

# RAOWA 20th Anniversary

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SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT

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## MESSAGE

I am really happy to learn that the Retired Armed Forces Officers' Welfare Association (RAOWA) is celebrating its 20<sup>th</sup> founding anniversary on this day, the 21<sup>st</sup> of March 2002. RAOWA, as is known to all, is the platform of the ex-service officers to meet and interact at social and recreational occasions, as well as to take up various welfare projects for the deserving beneficiaries.

I congratulate all members of this organization on its 20<sup>th</sup> founding anniversary. I also assure all possible support, assistance and patronage on my part for its success in every endeavour.

I sincerely wish grand success of RAOWA in the future days. I hope that it will continue rendering welfare to the retired officers more efficiently in the days to come.

**M Harun-ar-Rashid, BP**  
Lieutenant General  
Chief of Army Staff



## MESSAGE

It is gratifying to know that the Retired Forces Officers' Welfare Association (RAOWA) is celebrating its 20<sup>th</sup> Founding Anniversary on the 21<sup>st</sup> March, 2002. On this glorious occasion, I tend to congratulate all members of RAOWA and wish God-speed for its grand success.

I am very proud of the fact that this forum of social assembly is really a necessity for all Retired Armed Services members to meet, interact and think to embark upon various welfare measures for each other, thereby can contribute towards the well being of the society as well as of the Nation.

You will not find me lagging in my humble effort during my tenure, towards all your success.

**A Taher**  
Rear Admiral  
Chief of the Naval Staff

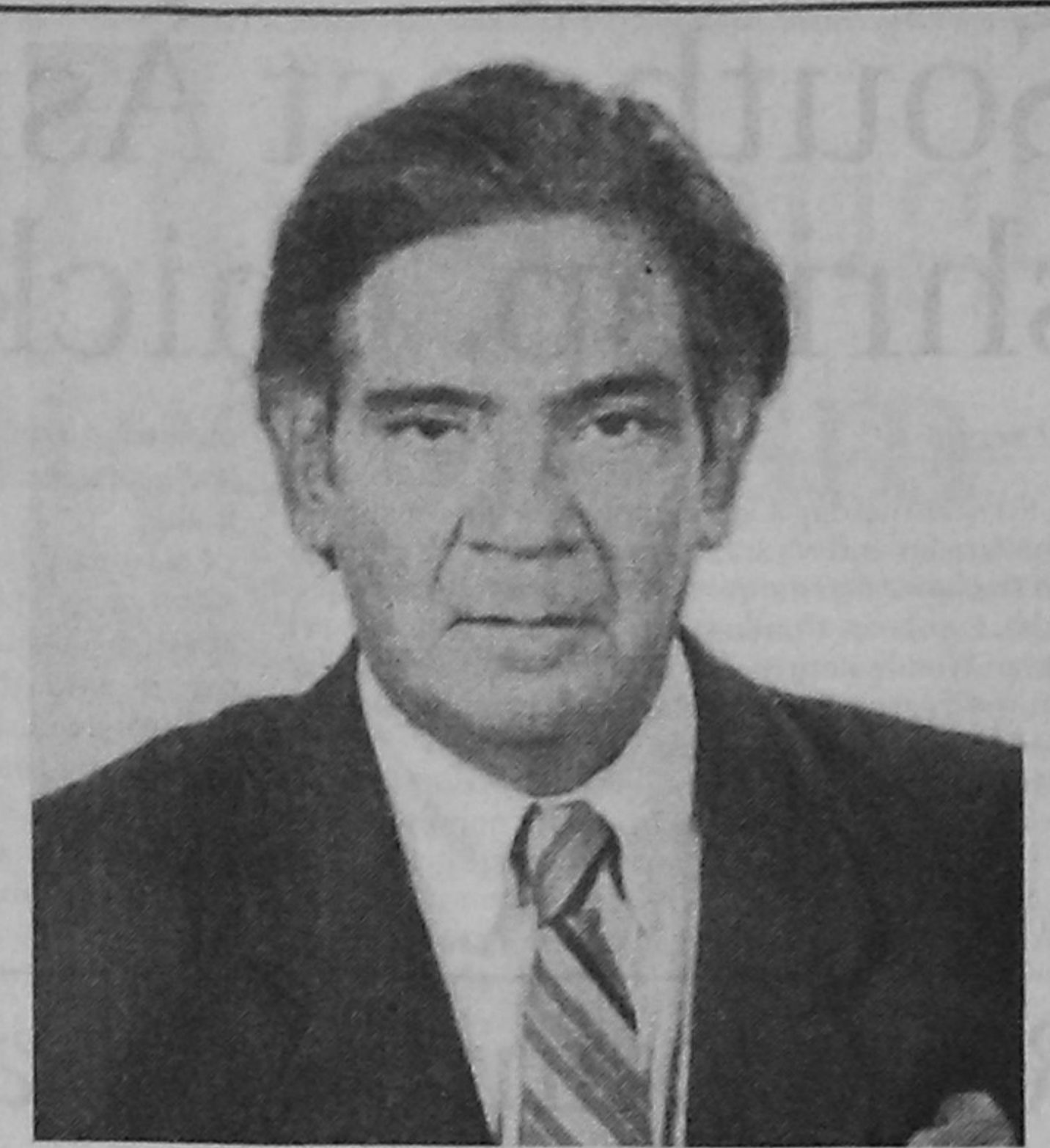


## MESSAGE

I am very happy that Retired Armed Forces Officers' Welfare Association (RAOWA) is organising its 20<sup>th</sup> Founding Anniversary Programme on the 21<sup>st</sup> of March 2002. RAOWA, over the years has considerably expanded its services and now has taken up ambitious plans to increase the facilities within its premises. The membership has also increased and the club premises are very popular with its members and their families.

I hope that the activities of the club will continue to increase in the days to come and wish that the anniversary programme will be a great success.

**M Rafiqul Islam**  
Air Vice Marshal  
Chief of the Air Staff



## MESSAGE

Twenty-first March is a very special day in the annals of Retired Armed Forces Officers' Welfare Association (RAOWA). A rare occasion has come for us to celebrate the 20<sup>th</sup> Founding Anniversary of RAOWA. On this day of days I feel proud to be associated with RAOWA and the March Celebration this year.

A home for the retired officers of Army, Navy and Airforce, RAOWA provides a familiar environment to that, the officers have enjoyed during the long career in active service. The retired officers contribute significantly towards the economy of the country as business entrepreneurs, professionals and social workers, in every sphere of national life. RAOWA being the apex body of the Retired Armed Forces Officers, it plays an important role in the overall development of the country.

RAOWA's Family Welfare Scheme has been responded by large number of members. Various social and cultural events have been participated by increasing number of members which have made RAOWA a vibrant organisation today.

I take this opportunity to express my heartfelt gratitude to all our patrons, friends, and well-wishers who have come forward with contribution to make the occasion a success. I also thank the members of the Executive Committee, Organizing Sub Committees, RAOWA members and our staff for their sincere cooperation, dedication and energetic help in organising the 20<sup>th</sup> Founding Anniversary Celebration.

I hope and pray for the undeterred and continued march of RAOWA towards a glorious future.  
Longlive RAOWA

**Flg Offr Mohd Gholam Murtaza (Retd)**  
Chairman,  
Retired Armed Forces Officers' Welfare Association

## Founder Members -- RAOWA

Sl.No.	RANK	NAME
1.	Lt Gen	Khawaja Wasiuddin, HQA, SPK, idc, psc
2.	Col	SM Reza, psc
3.	Lt Col	QAFMA Raquib
4.	Lt Col	Hesamuddin Ahmed, psc
5.	Maj	AKM Fazlul Bari, psc, psn, G
6.	Maj	Qazi Sharif Uddin Ahmed, psc, te
7.	Capt	MA Hakim
8.	Maj	Anwarul Haq
9.	Brig	A Rouf
10.	Lt Col	Mohd. Fazlur Rab
11.	Maj	A Malek
12.	Lt Col	HM Bahar
13.	Lt Col	Rezaul Jalil
14.	Maj	Syed Ashfaq Ahmed
15.	Capt	Jamilur Rahman Khan
16.	Capt	Mohd. Hafizullah
17.	Lt Col	Mohd. Mahmoodur Rahman
18.	Col	Mohd Iqbal
19.	Maj	Kazi Ashfaq Ahmed
20.	Maj	Anukul Chandra Deb
21.	Maj	Md Anwar Hossain
22.	Maj	Altafur Rahman
23.	Maj	Alauddin Ahmed
24.	Capt	Md Nurul Amin
25.	Brig	M Atiq-ur-Rahman, psc
26.	Lt Col	AS Helal Uddin, psc
27.	Maj	Mohd Mushim Uddin
28.	Maj	KA Jahangir Khan
29.	Capt	Bhuiya Fazlur Rahman
30.	Maj	Qazi Shahryar Hafiz
31.	Maj	M Zaman
32.	Maj	Syed Abdul Mannan
33.	Maj	Khalequzzaman Chowdhury, psc
34.	Capt	Qazi Khurshid-uz-Zaman Utpal
35.	Maj	Abdus Sattar
36.	Maj	Rafiqul Islam, BU
37.	Capt	ABM Nowsher Alam
38.	Maj	M Masood
39.	Maj	Zulfiqar Hossain Chowdhury
40.	Lt Col	SM Shafiqul Quader
41.	Maj	SA Hakim
42.	Capt	SM Nasirul Haque
43.	Maj	ABM Mominul Islam
44.	Maj	MA Maleque Chowdhury
45.	Capt	MN Safa
46.	Capt	Anisur Rahman Sinha
47.	Lt Col	M Fayez Bahar, psc
48.	Maj	M Serajul Islam
49.	Lt Col	Zahidul Haque Chowdhury
50.	Maj Gen	M Khalil-ur-Rahman, psc
51.	Maj	Rafiqul Islam
52.	Maj	Enamul Haque Chowdhury
53.	Lt	Mohd Ruhul Amin
54.	Lt Col	Mahtabuddin Ahmed
55.	Capt	Akhter Jahan Masud
56.	Col	A Maleque, psc
57.	Lt Col	M Hasmatullah Khan
58.	Maj	Mahdi Ali Imam, BB
59.	Maj	Ali Akhter
60.	Lt	Md Khalid Hossain
61.	Maj Gen	Mohammad Wajhi Ullah, psc
62.	Lt	Bakhtiar Ahmed Khan
63.	Capt	Kazi AZM Saiful Haque
64.	Lt Col	Mohd Abdul Gaffar Halder, BU
65.	Maj	Khandker Badrul Hasan
66.	Brig	Feroze Salahuddin
67.	Maj	Ahmed Iftekhar
68.	Maj	Azizur Rahman Chowdhury

## RAOWA in retrospect

"OLD soldiers never die; They just fade away." So goes a well-known song from The First World War. It's somewhat doleful, even a bit depressing, as many war songs are, but that is because it has an element of realism. Once out of uniform, soldiers, sailors and airmen tend to feel that the best part of their life is over. Having become used to a well-ordered life with a clearly defined hierarchy, they may find civilian life distressingly anarchic.

The problem is perhaps exacerbated in the case of Defense Forces officers, trained to command and obey, and conditioned to regard discipline as the norm. While in uniform their psyche is nourished by "esprit de corps" and a stoic code of conduct. Retirement thrusts them into a chaotic world where it may seem that "nothing works and nobody cares." Not everyone in this situation can readily adapt. Many suffer from a sense of drift and even find it difficult to explore new means of livelihood. The civilian work environment and the wheeling and dealing of the business world are likely to be uncongenial to the military temperament.

The retired Armed Forces officer, in one word, is exposed to a state of disorientation. This may last quite a while if the officer cannot find old friends, especially those in a similar situation, with whom he can talk about his problem and thereby release some of his frustration. For this reason, welfare organizations catering to the needs of ex-officers and veterans have sprung up worldwide. In Bangladesh RAOWA is such an organization.

The story of RAOWA begins on 21 March 1982, when 68 retired officers

formally launched the organization. Little more than a sapling at the outset, the retired Armed Forces Officers' Little more than a sapling at the outset, the Retired Armed Forces Officers' Welfare Association, to give its full name, has been nurtured over the years into a large banyan tree, so to speak. Its leafy shade offers hospitality to 1068 members and their families. Today it is one of the fastest growing social welfare organizations in the country.

RAOWA's primary objective is to work for the welfare of its members and at the same time strengthen its connection with the mainstream of national life. Significant among its welfare projects is the RAOWA Family Welfare Scheme, launched in 1999 with the aim of providing material and moral support to families of deceased members. All RAOWA members can subscribe to the scheme; for an annual premium of Tk. 500/-, member's life is insured for Tk. 50,000/- payable to his nominee in the event of his demise.

RAOWA maintains a separate account for this purpose and invests funds in Defence Savings Certificates. Constant liaison is maintained with the appropriate branch of the Armed Forces headquarters in order to obtain financial aid for this fund. It is envisaged that in future RAOWA will have sufficient funds to offer help to its members for medical treatment or any other emergency. The welfare scheme is managed by the welfare sub-committee, which also hopes to take up in course of time various other welfare projects suggested by RAOWA members.

Right now, RAOWA is poised for a great leap forward. The Concept

Plan for the RAOWA Complex has been approved by the General Body. It is only a matter of time before the new building rears its head and welcomes members to sample its varied facilities.

When completed, the RAOWA Complex will offer all-round recreational facilities, entertainment and culinary services to members and their families. Here is a likely scenario of a day at the RAOWA Complex.

A retired officer turns up with his family and grandchildren, say at 10 in the morning. They enter through the ground floor lobby and while away some time in a 5-star ambience. The gentleman's wife and the children decide to go swimming or use the gym; if he doesn't wish to join them, he can read newspapers and magazines in the lounge or library, or play a round of billiards. After some time the family gathers for lunch in the dining hall. Then they retire to one of the lounges for a little rest, after which the gentleman plays a video game or table tennis the choices are varied.

When everyone is tired out, afternoon tea revives their energy. After a refreshing shower they join in card games or head for the billiard room or they can visit the TV lounge, equipped with state of the art home theatre video, and watch a film. Soon it is time for dinner again in the pleasant atmosphere of the dining hall. Before returning home the family visits the bakery for bread for next day's breakfast; flowers too can be bought for the home. Wouldn't it be lovely to spend such a day at RAOWA? It will be possible in the near future. It's something every RAOWA member looks forward to that day.

## Executive Committee Members -- 2002

Sl.No.	DESIGNATION	NAME
1.	Chairman	Flg Offr Mohd Gholam Murtaza
2.	Senior Vice Chairman and Vice President RAOWA Club	Maj M Taneem Hasan
3.	Vice Chairman Development and Vice President RAOWA Club	Maj Khandker Badrul Hasan
4.	Vice Chairman Organisation and Welfare	Lt Col Khandker Nurul Haq, psc
5.	Secretary General	Maj Syed Ashfaq Ahmed
6.	Organising Secretary and Secretary RAOWA Club	Lt Col Gazi Sultan Mahmood
7.	Treasurer	Lt Col Ali Akbar
8.	Joint Secretary and Welfare Secretary RAOWA	Lt Col M M Ali Ashraf
9.	Asstt. Secretary Development and Coordination	Brig Enayet Hussain, psc
10.	Asstt. Secretary RAOWA and Asstt Secretary RAOWA Club	Lt Col Mohd Delwar Husain
11.	Asstt. Treasurer RAOWA and Treasurer RAOWA Club	SQN LDR Mahmood Iqbal
12.	Member Beverage RAOWA Club	Maj Mahbub-Ur Rahman
13.	Member Catering RAOWA Club	Maj M Mizanur Rahman
14.	Member Games and Sports RAOWA Club	Maj Kazi Ashfaq Ahmed
15.	Member Cultural and Entertainment RAOWA Club	Maj KS Firoz
16.	Member Development RAOWA Club	Capt (BN) Mohd Badrul Amin, psc
17.	Member Organisation RAOWA	Lt Col Masoudul Hossain Khan
18.	Member Finance RAOWA	Lt Col M Shamsuddin Ahmed
19.	Member Welfare RAOWA	Maj AKM Reazul Islam, BB
20.	Member Development RAOWA	Maj Md Yead Ali Fakir
21.	Member Library and Publication RAOWA	Col Nazmul Alam



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## RAOWA in nation building

**LT COL MASOUDUL HOSSAIN KHAN (RETD)**

FOR a worthwhile structure it is of paramount necessity to have a solid foundation. It is equally pertinent for building a nation. For Bangladesh those millions who with the mission of no return sprang into the struggle at the very call of the ruptured motherland, had the foundation immersed so strong which ultimately led to the creation of sovereign Bangladesh. Against the greatest of odds, magic blend of human spirit, struggle, urge for sacrifice and dedication had adorned the nation with spectacular victory and thus the sovereign state of Bangladesh was born.

At the end of the rigorous of the nine months of Liberation War and after the emergence of Bangladesh,

our Armed Forces embarked on the process of re-organising, like other organs of the State. As some officers of the Armed Forces were retired/released from their services, a good number of them felt the need of forming a welfare association, naming it to be the Retired Armed Forces Officers' Welfare Association (RAOWA). Among them, were survivors of participants of the freedom struggle as well as those repatriated after languishing in various jails and concentration camps of Pakistan.

Let us now examine various factors and try to understand how further development of a country can be brought about, and how and what effective role the members of RAOWA can play. Obviously it is a long-term process that goes on over years, with a brick being laid over a brick horizontally as well as verti-

cally in order to turn a country into a Nation worth the name, out of the initial edifice. This overall process involves different factors and resources available in a country, which are mainly men and material.

There is no dearth of natural and material resources including the manpower required in our country, but whether we have the right man behind each gun (material) is the question to examine and analyse. Development work leads to nation-building through various processes of political development, socio-economic progress, good governance, accountability, transparency, financial discipline, diligence, loyalty, honesty etc etc, which can be termed as prime factors of the overall process.

The valued members of RAOWA, before their retirement or release

from their respective services, were engaged in highly responsible positions irrespective of their rank, seniority and capacity. They all had been through similar training in their career engrained in them certain common character traits like, loyalty, honesty, dedication/devotion, and the capacity to undergo mental and physical hardship and even to a great extent of being well-mannered, tactful and diplomatic. As such, our honorable members of RAOWA are in a position to work for the development of Bangladesh as a Nation. Many of them have since attained eminence in diverse fields. Of those who deserve mention we have had two Presidents of the Republic, a number of Ministers gracing important portfolios of all the governments of the country, Members of

Parliaments, City Mayors etc. In bureaucracy and Police Service also a number of Retired Armed Forces Officers have been doing excellent jobs. Some of whom graced the coveted positions of Secretaries in different Ministries and also of the appointment of the Inspector General of Police, Chairman of Red Crescent Society, Chairman of various corporations and so and so forth. Besides, we are equally proud to have had a good number of Ambassadors, High Commissioners and other Diplomats to represent Bangladesh abroad. We are also lucky to have a sizeable share in the field of Industrial and Commercial development in the shape of Entrepreneurs and their active participation in different forums both within and outside the country. In the field of Culture and Sports also

we have some representation worth mentioning. We can, therefore, claim that RAOWA in every field marches with the nation.

As stated and opined earlier in this paper, Nation Building is an arduous and long drawn process that cannot be done by rubbing the Arabian Nights "Aladin's Lamp". We the Members of RAOWA in particular and the total populace in general of our Dear Country, Bangladesh, which has been carved out of the global map at the cost of the supreme sacrifice of millions, have to be earnestly united in our thought and action in order to positively contribute towards the objective of Nation Building.

Lt Col Masoudul Hossain Khan (Retd) is former Managing Director, Sena Kalyan Sangstha

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