



**Baitul Mukarram**, also spelled as Baytul Mukarrom (Arabic: بيت المَكْرَم ; The Holy House) is the National Mosque of Bangladesh. Located at the center of Dhaka, capital of Bangladesh, the mosque was completed in 1968. It has a capacity of 40,000.

#### History:

Baitul Mukarram Mosque is the National Mosque of Bangladesh. Its construction began on 27 January 1960 and has been going on in phases. In the late 1950s Dhaka grew very rapidly. Abdul Latif Ibrahim Bawani first came up with the idea of building a grand mosque with a large capacity. The 'Baitul Mukarram Mosque Society' was formed in 1959 to facilitate the project. Land was allocated for the mosque

complex at the meeting point of Old and New Dhaka. The site was also in close proximity to the central business district of the city. Architect T Abdul Hussain Thariani was commissioned to design the mosque complex. The plan included shops, offices, libraries and parking areas within the complex.

#### Architecture:

The design of the mosque reflects the architecture of the period as can be seen from the use of a white and almost cube-form for the main building. A Mosque without a dome over the roof of its main prayer hall must have been a unique experiment. The main building is eight storied and 30.18 metre high from the ground level. According to the original plan, the main entrance of the mosque was to be on the eastern side. The shahan on the east is 2694.19 square metre with ablution space on its south and north sides. The two shallow domed entrance porticoes compensate the absence of a dome on the main building, one on the south, and the other on the north. The elevation of these porticoes consists of three horseshoe shaped arches, the middle of which is bigger than the rest. Two patios ensure that enough light and air enter the prayer hall.



Inside view of the Mosque



Newly built ceiling



Main entrance and Minaret



Prayer place for the imam



Domed entrance porticoes



Interior (lower angle)



The mosque's interior mihrab

## Exterior Design:

The mosque is on a very high platform. The Baitul Mukarram National Mosque's building is eight storied and 99 feet high from the ground level. According to the original plan, the main entrance of the mosque was to be on the eastern side. The 'shaan' on the east is 29,000 square feet with ablution space on its south and north sides. Ablution or Wu'du Place cached an important part when the Baitul Mukarram was begun. The absence of a dome on the main building is compensated by

the two superficial domed entrance porticoes, one on the south, and the other on the north. The height of these porticoes consists of three rabbit's foot shaped arches, the middle of which is bigger than the rest.

### Interior Design:

Two patios (roofless inner courtyard) ensure that enough light and air enter the prayer hall of Baitul Mukarram National Mosque. The prayer niche of the hall is rectangular instead of semi-circular. Excessive ornamentation is avoided throughout the mosque, since minimizing ornamentation is typical of modern architecture.

### Khatibs of *Baitul Mukarram National Mosque*

Serial No.	Name	Comments
2	Mufti Amimul Ehasan (d. 1974)	He authored more than 200 books, some renowned are, Fiqhus-sunan wal Athar, Qawa'idul-Fiqh, Fatwai Barkati and Milad Qiam Ozifa . He also prepared the daily Islamic prayer chart for Bangladesh. Served until his death in 1974.
3	Abdul Muiz (d. 1984)	
4	Ubaidul Haq (d. 2007)	The longest serving Khatib of the mosque. Served until his death in 2007. <sup>[6]</sup>

5	Muhammad Nuruiddin (d. 2009)	Acting khatib
6	Muhammad Salah Uddin	Retired khatib