# ANNUAL 2019 REPORT



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YOUNG BANGLA

## **ANNUAL REPORT 2019**



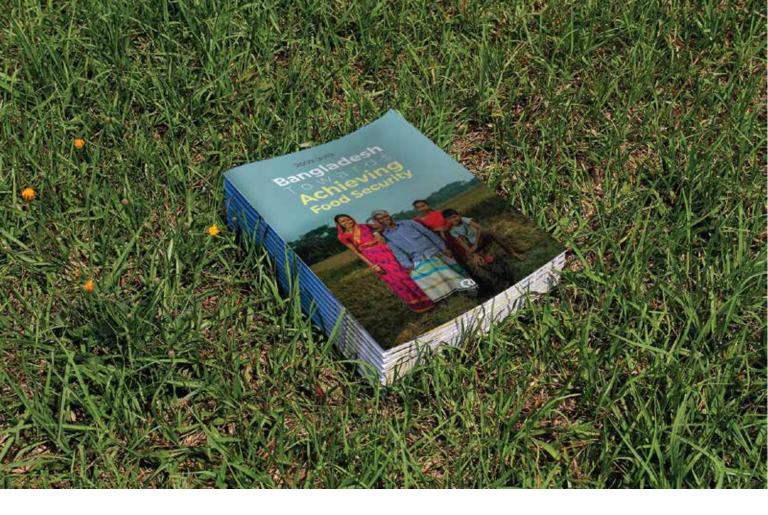
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The Centre for Research and Information (CRI) is a not-for-profit policy research organization which aims to create a platform for public discussion on important matters of national policy in Bangladesh. Analysing key challenges facing the nation, CRI explores through people-centered debate the political ideas and the policy reforms that will define progressive politics and policies in a new, digital Bangladesh. With a focus on youth engagement and democratized debate, CRI aims to bring politics closer to the people.

CRI believes in the active participation of citizens in matters of national policy. By bridging the gap between people and politics, CRI hopes to empower citizens and afford them a stake in their society by presenting a platform which can influence policy decisions on both local and national scale.





CRI takes a strategic approach to achieving its goals. It combines its resources and expertise to do the following:

- High quality research on the concerns and priorities of young voters and the youth demography in Bangladesh
- Unique platforms for voicing the opinions of young Bangladeshis, such as Let's Talk and Policy Café
- Publications and online content produced to the highest editorial, design and production standard, both in print and digital form
- Communicating through television, radio and social media outlets
- Cutting-edge media and promotional efforts aimed at young people



## ENGAGEMENT IN 2019 EVENTS



450



NATIONAL CHILDREN'S DAY **600** 



JOY BANGLA CONCERT **50,000** 



HASINA: A DAUGHTER'S TALE AT FILM FESTIVALS

50,000



**PUBLICATIONS** 

15,600



MUJIB GRAPHIC NOVEL

10,000



NEWS LETTERS **500,000** 



ONLINE FOLLOWING





CRI organized the 21st episode of its signature programme 'Let's Talk', the theme - 'Future of the Rohingya' to mark the two years of sheltering over 1.1 million displaced Rohingya in Bangladesh. The event was held on 9th September 2019, at Krishibid Institute Bangladesh, Dhaka. This event was attended by 300 young individuals from across Bangladesh, including students, professionals, and representatives of various youth groups and associations.

This programme provided participating youth a platform to ask questions as well as share opinions and concerns regarding the ground realities in the shelter camps and possibility of a lasting solution. It was a timely initiative when social and formal media were running stories indicating that Rohingya are not willing to go back, causing uncertainty among the public. To answer their questions, Mr Md Shahriar Alam, Honorable State Minister, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh and Mr. Steven Corliss, United Nations Representative. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Bangladesh were invited as the panelists of the event. The Let's Talk was interactive in nature where participants not just asked questions but also shared valuable insights and suggestions regarding the Rohingya situation.

#### Let's Talk: Connecting Party Leaders with Grassroots Youth Leaders

CRI organized its flagship youth engagement discussion programme 'Let's Talk' at the CRI pavilion in the 21st Awami League Council premises on 19th December, 2019. State Minister for Foreign Affairs Md Shahriar Alam MP, State Minister for ICT Zunaid Ahmed Palak MP, State Minister for Information Murad Hasan MP, and Nahim Razzaq MP and Fazilatun Nasa Bappy MP and Deputy Secretary Aminul Islam Amin, Publication and Publicity Wing, Awami League interacted with the participants there.

Let's Talk at Awami League's national council brought the party leaders and the grassroots youth leader under one roof and provided a unique opportunity to instill the vision of Bangladesh into the grassroots youth leaders. The youth leaders also shared their views on different issues of national interests.

#### Young Bangla with Sajeeb Wazed

CRI as the secretariat of its youth platform - Young Bangla, one of the premier youth networks of Bangladesh, hosted an interactive discussion session with the ICT Affairs Advisor to the Honorable Prime Minister and CRI Chairperson Sajeeb Wazed. The discussion session was held on October 22, 2019 at the capital.



The session was attended by 250 youths. Joy Bangla Youth Award winning organizations, Young Bangla Campus Ambassadors, Student to Startup Campus Ambassadors, Microsoft Young Bangla Interns and Brand Ambassadors, Vision 2021 Interns, Sheikh Russell Digital Lab (SRDL) Coordinators were the participants of this view exchange session.

Itihasher Oboruddho Odhyay': 1975-1996

Itihasher Oboruddho Odhyay: 1975-1996' organized by the CRI, where discussants shed light on the grim chapter of Bangladesh's history starting with the assassination of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and his family members on August 15, 1975. Prominent journalist and researcher Zayadul Ahsan Pintu, cultural activists and former state minister Tarana Halim, Dhaka Tribune editor Zafar Sobhan, Dr. Nuzhat Choudhury, daughter of martyred intellectual Abdul Alim Chaudhury and researcher and writer Maruf Rosul were the panelist while Shah Ali Farhad, special assistant to the Prime Minister, moderated the discussion.

More than fifty youth representatives participated in the discussion taking place at the Bangabandhu Memorial Trust Auditorium in Dhaka, on 18th August 2019. They have shared their personal experience of reading different narratives in school textbooks on history to what they have come to know after Awami League came back to power. Some of them asked for source books and other materials to explore the true history of Bangladesh.





## **PARTICIPANTS PROFILES**

The participating audience for CRI events generally consist young people from diverse backgrounds from a cross section of Bangladesh. These youths aged between 18-35 included university students, young professionals, young entrepreneurs, members of different university social clubs and members of the Young Bangla network.

AGE RANGE: 18-35

## **CATEGORIES**



COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT
WORKERS



YOUNG PROFESSIONALS



YOUNG BANGLA AWARDEES



CULTURAL
REPRESENTATIVES
(SPORTS, LITERATURE
MUSIC, MEDIA)



SELF-EMPLOYED /ENTREPRENEURS



STUDENTS



YOUTH
ASSOCIATIONS/
CLUBS

#### **Selection Process**

The participants are selected using four principal methods: first, from CRI's own alumni network of participants who previously attended the sessions from 2013 onward. Second, from Young Bangla and its extended grassroots youth and campus networks. Third, recommendations from CRI-YB's partner organizations throughout the years. Fourth, participants from online applications or via CRI's online social media platforms. For filling up some essential sub-divisions within each criteria (such as gender distribution, age etc.), recommendations have also been collected from personal references.

#### Output

The collective opinions, concerns and suggestions raised by the youth during various CRI programs were fed back to relevant bodies and Bangladesh Awami League (AL). This feedback plays a crucial role in the shaping and implementation of the Awami League led government's future policies and initiatives.

THE ISSUES RAISED BY THE
YOUTH WERE ALSO USED IN
THE INTRODUCTIONS OF
VARIOUS CRI AND YOUNG
BANGLA PROJECTS SUCH AS
THE WOMEN'S SAFETY IN
PUBLIC PLACES CAMPAIGN, THE
STUDENT TO STARTUP
PROJECT.





## **CELEBRATIONS WITH THE YOUTH**

## JOY BANGLA CONCERT: A MUSICAL TRIBUTE TO HISTORIC 7TH MARCH SPEECH

On 7th March 2019, Centre for Research and Information (CRI) organized the Joy Bangla concert for the 5th time to pay a tribute to historic 7th March, 1971 speech by the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. The concert held in Dhaka for the 5th consecutive year as the celebration and commemoration of the spirit of the independence and give back to the youth communities.

### FEATURED BANDS

POWERSURGE, ARBOVIRUS, SHUNNO, NEMESIS, CRYPTIC FATE, LALON, CHIRKUTT, ARTCELL



#### The concert at a glance

Young Bangla-CRI organizing the Joy Bangla Concert for the fifth consecutive year has now become a household name in the youth community and attracted the largest crowd hitting the records with nearly 50,000 visitors.

This year for the first time, the new band Bay of Bengal hailing from Chattogram, performed as the show opener of Joy Bangla Concert 2019, entertaining the crowd with their fusion-rock songs. Their performance was followed by Shunno, a staple of the Joy Bangla Concert, lifting up spirits with their ever-popular originals, alongside a heartfelt and upbeat rendition of 'Joy Bangla Banglar Joy'. The crowd went electric for each of their tracks. The third band to take the stage was Lalon. As the sun slowly set on the edge of Bangladesh Army Stadium. Arbovirus, one of most popular rock bands among the youth of Bangladesh, did an astonishing version of the patriotic song, O Amar Desher Mati. Cryptic Fate, one of the pioneers of metal music in Bangladesh, surprised the audience by introducing a traditional dhol (double-headed drum) player in their act. Their rendition of Teer hara ei Dheuer Shagor brought in new energy to the concert, as did their surprise single. Cholo Bangladesh, as expected, riled up the crowd in patriotic spirits. Nemesis started their act with a brand-new rendition of their song, Joyoddhoni, blazing through their set



with supreme zeal. Bangladesh's beloved band, Chirkutt brought many surprises, including the presentation of a hybrid santoor, which the guitarist, played with passion. Their enigmatic rendition of the national anthem moved every soul in the stadium. One of the key factors behind the success of the event was the showstoppers – the massively popular rock band Artcell, who came back after nine years with what is closest to their original line-up. Artcell did justice to each and every song, bringing back the old magic, leaving the stadium in a state of awe and ecstasy.

Presentations on CRI-Young Bangla and its work was also shown during breaks with the centre piece being an animation video on the series of events that followed the historic 7th March speech. This was followed by a coloured version of the inspirational 16-minute clip of the 1971, 7th March speech by the Father of the Nation, that led Bangladesh towards its independence. A teaser on Mujib Graphic Novel series was also showed which was appreciated by the audience to a great extent. Besides, for the first time of Joy Bangla concert's history, a unique event took place. Young Bangla also launched a campaign on Women Safety at Public Places at the concert to ensure the maximum reach and begin its journey to run a nationwide campaign on Pohela Baishak which will continue throughout the year.

#### **Participation**

The entry to the concert was similar to previous years, and was free where visitors registered for online tickets which continued from March 1 to 6. In order to ensure smooth travel to and from the venue, 4 shuttle bus services were arranged from various strategic locations of Dhaka. Volunteers from both CRI-Young Bangla as well as the event

management partners were present at the venue for the full duration of the event to ensure the hassle-free enjoyment of the people attending. Large number of security personnel from private security firm Aegis Security, Military Police and Dhaka Metropolitan Police were present to ensure full proof security for all. The Joy Bangla Concert of 2019 was sponsored by Orion Group, Square Group (Ruchi), Gemcon Group, Summit group, Hamid Group, Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA), Beximco, Omera LPG, Confidence, S Karim, Bangla Cat, Green Delta Insurance Co and WE. The broadcast partner was Maasranga television, Radio Dhol 94.0 FM was the radio partner, Aamra Technologies - internet partner and event management partner was Mainspring. Other media partners that also broadcasted live include television channels -Channel 9, Bijoy TV, Ekattor TV, Gaan Bangla, RTV, and Shomov TV, online news media partners were - Bdnews24.com, Dhaka Tribune, Ittefag, Bangla Tribune, Bd Morning, Sara Bangla and Samakal.

The venue, Army Stadium was packed with nearly 50,000 people while millions joined across the country, watched the event telecast live. Apart from the massive crowd, several million people at home and abroad watched the event live on several satellite TV channels and Young Bangla's Facebook and YouTube with over 500,000 views on social media, around 1,200,000 tuned in on electronic media and over 300,000 listeners on radio. There was also an arrangement for people across the globe to enjoy the event live online through the live-streaming services made available in the websites and social media pages of CRI, Young Bangla and different news media platforms.





## CRI celebrating Bangabandhu's 99th birth anniversary

Centre for Research and Information (CRI) for the fourth year in a row organized an interactive event marking the 99th birth anniversary of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and National Children's Day at Bangabandhu Memorial Museum, Dhaka.

#### **Comic contest**

One of the exciting segments of the celebration was Comic Contest. More than 50 children and teen-aged students participated in the Comic Contest. The participants of the contest have drawn and colored different visuals of graphic novel 'Mujib'.

#### The celebration at glance

A day-long multidimensional interactive event was hosted by CRI to celebrate the 99th birth anniversary of Father of the Nation's Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and National Children's Day at Bangabandhu Memorial Museum, Dhaka. The event was clustered in different individual and parallel segments. The hall room and venue premises were decorated with Mujib graphic novel based visual installations, photo exhibitions and interactive audio-visual content on





Bangabandhu.

ICT State Minister Zunaid Ahmed Palak MP, actor Jaya Ahsan, CEO of Bangabandhu Memorial Museum, Mashura Hossain, CRI Executive Director Sabbir Bin Shams, CRI Creative Director Shibu Kumer Shill, artist Syed Rashad Imam Tanmoy unveiled the 6th episode of graphic novel 'Mujib'.

The celebration began with the visit of Honorable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at Bangabandhu Memorial Museum. Prime Minister visited the installations, exhibitions and the different designated corners to hold different segments of the daylong event. Honorable Prime Minister appreciated the whole initiative of CRI.

#### Unveiling of graphic novel 'Mujib-6'

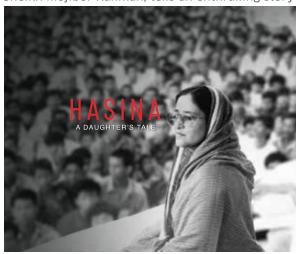
ICT State Minister Zunaid Ahmed Palak MP, actor Jaya Ahsan, CEO of Bangabandhu Memorial Museum, Mashura Hossain, CRI Executive Director Sabbir Bin Shams, CRI Creative Director Shibu Kumer Shill, artist Syed Rashad Imam Tanmoy unveiled the 6th episode of graphic novel 'Mujib'.

The 6th episode of graphic novel 'Mujib' has hit the shelves on March 17, 2019, at 99th birth anniversary celebration event of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. The graphic novel is based on the 'Unfinished

Memoirs' of Bangabandhu during his time as a state prisoner. Under the supervision of CRI, the first part of the graphic novel series in Bangla was launched on the birth anniversary of the Father of the Nation and the National Children's Day on Mar 17, 2015. Later the 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th parts of the graphic novel series were also released on different occasions.

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

A special screening of the 'Hasina: A Daughter's Tale' took place at the event. 'Hasina: A Daughter's Tale' is a docu-drama, based on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina – the daughter of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, tells an enthralling story







of a daughter emerging out of a tragic backdrop.

#### Puppet show - Chashma (spectacle)

The special addition of the event was - Chashma, a puppet show based on the selected areas of graphic novel 'Mujib'. The puppet show was one of its kinds in terms of the crowd, people's enthusiasm to attend the show. Six shows were staged in an open space with around 80 -150 audience attending each show.

#### Bangabandhu timeline

Timeline is installation exhibition of the different stages of Bangabandhu's life. The timeline includes childhood of Bangabandhu, his sporty early life, memory with his father, his political leadership journey, the historic speech at Race Course ground, the tragic 15th August, 1975.

#### **Documentary screening**

A Japanese documentary titled 'Rahman: The Father of Bengal' was screened at the event. This is a documentary about Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, shot in 1973. The Filmmaker Nagisa Oshima captures the new born country as a visitor.







## **POLITICAL PROGRAMS**

#### CRI at the 21st Council of Bangladesh Awami League

CRI participated in the two-day long 21st Council of Bangladesh Awami League. The council took place on December 20-21, 2019 at Suhrawardy Udyan in Dhaka. Honorable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and the President of Bangladesh Awami League inaugurated the council. Respective party members, councilors, grassroots political leaders and supporters from all over Bangladesh were present at the venue. Other visitors included invited guests, delegates, diplomatic envoys, media and members of the general public.

Ten CRI creative installations and exhibitions showcased the history of Bangladesh, Bangladesh Awami League, Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at the council venue. The installations drew the attention of the young crowd and other visitors alike.





## Interactive Dialogue on Manifesto of Bangladesh Awami League

Centre for Research and Information (CRI) organised the programme 'Awami League at 70: Thoughts of Youth' on June 25, 2019 at the Krishibid Institution, Dhaka as a part of the occasion of Awami League - Bangladesh's oldest political group's 70th founding anniversary. The event was attended by over 250 youth representatives from all sections of the Bangladeshi society, including students. professionals, entrepreneurs, social activists, journalists to express their opinions, expectations and ask questions to prominent leaders of the political party.

The event was divided into three segments i.e. history of youth in Awami League, present Awami League and future of Awami League. The panel discussants consisted of Education Minister and Joint General Secretary of Bangladesh Awami League Dr. Dipu Moni MP, ICT State Minister Zunaid Ahmed Palak MP and Vice President of Mohila Awami League (women wing of Awami League) Wasega Ayesha Khan MP. The 250 participating youth had the opportunity to interact with the prominent politicians of Bangladesh Awami League and express their stance, thoughts and ideas about the history, present and future and vision of Awami League. Their questions and queries ranged from topics such as the succeses and short comings of the ruling party. AL's stance as an opposition party. their plans to further the progress and development in future, their vision for the country and its level of receptive is it to the needs of the youth.









## **CREATIVE PROGRAMS**

#### **CRI at Amar Ekushe Book Fair 2019**

Centre for Research and Information (CRI) participated at the Amar Ekushe Book Fair 2019, a month long book fair hosted by Bangla Academy at Bangla Academy premises in the month of February to commemorate the spirit of language movement of 1952.

The 'Mujib' graphic novel stall (no 100/8, 100/9) had been set up exclusively for the 'Mujib' Graphic Novel series and featured several displays, cut out and decorative walls that contained scenes from different parts of graphic novel 'Mujib'. 'Mujib' graphic novel series based on the 'Unfinished Memoir' of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, was initiated to sensitize and educate the young children about the Father of the Nation. The colorful graphic illustration and visualization used in the 'Mujib' series was done to make the publication children friendly.





#### **CRI at Dhaka Lit Fest**

The Centre for Research and Information (CRI) took part in the Dhaka Lit Fest, held between November 7 - 9, 2019 at Bangla Academy premises in Dhaka.

A special screening of 'Hasina: A Daughter's Tale' was held at the Dhaka Lit Fest (DLF) on Friday, November 8, 2019, at the Abdul Karim Shahitto Bisharod Auditorium in Bangla Academy. Besides festival visitors, the screening was also attended by Member of the Indian Parliament Shashi Tharoor, State Minister for Foreign Affairs, Shahriar Alam MP and State Minister for Power, Energy and Mineral Resources and CRI Trustee, Nasrul Hamid MP.

The screening was followed by a special discussion session with panel speakers – CRI Trustee and the Producer of the docudrama, Radwan Mujib Siddiq, Director Piplu R. Khan, and Music Director Debajyoti Mishra. The session was moderated by Anjum Katyal, Chief Editor of Seagull Books, Kolkata, India.

A stall was also been set up at the designated corner for the graphic novel 'Mujib'. Six parts of the 'Mujib' graphic novel series were available in Bangla while the first three parts of the series of 'Mujib' were available in English for foreign readers. A Japanese version of the first two parts of the Mujib series, which was released last year in Tokyo, Japan was on display at the stall.



Another CRI publication titled "Bangabandhu Udhriti", a compilation of 100 quotation of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was also available at Mujib stall. This book contains the Father of the Nation's quotes on his political philosophy, ideology, his thoughts on Bangladesh as an independent state and his visions on developing Bangladesh. It also contains his quotes on the 1971 liberation war, as well as the post liberation war era of Bangladesh long with his thought on literature and culture. Every year, the Mujib stall attracts a large crowd consisting of children and graphic novel enthusiasts who await the latest version of the Mujib graphic novel series.



## HASINA: A DAUGHTER'S TALE AT FILM FESTIVALS

#### **AUDIENCE QUOTES**



We do not usually receive many Bangladeshi entries in the festival. So. when I encountered the documentary 'Hasina: A Daughter's Tale' I initially thought it might be like many other typical documentaries about the national leaders, where you see their rise and activities, usually from a very subjective point of view. But this documentary was a true depiction of two sisters' pain and sufferings after their entire family was killed. You feel their pain as a daughter. I think this is where the film stands out from many other. A very good entry for our Global vision section this year.

#### Kim Young-Woo

Programmer, DMZ International Documentary Film Festival

As a student of History my thesis has extensive study and understanding about South Asia. The history that I knew about Bangladesh has been cleared and in some extent my understanding about the political scene in Bangladesh after its independence was a new discovery due to this film. I am inspired as a woman by the both sisters and their journey in the political scene of the country after the assassination of their family. Very eye opening Bangladeshi history, I encountered through this film.

#### Kim Su-ri

Audience Reaction, Student Hongik University

"Before I watched this documentary, I hardly knew about the Bangladeshi history and its brutal past. It reminded me of the murder of the Romanov family in Russia in 1918. I felt so sad for the innocent lives who were executed 44 years ago and the pain the both daughters went through afterwards. This documentary was really well crafted to define this history for any general audience, who like me has little knowledge about the Bangladeshi history."

Olga Nico Müller,

Moldovan Student, Sogang University



## Hasina: A Daughter's Tale at International Film Festivals

The film 'Hasina: A Daughter's Tale' revolves around the Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and her sister Sheikh Rehana as they recall memories from their early life back in Tungipara and progresses on to accounts from their life in exile in Europe and India during the aftermath of the assassination of her family. Bangabandhu's grandson and Centre for Research and Information (CRI) Trustees Radwan Muiib Siddig and State Minister for Power, Energy and Mineral Resources Nasrul Hamid produced the docu-drama. Α team Ωf international personalities have also collaborated including cinematography by Sadik Ahmed and editing by Navnita Sen. The film's soundtrack and background music was by Debojyoti Mishra, an internationally acclaimed Indian music composer.

Hasina: a Daughter's Tale was released on 16th November 2018 at the Star Cineplex in the capital's Bashundhara City mall. The film was also run by Blockbuster Movie of the Jamuna Future Park, Modhumita Cinema Hall at Motijheel in Dhaka, and Silver Screen in Chattogram.

After the film's release in 2018, the docu-drama has continued to inspire nations around the

world, receiving rave reviews in the international film circuit. Hasina – A Daughter's Tale has been selected for several prestigious international film festivals throughout 2019.

#### Asian Film Festival - Spain

"Hasina: A Daughter's Tale" was screened at the Asian Film Festival, hosted by the Asia-based organization Casa Asia in Spain. The docu-drama was screened in the hall of the 'The Travel Brand Experience' in Madrid on Monday 5th October 2019. In addition to the large number of festival visitors, officials from various domestic diplomatic missions were present at the event.

A significant number of Spaniards were present to watch the documentary 'Hasina: A Daughter's Tale'. For the benefit of the local audience the documentary featured both English and Spanish subtitles. The second exhibition, 'Hasina: A Daughter's Tale' was held in the halls of Barcelona's 'Be The Travel Brand Experience' at 8pm on October 14th. The third exhibition will be held on 3rd November, 2019.

## DMZ International Documentary Film Festival – South Korea

Hasina: A Daughter's Tale – was selected for screening at the prestigious DMZ International Documentary Film Festival, under the Global Vision



category in South Korea, on 21st September 2019. The initial screening was followed by a special discussion session - 'Bangladesh Night' organised by CRI at the festival venue. CRI Trustee Nasrul Hamid and the film director Piplu R Khan were present at the event.

A second screening of Hasina: A Daughter's Tale was held on 23rd September 2019. Festival organizers and local audience including students from several universities were in attended the screening. The Bangladesh Embassy in South Korea also arranged a separate screening of the film for the diplomatic community at Seoul on 22nd September 2019. Ms Abida Islam, Bangladesh's Ambassador to South Korea, was present at the occasion along with Chairman of Youngone Corporations Mr. Kihak Sung and Honorary consular of Incheon Mr. David Kim were present there.

#### Indian Film Festival of Melbourne - Australia

Hasina: A Daughter's Tale, has been screened on Tuesday, 13 August 2019 at 6.00 pm at HOYTS Highpoint in Melbourne, at the Indian Film Festival of Melbourne (IFFM). The IFFM is Australia's biggest annual celebration of Indian and the sub-continent cinema.

It is considered to be a unique cultural event that celebrates the incredible diversity of the world's largest film industry, from record-breaking blockbusters to genre-defying arthouse hits. The film festival which was held from 8-17 August 2019, has selected Hasina: A Daughter's Tale under its 'From the Subcontinent' category.

The festival visitors included members of the Bangladeshi community in Australia as well as people from other communities. Many children with Bangladeshi parents, who grew up in Australia attended the screening were inquisitive and were seen asking their parents about Bangladesh, Bangabandhu and Sheikh Hasina.

#### **Durban International Film Festival-South Africa**

Hasina: A Daughter's Tale' has been selected to be screened at the 40th edition of the Durban International Film Festival in South Africa. It was screened on July 20 at 2:30pm at the 'Gateway 12' while the second screening was held on July 24 at 4:00pm at the Venue 'Musgrave 1'. Among the local and international attendees of the film festival, the first screening was also attended by Bangladesh's High Commissioner to South Africa and people from the Bangladeshi expatriate communities. The festival organised by the University of KwaZulu-Natal's Centre for Creative Arts, was held from 18th – 28th July 2019.

## Hasina Daughter's Tale at Jagran Film Festival-India

Hasina - A Daughter's Tale was selected for screening at the 10th Jagran Film Festival at New Delhi, India. The hall of Siri Fort Auditorium, a premier multi-auditorium complex of Indian government, witnessed a pin drop silence for 70 minutes when the film was screened before a large number of viewers. The popularity of the film among the festival goers has led to the decision for organising more screenings at several other locations including Lucknow.

Members from the embassy of Bangladesh in India were present to view the screening. The festival, an initiative by the Jagran Prakashan Group towards creating a culture of cinema appreciation, which was held in eighteen cities across India from July 18th to 29th September 2019.

#### **Global Cinema Festival**

The Film Federation of India, in association with West Bengal Tourism Development Corporation Limited, organized the first Global Cinema Festival Siliguri 2019 from 21st August, which featured Hasina, A Daughter's Tale among three Bangladeshi films.

The official curator of the festival, Premendra Mazumder stated that the Film Federation of India for the first time, organized this international event of the Global Cinema Festival, Hence, while selecting the films, they give equal importance to, politically important film like Hasina: A Daughter's Tale. The festival showed 36 feature, and 24 short films in three auditoriums – Dinabandhu Mancha, Rabindra Bhavan, and New Cinema.

#### Jaffna Cinema Festival-Sri Lanka

Hasina: A Daughter's Tale was selected among three Bangladeshi films screened at the Jaffna Cinema Festival 2019 between 3rd and 9th September.

Jaffna Cinema Festival explores contemporary forms of cinematic expression. It promotes young film-makers by showcasing their debut films and short films. On the fifth edition of this festival, the films were screened at Jaffna University, British Council, American Corner and Majestic Cineplex.





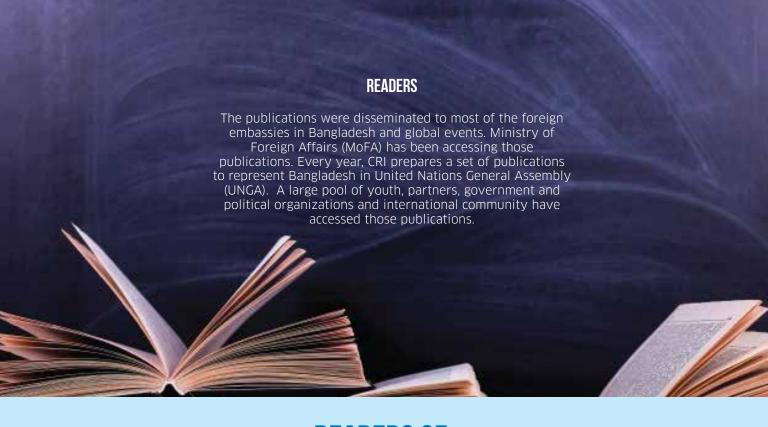
## **PUBLICATIONS**

CRI has the expertise to generate quality research publication on development, youth preferences and attitudes, public policies and strategic and international issues. In 2019, CRI generated publications capturing development updates on Health, Education, Macro-economy, Social Security, Woman Empowerment, Rohingya Crisis ICT, Agriculture, Energy sector. A total of nine publications on sectoral development produced in print last year. Web versions of those publications were made available in the CRI website. Nine of those were also available in Bangla. Based on these publications, CRI produced several Computer Graphics (CGs) as well.

On the creative side, CRI brings out comic's series, audio-visual, quotations, etc. based on the life of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and HPM Sheikh Hasina. The main aim of these creative projects is to help children and youngsters find interest in reading about the life of Bangabandhu and know about

the history of Bangladesh. The sixth episode of graphic novel series Mujib came out in 2019. Last year also saw English version of Mujib part 2 and 3 and also a Japanese version of Mujib being published.





## READERS OF CRI PUBLICATIONS















## WHITEBOARD: THE POLICY MAGAZINE

To mark the 100th birth centenary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, CRI is launching its flagship publication: WhiteBoard. It is CRI's exciting new venture.

WhiteBoard is a policy magazine of CRI. It will be released quarterly. It will be a go-to resource for original, high-quality commentary on Bangladesh. WhiteBoard is targeted towards a diverse reader base from students to young professionals to development partners to entrepreneurs to policy-makers and practitioners in Bangladesh and beyond.

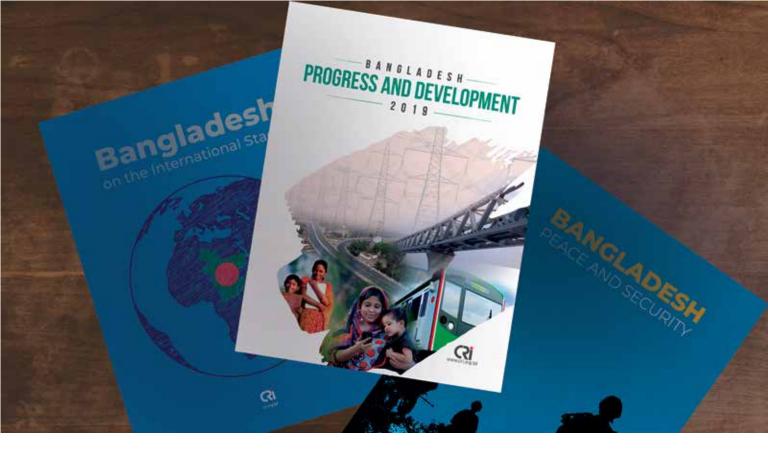
The magazine will feature contributions from acclaimed social thinkers, political-economists, business leaders and young innovators. It will cover a range of topics including economy, governance, market-insights, gender, development and technology.

The policy magazine has a professional editorial team. It is also supported by an Editorial Advisory Board composing of leading experts in various sectors.

WhiteBoard is being launched with the view that Bangladesh is growing rapidly and confronting new challenges, with young people at the helm. However, there is a lack of data-driven, evidence-based and coherent analysis on the what is happening in the country.

In the era of big data and Fourth Industrial Revolution in ever-changing world, it is crucial to understand what role youth has to play. Hereby, WhiteBoard commentaries are going to bridge the gap between innovation with reflection and historical context with future possibilities.

For detail visit WhiteBoard www.whiteboardmagazine.com



## **ANNUAL PUBLICATIONS**

#### **Bangladesh on the International Stage**

Bangladesh has excelled itself into international spotlight as an impressive success story, endorsed by the global leaders and to be replicated for many nations striving for making progress. The country stands out as a strong voice for crucial issues such as climate change. On top of these, the country has been sheltering more than a million Rohingya for more than two years. This publication illustrates Bangladesh's prominent role on the international stage in 2019, led by its prudent Premier, Sheikh Hasina.

#### **Bangladesh Progress and Development**

Bangladesh continues to see remarkable progress in all major economic, social and human development indicators. This has been coupled with major infrastructural undertakings, massive digitation, initiatives to protect environment, build resilience to natural disaster and climate change. This publication looks at the state of progress and development in some key sectors as it stands at the end of 2018-19 fiscal year.

#### **Bangladesh Peace and Security**

Bangladesh is going through a transitional period with high economic growth, fourth industrial revolution and Bangladesh is buzzing with the impact of these happenings. The prosperous journey is not without challenges and threats. Violent extremism and terrorism are among the primary threats to peace and security in the country. As a result of the 'zero tolerance' policy adopted by the current government, headed by HPM Sheikh Hasina since 2009, Bangladesh has seen commendable success in countering terrorism and violent extremism in the last decade. This publication portrays the multifaceted efforts of Bangladesh in ensuring peace and security of the country.



## PUBLICATIONS ON SECTORAL AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

#### **Bangladesh Towards Universal Healthcare**

This publication reflects the commitments, policies, challenges and efforts for improving Bangladesh's healthcare sector. Over the last few years, Bangladesh has made tremendous progress in the health sector as a result of smart planning, thorough implementation, robust monitoring and evaluation of the latest health interventions. In the last decade, the government has played a key role in both policy development and policy implementation in the health and nutrition sector.

#### **Bangladesh Environment and Climate Change**

Bangladesh has placed confronting the challenge of climate change at the core of its development agenda through different policy initiatives. These initiatives, from climate change adaptation measures to ecosystem preservation legislation, mean that the current and the future generations of Bangladeshi are better prepared to address climate change risks and reverse the impacts of

environmental degradation. This publication covers the achievements, key initiatives, progress in the Sustainable Development Goals and the major environmental challenges for the country.

#### **Digital Bangladesh for Service and Innovation**

Bangladesh is well on track to become a technologically advanced nation by 2021. Driven by widespread digitization in the public and private sectors, the country has seen exponential growth in its internet connectivity, mobile phone usage, IT export earnings and the use of ICT in education and accessibility of public services. This publication maps the journey of 'Digital Bangladesh' since its inception, especially in terms of its impact in enabling the people.

#### Bangladesh Towards Inclusive and Equitable Quality Education

The Government of Bangladesh has been implementing policies to increase access to

education, improve quality and relevance of education, reduce inequality and leverage on knowledge and skills in science, technology and innovation. Quality of Technical and Vocational Education and Training and higher education has also improved due to various interventions in the past decade. The country is on its way to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education for all.

#### Indomitable Bangladesh Investing in Youth

Currently, around one-third of Bangladesh's population are youth. The country is in a unique position to reap demographic dividend of this large young population. Government of Bangladesh and non-government sectors have been working together to put the right policies and investments in health, education and employment so that the youth can reach their full potential and can contribute in Bangladesh's development.

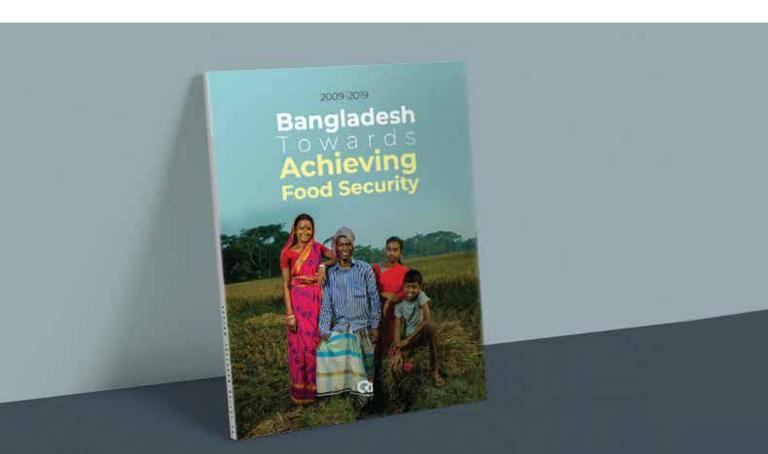
## Bangladesh Towards Achieving Food Security 2009 - 2019

Bangladesh has drawn massive global attention in the last decade for its outstanding success and numerous landmark accomplishments in increased agricultural production, attaining food self-sufficiency and ensuring sustainable food

security. One of the biggest achievements of Bangladesh's agriculture sector is its ability to secure food for its people. Government is implementing free food distribution, food for work, food-friendly programs, open market sell and test relief programs. This publication portrays accomplishment of the government in achieving food self-sufficiency.

#### Bangladesh: the Role Model in Women's Empowerment

Bangladesh has made remarkable progress in educating women and ensuring quality health care and social protection, economic and political empowerment and removing all the impediments to their empowerment. Budgetary support for women's development has also been transformed in the last 10 years. This publication looks into Bangladesh government's efforts to eliminate gender gap, empower women in all sectors and prevent all types of violence against women.

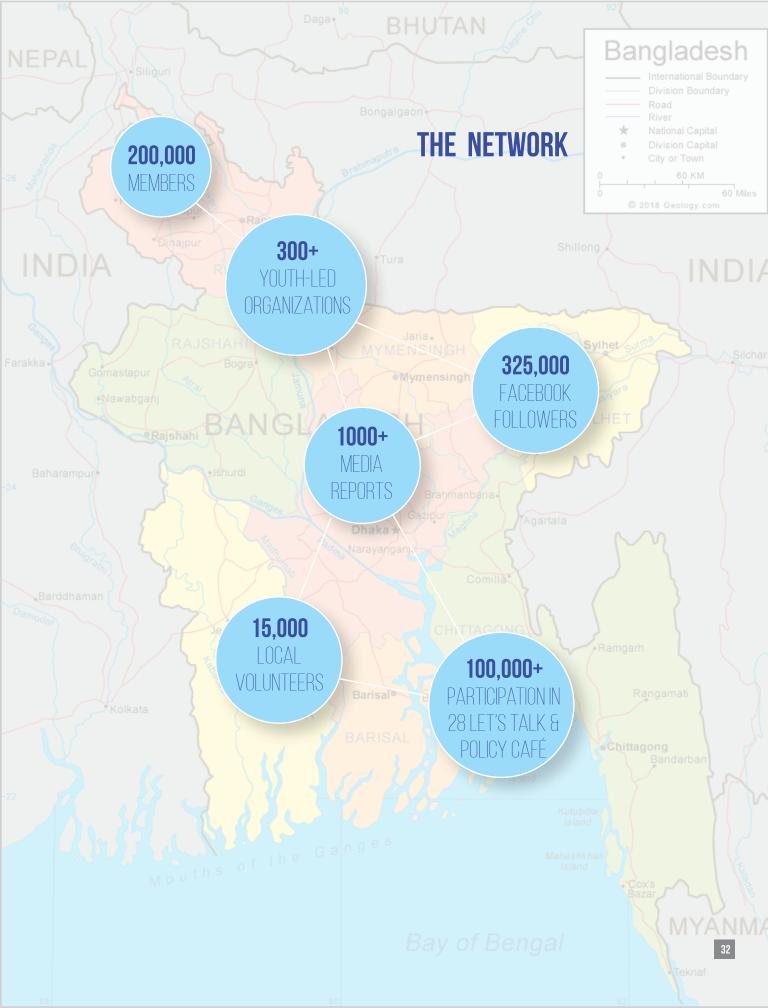




## **YOUNG BANGLA**

Young Bangla platform was established with the goal to support the youth involved in community work throughout Bangladesh. From challenging the abhorrent practice of child marriage, to fighting the battle against illiteracy, gender inequality and drug abuse, thousands of youth are struggling to make positive impacts in their communities. Channeling the youth momentum into constructive outcomes, Young Bangla has been recognizing the efforts of these young individuals and providing a distinguished platform the change-makers of this country. Young Bangla launched in 2014, has now become the largest youth platform in Bangladesh. During the past few years Young Bangla has managed to shed light on the stories of the youth who are working tirelessly to bring positive changes in their communities; and also support them in their journey to embody their dreams and aspirations, by granting them the platform through which they can continue their work more effectively.







## **YOUNG BANGLA INITIATIVES**

#### **Network: Way Forward Meeting**

Young Bangla organized a two-day long 'Way Forward Network Meeting' in Dhaka on February 5-6, 2019. The main agenda of the meeting was to explore further scopes of strengthening the Young Bangla network with the award winners of 2018 and to share Young Bangla's scopes to work in collaboration with these organizations inupcoming events 'Mujib Year 2020' and a campaign on 'Women's Safety in Public Places'.







#### Young Bangla with Sajeeb Wazed

Young Bangla hosted an interactive discussion session with, Chairperson of CRI and the ICT Affairs Advisor to the Honorable Prime Minister, Sajeeb Wazed. The discussion session was held on October 22, 2019 in the capital. The session was attended by 250 youths. Joy Bangla Youth Award winning organizations, Young Bangla Campus Ambassadors Microsoft Young Bangla Interns and Brand Ambassadors, Vision 2021 Interns, Sheikh Russell Digital Lab (SRDL) Coordinators were the participants of this view exchange session. The discussion was divided into four segments: Digital future for Youth Development, Vision 2021 Internship, Joy Bangla stories of youth and Youth on Politics.

The Honorable ICT Advisor appreciated the collective youth led efforts and initiatives supported by the Young Bangla network. He urged the youth to go beyond their comfort zone and not gravitate towards the conventional career paths or social welfare. Instead he encouraged the youths to explore their entrepreneurial and 'problem solver' side. He pointed out the importance of serving the nation through entrepreneurship and creating employment. He also urged parents of today, to let their children explore different paths, make mistakes and learn from them. Mr. Wazed answered a series of questions under each

segment and highly appreciated recommendation from audience members, terming them as 'valuable inputs' for the future of youth development programs.



So far we have provided fiber optic connections in 2600 unions with 2000 more remaining. Our aim is to provide wifi zones in all schools and colleges across the nation.

### Sajeeb Wazed

The ICT Affairs Advisor to the Honorable Prime Minister



So far we have placed Vision 2021 interns in Dhaka based government organizations. Based on your suggestions, we would like to explore options for placing interns outside Dhaka in the regional and local level government organizations.



Government of
Bangladesh allocates
large amount for social
welfare. More youth
based organizations
should get access to
these funds, not just the
large NGOs.

#### Sajeeb Wazed

The ICT Affairs Advisor to the Honorable Prime Minister







## YOUNG BANGLA PROGRAMS

#### **Digital Future of Youth Development**

Young Bangla partnered with ICT Division to implement Student to Startup initiative which aimed to create a student startup ecosystem in Bangladesh. Moreover, Young Bangla collaborated with ICT Division to implement National Children Programming Contests which aim to foster software programming. Participation of more than 40,000 contestants made National Children Programming Contests highly competitive and participatory. Sheikh Russell Digital Lab initiative was taken under Young Bangla between 2017-18. Around 24,000 youth volunteers were placed with 4,901 labs at different educational institutions. In 2019, this initiative was consolidated with the help of local level education administrations, youth organizations and education institutions. Now these labs are running effectively with the participation of these youth volunteers. Tech Hubs were established in collaboration with Young Bangla in 64 districts, initially with the help of Microsoft and eventually from the SBK Foundation. These tech hubs help youth entrepreneurs and skill seekers to be connected with leading startups from the center.

#### Student to Startup

'Young Bangla' and Innovation Design and Entrepreneurship Academy (iDEA) project under the ICT Division arranged 'Student to Start-Up' competition for university students, with the slogan, 'My innovation, My Dream'. The purpose was to identify and award young entrepreneurs with innovative ideas, who can contribute towards national development. Student to Startup: Chapter 01 was inaugurated on March 8, 2019. Students from public and private universities registered themselves under 40 categories. Top 120 Student Startup Projects among the 2,200 applicants received a pass to attend 'National Startup Camp', where participants received two-day intensive training on Entrepreneurship, Innovation & Startups. The camp concluded with the final pitching where the top 30 teams were crowned as winners. The iDEA project selected 10 Student Startup Projects, who received BDT 1 million as Pre-seed funding. More than 6,000 youths from over 65 institutions from all over Bangladesh participated.

Chapter 2 of 'Student to Startup' project started on 15th September, 2019. Young Bangla Campus Ambassadors hosted the pitch sessions in 100 selected campuses around the country. This time. about 2,500 Startups submitted their ideas at the contest and then 75 startups were selected preliminarily from university campus pitching round from 24 venues of 8 divisions. Over 200 students of 75 startups have participated in a national startup camp. The final pitching session was held at the Bangabandhu International Conference Center (BICC) in Dhaka on the last day of the "Digital Device and Innovation Expo 2019". This is the first time that the "Bangabandhu Innovation Grant" has been given to 10 startups. Meanwhile, the top 20 startups received the opportunity to take up grooming, mentoring and specialized training from the iDEA project.

## National Children and Youth Programming Contest

As the priority of the government to build a skilled and IT adept youth for future, Young Bangla in association with Bangladesh Computer Council (BCC) of ICT Division organized programming contests all over the country to motivate children to take interest in programming. 'National Children and Youth Programming Contest' began on 22nd May, 2019. As part of the national-level contest, a training workshop was arranged at Krishibid Institution Bangladesh (KIB) on May 22-23, 2019. The contest was arranged in 2,000 Sheikh Russell Digital Labs in all 64 districts of the country. 'Scratch' was the language for the competition among primary school students and 'Python' was selected for the competition among higher secondary students. Winning teams from district-level contests participated in the national camp and the final round of the contest.

#### Vision 2021 Internship

Young Bangla has helped place 350 interns at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) and Ministry of Power Energy and Mineral Resources (MoPEMR). Eight youths received the opportunity to work as interns at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) for a period of three months from September 1. 2019. In continuation of the previous batch of internship placement in 2016, this new batch got selected through competitive and rigorous screening. Fresh graduates connected to the Young Bangla network and looking for suitable employment opportunities offered this Vision 2021 Internship window. The student from International Relations, Peace and Conflict Studies. Sociology, Social Welfare, Public Administration, International Law, Criminology and English Literature discipline got preference during the selection process for placement at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. While interns placed at the Ministry of Power Energy and Mineral Resources were primarily from Science and Engineering academic backgrounds.





## Bicchuron-Renewable Energy Idea Search Competition

With a vision to encourage the youth to share fresh and innovative ideas on the renewable energy sector, a nationwide competition was launched under the title 'Bicchuron.' The project was initiated on October 21, 2019. Power Cell (under the Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources), Green Delta Insurance Company Limited and Young bangla jointly organized this competition. Seminars and workshops were held in universities to inform students. Students of 50 universities and other educational institutions across Bangladesh submitted a total of 700 ideas. The best 100 innovative ideas were selected for "Dhaka pitching," which was held on 22 November. The top 30 teams were then selected to join the National Camp at Sheikh Hasina National Youth Development Institute in Savar on 8-9 December 2019. They participated in a two-day special workshop designed to train the teams on successful pitching and basics of entrepreneurship strategy making.

The Grand Finale of 'Bicchuron' was held on December 10, 2019, at Sheikh Hasina National Youth Development Institute in Savar. The chief guest of the session was Mr. Nasrul Hamid, MP, Honorable State Minister, Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources. The respected juries including the chief guest were Mohammad Hossain, Director General, Power Cell, Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources, Md. Abdur

Rouf Miah, Director (Sustainable Energy), Power Cell, Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral SK. Ahmad. Resources. Munir Director (Management), Power Cell, Ministry of Power. and Mineral Resources. Energy Chowdhury, Managing Director, and CEO, Green Delta Insurance Company Limited, Janmajoy Dey, Assistant Coordinator, Centre for Research and Information (CRI) and Siddique Zobair, Member, Additional Secretary, Energy Efficiency and Conservation, SREDA. Top ten innovative ideas received BDT 500,000 as seed fund, along with technical assistance from Green Delta Insurance, to implement their initiatives.

## Young Bangla Campaign on Women's Safety in Public Places

The program was designed to raise awareness and campaign in eliminating gender-based violence in public places. Sexual harassment and other forms of sexual violence in public spaces are the everyday occurrence for women and girls around the world. Bangladesh is no exception, where an estimated 90% of the women and girls between ages of 10-18 have experienced sexual violence and unwanted physical contact in streets, markets and public transport. Moreover, there is no specific law to combat sexual harassment in public spaces in Bangladesh. The existing policies on women's safety are more focused on either domestic violence or work environments. In most of the cases perpetrators face no consequence when a woman or a girl face sexual harassment, abuse, and



violence in public places. Witnesses in the scene of harassment against women and girls remain in fear and silence and don't protest or file complaints to the local authorities. The issue is also fed by little no monitoring and supervision. implementation of available law, communication or consultations with public places or transport authorities. Lack of scope of learning gender equality and building the attitude of treating women equally with respect is noticeable in this regard. Behavioral change towards addressing both sexes equally is thus a major concern.

In this context ten Joy Bangla Youth Award winning organizations, members from Young Bangla network of CRI and another youth platform 'Jubo Bangla' embark on a campaign on women's safety in public places. Youth organizations will take part in analyzing the situation in their communities and engage with relevant stakeholders like transport owners, workers, shop owners and market committees, local level administration, media, business bodies and educational institutions to sensitize them on the agenda. Youth organizations will also build a volunteer group at local level to raise awareness on this issue among male and boys. Young Bangla and the Human Rights Program of UNDP will also steer an online campaign on this issue to create

broader support to youth led initiatives. As part of the strategy formulation and capacity building on the agenda, CRI with a few other resource-partners organized a series of workshops, meetings and policy discussions in 2019.

## Workshop on Gender-based Violence and Women's Safety at Public Places

Young Bangla in collaboration with Center for Men and Masculinities Studies (CMMS) and UNDP Bangladesh, organized a three-day residential workshop on 'Gender based Violence and Women's Safety at Public Places' at the Sheikh Hasina National Institute of Youth Development, Savar on April 1-3, 2019. Thirty-one youth leaders representing Joy Bangla Youth Award winner organizations participated in this three-day long residential workshop. The overall aim was to sensitize the participants about gender-based violence (GBV) and draw out a set of actions along with a campaign plan for women's safety in public places.

The participants worked in groups, developed presentations and shared those with all. One major activity was the identification of specific action points to ensure women's safety in public places. Mirza Shahjahan, an activist who runs 10

kilometers to protest sexual harassment of women, was present in a session and shared his experiences. In one session Kazi Reazul Hoque, Chairman, National Human Rights Commission, Advocate Fawzia Karim Firoze, Sharmeela Rassool, Chief Technical Adviser, UNDP, Member of Parliament (MP) Aroma Dutta were present and discussed about country's policy framework to address gender-based violence in public places. There was a question-answer session where the participants asked a number of questions.

## Young Bangla in UNDP-HRP's workshops on Gender-based Violence and Human Rights

Young Bangla members joined in two-days training program on 'Role of Youth for Promoting Gender Equality and Combating Gender-based Violence' on 11-12th September 2019 at the Daily Star, Kazi Nazurl Islam Avenue- Dhaka. This was organized by the Human Rights Programme (HRP) of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).







## **YOUNG BANGLA WITH PARTNERS**

#### Young Bangla at National Youth Assembly

On 11th March 2019, Young Bangla facilitated the session 'Gram Hobe Shohor: Government's vision of transforming villages into cities'. This took place on the third day of the 4-day long National Youth Assembly organized by Jaago Foundation. That was the third round of the National Youth Assembly (NYA) focusing on the "Empowering Youth for National Development". Young Bangla formed a panel of five people including a representative from the Centre for Research and Information which is acting as the secretariat of Young Bangla and the other four Joy Bangla Youth Award winners. The session focused on three questions - 'why people come to cities'; 'what will restrain them from migration' and 'what sort of changes is happening in the area nearby to them'. The team Young Bangla attended the assembly till the concluding day 12th March, 2019 and took part in other sessions in the program. This four-day long assembly with 500 youth from 8 divisions of Bangladesh ended with a promise to change Bangladesh for better.

#### **Workshop on Business and Human Rights**

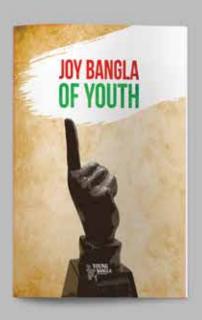
A workshop was held on Business and Human Rights on 18th September 2019, where Young Bangla members partook. This workshop aimed to enhance understanding on how the youth entrepreneurs are using innovations and what are the rights agendas within.

#### Young Bangla with Deutsche Welle

Young Bangla facilitated Deutsche Welle (DW), Germany's international TV broadcaster, to document the incredible work of the Joy Bangla Youth award winning organization - Bridge Foundation in October 2019. This short documentary was broadcast as part of the series 'Working Places' as well as a part of the DW Women's series of web videos for different social media platforms. Founders of the Bridge Foundation Natasha Israt Kabir and Shorna Moye Sarker showcased their work on eliminating discrimination though creative education and technical skills trainings that cater to special needs community.

## **JOY BANGLA OF YOUTH**

Joy Bangla of Youth is a collection of inspirational stories of the Joy Bangla Youth Award winners. This publication not only contains stories and pictures but also illustrates their journey to become a change maker for society and an active citizen for the nation.







## February

Amar Ekushe Book Fair 2019

Way Forward meeting with Young Bangla Network

### March

Joy Bangla Concert

Session at Jaago National Youth Assembly

## April

Workshop on Gender-based Violence and Women's Safety at Public Place

## May

National Children's Programming Contest

Student to Startup -Chapter 1

#### June

Interactive Dialogue on Manifesto of Bangladesh Awami League

#### July

Durban International Film Festival South Africa

Jagran Film Festival

#### November December October Young Bangla Mujib Graphic Bicchuron with Novel at Dhaka Sajeeb Wazed Let's Talk Lit Fest Connecting Party Leaders Asian Film Asian with Grassroots Festival Film Festival Youth Leaders Spain Spain 21st Awami League Council

#### September Global Student to Jaffna Cinema Festival, Startup -Cinema Festival Siliguri, India Chapter 2 Sri Lanka Indian Film DMZ Let's Talk on Festival of International Future of the Melbourne Documentary Rohingya Film Festival -Australia South Korea Ministry of 'Itihasher Foreign Affairs Oboruddho Vision 2021 Odhyay': 1975-1996 Internship



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