh is remembered as one of the greatest figures in Bengali nationalism.

The national leaders lead their nations. But the best of them give their lives for the good of their nations. They dedicate themselves in the interests of their nations. So, if they die they become martyrs and if they live they become heroes. Bangabandhu was the greatest national leader of Bangladesh. He is a martyr. He died for his country. He built the Bengali

Nation. He brought freedom to Bangladesh and its people.

As Bangladesh commemorates the birth anniversary of its beloved leader, the echoes of "Joy Bangla" reverberate across the nation, serving as a poignant reminder of Mujib's enduring legacy. His principles of democracy, social justice, and inclusivity continue to guide the nation towards progress and prosperity.

On this auspicious occasion, let us pay homage to the visionary leader who dedicated his life to the service of his countrymen. Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's legacy remains etched in the annals of history, inspiring generations to uphold the values of freedom, unity, and resilience. As we celebrate his 104th birthday, let us reaffirm our commitment to realizing his vision of a prosperous and egalitarian Bangladesh.

Joy Bangla. Joy Bangabandhu.

Mohd. Abu Jafar Raju
Protocol Officer to the Hon'ble Prime Minister
Prime Minister's Office
Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

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AWAKENING A NATION: BANGABANDHU'S INSPIRING WORDS ON 7TH MARCH

-Syed Atique

The 7th March 1971: a date etched in the annals of history, marking the genesis of a nation's struggle for emancipation and self-determination. This pivotal moment in Bangladesh's journey towards independence was catalyzed by the resounding words of the Father of the Nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. However, the significance of this iconic speech extends far beyond its momentary impact, resonating deeply with the collective aspirations and historical context of the Bengali people.

The 7th of March 1971 stands as a monumental milestone in the history of Bangladesh, a day when the echoes of freedom reverberated across the land, igniting the flames of liberation in

the hearts of millions. At the forefront of this historic moment was Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the undaunted leader of the Bengali people, whose impassioned speech at the Race Course Maidan in Dhaka galvanized a nation and charted the course for independence. However, the significance of this seminal address transcends its immediate impact, embodying the spirit of resilience, determination, and unwavering commitment to justice that defines the Bengali people.

To grasp the true import of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's 7th March speech, it is imperative to delve into the backdrop against which it unfolded. The seeds of dissent had long been sown, nurtured by

decades of political repression and cultural marginalization endured by the Bengali populace. Events such as the Mother Language Movement of 1952 and the demand for autonomy through the 6 Point Movement in 1966 played pivotal roles in shaping the collective consciousness of the Bengali people, fostering a burgeoning sense of identity and sovereignty.

The 6 Point Movement, spearheaded by Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in 1966, marked a significant milestone in the quest for autonomy and self-determination. The six-point charter articulated the aspirations of the Bengali people, advocating for greater regional autonomy, economic freedom, and linguistic rights.



The Mother Language Movement of 1952

Despite facing harsh reprisals from the West Pakistani establishment, including imprisonment and persecution, Bangabandhu remained resolute in his pursuit of justice and equality for the Bengali populace.

However, it was the Agartala Conspiracy Case and the subsequent Mass Uprising in 1969 that served as a watershed moment, catalyzing the Bengali nationalist movement and crystallizing their yearning for self-rule. The Agartala Conspiracy Case, orchestrated by the West Pakistani authorities, sought to undermine the growing demand for autonomy in East Pakistan by falsely implicating Bangabandhu and other Bengali leaders in a fabricated conspiracy. The trial sparked widespread outrage and mobilization, culminating in mass protests and demonstrations across East Pakistan.

The Mass Uprising of 1969, triggered by the public outcry against the Agartala Conspiracy

Case, witnessed unprecedented popular mobilization and resistance against the repressive policies of the West Pakistani regime. The streets of Dhaka and other major cities echoed with chants of "Joy Bangla" as millions of Bengalis from all walks of life united in their demand for justice, democracy, and autonomy. The brutality unleashed by the authorities only served to fuel the flames of dissent, further strengthening



The 6 Point Movement of 1966

the resolve of the Bengali populace to assert their rights and dignity.

Amidst this tumultuous backdrop, the National Election of 1970 emerged as a defining moment in the struggle for autonomy and self-rule. The landslide victory of Bangabandhu's Awami League, securing an overwhelming majority of seats in the National Assembly, sent a clear message to the West Pakistani establishment: the Bengali people were determined to chart their destiny and reclaim their rightful place in the political landscape of Pakistan.

It was against this backdrop of simmering discontent and unyielding resolve that Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman delivered his historic 7th March speech at the Race Course Maidan in Dhaka. With his characteristic eloquence and impassioned plea for justice, he rallied the Bengali masses to the cause of liberation, declaring, "The struggle this time is for emancipation! The struggle this time is for independence!"



The 1969 mass upsurge is a significant chapter in the history of the country's independence

The excerpts from the speech underscore Bangabandhu's unwavering commitment to the welfare of his people and the pursuit of justice. In calling for assistance to the families of the martyred and injured, he demonstrated his deep empathy and solidarity with the victims of state violence. His directive for employers to provide full pay to workers and the suspension of taxes underscored his commitment to alleviating the economic burden on the people amidst the turmoil of resistance.

Moreover, Bangabandhu's call for unity and vigilance against provocateurs highlighted his astute political acumen and foresight. By emphasizing the inclusivity of the Bengali nationalist movement and the imperative of safeguarding communal harmony, he sought to preempt attempts at divisive tactics by the authorities. His admonition against consuming biased media and his appeal for reconciliation underscored his commitment to fostering a peaceful resolution to the crisis while steadfastly upholding the

principles of democracy and justice.

The significance of Bangabandhu's 7th March speech transcends the confines of time and space, earning recognition from UNESCO as part of the World's Documentary Heritage. The Director General of UNESCO, Irina Bokova, announced the decision on 30 October, 2017; at the UNESCO Headquarters in Paris. This prestigious acknowledgment underscores the universal resonance of his message and

its enduring relevance in the quest for freedom and human dignity.

In commemorating the legacy of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and the epochal significance of his 7th March speech, let us reaffirm our commitment to the ideals of democracy, justice, and equality for which he so valiantly fought. As we honor the sacrifices of those who laid down their lives for the cause of liberation, let us draw inspiration from Bangabandhu's unwavering courage, leadership, and vision.

Moreover, the echoes of Bangabandhu's speech continue to reverberate through the corridors of history, reminding us of the indomitable spirit of the Bengali people and their unwavering determination to chart their destiny. From the crowded streets of Dhaka to the remote villages of rural Bangladesh, the message of freedom and emancipation continues to inspire and unite a nation.



UNESCO recognises Bangabandhu's 7 March speech as world's documentary heritage

7th MARCH SPEECH OF
THE FATHER OF THE NATION
BANGABANDHU
SHEIKH MUJIBUR RAHMAN



"7th March Speech of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman" published by the Diplomats World Publication

In the words of the Father of the Nation himself, "Joy Bangla!" - a rallying cry that transcends linguistic, cultural, and geographical boundaries, uniting all Bengalis in their shared quest for freedom and self-determination. As we navigate the challenges of the

present and strive towards a brighter future, let us never forget the timeless wisdom and unwavering resolve encapsulated in Bangabandhu's historic 7th March speech.

In urging the immediate formation of committees under the leadership of the Awami League to carry on the struggle at the grassroots level, Bangabandhu exhibited his keen organizational skills and strategic foresight. His call to prepare for the struggle ahead resonated with the spirit of resilience and determination that defined the Bengali nationalist movement, inspiring ordinary citizens to rise up

against oppression and tyranny.

It is noteworthy that UNESCO acknowledges the monumental significance of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's 7th March Speech, recognizing it as an integral part of the world's documentary heritage.

Diplomats World Publication published by "7th March Speech of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman," is a compilation of the historical 7th March speech by the Father of the Nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, in Bangla, English, and Malay. Now 220 million people can read the historical 7th March speech of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in the Malay language.

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's 7th March speech stands as a testament to the indomitable spirit of the Bengali people and their unwavering commitment to freedom, justice, and self-determination. Against the backdrop of decades of political repression and cultural marginalization, his words reverberated with the collective aspirations of a nation yearning to break free from the shackles of oppression and chart its destiny. As we commemorate the legacy of Bangabandhu and the historic significance of his speech, let us reaffirm our commitment to upholding the principles of democracy, equality, and human rights for which he valiantly fought.

Syed Atique
Media Analyst

BANGLADESH AND BRUNEI STRENGTHEN BILATERAL TIES AT 40TH NATIONAL DAY

Shofiqur Rahman Choudhury, MP, State Minister, Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment, graced the celebration of Brunei's 40th National Day as the chief guest at the reception hosted by the High Commission of Brunei Darussalam in Bangladesh. The event, held on March 5, 2024, marked a significant moment in the bilateral relations between the two nations.

His Excellency Haji Haris bin Othman, the High Commissioner of Brunei Darussalam in Dhaka, underscored the importance Brunei places on fostering strong ties with Bangladesh. He reiterated Brunei's commitment to collaborating with Bangladesh to materialise the mutually beneficial agreements between the two countries, as agreed upon by their respective heads of state.

A highlight of the celebration was the recognition of young artistic talent through an art competition titled "Brunei in My Eyes." The High Commissioner awarded prizes to the top three winners, showcasing the creative expressions of school children and further fostering cultural exchange between Bangladesh and Brunei.

The reception served as a platform to reaffirm the commitment of both nations to deepen cooperation across various sectors, ensuring a brighter and more prosperous future for their citizens.





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ETERNAL FLAMES: THE LEGACY OF BANGLADESH'S SEVEN BIR SRESHTHAS

-Prof. Dr. Abu Nasir Rizvi

December 16, 1971, marks the birth of a free and sovereign Bangladesh, emerging from the crucible of the Liberation War. It was a time when the hearts of the Bengali people pulsed with the rhythm of freedom, echoing the spirit of a nation yearning to break free from the shackles of oppression. The struggle for independence, spanning nine months, witnessed the sacrifice of over 30 lakh lives, each drop of blood contributing to the birth of a new nation. Among these unsung heroes, seven individuals stand as towering symbols of bravery and selflessness—the Bir Sreshthas.

These seven heroes, by embracing the eternal embrace of death, etched their names in the golden pages of our nation's narrative. Let us delve into the stirring accounts of these valiant warriors, who, in the face of

adversity, chose to defy the oppressor and paved the way for the birth of Bangladesh.

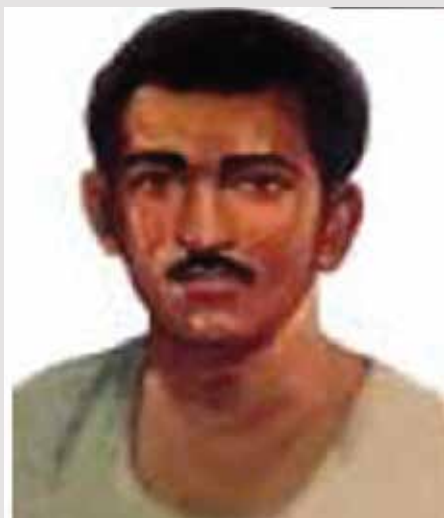


Bir Sreshtha Shaheed Mohiuddin Jahangir:

Captain Mohiuddin Jahangir, a true hero in the annals of Bangladesh's liberation war, exemplified unwavering courage and selflessness in his pursuit of freedom. Born on March 8, 1949, Mohiuddin pursued higher education and joined the University of Dhaka. However, driven by an indomitable spirit of patriotism, he opted to serve in the Pakistan Army, attending the Pakistan Military Academy in 1967.

The turning point came in 1971 when the call for Bangladesh's liberation echoed. Unable to ignore the cries of his motherland, Captain Mohiuddin Jahangir, along with three fellow officers, orchestrated a daring escape from Pakistan, reaching the Mukti Bahini in Mehdiapur, West Bengal. Assigned the pivotal role of Sector 7 Commander, he played a crucial part in the Battle of Chapainawabganj. Undeterred by the absence of Indian artillery support, Captain Jahangir fearlessly led his group in a courageous assault on December

14, 1971. Tragically, he fell in action, but his sacrifice spurred the freedom fighters to seize victory.



Bir Sreshtha Shaheed Hamidur Rahman:

Born in the tumultuous aftermath of the partition of India, Hamidur Rahman's life became intertwined with the struggle for freedom. Hailing from Khardo Khalishpur village in Jhenaidah, he joined the East Bengal Regiment in 1971, leaving an indelible mark on the pages of Bangladesh's fight for independence. His pivotal role in the Battle of Dhalai Border Outpost showcased his extraordinary bravery. When faced with the daunting challenge of capturing the heavily fortified outpost, Hamidur Rahman fearlessly led the charge, crawling through hilly canals under the cover of darkness. Despite sustaining injuries, he single-handedly silenced the enemy's machine gun, enabling the East Bengal Regiment to seize the strategic position.

The return of Hamidur Rahman's remains to Bangladesh in 2007 marked a poignant moment of remembrance and honor for the fallen hero. Reinterred at the

"Buddhijibi Koborstan" in Dhaka alongside fellow Bir Sreshtha Matiur Rahman, his legacy continues to inspire generations.



Bir Sreshtha Shaheed Mostofa Kamal:

Shaheed Sipahi Mostofa Kamal, emerged as an indomitable hero in the tapestry of Bangladesh's struggle for independence in 1971. Born in Poshchim Hajipur village, Bhola district, in 1947, Mostofa Kamal's journey toward becoming a valiant warrior was marked by determination and sacrifice. He joined the East Bengal Regiment in 1967, igniting a fervent commitment to his dream of serving in the military.

Mostofa Kamal's defining moment occurred in the Battle of Gangasagar-Brahmanbaria, where he showcased unparalleled courage and tactical brilliance. Stationed at Akhaura, his platoon faced a relentless Pakistani offensive, and Mostofa Kamal's unwavering stand at Gangasagar disrupted the enemy's advance. Subsequently, in the Battle of Daruin-Comilla, he displayed extraordinary resilience. As the Pakistani forces closed in, Mostofa Kamal, holding the rightmost position, became the linchpin in the defense. Refusing to retreat, he unleashed a torrent

of fire with his light machine gun (LMG), single-handedly neutralizing a significant number of enemy soldiers till his last breath and ultimately securing the victory.



Bir Sreshtha Shaheed Matiur Rahman:

Bir Sreshtho Matiur Rahman stands as an indomitable symbol of courage and sacrifice in the annals of Bangladesh's liberation war. Commissioned as a pilot officer in the Pakistan Air Force on 22nd June, 1963, Matiur Rahman displayed exceptional proficiency as a Jet Pilot in Peshawar. However, his unwavering patriotism and dedication to his homeland led him to embark on a daring mission to hijack a T-33 aircraft, codenamed "Blue Bird," from Karachi to join the Liberation War of Bangladesh.

On the fateful day of 20th August 1971, Flight Lieutenant Matiur Rahman executed his audacious plan, attempting to defect from the Pakistan Air Force and contribute to the struggle for Bangladesh's independence. Despite facing a fierce struggle for control of the aircraft with Pilot Officer Minhaj, Matiur managed to take off undetected by radar. Tragically, the T-33 crashed near Thatta, close to the Indian border, signaling the heroic end of Matiur Rahman's life. His sacrifice

became a poignant chapter in the nation's history, and Bangladesh, recognizing his selfless devotion, posthumously honored him with the highest state insignia of "Bir Sreshtho."



Bir Sreshtha Shaheed Mohammad Ruhul Amin:

In the annals of Bangladesh's history, the saga of Mohammad Ruhul Amin stands as a poignant testament to the indomitable spirit and selfless sacrifice of the nation's heroes. Born on February 1, 1934, in Noakhali district, Mohammad Ruhul Amin embodied qualities of obedience, courage, and sincerity from his early years. His thirst for knowledge led him to join the then-Pakistan Navy as a sailor in 1951, where he rose to the rank of Artificer-1 by 1968.

After the start of the liberation war, Ruhul Amin didn't hesitate to abandon his post to join the fight for independence. When he joined Bangladesh Navy's warships, Padma and Polash, under Indian command. On December 10, 1971, tragedy struck as Indian aircraft, mistaken in their targets, bombed the ships. Despite the perilous situation, Mohammad Ruhul Amin's unwavering commitment to the Bangladesh Navy's survival kept him on board the burning Polash. His

ultimate sacrifice, refusing to abandon ship, reflects the unwavering dedication that earned him the revered title of Bir Sreshtho.



Bir Sreshtha Shaheed Munshi Abdur Rauf:

Lance Nayek Munshi Abdur Rauf, born on May 8, 1943; epitomizes the selfless courage and sacrifice that defined the Liberation War of 1971. Born in poverty and facing adversity after his father's death, Rauf displayed an indomitable spirit from a young age. Joining the East Pakistan Rifles (EPR) at the age of 20, he quickly earned a reputation for his disciplined and dedicated service.

Rauf's defining moment came during the Battle of Rangamati-Mahalchari, where he valiantly stood against the Pakistani forces to safeguard the Mukti Bahini's defensive position. Facing a relentless enemy attack on April 18, 1971, Rauf, armed with an automatic machine gun, held his ground to provide covering fire, allowing his fellow freedom fighters to retreat safely. His unwavering commitment and the ultimate sacrifice he made in the face of overwhelming odds saved the lives of nearly 150 Mukti Bahini soldiers.



Bir Sreshtha Shaheed Nur Mohammad Sheikh:

Nur Mohammad Sheikh, known as Shaheed (martyr) Lance Nayek, etched his name in Bangladesh's history as a fearless hero during the liberation war of 1971. His journey from local schools to joining the Ansar Force and eventually the East Pakistan Rifles (EPR) portrayed his

unwavering spirit. Tragically, he lost his life in the Battle of Goalhati in Jessore, showcasing unparalleled bravery and sacrifice.

The Battle of Goalhati unfolded with strategic significance as freedom fighters monitored Pakistani movements, aiming to capture them. However, on September 5, 1971, the Pakistani Army discovered Nur Mohammad's squad. In the face of a three-sided attack, Nur Mohammad, patrolling with only four comrades, exemplified extraordinary courage. Despite sustaining injuries and losing a fellow soldier, he carried on, providing covering fire for his team. When urged to retreat, Nur Mohammad steadfastly refused, passing his Light Machine Gun to a comrade to prevent its capture. Bleeding and seriously injured, he fought till the end, epitomizing

the selfless sacrifice that defines the spirit of Bangladesh's liberation war heroes.

These seven Bir Sreshthas, through their acts of unparalleled bravery, became the bedrock of inspiration for countless others who fought for the freedom of Bangladesh. Their stories, etched in the collective memory of the nation, serve as a reminder of the sacrifices made to secure our independence. As we reflect on the heroic deeds of these valiant souls, we must acknowledge that our debt to them is immeasurable. Their sacrifices go beyond the medals and awards; they are the cornerstone of our national identity. The legacy of the Bir Sreshthas lives on in the hearts of every Bangladeshi, inspiring future generations to cherish and uphold the hard-won freedom for which these heroes laid down their lives.

Prof. Dr. Abu Nasir Rizvi

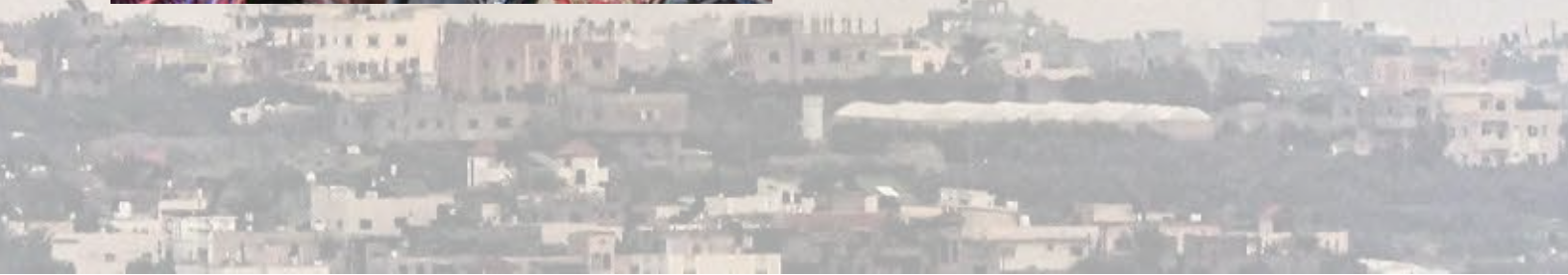
Dean BSMMU &
Advisor, Diplomats World Publication

GAZA'S GRIM RAMADAN: AMIDST WAR AND FAMINE, PALESTINIANS FACE DARKEST HOLY MONTH YET

As the crescent moon signals the arrival of Ramadan, Palestinians in Gaza find themselves engulfed in a grim reality that eclipses any semblance of the joyous occasion.

The bustling streets of Gaza, once vibrant with the colors of life, now lie shrouded in a pall of grey and white dust, a grim testament to the devastation wrought by relentless bombings. According to the UN, more than half of the strip's buildings, roughly 400,000 in number, bear the scars of conflict, rendering the landscape an eerie tableau of destruction.

Amidst this desolation, the simple act of breaking fast, the cherished tradition of iftar, has become an agonizing dilemma for many. How does one partake in the ritual of sharing a meal when the specter of famine looms large? For Gazans, the answer is elusive, as scarcity grips the region with an unforgiving grip. Musa Al Shami, a 48-year-old resident of Gaza, encapsulates the collective anguish that pervades the strip. "Every time I remember our family gatherings in Ramadan and how they will be absent this year, it chokes me up," he laments. "I wish that what we are going through is just a dream and it will end."



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BANGABANDHU THE PEOPLE'S HERO

-Abul Hasan Chowdhury

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was born in the village of Tungipara, situated in what was then Faridpur district (now Gopalganj district). His initial fascination with the Swadeshi (homeland) movement was ignited by tales of the sacrifices made by armed revolutionaries and the radical

activities of Madaripur's Purna Chandra Das, a comrade of Bagha Jatin, a renowned freedom fighter of Bengal, who operated near Mujib's home.

At a crucial juncture, two significant incidents steered Mujib towards the politics of Muslim individualism. One day,

his classmate and close neighbor, Nanigopal Das, invited him to his uncle's home and seated him in the drawing-room. Later, Nanigopal, in a regretful tone, pleaded with Mujib not to visit their house again, recounting how his aunt, despite her fondness for Mujib, had scolded him for allowing Mujib indoors. She personally cleansed the room and coerced Nanigopal into doing the same. Reflecting on this incident, Mujib wrote, "This incident left a deep imprint in my mind; I have not forgotten it even today."

The second incident occurred in 1938 during a public meeting and exhibition organized for the visit of Bengal's Chief Minister A.K. Fazlul Haque and Labour Minister Shaheed Suhrawardy to Gopalganj. At the time, Mujib, then a school student, led a group of volunteers. However, just before the event, higher-caste Hindu youths withdrew from participating, following instructions from local Congress leaders. Despite this, scheduled caste Hindu boys remained, as the Minister Mukundubihari Mullick was also attending with the Chief Minister.

Mujib, reflecting on the incident, expressed surprise at the communal divide, as to him, there was no distinction between Hindus and Muslims. He had close friendships with Hindu boys, engaging in activities such as singing, playing music, games, and excursions together. Fortunately, the event concluded peacefully, defying concerns of communal



tensions. Mujib often lamented the Hindu-Muslim divisions, acknowledging figures like Rabindranath Tagore, Chittaranjan Das, and Subhash Chandra Basu, who understood the root causes of such friction.

Following his initial encounter with Suhrawardy in Gopalganj, Sheikh Mujib traveled to Kolkata and met him again in 1939. Upon returning home, he founded the Muslim Chhatra (Students) League and the Muslim League in Gopalganj. While he assumed the role of Secretary of the Chhatra League himself, another

Tall for a Bengali (he stands 5 feet 11 inches), with a touch of graying hair, a bushy mustache, and altar black eyes, Mujib can attract a crowd of a million people to his rallies and hold them spellbound with great rolling waves of emotional rhetoric. He is a poet of politics. So his style may be just what was needed to unite the classes and ideologies of the region.

Newsweek, 5 April 1971

individual was appointed Secretary of the Muslim League, yet it was Mujib who primarily



undertook the key responsibilities.

The genesis of development took root when Bangabandhu assumed leadership of a nation torn by war. Under his dynamic guidance, Bangladesh embarked on a journey towards economic self-reliance, epitomizing his vision of 'Sonar Bangla' – a land of prosperity, stability, and autonomy. In a remarkable feat, Bangabandhu spearheaded the arduous tasks of rehabilitation and reconstruction, achieving unprecedented milestones within a mere three and a half years. His astute leadership garnered recognition from 140 nations and secured memberships in key international organizations and financial institutions, including the World Bank and the United Nations.

In this brief period, he crafted a visionary constitution, brokered pivotal agreements with neighboring nations – notably the historic water-sharing treaty and land boundary demarcation with India – and revitalized the educational infrastructure. Notably, under his stewardship, Bangladesh achieved a remarkable GDP growth rate of over 7.5% in 1974. However, on the tragic day of August 15, 1975, Bangabandhu and 16 members of his family, including his young son Russel, fell victim to a heinous assassination plot orchestrated by conspirators and adversaries. Yet, their nefarious designs failed to extinguish his indomitable spirit, enduring vision, and timeless principles, which continue to resonate within the hearts and minds of the Bangladeshi people.



Bangabandhu laid the groundwork for the nascent Republic through a series of pivotal measures, including the swift withdrawal of allied forces within three months of victory, the expeditious formulation of a new state constitution within ten months, and the garnering of international recognition for Bangladesh from over a hundred countries. His strategic diplomacy secured Bangladesh's membership in influential global bodies such as the United Nations, Commonwealth of Nations, Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC).

We know of few great human souls of such magnificence in the history of mankind. Bangabandhu emerged as the greatest leader of the Bengali Nation through his bravery, steadfast determination and extraordinary eloquence. The reputation of having extra-ordinary qualities and traits, as well as, charismatic leadership, Bangabandhu crossed the boundary of his

country and nation making him not only the leader of Bangladesh but also a global leader standing against oppression of any kind and in favour of the oppressed wherever in the world they may be. Imprisonment, oppression and torture – nothing could restrain him from taking up the challenge of standing against subjugation and suppression of human being and human rights.

The genesis of development took root when Bangabandhu assumed leadership of a nation torn by war. Under his dynamic guidance, Bangladesh embarked on a journey towards economic self-reliance, epitomizing his vision of 'Sonar Bangla' – a land of prosperity, stability, and autonomy. In a remarkable feat, Bangabandhu spearheaded the arduous tasks of rehabilitation and reconstruction, achieving unprecedented milestones within a mere three and a half years. His astute leadership garnered recognition from 140 nations and secured memberships in key international organizations and financial institutions, including the World Bank and the United Nations.

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In the annals of history, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman stands as an extraordinary figure of unparalleled magnificence. His journey from the humble village of Tungipara to the forefront of global leadership is a testament to his bravery, unwavering determination, and unparalleled eloquence. Bangabandhu's exceptional qualities and charismatic leadership transcended borders, making him not only the leader of Bangladesh but also a revered global figure, championing the cause of the oppressed wherever they may be.

Abul Hasan Chowdhury

Fmr. State Minister

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

& Executive Advisor, Diplomats World Publication

ল্যান্ড পার্টনার:



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জাত নিল

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* অফারটি চলবে ৩০ জুন, ২০২৪ পর্যন্ত



নগদ

ডাক বিভাগের ডিজিটাল লেনদেন

নগদ লেনদেনে

১০০% পর্যন্ত
ক্যাশব্যাক

২০ কোটি
টাকার
পুরস্কার



এসইউভি কার



মোটরসাইকেল



স্মার্ট টিভি



স্মার্টফোন



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রেফ্রিজারেটর



এক

নিজে নগদে লেনদেন করুন



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সবাই নিয়মিত লেনদেন করুন



EXPLORING BANGLADESH: AN INDONESIAN PERSPECTIVE

-Siti Nugraha Mauludiah

Upon our arrival in Bangladesh, we were immediately greeted by a cacophony of sounds: the chatter of people, the relentless hum of traffic, and most prominently, the incessant blare of the car horns. These auditory sensations swiftly ingrained themselves as constant companions throughout our entire journey in Bangladesh.

Stepping foot onto Bangladeshi soil for the first time we did not really have any expectations of what we were going to get. However, Bangladesh promptly left enduring impressions on us.

Our primary purpose in Bangladesh was to co-host the Dialogue on Democracy in Inclusive Society (DDIS) Forum with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of Bangladesh. Yet, we were fortunate to also

get a glimpse of multifaceted tapestry that of Bangladeshi life.

We usually started the day with a morning walk, exploring the local park at Ladies Park and Gulshan Lake Park. They offered a much needed sanctuary from the busy city life. Being there you could almost forget that you were actually in the middle of bustling city and instead getting transported into a tranquil green oasis. Maybe due to the

fact that it was Ramadhan, we did not meet a lot of people there.

Next, while battling our sleep-deprived bodies, several of us mustered the energy to explore the local market. The atmosphere vibrated with liveliness, and to our delight, we stumbled upon a fruit that was exclusive to the Southern part of Indonesia. Known as "Buah Bidara" in Bahasa Indonesia, in

Bangladeshi it bore a different name: Kul. One bite flooded our memories with the sights and smells of our childhood, so it was a fantastic start to our day.

As the day unfolded, our plans to visit Old Dhaka were thwarted by the unrelenting traffic. It does not matter for there were much to see and experience in Dhaka itself.



Exploring the hustle and bustle of the largest wholesale vegetable market in Dhaka city

Upon the advice of a dear friend hailing from Bangladesh and an alumnus of the Indonesian Art and Culture Scholarship, we learned that eating holds a special place in the hearts of Dhaka's inhabitants.

Embracing this insight, we excitedly embraced the opportunity to indulge in the city's culinary delights.

The adventure started with the sahoor. Since we arrived in Bangladesh during the Holy Month of Ramadhan, we were

the spicy haleem, to kachchi biryani and fuchka, we were left wide eyed after every bite. Some of the dishes that stood out surprisingly were the vegetarian dishes. Our personal favorite was the daal poori. The daal had such depth of flavor, and the poori was very crispy and comforting. The daal we had was made from red lentils simmered together with spices, tomatoes and broth, and the poori was made from wheat flour, all-purpose flour, and semolina. It was rolled into small discs then deep fried in

cooked for up to 8 hours.

We also cannot talk about Dhaka without mentioning the traffic. We Indonesians are not strangers to traffic. Traffic in Jakarta is notorious and people spends hours on end commuting from and to work.

However, traffic in Dhaka was something else. The numbers of cars, trucks, rickshaw, CNG, taxis, pedestrians, motorcycle, and people crowding the streets were off the charts; and somehow it worked.



Exploring the garden at Hotel Intercontinental

fortunate enough to partake on the Bangladeshi Ramadhan experience. This experience added yet another layer of depth to our travel.

Sahoor in Bangladesh was an experience unto itself. Starting at 2 AM, the atmosphere was very festive, with people dressing up, relishing the chance to not only eat but also to spend time with their family. The food choices were plenty including freshly grilled Bangladeshi seafood.

Iftar was always a serious celebration. From the chotpoti to

hot oil. The combination of both left our taste buds dancing.

Another one of our favorite was beef chaap, a comforting food of beef marinated in a paste of poppy seeds, cashew nuts, melon seeds and a few other spices such as yoghurt, grated papaya, saffron, kewra water, turmeric powder, Kashmiri red chili powder, onions, ginger, garlic, and green chilies. The beef then fried for several hours in low flame, left the beef very flavourful and tender. It was very similar to our Beef Rendang, which we also slow

People maneuvered their ways between traffic, while constantly communicating by honking. We were convinced that honking was definitely the way Dhaka drivers communicated with each other; for it was a constant presence, even in empty stretch of highway. It was also our first time to see how CNG was present in the international departure at the Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport. Back at our Soekarno-Hatta Airport, only cars were allowed to go to the drop off points at our airports.

That said, our favorite mode of transport was surely the rickshaw. One of the most memorable experiences were riding rickshaw at night, against oncoming traffic, during the rain. It was hectic, exhilarating and may we say, pretty adrenaline pumping as well. The rain had cleared the air, the temperature had dropped, and the air was cool and refreshing.

We also had the chance to visit Aarong, apparently meant



Exploring the natural beauty of Gulshan-2 lake

“Village Fair” in Bengali. We used the opportunity to browse and shop ethically made Bangladeshi hand crafted products. From beautiful silk saree, to shalwar kameez set, to colourful embroideries etched in bags, place mat, tablecloth and so many others. The options were endless. We were also spend a healthy amount of time peering over the silver, gold and pearl jewelry.

The wife of our Indonesian Ambassador to Bangladesh

shared with us the unique allure of Bangladesh's pearls, known as "mukta." These pearls are distinct because the mussels inhabit a habitat that is a blend of freshwater and saltwater, resulting in the natural formation of pink pearls. Intrigued by this, we made sure to contribute to the local economy by investing in these exquisite gems.

Another aspect that deeply resonated with me was the profound patriotism exhibited

by the Bangladeshi people. This sentiment was palpable not only during the DDIS but also in our conversations with locals throughout our trip. The historic significance of the 1971 speech by the Father of the Nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, advocating for civil obedience and proclaiming the struggle for independence from March to December 1971, was deeply ingrained in the collective consciousness of Bangladeshis. The theme of independence reverberated strongly in our interactions with them.

This theme of independence is one that resonates deeply with us Indonesians as well. We, too, endured a lengthy struggle for independence spanning 350 years before finally declaring our independence on August 17, 1945. Even after this declaration, we had to fiercely defend our sovereignty until November 1949 when Indonesia was formally recognized as an independent nation by the Dutch and its allies.

In conclusion, our visit proved to be highly productive and enlightening, offering us valuable insights into the realities of life in Bangladesh. We sincerely hope that this visit serves to strengthen the longstanding ties between Indonesia and Bangladesh.

Siti Nugraha Mauludiah
Deputy Minister for Information and Public Diplomacy
Republic of Indonesia



ব্যাংকিং সেবা এখন আপনার আঙিনায়...

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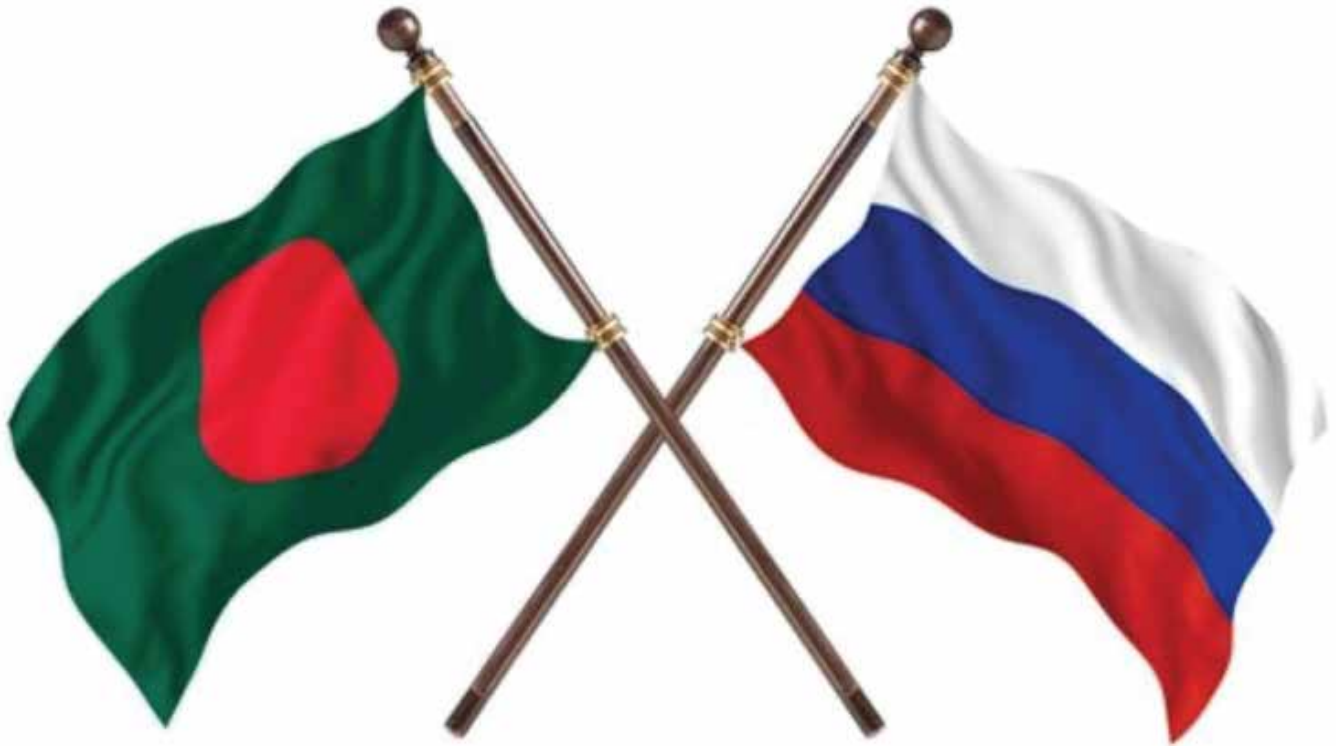
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MOSCOW AND DHAKA: THRIVING RELATIONS BASED ON TRUST AND AFFINITY

-H.E. Alexander Vikentyevich Mantytskiy

January 25, 2024 saw the 52nd anniversary of Russia-Bangladesh diplomatic relations. Our friendship that originated in the turbulent 1971, has withstood the test of time and today remains an example of trustworthy and mutually beneficial ties. Moscow appreciates Dhaka's tangible contribution to tackling crucial international issues, such as sustainable development, climate change and counterterrorism. Its peaceful and positive foreign policy is quite commendable in many

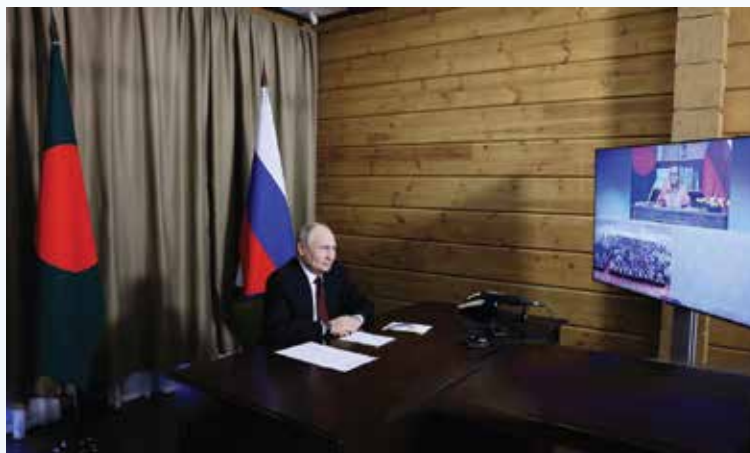
aspects. Bangladesh's commitment to a just and fair world order based on equality and respectful dialogue between all countries provides for meaningful interaction with

Moscow across many international platforms and fora.

The year 2023 saw a number of milestones in the Russian-Bangladeshi relations.

Despite the current turbulence in international affairs and the challenges facing our country on the world stage, fruitful cooperation between Moscow and Dhaka developed across many areas.

Among the key events of the past year is the first-ever visit of the Russian Foreign



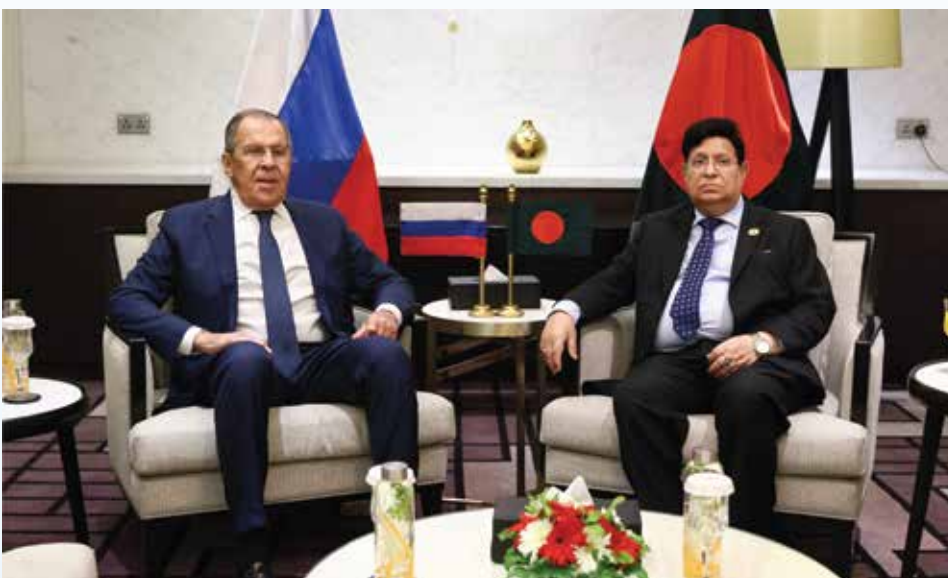
Russian President Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin inaugurates the Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant, marking a significant milestone in energy cooperation between Russia and Bangladesh.



Russian Ambassador to Bangladesh H.E. Alexander Mantytskiy congratulated Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for her victory in the General Election

Minister Sergey Lavrov to Bangladesh in September 2023. In Dhaka, he held profound negotiations on the whole gamut of bilateral ties with his counterpart A.K.A. Momen, as well as made a courtesy call on

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. The two sides reaffirmed the intention to continue mutually beneficial cooperation within the framework of various international platforms, outlined promising bilateral projects



Bilateral meeting between H.E. Mr. Sergey Lavrov and H.E. Mr. A.K. Abdul Momen, MP

aimed at taking our relations to the next level and exchanged views on a wide range of issues in a trusting atmosphere.

In early October, the Rooppur NPP construction site hosted a grand ceremony to mark the delivery of fresh nuclear fuel. Russian President Vladimir Putin and Bangladeshi Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina virtually attended the event – a major breakthrough in the implementation of this flagship project. Thus, Rooppur NPP officially became a nuclear facility according to the IAEA classification, and Bangladesh joined the elite club of "nuclear countries". Deliveries of nuclear fuel from the Novosibirsk Chemical Concentrates Plant (Russia) continued until mid-November.

Rooppur NPP will make a considerable contribution to Bangladesh's economic development and energy security. Nuclear energy is environment friendly, and produces no carbon emission and no pollution. It is affordable, reliable, and clean. Russia will assist our Bangladeshi partners throughout the entire life cycle of the nuclear project, including our obligations for the long-term deliveries of reactor fuel, plant maintenance, and handling nuclear waste.

Rooppur is more than just a power plant. Dozens of Bangladeshi companies provide their services and materials for construction works. The NPP project will create a new sector of the economy with more than 18 thousand workplaces for locals. Further, skilled Bangladeshi engineers trained in nuclear universities in Russia and at the



Graduation Ceremony of Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant

education center at Rooppur itself will bring a stimulating effect for the entire national economy.

On November 12-14, a detachment of warships of the Russian Pacific Fleet comprising large anti-submarine ships Admiral Tributs and Admiral Panteleyev, as well as the sea tanker Pechenga paid a goodwill visit to the port of Chattogram. It is noteworthy that in 1972-1974, the Special

Expedition of the same Pacific Fleet cleared mines and shipwrecks from the waters of the Chattogram port, ensuring safe passage for humanitarian supplies, food and other necessary goods for the war-ravaged country. In December 2023, two Russian veteran sailors of that Special Expedition took part in the Victory Day celebrations in Dhaka and were mesmerized by the progress and beauty of modern Bangladesh.

In March 2023, the fourth meeting of the Russia-Bangladesh Intergovernmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific, and Technical Cooperation took place via videoconference. It is a major vehicle designed to bring together representatives of government agencies and economic operators of the two countries interested in promoting existing and exploring new promising areas of cooperation, such as pharmaceuticals, ICT, import of labor, geological exploration, etc. Notably, in 2023 the trade turnover between Russia and Bangladesh amounted to 2.7 billion dollars, with 1.8 billion being the Russian export and 900 million – Bangladeshi supplies to the Russian market.

In 2023, “Gazprom” continued implementing projects aimed at enhancing Bangladesh's energy security. The construction of three additional wells on Bhola Island was completed, bringing the total number of drilled wells to twenty. The company's proposals for gas evacuation and



Russian naval fleet, including the anti-submarine warfare ships 'Admiral Tributs' and 'Admiral Panteleyev,' along with oceanic tanker 'Pechenga,' docks at Chittagong port in November 2023. - TASS



3rd CISM World Military Archery Championship Bangladesh 2024

exploration of new fields are under consideration. Long-term supplies of hydrocarbons, including LNG, construction of relevant infrastructure, and use of Russian technologies in the field of renewable energy are also on the agenda.

Russia makes a significant contribution to Bangladesh's food security, being one of the key suppliers of various agro-industrial products, primarily wheat and fertilizers. In 2023, Bangladesh imported 2,7 mln tons of grain from Russia.

The Russian Side is ready to expand the list of export items with edible oils, peas, chickpeas and lentils. In June 2023, Bangladesh Agricultural Development Corporation and JSC "Prodintorg" signed a deal to import 180 thousand tons of Muriate of Potash fertilizer from Russia.

The year 2023 saw further development of bilateral humanitarian ties. The number of government scholarships for Bangladeshi students to study for free at Russian universities

has been increased. In October-November, 300 students joined the short-term Russian language courses organized at the Institute of Modern Languages (Dhaka University). The Russian House in Dhaka offers multiple opportunities to learn Russian, to get immersed into the fascinating world of Russian literature, to appreciate its modern cinema, and to explore tourist attractions abundant in the vast Russian land.

Our filmmakers continue to participate in various film festivals in both countries, such as the Dhaka International Film Festival, Dhaka Mobile Film Festival, Moscow International Film Festival, Kazan Muslim Film Festival and others. Young photographers from Bangladesh regularly become prizewinners of the Andrei Stenin International Photo Contest.

With every passing year, bonds of friendship between Moscow and Dhaka become stronger through frank political dialogue, new beneficial projects, and deeper people-to-people contacts.

H.E. Alexander Vikentyevich Mantytskiy
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
of the Russian Federation to the People's Republic of Bangladesh

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দুর্গ গড়ে
বাংলা দেশ
মুক্ত করো



‘অগ্নিবরা মার্চ’

বাঙালির স্বপ্নসাধ যৌক্তিক পরিণতির মাস

মহান স্বাধীনতার মাস মার্চ। বাঙালির স্বাধীনতা ঘোষণার মাস। আনুষ্ঠানিক সশস্ত্র মুক্তিযুদ্ধ শুরুর মাস। পরাধীনতার শৃঙ্খল ভেঙে অধিকার অর্জনের অগ্নিবরা মাস। বাংলার আন্দোলন-সংগ্রামের ঘটনাবহুল ও বেদনাবিধুর স্মৃতি বিজড়িত ১৯৭১-এর এই মার্চ মাস, একইসঙ্গে গৌরব ও অর্জনেরও মাস এই মার্চ।





CONFLICTS IN MYANMAR AND ITS IMPACTS BEYOND BORDERS: WHAT SHOULD BANGLADESH DO?

-Dr. Imtiaz Ahmed

Myanmar is less than a modern (Westphalian) state; its sovereignty remains fragmented, with some ethnic communities having coercive and consenting power in their respective territorial domains. It could be called a 'fluid state.' This has, in many ways, helped the Myanmar military (Tatmadaw) to remain in power for a protracted period, often citing threats to national integrity and Buddhist hegemony. The recent conflicts

between Tatmadaw and several ethnic armed organizations (EAOs), including the Arakan Army, United Wa State Army, Ta'ang National Liberation Army, Kokang Army, Shan State Army, Kachin Independence Army, and Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army, are not out of the norm. Still, two factors have contributed to the recent upsurge in armed conflicts inside Myanmar. Firstly, the civil war between Tatmadaw and the National Unity Government's

(NUG) People's Defense Force (PDF) following the military coup and the displacement of Aung San Suu Kyi from power in February 2021. Having considerable support at home and backed by some Western powers, including the United States, the NUG/PDF's conflict with the Tatmadaw is intensifying, with some reports suggesting that the PDF has made significant territorial gains, and a large part of Myanmar is outside the central government's control.



Photo - ULA/AA

The Three Brotherhood Alliance issued a statement on July 2 stating that they would work together in the fight against terrorism and criminal activities in their areas of control in order to protect regional stability and the lives of the local people

Secondly, the relative weakness of the Tatmadaw and the central government has created space for the EAOs to deepen and extend their territorial domains. One outcome has been the astounding success of the Three Brotherhood Alliance (TBA), which is comprised of the Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army (MNDAA), the Ta'ang National Liberation Army (TNLA), and the Arakan Army, since 27 October 2023 (hence, the name "Operation 1027") in northern Shan state in areas near the Chinese border. The success of the TBA has also emboldened the Arakan Army, resulting in the fierce battle between the latter and the Tatmadaw in the Arakan, which forced some of the para-military forces, including the police, of the central government, numbering over 300, to take shelter in Bangladesh in February 2024. Some reports suggest China provides arms and ammunition to some of the EAOs, including the TBA, while

maintaining a good relationship with the Tatmadaw. This is mainly to balance the latter's power over the country so that whatever the outcome of the conflicts may be, including a victory of PDF, which is currently far-fetched, China will remain a force to be reckoned with. Moreover, the EAOs' struggle or contestations with the Myanmar military are not related to demands for independence. Instead, the demand is for greater, if not unrestrained, autonomy.

Such conflicts, however, as indicated earlier, have had impacts beyond borders, particularly in neighbouring countries, including Bangladesh. On several occasions, the conflict between the EAOs/PDFs and the Tatmadaw saw forces loyal to the central government taking refuge in neighbouring countries to secure their lives. Between November 2023 and January 2024, as many as 636

armed personnel of the Tatmadaw took shelter in northeast India. The bulk of them were immediately helicoptered and repatriated to Myanmar. Not so different was the case in Myanmar's Chinese-speaking Kokang region near the border with China in 2009, 2015, and 2017 when the MNDAA, the formal name of the Kokang army, attacked the police stations of the central government, which led thousands of the Kokang people to take shelter in China. But the latter quickly impressed upon Myanmar to take them back. But this time, the situation is much more complex.

As indicated earlier, the NUG/PDF is backed by some Western powers, including the United States. The latter announced its support by declaring the Burma Act in April 2022. Three issues of the Act deserve special attention. Firstly, the Act states that the "democratic transition [in Myanmar] remained incomplete, with the military retaining significant power and independence from civilian control following the 2015 elections," which can be translated as the United States' support for the democratic aspirations of the NUG.

Secondly, the Act refers to the Rohingya issue. However, the Act treated the Rohingya issue with the problems of other minority communities who were suffering from similar coercion at the hands of the Tatmadaw. Amongst the five clauses of the Burma Act, section 102: clause 11 had direct relevance to the Rohingya refugees residing in

Bangladesh. The clause refers to the United States policy of ensuring “the protection and non-refoulement of refugees fleeing Burma to neighbouring countries...and promoting the creation of conditions for the dignified, safe, sustainable, and voluntary return of refugees in Bangladesh...when conditions allow.” Clause 14 in the same section also calls for “accountability through

with other ethnic minority groups across the country. The military has continued to commit atrocities in Chin, Kachin, Kayah, and Shan.” This is a clear indication that the United States is scaling up its attention toward the life and living of other ethnic minority groups in Myanmar.

However, the more problematic aspect of the Burma Act has

Bangladesh, however, got slightly panicked because it had never faced such a situation, nor did it know how to respond. The panic is further heightened by the fact that mortar shells landing inside Bangladesh has already led to the death of two persons, one Bangladeshi, and one Rohingya. To overcome the crisis, Bangladesh must urgently work on four policy measures. Firstly, it must engage with the Myanmar central government as a top priority to return the 300-plus security personnel to Myanmar. Any delay risks the potential of developing the crisis further, which many internal and external actors could find convenient in fanning to fulfill their narrow interests.



A member of Karenni Nationalities Defence Force rescues civilians trapped amid airstrikes, during a battle to take over Loikaw in Kayah State, Myanmar on November 14, 2023. FILE PHOTO: REUTERS

independent, credible investigations and prosecutions for any potential genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity... perpetrated against ethnic or religious minorities, including Rohingya, by members of the [Myanmar] military...” This gives the impression that the United States is making clear to Myanmar and Bangladesh that no involuntary return would be accepted, which is also Bangladesh's official position. Bangladesh already has an agreement with the UNHCR to that effect.

Thirdly, the Act mentions that “The Burmese military has also engaged in renewed violence

been the discretionary authority given to the President of the United States to make significant changes as it allows the President to interpret the Act more liberally, mainly when providing military aid to EAOs. Such internal-external linkages, particularly the extra attention of the United States, make it clear that the situation prevailing in Myanmar is much more complex and almost destined to become a hotspot unless the stakeholders, including the regional powers, act quickly to contain it. If anything, the crossing over of Myanmar’s security personnel into Bangladesh for safety indicates the complex situation.

Secondly, Bangladesh must engage with India and China on a priority basis and impress upon them the gravity of the situation, more so in the light of the Burma Act. In this context, one could see such engagements being pursued, as has been the case with the visit of Bangladesh’s Foreign Minister Hasan Mahmud to Delhi on 7-9 February 2024 and the matter being discussed with the high officials of India. A similar meeting of high officials of Bangladesh and China is required at the earliest opportunity. Since “In the midst of chaos, there is also opportunity,” as Sun Tzu had maintained, the current crisis in Myanmar, which is indeed becoming complex and getting out of hand, seems to have created an opportunity for activating the dormant collaborative structure called the BCIM – Bangladesh, China,



A Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) personnel detains Myanmar's Border Guard Police (BGP) personnel seeking refuge at Bangladesh's Whaikhyang along the Bangladesh-Myanmar border, in Teknaf on February 7, 2024. Photo: AFP

India, and Myanmar. Any involvement of the United States in Myanmar, as envisaged in the Burma Act, would further complicate the security situation in the region, which would go against the interests of not only Bangladesh but also India and China. The latter two countries, just like their collective role in the BRICS and Shanghai Cooperation Organization, must start working together on the crisis unfolding in Myanmar. Indeed, if BCIM gets reactivated, there is a possibility of impressing Myanmar to resolve the Rohingya issue once and for all.

Thirdly, if the security situation in the border areas between Bangladesh and Myanmar deteriorates further, with more

mortar shells and casualties, the Government of Bangladesh ought to internationalize the issue, including raising the matter at the Security Council of the United Nations. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has earlier spoken on this matter at the General Assembly of the United Nations, informing the members that if the Rohingya crisis is allowed to continue, Myanmar will end up facing greater turmoil, and the region will be unable to keep itself out of conflict. The Prime Minister certainly is proving correct. Such internationalization of the issue could also include convening an international conference, with the presence of the countries engaged in supporting the Rohingya refugees, including members of

the Rohingya community spread around the world.

Finally, given the complex nature of the Rohingya crisis, including the protracted nature of refugeehood of the Rohingya in Bangladesh, coupled with the factor of the multipolar nature of the world, there is an urgent need for extra effort in policymaking. In this context, the Government of Bangladesh could appoint a senior official dedicated to dealing with the Rohingya issue, who would be mandated to plan options and pass them to the Foreign Secretary for further vetting at the top. There is already one good example of this kind. When dealing with the maritime claims in the Bay of Bengal, the Government of Bangladesh appointed a senior official from the Bangladesh Navy to deal with the issue. This proved beneficial to Bangladesh. Since the Burma Act is bound to deepen the conflict in Myanmar further, a senior official with a well-informed team dedicated to the task of resolving the Rohingya crisis could make a difference. This would also give a message to Myanmar and the rest of the world that Bangladesh is scaling up its efforts to find solutions to resolve the plight of the Rohingya amid the conflicts in Myanmar.

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INDONESIAN GASTRONOMY EXPERIENCE: SENSING INDONESIA THROUGH A SERIES OF ITS CULINARY INDULGENCE

The Indonesian Gastronomy Experience is the first collaborative program between Cookups with the Dharma Wanita Persatuan (DWP) KBRI Dhaka or so called the Indonesian Diplomatic Spouse Association (IDCA) of the Indonesian Embassy in Dhaka, and was fully supported by the Indonesian Embassy in Dhaka. The program consisted of two main agenda, which are live cooking demonstration presented by the Indonesian home-cooks and an Indonesian Luncheon, serving a treasure trove of Indonesian culinary delights to the table.

Madam Sinta Heru Subolo conveyed that Indonesian Gastronomy Experience aims to promote cultural exchange and understanding, especially to the Bangladesh and diplomatic community. This program was also specifically held to recognize the resilience, creativity, and strength of women who use food as a tool for preserving cultural heritage, fostering economic empowerment, and building community, as the word is celebrating the International Women's Day on 8 March.

Before the fine-dining started, the Indonesian Ambassador to Bangladesh and Nepal, H.E. Mr. Heru H. Subolo delivered his remarks. He highlighted that Indonesia and Bangladesh have some similarities in terms of dishes. For example, Indonesian Beef Rendang is similar to Bangladeshi Beef Kalabhuna, etc. Ambassador Heru also appreciate the initiative of IDCA to collaborate with Cookups, especially in promoting Indonesian foods. In addition, Ambassador Heru hoped that guest can feel a bit of Indonesia while also invite all audience to feel the whole different sensation of Indonesian Gastronomy Experience directly in Indonesia.





BANGLADESH'S REMARKABLE JOURNEY TOWARDS WOMEN EMPOWERMENT: A BEACON OF HOPE FOR THE WORLD

-Lutfun Nahar Taposhi

Women empowerment is not just a catchphrase; it is an essential ingredient for sustainable development and societal progress. In Bangladesh, the government's unwavering commitment to promoting gender equality and women's empowerment has yielded remarkable results. Over the past decade, Bangladesh has emerged as a role model for women's empowerment, with significant strides made in closing the gender gap and fostering inclusive development.

Women's economic participation in Bangladesh has witnessed a significant surge in the past

decade. With half of the population being women, their active involvement in various sectors has led to enhanced economic growth and prosperity. The government's increased allocation for women's development in national budgets has played a vital role in creating job opportunities, ensuring higher education, and increasing the capacity of women leaders. Women in Bangladesh have made their mark in diverse fields, including business, engineering, media, aviation, sports, and handicrafts. However, there is still a need to address the gender disparity in

higher education to enable women to reach their full potential.

When we talk about Bangladesh's development journey, the role that women have played in propping up the economy is inevitably a part of the conversation. Whether it is as RMG workers, small entrepreneurs or migrant workers, we routinely cite how women's participation in the labour force has not only been beneficial for their economic empowerment, but for the nation as a whole. This is especially true in terms of the RMG industry, where around 60



Honorable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina accepts another international award for role in empowering women in Bangladesh, the Global Women's Leadership Award at the Global Summit of Women in Sydney

percent of the workforce are women.

In the past 20 years, Bangladesh has made incredible strides toward improving the lives of women and girls. Since 2000, the rate of maternal death has dropped by more than two-thirds and is still dropping. There is increased gender parity in school enrolment, and the fertility rate is dropping. In Bangladesh, laws safeguarding women's rights and privileges have advanced, and as more women enroll in school, advancements in women's labor force participation are growing. However, this workforce participation is still restricted to a small number of low-wage industries. The profitable ready-made clothing business, Bangladesh's largest export sector, employs three million women. Even though more women are working in small and medium-sized businesses, there are still significant

financial barriers that women must overcome.

Under the leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, the Bangladeshi government has implemented numerous programs to empower women and promote gender equality. These initiatives encompass education, health, political representation, entrepreneurship, and legal

reforms. Quotas for women in government jobs, vocational training, women-only industrial parks, and political empowerment have been instrumental in fostering women's participation in decision-making processes. The government's emphasis on women's entrepreneurship, legal protections, and digital training programs has further facilitated their economic and social progress.

For instance, the government has launched several programs to encourage more women to enroll in college. Examples include building institutions and universities exclusively for women, giving financial aid to females in elementary and secondary schools, and raising the compensation of female instructors. In elementary and secondary schools, gender parity has been achieved, and the proportion of girls enrolled in these programs of study has increased significantly.

Among the government's initiatives to improve women's health are free maternity care,



Education Grant for Underprivileged Girls: A Beacon of Hope



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's Vision for Empowering Women

free access to contraception, and a stronger emphasis on the importance of family planning. To encourage women to enter the workforce, the government has developed women-only industrial parks, offered vocational training, and implemented female employment quotas in government positions. The administration has supported women's political engagement by providing them a stronger voice in politics, awarding them one-third of the seats in local government bodies, and increasing female representation in the national legislature.

In order to encourage women's entrepreneurship, the government has taken a number of actions, including establishing a Women Entrepreneurs Fund, growing small and medium-sized female-owned businesses, and providing financing and training to female entrepreneurs. Making sexual harassment, domestic violence, and acid attacks illegal is only one of the legislative changes the government has enacted to protect women's rights.

While significant progress has been made, challenges such as

gender-based violence, child marriage, and limited access to healthcare still persist. It is crucial for the government and civil society organizations to collaborate further in addressing these issues and ensuring women's equality. Nevertheless, Bangladesh's efforts have garnered praise and recognition both at home and abroad. British ministers, MPs, and members of the UK Parliament have commended Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for championing women's empowerment and gender equality. Bangladesh's extraordinary journey towards gender parity, especially in workplaces and schools, has received accolades. The international community acknowledges the significant strides made in empowering Bangladeshi women and supports the country's ongoing efforts.

Bangladesh's commitment to women's empowerment aligns with its Vision 2041, a roadmap for becoming a developed nation. By harnessing the full potential of women, Bangladesh aims to create a more just and equitable society where women have equal legal protections and economic opportunities. Women's empowerment plays a crucial role in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) set by the United Nations. Bangladesh's progress in empowering women directly contributes to SDG 5: Gender Equality and indirectly impacts other goals such as poverty eradication (SDG 1), quality education (SDG 4), good health and well-being (SDG 3), and sustainable cities and communities (SDG 11). By



Redefining Women's empowerment in Bangladesh



Bangladesh Women registered their maiden ODI win against India on Sunday at the Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium

prioritizing women's empowerment, Bangladesh is positioning itself as a global leader in sustainable development.

Through the inception of grassroots level transformations for advancing women's economic empowerment during the past fifty years, targeted efforts by the government and nongovernmental actors have played crucial roles in generating the initial condition state at the micro-level. Without a doubt, these initiatives have established the fundamental foundations for creating the vital connections between the micro and macro levels that can prompt rapid changes in economy-wide and sector-specific gender barriers and ready the macroeconomy to effectively respond to these micro-signals for women's

economic empowerment. The innovative neo-classical development model used in Bangladesh, which has resulted in significant socioeconomic changes over the past fifty years, is characterized by these micro-macro transmissions and interactions, which are also essential for ensuring women's rapid economic empowerment in the years to come.

In order to uncover systemic and gender-induced constraints and challenges that prevent women from economically empowering themselves, it is, therefore, necessary to investigate the dynamics of micro-macro interactions of women's economic empowerment interventions in Bangladesh. In order to better design future interventions and enable their scaling up to cover

more women and in more places, we should move toward a country-specific model capable of revealing and quantifying the causal relationships of women's economic empowerment and the country's economic outcomes in Bangladesh.

Bangladesh's journey towards women's empowerment is a shining example for the world. The government's multifaceted initiatives, coupled with the unwavering commitment of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, have resulted in remarkable progress. Women's economic participation, access to education and healthcare, political empowerment, and legal reforms have transformed the landscape of gender equality in Bangladesh. However, challenges still remain, requiring continued efforts from the government and civil society. The vision of a just and equitable society, as envisioned in Vision 2041, and the achievement of the SDG targets heavily rely on women's empowerment. Bangladesh's success in this realm is not only transforming the lives of its women but also inspiring nations around the world to prioritize gender equality and women's empowerment as essential components of sustainable development.

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HRH CROWN PRINCESS VICTORIA OF SWEDEN DISCUSSES SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT WITH GOVERNMENT AND STAKEHOLDERS



We are delighted that UNDP Goodwill Ambassador Her Royal Highness Crown Princess Victoria of Sweden, together with Swedish Minister for International Development Cooperation and Foreign Trade Johan Forssell, and UNDP Assistant Secretary General Ulrika Mod er visited Bangladesh on March 18- 21!

During the visit HRH the Crown Princess met Government representatives, including Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, civil society, development partners, the private sector, youth, and other stakeholders to discuss sustainable development in Bangladesh and future possibilities and challenges.

FOREIGN MINISTER AND DIPLOMATIC CORPS HONOR LIBERATION WAR MARTYRS ON BANGLADESH'S 54TH INDEPENDENCE DAY



H.E. Dr. Hasan Mahmud M.P., Hon'ble Foreign Minister, Mr. Masud Bin Momen, Foreign Secretary (Senior Secretary) and Diplomatic Corps paid homage to Liberation War Martyrs by placing flower wreath at the National Memorial, Savar on 26 March 2024, marking the 54th Independence and National Day of Bangladesh.

EMBASSY ORGANIZES A PRE-EVENT SEMINAR ON THIRD NEPAL INVESTMENT SUMMIT 2024



The Embassy organized a Pre-Event Seminar on the Third Nepal Investment Summit 2024 at the Embassy premises 30th March evening. The Seminar was held with an objective to provide insights into and shed light on the expectations from the Investment Summit scheduled to be held in Kathmandu on 28-29 April 2024.

Welcoming the guests, Ambassador Mr. Ghanshyam Bhandari highlighted the strategic advantages of investing in Nepal and urged Bangladeshi investors to explore investment opportunities in key sectors such as hydropower, infrastructure, hotel and hospitality, pharmaceuticals, and information and communication technology, among others.

The Chief Guest of the Seminar, State Minister of Power, Energy, and Mineral Resources of Bangladesh, Hon. Mr. Nasrul Hamid, MP, emphasized the substantial investment potential in Nepal and expressed Bangladesh's desire to further strengthen investment linkages with Nepal.

The Seminar was attended by over 80 participants including members of the parliament of Bangladesh, high-ranking government officials, think tanks, eminent business leaders, and media persons, among others.

AMBASSADOR IWAMA ATTENDED THE PPP PLATFORM MEETING



On March 18, the Japan-Bangladesh PPP (Public Private Partnership) Platform Meeting was convened by Mr. Mohammad Tofazzel Hossain Miah, Principal Secretary, Prime Minister's Office. Ambassador IWAMA attended the meeting together with Mr. SAKAKI Shinichi, Vice Minister of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism of Japan, who participated online. This meeting marks the 6th gathering since its inception in Tokyo back in October 2022. With seven PPP projects currently underway between Japan and Bangladesh, the meeting focused on progress updates and discussed current challenges. Moreover, fresh proposals for new projects were presented by the Bangladesh Government. Both parties wished for more exciting developments in their collaborative journey towards further progress and prosperity.

GENDER-RESPONSIVE CLIMATE FINANCING CONSULTATION EVENT



We participated in the Gender-Responsive Climate Financing consultation event at Hotel Sheraton on March 6, 2024. Saber Hossain Chowdhury, MP, the Honorable Minister for Environment, Forest, and Climate Change, was present at the event organized by UN Women. Focusing on this year's theme, 'Invest in Women: Accelerate Progress,' the consultation brought together stakeholders, government officials, women's rights organizations (WROs), non-governmental organizations (NGOs), development partners, and academia to provide recommendations on integrating gender considerations into the climate budget leading up to the upcoming national budget for the fiscal year 2024-25.

THE EMBASSY ORGANIZED A PROGRAMME TO OBSERVE THE 261ST RAISING DAY OF THE NEPALI ARMY



Speaking on the occasion, Ambassador Mr. Ghanshyam Bhandari highlighted the Nepali Army's role in safeguarding Nepal's sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity as well as their contributions to Nepal's socio-economic development.

Welcoming the guests, Military Attaché Colonel Anjan Keshar Khatri underscored the role of the

Nepali Army in nurturing the Nepal-Bangladesh relationship through a principled outlook of mutual trust, respect, and military cooperation.

The Chief Guest of the event Lieutenant General Mr. Mizanur Rahman Shameem, Bangladesh Army, underscored the deep rooted cooperation between Nepali Army and Bangladesh Armed Forces. He also emphasized the role of the two Armies in maintaining international peace and security through their participation at UN peacekeeping missions. Over 130 guests including government officials, high-ranking officials from armed forces of Bangladesh, ambassadors and heads of mission, defence attaches, members of diplomatic community, business leaders, representatives from Nepali community in Bangladesh, and media persons, among others, were present on the occasion.

IRISH MINISTER SIMON COVENEY PLEDGES CLOSER TIES WITH BANGLADESH, INAUGURATES FIRST HONORARY CONSULATE IN DHAKA

Irish Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment Simon Coveney has said Bangladesh will get Ireland as a friend in the European Union (EU) and the two countries are willing to build a “closer and more structured cooperation” in broader areas.

The Irish minister said Bangladesh is going to receive a transition period from 2026 to 2029, and then Bangladesh will be looking for GSP plus status, which effectively is sort of preferential status in terms of tariffs and trade opportunities.

“So, I think the EU is open to that. Of course, there will be some conditions that the EU will want from Bangladesh as well, in relation to, you know, what



the EU would regard as important - modernization around labor laws, workers’ rights, and environmental issues. That's normal for the EU. It's for every country,” Coveney said.

Talking about the newly appointed honorary consul here, he said Masud Jamil Khan is a very enthusiastic person to make a positive contribution. “So this is the first time that Ireland will have a diplomatic physical presence here.”

During the visit, Coveney inaugurated his country's first honorary consulate in Dhaka seen as a milestone in strengthening Bangladesh-Ireland relations.

BRITISH HIGH COMMISSION AND THE EMBASSY OF SWEDEN JOINTLY ORGANIZED A PANEL DISCUSSION ON WOMEN'S RIGHTS

British High Commission and the Embassy of Sweden jointly organized a panel discussion on women’s rights organizations’ role in advancing gender equality in Bangladesh.

Representatives of women’s rights organizations, like-minded mission, and UN agencies as well as young female rights activists attended the discussion.

Acting British High Commissioner Matt Cannell in his opening remark acknowledged the critical role of women’s rights organizations in Bangladesh.

HIGH COMMISSION OF INDIA HOSTS GRAND IFTAR IN DHAKA, STRENGTHENING BILATERAL TIES: OVER 400 DISTINGUISHED GUESTS ATTEND, INCLUDING LEADERS FROM VARIOUS SECTORS



Bangladesh and reaffirmed his commitment to further enrich the special and multifaceted ties, which are rooted in the shared sacrifices of 1971.

The High Commissioner noted that the Iftar gathering also symbolized the deep bonds of people-to-people ties that form the very foundation of India-Bangladesh relations.

Hon'ble Speaker of Bangladesh Parliament, Dr. Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. Hon'ble Minister of Religious Affairs of Bangladesh Md. Faridul Haque Khan was the Guest of Honour.

High Commission of India hosted an Iftar in Dhaka on 19 March 2024. The event was attended by over 400 distinguished guests from all walks of life including the government, legislature, judiciary, political parties, armed forces, civil society, academia, business, media, and culture.

In his welcome remarks, High Commissioner Pranay Verma highlighted the significance of Iftar in promoting the spirit of brotherhood and humanity. He underlined the deep bonds of friendship and cooperation between India and

UNDP GOODWILL AMBASSADOR, HER ROYAL HIGHNESS CROWN PRINCESS VICTORIA OF SWEDEN VISITS TO ROHINGYA REFUGEE CAMP



I want to be empowered and educated so that I can give my children a better future," said a Rohingya women leader.

On 20 March 2024, Her Royal Highness Crown Princess Victoria of Sweden, serving as a Goodwill Ambassador for the United Nations Development

Programme (UNDP), visited Rohingya refugee camps in the Multi-Purpose Women's Center (MPWC) at Camp 4.

During this visit, Crown Princess Victoria and other female delegates, interacted with MPWC participants and engaged in volunteer activities and intensive discussions with Rohingya refugee women, along with UN Women gender volunteers and ASK Maitree Apa's. During the discussions, they talked about the future and how women leaders wish to continue their work in raising awareness for women's empowerment and violence against women. They also interacted with family planning and midwifery services provided at the MPWC through the partnership with UNFPA.

MINISTER OF IRELAND PAYS HOMAGE TO THE FATHER-OF NATION



Minister for Enterprise, Trade, and Employment of Ireland H.E. Mr. Simon Coveney T.D. has paid homage to Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at Dhanmondi-32 this morning by placing a floral wreath at Bangabandhu's portrait. The Minister observed a minute of silence in memories of all departed souls martyred on the tragic 15 August 1975. He also had a tour of the Bangabandhu Memorial Museum and signed the Visitor's Book.

URUGUAY AIMS FOR INCREASED TRADE WITH BANGLADESH



Uruguay's non-resident Ambassador, Alberto A Guani, emphasizes strengthening people-to-people relations with Bangladesh to explore mutual development models. Bilateral trade shows potential, with Bangladesh's exports to Uruguay recording significant growth. Ambassador Guani lauds Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's role in Bangladesh's remarkable development and supports peaceful Rohingya repatriation. Uruguay proposes a visa waiver and urges a Bangladesh-Mercosur Free Trade Agreement for enhanced trade. The honorary consul, Mostafa Q Sobhan, envisions fostering cultural and trade ties between the nations. Uruguay, a high-income country, commends Bangladesh's economic growth and eyes investment opportunities.

PAKISTAN DAY CELEBRATION SHINES IN DHAKA: HIGH COMMISSION HOSTS GRAND RECEPTION



The High Commission in Dhaka recently hosted a resplendent reception to honor Pakistan Day, marking the anniversary with elegance and enthusiasm. Attended by a diverse array of over 350 guests including dignitaries, diplomats, political figures, and members of the Pakistani diaspora, the event was a testament to the enduring bond between Pakistan and Bangladesh.

Representing the Bangladeshi government as the Chief Guest was Minister for Planning, Major General (R) Abdus Salam MP, who underscored the importance of strengthening bilateral ties in various sectors. Foreign Secretary of Bangladesh, Mr. Masud

Bin Momen, also graced the occasion, highlighting the mutual desire for closer cooperation.

Guests were treated to an evening of cultural splendor, showcasing Pakistan's natural beauty, cultural heritage, and culinary delights. Pakistan High Commissioner Syed Ahmed Maroof and Minister Abdus Salam MP emphasized the vast potential for enhancing relations in trade, commerce, and cultural exchanges between the two nations.

Expressing gratitude to attendees, including government officials, media representatives, and members of the Pakistani diaspora, the High Commissioner reiterated Pakistan's commitment to fostering goodwill and cooperation with Bangladesh.

The event not only celebrated Pakistan's National Day but also served as a platform for fostering deeper bonds of friendship and collaboration between the two nations.

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