

H E Rear Admiral Khondkar Misbah ul Azim presenting his credentials to His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tarik

BANGLADESH-OMAN

Celebrating 50 years of friendship, cooperation

As the two nations mark 50 years of ties, the Bangladeshi envoy outlines a renewed vision for deeper engagement across key sectors



The heart of the Bangladesh–Oman relationship is its people. Bangladeshi expatriates have built a strong bond of trust and goodwill through their dedication, talent and hard work

H E REAR ADMIRAL KHONDKAR MISBAH UL AZIM

The year 2025 marks the 50th year – Golden Jubilee – of diplomatic relations between Bangladesh and the Sultanate of Oman, a relationship deeply rooted in long-standing historical ties and universal values of peace and mutual respect. The convergence of interests - as both countries share common faith and cultural traditions bound by their adherence to the principles of peaceful co-existence and non-alignment - which leads to very coherent foreign policy goals, has offered the basis of this friendship. Since the establishment of diplomatic ties, the two brotherly nations have maintained very warm and cordial relations, strengthened by strong people-to-people connections and a growing multifaceted partnership spanning diplomatic engagement, economic co-operation and vibrant socio-cultural linkages.

Speaking to the media on the occasion, H E Rear Admiral Khondkar Misbah ul Azim, Ambassador of Bangladesh to the Sultanate of Oman, highlighted that the vibrant Bangladeshi expatriate community continues to play a pivotal role in Oman's development, serving as a living bridge between the two countries. As Bangladesh and Oman celebrate 50 years of unwavering friendship, the Ambassador emphasised Bangladesh's commitment to further deepening co-operation through new avenues in trade, investment, education and cultural exchanges. He noted that the Embassy of Bangladesh in Muscat has planned a series of events throughout the year to commemorate this milestone, symbolising the shared journey toward peace, progress and prosperity for both nations.

The Ambassador, who presented his credentials to His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik on April 9, 2025, outlined his strategic vision to further strengthen the longstanding friendship between Bangladesh and Oman.

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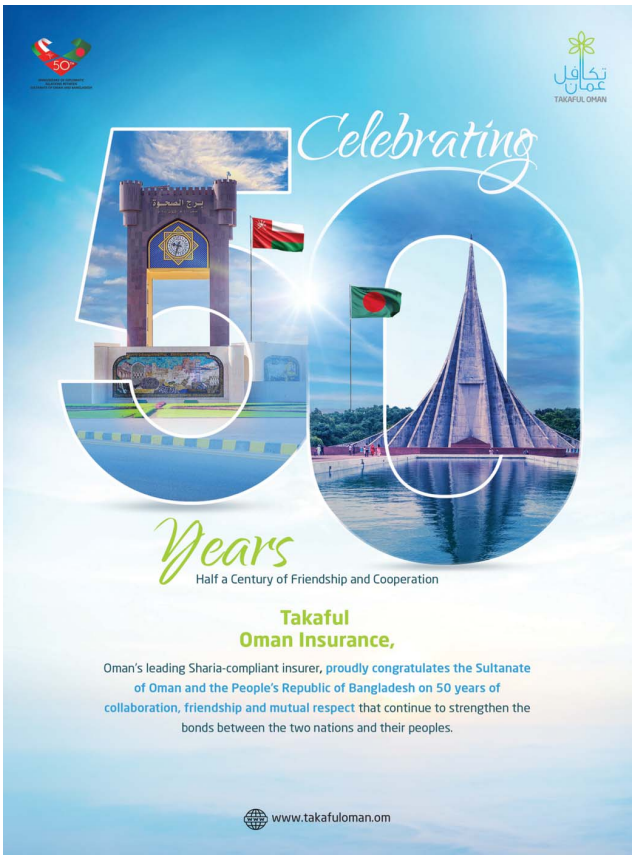

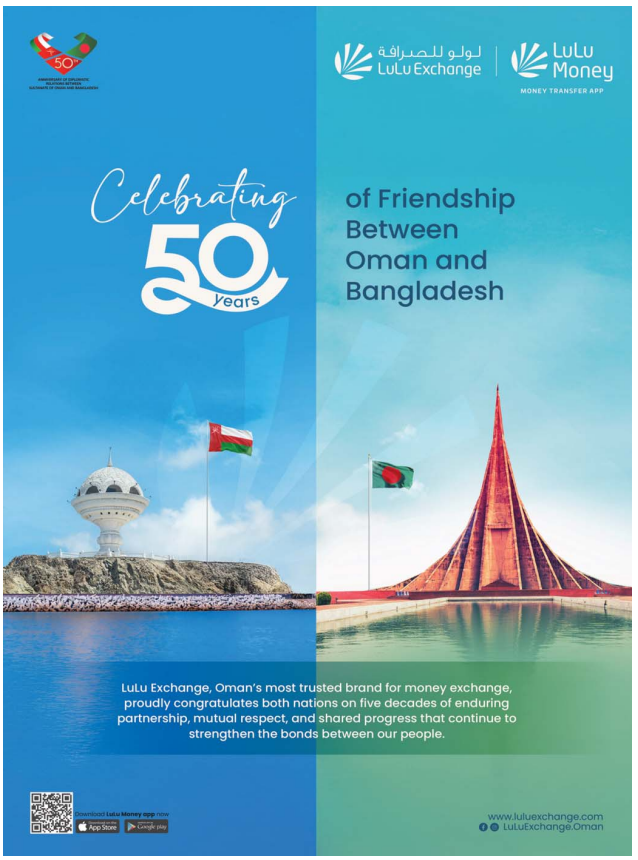

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Since assuming office, he has focused on enhancing engagements with the host government, business community, media and other dignitaries, aiming to take Bangladesh–Oman relations to new heights through dynamic diplomacy and meaningful collaboration.

H E Azim expressed his deepest gratitude to His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, the government and the people of Oman for their continued support and compassion towards the large Bangladeshi community living and working in Oman. "This strong people-to-people contact has knitted us with mutual dependency, and this mutual trust and goodwill are the true foundation of our friendship," he reiterated.



H E Rear Admiral Khondkar Misbah ul Azim with H E Khalifa Ali al Harthy, Undersecretary for Political Affairs in the Foreign Ministry, during the celebration of 50th year anniversary of diplomatic relations on Nov 3



Hon'ble Md Touhid Hossain, Adviser for Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh, with H E Sayyid Badr bin Hamad al Busaidi, Foreign Minister of Oman

Among his key priorities, the Ambassador identified deepening diplomatic and bilateral cooperation, promoting trade and investment under the banner of economic diplomacy, and advancing manpower and remittance initiatives for the welfare of Bangladeshi expatriates in Oman. He also underscored the importance of expanding public diplomacy, fostering stronger cultural and educational exchanges, and strengthening tourism linkages between the two countries.

Guided by the spirit of mutual respect and shared development goals, H E Azim expressed his vision of building upon the solid foundation of friendship to create new opportunities for peace, prosperity and partnership. He remarked that "the heart of the Bangladesh–Oman relationship is its people". Over the years, Bangladeshi expatriates have built a strong bond of trust and goodwill through their dedication, honesty, talent and hard work. Reflecting on the milestone year, he said that this partnership was not forged solely through official channels but also through the warmth and generosity of the Omani people and the sincerity of Bangladeshi expatriates.

The Ambassador further remarked that his foremost priority remains serving the expatriate community and strengthening the bonds between the two brotherly nations. In this regard, he particularly mentioned that the government of Bangladesh has been working as an expatriate-friendly administration, including all Bangladesh missions abroad dedicated to ensuring the welfare and betterment of Bangladeshis living abroad. In this backdrop, he highlighted several recent initiatives undertaken by the Embassy to enhance consular service delivery and the welfare of expatriates. It introduced a digital queue system to reduce waiting times for passport enrolment, partnered with Oman Post to deliver documents and passports to applicants' addresses, and inaugurated the long-awaited National Identity (NID) card services for expatriates for the very first time in Oman.

Bangladesh Open University (BoU) educational programmes (SSC, HSC, BA and BSS) have also been launched recently to empower and facilitate aspiring expatriates. The Embassy also continues to assist workers in getting compensation and supports the respectful repatriation of deceased nationals. These efforts show the Embassy's and Bangladesh government's strong commitment to the welfare and dignity of the Bangladeshi community in Oman and all over the world. He also profoundly acknowledged the invaluable support he receives from the government of Bangladesh and all concerned ministries in making these initiatives possible.

Since his arrival, H E Azim has met with dignitaries and senior Omani officials to strengthen co-operation in diplomacy, economy, defence, culture and tourism. He also highlighted the visit of Hon'ble Foreign Affairs Adviser Md Touhid Hossain to Muscat in February 2025 to attend the 8th Indian Ocean Conference.

Over the past five decades, Bangladesh and Oman have signed a number of agreements and Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs), including the most recent ones: an agreement on the exemption of visas for holders of official and diplomatic passports of both countries, and an MoU on co-operation between the diplomatic training academies.

Looking ahead, he expressed optimism about identifying new and emerging areas of collaboration including renewable energy, agriculture, climate change adaptation, Information Technology, blue economy, SME entrepreneurship and more. These areas, he noted, align closely with Oman Vision 2040 and Bangladesh's commitment to sustainable and green economic growth. "Progress in these areas has been encouraging," he said assuredly, "and I am certain that our joint efforts will continue to strengthen the diplomatic, economic and strategic partnership between our two friendly nations." He conveyed his heartfelt sentiments and reaffirmed his confidence that the enduring bonds of friendship between Bangladesh and Oman will remain steadfast and continue to grow even stronger in the days ahead.

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