



“Respect Your Mother Earth”

Sejuti Mansur

The United Kingdom shall be the first country to recognise climate change as a critical emergency. Climate change is the greatest challenge to the human race. In the past, the wars would have been seen as the greatest atrocity mankind has committed. However, war is a result of abusive power - climate change is a result of us all. In recent days, we have seen the younger generation take charge of their future. We witnessed this in the Extinction Rebellion. A socio-political movement that captured London in valiant protests. It shone a light on climate breakdown and the severe risk of human extinction and ecological collapse. This movement held strong against countless arrests

and relentless pressure from politicians, as it cited inspiration from grassroots movements, which have shaped our future. Namely, the suffragettes and the African-American Civil Rights Movement. It rallied support worldwide and highlighted a clear urgency to tackle climate breakdown. The Extinction Rebellion saw masses of ordinary human beings coming together to fight together. However, it should not be solely ordinary people shining a light on climate issues. It does not matter how many paper straws are used or whether if switching to a plant-based diet shall cure the world of climate change. The burden of climate change must not fall on ordinary people to battle. Climate change is caused by elitist people in power - from politi-

cians to oil executives who profit from misusing the Earth's natural minerals for profit. There must be a renewed green revolution, as the climate-wrecking elite shall jeopardise the lives of poorer citizens. The citizens who cannot defend themselves. The critical consequences of climate change have already been witnessed in Bangladesh. A recent report from the United Nations Children's Fund has advised that over nineteen million children are now in danger. The ever-constant disasters that plague Bangladesh has now reached an uncontrollable level. Bangladesh has done amazingly well in its climate resilience. However, the dense population and weak infrastructure have led the country uniquely vulnerable to flood, cyclones and many other

environmental casualties. The children amount to forty-per cent of the Bangladeshi population, with the total including Rohingya refugees who have been given sanctuary in southern Bangladesh. Reports have concluded that children's lives are in danger as there is a constant presence of floods as climate change unflinchingly destroys the river banks. The environmental calamities have led to the damage of communities, with public services at a loss to function because the surrounding environment has been destroyed by natural disasters. The lack of functioning health services and access to bare necessities has pushed families to migrate to bigger cities. Therefore, the children, who have been uprooted from their homes, have no choice, but to turn to

child labour. The potential to have a fully-fledged childhood is denied, as the desperate need to escape damaging environments has hindered their chances of continuing education. Climate change has reversed the many achievements Bangladesh has made in child development. The existence of extreme weather events, with the increasing sea levels and saltwater intrusion, Bangladeshi families are being forced deeper into poverty and displacement. Our history is enriched with ordinary people making a stand for themselves. We have never been a country that bent to the will of elitist politicians. We are not the country who shall bend to the will of elitist businessmen who see the deaths of nineteen million children as “collateral damage”. The Extinction Rebellion is solely one example of a generation fighting to survive. Every individual has a duty to contribute to preserving planet Earth. Before we are past the point of no return. If we ignorantly turn a blind eye to those in need, then all that Bangladesh has worked towards will be for nothing. Our history. Our sacrifices. It will cease to exist.

Sheikh Mujibur Rahman the greatest Bengali



Kazi Makhnun :: Assalamu alaikum everyone. My name is Kazi Makhnun and I am son of Kazi Masum as you all know. My dad will be very happy as I mentioned his name. This is the preparation meeting for Bangabandhu's 100th birthday meeting. Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, was born in Tungipara village on 17 March 1920. He was the third child of Sheikh Lutfur Rahman and Sayera Khatun. When Sheikh Mujibur Rahman became 18 he married Begum Fazilatunnesa and later both became happy parents of two daughters, Sheikh Hasina & Sheikh Rehana and three sons, Sheikh Kamal, Sheikh Jamal and Sheikh Rusel. Bangabandhu's active career took off when he became elected councillor for the Muslim League in 1943. Four years later he obtained a Bachelor of Arts degree from Islamia college under Calcutta University, and was elected General Secretary of Islamia College Student Union. In 1948 4th January, he founded the Muslims Student's League. When communal riots broke out during

the partition of India and the birth of Pakistan, he played an active role in protecting Muslims and containing the violence. He rose up in protest when the Prime Minister of Pakistan declared at the Legislative Assembly “The people of Pakistan must accept Urdu as their state language.” This led to a storm of protests through out the country. Sheikh Mujibur Rahman immediately engaged himself to build a strong protest against this move. On 9th July 1953, Sheikh Mujib was elected as the General Secretary of the East Pakistan Awami Muslim League. In 1954, the first general elections in East Bengal were held on 10 March. Sheikh Mujib won the election for the Gopalganj constituency. He took oath on 15 May as Minister for Agriculture and Forest in the new Provincial Government. The next year on 5th June Sheikh Mujib was elected as a member of the Constituent Assembly. On 1st March 1966 Sheikh Mujib was elected, the president of the Awami League. Following his election, he

launched a campaign to obtain support for the 6-point programme for the freedom of the Bengali nation. In 1969 The Central Student Action Council arranged a reception in honour of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on 23 February at the Race Course ground. At the reception Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was publicly declared as Bangabandhu (Friend of Bengal). The next year on 7 March, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman addressed a mammoth public rally at the Race Course Ground, where he declared, “The struggle this time is the struggle for emancipation. The struggle this time is the struggle for independence.” In this historic speech, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman urged the nation to break the shackles of subjugation and declared, “Since we have given blood, we will give more blood. By the will of the Almighty Allah, the people of this land will be liberated... turn every house into a fortress. Face the enemy with whatever you have. In reality, he ruled an independent Bangladesh from 7 March to 25 March. From 26 March began a war for Bangladesh's independence. After 9 months of war, on 16 December 1971, Bangladesh was finally successful in being independent. In 1972 on 12 January Sheikh Mujib took over as Prime Minister of Bangladesh. On 10th October, the World Peace Council conferred the Julio Curie award on him. In 1975,15 August, the noblest and greatest of Bengalis, the architect of Bangladesh and the Father of the Nation, was assassinated by a handful of treacherous military officers. On that day, his wife, his three sons, two daughter in laws and nine other family members were killed. 15th August 1975 is the blackest day in our nation and is observed as National Mourning Day.



Victims of London nail bomb attacks remembered

Ansar Ahmed Ullah :: To mark the 20 anniversary of London nail bomb attacks Brick Lane Act of Remembrance was held on Wednesday 24 April in front of Brick Lane Police Station with candle light vigil for the victims & the injured of Brixton, Brick Lane and Soho. The 1999 London nail bombings were a series of bomb explosions that took place over three successive weekends. The first attack took place on 17 April in Brixton, second on 24 April in Brick Lane and the finally on 30 April in Soho. Fortunately, no one was killed in Brixton and Brick Lane bombing but unfortunately three people lost their lives in the Soho attack. The second bomb, on Saturday 24 April was aimed at Brick Lane in the East End of London targeting the large Bengali community. There is a street market on Sundays but the perpetrator mistakenly tried to plant the bomb on Saturday when the street was less busy. Unwilling to change the timer on the bomb, he left it instead in a bag on Hanbury Street. There it was picked up by a man, who brought it to the police station on Brick Lane, which was closed at the time. He had placed it in the boot of his car which was parked outside Café Naz on Brick Lane, where it exploded. Thirteen people were injured, and surrounding buildings and cars were severely damaged. At the time, worshippers were gathering outside the Brick Lane Mosque for prayers. At the Remembrance John Biggs, Mayor of Tower Hamlets stressed the need of unity of all communities and stated Tower Hamlets as a place of no hate. Mark Healey, Founder of Hate Crime Awareness Week reminded the bomb attack carried out by Neo Nazi militant & former member of BNP killed three people in Soho, including a pregnant woman, and injured 140 people, four of whom lost limbs. LGBT Poet Laureate Trudy Howson recited a poem and the event ended with a minute silence for the victims. A plaque was mounted on the wall next to police station as a reminder. The event was attended by local community & anti-racist activists, Cllrs, Police Commander, senior Council officials and Emdad Talukder who was injured in the Brick Lane blast.