

ECONOMIC MIRACLE
Bangladesh became a case study in development in the last 50 years
INFOGRAPHICS ON B1

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50 YEARS OF VICTORY

Mind fearless, head held high



WASIM BIN HABIB

Fifty years ago when Bangladesh emerged as an independent nation defeating a brutal military campaign by Pakistan, it was a country in ruins. Amid periodical natural disasters and a plethora of post-war strife and turbulence -- poverty, food shortage, hunger, massive destruction of infrastructure, and crumbling economy -- the country's start did not paint a picture that would radiate hope. Bangladesh was dismissed as a "basket case" with no mineral resources and high population growth. After the independence, much of the developed world believed that the country would have to be fed by the international community.

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A mother's doors never shut

SUSHANTA GHOSH

For the last 50 years, Kulsum Begum has been leaving the front door open for her son to come home.

Omar Faruk left the house in Pirojpur town after the Liberation War broke out. Before stepping out of the home one night, the 21-year-old asked his mother to keep the door open and cook extra food, promising to come back soon with his fellow freedom fighters for dinner.

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TRAIN TO MASSACRE

June 13, 1971. It was midnight -- hundreds of Marwari families were brought to Saidpur Railway Station. Could they ever sense what lay ahead for them?



SCAN THE QR CODE TO WATCH VIDEO STORY.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina talking to visiting Indian President Ram Nath Kovind. The PM paid a courtesy call on the Indian head of state at Pan Pacific Sonargaon hotel in the capital. Kovind arrived in Dhaka yesterday on a three-day visit to join the celebrations of Mujib Borsho, the 50th Victory Day of Bangladesh and the 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

PHOTO: PID

Partners in progress

Dhaka-Delhi ties comprehensive, vibrant, Kovind tells Hasina

STAR REPORT

After the Bangladesh-India relationship has achieved new heights and saw the amicable resolution of various difficult issues, the countries now seek further changes to improve the lives of the two peoples.

The two countries, which have completed 50 years of diplomatic ties, have achieved incredible synergies, setting the stage for exponential increase in ties in the coming days, said officials after the meeting between Indian President Ram Nath Kovind and Bangladesh President Md Abdul Hamid at the Bangabhaban yesterday evening.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen also called on President Kovind at Pan Pacific Sonargaon hotel.

"In 10 years we will see very changed and different countries. We are looking at green technologies, renewables in this era of climate change to create employment, IT and digital platforms, startups," said Indian Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla.

"Both our countries have young populations; we are looking at dynamic growth," he said at a press conference at the Sonargaon Hotel.

Terming Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman an ideal

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JAN 1 TEXTBOOK FESTIVAL

Not certain for all

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

For a decade, children have started their new school year with the smell of freshly printed textbooks, but it may not happen for all pre-primary and secondary students this year.

Printers of the free textbooks and officials concerned said the government would be able to give almost all primary students new textbooks on January 1 but delivery to pre-primary and secondary students have become uncertain.

As of Monday, about 98 percent of 9.98 crore primary textbooks for the 2022 academic year have reached the upazilas. But half of the 24.71 crore secondary textbooks are yet to reach the upazilas and work orders for printing 66 lakh textbooks for pre-primary were yet to be issued, according to National Curriculum and Textbook Board (NCTB) Chairman Prof Narayan Chandra Saha.

Usually, the NCTB is able to send around 95 percent of the textbooks to the upazilas by mid-December, according to insiders.

Delays in tender process, issuance of work orders, and other necessary work related to printing pre-primary and secondary textbooks, have created this uncertainty, said textbooks printers.

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- 98% primary textbooks reached upazilas
- COPIES OF TEXTBOOKS 34.70cr
- NUMBER OF STUDENTS 4.17cr
- 50% secondary textbooks yet to reach upazilas
- PRIMARY TEXTBOOKS 9.98cr
- PRIMARY STUDENTS 2.27cr
- Work order for 66 lakh pre-primary books yet to be issued
- SECONDARY TEXTBOOKS 24.71cr
- SECONDARY STUDENTS 1.89cr

Cooking stove the killer

Pollution caused by stove smoke killed 18,000 in Bangladesh in 2017

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

Smoke from cooking stoves that burn coal, wood, dung, and crop residues caused the deaths of almost 18,000 people in Bangladesh in 2017, according to a global study.

The World Health Organisation says combustion from stoves contributes to heart disease, stroke, lung cancer and respiratory infections.

In 2017, 63,718 deaths were due to ambient (outdoor) PM2.5 in Bangladesh, where residential fuel use is the single largest source for PM2.5, said the study.

It said residential fuel contributed to 28.2 percent of the ambient air pollution, followed by energy with 12.4 percent.

In Bangladesh, such stoves have long posed a serious danger to women, who usually shoulder the burden

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CELEBRATING GOLDEN JUBILEE OF VICTORY

Read today's The Daily Star Plus for more stories on the Liberation War

www.bsrm.com

১৯৭১-এ ভেঙেছি ২০২১-এ গড়ছি

বিজয়ের প্রয়োজনে

১৯৭১-এ জয়ের জন্য মুক্তিযোদ্ধারা ভেঙে দিয়েছিলেন ব্রিজ, কালভার্টসহ আরো অনেককিছ। আজ দেশগড়ার মাধ্যমে সেই বিজয়যাত্রা অব্যাহত আছে। নিরাপদ আগামী গড়ার প্রয়োজনে আজ আমরা গড়ছি ব্রিজ, ভবন, নগর-বন্দর।
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