

# যুব সমাজই জাতির প্রাণ-প্রবাহ

# জাতীয় যুব দিবস '৯৩ ১লা নভেম্বর

যুব উন্নয়ন অধিদপ্তর  
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## YOUTH WORKS IN BANGLADESH

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### INTRODUCTION

1. Youth is the most potential and viable human resource to a nation. They are volatile, enthusiastic, courageous and always ready to accept new ideas. For this reason they are called change agent. Organized youth is a major power in any society to bring about socio-economic changes. The involvement of youth force in national policies and programs promoting environment and sustainable development is critical to the long term success of development plan of any country. A considerable success of the plan drawn out in agenda 21 in the last Earth Summit can also be achieved by involving the youth organizations in the process of implementation of those programs.

### BACKGROUND:

2. In Bangladesh the youth in the age range of 15-30 years constitute about one third of the total population (35 million approximately) ninety percent of the youth live in the rural areas, most of whom are school drop-outs or illiterate and do not have much opportunity to learn any skill to engage themselves in productive activities. Consequently a vast majority of the youth remain alienated to and out side the mainstream of the country's development activities. Problems related to poverty and unemployment have imposed restrictions upon the quality of life enjoyed by the youth.

### BASIS:

3. It is needless to mention that creative and constructive tendencies in youth are not produced automatically. Where the right perspective appropriate guidance and organizations are absent the youths are likely to be misdirected posing a threat to social peace and harmony. Only through a dedicated, honest, sincere and constructive effort a nation can utilize its youth power for positive change and development. By mobilising them for productive purpose the youths can be turned into vehicles for sustainable socio-economic development. The Government and Non-Government voluntary youth organizations have a great role to play in this regard. In Bangladesh, while a number of NGOs are making considerable efforts in organizing and involving the youth in environment and development activities, the Department of youth Development-the only government agency, is playing a vital role in implementation of the Government strategy in this sector.

### OBJECTIVES:

4. In order to enable all young men and women to achieve sustainable livelihoods and simultaneously address human resource development, sustainable resource management, and poverty eradication, Government of Bangladesh has adopted the following strategies to involve the youth in the development process through organized youth programs:

- To equip the youth with working skill, enabling them to play an effective role in the socio-economic development of the country by providing skill development training in different trades.
- To encourage the youth community in realizing the dignity of labour and to be confident of individual capabilities and quality of life of the school/college drop-outs and increase the resource base of the country.
- To develop leadership qualities of youths and promote a sense of moral and social responsibility among them including awareness in patriotism, national sovereignty and defence of the country.
- To assist the community development work on regional basis through voluntary organizations and motivate the youth force to promote sustainable development activities like environment development, tree plantation, health & sanitation, population control, eradication of illiteracy, anti-drug campaign, self-employment and poverty alleviation etc.

### PROGRAMS:

- To achieve the objectives, mentioned above, a good number of youth programs have already been undertaken by the Department of youth Development in the following areas:
  - Skill development training programs for the unemployed youths.
  - Self-employment programs for trained youths.
  - Rural training and employment generation activities through Thana (Local Administration Unit) Resource Development and Employment Project (THARDEP).
  - Youth motivation, publication and award programs.
  - National anti-drug program.
  - Youth Leadership Development Program.
  - Co-ordination and involvement of Non-Government youth organizations with Government efforts.
  - Co-operation and exchange program with different international youth organizations like Commonwealth youth programs, SAARC, JOCV, UNV-DDS youth volunteers program, including ESCAP sponsored programs.

### ON GOING PROGRAMS AND THEIR IMPACT ON FUTURE RELATED PLAN

- a) Skill Development Training project for the Unemployed Youth:**  
This project currently conducts training in 11 trades through 97 training centres spreading all over Bangladesh. Trainees are mostly school/college drop-outs or illiterate unemployed youths (within 15 to 30 years age range) having requisite qualification for different trades. They are selected by independent selection committees in different levels through advertisement in the national dailies and

through youth organizations. Duration of training courses varies from one month to 12 months. Since 1979 till June, 1992 a total of about 2,20,000 unemployed youths have been trained. Most of these trained youths have either been self employed, or found a job in some organizations thus participating in the national development process.

### b) Self-employment project for the Trained Youth:

With a view to making the training more effective and fruitful the Department of youth Development took up the said project since 1983-84. It is a sort of supplementary programs to help establish the trained youth in the society through self-employment. Upto June, 1992 a total of about 1,45,000 trained youths adopted self-employment projects. The trained youths engaged in income generating activities through self-employment project have been making direct contribution in macro-economic growth and at the same time acting as a great source of inspiration for the unemployed youths of their communities.

### c) Youth Motivation, Publication & Award Scheme:

This project is designed to promote the qualitative development of youths for preparing them as leaders and inspire them to discover the possibilities available to improve their lot. Publication of motivational literature/books, preparation of documentary films, awards to successful youth workers and grants-in-aid to youth organisations for under taking various youth programs are the major components of the project.

### d) Thana (Local Administrative Unit) Resource Development and Employment project (THARDEP):

The Population of Bangladesh is increasing day by day. As a result, the families are getting segmented into small families. The members of small families are becoming landless gradually. They are disposing of their land to affluent ones as they have no source of income leading to their livelihood. Being poverty stricken the rural youths are migration to the urban areas for employment. Thus the population in the town are on the increase and they create many social problems. These landless poor can not take up employment projects for want of fund. Consequently, most of the time they remain unemployed. Basically, their working capability and worth are not exploited. They depend upon the mercy of the well-to-do people. They are bound to live in unhealthy atmosphere created by the industrialists, affluent money lenders and

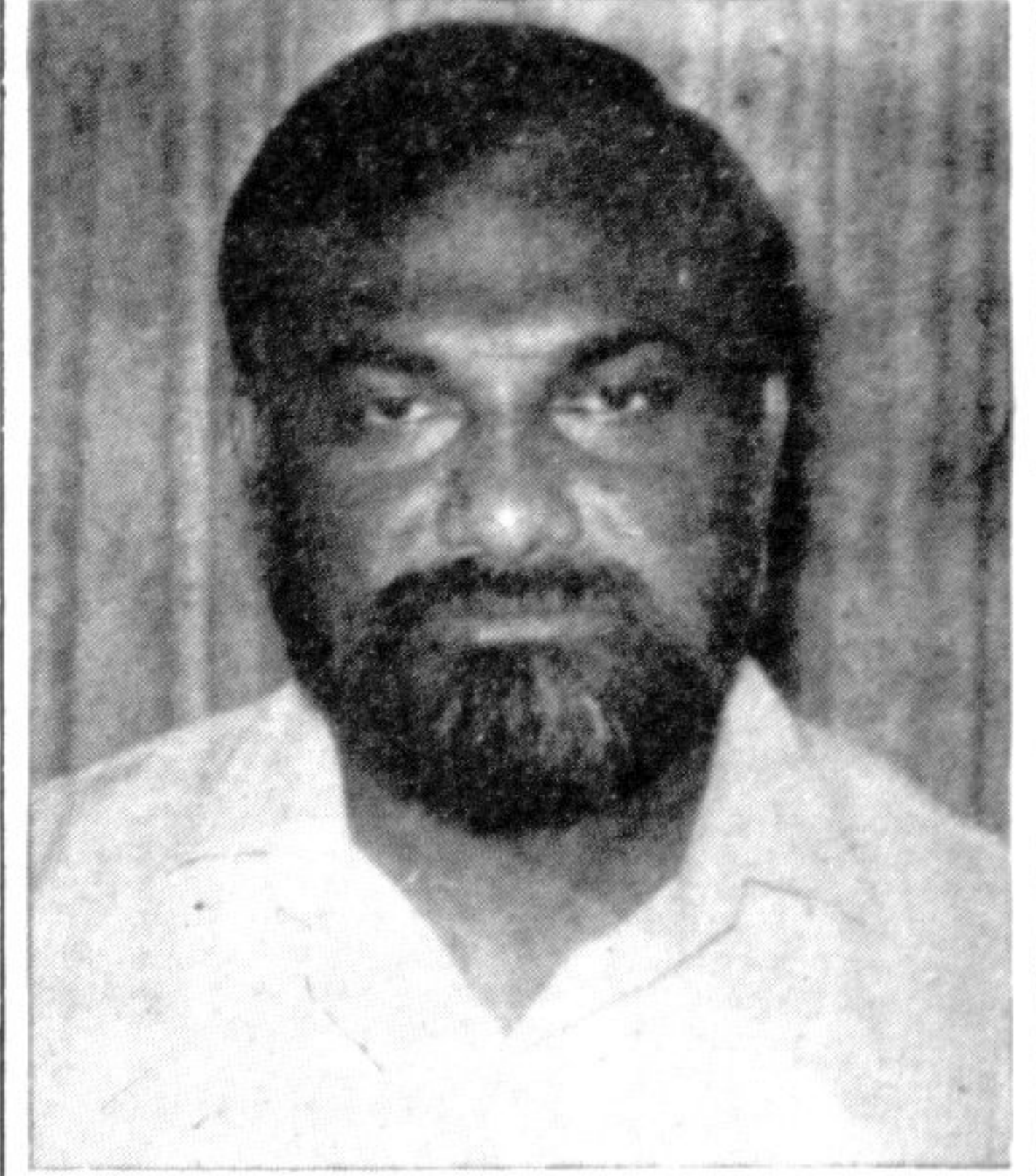
others. It has thus become imperative to create employment opportunities and income generating activities for the rural unemployed youths towards poverty alleviation. Although few other Government Organizations and NGOs have been working for poverty alleviation in isolation from each other in different parts of the country, it is very inadequate in relation to the requirement. Keeping this context in view the Thana Resource Development and Employment Project (THARDEP) had been started in 1987. This is a unique project being implemented on family based approach. It aims at alleviation the poverty of the rural poor, especially the families of youths by providing training and credit through family groups (a group of 5 members) in different trades based on local needs. The Project is still in pilot stage covering only 7 thanas out of 464 and has shown great prospect with 100% credit recovery rates through intense supervision. So far, about 26,000 members have been made financially self-reliant under this project. Being impressed by the success of the project the Asian Development Bank (ADB) has recently agreed to finance the program to cover 25 more thanas. The project has been undertaken with an aim to provide non-farm income activities of the rural unemployed youths and their family members.

### e) The Youth Welfare Fund:

The Government has established the Youth Welfare Fund with an initial allocation of Tk. 50,00,000 which has been kept as a "Trust Fund" in a Commercial Bank since July, 1985. The interest received from the fund is utilized as "Grants in Aid" to youth organizations against specific projects and as awards to individual youth for exemplary achievements. A Management Board headed by the Minister incharge of the Ministry of youth and Sports administers the fund.

### f) National Youth Day:

November 1 has been fixed as the "National Youth Day". This is observed in a befitting manner every year. Department of Youth Development and different youth organizations undertake various programs in the observance of the day. The day starts with a grand opening ceremony, usually, in presence of the head of the Government and distinguished guests both from within and outside the country. Seminars, exhibitions, sports, rallies, cultural activities, are some of the important events of the day which highlight different youth activities, showing the involvement of youths in different spheres of national life. Since 1986 "National Youth Award" scheme has been introduced to award the successful youths in self-employment by the Department of Youth Development on the occasion of the



বাণী

এটা সর্বজন স্বীকৃত যে যুব সম্প্রদায় যে কোন দেশের সর্বাঙ্গীণ সংবেদনশীল অংশ, উন্নয়ন কর্মকাণ্ডের মূল চালিকা শক্তি। কারণ তারা প্রতিজ্ঞায় অটল, প্রতিকূলতায় অবিচল, আত্মদানে অনন্য। চিব নতুনের প্রতীক যুব সমাজ দেশের সোনালী ষ্পুণ বাস্তবায়নে এক অনন্য রূপকার। সম্ভাবনাময় এই যুব শক্তির সরাসরি অংশ গ্রহণ ব্যাতিত জাতীয় অগ্রগতির ক্ষেত্রে কাঙ্খিত ফললাভ সম্ভব নয়। কারণ জাতি গঠন ও দেশের আর্থ-সামাজিক অবস্থার উন্নয়নে যুব সমাজের ভূমিকা অত্যাবশ্যিক। জাতীয় যুব দিবস '৯৩ উদযাপনের মধ্য দিয়ে জাতির প্রাণ প্রবাহ যুব শক্তিকে সুসংগঠিত করে তাদেরকে সকল উন্নয়ন কর্মকাণ্ডে সম্পৃক্ত করা সম্ভব। আমি জাতীয় যুব দিবস '৯৩ উদযাপনের মহতী প্রচেষ্টার সঙ্গে যুক্ত সকলকে ধন্যবাদ জানাচ্ছি এবং অনুষ্ঠানের সফল পরিসমাপ্তি কামনা করছি।

সাদেক হোসেন  
প্রতিমন্ত্রী

যুব ও ক্রীড়া মন্ত্রণালয়  
গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

National Youth Day every year.

### g) National Anti-Drug Committee:

The vulnerability of young people to drug misuse and abuse has in recent years become a major concern at all levels of society and Government. The Government of Bangladesh has taken a very serious view of the impact of this dangerous menace which is threatening the younger generation. Recently the Government has constituted the "National Anti-Drug Committee" and a separate Department has also been set-up to deal with drug abuse. The Ministry of Youth and Sports has been playing a key role in the anti-drug activities. The field officers of the Youth Department and the Youth Organisations are directly involved in the anti-drug movement in the field level.

### h) Joint Program with ESCAP:

The Department of Youth Development has conducted several youth leadership training courses in collaboration with ESCAP and so far 152 youth leaders from leaders from different youth clubs and organisations have been imparted training under this program. It is expected that the participants of ESCAP seminars would be able to provide better leadership in youth activities and contribute in sustainable development process.

### j) Assistance of Japan Overseas Co-operation Volunteers (JOCV):

The program of Japan Overseas Co-operation Volunteers (JOCV) in Bangladesh in Youth sector started since 1990. So far Youth Department received eight (8) Volunteers under this program. Two of them have already left Bangladesh after completion of their assignments. The rest of them are working in the rural areas to supplement and complement our programs. They have done good jobs themselves and also could successfully inspire the youths of Bangladesh to take part in various programs promoting sustainable development.

### k) Implementation of Commonwealth Youth Program (CYP):

Bangladesh is an active partner in CYP activities. The Department of Youth Development (DYD) sends 5 participants from among officers of the Department and leaders from Youth Organisations to the Commonwealth Youth Program (CYP) Asia Centre every year for a "Diploma Course" for "Youth and Development". The officers of the Department also participate in other short Course/Training Programs, Seminars, Workshops and Conferences organised by the CYP, Asia Centre, Chandigarh, India. Till to date, a total member of 54 officers and youth organizations representatives have



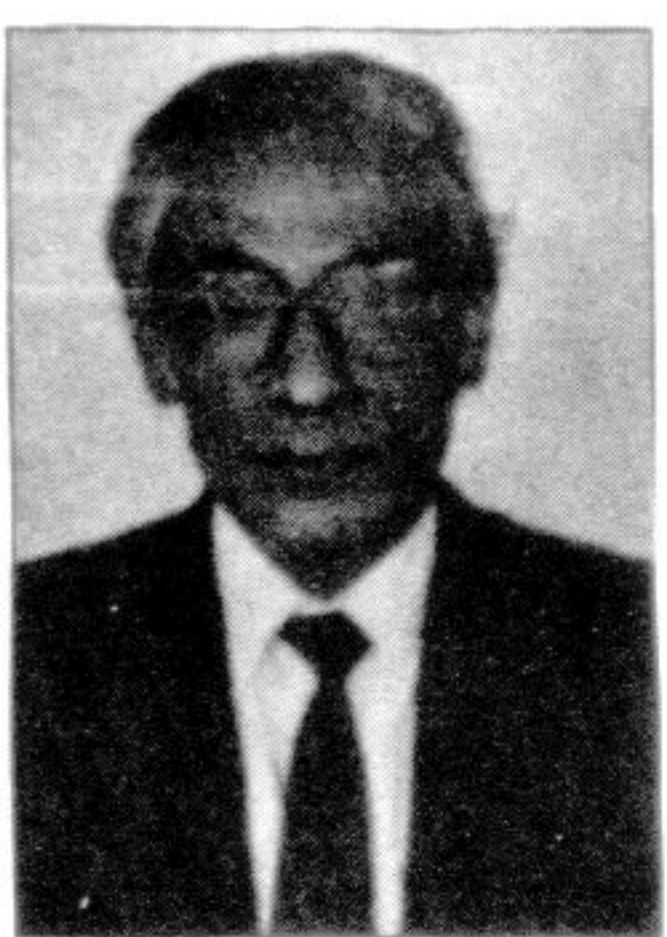
বাণী

জাতির সার্বিক উন্নয়নে যুব সমাজের ভূমিকা অত্যন্ত গুরুত্বপূর্ণ। আমাদের যুব সমাজ সুদূর অতীতকাল থেকে এ ক্ষেত্রে গুরুত্বপূর্ণ অবদান রেখে আসছে। ভাষা আন্দোলন থেকে শুরু করে নব্বইয়ের গণঅভ্যুত্থান পর্যন্ত তারা অন্যায়ের বিরুদ্ধে আপোষহীন আন্দোলনে সর্বদা সক্রিয় থেকে ইচ্ছিত লক্ষ্য অর্জনে সফল হয়েছে। যুবদের এ ধরনের প্রশংসনীয় ভূমিকা জাতি চিরদিন শ্রদ্ধাভরে স্মরণ করবে। এ প্রেক্ষিতে জাতীয় যুব দিবস '৯৩ এর শ্লোগান "যুব সমাজই জাতির প্রাণ প্রবাহ" খুবই তাৎপর্যপূর্ণ ও সমন্বয়যোগী বলে আমি মনে করি। আমার বিশ্বাস, জাতীয় যুব দিবস '৯৩ উদযাপন যুবদের মাঝে ব্যাপক সাড়া জাগাবে।

আমি জাতীয় যুব দিবসের সাফল্য ও যুবদের সার্বিক উন্নয়ন কামনা করি।

খালেদা জিয়া  
প্রধান মন্ত্রী

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার



সচিবের বাণী

যুবরা জাতির উন্নয়নের মূল উৎস, সম্ভাবনার উৎস এ যুব সমাজকে যুবদের শ্রমকে যথাযথভাবে আমর অন্তর্ভুক্ত অভিনন্দন জানাচ্ছি। ব্যবহারের লক্ষ্যে যুব উন্নয়ন অধিদপ্তর নিরলস প্রচেষ্টা চালিয়ে তাদের ভিতর মূল্যবোধ এবং আত্ম সচেতনতাবোধ জেগে উঠুক-এ যাচ্ছে। তাদেরকে দক্ষতাবৃদ্ধিমূলক প্রশিক্ষণ দানের মাধ্যমে '৯৩ এর সাফল্য কামনা করছি।

এম, আজিজুল হক  
সচিব

যুব ও ক্রীড়া মন্ত্রণালয়  
গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

# যুব সমাজই জাতির প্রাণ-প্রবাহ