



# National Day of Switzerland

SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT

## INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT SWITZERLAND



Here are some interesting facts about Switzerland:

- ❖ The Swiss eat more chocolate than any other nation in the world, 11.3 kg per year per person
- ❖ Switzerland has more than 1,500 lakes, and one is never more than 10 miles (16 km) from another lake within the country's borders
- ❖ Teaching in Switzerland is one of the highest paid occupations. As of 2014, the average salary for a Swiss teacher was US \$68,000 per year
- ❖ Swiss citizen Jean-Henri Dunant, the founder of the International Committee of the Red Cross, received the very first Nobel Peace Prize in 1901
- ❖ Switzerland has four national languages: French, German, Italian, and Romansch
- ❖ A very direct form of democracy is still practiced in two cantons in Switzerland. This open-air Landsgemeinde (Citizens' Assembly) is held on the public square, and all the people decide by a show of hands which laws are to be enacted
- ❖ The personal bodyguards of the Pope are called the Swiss Guard, and they really come from Switzerland
- ❖ There is a giant three-legged chair in Geneva, Switzerland dedicated to the opposition of use of landmines
- ❖ Heidi, one of the most famous children's books ever

- written, by Swiss author Johanna Spyri, has been translated into over 50 languages and been adapted for film or television about 20 times
- ❖ Tim Berners-Lee invented the World Wide Web in Switzerland in 1989
- ❖ Switzerland has one of the highest doctors to patients' ratios in the world, with well over 23,000 general practitioners and specialists for the country's 7.3 million inhabitants
- ❖ In Switzerland citizens can challenge any law passed by the Parliament - provided they can gather 50,000 signatures.
- ❖ More than half of Swiss domestic electricity is produced by 643 hydroelectric power plants, accounting for nearly 56% of domestic electricity production. It is recently reported that any drop of water that falls in Switzerland hits a turbine at least 12 times before it leaves the country.
- ❖ In 1891, Karl Elsener invented the Swiss Army Knife after finding out that army's knives at that time were made in Germany. He wanted to create a knife that could have multiple uses and was made in Switzerland. The invention was successful and today there are over 400 different models of the Swiss Army Knives

## Different points of view: Bangladesh and Switzerland relations

**D**URING 45 years of friendship, Bangladesh welcomed and keeps welcoming many people coming from Switzerland to work here in the country. Through their efforts, they share values, ideas and aspirations. We spoke with three expatriate persons about the relations between Bangladesh and Switzerland, trying to imagine how both countries could grow even closer in the future.

**Amitabh Sharma**  
Amitabh Sharma represents the Swiss Red Cross in Bangladesh, one of the many national societies that form the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. Born in Switzerland more than 150 years ago, the humanitarian movement today has a network of 80 million people, both in the International Committee and 190 national societies.

**Julian Weber, SELISE rockin' software**  
Julian Weber is the CEO of SELISE rockin' software, an innovative Swiss IT company that saw in Bangladesh an opportunity to



Amitabh Sharma, Swiss Red Cross

partner with young talents.  
**Niklaus Graber, Architect**  
The Swiss architect Niklaus Graber discovered Bangladesh's highly prolific architecture scene during research trips. In 2016 he was commissioned by the Swiss Architecture



Julian Weber, SELISE rockin' software

Museum to curate the exhibition «Bengal Stream. The vibrant Architecture Scene of Bangladesh», which will be on display at the museum in Basel from December 2017 till May 2018. The international exhibition, which is the first of its kind, is expected to tour a number of continents and countries, introducing Bangladeshi architecture to the whole world.

Considering your field of work, how does Switzerland contribute to its bilateral relations with Bangladesh?  
Weber: "Switzerland with its global recognition as a neutral and peace seeking country provides credibility to Swiss investors and companies on the Bangladesh market. And with its world leading position in Technology and Research & Development it is the right partner for Bangladesh to leapfrog from a developing to a mid-income country."

Sharma: "Ever since Bangladesh has been independent, Switzerland has given strong support in times of crises, especially disasters, both through multilateral bodies and many small Swiss NGOs that have been active in times of need for the last 45 years. Towards this end the bilateral relations deployed an interesting mix of strategies, engaging bilaterally with local partners to work bottom up and at the same time working through multilateral channels to support Bangladesh's effort at macro policy changes. The cooperation between the two countries has vehicled decentralization as a driver of inclusive growth and development."

Graber: "A small country like Switzerland that is not pursuing an expansive policy can bring in openness and an unprejudiced exchange as a sign of a cross-cultural dialog across continents."

In which areas the two countries should work more closely to improve the relations and intensify cooperation? Can you give an example?  
Sharma: "The shared values of democracy, tolerance and secularism between the two countries should be leveraged to rally around forces, both internal and external, for institutional reforms in Bangladesh. Fostering and nurturing knowledge partnerships between the two countries are another area that will further strengthen bilateral relations. Being a repository of knowledge and technical excellence, ways for greater knowledge exchange and technology transfer should be explored and institutionalised. Additionally, ways have to be found to increase the visibility of Bangladesh in Switzerland beyond cloth tags of t-shirts bought at H&M stores and the Rana Plaza incident in 2013. Bangladesh deserves to be more visible for its rich cultural diversity, economic potential and development success stories."

Weber: "Since Switzerland is an independent country [not a trade bloc member], it can develop customised and country specific bilateral agreements on trade and investment. This is a big chance for Switzerland and could give Swiss investors unique access to South Asia. At the same time Bangladesh could have access to one of the world's wealthiest independent economies which could fuel their local economic, cultural and infrastructural development."  
Graber: "Culture is the key and the base for any kind of fruitful cooperation. In my understanding for example architecture is a cultural process that affects every level of a society and my wish would be, that the exchange between architects

to miss during my extended stays.

Amitabh Sharma: "While Bangladesh has the longest natural beach, Switzerland is landlocked but in exchange there are beautiful Alps. On the other hand, people in Bangladesh are more forthcoming and incredibly hospitable; contrastingly the Swiss take time to open up and be similarly hospitable. Introducing CNGs in Switzerland could add a little more diversity to the Swiss means of local transport."

of the two countries could be intensified. Both sides can learn a lot from each other and a fusion of ideas from east and west on how to shape the environment can contribute towards a rich building culture for future generations."

What is the best thing that Bangladesh has but Switzerland does not, and vice versa?

Niklaus Graber: "You can't beat Bangladesh's hospitality and their generosity to share time. Where it seems that Switzerland has some technical knowhow on making watches, Bangladesh seems to have the inert knowledge on using time in a meaningful way. Sharing a Cha and having a chat at a tea stall in the lively streets in Bangladesh for example is the best way to re-connect to our inner clock."

Julian Weber: "Bangladesh has large areas of untouched nature, amazing rivers, miles of untouched sea beaches and mangrove forests full of wild animals. Vice versa, I would have to 'speak from my gut' and say Bangladesh doesn't have the same cheese selection as Switzerland, which I tend

**OMEGA**

GEORGE CLOONEY'S CHOICE

#moonwatch

OMEGA Speedmaster

AVAILABLE AT:  
Iqbal Center, Banani • Tel: 01868985756  
Bashundhara City • Tel: 01703254435  
Jamuna Future Park • Tel: 01727110045

**SAURER.**  
Embroidery  
SCHIFFLI/SHUTTLE EMBROIDERY

**NORSEL**

Module and features

- Knitting Production
- Machine Assign
- Production status
- Machine Loading status
- Different type of report (buyer wise, order wise)
- QC Module
- Instant QC TAB based
- QC report
- Rejection report
- Grey Store
- Receiving and Storing roll
- Grey store automatic status update
- Check point (Lot, GSM, Color as per requisition)
- Automatic delivery challan
- Global roll tracking at any stage of textile process.

**ASSL TEXTILE**

House No: 449 (1<sup>st</sup> floor), Road 31, New DOHS, Mohakhali, Dhaka-1206.  
Tel.: +88 02 9881134, Hot-line: +8801777701746, +880177701747  
E-mail: info@assltextile.com, Web: www.assltextile.com