**Letter of Recommendation**

I am pleased to write this letter of recommendation in support of Abdus Salam Azad. I have known him for quite a long time and will like to shed some light on three of his distinct aspects: How he is as i) a researcher, ii) an instructor, iii) and a colleague.

I served as a member of Azad’s Masters’ dissertation committee. I have seen him be very sincere and serious as a researcher. He worked on memetic algorithms, a search technique, to solve a complex combinatorial optimization problem. I was quite impressed with the thoroughness of his work and the depth of the experimental section. We had several lively discussions on his research. In all of our discussion, he displayed great motivation and confidence in his work. His thesis work was published in the prestigious IEEE Transactions on Cybernetics which has a staggering Impact Factor of 8.803.

Azad joined our department right after the completion of his bachelor's degree and taught in our department for nearly four years. Azad co-instructed two courses with me. I have found him very passionate about teaching. I value his undying drive for improvement. He played the central role in redesigning one of these courses---the Microprocessors and Microcontrollers Laboratory course---with new experiments and projects under the supervision of a senior colleague. This course is producing a large number of interesting projects from the students after the redesign. His resourceful and inspiring nature played an important role behind it. An anonymous student review quoted verbatim from our online instructor evaluation system, will serve best to illustrate this point:

*“I cannot stress it enough how hard Azad sir worked for this course. He (probably) single-handedly wrote every lab sheet, did the experiments by himself before assigning it to students, gave us necessary links and documents before the lab. While doing the lab project, he spent hours after hours debugging our project for us! He was always available to help us and did everything in his power to help us. He is very enthusiastic and passionate about teaching, and I hope we will get more of his courses in the future. He could be a role model for every student who would want to become a teacher.”*

I have also served as the Head of the Department from March 2016 to March 2018. During that period, Azad was a very important team member. I have seen a passion in him for the departmental welfare. Azad has been an active member of a number of departmental committees/projects including, but not limited to, Departmental Self-assessment team, Undergraduate Thesis Presentation Committee, Robotics Complex proposal, Board of undergraduate studies committee etc. Particularly, he made some significant contributions in the departmental self-assessment committee which works for the continuous development of the department. I would also like to comment on Azad’s organizational skills. During his tenure in the department, he successfully organized different events in the department. He was my go-to person if I had to arrange any student-centric events.

Azad was also an active member of CSE-BRTC, the body through which our department collaborates with Government organizations and industry. He has remarkable contributions to a number of important national projects. He was part of the development team of the College Admission system for Dhaka Education Board (2017) which is used to allocate colleges (analogous to High Schools of US) to around 1.2 Million students from around the country per year. He also worked on other national projects such as Reviewing and Auditing of Software Installed for Machine Readable Passports for the Government of The People’s Republic of Bangladesh (2015), Development of Interactive Digital Textbooks for Education Board, the Bangladesh Pilgrim Allocation Software for Hajj etc. He is highly regarded for his sincerity, hard work, and technical sharpness in the department.

I see a great future for Azad as a researcher and I think UC Berkeley is one of the most suitable schools for him where he can live up to his true potential. I highly believe that this fellowship will be very beneficial for him to pursue his research. Therefore, without any reservation, I would like to recommend him for this fellowship. Please feel free to contact me if you have any further question regarding him.

Yours Sincerely,

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