

Short Biography of Mohammad Abul Kalam ndc



Mr. Mohammad Abul Kalam ndc was born in Chittagong (now Chattogram) in 1963. After graduating from the University of Chittagong with bachelor and master degrees in Accounting, he initially worked in the financial sector for a brief period of three years from 1988-1990. Later he decided to build his career along public administration and joined Bangladesh Civil Service (Administration) in 1991. During last 29 years in the civil service, Mr. Kalam held progressive positions as Assistant Secretary, Senior Assistant Secretary, Deputy Secretary, Joint Secretary and Additional Secretary across diverse functional areas such as local government (1991-1993), finance and banking (1994-2006), overseas employment (2007-2009), commerce (2010-2011), education (2011-2014), and shipping (2014-2015). Having spent nearly one year (2016) at the National Defence College (NDC), he took over the charge of Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commission (RRRC) under the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief in February 2017 and played an instrumental role in managing the humanitarian response to largest Rohingya crisis for more than two years from August 2017 until September 2019. Currently he is posted as Additional Secretary at the Ministry of Textiles and Jute, and is leading a high level inter-ministerial committee formed under the instruction of the Prime Minister's office to recommend future pathways to reformulate jute sector policies

After the much lamented humanitarian debacle in Myanmar's Rakhine state forcibly displacing nearly three-quarter million Rohingya in August 2017, Mr. Kalam boldly embraced the challenge of saving lives by managing one of the largest humanitarian assistance programmes of the time at the behest of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. For more than two years to September 2019, he substantially contributed to the development and implementation of the response plan put forward jointly by Government of Bangladesh and International Humanitarian Community represented by the UN. During this period, he remained relentlessly engaged in bilateral and multilateral consultations and negotiations with counterparts from the UN agencies, INGOs and NGOs while coordinating and leading a team of more than 3,000 government staffers on ground in Cox's Bazar. Another important

role he had to perform with relation to the humanitarian crisis was to regularly brief visiting dignitaries/high officials from various countries and international agencies about the ground situation and initiatives taken by Bangladesh government to help manage the humanitarian programmes supported by international communities. As part of his daily routine as RRRC, he met with innumerable personalities of high profile and standing from across the world who include but not limited to UN Secretary General, World Bank President, UN High Commissioner for Refugees, visiting Ministers/State Ministers of Foreign Affairs and International Development from USA, Japan, UK, Australia, Singapore, Malaysia, The Netherland, Norway, Sweden, and civil society representatives including Nobel laureates. Mr. Kalam demonstrated high level of humanitarian spirit, values and integrity coupled with outstanding diplomatic and negotiation skills while in the RRRC office. Mr. Kalam's other notable accomplishments include implementation of government decision to nationalize 26,193 privately run primary schools with around 100,000 teachers during 2012-2014 when he was a Deputy Secretary at the Ministry of Primary and Mass Education.

Mr. Kalam possesses a strong belief in life-long learning and nurtures the pursuit of education all through. This is well reflected in his continuous efforts for higher education that brought him Postgraduate Diploma in Government Financial Management from the University of Ulster (now New University of Ulster), UK in 2000 and M. Sc. in Development Economics from the University of Birmingham, UK in 2008. He also attended the University of Bradford, UK and Queensland University of Technology, Australia for specialised training. Besides, he attended training courses at numerous prestigious institutions at home and abroad which include the BPATC, BCS (Administration) Academy, Financial Management Academy, Brac Centre for Development Management, National Defence College, the IMF Institute (USA), Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations (Kuala Lumpur), Civil Service College (Singapore), International Training Centre of the ILO (Turin) and the UNHCR eCentre (Thailand).

Mr. Kalam co-authored a research article titled "Growth of Government Expenditure in Bangladesh: An Empirical Investigation into the Validity of Wagner's Law" which was published in the Global Economy Journal in 2009. (Volume 9, issue 2, article number 5, web link: <http://www.bepress.com/gej/vol9/iss2/5>)