**Press Release**

**Foreign Minister A.K Abdul Momen calls for sharing technology and know-how of**

**vaccine production through global mechanism**

**New York, 25th February 2022:**

“Technology and know-how of COVID-19 vaccine production should be shared immediately through a global mechanism so that countries like Bangladesh with pharmaceutical capabilities can produce and distribute vaccines at a mass scale” said Dr. A.K. Abdul Momen MP, Foreign Minster (FM) of Bangladesh at the high-level thematic debate on ‘Galvanizing Momentum for Universal Vaccination’ at UNGA hall, today. The high-level event was convened by the President of the UN General Assembly, which was addressed by a number of heads of states and heads of governments, the UN Secretary-General, Director-General of the World Health Organization, as well as the Ministers and senior political leaders of the UN member states.

Citing Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina’s earlier call to treat Covid vaccine as “Global Public Good”, the Foreign Minister said that developed countries and manufacturers must ensure vaccine supply to the COVID-19 Vaccine Global Access (COVAX) facility on an equity basis. “Vaccine production needs to be enhanced and decentralised to meet the global demand. The global community must combat the vaccine misinformation and vaccine nationalism” he added further.

 In the context of combating the Covid and its management in Bangladesh, the Foreign Minister elaborated its timely initiatives, such as, strengthening the healthcare system from the grassroots level, and distribution of direct cash and other assistance to the most vulnerable sections of the country to ensure the critical balance between lives and livelihoods. He said, “As of mid February 2022, over 101 million people of Bangladesh have received at least one dose of the COVID-19 Vaccine. To effectively combat this pandemic, we plan to vaccinate at least 80% of our population, which is around 132 million, as soon as possible”.

Mentioning that the global community must realise that no one is safe until everyone is safe, Bangladesh’s Foreign Minister urged the international community to join hands together to ensure universal vaccination, and save the lives of people and the economies of the world.

Later, on the same day, a bilateral meeting was held between Bangladesh’s Foreign Minister and Canadian Minister for International Development, at the Indonesian Lounge in the UNHQs. The Foreign Minister of Bangladesh Dr A. K. Abdul Momen updated the Canadian counterpart, Mr. Harjit Sajjan about the ongoing situation of Rohingya and sought Canada's cooperation in repatriating Rohingyas to Myanmar. The Canadian Minister assured Canada’s support for the repatriation of the Rohingya and praised Bangladesh's generosity in providing shelter and humanitarian assistance to the the persecuted Rohingya population. The Foreign Minister also drew attention of the government of Canada to the repatriation of Nur Chowdhury, one of the killers of the Father of the Nation of Bangladesh who is fugitive in Canada. The FM invited Canadian Minister to visit Bangladesh. Canadian Minister accepted the invitation and said that he would visit Bangladesh at a convenient time.

 It may be mentioned that the Foreign Minister is now in New York for a official visit. He will present Bangladesh’s amended documents to the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (CLCS) at the UN on March, 01, 2022.

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