

# The Security World



16 JANUARY 2020

General Aziz: A robust relationship is needed for the betterment of Myanmar and Bangladesh

'Mujib Borsho' countdown begins

Bangladesh-Italy will Celebrate 50 years Friendly Bilateral Relationship

Bangladesh Army: A quintessence Journey of Excellence

Bangladesh Liberation War: A Personal Diary

Online safety education is required to Incorporate in National Curriculum

General Mukund Naravane takes charge as the new Indian Army chief



## Terrorism on Wane Like Alleviation of Poverty in Uygur, Xinjiang

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# THE SECURITY WORLD

AN WEEKLY NEWS MAGAZINE

THE SECURITY WORLD

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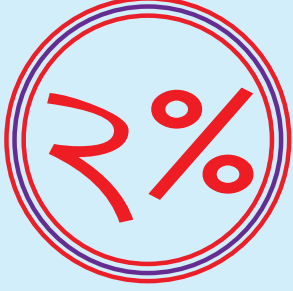
The Security World is being published with the primary purpose of promoting peace, security and international cooperation through analysis, policy dialogue and dissemination of information. We are also trying to focus on the contributions of our defense forces and law enforcement agencies in curbing terrorism and their role in the international arena to bring back peace and security. As there is no noteworthy publication to project these achievements, we believe the Security World will play a pivotal role in this regard.

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# যতবেশি রেমিট্যান্স, ততবেশি ক্যাশ!!



## রেমিট্যান্স প্রণোদনা নগদ অর্থ প্রদান

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# General Aziz: A robust relationship is needed for the betterment of Myanmar and Bangladesh

## SW Desk Report

Chief of Army Staff of the Bangladesh Army, General Aziz Ahmed has confirmed that the process of fencing the Rohingya Camps with barbed-wire has begun.

The Bangladesh Army Chief mentioned that the process of fencing will be implemented in two of the camps primarily -- Ukhiya, Kutupalong and Nayapara, Teknaf.

The army chief mentioned the developments after presenting regimental colours to six units at a ceremony in Ramu Cantonment. General Aziz presented regimental colours to 6, 9 and 27 Field Regiment Artillery under the Ramu Cantonment, 6 Engineer Battalion, and 13 and 14 Infantry Regiment.

According to the ISPR, General Aziz congratulated the receivers of regimental colours and noted the honour that is bestowed on the unit while hoping that the awardees will work tirelessly to fulfil their duties responsibly and sacrifice their all in maintaining the honour of their regimental colours and the general public's trust on the army.

"Apart from keeping the sovereignty of the country intact, the Bangladesh Army is playing an important role in tackling natural and man-made disasters along with socioeconomic and infrastructural development of the county," General Aziz said.

While speaking to the press, General Aziz talked about the on-going process of fencing along the borders of Rohingya camps in Kutupalong, and Teknaf.



*Chief of Army Staff of the Bangladesh Army General Aziz Ahmed during regimental colours presenting ceremony in Ramu Cantonment on recently. – ISPR*

The army chief further said: "Along with that (fencing), the Bangladesh government has given a green signal to installing barbed-wire fencing along 287 km of the Bangladesh-Myanmar border. We are currently working towards achieving that goal."

Regarding the improvement of relations between the two countries, General Aziz said: "Irrespective of whether they (Myanmar) are good or bad, they are our neighbour. A robust relationship between the two countries will be profitable for both parties. We wish to maintain that with all our neighbours. Following the foreign policy designed under Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's leadership, we have been able to maintain good relations with all neighbouring countries."

GOC 10th Infantry Division Major General MD Main Ullah Chowdhury, former chiefs of Army staff, members of the parliament, military high-ups, retired army personnel, journalists, and members of civil society were present at the event. ■

পপুলার লাইফের বীমা দাবীর ৩,২৯৫ টি চেকে ৬,৬৯,৭৩,৭৬৯ (ছয় কোটি-  
উনসত্তর লক্ষ তিয়াত্তর হাজার সাতশত উনসত্তর) টাকা পরিশোধ



পপুলার লাইফ ইনস্যুরেন্স কোম্পানী লিমিটেড এর ৩,২৯৫ জন বীমা গ্রাহকের বীমা দাবীর মোট ৬,৬৯,৭৩,৭৬৯/- টাকার চেক হস্তান্তর উপলক্ষে ইনস্টিটিউশন অব ডিপ্লোমা ইঞ্জিনিয়ার্স বাংলাদেশ (আইডিইবি) মিলনায়তনে আলোচনা সভা অনুষ্ঠিত হয়। অনুষ্ঠানে প্রধান অতিথি ছিলেন বীমা উন্নয়ন ও নিয়ন্ত্রণ কর্তৃপক্ষ এর চেয়ারম্যান মোঃ শফিকুর রহমান পাটোয়ারী। কোম্পানীর ব্যবস্থাপনা পরিচালক ও সিইও এবং বাংলাদেশ ইনস্যুরেন্স ফোরামের প্রেসিডেন্ট বি এম ইউসুফ আলীর সভাপতিত্বে উক্ত অনুষ্ঠানে বিশেষ অতিথি ছিলেন বীমা উন্নয়ন ও নিয়ন্ত্রণ কর্তৃপক্ষের সম্মানিত সদস্য গকুল চাঁদ দাস ও নির্বাহী পরিচালক (যুগ্ম সচিব) খলিল আহমদ। অনুষ্ঠানে ধন্যবাদ জ্ঞাপন করেন কোম্পানীর অতিরিক্ত ব্যবস্থাপনা পরিচালক বি এম শওকত আলী। উক্ত অনুষ্ঠানে আরও উপস্থিত ছিলেন সাবেক অতিরিক্ত সচিব ও কোম্পানীর সিনিয়র কনসালট্যান্ট আবদুল আউয়াল হাওলাদার, সিনিয়র ডিএমডি নন্দন ভট্টাচার্য, ডিএমডি সৈয়দ মোতাহার হোসেন, মোঃ নওশের আলী নাসিম, মোঃ আবু তাহের ও মোঃ হাবিবুর রহমান প্রমুখ। ছবিতে অতিথিবৃন্দকে বীমা দাবীর চেক হস্তান্তর করতে দেখা যাচ্ছে।

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# Terrorism on Wane Like Alleviation of Poverty in Uygur, Xinjiang

**Rabb Majumder**

**T**he world was thundered and bewildered by witnessing the deadliest terrorist attacks on American soil in 2001 which is known as September 11 or 9/11 attacks orchestrated by radical Islamists group Al-Queda which claimed almost 3000 innocent people. The terrorist attacks didn't stop here it was followed by the Bali bombings on October 12, 2002 that killed 202 people in Indonesia; the Madrid train bombings on March 11, 2004 that killed 190 and injured over 1,500 people in Spain; the Beslan school siege on September 1, 2004 that killed 335 people, including 186 minors, and injured 958 people in Russia; the London bombings on July 7, 2005 that killed 52 and injured over 700 people in the UK; the Mumbai attacks on November 26, 2008 that killed 195 and injured close to 300 people in India; the shooting on July 22, 2011 that killed 77 people in Oslo, Norway; the Westgate shopping mall attack on September 21, 2013 that killed 72 and injured 168 people in Nairobi, Kenya; the Paris attacks on November 13, 2015 that killed 132 and injured more than 300 people in France; the Brussels bombings

on March 22, 2016 that killed 35 and injured over 300 persons in Belgium; the Berlin truck attack on December 19, 2016 that killed 12 and injured 49 people in Germany; the Istanbul nightclub shooting on January 1, 2017 that killed 39 and injured 69 people in Turkey; the Sinai mosque attack on November 24, 2017 that killed 235 and injured 109 people in Egypt. According to incomplete statistics, in 2018 there were 1,127 terrorist attacks globally, causing 13,000 deaths.

The attack had a profound and lasting impact not only in America but all over the world. The US had to be compelled to enact harsh and incredible strict measures and laws in order to give safety and security to her citizens. So world scenario has turned in to another form and the US president George W Bush has declared a global War on Terror including the lengthy wars in Afghanistan and Iraq against the Islamist militants. Like many other radical groups from various races and believers, a small section of the Muslim community are also involved in the terrorism all over the world. So terrorism is not confined in a particular state or region it has spread out all ►



*Tourism in Xinjiang booms thanks to social stability.*

► over the world and become a common enemy for all peace loving people. Like all other nations China is not excluded to stands firmly against all forms of terrorism and extremism.

According to a report, China one of the super power with 2nd largest population will be totally out of poverty by this year. This will be an unique example in this planet. Poverty is a global issue and global enemy. But in order to eradicate poverty a pragmatic and constructive policy was badly needed. China has successfully developed a unique approach to this challenge by perpetually eliminating poverty through industrial development and implementing the policy to achieve the goal. An Indian writer and close friend of nobel laureate Dr Abijhiit has pleaded the Swedish

nobel committee to award the prestigious nobel to China as a nation for eradicating poverty by implementing her policy and discourage to award nobel prize to a person who has given just theory of economics . China by following the ancient proverb, “Give a man fish and feed him for a day. Teach a man to fish and you feed him for a life time,” has become a successful nation in the world.

China’s Xinjiang which was a hotbed of terrorism and extremism now has become one of the renowned peaceful and tourist attractive place. In reference to last year about 200 million tourists have soared in the region which is 43 percent higher than the previous year. There has been no record of any untoward incident in the last three years in the re-►



*Tourists enjoy views of Baisha Lake, surrounded by snow-covered mountains on the Pamir Plateau in Akto county, Xinjiang.*

► gion. From 1990 to the end of 2016, hundreds of thousands terrorist attacks had taken away innumerable innocent people's life and had destroyed public and private properties. Almost every other days local people were in tense and felt sense of insecurity. It was a vivid and horrible situation orchestrated by the extremist groups. This wildly, separatist and extremist forces has undermined local stability and brought severe sufferings to all ethnic groups in the Xinjiang region.

Xinjiang is situated in northwest China and the hinterland of the Eurasian Continent, covering an area of 1.66 million sq km. It borders eight countries: Mongolia, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Afghanistan, Pakistan, and India. Since ancient times, Xinjiang has been home to various ethnic groups, and different cultures and religions coexist. It has also been an important channel for communication between civilizations of the East and the West, and was

an important section of the famed Silk Road which linked ancient China with the rest of the world. In the long historical process, these ethnic groups have communicated and merged with each other, while living, studying, working and developing together in harmony.

Xinjiang has long been an inseparable part of Chinese territory. The vast areas both north and south of the Tianshan Mountains, called the Western Regions in ancient times, were in close contact with the Central Plains as early as the pre-Qin period (c. 2100-221 BC). With the establishment of the unified feudal dynasties Qin (221-206 BC) and Han (206 BC-AD 220), multi-ethnic unification has been the norm in China's historical development, and therefore Xinjiang has always been part of a unitary multi-ethnic China. In 60 BC, government of the Western Han Dynasty established the Western Regions Frontier Command in Xinjiang, officially making ►

► Xinjiang a part of Chinese territory.

In 123, during the Eastern Han Dynasty, the Western Regions Frontier Command was replaced by the Western Regions Garrison Command, which continued exercising administration over the Western Regions. The Kingdom of Wei (220-265) of the Three Kingdoms Period adopted the Han system, stationing a garrison commander to rule the Western Regions. The Western Jin Dynasty (265-316) stationed a garrison commander and a governor to exercise military and political administration over the Western Regions. The Sui Dynasty (581-618) ended the long-term division of the Central Plains, and expanded the areas in the Western Regions that adopted the system of prefectures and counties. In the Tang Dynasty (618-907), the central government strengthened its rule over the Western Regions by establishing the Grand Anxi Frontier Command and the Grand Beiting Frontier Command to administer the Western Regions. The ruling clan of the Kingdom of Yutian asserted it was related by blood to the Tang Dynasty and changed its surname to Li, the surname of the Tang ruling house. In the Song Dynasty (960-1279), local regimes of the Western Regions paid tribute to the central authorities. The king of one of the regimes, the Gaochang Uygur Kingdom, honored the imperial Song court as “Uncle” and called himself “Nephew in the Western Regions”; while the Karahan Kingdom sent envoys many times to pay tribute to the Song court. In the Yuan Dynasty (1279-1368), the central government strengthened administration over the Western Regions by establishing the Beiting Command and the Pacification Commissioner’s Office to manage military and political affairs. In the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644), the central authorities set up the Hami Garrison Command to manage local affairs. In the Qing Dynasty (1644-

1911), the imperial court quelled a rebellion launched by the Junggar regime, defining the northwestern border of China. It then adopted more systematic policies for governing Xinjiang. In 1762, the Qing government established the post of Ili General and adopted a mechanism combining military and political administration; in 1884, it established a province in Xinjiang.

In 1949, the People’s Republic of China was founded, and Xinjiang was liberated peacefully. In 1955, the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region was established. Under the leadership of the Communist Party of China, Xinjiang has witnessed fundamental social and economic change, and it is in its best period of prosperity and development. Although there were some kingdoms and khanates in Xinjiang in the past, they were all local regimes within the territory of China and constituted part of the country; they were never independent countries. It is indisputable that Xinjiang is an inseparable part of Chinese territory.

Xinjiang has been a multi-ethnic region since ancient times. Down the ages, many ethnic groups have lived here, frequently migrating and communicating with each other. The earliest explorers of Xinjiang included the Sai, Rouzhi, Wusun, Qiang, Qiuci, Yanqi, Yutian, Shule, Shache, Loulan and Cheshi in the Spring and Autumn and Warring States periods (770-221 BC). Following them were peoples entering Xinjiang in large numbers in different periods: the Xiongnu (Hun), Han, and Qiang in the Qin and Han dynasties; the Xianbei, Rouran, Gaoche, Yeda, and Tuyuhun in the period of the Wei, Jin, and Northern and Southern Dynasties (220-589); the Turk, Tubo, and Ouigour peoples in the period of the Sui and Tang dynasties (581-907); the Khitans in the period of the Song, ►►

► Liao, and Jin dynasties (916-1279); the Mongolian, Jurchen, Dangxiang (Tangut), Kazak, Kirgiz, Manchu, Xibe, Daur, Hui, Uzbek, and Tatar peoples in the period of the Yuan, Ming and Qing dynasties (1279-1911). By the end of the 19th century, 13 ethnic groups – the Uygur, Han, Kazak, Mongolian, Hui, Kirgiz, Manchu, Xibe, Tajik, Daur, Uzbek, Tatar, and Russian – had settled in Xinjiang, with the Uygurs having the largest population. The multi-ethnic region constitutes an integral part of the Chinese nation.

The Uygur ethnic group came into being in the long process of migration and ethnic integration; they are not descendants of the Turks. The main ancestors of the Uygurs were the Ouigour people living on the Mongolian Plateau during the Sui and Tang dynasties. We find that many different names were used to refer to the Ouigour people in historical records. Historically, to resist oppression and slavery by the Turks, the Ouigour people united with some of the Tiele tribes to form the Ouigour tribal alliance. In 744, the Tang court conferred a title of nobility on Kutlug Bilge Kaghan, who united the Ouigour tribes. In 788, the then Ouigour ruler wrote to the Tang emperor, requesting to have their name changed to “Huihu” (Uygur). After the Uygur Khanate suffered a major defeat in war in 840, some of them moved inland to live with the Han people, the rest of the surviving Uygurs were divided into three sub-groups. One of the sub-groups moved to the Turpan Basin and the modern Jimsar region, where they founded the Gaochang Uygur Kingdom. Another moved to the Hexi Corridor, where they merged with local ethnic groups to become what was later known as the Yugu people. The third sub-group moved to the west of Pamir, scattered in areas from Central Asia to Kashgar, and joined the Karluk and Yagma peoples in

founding the Karahan Kingdom. There they merged with the Han people in the Turpan Basin and the Yanqi, Qiuci, Yutian, Shule, and other peoples in the Tarim Basin to form the main body of the modern Uygur group. In the Yuan Dynasty, ancestors of the modern Uygur people were called the “畏兀儿” people in the Chinese language. In the Yuan and Ming dynasties, the various ethnic groups in Xinjiang further merged; Mongolians, especially those of the Chagatai Khanate, were fused with the Uygurs, adding fresh blood to the Uygur group. In 1934, Xinjiang issued a government order, stipulating that “维吾尔” would be the standard Chinese name for Uygurs, which for the first time expressed the accurate meaning of “Uygur”: to maintain unity among the people.

Xinjiang ethnic cultures are an inseparable part of Chinese civilization. As early as the pre-Qin period, Xinjiang was in close contact with the Central Plains. Archaeological studies demonstrate that painted pottery-ware unearthed in Xinjiang shows the influence of the Yangshao Culture in the middle reaches of the Yellow River, while many articles made from Xinjiang’s Hetian jade were unearthed from the Shang Dynasty (c.1600-c.1100 BC) Tomb of Fu Hao in Anyang, Henan in central China. After the Western Han (206 BC-AD 25) united Xinjiang, Chinese language became one of the official languages used in government documents of that region. Agricultural production techniques, the system of etiquette, books, and music and dances of the Central Plains spread widely in Xinjiang. Pipa (the four-stringed Chinese lute), the Qiang flute, and other musical instruments were introduced to the Central Plains from or via Xinjiang and exerted a great influence on local music. The treasure house of Chinese culture boasts elements of the Uygur Muqam, the Kazak Aytes ►



*Heavenly Mountains, Charming Xinjiang.*

► art, the Kirgiz epic *Manas*, the Mongolian epic *Jangar*, and many other cultural gems of various ethnic groups. It is undeniable that Xinjiang was influenced by Islamic culture, but this did not halt the flow of local cultures into the Chinese civilization, nor did it alter the fact that they were part of Chinese culture. Having a stronger sense of identity with Chinese culture is essential to the prosperity and development of ethnic cultures in Xinjiang. Only by regarding Chinese culture as an emotional support and spiritual home, can we promote the prosperity and development of ethnic cultures in Xinjiang.

In primitive society, Xinjiang residents followed primitive religion from which Shamanism evolved. Before the fourth century BC primitive religion was practiced in

Xinjiang. Later, a succession of religions popular in the East and the West were introduced into Xinjiang via the Silk Road, the first of which was Zoroastrianism.

Around the first century BC Buddhism was introduced into Xinjiang and gradually became the major religion, coexisting with many other religions, and Yutian, Shule, Qiuci, Gaochang, and other renowned Buddhist centers were formed. From the fourth to the 10th century, Buddhism reached its peak, while in the same period Zoroastrianism proliferated throughout Xinjiang, particularly in the Turpan area. Around the fifth century, Taoism was introduced into Xinjiang, becoming prevalent mainly in Turpan and Hami. It spread to most parts of Xinjiang and experienced a revival during the Qing ►



*Kanas Lake Xinjiang China.*

► Dynasty. In the sixth century, Manichaeism and Nestorianism were introduced into Xinjiang. From the 10th to the 14th century, Nestorianism flourished as the Uyghur and some other peoples converted to it in many parts of Xinjiang.

In the late ninth and early 10th century, Islam was introduced into southern Xinjiang, changing the religious profile of Xinjiang again. After the Karahan Khanate accepted Islam, in the mid-10th century it launched a religious war against the Buddhist Kingdom of Yutian, and the war lasted for more than 40 years. In the early 11th century, the Karahan Khanate conquered Yutian and imposed Islam in that region. Thereafter, Islam dominated southern Xinjiang while Buddhism dominated northern Xinjiang. In the mid-14th century, the rulers of the Eastern Chagatai Khanate spread Islam to the northern edge of the Tarim Basin, the Turpan Basin

and Hami by war and compulsion. By the early 16th century many religions coexisted in Xinjiang, with Islam predominant. Beginning in the 18th century, Protestantism, Catholicism, and the Eastern Orthodox Church were introduced into Xinjiang. Islam has ever since been the principal religion in Xinjiang, coexisting with a number of other religions.

The history of Xinjiang shows that the coexistence of multiple religions with one or two predominant has always been a basic characteristic of the religious structure of Xinjiang, and blending and coexistence of different religions has been the norm there. Islam is neither an indigenous belief of the Uyghurs and other ethnic groups, nor the sole one of the Uyghur people. Today in Xinjiang, a fairly large number of people do not believe in religion or believe in religions other than Islam. ►►

► Separatism is the hotbed in which terrorism and extremism take root in Xinjiang. For a long time terrorist and extremist forces have been beating the drum for separatist activities by distorting, fabricating and falsifying the history of Xinjiang, exaggerating the cultural differences between ethnic groups, instigating isolation and hatred, and advocating religious extremism.

At the turn of the 20th century, separatists and religious extremists in and outside China, inheriting the so-called theories of “Pan-Turkism” and “Pan-Islamism” created by former colonialists, spread the word that Uygurs were the only “masters” of Xinjiang, that the ethnic cultures of Xinjiang were not Chinese culture, and that Islam was the only religion practiced by ethnic groups of Xinjiang. They incited all ethnic groups speaking Turki and believing in Islam to join in creating the theocratic state of so-called “East Turkistan”. They denied the history of China jointly built by all its ethnic groups, and clamored for “opposition to all ethnic groups other than Turks” and for the “annihilation of pagans”.

From the early 20th century to the late 1940s, the “East Turkistan” forces, in an attempt to split and control Xinjiang and establish their state, promoted and spread the ideas of “Pan-Turkism”, “Pan-Islamism”, and violence and terrorism. They organized and planned a series of separatist activities. In 1915 separatist Maswud returned to Ili, opened a school and publicly preached separatism to the students. On November 12, 1933, Mohammad Imin founded the so-called “East Turkistan Islamic Republic”, but the farce ended in less than three months because of strong opposition from the people of all ethnic groups in Xinjiang. On November 12, 1944, separatists led by Elihan Torae founded the so-called “Re-

public of East Turkistan”, which soon collapsed a year later. Afterwards, a series of separatist organizations and individuals continued their subversive and separatist activities under the banner of “East Turkistan” in a vain attempt to establish their own state.

Since the founding of the People’s Republic of China, people of all ethnic groups in Xinjiang have, under the leadership of the CPC, worked together to build a better Xinjiang; they have maintained social stability, achieved economic growth, and improved lives for the people. The “East Turkistan” forces, however, have not resigned themselves to defeat. With the support of international anti-China forces, the “East Turkistan” forces have resorted to all means, fair or foul, to organize, plan and carry out acts of separatism and sabotage. In the early 1950s the separatists instigated many riots in Xinjiang, calling on Uygurs to “unite under the moon-and-star banner to create a republic of Islam”. In the 1960s there were the riots in Ili and Tacheng on the China-Russia border, the riot of the “East Turkistan People’s Revolutionary Party”, and the armed rebellion of the Gang of Ahongnof in southern Xinjiang. In the late 1970s and early 1980s, religious extremism made further inroads into Xinjiang. It soon blended with terrorism to stir up social unrest in the region, seriously undermining local stability and security.

Since the 1990s, especially after the September 11 attacks in the US, the “East Turkistan” forces inside and outside China have stepped up their collaboration as terrorism and extremism spread around the globe, trying desperately to establish “East Turkistan” through “Jihad” (holy war). In the name of ethnicity and religion, they deceitfully used people’s ethnic identity and religious belief to instigate religious fanaticism, spread reli-►



*Xinjiang People celebrate an event in People's Square in the capital Urumqi.*

► gious extremism, and incite the common people to join in violent and terrorist activities. They brainwashed people with the “Jihad”, abetting them to “die for their belief in order to enter heaven”. Some of the most susceptible followers, no longer possessed of any self-control, became extremists and terrorists who heartlessly slaughtered innocent people.

Religious extremism under the banner of Islam runs counter to Islamic doctrines. It is not Islam. For a long time separatists have tied extremism to religion, to religious believers, and to society as a whole. They tell people not to obey anyone but Allah and incite them to resist government management. They abuse those who do not follow the path of extremism as pagans, traitors and scum, urging their followers to verbally assault, reject, and isolate non-believers, Party members and officials, and patriotic religious individuals. They deny and reject all forms of secular culture, preaching a life without

TV, radio and newspaper, forbidding people to weep at funerals or laugh at weddings, imposing bans on singing and dancing, and forcing women to wear heavily-veiled black long gowns. They over-generalize the “Halal” concept, stamping food, medicine, cosmetics, clothing, etc. with the Halal symbol. They turn a blind eye to the diverse and splendid cultures of Xinjiang created by all its ethnic groups, trying to sever the ties between the Chinese culture and the ethnic cultures of Xinjiang. All this indicates their denial of modern civilization, rejection of human progress, and gross violation of the human rights of their fellow citizens.

Like poverty eradication, China without killing or oppressing the people have successfully wiped out the terrorism by providing proper education, giving technical knowhow and all other service oriented training facilities among the people of Xinjiang. The training includes garments, food pro-►

► cessing, poultry and livestock, ecommerce, handicrafts, therapeutic message, auto repairs and maintenance, electronic products including household services. The vocational training was being given to the Muslim and other ethnic groups on the demands of local and international market. So, the trainees won't be unemployed or get involve in terrorist activities. The training centers which are known by the western embedded media as "concentration centers" in fact are the sources of all learning centers including full and accurate national policy of the freedom, religious sermon and also lessons how innocent religious people are being ill motivated or nurtured by some evil and extremist groups. The Chinese authorities have successfully used vocational training centers as an effective tool to fight against terrorism and radicalism like poverty alleviation.

The embedded journalism had destroyed many nations and many individuals life. The burning example is Iraq. During the 90's the embedded media had established that Iraq was having mass destruction weapons or Chemical Weapons so anytime Iraq might jeopardize the whole world. On the basis of these false propaganda people from all walks of life had gone against the Iraqi regime Saddam Hossain. Once Saddam was perished by American, it was known that there was no chemical weapons or mass destruction. At last America and its allies had acknowledged that it was just mistake.

The spread of extremism has been effectively curbed and public security has been remarkably improved in Xinjiang and people of ethnic groups are enjoying to live and work in peace and harmony. ■



*Xinjiang's favorite place for Tourists.*



*Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina unveiling the logo of Mujib Borsho at the capital's National Parade Square yesterday. She started the countdown for the birth centenary celebration of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. Photo: PID*

## ‘Mujib Borsho’ countdown begins

### SW Desk Report

**T**he countdown for the birth centenary celebration of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman began on 10th January this year through a gala opening ceremony.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina formally inaugurated the nationwide countdown ceremony at the capital's National Parade Square where Bangabandhu landed in the newly-liberated

Bangladesh on January 10, 1972.

The PM opened the event through unveiling the logo of the Mujib Borsho, to be celebrated from March 17, 2020 to March 26, 2021.

Through observing the birth centenary, the government aims to present Bangabandhu's life and works before the people, especially the new generation. ►

► Speaking at the programme, Hasina said the government wanted to move ahead with the torch of victory which was given by the Father of the Nation by liberating the country. She said the government wants to make Bangladesh free from hunger and poverty, and a developed country as dreamt by Bangabandhu.

The PM said there was a dark chapter in the country after the brutal assassination of Bangabandhu.

She urged all to remain alert so that the dark era could never cast its shadow over the people again. “On this day, I hope people will build Golden Bangladesh of the Father of the Nation and place it in a dignified position in the world.”

Hasina said the Pakistani occupation forces could not kill Bangabandhu with their repeated attempts, but it was very much regretful that Bangabandhu gave his life within three and a half years after the country’s independence when he was taking the war-ravaged country towards development.

“The spirit and history of the Liberation War were erased, the slogan Joy Bangla, and the March 7 speech of the Father of the Nation were banned. That speech has got recognition from the UNESCO as a world document.”

The PM said Bangladesh could not have been an independent country without the Father of the Nation and the Bangalee nation could not have got its dignity and self-identity as an independent nation.

“It’s true that we achieved our victory on December 16, but at that time everybody thought that the independence remained unfulfilled and it was not complete. The people eagerly awaited the homecoming of their leader.”

She mentioned that thousands of people had



*Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.*

gathered at the airport (now the National Parade Square) to welcome Bangabandhu on January 10, 1972. People tried to forget their pain of loss of their dear ones by greeting their most loved leader, the PM added.

Bangabandhu’s younger daughter Sheikh Rehana and grandson Sajeeb Wazed Joy were present at the National Parade Square with the PM.

Marking the 10th January, a symbolic aircraft of the historic Homecoming of the Father of the Nation landed at Tejgaon Old Airport at 04:35pm yesterday.

A 21-gun salute was sounded just after opening the door of the plane after its arrival at the tarmac of the airport.

About 150 people, including students of educational institutions, welcomed the plane, while the nearby place of its exit door was illuminated with laser light. ►



*A laser image of Bangabandhu at the door of a plane recreates the moment of his arrival home 48 years ago. Photo: PID*

- Laser light slowly went down to the edge of the red carpet, reflecting the Homecoming of Bangabandhu as the lighting guide of the nation.

A smartly-turned out contingent drawn from Bangladesh Army, Bangladesh Navy and Bangladesh Air Force presented a state salute on the occasion.

## COUNTDOWN BEGINS ACROSS COUNTRY

Meanwhile, devices are being set up at different public places in the capital, divisional cities, districts, city corporations, and upazilas across the country for the countdown for the birth centenary celebration.

Many ministries, divisions, departments, socio-cultural organisations and public and private universities are also installing devices at their own initiatives.

There will be an inauguration programme on March 17 this year, which will be attended by eminent personalities from home and abroad.

In the morning yesterday, the prime minister paid rich tributes to the Father of the Nation on the occasion of the historic Homecoming Day.

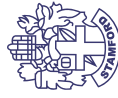
Hasina paid the homage by placing wreaths at the portrait of the Father of the Nation in front of Bangabandhu Memorial Museum in the capital's Dhanmondi.

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

The Father of the Nation had returned to independent Bangladesh via London and New Delhi on January 10 in 1972 after long captivity in Pakistani jail. ■

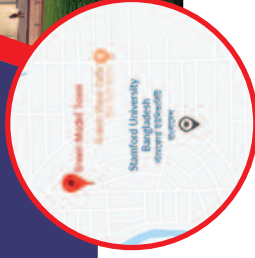
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# Bangladesh-Italy will Celebrate 50 years Friendly Bilateral Relationship

## SW Report

**A**mbassador Enrico Nunziata, a career diplomat and an awardee of the title of knight of the Italian Republic in 2006 has been serving Bangladesh since 2019 as Italian Ambassador to Bangladesh. Born in San Born in San Gennaro Vesuviano (Napoli) on the 6th of December, 1970 was graduated from the Eastern University in Political Science in 1993. Before joining as Italian Ambassador, Dhaka, Enrico joined Foreign Service in 1996 had served many countries as a diplomat. He was Director General for Italians abroad and Migration Policies Charge d'affairs and Ambassador to Chisinau and Consul General in Moscow. A Cool, Suave and Seasoned diplomat talked to The Security World's Editor Rabb Majumder recently at his Embassy Office on Bangladesh and Italy's relation.

According to Ambassador Enrico Nunziata, Bangladesh is going through a phase of fast economic growth in a context of governmental continuity. The ruling Government has had a confirmation of a political mandate from a majority of the population which ask to continue focusing on the economic and social development of the Country while guar-



*Italian Ambassador Enrico Nunziata*

anteeing security and democracy. This is the challenge of the new Government which has to fulfill its commitments and cooperate at international level to achieve its objectives of development. Italy as a partner of Bangladesh is keen to continue to cooperate in different fields and to contribute to its development.

The Italian Ambassador on the question of Economic and bilateral relationship stated ►

► that Italy has been among the first to recognize Bangladesh in 1972 and in 2022 will celebrate 50 years of friendly bilateral relationships. Italy has excellent relationships in all domains of cooperation. Bangladesh is the 11th market of destination of Italian export among Asian-Pacific countries. The overall commercial exchange is more than 2 billion of Euros. Italy export to Bangladesh in 2018 has been 821.6 million of Euros and the trend is increasing by more than 900 million and 1 billion between 2019 and 2020. Italy import from Bangladesh for 1.4 billion of Euros more than Italy export, and according to a data it is also expected to increase every year (around 4-5%).

The Ambassador stated that, the main sector of Italy's export to Bangladesh is the instrumental mechanic especially textile machineries (66% of the total), followed by electronics, chemical, vehicles etc... Italian companies can find in Bangladesh many opportunities in the infrastructure and energy sectors, IT, food industry, tannery, shipbuilding (more than 5000 Bangladeshi national works in Fincantieri shipyard in Monfalcone), defense industry and many other sectors such as flood water management. Around 140.000 Bangladeshi are regularly resident in Italy. The Ambassador added that Italy evaluate always very positively the effects of legal migration which contributes to the economic growth of Italy and at the same time to that of Bangladesh, only considering the enormous amount of remittances of such a flow of migrants (more than 700 million of Euros in 2018). This flow is increasing every year with family members arriving from Bangladesh reaching their relatives (more than 6000 visas issued in 2019 for family reunion).

Bangladesh first started immigrating to Italy



*Italian Ambassador Enrico Nunziata with Bangladesh President Mohammad Abdul Hamid.*

in the 1980's. Between late 1989 and mid 1990 number of Bangladeshis living in Rome increased from 200-300 by a estimated twenty fold to become the largest Bangladeshis community in continental Europe.

Most of the Bangladeshis in Italy hail from the districts of Madariur, Shariatpur and Noakhali. Most of them are Male, the service sector absorbs over 70% at the workers belonging to the country.

The Ambassador noted that Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has shown her ►



*An Italian team led by Ambassador Enrico Nunziata visiting Rohingya Camps in Cox's Bazar.*

► genuine generosity and humanity by hosting 1 million Rohingya refugee in Bangladesh territory. He said the government of Italy highly praises Bangladesh for this noble humanitarian job. The Ambassador mentioned that to alleviate such a burden, the Italian Government since the beginning of the humanitarian crises has supported some UN Agencies, such as OIM and WFP, and the ICRC in their humanitarian assistance to the Rohingya refugees in Cox's Bazar for a total amount of 7 million Euros and we are evaluating at the moment possible new contributions through the multilateral channel. In all possible international fora, Italy supports a voluntary, dignified and safe return of Rohingya refugees to their villages in Rakhine. Bangladesh and Italy was signed an agree-

ment in 2000 on scientific and technological cooperation. As per the agreement, both the countries have been exchanging scientists, researchers and teachers as well as providing study grant.

Earlier Italian Air Force Chief Lieutenant General Alberto Rosso has offered imparting training to Bangladesh Air Force personnel in Italy. The Italian Air Force Chief made the offer while he paid a courtesy call on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her office in Dhaka during his recent visit.

The relation between the two friendly nations is very smooth, growing and expanding day by day. Both the countries share similar views on many international issues including counter terrorism and climate change. ■

# Bangladesh Army

## A quintessence Journey of Excellence

**Imran A. Chowdhury**



Bangladesh's army and my observations of its voyage go back a long way away. I was 11 years old after the victory of our epitome of all struggles ; the liberation War observed the cruise of this institution from its very

humble beginning. Keenly discerned the flight path from the perilous ending of the liberation war and come back to a war-torn dilapidated barren state.

The freedom fighters and the Bangladesh forces amalgamated together in the midst of scarcity, lack of facilities and above all the paucity of infrastructure. Yet the resolve and ambitions were off no shortage. After the abolishment of BDF Sectors and raising off the new regiments were the maternity of today's Bangladesh army. Fondly remember the scavenging of arms, munitions, equipment, jerrycans, towing trucks, jeeps, pickups abandoned by the losers and defeated adversary were accumulated with care to make use of them, Even the FSMO and web equipment's which were littered in the storages of Khadimnagar in Sylhet made good for future usages by the newly raised 18 East Bengal Regiment, those memories still reverberates in my minds eyes.

Then came the various phases of tumultuous episodes of treachery and greed with a repugnant series of tries to obliterate the ethos, aspirations and esprit de corps by many antagonists trying to enfold the gains of the bloody liberation war. Nevertheless, the army stood firm in the face of

all calamities and impediments to thrive as the symbol of unity, discipline and above all the patriotism. Its mettle of a unified edifice withstood all the vile conspires and treachery.

The march of the vanguard of the nation weathered far too many tsunamis and disasters to the pinnacle. From those leapfrogged humble beginning to today's Bangladesh Army is perhaps a story that needs constant reminding of a journey par excellence.

Bangladesh Army today stands tall with a mammoth statue of professionalism, dedication, honesty, sincerity and dutifulness at home and abroad.

On the eve of the Armed Forces Day it is imperative to reiterate that, our armed forces especially the Army is one of the best institutions and the finest of all organisations in the country. These all were possible due to the sheer dedication of its officers, ranks, and files; it was an excellent showcasing of a collective of all quests. The quest was further emboldened by its perseverance of maintaining its quality, preservation of ethos & culture, tender loving care for all minute things, upholding the cultural & social practices, frugality and above all abundance sense of duty and dedication. The participation of building the nation and her infrastructure is probably the best in our nation-state.

The stature of the Bangladesh army in the international stage speaks volumes of its glory, acumen, discipline above all its contributions.

On the 49th anniversary of Bangladesh Armed forces inception its rather befitting to announce that, This has been a Journey of Excellence!

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**Imran A. Chowdhury** is Lieutenant (ret'd),  
Founder & CEO, [www.c-ppp.org](http://www.c-ppp.org)

# Bangladesh Liberation War: A Personal Diary

**Dr. A K Abdul Momen**



["Bangladeshi governments and political leaders may have the luxury to ignore those dead ones and squabble over leadership, but how can I forget them? How can I forget Bilkis

whose father was an additional SP of Comilla and was shot dead? How can I forget my relatives, my neighbours and my friends that were killed for no fault of their own? Our Hindu neighbour's college going daughter was raped. How can I forget her pure face and affectionate behaviour? On the Victory Day each year, while we rejoice, I feel pain as we could not honour the dead, nor the victims, nor the freedom fighters yet with due solemnity. I feel bad when I find the national leaders questioning the 'Muktijudder Chetona'. What a travesty of justice, what a shameful act!! How can we make friendship with those that still refuse to accept their guilt and deny the existence of injustice and atrocities of 1971?"] – *A K Abdul Momen*

## **March 23, 1971: Journey to Sylhet**

I just came to pick up my sister who was a medical doctor at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH). While entering the building, I met Tajuddin Ahmed, Molla Jalaluddin, Obaidur Rahman and few other Awami League (AL) leaders. They came to see some wounded AL supporters at the DMCH. I knew Tajuddin and Molla Jalaluddin. I met them in Rawalpindi and Lahore in 1969 during Ayub's Round Table Conference (RTC). I asked them about the progress of their dialogue with President General Yahya Khan. He did not show much enthusiasm, and instead asked me about my well being. I went to my sister's (Apa) room. She was not there. I met a class friend of mine, Shohidul Huq, who was a Medical Representative at the time. Now he is a big businessman. He is a good soul, always very friendly, helpful and forthright. When Apa came to her room, Shahid advised her to send her kids to Sylhet to avoid any likely trouble if 'dialogue' fails. Shahid had always been very close to Obaidur Rahman and he assured that he would let us know the latest developments. Apa was worried as she had two small kids, Sayyied, an infant and Lubna, a toddler. Now Lubna is a mother and a financial consultant. ►



*Liberation War 1971: Pakistani Army killed innocent people of Bangladesh.*

Their father, a young promising surgeon, Humayun Kabir (31) died in a car accident in Khulna in June 1970 when Sayyied was an infant. Now Sayyied is the General Manager of the ETV television channel. Expatriates like me are thankful to Sayyied and his boss, A. S. Mahmud, Chairman of the ETV as their private TV channel did a wonder... it facilitated us to watch Bangladeshi news, dramas, cinemas, and life of Bangladesh even from abroad, for example, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. The ETV news is objective and therefore very popular. Due to ETV, the cable sales has gone up significantly especially amongst its 900,000 Bangladeshi expatriates and many in Riyadh would ask you to join dinner parties after the 8 O'clock news of ETV [Dhaka's 11 PM is Riyadh's 8 PM]. We left for Sylhet on 23rd March 1971. My immediate boss, a Pakistani did not allow me leave

of absence. However, I just vanished and reported to work on December 19, 1971 from Guwahati (India)... This does not mean that I was always in India during this long 8 months and 26 days. In fact, I mostly lived within then East Pakistan during the war of liberation and went through the horrors and tension of the occupation army.

On 26th morning when there was no 'Radio Dhaka', we knew that the situation went wrong. However, reports of massacre in Dhaka reached to us on 27th morning.... More details came on 28th. On 28th March we first listened the voice of Major Ziaur Rahman from the clandestine radio who in the name of 'Sheikh Mujib' announced that the Bangladeshis are at war with Pakistani occupation forces [Ami Major Zia bolchi...Jatir Mohan Netha Sheikh Mujibur Rahman er namee ami swadhinotha gushona...]. On 2nd ►



*Refugees stream across the River Ganges Delta at Kushtia, fleeing the violence in East Pakistan during the ongoing West Pakistani military campaign called Operation Searchlight. (AP Photo/Michel Laurent)*

- ▶ April, we heard sounds of fire exchange at night. The following day, we learned that when the Pakistan army asked the Bengali jawans to surrender their arms and ammunition, they refused at the Telikhal BDR camp and therefore, there was an exchange of fire. The martial law government imposed curfew and therefore, it was difficult to gather information.

#### **April 4, 1971: A Historic Day for Sylhet**

On this day, the independence movement started in Sylhet town from my house. On that morning I went to see my friend, Shabbir Ahmed, formerly VP of Sylhet M. C. College Chattra Sangshad and Chattra League.

He was a very close friend of mine. East Pakistan Governor Monayem Khan barred Shabbir from studying in any of the colleges of the province as he threw his sandal at the podium of President Ayub Khan at a meeting at the Sylhet Circuit House. I requested many people including Dr. AKM. Rabbani, then DC of Sylhet, Minister Abdus Salam, Police Chief Kazi Anwarul Huq, then Chattra League leaders Fazlul Huq Moni and Abdur Razzaque, et al to release him from jail but in vain.

We employed Advocate Chowdhury ATM Masud [later Justice and Chief Election Commissioner] to get his bail. Finally, Zamir Ali, a NSF leader of S. M. Hall managed to get him released. When Bangladesh was cre-▶

► ated, he became a JSD leader. Later he went to England to do CA and settled in Cambridge (UK). While we were talking, suddenly I was informed that firing started in my locality, Dhupadigirper. I rushed to my home but could not proceed further. There were none on the road, the rickshaw puller was afraid to move. I got down and walked fast. When I reached my house, the main gate was locked. I somehow managed to enter. On entrance, I saw 10/12 Bangladeshi BDR jawans in our compound. They have taken positions. They assured us and asked me to get a barricade erected near the Agricultural Office, 20 yards from my house. We did erect the barricade. My parents were afraid and my father reminded me that the military government had declared that if any barricade were erected in front of the house, they would demolish the house. We heard that a young Punjabi, a body builder, who works at the nearby United Engineers (Aslam Co.) had been shot dead earlier.

Soon a military van came and stopped near our gate. It was about 3 PM in the afternoon. This is the military's announcement van. Our house is located between two roads, one leading to Tamabil known as Sylhet-Shillong Road and another to Jatarpur-Chalibander area and therefore, it was easy to see even the Banderbazar, 1 or 2 kilometre from home—very strategically located. When the road was built, my grandfather, Khan Bahadur Abdur Rahim then a SDO donated the land for the road and my father's maternal uncle, Abdul Hamid, a member of Assam Legislative Assembly was a big leader, a powerful Minister and a Speaker of the assembly.

As soon as Sikander, the announcer, started announcement of curfew, the valiant BDR fighters opened fire. But the van escaped. After it left, we knew that the Pakistani army

would arrive soon. Therefore, we started putting up all sorts of barricades in our wooden doors and glass windows. We put up piles of bookshelves, tables, chairs, and mattresses. The bookshelves were very heavy...bookshelves of bounded law books/documents belonged to my father who was a lawyer. Very interestingly, God gave us enormous strength to move those heavy bookshelves at the time.

I wonder how we did that. They saved us from bullets. We found so many bullets inside the pages of those books and voluminous documents later. Within 20 minutes, two armoured vehicles came. A few soldiers got down nearly 40 yards from our home and started walking forward by the roadside. Soon they started shooting and it continued for hours. Mortar shells demolished the walls of our home. The handle of the easy chair on which my father was seated suddenly hit and went away. But miraculously, he was unhurt. We lay down on the floor. The sun was setting and the house appears to have caught fire. By 8 PM the shooting stopped. The BDR and the Pak army left. We could see couples of roadside shanty stores burning. There was not a single human being around. All was very quiet. We were extremely tired and exhausted. I don't know when I slept on the floor. At midnight, I wake up as rainwater was falling on me.

Then we could realize that the rooftop of the house had been blown away at the mortar attacks. Before dawn a couple of people showed up and they were surprised as we were still alive under the debris. Soon we decided to escape. We went to our neighbour's house, Abdul Mannan Chowdhury, a businessman. He is originally from Karimganj, ►►

► India. Two of his brothers were politicians; one was a member of the Indian Lok Sabha and another in the Assam Assembly. Mr. Chowdhury was a staunch supporter of Ayub Muslim League and his best friend, Ajmal Ali Chowdhury was Ayub's Minister for Commerce and Industry. Mannan family also was surprised to see us alive. None could ever think that we could survive such an onslaught and barrage of bullets. I have also never seen Sikander, the announcer since that day. By 8:30 AM, the whole area was crowded with thousands of people. There were two dead bodies. It was difficult to identify them as foxes have eaten them up. However, they had khaki uniforms. When we went back to collect money and ornaments from our house, we found people were looting our stuff. It was very sad. Before dawn when we left we did not take any money even. By 9 AM, we saw a Pakistani jet came and strafed the area.

People vanished... Many dived into the waters of Dhupadighi, a lovely pond [now most of it is filled up to erect shanty stores]. Soon we saw, two more jets come and dropped bombs. We thought our Kitchen, separated from the main house, the 1st Muslim League Office of Sylhet, was on fire [when my father joined All India Muslim League and started organizing it in Sylhet, he had to leave his parental home, named 'Shaheb Bari' in Raynagar as his father was an SDO, a British Civil Servant. Initially, our kitchen was only built and it soon became the Muslim League Office as he was its Secretary]. As jets started coming and coming again, we all ran out and finally could not proceed further as shooting started all around us. We settled at a 'lakrier dum' or store for fuel-woods

near Howapara, nearly 1.5 miles away from our house. There was no bathroom and no food. Infant Sayyied and Lubna were crying. However, by afternoon we could reach Zindabazar at our maternal uncle's house, Dr. Syed Shah Anwar Chowdhury. We had a good meal after 24 hours and we could listen to the Indian and the BBC radio as well. We observed that the world was still functioning and normal although last night, we thought 'everybody died'!! Since our uncle was a strong supporter of AL, we decided to move out of his house and later, we settled at the house of Mohammed Ishaque, another uncle (Fufa) at Howapara, Sylhet. He was a retired government official, a Muslim Leaguer and he had a neat and lovely bungalow. The whole of Sylhet by the time was liberated. When I was going back to my house to release our chicken, pigeons, cows, dogs, I met a few prisoners that were just released from the Sylhet jail. There was great relief as well as uncertainty.

When I reached my home, I reflected on my father's saying. He said before leaving home, 'Pakistan was created in this house and its destruction started from here. Ayub Kha, Yahya Kha, Tikka Kha, Choto Kha, Boro Kha --- none fought for Pakistan. They have no love for the country. They destroyed our dream...' In fact, our home was the first Muslim League Office of Sylhet. My father who was very active in the Indian independence movement especially Pakistan was fully devastated. He quit his college when Gandhi called for 'non-cooperation movement'. However, his father who was Deputy Commissioner in Guwahati at the time forced him to finish his BA, MA and LLB. During Sylhet referendum through which Sylhet was in- ►►



*Muktijoddhas (Freedom fighters) during the Liberation War 1971 of Bangladesh against Pakistan.*

► cluded into Pakistan, my father was its Secretary and our home was virtually the Sylhet Referendum Committee Office. His maternal uncle, Maulvi Abdul Hamid was a Minister in the Assam and a senior Muslim League leader.

The President of Sylhet Referendum Committee was Maulvi Abdul Matin Chowdhury (Khola Miah) and he used to stay in our house as his house was away from Sylhet town by 10/15 miles [on those days it was very difficult to travel]. Many political leaders of undivided India, for example, Maulana Akram Khan, Sadre Isphani, HS Suhrawardy, AK Fazlul Huq, Abul Hashem, Maulana Bashani, Abdur Rab Nishtar, Maulana Sahul Osmany and young political workers like Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, Fazlul

Qader Chowdhury, Molla Jalaluddin, Hamidul Huq Chowdhury, Mahmud Ali, Abdus Samad Azad, Dewan Farid Ghazi, ATM Masud (later judge & Chief Election Commissioner), Sarequm Abdullah, Dewan Abdul Baset, Syed AB Mahmud Hussain (later Chief Justice), Moqbul Hussain, Tasadduq Ahmed Chowdhury (UK) et al spent days in this house ... meetings after meetings were held beginning 1940 in organizing Muslim polity, referendum and Pakistan. It is an irony that, the Pakistan occupation army destroyed this house, a virtual symbol of Pakistan and Referendum. Alternatively, the struggle for sovereign Bangladesh started first in the Sylhet town again from the same house that achieved independence of Sylhet from the British Raj, 24 years ago. Freedom ►

►fighter, Al-Amin Chowdhury, Bir Bikram, once thus stated, ‘this house is our national pride as Mukti Juddo was launched from here’. He was very much saddened to see that it was transformed to a poly clinic at the time.

Soon we moved out of town and went to Fulbari, 10 miles from the town. We took shelter at the houses of two brothers, Mugo Miah and Luboi Miah Chowdhury, close friends of my father and also relations of ours. Many families like us, for example, the Regional Manager of Pakistan State Bank (Sylhet) and his family took shelter in the same house. Nearly hundred people took shelter. Our hosts were great and they did their best to keep us comfortable and well fed. In fact, we enjoyed our stay and their hospitality. We used to spend our time either by playing carom-board or other indoor games or listening to the radio, Bangladesh Betar, BBC and Akash Bani. During the war, M.R. Akther Mukul’s “Choram Patro” was our most favourite radio program and it used to uplift our hopes and spirit. We met Dewan Farid Ghazi, the elected member (MNA) and Chief of Sylhet AL party when he visited us. He came to see my father. The Akash Bani, the Indian radio in its national news reported that my father, Abu Ahmed Abdul Hafiz, a very senior Muslim League leader, President of Sylhet District Bar Association and formerly Secretary General of the Sylhet Referendum Committee was killed by the Pakistan army when they attacked his house. Actually, our house was destroyed but my father escaped unhurt; but Abdul Hafiz, a colleague and a namesake of my father, was killed by the Pakistan army. Dewan Farid Ghazi reported that Dr. Shamsuddin Ahmed, Princi-

pal Sylhet Medical College and Civil Surgeon of Sylhet were shot dead by Pakistan army. We were very saddened at the news. Dr. Ahmed was a very fine man. His wife, Hosne Ara Chowdhury, Principal of Sylhet Women College, was very close to us. His two sons and daughters are now living in the U. S. His son Dr. Ziauddin Ahmed of Philadelphia and Mr. Tareq Ahmed of Connecticut are actively involved with the Bangladeshi community welfare. At Fulbari, my sister helped deliver a baby to the wife of Dr. M. Samad Chowdhury, a Professor of Sylhet Medical College. He also took shelter like us. That baby must be a grown up person now!

#### **April 20, 1971: The Day of Humiliation**

Around 9 O’clock in the morning, the Pakistan army launched a campaign against the Mukti juddah that were organized in Fulbari. It is known as the famous ‘Baitikorer Juddo’. It lasted for hours. When the war was over, the Pakistani army arrested us and took us away. However, they released the old ones including a local doctor who was nearly 80. They kept us and started asking me questions, one after another. They brought us to a school near Ronikhail. They ordered me to get undressed and checked my penis to ascertain whether I am a Muslim [as if, if you do not have circumcision then you are not a Muslim] and made sarcastic remarks.

One young person being afraid fled away and he was shot. As I wanted to help, they beat me mercilessly. We were kept on the roadside [Fulbari-Badeshor-Karimgonj road] in a kneel-down position for the whole night. It was cold and at times drizzling. But we had to endure the tortures, as we were Bangalees by birth! It reminded me Poet ►

► Nazrul's poem titled "Fariyad"... 'a noyeh thobo bidan... sontan thobo koriche az thumar osamman, Bhogovan, Bhogovan' [it must not be Your rule that we would only suffer... Your sons are dishonouring You, my Lord].

The following morning, a young officer, Major Rob ordered us to march with them. They kept us in the front line and asked us to show them Mukti, Awami League and Hindu houses. Since I never lived there, I argued. It did not help. Instead, they got mad and cut my wrist with a bayonet. Those marks of tortures are my pride of liberation movement and they vividly remind me of my duty to my motherland. We led five columns of army, three on the main road, two off the road. If there were any habited locality, they would fire the big gun to get response. If there was no response, we proceed. We did this for the whole day in wretched condition, no shoes, no sandals, no food, and no water.

As I objected, they beat me again and in the process, I believe, I lost consciousness. When I was on my senses, I found myself in front of Lt Col. Sarfaraz Malik, the commanding officer. He asked me a variety of questions. He commented that 'You are an Awami Leaguer, a Mukti'. He said, he had my photograph among the demonstrators in Sylhet. I challenged him and explained to him that I was living in Rawalpindi during 1969 and 1970 and I just came to Sylhet only on March 24th. He asked many questions on my stay in Rawalpindi and by miracle, he found that I was close to his cousin who was a teacher at the Rawalpindi Women College. I knew the names of his nieces and nephews. Finally, he released me and said, he would visit my parents.

He dropped me at Fulbari and said, he would come back tomorrow. When the villagers

saw army vehicles, they all were afraid. They ran for their lives. However, I returned alive and my mother started weeping. On the following day, photos of Jinnah, Liaquat, Ayub and General Yahya were hung up and Pakistani flags were hoisted atop each villa out of fear. All green coloured lungis were torn apart to make flags. I cannot forget the debate between Luboi Miah (Luban Ahmed Chowdhury) and his son, Saniath Jamshed Ahmed Chowdhury. Saniath, a fresh graduate from the Dhaka University would like to keep his personal photos of 1969, some with Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib; many of which were the hallmarks of Bangladesh history and 1969 mass movement. His father being afraid of the army wanted to destroy them all --- Saniath was willing to upkeep history at the cost of his own life while his father wanted to save life at the cost of history. Now Saniath lives in London and I wonder did he ever look back and reflect?

Soon at the insistence of Col. Malik, we had to move to our Dhupadigirpar house that was destroyed by them. Col. Malik and Brig. Rana arranged special flight for us to fly to Dhaka. The Pakistani occupation army realized an opening for a good public relations campaign and to nullify the Indian news (Akash Bani) media claim. They pressed my father to make a 'radio broadcast' that he refused. They flew my brother, Sujan A. Muiz along with others to check and state that my father was alive. General Tikka Khan sent 'Peace Committee Member' Mahmud Ali and General Rao Forman Ali to see our house and the passers-by were forcibly recruited to rebuild the house overnight.

The house was rebuilt and army officers used to come by to loot all precious collections, for example, gold coins of Emperor Akbar, the coins of Tuglak, coins of many countries ►

► that my mother collected over the years, rare books and old copies of Quran, gold and silver collections, a part of which were rescued and later was donated to the Dhaka Museum. For the next nine months, no one could live in that house for fear of the occupation army. My father was sent to Dhaka Medical College hospital for treatment as a mortar splinter caused infection on his right leg. We could not take care of it when we were on the run. His next-door patient was Poet Jasimuddin, the Palli Kobi. He dictated many poems to my younger sister, Shipa Hafiza that possibly have never been published yet!

One of my elder brothers, Shelly A. Mubdi, was working as the Sales Manager for the ICI Pharmaceuticals and he left Dhaka through Canadian embassy on 27th March and joined the Bangladesh liberation movement in London. Another one, Abul Maal Abdul Muhith, who was working at the Pakistan Embassy in Washington DC left Pakistan government service on protest and became a lobbyist in Washington DC for the Bangladesh liberation movement. He was the senior most CSP officer who switched allegiance to Mujibnagar government.

I came back to Dhaka and was working with Professor Giasuddin Ahmed of the Dhaka University, a close family friend. We used to collect medicines and relief materials for the Mukti Bahini. My sister, Dr. Shahla Khatun used to get medicine samples and a number of my brother's friends (Mubdi of ICI) were very cooperative and they used to supply us boxes of medicines. For example, Mr. M. R. Osmany of the Wyeth Laboratories, a cousin of Gen. M.A.G. Osmany was a good contributor.

My sister's Morris Minor car with customary 'doctor's emblem and 'Red Cross' sign was very helpful to transport medicines for the freedom fighters without any body's suspi-

cion. One day, Gias Bhai and I got caught at the Mirpur Road near Dhanmondi Road No. 2. They inquired about the boxes of medicines. However, the doctor's emblem and Red Cross signs saved us from disaster. I felt awful when I learned of the cruel death of Gias Bhai, a man of great dignity and a towering personality. Al Badr/ Al-Shams Bahini murdered him on December 14, 1971, along with many other intellectuals two days prior to independence. May Allah bless him. Surely the martyrs did not give their lives for nothing-- they are indeed a blessed lot.

In Assam, we had to maintain low profile as the Assamees and the Indian Muslims did not like us there. In Karimganj, neither the brothers of our neighbour, Abdul Mannan Chowdhury, were happy with us although they were MPs from the Congress-I (Indira Congress) party. They rebuked us for breaking Pakistan. However, we got help from Bengali speaking Indians especially relatives of Hindu friends of Bangladesh. Finding difficulty in Karimganj, I came back to Dhaka to collect medicines and money for the refugees and the Mukti-Bahini. In passing, I must mention one thing. During the occupation period, one of my elder sisters, Fauzia Khatun died in Dhaka as no one was able to shift her to the medical emergency owing to the 'curfew'. We could neither bury her at our family graveyard in Sylhet.

A couple of weeks earlier, she flew from Rawalpindi to my parents rented new home in Dhaka near Pak Motors on Mymensingh Road and their downstairs' tenant was Dr. S. D. Chowdhury, former Vice Chancellor and next door neighbour was advocate Ahmedur Rahman, son-in-law of former Chief Minister, Nurul Amin. At times, I stayed with my sister at the Sobhanbagh Colony and under occupation, all our neighbours [both in Pak Motors and Sobhanbagh colony], Mr. M. A. ►

► Samad (Agri.. Dept), Professor A. Hasheem (Dhaka College), Dr. Idris Lasker, Dr. Badiul Alam (Medical Professors) and their families, to name a few, became a close-knit family. No wonder people in distress become close friends! It is interesting that during 1971, one of my younger sisters, Nazia Khatun got married to Dr. A. H. Shibly, a teacher at the Rajshahi University. Many of our own relatives did not attend her wedding out of fear as her brothers were working for the Bangladesh cause.

### **An Unique War Experience: Even Soldiers Hardly Get It**

On November 19, 1971 my parents went back to Sylhet for the first time since April 4th and all of us joined them to observe the Eid-ul-Fitre. I was supposed to return to Dhaka on November 27th. However, all the flights were cancelled and on December 4, 1971, we had to move our family away as occupation army set up a camp behind our house. When I was about to leave, the Pakistan army did not allow me to leave. I insisted on my leaving and therefore, they said, they would kill me. They added, they were at war with India. Till April 20, I was never been afraid of Pakistan army. But after that day and after I returned from India, the sight of Pakistani army used to create fear, shivering, and real tension. However, I remained at home alone. At the evening, the Pakistani army started shooting at random at the Indian paratroopers and Mukti Bahini, they said. I looked around but could not see anything.

By 8 O' Clock, it was clear to me....I listened to the speech of the Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi who declared war. I was delighted and had been waiting for that hour. As the sounds of shooting intensified, I took

shelter at a small trench in our backyard. The shooting continued throughout the night. You could hear different kinds of sounds... ketor ketor, tash tash, woo-woo, gurum gurum, gumm. It reminded me of Lord Tennyson's poem, 'cannons to right of them, cannons to left of them, cannons in front of them, volleyed and thundered'. Like Srikanto's 'Somudro Jatra', I thought, if I die, let me enjoy the war and its ferocity and therefore, I started looking up. I could see flashes of lights and flashes of fire projectiles all around me. They were never-ending. What a great wonder that men's creations developed weapons of self-destruction!! What a great mystery that it is human beings that created more problems, tensions and disasters for themselves!!

It might be near impossible for many professional soldiers to be 'in-between the opposing forces' but I had a rare chance. I was in-between the Pakistan army and the joint forces of India and Bangladesh. At late night, I could hear the Pakistan army retreating. Their big armoured cars, jeeps and trucks had gone leaving behind tons of ammunitions and varieties of guns. So many weapons! The following morning, when I heard a Bengali voice, I got up from my trench. I met an Indian Captain. He was originally from Faridpur. They were trying to jump start a car. They took it and he told me not to move around the ammunitions. Within half an hour, he came back along with an Indian Colonel and asked me to accompany them to the Army HQ. I did. I met General DQ, the Indian Army General. He told me not to allow anyone to touch the ammunitions. Soon Indian trucks came and loaded the leftovers; varieties of guns, rifles, recoil-less guns, and tons of ammunitions, might be worth of millions of dollars. Our entire backyard where we used to play football was full ►

► of ammunitions and arms. They dug so many trenches all across the football field and destroyed our pineapple gardens, hundreds of them. I went out by bike to see my family that took shelter at Masimpur, 8 miles from our home. On the way, I saw dead bodies near the Hasan Market, the State Bank premises and the Kane's bridge. One dead body was hanging on the grill... he must have tried his best to flee away but failed. I did neither have time nor the courage to bury the dead ones. Still today those scenes haunt me in my pensive or in-pensive mood.

### **Conclusion: Should We Forget Mukti-judder Chetona?**

Bangladeshi governments and political leaders may have the luxury to ignore those dead ones and squabble over leadership, but how can I forget them? How can I forget Bilkis whose father was an additional SP of Comilla and was shot dead? How can I forget my relatives, my neighbours and my friends that were killed for no fault of their own? Our Hindu neighbour's college going daughter was raped. How can I forget her pure face and affectionate behaviour? On the Victory Day each year, while we rejoice, I feel pain as we could not honour the dead, nor the victims, nor the freedom fighters yet with due solemnity. I feel bad when I find the national leaders questioning the 'Muktijudder Chetona'. What a travesty of justice, what a shameful act!! How can we make friendship with those that still refuse to accept their guilt and deny the existence of injustice and atrocities of 1971?

How can we not ask them to solicit mercy and forgiveness for their crime against mankind? A crime is a crime. It cannot be ignored with the lapse of time. Lord Cromwell

was tried from his dead and the Nazis of World War II are still being sought after. The Nazis and the KKK are barred from getting elected in democratic societies. We must not condone a criminal or his crime, nor should we give shelter to criminals. We can only forgive them provided they ask for forgiveness and mercy---there is no alternatives known to me. Those who believe in Islam know that even the Almighty Allah will not forgive those who have committed crimes against His creatures unless they forgive them first.

Therefore, unless they solicit mercy and forgiveness and confess their guilt publicly, they must not be forgiven. If a group or a person forgive them for group or personal interest, then they share the same loathe and disdain of our dead. They cannot be our heroes nor can they be the torchbearers for our future generations. Mukti-judder Chetona is very simple and pure. It stands for justice and fair play in human relations. It abhors racism, intolerance, dehumanization discrimination and communalism that the occupation force represented. It seeks equity in society and equal opportunities for all. It upholds democratic values; after all the 1971 war was fought to ensure democracy and economic emancipation. Can we therefore forget Mukti-judder Chetona? We know that 'past is past, future is uncertain, and present is a gift of God'. Since the 'present' is a gift of God, therefore, should we not use this gift to the best of our ability to enhance Mukti-judder Chetona, more fellow feeling, more tolerance, better economic opportunities and justice for all?

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**Dr. A K Abdul Momen** is a Bangladeshi economist, diplomat, politician and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh.

## ENTREPRENEURS CORNER



*Md. Shakawath Hossain*

### A young and dynamic CEO of UHRL

Mr. Md. Shakawath Hossain, Chief Executive Officer of Unique Hotel & Resorts Limited, is a renowned professional with more than 18 years of experience in the hospitality & tourism industry in Bangladesh. With his entrepreneur mindset, this dynamic and well educated senior leader boasts an excellent track record with many professional achievements. He has worked in various prestigious Hotels in Bangladesh and completed many international trainings in different fields nationally and internationally. Through his long working experience, he has shown his strong leadership ability in various capacities. He possesses sound knowledge about the overall market, including competitors' strengths, economic trends, supply, and demand.

During his time at The Westin Dhaka, he achieved many milestones, including multiple luxury hotel awards and many regional benchmarks with the hotel being recognized both with Starwood and Marriott as a top 30 and 50 performers respectively within the Asia Pacific Region. In his tenure of 13 years at The Westin Dhaka, he crossed several steps of success and was the General Manager (acting) from January 2017 till September 2019. Previously he worked in various leading roles, including Resident Manager, Director of Operations, and Director of Rooms & Operational Excellence. He always believes in exceeding the boundaries of success. He established The Westin Dhaka as one of the Leading Hotels of Bangladesh with his efforts, teamwork, and leadership, and now he is on his journey to take Unique Hotel & Resorts Limited to another level of success.

Along with his glorious journey of experiences in the job field, he also holds an MBA degree in Tourism and Hospitality Management from The University of Dhaka. He is also an adjunct faculty of Southeast University and American International University of Bangladesh. A true all-round hotelier with extensive experience across all disciplines, he is the right leader to continue to grow UHRL in his capacity as Chief Executive Officer.

# Online safety education is required to Incorporate in National Curriculum

**Michael Foley**

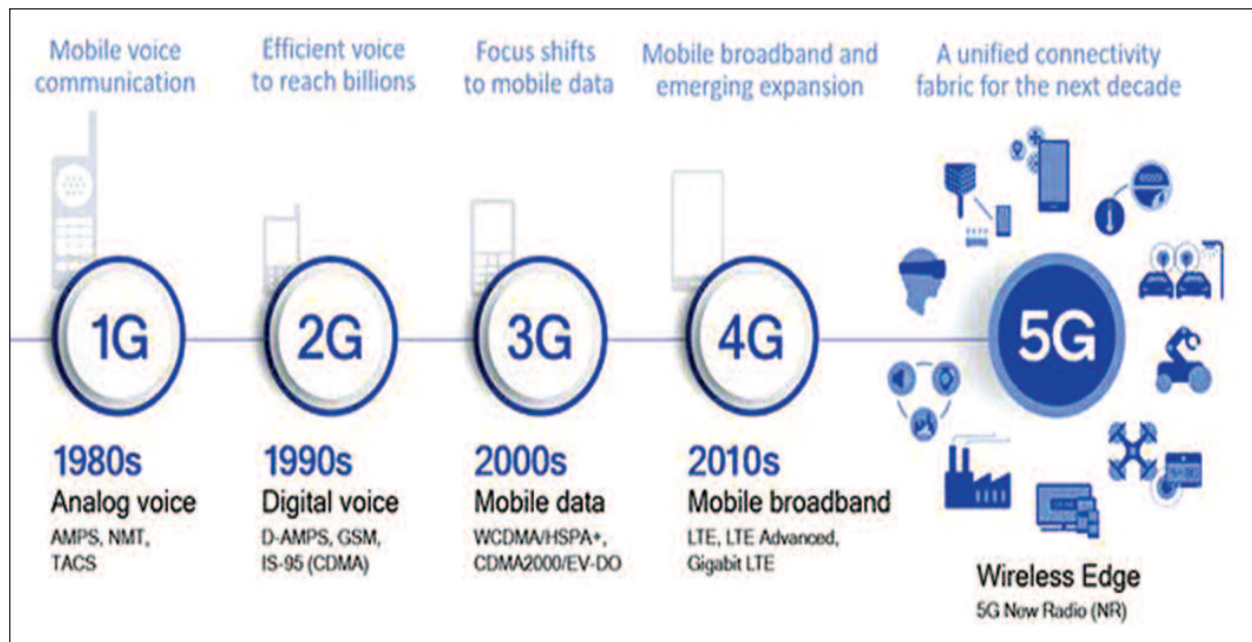


During the time of our digital infancy, our need of internet was limited to connectivity over certain platforms and seeking information only. But as internet technology progressed with 2G, 3G and 4G, our need also evolved over time. Internet opened the doors for unlimited opportunities of communication and technological advancement. Integration of technology with internet network paved the way for a system of connectivity that eradicates boundaries of the service and communication industry. We are living in a time that all our needs have been made readily available to us through the touch of our digital screens – whether it be transport or food or any lifestyle or even technology service or products. Nowadays, we are only a few clicks away from attaining our wants and needs through digital devices and internet. Disruptive digital services that has changed the landscape of our daily lifestyle has been embraced with arms wide open and we are more enthralled in this new cardinal cosmos of innovation and convenience than ever before. As we move forward, we see the youth and the young leading this change with new scopes of

communication, knowledge-sharing and collaboration. Indeed, internet is a great platform of communication and connectivity. But with such great platforms also comes the need to behave responsibly online.

Social networking and media can provide rich tools for teaching innovation and compelling ways to engage students effectively. In the western world, high school students use the internet to stay connected and collaborate on homework and group projects, while teachers use online posts to reinforce skills in English, written expression and creativity. Additionally, teachers share course-related materials, create student groups, provide peer support and facilitate teaching. These practices are slowly being incorporated in the schools here as well. Given the increasing use of the internet, we cannot disregard the potential perils of the digital world. We, as parents and guardians, have to teach our children to use this powerful tool wisely and safely; we have to safeguard their digital footprint and privacy while increasing their access to safe and quality content online.

According to a recent study commissioned by UNICEF, around 32 percent of children in Bangladesh, aged between 10 and 17, face some level of online danger, including cyberbullying, violence, and harassment. These numbers have increased dramatically in recent years corresponding to our young generation's increasing usage of internet and other online resources. The ►►



► internet and social media have brought a change that was inevitable. We need to embrace the change and adapt accordingly if we want to survive in this highly evolving and digitised era. We should adapt to the positive aspects but at the same time, be prepared to tackle the negatives. The internet serves as an instant gateway to unlimited knowledge and is also the ideal tool to help us tackle the challenges it brings. The first step in solving any problem is acknowledgement. As adults, it's our responsibility to acknowledge the issue and then take the proper steps to prevent it. We need to understand the risks that the internet poses, why they happen and how. This responsibility falls on every parent, teacher and guardian. We need to guide our children to safely navigate the internet, just as we teach them to look both ways before they cross the road. It's only when we understand the root of the problem that we can teach our children about the hazards, what to do and what not to do. And while doing so, we should focus not only on the present context but also the future.

Online safety is a balance between understanding online behaviour – knowing the differences between different levels of risk – and being empowered to mitigate such issues. Encouraging

the positive use of online platforms and social media, and creating a positive digital footprint are both important aspects of staying safe online. The internet breaks down geographical barriers and opens the mind to exciting and valuable opportunities for learning and personal growth. Just as we learn to reap the benefits of the internet, we must also understand the potential risks that are associated with it. What remains important here is open dialogue within schools and other places of learning, regarding online safety and staying vigilant. One vital element here is maintaining communication between parents and children and nurturing a safe environment at home.

The government of Bangladesh has been doing a commendable job in digital transitioning of the whole nation. Computer education had been made a part of the educational curriculum for many years now – a visionary step indeed back then. Currently, IT labs are being set up in schools and colleges all throughout the country – another pragmatic step. Formal education for children about online safety is the next logical step. The government should now incorporate a separate subject dedicated to online safety into the national curriculum which will ensure reach-►



- ▶ ing out to every child in the country. The government is already exploring initiatives to enhance online safety for children – addressing it at the national education level will yield the best results.

Every school administration also has an important role, which is to create and manage an online safety policy or guidelines that include content unique and relevant to each school and/or organisation. This should clearly include basic safety information such as privacy settings, location sharing and carefully critiquing friend requests. There should also be a safe environment for students to disclose concerns regarding online behaviour. Educators should also ensure their place of learning by staying updated themselves. Schools can also consider themed assemblies, themed lessons, or encouraging campaigns to raise awareness. They can also organise training sessions or design courses to teach their students on online safety.

Creating dialogue through nationwide awareness days can inspire national conversation about using technology responsibly and respectfully. The joint program of UNICEF and Grameen-

phone's Child Online Safety program creates awareness across schools every year. In fact, many schools have been motivated to adopt an online safety guideline following Grameenphone's online safety programs. On average we reach only 0.5 million children every year. This is where the government can play a catalyst's role. By incorporating online safety into the national curriculum can ensure that every child learns how to reap the full benefits of the internet without compromising their safety online. With the growing influence of the internet on the lives of our children, teaching them about online safety is a vital life skill.

Recognising that we all have a role to play, and educating ourselves first, strengthens us to empower students with the know-how to safeguard themselves, and reduces the risk of danger, bullying, and exploitation. UNICEF and Grameenphone has just gotten the ball rolling; now we encourage the government to extend its far reach to ensure that all our young people stay safe online.

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**Michael Foley** is CEO of Grameenphone.

## রাষ্ট্র মালিকানাধীন ব্যাংকের মধ্যে

অনলাইন ব্যাংকিং এ ১ম  
এজেন্ট ব্যাংকিং এ ১ম  
রেমিট্যান্স আদায় ১ম



অগ্রণী বৈদেশিক  
কর্মসংস্থান সহায়ক ঋণ

পরপর ৩ বছর  
আইসিএবি  
অ্যাওয়ার্ড বিজয়ী

অগ্রণী সঞ্চয় প্রকল্প  
(এবি.এস ও এপি.এস)



এটি.এম সার্ভিস



বিদ্যুৎ উন্নয়ন  
যাতে অগ্রণী



এস.এমই লোন-  
নবী অগ্রণী

## বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক রেমিট্যান্স অ্যাওয়ার্ড-২০১৮ বিজয়ী

সারা দেশে অগ্রণী ব্যাংক লিমিটেড এর সকল শাখায় “**রিয়েল টাইম অনলাইন ব্যাংকিং**” এর আওতায় সব ধরনের ব্যাংকিং সেবা প্রদান করা হচ্ছে। কোন একক ব্যাংকের অনলাইন সেবাতুল্য শাখার সংখ্যার বিচারে এটি সর্বোচ্চ।

### আমানত সেবাসমূহ

- সঞ্চয়ী হিসাব
- চলতি হিসাব
- স্বল্প মেয়াদী আমানত
- স্থায়ী আমানত
- অগ্রণী ব্যাংক পেনশন স্কিম (এপি.এস)
- অগ্রণী ব্যাংক বিশেষ সঞ্চয় প্রকল্প (এবি.এস)
- অগ্রণী এডুকেশন স্কিম
- অগ্রণী সুপার সেভিংস স্কিম

### ঋণ সেবাসমূহ

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- শিল্প ঋণ/মেয়াদী ঋণ
- আমদানি/রপ্তানী বাণিজ্যে অর্থায়ন
- এসএমই লোন, নবী অগ্রণী ঋণ
- অগ্রণী বিদেশ গমন ঋণ (৯% সুদ)
- পল্টা গৃহ নির্মাণ ঋণ (৯% সুদ)
- সরকারী কর্মকর্তা ও কর্মচারীদের গৃহ নির্মাণ ঋণ
- Personal Loan

### অন্যান্য সেবাসমূহ

- ১০টি শাখার মাধ্যমে ইসলামী ব্যাংকিং সেবা
- সিঙ্গাপুর, মালয়েশিয়া, কানাডা প্রভৃতি দেশে নিজস্ব এক্সচেঞ্জ হাউজের মাধ্যমে দেশে রেমিট্যান্স প্রেরণ সুবিধা
- বিশ্বের সকল দেশ থেকে প্রেরিত প্রবাসীদের অর্থ তাত্ক্ষণিক পরিশোধের ব্যবস্থা
- সকল ব্যাংকের ATM বুথের মাধ্যমে টাকা উত্তোলন সুবিধা
- যে কোন সময়ে রেমিট্যান্সের অর্থ উত্তোলনের জন্য রয়েছে “প্রবাসী অগ্রণী রেমিট্যান্স কার্ড”
- ২০০টি এজেন্ট ব্যাংকিং পয়েন্ট আপনার দোর গোড়ায় এজেন্ট ব্যাংকিং এ আমদানি ১ম।
- সকল শাখার মাধ্যমে E-GP ই-টেন্ডারিং সুবিধা প্রদান
- BEFTN ও RTGS সেবা চালু আছে।



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# General Mukund Naravane takes charge as the new Indian Army chief

## SW Desk Report

**G**eneral Mukund Naravane served as the Vice Chief of the Army before taking charge of the 1.3-million strong Indian Army.

General Mukund Naravane took charge as the Chief of Army Staff on December 31, 2019. He has succeeded General Bipin Rawat who was appointed as the Chief of Defence Staff on December 30, 2019. General Naravane served as the Vice Chief of the Army before taking charge of the 1.3-million strong Indian Army.

The decorated officer would serve till April 2022. Upon learning of his appointment a few days ago, the General said, "It is an honour to be given this responsibility".

General Naravane served in numerous command and staff appointments in peace, field and highly active counter-insurgency environments in his 37 years of service. He served in Jammu and Kashmir and the Northeast during his long career. General Naravane also commanded a Rashtriya Rifles battalion in Jammu and Kashmir and an infantry brigade on the eastern front. Before appointed as Vice Chief of the Indian Army, General Naravane headed the Army's Eastern Command that takes care of India's nearly 4,000-km border with China.

General Mukund Narvane is an alumnus of the National Defence Academy (NDA) and was commissioned into the 7th battalion of the Sikh Light Infantry Regiment in June 1980.

The Chief of Army Staff was also part of the In-



*General Mukund Naravane*

dian Peace Keeping Force in Sri Lanka and is known for his three-year long service as India's defence attache at the Indian Embassy in Myanmar.

For his contribution to the defence forces, General Naravane was awarded the Sena Medal (Distinguished) for commanding his battalion in Jammu and Kashmir. He was also honoured with the Vashisht Seva Medal and the Ati Vashisht Seva Medal for his services as the Inspector General of Assam Rifles (North) in Nagaland and for commanding a strike corps respectively. ■

# Navy receives national fisheries award

## SW Desk Report



*Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Aurangzeb Chowdhury receives 'National Fisheries Award 2019' on behalf of Bangladesh Navy from Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for its outstanding contribution to the fisheries sector at Krishibid Institution Bangladesh in the city recently. — ispr Photo*

**B**angladesh Navy has been honored with the 'National Fisheries Award 2019' for its outstanding contributions to the fisheries sector, including its preservation and development.

Navy Chief Admiral Aurangzeb Chowdhury on behalf of Bangladesh Navy received the award (gold medal) from Prime Minister Sheikh

Hasina on Thursday at a ceremony held at the Krishibid Institution Bangladesh (KIB) in the capital recently.

Like every year, the Navy had efficiently participated in this year's jatka (hilsa fry less than 23cm in length) conservation campaign, which is aimed at ensuring proper production of hilsa fry. ■

# China hands over two ex-PLAN frigates to Bangladesh Navy

## SW Desk Report



*One of the two ex-PLAN Jiangwei II-class frigates that were formally handed over to the BN on 18 December, 2019. The ship shown here, formerly known as Lianyungang, was overhauled at the Shenjia Shipyard in Shanghai.*

**T**wo Type 053H3 (Jiangwei II)-class frigates decommissioned by the China's People's Liberation Army Navy (PLAN) have been handed over to the Bangladesh Navy (BN).

The BN said in a statement that the 2,200-ton diesel-powered ships, formerly known as Jiaxing (pennant number 521) and Lianyungang (522), were transferred in a ceremony held on 18 December, 2019 at the Shenjia Shipyard in Shanghai after being overhauled.

The 112 m-long and 12.4 m-wide vessels, which will be renamed BNS Umer Farroq (also spelled Umar Farooq ) and BNS Abu Ubaidah once in BN service, were set to head to Bangladesh following the handover ceremony.

Pennant numbers F 16 and F 19 have been painted on the hulls of the ships, which can reach a top speed of 24 n miles, according to the BN.

According to Chinese media, the BN procured the two ex-PLAN frigates under a deal signed in June 2018.

In PLAN service the primary armament of the ships consisted of a twin 100 mm gun, eight YJ-83 anti-ship missiles fired from slant-mounted containerised launchers, an octuple launcher for HHQ-7 short-range surface-to-air missiles (SAMs), and four twin 37 mm gun mountings. None of these have been removed, although the YJ-83 and HHQ-7 systems may have been modified in line with the C-802A and FM-90N export versions, particularly with regard to the missiles supplied.

In September 2019 the BN signed a contract for two more Type 053H3 frigates, including ex-Putian (pennant number 523), which is expected to be renamed BNS Khalid Bin Walid once in BN service. ■

## BRIEF NEWS

## US lawmakers approve eight F-15EX aircraft for US Air Force in FY 2020



### Key Points

The US Air Force is a step closer to acquiring its first batch of F-15EX aircraft after legislators approved the purchase

A budget expert expects the spending bill to be signed into law most likely within the next week

The US Air Force (USAF) is set to acquire the eight Boeing F-15EX Advanced Eagle fighters in fiscal year 2020 (FY 2020) as it requested as compromise policy and spending bills approved the purchase.

The compromise defence authorisation bill that passed both the House and Senate permitted the USAF to purchase eight aircraft. President Donald Trump is expected to sign this bill into law imminently.

The compromise defence spending bill has passed the House and Mackenzie Eaglen, resident fellow for the American Enterprise Institute (AEI) think tank in Washington, DC, told Jane's on 18 December that she fully expects it to be signed into law, most likely within the next week. This bill provides roughly USD1.05 billion in procurement funding for six aircraft. It also moves USD364.4 million into research, development, test and

evaluation (RDT&E) funding for the procurement of two test aircraft, and provides half of what was requested for non-recurring engineering.

The spending bill stipulates that no more than USD64.8 million for long-lead materials may be provided until USAF Secretary Barbara Barrett provides reports to congressional defence committees that include: an approved programme acquisition strategy, a capability production document, a test and evaluation master plan, and a post-production fielding strategy.

## China hands over two ex-PLAN frigates to Bangladeshi Navy



The BN said in a statement that the 2,200-ton diesel-powered ships, formerly known as Ji-axing (pennant number 521) and Lianyungang (522), were transferred in a ceremony held on 18 December at the Shenhua Shipyard in Shanghai after being overhauled.

One of the two ex-PLAN Jiangwei II-class frigates that were formally handed over to the BN on 18 December. The ship shown here, formerly known as %3Cem%3ELianyungang%3C/em%3E, was overhauled at the Shenhua Shipyard in Shanghai. (Via hao-hanfw.com)

- ▶ The 112 m-long and 12.4 m-wide vessels, which will be renamed BNS Umer Farooq (also spelled Umar Farooq ) and BNS Abu Ubaidah once in BN service, were set to head to Bangladesh following the handover ceremony.

## French Air Force weaponises its Reaper UAVs with GBU-12 bombs



The French Reaper unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) gained its first weapons capability during a firing campaign from Niamey airbase in Niger on 15-17 December. Four evaluation drops were conducted from Niamey as part of the 'Barkhane' operation.

The short firing campaign was preceded by ground training in Niamey to ensure that the equipment and procedures were suitable for local conditions in the Sahel region. French armourers received training from their US colleagues on the installation and removal of GBU-12 laser-guided bombs on and from the Reaper. Several simulated drops were also conducted from Niamey and Cognac airbases, the latter the home base of the 1/33 Belfort UAV squadron, to train in procedures.

The firing campaign started on 15 December on a range north of Gao in a desert environment.

The first drop was made in fully automatic mode, with the Reaper designating the target

and automatically computing the launch time based on its altitude and speed. The second drop took place on 16 December with manual control. The third flight on 17 December resulted in the simultaneous firing of two GBU-12s on two different targets. The first target was designated by the UAV itself and the second by another Reaper orbiting nearby. All drops were successful, according to the French Air Force.

France operates three Reaper block 1 UAVs from Niamey and two more from Cognac. So far only the Niamey-based UAVs have wiring and wing pylons for the GBUs, to be followed by the Cognac-based Reapers in early 2020.

## Libya brigade gets new armoured vehicles

The 106th Brigade of the Libyan National Army (LNA) faction has received what appear to be Terrier LT-79 armoured vehicles made by The Armored Group (TAG).

At least eight of the vehicles were seen in a video the group released on 9 December showing a parade of its Special Operations Force. All the vehicles had protected weapon stations for 7.62 mm PKM-type machine guns.

Like the ones seen in photographs of the Terrier on the TAG website, the vehicles had no markings identifying their manufacturer or model type.



- The company, which also armours civilian cars and makes cash-in-transit vehicles, says it has manufacturing facilities in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Jordan, as well as the United States and Germany.

It states that the Terrier is based on a Toyota Land Cruiser 79 chassis and can carry up to 10 people. It provides protection equivalent to the NATO STANAG 4569 Level 1 in their basic configuration: sufficient to protect those inside from 7.62×51 mm ball ammunition fired at a range of 30 m, as well as hand grenades and anti-personnel explosives.

TAG says this can be increased to STANAG 4569 Level 2 with the addition of composites, providing protection from 7.62×39 mm armour-piercing rounds.

The company did not respond to questions about the possible delivery of its vehicles to the LNA: a move that would be a violation of the UN arms embargo on Libya.

## OCEA hands over 84m OPV to the Philippine Coast Guard

French shipbuilder OCEA has delivered an 84 m offshore patrol vessel (OPV) that was on order for the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG).

The vessel, which will be known as BRP Gabriela Silang (8301) once in service, was handed over to the service at Saint Nazaire, France, on 18 December 2019. It was launched at by OCEA at Les Sables d'Olonne in July 2019.

Gabriela Silang is powered by twin MTU 16V 4000 M73 diesel engines and has a contractual maximum speed of 22 kt with a range of 8,000 n miles at 12 kt. It can accommodate a crew of 40, with 26 additional spaces for mission-specific crew.



The vessel, which has been built to OCEA's proprietary OPV 270 design, has a flight deck that can accommodate a five-tonne-class helicopter and two telescopic cranes that can launch and recover 9.2 m rigid hull inflatable boats (RHIBs).

## Argentina eyes Norwegian SSKs and plans to modernise military

Argentina is considering buying diesel-electric submarines (SSKs) from Norway to bolster its navy's operational submarine force, which is currently reduced to ARA Salta, a worn-out German-built U209-1200 boat that cannot fully submerge and is used only for training.

The Argentine Navy hopes to secure the procurement of at least two 1,150-tonne Ula-class diesel-electric submarines (UBK-210 Type design) from Thyssen, according to local military sources in Buenos Aires.

The two submarines are part of a six-boat Norwegian force completed and commissioned between 1989 and 1992.

Until 2018, Argentina had three SSKs, including two 2,300-tonne German-built TR-1700 type boats. But one of them, ARA San Juan, was lost at sea with all 44 hands in the South Atlantic late that year, when an onboard explosion made the boat dive out of control until its hull collapsed. ■



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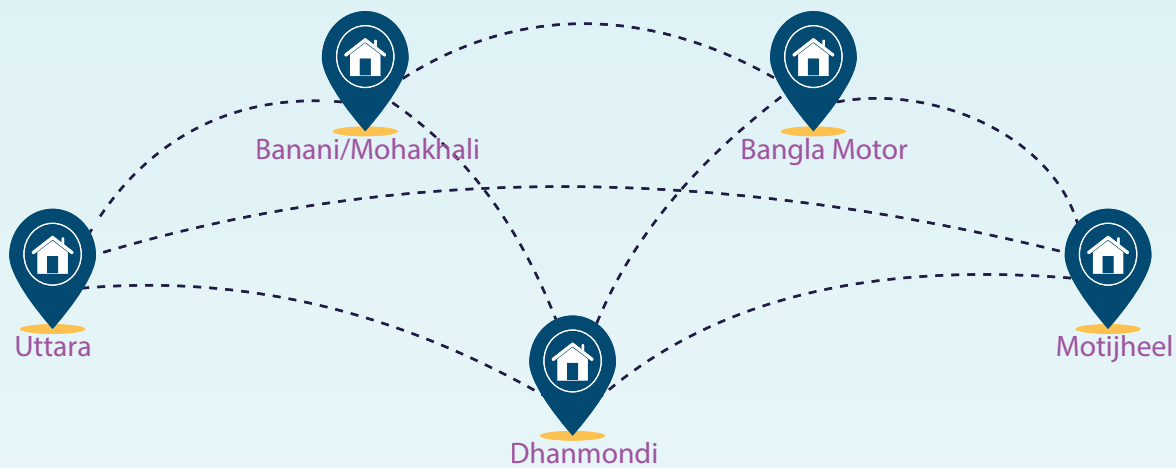


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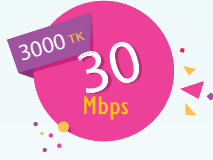
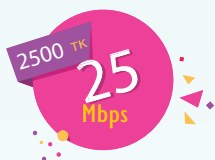
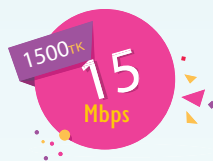
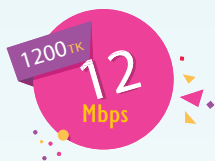
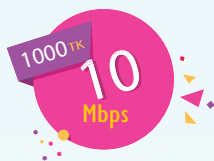
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