



# Highlights

*January 2020*





## INAUGURATION OF THE POPULATION & HOUSING CENSUS 2021

*"I must thank UNFPA for the technical and financial support extended to Bangladesh ever since the first census conducted in this country."*

- Mr. Mohammad Abdul Mannan, MP, Hon. Minister of Planning

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## UNFPA's 'Shahana' cartoon incorporated into the curriculum of 33,000 schools and madrashas

### WHAT IS SHAHANA?

A cartoon video series conceptualized by UNFPA Bangladesh, centralized around the bold and inquisitive girl, 'Shahana'. Through her character, each cartoon focuses on issues such as child marriage, gender-based violence, maternal death, fitsula, gender diversity, and other issues relating to sexual and reproductive health and rights.

### SUPPORTED BY

Government of Switzerland & Government of Netherlands

**“We will ensure that 'Shahana' is part of the national curriculum very soon, so that all teachers and students in Bangladesh can be sensitized on these important matters.”**

- Prof. Dr. Syed Golam Faruk  
Director General of Secondary & Higher Education



**“ Every one of you is a Shahana. You must be brave like her and question issues you face during adolescence. You should reach out to your parents or teacher. ”**

- Dr. Dipu Moni  
MP, Hon. Minister of Education

**“ We worked tirelessly over the years to develop the Shahana cartoons for adolescents. We take much pride that Shahana is now being taken over by the Government. ”**

- Dr. Asa Torkelsson  
UNFPA Representative in Bangladesh



**UNFPA Bangladesh** @UNFPABangladesh · Jan 12

"When [#adolescents](#) can make informed decisions during their transition from [#adolescence](#) to [#adulthood](#), they can enjoy improved [#health](#), well-being, and development of their communities and society at large." - [@AsaTorkelsson](#)

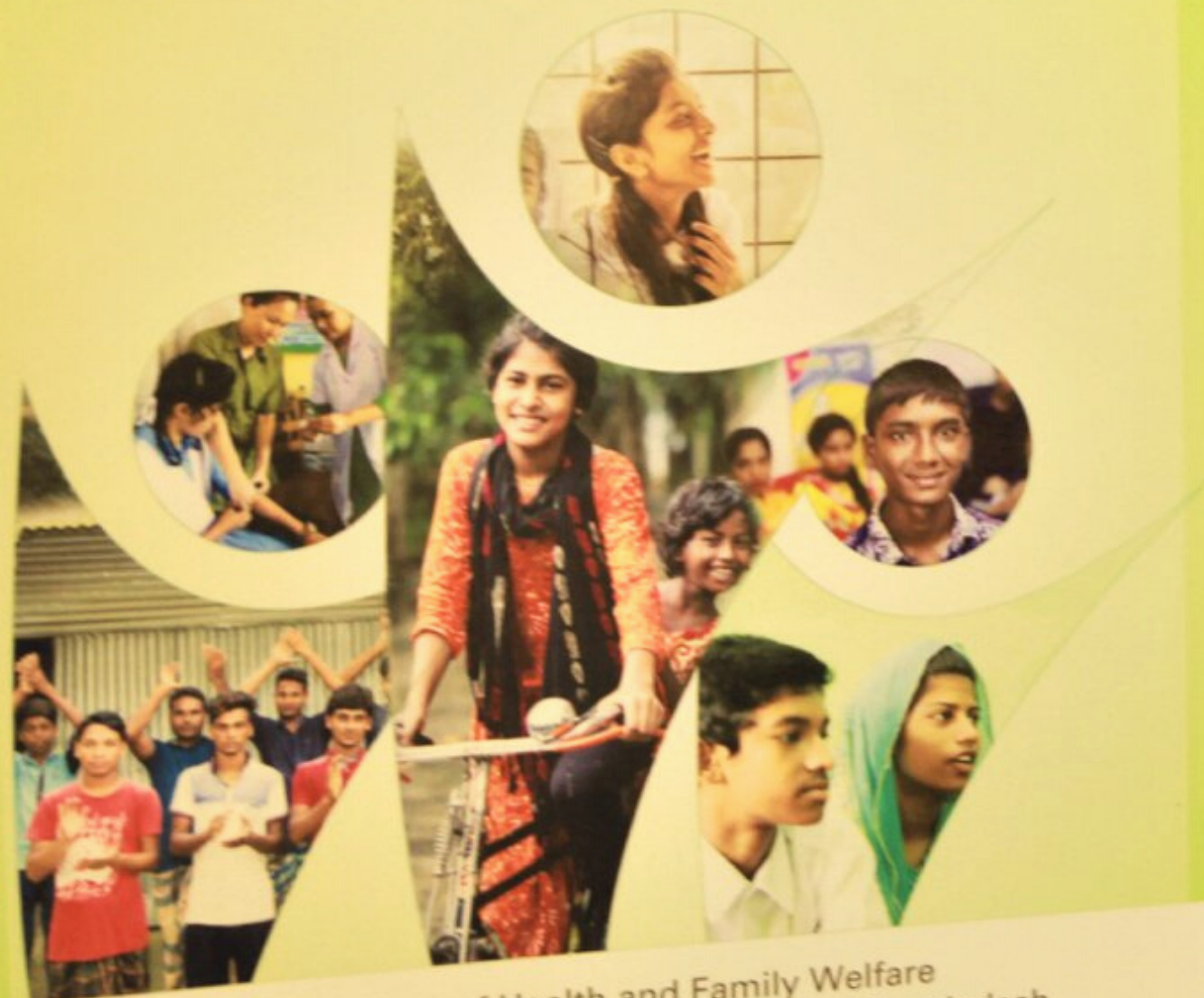


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NATIONAL PLAN OF ACTION FOR  
**ADOLESCENT HEALTH STRATEGY**  
2017-2030



Ministry of Health and Family Welfare  
Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh



UNFPA is proud to have supported the Government of Bangladesh in the development and dissemination of the National Plan of Action for the Adolescent Health Strategy (2017-2030)



## DISSEMINATION OF THE NATIONAL PLAN OF ACTION FOR ADOLESCENT HEALTH STRATEGY & NATIONAL ADOLESCENT HEALTH CONFERENCE

*"Adolescents should be made aware of their sexual and reproductive health and rights before marriage. This will increase their awareness on and reduce gender-based violence.*

- Mr. Zahid Maleque, MP, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare



## DISSEMINATION OF THE NATIONAL PLAN OF ACTION FOR ADOLESCENT HEALTH STRATEGY & NATIONAL ADOLESCENT HEALTH CONFERENCE

*"While much progress has been made in Bangladesh, many adolescent girls are still unable to make reproductive choices for themselves."*

- Dr. Asa Torkelsson, UNFPA Representative in Bangladesh





**DISSEMINATION OF THE NATIONAL PLAN OF ACTION FOR ADOLESCENT HEALTH STRATEGY & NATIONAL ADOLESCENT HEALTH CONFERENCE**

*"Contraceptives for unmarried boys and girls is crucial. We must not forget the challenges, and we will continue our support to the Government and Development Partners in addressing these issues."*

- H. E. Harry Verwaij, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Netherlands

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**Inauguration of Notre Dame  
College Model United Nations  
2020 & Education Fair 2020**

*Notre Dame College invited Dr. Mercy Tembon,  
Country Director of the World Bank in Bangladesh & Bhutan as  
the Chief Guest and Dr. Asa Torkelsson,  
UNFPA Representative as the Special Guest*

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# LOCAL LEVEL CONSULTATION IN SHIBCHAR, MADARIPUR DISTRICT



Topic: Ending child marriage and maternal mortality



High-level mission led by Speaker of Parliament, accompanied by Chief Whip and 16 Parliamentarians from the Bangladesh Association of Parliamentarians on Population & Development (BAPPD), UN Resident Coordinator, and UNFPA Representative



Consultation attended by 800+ stakeholders, including National & Sub-National Government Officials, Religious Leaders, Police, Birth & Marriage Registrars, Youth, Parents, Teachers, Civil Society, and Media



Strengthening Parliament's Capacity in Population and Development Issues (SPCPD)

## পরামর্শ কর্মশালা

বাল্যবিবাহ প্রতিরোধপূর্বক মাতৃমৃত্যু হ্রাসকরণ

ড. শিরীন শারমিন চৌধুরী, এমপি

মাননীয় স্পীকার, বাংলাদেশ জাতীয় সংসদ এবং সভাপতি, বিএপিপিডি

জনাব নূর-ই-আলম চৌধুরী, এমপি, মাননীয় চীফ হুইপ, বাংলাদেশ জাতীয় সংসদ

মিয়া সেপ্তো, জাতিসংঘ আবাসিক প্রতিনিধি

ড. আশা টর্কেলসন, প্রতিনিধি, ইউএনএফপিএ

ড. জাফর হামেদ খান, সিনিয়র সচিব, বাংলাদেশ জাতীয় সংসদ সচিবালয়

স্থান : চৌধুরী ফাউন্ডেশন বেগম পৌর অডিটোরিয়াম, শিবচর, মাদারীপুর



তারিখঃ  
১৮  
জানুয়ারি  
২০২০

During the consultation, the high-level delegation listened to the people of Shibchar as they jointly voiced the need for safer spaces for women & girls and to eliminate child marriage within their community

The high-level mission also included a visit to a girl's school and an engagement with differently-abled youth in Shibchar about their access to digital platforms





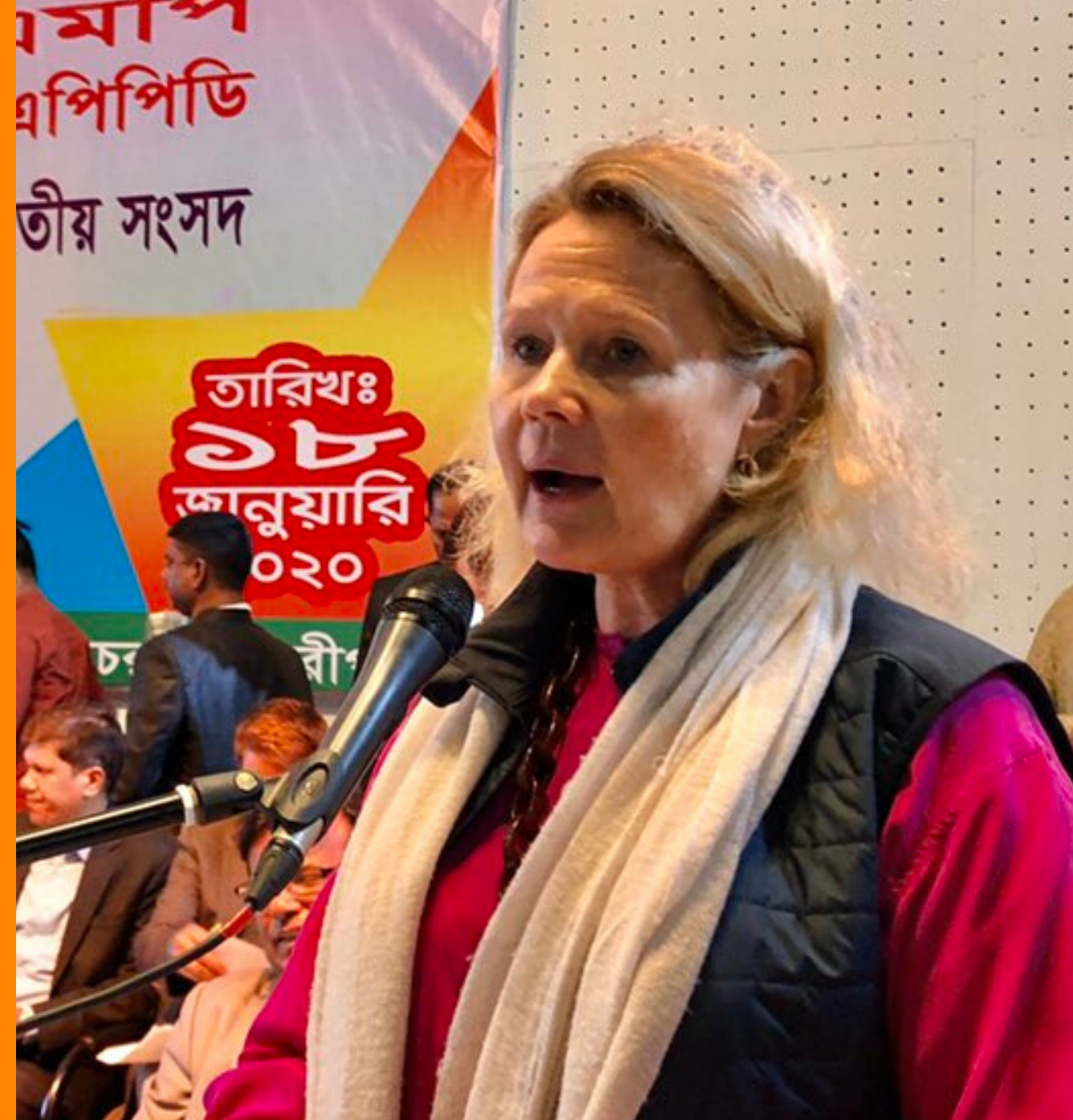
***"Parents, you must know that child marriage is harmful to her body and can lead to maternal death. You must know that child marriage is not a solution to any problem."***

**- Dr. Shirin Chaudhary, Honourable Speaker of Parliament**



*"Educate. Educate. Educate. When we educate a girl, we educate a village. It is so important that girls have access to information so that they can make informed decisions about their life and future."*

- Ms. Mia Seppo, UN Resident Coordinator in Bangladesh



*"Marrying early threatens a girl's life. Often she enters motherhood as an adolescent. This cannot continue. I thank the Honourable Speaker for spearheading an agenda on ending child marriage.*

*We remain committed to support."*

- Dr. Asa Torkelsson, UNFPA Representative in Bangladesh

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## National Young Leaders Sexual & Reproductive Health and Rights Summit 2020

More than 300 young leaders were present at the National Summit organized by 'Right Here. Right Now.' The event was graced by Dr. Muhammad Murad Hassan, MP, State Minister of Information. UNFPA Representative Dr. Asa Torkelsson was invited as the Special Guest.

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# Marking International Education Day



## Rohingya Champions of Change

 UNFPA BANGLADESH · FRIDAY, JANUARY 24, 2020 · READING TIME: 2 MINUTES ·  52 Reads

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*In line with International Education Day, the successful Champions of Change programme in Cox's Bazar was featured on official UNFPA Bangladesh social media channels to highlight the importance of ensuring adolescents and youth have access to accurate information relation to their sexual and reproductive health and rights*



Dhaka

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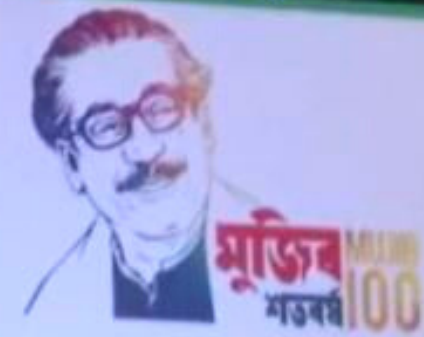


Cox's Bazar



## Fun Day for UNFPA Staff!

*In line with the Well-being Calendar for 2020 shared by the Department of Human Resource, 'Fun Day' was observed on 28 January at the Country Office in Dhaka and Sub-Office in Cox's Bazar*

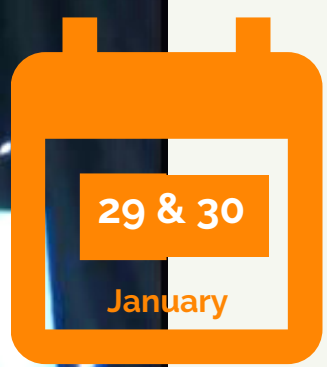


# BANGLADESH DEVELOPMENT FORUM 2020

Chief Guest : **Sheikh Hasina, MP**  
Hon'ble Prime Minister  
Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Chair : **A H M Mustafa Kamal, FCA, MP**  
Hon'ble Finance Minister

Date : 29-30 January 2020  
Venue : Bangabandhu International Conference Center (BICC)



## Bangladesh Development Forum 2020

The Bangladesh Development Forum 2020 is a high-level multi-stakeholder participatory forum, which provides a platform for effective dialogues on national development. UNFPA supported BDF2020 along with other UN agencies and development partners.

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