

নূরজাহান বেগম  
উপদেষ্টা  
স্বাস্থ্য ও পরিবার কল্যাণ মন্ত্রণালয়  
গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার



Nurjahan Begum  
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Ministry of Health & Family Welfare  
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Date: 19/03/2025

**Subject:** Request for Direct Nomination of WHO Representative to Bangladesh

**Your Excellency,**

I hope this message finds you well.

World Health Organization (WHO) is a time-tested partner of Bangladesh in health sector. We have a strong partnership, which has become stronger during your insightful leadership. WHO plays significant role in supporting Bangladesh's different health initiatives. We deeply value these collaborations and remain committed to further strengthening our engagement.

In August 2024, a student-led uprising resulted in the resignation of the previous autocratic-illegal government after 15 years in power. Following these events, an interim government was formed under the leadership of Prof. Dr. Muhammad Yunus, the great Noble Laureate.

Ms. Saima Wazed, the daughter of the ousted Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, assumed the position of Regional Director for South-East Asia in early 2024. Her appointment has been the subject of widespread public scrutiny due to allegations of nepotism and potential irregularities. Right now, she is facing investigations by the Anti-Corruption Commission of Bangladesh. Consequently, we find ourselves in an embarrassing position working with her.

Please note that the position of WHO Representative to Bangladesh has remained unfilled since 31 October 2024. Dr. Mohamed Ahmed Jamsheed officially assumed the responsibilities of WHO Representative ad interim in Bangladesh on 1 November 2024. While we have no reservations regarding Dr. Jamsheed himself, the political sensitivities surrounding present RD's leadership make it difficult for us to endorse any nomination signed by her.

Given these concerns, we are reaching out to you as per the guidance from WHO Headquarters in Geneva. A direct nomination from WHO Headquarter of Dr. Jamsheed for the position of WHO Representative to Bangladesh would help us to get rid of the embarrassment linked to the incumbent RD. We would greatly appreciate if you allow us to communicate directly to HQ on issues of concern in future.

We remain fully committed to working closely with WHO to address the pressing health challenges facing our nation. I look forward to your understanding and a timely resolution to this

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Best regards,

  
Nurjahan Begum  
Advisor

Ministry of Health and Family Welfare  
The Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

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