

Centre for Research and Information

# ANNUAL REPORT

2022



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CRI  
in  
2022

The year 2022 has been a year of mobility, as CRI began meeting in the same room without any screens in between. In 2022, CRI strived for bettering its policy research initiatives and activism with maximized synergies. It has reached out to far corners of Bangladesh with its signature programs. CRI generated publications and contents capturing Bangladesh's power and energy sector, infrastructure development, perspective plans, labor sector policies and legal frameworks, delta plan, e-judiciary and Bangladesh's widely discussed development model. CRI also published four issues of its quarterly policy magazine 'WhiteBoard' which have created a lot of buzz in the policy-practitioner community.

In 2022, CRI and its youth platform Young Bangla organized a number of in-person and virtual events. Young Bangla hosted the 6th edition of 'Joy Bangla Youth Award' recognizing 10 youth-led initiatives from the grassroots of Bangladesh. The youth platform also hosted its flagship 'Let's Talk' program at 4 universities.

On 19 August 2022, CRI organized a virtual discussion titled '1975 Bangladesh and the World: A Grand Reform, A Carnage.' The discussion event was part of CRI initiative to facilitate analytical discussion where the new generation, researchers and Bangladesh-observers get insights on the ramifications of the assassination of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman along with his family and colleagues during the early hours of August 15, 1975.

CRI's youth platform Young Bangla in collaboration with UNDP Bangladesh and Bangladesh National Human Rights Commission organized a Policy Café on Women's Safety in Public Places on 8 August 2022. The policy event was part of the "Women's Safety in Public Places Campaign" conducted jointly by Young Bangla, UNDP and National Human Rights Commission.

# About CRI

Centre for Research and Information (CRI) is a youth-focused policy think-tank which aims to create a platform for public discussion on important matters of national policy in Bangladesh. CRI explores through people-centered debate, political ideas and policy reforms that will define progressive politics and policies in a new, knowledge-driven Bangladesh. With a focus on youth engagement and democratized debate, CRI aims to bring politics closer to the people. CRI believes in active participation of the citizens in matters of national policy. By bridging the gap between people and policy-making, CRI strives to empower citizens, particularly youth and afford them a stake in their society. The organization generates quality research and data on opinions and views of people, especially young people in Bangladesh through creative, participatory methods. By doing so, the views of the people are given a platform which can influence policy decisions on both local and national level.



# ENGAGEMENT in 2022



## Policy research and advocacy

CRI has been generating quality research publication on development, youth preferences, public policies and international issues since 2013. In 2022, CRI generated publications and articles capturing Bangladesh's power and energy sector, infrastructure development, perspective plans, labor sector policies and legal frameworks, delta plan, e-judiciary and Bangladesh's widely discussed development model.

# WhiteBoard

## Policy Magazine

'WhiteBoard' is a quarterly policy magazine launched by CRI in 2020. It is a go-to resource for original commentary on Bangladesh. The editorial team comprises economists, analysts, anthropologists, researchers and creative professionals. The Editorial Advisory Board comprises experts in their respective fields. The magazine features contributions from acclaimed social thinkers, political economists, business leaders and young innovators of Bangladesh and beyond.

### Issue 7

CRI published the 7th issue of 'WhiteBoard' in March 2022. The issue featured Dipu Moni and Samia Huq on curricular interventions; Rejaul Karim Siddiquee on equal opportunity employment; Junayed Ahmed Chowdhury on a new transaction regime; Yun Xin Lua and Muhammad Shafiullah on the VAW-WASH linkage; Rumana Islam on Bangladesh's external relations; and Sudipto Mukerjee, Robert Simpson, Tuomo Poutiainen and Subhra Bhattacharj on UN-Bangladesh relationship.



### Issue 8

The 8th issue of 'WhiteBoard' was published in June 2022. The issue featured Gustav Papanek on industry-focused job creation for poverty elimination in populous countries like Bangladesh. This issue also featured Ferdous Rahman and Shenin Sherjin Promi on modern insolvency regime, Atiqul Islam and Nausher Rahman on rapid urbanization through Dhaka lens and creating an urban governance paradigm for the future, Tobias Pforr on proactive use of the International Monetary Fund's Special Drawing Rights allocation for Bangladesh, and Tasmeem Chowdhury Bonhi and Sharmistha Deb on mental health literacy in schools.



### Issue 9

The 9th issue of 'WhiteBoard' was released in September 2022. In this issue, economist Mustafizur Rahman presented a comprehensive analysis of Bangladesh's external borrowing and some key recommendations. Sonny Leong wrote about how re-skilling and re-education are essential in creating a modern workforce. Nazmul Avi Hossain seek the answer of why is higher education not leading to jobs for young people. Mehrin Karim looked at how investing in social protection has helped Bangladesh reduce poverty. Tarana Halim made a strong case for an overhaul of the legal framework governing the creative industries. And Shariful Islam charted out a course for Bangladesh to ensure peace and prosperity in the Bay of Bengal.



### Issue 10

The 10th issue of 'WhiteBoard' was released in December 2022. This issue featured Mushtaque Chowdhury, Nina van der Mark and Robert Yates on Bangladesh to move towards universal health coverage. Sumaiya Iqbal and Monirul Islam on building healthy minds in fighting religious extremism and radicalization. Mohammad Shahabuddin's article looked at the status of ethnic minorities in Bangladesh. Tawheed Reza Noor and Pradip Kumar Dutta advocated for a completely new approach to gain international recognition of the 1971 genocide in Bangladesh. Pallavi Roy analysed whether South Asia is ready for a single energy market. Leni Papa, Pierre Horna and Azhar Uddin Bhuiyan advocated for institutional reform to the Bangladesh's Competition Commission to allow CMSMEs to truly flourish.

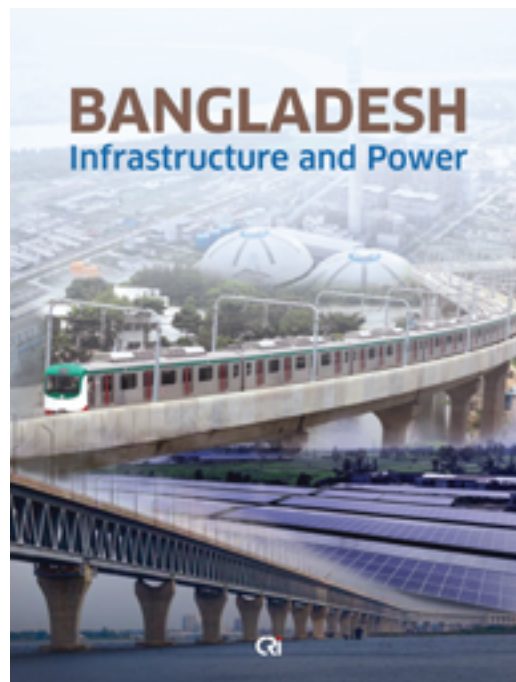




## Publication

### Bangladesh Infrastructure and Power

Infrastructure building has been one of the key agendas of Bangladesh's development vision in the period since 2009. Bangladesh has put top priority to the development of its transport network. The country witnessed an accelerated growth of the transport sector in the past two-decades. Connectivity is among the top reasons for Bangladesh's economic transformation from rural-agro base to urban-industrial base. The country's industrialization agenda has been propelled by the power and energy policies. It has achieved 100% electrification in 2022, which is a true milestone for a rural-riverine country. The new policies are moving towards efficiency gains through advanced tech and better power distribution. This CRI publication looks at the major development plans and infrastructure projects under different sectors, along with their implementation challenges and impacts.



## Development stories

### How Hasina created a 'Bangladesh model'

Sheikh Hasina is the longest serving prime minister of Bangladesh. Her tenure has changed the course of the country because under her, the country reached a point of



stability whereby it picked up a decadal record of growth momentum, which has also been inclusive. In 2009, Hasina administration, for the first time, changed the course of policymaking in Bangladesh by focusing on long-term planning rather than just firefighting. This article elaborates how Sheikh Hasina has created a 'Bangladesh model' for development, which researchers are yet to dissect.

### This is how Bangladesh is digitalizing its judiciary

CRI published a feature article on how Bangladesh is digitalizing its judiciary. The digitalization of justice system is popularly known as e-judiciary. Bangladesh launched its across-the-board digitalization strategy, 'Digital Bangladesh,' in 2009 to translate the long-term development vision into action. As part of the strategy, the government launched an 'e-governance' initiative in almost every organ within it. The core purpose was to enhance access to justice and streamline the judiciary. In other words, Bangladesh decided to infuse tech in the judiciary system.





## DP2100? Bangladesh's longest development strategy in a nutshell

Since 2009, Bangladesh started formulating long-term strategic plans. These include strategies, programs and projects, which collectively make up the country's development pathway. The longest envisioned plan which Bangladesh has formulated is called the Delta Plan (DP2100), which sets targets for 2100. DP2100 inculcates climate resilience at the core of Bangladesh's development agenda. As a riverine deltaic land, Bangladesh is rich in water resources. The DP2100 lays out water-centric cross-sectoral actions needed to improve



productivity, and minimize disaster risks with focus on economic prosperity. This CRI article explores the principal features and goals of the plan.

## All you need to know about Bangladesh's labor standards



Bangladesh's government has been focusing on decent working environment in industrial establishments, eliminating child labor and creating a skilled workforce. The government, in cooperation with the development partners, is implementing a reform to upgrade the labor right situation in the country. This article describes a number of policy and institutional measures to ensure workers' rights in Bangladesh.

## Zero poverty and everything else you need to know about Bangladesh's new PP'41 long-term plan

Bangladesh has envisioned a transformational strategy to become an advanced economy by 2041, which was coined as Vision 2041. It was a political vision led by Bangladesh's prime minister Sheikh Hasina. Thereafter a strategic plan, Perspective Plan 2021-2041 (PP'41), was formulated under the guidance of the country's apex policymaking body National Economic Council. This article explores the goals and targets set in Bangladesh Perspective Plan 2041 and the strategies to achieve those goals and targets.



## Special day articles

### Why does Bangladesh celebrate 'Independence' and 'Victory' separately

Bangladesh celebrates two distinct national days centering its independence in 1971 – 26 March as Independence Day and 16 December as Victory Day. CRI published an article on why Bangladesh celebrate 'Independence' and 'Victory' separately. The article explores the chronological history of how Bangladesh arrived at a turning point on 26 March 1971 from the Partition of British India in 1947 and finally emerged as an independent nation on 16 December 1971, through a nine-month long war of liberation.

### Why Bangladesh commemorates 3 November as 'Jail Killing Day'

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman led Bangladesh to emancipation with his ideological and strategic leadership. Mujib was accompanied by a dynamic team of companions, who combined formed the

top-tier of the Awami League leadership – namely Syed Nazrul Islam, Tajuddin Ahmad, M. Mansur Ali, and AHM Kamaruzzaman. These four politicians were instrumental in providing strategic wartime leadership. After brutal assassination of Mujib on 15 August 1975, these four leaders were imprisoned. On 3 November 1975, they were assassinated while in custody at Dhaka Central Jail. Since then, 3 November is commemorated as the 'Jail Killing Day' in Bangladesh. CRI published an analytical article focusing on the battle of ideologies underlying the tragic period in Bangladesh's history.

### All you need to know about the Six-Point Movement in East Pakistan

The Six-Point Movement in erstwhile East Pakistan, spurred in 1966, is commonly acclaimed by analysts to be the foundation of Bangladesh's independence. The movement's main agenda was to realize a policy-prescription of six demands put forward by then firebrand Bengali politician Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in February 1966, to end the already apparent exploitation of East Pakistan by the West Pakistani rulers. Mujib's staunch advocacy for the emancipation

of Bengalis, which was rooted in the six-point agenda, would soon earn him the title of Bangabandhu – friend of the Bengalis.

**Why is Mujib’s homecoming at the center of Bangladesh’s progressive discourse**

Bangladesh’s founding father Sheikh Mujibur Rahman came back to newly-independent Bangladesh, from a prison in Pakistan, on 10 January 1972. The return was eventful, and it



came to be known as ‘Mujib’s homecoming’ in the country’s politico-historical discourse. To commemorate the day, CRI published a special article featuring why the day is significant in the progressive discourse in Bangladesh’s history.

**Here’s why Sheikh Hasina’s homecoming is significant in Bangladesh politics**

Bangladesh’s founding father and then President Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was brutally assassinated on the night of 15 August 1975 along with most of his family members. Sheikh Hasina, the eldest daughter of Mujib, escaped the assassination as she was in West Germany, where her husband, M. A. Wazed Miah, was working as a nuclear physicist. On 17



May 1981, Sheikh Hasina returned to Bangladesh after six years in exile. The day is historically significant in Bangladesh’s political discourse and popularly known as ‘Hasina’s Homecoming Day.’ CRI published a special article explaining the context and significance of “Hasina’s homecoming day.”



Read CRI online articles, “Clickety”



**CRI programs**

**Let’s Talk with Anne de Henning: Memories of Bangladesh in War and Peace**

CRI and Samdani Art Foundation jointly organized the ‘Let’s Talk with Anne de Henning: Memories of Bangladesh in War and Peace’ on 17 December 2022, at Liberation War Museum, Dhaka. Anne de Henning is a veteran French photojournalist who photographed the war time Bangladesh and the Pakistani Army’s genocide in 1971. She also visited the post-independent Bangladesh in 1972 and photographed Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at the council meeting of Awami League. Anne



recollected how she entered Bangladesh in 1971 when the Pakistani army launched the all-out genocide against the people of Bangladesh. She entered Bangladesh through Jashore in April 1971 and visited Pangsha of Kushtia district, Chuadanga and Rajbari. Anne also responded to some questions from the participants on her photographic journey in Bangladesh in 1971 and 1972. Over 120 participants including freedom fighters, family of martyred intellectuals, young photographers, artists, journalists and art enthusiasts joined the conversation moderated by development professional Asif Munier.





## Policy Café on Women's Safety in Public Places

CRI's youth platform Young Bangla in collaboration with UNDP Bangladesh and Bangladesh National Human Rights Commission organized a Policy Café on Women's Safety in Public Places on 8 August 2022. Anisul Huq MP, Minister, Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs; Atiqul Islam, Mayor, Dhaka North City Corporation; Nasima Begum, Chairman, NHRC; A B M Amin Ullah Nuri, Secretary, Road, Transport and Highway Division; Amena Begum, DIG of Bangladesh Police and Van Nguyen, Deputy Resident Representative, UNDP joined the Policy Café as discussant. Youth campaigners, policymakers, civil society representatives and law enforcement agency



members discussed on necessary policy reform to address gender-based violence and women's safety issue in public places. The event was part of the "Women's Safety in Public Places

Campaign" conducted jointly by Young Bangla, UNDP and National Human Rights Commission.

## 1975 Bangladesh and the World: A Grand Reform, A Carnage



CRI hosted a virtual discussion event titled "1975 Bangladesh and the World: A Grand Reform, A Carnage" on 19 August 2022. Every year, CRI brings evidence-based analytical discussion regarding the ramifications of '1975 Bangladesh,' when Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, along with his family members were brutally assassinated. Economist Mashur Rahman, author and historian Sudeep Chakravarti and researcher Maliha Ahmed joined the discussion moderated by Professor Shams Rahman, RMIT University, Australia. The discussion covered topics including geo-political situation in early 1970s globally and in post-war Bangladesh, Mujib's socio-economic reform agenda, the diplomatic efforts for Bangladesh's recognition and the historical forces that led to the assassinations. The event was livestreamed on the social media outlets of CRI, and some print and electronic media.

## Global Legal Hackathon 2022

CRI and its quarterly policy magazine WhiteBoard teamed up with The Legal Circle and Think Legal Bangladesh to organize the Global Legal Hackathon 2022. The Dhaka edition



took place on 25-27 March 2022. The hackathon provided a unique platform for students and professionals to digitize legal sector combining law, technology and business expertise. Teams with tech-based ideas, applications and systems pitched their solutions on this global platform. The winners of Dhaka edition will be going to Singapore for competing in the next stage with their international peers, with finals being in London.



## Pracheer Periy: Saima Wazed's Conversation with Stephen Shore

On 24 April 2022, Shuchona Foundation and CRI jointly organized a virtual book launching and discussion event titled "Pracheer Periy: Saima Wazed's Conversation with Stephen Shore on his Autobiography and Autism". 'Pracheer Periy' is a book on autism translated and published by Shuchona Foundation from 'Beyond the Wall'—an autobiography by a renowned self-advocate, Dr. Stephen Mark Shore. Shuchona Foundation undertook the initiative to translate and publish the book in Bangla to raise awareness on autism. The discussants were Saima Wazed, Chairperson, Shuchona Foundation; Dr. Stephen Mark Shore, Assistant Professor of special



education, Adelphi University; Jane Pearce, Country Director, World Food Programme; Adiba Ibnat Poshla, Owner and Designer, Poshla's Creation; and Niger Rahman, CEO, Insights Knowledge Limited. Dr. Shirin Sharmin Chowdhury MP, Honorable Speaker, Bangladesh National Parliament was the Chief Guest of the event.



## Graphic Novel Mujib

CRI unveiled the 9th and 10th episode of its flagship creative publication graphic novel Mujib on February 19, 2022 at Bangla Academy Amar Ekushey Book Fair. Eminent writer and educationist Dr. Mohammed Zafar Iqbal, writer and journalist Anisul Hoque, artist Syed Rashad Imam Tanmoy and creative editor of the graphic novel, Shibu Kumer Shill were present at the ceremony. The 9th episode, Mission Punjab highlights Mujib's thrilling journey to Punjab where he met his political mentor Huseyn Shaheed Suhrawardy to form All-Pakistan Awami Muslim League. The 10th episode, Muktir Pothe covers how Mujib fought for the rights of the Bangalis in the then East Pakistan while he was framed and jailed for false allegation.

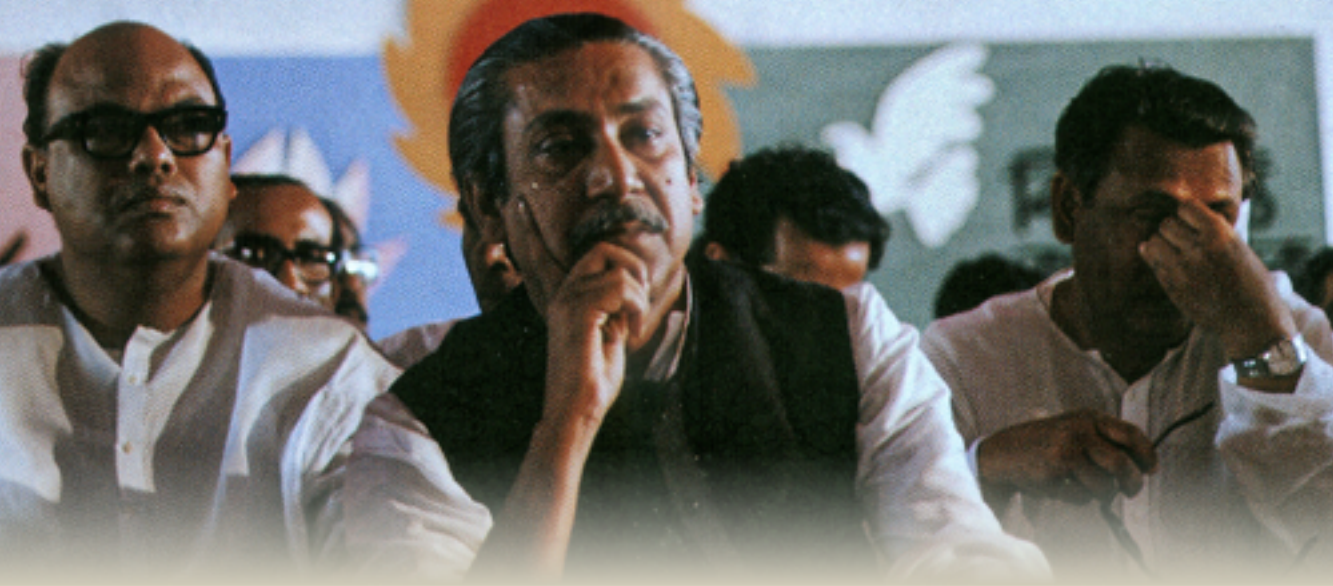


# Revisiting Joy Bangla Concert

Young Bangla, the youth platform of CRI, has been organizing Joy Bangla Concert on March 7 for six consecutive years commemorating the spirit of historic speech of March 7, 1971 by Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. Young Bangla hosts the concert with a mix of entertaining and patriotic music rendered by the leading bands and musicians of the country.

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the concert did not take place in 2021 and 2022. However, Young Bangla commemorated the historic day and the concert through special programs on national television channels. Popular rock band Cryptic Fate, Shunno, Chirkutt and Introit revisited the concert and discussed how it connects the millions to the spirits of 7 March 1971.





# Collaborative endeavors

## Witnessing History in the Making, Photographs by Anne De Henning: Bangladesh 1971-1972

Samdani Art Foundation and CRI co-produced an exhibition titled 'Witnessing History in the Making: Photographs by Anne De Henning Bangladesh 1971-1972' with a view to celebrate the golden jubilee of Bangladesh. The exhibition



featured never-seen-before photographs of the 1971 Liberation War and post independent Bangladesh in 1972, taken by the French photographer Anne de Henning.

In 1971, Anne de Henning was working in Nepal. She heard about Bangladesh's Liberation War and decided to enter Bangladesh. She wanted to witness history in the making. Anne entered Bangladesh in early April 1971 through Jashore and photographed the war time Bangladesh, the Pakistani Army's genocide, the devastation caused by the war, the freedom fighters and the immeasurable sufferings of the people in 1971. She also visited the post-independent Bangladesh in 1972 and photographed Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at the first council meeting of Awami League.

The first iteration of the exhibition was held in Dhaka on 10 December, 2021-31 March, 2022. Anne de Henning visited Bangladesh for third time after 50 years during the second iteration of the exhibition held at the Liberation War Museum, Dhaka on 15-26 December, 2022. The exhibition was also shown at the Guimet Museum in Paris.



Location: The Guimet Museum in Paris



Location: The Liberation War Museum, Dhaka

Anne De Henning, 2021



# THE FEARLESS CALL

Young Bangla commemorated the historic March 7 speech of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman through a digital artwork called 'The Fearless Call'. A group of young artists collaborated on the project which reimagined the directives of Bangabandhu's historic March 7 speech in 1971. Reesham Shahab Tirtho, Saiyad Saif Ali, Sushmita Das Dewan, Ishrat Jahan Shaeera, Faiaz

Rafid, Ahsana Angona, and Md. Mojammil E Hamid are the dynamic artists behind 'The Fearless Call'. The collaborative artwork depicted Bangabandhu's charismatic entry speech, 23 years of colonial subjugation and suppression, incidents of bloodshed during various protests, call for an economic boycott, ensuring safety of at-risk groups, gearing up for a war, and an inspiring call for freedom. The artwork was set up in front of Bangabandhu's residence at Dhanmondi 32.



## CRI at Amar Ekushey and Gulshan Society Book Fair



CRI participated at the Amar Ekushey Book Fair 2022, a month-long book fair hosted by Bangla Academy. The book fair took place on February 15-March 17, 2022. Along with renowned publishers and organizations, this year CRI participated at the Gulshan Society Book Fair held on 4-5 March, 2022.



## Hasina: A Daughter's Tale



Acclaimed docudrama 'Hasina: A Daughter's Tale' is CRI's one of the historical projects, based on the life of Bangladesh's Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. Since its release in 2018, the docudrama has continued to inspire audiences around the world, receiving rave reviews in the national and international film circuits. The docudrama has been selected for screening at a number of prestigious international film festivals. Both national and international audience got the opportunity to watch it on television. 'Hasina: A Daughter's Tale' was released on 16 November 2018. The docufilm was directed by Piplu Khan and produced by CRI Trustees Radwan Mujib Siddiq and Nasrul Hamid MP.

### Special screening in Assam, India

A special screening of 'Hasina: A Daughter's Tale' was held on March 2, 2022 at Mahabahu Brahmaputra River Heritage Centre, Guwahati, Assam, India. The Assistant High Commission of Bangladesh in Assam, India hosted the special screening.

### Special screening at Bangla Academy

'Hasina: A Daughter's Tale' was screened on 15-17 March, 2022 at Bhasha Shahid Muktomoncho, Bangla Academy premises, marking the 102nd birth anniversary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

### Screening at International Zuma Festival, Nigeria

'Hasina: A Daughter's Tale' was screened at the 12th International Zuma Festival in Abuja, Nigeria on 5 May, 2022. Renowned Nigerian film director and film producer were among the large crowd including Nigerian dignitaries and foreign diplomats who watched and appreciated the docufilm.

### Screening at Mumbai International Film Festival

The docufilm was screened at the 17th Mumbai International Film Festival (MIFF) in India. The festival was held on 29 May-5 June 2022. Bangladesh was selected as the "Country of Focus" at the festival, to commemorate the country's golden jubilee of independence.



### Special screening around the globe

Throughout the year 2022, the docufilm was screened in Brunei, Riyadh, Delhi, Greece, Brussels and The Hague. Special

screenings were held in Premier University, Chittagong and Independent University, Bangladesh.

### Television screening of 'Hasina: A Daughter's Tale'

The docufilm was screened on different national TV channels on throughout the year on different occasions and nationally important days.

# CONNECTING DOTS

Locations of youth led organizations connected with Young Bangla

## About Young Bangla

Young Bangla started its journey in 2014, with the goal to recognize and encourage the youth involved in community work throughout Bangladesh. From challenging the abhorrent norms of child marriage, to fighting the battle against illiteracy, gender inequality and drug abuse, the youths are striving to make positive impacts in their communities. Young Bangla offers the young changemakers a platform to come together and collectively strive for achieving bigger goals.

Young Bangla shares the national vision of transforming into a middle-income country by 2021 and a developed country by 2041. The enormous 47.6 million youth population will have to play the leading role in achieving that goal. Young Bangla envisions itself as an inclusive

platform that harnesses and channels the vitality of youth towards building a prosperous Bangladesh.

Young Bangla strives to empower youth to build future leaders who can contribute to local and national development. Young Bangla aims to unlock the potential of youth, give them opportunities to shine, recognize their talents and achievements and help them shape the future of the nation.

The journey of Young Bangla began with 1500 members in 2014 and now in 2023, it has more than 350,000 members. It has become one of the largest youth platforms in Bangladesh.

# Joy Bangla Youth Award 2022

Joy Bangla Youth Award (JBYA) is one of the flagship programs of Young Bangla since its inception. JBYA is a prestigious youth award conferred by Young Bangla with a vision to recognize the contribution of young change-makers of Bangladesh. To date, Young Bangla hosted six editions of the award in 2015, 2017, 2018, 2020, 2021, and 2022.

Young Bangla conferred JBYA 2022 to 10 youth-led organizations for their remarkable contributions to society and the country. The ceremony was held on 12 November 2022 at Sheikh Hasina National Institute of Youth Development, Savar. Nasrul Hamid MP, Trustee of CRI, delivered the welcome speech. Sajeeb Wazed, Chairperson of CRI, handed out the crests to the JBYA winning organizations.

The 10 JBYA winning organizations are Robolife Technologies, BK School of Research, Boson Biggan Sangho, Ucchash, Youth Planet, BigyanPriyo, Mojar School (An Odommo Bangladesh Foundation Initiative), Milon Smrity Pathagar, Switch Bangladesh Foundation and BINDU Nari Unnayan Sangathan. The awards were given under five categories: Skills and Employment, Culture and Communication, Community Wellness, Social Inclusion, and Climate and Innovation.

In 2021, Young Bangla introduced 'Pathfinder,' a special recognition to individuals and/or initiatives who have made significant contributions to the post-independence nation-building process through their leadership, service, initiatives, and research. This year, Younguang Mro, a writer and researcher, received the Pathfinder award for his contribution to Mro literature, as he published a Mro grammar book to preserve the endangered language. Unmad— Bangladesh's oldest cartoon magazine was acknowledged as Pathfinder for catering to young creative minds and practicing freedom of speech and expression.





# Youth Employability Program (YEP)

Bangladesh adopted its first ever long-term strategic plan ‘Vision 2021’ more than a decade ago to become a middle-income country by 2021. Inspired by the ambitious vision, Young Bangla launched an initiative called ‘Vision 2021 Internship Program’ in 2015. Under the ‘Vision 2021 Internship Program’, Young Bangla places fresh graduates as intern in different government ministries and agencies. It is a three-month long public sector internship program that provides hands on experience to the fresh graduates on how a ministry or government agency operates.

As Bangladesh achieved the milestones of ‘Vision 2021’, Young Bangla rebranded the program as Youth Employability Program (YEP). To date, Young Bangla collaborated with two ministries to place interns, namely, Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources and Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

In 2022, two batches of interns received their certificate of completion of the internship for the period of three to five months. 15 interns from the 4th batch completed their internship from September 2021 to January 2022. The certificate-giving ceremony was held on 11th April 2022, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Young Bangla started its 3rd cohort of internship programs at the Ministry of Power, Energy, and Mineral Resources in 2022. Around 3000 engineering background recent university graduates applied for this opportunity. After a rigorous selection procedure, 120 applicants were placed at 12 different utilities of the Power Division and 70 applicants were placed at 12 different utilities of the Energy Division.



# Campus Let's Talk

In 2022, Young Bangla organized 4 'Let's Talk' in four university campuses in 2022. The objectives of 'On Campus Let's Talk' series are to connect youth with policymakers and conduct a demand map on the contemporary youth preferences on cross-cutting policy areas.

## Let's Talk on Green Transition

Location : Dhaka

Young Bangla organized its signature "Let's Talk" program on the theme "Green Transition," on 4 August 2022 at Independent University, Bangladesh. Nasrul Hamid MP, State Minister, Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources and Trustee, CRI; Waseqa Ayesha Khan MP, Chair, Parliamentary Standing Committee of the Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources; Dr. Mohammad Tamim, professor of Petroleum and Mineral Resources Engineering, BUET; Rebecca Sultana, President and Founder, Youth Environment and Social Development Society (YESDS) were the panelists. Climate literacy, green life skills, responsible consumption of natural resources, power and energy policy framework, energy mix, energy security, future of electric vehicles, renewable energy policy, energy security, exploration of untapped deep-sea mineral resources were the topics discussed in the Let's Talk.



## Let's Talk on Cashless Economy

The Let's Talk on Cashless Economy was held on 18 September 2022 at Hajee Mohammad Danesh Science & Technology University (HSTU). Zunaid Ahmed Palak MP, State Minister for ICT Division; Kazi Nabil Ahmed MP, Member of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Sadequa Sejuti, Cofounder, Amar Desh Amar Gram and Tanjiba Rahman, Chairman, Bangladesh Freelancer

Development Society were the panelists of the event. More than 250 youth participants from the HSTU campus, Young Bangla network, and other educational institutions participated in this interactive event.

Location : Dinajpur

## Let's Talk on Digital Behavior in Cyberspace

Location : Jashore

Young Bangla organized a 'Let's Talk on the theme 'Digital Behavior in Cyberspace' at Jashore University of Science and Technology on 11 December 2022. Around 300 students participated at the event. Zunaid Ahmed Palak MP, State Minister, ICT Division; Rumana Ali MP, Member, Parliamentary Standing Committee on Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Home Affairs; Dr. Md. Mamun-Or-Rashid, Professor, University of Dhaka; and Faez Belal, Executive Director, Barishal Youth Society were the panelists. Cyber security, digital literacy, fake news, responsible social media presence, components of 4th Industrial Revolution, e-commerce, f-commerce, interoperable digital transaction platform are some of the topics discussed at the event.



## Let's Talk on Sports for All

Young Bangla organized a Let's Talk on the theme 'Sports for All', at the Premier University, Chattogram on 23 October, 2022. About 360 students from different disciplines participated at the discussion event. Saber Hossain Chowdhury MP, former President of Bangladesh Cricket Board; Sayeda Zakia Noor Lipi MP, Member, Parliamentary Standing Committee on Health and Family Welfare; Krishna Rani

Sarker, Footballer, Bangladesh Women's National Football Team; and Santwana Rani Ray, Founder, Lalmonirhar Taekwon-Do Association were the panelists. Productive and increased involvement of private and public sector in sports development; developing primary-level coach and health instructors; reskilling and upskilling players and develop coaching skills; challenges faced by women players; roles of national media in talent hunting at grassroots are some of the topics discussed during the event.

Location : Chattogram

## Young Bangla Network meeting with JBYA winners

Young Bangla hosted a day-long network meeting with the winners and finalists of the Joy Bangla Youth Award 2022 on 28 January 2022. The objectives of the meeting were to provide an orientation on Young Bangla, document individual and organizational journeys of the participants, develop their capacity on project



proposal writing and effective social media presence, and inspire them to collaborate with each other.

After a session on project proposal writing, the achievers participated in a group work session where they collectively prepared and presented 4 project proposals related to ICT and social development. Young Bangla team provided technical and strategic support in preparing the proposals and has also documented 25 individual organizations' profiles. The concluding session was on effective social media presence where they received firsthand training on showcasing and branding activities on social media.

## Women's Safety in Public Places Campaign

Young Bangla launched the 'Campaign on Women's Safety in Public Places' in collaboration with United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Bangladesh and Bangladesh National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) during the last quarter of 2020. The campaign aimed to build mass awareness and bring necessary policy changes on gender-based violence issue. In 2021, the campaign received momentum and a number of activities undertaken by the partners and the volunteer organizations. Ten Joy Bangla Youth Award winning organizations conducted grassroots activities in ten districts.

As part of the campaign, Young Bangla, UNDP and NHRC, hosted a number of activities such as daylong virtual and in-person workshop, trainings on conducting community-based campaign, series focus group discussions (FGDs), stakeholder analysis and case studies, capacity building workshops, and multi-stakeholder sensitization meeting.

More than 1000 youth volunteers and activists participated in these activities in their respective districts. They also developed action plans to roll out the campaign activities. The campaign also launched a website.

The transport sector owners and workers, shopping mall, kitchen market owners and workers, youth organizations, local public figures, local law enforcement agency members, local administrations, law practitioners, students, entrepreneurs and community people were among the key stakeholders of the campaign. The campaign concluded with a 'Policy Café on Women's Safety in Public Places' held on 8 August 2022.



## **Annual Report 2022**

Published by Centre for Research and Information (CRI). February 2023

H 2, R 11(New). 32(Old), Mirpur Road, Dhanmondi, Dhaka- 1209

email: [info@cri.org.bd](mailto:info@cri.org.bd)

[www.cri.org.bd](http://www.cri.org.bd)