

Canada and Bangladesh: Partners in Development

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 largest single recipient of Canadian development assistance anywhere in the world. The share of the pie remains the same, but this is no cause for complacency: we must recognize the pie itself is shrinking. ODA is an increasingly valuable seed resource which can and must set the preconditions for increased PDI and local financing. Sustainability is the first question is proposed initiative must address. Canada and Bangladesh see eye to eye on the need for more efficient use of diminishing aid funds. Increasingly, the emphasis of both governments is on squeezing greater value out of Canadian development assistance grants: of paring out activities of lesser productivity or priority in favour of activities more supportive of Bangladesh's economic and social transition.

Canada's Official Development Assistance to Bangladesh, through the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), is provided in three forms:

- bilateral assistance (country-to-country),
- partnership programme support, in which Canada responds to initiatives of non-governmental organizations, co-operatives, educational institutions and private industry, and

— multilateral contributions, to the United Nations, the Commonwealth, the World Bank and Asian Development Banks, which support development initiatives in Bangladesh.

Over the years, Official Canadian Assistance, in partnership with the Government of Bangladesh, Bangladeshi and Canadian NGOs and Canadian business, has tackled difficult development issues in order to address the needs of the poor. Key areas of activity have included increased and diversified food production, primary health care and family planning, literacy and primary education, profitable income generating activities and micro-credit programmes for the poor, water management including irrigation, fisheries enhancement and flood control, rebuilding the national railway infrastructure, energy development and rural electrification. Canada, both through the government and charitable contributions by Canadians to NGOs, has responded generously in emergency situations. Food aid has been a vital part of Canada's assistance in both emergency relief efforts as well as in long-term development programmes for the poor.

In recent years, to increase to impact of assistance, Canada has concentrated on strengthening

Bangladeshi institutions, assisting in reforming policy and supporting the emergence of civil society groups constructively engaged in democratic process, as necessary preconditions for sustainable growth and poverty reduction. Appropriate policy formulation, efficient allocation of resources and stronger institutions linked with strategic community-based development investments, have helped the government and people of Bangladesh address issues that had inhibited equitable, sustainable development in the past.

Currently, about 20 Canadian-assisted bilateral projects in co-operation with the Government of Bangladesh and Bangladeshi NGOs and universities are under way. Through these projects, and many others Canada has assisted over the years, Bangladesh is charting a course towards self-reliance and reduced dependence on Official Development Assistance. Multilateral programmes as well as initiatives carried out by non-governmental organizations complement these projects to help build links with Canadian institutions such as universities, research, councils and financial agencies.

CIDA's assistance to Bangladesh is also provided through multilateral organiza-

tions such as the United Nations Development Programme, UNICEF, the World Food Programme, the Commonwealth, the Asian Development Bank and the World Bank. The multilateral institutions, in particular, the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank, are major sources of public development finance in Bangladesh and important channels of policy dialogue and development advice. CIDA uses its influence within these organizations to improve their leadership and effectiveness in aid co-ordination and to promote measures consistent with Canada's development priorities.

Part of the value a country like Canada brings to its development cooperation relationship with Bangladesh, is the diversity of its experience, contacts and channels. Canada provides development funds to Bangladesh through many different means. Some of these are regional: Canada works with regional NGO networks like South Asia Partnership, as well as directly with both SAARC and ASEAN, and can bring these contacts to bear in Bangladesh's favour.

The Canadian High Commissioner also awards grants from the Canada Fund for Local Initiatives, a local cost small projects fund which is directed towards micro-projects by Bangladeshi NGOs. This is especially intended to benefit self-help projects in which women are implementers or beneficiaries. Likewise, the High Commission makes small grants specifically for gender-oriented project activities, as well as for environmentally-oriented projects.

Canada looks forward to a year of accelerated development cooperation activities with Bangladesh.

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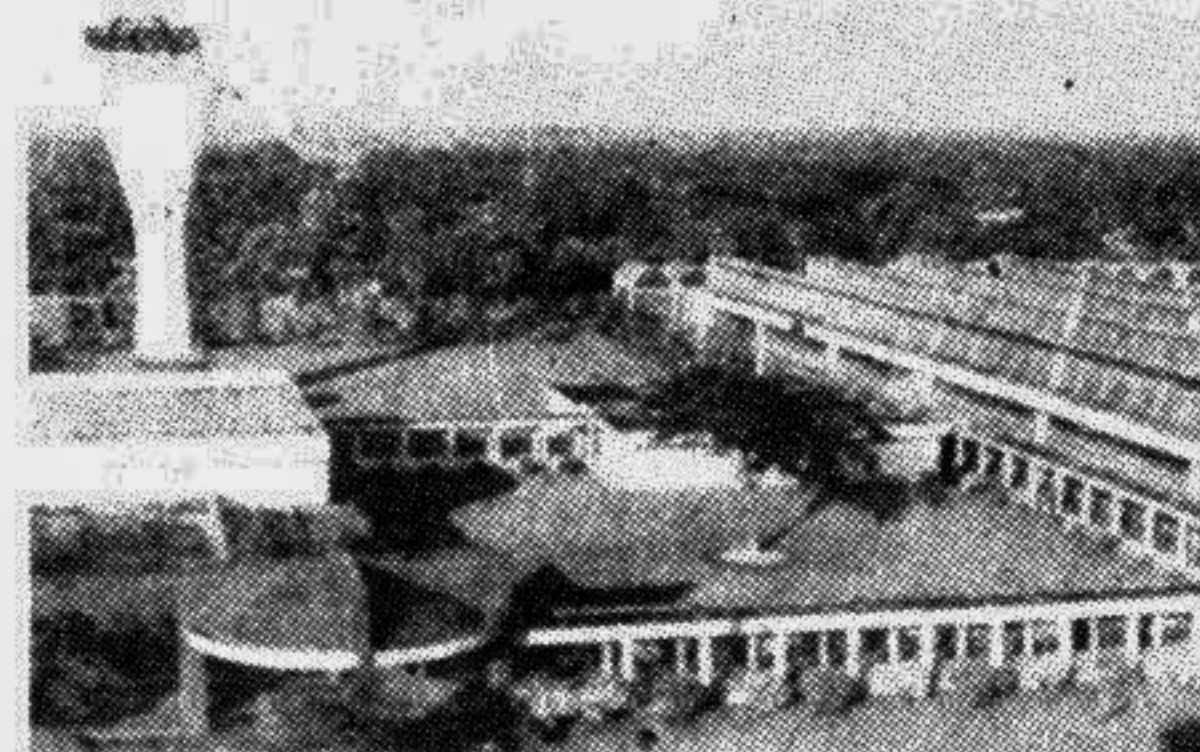


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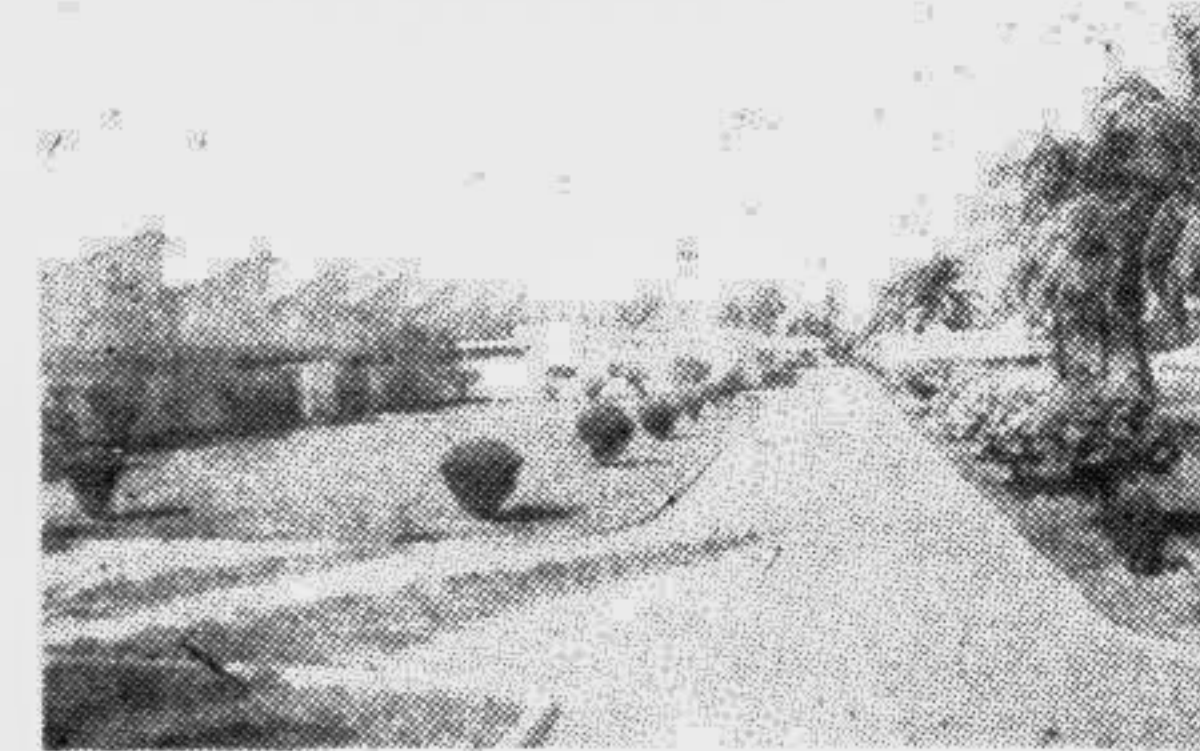
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Our warmest felicitations on the auspicious occasion of **Canada Day**



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Legal System

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 of court is the provincial Court of Appeal, which hears appeals from the lower courts.

The Parliament of Canada has established the Federal Court, which deals with claims against the federal government and such matters as patents, copyright and maritime law. There is also a Tax Court of Canada, which has jurisdiction in federal revenue matters.

The highest court in the country is the Supreme Court of Canada. This court hears appeals from the provincial superior courts and the federal courts. Its decision is always final.

In addition to all these courts, both the provinces and the federal government have established a number of specialized boards and tribunals that deal with administrative rules and regulations in such areas as broadcasting licences, safety standards and labour relations.

Warmest Felicitations to the Friendly People and the Government of Canada on the Occasion of their National Day

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