



सत्यमेव जयते

**REPORT OF THE STUDY VISIT OF  
THE ASSAM LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY  
DELEGATION HEADED BY  
SHRI BISWAJIT DAIMARY,  
HON'BLE SPEAKER, ASSAM LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY  
TO TRIPURA AND BANGLADESH  
FROM 18<sup>TH</sup> TO 23<sup>RD</sup> NOVEMBER, 2022**



**ASSAM LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY SECRETARIAT**  
Dispur, Guwahati-781006

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## I. COMPOSITION OF THE ASSAM LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DELEGATION

1. Shri Biswajit Daimary -Hon'ble Speaker
2. Shri Debabrata Saikia -Leader of the Opposition
3. Shri Rakibul Hussain -MLA
4. Shri Wazed Ali Choudhury -MLA
5. Shri Hafiz Bashir Ahmed -MLA
6. Shri Ramendra Narayan Kalita -MLA
7. Shri Terash Gowalla -MLA
8. Shri Rupjyoti Kurmi -MLA
9. Shri Kamalakhya Dey Purkayastha -MLA
10. Shri Rekibuddin Ahmed -MLA
11. Dr. Rafiqul Islam -MLA
12. Shri Abdur Rashid Mandal -MLA
13. Shri Aftab Uddin Mollah -MLA
14. Smti. Sibamoni Bora -MLA
15. Shri Aminul Islam(Sr.) -MLA
16. Shri Bhabendra Nath Bharali -MLA
17. Shri Utpal Borah -MLA
18. Shri Suren Phukan -MLA
19. Shri Lawrence Islari -MLA
20. Shri Jayanta Basumatary -MLA
21. Shri Karim Uddin Barbhuya -MLA
22. Shri Nizam Uddin Choudhury -MLA
23. Shri Diganta Barman -MLA
24. Shri Basanta Das -MLA
25. Shri Samsul Huda -MLA
26. Shri Suzam Uddin Laskar -MLA
27. Shri Ashraful Hussain -MLA
28. Shri Manoranjan Talukdar -MLA
29. Shri Jolen Daimary -MLA
30. Shri Rupesh Gowala -MLA
31. Shri Sibul Mishra -MLA
32. Shri Dipayan Chakraborty -MLA

## **Officials**

- |    |                             |                         |
|----|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. | Shri Hemen Das              | -Principal Secretary    |
| 2. | Shri Rajib Bhattacharya     | -Joint Secretary        |
| 3. | Shri Thang Joyful Tonsing   | -Secretary to Speaker   |
| 4. | Shri Sauman Baruah          | -OSD to Speaker         |
| 5. | Shri Nikunja Kumar Talukdar | -P.S. to Speaker        |
| 6. | Shri Samnath Basumatary     | -Confidential Assistant |
| 7. | Shri Ripen Boro             | -Translator             |

## II. PREFACE

Bangladesh is tied with India by civilizational, cultural, social and economic bonds. The two nations share a common history, linguistic and cultural heritage. This unity is reflected in multi-dimensional and expanding relations. India and Bangladesh's geographical locations complement each other and present an opportunity for both to further develop their ties and economic links.

It is well known that India played a vital role in the Liberation war of Bangladesh. India was also the first country to recognize Bangladesh as a separate and independent state and established diplomatic relations with the country immediately after its independence in December 1971 as a friendly South Asian neighbour. It is also a fact that the first Assam Assembly constituted in 1937 consists of present day Sylhet of Bangladesh also. Thus, Bangladesh and India and particularly Assam share historical ties.

The Constitution of the People's Republic of Bangladesh gives the legislature the name Jatiya Sangsad in Bengali and House of the Nation in English. It is commonly known as Parliament. The present Parliament is the 11<sup>th</sup> Parliament. The current majority party is the Awami League led by Sheikh Hasina. Dr. Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury is the present Speaker of the Parliament.

Bangladesh, also a Commonwealth nation and CPA member, has a lot of common issues of interest with India and particularly Assam in the functioning of parliamentary democracy and parliamentary procedures. Assam Assembly can learn a lot from the functioning of Bangladesh Parliament, its best practices and procedures can be implemented in Assam also.

It is in this backdrop that a team of MLAs of Assam Legislative Assembly accompanied by some officials of the Assembly Secretariat undertook an exposure/study visit to



Bangladesh from 19<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> November, 2022. On the way to Bangladesh, the delegation also visited the Tripura Legislative Assembly on 18<sup>th</sup> November, 2022. A team of cultural troupes comprising 14 members also accompanied the delegation to showcase the rich cultural dances of the various communities of Assam.

The Delegation places on record its thanks and appreciation to the High Commission of India in Bangladesh for extending full cooperation during its visit to Bangladesh and also for arranging all the official meetings on behalf of the Assam Legislative Assembly.

The Report of the Study Visit is placed before the Assam Legislative Assembly. The summary of discussions and observations arising out of the visit are placed at the end of the report for ease of reference.

BISWAJIT DAIMARY  
Hon'ble Speaker,  
Assam Legislative Assembly  
and Head of the Delegation

Guwahati  
The 20<sup>th</sup> December, 2022

## **I. MEETINGS/DISCUSSIONS/VISITS**

### **(i) Visit to Tripura Legislative Assembly**

On the way to Bangladesh, the Assam Legislative Assembly delegation led by the Hon'ble Speaker, Shri Biswajit Daimary, along with other Members reached Agartala on 18<sup>th</sup> November, 2022. Immediately on reaching Agartala, the delegation proceeded to visit the Tripura Legislative Assembly. The delegation visited the Assembly Hall and library of the Assembly. The delegation also had informal discussions with Ms. Kalyani Roy, MLA & Govt. Chief Whip, Dr. Atul Debbarma, MLA and Shri Sudhanshu Das, MLA.



***Hon'ble Members inside the Library building of Tripura Legislative Assembly***



***Hon'ble Members inside the Tripura Legislative Assembly***



## **(ii) Visit to Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Memorial Museum**



***Some members of the delegation at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Memorial Museum***

The delegation had a night halt at Agartala on 18<sup>th</sup> November, 2022 and thereafter proceeded to Bangladesh on the morning of 19<sup>th</sup> November, 2022. The delegation was accorded a warm welcome by the representatives of the Bangladesh Government and the High Commission of India, Bangladesh at the Immigration Centre in Akhaura border. On reaching Dhaka, the delegation immediately proceeded to visit the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Memorial Museum in Dhaka at 5 pm. It was an enriching and educative experience visiting the museum.

### (iii) Dinner hosted by Indian High Commission, Bangladesh



On the evening of the arrival of the Assam Assembly delegation in Dhaka, i.e. the 19<sup>th</sup> November, 2022, the High Commission of India, Dhaka organized a dinner programme in honour of the visiting Assam Assembly delegation. There was mutual exchange of ideas and the delegation expresses its heartfelt thanks to the High Commission for the dinner and for its help in making the visit of the Assam Assembly possible by arranging for the meetings with the dignitaries of Bangladesh and for arranging all the logistical arrangements.



***High Commission of India, Bangladesh Shri Pranay Kumar Verma welcoming the Hon'ble Speaker of Assam***







***Dinner Programme hosted by the High Commissioner of India Bangladesh.***



***Members of the delegation with High Commission of India, Bangladesh officials after the dinner***



**(iv) Meeting with Her Excellency Sheikh Hasina, Hon'ble Prime Minister of Bangladesh**

On the morning of 20<sup>th</sup> November, 2022, a team from the Assam Legislative Assembly led by the Hon'ble Speaker, Shri Biswajit Daimary met Her Excellency Sheikh Hasina, Prime Minister of Bangladesh at her official residence Ganabhaban in Dhaka.



***The Assembly delegation meeting with H.E. Sheikh Hasina, Prime Minister of Bangladesh***



***Hon'ble Speaker, Assam Assembly Shri Biswajit Daimary with H.E. Sheikh Hasina, Prime Minister of Bangladesh.***

During the meeting, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said that importing fuel oil from India through pipeline will hopefully start next year. She said that Bangladesh wants to import oil from India through pipeline and hopefully it will be done in the next year. The 130-km India-Bangladesh Friendship Pipeline (IBFPL) project aims to export oil products from India to Bangladesh. The premier also said that the border haats between Bangladesh and India in different parts of the two countries border line will resume their function as those were halted during the Covid-19 pandemic period.

The Hon'ble Prime Minister extended thanks to the delegation for visiting Bangladesh and said that her country always wants and promotes good relation with the neighbours. She said that the two neighbouring countries resolved many issues through discussion regarding the exchange of enclaves with India. Laying emphasis on regional cooperation, she said that neighbouring Nepal, Bhutan and India's north-eastern states including Assam and Tripura can use Chattogram air and sea ports as well as Syedpur airports for mutual benefit. She also pointed out that the connectivity routes which were closed during the 1965 war are being opened in phases.

The Hon'ble Prime Minister also recalled with gratitude the contribution of the north-eastern states of India and the West Bengal for sheltering the freedom fighters and refugees from Bangladesh during 1971.

Shri Biswajit Daimary, Speaker, Assam Legislative Assembly said that the Assam Assembly delegation has a very good experience visiting Bangladesh and the people of Assam will be benefited by cooperation with Bangladesh. The delegation stressed the need for strengthening people to people contact as well as trade and commerce in the region. Hon'ble Speaker, Assam said Assam wants Bangladesh experts' cooperation in agriculture sector as the country has huge experience in this regard. He mentioned that peaceful environment is now prevailing in the north eastern region of India after Bangladesh extended cooperation.



The delegation also appreciated Bangladesh's unprecedented development under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

**(v) Visit to Bangladesh Parliament (Jatiya Sangsad) and meeting with the Hon'ble Speaker of Bangladesh**

After meeting with the Hon'ble Prime Minister of Bangladesh, the Assam Assembly delegation visited the Bangladesh Parliament library and the Bangladesh Parliament (Jatiya Sangsad) on 20<sup>th</sup> November, 2022. **In the Parliament library, they have one Sheikh Mujibur Rehman corner where two seats are placed in which one can read books about Sheih Mujibur Rahman. The books about him are placed in the shelf beside the seats. This is a novel concept which can be replicated in Indian Parliament/Assam Assembly wherein we can have a Mahatma Gandhi corner in Parliament library and Gopinath Bordoloi corner in Assam Assembly library.**



***Hon'ble Speaker, Assam signing the Visitor's Book in the Bangladesh Parliament Library***



***Hon'ble Members of Assam Assembly inside the Bangladesh Parliament***





***The Assam Assembly delegation outside the Bangladesh Parliament building***

Thereafter, the delegation had discussion with the Hon'ble Speaker of Jatiya Sangsad, Dr Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury. During the meeting, Dr. Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury described India as one of the most important friendly-countries of Bangladesh and said the cooperation on matters of mutual interest of both countries will continue in the days to come.

Several issues such as the long-standing friendly-relations between Bangladesh and India, expansion of trade, information and communication technology, investment and economic development of the two neighbouring countries were discussed.

The delegation was informed that Parliament of Bangladesh is a unicameral legislature consisting of 350 members of which 300 Members are from 300 territorial constituencies, that is one from each constituency, on the basis of adult Franchise. The remaining 50 seats are reserved for women who are elected by the aforesaid elected Members in accordance with law on the basis of

procedure of proportional representation in the Parliament through Single Transferable Vote.



***Hon'ble Speaker, Assam Assembly with Hon'ble Speaker of Bangladesh***

Shri Biswajit Daimary, Hon'ble Speaker, Assam Legislative Assembly invited the Speaker of the Bangladesh Speaker Dr Shirin to visit the Assam Legislative Assembly and the latter assured him that she would come to visit Assam at a convenient time.

Jatiya Sangsad Deputy Speaker Shamsul Haque Tuku, Chief Whip Noor-E-Alam Chowdhury, Whip Md Atiur Rahman Atiq, Whip Iqbalur Rahim and Secretary of the Parliament Secretariat KM Abdus Salam, among others, were also present during the discussion.

After the meeting, a cultural programme was organised in the Parliament premises where cultural troupes who accompanied the delegation from Assam performed various traditional dances of



Assam, delighting the dignitaries. Thereafter, luncheon was hosted by the Hon'ble Speaker of Bangladesh.



***Some members of the cultural troupe with Hon'ble Speaker, Bangladesh Parliament and other dignitaries***

**(vi) Meeting with Hon'ble Commerce Minister of Bangladesh, Mr. Tipu Munshi**



***Shri Biswajit Daimary, Speaker of Assam Legislative Assembly with Bangladesh Commerce Minister Tipu Munshi***

The Assam Assembly delegation called on the Hon'ble Commerce Minister of Bangladesh, Mr. Tipu Munshi at his official residence on the evening of 20<sup>th</sup> November, 2022. During the meeting, the Hon'ble Minister stated that there was huge scope of boosting trade with North-eastern states of India and he suggested that Assam could take expert trainers from Bangladesh and thus groom its apparel workers as skilled workforce. He termed India as a friendly nation as well as a trade and development partner of Bangladesh while adding that apart from apparel, various other 'Made in Bangladesh' products are also popular in India. He also said that apparel products represent around 83 per cent of Bangladesh's export earnings while raw materials and machineries of this industry are being imported from India.



He also mentioned that various traditional items, ceramic products and Jamdani sarees from Bangladesh are also very popular in India, while the products of local business conglomerate PRAN-RFL Group have also made a strong position in the Indian market. He expressed his hope that the export of Bangladeshi products will increase further in the bordering states of India in the coming days.

In response, Shri Biswajit Daimary, Hon'ble Speaker of Assam said that Bangladesh witnessed massive developments over the years with the ongoing works of many mega projects. He expressed his view that there is a scope for increasing further the trade and economic relations between Assam and Bangladesh. Mentioning that India attaches higher importance in its relationship with Bangladesh in all spheres, the Speaker of Assam Legislative Assembly said that Bangladesh could increase imports and exports with Assam through land ports and also through waterways.

### **(vii) Garo-Bodo-Tripura-Assamese Cultural Exchange Evening**





In honour of the Assam Assembly delegation, a cultural programme titled the Garo-Bodo-Tripura-Assamese Cultural Exchange Evening was held on the evening of 20<sup>th</sup> November, 2022 in KIB Complex, Dhaka under the auspices of Garo-Bodo-Tripura-Assamese Cultural Program Convening Committee. There were mesmerizing performances by cultural troupes of various communities like Garo, Bodo, Tripura, Assamese, etc and it was a great experience for all to see the cultural performances of our communities in a foreign land.

### **(viii) Visit to Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Mausoleum, Tungipara**

On the 21<sup>st</sup> November, 2022, the Assam Assembly delegation visited the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Mausoleum, Tungipara, Gopalganj and paid homage to the memories of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. The delegation also visited the library wherein the works of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman are displayed.





***Hon'ble Members of Assam Assembly at the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Mausoleum Complex.***



***Hon'ble Speaker, LOP and Members offering floral tributes to Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at his Mausoleum***





*Hon'ble Members at the Bangabandhu Memorial Library*

**(ix) Visit to Foreign Service Academy (FSA) and meeting with the Foreign Minister of Bangladesh**

On the evening of 21<sup>st</sup> November, 2022, the Assam Legislative Assembly delegation visited the Foreign Service Academy (FSA) of Bangladesh and had discussion with Dr.A.K. Abdul Memon, Hon'ble Foreign Minister of Bangladesh and his team. During the meeting, Hon'ble Speaker of Assam, Shri Biswajit Daimary expressed his appreciation for Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for her zero-tolerance policy toward terrorism, radicalism and violent extremism which had significantly contributed to peace and prosperity in the entire region. He also appreciated her visionary leadership leading to the impressive socio-economic development of Bangladesh in recent years.

The Hon'ble Foreign Minister of Bangladesh said Bangladesh attaches high importance to its relationship with its most important and closest neighbour – India. He said the people of the North-East of India occupy a special place in the hearts of Bangladeshis for their unstinting support to the Bengalis during the War of Liberation in 1971.



As the gateway of Northeast India, he mentioned that Assam can reap the benefit from the outstanding growth of Bangladesh's economy by enhancing trade and commerce, tourism and people to people contact. Dr Momen expressed hope that their experiences from this visit would be fondly cherished for further cementing of the bilateral bond and the goodwill which would further help in deepening the understanding between the people of Assam and Bangladesh. He emphasized that it is important for the legislators to be equipped with authentic and up-to-date information on important issues of bilateral interest, so that they can reflect the hopes and aspirations of the people on the floor of the House.

The Hon'ble Speaker of Assam thanked the Government of Bangladesh for arranging such an excellent exposure visit programme for them. The delegation laid emphasis on greater collaboration within sectors like connectivity, trade and people to people contacts and to further consolidate economic ties between Bangladesh and North-East India and expressed optimism that the two countries will explore newer areas of cooperation in addition to the existing areas.

After the meeting, the Hon'ble Foreign Minister hosted a dinner in honour of the visiting Assam Assembly delegation.



***Assam Assembly delegation meeting with the Hon'ble Foreign Minister of Bangladesh***





***Hon'ble Minister, Assam and LOP with Hon'ble Foreign Minister of Bangladesh***



***The delegation along with Hon'ble Foreign Minister of Bangladesh after the dinner at Foreign Service Academy, Dhaka***




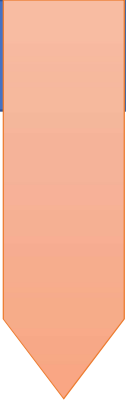


After conclusion of all the meetings and visits, the delegation proceeded by road to Agartala on the afternoon of 22<sup>nd</sup> November, 2022. After a night halt at Agartala, the delegation finally reached Guwahati on the 23<sup>rd</sup> November, 2022.

#### **IV. SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS AND OBSERVATIONS OF THE DELEGATION DURING THE STUDY VISIT**

**The summary of discussions and observations of the delegation during the study visit to Bangladesh are outlined below:**

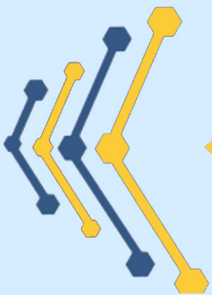
- (i) During the meeting with various dignitaries like the Hon'ble Prime Minister of Bangladesh, Hon'ble Speaker of Bangladesh Parliament, Hon'ble Commerce Minister and Hon'ble Foreign Minister, the delegation stressed the need for strengthening people-to-people contact as well as trade and commerce with Bangladesh and India, with special emphasis on Northeast region due to its proximity, climatic and other affinities with the region. The delegation also emphasized greater collaboration within sectors like connectivity, trade and people to people contacts and to further consolidate economic ties between Bangladesh and North-East India and expressed optimism that the two countries will explore newer areas of cooperation in addition to the existing areas;**
  
- (ii) In the Parliament library, they have one Sheikh Mujibur Rehman corner where two seats are placed in which one can read books about Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. The books about him are placed on the shelf beside the seats. This is a novel concept which can be replicated in the Indian Parliament/Assam Assembly wherein we can have a Mahatma Gandhi corner in the Parliament library and a Gopinath Bordoloi corner in the Assam Assembly library;**

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- (iii) Reservation of 50 seats for women in the Bangladesh Parliament who are elected by the 300 Members of Parliament through the system of proportional representation is a very good concept. The delegation appreciates the concept and feels that it is a very good step towards women's empowerment; and**
- (iv) The delegation had a very good experience during their visit to Bangladesh and it was an excellent exposure visit. The delegation feels that more such exposure visits may be arranged in future also for the legislators which will definitely help them in their role as legislators by learning about other legislatures and the procedures they follow.**





The Assam Assembly delegation in front of the Bangladesh Parliament



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