

Election Manifesto 2020

My Fellow Citizens,
As-salamu alaykum

Our deepest respect and gratitude for the greatest Bangalee who ever lived, the architect of Bangladesh, Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. Salutations and regard for the 3 million martyrs and more than 2 lakh mothers and sisters, whose sacrifice in the liberation war earned our nation its freedom.

Greetings on the occasion of Mujib's birth centenary.

Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman showed us the dream of building our own sovereign nation, free from oppression, persecution and discriminatory practices of the Pakistani colonial rule. Under the fearless leadership of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, we struggled through irrepressible movements and a brutal 9-month liberation war, to finally bring freedom to our dear motherland, Bangladesh.

After the liberation war, Bangabandhu took charge of the reconstruction of a war-ravaged nation, and within 3 years brought Bangladesh back from the brink of collapse by rebuilding the nation's infrastructure. Taking the first steps in our nation's progress. But in 1975, the Father of the Nation was heartbreakingly assassinated in an attempt to destroy the sovereignty, freedom and the spirit of liberation of Bangladesh. Our progressive and inclusive development was suddenly stifled and halted.

During the chaotic reign of BNP-Jamat coalition government, Bangladesh was immersed in the dark clutches of corruption, terrorism and violence. But when the Father of the Nation's daughter Sheikh Hasina's Awami League came to power on 29th December, 2008, the people of Bangladesh started to hope again. A hope of building a prosperous and progressive Bangladesh.

And so, began Bangladesh's journey towards a new golden age...

In just 11 years, Bangladesh has become a beacon of progress, an unstoppable force on the highway of development. Under the visionary leadership of our Honourable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Bangladesh is now a role model for the fulfillment of the SDG (Sustainable Development Goal). To contribute to this journey of progress, at the behest of our honourable Prime Minister and the wishes of the citizens of Dhaka North, I am participating in the City Corporation Election 2020 as the nominated candidate of Awami League. I wish to Congratulate all the other Mayor and Councillor candidates. I have come before you today with the commitment to create a Dhaka for you and with you, "Shobai Mile Shobar Dhaka". I believe,

working together with honesty and dedication will take us further on the path to raising a healthy, sustainable and modern Dhaka.

Dhaka is a 400 year old city; a city steeped in history, heritage, revolutions and stories of resurgence. After the Liberation War, Dhaka became the capital of Bangladesh, and the nation evolved around this extraordinary city. It is one of the most populous cities in the World, a city of dreams, and even though there are many constraints to living here, it is a city very close to our hearts, a city we love dearly.

On 17th March 2020, Bangladesh celebrates the Birth Centenary of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. The celebrations will continue till 17th March 2021, the 'Year of Mujib'. 26th March, 2021 is also the Golden Jubilee of our Independence. Bangabandhu's daughter, the people's leader, Honourable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has taken Bangladesh to hitherto unimagined heights. And the nation waits in excitement to celebrate these two historic landmarks at the peak of our progress. I believe, with Honourable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's guidance Bangladesh will attain Middle Income status by 2021, and Developed Nation status by 2041. Already, in the last 10-11 years under Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's leadership we have gone through unprecedented national and economic transformation to arrive here. In this journey of progress, Dhaka has been the pioneer, the beacon.

The Sheikh Hasina-led government has taken on and completed many ambitious projects for the development of Dhaka. Many more are being implemented.

Neighbourhoods and local communities are the soul of a city. In order to build a healthy, dynamic and modern Dhaka, neighbourhoods and communities need focused attention. To provide sustainable solutions in modernizing these neighbourhoods and to develop them, it is imperative to identify individual area-based issues. It is this neighbourhood-based change that will bring about a holistic change in the city, allowing people living in this city to enjoy all the civic amenities afforded them.

My primary objective is to make this city not only habitable; But also, to bring a positive improvement in the quality of life of all the citizens. Most of the work mentioned in my 2019 DNCC election manifesto is in the process of fruition. Using my past 6 months of experience and perception, I am presenting my tripartite election manifesto to achieve the desired goal of building our dream Dhaka. Here's a brief overview of my plan to build a healthy, dynamic and modern Dhaka.

Healthy Dhaka

Our beloved Dhaka is home to millions of people. The wellbeing of the people living in this city depends on the well-being of the city itself. In order to ensure a healthy Dhaka, it is imperative to implement some steps immediately, which, if realized, will make the citizens of this metro proud to live in one of the healthiest cities in the world. My proposals for building a healthy Dhaka are:

- Implementation of continuous year-long mitigation & prevention activities against mosquito borne infectious disease outbreaks by collaborating with all concerned organizations including DNCC, DSCC, WASA, Ministry of Health, surrounding City Corporation in IVM (Integrated Vector Management) system like the developed world.
- Construction and beautification of parks and playgrounds with modern facilities for the benefit and use of all age groups in the neighbouring areas
- Establishment of sustainable waste management facility in Amin Bazaar through RRF (Resource Recovery Facilities) by converting waste disposal into renewable energy
- Establish modern animal abattoir centers (slaughterhouses) in different areas of the city
- Access to citizenry benefits and services for the slum dwellers*
- To inspire the youth and to promote amicability and harmony among neighbours in all the wards of city, regular neighbourhood festivals will be held*
- Construction of maternity rooms in each of the DNCC's establishments
- Build ward complex's with various facilities in each ward of DNCC
- To create adequate modern public toilets for all persons, especially for differently abled people, women and children
- Water bodies and canals of all areas in the DNCC to be cleaned and returned to the citizens*

Reducing air pollution in the newly developing infrastructural areas and other areas of DNCC through mist blower and other advanced technologies

- Creation of a women-friendly CRHCC (Comprehensive Reproductive Health Care Center) and PHCC (Primary Health Care Center) in the extended areas of DNCC
- Construction of Plant Hospital and Pet Animal Clinic for Tree and animal lovers at DNCC's own place in Mirpur

Dynamic Dhaka

The residents of Dhaka face numerous obstacles on the roads of the city every day, including the roads of their neighbourhoods. Many fall victims to accidents when crossing the roads. The lack of modern traffic signals, planned footpaths, foot over-bridges, zebra crossings, bike and motorcycle lanes in the city is a hindrance to the free movement of the city dwellers. To that effect, I have devised a specific plan to make Dhaka a dynamic city with road safety being the top priority:

- Creating universally accessible footpath network by eviction of illegal encroachment in the different areas of DNCC
- Provide rehabilitation and employment for vendors
- Reduce traffic congestion by implementation of integrated transport plans with DMP, DTCA, BRTA, DSCC, Transport Owners Association and other organizations.
- Urgent implementation of Dhaka Bus Route rationalization will be realized by collaborating with higher government officials to fulfill the dream of former Mayor Annisul Huq.
- To promote road safety, in most places where it is feasible, pedestrian bridges with escalators will be constructed
- For safe pedestrian crossing Digital Push Button Signal will be installed at different zebra crossings in Dhaka North
- Separate cycle lanes and provision for cycle parking will be created where possible
- Digital e-ticketing services and app-based public transport schedules will be put into practice to create a modern women-friendly and effective mass transit system.
- Construction of smart bus-truck terminals designed to facilitate ease of transport for the citizens of the city
- Introduction of transportation services for school, college and university students
- Universal accessibility will be ensured in the public transportation system
- To track and reduce water-logging, sensor-based technology will be incorporated in the drainage system
- Either underground or multistory parking facilities will be built

Modern Dhaka

Bangladesh is moving forward at an unprecedented rate of progress. To keep pace with the modern world, Dhaka needs to be transformed into a modern smart city like the other capitals of the developed nations. Beside infrastructural development, technological development is not only important, but also necessary for the present.

- Through “Shobar Dhaka App”, problems and criticisms of the citizens will be taken into account and constant monitoring will be executed to ensure public requests are met, where opportunity to directly contact the Mayor will be provided
- Electrical buses will be brought into service to prevent air pollution
- Holding taxes, birth registration, registration of trade licenses and other citizen services will be supported online in a digital manner
- To increase convenience of the business community, help desk will be set up at the office of the regional executive officer of the DNCC
- Upgradation and modernization of DNCC marketplaces will take place with minimum inconvenience to the existing stakeholders
- To establish North Dhaka as a Smart City, initially a few areas will be piloted as Smart Neighbourhoods, gradually bringing each neighbourhood to this initiative
- Create an all-inclusive Digital Command Center, through which Smart Neighbourhood management, disaster management, city security etc. will be monitored
- To inspire the youths, cultural and amenities service centers will be established in each area where there will be help desk, training center, start-up co-working space, library, cultural activities and other facilities
- Implement modernization and versatile use of community centers (art classes, music classes, yoga, self-defense training) in each area
- Create strategic development plans in collaboration with urban planners, architects and other specialists for an integrated approach in the development of the city

- Through a sustainable eco-friendly development and beautification of all lakes and canals, waterlogging will be reduced, mosquitoes will be controlled and public spaces will be increased
- To solve ward level problems, “Citizens & Mayor”, a regular public opinion exchange programme will be held

With your support, I pledge to continue Dhaka’s momentum of progress and complete the transformation of this home of ours into a smart, sustainable and developed city, with no area left behind.

I know, there are many barriers, crises and problems facing this city, I also know that Dhaka is ours, and it deserves a little bit of our awareness and support to make it the city of our dreams. If we come together and do our part, this dream of ours will become a reality, with the people of North Dhaka leading the way.

On this journey of ours, I will always work in solidarity with the people of this city. Come, together let’s help make the vision of our founding father Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and Honourable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina a reality. Come, together let’s make Dhaka a Healthy, Dynamic & Modern Dhaka.