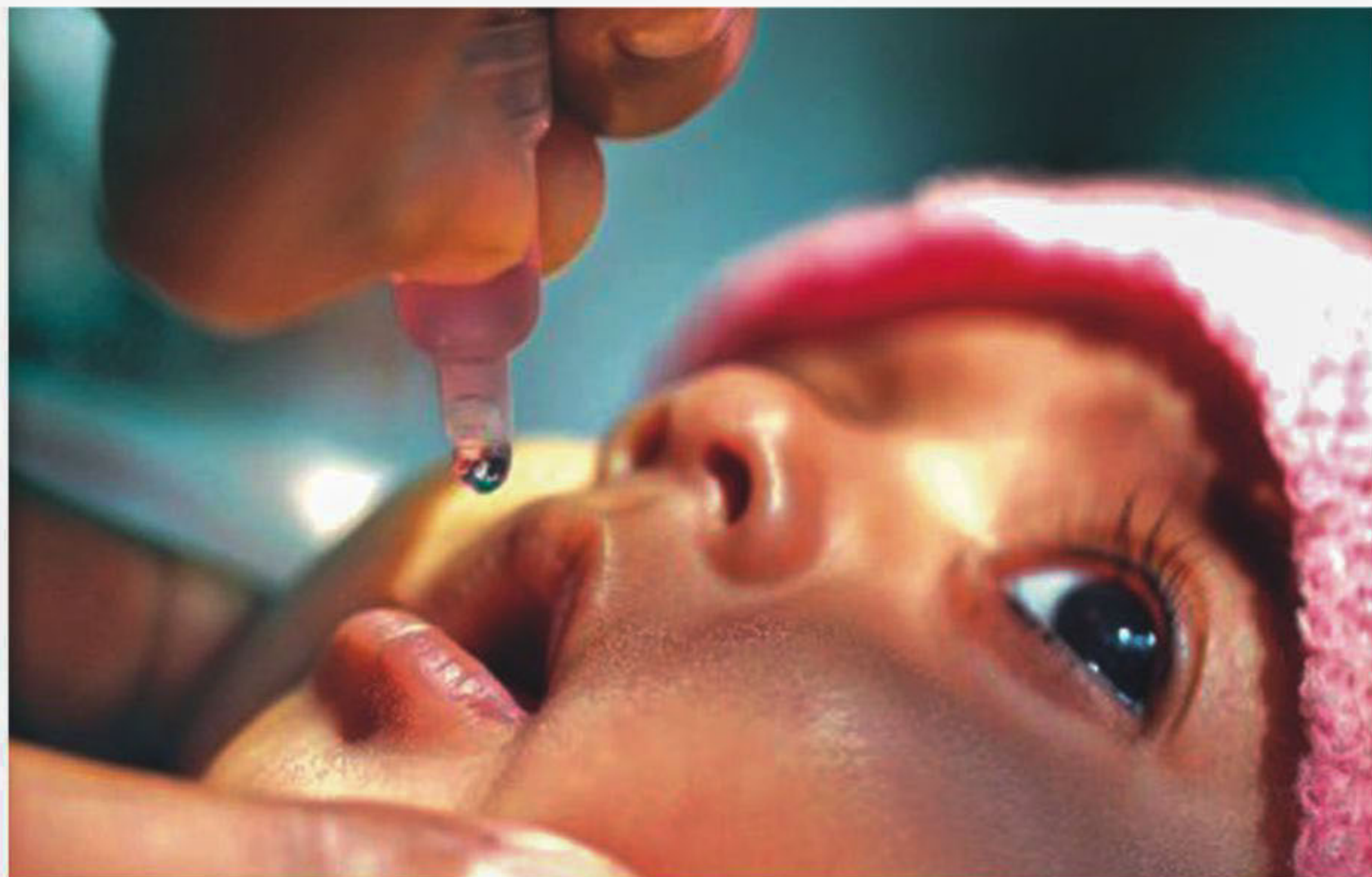


# ACHIEVEMENTS



Bangladesh became one of the 11 South Asian countries to be declared polio-free by the World Health Organisation (WHO).

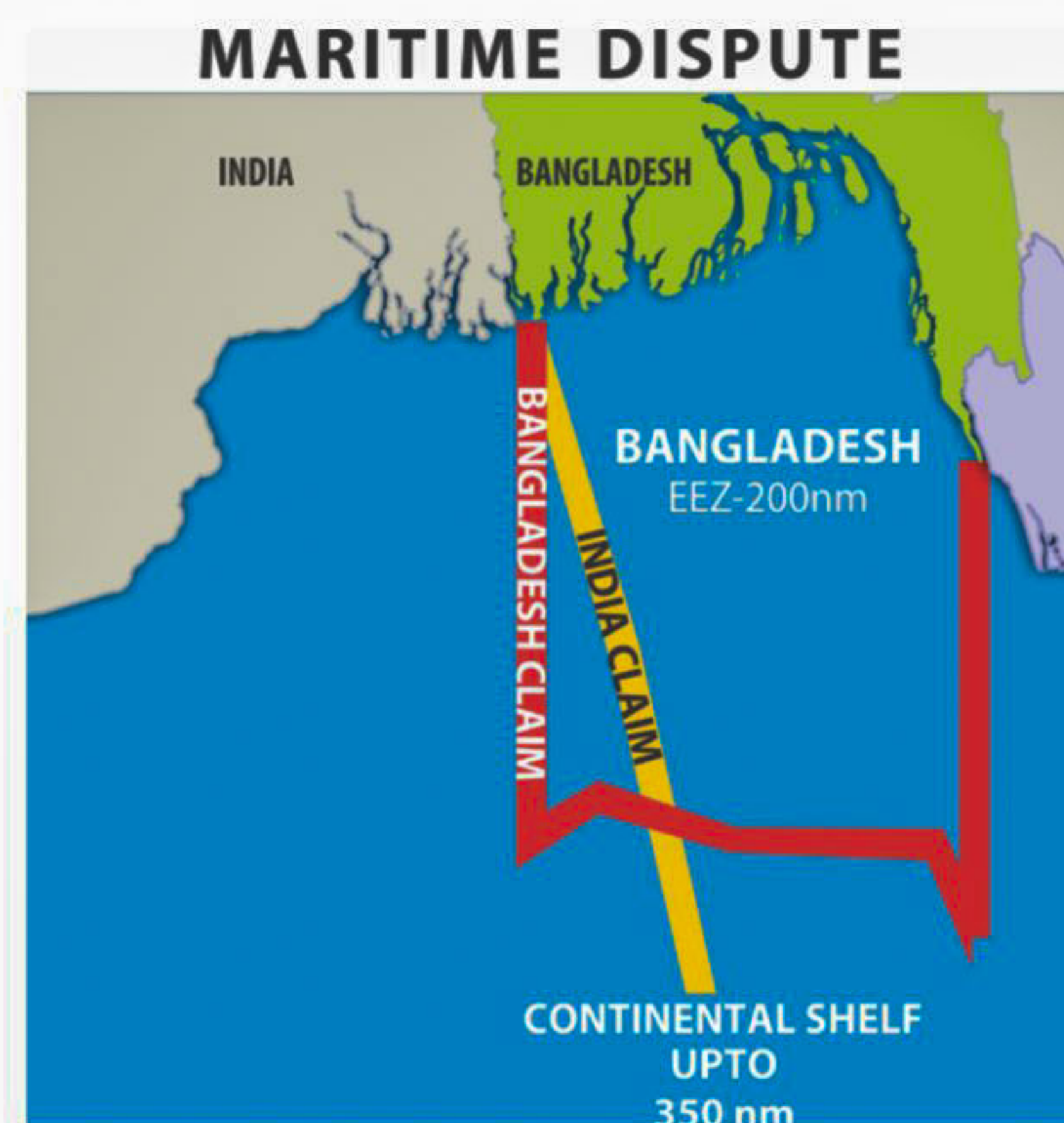


A new high-yielding rice variety rich with higher zinc content has been officially released to farmers for growing from the next Boro season. Bangladesh Rice Research Institute (BRRI) breeders developed the high-zinc rice varieties.



Two female officers of Bangladesh Air Force -- Flight Lieutenant Nayma Haque and Flying Officer Tamanna-E-Lutfi-- became the first-ever combat pilots of the country.

In a landmark judgment, the international arbitral tribunal rejected India's maritime claim and upheld Bangladesh's claim of 200 nautical miles' exclusive economic zone and territorial rights in the Bay of Bengal, ending a three-decade long dispute between the neighbours.



Bangladeshi scientist Firdausi Qadri was named as a member of a high-level panel which will advise the UN chief on the organisational and operational aspects of a proposed Technology Bank and Science, Technology and Innovation Supporting Mechanism dedicated to the least developed countries (LDCs).



Nine prominent persons and a state-run organisation were awarded the Shadhinata Padak, the highest state award for contributions to society.



Fifteen eminent personalities received the prestigious Ekushey Padak in recognition of their contributions in respective fields.



A Bangladeshi company, LaTeer Livestock Limited, and Beijing Genomics Institute (BGI) jointly unravelled the complete genome of water buffalo, opening up a new horizon in developing better breeds of the animal that is vital for milk and meat.