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**Country Editor** Md. Imam Hossain (Bangladesh)

#### **Editorial Message**

A.K.M. Enayet Kabir, often hailed as the "Book's Man," embodies the essence of intellectual pursuit and the sanctity of knowledge. His life's journey, from a successful corporate career to becoming a dedicated social worker, demonstrates a relentless commitment to acquiring and sharing knowledge. Unlike many who chase material wealth, Kabir has chosen to invest in the priceless treasure of learning, collecting over 10,000 books, magazines, and research materials, creating a vast personal library that aims to inspire future generations.

Kabir's transformation from a high-paying multinational job to focusing on community welfare and knowledge preservation stands as a beacon for young people today. He firmly believes that the real treasure lies not in material possessions but in the value of education, character, and service. His library, which he envisions as a Knowledge Bank for society, signifies his dedication to ensuring that knowledge is accessible for all, fostering a society grounded in wisdom and integrity.

Through his work, Kabir has shown us that intellectual growth and social service are interlinked. His unwavering commitment to spiritual, intellectual, and community development makes him an ascetic of knowledge—one who elevates society through the dissemination of wisdom, not through wealth or status.



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# A.K.M. ENAYET KABIR A Freelance Writer, Columnist & Photographer

The Busy Bee of Bangladesh: The Life and Legacy of A.K.M. Enayet Kabir



The story of A.K.M. Enayet Kabir does not begin with a cry, but with a hum. On Friday, the 4th of January, 1952, in the bustling inland port city of Narayanganj, just as the noon call for Jumma prayer was about to echo through the streets, a son was born into the educated Muslim family of Circle Officer Md. Ali Akbar Khan and his wife, Mohsina Akbar. The father, returning from Friday/Jumma prayer, found his path to the first-floor residence mysteriously

blocked. The doorway through which he had left just two hours prior was now enveloped in a living, swirling cloud—a massive swarm of bees had chosen that precise moment to build a honeycomb upon its frame.

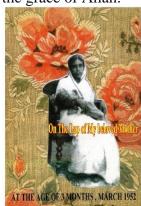
Before the newborn Kabir could be introduced to the worldly sounds of celebration, his parents performed a singular, symbolic act. They fed him a taste of honey from the very comb crafted on the door on his day of birth. This extraordinary omen, a natural miracle that baffled relatives and friends alike, would become the defining metaphor of his life. He often reflected that while the Almighty's precise message remained a mystery, he was undoubtedly blessed with a spirit that kept him, like a bee, ceaselessly busy, productive, and dedicated to the collective good from his adolescence onward.

## Roots and Wings: The Foundation of a Family

Kabir's character was sculpted by the values of his parents. His father, Ali Akbar Khan, a man of unwavering honesty and simplicity, hailed from the village of Gouripasha in Jhalakathi. A dedicated civil servant during the East Pakistan period, he served as the Head of the Survey Division of Housing & Settlement Deptt. in the Ministry of Housing. His greatest priority, however, was the education of his five children. Kabir was the only son, bookended by four brilliant sisters—two elder and two youngers. In a testament to their father's commitment, all four sisters earned their Master's degrees from the University of Dhaka, a remarkable achievement for the era.

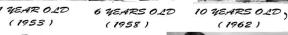
His mother, Mohsina Akbar, was a force of intellect and grace in her own right. A social worker, a poet, and an author of two books—a collection of poems titled "Sritir Abarte" and a religious work, "Muktir Anneshaye"—she instilled in him a deep love for knowledge and faith. Hailing from the esteemed "Khondoker

family of Goaldi" in Faridpur, she embodied a blend of cultural refinement and spiritual devotion, a devotion manifested in her performing the Hajj pilgrimage five times by the grace of Allah.











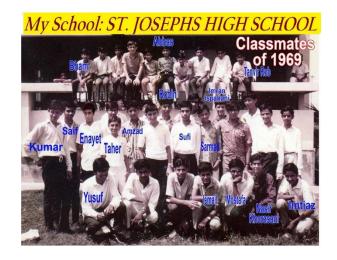
AT THE AGE OF 16 (1968)

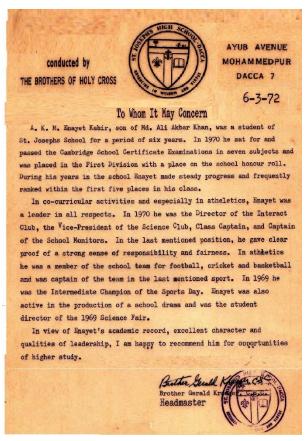
This environment provided Kabir with a unique upbringing. He was, by his own admission, "silver-spoon-fed" with opportunities, the sole son in a family that prized learning above all else. He was one of the few Bengali boys in erstwhile East Pakistan to receive a premier Western-style, English-medium education. His academic journey began at Dawn School in

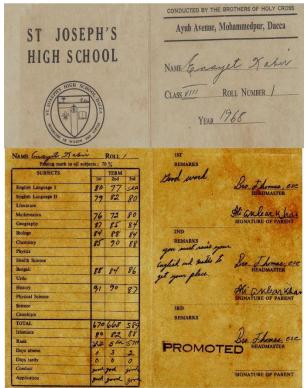
Shanti Nagar, continued through Wills Little Flower School in Kakrail, and culminated at the prestigious St. Joseph's High School in Dhaka, where he passed the Senior Cambridge (GCE) examination in 1970. He completed his Higher School Certificate (HSC) at Notre Dame College in 1972 and went on to major in Public Administration at the University of Dhaka, earning a BSS (Hons) in 1976 and an MSS in 1978.

## The Forging of a Worldview: School, War, and Principle:

His school life presented his first great challenge in social navigation. At St. Joseph's, the son of a government officer found himself among the scions of the wealthiest industrial families in Pakistan, who vacationed in Europe and arrived at school in chauffeur-driven cars. Yet, in the afternoons, he would play with equal fervor with the sons of clerks and milkmen in his neighborhood of Shahjahanpur. This early exposure to stark social dichotomies taught him a profound lesson: that intelligence, commitment, and friendship were not the sole domains of any social class. He learned to value people for their character, not their status.





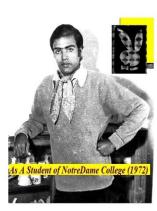


Rather than be cowed by the disparity in wealth, he focused on excelling in his own

right. He became the class captain for games, an individual champion in annual sports, and consistently ranked among the top five academically. He cultivated an insatiable appetite for general knowledge, memorizing world atlases and immersing himself in history, politics, and philosophy, avoiding fiction in favor of factual depth. By 1970, he had emerged as a leader, culminating in his role as Head Monitor of the school, Captain of school Basketball + Football & Cricket teams.

The tumultuous period of the Liberation War of 1971 was a time of deep introspection for the young Kabir. While his family chose to remain in Dhaka, he spent the period in a self-imposed exile of the mind, devouring the works of philosophers like Bertrand Russell and delving into the sweep of world history. This study during a time of national birthing pain led him to a complex, philosophical understanding of power, revolution, and the long, arduous tempering required to build a unified nation. He emerged with a deep hatred for the oppression his people had faced and a firm determination to contribute to his society, though not through the barrel of a gun.





His principled nature faced its sternest test during his HSC examinations in 1972. In the chaotic aftermath of independence, the examination halls were scenes of rampant cheating, a free-for-all that the authorities turned a blind eye to while paying lip service to "fairness." Kabir's conscience revolted. In a silent, powerful protest, he answered only half the questions in each paper and penned a letter

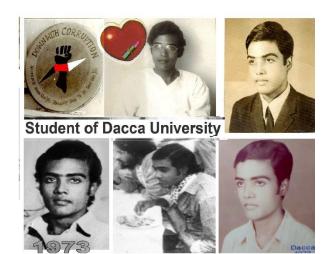
to the Education Ministry on his answer sheets, condemning the hypocritical system. He was prepared to fail for his principles. To his surprise, he was awarded a higher Second Division, a result he knew was not a true reflection of his effort but which others mistakenly took at face value, much to his personal chagrin.

## The University Years: The Patriot and the Relief Worker

At the University of Dhaka, Kabir's innate ability to connect with people from all walks of life flourished. Though a non-resident student attached to Haji Muhammad Mohsin Hall, he became a familiar figure in dormitories across the campus, from the medical college to the engineering university. Earning affectionate title "Kabir Bhai," he was a voice of reason, advocating for patriotism through action rather than hollow politics. He believed a student's duty was to study, a teachers to teach, and an entrepreneur's to build—true patriotism was excellence in one's chosen field.

His commitment to action was demonstrated during the devastating floods of 1974. Alongside his old friend Kumar Murshed, he organized a relief committee from the Teacher-Student Centre (TSC). Leading a team of 23 students, he ventured into the worst-hit areas of Brahmanbaria, distributing aid and witnessing human suffering firsthand. One poignant experience involved the distribution of cash for victims to buy cattle, only to discover that the law of supply and demand had driven prices so high that the money was instead used to bring brides from the mainland—a stark lesson in the unintended consequences of aid.

His humanitarian work even led him to a night he would never forget. Seeking shelter in a completely flooded village, he and his friend were taken in by a kind, "cat-eyed" young man. After a night of hospitality, they returned to their base camp to learn they had been



guests of the area's most notorious bandit, a man who had recently murdered three people. The experience cemented his belief in the complexity of human nature and the fact that even an outlaw could show kindness to those in distress.

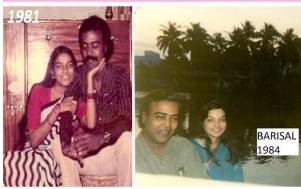
## Love, Marriage, and the Courage of Conviction



Perhaps the greatest test of Kabir's rejection of social orthodoxy came in the form of love. He chose to marry Jahana Akhter Sheela, a girl from a humble background who had faced significant hardship, becoming fatherless at a young age. To his family and their social circle,

this was an unthinkable scandal. In a society obsessed with status and lineage, his choice was seen as a disgrace.





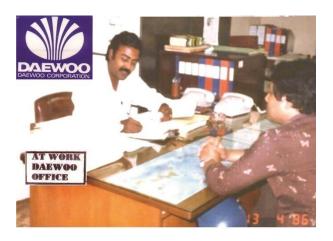
Unwilling to compromise his values, Kabir made the courageous decision to withdraw from the society that rejected his choice. In 1980, with his new wife and a simple wooden bed, he moved to a single rented room in a semi-slum area of Syedabad, living in nearpoverty for several months. This period of "gray menace" was a time of immense struggle but also of profound personal growth. It was a crucible that tempered his spirit and reinforced his belief that true value lies in character, not social standing. The birth of his daughter, Sylvia, in 1981, marked a new beginning, and he returned to society with renewed purpose and strength, his small family unit his greatest source of strength.

#### **A Distinguished Corporate Career**

After briefly traveling to the USA for higher education in 1979. Kabir made a fateful

decision. He realized that his country needed hands-on nation-builders more than it needed another overseas degree. Rejecting "ornamental education" in the US in 1980, he returned home and began a stellar 22-year career in the corporate world.

He started at the South Korean multinational giant, Daewoo Corporation, in 1981. He quickly rose through the ranks, from Sales Executive to Assistant Manager, handling everything from textile machinery sales and international bidding to garment buying. He became a well-known and respected figure in the burgeoning Bangladeshi garment industry, known as "Kabir of Daewoo."



Driven by a patriotic desire to contribute his expertise to local industry, he left Daewoo to help revive a "sick" local garment group, Abedin Group. His efforts successfully turned the company around, boosting its exports significantly. His reputation for effectiveness led him to Gooryong Company Ltd., another Korean conglomerate. Here, he played a pivotal role in establishing multiple textile and garment projects in Bangladesh and even in Tanzania, where he was sent as a Team Leader to recruit and manage a thousand-strong African workforce. He rose to the position of Development), Director (Planning & overseeing all of Gooryong's projects in the region before choosing to retire in 2002.

#### A Life of Curiosities and Collections: The Library and The Museum

Kabir's retirement was not an end but a magnificent new beginning. He left corporate life to dedicate himself entirely to his true passions: writing, research, and the preservation of knowledge. In his home in Uttara, he built a personal library that is nothing short of legendary. Spanning 4,000 square feet and weighing over 60 tons, it houses a breathtaking collection of books, magazines, journals, newspapers, and research materials gathered meticulously since 1968.

He is a collector in the grand, Renaissance sense of the word. His treasures include:

- Over 100,000 stamps from 135 countries.
- All First Day Covers (FDCs) issued by Bangladesh.
- Over 5,000 coins from 98 nations.
- Thousands of view cards, telephone cards, banknotes, and key rings.
- A vast collection of topic-wise information clipped from international and local publications on subjects from environment and gender issues to world politics and cultural affairs.

His ambition is to display these collections in a public museum to inspire future generations, a goal recognized by the numerous awards he has received for his efforts in knowledge expansion and historical preservation.

#### The Global Citizen and Family Man

A true nature lover and avid photographer, Kabir has so far taken and printed over 75,000 photos since his school days. His passion for driving and travel has taken him to 54 countries across every continent, giving him a truly global perspective. In 2009, by the grace of Allah, he performed Hajj with his mother, wife, and youngest son—a cherished spiritual journey.

His wife, Sheela, a Master's degree holder in Child Development, was a teacher and VicePrincipal for 15 years. Together, they raised three accomplished children. His daughter, Sylvia, is a Canadian citizen with a degree in HRM from York University, Toronto. His elder son, Shadly, holds a BA (Hons) in Business Studies from Cardiff Metropolitan University, UK, and his younger son, Sakib, majored in HRM at Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB) and took his Master's Degree in Business Entrepreneurship from Linnaeus University in Sweden. All three children passed their O and A Levels Examination from the elite Scholastica and Aga Khan School.

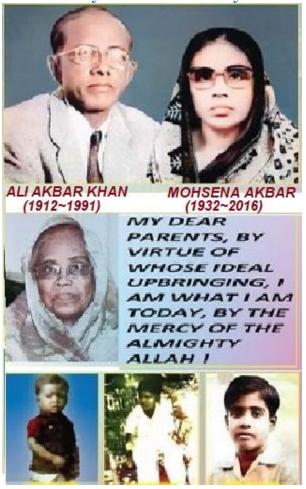


#### A Legacy of Awards and Unfinished Chapters

Today, A.K.M. Enayet Kabir stands as a testament to a life lived with purpose, principle, and passion. He wrote & published six books on Bangladesh's socio-economic problems, and awaiting publication of his 7<sup>th</sup> book. He looks to the future not for rest, but for the opportunity to dedicate his remaining years to the cause of the next generation. From the boy fed with honey from a miraculous comb, he has indeed lived a life as busy, productive, and sweetly beneficial as the bee that was his first and most enduring omen. His story is a powerful reminder that true success is measured not by wealth or status, but by the depth of one's character, the breadth of one's curiosity, and the courage to live by one's own convictions.



The Identity of KHAN Family:



The story of our Khan family is inseparably linked with the arrival and spread of Islam in Bengal, a tale that spans centuries, continents, and remarkable events that shaped both our ancestry and the history of the region. Islam did not enter Bengal through a single channel; rather, it reached the fertile lands of the Ganges delta through multiple streams—by the fervent efforts of Muslim traders who sailed the seas, the sweeping Turkish conquests that brought new political and cultural dynamics, and the

enduring missionary endeavors of devout Muslim Sufi saints who sought to guide the hearts of the people toward spiritual enlightenment.

Long before the Mughals established their dominion over Bengal, Arab Muslims had set foot in the region, forging both commercial and spiritual connections. These early pioneers traveled along the coastline, using the natural ports of Bengal, especially Chittagong, as gateways for trade and religious propagation. Their navigation and settlements were facilitated by the broader Muslim control over the Indus Delta and the coastal regions of South Asia, which provided them with a base for economic, cultural, and religious influence. Through these connections, Islam slowly began to seep into the hearts of the people of Bengal, a process that continued over centuries, nurtured by both merchants and saints.

In the 13th century, Bengal became the focus of Mughal expeditions following the northern campaigns of Muhammad Ghori in late 1191, which had already left a profound impact across Northern India. Amidst these tides of conquest and cultural change arrived one of the most revered figures in our family's history—Hazrat Dastur Khan. Originally from Iraq, he journeyed to Bengal with a singular purpose: to spread the light of Islam in the region. Hazrat Dastur Khan was more than a traveler or missionary; he was a saint, a teacher, and a spiritual guide whose influence would extend far beyond his lifetime.

By the time Hazrat Dastur Khan reached Bengal in the mid-16th century, the region had already been exposed to Islam through previous incursions and trade. During the Rashidun Caliphate in the 8th century, early Arab and Persian missionaries and merchants had introduced the religion, laying the foundations for a more widespread acceptance. Subsequent conquests by North Indian Muslim sultanates further solidified the presence of

Islam. In this dynamic historical context, Hazrat Dastur Khan's arrival in the region of Shohagdal, under the present-day Swarupkathi Police Station in Barisal district, was both timely and transformative.

According to the elders of our paternal family, Hazrat Dastur Khan came to Bengal during the rule of the illustrious Mughal emperor **Akbar the Great (1556–1605 AD)**. Originally, Dastur Khan had been a trusted spiritual guide under Emperor Humayun (1530–1540 AD). It is said that Humayun held him in high esteem and even sent his son, Akbar, to study under Dastur Khan's tutelage, seeking both knowledge and guidance. Such was the reputation of Hazrat Dastur Khan that he became a figure of great influence, not only as a spiritual teacher but also as a confidant of the Mughal royal family.



The historical accounts handed down by our family narrate a remarkable episode that intertwines divine intervention with the course of history. Before embarking on his southern campaign in the Deccan to quell rebellions, Emperor Akbar sought the blessings of his teacher. He requested Hazrat Dastur Khan to pray for his victory and specifically asked him to remain in Delhi until his return. Hazrat Dastur Khan's response was enigmatic: "You will not find me upon your return to Delhi... but you shall definitely triumph in your campaign against the rebels."

The emperor, dissatisfied with this cryptic reply, ordered that Hazrat Dastur Khan be confined within a prison encircled by walls of black stone, guarded by the emperor's soldiers. However, history—and perhaps divine will intervened in a miraculous way. When Akbar returned to Delhi after his victorious campaign, he found the prison empty; there was no trace of Dastur Khan or even the black stone walls that had enclosed him. It is believed that Hazrat Dastur Khan had been miraculously transported to the region that is now Swarupkathi in Barisal district. There, he settled, married, and established a spiritual and social presence that would leave an indelible mark on the community.

Upon his settlement in Swarupkathi, Hazrat Dastur Khan undertook remarkable works. He dug a large pond, which became a center for both the community and local agriculture, and established a mosque beside it. The mosque, constructed using the same black stone that had once enclosed him in Delhi, symbolized both continuity and divine providence. These actions not only demonstrated his spiritual and social leadership but also left a tangible legacy that continues to inspire generations.

Over the years, the descendants of Hazrat Dastur Khan—the Khan family—spread across different parts of Bangladesh, carrying forward his teachings, his spiritual influence, and the legacy of his remarkable journey. From Barisal to Dhaka, and beyond, the Khan family became known not only for their devotion and piety but also for their contributions to the cultural and social life of the regions they settled in. The teachings of Hazrat Dastur Khan were preserved and transmitted, guiding his descendants in faith, knowledge, and service to the community.

Our family history, as recounted by the elders, emphasizes that we are proud descendants of a lineage that bridges both the spiritual and temporal worlds. Each generation of our family has inherited not only the teachings and values of Hazrat Dastur Khan but also the responsibility of maintaining the dignity, honor, and faith that he embodied. I, as a member of this lineage, am the ninth generation from our great-great-great-grandfather, Hazrat Dastur Khan (RH), and bear the weight and privilege of this remarkable heritage.

Beyond the family narrative, the story of Hazrat Dastur Khan reflects broader historical currents that shaped Bengal. It speaks of the interplay between trade, conquest, and spiritual endeavor that defined the region's encounter with Islam. It illustrates how individual visionaries and saints could influence rulers and communities, leaving legacies that extend far beyond their own lifetimes. Hazrat Dastur Khan's life exemplifies the integration of spiritual authority with social leadership, a combination that ensured the endurance of his teachings and the prominence of his descendants.

In tracing the journey of our ancestors, one cannot overlook the rich tapestry of historical events that shaped their environment. The Mughal conquests, the expansion of trade networks, and the missionary work of Sufi saints created a milieu in which figures like Hazrat Dastur Khan could emerge and thrive. These historical conditions, combined with divine providence as recounted in family tradition, underscore the extraordinary circumstances surrounding the migration and settlement of our family in Bengal.

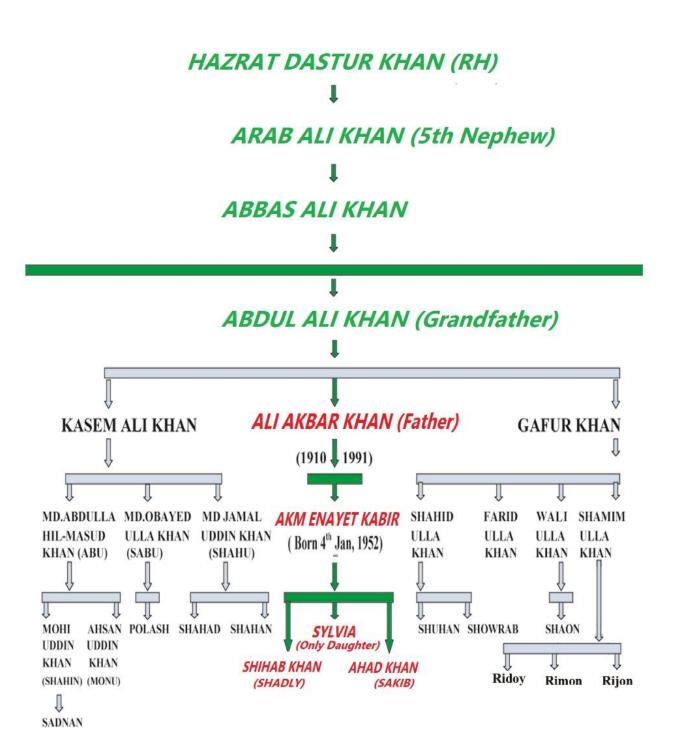
Our family's story is also a testament to resilience and continuity. From Hazrat Dastur Khan's miraculous journey from Delhi to Barisal, to the establishment of religious and social institutions, and the subsequent dispersal of his descendants, the Khan family has maintained a connection to its roots while adapting to new contexts and challenges. This

adaptability, combined with a strong sense of identity and purpose, has enabled our family to flourish over the centuries, preserving both faith and heritage.

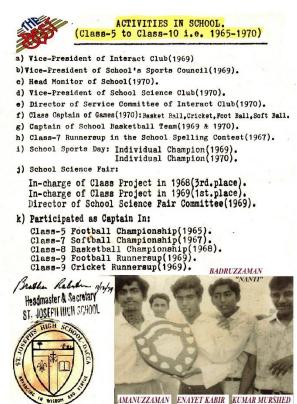
The identity of the Khan family is therefore inseparable from the historical and spiritual legacy of Hazrat Dastur Khan. His arrival in Bengal was not merely a migration; it was the beginning of a lineage that has contributed to the religious, cultural, and social fabric of the region. The lessons of faith, devotion, and service he imparted continue to resonate in the lives of his descendants, guiding us in our endeavors and shaping our understanding of our place in history.

As we reflect on our lineage, it becomes clear that the Khan family embodies a unique synthesis of history, spirituality, and service. We carry forward a legacy that began with Hazrat Dastur Khan's journey from Iraq, his miraculous arrival in Swarupkathi, and his enduring contributions to society. Each generation has upheld the values of piety, learning, and community service, ensuring that the memory and influence of our illustrious ancestor remain alive and vibrant.

In conclusion, the story of the Khan family is not just a tale of ancestry but a chronicle of faith, courage, and enduring legacy. From the sands of Iraq to the rivers of Bengal, from the courts of emperors to the serene landscapes of Barisal, Hazrat Dastur Khan's life and work have left an indelible mark. As the ninth generation, I stand in humble acknowledgment of this heritage, committed to preserving the honor, faith, and traditions that have defined our family for centuries. Our identity is rooted in history, nourished by spirituality, and sustained by the enduring values passed down through generations—a testament to the enduring legacy of Hazrat Dastur Khan (**RH**), the guiding light of the Khan family.







# A Portrait of Passion and Principle: The Curriculum Vitae of A.K.M. Enayet Kabir

#### I. The Foundation: Personal Identity

- Full Name: A.K.M. Enayet Kabir Khan
- Lineage: Son of Md. Ali Akbar Khan and Mrs. Mohsina Akbar
- Origin: Jhalokati District, Bangladesh
- Date & Place of Birth:
- 4th January, 1952, in Dhaka
- Horoscope: Capricorn
- **Religion:** Islam (Sunni)
- Physicality: 5 ft 7 inches (1.7 Meters), 160 lbs (72.5 Kgs)

• **Family Position:** The only son, with four accomplished sisters

# II. The Pursuit of Knowledge: Academic Journey

Mr. Kabir's educational path reflects a commitment to excellence and a global perspective:

- School Final: Senior Cambridge (GCE) from St. Joseph's High School, 1970.
- College: Higher School Certificate (HSC) from Notre Dame College, Dhaka, 1972.
- University: Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Public Administration, 1977, followed by a Master of Arts in the same discipline in 1978, both from the University of Dhaka.
- **International Study:** Attempted to the Management program at Iowa State University, USA, in 1980.

#### **III. The Heart of the Matter: Family**

- Marital Status:
- Married on the 12th of June, 1980, to Mrs. Jahanara Akhter (Sheela).
  - A distinguished educator in her own right, Mrs. Khan holds a Master's degree in Child Development from Dhaka University and a B.Ed from the Open University. She served as the Vice Principal of Children's Garden School in Uttara, Dhaka, from 1997 to 2008.

# IV. The Palette of Preference: Tastes and Temperament

- Favorite Colors: The serenity of Sky Blueand the depth of Bottle Green.
- Cherished Dream: To stand in awe at all the world's beautiful spots—from the majestic Rockies and Andes in America to the vibrant Great Barrier Reefs in Australia, and from the northernmost Hammerfest city in Norway to the remote Falkland Islands in the South.
- Philosophy of Interest:
- "TIME INVESTMENT!" He firmly believes that while health may fail and wealth may vanish, the spirit gathered through knowledge is a permanent possession.
- Reading Preference: A voracious consumer of historical, socioeconomic, political, factual, and data-oriented books, journals, and magazines.
- Wander-lust: A seasoned global traveler having explored 54 countries across the Americas, Europe, Africa, the Middle East, and Asia.

# V. The Likes and Dislikes: A Moral Compass

- Likes: The simple, profound joy of getting wet in the rain and the contemplative peace of longdistance driving on a full-moon night.
- Dislikes:

- Greediness, because material possessions are impermanent.
- Repentance, as the Almighty endowed us with reason and logic to use proactively.
- Vanity, for it is a quality that belongs solely to the Divine.
- Jealousy, for life is too short to waste valuable time on such a futile emotion.

## VI. The Cabinet of Curiosities: A Life in Collection

Mr. Kabir is a renowned collector and archivist, whose hobbies form a museum of global culture and knowledge:

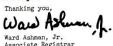
- Philately: Over 100,000 stamps from 135 countries, including every mint stamp and souvenir sheet from Bangladesh and all UN "Flag Series" stamps.
- **First Day Covers (FDCs):** A complete collection of all FDCs issued by the Bangladesh GPO.
- **Numismatics:** Over 5,000 coins from 98 countries and more than 600 banknotes from 67 nations.
- Ephemera & communications
   International reply coupons (IRCs),
   over 9,000 view cards, postal
   stationery, and more than 1,500
   telephone cards from 50 countries.
- The Written Word: A monumental personal library of books and reprints, weighing over 60 tons, amassed since 1968.
- **Archival Works:** Meticulously maintained topic-wise collections

from international and local magazines (since 1980) on environment, politics, culture, and social issues. A unique collection of pasting albums on advertisements for various industries since 1985.

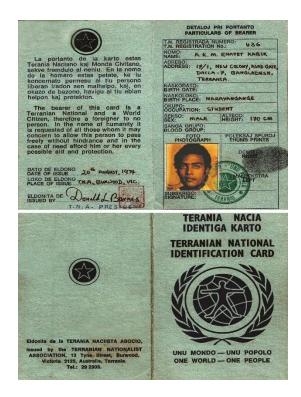
- **Historical Documentation:** Over 2,000 political and educative posters and leaflets since 1969.
- **Cartography:** Maps and country profiles of 170 nations.
- Photography: A lifelong passion, with over 75,000 photos preserved in more than 205 albums since 1967.
- Other Collectibles: Over 200 cigarette lighters, 500 cigarette packets from 44 countries, matchboxes, over 500 key rings from different nations, and antiques and decorative articles displayed in 10 showcases.



Thank you very much for taking the Pledge and registering as a Planetary Citizen. We also thank you for your contribution of \$ 2.00 It is so beautiful to see that our Registry is growing larger and larger.







# VII. The Global Citizen: Affiliations and Memberships

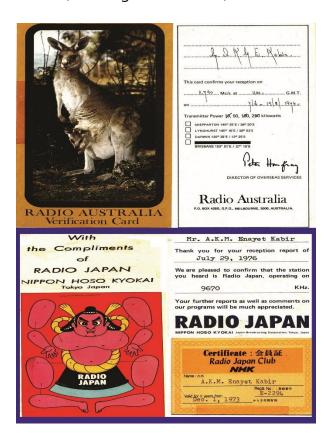
His worldview extends beyond nationality, embracing a global identity:

- Registered, Planetary
   Citizen: (No.019202, New York, U.S.A.)
- Registered Terranian National
- (No.436, Victoria, Australia)
- World Citizen holding a World Service Authority Passport (No. 08285, Basel, Switzerland)

# A Member of Esteemed Clubs and Societies:

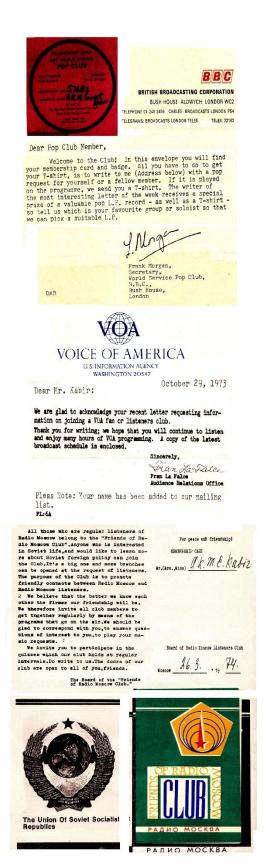
- Listener's Club of Radio Australia
- Friends of Radio Moscow Club
- Radio JapanClub (Regd. No. E-2294)
- B.B.C. World Service Pop Club (Membership No. 57682)
- International Pen Friend Society (Tokyo, Japan)
- Echo Pen Pal Club (Seoul, South Korea)

- The Belgian Hobby Trotter (Brussels, Belgium)
- International Correspondence Bureau (München, West Germany)
- "Himalaya" Correspondence Club (Jakarta, Indonesia)
- "Tie of Friendship" (Netherlands)
- Dave's Friends (Florida, USA)
- Zero Population Growth ZPG (Washington D.C., USA)





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#### Personal Experience: A Journey of Service, Learning, and Discovery Before Professional Life

1. January 15th - March 18th, 1971: (Manpura, Noakhali).

In the wake of the devastating **Tornado** of November 1970, I had the privilege of working alongside Father Tim, the Principal of **Notre Dame College**, as of the international relief part organization HELP. Our mission was focused on providing immediate aid to the affected communities of **Manpura**, a small island in Noakhali, which had been severely impacted by the natural disaster. This experience instilled in me deep sense of duty towards humanitarian efforts and introduced me to the power of compassion in times of crisis.

2. The Flood of 1974: Dhaka and Brahmanbaria

In 1974, when **Bangladesh** faced one

of its most devastating floods, I organized a Relief Committee (along with my school friend "Kumar Murshed) with a dedicated control room at the Teacher's Students Centre at Dhaka University. This initiative, supported by the **Bangladesh** Youth Federation, mobilized a team of 23 young volunteers, all of whom worked tirelessly in the flooded regions surrounding Dhaka. including Brahmanbaria **Sub-Division** in Comilla.Later. **Professor** Anisur of Rahman the **Economics Department** at Dhaka University, joined us with two associate professors and seven senior students from his department, along with a doctor who medical volunteered to provide assistance. The experience was both and humbling inspiring, highlighted the collective strength of individuals who come together in times of need.

3. November 1974: Shahbajpur Union, Comilla.



In November 1974, I was part of a distinguished team that conducted a house-to-house survey in Shahbajpur Union, Shorail Thana, Comilla, alongside remarkable individuals like Mrs. Joshan Majid (daughter of poet Golam Mustafa), Mrs. Hasna Madud (daughter of poet Jashimuddin and wife of Barrister Maodud Ahmed, former Deputy Prime Minister of Bangladesh), Mrs. Khan (wife of Musharaf Hussain Khan, former Deputy Chief Martial Law Administrator and Chief of Bangladesh Navy), and Mrs. Hameeda Hossain (wife of Dr. Kamal Hossain, former Foreign Minister of Bangladesh). Our mission was multifaceted:

- To assess the needs of families in Dithpur, Jaddabpur, and Shahbajpur Unions of Shorail Police Station,
- To evaluate the feasibility of the **Khalakhel Irrigation Project** between **Shahbajpur** and **Dithpur**,
- To explore opportunities for generating employment for landless laborers and small farmers in the region.

This experience of working alongside such distinguished personalities left an indelible mark on my understanding of social responsibility and development.

4. Founding Member and First General Secretary of the Leo Club of Dhaka University (1976-77)
In 1976, I became a Founding Member and served as the first General Secretary of the Leo Club of Dhaka University, a project sponsored by the Dhaka South Lions Club. The role was both challenging and rewarding, allowing me to develop leadership skills while being part of an organization dedicated to youth service and community development.

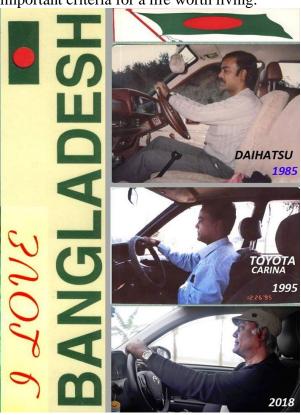
- 5. President of the Leo Club of Dhaka University (1977-78)
  As the President of the Leo Club of Dhaka University during 1977-78, I led various projects and initiatives aimed at empowering students and creating social change. The experience of managing a team of dynamic young people working together for social causes further cemented my passion for serving the community.
- **Opinion** Poll 6. Student in the **Department** of **Public** Administration (1976)In March 1976, I organized and conducted a Student Opinion Poll within the **Department** of **Public** Administration at Dhaka University to evaluate the opinions of students regarding the quality of education in the department. This initiative helped in identifying areas of improvement and played a crucial role in shaping the department's future academic direction.
- 7. Co-ordinator for Government Circulars **Distribution** (1976)As an appointed **Co-ordinator** in the Department of **Public Administration**, I was responsible for the collection and distribution of essential government circulars. Bangladesh Gazette notifications, and academic papers related to Public Administration in Bangladesh. This role expanded my knowledge of the country's administrative systems and gave me insight into the intricacies of governance.
- 8. Reproduction and Reprints of Rare **Books Notes** and (1976)In 1976, I was entrusted with the responsibility of coordinating reproduction and reprints of rare books notes and within the **Department** of **Public Administration**, which were vital to

the academic progress of students. This position allowed me to engage closely with the educational material and contribute to the enhancement of learning resources in the department.

- 9. **In-Charge** of **Information Documentation at CENTAS (1977)** I served as the In-Charge of **Information & Documentation** at **CENTAS** (Center for Administrative Studies), a research cell under the **Department** of **Public Administration** at Dhaka University. In this role, I was responsible for organizing and maintaining extensive repository of academic and governmental documents, which greatly contributed to the department's research activities.
- 10. **Traveling** & **Photography:** Journey of Discovery (1968-2014) One of my most enriching experiences has been traveling and exploring the diverse landscapes, cultures, peoples of Bangladesh and beyond. From **Tetulia** in the north to **Teknaf** in the south, I made it my mission to visit every corner of this beautiful nation. During my university years, I would often leave Dhaka to venture into rural areas. especially during hartals (strikes) or holidays, with nothing but my camera and books on history, politics, or philosophy in hand. My curiosity drove me to explore places that many would consider difficult or inaccessible, seeking to understand not just the geography but the people, their way of life, and their experiences.

Through these travels, I encountered people from all walks of life, each with their own unique stories. Some were of high social standing, while others came from modest backgrounds. Interestingly, I found that the true measure of a person's character and happiness

had little to do with their social status or level of education. Instead, I discovered that **moral values**, **reason**, **logic**, and the pursuit of perfection in one's actions were far more important criteria for a life worth living.









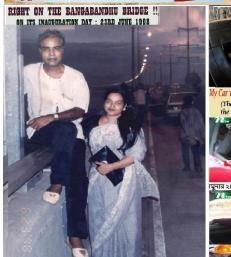




















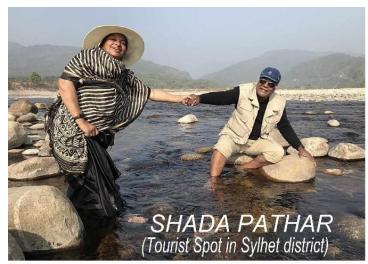


nd in 5 years, I have already driven a

2018 total milage of: 24,600 miles

Alhamdulillah... Domestically, I have Self-drived a Distance of about 421,500 miles in 35 Years, using mv 5 Cars (This includes all my Trips to different parts of Bangladesh)!

Over the years, I have traveled to over 44 countries, capturing more than 45,000 photographs, each frame a testament to the people and places that have shaped my understanding of the world. My travels have not only allowed me to witness history but also to see humanity in its most raw, beautiful, and contradictory often forms. Through photography, I have preserved moments of joy, struggle, and everything in between, documenting the diverse narratives that make up the human experience.



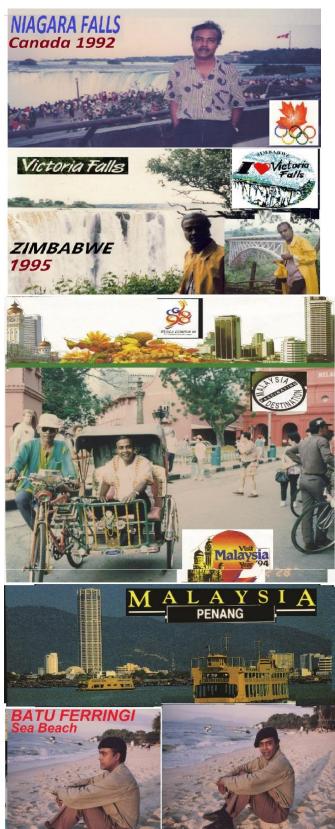




ENJOYING THE HAPPY NEW YEAR WITH THE

1st January, 1995

INDONESIANS

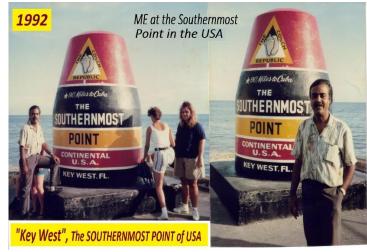










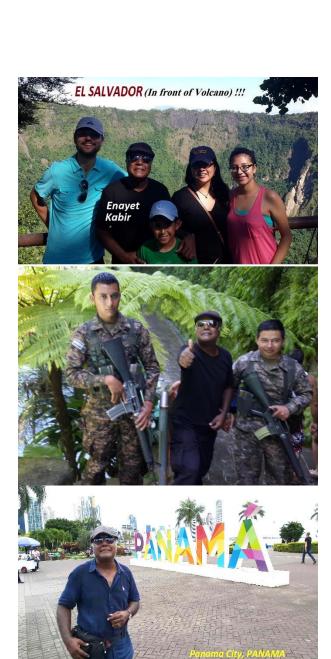




THE GREAT WALL OF CHINA (Chinese name: "Chang Cheng", literally meaning "the Long Wall of 10,000 miles") IS THE COLLECTIVE NAME OF A SERIES OF FORTIFICATION SYSTEMS GENERALLY BUILT ACROSS THE NORTHRN BORDERS OF CHINA

















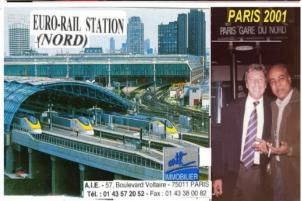
































Professional Life: A Journey of Leadership and Innovation (1981–2002)

DAEWOO CORPORATION / Project Division (1981–1988)

**Head Office**: Seoul, Korea | **Local Office**: Dhaka, Bangladesh

My professional journey began at **Daewoo Corporation**, where I immersed myself in the world of industrial machinery and textile projects, a period that laid the foundation for my career in international business and trade.

• Sales Executive (Industrial Machineries): (1981–1983)
I started as a Sales Executive, primarily focused on industrial machineries, where I learned the intricacies of B2B sales and developed a deep understanding of machinery markets. My responsibilities involved liaising

with key industry players, identifying potential clients, and offering solutions that catered to their needs. The exposure to the fast-paced nature of international business helped hone my skills in negotiation, customer service, and market analysis.

- Executive Senior Sales (Textile **Machineries**): (1984-1986)Advancing in my role, I transitioned to becoming a Senior Sales Executive in the Textile Machinery Division. In this capacity, I spearheaded projects that involved complex machinery used in the textile industry, working closely with manufacturers and distributors to understand market demands and tailored solutions. propose position allowed me to expand my expertise in textile production technologies, working with large-scale operations in Bangladesh's growing textile sector.
- Assistant Manager (International **Bidding**): (1987 - 1988)As an Assistant Manager overseeing International Bidding, I took on the responsibility of managing large-scale international tenders. This role demanded strategic thinking and strong coordination between multiple stakeholders, including international clients, government bodies, suppliers. My team and I successfully navigated the complexities of global bidding processes, ensuring the timely submission of competitive comprehensive proposals. It was during this time that I honed my skills in project management and international relations. which would prove invaluable in my future roles.

ABEDIN GROUP / Garment Division (1989–1990)

**Head Office**: Gulshan, Dhaka, Bangladesh In 1989, I joined **Abedin Group**, a major player in the Bangladesh garment industry, which marked a significant transition from machinery sales to the fast-paced world of garment production and export.

• **Director** (Garments Buying House): (1989)

As the **Director** of the **Garments Buying House**, I was responsible for overseeing the procurement and sales of garments for international markets. The role required managing relationships with foreign buyers, negotiating contracts, and ensuring quality control in the production process. My deep understanding of global trade and market dynamics allowed me to forge lasting partnerships with top international brands, boosting Abedin Group's presence in the competitive garment industry.

**Deputy Managing Director (Operation):** In 1990, I was promoted to **Deputy** Managing Director (Operations), where I oversaw the day-to-day operations of the garment division. I streamlined production implemented cost-effective processes, solutions, and introduced operational strategies that increased efficiency across the board. This role was instrumental in refining my leadership abilities strengthening my understanding operational management in a complex industry.



**Head Office**: Motijheel C/A, Dhaka, Bangladesh

In 1991, I founded International Trade Agency Ltd., a company dedicated to trading in the oil and gas sector, which marked a new chapter in my career. As the Founding Managing Director, I led the company in becoming the exclusive local agent for several prominent multinational companies. This role introduced me to the intricacies of international trade in the energy sector, where I developed a deep understanding of oil, gas, and energy project management.

- Exclusive Local Agent for Multinational Companies:
  I was fortunate to collaborate with toptier multinational companies, such as:
  - Stone and Webster Inc. (Texas, USA)
  - CP Industries Inc. (USA)
  - Daniel Flow Products Inc. (USA)
  - Good Fellow Lovie Associates Inc. (USA)
  - Titan Projects Ltd. (Calgary, Canada)



During this period, I built and maintained strong relationships with industry leaders, which expanded the company's portfolio and brought cutting-edge technology to Bangladesh's oil and gas sector. Managing contracts, liaising between governments and private enterprises, and securing major projects were key highlights of my time at International Trade Agency Ltd.

### GOORYONG COMPANY LTD. / Textile Projects (1992–2002)

**Head Office**: Seoul, Korea | **Local Office**: Banani, Dhaka, Bangladesh

In 1992, I took on a new challenge with **Gooryong Company Ltd.**, a leading Korean company specializing in textile projects. This opportunity allowed me to work on some of the most ambitious textile ventures in Bangladesh and Tanzania, playing a pivotal role in the success of numerous textile initiatives.

- **Project Coordinator (Textile Project** Dhaka **EPZ**): (1992-1994)I was appointed **Project Coordinator** for the Textile Project in Dhaka Export Processing Zone (EPZ), one of the key economic zones for Bangladesh's garment industry. I led the coordination of the project, ensuring smooth communication between the various stakeholders. including government authorities, local vendors, and international suppliers. leadership helped establish the project as one of the most efficient and profitable textile operations in the EPZ.
- Director (Coordination, Gooryong Garments & **Textile** Division) Following my success in the project, I promoted to **Director** was Coordination for Gooryong's Garments & Textile Division. In this role, I managed a vast network of suppliers, factories. and clients. coordinating between Bangladesh and international markets to optimize supply chain and production timelines. My strategic oversight contributed to Gooryong's position as a major player in the textile export industry.
- Director (Planning & Development):
   (1995–1997)

   In 1995, I took on the role of Director of Planning & Development for Gooryong's operations in both Bangladesh and Tanzania. Overseeing the planning and development of

multiple textile projects across two countries, I implemented long-term growth strategies and ensured that all operations met international standards. This period marked a significant expansion for the company, and my leadership helped cement Gooryong's role as a dominant force in the global textile industry.

• Director (Planning & Development, Gooryong Projects): (1998–August 2002)

From 1998 until my departure in August 2002, I continued to serve as the **Director of Planning & Development**, overseeing all of **Gooryong's projects** in both Bangladesh and Tanzania. I was responsible for strategic planning, project execution, and overseeing the development of key partnerships, which contributed to the company's success in both domestic and international markets.



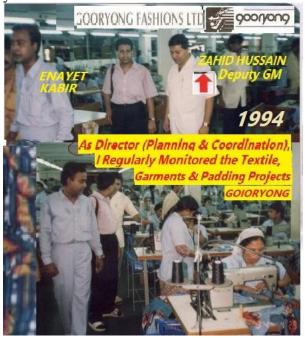




My professional journey from 1981 to 2002 has been defined by a continuous evolution of roles and responsibilities, each of which has played a crucial part in shaping my career. Whether it was leading sales operations at **Daewoo Corporation**, steering trade initiatives at **International Trade Agency Ltd.**, or overseeing large-scale textile projects at **Gooryong Company Ltd.**, each experience has reinforced my commitment to excellence, leadership, and service.

Throughout these years, I've had the privilege of working with talented individuals and visionary leaders across multiple sectors—industrial machinery, textiles, and international trade. Each chapter of my professional life has been guided by a shared goal: to drive growth, innovation, and value for the organizations I served while contributing to the economic development of Bangladesh.

Looking back, I am proud of the impact these roles have had—not just on my career, but on the industry and communities I've worked with, and I continue to carry forward the lessons learned during these transformative years.









MOTIVATING THE GARMENT FACTORY WORKERS AT TONGI (1998)





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## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE (1980~2002)

I joined the project division of the South Korean multi-national company, Daewoo Corporation, Dhaka Liaison Office in 1980 as an Executive Officer. I was responsible for selling Textile machinery & equipment from Korea and, in this regard, I had in-service training at Daewoo and visited South Korea several times. Soon, I was given the responsibilities of the plant & Project-Division of Daewoo / Dhaka. As a young Executive, I was really lucky to work directly under the guidance of the then Chief of Daewoo / Dhaka office, a very dynamic Director B.H. Choi (who left Dhaka in 1984 and joined the Boeing Company Seattle Branch, USA as a Director in Resource Division). In addition to my normal duty to follow / monitor the Daewoo turn-key projects in Bangladesh (such as M/S Hossain Pulp & Paper Mills Ltd, M/S Jamuna Textiles Ltd and supply of Daewoo railway wagons to Bangladesh Railway etc.), I was entrusted with the responsibility of regularly providing "Executive Summary" of national international "Business events and Surveillance reports" to the Chief of Daewoo Dhaka office (DirectorB.H.Choi).From198588, I dealt with Garment Buying (as an Asst. Manager of Daewoo / Dhaka office at b Sonargoan Hotel) and placed Daewoo garment orders to the then pioneer garment factories in Bangladesh (viz Continental Apparel, M/S Style Craft, Voyager Garments, M/S Everest Garment and Liz Garments) from Daewoo side (as Buyer). I personally monitored and supervised the entire Garment Orders to above garment factories (starting from placing Garment Orders Export L/C) and shipment of fabrics & accessories (against Back-to-Back the shipment of Ready-Made Garment (RMG) to the final destination in Europe/USA (selecting proper shipping lines). I ensured the quality of production of garments in these factories by Quality Control (Q.C) by our (Daewoo's) Korean expatriates. To ensure and evaluate proper-export documentation of our enlisted garment factories, I maintained close liaison with concerned govt. agencies like Export Promotion Bureau (EPB), which issued the country-of-origin Certificate and allocated both Free & Performance Quota to garment factories. I had my access to BGMEA too. During my tenure of service in Daewoo, most of the veteran garment factory owners, all shipping lines (APL, MAERSK, SEA LAND, OOCL, K-Line etc. operating in Bangladesh) and most of high officials of EPB used to know me as "Kabir of Daewoo" and me too, maintained a cordial relationship with all! In 1988, I was selected from Daewoo Dhaka liaison office to attend the international staff Meeting of Daewoo Corporation at Seoul for 5 days (24th ~29th May), where multi-national Executive of Daewoo from 35 countries of the world got together to get acquainted with each other and enrich their ideas on globalization trend. The Daewoo-experience enriched my ideas as well as helped me to thoroughly get acquainted with the business community in Bangladesh, and assisted me to develop my business management capacity. After getting due experience & acquainting myself with

proper business management, I felt that it was my social responsibility to contribute my experience to my beloved nation. So, I decided to serve a local "sick industry" and make it profit-oriented, based on my experience in garment/ textiles (as a part of my patriotism and firm commitment that we Bangladeshis can also perform well and be successful!). I therefore, resigned (on my own accord) from Daewoo and joined Abedin Group (a garment-based Group, having 19 production-lines for jacket / trousers manufacturing) as a Director. I was surprised to find that the group (Nippon Garments, Metro Garments, the Continental Garments Ltd.) having more than 1200 nos.garment machines (though only 7 production-lines were under production because of labor Union problems) was exporting less than U\$3 million (no wonder-"Sick Industry"). However, sincere commitment and untiring efforts to negotiate with the work force, I was able to neutralize the labor union problem and with continuous motivation to the workforce and massive reorganization of the then management of Abedin Group, the Group was able to export more than US\$10 million (for the first time in its history since 1984, when garment manufacturing began Continental Factory). I was appreciated by the Chairman Mohammed Hanif and accordingly made the Deputy Managing Director (DMD) of the Group in 1990. The entire HRD of the Group was entrusted to me and the total 2000 work force worked satisfactorily. In the meantime, one Korean gentleman (Mr. J.H. KOH) who was supplying fabrics & garment accessories from Korea to the RMG factories in Bangladesh (GOORYONG COMPANY LTD) became interested to invest in Bangladesh, and thus requested Mr. Hanif (Chairman/Abedin Group) to release me from Abedin Group and help him (Mr.KOH) to setup "deemed" or "feeding" industry in the textile sector of Bangladesh. I began to work for Mr. KOH (President of Gooryong Company as the



Project Coordinator in 1992.

I personally devised the recruitment policy of Gooryong in Bangladesh and imparted inservice management training to marketing Executives / managers to equip them with the knowledge, skills and techniques for the highest level of professional management. My in-service Training Program specially covered communication information, learning team work and how to manage change. The training was also equipped to prepare our Executives /Managers to work in a multi-cultural environment and to develop a better understanding of how to manage, and

capitalize on cultural differences. I encouraged them to develop decision-making skills (under adverse situation) and enhance strategic planning. I frequently reviewed economic and socio-political factors of our country, which affected our decisions and inspired our executives / managers to develop new skills,





attitudes and outlooks to their colleagues. (Remark: I personally prepared the 120pagesIn-serviceTraining Manual entitled: "Management Training Program for Gooryong Family"). Briefly, it was Korean investment and my sincere local monitoring (from recruitment of workforce, supervision of constructions of factories, to lobbying with concerned local authority) that GOORYONG was successful in setting-up the following 100% export - oriented factories in Bangladesh just within 3 years (1992~95), employing more than 3000 work-force. In 1995, I became the only non-Korean Director (Coordination) in GOORYONG Overseas Investment and was deputed as Team Leader to Dar-Es-Salaam, the capital of Tanzania, along with 25 Bangladeshi supervisors in August, 1995 to recruit about

1000 African work-force for our newly-established garment factory there (Gooryong Tanzania Ltd.). Since 1998, I had been-serving Gooryong Company as Director (Planning & Development) & ultimately self-resigned-in-2002 to enjoy the free time in involving myself for the cause of our present and future generation!





My Wife's <mark>Greeting</mark> on my 70th Happy Birth Day!





College Life (1971-72):
A Time of Transition and Reflection







After completing my Senior Cambridge exams, I, along with my close friend Kumar Murshid, ioined the German Relief **Organization HELP** to assist with rehabilitation work in the coastal areas of Manpura and Sakuchia island, which had been devastated by the November 1970 tornado. At a young age, we found ourselves deeply involved in managing the relief efforts and resolving social issues in Sakuchia, a small island with a population of about 9,000. We acted as the island's "Magistrates," distributing aid, including cash for cattle, only to find that most of the people used the funds to buy **brides** instead, due to a market shortage of cattle. This

eye-opening experience taught me the complexities of human needs and the law of supply and demand.

Amid the liberation struggle for Bangladesh, we were unaware of the growing political unrest until we returned to **Dhaka** in **March 1971**, just before the crackdown by the Pakistani army. During the **Liberation War** (March-December 1971), my family remained in Dhaka, where I hid in various safe houses, including that of **Manik Mia** and **Zillur Rahman**, as the city became the focal point of the struggle for independence.

In this turbulent time, I engaged deeply in **philosophical readings**, including works by **Bertrand Russell** and history books that offered insights into human civilizations. Despite my philosophical inclinations and non-involvement in direct combat, I harbored a deep disdain for the Pakistani forces.

After Bangladesh's independence on **December 16, 1971**, I faced the challenges of a **nation in turmoil**, where personal and national aspirations clashed. I observed the rapid rise of materialism and political chaos, which made me reflect on the lack of true **values** and **purpose** in the post-independence society. Despite the challenges, I later prepared for the **University of Dhaka admission test**, determined to continue my education and contribute to the nation's future.



Student of Dacca University

1973



University Life (1973-78): Growth, Political Awareness, and National Reflection



**1973**, after completing my Senior Cambridge exams, I pursued my **B.A.** (Hons.) **Public** Administration at Dhaka University, securing a place in a highly competitive field. Prior to my admission, I took entrance exams in multiple departments and ranked highly in Sociology, Social Welfare, Political Science, and Public Administration, ultimately choosing Public Administration. I stayed at Haji Muhammad Mohsin Hall, though I lived with my parents at Arambagh, **Dhaka**, and was involved in the vibrant student life across various hostels, such as Surja Sen Hall, Zahurul Haque



Hall, Jagannath Hostel, and others. My curiosity and ability to mix with students from diverse backgrounds allowed me to connect with people from different disciplines, personalities, and political inclinations.

This period was marked by my interactions with both **general students** and those involved in **political movements**, earning me the affectionate nickname of "**Kabir bhai**" among both groups. I saw through the façade of **political engagement** at the university, understanding that for many students, politics was not about ideology but about **protection** and **social status**. Many students joined political factions not out of genuine political passion but to secure **hostel accommodation**, gain respect from peers, or safeguard their dignity in a politically charged campus environment.

I observed how politics in the university became a **tool for survival** rather than a genuine commitment to the nation's welfare. The political system on campus, often manipulated by "**shameless leaders**", created a façade of political activism, yet lacked the core values of **patriotism** or true **leadership**. Through my observations, I realized that the majority of political students were driven by personal motives, rather than by any true political philosophy. Despite this, I remained neutral, believing that real patriotism could be expressed through **dedication to studies**, **honest work**, and **self-improvement**, rather than through **political machinations**.

I often found myself in rural Bangladesh, especially during **holidays** or **hartals** (strikes), where I would explore the **leftist political areas** of **Jessore** and **Pabna**. There, I met students actively involved in political movements, many of whom seemed to be driven more by idealism than by practical understanding of the political landscape. I found myself questioning why young students, who should have been focused on **education**,

were so deeply involved in national politics, considering their lack of maturity and understanding.

In 1974, when floods devastated Bangladesh, I organized a Relief Committee with my school friend, Kumar, at Dhaka University, alongside students from various departments. Our mission took us to Shahbazpur Union in Brahmanbaria/Comilla district, where we distributed food, clothes, and medicine to those in need. During this time, we were joined by prominent women activists and social workers, further intensifying our efforts. One of the more memorable moments was when Kumar and I ventured into the flooded villages, experiencing firsthand the severity of the disaster and the helplessness of the affected families.

During these relief efforts, we faced dangerous situations—including a narrow escape from a flood-affected area, where we encountered a "dangerous decoit" who turned out to be surprisingly hospitable. The incident reinforced the complexities of human nature, as people who could have been seen as enemies extended kindness in a time of need. This experience deepened my understanding of humanity, highlighting that even those branded as criminals can show compassion in dire circumstances.

Amid the political turmoil in Bangladesh, I also witnessed the **fall of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman** and the rise of **Ziaur Rahman**. **Sheikh Mujib's assassination** in **1975** marked the end of an era, while the **military coup** and subsequent rise of Zia brought a new political landscape. **Zia's civilianization efforts** and the creation of his own **political party**, the **Bangladesh Nationalist Party** (**BNP**), indicated the military's ongoing influence in Bangladesh's governance. This period marked significant shifts in Bangladesh's political trajectory, including **internal strife** within the military and a series of political upheavals.

Despite the **chaos** of the political scene, I maintained my **neutral stance** as I observed these developments. I engaged in discussions with **medical students** from **Sir Salimullah Medical College** and others, debating the political situation, and reflecting on the state of the nation. I began to understand the role of **Sheikh Mujibur Rahman** as the **founder of the nation**, acknowledging that while his leadership after independence may have faltered, his contribution to **Bangladesh's liberation** could never be diminished.



The political environment in Bangladesh during the 1970s seemed to be dominated by individuals who sought power for personal gain, rather than for the collective good of the people. Zia's regime, while striving to establish democracy, was deeply mired in corruption and self-interest, and the political system became increasingly fragmented. I observed that the country's political parties, Awami League including the Jatiyatabadi Party, lacked genuine leadership as personal direction, ambitions overshadowed national goals. During this time, I felt a strong desire to see **patriotism** reflected in every individual's actions—not through political affiliations, but through dedication to the nation's progress.

Throughout my university life, I continuously explored **political dynamics** but also kept a strong focus on **education**. I refused to

succumb to the temptation of political power and remained committed to **learning**, **personal development**, and **national service**. My house at **Arambagh** became an informal hub for political activists who sought a neutral space to discuss ideas without aligning themselves with any particular party. These discussions often revolved around the **country's future**, and my belief that **patriotism** could be expressed through actions other than politics.

One of the major turning points in my university life was my involvement with the "Black August" movement, which was created to acknowledge Sheikh Mujibur Rahman as the Father of the Nation. Despite the political instability, I believed it was essential to recognize the historical contributions of our leaders and to keep the legacy of our liberation alive.

In 1978, as I prepared for the B.A. (Hon.) Final Examination, I began reflecting on my university life and the role of education in shaping leadership. I understood that the nation's future depended on students who were not just academically accomplished but also equipped with values, character, and the ability to lead with integrity. My travels around Bangladesh after my exams—exploring its diverse landscapes and meeting its people—reinforced my belief that education, knowledge, and personal growth were the true tools for nation-building.

In conclusion, my university years were not only about academic achievement but also about understanding the deeper political and social currents in Bangladesh. While I refrained from becoming directly involved in politics, my experiences as an observer and my engagement with various student movements shaped my views on the nation's future. The lessons I learned from these years continue to guide me as I work towards a better, more just society.



# Higher Education in the USA (1979): A **Turning Point**

In 1979, my parents, determined to provide me with the best education, sent me to the USA to pursue a **Ph.D.** With the support of my school friend, Khaled Majid, who was already in the USA, I initially considered enrolling in either Texas A&M University or Iowa State University for my MS course. However, after reflecting on my goals and the purpose of higher education, I questioned whether pursuing a **Ph.D.** was the right path for me.

While traveling through the USA, I noticed that most higher education institutions had a disproportionate number of overseas students, especially from Third World countries like Bangladesh, India. and Pakistan. compared American to students. realization led me to critically examine why my Bangladesh, remained country, underdeveloped despite having abundant natural resources, such as more than 230 rivers and fertile land.

I came to understand that Bangladesh was blessed with natural resources, but the real issue was the **poor attitude** towards hard work, leadership, and proper management. While our land could easily yield crops with minimal effort, we failed to tap into the potential of these resources due to laziness and a lack of leadership. This contrasted with the success stories of countries like Japan and Korea, which had few natural resources but thrived due to their people's disciplined work ethic. leadership, and dedication.

I began to feel that higher education in the USA was nothing more than ornamental for a country like mine. Despite the formal education system being theoretically sound, the

challenge for Bangladesh implementation and attitude change. I realized that we didn't need millions of Ph.D. holders or highly educated individuals to change the fate of the country; what we needed were practical solutions, hard work, and dedicated leadership to implement policies effectively.

The decision I faced was whether to continue my education in the USA to earn a Ph.D. and return home with an "ornamental title" or to invest my time working alongside the people of Bangladesh, learning from them and contributing to the nation's development. After much reflection, I felt the urge to return to Bangladesh and work for my country, sacrificing personal ambition for the greater good of the nation.



I wrote a heartfelt letter to my parents, expressing my decision to return home. I believed that my generation had responsibility to work hard for the future of Bangladesh, and that the time for sacrificing personal ego was now. I envisioned a future where my children could pursue higher education abroad, but for now, I wanted to dedicate myself to building the future of my beloved country.





Marriage: A Journey of Values, Struggles, and Personal Growth

Raised by humble parents who provided me with the best education, I developed a deep sense of **moral responsibility** and an uncompromising attitude toward **truth**, **justice**, and **social issues**. From an early age, I valued moral principles and reason over social status or educational qualifications. I realized that many people, despite holding prestigious titles or high social status, often lacked the true virtues of **honesty**, **empathy**, and **integrity**. For me, the quality of a person's character was far more significant than their social standing or academic achievements.

This philosophy made me feel like an "odd man" in society. Those around me, particularly from similar social backgrounds, couldn't understand my choice to prioritize values over social expectations. I was often criticized for not adhering to the traditional norms, especially regarding marriage. I rejected the idea of marrying someone based on social status and instead believed that **true beauty** lay in the **soul**. My choice to marry someone from

an ordinary background was met with **hostility** and **gossip** from my family and society, who deemed it a **scandal**. However, despite the immense pressure, I was determined to follow my values.



In 1978, I developed a deep affection for Jahanara Akhter "Sheela", a simple girl from a poor family. I saw beauty in her not through her appearance or background but in her kindness, maturity, and the care she showed. I believed that with proper guidance, she could become an exceptional woman. But this choice was not well received by my family, who were more concerned with social prestige than with human values.



The social backlash was intense. I was criticized and rejected by many people, including those in my own circle, who viewed my marriage as a **betrayal** of societal norms. Despite the **gossip** and **social alienation**, I was firm in my decision. I chose to marry Sheela on **June 12, 1980**, determined to follow my own **principles** and **values**. I withdrew from the conventional social life, choosing instead to live in a **semi-slum area** of Dhaka. There, I focused on simplifying my life, understanding

that **simplicity** often holds more value than a life of superficial luxury.

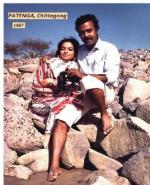
Despite the difficult circumstances, I found solace in the **strength of my beliefs** and the unwavering support of my wife. Life in the **slums** was challenging, but it allowed me to grow spiritually and emotionally. I came to realize that the **true nature of life** is shaped by our **inner strength** and **faith**, not by external judgments or material success.

Over time, I found the courage to face the **societal challenges** and return to **society** with renewed confidence. My struggles were an opportunity for **personal growth** and transformation, teaching me that **change** is not always easy but necessary for progress.

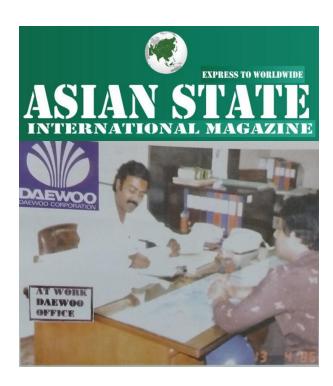
In the end, my **marriage** to Sheela, though controversial at the time, became a foundation for building a life based on **authentic values** and a commitment to **serve humanity**. The experience strengthened my belief that **true success** lies not in following societal norms but in being true to oneself and making a difference in the world.











# Professional Life at DAEWOO Corporation (1981-1988)

In August 1981, I joined DAEWOO **Corporation**, a South Korean multinational, at its Dhaka Liaison Office. After completing a probationary period, I was made a permanent member and assigned to the Plant & Project **Division**, where I worked under the guidance of **B.H.** Choi, the dynamic General Manager. Along with two colleagues, Taseer Karim (responsible for bulky items) and Delwar **Hossain** (responsible for textiles), we formed a close-knit team. Our collaboration was both professional and personal, fostering environment of mutual respect and friendship. During my time at **DAEWOO**, I learned the importance of building genuine relationships in business. Our interactions with clients, drivers, and office staff were characterized by mutual respect, which helped resolve business challenges efficiently. However, I also encountered the darker side of the corporate world, where the pressure to make "extra money" led some executives to cross ethical boundaries. Many sought happiness through material acquisitions and status, neglecting inner contentment.

In contrast, I remained committed to **honesty** and **integrity**, refusing to indulge in corrupt practices. I found the pursuit of wealth and status to be shallow and unfulfilling. Despite working in a prominent position with a lucrative salary, I refused to succumb to societal pressures to flaunt wealth or possessions.

By the mid-1980s, I became increasingly disillusioned with the materialistic mindset of many in the business world. I was seen as an "odd man out" for not prioritizing money and status over values and inner happiness. Ultimately, after nine years at DAEWOO, I decided to step away from the multinational corporate world to implement my business management skills in addressing the challenges of sick industries in Bangladesh, where my true passion lay.





Post-Retirement Period (2003-2009): A Journey of Reflection, Service, and Legacy

In 2002, at the age of 50, I made the decision to retire early, a decision that allowed me to dedicate the next phase of my life to my family, personal growth, and contributing to future generations. This period of self-reflection and dedication to spiritual and social causes was made possible by the blessings of the Almighty. I used this time to re-evaluate my life, a luxury that many miss due to the constant demands of professional work.



However, a significant event in **July 2003** altered my perspective. While playing badminton with my children, I experienced a mild myocardial attack and was rushed to the hospital. The incident, though alarming, became a blessing in disguise. I underwent an

angioplasty, which not only saved my life but also became a turning point in my personal and spiritual journey. Since then, I made a commitment to prayer, quitting smoking, and focusing on spiritual growth.

During this period of personal recovery and reflection, I also faced considerable financial hardships. After retiring, I struggled to make ends meet, even having to sell my car and household items at a fraction of their worth. My daughter lost an academic year due to my inability to pay her fees, and life became an immense challenge. Yet, despite the material losses, I remained spiritually strong. My wife, **Sheela**, was a pillar of support, encouraging me with her unwavering belief that the Almighty was testing our patience. During this difficult time, my family, particularly my mother and sisters, supported me, reminding me of the power of patience and faith.

In January 2005, my school friend, Kumar Murshed, introduced me to the Brotee NGO. where I became involved in a project focused on human rights for vulnerable communities. The project aimed to preserve the culture, heritage. and rights of marginalized communities through a participatory approach to research and development. I became the Project Coordinator for the VMPRVC Project and worked with local villagers in Rajshahi and Naogaon districts to promote human rights and community-based self-reliance through research.

During my time at Brotee, I gained valuable insights into the NGO sector and witnessed firsthand the challenges faced by grassroots organizations. While I appreciated the mission of these organizations, I also became aware of the discrepancies between their public image and the reality on the ground. The growing commercialization of NGOs and the exploitation of vulnerable populations for profit raised ethical questions in my mind.

Despite the challenges I faced in the NGO sector, my involvement in Brotee allowed me to contribute to meaningful social change, learning about participatory action research and working alongside passionate individuals who shared my vision for a better society. However, due to internal office politics and my inherent open-minded approach, I decided to leave Brotee in December 2005, after a year of dedicated service.

In addition to my work with NGOs, I also focused on building my dream home, a project that began in 2005 and was completed by 2009. Located in Sector # 6, Uttara, Dhaka, the house became a repository for my personal library and research center. The library housed over 10,000 books, 5,000 booklets, and a wealth of magazines, journals, and social-economic publications that I had collected over the years. This space was designed not just as a private collection but as a future resource for my community and the next generation.

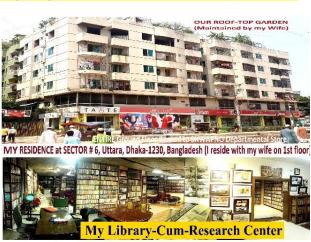
The construction of my house and library-cumresearch center was not just a personal achievement but also a manifestation of my lifelong commitment to knowledge. I believed deeply in the power of education and knowledge to bring about societal transformation. My library, which occupied a significant part of my home, was intended to serve as a knowledge bank for the development of future generations. The collection focused on topics such as education, health, human rights, poverty alleviation, governance, and environmental issues—areas that I believed were critical to Bangladesh's development.

In this period, I also started to think about creating a **Knowledge Park** or **Knowledge Bank**—a facility where people could access information and learn. I envisioned it as a space that would go beyond traditional libraries, incorporating research, development, training, and consultancy services. It would aim to empower people with the knowledge needed to address the challenges facing their

communities, with a focus on creating a **knowledge-based economy** in Bangladesh.

As I reflected on my post-retirement years, I realized that they were a time of deep personal growth, spiritual healing, and an unwavering commitment to creating a better society. I often thought about the role of NGOs, education, and knowledge generation in building a self-reliant Bangladesh. I came to understand that the development of a knowledge society was essential for Bangladesh's future prosperity.





My library and research center represented a shift in focus from material wealth to intellectual and spiritual growth. They became symbols of my belief in the transformative power of **knowledge** and the importance of **self-education**. The knowledge I had accumulated over the years—through reading, research, and personal experiences—was now something I wanted to share with the world.

By the end of **2009**, I had not only completed my house and library but had also developed a vision for the future: a society where knowledge, spiritual growth, and moral would integrity take precedence materialism and the pursuit of status. I was now ready to move forward with the next chapter of with life, travel. learning, contribution as my guiding principles.

In March 2009, just months after completing my house and library, I took another important step in my journey: I embarked on a **spiritual pilgrimage** to **Makkah**, fulfilling a long-held dream of visiting the **House of Allah**. This pilgrimage was a culmination of my personal, spiritual, and intellectual journey—one that reflected my deep connection to the Almighty and my commitment to lifelong learning and service to humanity.





Acknowledgement of My Time Investment (2010-2013): A Journey of Purpose and Reflection

From 2010 to 2013, I found myself deeply reflecting on the societal changes around me. The growing influence of Western culture, with its emphasis on instant gratification and individualism, was beginning to undermine the traditional values that once guided our communities. The pursuit of temporary pleasures, superficial status, and vanity seemed to be overshadowing the deeper principles of love, faith, justice, and integrity. This shift, marked by an erosion of core values, raised concerns in my heart. Yet, I recognized that while enjoyment and pleasure are not inherently wrong, they must be balanced with the cultivation of character and meaningful, goal-oriented pursuits.



It became clear to me that the key to true happiness and fulfillment lies not in fleeting pleasures but in nurturing a life filled with purpose. We must aspire to lead lives grounded in virtue, kindness, and service, with a focus on long-term goals rather than transient desires. Only by doing so can we align ourselves with the higher purpose laid out by the Almighty.

The turning point in this journey came after I performed Hajj, a pilgrimage that allowed me to stand before the Kaba Sharif and offer heartfelt prayers. I asked the Almighty to show me the world, to experience it in a way that would deepen my understanding and broaden my perspective. Upon returning from this sacred journey, I felt an overwhelming sense of peace. The challenges that had seemed insurmountable began to dissipate, and many of my previous struggles found resolution. remarkably, people began acknowledge the sincerity of my efforts. Those who once labeled me as "impractical" or "stupid" for following my path of simplicity appreciate and truth began to straightforward approach to life, driven by knowledge and virtue.

As my influence grew, so did my determination to continue advocating for truth and justice. I became a vocal supporter of socio-economic initiatives that encouraged community development and sought to counteract the rising tide of corruption and violence. I understood that change could not happen if we passively accepted the status quo. History does not have to repeat itself, but it requires a concerted effort—a passionate commitment to make a difference, especially for the future of our children.

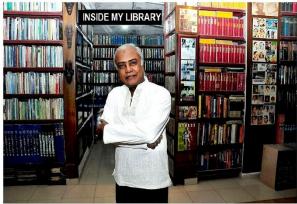
The central message I aimed to share was clear: we must invest in our children's lives, their education, and their character development. The greatest influence over their future is not external forces but the example we set within

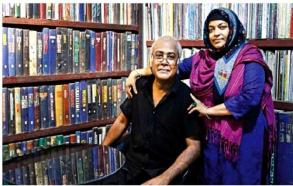
our own homes. The values we instill in them today will shape the future of our society. Our time with them is precious, and if we focus on nurturing their growth, we can raise a generation of leaders who will make a positive impact on the world.

During this period, my commitment to fighting injustice and corruption, alongside my involvement in various socio-economic activities, led to unexpected recognition. Between 2010 and 2013, I was formally honored by various cultural and social organizations, an acknowledgment I had not actively sought but which provided a platform to connect with the younger generation. I used this opportunity to encourage them to invest their time in education, health, and character development—especially during formative years, up until the age of 30. I urged them to resist the distractions of politics and romance, as both require maturity that can only be gained with time.



Ultimately, this phase of my life was marked by a deeper commitment to guiding the next generation towards a future defined by knowledge, integrity, and compassion. Through my actions and words, I sought to lay the foundation for a better, more just society—a society where values, not materialism, define success.







MY WIFE "Sheela" & ME With Our Dear Children (1 Daughter + 2 Sons)





# A.K.M. Enayet Kabir: A Life Dedicated to Knowledge, Culture, and Social Service

A.K.M. Enayet Kabir is a distinguished figure whose life is a testament to the pursuit of knowledge, social welfare, and cultural preservation. Born on January 4th, 1952, in Narayanganj, Bangladesh, Kabir has made significant contributions in various fields, including literature, research, social service, and human rights. His journey is not just that of an individual striving for personal success, but of a man who has dedicated himself to expanding knowledge, preserving history, and uplifting the community. This essay will explore the various facets of A.K.M. Enayet Kabir's life. achievements, and his contributions to society.



## **Writing and Research Contributions**

Kabir's personal library, located in Sector #6, Uttara, Dhaka, is a testament to his lifelong dedication to reading and research. With a collection of more than 40 tons of books, magazines, journals, and research materials occupying a space of 4000 square feet, Kabir has created a personal haven of knowledge. His

library, which includes rare and valuable research materials, serves as a resource not only for himself but also for others who seek to expand their understanding of various socioeconomic issues.

## **Contributions to Society and Recognition**

Kabir's dedication to social service has earned him widespread recognition. Over the years, he has received numerous awards for his contributions to the community, including the "Shere-Bangla Memorial Trophy-2010", "Mother Teresa Golden Trophy-2010", and "Bangabandhu Memorial Award" for his extensive research on the Liberation War and the Father of the Nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. His work in preserving rare materials related Bangladesh's history has earned him the "71 Media Vision Shining Personality Awardand the "Bishwa Kabitakantho 2013" Parisad Honorary Award-2013".

Kabir's contributions are not limited to his research and collections. He is also an active participant in various social welfare activities, working to improve the quality of life for underprivileged communities. His dedication to spreading knowledge and motivating the younger generation has earned him recognition from prominent figures in Bangladesh, and other esteemed individuals in the fields of education, social welfare, and human rights. In recognition of his dedication to knowledge expansion, Kabir has received several prestigious awards, including the "Ishwar Chandra Bidhya Sagor Gold Medal-2011", "Shaheed Freedom Fighters' Memorial Award-2011", and the "Nelson Mandela Gold Award-2014". His lifelong dedication to preserving Bangladesh's history and promoting human rights has made him a beloved figure in the country's intellectual and social circles.

### Philanthropy and Social Service

Kabir's commitment to philanthropy is evident in his extensive involvement in various socio-economic activities. He has worked tirelessly to raise awareness about human rights, particularly related to the Liberation War of 1971. His research on the war, along with his extensive collection of documents, photos, and artifacts, has played a crucial role in educating the public about this pivotal moment in Bangladesh's history.

In addition to his work on the Liberation War, Kabir has also focused on education, particularly in motivating the younger generation to develop reading habits. Through his involvement with libraries, cultural programs, and educational forums, he has played a significant role in promoting the importance of knowledge and intellectual growth.

Kabir's commitment to social service extends beyond his intellectual pursuits. He has been actively involved in various community development projects, particularly in his hometown of Barisal. As a beloved figure in the region, he has been recognized for his contributions to the development of local infrastructure, education, and healthcare.







PERSONALITY EXCELLENCE AWARD (Gold Medal)-2017 For Collecting & preserving Historical Facts on Freedom of Bangladesh. Awarded by: MOHANAGARI CULTURAL FORUM

AKM ENAYET KABIR IS GREETED BY THE MINISTER OF THE MINISTRY OF LIBERATION WAR AFFAIRS (AKM MOZAMME HAQ) FOR HIS ROLE IN PRESERVING VALUABLE DOCUMENTS / DATA / INFORMATION RELATED TO THE LIBERATION WAR OF BANGLADESH.



২১শে এপ্রিল, ২০১৪ ইং শিশু কল্যাণ পরিষদে বাংলা রিপোর্ট ২৪ ডটকম- এর আয়োজিত অনুষ্ঠানে মুক্তিযুদ্ধ বিষয়ক মন্ত্রী আ ক ম মোজাম্মেল হক-এর সাথে করমর্দন করছেন এ.কে.এম. এনায়েত কবির (নেলসন ম্যান্ডলা স্বর্ণপদক-২০১৪ এ্যান্ডয়ার্ড-প্রাপ্ত)



# Mahatma Gandhi Peace Award-2013 (10th January-2014) ক্রিয়ার ক্রিটিনি বিশ্বর বিশ্বর

# Personal Life and Family

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Kabir's family plays an important role in his life and work. His wife, **Jahana Akhter Sheela**, a Master's degree holder in Child Development, was a school teacher for 15 years. She has supported Kabir in his endeavors and has contributed to their shared commitment to social welfare. Their children, **Sylvia**, **Shadly**, and **Sakib**, have all excelled academically and are actively involved in various fields of study and professional development.

এ.क. अप अताराय कवीव

শান্তি নির্ধারক তথ্য সমূহ সংগ্রহ

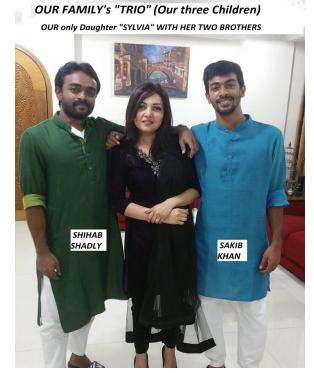
Sylvia, who resides in Canada, holds a Bachelor's degree in HRM from York University, Toronto, while Shadly completed his BA Hons. in Business Studies from Cardiff Metropolitan University, UK. Sakib, the youngest, is currently studying HRM at IUB in Bangladesh. All three children have excelled in their academic endeavors, passing their O and A-Level examinations from Scholastica and The Aga Khan School, respectively.

## **Legacy and Future Aspirations**

A.K.M. Enayet Kabir's contributions to knowledge, culture, and social welfare have left an indelible mark on Bangladesh's intellectual landscape. Through his research, writings, collections, and community service, he has helped preserve the history and heritage of the country while inspiring future generations to continue the pursuit of knowledge.

Looking to the future, Kabir plans to dedicate the remainder of his life to writing and educating the younger generation. His future projects, including the publication of his books and the establishment of a museum for his collections, will ensure that his legacy continues to inspire future generations.

In conclusion, A.K.M. Enayet Kabir is a true intellectual and social visionary whose life's work has made a profound impact on Bangladesh's history, culture, and education. His contributions to the preservation of the country's heritage and his unwavering commitment to social service will continue to inspire generations to come.



50 I ASIAN STATE



# A.K.M. Enavet Kabir: The Harbinger of Light and Inspiration



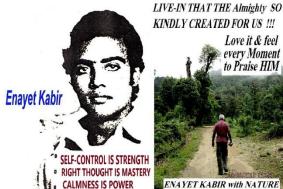
MY MOTIVATIONAL ACTIVITIES.....By the Blessings of the Almighty, I ALWAYS COUNT MY Positive Attitude / MY Heart AS THE MOST USEFUL ASSET ..... Because MY HEAD (Full of "Knowledge"), MY EARS (Ever-ready to Listen) or MY HANDS ( always Willing to Help Others)! I DO NOT MAINTAIN Friendship JUST FOR SHEER RECREATIONAL BENEFITS.....To ME, Friendship is a Pledge of Loyalty & Faithfulness. I FIRMLY BELIEVE, A life led Worthly, Must be Measured NOT by the Number of Years Passed.....BUT BY **GOOD DEEDS.** 

A.K.M. Enayet Kabir's life story is one of enlightenment, inspiration, and unwavering knowledge, commitment to preserving promoting socio-economic development, and spreading light to future generations. Born in Narayangani, Bangladesh, on January 4, 1952, Kabir's journey from a young inquisitive mind to an intellectual powerhouse is a testament to the power of determination, learning, and selfless service. His life and work have illuminated many paths, making him a guiding light not only in Bangladesh but also globally. This essay delves into the life of A.K.M. Enayet Kabir, exploring his early life, education, career, social contributions, and his role as a beacon of light and motivation in society. We will also look into his immense contribution in preserving Bangladesh's history, his passion for research, and his work to motivate the younger generation to embrace knowledge and social welfare.

His father's discipline and work ethics profoundly impacted Kabir's own values and career trajectory. This intellectual andisciplined upbringing instilled in him a deep reverence for knowledge, service, and culture.



# LIFE WITHOUT AIM IS LIKE SAILING WITHOUT A COMPASS!





THIS IS THE ONLY WORLD TO

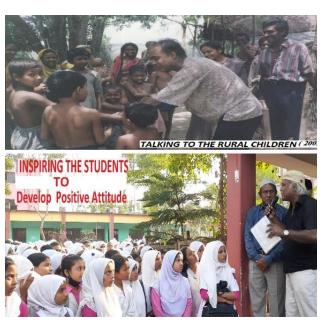






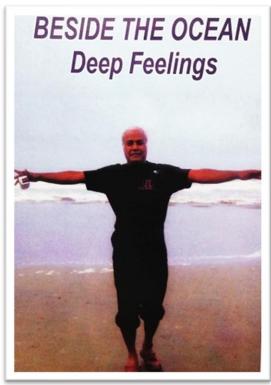
Looking to the future, Kabir intends to continue his work as a researcher, writer, and social activist. His upcoming books, along with his plans for a museum to display his collection, will ensure that his legacy continues to inspire future generations. Kabir's dedication to preserving history, promoting education, and serving humanity has made him a true harbinger of light—shining brightly for others to follow.

A.K.M. Enayet Kabir's life is a remarkable journey of intellectual pursuit, cultural preservation, and social service. His work has illuminated the path for countless individuals, providing them with the tools to understand history, embrace knowledge, and contribute to society. Through his research, writing, and philanthropic efforts, Kabir has created a legacy that will continue to inspire future generations to come. His life is a powerful reminder that knowledge is not just a tool for personal growth but a means to uplift society and create a brighter future for all.





A.K.M. Enayet Kabir:
A Beacon of Inspiration for the Youth



A.K.M. Enayet Kabir's life is a remarkable resilience, story purpose, transformation. Born on January 4, 1952, in Narayangani, Bangladesh, he has traversed an extraordinary journey from the corporate world to becoming an advocate of knowledge, social justice, and spiritual enlightenment. Kabir's journey has not only been about professional success but has evolved into a mission of uplifting the younger generation with values that transcend materialism and emphasize personal growth, community service, and integrity. His story serves as an inspiration for the youth, demonstrating that true success lies not in wealth or status but in meaningful contributions to society.

# Professional Life: Success in the Corporate World

In August 1981, Kabir embarked on his professional journey with **DAEWOO** Corporation, a multinational South Korean company. Based at its Dhaka Liaison Office, Kabir quickly rose to prominence due to his hard work and dedication. He was promoted to the Plant & Project Division, where he worked alongside colleagues like Taseer Karim and Delwar Hossain, forming a tight-knit, highly effective team. His time at DAEWOO was formative, as it taught him invaluable lessons about building genuine relationships business, maintaining integrity, the importance of honesty.

However, Kabir soon realized that the corporate world's materialistic mindset and the pursuit of wealth at any cost were not aligned with his personal values. Despite professional success, he felt disconnected from superficial pursuit of status possessions. This realization led him to leave the multinational corporate world after nine years of service, opting instead to focus on addressing the challenges facing Bangladesh's industries. departure from Kabir's corporate sector marked the beginning of his second career, one focused on social service, education, and the preservation of knowledge.



# **Retirement and Personal Growth: A New Purpose**

In 2002, at the age of 50, Kabir made the bold decision to retire early, choosing to dedicate his growth, family, to personal contributing to society. This period of reflection became a time for him to reassess his life's priorities, leading him to embrace spirituality and community service. However, a health scare in 2003—when Kabir suffered a mild heart attack—served as a turning point. This incident prompted him to undergo an angioplasty, after which he made a conscious decision to focus on his spiritual growth, prayer, and well-being.

During this period, Kabir faced financial hardships. The loss of income forced him to sell his car and household items to make ends meet. Despite these challenges, Kabir remained steadfast in his faith and resilience. His wife, Sheela, and his family supported him through this difficult period, offering encouragement and reminding him that these challenges were tests of patience and faith.

# **Creating a Legacy: The Knowledge Bank and Library**

One of Kabir's most significant contributions has been the creation of his personal library and research center. In 2005, he began building his dream home in Uttara, Dhaka, and by 2009, the house was completed along with a library that housed over 10,000 books, 5,000 booklets, and countless journals, magazines, and research materials. Today, there are about 90,000 books + more than 400,000 daily newspapers of Bangladesh (about 25 m/tons since 1968). This library was not just a private collection but a resource for the community and future generations. Kabir's vision was to create a Knowledge Park or Knowledge Bank—a space that would provide access to information, research, training, and consultancy services. The total weight of all printed materials in

Kabir's library-cum-research center is more than 60 m/tons, occupying a space of 4,000 sft. Kabir's library represents a shift from materialism to intellectual and spiritual growth. It is a testament to his belief that true progress comes not from wealth or status but from the pursuit of knowledge and personal development. Through his library, Kabir has created a space where individuals can come to learn, grow, and contribute to society.

# Spiritual Journey and Hajj: A Fulfillment of Dreams

In 2009, Kabir's spiritual journey culminated in a pilgrimage to Makkah, where he performed Hajj with his wife and mother. This pilgrimage was a deeply transformative experience for Kabir, solidifying his commitment to spiritual growth and reaffirming his dedication to service. It was a manifestation of his belief that true fulfillment lies not in material possessions but in a connection with the divine and a commitment to living a life of purpose and integrity.

# **Voice for the Youth: Advocating for Knowledge and Integrit**

As Kabir's influence grew, he became a vocal advocate for the younger generation. He recognized that the youth were facing numerous challenges, particularly in the face of growing materialism, instant gratification, and individualism. Kabir urged young people to focus on education, personal growth, and integrity. He encouraged them to resist the distractions of politics and romance and instead invest in their personal development, as these early years were crucial for building a strong foundation for the future.

Kabir's message to the youth was clear: true happiness and fulfillment come not from external achievements or material possessions but from a life dedicated to knowledge, service, and personal integrity. He believed that the future of Bangladesh rested on the shoulders of the younger generation, and it was crucial to

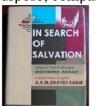
instill in them the values of hard work, honesty, and compassion.

## **Legacy and Future Vision**

Kabir's legacy is one of service, knowledge, and integrity. Through his work in the corporate world, NGOs, and education, he has inspired countless individuals to live purposeful lives dedicated to the betterment of society. His personal library and research center, his advocacy for the youth, and his commitment to social welfare have left an indelible mark on Bangladesh. So far, he has written & published 6 books and now writing his 7<sup>th</sup> book.

Looking to the future, Kabir remains committed to his vision of a knowledge-based society, where education, spiritual growth, and integrity are prioritized over materialism. His efforts to create a Knowledge Bank and his continued work in social service and education will undoubtedly inspire future generations to follow in his footsteps.

A.K.M. Enayet Kabir's life serves as a beacon of inspiration for the youth. His journey from corporate success to social activism and spiritual growth demonstrates that true fulfillment lies not in wealth or status but in meaningful contributions to society. Through his work, Kabir has shown that knowledge, integrity, and service are the cornerstones of a fulfilling life. His legacy will continue to inspire future generations to live lives of purpose, compassion, and service to humanity.



A.K.M. Enayet Kabir:
The
"Odd-Man"
In The
Society
In Antobourable
THE Odd-Man IN THE SOCIETY



