

NATIONAL DAY OF EGYPT



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Egypt — the Cradle of Civilization

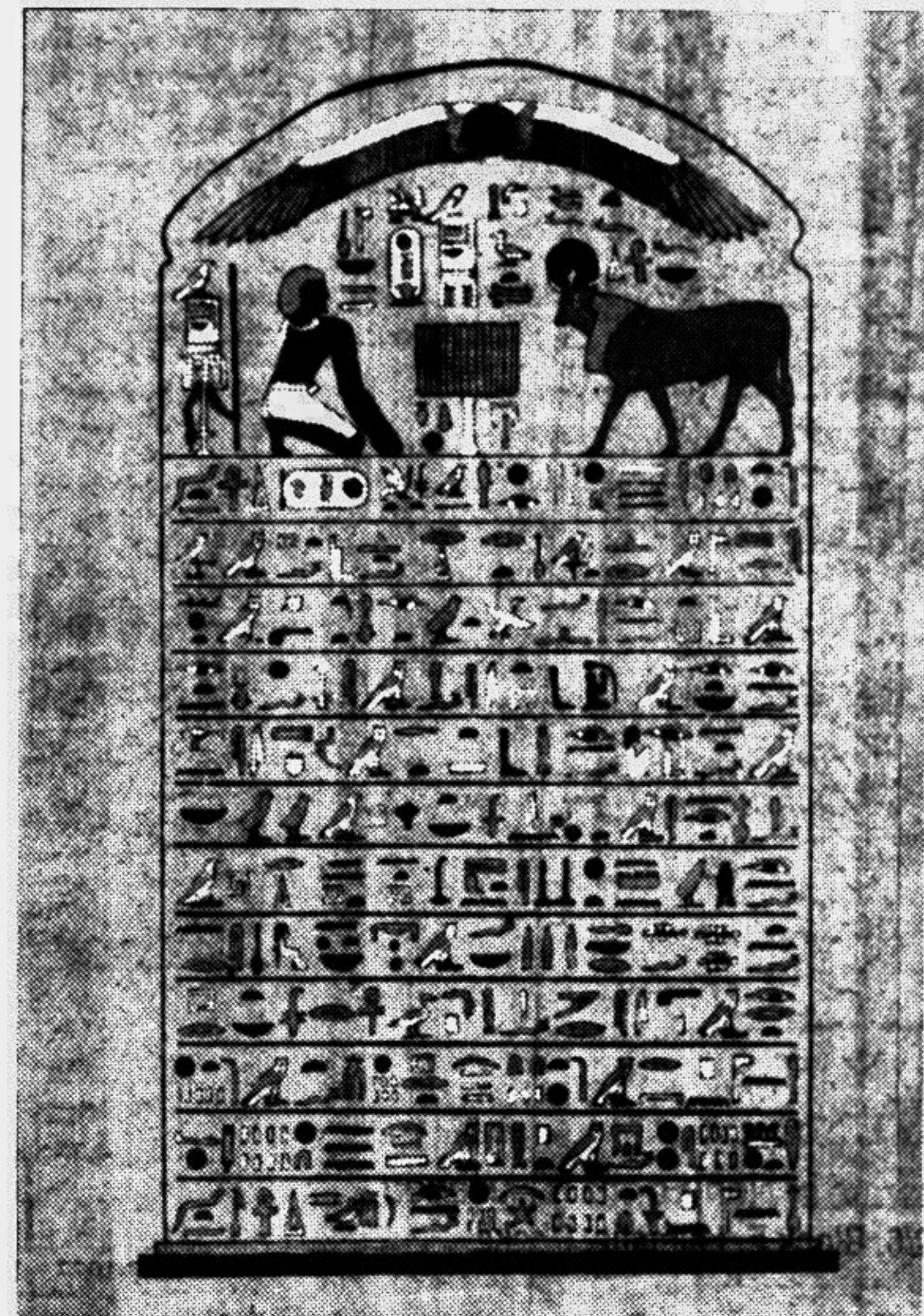
THE Egyptian Civilization is characterised by two main phenomena, ancientness and continuity. The Egyptian civilization is one of the oldest in human history (more than 7 thousand years). Living at the cross road from Africa, Asia and Europe, Egypt has been in touch with almost all the civilizations of the world. Not only that, but Egypt has been able to embrace these civilizations and culture. On the good land of Egypt the

has been cared for and given prominent attention by rulers and people alike, being the oldest mosque in Cairo and the oldest university in the Islamic world. Currently Al Azhar embraces different fields of study. In addition to the different faculties teaching the different subjects of Islamic studies, these faculties of modern success including Medicine, Engineering and translation. It holds more than 40,000 students mostly Egyptians but also

from almost every country on the globe and of course Bangladesh. It comprises a library abounding in valuable books, manuscripts and printed matter. Volumes number some 70,000, 11,000 of which are manuscripts. In addition to Al Azhar, Other Egyptian Islamic Institutions and schools has been a reference and source of the teachings of Islamic with their publication, public meeting, overseas visits and sponsoring of Islamic studies in Egypt and abroad.

Bangladesh has enjoyed close cooperation with Egypt in this field. Brotherly Bangladeshi students study on scholarships as well as on their own at different Egyptian Educational Institutions especially in Al Azhar. In addition, Egypt provides different training courses to its brothers from Bangladesh, including Imams and Preaches courses. Both countries exchange participation in each others conferences and competitions. His excellency Moulana Nurul Islam, State Minister of Religious Affairs attend the 8th International Conference of the Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs organised by the Egyptian Ministry of Wafk and Al Azhar in July, 1996. Moreover, Bangladeshi participates in the yearly International Quranic competition held in Cairo during the Holy month of Ramadan. Bangladeshi participants have demonstrated exceptional skills and won Three prizes (First, Third and Sixth). Also some Egyptian expert teaches are being sent by Egypt to assist their Bangladeshi counterparts in the teaching of Arabic-Islamic. Egypt and Bangladesh are constantly seeking to further extend the already flourishing cooperation in this field.

Egypt will definitely continue in its endeavor to spread its rich culture. Egypt has always been a source and a centre of attention for whatever civilization and culture it has embraced, from the pharaonic to the Arabic-Islamic, and it will continue to play this important and vital role forever.



Stele of Apies dedicated to an Apis

pharaonic civilization started, the Greek lived, the Roman prospered, the coptic flourished. Finally the Islamic civilization came and was embraced and pushed to spread even future.

The richness in historic experiences and culture shaped the character of modern Egypt and made it-as some critics might put- 'Egypt's fate' to play a vital and important role in the International and regional arena. Throughout the long history, Egypt has always been aware of the fact that its civilization is not an exclusive possession. It has for long been spreading its cultural heritage to the whole world. One of its main continuous achievements is the spreading of the rightful teachings of Islam. Al Azhar University is one of the most obvious examples of this. Al Azhar was titled a light house of knowledge. It acquired a distinguished academic and religious status after being changed into a popular university during Al-Aziz era where different disciplines were taught and the Fatimid doctrines were propagated. (The first lecture was delivered in Safar 365H-975 AD). It received students from all over the Islamic world, thus Moroccans, Chinese, Tunisians and others met within its colonnades and stalls, and Africans and Asians were brought together in its courtyard by the bond of Islam. Students and professors got material as well as financial stipends dedicated by the Caliphs.

More than 1000 years elapsed and Al Azhar Mosque



Tutankhamun's funerary mask



President Mohamed Hosni Mubarak

Are You Interested in Doing Business with Egypt?

Economic Achievements

If you are, you have probably made your best decision yet. Egypt in the recent years has made tremendous Economic Developments. The Economic reform programs that Egypt has undertaken since the 80's is bearing its fruits. The growth of economic is going over 4% and the inflation has dropped from 28% to 7%. In addition the Egyptian government has succeeded in reducing the budget deficit to only one per cent and external debt burden has been reduced to half. The infrastructure has developed with currently abundant Electricity, sound water and sewerage management, modern telecommunication facilities, and ever growing Information and Data Base Computerised System. With this background, exports have started picking up and earn over 5 billion US Dollars annually. 22 Industrial parks and six free economic zones and utilities like the 10th Ramadan have been growing and became renowned world wide. The investment policy has been liberalized and made lucrative to the foreigners. This made the investments in Egypt to grow about 41% from 1993/1994 to 1995/1996.

New Projects:

In addition, Egypt has embarked on an ambitious plan to raise per capita income to about \$3000 by the turn of the century from the present level of about \$1000. The country has also drawn up schemes to bring 25%

of land under cultivation and human habitation by the year 2020 (currently standing 5.5% only of the total area) by creating a New Delta in South of Egypt. This delta will come to life by pumping Nile water into Tushka canal. This massive project is expected to provide 300,000 feddans for Agriculture purpose and 200,000 feddans for pastoral purposes, absorb 500,000 inhabitants and create 150,000 new jobs.

The prospect of this project are made brighter by discovering iron ore with near by, creating more prosperous mining and industrial developing in the area. Similar projects at a smaller scale are being extended in Sinai and different parts of Egypt. All this have made of Egypt as the Deputy Head of the International Finance Corporation puts it, the most vibrant and attractive investment market in the Middle East and Africa.

Interested Bangladeshi business men have a tremendous potential to explore in Egypt. In addition to the traditional items that are being traded between the two brotherly countries (Jute, Cotton, Fertilizers), there are many others items mainly building materials, ceramics, house appliances, tractors, Dyes, Chemicals, Industrial Equipment's that can be imported from Egypt, or to establish joint ventures to produce and export these items to different parts of the world especially the Middle East and Africa.

Trade Centre of Egypt

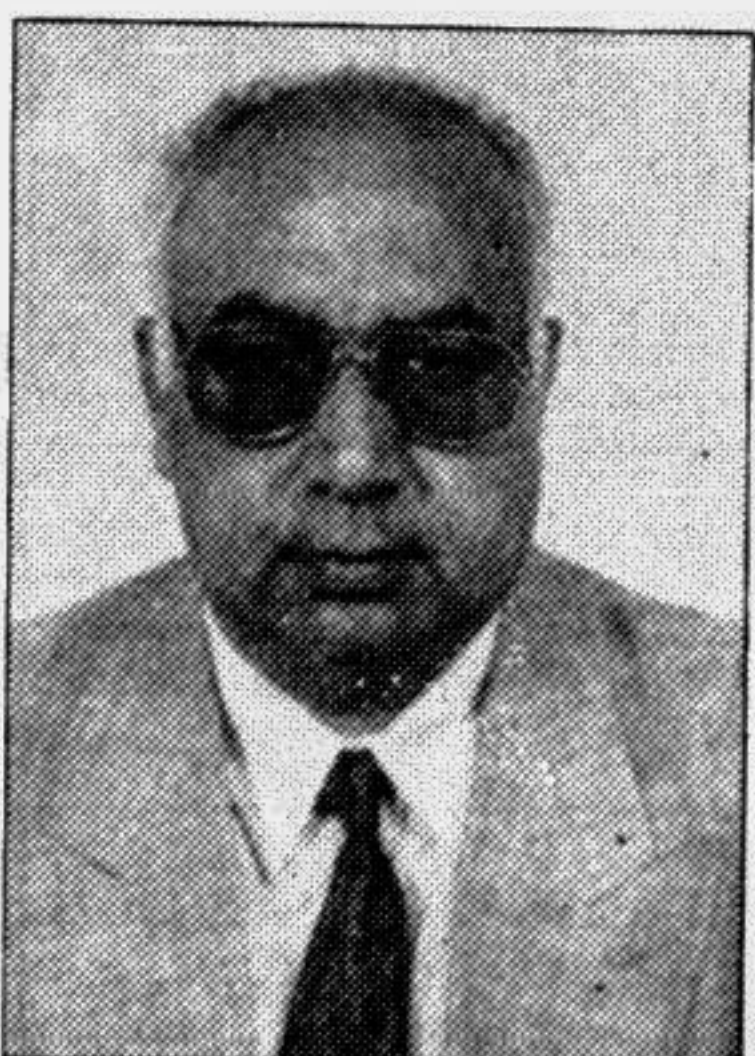
The Trade Centre of Egypt (TCE) in Dhaka is engaged in promoting trade between Dhaka and Cairo since its inception.

TCE is one of several overseas branches of Misr Import and Export Company (IMPEX-MISR) which is considered as the respectable public sector company engaged in exchanging different types of metals, chemicals, fertilizers, engineering, agricultural products, supplying commodities and foodstuffs all over the world.

Currently TCE is engaged in promoting and strengthening the steady flow of rock phosphate with BCIC and raw Egyptian cotton with prospective mills as well as entering the construction and transport markets with items like steel, PVC pipes and fittings, tiles, white and gray cement, buses, railway coaches and carriages and helicopters.

TCE could execute successfully several contrasts of raw jute and jute goods in favour and account of the general jute products company (JUTIMA) Cairo through the help and assistance of local government organisations BJMC and TCB and several well-known private sector suppliers in Bangladesh. There are a number of items which can be exported to Bangladesh. These are among these aluminium wire, zinc, ingots, tyres and tubes, transformers, pharmaceutical, raw materials and medical supplies, iron and steel products, sugar and electronics.

TCE takes the opportunity to express gratitude to Bangladesh entrepreneurs and traders for



Magdi Riad Ibrahim
Trade Representative

extending whole-hearted cooperation to expand mutual and economic relations between Cairo and Dhaka.

During last 35 years, TCE has been serving relentlessly to promote and diversify trade between Bangladesh and Egypt. The centre has also created interest among Bangladeshi business community to do more business with the brotherly country Egypt. The volume of trade between the two countries is increasing day by day. The friendly ties between the two brotherly countries will be strengthened in years to come. I foresee more trade between the two countries in view of opening of trade frontiers as a result of introduction of market economy.

The Relations between Egypt and Bangladesh

THE relations between Egypt and Bangladesh goes back to the early days after the Independence of Bangladesh. In fact Egypt is one of the first countries that recognized the independence of Bangladesh. The formal diplomatic relations between the two brotherly countries started from 16/9/1973. Since then and the two countries had ever increasing prosperous relations. It is Egypt that has exerted its all out efforts and used its potentials and diplomacy at the highest level in order to persuade the reluctant other Islamic countries to recognize the newly independent state.

These efforts have been crowned by the visit of H.E. late President Sadat to Bangladesh in 1974. The First visit ever of an Arab or Muslim head of state to Bangladesh. At the end of this historic visit President Sadat accompanied by H.E. Sheikh Mujibur Rahman went together to attend the OIC summit in Lahore (in the country from which Bangladesh took independence). Now for a since that time, the two countries have cooperated within the OIC and other International organisations. They have exchanged view, coordinated together and supported each other's view. Bosnia and the Palest-

inian cause are only few of the many issues in which Egypt and Bangladesh have and still are cooperating. One of the most recent areas of cooperation is the D-8 group. This group of eight Islamic countries including Egypt and Bangladesh, has for aim to increase the potential of economic cooperation between the member state as well as enhance the chances of the groups vis-a-vis other countries and economic blocks.

It is through this kind of cooperation that out two brotherly nations are achieving better prospects of development and prosperity.

MESSAGE

Today the 23rd of July 1997 marks the 45th anniversary of the glorious Egyptian revolution. This revolution did not only change the course of events in Egypt but sent rippling effects across the Middle East, Africa, and even Asia and had world wide consequences.

One of the principals the revolution has set, is developing good relations with brotherly emerging Islamic countries. Bangladesh was one of the countries that Egypt has been to develop exceptional relations with, since its Independence. The Government of Egypt too gave special attention to have excellent relation with all the leaders and successive Governments of Bangladesh starting from Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at all levels. The relations between our two brotherly countries and cooperation could be depicted as early as the visit of H.E. late President Sadat to Bangladesh in 1974. President Sadat was the first Arab and Muslim Head of State to visit Bangladesh used his good offices to pursue reluctant Islamic countries to accept the newly independent Bangladesh. He even accompanied Bangabandhu to the Islamic summit in Lahore. From this day on, the two countries had witnessed close cooperation in the OIC specially regarding the Bosnian issue and Jerusalem. The same is to be said for other international forums like NAM, U.N Organisations, WTO, where both countries have intensively consulted with each others, coordinated their efforts and supported each others positions and exchanged support of their candidatures in the international organisations.

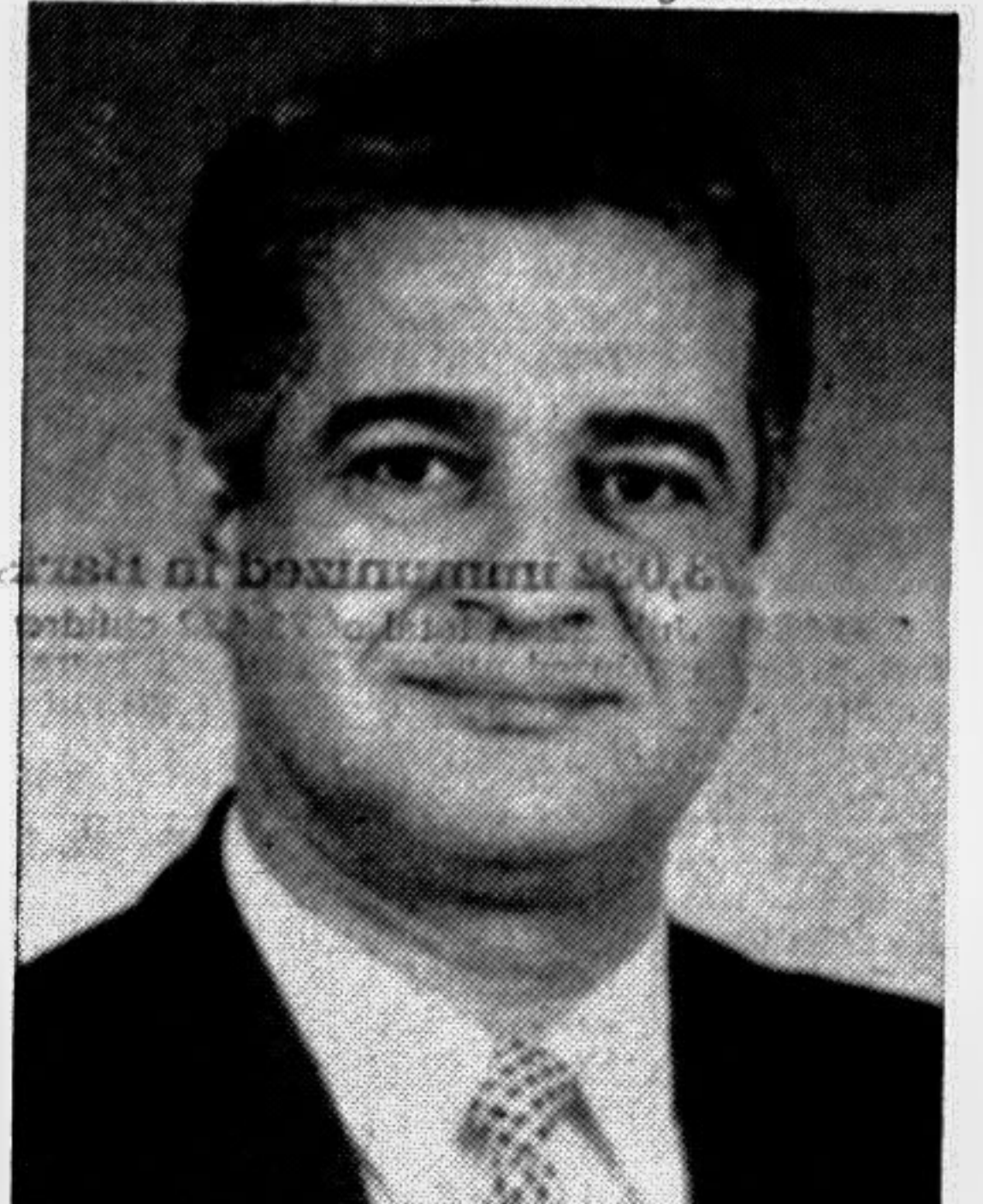
In the economic arena, both countries have tremendous potentials. Together we are currently exploring all possible means to further promote the already existing economic and trade relations. These efforts have been given a boost by the launching of the D-8 group. This new forum is designed to promote economic and trade links between Eight Islamic countries including Bangladesh and Egypt. The new forum will not only enhance cooperation between the member countries in areas like Industries, trade, rural development but it will also support the economic position of the member states within the world economic community.

I seize this opportunity hail and congratulate Bangladesh on the role it has played in the International arena specially its support to the Palestinian cause and the peace process and

their remarkable efforts in the Al Quads committee which we in Egypt look with admiration and esteem to Bangladesh's pioneering and leading efforts in the field of rural development, poverty alleviation, micro credit and many others. These efforts that has attracted the attention of countries from the four corners of the Globe including some of the most developed nations. And several countries including Egypt are interested in exchanging views and cooperation with guidance Bangladesh in these fields.

May God bless the brotherly people of Bangladesh, and protect our two beloved countries, and May he bless the already prosperous warm relations between us, to further success and prosperity for our two brotherly countries and assist us in promoting our efforts.

Long live Egypt, long live Bangladesh.



Ossama Mohamed Tawfik
Ambassador of Egypt to Bangladesh

Our Warmest Felicitations on The National Day of Egypt

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The Government and The Friendly People
of Egypt on the occasion of their
National Day

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