

BRITISH COUNCIL | 70 YEARS IN BANGLADESH

1934

The first meeting of the British Council is held; then known as the 'British Committee for Relations with Other Countries.'

1947

The British Council is invited to open offices in India by the then Prime Minister, Pandit Nehru. We also open offices throughout Pakistan at this time.

1951

We open our first office in Dacca. First British Council Scholarship was awarded this year.

1954

We open a library in Dacca for the first time.

1960

We open branch libraries in Chattogram and Rajshahi.

1983

We begin offering English language courses. Today we have three teaching centres, in Fuller Road, Gulshan and Uttara, which offer a range of courses to suit a variety of learners.

1978

Commonwealth Scholarships, administered by the British Council, are awarded for the first time in Bangladesh. We continue to offer scholarships to Bangladeshi students wishing to study in the UK, and maintain a UK-Bangladesh Alumni network

1971

The Liberation War begins. Amidst the violence on Dacca University campus on 25 March, the British Council office is damaged, staff attacked and eight police guards killed. Our offices and libraries then remained closed for eight months.

1964

An English Teaching Information Centre opens in Dacca. We hold an exhibition of 'Twentieth Century graphic art' in Dacca.

1986

Renowned UK theatre director Deborah Warner comes to Dhaka to direct a production of The Tempests. We continue to connect the best of UK creativity with talent from Bangladesh.

1997

The first British Education Fair takes place in Bangladesh, in conjunction with the British High Commission. We now run annual Education UK fairs and events in Dhaka, Chattogram, Sylhet, Khulna and Rajshahi.

2009

Our youth programme Active Citizens launches in Bangladesh. To date, the programme has supported to develop leadership capacity of more than 32,000 young people who delivered more than 2000 social action projects to make a positive change in their communities.

2013

We partner with BRAC to develop and implement English and Digital for Girls' Education, a project that empowers young women through English Language and ICT skills. This project goes on to win the prestigious Manthan Award for Digital Inclusion in Development.

2014

We transform our library at Dhaka University campus office into a cultural and convening space and introduce e-library services. World famous Akram Khan's theatre production DESH comes to Dhaka.

2020

We administered the first remote delivery of Aptis for TMTE (Training of Master Trainers in English), a project implemented with MoPME to upgrade the English language proficiency and teaching skills of teachers of English at primary level throughout Bangladesh.

2019

We launched the Digital Library to offer our members the experience of accessing the vast collections and resources of our online library.

2018

We opened a new branch office in Sylhet. The new office comes with state-of-the-art facilities to offer improved services, promote educational opportunities in the UK and foster cultural relations with the people of Sylhet.

2017

We commenced an exhibition titled London 1971: The Unsung Heroes of the Bangladesh's Liberation war. This featured rare photographs, artefacts and films of the movement that took place in London in 1971 to support the cause of Bangladesh during the Liberation War.

2016

We mark 400 years of Shakespeare's death by participating in the global programme of events and activities, Shakespeare Lives. We celebrate his genius and artistic legacy throughout the year.