EMBASSY OF BANGLADESH, STOCKHOLM

Bangladesh Newsletter

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Bangladesh in Orbit

Discovering the Satellite Industry

EDITORIAL

Bangladesh stands at a moment of opportunity. Its commitment to stability has created scope for growth, innovation, and international cooperation. Among the many areas where we see progress, the space and satellite sector is particularly emblematic of our national ambitions.

The launch of Bangladesh Satellite-1 marked a historic milestone, not only as Bangladesh's first satellite but as a symbol of the Country's determination to embrace technology for sustainable development. Bangladesh's satellite capabilities are already playing a transformative role in advancing national priorities — from agricultural monitoring and maritime security to urban planning and climate resilience, they help to address challenges such as food security, disaster preparedness, and the protection of marine resources. Building on this achievement, Bangladesh is now exploring new possibilities in the satellite industry — pursuing enhanced connectivity, greater disaster resilience, and new digital solutions that can benefit its people and contribute to regional and global partnerships. With Bangladesh's strategic focus on digital transformation, the satellite sector will increasingly underpin its efforts to build smarter cities, promote environmental stewardship, and strengthen emergency response systems.

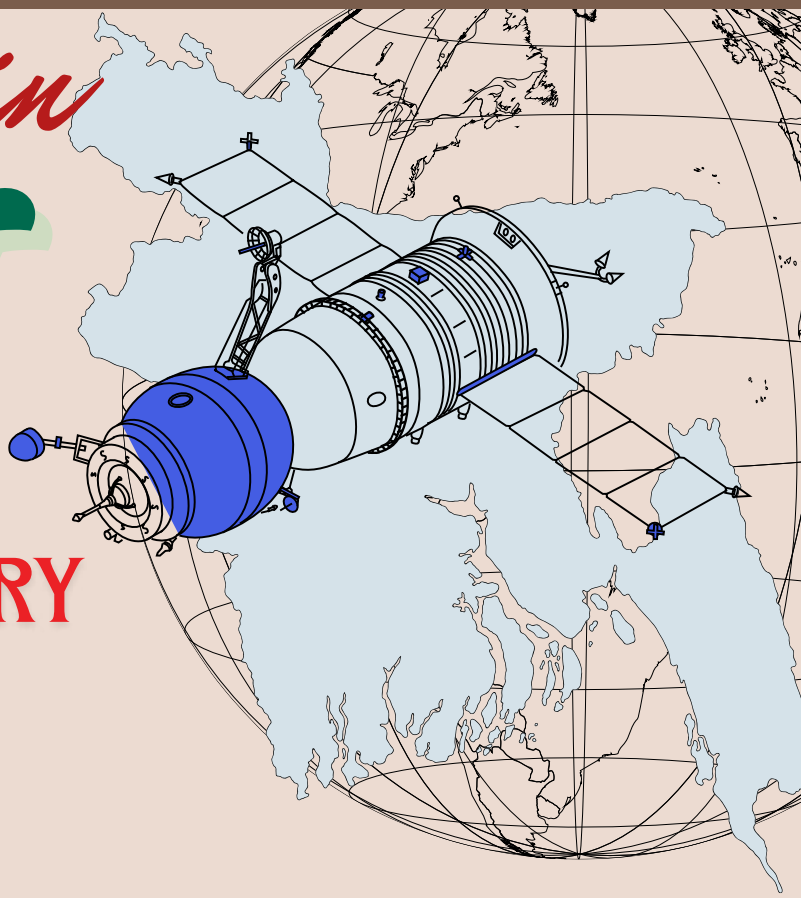
As Bangladesh continues to invest in research, innovation, and skilled human capital, international cooperation — including the Nordics' renowned technology sector — will be vital in unlocking the full potential of space-based solutions. I look forward to deepening the engagement in this field, where collaboration can generate lasting benefits for our citizens and contribute to a more connected and resilient world.

Through this newsletter, the Embassy aims to inform residents of Sweden, Finland, and Norway about Bangladesh and its citizens' successes both at home and abroad. This publication will also highlight the Embassy's activities and initiatives.

Wahida Ahmed
Ambassador

Bangladesh in ORBIT

Discovering the SATELLITE INDUSTRY



HISTORY OF THE SATELLITE JOURNEY IN BANGLADESH

On 12 May 2018, Bangladesh made a historic leap into space with the successful launch of Bangladesh Satellite-1 (BS-1). Manufactured by Thales Alenia Space and launched from the Kennedy Space Center in Florida, BS-1 marked Bangladesh's entry as the 57th country in the world to operate its own satellite.

The satellite was a significant milestone for national pride and technological advancement. More than a symbol, BS-1 was designed to reduce the country's dependence on foreign satellite services, improve telecommunication infrastructure, and create a sovereign communications ecosystem.

For a nation with a fast-growing digital economy and a vision for inclusive development, BS-1 signaled the beginning of a new chapter — one that embraces space technology not as a luxury, but as a powerful tool for progress. The satellite's launch reflected Bangladesh's commitment to innovation and future-oriented development in communication, broadcasting, and public service delivery.

CURRENT LANDSCAPE OF SATELLITE TECHNOLOGY IN BANGLADESH

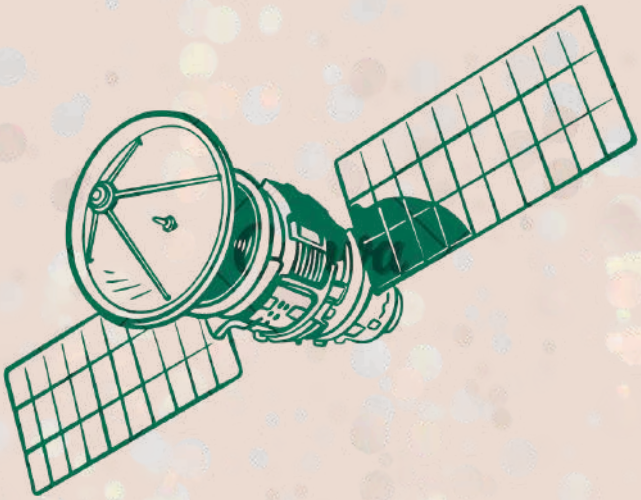
Today, Bangladesh's satellite capabilities are centered around Bangladesh Satellite-1 (BS-1), operated by the Bangladesh Satellite Company Limited (BSCL). Positioned in geostationary orbit, BS-1 covers not only all of Bangladesh but also vast surrounding regions including India, Nepal, Bhutan, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, the Philippines, and parts of Central Asia — reaching 33% of the world's population.

Equipped with 24 Ku-band and 16 C-band transponders, BS-1 delivers vital services such as:

- Direct-to-Home (DTH) broadcasting
- VSAT communication (used in remote areas and government operations)
- Telemedicine for rural healthcare
- E-learning in underserved regions
- Digitalization of national cable networks

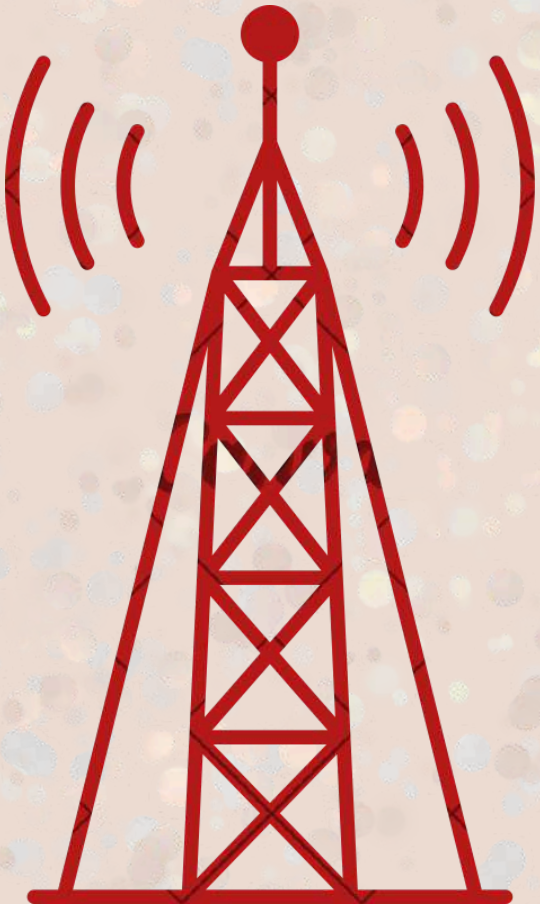
BSCL has also launched innovative solutions like Television Rating Point (TRP) systems and data analytics tools developed through academic partnerships. These are already being used to measure television audiences more effectively — an important step in modernizing media research in the country. Behind this operation stands a team of over 100 skilled professionals, supported by a growing national infrastructure and a commitment to deliver high-quality satellite services both domestically and internationally.

TOWARDS THE FUTURE: UNLOCKING THE POTENTIAL OF BANGLADESH'S SATELLITE INDUSTRY

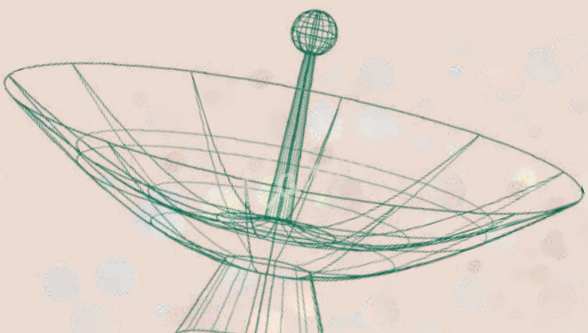


The future of Bangladesh's satellite sector is full of promise. According to industry forecasts, the country's satellite market is expected to grow at a rate of 15.2% annually from 2025 to 2031, driven by increasing demand in fields such as communications, broadcasting, navigation, and earth observation.

Satellite technology is not just about TV and the Internet — it is becoming a vital part of how Bangladesh monitors the environment, manages agriculture, predicts disasters, and secures its coasts. For example, in agriculture, satellite imagery helps farmers monitor crop health and soil moisture, improving yields while reducing environmental impact. Satellite data is now also supporting forest cover assessments and air quality tracking, expanding the country's ability to promote environmental stewardship. In disaster preparedness, real-time satellite data enables authorities to analyze pre- and post-disaster conditions with remarkable speed and precision — as seen in 2024, when floodplain changes between March and September informed early interventions and better resource coordination. In urban areas, land subsidence trends are being mapped and incorporated into infrastructure planning, supporting the creation of climate-adaptive cities. In maritime security, satellite tracking aids in identifying illegal fishing, trafficking, oil spills, and marine litter — helping to protect the Blue Economy. The use of synthetic aperture radar (SAR) and optical imaging allows for 24/7 monitoring, even during poor weather or at night.



As the world becomes increasingly data-driven, Bangladesh is well-positioned to harness these tools to drive sustainable development. A critical advantage lies in national control over satellite data: Bangladesh's own infrastructure ensures that sensitive information remains in national hands, enabling faster decision-making in emergencies and strengthening the country's autonomy. However, challenges remain — such as high initial investment costs and a shortage of specialized skills. To meet these needs, public-private partnerships, workforce training, and investment in R&D will be key. By continuing to invest in its space capabilities, Bangladesh is not just reaching for the skies — it is building a smarter, more resilient, and inclusive future for all its citizens.





Ambassador Wahida Ahmed presented her credentials to the King of Sweden His Majesty Carl XVI Gustaf at the Royal Palace on 29 April 2025.



Ambassador Wahida Ahmed had a meeting with Foreign Minister of Sweden H.E. Ms. Maria Malmer Stenergard at the Swedish Foreign Ministry, recalling the 53 years of relations between Bangladesh and Sweden.





Ambassador Wahida Ahmed attended the SBBC event to share insights on Bangladesh's political progress and economic reforms under the Interim Government.



Ambassador Wahida Ahmed joined a lunch meeting hosted by Ms. Diana Janse, State Secretary for Foreign Trade of Sweden. The discussion highlighted trade and investment connectivity between Bangladesh and Sweden and offered networking with key stakeholders, including the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Business Sweden, SBBC, Juteborg Sweden AB, and Ericsson.



Ambassador Wahida Ahmed met with the H&M Group team to reaffirm a strong partnership.

EMBASSY ACTIVITIES

The Embassy of Bangladesh celebrated Bangla New Year with a vibrant cultural celebration at the Embassy premises, featuring colorful performances that reflected the rich traditions and festive spirit of the occasion.



















The Embassy of Bangladesh, in collaboration with the Nordic Forum of Bangladeshi Academicians and Researchers (NF-BAR), hosted a seminar on "Satellite Industry in Bangladesh: The Present and the Future". The keynote address was delivered by Dr. Imadur Rahman, CEO of Bangladesh Satellite Company Limited.



Ambassador Wahida Ahmed met with Mr. Sten Tolgfors, Governor of Region Västra Götaland, in Gothenburg to strengthen bilateral cooperation, with a focus on sustainable trade and innovation.



Ambassador Wahida Ahmed met with Business Sweden representatives to exchange views on how to strengthen economic ties and explore avenues for collaboration between Bangladesh and Sweden.



The Embassy of Bangladesh in Sweden participated in the Executive Lunch hosted by SBBC. Ambassador Wahida Ahmed emphasized that now is the perfect time to connect Swedish expertise with Bangladesh's development needs, creating real opportunities for companies and investors.











A 28-member National Defence College Bangladesh delegation, led by Major General Md Masudur Rahman, visited Sweden from 30 August–5 September 2025. The group met the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Defence, Swedish Defence University, Armed Forces, and SOFF - discussing bilateral ties, security policy, defence industry, and global/regional issues. Ambassador Wahida Ahmed hosted a dinner with the delegation, joined by the Swedish Ambassador to Bangladesh.





During her visit to the Port of Gothenburg, Ambassador Wahida Ahmed met senior officials Mr. Patrik Benrick and Mr. Claes Sundmark to discuss the revival of the direct shipping route with Chittagong Port.



At the University of Borås, Ambassador Wahida Ahmed met Ms. Jenny Balkow and Bangladeshi students, with lab visits showcasing innovation in fabric recycling and sustainable textiles.

Honorary Consul Ms. Christina Östergren hosted a reception in Gothenburg where Ambassador Wahida Ahmed showcased Bangladesh's incentives for trade, eco-friendly products, and technology transfer to international Honorary Consuls.



NIKHIL SEN GUPTA



NIKHIL SEN GUPTA, A BANGLADESHI RUNNER, TOOK PART IN THE STOCKHOLM MARATHON (42.5 KM) ON 31 MAY 2025, PROUDLY REPRESENTING BANGLADESH. LAST YEAR, HE EARNED A SILVER MEDAL IN THE SAME COMPETITION.





ZABEER-ZARIF AKHTER

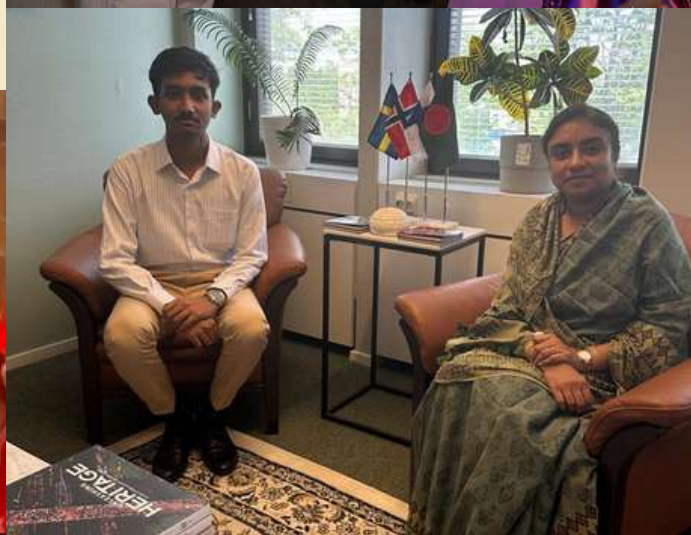


MR. ZABEER ZARIF AKHTER REPRESENTED BANGLADESH AS A FINALIST OF THE PRESTIGIOUS STOCKHOLM JUNIOR WATER PRIZE 2025 WITH HIS PROJECT “AI BASED RAPID WATER TESTING SYSTEM”. THE STOCKHOLM JUNIOR WATER PRIZE IS AN INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION ORGANIZED BY THE STOCKHOLM INTERNATIONAL WATER INSTITUTE (SIWI), IN COLLABORATION WITH THE ROYAL SWEDISH ACADEMY OF SCIENCES AND HELD DURING WORLD WATER WEEK.

MR. AKHTER ALSO VISITED THE EMBASSY OF BANGLADESH IN STOCKHOLM, WHERE HE MET WITH AMBASSADOR WAHIDA AHMED, WHO PRAISED HIS ACHIEVEMENT AS A SOURCE OF PRIDE FOR BANGLADESH AND ENCOURAGED HIM TO CONTINUE HIS CONTRIBUTION TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND INNOVATION.







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