

# AKDN celebrates 61st anniversary of Aga Khan's accession to the Ismaili Imamate in Dhaka

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The Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN) has celebrated the 61st anniversary of the accession of the Aga Khan to the Ismaili Imamate.

The event on Friday also marked the conclusion of year-long commemoration of his Diamond Jubilee with culminating global celebrations that included an address by the Aga Khan to Portugal's members of parliament, and the establishment of the new Seat of the Ismaili Imamate in Lisbon, Portugal.

The Dhaka event was attended by senior government officials, members of the diplomatic corps, representatives of civil society and business, and members of the Ismaili community.

State Minister for Power, Energy and Mineral Resources Nasrul Hamid represented the government at the occasion.

Echoing the message of Aga Khan, he said: "Pluralism is no longer an asset or a pre-requisite for development, it is vital to our existence."

AKDN's Resident Diplomatic Representative to Bangladesh Munir M Merali welcomed the guests and informed of the launch of the Aga Khan Academy in Dhaka.

He said "the award-winning Aga Khan Academy in Dhaka represents a significant investment by His Highness and AKDN to help improve-on the quality of education in the country".

The academy campus in Dhaka is designed and built to international standards centered on the mission of educating the whole person – intellectually, spiritually, ethically, and physically – and creating an environment for teaching and learning that will draw out the best in all.

The "state-of-the-art" teaching and learning facilities and, the first-rate athletic facilities and playing fields are also planned on the site.

Once fully built, the campus will comprise over 500,000 square feet of built space to accommodate a wide range of sporting and athletic activities.

The academy in Dhaka will have an in-house Professional Development Center which will provide professional development programmes for teachers from the public and other not-for-profit schools in the country.

AKDN has been working for over six decades in Bangladesh across a broad spectrum of activities and programmes ranging from the promotion of the jute sector to early childhood development, primary and pre-tertiary education, and financial services.

Building upon bilateral agreements, the AKDN in Bangladesh is actively engaged with the government and a variety of development partners to help bring social and economic progress for all the people of Bangladesh.

AKDN agencies are present in some 30 countries across South Asia, Central Asia, the Middle East, Africa, Europe and North America.

Their combined mandate is to create enabling environments that allow individuals and societies to achieve a standard of self-reliance while bettering the overall quality of life.