

SINGAPORE AT 61

Building on Shared Values and Enduring Friendship



DEREK LOH
Singapore High Commissioner to Bangladesh

This year, Singapore celebrates 61 years of independence. 2026 also marks the 60th anniversary of the launch of Singapore's Pledge, which is recited by Singaporeans on the 9th of August at our annual National Day Parade and other celebratory events throughout the country to commemorate our founding and purpose as a nation and people. The Pledge is taught in our schools and recited by our schoolchildren and by our national servicemen when they serve their mandatory military service. Written by our first Foreign Minister, Mr. S Rajaratnam, the Pledge calls on Singaporeans to commit ourselves as "one united people, regardless of race, language or religion, to build a democratic society, based on justice and equality, to achieve happiness, prosperity and progress for our nation".

The pledge entrenches the enduring four core values of Singapore: multiculturalism, ensuring no single group defines Singapore; democracy, guaranteeing citizens a voice through regular elections; justice, applying the rule of law equally regardless of rank or wealth; and equality, fulfilling founding Prime Minister's words when he announced separation from Malaysia - "This is not a Malay nation; this is not a Chinese nation' this is not an Indian nation. Everyone will have his place, equal: language, culture and religion." Multiculturalism, democracy, justice and equality have held Singapore and its people together, through difficult times such as Covid-19 and will serve as a critical bond in an increasingly turbulent global environment.

As we celebrate our nationhood, we thank our international partners, including Bangladesh, with whom we will mark 55 years of diplomatic relations in 2027. Singapore was the first Southeast Asian nation to establish diplomatic ties with Bangladesh in February 1972. Over the decades, our friendship has deepened. In 2025, trade in goods between our nations totalled SGD $3.9 billion, making Bangladesh Singapore's second-largest trading partner in South Asia, alongside over SGD $3 billion in foreign direct investment in 2024.

Singaporean firms Sembcorp, PSA International, Surbana Jurong and Singapore Airlines have a firm presence in Bangladesh's economy and are interested in expanding further. Singapore can also partner with Bangladesh in the digital economy, urban planning, infrastructure projects and healthcare.

At the people-to-people level, the ties are longstanding and predate our independence. Many Bangladeshis have lived and worked in Singapore since the Colonial times, helping to build Singapore and adding to our multicultural pot. More recently, some 2,200 Bangladeshi officials have come to Singapore to engage in the Singapore Cooperation Programme (SCP) on courses and seminars from finance and public administration to sustainable development, and aviation. The interaction between our citizens cannot be overemphasised – it builds mutual understanding and with understanding respect.

Singapore's High Commission in Dhaka was upgraded from a Consulate in October 2023. This reflects the development and growth in our ties. Following the upgrade, our mutual engagement has increased from government and political parties to culture and academia. Last year the High Commission, as part of our 60th independence year celebrations, held a series of events, including a donation of 60 books to the Bangladesh National Library, a movie screening at North South University featuring two Singaporean films, cooking classes on Singapore cuisine held at the Bangladesh National Hotel and Tourism Training Institute and a children's charity event with Action Aid Bangladesh.

This year, we have added a consular networking and information sharing reception, an alumni gathering for SCP participants and a Singapore-Bangladesh art exhibition co-organised with the Art Bangla Foundation.

We continue to value our warm friendship with Bangladesh and will work to foster even closer relations and ties not only between us but also on the global stage.

Even as we celebrate, we must keep a close eye on the increasing ructions geopolitically. In times like this, Singapore needs the cohesion afforded and made possible by multiculturalism, democracy, justice and equality more than ever. These four values not only bind but are the building blocks for wisdom. The pledge crafted by S Rajaratnam remains as relevant as ever for Singapore.

Connecting Singapore and Bangladesh: Building the Next Chapter Together

On behalf of DBS, I am delighted to join in celebrating Singapore's 61st National Day.

Singapore's journey from a young nation to a global business and financial hub reflects the values of resilience, openness and long-term vision. These same principles have guided DBS since our establishment as the Development Bank of Singapore in 1968. Today, as we support businesses across Asia, including in Bangladesh, we continue to build on this heritage of connecting markets and opportunities.



For more than a decade, DBS has supported growing trade and investment links between Singapore and Bangladesh. The opening of our Dhaka Representative Office in 2023 reaffirmed our long-term commitment to Bangladesh and our commitment to supporting our clients and stakeholders in the country. As businesses deepen their regional and international connections, DBS supports their ambitions through our Asian network, digital capabilities and deep industry expertise.

As we celebrate Singapore's National Day, we are honoured to be part of Bangladesh's growth journey. We look forward to continuing to support businesses and strengthen the longstanding ties between Singapore and Bangladesh in the years ahead.

TAHSINA BANU
Chief Representative
DBS Dhaka Representative Office



Inauguration of a rooftop solar system with battery storage at Sirajganj Sadar Hospital, supporting critical healthcare services with cleaner energy, 12 August, 2025.

Happy National Day, SINGAPORE!

As Singapore marks its National Day, Sembcorp proudly celebrates our nation's journey of resilience, progress and innovation. This occasion also reflects the strong and enduring ties between Singapore and Bangladesh, built on mutual trust, shared aspirations and a commitment to sustainable development.

In Bangladesh, Sembcorp is proud to contribute to the country's energy security through our 414MW power plant, helping to support economic growth and improve lives through reliable energy solutions.

Beyond powering homes and businesses, we remain committed to creating meaningful and lasting impact in the communities where we operate. Since 2017, our community programmes have reached more than 771,000 beneficiaries, supported by investments of over BDT 34.5 million across healthcare, education, skills development, clean energy initiatives and relief efforts for vulnerable communities.

This year, we further strengthened our commitment to sustainable development with the inauguration of a rooftop solar energy system with battery storage at Sirajganj Sadar Hospital, supporting critical healthcare services with cleaner energy.

As Singapore celebrates 61 years of nation-building, we reaffirm our commitment to Bangladesh's progress and look forward to deepening our partnership through responsible investments, reliable energy solutions and shared prosperity.

Together, we are powering a brighter and more sustainable future.

SIA Marks 40 Years in Bangladesh

Singapore Airlines (SIA) extends warmest wishes to Singapore on its 61st National Day in 2026. This year also marks 40 years of SIA in Bangladesh, connecting Dhaka to Singapore and beyond.

Since launching Dhaka services in 1986, SIA has connected Bangladesh to the world. Through its Singapore Changi hub, SIA provided access across Asia-Pacific, Europe and North America, supporting the country's role in international trade, education and investment.

Over four decades, SIA has partnered with government agencies, trade partners, and corporates to grow Bangladesh's aviation industry—boosting tourism, business travel, and cargo flows. Operating daily Dhaka–Singapore flights, SIA continues expanding in Bangladesh through cabin, digital, and service innovations, while maintaining excellence through staff training.



Committed to sustainable growth, Singapore Airlines is pursuing net-zero carbon emissions by 2050 through fleet modernisation, responsible resource use, and community support. While strengthening air links between Bangladesh and Singapore, SIA also enables passengers to calculate and offset their flight emissions through its Voluntary Carbon Offset Programme.

As Singapore celebrates its 61st National Day and SIA marks 40 years in Bangladesh, SIA reaffirms its long-term commitment to the country and looks forward to many more years of strengthening connections, fostering partnerships, and supporting Bangladesh's continued growth.

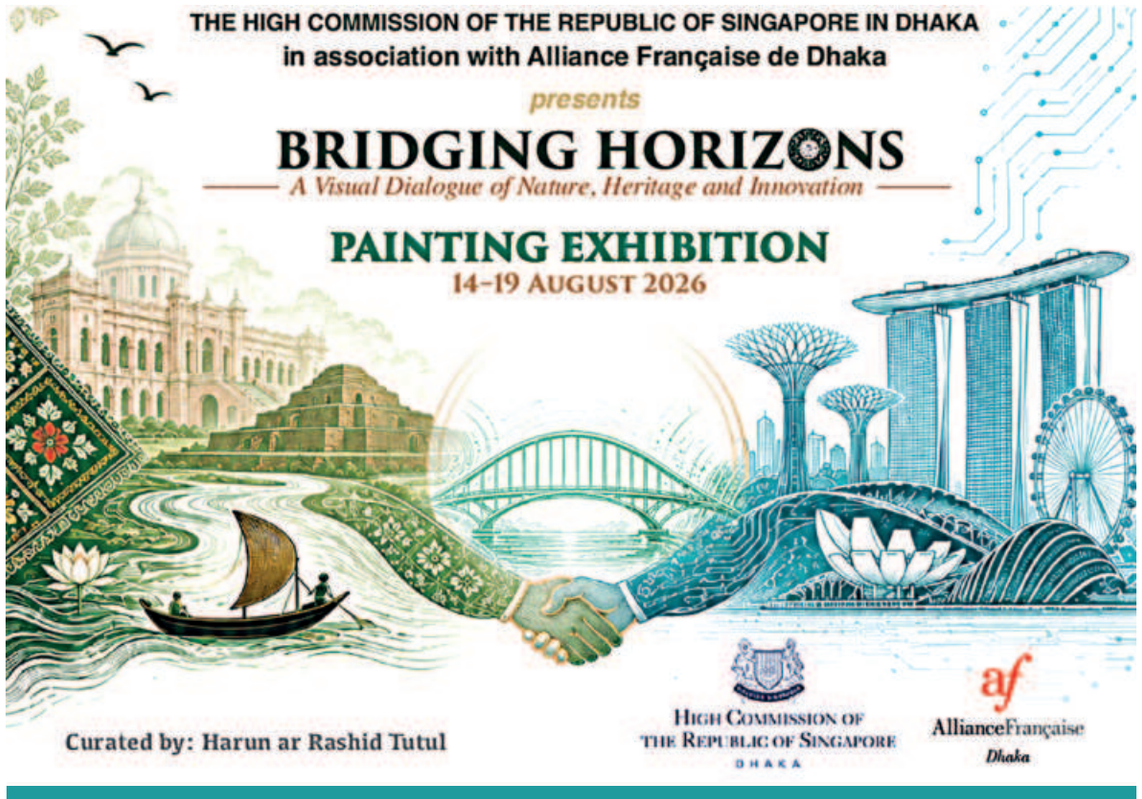
ROBYN CHENG KING
General Manager Bangladesh
Singapore Airlines Limited

SINGAPORE IN DHAKA: Events hosted by the Singapore High Commission in 2026



SINGAPORE MOVIE NIGHT

To celebrate the 37th Singapore International Film Festival, Chargé d'Affaires Mitchel Lee hosted a Singapore Movie Night on 2 July featuring Amoeba, a coming-of-age film about a high school girl who challenges convention and pushes boundaries. The film highlights the importance of embracing new ideas and perspectives.



MONTH LONG ACTIVITIES FOR SINGAPORE'S 61ST NATIONAL DAY

To celebrate National Day, the High Commission is hosting several events:

Aug 9: National Day Parade Screening

Aug 10: Singapore Cooperation Programme (SCP) Alumni Dinner

Aug 11-13: Singapore Cuisine Cooking Class (at NHTTI)

Aug 14-19: Singapore-Bangladesh Art Exhibition (at Alliance Française de Dhaka)



University Talks

On 21 April and 11 May, Chargé d'Affaires Mitchel Lee delivered lectures at the University of Dhaka and North South University on Singapore's Experience and Role in International Law. Following last year's series on Singapore's Foreign Policy, these lectures addressed international legal issues surrounding the Strait of Hormuz.



VISA & CONSULAR NETWORKING SESSION

On 23 July, the Singapore High Commission brought together members of the diplomatic community for a Visa & Consular Networking Session, fostering friendship, professional exchanges and the sharing of best practices in visa and consular work.