PHOTO: PRABIR DAS



The spot at Dhaka University campus, where the flag was raised for the first time in 1971.

PHOTO: COURTESY

map of Bangladesh on the green field became the ultimate expression of our national spirit. The cloth of the first flag was donated by Bazlur Rahman Lashkar, a tailor at the New Market.

Hundreds of students and common people saluted the flag expressing their solidarity with the movement for liberation, and it became the emblem of national spirit of the people. During the historic speech of March 7, thousands of people gathered at Suhrawardi Uddyan (the then Race Course) holding the flag in their hand. On March 23, 1971 on the Republic Day of Pakistan, the flag of Bangladesh was hoisted from the residence of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

During the entire nine months of the liberation war our freedom fighters have fought and sacrificed their lives for this flag. In 1972, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman ordered renowned Artist Quamrul Hassan to redesign the flag and to submit a detailed explanation of his design. The contortion of Bangladesh's southern islands made it very difficult to place the map inside the red circle. The map was removed from the flag. Quamrul Hassan's design and report was accepted as the standard dimension of the national flag.

Our people's love for this hard-earned flag is second to none in the world. They have topped the world in making the largest human flag on December 16, 2013, which marked the 42nd Victory Day of Bangladesh.

But excessive use of the national flag while celebrating the national days resulted in some form of disrespect. Before using the flag we must learn the rules and regulations of using it. It is our duty to give proper respect to this emblem of sovereignty as honouring the flag means showing respect to our struggle for liberation. ■