

Independence

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 pines on 12 June, 1898. This remains the most important date in modern Philippine history. Independence had been won. If it was lost, it only needed to be restored.

The Filipinos thereafter established Asia's first democratic constitutional Republic. Aguinaldo was its President. Neither the Republic nor independence, however, would last long. By February 1899, the Filipinos were engaged in a new war against the American forces that had arrived from mainland USA. Faced with superior arms and firepower, the

Philippine army led by General Antonio Luna, who had obtained military education in Germany, was forced to retreat. President Aguinaldo was soon captured and the Republic fell to America by 1901. In the next 40-some years, however, with outstanding US governors like William Howard Taft administering the country, the once bitter enemies were to become close friends.

The Philippine independence movement shifted into peaceful gear as American colonial rule gradually allowed political parties to form under a system where Filipinos enjoyed the same basic freedoms as Americans in mainland USA.

Relations

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 ration, business consulting and energy development.

Philippine institutions such as the UP Los Banos, Asian Institute of Management, the Center for Development Management and Productivity, etc., and Philippine government bodies like the Department of Agriculture, Department of Health, Department of Trade and Industry, National Economic Development Authority, and others, have invariably become training ground for various Bangladesh officials under various international programs. Many Bangladeshis have

finished graduate or undergraduate degrees in Philippine schools including the University of the Philippines which has offered competitive scholarship grants to qualified Bangladeshis. And the Philippine-based International Rice Research Institute or IRRI has also provided training and education to countless Bangladesh agriculturists.

Over the years, various Filipino experts have worked in Bangladesh as consultants with FAO, the UNICEF, UNHCR, CIRDAP, CIDA, the Ford Foundation and other organizations. There are also various Filipinos serving as consultants in Bangladesh private sector.

We share with the Republic of the Philippines and its people the glorious observance of the 96th Anniversary of their Independence

Congratulations and Best Wishes

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OUR HEARTIEST FELICITATIONS TO THE PEOPLE AND GOVERNMENT OF
PHILIPPINES ON THEIR 96TH INDEPENDENCE DAY

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 on the
 National Day of the Philippines*



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 to
 THE PHILIPPINES
 and the
 FILIPINO COMMUNITY OF
 BANGLADESH**

On the Occasion of the
**96TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
 INDEPENDENCE OF THE PHILIPPINES**

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**WARMEST FELICITATIONS
 to the
 PHILIPPINES
 and the
 FILIPINO PEOPLE**

On the 96th Anniversary of the
**INDEPENDENCE DAY of the
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and Hail to
BANGLADESH-PHILIPPINES FRIENDSHIP

**A. Rouf Chowdhury
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