

CONSTITUTION DAY OF DENMARK



The Daily Star

SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT

June 5, 2012

Ambassador's Message



proud of their achievements over the last four decades. On our side, we treasure the strong partnership that has developed between our two countries.

Many of you will know that Denmark for many years has been providing substantial development assistance to Bangladesh, especially within the areas of human rights, democratisation and good governance, agriculture, and water supply/sanitation. Today, our support also includes a successful private sector initiative called the Danida Business Partnership Programme. This programme, which seeks to match and support long-term business collaborations between companies in Bangladesh and Denmark, contributes to growth and employment -- a top priority for both our governments.

In recent years, we have seen a growing interest from Danish companies to do business in Bangladesh as an emerging market for outsourcing and investment opportunities, and we have been successful in supporting this positive development. I can only encourage the Government of Bangladesh to continue the important efforts of further improving the enabling environment for doing business in Bangladesh, which will attract more foreign direct investments and create growth and jobs. Since the beginning of last year we have had two business delegations in IT, water and environment, and agricultural technologies visiting Bangladesh, and two more are planned for this year.

I would like to reassure you of Denmark's continued commitment to the longstanding and strong partnership with Bangladesh that has now entered the fifth decade. I am convinced that the warm relations between Denmark and Bangladesh will become even stronger over the coming years.

If you want to learn more about Denmark in Bangladesh, please join the more than 21,000 likes at our Facebook site on www.facebook.com/AmbDhaka. We would be thrilled to hear your thoughts and comments on our work in Bangladesh.

Svend Olling
Ambassador of Denmark to Bangladesh

Danish support to climate change policies and action in Bangladesh

CLIMATE Change is considered as one of the most serious threats to sustainable development. It has adverse impacts on social, economic and ecological resources. Especially poor communities and societies with few resources are the most affected by climate changes. Climate changes magnify poverty and human insecurity.

Bangladesh is one of the most vulnerable countries with multifaceted challenges of flood, drought, salinity intrusion, frequent and severe cyclones, and many other natural calamities which are becoming more severe and erratic due to the global climate change. Climate change, loss of biodiversity, natural resource depletion, and a host of other environmental problems, coupled with growing energy challenges and increasing population, weak governance, corruption, illegal land grabbing and other issues pose serious threats to humans and the environment.

The Government of Bangladesh plays a commendable and pro-active role at the global scene as well as at the national level in raising awareness and combating climate change effects. Denmark share many common views with Bangladesh on issues related to climate change and has in recent years established a close and constructive cooperation with the Government of Bangladesh and with a number of other national partner organisations in Bangladesh working on climate issues. For many years, environmental concerns have been an integrated part of Danish development assistance, which today also includes reduction of climate change emission and climate change adaptation.

In 2005, the Danish government launched a "Climate and Development Action Programme" in order to ensure that climate change concerns will be incorporated into Danish development assistance, including Bangladesh. In 2008 a climate change screening study was carried out jointly by the Government of Bangladesh and the Embassy of Denmark in Dhaka for integrating climate change issues in agriculture and water sectors and also for identifying better adaptation options. This study showed that, climate change is already leaving its marks within these sectors and hampers their functionality by both direct and indirect impacts creating ground water depletion, salinity intrusion, water sources contamination, water and vector borne diseases, damage of water supply infrastructure, loss of biodiversity, loss of agricultural land, changes of production of crops and so forth. Since climate change is a dynamic process, the impact will keep on changing over time, it is not possible to prescribe a hard and fast remedial measure for adaptation. The study analysed different risks and challenges and potential options for adaptation on the basis of various geographical and ecological zone of the country.

On the basis of that study and from the day to day experience, adaptation options, both long and short term, are now part of the regular programmes supported by Danida. The purpose for this inclusiveness is to reduce the burden of risks in implementing the programmes due to climate changes with possible adaptation solutions in the inter-

vention areas.

The adaptation practices in the two sectors are basically broader approaches to ensure best possible results from investments. Identifying adaptation solutions in the day to day life of the vulnerable people's community mobilization is a must. The resilient people of Bangladesh have long history of survival against natural calamities and they will be the best judge to determine their options for adaption against climate change. We believe that adaptation must be built on insightful and in-depth understanding of how climate change impacts are experienced in a local context, and draw on the knowledge of local people. The Embassy of Denmark has in recent years supported several community based adaptation and disaster risk reduction activities back with different national and international NGOs aiming at establishing a sustainable national capacity for climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction. The support includes community-based adaptation practices, strengthening local government institutions, strengthening a national flood forecasting system, and protection of environmental rights for marginal people.

Furthermore, the Embassy of Denmark in Dhaka works closely with the Ministry of Environment and Forest supporting the international negotiations, capacity building and advocacy work. Denmark has also supported the Government of Bangladesh in formulating, revising and disseminating the Bangladesh Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan (BCCSAP) both in English and Bengali version and has provided initial support to establishing the Bangladesh Climate Change Resilience Fund in cooperation with the Government of Bangladesh and with other

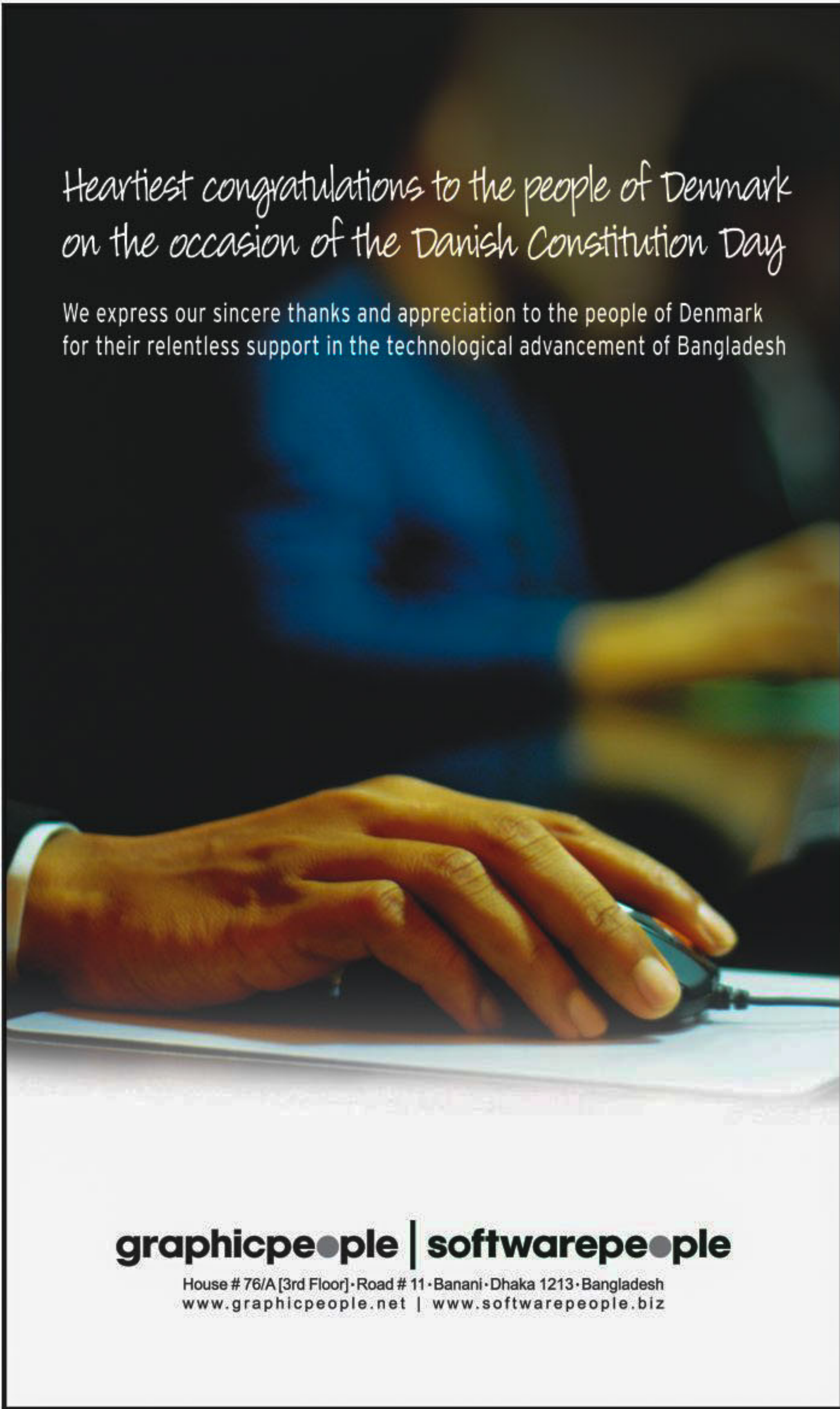
Development Partners. The Fund is a multi-donor supported mechanism for financing of large-scale climate change adaptation in Bangladesh as support to the Bangladesh Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan.

2012 is an important year for development practitioners, not at least due to the Rio+20 Conference, which will take place in late June this year. Denmark strongly believes that with the long experience of Bangladesh in

sustainable development practices, skills and expertise in international negotiation and strong political will of the Government, Bangladesh can make a crucial contribution in this important global discourse.

Heartiest congratulations to the people of Denmark on the occasion of the Danish Constitution Day

We express our sincere thanks and appreciation to the people of Denmark for their relentless support in the technological advancement of Bangladesh



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House # 76/A [3rd Floor]- Road # 11-Banani-Dhaka 1213-Bangladesh
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Further information is available on request from:
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House # 26, Road # 7, Block # G, Banani, Dhaka.
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changing diabetes

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WISHING THE PEOPLE OF DENMARK THE VERY BEST ON CELEBRATING CONSTITUTION DAY



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