



CIRDAP awarded Aziz- ul- Haq Rural Development Medal 2021 to the H.E. Sheikh Hasina, MP, Honorable Prime Minister of the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh



The Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific (CIRDAP) awarded its first 'Aziz- ul- Haq Rural Development Medal - 2021 to the H.E. Sheikh Hasina, MP, Honorable Prime Minister of the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh. Today, in a simple and gracious ceremony, this medal was officially handed over to the Honorable Prime Minister by Dr. Cherdasak Virapat, Director General of CIRDAP at Gonobhaban. H.E.

After receiving the award, the Prime Minister said, "I think people of Bangladesh are the recipients of this award and I am dedicating this to them. I think nominating for this award means that Bangladesh is nominated for the award". The premier also said CIRDAP is always working on rural development in their respective countries, adding, "Getting an award from there is just as highly honorable for me as well as for my country."

Sheikh Hasina was the first to receive this international award. The Honorable Prime Minister achieved this award for transforming the lives of the marginalized and far-reaching rural people of Bangladesh through rural development and poverty alleviation under her visionary and dynamic leadership and for her unwavering support to CIRDAP. The event marks a prominent milestone in the history of CIRDAP and in the long-standing cordial relations of CIRDAP and the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh as the host country of the organization.

In 2021, the Governing Council (GC) of CIRDAP – an intergovernmental organization of the fifteen member states – established this award to recognize outstanding individuals and organizations devoting and contributing to

rural development of Asia and the Pacific region. The medal was created in memory of the founder and first Director of CIRDAP Mr. Aziz-ul-Haq in recognition of his special contributions to rural development in this region and to CIRDAP.

The undisputed leader and Father of the Bengali Nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman has his vision to re-build “Shonar Bangla” (a Golden country) which would be free from hunger and poverty. Thus, he initiated various revolutionary steps for rural development to rebuild post-independence Bangladesh. In its continuation, under the leadership of the Honorable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Bangladesh has achieved an unprecedented success in all of the dimensions especially in rural livelihood, education, health and sanitation, infrastructure and communication, electricity and empowerment of women etc.

At the award ceremony, the DG of CIRDAP proposed to invite the Honorable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to be the Chief Guest (virtually) for the launch of the World Rural Development Day on 6th July 2022. He consulted with the Honorable Prime Minister on the issue of emergency rice reserve as a contingency plan for the South Asian sub-region in case of natural disasters which can be established as the food security reserve. He also consulted on the issue of Bangladesh preparedness and response to future earthquakes based on seismic risk assessment reports and maps available.

The Minister for Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives, MR. Mohammad Tazul Islam MP, State Minister Mr. Swapan Bhattacharjee MP, Senior Secretary to the Prime Minister's Office Mr. Mohammad Tofazzel Hossain Mia, Secretary for Rural Development and Cooperatives Mr. Mohammad Mashiur Rahman and senior officials of the Prime Minister's Office were present at the event. On behalf of CIRDAP, Dr. Cherdsak Virapat, Director General; Prof. Dr. Mohammed Helal Uddin, Director Research and Mr. F.A.M Zakirul Huq, Administrative Officer were presented at Gonobhaban.



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