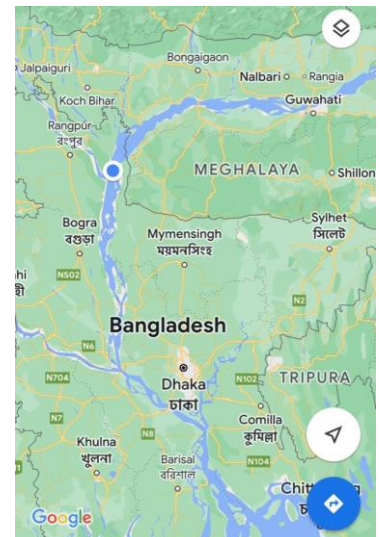


Report to The Emirates Airline Foundation Surgical camp in Bangladesh November 27th to December 11th, 2022



During two weeks, from the end of November to mid-December 2022, a surgical team from the Swedish organization *Scandinavian Doctors* and the local Bangladesh humanitarian organization *Friendship* was at a surgical mission in Bangladesh. The Swedish team consisted of three members, one surgeon, one operating room nurse and one anesthesiologist (Per-Ola Park, surgeon, Kytte Bengtsson, nurse and Magnus Lundberg, anesthesiologist).

The purpose of the mission was to operate patients with mainly inguinal hernias in the remote and poorly developed parts of Bangladesh, along the Brahmaputra River. We worked on two hospital ships: *Lifebuoy* located on the banks of Brahmaputra close to Meghai Ghat, Kazipur, Sirajganj and *Emirates (Luxembourg)* close to Ramna Ghat further up streams on the Brahmaputra. The hospital ships are owned and run by the Bangladesh humanitarian organization *Friendship*. The people, living on the sand islands of Brahmaputra are very poor and have limited access to medical services including surgery. During our stay, the *Friendship*-organization celebrated its 20 years' anniversary. However, during the past two years, due to the covid pandemic, no operating teams have been working on the ships. Surgical activity had just been resumed during 2022. Therefore, the staff of the hospital ships and the islands inhabitants much looked forward to our visit and greatly appreciated it.



Location of the Friendship
Emirates (Luxembourg)

The Emirates (Luxembourg) ship was partly supported by the Emirates Airline Foundation. Our team enjoyed working with the devoted staff who were helpful and interested in learning. During December 4th to December 10th our team evaluated 80 patients and operated 41 of them. The main diagnose was inguinal hernia and therefore most patients were men even if we operated a handful of women. The youngest patient was an 8-year-old boy, the oldest an eighty years old gentleman. The day started with “grand round” evaluating all operated patients and ended in the evening, evaluating patients operated the same day. All patients were operated in spinal anesthesia, even the children. The patients stayed in the ward for two to three days as many patients had come a long distance. On the second ship, we examined 45-50 patients and operated 40.

We, the Swedish team, want to express our gratitude to the Emirates Airline Foundation, for the support of the surgical camp and the sponsorship of our flight tickets from Scandinavia to Dhaka, Bangladesh as well as the return ticket.

Dr Per-Ola Park, surgeon



The operating team



Proud captain of the ship