

EISENHOWER FELLOWSHIPS – 2009 Multination Program

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A.K.M. Mahfuzul (Mahfuz) HAQUE
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With over two decades in active policing service with the Bangladesh police force and 13 years of experience in police management, planning, training, and administration, Mr. Haque now serves as the top executive of the Police Staff College and advises the Inspector General of the Bangladesh Police force. Interspersed throughout his police career, he has been involved in several United Nations missions and become familiar with civilians, police, military officers, and refugees from over 50 countries. Mr. Haque's fellowship focused on best practices to prevent, control and restore order before, during, and after acts of terrorism, political and economic unrest, and environmental disasters.

Mr Haque visited several large metropolitan police departments, including Los Angeles, Houston, Chicago, and New York City. In addition, he met with counterterrorism experts around the country, including a half-day visit to the West Point Center for Combating Terrorism, where he gave a presentation on the terrorist threats facing Bangladesh. A highlight of his fellowship was his visit to Southern California where he was shown incredible hospitality by the Los Angeles Police Department, the Los Angeles Sheriff's Office, and the Orange County Sheriff's Office. These meetings were arranged with the help of USA fellow Michael Berkow, Chief of Police at the Savannah Police Department, which was the first police department Mahfuz visited on his fellowship.

His fellowship meetings provided Mr. Haque with unique opportunities to meet with government officials and experts in his fields of interest. He classified his findings into several categories: accountability, neutrality, and transparency. He found that the Bangladeshi police force is lacking in these key areas – there is no accountability towards public or public representatives, there is no external oversight, there is little internal intelligence gathering, and allegiance to the person in power is too great.

He looks forward to aiding in the reform of the Bangladeshi police force, which is undergoing a police reform initiative now. He hopes to bring to the reform effort the lessons he learned from his Eisenhower Fellowship experience.

As for the fellowship as a whole, Mr Haque stated, "My main goal of the Eisenhower Fellowships program was to create a common network involving fellows from different nationalities which will strongly bind us. At present time, different nations have a lot of common problems and issues relating to political, economical and humanitarian aspects. Through attending this fellowship program, I had the rare privilege to share our views, learn from our individual and organizational mistakes, and how we redressed those mistakes, how to achieve success in policing and making sure the sustainability of those success."