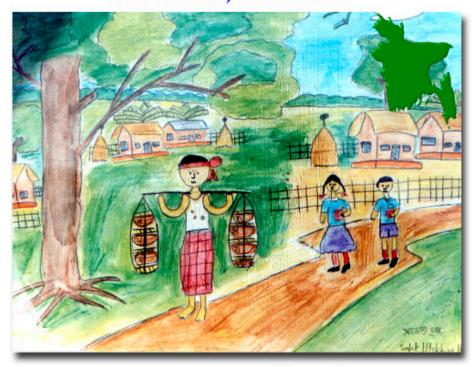


National Bangladeshi-Canadian Council Conseil National Des Bangladeshi-Canadiens ন্যাশন্যাল বাংলাদেশী-ক্যানেডিয়্যান কাউন্সিল

The National National Bangladeshi - Canadian Council (NBCC) is a non-profit, non-partisan organization established in 2003 to promote the welfare and well-being of all Bangladeshi and Bangladeshi-Canadian throughout the Canada.

Montreal, Canada



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Congratulations and Best wishes for all the members of National Bangladeshi-Canadian Council

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e-mail: editor@dhakapost.com

www.dhakapost.com

Great leaders who could't take part in this events. But did't forget to write a best wishes and successful inauguration of *NBCC*



Cabinet du Premier ministre

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0A2

The Rt. Hon. Jean Chrétien Prime Minister of Canada

House of Commons, Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6



Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance



Québec 👯

Gouvernement du Québec Cabinet du premier ministre

The Honourable Jean Charest

Premier of Quebec



The Honourable Paul Martin,

MP for LaSalle-Émard Leadership candidate of the Liberal Party of Canada in 2003



The Honourable Sheila Copps

Minister of Canadian Heritage Room 511-S, House of Commons Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6



The Honourable Denis Coderre, P.C., M.P.

Citizenship and Immigration Canada Ottawa, Ontario K1A 1L1



Michelle Courchesne
Ministre des Polations

Ministre des Relations avec les citoyens et de l'Immigration



September 21st, 2003

Je salue la fondation du Conseil national Bangladeshi-Canadiens.

Le gouvernement du Québec révise actuellement ses pratiques en matière de relations interculturelles et d'ouverture à la diversité, d'insertion en emploi et de contribution générale de l'immigration au développement du Québec.

Je souhaite que les Québécois et les Québécoises originaires du Bangladesh puissent participer activement à l'importante réflexion qui porte sur ces enjeux afin de contribuer au rapprochement interculturel de toutes les communautés qui composent le Québec d'aujourd'hui. L'intégration des membres des communautés culturelles est une responsabilité qui doit être partagée par tous les citoyens.

I welcome the creation of the Bangladeshi-Canadian National Council.

The Government of Québec is currently reviewing its practices with regard to intercultural relations and openness to diversity, job insertion and the general contribution of immigration to the development of Québec. I hope that Quebecers of Bangladeshi origin will participate actively in the major re-thinking of these issues to contribute to intercultural understanding among all communities that make up Québec today. The integration of members of cultural communities is a responsibility that all citizens must share.







Cabinet du Président de l'Assemblée nationale Hôtel du Parlement 1045, rue des Parlementaires 1er étage, Bureau 1.30 Québec (Québec)

September 21st, 2003

Il me fait grand plaisir de souhaiter au National Bangladeshi-Canadian Council, au nom de tous mes collègues députés, une très longue vie, ainsi que nos plus sincères vœux de succes dans l'atteinte des objectifs qu'il s'est fixes.

It is a great pleasure for me, on behalf of all my fellow MNAs, to wish the National Bangladeshi-Canadian Council a very long life, and to extend to the Council our sincerest wishes for success in achieving the objectives that it has set for itself.

MICHEL BISSONNET

The President of the National Assembly of Quebec





Cabinet du vice-président Christos Sirros Hôtel du Parlement 1045, rue des Parlementaires 1er étage, Bureau 1.49 Québec (Québec) G1A1A4

September 21st, 2003

Cher(ère)s ami(e)s,

Il me fait extrêmement plaisir d'offrir mes meilleurs vœux à tous les membres et ami(e)s du Conseil National des Bangladeshi-Canadiens à l'occasion de la première inauguration de votre association.

Le Québec est une société qui prend sa force dans la diversité de sa population, de même que dans ses traditions de tolérance, d'esprit d'ouverture et de collaboration mutuelle. Les Québécois d'origine bangladeshi peuvent être extrêmement fiers de leur contribution à la société québécoise dans son ensemble.

En vous souhaitant beaucoup de succès dans vos célébrations de ce soir ainsi que dans vos entreprises futures, je vous prie d'accepter mes félicitations les plus chaleureuses.

Dear friends

It is with great pleasure that I take this opportunity this evening to convey my warmest greetings to everyone attending the celebrations hosted by the National Bangladeshi-Canadian Council on the occasion of the first inauguration of your association.

Canada is a nation that derives strength from the diversity of its population, as well as from its traditions of tolerance, openness and mutual understandings. The Bangladeshi community can take great pride in the many contributions that it has made to the growth and prosperity, not only to Quebec, but to all of Canada.

Christos Sirros

I wish you every success towards this evenings celebrations as well as all future endeavors.

M.N.A. for Laurier-Dorion









Bureau du maire

Nous sommes heureux d'offrir nos félicitations et nos meilleurs vœux de succès aux membres du Conseil National des Bangladeshi-Canadiens, présentés officiellement le 21 septembre 2003.

Nous sommes convaincus que vous saurez mettre en valeur la richesse de votre héritage culturel et encourager les membres de votre communauté à participer aux débats importants de notre société.

Nous profitons de l'occasion pour vous remercier de contribuer au dynamisme de notre métropole.

We are delighted to offer our congratulations and best wishes for success to the members of the National Bangladeshi-Canadian Council, presented officially on September 21, 2003.

We are sure that you will know how to conserve the wealth of your cultural heritage, while encouraging the members of your community to take part in the issues facing our society.

We would also like to take this occasion to thank you for contributing to the dynamism of our metropolis.

Le maire,

Gérald Tremblay Mayor La vice-présidente du comité exécutif, responsable des communautés culturelles,

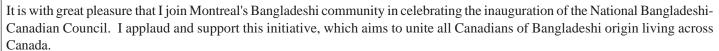
Francine SenécalVice President of the Executive CommitteeResponsible for Cultural Communities

Ville de Montréal

Cabinet du chef de l'opposition 275, rue Notre Dame Est, bureau R.112 Montréal (Québec) H2Y 1C6

September 21st, 2003

Dear Friends



By sponsoring and supporting community development programs, I am confident that you will assure your community's social and cultural future in Canada. Best wishes in carrying out your mission.

Il me fait plaisir de me joindre à la communauté Bangladesh de Montréal à l'occasion de l'inauguration du Conseil National Des Bangladesh-Canadiens. Je vous félicite et je salue cette initiative qui a pour objectif de rassembler tous les membres de la communauté Bangladesh à travers le Canada.

Également, je vous souhaite beaucoup de succès dans la réalisation de votre mission.

Pierre Bourque

Run Zang Leader of the Opposition

Ville de Montréal

H3

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September 21st, 2003

Dear Friends,

It gives me great pleasure to extend my warmest wishes to all the members and friends of the NATIONAL BANGLADESHI-CANADIEN COUNCIL for the the inauguration of their organization.

The Bangladeshi Community has been an important part of our city and district for many years now and the idea of a National Council to keep on promoting the Bangladeshi culture in Montreal is a positive initiative that I can only highly encourage.

For Canadians of Bangladeshi origin who are unable to travel to their homeland on a regular basis, this council is a valuable investment for the future of there children as well as for the unity of there community. It is heart-warming to see that your political involvement, economic development and educational and cultural traditions are kept alive by this local organization.

Congratulations to the team of dedicated volunteers who organised tonight's festivities. I wish you continued successfully in all your_endeavours.

Mary Deros City Councillor of Parc-Extension





MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT September 21st, 2003



It is with great pleasure that I undertake the Presidency of the National Bangladeshi-Canadian Council Inc. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome the newly appointed members of the executive for the 2003-2005 term. I would

also like to thank all the volunteers that have helped us with the various events that we have sponsored over the years.

On the occasion of its first inauguration, on behalf of the National Bangladeshi-Canadian Council, I congratulate to all its members, volunteers and well-wishers for their initial supports. Together we worked hard and built up the organization for last one year hoping that not only us, but also our children will be a part of this organization. We are the first generation who entered to this great country with a great hope of becoming a part of its great civilization. The aim of this organization is to create a space for the second generation that already started their life as a Canadian mixing themselves with the great Canadian culture they might forget their own origin. bridging between first generation and second generation is must for smooth transition of cultural change. The National Bangladeshi-Canadian Council wood be a tool for this purpose.

I appeal to Bangladeshi community of Montreal and all over Canada to support the programs of the organization for a greater unity and a betterment of our community.

Monir Hossain
President

Conseil National des Bangladeshi-Canadiens
National Bangladeshi-Canadian Council
ন্যাশন্যাল বাংলাদেশী–ক্যানেডিয়্যান কাউন্সিল



National Bangladeshi-Canadian Council



Conseil Nationale Des Bangladeshi-Canadiens

ন্যাশন্যাল বাংলাদেশী-ক্যানেডিয়্যান কাউন্সিল

Board of Directors



Monir Hossain President









National Executive Committee





Asaduzzaman Rustom













Shaieda Hossain Woman Secretary







Mahamudul Islam



NBCC's Objectives & Goals are

NBCC's primary objectives include:

- * Promoting active participation of Bangladeshi Canadian in civic. politics and national affairs and in all other aspects of mainstream
- * Promoting awareness of Bangladeshi Canadian contributions to social, economic, cultural and political life in the Canada.
- * Securing social justice, equal opportunity and fair treatment of Bangladeshi Canadian through advocacy and legislative and policy initiatives at all levels of government.

Strengthening community institutions that promote the cultural heritage of Bangladesh.

* Eliminating prejudices, stereotypes and ignorance of. Bangladeshi Canadian

To achieve these objectives, NBCC sponsors and supports the following programs:

- * Community Development: providing assistance to Bangladeshi and Bangladeshi Canadian community-based organizations.
- * Applied Research, Policy Analysis and Advocacy: providing a Bangladeshi Canadian perspective on issues such as education, immigration, health, employment and training, civil rights, youth and the elderly.
- * Political Leadership & Candidate Development: preparing Bangladeshi Canadian for public service.
- * Entrepreneurial Training: developing the business skills of Bangladeshi Canadian in order to promote Economic Development.
- * Civic participation: educating Bangladeshi Canadian to get involved in the electoral process through voter registration and get-outthe-vote campaigns.
- * Scholarship and Youth Assistance: assisting Bangladeshi Canadian youth access information on scholarships, education grants and other forms of financial support.
- * National Resource Directory of Elected and Appointed Public Officials at all levels of government, Bangladesh, Bangladeshi Canadian organizations and businesses in the entire country.

NBCC national office is based in Montreal. Quebec, Canada Its main function is to monitor legislation and public policy issues affecting Bangladeshi Canadian and work in coalition with other national groups around common issues and concerns. In addition, the national office serves as a communications link between affiliate members as well as an information source on federal and legislative initiatives and policies relevant to Bangladeshi Canadian.

GEOGRAPHICALAREA OF ORGANIZATION OPERATIONS:

The Corporation will conduct its operations in the following geographical area: Bangladeshis living here in the Canada to provide a forum for communication, friendship, education, political affairs and community development for Bangladeshis living in the East, West and Central Canada..





Congratulation and my best wishes for National Bangladeshi-Canadian Council



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21st February International Mother Language Day

Background and Adoption of the Resolution

The decision to observe 21st February as the International Mother Language Day was unanimously taken at the 30th General Conference of the UNESCO held on November 17, 1999.

There is a brief background behind this resolution.

Bangladesh officially sent a proposal to UNESCO requesting the world body to adopt a Resolution declaring 21st February as International Mother Language Day. The Language Division of UNESCO marked the proposal from the Government of Bangladesh as the Draft Resolution -35 and sent the same to Commission-2 for consideration. The Commission unanimously recommended the proposal for presentation at the Plenary Session of the General Conference of the UNESCO. This proposal from Bangladesh was seconded by Ivorycoast, Italy, Indonesia, Iran, Oman, Comoros, Gambia, Chile, Dominican Republic, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Paraguaya, the Philippines, the Bahamas, Benin, Blearus, Vanatua, India, Micronesia, Malaysia, Egypt, Russia, Lithunia, Srilanka, Saudi Arabia, Surinam, Slovakia and Honduras. After that, on November 17, 1999, 21st February was declared in the General Conference as the International Mother Language Day.

It may be mentioned here that "Gaffargaon Theatre" under Mymensing district in Bangladesh had in 1997, in a booklet published on the eve of 21st February, raised the "demand for declaration of an International Mother Language Day and for the International recognition of 21st February."

There is an Organization named "Mother Language Lovers of the World" in Canada. There are ten English, Kutchi, Cantonese, German, Filipino, Bengali and Hindi speaking members in that organization. In 1999 they urged the UNO and the UNESCO to declare 21st February as the International Mother Language Day. The UNESCO in reply informed them that such proposal could only be considered if it had come from the National Commission for UNESCO of any member-state. The said organization informed Ministry of Education, Government of Bangladesh of the matter over telephone. The hon'ble Prime Minister of Bangladesh authorized the Education Minister to send the Bangladesh Proposal to UNESCO at the earliest cutting down all the procedural formalities. The Proposal was promptly sent to UNESCO. This enabled UNESCO to adopt the historic resolution in the long run.

It is a great achievement on the part of Bangladesh. Probably nothing equally great has been achieved after the Independence war. The International Mother Language Day is not only for Bangladesh, rather it is for all speakers of all languages all over the world. In spite of that, Bangladesh cannot but feel proud when 21st February has been chosen as the International Mother Language Day.

It might be relevant to describe in brief, what happened on this day and what the circumstances were at that time.



Abul Barkat:

A Language Martyr who died on 21st February 1952, as police opened fire on a mass-rally demanding his mother language Bangla to be one of the State languages of the then Pakistan. Born on 16th June 1927 in village Babla in Bhorotpur police station under Murshidabad district in West Bengal, he migrated to Bangladesh (the then East Pakistan) in 1948. He was a Masters student of the University of Dhaka.



Rafiguddin Ahmed:

A Language Martyr who died in a police firing, on 21st February 1952, on a mass-rally demanding the mother language (Bangla) to be one of the state languages of Pakistan. He was born on 30th October, 1926 in the village Paril Baldhara in Shingair police station under Manikgonj district. He was a student of Manikgonj Debandra College.



Shafiur Rahman:

A Language Martyr who died in a police firing on 22nd February 1952 on a mob agitating against the police action on the 21st February 1952. Born on 24th January, 1918 in the village Kunnyogar under 24-Pargana, West Bengal, he migrated to Bangladesh (the then East Pakistan) in 1948. He was an employee in the accounts section in Dhaka High Court.

From 1953 onwards till today, 21st February is being observed as a martyrs' day. The Memorial erected in their name has turned into a national meeting place. The love and respect that these martyrs had aroused for Bengali mother-tongue and culture, eventually laid the foundation of the war of liberation of Bangladesh.

In 1956 Pakistan Constitution, Bengali and Urdu were declared as state languages of Pakistan. In the constitution of Bangladesh, adopted in 1972, it is a stated: the language of the Republic would be Bengali. In Bangladesh continuous efforts are on to establish Bangla in all walks of life.

We hope that the spirit of the International Mother Language Day will help develop in us a deep respect for not only our mother tongue, but for those of others as well; help the expression of all kinds of majority and minority languages and put an end to the dictates of one language over the other.

FÉLICITATIONS AU CONSEIL NATIONAL DES BANGLADES HI-CANADIENS CONGRATULATIONS TO NATIONAL BANGLADES HI-CANADIAN COUNCIL



Les membres du cabinet du conseil de l'arrondissement de VILLERAY - SAINT-MICHEL - PARC-EXTENSION souhaitent un franc succès à la première inauguration du Conseil national des Bangladeshi-canadiens.

Best wishes for the first inauguration of National Bangladeshi-Canadian Council and continued success in all your future projects.

Mary Deros, conseillère du district de Parc-Extension

City councillor of Park Extension 872-3103

Anie Samson, conseillère du district de Jarry

City councillor of Jarry 872-8173

Frank Venneri, conseiller du district de Jean-Rivard

City councillor of Jean-Rivard 872-8173

Paolo V. Tamburello, président d'arrondissement et Conseiller du district de Saint-Michel

Borough President and City councillor of St-Michel 872-1317

Sylvain Lachance, conseiller du district de Villeray City councillor of Villeray

872-3103

529, rue Jarry Est, bureau 401, Montréal H2P 1V4



Arrondissement de Villeray - Saint-Michel - Parc-Extension

Bangladesh: An investment destination in South Asia

Bangladesh is virtually located as a bridge between the emerging markets of South Asia and fastest growing markets of South East Asia and ASEAN countries. With the proposed concept of a "Bay of Bengal Growth Triangle" with its apex Chittagong port extending south-west to Calcutta, Madras and Colombo and the south-eastern arm extends through Yangon, to Thailand, to Penang with the third arm to Colombo, this region should have growing attention of the investment world. Bangladesh has the potential to be an entry port to the region, a potential small scale Singapore, for the region covering Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan, eight north-east Indian states (of Assam, Meghalaya, Monipur, Imphal, Arunachal, Nagaland, Mizoram and Tripura) and resource-rich northern Myanmar, a land locked region. Bangladesh is poised to become a regional hub where activities relating to assembling, manufacturing, trading and services, would be some of the areas that are picking up over the years. This geopolitico-economic location of Bangladesh indicates its history of being a nation of sea-farers, traders and suppliers.

Bangladesh is a developing democratic polity on the Westminister model; secular, but not a theocratic state. Bangladesh is a moderating influence in a consistently volatile and often mutually hostile South Asian scenario.

The current macroeconomic situation in the country is, by and large, stable, characterized by a manageable fiscal deficit and a quite low current account deficit. The stable macroeconomic situation is an outcome of a mixture of prudent monetary and fiscal policies that are being pursued. The external current account deficit has also been low. This reflects the continued high growth of exports, increased flows of remittances, moderate growth in money supply as well as that of imports.

The country has a policy of private sector led, liberal economic approach; export oriented, gradually transforming into assembling & manufacturing; seeking for rapid expansion of the service sector. Also looking for substantial joint venture and Direct Foreign Investment (DFI) from abroad in medium and large-scale industries and enterprises, including infrastructure building.

The following facts deserve attention in relation to assessment of Bangladesh as an investment destination:

- i) Bangladesh has never defaulted in its debt-service liabilities to multi-lateral and bilateral donors.
- ii) Bangladesh grow over 21 million metric tons of food grains, basically rice and some wheat and potatoes which is enough to feed the population of the country, and for building reserve stocks.
- iii) Bangladesh never experienced negative growth during last 27 years of it's independence.
- iv) Bangladesh exports readymade garments, knitwear, brand name wind cheaters, walking shoes, leather goods, shoes and other products, urea fertilizer, pharmaceutical, shrimps and prawn, vegetables, jute and jute products etc. to sophisticated markets of EU, USA, Japan and many other countries. Garments and related export account for more than US \$4 billion.
- v) The frequency and intensity of natural disasters are far less in Bangladesh than those in the Philippines, Japan and even the USA, Bangladesh is located outside the major earthquake zones.

Reforms and liberalization

A significant array of reforms, deregulation and liberalization have been carried out over the recent years in policies relating to virtually every sector of the economy including financial reforms with the aim of globalization challenges for the economy through introduction of international competitiveness and productive efficiency.

We have opened up our economy. We are one of the top exporters of readymade garments to USA and Europe. Our shrimp and leather products exports are rising sharply. We have removed all barriers to investment and business. Government is offering unparalleled facilities to investors. 100% foreign investment is allowed, excepting four reserved items/areas: i.e.

- (a) production of arms and ammunition and other defense equipment, and machinery,
- (b) forest plantation and mechanized extraction within the bounds of reserved forests,
- (c) production of nuclear energy and
- (d) security printing (currency notes) and minting.

All other areas are open to private investment. We are providing tax holidays and duty free import of capital machinery, raw materials import for export manufacturing. Expatriates' work permits are easily obtained and unhindered remittance of dividends, capitals, gains on capital etc. are allowed. We have eliminated licensing system and simplified government approval procedure for investment in Bangladesh.

Government has enacted a law in the parliament enabling the private investors to set up private Export Processing Zones (EPZ). The units in private EPZ will enjoy facilities similar to those in government EPZs. The Private Power Generation Policy has been formulated paving the way for private investment in power generation for which a new Electricity Act and a regulatory commission is on their way. Private investments have already been allowed in gas exploration, gas development, power generation and other mining & exploration activities.

Our best wishes for the National Bangladeshi-Canadian Council



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An attractive investment destination

Following are some positive aspects which make Bangladesh an attractive location to foreign investors:

- i) We have opened up our economy with rapid liberalization of import policies helping globalization of our economy;
- ii) According to a Survey of the Economist-risk factors for FDI in Bangladesh are minimum compared to many other countries of this region;
- iii) Cost of production especially cost of labor both skilled and semi-skilled is comparatively lower;
- ix) Cost of living is also quite low and reasonable and there is no communal or ethnic problems;
- v) English language is widely spoken and understood;
- vi) Working capital loan as well as term loan from local commercial banks allowed to the industries setup with foreign capital;
- vii) Citizenship by investing a minimum of US \$5,00,000 or by transferring US \$10,00,000 to any recognised financial institutions (non-repatriable);
- viii) Permanent residentship is granted to an expatriable by investing a minimum of US \$75,000 (non-repatriable);
- ix) Avoidance of Double Taxation Agreements and Bilateral Investment Promotion Treaties have been signed with many countries including U.K.

Legal security for investment

- i) Foreign Private Investment (Promotion and Protection) Act, 1980 ensures legal protection to foreign investment.
- ii) Bangladesh is a member of Multi-Lateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA), Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC) of USA and International Centre for Settlement of Industrial Disputes (ICSID)
- iii) Member of World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and World Association of Investment Promotion Agencies (WAIPA).

Private Investment Trend

Board of Investment (BOI), the government's investment promotion agency, is at the forefront of the country's efforts to attract and facilitate investment. Board of Investment headed by the Hon'ble Prime Minister, was created in 1989 to implement governments' investment policy and promote private participation in the industrial sector. As a result of reformed policy measures undertaken by the government, private investments especially foreign investments in the country have increased manifold. This has been achieved due to adoption of various programmes including holding of seminars/symposium, bilateral talks, press briefings and other interactive processes at home and abroad.

From the analysis of investment trend, it reveals that from 1991-1992 to 1999-2000 as many as 10412 industrial projects both local & foreign have been registered with BOI having total investment outlay of US\$ 19074 million with employment opportunities of 1442568 persons. During that period a total of 998 industrial projects both under joint venture and 100% direct foreign investment was registered with Board of Investment having proposed investment of US\$ 11667million with employment opportunities of 257159 persons.

The top investing countries are USA, UK, Malaysia, Japan, Hong King, Singapore, Republic of Korea. France, India, Germany, China, in that order. During the fiscal year 1999-2000, 135 projects involving an estimated foreign investment of US \$2119 million have been registered with Board of Investment. Several major oil companies e.g. Shell, UNOCAL, etc. have already invested. Burlington Resources have notified their intent to have major investment in gas and oil exploration. The French TNC LaFarge, the world's largest cement producer is setting up a US \$240 million cement factory with 1.2 million MT initial capacity, to be raised to 2.4 MT in phasewise. Several international telecom companies have set up successful joint ventures and others are expected to make substantial investment in infrastructure projects.





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In Flanders Fields

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.
We are the dead. Short days ago
We lived, saw dawn, felt sunset glow,
Loved, and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.

Take up your quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.

Doctor Major (later Lieutenant-Colonel) John McCrae of the 1st Field Artillery Brigade wrote this poem on May 3, 1915 after the battle at Ypres. The poem was later published in "Punch", December 8, 1915.



Liberty, you are

-Shamsur Rahman

"Liberty, you are my mother's white sari fluttering in the breeze in the yard. Liberty, you are the red color of mehdi on the tender palm of my sister. Liberty, you are the flaming poster in my friend's hand. Liberty, you are the thick black loose hair of my wife flowing in the wind. Liberty, you are the colored shirt on my son. the play of sunlight on my daughter's cheek. Liberty, you are my garden, the song of the cuckoo, the rustling leaves of an ancient banyan tree, the note book where I write my verses just as I choose."

This book is dadicated to all Bangladeshi Living in Canada and World Wide

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