



High Commissioner

18 November 2011

Planning Officer
London Borough of Camden
Camden Town Hall
Judd Street
London WC1H 9JE

Dear Planning Officer,

I am writing this letter to you on behalf of the Bangladesh High Commission to the UK. Hope this letter finds you and your colleagues hale and hearty.

02. One of the most remarkable advantage of London – a great city, a great seat of learning and a great centre of global conductivity, opinion and finance are its numerous parks and museums. Above all Brunswick Square Park, part of your Borough is more than just a beautiful park. Located in a very busy city centre this park is a rare enclosed open feeling garden that is valued by the local community. On behalf of the Government of Bangladesh, the Bangladesh High Commission in London would like to request you to kindly allow us to place a bust sculpture of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, Father of the Nation and the main architect of an independent Bangladesh in the park. We have taken the idea with great interest and enthusiasm for the following reasons:

- a. The life of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman is the saga of a great leader turning people's power in an armed struggle that liberated an oppressed nation deprived of its rights to determine their own destiny and live as a dignified people.
- b. Sheikh Mujib, endearingly called 'Bangabandhu' or friend of Bangladesh, rose from the people, moulded their age-old aspirations for a nationhood and staked his live many a times in the long battle for making it real. He is, undoubtedly, one of the greatest statesmen in the world who led his people in that long, arduous journey.
- c. The bonds between Bangladesh and the UK are Historic, spontaneous, warm, enduring and ever growing. Bangladesh and its people hold Britain and its people in special sentiment and consider Britain as dependable friend and important trade and development partner. The large Bangladeshi diaspora in the UK are a strong element of the bridge of friendship between the two nations. They are mostly concentrated in greater London region, particularly in Tower Hamlets & Camden Council areas and their presence cause considerable amount of cultural fusion between the two Commonwealth countries.

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- d. Bangabandhu was awarded the prestigious 'Julio-Curie' Peace Medal in 1972 in recognition of his immense contribution to world peace. We believe the inclusion of his sculpture in the Park would raise the profile of the Park and attract more and more visitors, particularly from the Asian region.
- e. In a poll conducted in 2004 among the worldwide listeners of the BBC Bengali Service, Bangabandhu was voted the 'greatest Bengalee of all times' with poet Rabindranath Tagore occupying the second position.
- f. Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib had a particular attachment to the City of London where he tested freedom for the first time on 8th January 1972 following his release from the Pakistani prison after long, 9-month solitary confinement. The United Kingdom is uniquely positioned as the greatest supporter of Bangladesh's liberation struggle in the Western Hemisphere during 1971. There has been a strong demand from the large number of British-Bangladeshi community living in Camden to erect a bust of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in the Brunswick Park. A sculpture of Bangabandhu in the Brunswick Square Park would be the best way of remembering him and presenting him to the greater audience in the UK and the world beyond.

03. Mr. Graham Newsome, the architect will submit the application on behalf of Bangladesh High Commission, London along with the necessary sketches and drawings in consultation with Ms. Shenda Amery, the Sculptor of the bust.

04. In the light of the above, may I request you formally to allow Bangladesh High Commission in London to take necessary steps to place a bust sculpture of Bangabandhu at the centre of the Brunswick Park.

With regards .

Solman

(Dr. M. Sayeedur Rahman Khan)