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Chief Adviser Dr Muhammad Yunus stands in solemn silence at the National Martyrs Memorial in Savar on December 16 to pay tribute to the Liberation War martyrs marking the Victory Day



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Ray of 1971 focusing on 2024

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Editorial

1 6 December 1971- Our Victory day is an unparalleled day for Bangladesh. The great victory, we achieved in 1971, is a constant source of inspiration. The essence of freedom and bravery, extracted from this very Day, is nationally our main driving force. It also denotes the inherent aspiration and capability of our nation and also conveys a message to them, who are not coherent with this spirit.

And again...

On 16 December 2024, we realized our Victory Day anew ... afresh because of the July uprising (student-mass movement of 2024). The issues of discrimination and autocracy, raised under the banner of ‘Students Movement against Discrimination’ throughout July-August 2024, has been resolved with the resignation and fall of the then government. ‘People’s power’- strengthened this peaceful movement and finalized the victory that echoed with the victory achieved in 1971. It’s a presentment of the state – Bangladesh that symphonized with all the peace loving people of the world.

Articles on the abovementioned aspects titled ‘Victory Day: Memorable Day of Declaring Victory in the Inevitable Struggle for Bangladesh’s Freedom’, ‘16 December 2024: A New Day of Victory’ have been incorporated from the supplements published in the National Dailies on 16 December last year, in this issue along with other articles and regular events.

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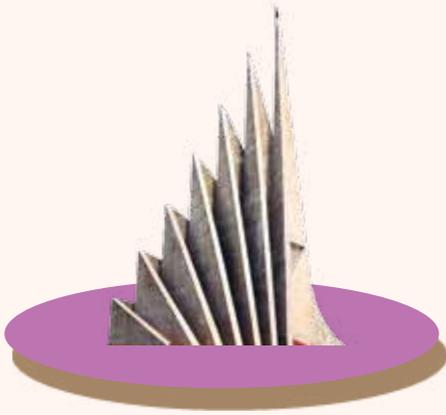


Victory Day: Memorable Day of
Declaring Victory in the Inevitable
Struggle for Bangladesh's
Freedom

Professor Niaz Ahmed Khan, PhD

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Victory Day: Memorable Day of Declaring Victory in the Inevitable Struggle for Bangladesh's Freedom

Professor Niaz Ahmed Khan, PhD

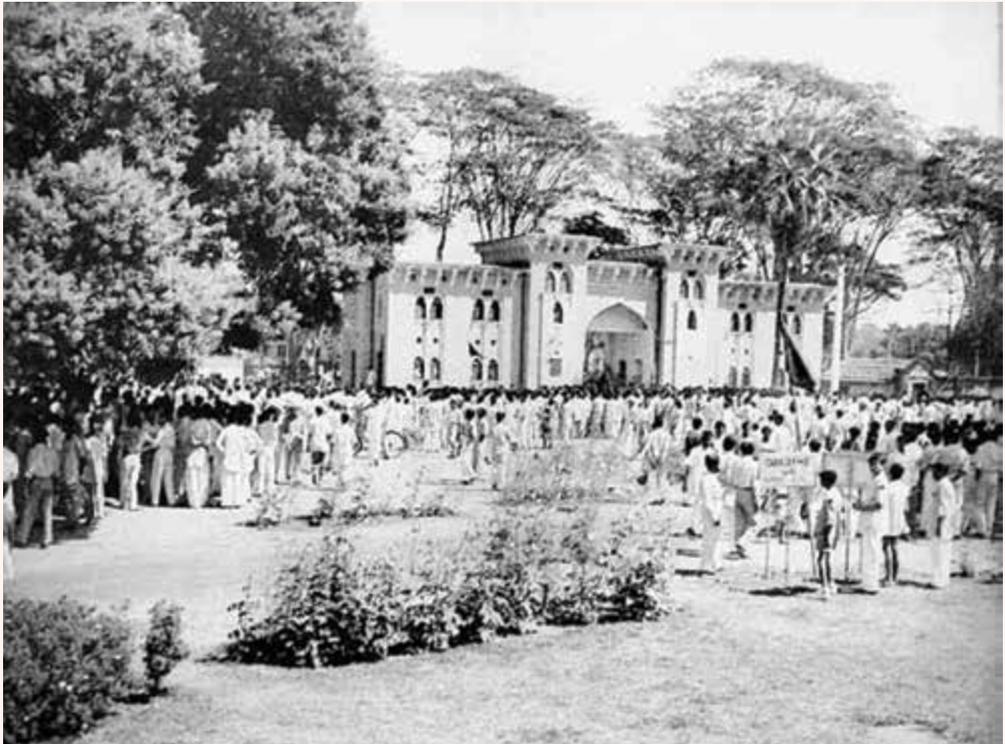
The victory achieved on 16 December 1971 had a long and painful background. East Bengal was incorporated into Pakistan in 1947 because of its Muslim majority during the partition of India following the end of British rule. It assumed the name of East Pakistan in accordance with the Constitution of Pakistan in 1955. All Bangali Muslim inhabitants of East Bengal were then optimistic about the prospects of their complete freedom due to their inclusion in an independent Pakistan free from British imperialism. This total freedom implied economic, political, and cultural freedom.

However, the people of East Bengal became disillusioned within a short time. This was because, the rulers and people of West Pakistan started to exploit the Bangalis anew by playing the role of pseudo-imperialists. Although Pakistan was constituted with two distant territories – East and West Pakistan – there were huge

Victory implies the joyous message of ultimate freedom that is desired by all humans. This statement is more applicable in the context of the independence war that took place in Bangladesh during 1971. The memorable victory that the freedom fighters achieved against the Pakistani forces on 16 December 1971 was especially important and significant for all the people living inside the geographic boundary of Bangladesh. This independence struggle cum liberation war that continued for long nine months against the pseudo-colonialist Pakistani military rulers reached a final conclusion on the eventful day of 16 December. A new country called Bangladesh was born on that day through the surrender of the Pakistani army to the allied forces. Therefore, the Victory Day on 16 December is quite significant in the building of our independent nationhood and for presenting our national identity before the world community.

differences between the two in terms of linguistic, anthropological, and socio-economic contexts. Consequently, the people of West Pakistan started nurturing the idea of providing leadership to the Bangalis through exploitation. As a part of this stance, they attempted to take away the cultural independence and linguistic rights of the Bangalis.

The architect and Governor General of Pakistan Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah visited Dhaka in 1948. He declared during a public meeting held at Racecourse Ground near Dhaka University on 21 March that 'Urdu shall be the lone state language of Pakistan'. The students lodged a strong protest immediately after this announcement by Jinnah. Movement against the Pakistanis commenced in this way, and this agitation centring on linguistic right gradually spread to all



Students preparing for procession in front of old Arts Faculty Building, February 21, 1952.

corners of East Bengal. Its final form was witnessed on 21 February 1952, when the Pakistani policemen opened fire on the advancing students and masses in Dhaka who broke the unfairly imposed section -144. Numerous youths including Salam, Rafiq, Barkat, and Jabbar had to embrace martyrdom as a consequence.

The Pakistani government had to accept the heartfelt demand of the Bangalis as a result of this bloodletting, and Bangla was accorded recognition as the principal state language in the Constitution of Pakistan.

Although the linguistic right of the Bangalis was established through the language movement that culminated in the events of 21 February 1952, the then Pakistani



Activists paying floral tribute at the Shaheed Minar, Dhaka, February 21, 1953. Photo: Dr. Rafiqul Islam

government started to interfere with the economic and political rights of the Bangali people of East Pakistan. For example, the foreign currency earned by East Pakistan through export of jute and other agricultural commodities were mostly spent for economic and industrial growth of West Pakistan. As a result, the Bangalis were deprived financially on a massive scale.

Alongside linguistic and economic exploitations, the undemocratic forces of West Pakistan also created obstacles to the practice and flourishing of our free political thought. They resorted to extreme repressive measures against political demands, movements, processions, meetings, etc. organized by the Bangali citizens of East Pakistan. As a result, their exploitative and autocratic attitude became quite noticeable. The students' movement of 1962, the 6-point movement of 1966, and the non-cooperation movement cum mass-upsurge of 1969 in East Pakistan bore testimony to that. The launching of the aforementioned movements demonstrated the efforts and agitations by the Bangali people of East Pakistan for establishing their right of self-determination in the face of coercive rule by West Pakistan. Through these movements and struggles, the Bangalis basically prepared the ground for their independence movement and total freedom.

Before the laying of this ground, the Pakistani rulers created huge hindrances in the exercise of our political rights. They obstructed the flow of democracy by ignoring the outcome of parliamentary election held in 1970. The people of East



Freedom fighters of the Liberation War 1971

Pakistan were deprived of their political right due to the dilly-dally tactics of Pakistani rulers. Consequently, the Bangali people had to take final preparation for their independence struggle. As a continuation of this trend, the independence war of the Bangalis commenced on 26 March 1971.

The Pakistani armed forces brutally pounced on the unarmed Bangali population during this struggle cum war, and started killing innumerable people quite



People celebrating the victory of Bangladesh on 16 December, 1971



People celebrate Victory Day in front of the Parliament House complex in Dhaka, Bangladesh, on December 16, 2024

unjustly. The armed resistance and fightback by the students-workers-masses then commenced. In this way, all Bangalis including the soldiers got directly involved with the independence war of Bangladesh. Spanning long nine months, this war ultimately ended on 16 December 1971, when the Pakistani military finally surrendered to the allied forces and the freedom fighters of Bangladesh. The final victory in our nine-month-long armed struggle was achieved in this way, and a new independent country called Bangladesh emerged on the world map.

The Victory Day on 16 December is significant in our national life for multiple reasons. Firstly, our political independence was achieved through this victory. This political freedom ensured our sovereignty, which is essential and inevitable for an independent country like ours. We got an independent territory spread over 56 thousand square miles through this triumph on 16 December, where our red and green national flag that symbolises our victory, independence, and sovereignty flutters in the air. The infiniteness of our vast green fields that stretch from one horizon to another, and the sunrise at dawn that arouses limitless dreams and enormous possibilities mingle with the colour of this flag.

This historic victory has bestowed us with a national anthem that praises the motherland and projects our identity and uniqueness at various programmes staged



People celebrating Victory Day on 16 December, 2024 at the National Martyrs Memorial

inside and outside the country. All in all, this historic triumph on 16 December 1971 has become a memento of our existence for all citizens of Bangladesh.

On the occasion of this unforgettable and emotion-filled 16 December – reminiscent of Bangladesh’s War of Independence, I recall with reverence all our leaders, as well as the military, civilian, professionals and students-masses, who made this struggle a success. I recall with reverence all freedom fighters including those who embraced martyrdom in the battlefield – whose infinite sacrifices resulted in Bangladesh standing in the comity of nations today with her head held high.

On this noble occasion of final victory on 16 December, I particularly wish to recall the martyrs who embraced martyrdom during the mass upsurge of 2024. They were the freedom fighters of this new Bangladesh. We got a new Bangladesh free from the stains of autocracy on 5 August 2024 due to their self-sacrifices. Just as the freedom fighters of 1971 made supreme sacrifice during the independence war of 1971 for bestowing us with a new country, territory and sovereignty, similarly, the new freedom fighters of 2024 have gifted us a new and promising Bangladesh that should be free from discrimination and autocracy. We firmly believe that the dreams of the martyrs who had sacrificed their lives during the 1971 War of Independence as well as those of the freedom fighters of 2024 will materialise only if we can build a modern and progressive Bangladesh free from all kinds of discrimination and communalism.

Translation: Dr. Helal Uddin Ahmed

The writer is Vice-Chancellor of Dhaka University

Courtesy : Special supplement on 16 December 2024, Press Information Department.



16 December 2024: A New Day of Victory

Brigadier General (R.) Dr. M Sakhawat Hussain ndc, psc

and discriminations over a long period were again the reason behind this blood-drenched movement. But the struggle this time was not against any foreigners speaking a different language. Rather, the people emerged victorious by spilling blood following a movement waged by students and masses against the exploitations, deprivations, and discriminations perpetrated by the ruling coterie for about 16 years. That is why our youths have termed this a ‘second independence’.

However, although there were no battles during the independence struggle earlier on, it started in full swing on the night of 25 March 1971, when the Pakistani forces appeared on the scene to slaughter the unarmed Bangalis. The war then commenced with the participation of the students-masses and the Bangali soldiers. It may be recalled that the nine-month long liberation war was organized and directed by a handful of fearless young officers of those forces, with the students and masses joining them gradually.

But the soldiers of that war, that is the young military and militia men and the students-masses, were also courageous like the participants of July-August Revolution of 2024. All segments of the country’s population were bewildered when the Pakistani forces launched a sudden attack on the Bangalis in the midnight of 25 March 1971. The political leaders did not issue any directive then. Although Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was acknowledged as the leader of the Awami League,

Although we are observing the 53rd Victory Day of our liberation and independence war on 16 December 2024, that war had commenced many years earlier, since the partition of India and the establishment of Pakistan. The struggle of the students and masses of the then East Pakistan against the exploitation and deprivations of the Bangalis was transformed into a fight for survival. That struggle against discrimination and exploitation had continued for a long time, similar to the blood-drenched struggle of the students and masses during July-August 2024 fifty-three years later. Exploitations



Freedom fighters of the Liberation War in 1971, preparing for their next operation according to the strategy briefed by their leaders

which was the largest political party in Pakistan, he also remained inactive on the question of starting an independence war. It can be gathered from the books written by a number of leaders of the period that although the students and masses were ready for building resistance in the face of the crackdown by the Pakistani forces from 25 to 27 March 1971, no announcement was made on behalf of any political leader urging the Bangalis to confront the enemy.

The attack by the Pakistani forces first started simultaneously against the Bangali troops of the then EPR (now BGB) and the members of East Pakistan Police force at Rajarbag, where a majority were Bangali constables. Many were martyred during these sudden attacks, but a sizeable number tried to build up resistance on their own with arms at their disposal. On the other hand, although the young officers and soldiers of 2nd East Bengal Regiment at Joydebpur near Dhaka, a majority of whom were Bangalis, were ready to repel the impending Pakistani attack, no such directive was issued to them. Similarly, although armed assaults were launched against the Bangali soldiers at different locations across Bangladesh (the then East Pakistan), they were not organized though they tried to defend themselves. As a consequence, many young Bangali officers and soldiers were martyred. Besides, although resistances were built up at various places, the nation remained directionless up to 27 March 1971.

Finally, a mid-ranking officer of 8th East Bengal Regiment Major (later sector commander, army-chief and martyred president) Ziaur Rahman took the initiative to declare independence by using the broadcast-relay equipment of Chattogram Kalurghat radio station. This declaration later helped the Bangali nation, especially the soldiers, to come together and protect the country from the invaders, and also provided direction for achieving independence. At that time, another outstanding sector commander and renowned freedom fighter late Major (later Brigadier) Khaled Mosharraf was in Sylhet. Khaled Mosharraf had acknowledged that he

got a direction after that declaration by Ziaur Rahman on 27 March 1971. They then moved to take shelter in India by crossing the border and to take preparation for waging the independence war. However, he initially continued the warfare by remaining inside the country for many days. Similarly, the Bangali soldiers, police and EPR-men of Dhaka, Jashore and Cumilla also revolted. Later, they all came together under the leadership of East Bengal Regiment.

Later on, the leaders of the autocratic regime ousted in 2024 tried to establish the historical narrative of giving full credit for independence to their sole leader of that era late Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, which does not stand the scrutiny of logic and factuality. That was because, their claims were unfounded and incoherent. It was said that somebody took a chit from the residence of Sheikh Mujib at midnight of 25 March and propagated his declaration through the radio set up at the EPR (now BGB) headquarters. I consider this claim to be totally illogical. That was because, the Pakistani forces had taken control of all broadcasting equipment, radio and wireless-sets before the midnight of 25 March. In that case, the theory of using EPR radio (wireless) set does not pass the test of logic.

The war and the independence of Bangladesh are two different matters. Although the assistance received from India must be acknowledged, that help was not extended merely for establishing the right of self-determination of the Bangalis. The huge gains made by India through this have been noted by both the geo-political and ordinary analysts of that country. In whatever manner the war might have started, it became a people's war due to the participation of the masses. The Kaderia Bahini was an example of this people's war. The allied forces launched the final attack on the Pakistani military that was facing defeat due to the outstanding roles played by the Muktibahini, different forces including the Crack Platoon, Bichhu Bahini, Bangladesh Liberation Forces, etc., as well as for geo-strategical reasons.



Freedom fighters throughout December relentlessly attacked the Pakistani Army camp



Pakistani Army General A A K Niazi signing the surrender document at the Racecourse Ground, Dhaka on 16 December, 1971

All these led to our Victory Day on 16 December 1971. On that day, the biggest act of surrender in the military history of the world took place at the racecourse ground of Dhaka, when the Pakistani military surrendered to the allied forces. But there was no formal representation from Bangladesh at the event. The then deputy chief of the Muktibahini Air Commodore (later Air Vice-Marshall and AL minister) A K Khandaker was present there through own initiative. Despite that, the greatest victory in history for the 75 million (population at that time) freedom-seeking Bangalis materialised on 16 December 1971.

We the Bangladeshis are proud of our freedom. We are proud of 16 December as well. This independence was not donated to us by anyone; rather, it was achieved at the cost of lakhs of lives and the honour of lakhs of mothers and sisters. In the annals of the Bangalis, it was for the first time that Bangla could become an independent and sovereign land. This country must not be allowed to fail, nor should it be subservient to anyone, just as the students and masses have shown by shedding blood during July and August this year.

This Victory Day on 16 December will not be a second in the series, rather it will be a new and complete Victory Day.

Translation: Dr. Helal Uddin Ahmed

The writer is Adviser for Shipping, Labour and Employment

Courtesy : Special supplement on 16 December 2024, Press Information Department.

Eternal War of Freedom

Rawshan Ara Mukta

The fallen leaves fly with the dusts of highway
At the foot of flyover where the workers live,
On days of blazing sun alongside the footpath
In the crowds of speedy buses, the fallen leaves fly
– From town to village, with the charter of eternal freedom.

The fallen leaves fly for a thousand years on the nights of Baul song
Walking beside devout men offering prayer at dawn
In the festival of Shiva, carnival of Boisabi, full-moon of Dol-Purnima.
In the joy of harvesting crops and the laughter of farmers
The fallen leaves fly from one shrine to another on Shab-e-Barat night
Seen in the flashes of star-crackers reflected in the eyes of children.

These accounts of pre-historic flights denoted love,
But inside remains the seal of hatred, tales of aversion, and
Wrapped in a packet of love above – what took place at Rajarbag?
And what happened at Jatrabari? Men were killed by men,
Even now, the dwellings of people are being burned by the same fire!

Even now the fallen leaves fly, the roads shake with the sound of slogans
Even now, the fallen leaves go to war, leaving behind letters for parents
Even now the fallen leaves cry, on seeing the mark of bullet that kills daughter.
Even now, the fallen leaves seek freedom! All poems of unseen triumph –
Are written by those fallen leaves, Oh, the fallen leaves!
The girl Felani keeps on hanging from the barbed wire at the border.

Translation: Dr Helal Uddin Ahmed

Courtesy : Special supplement on 16 December 2024, Press Information Department.



Graffiti of Student Movement 2024

The student movement against the discriminatory quota system in government jobs, which has been started on 05th June 2024 and ended on 05th August 2024 with the fall of the then autocratic government following a mass upsurge. To achieve the demands, the students observed various demonstrations. In continuation of this, on 27th July 2024, they started drawing graffiti on the walls of the universities, colleges, schools, even on that of the dwellings which lasted after 05th August with an aim to have a reform of the country. Each and every graffiti carries the symbol of representation, struggle, determination and patriotism. There are thousands of graffiti drawn all over the country. Some of the graffiti are here...







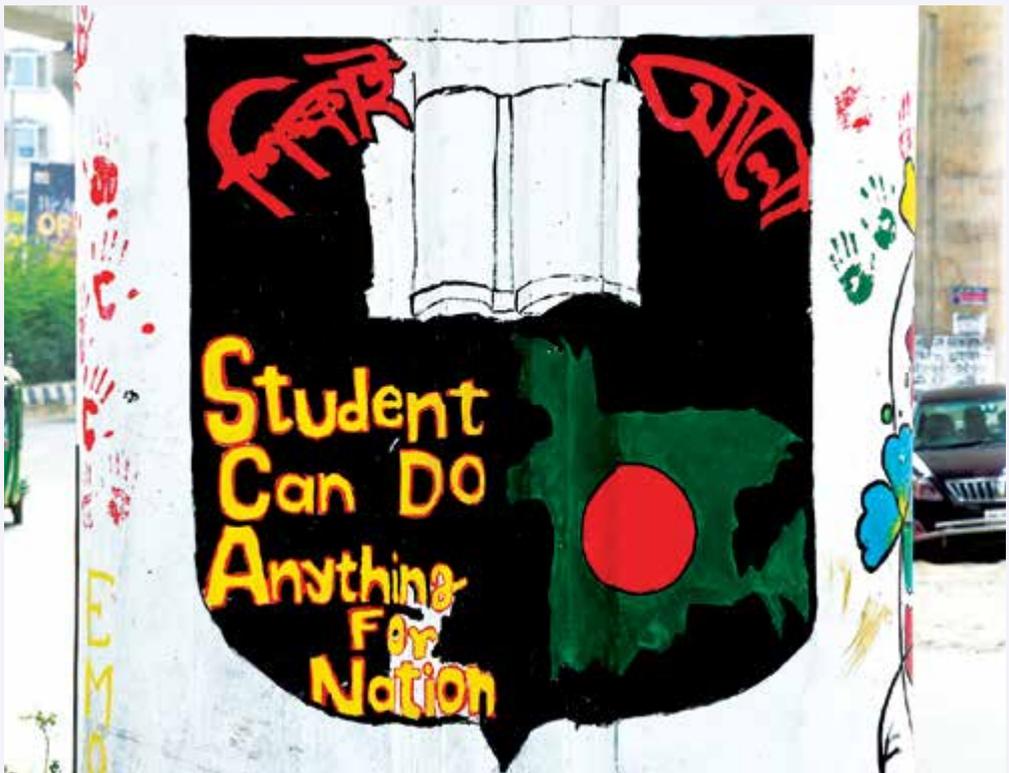








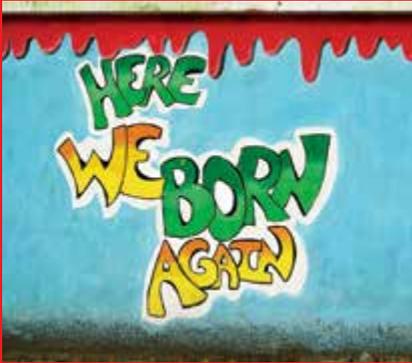






July Upsurge: A Chronicle

Abdullah Mohammad Ruhel



July 15 midnight, the students of Dhaka University broke the rule which was never meant and designed to be broken (at least to them). They started chanting shouting “Tumi ke? Ami Ke? Razakar, Razakar”, (who are you? who are you? Collaborator, Collaborator) defying the mythical power of the BCL and the ‘Ranima’ (a word famously used by Shahidul Alam in one of his facebook posts to describe Her Majesty Sheikh Hasina). And this brave night literally changed everything.

But how come this very brave and powerful incident took place while all these students were living in Nazi-like concentration camps, where they were required to submit their backbones to the student leaders of the BCL? Why were they chanting a word which is mostly not an ‘ownable’ word to chant?



‘The Students movement against Discrimination’ formed spontaneously to protest against the High Court order regarding illogical quota system in government jobs

How did this whole protest occur? How did a normal protest uproot one of such long facist regims? We are going to find the answers to these questions in the article.

How did it all start?

The ‘quota movement’, a movement for reforming the discriminatory quota system, has a long history as it has been an issue for the job seekers for a long. Since the quota system created huge discrimination among the job seekers, general students, who had zero quota, had an anger on the whole process. Over the last decade, we witnessed some small protests demanding reformation of the quota system but there was no such major uprising until 2018.

In 2018, students from almost all universities started hitting the streets demanding the reformation of the discriminatory quota system. They had to fight with police and BCL force for weeks. As a result, the then Prime Minster Sheikh Hasina, scrapped the quota system out of her uncontrolled anger; though the students demanded a ‘fair reformation’ not even revoking the whole system.

However, in 2024, when Sheikh Hasina again came to the power through a controversial election; the High Court ordered the reinstatement of the 30 percent quota for the children and grandchildren of the freedom fighters and other quotas in total 56% on June 5, 2024. Upon realizing it as a revengeful act of Sheikh Hasina and the future consequences of this decision, students started taking to the streets.

At first, there was a little mismanagement regarding organizing the protests. In Dhaka University, many groups of students opened several facebook groups to



8 July, 2024 - Students launched the “Bangla Blockade” following a one-point demand for scrapping all illogical and discriminatory quotas in public service

organize protests against the reinstatement of this ‘quota system’. But, eventually they came under one banner named ‘Students against Discrimination’ to go on with the protest.

But the journey was not that smooth. Before the Eid holidays, the movement couldn’t attract what we call a ‘good crowd’. But, after the holidays, the movement slowly began to gather a large number of students from different universities and colleges. They organized many interesting events like ‘Bangla Blockade’, ‘mass foot march’ etc which attracted huge number of students from different schools, colleges and universities. They also gathered sympathy and support from the mass people countrywide as well.

The government, at first, wanted to ignore the movement. Their student wing, Bangladesh Chhatra League, now banned, remained relatively calm handling the whole situation first few days at that time.



July 14, 2024 - the night-time protest came hours after the then PM's remark about the quota issue

The magical night

But things got changed dramatically. The then Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina came from China with a huge diplomatic humiliation, and called a press conference (where journalists, close to her, asked excessively flattering questions, that most of the time they do the same in her press conferences. At this press conference, she made the infamous ‘Razakar’ remark. She called the students, who were protesting for their rights, as the grandchildren of ‘Razakar’; ‘Razakar’, a derogatory term used to describe the Bangalees who collaborated with the Pakistani army and fought against the freedom fighters during the Liberation War of 1971.

This remark infuriated the students, as there was already growing anger among them. Some students from Surja Sen Hall and Bijoy Ekattor Hall began chanting “Tumi ke, ami ke? Razakar, Razakar” (Who are you? Who am I? Collaborator,

Collaborator) Ke boleche, ke boleche, sorkar, sorkar, (the government says you and me are against independence) from their balconies, and soon, other students joined in, chorusing the same slogans from their respective hall balconies.

We need to remember that some of the rooms of the Dhaka University halls (dorms) were used like concentration camps; where the student wing of the then ruling party was the ruthless emperor. If any of the students from these dorms dared to disobey any orders of this party (BCL), was destined to be punished. So, chanting these slogans was more than a crime in that situation. But, the angered students broke the circle of fear and chose to revolt.

However, when these slogans went viral on social media, other university dorms (halls) started following the pattern. The female dormitories, of which entry normally get closed by 10 pm, showed a massive presence on the street after breaking the hall gates around midnight. All these unbelievable incidents took place in one fine night, a magic night, which basically paved the way for having a new dawn for Bangladesh.

Why this slogan?

‘Tumi ke? Ami ke? Razakar, Razakar’ was the dominant slogan of this movement. As the word ‘Razakar’ is not a much-loved word among the mass people of Bangladesh, why did the protestors choose such a word to protest against the ‘worst dictator of Asia’? The answer is simple.

Awami League’s binary and divisive narrative kept these students in Nazi-like concentration camps for years, where they were forced to submit their backbones to the student leaders of the then ruling party. If any student dared to speak out against this oppression, they would immediately be labeled as a member of an ‘anti-liberation’ political party. If the student wing (BCL) wanted to kill or torture someone, they would label them as a ‘Razakar’ or something similar. The same narrative applied to the general public as well. So, when students began protesting



A member of Chhatra League hitting protesters, even the females, on 15 July 2024

on the streets, they sought to break the oppressive and divisive narrative that had kept them as subhuman, and thus wanted to get free showing their utmost courage chanting the very word labelling them willingly. Thus they pointed their fingers to the oppressor and dictator.

The aftermath of the magical night:

After the night of July 15, Awami League realized that they needed to work seriously on it. But, without dealing with the peaceful students in a peaceful manner, they chose violence; as they always did over the years. The next day, BCL violently attacked hundreds of students; mostly the female students in Dhaka University campus, thus injured them severely. Many went to the nearby hospitals for primary treatment but BCL attacked them in the hospitals also on the same day in the evening.



Protesters observing gayebana janaja on 17th July for the country wide martyrs of the quota movement

Violence did not stop there. On July 16 police joined along with the BCL men in many places around the country and killed at least 06 people. The pathetic video and the news of Abu Sayeed, the first martyr of this movement, went viral on the social media and it basically fueled the general students and mass people across the country and inspired them to join in the movement. The next day, students from several universities, including Dhaka University, called Gayebana Janaza (funeral prayer in absentia) in their respective campuses. Police, Rab and BGB violently attacked the protestors and the university administration forcefully evacuated the university dorms. The authorities and the government thought that it might stop the movement from toppling down the dictator but the damage was already done. These killings and attacks basically paved the way for joining the private university students in the protest.



Students of different private universities protesting in front of BRAC University campus, Dhaka demanding quota reform

The role of private university students:

On July 18, private university students in Dhaka, stood at the forefront of a powerful and dangerous protest. Known more for academics than activists, these students had rarely been seen as politically engaged - until this day. The air was filled with the sounds of tear gas canisters and the cries of injured students. Private university students from BRAC University, East West University, NSU, and UIU led the charge showing courage that left an indelible mark on the movement.



Students of different private universities block the roads at Natun Bazar in Dhaka demanding quota reform

As the The Business Standard reported quoting a BRAC university student: ‘That day, a group of private university students from NSU, UIU, BRAC, and other universities blocked Notun Bazar road and protested for about two hours.’ That night, heated discussions within BRAC University’s internal Facebook groups led to a decisive decision: the students would join the movement and assemble in front of their university gate at 10 am the following day. The students protested peacefully throughout the day and were dispersed by evening. On July 17, they took a breather, but things took a violent turn the next day.”

In the morning of July 18, students started gathering at the BRAC University gate. By 10 a.m., police arrived escalating the situation with tear gas and blank shots. When students were forced back to campus, police unleashed a barrage of



On 18th July in the Badda-Rampura area - Law Enforcement agencies trying to disperse the protesters

rubber bullets and sound grenades injuring many. One student like many even lost his eyesight that day. But despite the dangers, the students stood firm forcing the police to retreat. Some officers, trapped by the students, faced a barrage of bricks. Even as tensions flared, the students showed mercy, shielding one injured officer from the crowd and transporting him to a hospital for treatment.

News soon spread that Zillur Sheikh, a student from Imperial College, had been shot and killed by police. This tragedy fueled the students’ determination, turning their grief into renewed resolve. As more students and community members joined, a support network formed around the protesters. Locals brought food, water, and medical supplies and thus stood in solidarity with the students.

Throughout the day helicopters circled overhead adding tension. Despite fears, it became clear that the helicopters were there to evacuate trapped police officers. But nothing could shake the students’ determination. They formed teams to provide medical aid, secure resources, and protect each other and carried on their protests.

July 19 was no different. The students from private universities fought their best to go on with the movement. They actually gave a new tone in removing the dictator. The students' bravery those days bridged political divides creating a movement that spread far beyond the private university campuses. July 18 and 19 became the days of heroism for private university students, proving that they were also a strong force to be reckoned with in the nation's struggle for justice and change.

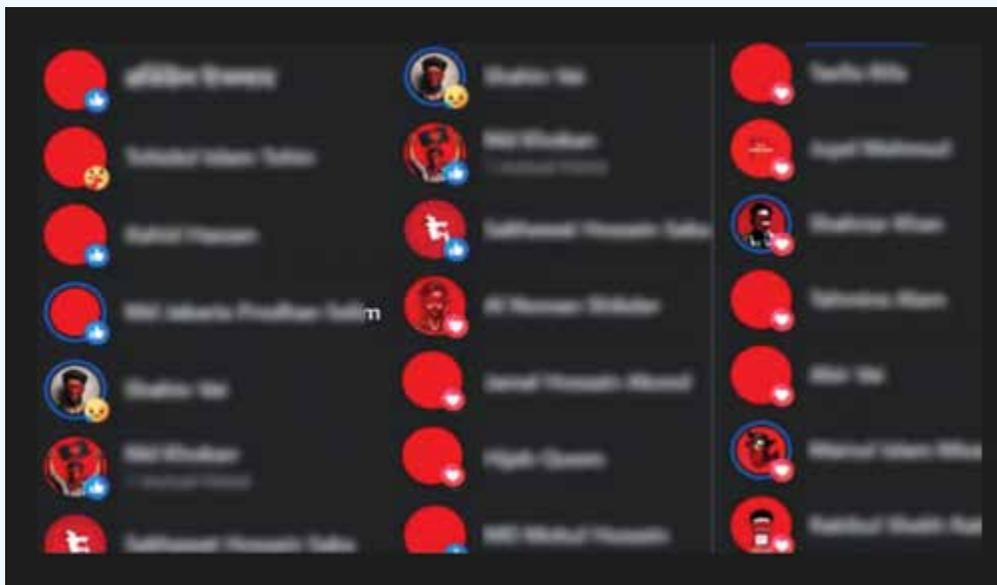
The role of social media

When the streets were shaded with blood and the government imposed curfews to stop the students and mass people, Social media became the last hope for raising nations voice. Facebook and other social media platforms became both a powerful organizing tool and a source of inspiration for the students, involved in the protests. The mainstream media largely ignored the movement, leaving students frustrated by the lack of coverage. Many news outlets, supportive to the government, did not report on the upcoming protests or show the realities of what was happening on the streets. This forced students to turn to social media to get their message out and keep their movement alive.

Social media platforms allowed students to connect and communicate nationwide, organizing gatherings and protests across campuses and neighborhoods. Through online meetings, student leaders from different universities coordinated efforts, shared strategies, and even reached out to political figures for support.



Protesters take social media as a powerful tool of protest



Collage image of red profile photos in Facebook, part of the protest against the then government's heavy-handed response

Students also used social media to fight misinformation. Fake accounts were created to spread rumors aimed at discrediting the movement. In response, students worked hard to identify and expose these tactics. They countered false information by sharing verified content and spreading awareness about the truth behind the protests and their goals. This helped maintain public support and prevent confusion.

Beyond organizing and countering misinformation, social media became a creative space for cultural expression. Protesters shared songs, poems, and personal stories that inspired others. Protest songs went viral, offering motivation for those unable to join the demonstrations physically. Social media also served as an educational platform, where students shared information on Bangladesh's history, the quota reform, and the issues that led to the protest. These posts helped students understand the movement's deeper meaning and inspired others to join the movement.

Students used social media creatively launching a “red profile picture” campaign symbolizing resistance, power, and solidarity. When the government and its stakeholders thought that the movement was over, and the media started showing pseudo-normalized things leaving people in confusion around the world, this small but very effective initiative helped the people realize that the movement was not over. From celebrities to the rickshaw pullers who had social media accounts, joined the movement enthusiastically and it literally shifted the momentum towards the protesters again.

The final whistle:

The then Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's fall came nearby on August 4, when students called for a “March to Dhaka” to protest against her government. People



Mass people celebrating the fall of autocratic government at the Raju Memorial Sculpture, Dhaka University

from all over Bangladesh joined, defying curfew and security forces to flood the streets of Dhaka. The protest had begun with students opposing quota system in government job on July 1, but brutal crackdowns and hundreds of deaths turned it into a national uprising against the then Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's long 15-year rule.

By morning, hundreds of thousands were already started marching towards Gonobhaban, official residence of the Prime Minister. In a surprise move, Sheikh Hasina fled to India, leaving behind a troubled country on the edge of collapse. The Daily Star quoted, Nayeem Abedin, one of the protest leaders, expressed disbelief, saying, "We didn't expect her to flee".

When news of her departure was confirmed, celebrations erupted in Dhaka. The streets, once filled with violence and fear, now buzzed with joy as people filled the city. Army Chief General Waker-Uz-Zaman soon announced plans for a new interim government led by Dr. Yunus, calming the crowds and bringing hope for a peaceful transition.

Sheikh Hasina's exit marked the end of an era, with the people's uprising and thus proving again that even the most powerful leaders can fall and none but the people win who are always the most powerful.

Abdullah Mohammad Ruhel is a postgraduate student of International Relations in University of Dhaka. He is also working as a program officer at Himadri, a sister concern of International Institute of Law and Diplomacy (IILD)

Students Humanitarian Activities in Photos

Any country could be in distress in absence of traffic police on the road or in absence of cleaner in the city roads or could be in distress due to a sudden and severe flood countrywide that our country faced few days back. Only our youth came ahead like angels to save us, who are mainly the students of different schools, colleges and universities. Out of their patriotism and simple understanding, they helped selflessly to rescue the country and people from the anomalies, our country faced. After the fall of the autocratic government on 05th August 2024, abstention of the police and traffic police in an emergency situation, when the entire traffic system was going to collapse, our students spread their hands, whose voluntary activities of controlling traffic made it a success and saved the country from happening of other anomalies. They even cleaned the city roads. In the same way, when the country experienced sudden and severe flood from 21 August 2024, our youth with their indomitable vigor appeared and stood beside the people. Some joined in relief collection, given spontaneously by the mass people, while others reached and distributed those to the flood affected people. They even rescued the affected people risking their own lives. Thus, this valiant student force connects the country people and upholds humanity as always. Their activities in photos ...



A female BNCC cadet, an Ansar member and a volunteer of Bangladesh Red Crescent Society on duty in absence of traffic police at Kakrail in the capital on 08 August 2024



A student controlling traffic



Students including scouts managing traffic, 07 August 2024



Students drawing limit lines for the vehicles to control traffic



A student along with scouts giving direction to the vehicles to move forward



A student showed stop sign to manage traffic



Bangladesh Girls Guide Association members cleaning Bailey Road in the capital on 09 August 2024



Students taking part in cleanliness programme at the National Parliament premises



Students initiate relief collection programme at TSC (Teacher Students Centre) for the flood affected people of the country



Students busy in storing relief for the flood affected people



Students packing relief materials to distribute to the flood affected people



TSC becomes the hub of collecting, processing and sending relief materials during whole flood time



Relief materials stored in the TSC cafeteria are ready to be dispatched to the flood affected areas



Volunteers distributing relief materials ignoring their own inconvenience at Titas Cumilla, on 26 August 2024



Relief materials distributed to the flood affected people by the students

- Md. Mazharul Hoque

Address at UNGA by Chief Adviser Professor Dr Muhammad Yunus

Speaker : Chief Adviser Professor Dr. Muhammad Yunus
Venue : 79th Session of the United Nations General Assembly
(UNGA) UN Headquarters, New York
Date : 27 September 2024

Bismillahir Rahmanir Rahim

Mr. President,

Good Morning.

Let me congratulate you on your election as the President of the United Nations General Assembly. I would like to assure you of Bangladesh delegation's full cooperation throughout the Session.



Chief Adviser Professor Dr Muhammad Yunus addressed the 79th Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) at the UN Headquarters in New York on Sept 27, 2024

I would also place on record our deep appreciation to the Secretary-General, Antonio Guterres, for his unwavering commitment to deliver on the UN mandates and address the global challenges.

I particularly applaud his vision in convening the Summit of the Future.

The Pact for the Future and the Declaration on Future Generations could help in setting pathways beyond Agenda 2030. Bangladesh believes that the Summit's outcome will serve as a guiding framework in materializing our shared aspirations and re-thinking collaboration for posterity.

I stand in this parliament of nations thanks to an epochal transformation that Bangladesh witnessed this July and August. The 'power of the ordinary people', in particular our youth, presented to our nation an opportunity to overhaul many of our systems and institutions.

The uprising led by the students and youth was initially aimed at ending discrimination. Progressively the movement evolved into a people's movement. The world eventually saw how people-at-large stood against autocracy, oppression, discrimination, injustice and corruption, both on the streets and online.

Our people, particularly youth, gained us independence from an autocratic and undemocratic regime with their exceptional resolve and capability. That collective resolve should define Bangladesh of the future and place our nation as a responsive and responsible State in the comity of nations.

This was indeed a movement that primarily brought together people who were long left in politics and development. Who asked 'prosperity' to be shared, to be inclusive. The people aspired for a just, inclusive and functioning democracy for which our new generations made supreme sacrifice.

We were moved by the wisdom, courage and conviction our youth showed, even braving bullets, bare chest.

Young girls were fiercely vocal against the illegitimate State power.

School-going teenagers laid down their lives. Hundreds lost their eyes, forever.

Mothers, day labourers and scores of people across cities lent their shoulders, for "their children".

Defying sweat, rain and fear of death, they defeated all the evil designs and machinations of the few who manipulated the State machinery against truth and just aspirations of people for years.

The people's movement left an estimated over eight hundred martyrs in the hands of the autocratic regime.

Bangladesh was born because of her people's profound belief in liberalism, pluralism, secularism. Decades later, our 'Generation Z' is making us re-visit and re-imagine the very values that our people Bangladesh stood for back in 1971, as our people also did in 1952, to defend our mother language, Bangla.

We believe, the 'monsoon revolution' that the world witnessed in Bangladesh in the span of few weeks, may inspire many across communities and countries, to stand for freedom and justice. I would call upon the international community to engage with 'new Bangladesh' anew that aims to realize freedom and democracy, beyond letters, for everyone.

Mr. President,

Our youth and people together entrusted me and my colleagues in the Council with enormous responsibilities to re-construct a decaying State apparatus.

As we took to the office, to our utter shock and dismay, we discovered how endemic corruption a ‘functioning democracy’ was brought to farce, how key institutions were ruthlessly politicised, how public coffers were reduced to rubble, how oligarchs took over business, how ‘chosen few’ concentrated wealth in their hands and amassed and laundered wealth out of Bangladesh. In all, justice, ethics and morality, almost at every level, reached a low.

Under such circumstances, we were asked to re-build Bangladesh and give back the country to the people. To correct the ills of the past as also build a competitive and agile economy, and a just society.

In a drastically changed scenario, all political parties are now free to voice their views and opinions.

A key priority for us is also to make all in public positions and institutions to account for their decisions and actions.

We are committed to promote and protect the fundamental rights – for people to speak in freedom, to assemble without fear or inhibition, to vote whosoever they choose, to uphold the independence of the judiciary and freedom of press, including in the cyber domain.

In order to ensure that child of a farmer or worker can scale the highest in the society; we prioritise allocation in education and health sectors over grandiose infrastructure development.

We also aim at ensuring good governance, across all sectors.

I wish to assure that our government shall adhere to all international, regional and bilateral instruments that Bangladesh is party to. Bangladesh will continue to remain an active proponent of multilateralism, with the UN at the core.

Bangladesh is open to nurture friendly relations with all countries based on mutual respect, upholding our dignity and pride and shared interests.

Mr. President,

In just seven weeks, the Government has initiated several actions.

At our request, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights has dispatched a Fact-Finding Mission to investigate into the gross human rights violations during the people’s movement and to suggest for sustainable course correction. That Mission has already started work on the ground in Bangladesh. I wish to register my deep appreciation to High Commissioner Volker Turk.

We have acceded to the International Convention for Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, within two weeks in office. The required national legislation is underway so that we can effectuate its early implementation. An Inquiry Commission has started investigating into all the cases of enforced disappearances reported during the past decade and a half.

In order to restore people’s trust and confidence, and to ensure that the tragic past never recur in future Bangladesh, we have initiated reforms in certain prioritized

sectors. In that direction, we launched independent Commissions to reform electoral system, constitution, judicial system, civil administration, and law and order sectors. A few more Commissions are on the cards to reform other sectors, including press and media.

In order to create a conducive environment for business, we have rolled out extensive reforms in banking and financial sectors. We affirm not to let any foreign business interest to be affected.

Beyond rhetoric and numbers, we aim to establish effective safeguard mechanisms to ensure the sustainability of these reforms and create an enabling environment towards conduct of free, fair and participatory elections.

I would, therefore, call on the international community to continue and deepen engagements with Bangladesh in meeting our people's quest for democracy, rule of law, equality, prosperity, so that we can emerge as a just and inclusive democratic society.

Mr. President,

Bangladesh views that maintaining peace and addressing conflicts is central to peoples' progress. During the recent Revolution, our valiant armed forces have once again shown their commitment to peace by standing firmly with the people in fulfilling their aspirations for freedom during a most difficult time in our history.

This was possible thanks to our commitment to place human rights at the core of peacekeeping. Bangladesh remains equally committed to peace-building, from the inception of the UN Peace-building Commission. We look forward to promoting and enhancing Bangladesh's value-driven contributions to the UN peace-keeping operations.

As the third largest troop contributing country, our peacekeepers had served across 63 Missions in 43 countries, to date. 168 Bangladeshi peacekeepers had laid their lives, from Bosnia to Congo. We do hope that Bangladesh defense forces would continue to be called upon in the future UN peace operations, regardless of the challenges or circumstances.

Mr. President,

In our 'shared' world, many of the global priorities need to be set right.

Climate change poses existential threats to us all. The record-breaking heat wave this summer starkly reminded the world of the climate-induced changes.

What we need is climate justice – so that the irresponsible choices or, indifferent actions or, harms caused are accounted for. Long-term damages leave irreparable damages all-around: we are losing bio-diversity; changing pathogens leading to newer diseases; farming is under stress; shrinking water wealth threatening habitat; rising sea level and salinity decimating eco-systems. The damages in terms of rising intensity and frequency of cyclones or floods can hardly be ignored. The climatic risks are faced far deeper by our small farmers and artisanal livelihood-holders. As I speak, over five million people witnessed a most devastating flood in their living memory, in eastern Bangladesh.

Yet, Secretary General Guterres showed that under the “current trajectory”, the world is heading for a +2.7°C scenario. I would hence urge for channeling robust resources for climate adaptation in the climate-vulnerable countries like Bangladesh. It is moreover crucial to operationalize Loss and Damage Fund by leveraging innovative solutions and additional finance.

We equally need access to technologies and increased capacity. To be specific, we need access to life-saving technologies, particularly in agriculture, water or public health, where trickle of modest solutions or innovations can save millions of vulnerable population.

Tackling climate crisis has to go hand in hand with getting global economy in order as well. The world is increasingly focused on de-carbonization. In order for such a shift to be beneficial to majority of global population, the transformative vision of a Net Zero world has to redeem for countries like Bangladesh as well. Else, we risk falling short on our pledge to ‘shared prosperity’ through ‘shared responsibility’.

I believe, the world needs to engage on a shared vision of ‘three zeroes’ that we can materialize together, targeting zero poverty, zero unemployment, and, zero net carbon emissions. Where a young person anywhere in the world will have opportunities to grow not as a job seeker but as entrepreneur; where a young person can unleash his or her latent creativity despite all limitations; where an entrepreneur can optimally balance social benefits, economic profits and responsibility towards nature; where social business can help an individual transcend beyond consumerism and can ultimately catalyse in social and economic transformation.

Time demands new attitudes, new values, new compact(s), across communities and countries, across developed and developing countries alike, across all actors and stakeholders. If we are to realize such course correction, in full, the United Nations system, national and sub-national governments, non-governmental organizations, business, philanthropies have to walk together. If we accept and accommodate ‘social business’ within existing economic structures, we can bring meaningful changes in the lives of the bottom half of population, in every society. If we can realistically position social business, we can stem much of climate-insensitive distortions within the existing market economy. I would like to invite the attention of Secretary General, Antonio Guterres, on that score.

Mr. President,

In a world of poly-crisis, wars and conflicts are leading to erosion of rights and widespread abuses.

The genocide in Gaza continues unabated despite global concerns and condemnation. The situation in Palestine just does not concern the Arabs or Muslims at large rather the entire humanity. Palestinians are no expendable people. All those responsible for the crimes against humanity against the Palestinian people must be held accountable. Bangladesh calls for an immediate and complete ceasefire to protect the Palestinian people from the brutalities, particularly against the children and women. International community, including the UN, needs to act in earnest to implement the two-state solution that remains the only path to bring lasting peace in the Middle-East.

The two and half year long war in Ukraine has claimed far too many lives. The war has impacted far and wide, even lending deeper economic implications in Bangladesh. We would urge both sides to pursue dialogue to resolve the differences and end the war.

Mr. President,

Seven years on, Bangladesh has been hosting over 1.2 million Rohingyas on humanitarian ground, incurring significant social-economic-environmental costs. The protracted crisis in Myanmar also pose growing risks with national and regional security implications for Bangladesh, both traditional and non-traditional security challenges.

We remain committed to supporting the forcibly displaced Rohingyas from Myanmar in Bangladesh. We need continued support of the international community towards the Rohingyas in carrying out the humanitarian operations and their sustainable repatriation.

Equally important is to ensure justice for the grave human rights violations committed against the Rohingyas, through the ongoing accountability processes in the ICJ and the ICC.

We recognize and appreciate the efforts of the Secretary General and the United Nations system in creating a conducive environment for Rohingyas so that they can lead a free and dignified life. That requires creating pathways for the Rohingyas to return to their ancestral home in Rakhine State, with safety and rights. Looking at the evolving ground situation in Myanmar, Bangladesh is ready to work with the international community to create an environment for dignified and sustainable return of the Rohingyas to their homeland.

Mr. President,

Ensuring peace and security cannot succeed without political freedom and socio-economic emancipation of the people.

Around a decade back, the world unanimously adopted the Agenda 2030. We reposed our collective hope and trust in the universal set of goals. Yet, merely 17% of SDG targets are on track to be achieved by 2030. Clearly, many developing countries risk to be left behind.

Every year, developing countries face a significant SDG financing gap, estimated between 2.5 to 4 trillion US dollars. High debt burdens, shrinking fiscal space, and adverse impacts of climate change put countries like Bangladesh at greater risk. We look forward to the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development to deliver on addressing the complex and systemic challenges. The multilateral financing institutions have to be driven by a vision where wealth and opportunities can be accessed by all, that they rightfully place social business within respective programmes, that they duly address the circumstances in the low-income countries, that they promote entrepreneurship and encourage creativity of individuals, that they support the dispossessed.

In this regard, prevention of illicit financial flows and siphoning of resources from the developing countries, merit greater attention. Increased international cooperation must re-channel the assets stolen from the developing countries.

We look forward to early conclusion of an international tax Convention that can combat tax evasion.

Mr. President,

Migration and mobility is an inescapable reality in an inter-connected world. As a country of origin of migrants, over eleven millions of our people live and work worldwide.

In order for migration to be beneficial for all, we have to create pathways for safe, orderly, regular, and responsible migration and mobility of people. The international community has to ensure full respect for human rights and the humane treatment of migrants, regardless of their migration status.

While Bangladesh remains committed to the full implementation of the Global Compact on Migration, our government is also committed to curbing unsafe migration.

Mr. President,

Every year, nearly two and half million Bangladeshis enter our labour market.

In a large population where nearly two-third is young, Bangladesh is challenged to make learning suited to meet the needs of today and tomorrow.

Yet, we see the world of work is changing where a younger person has to adapt constantly, re-skill, adopt newer attitudes. As Bangladesh is set to graduate as a Middle Income Country, we reckon the vital need to secure ourselves in terms of ‘learning’ and ‘technology’.

We are particularly enthused with emergence of the Artificial Intelligence tools and applications. Our youth are excited with the prospect of fast unfolding generative AI. They aspire to walk and work as global citizens. The world needs to ensure that no youth in countries like Bangladesh get left behind in meaningfully reaping benefits out the AI-led transformation. The world simultaneously needs to ensure that the development of artificial intelligence does not diminish the scope or demand for human labour.

As the scientific community and the world of technology keeps moving on developing ‘autonomous intelligence’ – artificial intelligence that propagates on its own without any human intervention – we all need to be cautious of possible impact on every human person or our societies, today and beyond. Many have reasons to believe that unless autonomous intelligence develops in a responsible manner, it can pose existential threats to human existence.

Mr. President,

We need newer forms of collaboration where global business and knowledge-holders connect to people’s needs. International cooperation should create space for the developing countries in ways that can bring transformative applications or solutions for jobs, endemic socio-economic challenges, or livelihoods.

Uniting our efforts, capacities and resources is increasingly crucial for us to leverage collective strengths, innovate and foster growth. The challenges we face – in economic development, climate resilience, or social development – have to be addressed with common endeavours.

In that context, South-South and Triangular cooperation can help us given our unique social and economic circumstances.

It is also a growing necessity for the global South to make our voices heard. In shaping and steering the global agenda, the global South merits equal space and focus.

Mr. President,

The Covid times underlined before us the crucial importance of investing in public health.

In WHO, as Bangladesh leads the negotiations on a global Pandemic Treaty, we urge for convergence on the key provisions of adequate international cooperation, financing public health systems, technology transfer, research and development, diversification of production of medical diagnostics-vaccines-therapeutics. Also, to declare vaccines a ‘global public good’ that is free from the rigours of intellectual property.

These are also crucial for combatting the scourge of non-communicable diseases.

Mr. President,

This year, we celebrate the golden jubilee of Bangladesh’s partnership with the United Nations.

It has been a shared journey, of mutual learning. In our modest ways, Bangladesh contributed towards promoting global peace and security, justice, equality, human rights, social progress and prosperity. And, indeed in building a rules-based international order.

For instance, I recall the Microcredit Resolution and the Friends of Microcredit that was formed in the UN General Assembly back in 1999, with exceeding spontaneity. The United Nations declared 2005 as the Year of Microcredit that resulted in global reach of microcredit. The annual General Assembly Resolution on Culture of Peace since 2001 or the Resolution 1325 in the Security Council on Women, Peace and Security may be worth recalling as well.

Mr. President,

As this great Hall reverberates with crying call for peace, security, justice, inclusivity and equitable distribution of wealth, as States, we need to reflect on how we embolden men and women today, create space for them to grow as entrepreneurs tomorrow.

The world has more than enough of capacity, resources and solutions. Let us redeem all the pledges we made, nationally or internationally. Let us work together to end all forms of inequality and discrimination, within and among nations, especially in advancing the proposition of social business in our economic interactions.

The youth in Bangladesh have showed that upholding freedom, dignity and rights of people regardless of distinction and status cannot just remain aspirational. It is just what everyone deserves.

In this assembly of nations, Bangladesh would assure that we would and continue to deliver our bit, at international, regional and national levels, in securing peace, prosperity and justice, for everyone.

I thank you for your attention.

Major National Events

October – December

4 October, 2024

CA seeks Malaysian support for BD to become ASEAN dialogue partner

Chief Adviser of the interim government Professor Muhammad Yunus on October 4 sought Malaysia's support for Bangladesh to become a sectoral dialogue partner of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) besides cooperation in trade and manpower employment.

'We congratulate Malaysia's upcoming chairmanship of ASEAN in 2025. We discussed the issue of Bangladesh's inclusion as a sectoral dialogue partner of ASEAN. We look forward to Malaysia's active role for Bangladesh's inclusion in the regional forum,' he said at a joint press briefing with Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim after a bilateral meeting at Hotel InterContinental. *Source: The Financial Express*



Chief Adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus receives Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim on his arrival at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport on October 4 on a short visit to Bangladesh

16 October, 2024

Bhutan urges BD to include more products in PTA

Bhutan has requested Bangladesh to include more products in the Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA), as there is a huge scope for increased trade between the two countries.

The request was made when Bhutanese Ambassador Rinchen Kuentsyl paid a courtesy call on Chief Adviser Dr Muhammad Yunus at the State Guest House Jamuna in Dhaka on October 16.

During the meeting, they discussed various ways to enhance trade between the two countries, establishment of a Special Economic Zone for Bhutan in Bangladesh, collaboration on renewable energy, and other areas of mutual interest.



Bhutanese Ambassador Rinchen Kuentsyl calls on Chief Adviser Dr Muhammad Yunus at the State Guest House Jamuna in Dhaka on October 16

The Bhutanese envoy appreciated the Preferential Trade Agreement signed between the two countries in 2020, saying, Bangladesh is the only country with whom Bhutan enjoys a trade surplus.

He also appreciated the MoU on establishing Bhutanese Special Economic Zone in Kurigram. Bhutan has already formed a working group as per the MoU, he added.

Lamiya Morshed, Senior Secretary and Principal Coordinator of SDG affairs, and Ishrat Jahan, a Director General of the Foreign Ministry, were present at the meeting. *Source: The Financial Express*

21 October, 2024

CA stresses digitisation to fight graft

Chief Adviser Professor Dr Muhammad Yunus at a meeting with senior government officials on October 21 emphasised the importance of digitisation to fight corruption.

The meeting held at the State Guest House Jamuna focused on immediate actions for fast-track digital adoption.

Key decisions taken in the meeting included making submission of tax via the e-return portal compulsory for all government officials in the greater Dhaka region and encouraging large corporations to adopt e-return across the organisation.

The decision to launch a nationwide awareness campaign on digitisation was also taken in the meeting, while renewed focus was given on improving the investment

environment by digitising NBR, the National Single Window project. *Source: The Financial Express*

27 October, 2024

Navy, air force recognised as a symbols of trust: Chief Adviser

Chief Adviser professor Muhammad Yunus on October 27 said that Bangladesh navy and air force had once again been recognised as a symbol of trust by the people of the country.

Highlighting the contribution of the forces, he said that the Bangladesh navy and air force stood by the country’s people at the time of crisis while inaugurating the ‘Navy and Air Force Selection Board-2024’ at the air force headquarters in Dhaka.



Chief Adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus writes his comments on the visitors’ book after inaugurating the Navy and Air Force Selection Board-2024 at the Air Force headquarters at Dhaka Cantonment in the capital on October 27

Speaking as the chief guest on the occasion, professor Yunus welcomed all to the new Bangladesh achieved through the student-people revolution.

He remembered with deep respect all who were killed in the anti-discrimination student movement in July-August. He also recalled all the brave soldiers of the armed forces who participated in the great war of Liberation.

‘The nation will always remember with respect the self-sacrifice of the martyrs of the armed forces,’ the Chief Adviser said. *Source: The Financial Express*

28 October, 2024

CA requests S Arabia to invest more in Bangladesh

Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus urges Saudi Arabia to invest more in Bangladesh and seeks liquidity support alongside enhanced energy and economic



Saudi Ambassador Essa Youssef Essa Al Duhailan pays a courtesy call on Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus at his office in Dhaka on October 28

cooperation to boost ties between the two friendly nations.

He made the call when Saudi Ambassador in Bangladesh Essa Youssef Essa Al Duhailan paid a courtesy call on him at his office in Dhaka on October 28, said a spokesperson for the CA Office.

‘This is the time Saudi Arabia could give the best support to us,’ the head of post-uprising interim government told the Saudi envoy, terming the relationship between the two countries ‘unique’ and ‘separate’ than that of other countries.

Professor Yunus told the ambassador to convey his request to the Saudi government for depositing funds with Bangladesh’s central bank to boost liquidity support as part of economic cooperation.

It will be ‘a wonderful gesture to the Interim Government’.

Ambassador Al Duhailan acknowledged the contribution of the Bangladeshi diaspora in Saudi Arabia, saying that gaining more skills would help them earn a better salary and send more remittances back home.

Currently, nearly 3.0 million Bangladeshis are employed in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia who send billions of US dollars annually. *Source: The Financial Express*

28 October, 2024

Dr. Yunus for ‘Aynaghar’ replica in mass uprising museum

Professor Muhammad Yunus, the Chief Adviser of the interim government, on October 28 directed the authorities concerned to build a replica of the ‘Aynaghar’



Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus visits Ganobhaban in the capital on October 28 to see the progress in transforming it into a museum dedicated to preserving the memories of the July-August uprising

(Mirror House) at the museum proposed to be constructed in the place of Ganobhaban.

Ganobhaban was used as the official residence of the country's Prime Minister until the ouster of the former PM.

'The Aynaghar replica should remind visitors of the tortures suffered by the secret prisoners,' the Chief Adviser said during his visit to Ganobhaban.

Dr Yunus asked advisers to fast-track construction of the museum in place of the Ganobhaban to honour the sacrifice of the martyrs and the wounded during the July-August Anti-Discrimination Mass Movement, according to a spokesperson of the CA's office.

'The museum should preserve the memories of her misrule and the anger, people expressed when they ousted her from power,' Professor Muhammad Yunus said as he inspected the ruins of Ganobhaban.

Adilur Rahman Khan, Nahid Islam, and Asif Mahmud, all of whom are advisers of the interim government, accompanied the Chief Adviser during the visit.

Nahid Islam, a student leader turned Adviser, said, 'Misdeeds of the Hasina regime, starting from 2009, will be meticulously preserved at the museum.'

He said, they were consulting with experts from other countries to receive

inspiration on constructing a memorial museum, which would commemorate the revolution.

Mahfuj Alam, special assistant to the Chief Adviser, was also among the team who made the visit. *Source: The Financial Express*

29 October, 2024

Top UAE firms eager to invest in Bangladesh: Envoy tells CA

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) is eager to invest in Bangladesh’s logistics,



UAE Ambassador Abdulla Ali Abdulla Al Hamoudi calls on Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus at the State Guest House Jamuna on October 29

ports, aviation and renewable energy sectors, and is ready to support the interim government.

UAE Ambassador in Dhaka Abdulla Ali Abdulla Al Hamoudi said this during a meeting with Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus at the State Guest House Jamuna in the city on October 29.

At the meeting, Prof Yunus thanked UAE President Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahiyen for releasing 57 Bangladeshis who were convicted and sentenced by a UAE court recently.

‘It was a wonderful gesture. The whole nation was very happy,’ Prof Yunus said. He also thanked the UAE government for hosting about one million Bangladeshi migrants.

Ambassador Al Hamoudi expressed his government’s support for Bangladesh at a ‘critical time of the country’, and said the UAE would stand by the interim government and its pro-business policies and reform agenda.

Prof Yunus said, his government has already rolled out business-friendly policies and would be happy to see more investments from the UAE and visit of more Emirati business people to Bangladesh. *Source: The Financial Express*

29 October, 2024

UNHR Chief held a meeting with Home Affairs Advisor

Home Adviser Lt. Gen. Md. Jahangir Alam Chowdhury (Retd.) on October 29 said the human rights condition in Bangladesh is much better in comparison with many countries.

‘The condition of Bangladesh is much better on the human rights issue compared to many countries. Human rights are being violated in many ways at different places, including the Middle East, in the world. The rate of the human rights violation is much lower here in comparison with other countries and the situation is getting better day by day,’ he said.



Home Affairs Adviser Lt Gen (retd) Md Jahangir Alam Chowdhury held a meeting with a five-member delegation, led by United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Volker Turk, at his Ministry office in the capital on October 29

He made the remarks while talking to reports after a meeting with a five-member delegation, led by the United Nations (UN) High Commissioner for Human Rights Volker Turk at his office, said a Home Ministry press release.

The four other members of the delegation were senior human rights adviser for the UN Resident Coordinator’s Office, Huma Khan, Asia-pacific region chief of the OHCHR (Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights) Rory Mungoven, its main spokesperson of the media and public relations, Ravina Shamdasani and human rights officer Livia Cosenzal. *Source: The Financial Express*

30 October, 2024

Bangladesh retain SAFF Women’s Champs title

Defending champions Bangladesh retained their SAFF Women’s Championship title on October 30 with a 2-1 victory over Nepal, thanks to a stunning goal by Rituparna Chakma, according to Nepal’s daily newspaper ‘The Kathmandu Post’.



Players of Bangladesh women team posing with the SAFF Women's Championship trophy at Dasharath Rangasala Stadium in Kathmandu in Nepal on October 30

The closely contested final, held at Kathmandu's Dasharath Stadium, saw Bangladesh overpower Nepal, keeping Nepal's dream of a first-ever title win unfulfilled.

The loss marks Nepal's twelfth defeat in an international women's football final and the sixth time the team has fallen short in the SAFF Championship final. Bangladesh previously claimed the 2022 title at the same venue, defeating Nepal in a similar showdown. *Source: The Financial Express*

30 October, 2024

UN for national healing after political upheavals

Inequality, cycles of revenge and retribution, marginalization, corruption, and gross human-rights violations must be consigned to the past, UN rights-body chief Volker Türk suggests for Bangladesh's post-uprising transition.

Addressing a press briefing on October 30 to wrap up his two-day visit to Dhaka, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights assured that the UN Human Rights Office is to do everything for Bangladesh to succeed in achieving these objectives.

'And human rights law is clear about it-it promotes the freedom of assembly, the freedom of association, the freedom of political participation. There are, indeed, in human rights law certain restrictions, but the threshold is extremely high.'

The UN rights-body chief says, this 'unique, unprecedented moment in the history of Bangladesh is the result of young women and men having taken to the streets -



United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Volker Türk conversates with Prof Dr Muhammad Yunus, Chief Adviser to the interim government, at the latter's office in Dhaka on October 30

at great personal risk - to express that they had had enough of being ignored and marginalized...enough with the silencing of dissenting voices.’ *Source: The Financial Express*

2 November, 2024

Yunus promises due support to female footballers

Chief Advisor Muhammad Yunus on November 2 promised to resolve the immediately solvable crises the Bangladesh Women’s football team have been facing and requested details after members of the team sought a way out of their financial hardships following a thrilling victory at the SAFF Women’s Championship 2024 finals.

Requesting the team to write their aspirations and demands separately and submit them to the CA’s Office.

‘If anything can be solved now, we will do it immediately,’ the CA promised at a reception of the SAFF-winning team at the State Guest House Jamuna.

‘I congratulate you for this achievement on behalf of the entire nation. The nation is grateful to you. The people of the country want success, you have blessed us with that,’ he said.

Beating the hosts 2-1 in Kathmandu, Bangladesh delivered a deja vu to the Nepali Chelis, reminding them of the predatory 3-1 victory to claim the South Asian women's football crown for the first time in 2022. *Source: The Financial Express*

3 November, 2024

CA urges youths to dream to bring positive changes

Chief Adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus on November 3 urged the young people to make up their mind and dream to bring a positive change in the country.

'I particularly encourage the young people to make up their mind, figure out and dream. Dream is the beginning of change. If you dream, it will happen. If you do not dream, it will never happen,' he said while addressing the members of NDC and AFWC course at his office in Tejgaon in the city.

He said, the young generation in the planet at present is the most powerful generation in the entire human history. 'Not because they are smart enough but because they have enormous technology in their hand,' he said.

'If you look at the student revolution, it is all about technology. They (students) could communicate with each other very quickly. They did not have any command structure,' the Chief Adviser said adding that the technology is the Aladin's lamp.

About the student-led revolution, he said, the young people are not politicians and not pursuing some political goals but they wanted to have a new country for themselves, he said.

Referring to global peace, the 2006 Noble Peace Laureate said most of the time, people kill one another in the name of peace.



Chief Adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus took part in a photo session with the members of NDC and AFWC courses of the National Defence College (NDC) at his office in the capital on November 3

‘...but we commit to ourselves every day, all our pronouncements and all our philosophies. We want peace. Peace inside the country, peace among the countries and peace globally,’ he said. *Source: The Financial Express*

4 November, 2024

South Korea urged to invest more in Bangladesh

Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus on November 4 urged South Korea to invest more in Bangladesh and recruit more Bangladeshi workers, especially in their shipbuilding industry for mutual benefits.

Professor Yunus made the call when Park Young-sik, the South Korean Ambassador in Dhaka, called on him at his office in the city, said a spokesperson of the CA Office.



South Korean Ambassador Park Young-sik calls on Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus at his office in the city on November 4

‘We look forward to a broader and more developed relationship with South Korea, elevating our existing relationship to the next level,’ Prof Yunus told the ambassador.

The EDCF also has 14 projects underway, either in progress or under feasibility study, which will raise the total amount of Korean investment to \$7 billion.

‘We hope to continue to proceed with existing projects without interruption,’ said the South Korean Ambassador.



Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus speaking as the chief guest at the inaugural ceremony of the two-day 'Centennial Celebration of the Bose-Einstein Statistics: A Legacy of Dhaka' in the capital on November 7

The Chief Adviser thanked Korea for their continued support for Bangladesh in various fields. *Source: The Financial Express*

7 November, 2024

Prof Yunus stresses youth confidence

Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus on November 7 laid emphasis on creating confidence to achieve a greater goal as he joined the centennial celebration of the Bose-Einstein Statistics in the city.

‘We must create confidence in the minds of our youths that we are the world. Today, we are celebrating the centenary of that aspiration,’ he said.

Prof Yunus spoke at the inaugural ceremony of the ‘Centennial Celebration of the Bose-Einstein Statistics: A legacy of Dhaka’.

The Dhaka University (DU) Physics Department and Bose Centre for Advanced Study and Research in Natural Sciences, DU jointly organised the two-day celebration.

Education Adviser Prof Wahiduddin Mahmud, DU Vice-Chancellor Prof Niaz Ahmed Khan, and former professor at SBNCBS, Kolkata, Partha Ghose also spoke at the programme.

‘We can do this if we have confidence in ourselves - as Bose had this confidence, he could write to Einstein despite being a complete stranger,’ Prof Yunus said.

‘We must always create confidence in our minds so that we do not have to go to the world, but the world comes to us,’ he mentioned. *Source: The Financial Express*

11 November, 2024

CA opens ‘Probashi Lounge’ at HSIA

Chief Adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus inaugurated a ‘Probashi Lounge’ - dedicated for the country’s migrant workers - at the Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport (HSIA) in the capital on November 11.

‘Our migrant workers are our nation builders. In the July-August mass uprising, they’ve played a significant role. We will always be grateful to them. We believe



Nobel laureate Prof Dr Muhammad Yunus, Chief Adviser of the interim government, inaugurates 'Probashi Lounge' at the Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in Dhaka on November 11 with intent to facilitate both inbound and outbound expatriate workers.

this lounge will make their travel easy,' the CA said in his speech on the occasion.

The 'Probashi Lounge' is a first of its kind at the airport. It will offer the migrant workers space to rest and subsidised food for refreshment. *Source: The Financial Express*

14 November, 2024

Chief Adviser Yunus attended COP29 summit

On November 11, the Chief Adviser joined the opening session of COP29 and met at least 20 leaders of countries and heads of international agencies.

He met Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and the Turkish First Lady at the summit of the world leaders at the COP29 venue.

Prof Yunus also met UAE President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan; Pakistan PM Shehbaz Sharif; President of the Maldives Mohamed Muizzu; Bhutan PM Tshering Tobgay; and Nepal President Ramchandra Paudel.

He met the PMs of Belgium, Bosnia Herzegovina, Albania, Barbados, Presidents of Ghana, Rwanda, Montenegro, Vice Presidents of Brazil and Iran, President of FIFA, and the Director General of IOM.

Addressing the opening session of the World Leaders Climate Action Summit in COP29, the Chief Adviser called for creating a new lifestyle based on zero waste and zero carbon to protect the planet from climatic catastrophe.

He joined an LDC high-level meeting with UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres.

Prof Yunus also joined a number of events on the sidelines of COP29.

Before flying from Baku, he met Azerbaijan President Ilham Aliyev at the COP29 climate summit venue. *Source: The Daily Star*

15 November, 2024

Interim govt ensures freedom of press, expression, holding rally

Information and Broadcasting Adviser Md Nahid Islam said, the interim government has ensured freedom of press and freedom of expression and holding rally.

He said this in an interview with the news agency marking the government's hundred days on November 15.

The adviser also said even his ministry or the government never intervened in media activities in the government's 100 days as the media is now enjoying utmost freedom in operating its professional activities.

'We don't know whether the country's people and the media ever enjoyed such freedom in the history of 53 years after the Liberation War,' he added.

Mentioning the role of the Information Ministry in repealing the Cyber Security Act, earlier used to curb press freedom and suppress political dissent, Nahid said, 'The process of formulating a new policy is underway to ensure cyber safety'.

'As there was an autocratic situation in the country for 16 years, the countrymen have many words and demands accumulated in that period. And, now they are expressing. So, we try to make space for the people so they can express what they want to say,' he said. *Source: The Financial Express*

16 November, 2024

CA for building 'World of Three Zeros'

Chief Adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus has delivered a compelling call to action for world leaders to build a 'World of Three Zeros', a world free from poverty, unemployment, and net carbon emissions.

He made the call in a video message played at the G20 Social Summit, held in Rio de Janeiro in Brazil on November 16.

The inaugural session of the summit commenced with a special virtual message from Nobel Laureate Prof Yunus, followed by a keynote address from Janja Lula, the First Lady of Brazil.

This session marked a significant milestone as Bangladesh became the first country to join the Global Alliance against Poverty and Hunger alongside Brazil - a prestigious achievement for the nation.

Prof Yunus's visionary address set an inspiring tone at this high-profile event, themed "Building a Just World and a Sustainable Planet," as he urged decisive action for a fairer, more resilient global future.

Congratulating Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva for establishing the G20 Global Alliance Against Poverty and Hunger, the Bangladesh Chief Adviser noted Bangladesh's role as a founding member of this landmark initiative. *Source: The Financial Express*

16 November, 2024

Build economy where growth shared evenly by all: Dr Yunus

Nobel laureate Dr Muhammad Yunus, who heads a post-uprising reformist government in Bangladesh, has called for building an economy where fruits of technology, economic growth are shared evenly by all people, not monopolised by privileged few.



Nobel laureate Prof Dr Muhammad Yunus, Chief Adviser to the interim government, inaugurates the three-day 'Bay of Bengal Conversation 2024' at a city hotel on November 16

‘As we debate and share our thoughts in this gathering over next few

days, I encourage you to think how to build a new world, as our youth have set us on a path to create New Bangladesh,’ the Chief Adviser said while inaugurating the ‘Bay of Bengal Conversation’ in Dhaka on November 16.

Urging all to ‘create a new civilisation’ Dr Yunus said, this civilisation has failed to serve and ensure security to the inhabitants of the world.

With this end in view, Dr Yunus focused on social business, an economic model he expounds. ‘We need to create a world of three zeros-zero net carbon emission, zero wealth concentration, zero unemployment-by introducing social business to solve people’s problems, rather than maximising profit.’ Zero unemployment can be ensured by ‘turning young people into entrepreneurs, rather than jobseekers which we do now’.

He expresses his conviction that ‘Nothing is impossible for human beings, if only we pursue it hard enough’. *Source: The Financial Express*

17 November, 2024

EC formation in few days to kick-start election train: CA

Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus says election process and state-level reforms will run simultaneously to ensure free and fair elections for transfer of power.

In his address to the nation on November 17 evening, to mark 100 days of the interim administration, the Head of post-uprising government said, Election Commission formation will take place in few days to kick-start election train and urged all to hold patience in greater national interest of a smooth transition.

Prof Yunus highlighted the challenging circumstances under which the interim government assumed office following the July-August mass uprising that led to the fall of the Awami League government.



Nobel laureate Prof Dr Muhammad Yunus, Chief Adviser to the interim government, addresses the nation from the state guest house of Jamuna marking 100 days of the government on November 17

‘We have maintained regular communication with political parties and have been incorporating their feedback into government decisions. Their suggestions are being actively considered in the ongoing reform process.’ He expressed hope that the reform commissions would present their recommendations by December or January 2025. *Source: The Financial Express*

21 November, 2024

Armed Forces Day: President, CA pay tributes at Shikha Anirban

Chief Adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus on November 21 morning, paid tribute to the martyrs of the Bangladesh Liberation War by placing a wreath at the Shikha Anirban in the Dhaka Cantonment area.

After placing the wreath, he stood in solemn silence for some time to show profound respect to the memories of the armed forces martyrs, who made supreme sacrifices during the Liberation War.

Earlier in the day, President Mohammed Shahabuddin paid tribute to the martyrs of the Liberation War by placing a wreath at the Shikha Anirban.

He was accompanied by the Chiefs of the armed forces and other military personnel.

After placing the wreath, the president, who is also the Supreme Commander of Armed Forces, stood in solemn silence for a while as a mark of respect to the memories of the martyrs. Later, a smartly turned out contingent of the Army, Navy and Air Force presented a salute on the occasion.

President Shahabuddin also signed the visitors’ book there.

On his arrival at Shikha Anirban, Chiefs of the three services and the principal staff officer (PSO) of the Armed Forces Division received the President.

Bangladesh observes November 21 as Armed Forces Day marking the day in 1971 when the army, the navy and the air force launched a coordinated invective against the Pakistani forces. *Source: The Financial Express*



Chief Adviser Dr Muhammad Yunus signing the visitors' book at the Shikha Anirban (flame eternal) in Dhaka Cantonment on the occasion of the Armed Forces Day on November, 21, while the chiefs of the three services (Bangladesh Army, Navy and Air Force) standing behind him

23 November, 2024

World Bank's exhibition on Jul-Aug graffiti begins

The World Bank on November 23 launched a wall art exhibition based on graffiti, created by students and youths during the July-August uprising reflecting their hopes and aspirations for a prosperous and inclusive Bangladesh.

Finance Adviser Dr Salehuddin Ahmed inaugurated the exhibition titled 'Paint Your Sky, Make it Yours: Future Bangladesh in the Eyes of the Youth' explaining, the power of art works, only an expressive one, which could move everyone.

The paintings displayed at the show, arranged at the Drik Path Bhaban at Panthapath in the capital, came from 12 districts including Dhaka, Rajshahi, Khulna, Sylhet, Chattogram, Barishal, Cumilla, Rangpur, Rangamati, Khagrachari, and Bandarban.

World Bank Country Director Abdoulaye Seck said, the World Bank has always recognised the role that youth play in shaping the present and future, and expressed the bank's commitment to empowering youth around the globe.

He said that Bangladeshi students and youths have used their creativity and arts to communicate their vision for the country in an incredible and unprecedented way and in the wake of unfathomable trauma and sacrifices.



Finance Adviser Dr Salehuddin Ahmed having a look at the artworks after inaugurating the exhibition titled “Paint Your Sky, Make it Yours: Future Bangladesh in the Eyes of the Youth,” at Drik Path Bhaban, Panthapath in the capital on November 23

The exhibition showcases their concerns and priorities for the future, and it is important to listen to them, he added.

At the opening ceremony, the Finance Adviser and the World Bank Country Director also launched a publication and a video. *Source: The Financial Express*

25 November, 2024

Bangladesh committed to sweeping labour reforms

Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus on November 25 said, the interim government is committed to carrying out sweeping labour reforms in an effort to attract more foreign buyers to the country.

‘We want to make our labour laws compliant with global standards. It’s my commitment,’ he said.

He made the comments at his Tejgaon office when a big United States labour and brand delegation called on him to discuss labour issues, said a spokesperson of the CA Office.

Prof Yunus said, the interim government has appointed a special envoy only to reform the country’s labour laws and to address the concerns, raised by local



A delegation of the Special Representative for International Labour Affairs and Department of Labour of the US exchanges views with Nobel laureate Prof Dr Muhammad Yunus, Chief Adviser of the interim government, at his Tejgaon office in the capital on November 25

and international labour rights groups, the International Labor Organisation and Western nations.

The delegation was led by Thea Mei Lee, Deputy Undersecretary of the US Department of Labour, and Kelly Fay Rodriguez, Special Representative for International Labour Affairs of the US. *Source: The Financial Express*

26 November, 2024

CA-MNCs business meet held

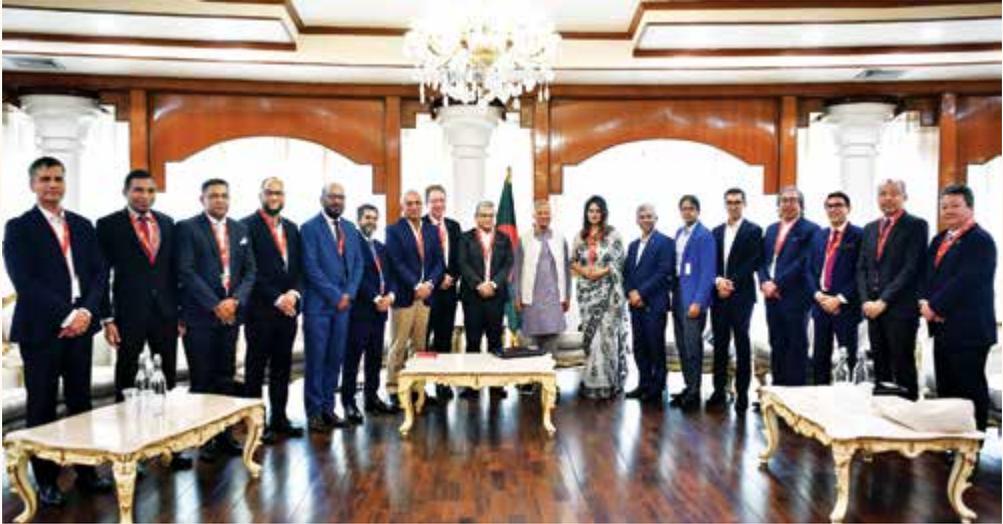
Top business executives of multinational companies operating in Bangladesh urged the government to ensure predictability in licensing and tax measures alongside improving ease of doing business.

Over a dozen chief executive officers, managing directors, and country heads of the multinationals on November 26 met Chief Adviser of the interim government Prof Muhammad Yunus at the State guest house Jamuna discussing business and investment opportunities in Bangladesh, said a spokesperson for the CA office.

Facilitating one-stop service in BIDA and improving country credit ratings to encourage investors to come to Bangladesh are also among major suggestions coming from the MNCs.

The business high-ups lauded government initiative for labour-rights reforms and assured all kinds of support for their side.

The head of post-uprising government requested them to team up with the government to advocate and promote Bangladesh to potential investors and ensure business opportunities expanded in the country.



Chief executive officers of different multinational companies pose with Chief Adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus at State Guest House Jamuna in the city on November 26

‘As a team, we have to work together. We are a team for the country,’ said the Chief Adviser. *Source: The Financial Express*

3 December, 2024

Chief Adviser to hold talks with political, religious leaders

Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus will hold talk separately with different stakeholders including political parties and student leaders as he seeks national unity.



Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus holds a meeting with leaders of Anti-discrimination Student Movement at Jamuna - a state guest house in the city on December 3

Briefing the media on December 3 evening, Chief Adviser's Press Secretary Shafiqul Alam said, The Chief Adviser will call for national unity at the meetings.

Prof Yunus held a meeting with student leaders on Tuesday evening. CA's Deputy Press Secretaries Apurba Jahangir and Abul Kalam Azad Majumder were also present at the media briefing. *Source: The Financial Express*

4 December, 2024

All-party rally proposed to show national solidarity

Politicians across the board extended on December 4 unqualified support when head of the interim government Dr Muhammad Yunus called for forging a national unity to thwart bids of vested quarters through their fabricated narratives to block the effort for rebuilding Bangladesh.

Addressing a meeting with the representatives of political parties, the Chief Adviser alerted that this unity to counter the 'false narrative is crucial to the existence of the nation as the evil attempts are not limited to one country'.



Chief Adviser Prof Dr Mohammad Yunus addresses a view-exchange meeting with leaders from different major political parties at the Foreign Service Academy on December 4 in an effort to form greater national unity at this crucial juncture of the nation

At present attempts are being made to replace the real picture of Bangladesh with a fabricated picture, he noted, in the wake of a chain of recent incidents beyond borders, particularly Bangladesh mission troubles and invectives in neighbouring India.

'This is not only limited to one country, it spreads among some big countries, too, because those who do not like this grand revolution of ours, want to erase it, to hide it,' he told the politicians. *Source: The Financial Express*

8 December, 2024

CA advises Meta to act on campaign against BD

Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus asks Meta, the parent company of Facebook, to address a 'disinformation campaign' being orchestrated from certain countries to undermine the July-August mass uprising in Bangladesh.



Meta's Director for Human Rights Policy Miranda Sissons called on Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus at the State Guest House Jamuna in the capital on December 8

‘There’s a massive disinformation campaign, and we are the sufferers,’ he told Meta’s director for human-rights policy, Miranda Sissons, when the latter called on the head of interim government at the State Guest house Jamuna in Dhaka.

Sissons explained to the Chief Adviser the human-rights policy of Meta saying, they remained alert to prevent anyone from using their platforms to spread disinformation, said a spokesperson for the CA Office on December 8.

The Chief Adviser also asked Meta to make its technology more user-friendly for young entrepreneurs.

‘Technology is a tool to make things happen. But technology doesn’t decide what we want to do with things. So, we have to reengineer it to make it perfect,’ he said.

Source: The Financial Express

9 December, 2024

Announcement over reform, election process this month, Dr Yunus hints

Chief Adviser Prof. Muhammad Yunus has hinted that an announcement regarding the reform and election process will be made later this month.

During an interactive session with the envoys of European countries at the Chief Adviser’s Office on December 9, Prof. Yunus referred to the Election Reform Commission and stated that certain reforms are required to be completed before the election to avoid old-fashioned problems.

Reiterating the importance of essential reforms before the national elections, he



European Union ambassadors, led by Michael Miller, head of delegation, take part in a photo session with Chief Adviser Prof Dr Mohammad Yunus after an interactive session with the latter at his Tejgaon office on December 9

outlined how the election will proceed to meet the expectations in line with the vision for a new Bangladesh.

Dr. Yunus mentioned that they have to wait for the report to incorporate those proposals into the election process. He emphasized that if the government holds the election now, it will be an old-fashioned one, and all the old-fashioned problems will resurface. *Source: The Financial Express*

9 December, 2024

Begum Rokeya's works, thoughts surprise me: CA

Recalling the contribution of Rokeya Sakhawat Hossain, commonly known as Begum Rokeya, Chief Adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus on December 9 said, her works and thoughts surprised him.

He made the remarks while distributing Begum Rokeya Padak-2024 to the recipients at a ceremony at Osmani Memorial Auditorium in the city.

Speaking on the occasion, he lauded the courage of Begum Rokeya as she was grown up in very hard time while girls did not get enough scopes to continue their study.

Prof Yunus said, everyone has the imaginary power but all are not able to apply it like Begum Rokeya, a prominent Bengali feminist thinker, writer, educator and political activist.

Noting that reality is impossible without dream, he proposed introduction of 'Sultanar Swopna (dream) Award'.

A total of four women were awarded with the 'Begum Rokeya Padak-2024' for their outstanding contributions to society, women's education and women's empowerment.



Chief Adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus poses with the recipients of Begum Rokeya Padak 2024 at a ceremony at Osmani Memorial Auditorium in the capital on December 9

Dr Parvin Hasan, Vice Chancellor of Central Women’s University, Shirin Parvin Haque, founder of women’s rights organisation Nari Paksha, labour and women’s rights activist Taslima Akhtar Lima and Bangladesh’s first female international chess master Rani Hamid were conferred with the award this year. *Source: The Financial Express*

10 December, 2024

Dr Yunus among Nature’s top 10 personalities in 2024

Renowned economist and Nobel Laureate Prof Dr Muhammad Yunus has been named among the top 10 personalities in 2024 by the prestigious scientific journal Nature.

The publication described him as a ‘Nation Builder’ for his impactful contributions to society.

The Nature’s Top 10 list highlights key developments in science over the past year and the people who have driven these advancements.

According to its website, the list is curated by Nature’s editors to reflect important trends in science, technology, engineering, and medicine and to recognise people shaping the world.

This year’s achievements span a range of remarkable contributions, from redefining weather forecasting to leading a nation.

Dr Yunus, born in Chattogram during British-occupied India, witnessed significant geopolitical changes in his early life. *Source: The Financial Express*

12 December, 2024

CA reiterates call for activating SAARC

Chief Adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus on December 12 reiterated his call to the South Asian leaders to activate the SAARC for the people of the entire region.

The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) is very important to me. I spoke about activating the forum immediately after taking oath as the Chief Adviser, he said.

The CA was addressing a conference of the SAARC Federation of Oncologists (SFO) through videoconference from the State Guest House Jamuna in the capital. A delegation of the SFO also met Prof Yunus.



Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus poses with a delegation of SAARC Federation of Oncologists (SFO) at the State Guest House Jamuna in the capital on December 12

The CA said, entire South Asia would be benefited from activating the SAARC, which has been dysfunctional due to some issues between India and Pakistan.

We though are still not getting the technical support we need for cancer treatment, the role of the SAARC in providing treatment to the cancer patients is very inspiring,' he added. *Source: The Financial Express*

14 December, 2024

Nation pays homage to sharpest minds

People from all walks of life have gathered in droves at the Martyred Intellectuals Memorial in Dhaka's Mirpur to honour the nation's brightest minds who were brutally murdered in 1971.

On December 14, thousands of people, young and old, observed National Martyred Intellectuals Day by paying their respects to those who were killed on this day during the Liberation War.



Nobel laureate Prof Dr Muhammad Yunus, Chief Adviser to the interim government, lays a wreath at the Martyred Intellectuals Memorial at Mirpur on the Martyred Intellectuals Day on December 14

This year, Chief Advisor Muhammad Yunus and President Md Shahabuddin led the tributes by laying wreaths at the Mirpur Martyred Intellectuals Memorial in the morning. Later, the memorial was opened to the public.

Bangladesh Betar, Bangladesh Television and private TV channels aired special programmes marking the occasion. Prayers and services were also held in mosques, temples, churches, pagodas, and other places of worship across the country. *Source: The Financial Express*

15 December, 2024

Bangladesh agrees to visa waiver with East Timor

Bangladesh and East Timor have signed agreements on visa waivers to take relations between the two countries to the next level.

The two nations also signed Memorandum of Understanding, or MoU, on Foreign Office Consultations-FOC.

The agreement and the MoU were signed in the presence of Chief Advisor Muhammad Yunus and East Timor President Jose Ramos-Horta at the Chief Advisor's Office in Dhaka on December 15.



Chief Adviser Dr Muhammad Yunus welcomes José Ramos-Horta with a bouquet as the President of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste met the former at his Tejgaon office on December 15

Bangladesh Home Advisor Md Jahangir Alam Chowdhury and East Timor's Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Bendito dos Santos Freitas signed an agreement on visa exemptions for holders of diplomatic and official passports. President Horta is on a three-day visit to Dhaka.

The East Timor's President held a meeting and delegation-level discussions with Yunus at his office. *Source: The Financial Express*

16 December, 2024

Victory Day celebrated in changed milieus

National leaders and people from all walks of life offered floral tributes to the Bangladesh Liberation War martyrs and joined celebration marking the fifty-third anniversary of the Victory Day on December 16 first after the political changeover in the country.

This day December 16 in 1971, Bangladesh emerged as an independent country with victory over the Pakistani occupation forces after a nine-month war.

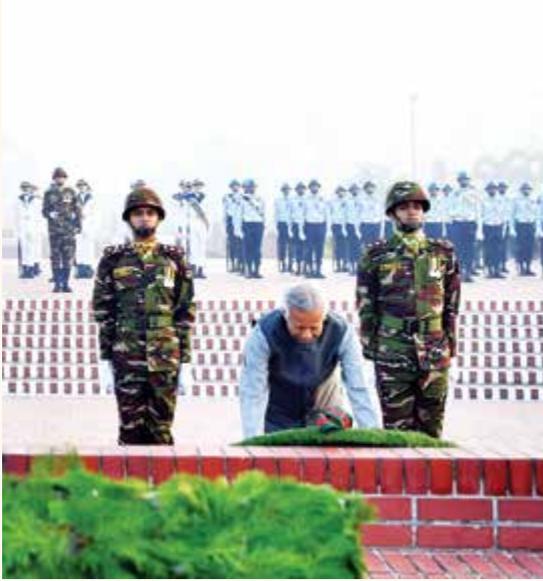
The nation clinched the independence at a dear cost of an estimated three million lives and honour of nearly half a million from the womenfolk.

The post-uprising interim government and sociopolitical organisations arranged various programmes to mark the occasion.

President Shahabuddin and Chief Adviser of the interim government Prof Muhammad Yunus laid floral wreaths at the National Memorial in Savar to pay homage to the war martyrs at daybreak to set off ceremonies of the historic Victory Day.



Chief Adviser Dr Muhammad Yunus addresses to the nation on the Victory Day from state guest House Jamuna on December 16



Prof Dr Muhammad Yunus, Chief Adviser to the interim government, lays a wreath at the National Martyrs Memorial in Savar on December 16 to pay tribute to the Liberation War martyrs, marking the Victory Day

Dr Yunus said, Victory Day is not only a source of pride but also an ‘oath day.’

‘The oath is to remain united, protect the sovereignty of the country, and uphold the spirit of the Liberation War,’ he said in a message on the occasion of Victory Day.

Dr Yunus remembered the brave martyrs of the freedom struggle with respect and honoured their sacrifices.

Later in the day, President Mohammed Shahabuddin and First Lady Dr Rebeka Sultana hosted a reception at Bangabhaban marking the Victory Day.

Along with the government, different socio-political, educational and cultural institutions and organisations celebrated the day with a series of programmes.

The great Victory Day was also celebrated in the divisional cities and districts with a renewed pledge to build a happy, prosperous and non-communal Bangladesh with the spirit of the Great War of Liberation.

Also, families of the nation’s war heroes, wounded freedom fighters, and other distinguished veterans of the Liberation War paid heartfelt tributes.

Foreign diplomats based in Bangladesh, along with political and social organisations, as well as general public, also laid wreaths in honour of the martyrs.

On this occasion, the main streets and roundabouts in Dhaka and other cities were adorned with national flags. *Source: The Financial Express*

18 December, 2024

Caretaker government system revives

A reversal process triggered by the August uprising now restores the controversially scrapped constitutional provision of non-party caretaker government for holding elections in Bangladesh.

Also reinstated in the constitution is referendum on issues like fundamental changes to the national constitution -- a must-have now as a constitution commission is ‘rewriting’ the constitution.

Also underway forging national consensus by a proposed National Consensus Commission, headed by the head of the interim government Prof Yunus himself.

The changes are coming with High Court verdict partly repealing the 15th

Constitution Amendment that was done in a way that stoked contentions and bred a grave political crisis through botched elections, petitioners said.

The court observed that this amendment ‘destroyed the basic structure of the Constitution’ and also contradictory to the short verdict of the Appellate Division regarding the 13th amendment on December 18.

Besides, it also restored the previous form of Article 142 of the Constitution asking for a referendum for bringing change in the basic structure of the Constitution.

The High Court also declared void and ultra vires to the Constitution Article 7A, 7B and 44(2) incorporated into the charter by the 15th Amendment Act.

The Article 7A provides that if any person, by show of force or use of force or by any other un-constitutional means suspends or repeals this Constitution or any of its article, his such “act shall be sedition and such person shall be guilty of sedition and he shall be sentenced with the highest punishment prescribed for other offences by the existing laws”.

The High Court bench of Justice Farah Mahbub and Justice Debasish Roy Chowdhury delivered the verdict after disposing of two writ petitions filed challenging the legality of 15 Constitutional amendments. The court also declared the rules issued in this regard as absolute in part.

The High Court decision has paved the way for the return of the Non-Party Caretaker Government system in the constitution, said the lawyers concerned.

Source: The Financial Express

18 December, 2024

CA reaches Cairo to join D-8 Summit

Chief Adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus arrived in the Egyptian capital of Cairo at 11 am local time on December 18 to attend the D-8 Summit.



Chief Adviser Dr Muhammad Yunus and Mohamed Shimy, public business sector minister of Egypt, walk on a red carpet after the former's arrival at Cairo airport on December 18

The Minister of the Public Business Sector of the Arab Republic of Egypt, Mohamed Shimy, received him at Cairo International Airport, the Chief Adviser's press wing said.

Later, Prof Yunus held a brief meeting with the Minister.

Chief Adviser Prof Yunus left Dhaka for Cairo last night on a two-day state visit to attend D-8 Summit scheduled to be held on December 19.

A flight of Emirates Airlines carrying the Chief Adviser and his entourage departed Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport at 1:20 am, said CA Deputy Press Secretary Abul Kalam Azad Majumder. *Source: The Financial Express*

24 December, 2024

Chief Adviser greets Christian community

Chief Adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus exchanged greetings with representatives of the Christian community on the occasion of Happy Christmas Day at the State Guest House Jamuna on December 24.



Chief Adviser Dr Muhammad Yunus along with members of the Christian community cuts a cake at a programme, marking the Christmas Day at state guesthouse Jamuna in the city on December 24

Christian leaders expressed hope that generosity and communal harmony would develop in Bangladesh under the leadership of Chief Adviser Prof Yunus and assured him of giving optimum cooperation from the Christian community.

Briefly mentioning the biography, ideals and message of peace of Jesus Christ, Bishop Bejoy N D'Cruze said, the doors of new possibilities have opened in Bangladesh due to the student-mass uprising.

Noting that Prof Yunus has taken a difficult responsibility of governing the country, he said, 'You are wise, honest and a trusted person in Bangladesh. Under your leadership, Bangladesh might become democratic, secular and non-communal, and an abode of love, compassion, humanity, brotherhood and forgiveness'. *Source: The Financial Express*

Report Compilation: Mazharul Hoque, Mamun Hossain



On the Victory Day, East Timor President Jose Ramos-Horta planted a tree at the Yard of National Martyrs Memorial, Savar in presence of Chief Adviser Dr. Muhammad Yunus

