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# 'NO PLACE LIKE QATAR, IT'S A MAGNET THAT ATTRACTS ALL'

**Farewell ceremony hails notable contributions made by long-time and well-known Qatar resident Mohd Habibun Nabi**

**D**OHA is a magnet that attracts people from all across the globe, says Mohd Habibun Nabi, a long-time Qatar resident and prominent Indian community member who was recently accorded a farewell by his compatriots in Doha, as he prepares to open a new chapter of his life.

Nabi, who had been working with Kahraama (Qatar General Electricity and Water Corporation), as a Project Manager over the past two decades, retires from his job and is headed to his home country. In all these years that he was here, he's fallen in love with Doha.

"There is a plethora of factors that makes Doha a top global destination," Nabi told Qatar Tribune, in an exclusive interview, elaborating why he's sure to miss Doha so much. "First things first. The country has a great environment. Life here is simple, easy and friendly. We have around 7.5 lakh Indian expatriates in Qatar, including some 45,000 children. They all feel so safe and secure. Imagine the best of facilities in the world and you'll find all of these here in Doha."

Qatar is one country that gives so much importance to sports that it even declares a day's holiday for a sporting event, added Nabi, a civil engineer by profession who moved to Qatar in 1997 after working in Iraq and Oman.

"It's really an honour and privilege to have lived in Doha where you can watch live the ATP tennis tournament," said the sports enthusiast who, since the time he moved to Qatar, has been actively pursuing his passion for sports and cultural activities, especially sports.

## BRUSH WITH TOP SPORTS STARS

"Doha is a place where you can see top international tennis stars in action, top international TT names, top international golfers, top international athletes. This is where you can see world's top soccer players, and the world's top cycling stars. It's just stupendous.

"Those who love a healthy life and sports – since sports is such an important factor for sound health – will always love Qatar, especially under the dynamic leadership of the Amir of the State of Qatar His Highness Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani. Wherever I shall be, I shall always pray for Qatar and for its further prosperity," he iterated.

Well-known for his social and philanthropic work in Qatar and India, Nabi had started his career in Qatar with the RasGas Company, at a time when Qatar was still in its developing stage.

"Ras Laffan was playing a big role in the development process. Gradually, things started moving in a more and more advanced stage of development," he recalled.

"When the Al Khor housing of RasGas and Qatargas was



Nabi with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi during a visit to India (File photo).

## KEY SOCIAL POSITIONS HELD BY NABI IN QATAR

ICC – Sports Secretary  
(For two years)

ICC – General Secretary  
(Two years)

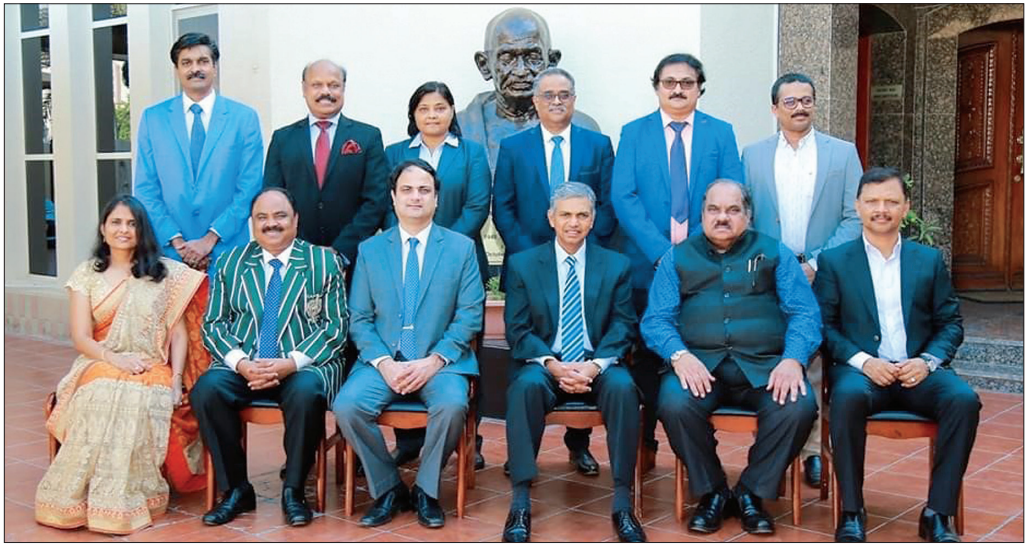
ICBF – Vice President  
(Two years)

IBPC – Member (Four years)

ISC – General Secretary  
(For the last four years)



Nabi with former Indian prime minister Dr Manmohan Singh



Nabi (sitting second from left) with former Indian ambassador P Kumaran



Nabi with former prime minister Atal Behari Vajpayee

completed, my boss, who was joining Kahraama as a Director, took me along from RasGas to Kahraama. I worked on the 700-km main transmission line network from Ras Laffan that goes into the whole of Doha. I have worked at Kahraama for some 21 years," he said, while describing his eventful journey in Qatar.

Nabi's work in the social and cultural spheres have earned him much respect and

recognition. Initially he got associated with the Indian Cultural Centre (ICC), of which he became Sports Secretary and then General Secretary. After that he served the community as the Vice President of ICBF (Indian Community Benevolent Forum) – where their main aim was to provide the best services to the Indian expatriates.

"For example, we started an insurance scheme for Indian

expatriates," he noted.

## SPORTS BUFF

Meanwhile, his passion for sports continued unabated. He was captain of Gulf Lite for 15 years as cricket is a very important part of his life. "When I was a student at the AMU, I was captain of the varsity's table tennis (TT) team for three years. I have won lots of TT championships in Oman as well as open tournaments in Doha,"

said Nabi, who has also been playing golf and other games aside from TT.

When Qatar hosted and competed in the 15th Asian Games, officially known as the XV Asiad, from December 1 to 15, 2006, Nabi was fully involved in the arrangements through the Indian embassy and community. "We worked hard in the arrangements for 15 days. I also got a special invitation where I met several legend-

ary sportsman and women," he recalled.

He has been an integral part of community activities over the years. "I founded the AMUAAQ (AMU Alumni Association Qatar) in the year 2001. I was president for five-six years and I continue to be the Chief Advisor for the association. I handed over the baton to different people as I got busier," said the Deputy Chief Patron of Bazm-E-Urdu and Chief Advi-

sor of World Bihar Organisation (an association of people hailing from the eastern Indian state of Bihar).

"We have also been associated with Mission 20, through which we promote education in India. We made several official visits to India in this regard and several chief ministers helped us in our mission. Our delegations used to have people like Dr MS Bukhari, Mr Hassan Chougule, Mr Azim Abbas, Mr Harish Kanjani, among others and we did whatever best we could."

"Then in the other phase, I got involved with the IBPC (Indian Business and Professional Council)," he said.

## THE MISS

Any big regret/s during his long inning of social work in Qatar?

"Yes, I do have one!" he replied, while adding that this relates to a planned visit to Qatar by the former Indian President Dr A.P.J. Abdul Kalam.

"We had made all arrangements for his [Dr Kalam] visit. He had two wishes – he wanted to meet blue collar workers in Qatar. And he wanted to meet children. We had made arrangements for him to meet some 20,000 people. But that visit couldn't materialise. After that, Kalam saheb passed away. This remains one of the main regrets in my social life in Qatar," he revealed.

Nabi has been working to provide platform to children, and underprivileged people living in Industrial Area in Qatar. He works to organise tournaments for them – company tournaments, inter-community tournaments etc. One such popular event is the Ambassador Cup.

The services rendered to the community by Nabi were hailed recently, as the AMU Alumni Association, Qatar organised a farewell function for its outgoing Chief Advisor, on September 1, 2020, where its executive committee and members bid farewell to him with great enthusiasm and nostalgia.

Dr Syed Jaffery, President, AMUAAQ, welcomed the guests, while, in his special address, Dr MS Bukhari, Chief Patron of AMUAAQ, highlighted the tireless work and contribution made by Nabi to the association and Indian community members living in Qatar.

The prize distribution for the 'Family Quiz Contest' organised by the Alumni Association recently, was also held at the function. The winners of the contest were awarded trophies and certificates.

At the end, the Vote of Thanks was proposed by Zeyaul Haque, General Secretary of AMUAAQ, where he lauded the valuable guidance and support offered by Nabi as the Chief Advisor of the alumni association.

"Mr. Nabi is going back to India and he will be sorely missed by all of us," said Haque.



Enjoying a game of table tennis in Doha.



Nabi with former Indian ambassador P Kumaran during a cricket match in Doha in February 2020



Nabi holding the AMU 1976 open championship trophy.