

S. F. AHMED & CO. (SFACO)

Chartered Accountants and

Tax & Management Consultants ————— Established: 1958

Firm's Profile

Head Office

House 51 (2nd & 3rd Floors), Road 9, Block F, Banani
Dhaka 1213, Bangladesh

Telephones : (880-2) 222294026, 222270848, 222270957, 55042315, 55042261 & 55042314

Emails : (i) sfaco@sfahmedco.org (ii) sfaco@citechco.net (iii) sfaco.dhaka@sfahmedco.com
(iv) sfaco@dhaka.net (v) sfaco@sfahmedco.com

Website : www.sfahmedco.com

21 May 2023



S. F. Ahmed
1934 - 2001

Late Founder Partner, S. F. Ahmed

S. F. Ahmed was born in Chittagong, Bangladesh, in 1934. He qualified as a Chartered Accountant in 1958.

He started his accounting professional career and established S. F. Ahmed & Co, the same year, that led to his pioneering role in developing accounting profession in the then East Pakistan, now Bangladesh.

During 1960's he was instrumental in setting up a full-fledged Computer Bureau at the erstwhile Habib Bank Limited, now, Agrani Bank Limited, and thereby performed a significant role then in bringing computer technology to the country.

In 1967, he left for USA where he acquired the qualification of Masters of Science in Operations Research and Computer Engineering. He spent 15 years (1967-1982) in the USA.

1. Resume of the firm

SFACO is a registered firm of accountants in Bangladesh and is nationally, and internationally, recognized as one of the leaders in professional practice as management consultants for various undertakings in the public as well as private finance and other sectors. It was established in 1958 and has successfully completed auditing, accounting, national and international taxation, secretarial and management support assignments for a large range of clients including the national government and many of the international funding agencies operating in Bangladesh.

International affiliation

SFACO has been working as an Independent Member Firm with **HLB International Ltd, UK since 2016**.

SFACO has had, over the years **1975 to 1993**, been the Technical Assistance Firm with the globally renowned firms, Arthur Young & Co, and then **from 1993 to 2014** with **Ernst & Young International, Inc**, with headquarters in New York, USA, one of the top four (4) accounting and management consultancy firms of the world. Ernst & Young was formed with the merger of two former global accounting firms, Arthur Young & Company and Ernst & Whinney, both headquartered in USA.

SFACO experience

SFACO's experience covers rendering the entire range of services from the incorporation of a company up to its liquidation including its regular compliances, management consultancy, auditing, accounting, corporate and individuals' taxation, VAT compliance and advisory, company secretarial services, due diligence services, valuation of companies including their lands and buildings, obtaining various licenses from relevant authorities, registration with Bangladesh Investment Development Authority, immigration advisory services (global mobility), etc. SFACO has undertaken many assignments financed by World Bank, Asian Development Bank, IFC and EC either on its own or in association with foreign consultants, for international agencies, namely, DFID (former ODA), USAID, Ford Foundation, CIDA, GTZ, NORAD, SIDA, DGIS, DANIDA, UNDP, UNICEF, UNESCO, UNFPA, WFP and FAO as well as the leading NGOs functioning in the country with foreign donations.

SFACO has advised multinational firms engaged in oil and gas exploration, generation of power and other forms of energy, like, Shell Bangladesh Exploration & Development BV of the Netherlands, Cairn Energy Group of UK, Santos Sangu Field Ltd of Australia, Halliburton International Inc of USA, Okland (Tullow) of USA, KrisEnergy Bangladesh Ltd of The Netherlands, Niko Resources of Canada, AES Haripur (Pvt) Limited, AES Meghnaghat Limited (the last 2 acquired in Bangladesh by Globeleq/CDC of UK), Mobil of Singapore, Forasol (Pride Foramer) of France, Schlumberger of France, Siemens AG of Germany, Mitsui Engineering & Shipbuilding Co., Ltd of Japan, Pan Asian Corporation Ltd of Australia, Asia Energy Corporation (Bangladesh) Pty Ltd of Australia, etc. For the oil and gas exploration companies, SFACO successfully developed models for filing corporate income tax returns and for their assessment in agreement with the tax authorities, while for investors for setting up hospitals SFACO was instrumental in securing the Government agreement and release of a notification allowing tax-free imports of all equipment, accessories, etc for hospitals in the country.

SFACO conducted, collaborated and reported on due diligence and subsequent acquisition of ownership of, among others, Rupali Bank Limited (Bangladesh) for the sellers, Government of Bangladesh (1985); Bangladesh operations of Nova Scotia Bank (Canada) for the purchasers, Bank Asia Limited (2001); Muslim Commercial Bank Limited (Pakistan) for the purchasers, Bank Asia Limited (2001); Credit Agricole Indosuez (France) for the sellers, CAI (2003); and 2 power projects of AES, Haripur Power Ltd and Meghnaghat Power Ltd, purchased in Bangladesh by Globeleq/CDC of UK for Globeleq/CDC (2003), as well as twice conducted the evaluation of net worth of Sonali Bank Limited (1997-98 and 2003), largest nationalized commercial bank in Bangladesh keeping liaison with Bangladesh Bank, the central bank of the country, World Bank, and International Monetary Fund (IMF) and participated with the foreign firm in evaluating Rupali Bank Limited (2004) for sale. In 2005, SFACO organized, collaborated and participated in the handling of the listing by the London Office of Ernst & Young for GDR floatation of one of the leading pharmaceutical companies of Bangladesh on the AIM market in London which event took place in Bangladesh for the first time.

SFACO has developed Financial Management Manual and Risk-based Auditing Manual for Bangladesh Bank (2008-2009).

SFACO has developed Financial Management Software for Bangladesh Telecommunication Company Limited (Government-owned public company) (2010-2015).

SFACO has developed Internal Audit Manual and Software for Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) 2021-2023.

SFACO clientele has included firms like Credit Agricole Indosuez of France, Commercial Bank of Ceylon Ltd, Shamil Bank of Bahrain, Citigroup of USA, CISCO Technology, Microsoft, Nokia, Singer, Siemens, Standard Chartered Bank, SITA Information Networks, Coca-Cola, Gap, Reuters Ltd, Samsung Electronics, Airtel, Citibank NA, Hewlett-Packard, Novartis, Schlumberger, Western Union, JP Morgan, and also a large number of international corporate firms engaged in manufacturing, banking, leasing, etc. on various issues of taxation, foreign exchange regulations, compliance, assurance and other related matters.

SFACO has undertaken numerous assignments for the rationalization and critical review, analysis and evaluation of performance of various levels of management of Bangladesh Government organs and agencies as well as of a wide range of non-Government clients in specified areas.

SFACO serves as a regular contributor to the Corporate and Individual Chapters on Bangladesh of tax-related reports to International Bureau of Fiscal Documentation, Amsterdam, the Netherlands.

General information of S. F. Ahmed & Co.

Type of Organization	Partnership Firm registered under Bangladesh Partnership Act, 1932
Firm Registration No.	10898 E.P of 1958 dated 12 July 1958
Income Tax Identification No.	764300303487, Taxes Circle-172, Taxes Zone-08, Dhaka
VAT/BIN Registration No.	000474788-0101
Trade License No.	TRAD/DNCC/075665/2022 dated 10 October 2022

2. Types of services rendered

To meet the needs of modern business, financial, autonomous and Government organizations, SFACO has developed professional competence in six (6) main areas of services, namely, (2.1) management consulting service, (2.2) auditing and assurance services, (2.3) international tax planning and advice, (2.4) corporate secretarial advice, (2.5) immigration-related services, and (2.6) assistance in regulatory compliance.

2.1 Management consulting services

Within SFACO, management consulting assignments have been handled, since 1962. In addition to consulting and management experience, many of SFACO personnel have distinguished educational backgrounds.

Projects professionally handled by and consulted with SFACO also significantly include those related to specialized categories, like, build-own-and-operate (BOO) projects, build-own-and-transfer (BOT) projects, private power projects (PPPs), advising on matters concerning trade-related aspects of intellectual property rights (TRIPs), etc.

2.2 Auditing and assurance services

An important portion of the work of SFACO is auditing, that is, performance of an independent examination of financial statements of a client for the purpose of expressing a professional opinion on the fairness of their presentation and disclosure. In this regard, the experience of the firm has been extensive and continuous, since its establishment in 1958.

2.3 International tax planning and advice

Since 1958, SFACO's tax and VAT practice has by now steadily grown to and has reached such a stature that it is now relied upon as one of the top-ranking tax advisors in the country catering to the needs of clients - both national and international – engaged in a large range of economic fields, like, foreign investment, oil and gas production sharing contracts, private power generation projects, corporate finance, banking - related projects, joint ventures, leasing, etc.

With that end in view, SFACO has worked with international firms, like, Booz. Allen & Hamilton, International Management Consultants Limited, Nathan Associates, Inc, TMF Corporate Secretarial Services Limited, WPI, Inc & the International Trade Service Group, Arthur Young & Co, Ernst & Young International, Inc, and, since November 2016, with HLB International, UK.

2.4 Corporate secretarial advice

Secretarial practice includes handling matters dealing with floatation of companies, dealing with various company law matters, guiding and assisting in maintenance of various statutory books, records and forms, and submitting various periodical and event-based statutory returns with the office of the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies, etc.

2.5 Immigration-related services

SFACO has extensive experience in –

- Obtaining work permits for expatriates from Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (BIDA)
- Obtaining letters of request for granting E & EI-visas for the expatriates from BIDA
- Obtaining security clearance from the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of Bangladesh
- Obtaining extension of E-visa, FE-visa and E1-visa for clients' expatriates working in Bangladesh
- Obtaining immigration security clearance for extension of visas.

2.6 Assistance in regulatory compliance

This broad spectrum of SFACO's professional service, inter alia, includes guiding and assisting the clients, like, foreign companies, firms or individuals in establishing their branch office or a liaison office in Bangladesh to engage in industry, trade and commerce. These involve guiding and assisting the clients in their —

- Obtaining permission for opening branch/ liaison office/ representative office from BIDA
- Obtaining certificate of incorporation/ registration from the office of the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies and firms of Bangladesh and filing of requisite statutory forms with that office
- Obtaining the income taxpayer's identification number (TIN), and VAT registration from National Board of Revenue of Bangladesh
- Obtaining trade licences from City Corporations
- Filing of requisite particulars with the office of the Inspector under Shops & Establishment Act 1965
- Obtaining membership of any Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Bangladesh
- Obtaining import/export registration certificates from the office of the Controller of Imports & Exports.

A brief summary of SFACO services is set out below:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Technical Audit, Risk Management Audit, Performance Audit and Value for Money Audit• Assurance Services and Internal Audit Services• Advisory Services• Corporate Secretarial Advice• Tax and VAT Advisory Services• Financial Management System Design and Reconstruction of Financial Statements• Verification and Tagging of Fixed Assets and Inventories, and their Valuation• Human Resource Consulting Services | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Due Diligence and Forensic Audit Services• Risk Management & Business Services• Assistance in Regulatory Compliance and Secretarial Work• Client Support Services/Outsourcing Services• IT Services (software development, maintenance and implementation)• Training (HR, financial management and taxation)• Feasibility Study and Financial Viability Study• Project Monitoring Services• Company Formation/Acquisition/Merger/Restructuring/Liquidation• Immigration-Related Services |
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3. Association

Foreign associates

Our working relationship with many international accounting, technical, engineering and management consulting firms deserves mentioning, of which the following were more prominent:

- Booz, Allen & Hamilton, 10 Collyer Quay, 05-02 Ocean Building, Singapore 0104.
- International Management Consultants Limited, 11-13 Cowdray Centre House, Cowdray Avenue Colchester, Essex CO1 1QB, UK.
- Nathan Associates, Inc. Two Colonial Place, 2101 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 1200, Arlington, Virginia 22201, USA.
- TMF Corporate Secretarial Services Limited, 400 Capability Green, Luton, LU1 3AE, UK.
- WPI, Inc & the International Trade Service (ITS) Group, Box 382077, Cambridge.

Local associates

Apart from above, SFACO maintains a large panel of qualified and experienced personnel (in the fields of engineering, sociology, social anthropology, demography, infrastructure, computerization, etc) with whom it has project-to-project basis arrangements and whose services can be utilized at a short notice.

4. Shortlisting by major institutions

SFACO stands shortlisted with the following major institutions:

International

- World Bank, Tracking Number: 123502
- Asian Development Bank, CMS # 007192 for consultancy services
- Islamic Development Bank (IDB)
- The Regional Inspector General of USAID, Manila for audit of USAID fund-recipient organisations in Bangladesh
- European Union (EU) for audit of EU fund recipient organisations
- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Bangladesh for audit and consultancy services
- GIZ (former GTZ), Dhaka
- The Embassy of Denmark, Dhaka
- The Royal Netherlands Embassy, Dhaka
- The Royal Norwegian Embassy, Dhaka
- Save the Children International
- UNICEF Bangladesh
- Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) (DFID), Bangladesh

National

- Financial Reporting Council (FRC) — Enlistment No. CAF-001-044
- Bangladesh Securities & Exchange Commission, Government of Bangladesh (GoB) for audit services — Serial No. 30 (alphabetically serialled)
- Bangladesh Securities & Exchange Commission, GoB for valuation services — Serial No. 12
- Bangladesh Economic Zones Authority (BEZA), Prime Minister's Office, GoB
- NGO Affairs Bureau, GoB, for audit of NGOs receiving foreign donations — Serial No. 101 (alphabetically serialled) vide Ref. No. 03.07.2666.657.43.253.17-619 dated 21 January 2022
- Microcredit Regulatory Authority, GoB — vide Serial No. 332-335 (alphabetically serialled)
- Dhaka Stock Exchange Ltd. — Serial No. 52 (alphabetically serialled)

5. Affiliation with Chambers of Commerce and Industry

- Affiliate Member of American Chamber of Commerce in Bangladesh
- Member of Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce & Industry

6. Human resources of the firm

In-house professionals				Associates (on assignment basis) and consultants/specialists	
Position	No.	Position	No.	Position	No.
Partners	4	Tax Lawyers	6	Institutional Expert	1
Chartered Accountants	5	Corporate Affairs Executive	2	Public Financial Management Specialist	1
Certified Internal Auditor	1	Senior Manager, Administration	1	Urban Specialist	1
Certified Fraud Examiner	1	Managers, Administration	2	Economists	2
Certified Information Systems Auditors	2	Accountants	3	Banking Experts	2
Associate of Chartered Certified Accountants	2	Car drivers	8	Statistician	1
Managers (CA, part-qualified)	12			Sociologist	1
Senior Auditors (CA - course completed)	32			Civil Engineers	3
Auditors (articled trainees)	100			Mechanical Engineers	4
Management Trainees (ACCA, partly-qualified)	7			Electrical Engineers	4
				Diploma Engineers	6
Project Employees	43	Office Support	10	Legal Expert (Bar-at-Law)	1
Managers (Corporate Affairs)	2	Receptionists	2	Educationist	1
IT Specialist	1	Record-keepers	2	Agriculturist	1
Programmers	2			Environment Specialist	1
Computer Executives	10			Microcredit Specialist	1
Total:			260	Total:	31

7. Internet facilities

SFACO has been working with ADN Telecom Limited and Aamra Networks Limited for our internet facility connections, both of which are rendering advanced technology, and use of fiber optics and wireless solution for securing above connection.

8. Audit software in use

SFACO entered into the era of automation in auditing with implementing the use of one of the world's renowned auditing software companies, namely, CaseWare, which is used in 130 countries, available in 16 languages, and managed by a Canadian company, CaseWare International Inc.

9. Remote service facilities

SFACO is committed to embracing the latest technology to provide efficient and convenient services to its clients. SFACO's remote services facilities enable to work closely with its clients, providing them with the convenience and flexibility they need in today's fast-paced business environment.

Key features of SFACO's remote services facilities include:

- Microsoft-assisted teams for holding virtual meetings and documents sharing allowing these to conduct meetings efficiently, share documents, and collaborate data in real-time, storage data at cloud platform.
- CaseWare auditing software allows SFACO team members to access in real-time at different locations.
- Securing cloud storage for audit working papers through CaseWare-cloud facility allowing it to safeguard client information.
- Reliable e-mail service through SFACO's dedicated domain ensures the security and integrity of the data that are handled for its clients.

10. Brief sketch of S. F. Ahmed & Co. (SFACO)

- Name of the firm : S. F. Ahmed & Co.
Chartered Accountants and Tax &
Management Consultants
- Year of establishment : 1958
- Status : Partnership firm (registered)
- Head office : House 51 (2nd & 3rd Floors), Road 9, Block F, Banani
Dhaka 1213, Bangladesh
Telephones : (880-2) 222294026, 222270848, 222270957,
55042315, 55042261 & 55042314
Cells : (880)1911341139
(880)1707079855
E-mails : (i) sfaco@sfahmedco.org
(ii) sfaco@citechco.net
(iii) sfaco.dhaka@sfahmedco.com
(iv) sfaco@dhaka.net
(v) sfaco@sfahmedco.com
Website : www.sfahmedco.com
- Branch office : Ispahani Building (2nd Floor)
Agrabad, Chattogram

Telephones : (880-31) 333313683 & 333313184
Cells : (880)1713013222
(880)1819247124
E-mails : (i) ahmeds@bol-online.com
(ii) sfaco.ctg@sfahmedco.com
- Names of partners : (1) Mr. Md. Mushtaque Ahmed
B. Com., FCMI (UK), FCS, ISACA (USA), FCA

: (2) Mr. Mainuddin Ahmed, FCA
mainuddin@sfahmedco.com
Cell : (880)1713013222

: (3) Mr. Md. Enamul Haque Choudhury, FCA, IIA
enamul@sfahmedco.com
Cell : (880)1764054058

: (4) Mr. Md. Moktar Hossain, FCA
moktar@sfahmedco.com
Cell : (880)1819247124

Attachment

- Brief CV of Mr. Md. Mushtaque Ahmed, Senior & Tax Partner, SFACO



Md. Mushtaque Ahmed, Senior & Tax Partner
B.Com., FCMI (UK), FCS, ISACA (USA), FCA

- Senior & Tax Partner of S. F. Ahmed & Co, Chartered Accountants (ex-Technical Assistance Firm with Ernst & Young International, Inc, based in New York, USA) , and ex-International Tax & Immigration Contact of Ernst & Young, USA, Mushtaque Ahmed specializes in providing business advisory services to prospective and operating foreign investors in Bangladesh in areas of business and project implementation, national and international direct taxation as well as indirect taxation (customs, VAT, other import taxes, etc.), business acquisitions, mergers, demergers, share and business valuations and due diligence reviews, project financing, lines of credit, debt equity ratios, corporate governance, banking and bank operations, foreign exchange regulations, corporate secretarial practices, etc. apart from accounting, auditing, compliance and assurance.
- He has been advising multinational firms engaged in oil and gas exploration, generation of power and other forms of energy. For the oil and gas exploration companies he successfully developed models for filing corporate income tax returns and for their assessment in agreement with the tax authorities.
- He is a fellow member of Institute of Chartered Accountants of Bangladesh, Institute of Chartered Secretaries and Managers of Bangladesh, and Chartered Management Institute of UK and a Member of Information Systems Audit and Control Association of USA. He has been a writer of the publication titled “Doing Business In Bangladesh” for Ernst & Young for many years, since 1996, and to International Bureau of Fiscal Documentation of Amsterdam, the Netherlands on annual fiscal budgets of Bangladesh and on various tax-related issues and problems.