

## MESSAGE

I am very much pleased that Bangladesh Council for Democracy is observing its 7th founding anniversary. When I formed this organization, the response was very poor from the resource persons whom I contacted. I was very much disheartened by the situation. Due to the encouragement of the world body and their effective cooperation we could withstand the situation. Now I am proud to tell that we are the members of the Executive Committee of the world body. Bangladesh is now one of the chapters of the world league for freedom and democracy (WLFD). WLFD is an NGO and enjoys the status of an observer at the United Nations (UN). The activity of WLFD is spread over in 99 countries. They organize seminars/workshop in different parts of the world. From Bangladesh we participated in those programmes very effectively. In the last concluded seminars held in Bangkok, the role of Bangladesh was extremely prominent. Bangladesh led a six-member delegation there. The status of Bangladesh chapter is equivalent to an NGO run purely on voluntary basis. Bangladesh chapter is now more stronger

than ever before and playing its role significantly. We hope to keep it up in the years to come.



**Farida Rahman MP**  
President  
Bangladesh Council for Democracy.

## Freedom and Democracy : A Canadian Perspective

by Hon Gabriel Desjardins  
Member of Parliament, Canada

(Read out in an International Academic Symposium held in Taipei)

I am both pleased and honored to be a representative from Canada at the "1993 World Freedom Day International Academic Symposium."

Today, I would like to speak about freedom and democracy in a Canadian perspective.

As a Canadian, I am free, free to speak without fear, free to worship God in my own way, free to stand for what I think right, free to oppose what I believe wrong, free to choose those who shall govern my country.

Regular, free and fair elections are a central element in democracies. In my country, elections must be held every five years. Parliament, however, can be dissolved by the prime minister at any time. Also, the government can be defeated in the House of Commons, in which case an election is called.

A national policy of multiculturalism applies to all the various ethnic cultures, as well as to those of British and French descent. English and French, however, are recognized as the two official languages of Canada.

The "Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms" was entrenched when Canada repatriated its constitution in 1982. It guarantees fundamental freedoms: freedom of conscience and religion; freedom of thought, belief, opinion and expression, including freedom of the press; freedom of peaceful assembly; and freedom of association. Democratic rights, such as the right to vote or be a candidate, mobility rights and legal rights are guaranteed. Equality rights guarantee against discrimination under the law because of race, national or ethnic origin, color, religion, sex, age or mental or physical disability.

Canada esteems the United Nations, its record and its potential. Our commitment to the principles of the Charter and to international cooperation is no fashionable pose. For four decades, it has been a motive force of our foreign policy.

As a matter of fact, Lester B. Pearson, a former prime minister, won the Nobel peace prize in 1957 for his efforts in creating a UN peacekeeping force during the Suez Crisis of 1956.

Canada promotes respect for human rights through such means as the UN Commission on Human Rights, the 1990 World Summit for Children, at which the co-chairman was Prime Minister Brian Mulroney, and the UN commission on the Status of Women.

Also, the International Center for Human Rights and Democratic Development was inaugurated in 1990. It is a public body established by an act of the parliament of Canada, and is located in Montreal. The center provides technical assistance and financial support to frontline activities that oppose or help prevent human rights violations and that encourage democratic development.

Included among these activities are the struggle against bonded labor, the promotion of the right to a fair and equitable trial, the protection of freedom of the press and the observation of elections. Particular emphasis is placed on programmes that target indigenous people, women, children and the poor.

Canada, through the Canadian International Development Agency, disbursed \$ 111 million in humanitarian assistance in 1990-91. In Asia, there are nine major recipients of Canadian government-to-government assistance: Bangladesh, China, India, Indonesia, Nepal, Thailand, Pakistan, the Philippines and Sri Lanka.

Canada is committed to global democratization and the protection of human rights. In a speech at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Harare, Zimbabwe in 1991, Prime Minister Mulroney said that with the spread of democ-

racy, the "prospects for peace and economic progress have probably never been greater."

Canada has supported the democracies emerging in Eastern Europe following the collapse of the Soviet Union. In a recent speech, Prime Minister Mulroney said: "from Vancouver to Vilnius and Vladivostok, people are increasingly deciding who will govern them and how. Rarely in history has there been such a victory for an idea... the idea of democracy. The task of the world's democrats now is to secure that victory and to ensure that it is neither hollow nor short-lived."

The governments of many countries are changing dramatically in the Soviet Union, in Eastern Europe, in South Africa, in Central America, in Mexico, and in Latin America at large. New societies and new institutions are being built. Oppressive and repressive governments have fallen and in their wake have risen democratic, responsive and representative governments.

Ultimately, of course, it is the peoples and governments of the countries who will make democracy and the open market work; this is as true in Eastern Europe as it is in Canada. However, as we move inexorably to a global economy and a global market, the former communist countries who are now embracing democracy need our help in their historic struggles.

## Bangkok Declaration 1992

We the participants in the Asian Pacific league for Freedom and Democracy, having gathered in Bangkok from the seventh to the tenth of November in the year of Nineteen Ninety Two to exchange views on matters of common interest to the people in our region, hereby declare:

That we unanimously support all ideas, actions, which promote freedom and democracy for the people and societies in our region.

Within our region, each country should develop mutual trade, exchange of technologies, improvement of the environment, telecommunications, safety of life in the air, sea and on the land as well as providing assistance to refugees from areas of conflict, war and natural disaster.

We believe in upgrading education for our people, granting scholarships to students to study in other countries, facilitating academic exchange and ultimate establishment at a suitable site of an APLFD University, where the students of the region can study together and learn that peace can be reached through knowledge and a better understanding of one and other and that all disagreements can be resolved through peaceful means.

To further encourage the realization of these objectives, means should be found and carried out to help each member organization achieve self-sufficiency so they can best be in position to give substance to these aims by providing them with the initial encouragement that will serve to stimulate their advancement toward our ultimate goals.

And finally, we re-emphasize our commitment to the traditional family values.

## Secretary's Report

Bangladesh Council for Democracy (BCD) started its journey from 1988 with aims and objectives to support and build up democratic institutions.

Its world body — World League for Freedom and Democracy (WLFD) — extended its moral support to the anti-autocracy movement against Ershad regime in 1990. The world body provided relief/aid for the victims of devastating

cyclone in 1991 which killed about 1,40,000 people and left thousands others injured and homeless.

Bangladesh is one of the 99 member countries of the world body. For the past two years the BCD holds an executive post of the body, which deemed to be a recognition of BCD's good performance.

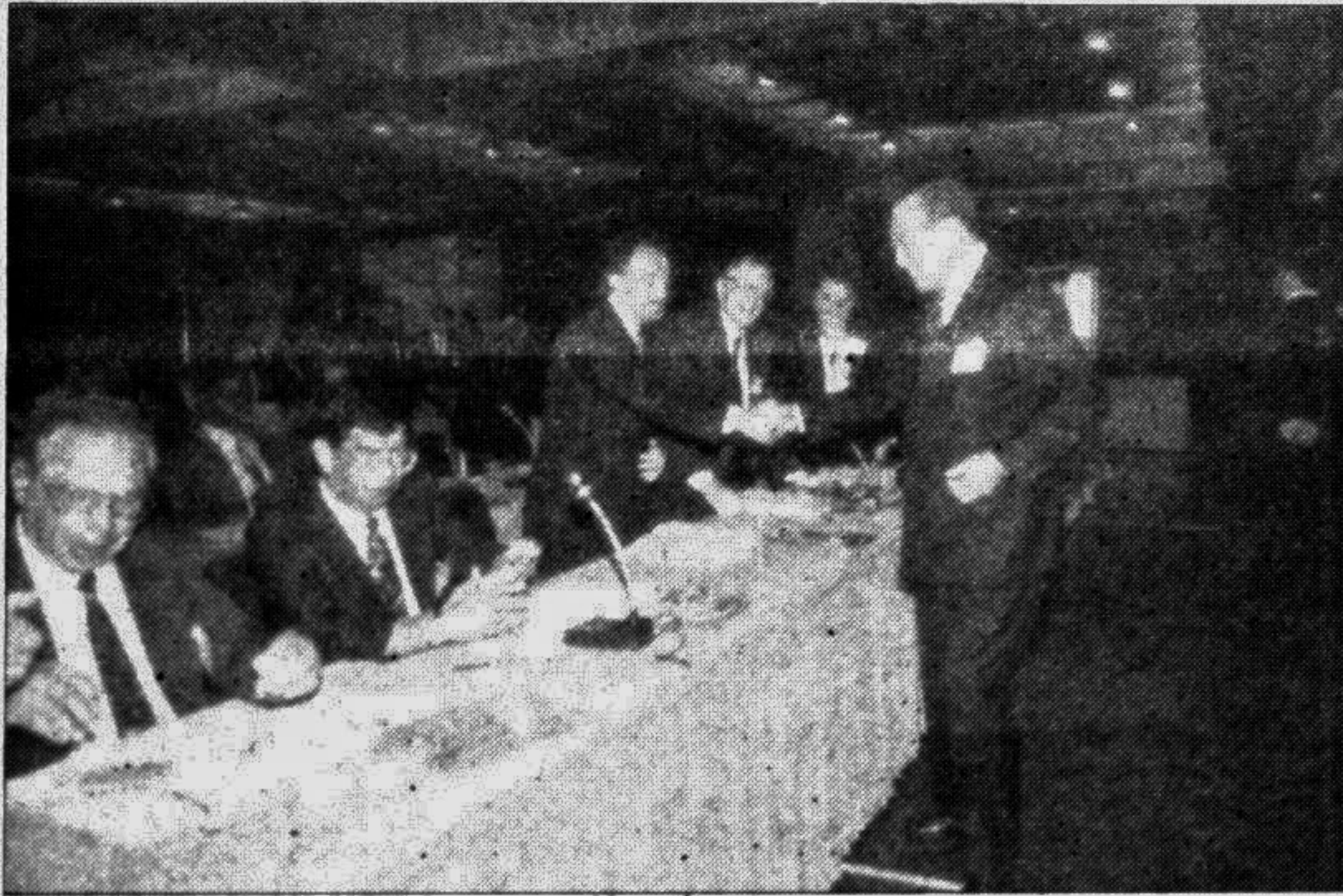
Besides holding regular meetings and seminars, the Bangladesh chapter attended

12 international and regional conferences held every year in different member countries.

Currently the BCD has 30 members including 11 in the executive committee.

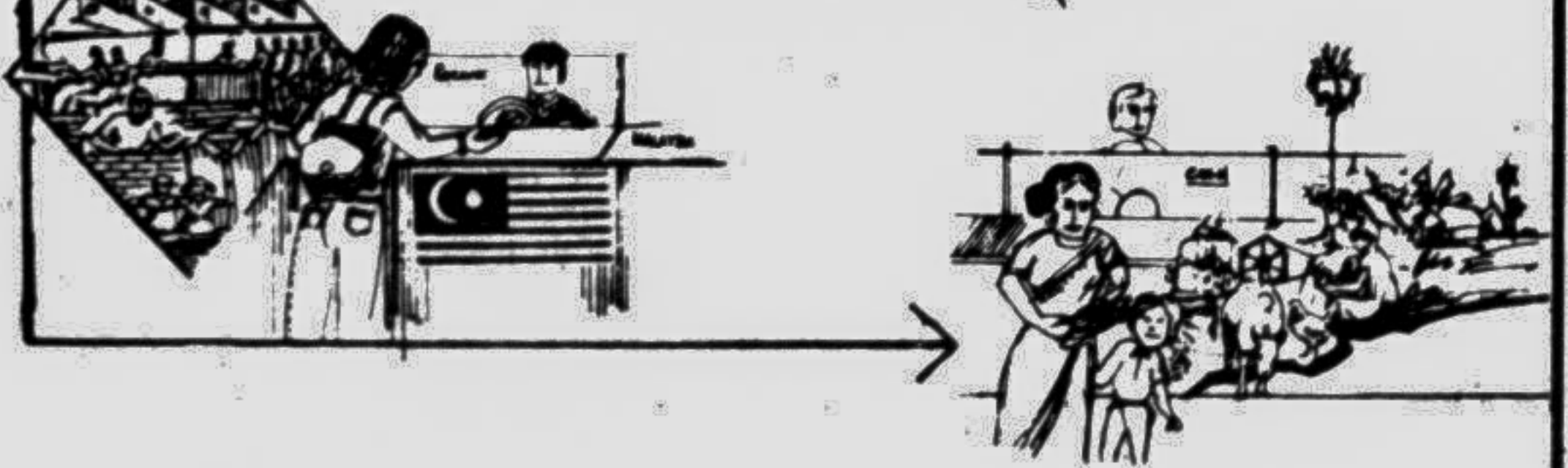
After its installation the present government has removed restriction on visit to Taiwan. It has been highly appreciated by the world body.

**Abdul Quyum Miah**  
Secretary, BCD



Dr. Chao Tze-chu, WLFD President, greeting the distinguished guests at the Symposium.

## মালয়েশিয়া থেকে প্রবাসী বাংলাদেশীদের দেশে অর্থ প্রেরণের সুযোগ



মালয়েশিয়ায় প্রবাসী ও কর্মরত বাংলাদেশীদের অর্জিত অর্থ নিরাপদ ও দ্রুততার সহিত দেশে প্রেরণের সুবিধার্থে **অসহানী ব্যাংক** মালয়েশিয়ার অন্যতম প্রধান ব্যাংক, পাবলিক ব্যাংক বারহাদ (Public Bank Berhad) প্রধান কার্যালয়, ৬ জালাল সুলতান সোলায়মান, ৫০০০০ কুয়ালালামপুর এর সহিত ডায়িং ব্যবস্থা স্থাপন করিয়াছে। এই ব্যবস্থাদীনে প্রবাসী বাংলাদেশীদের কষ্টার্জিত অর্থ উক্ত মালয়েশিয়া ব্যাংকের যে কোন শাখা হইতে ড্রাকট ও টিটি এর মাধ্যমে সরাসরি **অসহানী ব্যাংক** এর নিম্নবর্ণিত শাখা সমূহে প্রেরণ করা যাইবেঃ-

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|---|--------------------------------|
| ১। ব্রিসবান ব্যাংক, ঢাকা                  | ৫। ক্রে রোড ব্যাংক, খুলনা      |
| ২। করেন এক্সচেঞ্জ ব্যাংক, ঢাকা            | ৬। সাহেব বাজার ব্যাংক, রাজশাহী |
| ৩। লালদিবী ইন্ডা ব্যাংক, চট্টগ্রাম        | ৭। লালদিবীর পাড় ব্যাংক, সিলেট |
| ৪। কমার্শিয়াল এগ্রিয়া ব্যাংক, চট্টগ্রাম | ৮। কোর্ট ব্যাংক, নারায়ণগঞ্জ   |

প্রেরিত অর্থ অতি দ্রুততার সহিত প্রেরকের নির্দেশনামুযায়ী তাহার কিংবা তাহার নমিনি কিংবা আত্মীয়-বন্ধনের হিসাবে জমা অথবা নগদে পরিণত করা যাইবে।

সম্মতি প্রবাসী বাংলাদেশীদের অনুরোধ জানায়ে যাইতেছে যে, এই ব্যাপারে উপস্থাপনকৃত, আন্তর্জাতিক বাণিজ্য বিভাগ, প্রধান কার্যালয়, মতিঝিল, ঢাকা-বাংলাদেশ। ফোন: ২৪৯৫৬২, ২৪৬১৬০ ফ্যাক্স: ৮৮০-২-৮৩৩৫৮৭ এই টিকিটের অথবা বিশেষ প্রয়োজনে ব্যবস্থাপনা পরিচালক অথবা প্রধান কার্যালয়ের অন্যান্য উর্দ্ধতন কর্মকর্তাদের সাথে যোগাযোগ করা যাইতে পারে।



**অসহানী ব্যাংক**  
দেশ ও জাতির সেবার প্রতিশ্রুতিবদ্ধ একটি ব্যাংক।

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নানা প্রকার রাসায়নিক ও পারমাণবিক পরীক্ষা-নিরীক্ষা, বৃক্ষ নিধন, অতিরিক্ত জ্বালানী কাঠ ব্যবহার, যানবাহনের কালো ধূয়া ও কলকারখানার বর্জ্য ও কালো ধূয়া তৈল শোধনাগার ও তেলকুপ সমূহে অগ্নিকাণ্ড ইত্যাদি কারণে

## ভূমণ্ডল উত্তপ্ত হচ্ছে

**খালে**

ঘন ঘন বন্যা, খরা, বড়-বড়, সাইক্লোন, টর্নেডো, জলোচ্ছ্বাস সহ নানা প্রাকৃতিক দুর্যোগ ও তার তীব্রতা বৃদ্ধি পাচ্ছে

বৃক্ষ বাতাসকে সজীব রাখে, তাপ শোষণ করে, মাটির ক্ষয় রোধ করে, প্রয়োজনীয় প্রাণী ও পতঙ্গকুলকে আশ্রয় দান করে, মানুষের জন্য একাধারে ষাণ্ড ও আবাসগৃহ উপহার দেয়

এবং  
পৃথিবীকে শীতল রাখে

জন্ম থেকে মৃত্যু পর্যন্ত মানুষের জন্য গাছ অপরিহার্য

**অধিকহারে গাছ লাগান। পরিবেশকে রক্ষা করুন**

**পরিবেশ আমাদেরকে রক্ষা করবে।**



## পরিবেশ অধিদপ্তর

পরিবেশ ও বন-মন্ত্রণালয়,  
গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার