

# Bangladesh

## VICTORY DAY

SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT | DECEMBER 16, 2019

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to sustainable  
development**



BANGLADESH

# 49<sup>th</sup> Bangladesh Victory Day

16<sup>th</sup> December 2019

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pay rich tribute to  
those who  
fought for our  
victory



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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Today is December 16, the great Victory Day of Bangladesh. On the eve of the joyous victory day, I extend my sincere felicitations and warm greetings to my fellow countrymen living at home and abroad.

Independence is the greatest achievement of the Bangali nation. But behind the victory there were a long history of deprivation and bloodshed movement and supreme sacrifice of our people. The seeds of independence that was sown in the language movement in 1952 come into being through the declaration of independence by Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on 26 March in 1971 after overcoming various ups and downs and staging long movement and agitation against Pakistani rulers. The ultimate victory was achieved through a nine-month long war of liberation under his uncompromising leadership and guidance on 16 December in 1971. Today, I recall with profound respect the greatest Bangali of all time, Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. I pay my deep homage to the valiant freedom fighters who made supreme sacrifice in the war of liberation for the cause of country's independence. I also extend my deep gratitude to the organisers and supporters, foreign friends and the people from all strata who directly and indirectly made meaningful contributions to our war of liberation. The nation recalls their contributions with utmost gratitude.

The aims of our independence were to attain political sovereignty as well as economic emancipation. Keeping that in mind, Bangabandhu started his journey for achieving economic self-sufficiency by rebuilding economy and infrastructure of the war-ravaged country. But the progress of country's democracy and development came to a halt after the assassination of Father of the Nation and his near and dear ones on August 15, 1975. The emergence of autocracy and undemocratic government came into being. After passing a long time, the democratic government, bearing the flag of war of liberation, has now been

established. With a view to materializing the unfinished tasks of Bangabandhu, the Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has taken Vision 2021, Vision 2041 and hundred years long 'Bangladesh Delta Plan 2100'. The objectives of these plans are to attain the targets of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030 and to turn Bangladesh into a developed and prosperous country by 2041 respectively. The people of the country, in the meantime, are getting benefits of the development programmes. With successive economic growth, Bangladesh is marching forward in every socio-economic indicator including education, health, women empowerment, per capita income etc. Bangladesh has got recognition the status of low-middle-income country and graduated from least developed country (LDC) to a developing country. The Padma Bridge, which is being constructed by our own resources, is now a reality. Mega projects like Metro Rail, Elevated Expressway are being implemented. Bangladesh is now a proud member of the elite satellite club through launching of Bangabandhu-1 Satellite into the space. With the pace of the continuing development, I am confident that Bangladesh will turn into a prosperous country by 2041, Insha Allah. To move forward the advancement, collective efforts from all strata and the change of people's behavior and outlook are must. People have to join the development process with positive mindset along with modern and scientific attitude making the desired development sustainable and speedy.

Our foreign policy is being exercised in accordance with the principle "Friendship to all, malice towards none" as adopted by Father of the Nation. Bangladesh has set a unique example of humanity in international arena by providing shelter to millions of forcefully displaced and tortured Rohingyas fled from Myanmar. Bangladesh believes in a peaceful solution to the problem. I urge the UN and the international community including Myanmar, to take immediate effective measures for the permanent settlement of this problem.

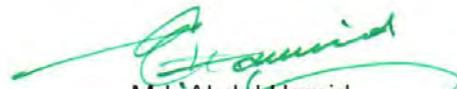


**H.E. Mr. Md. Abdul Hamid**  
*Honourable President of Bangladesh*

The birth centenary celebration of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and the Golden Jubilee celebration of our independence, the two landmark and historic events of our history, will be observed throughout the country and outside Bangladesh in a befitting manner in 2020 and 2021 respectively. Observing the two magnificent celebrations by all strata irrespective of party affiliation, I believe, will add a new dimension in our history.

There is no alternative to coordinated efforts to reach the benefits of independence, attained through the sacrifice of millions of martyrs, at people's doorstep. Let us make more contributions from our respective positions in implementing the spirit of war of liberation and take the nation towards a prosperous future. Let our country turn into 'Golden Bangla' as dreamt of by our Father of the Nation Sheikh Mujibur Rahman through our sincere efforts, it is my expectation on Victory Day.

*Khoda Hafez,  
May Bangladesh Live Forever.*



Md. Abdul Hamid

# PRIME MINISTER'S MESSAGE

**T**oday, 16th December is the Great Victory Day. This is a unique day for the Bangali nation. Responding to the clarion call of the greatest Bangalee of all times the Father of the Nation

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the Bangalee nation earned ultimate victory on this day in 1971 after 23 years of intense political struggle and a 9-month bloody war against the Pakistani occupation forces. I extend my sincere greetings and warm felicitations to the country's people on the occasion of the 49th Victory Day.

I pay deep homage to the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. I recall with gratitude the four national leaders, three million martyrs, two hundred thousand dishonored women and the bravest sons of the soil- our freedom fighters, who earned our long-cherished freedom and independent Bangladesh.

Under the undaunted leadership of Bangabandhu, the Bangalee nation got prepared for independence through Language Movement of 1952, Education Movement of 1962, 6-Point Demand of 1966, and I I-point Movement and Mass Upsurge of 1969. The Awami League secured an absolute majority in the general elections of 1970. However, Pakistanis' prevented Bangalee from assuming the power. Father of the Nation realized that the oppression, persecution and deprivation meted out to the Bangalee nation would not be ended without achieving the independence. Accordingly, on the historic 7th March of 1971, he in front of a million of people at the then Race Course Maidan firmly pronounced, *'The struggle this time is a struggle for emancipation, the struggle this time is a struggle for independence.'* The country-wide non-cooperation movement had started at the directives of Bangabandhu and preparations for waging armed struggle also had begun as part of the Liberation War.

On the fateful night of 25th March of 1971, the Pakistani occupation forces launched a brutal onslaught and committed genocide on the innocent and unarmed Bangalees. Bangabandhu declared independence of Bangladesh at the early hours of the 26th March of 1971 resulting in the formal War of Independence. The first government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh was formed with Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman as President, Syed Nazrul Islam as Vice-President and Tajuddin

Ahmed as Prime Minister which was sworn-in on the 17th April of 1971 at the historic Mujibnagar and led the Liberation War. The valiant freedom fighters earned the victory on the 16th December of 1971 by defeating Pakistani occupation forces and their local collaborators- rajakars, albadars and alshams. We achieved an independent-sovereign country. Holding the red-green flag high the victorious Bangalees are marching forward towards the progressive path.

When the Father of the Nation Sheikh Mujib had fully engaged himself in the struggle to reconstructing the war-ravaged country, the anti-liberation forces in collusion with the war criminals assassinated him along with most of his family members on 15 August 1975. They had initiated the politics of killings, coup and conspiracy, and obstructed the process to bring the killers of Bangabandhu to book through promulgating Indemnity Ordinance. They ruined the democracy by declaring Martial Law. They distorted the glorious history of our independence, debased its spirit. They defaced the constitution and suppressed the press freedom. Later, the BNP-Jamat alliance government had kept on doing so.

The Awami League, after a long 21 years of struggle and sacrifice, assumed the responsibility of running the government in 1996. Then again our party has been in government for last three consecutive terms since 2009 and relentlessly been working for uplift of the people. Bangladesh, one of the top five countries in the world in economic growth, is a 'Role Model' for development. We are the first in the world started implementing 'Delta Plan-2100'.

In the last fiscal, we achieved record 8.13 percent GDP growth. The poverty rate has now decreased to 21 percent. Our per capita income has risen to US\$1,909 and literacy rate 73.9 percent. Country's 95 percent people are under electricity coverage. The average life expectancy of the people has jumped to 72 years. We are implementing a number of mega infrastructure development projects such as Padma Bridge, metro-rail, elevated express-ways, rail, and waterways across the country.

Our government is working with adherence to the 'zero tolerance policy' against militancy, terrorism and drug menace. We have established the rule of law in the country and executed the verdict



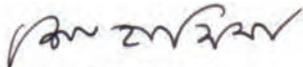
**H.E. Sheikh Hasina**  
Honourable Prime Minister of Bangladesh

of the trial of the killers of the Father of the Nation and the trial of the war criminals. We have peacefully resolved the land boundary issue with India. Disputes with India and Myanmar on maritime boundary have also been resolved. Bangladesh's contribution to the various international forums for establishing global peace has been lauded. We have also joined the elite club of the satellite technology as the 57th nation of the world through launching Bangabandhu Satellite-1.

Bangladesh and UNESCO will jointly celebrate the birth centenary of Bangabandhu next year. We have been working to make Bangladesh a middle income country by 2021, and a developed-prosperous one by 2041. Bangladesh is moving ahead, it will keep on doing so.

On the eve of the golden jubilee of our independence, I would like to call upon all to play their due role from their respective positions to accelerate the development, uphold democratic polity and establish good governance frustrating all sorts of conspiracy against democracy and the government being imbued with the spirit of liberation war.

*Joi Bangla, Joi Bangabandhu  
May Bangladesh Live Forever.*

  
**Sheikh Hasina**

## FOREIGN MINISTER'S MESSAGE

**T**oday is our glorious Victory Day. This is the unique day of pride for the Bengali Nation. On this day in 1971, we snatched the victory by defeating the occupying Pakistani forces and achieved long-cherished independent and sovereign Bangladesh. On this happy moment, I extend my sincere greetings and warm felicitations to all the citizens of Bangladesh including expatriate Bangladeshis.

On this auspicious day, I recall with profound reverence the greatest Bengali of all time, Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. Under his dynamic, courageous and charismatic leadership, the Bangali Nation brought the red sun of independence breaking the shackles of subjugation of thousands of years. With deep respect, I recall the supreme sacrifices made by our war heroes, the 3 million martyrs and the wounded freedom fighters. I also pay my profound gratitude to the members of our Diaspora and the diplomatic front who, during and after our Liberation War, played a vital role in gaining international recognition.

Bangladesh is now well poised to celebrate the golden jubilee of our glorious independence and Birth Centenary of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, which are rare occasions in our history. Celebrating year-long Birth Centenary of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, I believe, his ideology and achievements will be made possible to uphold in a much wider range in the international arena. Ministry of Foreign Affairs and

Bangladesh Missions abroad have been working to engage the international organizations, including the United Nations.

The seeds of development of the country were sown under the leadership of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. He took over the leadership of a war-ravaged and economically backward country. Bangabandhu accomplished the formidable tasks of rehabilitation and rebuilding the nation just in three and a half years. Conspirators and enemies committed the heinous crime on 15 August 1975 to thwart our advancement. Under the visionary leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, the government has been working relentlessly to turn Bangladesh into a middle income country by 2021 and a developed country by 2041. The country is often cited as a "Role Model for Development" and as per ADB, among the 45 Asia-Pacific countries, Bangladesh achieved highest GDP growth rate last year and it was 8.19%. Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's zero tolerance policy towards all forms of terrorism and violent extremism has received full support and cooperation from all walks of life as well as from the international community. I hope that the Bangladeshi expatriate will participate in the ongoing advancement of the government.

On this day, I congratulate Bangladesh Diaspora in every corner of the world. I also thank all the members of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and our Missions abroad who have been working with utmost dedication and



**H.E. Dr. A.K. Abdul Momen, M.P.**  
*Honourable Foreign Minister of Bangladesh*

commitment in achieving our foreign policy objectives and promote national interest of Bangladesh on the world stage.

On this historic day, we, overwhelmed with the joy of victory, make a renewed pledge to devote ourselves to work from our respective positions imbued with the spirit of Liberation War to build a 'Sonar Bangla' and also a better world for our future generations.

***Joi Bangla, Joi Bangabandhu  
May Bangladesh Live Forever.***

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dr. A.K. Abdul Momen'.

**Dr. A.K. Abdul Momen, MP**

## STATE MINISTER'S MESSAGE

Today is 16 December, the Great Victory Day. On this day in 1971, our brave Bengali heroes earned the victory through their decade's long hard struggle for self-emancipation and a 9 month long blood-spattered War of Liberation in 1971.

On the eve of the Victory Day, I extend my sincere greetings and warm felicitations to all the citizens of Bangladesh living home and abroad.

On this happy moment of the glorious Victory Day, I recall with profound respect the greatest Bengali of all time, Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman whose charismatic leadership contributed to the emergence of Bangladesh as an independent and sovereign state in the world. I pay my profound homage to the 3 million martyrs and 2 hundred thousand mothers and sisters whose supreme sacrifices and dishonour ushered us an independent and sovereign Bangladesh. My respectful salute goes to all freedom fighters including the wounded war heroes.

On this memorable moment of Victory Day, I express my sincere gratitude to all foreign friends, expatriate Bangladeshis, members of diplomatic front who accelerated our victory by extending all possible support during the Liberation War of Bangladesh. I also recall with deep gratitude the invaluable contribution of the members of the then Pakistan Foreign Service who defected to Bangladesh Foreign Service and the newly formed Bangladesh government during our liberation war in 1971.

Bangabandhu, a visionary leader and the prime mover of independence, led the nation to every struggle and democratic movement towards attaining the right to self-determination. The Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman never compromised on the question of the rights of our people. The title 'Bangabandhu' what our common people conferred on him has become a synonym for the word 'Bangladesh'. The world reputed Newsweek Magazine of its 5 April, 1971 issue termed Bangabandhu as a 'Poet of Politics' which marked the firm conviction and deep reverence by the world community to the leadership of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur

Rahman. Bangladesh is going to celebrate the birth centennial of Father of the Nation in 2020 and the golden jubilee of our independence in 2021. The government has already declared 2020-2021 as 'Mujib Barsha'. During the year-long celebration of the Birth Centennial of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, many events will be organized in the country as well as abroad, through which I believe that the ideology and achievements of the Father of the Nation will be upheld in a much wider range in the international arena.

The seeds of development of the country were sown in 1972 under the leadership of Bangabandhu. He took over the leadership of a war-ravaged and economically backward country and accomplished the formidable tasks of rebuilding the nation just in three and half a years. Conspirators and enemies committed the heinous crime of killing Bangabandhu on 15 August 1975 to thwart our advancement.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, the worthiest daughter of our Father of the Nation employed all the authority and resources of her government for the all out welfare of this country and its people. The government of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has been working relentlessly to transform Bangladesh into a middle income country by 2021, and a developed country by 2041. As per ADB, among the 45 Asia-Pacific countries, Bangladesh achieved highest GDP growth rate last year and it was 8.15%. Bangladesh has achieved one of the fastest poverty reduction rates in the world with poverty rate dropping from 41.5% in 2006 to 21.30/o in 2018 and extreme poverty from 25% to 11.3%.

Along with economic growth, Bangladesh has become a role model in poverty alleviation, women empowerment, climate change and curbing child mortality rate. All these achievements have been made possible with the policy guidelines promulgated by the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman within the fastest period of time and through successful implementation of those laws and policy framework under the dynamic leadership of the Hon'ble Prime Minister



**H.E. Md. Shahriar Alam, M.P**  
Honourable State Minister for Foreign Affairs

Sheikh Hasina during the last decade.

On this great Day, I congratulate Bangladesh Diaspora in every corner of the world which is immensely contributing to our economic development and in brightening the image of Bangladesh. I also express my gratitude to all the members of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and our Missions abroad who have been working with dedication and commitment in achieving our foreign policy objectives and promote national interest of Bangladesh on the world stage.

Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has been working tirelessly for realization of the dream for which our Father of the Nation fought; for which the freedom fighters poured their fresh blood on the green grass of this land. Let us pledge today that, all of us will be working according to our own ability from our respective positions for the welfare of people, motherland and global humanity.

*Joi Bangla, Joi Bangabandhu  
May Bangladesh Live Forever.*

Md. Shahriar Alam, MP

# Ties with UAE growing stronger

By Muhammad Imran

Bangladesh and the UAE attained independence in the same year-1971 and since then the fraternal relations between the two brotherly countries have expanded exponentially and consolidated in multiple sectors.

The UAE was the first Gulf country to recognize Bangladesh on 10 March 1974. The foundation of the relationship between the two countries was laid by the Father of the Nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman during his historic visit to the UAE in 1974.

Bangladesh opened its Embassy in Abu Dhabi in the same year, which is the first Bangladesh Mission in any Gulf country. The people of Bangladesh fondly remember the ten-day visit of the UAE's Founding Father HH Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahayan to Bangladesh in 1984 that took bilateral relations between the two young nations to a new height.

A large plot of land gifted by Bangladesh to him in Chittagong during the visit still remains as a testimony for permanent friendship between the two countries. Bangladesh also gifted a piece of land in Baridhara Diplomatic Zone for the Embassy of UAE in 2014.

Bangladesh also received a proposal from the UAE side for exchanging a



Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman with Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan

land for our Embassy in Abu Dhabi Diplomatic Zone which has certainly added a new dimension to our deep bond of friendship.

### Diplomatic priorities

Bangladesh attaches great

importance to its relationship with the UAE, which is based on shared faith, values, culture, tradition and common aspirations. Our workforces contributed significantly since the initial development of the UAE in mid 1970s and their involvement has been intensified and diversified till date.

Bangladeshi companies were involved in the development of a number of infrastructure facilities in the UAE in 1970s and 1980s. A 90-km highway in the Western region, the earliest sewerage system of Abu Dhabi Municipality and about 5000 villas constructed by Bangladeshi companies in Abu Dhabi and Al-Ain region are a glowing testimony to the high engagement of Bangladesh in the early phase of development of this country.

Janata Bank, a leading reputed commercial bank from Bangladesh, was one of the first foreign institutions in the UAE which opened branches in Abu Dhabi, Al Ain, Dubai and Sharjah and financed various development projects of UAE.



The Bangladeshi workforce in the farming sector has contributed considerably in making a major portion of this country green and helped to overcome the challenges of climate change and arid topography of the region.

The UAE is the second largest destination for the Bangladeshi workforce hosting approximately 500,000 skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled Bangladeshi workers.

## Professional workforce

A significant number of professionals like doctors, engineers, university professors, accountants, IT experts are also working in this country. Some Bangladeshi entrepreneurs and businessmen are also running big construction companies, large perfumery and super markets/hyper markets and other business enterprises thereby contributing to the economy of the UAE.

It is heartening that the Bangladeshi workforce is well-liked by our Emirati brothers for their sincerity, honesty, hard work, commitment and loyalty. Bangladesh expatriates also consider their host country as their second home and they are very proud to take part in various activities of everyday life.

They highly admire the leadership of this country and grateful to them for their strong support and encouragement for further widening the brotherly relations between the two nations.

In recent time, there is an increased demand of Bangladeshi work force in the hospitality, IT, construction, driving, agro-farming, business and other key sectors. Bangladesh is hopeful that recruitment of its nationals in different sectors of UAE job market will gain momentum in near future.

Annual Trade volume between Bangladesh and UAE is around US\$1.2 billion and there is scope for further expansion of the bilateral trade. Bangladesh has an export potential of readymade garments (RMG) products to UAE having more than a US\$ 7.5 billion RMG market in the UAE.

Other potential exportable items include pharmaceuticals, knitwear, jute products, fabrics, home textile, bicycle, plastic products, processed food and



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina during a conversation with His Highness Shaikh Mohammad bin Rashid Al Maktoum during air show in Dubai on 17<sup>th</sup> November, 2019.

vegetable, furniture and many more consumer goods.

A trade agreement was signed between the two countries in 1984 which is presently under the process of review and updating to meet the new demands and challenges in this sector.

## UAE among top investors in Bangladesh

The UAE is presently the fifth largest foreign investor in Bangladesh investing nearly US\$ 2.5 billion in the country. The government of Bangladesh has taken initiatives to attract foreign investments in Economic Zones, Special Economic Zones and High Tech Parks.

Bangladesh has the most liberal investment policy in South Asia. It is encouraging to note that the investors of the UAE have shown keen interest for investment in various sectors in Bangladesh and they have engaged with the concerned authorities of Bangladesh to materialize the proposed projects in developing ports, power projects, establishing of UAE-Bangladesh economic zones, agro-processing, energy sector and other industrial and service sectors.

The UAE is one of the long-standing development partners of Bangladesh. Till date, Bangladesh has received economic assistance from the UAE to the tune of US\$ 192.85 million, including US\$ 175.65 million as project loans and US\$ 17.20 million as relief grant.

Bangladesh has concluded some agreements/MoUs (Memoranda of Understanding) with the UAE on

Cultural Co-operation, Manpower, Air Services, Avoidance of Double Taxation, Promotion and Reciprocal Protection of Investment, Foreign Office Consultation, Security Cooperation, and Transfer of Sentenced Persons among other agreements.

A clutch of agreements/MoUs on cooperation in the field of agriculture, education, media, customs, visa exemption for official and diplomatic passports holders are on the table and under consideration of the UAE side. Bangladesh-UAE Joint Commission was established in the year 1980 for regular consultations between the two countries.

People-to-people contact has increased significantly between the two countries. Many UAE nationals visit Bangladesh to experience the exotic food, natural beauty and hearty hospitality extended to foreigners by locals. Bangladesh has been offering unilateral 'visa on arrival' facility for the UAE nationals.

## Philanthropy in the forefront

Philanthropic assistance of the UAE at government and private level is noteworthy. HH Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al-Nahayan Trust (Bangladesh) was founded on 22 June 1984 during visit of the UAE President as a memento of his deep sympathy and profound realization for the welfare of the destitute children and the orphans of Bangladesh.

The Bangladesh-UAE friendship complex was built at Banani, Dhaka.

# BANGLADESH



Two orphanages were then built by the Trust, one in Mirpur, Dhaka and another in Lalmonirhat district in 1987 and 1990 respectively with the capacity of accommodating 400 orphans.

These destitute children continue to receive education and vocational training for their future rehabilitation from Al-Nahayan High School, Mirpur and Al-Nahayan Primary School, Lalmonirhat. All expenditure of the organization is borne out of the income from the Bangladesh-UAE Friendship Shopping and Housing Complex at Banani, Dhaka.

A large number of charitable organizations are working in Bangladesh. UAE Red Crescent Society, Sharjah Charity, Dubai Cares, Noor Dubai Foundation to name a few of them. The Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Bangladesh Islamia School in Abu Dhabi was established in 1980 with the assistance of the host Government and has been contributing to shape the future generation Bangladesh community staying in this country.

Cultural exchange programmes are also taking place on regular basis between the two countries under the agreement signed in 1978 for cooperation in this sector.

Cooperation in civil aviation sector is an important area of bilateral engagement. Designated airlines from both ends have been operating more than 20 direct flights everyday which

enhanced the people to people contact as well as promote trade and business.

## Cooperation in the Defence sector

The Defence sector has emerged as a potential area of cooperation between the two countries. The friendship between Bangladesh Armed Forces and the UAE Armed Forces are all recognized by the members of both Armed Forces. Various training programme, joint exercise, cooperation in maritime operation, security cooperation, counter terrorism are in the forefront in this sector for cooperation between the two countries.

Participation of Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in IDEX-2019 and Dubai Air Show-2019, visit UAE NDC team to Bangladesh in November 2019, participation of Bangladesh Navy Ship Dhaleswari in the NAVDEX from 12-21 February 2019, visit of the Chiefs of Army, Navy and Air Forces of Bangladesh to the UAE in this year reflect the intense of engagement in this sector for mutual benefit.

Both the countries are also working very closely in regional and international platform including the UN, OIC, NAM, ACD, GFMD and other since both the countries maintain similar position on most of the global issues.

Bangladesh is happy to note that the UAE assumes leadership in addressing a number of emerging global issues such as counter-terrorism, maritime security, migration, e-governance, energy

security, climate change, inter-faith dialogue and other hot-button issues.

## Responsible Nation

Bangladesh has also positioned itself as an active, responsible and contributing member of the international community, as best manifested through our lead contribution to UN Peacekeeping Operations, climate change negotiation, countering terrorism, implementation of SDGs (United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals) and so on.

Bangladesh appreciates the UAE's active and committed role in internationally highlighting the human rights issues of forcefully displaced Rohingyas - an ethnic minority group of Myanmar in Rakhine state, who took shelter in Bangladesh in the face of mass killings, physical torture, rape, arson, displacement, ethnic cleansing and other crimes against humanity. Humanitarian support to this distressed people by the UAE government and people is also remembered gratefully.

The current leaders of both the countries are committed to continue to work closely in the coming days for prosperous future of both the peoples as well as for a sustained peace, progress and development of the world humanity. May Bangladesh-UAE friendship continue to grow and live forever!

*(The writer is the Ambassador of Bangladesh in UAE)*

# NID Registration for expats

By Fakir Muhammad Munawar Hossain

**B**angladesh Election Commission, forms and functions as per constitutional provision of article no.-118 and 119 of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, respectively. As per article-119 of the Bangladesh Constitution, Election Commission is responsible to hold a free, fair and credible election. Doing it properly, the first and foremost duty of the Election Commission is to prepare an ever accepted voter list to all. Besides, as per article-119(2) of the Bangladesh Constitution and the National Identity Registration Act, 2013, the Government organization is to register the eligible citizen for National Identity is also another responsibility of Election Commission. It subsequently registers, prepares and distributes National identity Card to the eligible citizens. Recently, Election Commission takes decision to pay the National identity registering opportunity to the expatriates living in United Arab Emirates and Malaysia on a pilot basis. After subsequent trial and error, it may having permanent structure. The Bangladesh Embassy, Abu Dhabi and the Bangladesh Consulate general, Dubai are facilitating the process to grab this opportunity for expatriates as their convenience with utmost sincerity.

## 1. Inauguration of National Identity Card (NID) in United Arab Emirates:

With due and continuous demand



*Honourable Foreign Minister Dr. A.K Abdul Momen inaugurated Smart NID Card in the UAE*

of facilitating NID registration activities in Arab Emirates, the Bangladesh Government has taken initiatives to start the job in the Bangladesh Embassy, Abu Dhabi and the Consulate General of Bangladesh, Dubai to fulfil the dreams of honourable expatriates. In this context, this registration process was formally inaugurated by Dr. AK Momen MP the Honourable Minister, Ministry of Foreign Affairs to the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh on last 18 November at its premises of the Bangladesh Embassy, Abu Dhabi.

## 2. National Identity:

All Bangladeshi nationals, age level at least 18 years and above, need to have valid National Identity Card (NID) to get citizen's service from the government

organization. The Bangladesh Consulate General of Bangladesh, Dubai facilitates this NID registration service to the bonafide Bangladesh nationals following due procedure of the Bangladesh Government.

## 2.2 How to Choose your Category:

### Category # 1 Applicants

\*Holding Bangladesh Machine Readable Passport and Laminated National Identity Card.

### Category # 2 Applicants

\*Holding Bangladesh Machine Readable Passports and no other documents related to NID card.

## 2.3 How to Apply, Instruction and Required Documents:

The following section provides guidelines on how to apply for National Identity Registration-

### 2.3.1 For Category # 1 Applicants

- Expats who are 18 years or more are eligible to apply for NID.
- Mandatory to come to the Embassy/ Consulate with an aim to submit copy of their Laminated National Identity Card
- After a certain period, applicants will be called to the Embassy/Consulate



*Audience at the Smart NID Card inauguration ceremony in Abu Dhabi*

# BANGLADESH

for adding biometric impression.

## 2.3.2 For Category # 2 Applicants

- Applicants have to register themselves online first through [www.nidw.gov.bd](http://www.nidw.gov.bd) in any typing centre/personally.
- After a certain period, applicants will be called to the Embassy/Consulate for adding biometric impression.

## 3. Required Documents to fill Online Form:

- SSC or equivalent Certificate (if any)
- Birth Certificate (17 digit and online registered)
- Passport/ Driving License/ TIN Certificate
- Father/Mother/Husband/wife's NID Card photocopy
- Permanent and present Address with postal code.
- Bangladeshi mobile No. of one's own or his/her relatives.

## 4. How to Register in Online:

Anyone can go through the website,



*His Excellency Ambassador Mohammed Imran speaks at the Smart NID Card inauguration ceremony in Abu Dhabi UAE*

[www.nidw.gov.bd](http://www.nidw.gov.bd), after that click on 'New Registration' and register themselves accordingly.

## 5. Embassy/Consulate Taken Initiatives:

The Bangladesh Embassy, Abu Dhabi and the Consulate General Bangladesh, Dubai are established a helpdesk for the expatriates to help in the registration as well as other process. The Helpdesk number of Abu Dhabi is +971-2-4465100 and Dubai are +971-4-2388199, +971-4-265111.

## 6. Conclusion:

National Identity Registration is one of the fundamental and Constitutional rights of every citizens of Bangladesh to be registered. The Government of Bangladesh is currently facilitates the process to the eligible (18 years old and above) expatriates citizens. The Bangladesh Embassy Abu Dhabi and the Consulate General of Bangladesh, Dubai are warmly waiting to help you.

*(The writer is First Secretary at Consulate General in Dubai)*

A large banner for Bangladesh Victory Day. It features a stylized, flowing representation of the Bangladesh national flag (green and red) on the left side. The background is a light blue sky with white clouds. The text "December 16th" is centered in a black font. Below it, "BANGLADESH" is written in large, bold, red capital letters, and "VICTORY DAY" is written in large, bold, black capital letters. At the bottom, a quote reads: "Al Ansari Exchange wishes a very Happy 49th Victory Day to Bangladeshi Nationals". The footer of the banner contains the Al Ansari Exchange logo and the text "AL ANSARI EXCHANGE Your First Choice".

# Training centre for blue collar workers

The idea for skill development was given by Honourable Foreign Minister Dr. A.K Abdul Momen M.P.

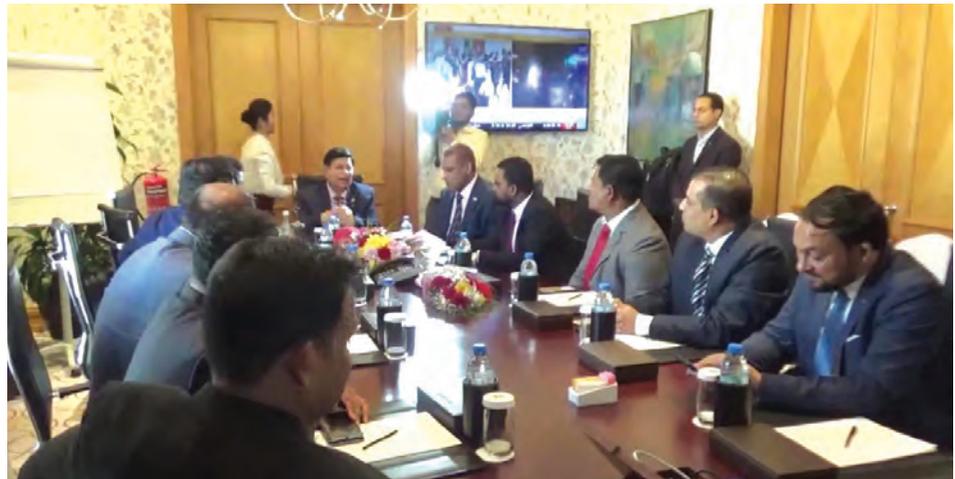
His Excellency Consul General Mr. Md. Iqbal Hussain Khan, Bangladesh Association Sharjah, SmartLife Dubai and distinguished personality Mr. Mohammad Ali Reza Khan, his spouse,



his son Eng. Nesar Reza Khan and spouse Farhana Khan, son Ayhaam Khan and daughter of Mr. Mohammad Ali Reza Khan, Professor Dr. Zeenath Reza Khan took the initiative to run the skill development training centre at Bangladesh Association Sharjah.

Honourable Foreign Minister Dr. A.K Abdul Momen M.P. formally inaugurated the centre through video conference from Abu Dhabi on 19th Nov 2019.

Many Bangladeshi workers living in



*Honourable Foreign Minister Dr. A.K Abdul Momen inaugurating skill development program through Video Conference from Abu Dhabi*

UAE are facing difficulties due to lack of basic skills and proper communication. Poor workers are encouraged to learn the basic skills and inspired them to live a better life. English language, computer training and personality development skills are being taught so that they can try to get a better job.

Bangladesh Association Sharjah & the family members of Mohammad Ali Reza Khan voluntarily running the centre and providing training at free of cost to blue collar labourers.

Bangladesh Association Sharjah, SmartLife Dubai, and family of Mr. Mohammad Ali Reza Khan have donated necessary laptops, computers, projectors and smart boards. Transportation and

snacks are provided to the trainees free of cost.

Now in its 17<sup>th</sup> week of classes, more workers are coming forward to learn and develop their basic skills.

Nesar and his dedicated family members are involved in teaching and training these Bangladeshi worker

This non-profit classes are conducted at Bangladesh Association in Sharjah. Classes are held every Friday from 3 to 6 pm. More than 80 students attend the classes.

Meanwhile, efforts are being taken to woo Bangladeshi philanthropists and community members to extend helping hand and make the project more sustainable and viable.



## BANGLADESH

EXPO 2020 Dubai

# Vibrant participation

By Kamrul Hassan

Expo is a global event that seeks to address the solutions of the world's fundamental challenges through a chosen theme. It is the third-largest global non-commercial event, following the Olympic Games and the FIFA World Cup which mainly provides a platform for engaging in cultural diplomacy and interacting with welcoming countries, other participants, potential tourists, trade partners and investors. The United Arab Emirates is the first Arab country to host the World Expo 2020 in the MEASA region (Middle East, Africa and South Asia). The Expo 2020 will run for a period of six months, starting from October 20, 2020 to April 10, 2021. It will focus on innovation and technological development. This year's theme is 'Connecting Minds, Creating the Future'. Expo 2020 Dubai will feature three sub-themes in three different areas: Opportunity, Mobility and Sustainability. Total 192 countries will highlight their history, heritage and culture, as well as give special importance to trade and investment. It is expected that around 25 million visitors will come in which only 30% from the UAE nationals and the rest of the 70% from other countries.

### Bangladesh Pavilion at a Glance:

The participation contract between Bangladesh and Expo authority had been signed on November 27, 2018. There will be different types of pavilions, for instance, self-built, rented, assisted, service, etc in Expo. This is the first time Bangladesh is going to rent two-story box type Rented Pavilion instead of Assisted Pavilion. The pavilion will be built by the organizer and client will design the interior and install exhibits in it. The pavilion identification number of Bangladesh is SR01 which is positioned in the sustainability district. The total exhibit area of the ground floor is 436.56 sqm in which 20% (around 87.31 sqm) areas can



An Artist's view Bangladesh pavillion

be used as commercial purposes. A Bangabandhu corner will be built in the exhibit area. In addition there will be cultural area, innovative product area, export-oriented product area, etc to showcase Bangladesh in a befitting way. The office, seminar rooms, B2B meeting rooms, etc will be placed on the 1st floor which is 382.57 sqm. Bangladesh has to pay USD 600,000 rent for six months. The position of the Bangladesh pavilion is indeed very strategic since it is situated very close to the host country pavilion and the Al Wasl Plaza which is heart of the Expo site.

### The Ticket Cost of Expo 2020:

In order to enter the venue, 1-day ticket price is AED 120 and a 3-day ticket is AED 260 per person. A person can discover country pavilions, sixty live shows a day, performances from world-famous artists, daily parades, future-shaping technologies, special celebrations and more than 200 F&B outlets serving a world of cuisines. Students, kids, youths, people of

determination and adults can avail Expo 2020 Dubai tickets ranging from free to 50% discount.

### Theme Statement of the Pavilion:

Bangladesh is going to participate in Expo 2020 Dubai with a theme of 'Indomitable Bangladesh: Towards Sustainable Development'. The key Pavilion objective is to showcase Bangladesh's inclusive development and sustainable economic growth through connecting minds of people. The 'Theme Statement' of Bangladesh had already been approved. The Theme Statement defines the overall theme and the general contents of the participant's pavilion, providing a general overview of the proposed strategy, thematic content, installations, and events. Bangladesh aims at utilizing Expo 2020 Dubai by showcasing its potential in human resources development, trade and investment opportunities, availability of competitive and skilled manpower, socio-economic progress, women empowerment, climate

resilience, success stories (cricket, RMG, literacy, MDGs achievement), Delta Plan, Vision 2021 & Vision 2041 and its firm commitment for ensuring global and regional peace and harmony. Bangladesh will attempt to display its long heritage, cultural, tourism potentials, particularly, world's longest sea beach, renowned archaeological places, people's connectivity, biodiversity, etc. The main messages that will be conveyed to the visitors are:

- Bangladesh's impressive socio-economic development through a combination of the dynamic and visionary leadership of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and his visionary daughter Sheikh Hasina, Honourable Prime Minister of Bangladesh;
- The success story in women empowerment led to significant changes in their lives and play a vital role in accelerating social development;
- Showcasing how Bangladesh transforms itself from an agrarian economy towards an export-led economy and turning its huge population into human resources.

## Special Events of Bangladesh:

Bangladesh will celebrate the birth centenary of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman around the globe from 17 March 2020 to 26 March 2021. Special initiatives will be taken to celebrate the birth centenary of Father of the Nation at the Bangladesh pavilion so that the visitors can know about Bangladesh and the history of the Liberation War of Bangladesh in 1971. It has been decided that 'Bangladesh Day' will be celebrated on 16 December 2020 with a vision to take Bangladesh towards prosperity with the spirit of Liberation War. In addition, Special Significant Day of Bangladesh will be observed on 21 February 2021 by honoring the heroic struggles and sacrifices of our martyrs for our mother tongue, Bangla. Bangladesh will also promote and celebrate linguistic and cultural diversity and to recognize and protect human rights of minorities and indigenous people. Bangladesh will participate in the 9 theme weeks based on Climate, Urban Development & Cities, Travel & Exploration, SDGs, Health & Wellness, Innovation, Agriculture & Livelihood Development, Women & Girls and Water

## Conclusion:

'Mujib Year' to be celebrated during Expo 2020 Dubai will feature seminars, workshops and discussions to showcase the life and ideals of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and his ever-inspiring leadership qualities. The FBCCI, BGMEA, BKMEA and other trade bodies such as Bangladesh Business Council will hold their programs. BIDA, BEZA, Bangladesh Hi-Tech Park Authority, and other related authorities will showcase Bangladesh as an attractive investment destination. The Export Promotion Bureau will also display Bangladesh's export products to potential importers from different countries. Various ministries/departments of the Bangladesh government will also showcase their achievements in Expo 2020 Dubai. In addition, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy will organize the cultural programs during the mega event. We aim to engage, excite and inform visitors about our sustainable socio-economic development along with other achievements so that international participants can crystallize meaningful insights about Bangladesh.

*(The writer is a Commercial Counsellor at Bangladesh Consulate General in Dubai.)*

# Biman boosts facilities, services

**B**iman has started operation of Boeing 787-900 Dreamliner to/from Bangladesh from 15 September, 2019. The main features of Dreamliner are calling facility using WiFi, 09 live TV Channel, Classic & Blockbuster movies, attractive video games, 3D flight map, Flat bed seat in business class and many many more. 45 kg baggage allowance on Dubai-Bangladesh route is also introduced in addition to existing 40, 20, nil baggage facility in economy class while 50kg is allowed in business class.

By the special courtesy of Bangladesh government and honourable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina Biman purchased more 2 Dreamliner 787-900 which will arrive Dhaka on 20 & 24 December instant. Premium economy

class will be introduced in these two aircrafts along with economy and business class as well. Be a guest of

Biman and enjoy Dreamliner service along with traditional Bangalee hospitality in the sky.



## BANGLADESH

# Rohingya crisis

By Muhammad Mizanur Rahman

The Rohingyas are an ethnic minority of Rakhine State of Myanmar. They are not a single race group; a melting pot by South Asian, Central Asian and Middle Eastern descent who started settling in Rakhine (former Arakan) State since 7-8th Century as traders, agriculturalist, crews, warriors, preachers, agro-labour, slaves and other professions.

The Rohingya dialect is different from any Bangladesh dialects (Chittagonian, Sylheti, Rangpuri or Bengali) and hardly linked with Bengali-Assamese root. They also speak Urdu and Burmese.

### Bangladesh Position

“Friendship to all, malice towards none”. Solution through discussion against the backdrop of good neighborhood relations. Bangladesh remained calm despite Myanmar provocations alongside the borders.

‘Zero tolerance’ policy on terrorism and violent extremism.

Ensuring humanitarian assistance in coordination with UN and other International Agencies.

\* Open Border for Rohingyas since August 2017.

\* GoB allocated 6,800+ acres (including forest area) land for temporary shelters

\* GoB ensures all sorts of humanitarian assistance including shelter, food, health, water and sanitation solely on humanitarian ground in coordination with humanitarian actors (NGOs, INGOs, UN) through unfettered access to them. National and international media have been given unhindered access.

\* GoB has shifted the vulnerable people to natural calamities including landslides, flood and storm in coordination with international partners.

\* Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner (RRRC) to coordinate humanitarian assistance to Rohingya.

\* Relevant UN agencies and international partners have been able to ensure only about 34% (\$319 million of the overall \$951 million as of August 2018) of



the assessed humanitarian assistance needed for the current year to ensure humanitarian assistance for such a huge number of people.

5 Points Recommendations proposed by Prime Minister of Bangladesh in the 72nd UNGA (Sept. 2017):

First: Myanmar must unconditionally stop the violence and the practice of ethnic cleansing in the Rakhine State immediately and forever.

Second: Secretary General of the United Nations should immediately send a Fact-Finding Mission to Myanmar.

Third: All civilians irrespective of religion and ethnicity must be protected in Myanmar. For that “safe zones” could be created inside Myanmar under UN supervision.

Fourth: Ensure sustainable return of all forcibly displaced Rohingyas in Bangladesh to their homes in Myanmar.

Fifth: The recommendations of Kofi Annan Commission Report must be immediately implemented unconditionally and in its entirety.

The Gambia has filed a case against Myanmar at the International Court of Justice (ICJ) for violating various provisions of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide by committing extensive atrocities against Rohingyas. On 10 December 2019, the ICJ has started a three-day hearing at its headquarters in the Hague, Netherlands on the case. It is the first international

legal attempt to bring Myanmar to justice over mass killings, physical torture, rape, arson, displacement, ethnic cleansing and other crimes against humanity. The people around the globe are eagerly waiting to see the initial outcome of the effort of the Gambia.

Rohingya crisis resulted from systematic disenfranchisement and brutal persecutions of this religious minority by the successive regimes in Myanmar. The crisis originated in Myanmar and the solution entirely lies there.

But Myanmar has failed to create conducive environment for repatriation. There is total lack of preparedness in ensuring a favourable environment on the part of Myanmar Government which has been reported by international organizations and media time and again.

In conclusion, Bangladesh is bearing the burden of a crisis which is Myanmar’s own making. It is an issue solely between Myanmar and its own people, the Rohingyas. They themselves have to resolve it. Voluntary return of the Rohingyas to their homes in the Rakhine state in safety, security and dignity is the only solution to the crisis. Bangladesh is committed to continue its engagement with Myanmar in cooperation of international community to make the repatriation of the Rohingyas happen.

*(The writer is Deputy Chief of Mission Embassy of Bangladesh in Abu Dhabi)*

# Set to serve expatriates

Bangladesh Association Dubai begins its journey to the commercial city of Dubai with a commitment to uplift the welfare of Bangladeshi expatriates and to meet the diverse needs of its community by providing out-standing services that promote social inclusion, bilateral trade and empower individuals. The primary aim is to assist the community members living in Dubai and provide them a wide range of services and facilities for recreational, social and economic well-being.

## MISSION

1. To establish association complex with sport facilities, gymnasium, library, multipurpose hall and community services.

2. Aims to establish a non-profit community school in Dubai.

3. Arrange skill development programme.

4. To establish facilities for Bangladesh Open University courses for Bengali expats in Dubai.

5. To facilitate participation of Bangladesh Business Community in various Expo events including Global Village in Dubai.

The convening committee of the Bangladesh Association Dubai was constituted with some enthusiastic, talented and patriotic community leaders in presence of His Excellency Consul General Mr. Md. Iqbal Hussain

Khan at Bangladesh Consulate General Dubai on 24th November 2019 in a pleasant atmosphere.

The 17-member committee was formed comprising of Prof. Abdur Sabur Choudhury as convener and Engineer Nesar Reza Khan as member secretary. The members of the convening committee are Sultan Mahmud, Kazi Mohammed Ali, Haji Shafiqul Islam, Maulana Fazlul Kabir Chowdhury, Ansarul Haque Ansar, Mir Ahmed, Md. Zulfiqar Usman, Harunur Rashid, Yaqub Sainik, Mujibur Rahman Tutu Miah, Md. Nazrul Islam, Enamul Haque Chowdhury, Eng. Firoj Ahmed, Kazi Osman, Mazhar Ullah Miah.

## List of Convener Committee



**Prof. Abdus Sabur Chowdhury**  
Convener



**Eng Nesar Reza Khan**  
Member Secretary



**Sultan Mahmud**  
Member



**Kazi Mohammed Ali**  
Member



**Haji Shafiqul Islam**  
Member



**Mawlana Fazlul Kabir Chowdhury**  
Member



**Ansarul Haque Ansar**  
Member



**Mir Ahmed**  
Member



**Md. Zulfiqar Osman**  
Member



**Harunur Rashid**  
Member



**Yaqub Sainik**  
Member



**Mujibur Rahman Tutu Miah**  
Member



**Md. Nazrul Islam**  
Member



**Enamul Haque Chowdhury**  
Member



**Eng. Firoj Ahmed**  
Member



**Kazi Osman**  
Member



**Mazhar Ullah Miah**  
Member

## BANGLADESH

# School with a difference

By Md. Habibur Rahman

As a spinoff following the establishment of Bangladesh Social and Cultural Center, Ras Al Khaimah in 1986, the Bangladesh Islamia School was set up in the Emirate of Ras Al Khaimah in 1991 as the only Bangladeshi community educational institution in Dubai and Northern Emirates.

Initially, the school was opened at the Bangladesh Social and Cultural Centre. In 1992 it received approval from the



**Md. Habibur Rahman**  
Principal

Bangladesh English Private School & College, RAK

Ministry of Education of the UAE as Bangladesh Islamia School.

At the very beginning the school started as the Quran ilm (knowledge) Centre (Ebtadia) to teach the Holy Quran to the Bangladeshi students.

The center received donation of 37,000 sqft. of land from HH the Ruler of Ras-Al-Khaimah, Sheikh Saqr Bin Mohammed Al Qasimi, that provided the foundation and firm basis for the setting up of an appropriate school building. The magnanimity of the HH the Ruler and the support of Bangladesh expatriate



community provided the foundation for the school's functioning for the future generations.

The school was formally inaugurated by HE Ahmed Fariduddin Chowdury, the then Ambassador of Bangladesh to the UAE. As a result of unified and consolidated assistance from all sections of the community, the school was set up in the donated land and finally got the status of a full-pledged institution.

Initially, it was allowed to provide education to the Bangladeshi children up to grade V, both in the Arabic and English language streams. Furthermore, subsequently it received an additional piece of land from HH Saqr Bin-Mohammed Al-Qasimi, the Ruler of Ras Al Khaimah..

The school later received affiliation from the Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education, Dhaka, Bangladesh, in 2000. It then began its participation in all concerned public exams such as P.E.C.E, J.S.C, S.S.C. and H.S.C.

In 2012 the school was upgraded to grade 12 or H.S.C. level. The school was renamed as Bangladesh English Pvt. School and registered with the Ministry of Education, UAE in 2015.



**Md. Taj Uddin**  
Acting President

Bangladesh English Private School & College, RAK

The School however now faces a threat of closing its facilities and functions due to the demand and ultimatum by the Ministry of Education, UAE, to transfer its activities to a full-fledged modern building (Basement + G + 3) containing all facilities as per the required mandatory standards of the UAE.

In February 2019, following the official visit of Bangladesh Expatriate Welfare Minister H.E. Mr. Imran Ahmed and Her Excellency Sheikh Hasina, Honourable Prime Minister of Bangladesh, to the UAE there is renewed hope for



expatriates living in Dubai and Northern Emirates to have new school building for the school.

Therefore now, the reformation and construction works have been going on in full swing with the direct supervision and advice of Bangladesh Consulate General, Dubai and full co-operation from the Embassy of Bangladesh, Abu Dhabi. By this time it has been proposed to rename the school as Bangbandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Centennial School, Ras Al Khaimah.

A new contract on this purpose has also been signed in the mean time between the school and the RAKEZ



Laboratory -1; Class Rooms -26; Office Rooms - 04; Staff Rooms- 2 (Male/ Female); Clinic -1; Store Room -1; Bus / Vehicles -08;

### Accomplishments in Public Exams

P.E.C.E. - 100%; J.S.C. - 100%; S.S.C. - 100%; H.S.C. - 100%.

Meanwhile, Mr. Taj Uddin, Acting President of Bangladesh Social and Cultural Center of RAK and Bangladesh English Pvt. School said that the organisations have jointly come up to its journey by providing their contributory services in their respective fields since

(Ras Al Khaimah Economic Zone), the influential Government Authority. A plot of 87,481 square feet land has been brought for 50 years of lease under the agreement.

Thus the people, pupils, guardians, teachers, and members all expatriates living in RAK have found their aspiration and commitment to run the school accordingly and continue its education journey to the mission of the school and that of the vision keeping up with the national nation.

It is a view expressed by Mohammed Habibur Rahman, the Principal of the Bangladesh English Private School and College in Ras Al Khaimah, UAE. "We are here to vindicate the trust reposed in our efforts and capabilities and provide the finest quality education to students of this venerated academic institution," he affirmed.

### School at a glance:



Established for Nursery and Primary Classes- 1991; Junior Level- 1996; Secondary Level - 1999; Higher Secondary Level - 2012; Number of Students: More than 600; Number of Teachers: 42; Number of Staff: 10; Administrative Staff: 07; Meeting Room -1; Exam Hall -1; Stage -1; Canteen -1; Computer Laboratory -1; Science

its inception. Bangladesh School and Cultural Center unitedly try to up hold the identity and status of Bangladeshi Nationals along with their traditional heritage.

He, on behalf of the school and cultural center greets to all community members a happy 49th Victory Day.

# DISTINGUISHED DONORS

Distinguished community members who donated for the proposed Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman centennial school Ras Al Khaimah

01		<b>Mr. Mohammed Akter Hossain</b> Donated Amount: 1,00,000.00 Dhs.	02		<b>Mr. Mohd. Asik Miah</b> Donated Amount: 50,000.00 Dhs.
03		<b>Mohammed Raja Mallik</b> Donated Amount: 25,000.00 Dhs.	04		<b>Mr. Mohammed Shahadat Hossain</b> Donated Amount: 20,000.00 Dhs.
05		<b>Mr. Md. Abdul Hakim</b> Donated Amount: 20,000.00 Dhs.	06		<b>Mr. Mohammad Abu Jafar Chowdhury</b> Donated Amount: 11,000.00 Dhs.
07		<b>Mr. Mohammad Ali Reza Khan</b> Donated Amount: 10,000.00 Dhs.	08		<b>Mr. Abdus Sabur Chowdhury</b> Donated Amount: 10,000.00 Dhs.
09		<b>Mr. Md. Abdul Alim</b> Donated Amount: 10,000.00 Dhs.	10		<b>Mr. Md. Zillur Rahman</b> Donated Amount: 10,000.00 Dhs.
11		<b>Mr. Mohammed Zoshim Uddin</b> Donated Amount: 10,000.00 Dhs.	12		<b>Mr. Mohammed Arshad Hossain</b> Donated Amount: 10,000.00 Dhs.
13		<b>Mr. Lion Nazrul</b> Donated Amount: 10,000.00 Dhs.	14		<b>Mr. Ahmed Ali</b> Donated Amount: 10,000.00 Dhs.
15		<b>Mr. Md. Mozharullah Miah</b> Donated Amount: 10,000.00 Dhs.	16		<b>Mr. Jagir Hossain Chowdhury</b> Donated Amount: 10,000.00 Dhs.
17		<b>Mr. Shafiqul Islam</b> Donated Amount: 5,000.00 Dhs.	18		<b>Mr. Mohammed Mahamudul Hasan</b> Donated Amount: 5,000.00 Dhs.

# Spreading community wings

The Father of liberated Bangladesh and the nations' First President and later Prime Minister, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, made intense efforts to establish a great country since its founding and introduction of Bangladesh to the world in 1971. He also endeavoured to maintain cordial bilateral ties by the newly established nation with all countries of the world.

After one such initiative of Bangabandhu, following his visit to the UAE, was the establishment of the Bangladesh Association. With special permission and following protocol, the Bangladesh Association was registered in 1974 as a Social Benefit Organization by the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs under Federal Act No. 1/1972 and 6/1974.

## Mission & Vision

The Bangladesh Association Sharjah (BAS) aims to meet the diverse needs of the local community by providing outstanding services that promote social inclusion, bilateral trade and empower individuals.

The primary aim is to provide and assist in the provision of a wide range of services and facilities for recreational, social and economic well-being of the Bangladeshi community residing in the Northern Emirates of UAE.



The Bangladesh Association Sharjah (BAS) is committed to strengthening relations between the Emirati and Bangladeshi communities. Through concerted consistent efforts, it strives to highlight the best of the culture and heritage of Bangladesh whilst uplifting the image of Bangladesh and the Bangladeshi community in the UAE.

It seeks to establish business networking amongst Bangladeshi entrepreneurs in UAE and provide the recreational needs of community by organizing sports and other cultural and social activities.



The Association works in partnership with other organizations to pursue common objectives that are mutually beneficial to both countries. It advocates providing personality development and skill enhancement for the Bangladeshi workforce in the UAE.

It also provides academic and research capabilities, intended to study and evaluate the needs of the resident community and learning from their diversity. It also upholds best practices, ethical values and taking accountability for one's actions.



# BANGLADESH



## Bangladesh Association Sharjah - UAE

### Goals and Objectives

BAS seeks to expand and grow the services it provides and has identified specific areas where there is lack of opportunities. BAS pledges to work closely with youth to provide them with special skills and core competencies.

It also promotes outreach work to engage with young people to encourage enrichment activities through sports and leisure activities, including visits across the UAE to raise cultural, social awareness and promote the Bangladeshi heritage.

BAS has pledged to arrange a lease

for land and construction of a new Association building complex with all facilities by 2020. It also wishes to set up Bangladeshi Community schools in Dubai, Sharjah and Ajman by next year.

It also plans to establish a community based University of Medical, Engineering and Technology. Another of the key objectives is to arrange the celebration of 100th Birth Anniversary of the Father of the Nation—Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in 2020.

Also on the agenda are plans to celebrate Bangladesh's Golden Jubilee—the 50th Anniversary of Independence of Bangladesh in 2021.

It has also successfully advocated for the participation of Bangladesh in the forthcoming landmark Expo 2020. It is also confident of the establishment of the Bangladesh Trade Centre in Sharjah.

BAS also arranged the successful participation of Bangladesh in the Global Village in October 2020. It will also work closely with the trade community to strengthen and consolidate the Bangladesh Business Council and seek fund-raising and enable the construction of new buildings for the Bangladesh English Private School in Ras Al Khaimah.



# Enlightened House in Fujairah

It's a story of a noble initiative that formed with the guidance and support of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman (The Founder of Bangladesh), which has never ended hereafter and is continuing hand to hand with the upcoming generations to promote, share and presenting the values and rich cultural heritage of Bangladesh and to be a support for Bangladeshi citizens living in UAE. Program such as conducting cultural activities with the Bangladeshis making them feel how beautiful our culture is, having a community gathering with friends and families.

It was the desire of Bangladesh expatriates to organize and cohere the country's diaspora and also promote the country's traditions and historic ideals.

The mission is to realize social and



culture by collaboration with the local people and create a strong bonding between our community people and local people.

Taking initiative to pass the



cultural aspirations of Non-resident Bangladeshi community working in UAE thereby integrating with UAE society and facilitate in social, educational and economic welfare and promote our country together with countrymen in the United Arab Emirates.

Creating opportunity for Bangladeshis in UAE to keep themselves familiar with the contemporary situation and developments in Bangladesh.

Promoting opportunities of foreign investment and tourism in Bangladesh by advertising or presentations. To share

information widely or giving a flavour of Bangladesh or showing up the image of the Bangladesh to the young generation those who are Non-resident Bangladeshi.

Sports events have recently been increasingly popular. It is proven not only by the growing number of visitors of sports events but also many are attracted by sport indirectly. Organizing sports events with a mission to promote increased social participation for people with intellectual disabilities and to



create a more inclusive society. The sport events were remarkable and a place where we can find out many talented sports persons showing up their talents.

### Bangla New Year (PohelaBoishak)

Bangladeshi expats in the UAE celebrated the Bangla New Year, 1425, with colorful events on Friday. The Bangla New Year fell on April 14, a working day, and hence the event was marked on Friday.

The Fujairah event was organized by the Bangladesh Embassy, UAE. Dance programmes, skits and musical performances by students' highlighted national culture and tradition. Bangladesh Ambassador to the UAE, H.E. Dr. Muhammad Imran, remarked on the special occasion, "There are many children who haven't even seen Bangladesh. We wanted to create an environment similar to our nation. All the events held are similar to those followed in Bangladesh. "There was a food festival, which was actually a competition and all stuff was prepared by the women," the Ambassador added.

# BANGLADESH



National days of both countries are celebrated together with Bangladeshis as well as UAE nationals. Drawing competitions and interesting games are



organized for the kids; gifts are given to all the participants. Bangladeshi expatriates began three days of activities yesterday to pay respect to their country's founding father Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on the occasion of National Mourning Day. The main activities centered on the country's two diplomatic missions in the UAE. Blood donation program were also held. During this day donations are also provided for helpless children's and

families who face problems by paying the expense for studies.

Passport & consulate service at Association Premises

It provides consultancy and help to the people of Bangladesh and also provide passport services.

Also takes certain initiative for the business persons who need help to

Immigration directors along with Bangladesh Association Fujairah

Gathering with Local community for knowledge sharing

Above all, the addressed benefits and activities are offered only by Bangladesh Association Fujairah Branch to the people living in here. We have set up a mission and vision which is to improve



grow up their business at a good level.

(Initiative for business forum)

His Excellency Consul General Meeting with East Coast Emirates

the lives of the people of Bangladesh-origin living in UAE, by inspiring their mind and spirit to create a sense of pride in maintaining an unique Bangladeshi identity here in the UAE, by projecting the rich culture and heritage of Bangladesh to our young generation in particular and by fostering social and cultural awareness among the Bangladeshi community in general, promoting mutual understanding, goodwill and co-operation among the citizens of Bangladesh living in UAE.



# Pride, dignity in victory

By Md. Abbas Uddin



The 16th of December, Our Victory Day, is the most glorious day of Bangladesh that makes us proud, spirited and reminds us to hold our head high and cherish our values as the Bangladesh nation.

For the people of Bangladesh, December 16th holds great significance that cannot be described in mere words. People made their utmost sacrifices to make us emerge victorious against the autocratic Pakistan regime.

It is the most memorable day in the history of our country. After the nine months of long struggles, the Pakistani armies were compelled to leave our dear motherland on this day in 1971.

We remember the supreme sacrifice of the patriotic, heroic sons who laid down their lives for the country.

## Architect of modern Bangladesh

The Father of the Nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, is the architect of independent Bangladesh. He is the greatest Bangladeshi in the past thousand years.

We owe everything to his charismatic leadership for making us a free nation. Since Bangabandhu who led from the front in the Language Movement in 1952 and the Six-Point Movement in 1966 spearheaded by Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, which called for greater autonomy for East Pakistan.

Bangabandhu had the support of all Bangladeshis but the then Pakistani rulers instead of handing over the

power to the majority party of the Bangabandhu led Awami League, they launched repressive measures against our countrymen.

Bangabandhu in his March 7th



**Md. Abbas Uddin**

President

Dibba, Bangladesh Expatriate Social Welfare Association

historic address at the Racecourse Maidan declared: "The struggle of this time is for freedom, the struggle for this time for our independence." He instructed the Bangladesh nation to resist the enemies.

The barbaric Pakistani army launched a heinous attack on people in Dhaka on March 25 in 1971. The next day, on March 26, our independence was declared and our Liberation War began.

## Military victory

After nine months of fighting by our valiant freedom fighters, with the help of Indian armed forces, we defeated the Pakistan army.

The new nation of Bangladesh was born. It was a great triumph against a brutal occupying force that had unleashed a reign of terror, killing nearly 3 million Bangladeshis during the 9-month war.

We pay our deepest tribute to the greatest Bangladeshi of all time, the Father of the Nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, under whose undisputed leadership, we earned our beloved independence, through the sacrifice of the 3 million martyrs and 200,000 women who lost their innocence in the war of liberation, the four national leaders who led the war of liberation.

We also recall with gratitude to our foreign friends who had extended their whole-hearted support and cooperation for the cause of our liberation.

I convey my heartiest greetings and congratulations to my countrymen as well as all expatriate Bangladeshis on the Victory Day.

Meanwhile, Md. Belal Ahmed, founding executive member of Dibba Welfare Society, said: "The 16<sup>th</sup> December is the red letter day in the history of Bangladesh. It is the day when long cherished freedom came into real." He said: "The day has a great importance in our national life. Now we are the citizens of a free country. The day is a great inspiration to all of us. It encourages us to move forward."

# Boost in community bond

By Sazzad Hossain

The occasion of the auspicious 49th Victory Day, 16 December, is fondly remembered as an important day when the country was liberated from the Pakistani occupation forces after a nine-month-long war of liberation.

On this day in 1971, a country called Bangladesh worldwide earned its identity as a sovereign country by battling out erstwhile West-Pakistan.



**Sazzad Hossain**  
General Secretary

Dibba, Bangladesh Expatriate Social Welfare Association

The Victory Day of Bangladesh is a symbol of the immense victory of good against evil. It is a celebration of the right against wrong. Every fighter who sacrificed his or her life for the freedom of the country will forever stay in the hearts of the people.

The Association conveys its heartiest greetings and congratulations to fellow countrymen as well as all the expatriate Bangladeshi living abroad on this day.

The Bangladesh Expatriate Social Welfare Association, Dibba, is a non-political and social welfare organization. It was established in 2004 under the guidance and support of the His Excellency Consul General Kamrul Ahsan.

The Association also acknowledges its gratefulness to the His Excellency Consul General Abu Zafar for his enormous support and encouragement.

The Association is also thankful to the Honourable Consulate General Iqbal Hussain Khan for his valuable advice and generous supports to the Association over the years. The Association also thanks all involved for the continuous support of consulate officials and other staffs for their supports and assistance.

The association was established with the intent to perform welfare work and helping Bangladeshi expatriates in their time of need. At the very outset, the Association has endeavoured to help the members and non-members expatriates to assist them with our services and efforts.

The dedicated and hardworking members of the association are bound and defined by patriotism. The purpose is to assist the Bangladeshi expatriates in their difficulties, raising awareness and identifying areas where there is a lack of opportunity.

It also promotes outreach work to engage with expatriates and young to encourage activities, to raise cultural, social awareness and promote the

### Some of the services/supports the association has provided to date are:

- 1) Raised and sent funds to help the sufferers and victims of the cyclone Sidor.
- 2) Financially supported and assisted to repatriate 14 dead bodies to Bangladesh.
- 3) Supported at least 13 wounded expatriates who met accidents. Assisted them in their medical expenses while in hospital.
- 4) The Association has made financial support for emergency primary medical treatment to around 90 expatriates.
- 5) The Association has also made financial help available to many helpless, poor and needy students to continue to their studies.
- 6) The Association is always active to represent our historical and cultural values to the new generation of Bangladeshi expatriate born in UAE. Each year the Association observes historical days such as the Independence Day, Victory Day, Martyrs Day, Language Day and other national events by organizing events/related programmes.
- 7) The Association organizes various kinds of events like holding discussion meetings, Cultural programmes, sports events on the eve of our national events.

Bangladeshi heritage.

The active and dedicated members of the Association are very cordial and work wholeheartedly to improve the quality of life and thus help to boost the image of the country. The Association is committed to providing assistance to expatriates in need.

The Bangladesh Expatriate Social Welfare Association, Dibba, thanks all who have extended their support and assistance over the years and wishes to receive the same to make the Association stronger to serve the well-being of Bangladeshi expatriates.



The executive committee of Dibba Probashi Bangladesh Somaj Kallan Samiti consist of President Md.Abbas Uddin and General Secretary Sazzad Hossain. The other executive members of the committee are Hazi Amin Ali, Mutaleb Hossain (Raton), Mohammed Solaiman, Md. Abdul Hamid, Kamor Uddin (Ayub), Md. Moboi Miah, Redowan Ahmed, Md. Belal Ahmed, Kabir Ahmed, Syed Shamsul Haque, Mahfuzur Rahman Babul, Md. Luthfur Rahman Paki

# Reflection of rich culture

By Gulshan Ara

The Youth Bangla Cultural Forum (YBCF) UAE chapter hosted its second and key celebratory event, the Joy Bangla Utshob, a festival celebrating Bangladesh history, culture, legacy and heritage at the auditorium of the American University in Sharjah (AUS) on 6 December 2019.

The evening was filled with poetry, music and dance in collaboration with the YBCF Bangladesh Chapter and the American University in Sharjah—AUS Bangladesh Cultural Club.

YBCF is a non-profit body, established to commemorate the cultural accomplishments of culture-rich Bangladesh. Expanding globally, the UAE forum was convened by Kazi Gulshan Ara (Retired Lieutenant, Bangladesh Army) The organizing committee of Joy Bangla Utshob was led by Ahmed Pavel and Alma Akbar.

'Joy Bangla' or 'Victory to Bangla', the slogan chanted which has since become



Artist's performing during the show

the rallying cry since the war of independence in 1971, continues to emote and typify the undying spirit of libera-

tion and unity of the nation and is the trigger for the ethos and fortitude of the country.



A partial view of the audience

With a focus to promote awareness to the community, especially among the younger generation, YBCF's event also served as the platform to talk about social, cultural and economic growth of Bangladesh. Topics included ancient Bangladesh history, stories of the liberation, war heroes, folklore and economic achievements.

Bangladesh Ambassador Dr. Muhammed Imran, Consul General Iqbal Hussain Khan, Chancellor of AUS, Kevin Mitchell, and YBCF Bangladesh President Muna Chowdhury attended the event. The five hour successful event saw over 1000 guests entertained by artists locally residing in the UAE and from Bangladesh including a special performance by YBCF Bangladesh Vice President, singer and musician SI Tutul.

# Maritime tourism prospects

By Mohammad Rafiqul Amin

**Introduction.** In the perspective of tourism prospects, Bangladesh is known as the unexplored gem of Asia. It is a blessed country having approximately 700 km long coastline with almost 118,813 sq. km of maritime area. Therefore, Bangladesh has all the potentialities to explore, excel and maintain its ongoing economic growth as seas and oceans are the main drivers of blue economy. For Bangladesh, utilizing the treasures of marine resources would be a great step forward in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The SDGs are the anthology of a comprehensive roadmap for transforming the world to achieve better and more sustainable future for all. Spearheaded by United Nations (UN), all the member countries are striving to achieve 17 goals, 169 targets and around 230 indicators by 2030, making optimum use of resources without undermining the integrity and stability of eco-system. Bangladesh is no exception. The government has taken a pragmatic and holistic approach to achieve the SDGs. The roadmap related to SDGs has given due importance on sustainable use of maritime resources. One of the elements of using marine resources is to explore



*A view of the Marine Drive near Cox-Bazar sea beach*

the potentials of Maritime Tourism of our sea and ocean areas. 'Maritime Tourism refers to sea-based activities such as boating, yachting, cruising, nautical sports, etc. including their land-based services. Bangladesh has a booming prospect in Maritime Tourism which is still almost a virgin sector and has huge scope to be explored.

**Maritime Tourism and Blue Economy In Light of SDGs.** The sustainable utilization of sea/ocean resources can be a great instrument for ensuring food

security, alleviating poverty, creating jobs, improving nutrition & health and generating alternative eco-friendly energy while protecting the biodiversity and ecosystem. Few goals of SDGs – like Goal-14 (Life below Water), Goal-13 (Climate Action), Goal-1 (No Poverty), Goal-2 (Zero Hunger), etc. are directly related to Maritime Tourism and Blue Economic development. On the other hand, few other goals are indirectly involved with Maritime Economic activities, such as; Goal-12 (Responsible Consumption and Production), Goal-8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), Goal-7 (Affordable and Clean Energy), Goal-6 (Clean Water and Sanitation) and Goal-15 (Life on land). We are determined to achieve middle-income country status by 2021. In doing so, we are to give due attention to maximize the utilization of our marine resources. Initiating 'maritime tourism' activities may be one of the schemes that we must undertake. However, all our future projects related to maritime tourism should be sustainable. The three elements of sustainability are: the society, economy and environment. So, we have to take all-out effort to make sure that there remains a balance in economic progression without undermining the social values and natural integrity. We must never undertake any project that is detrimental to biodiversity and ecosystem of the coastal and maritime environment.



## Potential Maritime and Coastal Tourism Activities.

The Bay of Bengal has the potentials to emerge as a hotspot for the maritime tourism activities. The sea cruise to neighbouring countries, surfing, shallow & deep water diving, dolphin watching, and cruise through 'Swatch of no Ground' can be life time experience for domestic and inbound tourists. There are many points in the Bay of Bengal that can be developed as divers' paradise. In the recent days, the water adventure events like water jet skiing, rowing, yachting/sailing, hydro water sports, parasailing, paragliding, offshore game fishing, blue water fishing, underwater video & photography etc are getting very popular. The Bay of Bengal has every potential to provide such facilities to the tourists from all over the globe. We can also blend the maritime tourism activities with coastal tourism event to create more value and attractions. Coastal Tourism refers to shore-based tourism activities including swimming, kayaking, surfing, sun-bathing, triathlon and other coastal recreational activities taking place on the coastal areas. For tourists, a trip to Sundarbans – the world's largest mangrove forest and UNESCO World Heritage Site would be an unforgettable experience. Kuakata – the 'daughter of the sea' has immense potential to attract the tourists. Trip through Cox's Bazar Marine Drive, Helicopter tour over coastal islands or Ultra-light flight glider trip over our sea beaches might be wonderful adventure experience. We can also develop the Meghna River estuary as a wonderful water-based tourism destination. Besides maritime and coastal tourism activities, the tourists may enjoy the land base facilities including playing



golf. Bangladesh is being introduced as golfers' haven. Nowhere in the world is the golfing so affordable with the abundance of facilities as Bangladesh offers to the golf tourists. The Ramu Golf Club (Cox Bazar), Bhatiary Golf & Country Club (Chittagong), KEPZ Golf Club (Chittagong), Shaheen Golf Club (adjacent to Chittagong Airport), Mainamati Golf & Country Club (Comilla), Jessore Golf & Country Club (Khulna Division) etc shore-based golfing facilities, may be considered as additional attractions for maritime tourists.

## Network of Coastal Islands of Bangladesh.

Bangladesh has a cluster of almost forty (40) islands in the Bay Bengal and Meghna Estuary. The coastal islands of Bangladesh are the invaluable treasures for our coastal and maritime tourism in the days to come. Among many, few islands like - Nizum Dwip, Sandwip, Bhola, Hatia, Rangabali, St Martin's Island, Urirchar, Nilkamal, Manpura, Dublar Char, Dhal Char, Sonadia, Kutubdia, Moheshkhali etc are worth mentioning

that have huge tourism prospect and can make a big change in our tourism sector and economic development. The islands can be transformed into new tourism destinations by developing modern tourism infrastructures, adventure facilities, air and maritime connectivity and making a network of maritime tourism hubs.

## Collaboration with BSMRMU and Institutions.

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Maritime University, Bangladesh (BSMRMU) can be the hub of maritime related education and research for the development of marine tourism and creating skilled manpower for this prospective sector. BSMRMU is the 3rd Maritime University in South Asia and the 12th University in the world imbued with the motto – 'We Strive for Maritime Excellence'. In addition to BSMRMU, other almost 15 universities (including University of Dhaka) and many colleges and institutions are providing education on tourism and hospitality management. Those institutions should incorporate 'Maritime Tourism' in their curricula to create skilled workforce for our potential maritime tourism sector. Special and immediate training should be given to create experts related to 'Cruise Tourism' as it is the fastest-growing sector in the leisure tourism industry. We must have training collaboration and students exchange program with other countries that have excelled in maritime tourism.

## Creating Synergy Among Stakeholders.

Developing maritime tourism is a mammoth task. It needs the involvement of many ministries,



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departments and organizations. The Ministry of Tourism should take the lead role in formulating and implementing the master plan on maritime tourism, while other stakeholders will remain equally involved in their respective domains to build infrastructure and promote maritime tourism. Inclusion of Bangladesh Navy and Coast Guard would be a unique idea for getting their constant support in operations of maritime tourism. After winning the maritime boundary with Myanmar and India, their role in safeguarding our economic interest and marine resources has become even more evident. So, their expertise and knowledge may be utilized for developing our maritime tourism. Bangladesh Navy also has a good number of deep sea divers who are highly trained at home and abroad. They may be utilized for building our diving facilities and other maritime activities in the sea. On the other hand, Bangladesh Coast Guard is also experienced in coastal water activities. The tourism ministry may avail the technical support from Bangladesh Coast Guard in developing Coastal tourism including making Sundarbans a safe and vibrant tourist spot for the entire world.

**Infrastructural Facilities and Investment Prospects.** To materialize our aspiration of becoming a maritime tourism hub in Asia, we must formulate a Maritime Tourism Master Plan. In addition to government initiatives, there is also a huge scope of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and Public Private Partnerships



(PPPs) for building infrastructural facilities. Bangladesh has appeared as a popular investment destination due to ease of business, low cost of workforce, tax holiday packages and other lucrative incentives. Maritime Tourism is still an untapped sector that has tremendous potentials to emerge as a major contributor in our national economy. The Bay of Bengal is one of the largest bays among more than 60 bays in the world. Approximately 1.4 billion people live along its coastline in Bangladesh, India, Myanmar and Thailand. It is very likely that Bangladesh maritime tourism market will flourish shortly, not only for domestic tourists, but also for tourists from this region and eventually for the entire globe. Therefore, it is the primetime for the local

and foreign investors to be pioneers and gain the maximum benefit of investment before it becomes too competitive.

**Conclusion.** After winning the maritime boundary with both neighbouring countries – Myanmar and India, our government is now focusing to strengthen our blue economy and undertaking mega projects for infrastructural development. The maritime tourism development initiative can also be launched simultaneously. Development of Maritime Tourism will be a major element of our blue economy. It will also create huge and diversified job opportunities. That's how Maritime Tourism can play a pivotal role in achieving SDGs. However, our development projects related to maritime Tourism have to be undertaken giving due care to the fragile nature of ecosystem and maritime biodiversity. We always must have the firm conviction that – 'we do not inherit the Earth from our ancestors; we borrow it from our children'. Therefore the economic development through maritime tourism should be conforming to the environmental integration and socio-economic equilibrium. Surely, Bangladesh is the next potential destination for Maritime Tourism.

#### About Writer

Mohammad Rafiqul Amin is a First Secretary (Education, Culture & Tourism) at the Consulate General of Bangladesh in Dubai, UAE. He is a business graduate from Department of Tourism & Hospitality Management, University of Dhaka. He was also an adjunct faculty at the same department. He is a tourism enthusiast and passionate golf traveller. He may be reached at: rafiq.etc@mofa.gov.bd



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sacrificed their lives for the liberation of the  
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**of Bangladesh**  
**to all our countrymen and the UAE**

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