

I . Safeguarding system & policy

1. ICH safeguarding system

The importance of culture has been significantly underscored in postliberation days. Bangladesh is committed for equal rights of people in every sphere of life. The urgency of protecting cultural heritage was strongly felt through the struggle for autonomy & independence. Immediately after independence state obligation was clearly envisaged in the new **constitution** of the country back in 1972.

Article-23 of our constitution says *“The State shall adopt measures to conserve the cultural traditions and heritage of the people, and so to foster and improve the national language, literature and the arts that all sections of the people are afforded the opportunity to contribute towards and to participate in the enrichment of the national culture.”*

Article-24 of the constitution envisaged: *“The State shall adopt measures for the protection against disfigurement, damage or removal of all monuments, objects or places or special artistic or historic importance or interest”.*

The highest legal instrument reflects commitment of the people and State in conserving cultural traditions & heritage and protection of cultural expressions of the people within its territory.

2. Law & other legal instruments

For proper preservation and maintenance, flourishing and development of national culture and cultural traditions as in our National Policy of Culture was proclaimed in 2006 to uphold the traditional cultural heritages, beliefs and religious faiths of all the groups of people including all small ethnic groups inhabiting Bangladesh in accordance with the prevailing traditions of our country.

3. National Policy of Culture, 2006

A. Introduction

Culture is the expression of every aspect of the lives of the people of a community, society or a nation. It retains and reflects the day to day life of a people and their activities. Basic components of culture are: knowledge, beliefs, ideology, education, language, ethics, laws and regulations, customs and many others, with the help of which a man identifies himself as a member of a particular society and a nation.

Bangladesh has given priority to uphold her cultural -identity. Article no 23 of 'Basics of Governance' in the constitution of Bangladesh describes: "the state will make arrangements to preserve and protect cultural traditions and heritage and to nourish and develop the national language, literature and arts in the way people from all walks of life can have opportunity to contribute to and participate in the flourishing of national culture." In addition, Article no. 24 describes: "The state will make arrangements to protect the places of historic importance, arts, relics or artifacts from distortion, damage or removal."¹¹ In the light of these two Articles of the constitution, cultural affairs were first incorporated into a body under the Ministry of Education in Bangladesh in 1972. Now 'the Ministry of Cultural Affairs,' as an independent ministry, has been playing a vital role for the preservation and development of the country's cultural heritage.

Bangladesh has its own rich cultural heritage to glorify the image of the country in the world. It is possible to strengthen the position of the country as a nation through a perfect development of this culture and cultural heritage. Cultural activities can also be included with the economic development of the country. It is possible to develop a living cultural economy through an interactive patronization among cultural activities, cultural traditions, tourism and trades.

The area of culture in Bangladesh is wide and extensive. Along with the Ministry of Cultural Affairs, the Ministry of Information, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Commerce, the Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism, the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs and the Ministry of Religious Affairs can play an important role in preserving, nourishing, fostering and flourishing the cultural heritage and traditions. Endeavour has been made to reflect the relevant aspects of these ministries in the National Policy of Culture.

The government considers it to be of prime necessity to have a National Policy of Culture in Bangladesh for preservation, nourishment and proper nourishment of the glorious national culture for the sake of the overall development of the country. The National Policy of Culture is prepared for proper preservation and maintenance, nourishment and development of national culture and cultural traditions in compliance with UNESCO'S "Preliminary Draft of a Convention on the Protection of the Diversity of

Cultural Contents and Artistic Expression-2004, WTO'S TRIPS, Copyright Act, Rome Convention (1961) and Berne Convention as per national ideology and Articles 23 and 24 of the second part of the constitution of the People's Republic of Bangladesh on a greater perspective.

B. Objectives of National Policy of Culture

- 1) To uphold the cultural identities, beliefs and religious faiths of all the groups of people and communities inhabiting Bangladesh in accordance with the prevailing traditions of Bangladesh.
- 2) To protect the national culture from being degraded and to integrate cultural activities with the economic development of the country.
- 3) To develop properly the cultures of all small ethnic groups inhabiting Bangladesh and to consolidate social harmony in all communities.
- 4) To recognize positive aspects of other cultures in keeping pace with the norms of globalization and to prevent all evil trends of culture.

C. Basics of National Culture

- 1) To take integrated actions to uphold the history of the struggles of the people over the years, the Language Movement, the ideals of the War of Liberation and the religious faiths and beliefs of the people of the country.
- 2) To take necessary steps for flourishing of national culture and for prevention of its degradation and to integrate it with the national development.
- 3) To take comprehensive measures for proper development, publicity and expansion of every aspects of culture.
- 4) To ensure preservation and development of cultural traditions of all tribal groups of Bangladesh.

D. Strategies for Implementation of National Policy of Culture: The Ministry of Cultural Affairs

The Ministry of Cultural Affairs shall take active measures for preservation, maintenance, publicity and development of cultural heritage, arts, language and literature, history, traditions and cultural resources, folklore and folk-arts, books and libraries and fine arts ; to inspire the archaeologists, artists and literary figures at national levels for making contribution to their respective fields ; and to coordinate among different government, statutory and autonomous bodies or organizations under this ministry for protection of Intellectual Property (IP) rights.

E. Institutions and organizations under the Ministry of Cultural Affairs:

The institutions and organization under the Ministry of Cultural Affairs shall play an active role for implementation of National Policy of Culture in

compliance with the provisions of and rules enacted under the concerned laws and Ordinances. With this in view, the concerned laws, ordinances, provisions, rules and other government instructions have been briefly described below:

- 1) In accordance with the Antiquities Act, 1968 (Act No. 14 of 1968) the Department of Archaeology shall take necessary arrangements for collection and acquisition of antiquities, surveys and excavations, preservation of all immovable historic achievements and movable archaeological finds and for researches in these fields and to take active initiatives for implementation of the objectives of this policy.
- 2) Bangla Academy shall implement, according to the Bangla Academy Ordinance, 1978 (Ordinance No. 21 of 1978), relevant aims and objectives of the Policy along with its own activities for development and promotion of Bangla language, literature and culture.
- 3) National Archives established under the N.A. Ordinance 1983 (Ordinance No. 39 of 1983) shall implement properly the relevant objectives of the Policy along with its own activities of collection, preservation and maintenance of various public documents and publications.
- 4) Bangladesh National Museum established under the B.N.M, Ordinance 1983 (Ordinance No. 53 of 1983) shall make arrangements for preservation and exhibition of historical, ethnic and archaeological objects and work for the overall development of the Museum in the light of this Policy.
- 5) Nazrul Institute, established under Nazrul Institute Ordinance, 1984 (Act No. 39 in 1984), shall ensure proper tune of Nazrul's song as per its notation and shall arrange to offer training on it and inspire the scholars from home and abroad to undertake research on Nazrul's works and to implement relevant objectives of the Policy.
- 6) Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, established- under the Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy Act, 1989 (Act No. 22 of 1989), shall implement the objectives of the Policy under its purview along with its own activities.
- 7) Bangladesh Folk and Art Foundation, established under the Bangladesh Loka O Karushilpa Act, 1998 (Act No. 8 of 1998), shall make necessary arrangements for preserving historic and folk-arts and crafts, imparting training on it, setting up an Art Museum and developing folk-arts and crafts and implementing the aims and objectives under its purview.
- 8) According to the Copyright Act, 2000 (Act No. 28 of 2000) and rules enacted under it, Copyright Office shall take effective steps for protection of copyrights of literary works, dramas, music, films and other related publications and implement the aims and objectives of the Policy under its purview.

- 9) Department of Public Library established in 1984 shall play an effective role in removing illiteracy from the society, preserving and spreading acquired knowledge, creating environment for being self-educated, flourishing social and democratic awareness and values, developing a healthy culture against all evil trends of culture, disseminating information and so on.
- 10) National Book Centre shall, in respect of book publication and its use, take an effective initiative to implement National Policy of Culture in accordance with the National Book Policy, 1994 and shall properly execute the aims and objectives of National Policy of Culture under its purview.
- 11) Other departments, organizations, statutory and autonomous bodies under the Ministry of Cultural Affairs shall, according to their respective acts and provisions, play an effective role to propagate, nourish and develop cultural traditions and, at the same time, implement aims and objectives of National Policy of Culture under their purview.
- 12) Tribal cultural organizations shall play an effective role in their respective fields to preserve, propagate, nourish and develop cultural traditions and, at the same time, implement the aims and objectives of National Policy of Culture under their purview.

F. Other Ministries

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Information, the Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism, the Ministry of Science, Information and Communication Technology, the Ministry of Commerce and the Ministry of Religious Affairs shall take necessary actions and steps for implementation of the aims and objectives of National Policy of Culture in their respective fields. The Ministry of Cultural Affairs will extend necessary cooperation and assistance to them in this respect.

G. Establishment of Organizations and Enactment of Laws

Initiatives shall be taken to set up government, semi-government, statutory bodies and organizations and various other organizations at private levels with a view to implementing National Policy of Culture and, if necessary, new laws will be enacted for implementation of the aims and objectives of National Policy of Culture.

H. Organizations and Guidelines for Implementation of National Policy of Culture

1) The Ministry of Cultural Affairs:

The Ministry of Cultural Affairs shall take effective steps to implement National Policy of Culture through mutual coordination among different government and statutory bodies and organizations for maintenance, development, publicity and propagation of cultural traditions in Bangladesh.

• Arts

Tangible and intangible elements of cultural traditions are an integral part of culture. From time immemorial, these elements have enriched the culture of Bangladesh. These are also important through for recreation.

2) Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy

Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy has been working for proper nourishment of cultural items. The Academy shall take following steps or programmes for nourishment, flourishing and proper development of cultural items

- To take necessary steps to uphold tangible and intangible cultural heritage and rich culture of Bangladesh before the people.
- To develop and nourish various works of art including music, dance, dramatics and fine arts and to undertake necessary researches on them.
- To introduce the Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy Award for recognition of contribution in different fields of culture, particularly in various fields of fine arts, and to organize competitive events in various subjects of fine arts at local, national and international levels.
- To make arrangements for proper development and flourishing of and researches on folk-song and classical music, to protect the tune and form of folk music from extinction and to ensure its local notation and proper tune for familiarizing it internationally.
- To take necessary steps for preservation, publicity and development of all sorts of traditional folk and regional songs of Bangladesh such as *jarigan*, *sarigan*, *gazir gan*, *kabigan*, *gambhira*, *Lalan* song, songs of Hason Raja, *palagan*.
- To prepare CD, VCD and brochures for publicity and propagation of cultural traditions of Bangladesh at home and abroad such as folk-songs, folk dance, Lalon song, Nazrul song, Rabindra song, fine arts, handicrafts.
- To introduce Certificate and Diploma courses in different subjects of fine arts.

- To preserve arts at all levels and install new pieces of art, architecture and sculpture for upholding the ideals of the Language Movement, mass-upheaval and the War of Liberation.
- To ensure reflection of our cultural traditions in different cultural functions to be organized for foreign delegations at national levels and participation of children in different cultural functions at national levels.
- To ensure publicity and propagation of the traditional *Palli* songs, Lalon song, Nazrul song and other folk-songs of Bangladesh by translating them into different foreign languages.

3) Rajbari Acrobatic Centre

This training complex has been established to consolidate and strengthen the study of fine arts, dramatics, music, dance, musical instruments, acrobatics, crafts and needle works through training in accordance with the culture, manners and socio-economic condition of Bangladesh. The centre will take necessary measures for preservation and development of the country's cultural traditions and to continue the trends of healthy culture and, at the same time, to increase skills by arranging various training programmes on different subjects of culture. Besides, the centre will adopt specific programmes to generate self-employment for women and to develop their socio-economic conditions by imparting training on traditional crafts, handicrafts and needle works and opening sales centres.

4) Language and Literature: Bangla Academy

Bangla Academy has been working for development of Bangla language and literature. The Academy shall implement or take the following programmes for development of Bangla language and literature and for study and research on them:

- To put emphasis on research on Bangla language by employing linguists, experts on English and Bangla languages in Bangla Academy.
- To take necessary steps to offer residence scholarships in different periods (not exceeding six months) under cultural agreements for the poets, novelists, playwrights, writers, literary critics and scholars of friendly countries for study of Bangla language and literature.
- To take necessary measures with the cooperation of the government to extend the study of Bangla language in those countries including those in Europe and America, where a large number of Bangla-speaking people are living so that no apathy develops in the next generations of Bangladeshi citizens living abroad towards learning Bangla language.

- To create scopes for study and research on different dialects of Bangladesh and other languages connected with Bangla language such as Sanskrit, Arabic, Persian and Pali.
- To publish literary journals regularly to inspire creative literary activities of the country.
- To organize conferences on Bangla language and literature at gradual successions with the assistance of diplomatic missions of Bangladesh in different countries of the world, and to take initiatives to introduce curriculums of Bangla literature in those foreign universities where there are departments of South and South-East Asian studies.
- To conduct research on the history and evolution of Bangla language and to patronize scholars from home and abroad.
- To arrange to translate masterpieces of Bangla literature into different foreign languages for the readers of the other countries of the world and those of world literatures into Bangla for the Bangla-speaking readers; to undertake research on other old languages connected with Bangla language.
- To publish books written in ethnic languages and to exhibit them in the Ekushay Book-fair.
- To ensure proper spelling and pronunciation of Bangla words and to take necessary steps for development and publicity of Bangla language and literature.
- To make arrangements to translate important titles written by noted literary persons of the country into English and other foreign languages and to send them to the Bangladeshi missions abroad for exhibition, sale and publicity.
- To establish an institute of ethnic languages keeping in harmony with the spirit of international mother language day in the University of Dhaka, in order to inspire the ethnic people living in Bangladesh to study their own languages and to preserve and undertake research on them.

5) Preservation of History, Heritage and Cultural Objects

Historical papers, documents, other articles and archaeological heritage bear a thousands years of history and cultural heritage of Bangladesh. Department of National Archives and Library, Bangladesh National Museum and Department of Archaeology have been collecting, preserving and fostering these cultural traditions. With a view to implementing National Policy o Culture, these institutions shall take following steps:

- Department of Archives and Library
 - To take necessary steps to modernize the archives for collection and preservation of cultural heritage, national history and traditions, and historical papers and documents and other administrative documents.
 - To adopt necessary measures to establish archives locally at divisional administrative offices and other organizations including district collectorates under Department of National Archives and to collect and preserve necessary papers and documents and historical artifacts at district levels.
 - To expand the National Advisers' Committee for Archives with active participation of the historians and researchers for giving suggestions to the government for collection, preservation, evaluation and publication of historical documents and to use them for research purposes.
 - The Department of Archives will take initiative to prepare a manual for acceptable to all concerned for management of current files.
 - To prepare documentary films, guide books, news letters, leaf-lets, posters and juvenile documentary films on the importance of archives and to propagate them among the researchers, administrators, policymakers, teachers, students and common people.
 - To ensure necessary training and other facilities to develop and modernize Department of Archives like the national archives of other countries in the world and to make it a digital archives through digitalization of the process of collecting and preserving information and of old documents in the present age of e-in format ion.
 - To take necessary steps to collect the documents of colonial age from England and India and the documents of Pakistan period, related to the history and traditions of Bangladesh from Pakistan.

- Bangladesh National Museum

Bangladesh National Museum is one of the institutions for collection, preservation and exhibition of our history and heritage. To preserve the history and cultural heritage of Bangladesh, National Museum shall take following actions:

 - To preserve and exhibit historical and cultural objects of Bangladesh.
 - Bangladesh National Museum shall take initiatives to establish museums based on different disciplines in the country.

- To integrate the archaeological assets hitherto discovered by maintaining coordination between the Archaeology and Museum Act and administration..
- Bangladesh National Museum, by ascertaining the upholding of cultural heritage all over the country, shall establish regional museums at all divisional centres in view of historical and administrative importance of other places of the country for upholding cultural heritage and traditions locally.
- The institutions, which preserve the cultural heritage, shall make arrangements on their own initiative to classify, survey the cultural objects preserved in different museums or all immovable cultural objects scattered outside the museums, to prepare a list through registration, to collect and update it and preserve it into computer centrally under Bangladesh National Museum for the use of researchers.
- Bangladesh National Museum shall collect and preserve the photographs, such as slides, sketches, maps, designs of the cultural objects inside Bangladesh and relevant cultural objects of other countries.
- To take necessary steps to preserve the documents of the project based on the history of Liberation War in Bangladesh National Museum, to collect more documents in future and to publish researches on collected documents and relevant other titles under an independent office.

- Department of Archaeology

To preserve history and heritage the responsibility of the Department of Archaeology, as a government organization, is to discover all kinds of movable and immovable archaeological finds and to preserve those finds without destroying their originality. In view of this the Department shall take the following steps:

- To carry on excavation regularly with a view to exploring the ancient human habitation and finds that are on the verge of extinction, to publish expert-reports on excavated places of historical interest and to take measures for marketing and propagation of these reports.
- To prepare lists of movable and immovable cultural assets for the researchers after making survey of the assets throughout the country.
- To take pragmatic steps for the proper preservation of all the important immovable historical monuments of the country.

- To sign exchange programmes with the neighbouring countries and the countries having the same climatic conditions for archaeological research and preservation.
- To establish an Institute of Archaeology for training of the officers and staff regarding collection and preservation of archaeological finds and objects.
- To continue the work of establishing new museums in places of archaeological interests and to modernize the museums which have already been established.
- After proper preservation and registration of the movable and immovable archaeological finds under the Department of Archaeology to prepare a list of them and to make it available on the website for the researchers at home and abroad.

6) Books and Libraries

Books contribute immensely to the making of the cultural life of a country, Our cultural activities must ensure the publication of books and their qualitative development, preservation, and use. The Public Library, Bangladesh National Library and the National Book Centre under the Ministry of Cultural Affairs play various roles in materializing these activities. These organizations shall undertake the following programmes for the development of books and libraries and to extend better facilities and opportunities for the use of libraries to the readers at all levels:

- Department of Public Libraries
 - To develop the Central Public Library into a modern and standard reference library like the Central Library of the developed countries of the world by providing it with modern technologies and making it a computerized one.
 - To develop the Central Public Library into an e-library to make books on electronics including high standard periodicals and magazines on various subjects available to the research scholars on the internet.
 - To take necessary steps for training on modern and scientific library science in its more than one aspects for library administration.
 - To construct buildings with special architectural design and style befitting of a library for the libraries belonging to the divisions and districts.
 - To take steps for the establishment of libraries in cities, towns, villages and *mahallas* with a view to developing the reading habit at the grassroots level of the country and for the

coordination of all the public and private libraries at all the divisional and district levels.

- To popularize the public libraries, necessary steps shall be taken to make them suitable for all readers including children, women and the handicapped and to make arrangements for holding discussion and seminars on juvenile literature and scientific books and storytelling and book reading competitions for children.
 - To make necessary arrangements for giving training to the concerned officers and staff for improving their professional skills with a view to developing the standard of services they are supposed to render.
 - To take necessary steps to increase international cooperation with foreign libraries and such other agencies.
- National Library
 - To develop the National Library as the only legal depository of the country under copyright law with a view to ensuring the publication of national bibliography by co-coordinating the creative writings as e-publications, published regularly in Bangladesh in the form of CDs, microfilms etc. and those published regularly in the various branches of knowledge outside Bangladesh and to collect all the new publications.
 - To establish branches of National library at divisional and district levels if necessary with a view to ensuring the collection of creative writings from various regions of the country and to publish all kinds of books including national bibliographies regularly.
 - To introduce 'Best Book Award' on various subjects to encourage creative publications including the holding of 'Book Publication Ceremonies' to inform the people of the new publications and to collect and preserve other resourceful information like CDs, microfilms **etc.** besides various books.
 - To develop Bangladesh National Library into a modern digital library on the model of the national libraries of the different countries of the world as found in this age of e-publication and e-information service.
 - National Book Centre
 - To follow National Book Policy of 1994 in the field of book publication and their use in Bangladesh.
 - To ensure the recognition of dignity of labour and intellect of concerned professionals including writers, translators, editors and designers involved in production of books and also to ensure the preservation of intellectual property.

- To take necessary measures to enhance professional skills at all levels, to ensure publication of books of international standard and to create a class of capable and meritorious publishers.
- To encourage the educated people to come forward in the field of publication, to arrange training courses, in-service trainings, workshops, seminars and symposia for the professionals dealing with publications in the country and to encourage them to participate in similar kinds of training programmes and seminars abroad.
- To encourage the professionals to establish their own organizations with a view to creating professionalism at all levels of publication and also to extend them all possible help and cooperation.
- To encourage import of printing materials particularly the machinery suitable for the printing of scientific and technological books with a view to making the publication sector modern and dynamic, and, at the same time, take necessary steps to encourage the manufacturers to produce improved quality of paper, ink and other printing materials.
- To encourage writing, printing and publishing of attractive textbooks, creative works of literature and scientific books for children in the language suitable for them.
- To encourage the publication of books that would satisfy the needs of the readers of different tastes and also to encourage the promising young writers.
- To encourage establishment of private libraries even at the grassroot level of the country to increase reading habit among people from all walks of life and develop the service to the readers of private libraries to materialize the reading habit programme of the government and also to extend necessary help and co-operation to those libraries.
- To hold book fairs regularly and participate in foreign book fairs with a view to expanding national book market at home and abroad.

7) Discussions on particular poets/writers at national level

One of our responsibilities for preservation of our culture is to hold programmes for discussing the works of writers, poets, litterateurs and artists and at the same time to preserve their works. With this end in view particular organizations have already been established and are being established. The Nazrul Institute after the national poet Kazi Nazrul Islam has already been established. There are organizations like Lalon Academy Complex at Kushtia, Mir Mosharraf Hossain Memorial Centre, Acrobatic Centre at Rajbari, Begum Rokeya Memorial Centre at Pairabandh. Soon Rabindra Memorial Centre will

be established at Shilaidaha in Kushtia, frequented by Tagore during his life time. These organizations play a significant role in our cultural arena in so far as discussions and research on individual poet/writer and development are concerned.

- **The Nazrul Institute:**

Nazrul Institute plays an ancillary role in the promotion of the literary works and songs of poet Nazrul Islam at national level. This institute shall take the following steps to promote all kinds of practice and research on Nazrul's literary works at home and abroad:

- To take pragmatic steps to give training on songs in their original notations and lyrics and to preserve them and to arrange workshops under recitation training programmes.
- To include compulsorily Nazrul's works in the syllabus of schools, colleges and universities to evaluate Nazrul's literature.
- To collect important information and materials regarding Nazrul's life and works, to encourage researchers from home and abroad to do research on Nazrul and to introduce awards to this end.
- To translate life and works of Nazrul in different languages of the world and to take necessary steps for the propagation of those translations preferably of some major languages, through our foreign embassies.
- To attract tourists and Nazrul-lovers from home and abroad by preserving and developing places besmeared with the memories of Nazrul and to make the Nazrul Museum of the Institute more worth-seeing and attractive.
- To hold 'Nazrul's Song Conference' at the national level at least once a year along with celebration of 'Nazrul's Birth Anniversary' at the national level.
- To propagate Nazrul's patriotic songs and pieces of literature and philosophy of life through plays, cinemas, telefilms etc. to imbue the people with national spirit.

- **Rabindra Memorial Centre**

Established for the purpose of comprehensive study on Tagore, this institute shall take the following steps keeping in view its aims and objects:

- To take necessary steps in establishing Rabindra Memorial Centre in the places like Kushtia's Shilaidaha, Patisar, Dakshin

Dihi, Phultala, Shahjadpur that are besmeared with Rabindranath's memories.

- To preserve the memories of Rabindranath Tagore and undertake research on his literary works and work of art.
- To take initiatives in propagating the art and literary works of Tagore at the national and international levels.
- To propagate and publicize Tagore's songs called *Rabindra Sangeet* in their original notations and lyrics following Tagore's *Sarabitan*.
- To include compulsorily Rabindranath Tagore's works in the syllabus of schools, colleges and universities to evaluate Tagore's literature.
- To collect important information and materials regarding Tagore's life and works, to encourage researchers from home and abroad to do research on Tagore and to introduce awards to this end.
- To translate life and works of Rabindranath Tagore in different languages of the world and to take necessary steps for the propagation of those translations preferably of some major languages, through our foreign embassies.
- To attract tourists and Rabindra-lovers from home and abroad by preserving and developing places besmeared with the memories of Rabindranath and to establish an attractive Rabindra Museum.
- To take necessary steps to exhibit and preserve poet Rabindranth Tagore's works of art.
- To take necessary steps to preserve and exhibit Tagore's works of art, particularly, those related to Bangladesh and also their replicas and photocopies by collecting from other countries if necessary.

- Lalon Academy Complex, Kushtia
- The Lalon Academy shall take necessary initiatives to preserve the memories and works of the mystic poet Lalon Shah, to promote the research work on Lalon's songs and to propagate and publicize them at national and international levels.
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- Mir Mosharraf Hossain Memorial Centre, Rajbari
- Mir Mosharraf Hossain Memorial Centre shall take necessary steps to preserve the literary works and memories of Mosharraf Hossain to undertake research on his literary works and to promote and publicize them at national and international levels.
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- Begum Rokeya Memorial Centre
- Begum Rokeya is called the pioneer who worked for the awakening of womenfolk in the subcontinent. Begum Rokeya

Memorial Centre has been established so that the women of Bangladesh are inspired by the memories, life and works of this learned woman. The Centre shall take the following steps:

- To undertake comprehensive researches on the life and works of Begum Rokeya, to collect, preserve and publish her writings and to take measures to translate them into different languages and to publicize them at national and international levels.
- To inspire the comparatively disadvantaged women of the country in education for realizing the ideals of the great lady, to generate self-employment opportunities by offering them basic education and vocational training and to establish a rich museum by collecting information regarding various aspects of Women Movements in Bangladesh and different objects of folk culture.
- To take initiatives for the publicity of the writings of women writers through this centre.
- To introduce 'Begum Rokeya Literary Award'.
- To collect different folk materials and ensure their marketing for commercial purposes.
- To take necessary steps for introducing Begum Rokeya Memorial Award on various aspects of women development.

8) Other Organizations

To preserve, develop, promote and publicize the creations of the established writers, poets, authors and artists, more organizations of this kind shall be established by turns. These kinds of specialized organizations, whenever they will be established, shall be run by the specialized Cultural Institutions Act.

- **Bangladesh Folk Arts and Crafts Foundation**

Bangladesh Folk Arts and Crafts Foundation shall take the following steps for preservation, manifestation and development of folk arts and crafts.

- To establish a separate institute for collection, preservation and dissemination of folk traditions and folk literature and to make arrangements for undertaking necessary researches and organize training on this discipline.
- To preserve traditional folk arts and crafts, objects of folk arts and crafts and to encourage traditional folk arts and crafts.
- To establish Folklore Museum at different regions of the country.
- To establish a folk village at Sonargaon, situated in the district of Narayanganj.

- To undertake researches based on folk arts and crafts and publish the information gained by researches and to offer scholarship in this field.
- To make policies for the development of folk arts and crafts and to implement them and to help and cooperate any person or organization engaged in this research work.
- To prepare the 'Folk Arts and Crafts Development Policy' and to give the government, local authority or any other organizations suggestions in this regard and to develop it through mutual cooperation.
- To undertake joint programmes with the foreign and international folk arts and crafts organizations with the prior approval of the government.
- The Ministry of Cultural Affairs, the Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism and the Ministry of Commerce shall jointly develop a 'Mini Bangladesh' into the Foundation so that the local and foreign tourists, foreign heads of states and governments and other important guests may keep abreast of our culture, civilization, and the life of the ethnic groups, arts and crafts, rural life, forests, hills and seas and so on.

- **Copyright Protection: Copyright Office**

The Copyright Office is working for the preservation of copyright of creative writings. To make it more dynamic and updated the office shall take up the following programmes:

- To take necessary measures regarding related matters under the Copyright Act, 2000 and the laws made under it for the preservation of creative writings and prevention of the piracy of sculpture.
- To establish a copyright network in all divisional cities by expanding the working area of copyright office under the Copyright Act.
- As a signatory to the Berne Convention, TRIPS Treaty and WIPO Convention Bangladesh is to abide by all the rights, duties and responsibilities in respect of copyright as mentioned therein and to arrange seminars and training programmes regularly to increase public awareness in this regard.
- To execute all the steps as described in the National Book Policy and to include copyright as a subject in the syllabus of Library Science and Law Department.
- To develop a link between copyright and trade-mark and to make the writers, publishers, CD, audio-video, film and software makers aware of copyright.

- **Development of Tribal Cultures**

There are about fifty to fifty seven big and small ethnic groups with their own individual cultures and traditions in Bangladesh. Some institutions have already been established for the development of their own cultures and traditions. These institutions shall make proper arrangements for the preservation, use and development of the languages, cultures and traditions of different tribes like Chakma, Marma, Tipra, Tonchanga, Murang, Baum, Pankhura, Khumi, Khyang, Chak, Lusai and the others. To nourish, foster and develop the languages, cultures and traditions of the ethnic people and to integrate them with the mainstream, these institutions shall arrange the following programmes

- To preserve, study, practise and develop the respective languages and cultures of the tribal people of three hill districts, to take necessary steps for the development of those aspects and to arrange to teach them Bangla language and to introduce and integrate them with the mainstream of Bangladeshi traditions and culture.
- To undertake research on the manners and customs and traditions of the different peoples including Rakhain community of Cox's Bazar district, one of the tourism centres of Bangladesh and to strengthen actions and activities of Cox's Bazar Cultural Centre for gradual enrichment of their culture by preserving their cultural antiquities.
- To take necessary steps for protection, study, development and nourishment of the cultures of different tribes like Garo, Hajang, Koch, Banai, Hadi, Dalu, Barman and others living near the border areas of greater Mymensingh and Sunamgonj through Birishiri Tribal Cultural Academy of Netrokona.
- To take necessary steps for the study, development, flourishing and improvement of the cultures of concerned tribes and the ethnic people through Manipuri Lalitakala Academy of Kamalganj at Maulabhibazar and Rajshashi Tribal Cultural Institute.
- All tribal organizations, as mentioned above, shall preserve and develop their respective cultural traditions and arrange to teach all the tribal peoples Bangla language and literature compulsorily and thus to introduce and integrate them with all spheres of the mainstream of national culture.

- **Bangladesh Foundation for Culture and Traditions:**

The purpose of the establishment of 'Bangladesh Foundation for Culture and Traditions' is to develop the culture of Bangladesh and to preserve the glorious past and present cultural traditions

of Bangladesh, Necessary steps shall be taken at government and private levels by this Foundation to preserve the tangible and intangible cultural assets of the country and to patronize it. This foundation shall collect necessary funds from the sources at home and abroad and invest them for development of the cultural and historical evidences, archaeological excavation, archives and libraries etc. of Bangladesh and for renovation of the country's cultural heritage like Buddha Biharas, mosques, temples, churches and for floureshment of ethnic cultures.

- **Folk Culture Institute**

Steps shall be taken very soon to establish a Folk Culture Institute in Bangladesh for the collection, preservation, propagation and development of folk traditions and folk literature. The Folk Cultural Institute shall carry out the following responsibilities:

- To recognize, collect and preserve the folk traditions nationally; and to undertake researches on it.
- To make arrangements for display, documentation and propagation of the country's folk cultures nationally and internationally.
- To include Folk Culture in the curriculums of higher education and to encourage such initiatives.
- To preserve the diversity of national folk traditions for its propagation and development and for undertaking researches on it; and to help financially to encourage it.
- To prepare a data base of folk arts and traditions of Bangladesh.

- **Cultural Activist Welfare Foundation, Artist Welfare Trust and other assistance and grants related policy**

The following steps shall be taken for this purpose by the Ministry of Cultural Affairs

- To help the cultural activists who are financially weak, libranes and other cultural institutions for a healthy development of the culture of the country.
- To give welfare allowance to the poor, retired poets/writers and the artists for their medical treatment and other purposes.
- To extend financial grants to different cultural institutions and theatre groups for the flourishing of the country's cultural traditions and for encouraging the cultural study.

- To take necessary steps for the welfare of the artists concerned with arts, literature and different cultural activities of Bangladesh through 'Artist Welfare Trust'.
- To extend financial assistance to the libraries of the country at private levels.
- To take necessary steps for increasing the funds of "Cultural Activist Welfare Foundation" and "Artist Welfare Trust".
- To spend the collected money of the funds for the welfare of the artists who are indigent financially and sick.

- **Ministry of Foreign Affairs**

The following steps shall be taken in the related fields by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for propagating the cultural traditions of Bangladesh in different countries of the world:

- The Ministry of Foreign Affairs shall highlight the cultural history and tradition of Bangladesh to those countries of the world where a good number of Bangladeshi people live ; it shall also take necessary steps to establish 'Bangladesh Cultural Centre' in every country for the propagation of cultural activities of Bangladesh. That Cultural Centre will be attached with the Bangladesh embassy or consulate office. A cultural activist or an officer from the cadre service experienced in dealing with cultural activities will be in charge of this centre. The cultural centre will be run by the Bangladesh embassy with the assistance of the Bangladeshi people living in that respective country. The centre will make necessary arrangements for preservation, propagation, nourishment and development of different cultural traditions of Bangladesh. For example, arrangements shall be made for propagation and development of Bangla language, music, dance, drama etc. and for exhibition, observance of National Days, folk and crafts fairs. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Cultural Affairs shall take necessary initiatives for this purpose on the basis of mutual cooperation.
- To set up a Bangladesh Library in each Bangladesh Embassy abroad. Arrangements shall be made to keep in the library sufficient books focussing all areas of Bangladesh. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Cultural Affairs shall jointly take initiatives to establish the library.
- Various posters, leaflets, brochures etc. on history, traditions and culture of Bangladesh to be prepared by concerned ministries shall be arranged to display in Bangladesh Missions or in Bangladesh Cultural Centres abroad to introduce Bangladesh to the foreigners. Booklets, Posters,

Tourist Handbooks, CD, VCD, etc. on the attractive tourist spots and historical places of Bangladesh to be prepared by Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism and Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation shall be arranged to display and distribute to attract a great number of foreign tourists.

9) Local Administration

The local administration at the district and upazilla levels of Bangladesh shall take the following initiatives locally at government and private levels for the proper flourishing, preservation and development of cultural traditions of Bangladesh.

- To make arrangements locally for the development and preservation of cultural traditions of the country.
- To take steps locally to observe different days and to arrange cultural programmes, cultural competitions, exhibitions of pictures, fine arts and handicrafts, *pitha* fair and different kinds of folk based festivals by local administration with the help of local people at the division, district and upazilla levels.
- To take initiatives from local administration to connect the people from all classes and occupations with these festivals.
- To arrange different kinds of cultural competitions locally for the students of schools, colleges and universities.
- To take necessary initiatives by local administration for observing the traditional cultural days.
- Any personal or collective activities made at private levels for preserving cultural heritage of Bangladesh and for practising, nourishing and developing a healthy culture shall be encouraged by central and local administration.
- To take steps to publish, by re-establishing the District Gazette Office, a monthly bulletin containing important information from all the districts of the country and a detailed District Gazetteer at every five years.

10) The other areas of culture

The following initiatives shall be taken in this case:

- **Education: Ministry of Education/Ministry of Primary and Mass Education**
 - Ministry of Education shall take necessary initiatives to introduce higher education on Fine Arts in the universities by opening departments of Music, Dance, Photographs, Fine Arts, Folk Arts, Dramatics, and Folk Cultures at graduation (honours) and post graduation levels.

- To coordinate the courses on Fine Arts in all the universities of the country and at government level, the Ministry of Primary, Secondary and Higher Secondary Education, Primary and Mass Education shall also take further initiatives to publish articles for the curriculums on Fine Arts such as on dance, music, arts and dramatics and on history and traditions.
 - Ministry of Education shall take necessary steps to introduce courses on History, Islamic History, Anthropology, Sociology, Bengali Language, Folk Culture, Archaeology, Muscology, Archives & Library Science, Dramatics, Music, Fine Arts and various other disciplines of culture at graduation (honours) and post graduation levels in all government and private universities and colleges of the country.
 - Ministry of Education shall organize institutional programmes to celebrate different days in connection with culture like Pahla Baishakh, Birth Anniversaries of Nazrul and Tagore, International Mother Language Day, Victory and Independence Days, etc. and it will also organize annual cultural competitions regularly at the educational institutions.
 - Efforts shall have to be made to incorporate Bengali language including disciplines related to Bangladeshi culture and heritage in the curriculum of foreign universities and language institutes. Ministry of Education shall prepare the curriculums and make arrangements to offer courses on Bengali language and to flourish Bangladeshi culture and heritage through Bangladeshi missions abroad.
 - National Curriculum and Textbook Board along with Bangladesh University Grants Commission shall take necessary steps to prepare curriculums and introduce courses on the disciplines regarding cultural heritage and culture to preserve, propagate and flourish the cultural heritage of Bangladesh and give the students proper ideas and education on this discipline from primary schools.
 - Ministry of Education shall take necessary initiatives to introduce Diploma / Degree courses on Film and Television at graduation and post-graduation levels.
- **Religious Culture and Traditions: Ministry of Religious Affairs**
 - To take necessary steps to carefully preserve and develop religious culture, heritage and history of all the people living in Bangladesh.
 - To ensure the proper use of media for developing the religious traditions and cultures of all the people, publishing religious researches and celebrating religious festivals.

- To coordinate development of human resources and national progress by encouraging fellow-feeling, fraternity, values and religious spirit at national and international levels.
- The fundamentals of all religions are truthfulness, human welfare and restoration of peace. To take necessary steps, on this context, to prevent misinterpretation, mispropagation or misuse of all religious messages for restoring peace, security and stability in the society.
- To take initiatives through proper implementation of the fundamentals of all religions - equality, human welfare, brotherhood to enhance mutual tolerance and fellow-feeling and to take measures for propagation of humanitarian messages of all religions, for holding international religious conferences, seminars and various other programmes to restore peace and development in social, national and international levels.
- To properly preserve and develop the ancient and historical religious institutions belonging to all religious communities of Bangladesh like mosques, temples, churches and pagodas etc.
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• **Radio, Television and Films: Ministry of Information**

- To take initiatives to telecast cultural and educational programmes to uphold the country's history, culture and traditions through all government and private radios and television channels including Bangladesh Betar and Bangladesh Television.
- To take necessary measures to discourage strictly all government and private radios and satellite channels to transmit any local or foreign programmes which go against national interest, history, traditions and culture.
- Necessary rules and acts should be made to prevent access of avil cultures through the programmes aired and transmitted in cable TV networks. They should be consistent with designed to develop Bangladeshi culture.
- It has to be ensured that all Bangladeshi government and private radios and television channels shall transmit children's programmes for the mental development of the children,
- It is necessary to ensure that radio, television and other media shall telecast all kinds of songs including Nazrul and Rabindra songs entuned with their proper notations.
- Effective steps shall be taken to air important parts of good local and foreign films in our radio and television programmes.
- To uphold country's image, positive and constructive news/reports shall be transmitted through government and private radio and television channels.

- It is required to prepare and make government policies / laws / regulations by the Ministry of Information so that no evil culture can enter into the advertisements transmitted by the government and private radios, television channels and films.
- Film Development Corporation shall take effective steps to produce films which will ensure healthy practice and development of culture in Bangladesh.
- Bangladesh Film Archives shall arrange to continue the Cinema, History and Film Appreciation course regularly.
- It is expected that positive information of government activities shall be propagated and published by film and publishing organizations.
- It shall be ensured that anything repugnant to national culture, traditions and ideology and the religious belief of any person or group residing in Bangladesh, evil culture, unhealthy and negative things shall not be reflected in the films.
- Film Development Corporation shall take a coordinated measure to ensure facilities for making exportable national films.
- For overall development of film industry, it is required to provide special subsidy to the producers and filmmakers to import good movies on a limited scale to create fair competition and export market.
- It is necessary to promote film-culture among the educated young people of the country by arranging for them partial technical training along with training on film-history, film language, film-script writing in the Film Institute.
- To arrange international film festivals in the country and participate in different international film festivals. To make specific action plans to send representatives in such programmes.
- To give importance for producing juvenile and educative films.
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- **Theatre & Jatra**

- To establish a modern scientific national theatre stage with all facilities in order to ascertain proper study of theatre. It is necessary to establish permanent theatre stages by turns, initially in the divisional towns and then in the district towns.
- Government may establish a theatre academy at Dhaka for training in every aspect of theatre and necessary measures may be taken to open departments of dramatics in the concerned universities of Bangladesh.
- It is required to establish a *Jatra* Academy at Dhaka and subsequently in the divisional towns for the overall betterment, development and improvement of quality of *Jatra*.

- Necessary measures shall be taken by preparing rules and regulations to preserve the quality of *Jatra* and to keep it free from evil culture.

- **Culture for Development of Children's Creativity**

- Children are the future citizens of the country. To ensure perfect development of children's talent and intellect, various cultural competitions shall be arranged at national, district and upazilla levels by Bangladesh Shishu Academy and the winners shall be rewarded to inspire them.
- It is necessary to include various subjects representing and upholding a healthy and developed national culture in the competitions to be arranged by Bangladesh Shishu Academy. Besides competitions, various cultural programmes and fairs shall be arranged with the participation of children at district and national levels.

- **Tourism, Trades and Culture**

Tourism and trades play a vital role for the development of the country. Mutual development is possible through coordination among tourism, trades and cultural activities. Besides, trades and tourism can also play an important role for preservation, propagation, promotion and development of cultural heritage of Bangladesh. With this in view, the following steps shall be taken:

- To connect tourism with culture for their development and to take necessary measures on mutual cooperation between the Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism and the Ministry of Cultural Affairs.
- To attract a large number of tourists and to develop a sustainable economic culture, Ministry of Cultural Affairs and Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism shall take necessary steps to arrange jointly at tourist centres cultural programmes and folk and handicrafts fairs.
- For the development of culture, trades and economy, Ministry of Cultural Affairs and Ministry of Commerce shall jointly take various measures to arrange different cultural programmes, exhibition of cultural objects and folk and handicrafts fairs to attract a large number of customers at different trade fairs to be held at home and abroad.
- Ministry of Commerce shall arrange to send, by incorporating Ministry of Cultural Affairs and Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism, a cultural troupe to participate in different trade fairs to be held abroad.

- To take necessary measures, in accordance with the international rules of conduct in tourism, to preserve and develop the sea-beach, memorials, museums, archaeological sites, historical places and cultural objects of Bangladesh and to keep them open for the tourists and visitors; and to ensure all sorts of facilities including communication for the tourists.
- To ensure proper maintenance, security and development of cultural structures and tourist spots and to make efforts to enhance their beauty.
- To take necessary steps for the expansion of Nazrul-Tourism programmes.

11) Financing in Cultural Programmes

Government allocation of budget plays a basic role in the cultural, programmes of Bangladesh and in their development. On this context, activities of different ministries, departments and offices directorates / statutory organizations under them are run with the revenue budget of the government. A certain budgetary allocation is made annually for the purpose. In addition, it is possible to accelerate cultural development by the existing development projects run with the cooperation of different ministries, departments and organizations, government and various international organizations. Grants of new projects shall have to be utilized for implementation of the programmes undertaken in this policy. Dependence on revenue budget shall be reduced. All out efforts and comprehensive measures shall be taken to generate sources of their own income in every organization. It is possible to develop a cultural economy in this way and thus culture can be established as a factor for economic development.

Necessary arrangements shall be made to use a portion of the income earned from the visitors of the cultural structures and monuments.

12) International Cooperation for Cultural Development

Bangladesh has cultural agreement/contract with 38 countries of the world at present. Under this agreement cultural-exchanges have been carried out. According to these cultural exchanges the following activities shall be more strengthened for development of education, culture and sports of the country.

- To exchange cultural troupes, journalists, writers and researchers.
- To give scholarships in the different fields of culture.
- To extend help to research programmes.
- To give scholarships in researches on education and sports.

- To accept positive culture of the developed countries and to develop our culture accordingly.
- To extend assistance for more training in education, culture and sports.
- To exchange publications, movies, fine arts and radio and TV programmes.
- To exchange teachers, researchers, scientists and craftsmen at school, college and university levels and to make government grants available for all kinds of training.
- To exchange research programmes and scholarships in different fields of Archaeology and Museum.
- To take initiatives, if necessary, for signing cultural agreement and for exchange programmes with other developed and developing countries of the world in future.
- To take necessary measures to extend international cooperation for development of the country's culture by signing cultural agreement and exchange programmes with various international organizations.

13) Implementation of National Policy of Culture and Evaluation

For implementation and reviewing the progress of these rules it is necessary to form a national committee consisting of famous cultural personalities and secretaries of all concerned ministries and headed by the minister / state minister of the Ministry of Cultural Affairs. The committee shall work to ensure implementation of National Policy of Culture. The committee shall meet in an inter-ministerial conference after every six months and shall discuss the progress of different programmes and give necessary directions.

To ensure the implementation of National Policy of Culture successfully, the secretary of the concerned ministry shall work as a head and meet in every month to discuss its progress. He shall chalk out specific programmes with the directions of National Committee formed by the government and give necessary guidelines to all concerned for proper implementation of National Policy of Culture.

13. Conclusion

Culture reflects all aspects of the lives of people from all walks of society or a nation. The people of Bangladesh feel proud of their culture and heritage. The issues of cultural development are also well-defined in our Constitution. By proper implementation of National Policy of Culture prepared under the Constitution of Bangladesh, preservation, promotion and nourishment of history and culture and traditions of Bangladesh is possible.

Cultural activities of Bangladesh are one of vital factors for development of its economy. An effective measure can be adopted to develop a sustainable

economy and to remove poverty by integrating tourism and commerce with cultural activities. This will add a new dimension to the development of the country's economy and culture. Besides, culture and traditions are the most vital instruments for upholding the country's image and identity to the world. It is possible to uphold our dignity before the world community by nourishing, fostering and fully developing and flourishing the country's traditional culture.

Proper development of the cultural institutions and mutual cooperation and coordination among themselves are impossible for perfect nourishment of the culture and traditions of Bangladesh. Not only government but also non-government initiatives should be taken for the purpose. On this context, it is necessary to initiate various complementary programmes on the basis of mutual cooperation for development, preservation and patronization of the country's tangible and intangible cultural heritage.

National policy of culture can play a pioneering role for cultural as well as overall development of the country. Bangladesh, as a nation, will be able to uphold its dignity and glorious identity through perfect development of its culture and traditions. National Policy of Culture will inspire all of us to work unitedly for national development.

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Ministry of Cultural Affairs
Section-7
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