



« Visit
The Daily
Tribunal
Website and
ePaper

DHAKA • VOLUME 10 • ISSUE 316 • REG. NO. DA 6340

THURSDAY, 21 NOVEMBER 2024

06 AGRADUATION 1431 • 19 JAMALI UL ANNA 1446 • 12 PAGES, Tk. 12

www.dailytribunal24.com

Dialogue with the Nation's Top Hotelier Md. Shakawath Hossain

'Inclusive hospitality and innovation for Bangladesh's Hotel Industry'

DUE TO BEING UNDERFUNDED, OUR TOURISM AND HOSPITALITY INDUSTRY IS STRUGGLING TO COMPETE WITH OTHER COUNTRIES THAT ALLOCATE GREATER INVESTMENTS TO THEIR TOURISM SECTORS

MIAD HOSSAIN

Unique Hotel and Resorts PLC has emerged as a key player in Bangladesh's hospitality sector. Under the leadership of Md. Shakawath Hossain, the company has made remarkable strides, not only within the country but also on the international stage.

Known for his visionary leadership and unwavering business acumen, Shakawath Hossain has been instrumental in steering the company toward new heights.

In this detailed interview, we explore his perspective on the company's progress, the future of Bangladesh's tourism industry, the



role of political involvement, and social responsibility.

The Daily Tribunal: Where does Unique Hotel and Resorts PLC currently stand in the market?

Md. Shakawath Hossain: Unique Hotel and Resorts PLC is a leader in Bangladesh's hospitality industry. Our properties, such as The Westin Dhaka, Sheraton Dhaka, and HANSA Premium Residence, are well-known for providing world-class services to both domestic and international visitors. Currently, we are not only focusing on luxury hotels but also creating experiences that stay in the memory of our guests.

-See Page 2

Inclusive hospitality

We are positioning ourselves as a premium brand that resonates globally. In future plans to expand our footprint in key tourist destinations within Bangladesh. Our upcoming projects are focused on expanding in regions like Cox's Bazar, Bandarban, and Sylhet, as these areas have tremendous potential for both domestic and international tourism. We are also exploring international markets to further strengthen our global presence.

The Daily Tribunal: What new initiatives are being planned for the future?

Md. Shakawath Hossain: We are committed to integrating advanced technologies into our operations. Sustainable tourism is another key area we are focusing on. For example, we are investing in solar energy and other eco-friendly technologies to minimize our carbon footprint. We also plan to develop more properties in places like Cox's Bazar, Bandarban, and the Sundarbans to cater to the growing demand for nature-based tourism. Our goal is to elevate Bangladesh as a premium tourist destination, attracting more foreign visitors. By doing so, we hope to contribute to the growth of new talent and ideas that will shape the future of tourism in Bangladesh.

The Daily Tribunal: How do you incorporate political connections in your business operations?

Md. Shakawath Hossain: In Bangladesh, having a good relationship with the government is essential for any business, especially in sectors like tourism. While I am not directly involved in politics, the impact of government policies on the hospitality industry is undeniable. The government's initiatives in supporting the tourism sector—such as tax exemptions, incentives for foreign investments, and infrastructure development—have been crucial for our growth. We engage with the government when necessary to ensure that the tourism policies continue to evolve in a way that benefits the entire industry. We also recognize that collaboration between the private sector and the government is necessary for the long-term development of the tourism sector. Political stability and sound policy frameworks are critical to fostering an environment conducive to business growth.

The Daily Tribunal: How is Unique Hotel and Resorts PLC fulfilling its social responsibilities?

Md. Shakawath Hossain: Corporate social responsibility (CSR) is a central aspect of our business philosophy. We do not only aim to generate profit, but we also focus on creating positive impacts in the communities where we operate. We actively contribute to local job creation through training programs for young people, which enables them to build sustainable careers in the hospitality sector.

Moreover, we emphasize environmental sustainability through initiatives like solar energy usage in our hotels, reducing plastic waste, and implementing advanced waste management systems. These practices are not just limited to our properties but are also taught to our employees, encouraging them to take part in our sustainability efforts.

The Daily Tribunal: What are the steps your properties have taken for environmental protection and social development?

Md. Shakawath Hossain: We've introduced several initiatives, such as using solar panels for energy efficiency, encouraging guests to reduce plastic usage, and setting up recycling stations at our hotels. We also conduct awareness programs for employees about sustainability practices and environmental impact. In addition, we've partnered with local communities to provide education and healthcare support, ensuring that our growth is aligned with the betterment of the society we operate in.

The Daily Tribunal: How do you see Bangladesh evolving on the global tourism map?

Md. Shakawath Hossain: Bangladesh has a unique blend of natural beauty, rich cultural heritage, and historical significance, making it an underappreciated gem in the global tourism sector. We are working to bring international attention to destinations like Cox's Bazar, the Sundarbans, and Bandarban, which are already popular within Bangladesh but remain relatively unknown internationally. With the right promotional strategies, government support, and infrastructure improvements, Bangladesh can become a top tourist destination in Asia and beyond.

The Daily Tribunal: What are the prospects for Bangladesh's tourism industry over the next decade?

Md. Shakawath Hossain: I believe Bangladesh's tourism sector will experience tremendous growth over the next 10 years. With the current government's focus on tourism infrastructure and policies aimed at promoting sustainable tourism, we are on the right path. If the government continues to invest in infrastructure, streamline regulations, and promote the country's cultural and natural assets effectively, we will see a significant rise in international arrivals. Our goal is to attract more foreign tourists while preserving the environment and local culture.

The Daily Tribunal: What recent accomplishments are you most proud of?

Md. Shakawath Hossain: One of our major achievements has been receiving the South Asia Tourism Award 2024. Additionally, several of our properties have been internationally recognized for their exceptional service. This recognition has not only strengthened our brand but also highlighted Bangladesh's growing potential as a luxury tourism destination. We are also working on expanding our international collaborations, which will further enhance the profile of Bangladesh's hospitality sector.

Under the leadership of Md. Shakawath Hossain, Unique Hotel and Resorts PLC has positioned itself as a frontrunner in Bangladesh's hospitality industry. Through his visionary leadership, political insight, and dedication to sustainability, the company has set new benchmarks in the sector. Looking ahead, with continued growth and the implementation of innovative solutions, the company will undoubtedly play a pivotal role in enhancing Bangladesh's reputation as a premier tourist destination.