



FOREIGN OFFICE BRIEFING NOTES

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Hon'ble Prime Minister attended EU's inaugural Global Gateway Forum 2023 in Brussels



At the invitation of the European Commission President H.E. Ms. Ursula Von der Leyen, Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina attended the European Union's inaugural Global Gateway Forum on 25 October 2023 in Brussels. Hon'ble Prime Minister was one of the select few leaders from non-EU countries who addressed the Opening Plenary of the Forum. During her address, Hon'ble Prime

Minister urged the global leaders to stop wars, conflicts and arms race and instead, invest those funds in education, health and food security.

Hon'ble Prime Minister highlighted Bangladesh's socio-economic development over the last 15 years and lauded EU's focus on transport corridors, health security, green energy, digital transformation, research and innovation under the Global Gateway initiative. She

sought the continuation of EU's trade preferences beyond 2029 for Bangladesh's smooth LDC graduation. She expressed hope that the Global Gateway would become a great connector for lasting peace and sustainable development throughout the world.

Hon'ble Prime Minister also attended the closing plenary session of the Global Gateway Forum.



Hon'ble Prime Minister held a bilateral meeting with President of European Commission in Brussels



Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina held a bilateral meeting with President of the European Commission H.E. Ursula von der Leyen on 25 October 2023 at the European Commission

Headquarters. During the meeting, both leaders decided to take the Bangladesh-EU partnership to a new level and jointly launched the negotiations on a new Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (PCA)

between Bangladesh and the EU. They also discussed cooperation on post-LDC trade terms, migration and mobility, green transition and renewable energy, Rohingya issue and the Global Gateway initiative.

Vice-President of European Parliament called on Hon'ble Prime Minister in Brussels



Vice-President of the European Parliament H.E. Ms. Nicola Beer

called on Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on 25 October 2023

at her hotel suite in Brussels. During the call, both sides underscored the



urgency to end conflicts in Ukraine and Gaza. Hon'ble Prime Minister stated Bangladesh's position against wars anywhere in the world, highlighting that women and

children suffer the most in wars and conflicts. The European Parliament's Vice-President underscored closer cooperation between the European Parliament and Bangladesh

Parliament. Both sides also discussed women empowerment, particularly in politics, education and workforce.

Hon'ble Prime Minister held bilateral meeting with Prime Minister of Belgium in Brussels



Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina held a bilateral meeting with Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Belgium H.E. Mr. Alexander De Croo on 26 October 2023 at Federal Public Service Chancellery in Brussels. Hon'ble Prime Minister expressed gratitude to Belgium for being one of the first European countries to recognize Bangladesh in February 1972. She appreciated the European Union's Everything but Arms (EBA)'s role in accelerating

Bangladesh's rapid socio-economic development and sought Belgium's support in extending EBA trade preferences up to 2032, considering adverse economic impacts of COVID-19 and prolonged war in Ukraine. She further sought Belgian cooperation for vaccine manufacturing in Bangladesh. Appreciating Belgium's footprints in dredging and spinning sectors in Bangladesh, Hon'ble Prime Minister invited Belgian investment

in the shipbuilding, ICT, renewable energy and green hydrogen sectors in Bangladesh. She expressed interest to learn about Belgium's experience in universal pension scheme to further develop the newly-launched Universal Pension Scheme in Bangladesh. Both sides also discussed international issues of mutual interest and concerns including climate change, war in Ukraine and situation in the Middle East.



Hon'ble Prime Minister held bilateral meeting with Prime Minister of Luxembourg in Brussels

Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina held a bilateral meeting with Prime Minister of Luxembourg H.E. Mr. Xavier Bettel on 26 October 2023 at her hotel suite in Brussels. Hon'ble Prime Minister expressed gratitude to Luxembourg for being one of the first European countries to recognize Bangladesh in February 1972. Luxembourg Prime Minister praised Hon'ble Prime Minister for her outstanding leadership behind Bangladesh's outstanding socio-economic progress. Both leaders expressed satisfaction at the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic

relations between Bangladesh and Luxembourg last year and recalled their telephone conversation on the occasion. Luxembourg Prime Minister expressed desire to further deepen the bilateral relations and further enhance trade and investment between the two friendly countries. He hoped to conclude an Air Services Agreement at an early date and expressed interest to send a trade and economic mission to Bangladesh to explore bilateral trade and investment opportunities. Hon'ble Prime Minister thanked Luxembourg for its development cooperation assistance for improving

the standard of living of people in the char areas of northern Bangladesh. She sought Luxembourg's support in extending EBA trade preferences up to 2032 instead of 2029 considering adverse economic impacts of COVID-19 pandemic and prolonged war in Ukraine. Hon'ble Prime Minister also suggested to Luxembourg Prime Minister to share their experience in banking sector to further improve banking operations in Bangladesh. Both sides discussed cooperation in ICT and renewable energy sectors.





Hon'ble Prime Minister held meeting with European Investment Bank President in Brussels



Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina held a meeting with European Investment Bank (EIB) President H.E. Dr. Werner Hoyer on 25 October 2023 at her hotel suite in Brussels. The EIB President expressed satisfaction at the use of 1 billion Euro loan portfolio for Bangladesh since 2000 in areas of shared priorities. He noted, in particular, progress with projects under implementation in water treatment and rail link upgradation.

Hon'ble Prime Minister flagged the achievements made so far in ensuring safe water and sanitation for nearly 97% of the population. She requested EIB to consider supporting

river dredging, water conservation and surface irrigation.

Hon'ble Prime Minister also mentioned the initiatives taken by her government to build dual track railways to promote cost-effective passenger and container traffic. She appreciated the interest of different multilateral development banks in financing such impactful connectivity projects.

The EIB President referred to the loan package of 250 million Euro signed in 2021. He shared that the disbursement of the amount would commence soon for the purpose of health system strengthening.

The EIB President observed that

Bangladesh was in an ideal situation to roll out vaccine production. Hon'ble Prime Minister informed him about the measures taken by the government to develop a vaccine production facility and a molecular testing laboratory. She suggested that EIB extend support for necessary infrastructure development for these initiatives.

Hon'ble Prime Minister reiterated that Bangladesh could support EU's efforts to diversify production of pharmaceuticals, vaccines and medical equipment. She also discussed possible support measures for combating dengue outbreaks, including through vaccines.

European Commissioner for Crisis Management called on Hon'ble Prime Minister in Brussels

European Commissioner for Crisis Management H.E. Mr. Janez

Lenarčič called on Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on 25

October 2023 at her hotel suite in Brussels. During the meeting,



the European Commissioner lauded Bangladesh's outstanding socio-economic development under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. He also lauded Bangladesh's success in disaster management including early-warning system. He commended Bangladesh for its generous hosting

of the Rohingyas and announced an additional €10.5 million assistance for the Rohingyas. Hon'ble Prime Minister thanked the EU for its continued support to Bangladesh's disaster management, particularly in earthquake preparedness. She sought support of the international

community including the EU for an early, safe and sustainable repatriation of the forcibly displaced Rohingyas, temporarily sheltered in Bangladesh, to their homeland Myanmar for the sake of peace and stability in the region.



European Commissioner for International Partnerships called on Hon'ble Prime Minister in Brussels



European Commissioner for International Partnerships H.E. Ms. Jutta Urpilainen called on Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on 25 October 2023 at her hotel suite in Brussels. The

European Commissioner lauded the celebration of 50th anniversary of Bangladesh-EU partnership and expressed EU's commitment to further deepen this relationship. She underscored potential areas of

cooperation on investment in energy transition, digital infrastructure, transport corridors, human capital development and decent work in this regard.



Hon'ble Prime Minister thanked the EU for its continued support to Bangladesh's socio-economic development, particularly in green transition, education and skill development. Hon'ble Prime Minister highlighted Bangladesh

Awami League's struggle to restore democracy in Bangladesh and creating enabling environment for free and fair elections including establishment of an independent Election Commission, photo ID/biometric information-based voter

list and transparent ballot boxes. The European Commissioner hoped that the upcoming general elections in Bangladesh would be held in a free and fair environment.

Hon'ble Prime Minister of Bangladesh, President of the European Commission and Vice-President of EIB witnessed the signing of 7 agreements in Brussels



Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, President of the European Commission H.E. Ms. Ursula Von der Leyen and Vice-President of the European Investment Bank (EIB) H.E. Ms. Teresa Czerwińska witnessed the signing of 7 agreements totalling €477 million in loans and grants on

25 October 2023 at the European Commission Headquarters in Brussels.

These include €350 million loan from EIB, €45 million investment and technical assistance grants as well as €12 million green energy transition grant from the European

Commission for renewable energy sector of Bangladesh; grants of €30 million for advancing decent work, €10 million for preventing gender-based violence, €10 million for e-government and digital public services and €10 million for green construction in Bangladesh.

A delegation of UK Parliament paid courtesy call on Hon'ble Prime Minister in London

A delegation of UK Parliament's All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Bangladesh led by H.E. Ms. Rushanara Ali MP, Chair of APPGs on Bangladesh and on

Rohingya, and Shadow Minister for Investment and Small Business and UK's Trade Envoy to Bangladesh paid a courtesy call on Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at

her hotel suite in London on 02 October 2023. The other members of the delegation were Ms. Catherine West MP, Shadow Foreign Minister (Asia and the Pacific); Mr. Foyso



Choudhury MBE, Member of the Scottish Parliament and Shadow Minister for Culture and Europe and International Development of Scotland and Convenor of Scottish Parliament’s Cross-Party Group on

Bangladesh; Mr Virendra Sharma, Vice-Chair of APPG on Bangladesh; Ms. Shabana Mahmood, Vice-Chair of APPG on Bangladesh; and Ms. Valerie Vaz, Vice-Chair of APPG on Bangladesh. During the call, the two

sides shared their views on Rohingya crisis, climate change, Global South, war in Ukraine, upcoming general elections in Bangladesh, Bangladesh-UK aviation partnership and regular migration.



Chair of British Asian Trust paid a courtesy call on Hon’ble Prime Minister in London



Lord Jitesh Gadhia, Chair of British Asian Trust paid a courtesy call on Hon’ble Prime Minister Sheikh

Hasina on 02 October 2023 at her hotel suite in London. During the call, Lord Gadhia apprised Hon’ble

Prime Minister about British Asian Trust’s activities in Bangladesh, particularly in mental health and



climate change. He informed that under the Trust a Climate Innovation Fund is being operationalized in Bangladesh to support sustainable agriculture, food security, water security and livelihoods of climate vulnerable population. Hon'ble Prime Minister apprised Lord Gadhia about her government's climate change adaptation projects such

as artificial mangrove forestation, climate-smart agriculture, climate-smart housing in coastal areas and flood-prone areas for the landless people, and innovative adaptation programmes under Mujib Climate Prosperity Plan (2022-2041) and National Adaption Plan (2023-2050). Lord Gadhia lauded Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's

leadership and observed that her participation at the COP28 would be very instrumental in global climate action. Expressing grave concern for the climate vulnerable countries, Hon'ble Prime Minister indicated that Bangladesh would emphasize the implementation of the fund for loss and damage at the COP28.

Minister of State for the Middle East, North Africa, South Asia and United Nations at the UK's Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office paid a courtesy call on Hon'ble Prime Minister in London



Lord Ahmad, Minister of State for the Middle East, North Africa, South Asia and United Nations at the UK's Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office paid a courtesy call on Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on 02 October 2023 at her hotel suite in London. During the call, Lord Ahmad recalled Hon'ble Prime Minister's fruitful

meeting with UK's Prime Minister Rishi Sunak on 05 May 2023 in London on the sidelines of the Commonwealth Leaders' Event. He also referred the fruitful Strategic Dialogue between Bangladesh and the UK at the Foreign Secretary/ Permanent Under Secretary-level held on 12 September 2023 in Dhaka. Lord Ahmed praised Hon'ble Prime

Minister's leadership in bringing massive change in education, particularly girls' education in Bangladesh. He underscored the importance of robust trade and investment relations, including aviation partnership, between the two countries. Hon'ble Prime Minister thanked Lord Ahmad for his support in promoting trade and



investment between Bangladesh and the UK, and Bangladesh’s concerns on the Rohingya crisis at the UN and Commonwealth. Highlighting Bangladesh’s own market of 170 million people and its being in the

pivot of a market of nearly three billion consumers of the region, Hon’ble Prime Minister invited more investments from the UK into Bangladesh for mutual benefit. Both Hon’ble Prime Minister and

Lord Ahmad shared the view that continued democracy and stability in Bangladesh would be instrumental for prosperity of the region.

Delegation of Hinduja Group paid courtesy call on Hon’ble Prime Minister in London

Prakash Hinduja paid a courtesy call on Hon’ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her hotel suite in London on 02 October 2023. The other members of the delegation were Mr. Gopichand Hinduja, Chairman, Hinduja Group; Mr. Ashok Hinduja; and Mr. Dheeraj Hinduja, Chairman, Ashok Leyland.

The Chairman of the Hinduja Group (Europe) apprised Hon’ble Prime Minister about Hinduja Group’s business operations and Hinduja Foundation’s philanthropic activities across the globe and expressed the Group’s desire to expand business operations in Bangladesh in transport, renewable energy,

IT, and fintech sectors. Hon’ble Prime Minister welcomed Hinduja Group’s interests to do business with Bangladesh and assured all possible support in this regard and invited Hinduja Group to invest in vehicle manufacturing in Bangladesh.



Vice-Chair of the UK Parliament’s All-Party Parliamentary Group on Indo-Pacific paid a courtesy call on Hon’ble Prime Minister in London

Lord Rami Ranger, Patron of Conservative friends of India and Vice-Chair of the UK Parliament’s

All-Party Parliamentary Group on Indo-Pacific and Chairman & Founder of Sun Mark Group of

Companies paid a courtesy call on Hon’ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on 02 October 2023 in



London. During the call, Lord Rami Ranger lauded Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman’s historic leadership for the independence of Bangladesh and adoption of a secular constitution for Bangladesh. He also lauded Hon’ble

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for her visionary leadership in stellar socio-economic advancement of Bangladesh, particularly economic growth and women empowerment. Hon’ble Prime Minister expressed her gratitude to the Indian government

and people for their extraordinary support to the independence of Bangladesh and apprised him about the Bangladesh-India bilateral relations as the ‘Role Model for the Neighbourhood Diplomacy’.



Hon’ble Speaker of Bangladesh Parliament delivered her remarks at inaugural session of Bangladesh-India Friendship Dialogue in Sylhet



Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Bangladesh Foundation for Regional Studies (BFRS) organized the 11th round of Bangladesh-India

Friendship Dialogue on 05-07 October 2023 in Sylhet. Hon’ble Speaker of Bangladesh National Parliament H. E. Dr. Shirin Sharmin

Chaudhury graced the session as chief guest and the session was chaired by Dr. A. K. Abdul Momen, Hon’ble Foreign Minister



of Bangladesh. Bangladesh-India Friendship Dialogue has been serving as one of the instrumental platforms for fostering strong bilateral relations between Bangladesh and India. This year the theme of the Dialogue is “Fostering a comprehensive and mutually beneficial partnership” which is very apt and timely considering the current trends of our relations.

In the inaugural session, the chief guest, Hon’ble Speaker of Bangladesh said that the destinies of the two neighboring countries

are intertwined, and stability and prosperity of both the countries are inextricably linked with each other. She thanked India for including Bangladesh in the G20 process and appreciated India for arranging P20 Parliamentary Speakers’ Summit.

Hon’ble Foreign Minister H. E. Dr. A. K. Abdul Momen, MP in his remarks, highlighted the excellent bilateral relations between the two countries. He shed light on the recent economic development of Bangladesh under the visionary leadership of Hon’ble Prime

Minister Sheikh Hasina which has largely fulfilled the dream of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman to transform Bangladesh into ‘Sonar Bangla’.

During the valedictory session the ‘Sylhet Declaration’ was adopted. In the declaration, both the countries have committed to explore new areas of cooperation which includes latest technologies, disaster management, artificial intelligence, ecology and conservation and greater youth engagement to give further momentum to their ties.

Hon’ble Foreign Minister Inaugurated Sylhet-Silchar Festival in Sylhet



Hon’ble Foreign Minister of Bangladesh Dr. A. K. Abdul Momen, MP inaugurated the 2nd round of Sylhet-Silchar Festival held on 06-08 October 2023 in Sylhet. The festival was organized to promote

cultural and people-to-people contact linking the two cities: Sylhet and Silchar. The first edition of the Sylhet-Silchar festival was organized on 02-04 December 2022 in Silchar, Assam. In the inaugural session

a number of speakers including Hon’ble Foreign Minister H. E. Dr. A. K. Abdul Momen, Dr. Rajkumar Ranjan Singh, Minister of State for External Affairs & Education of India and H. E. Mr. Ram Prasad



Paul, Deputy Speaker of Tripura Legislative Assembly made their valued remarks.

Hon'ble Foreign Minister in his remarks mentioned that Bangladesh and Northeast India are much more than just next-door neighbours. The North-eastern states played an important role during our War of Liberation in 1971. Economically, these States, particularly Assam, is growing fast and is at the heart of India's Act East Policy in which Bangladesh also figures prominently. Hon'ble Foreign Minister hoped that Sylhet-Silchar Festival will play a very

effective role in further strengthening relations, especially with the North-east region by showcasing our common culture, similar cuisine, and shared aspirations.

Hon'ble Minister of State for External Affairs & Education of India H. E. Dr. Rajkumar Ranjan Singh in his remarks noted that Bangladesh and North East States of India can work together for the betterment of people. He expressed his satisfaction on the recent progress made on connectivity projects undertaken by the two governments. He appreciated the present Government

of Bangladesh led by Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for strengthening relations with India and achieving remarkable socio-economic development made during the last fourteen years.

During the festival people from both Sylhet and Silchar showcased their cultural affinity and similarities. A good number of visitors from Silchar came to Sylhet to attend this festival. A number of cultural teams from Sylhet and Silchar showcased their cultural performances. A culinary festival was also organized during the festival.

UNHCR Country Representative to Bangladesh presented credentials to Hon'ble Foreign Minister



The new country representative of UNHCR to Bangladesh, Ms. Sumbul Rizvi has presented her credentials to Hon'ble Foreign Minister Dr. A. K. Abdul Momen, MP at the

Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 09 October 2023.

Foreign Minister welcomed the new country representative to Bangladesh and assured her of necessary supports

of the Government in executing her duties. He appreciated the persistent engagement of UNHCR in rendering the humanitarian operations for the Rohingyas temporarily



sheltered in Bangladesh as well as for the host community. Hon'ble Foreign Minister highlighted the innumerable challenges Bangladesh has been facing in hosting for than 1.2 million forcibly displaced Myanmar nationals (Rohingya) in Bangladesh. Noting that a single Rohingya could not be repatriated to Myanmar in the last six years, Dr. Momen cautioned that their prolonged stay in Bangladesh may pose threats to the security of the

region and beyond. He called upon UNHCR and other UN agencies having presence in Myanmar to work with the Myanmar government towards creating conducive environment in Rakhine. The UNHCR Representative expressed her gratitude to Bangladesh for its continued cooperation to UNHCR. Underscoring the need for repatriation of the Rohingyas temporarily sheltered in Bangladesh, she mentioned that the UNHCR

would continue its sincere efforts in maintaining the humanitarian response to the Rohingyas. She concurred with the Foreign Minister that the Rohingya issue must remain at the top of the global agenda. She also agreed with Dr. Momen that concerted and meaningful efforts by the international community were required for ensuring sustainable repatriation of displaced Rohingya people.

Hon'ble Foreign Minister attended 23rd Council of Ministers' Meeting of IORA in Colombo



Hon'ble Foreign Minister of Bangladesh Dr. A. K. Abdul Momen, MP attended the 23rd Council of Ministers' Meeting (COM) of Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) in Colombo on 11 October 2023. The Meeting started with the handing over of Chairship of IORA to Sri Lanka by Bangladesh.

Bangladesh Foreign Minister in his opening statement congratulated Sri Lanka as the incoming Chair and India as the Vice-Chair of the Association for the period 2023-2025. Referring to the Indian Ocean as a 'beacon of hope', he emphasized

that activities in the Indian Ocean must be conducted in a safe and secure manner.

In the country statement that followed, as the outgoing Chair Bangladesh Foreign Minister presented to the Council an account of the contributions made by Bangladesh to IORA during its Chairship from 2021 to 2023 such as introducing a comprehensive and systematic compensation package for the Secretariat and streamlining its financial management. He also shared the progressive role played by Bangladesh to advance the activities of the Association. Referring to the

'IORA-Development Initiative' as devised by Bangladesh, he called upon the Dialogue Partners and IORA Member States to support this initiative and patronize other development programs in the region. Reiterating Bangladesh's commitments to the Vision of IORA, Dr. Momen stressed on IORA to play an unifying role to strengthen economic relations among IORA member states through an intra-IORA trade and investment agreement and to develop a collective framework for environmental conservation and disaster risk reduction. He expressed hope that IORA would act as a key



driving force for peace, development and stability in the region.

On the sidelines, he met the British Minister for Indo-Pacific Ms. Anne-Marie Trevelyan where they discussed issues of bilateral cooperation. Foreign Minister also met other high dignitaries of IORA Member States and Dialog Partners including the Indian External

Affairs Minister, Foreign Ministers of South Africa and Malaysia and Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asian Affairs of US State Department.

Foreign Ministers and other high dignitaries of IORA Member States and Dialogue Partners attended the IORA COM. It was preceded by the IORA Committee of Senior

Officials (CSO) from 9-10 October. Rear Admiral (Rtd) Khurshed Alam, Secretary, Maritime Affairs Unit (MAU) of Bangladesh Foreign Ministry led the Bangladesh delegation to the CSO.

IORA COM adopted the Colombo Communique as the outcome document.

Palestinian Ambassador in Dhaka called on Hon'ble Foreign Minister

Palestinian Ambassador in Dhaka H.E. Yousef S.Y. Ramadan called on Hon'ble Foreign Minister Dr. A. K. Abdul Momen, MP on 15 October 2023. Following the call on, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs issues the following message mentioning

that Bangladesh strongly condemns the growing civilian casualties including women and children as well as disproportionate use of force in Gaza and urges the international community to allow humanitarian assistance to the seized Gaza to avoid

mounting humanitarian disaster and work towards a two- state solution to the Israel- Palestinian conflict based on the UNSC resolutions for a just and lasting solution and enduring peace in the region.



Hon'ble Foreign Minister delivered keynote speech at the "High Level meeting on Rohingya Refugees" in Bangkok

Hon'ble Foreign Minister Dr. A. K. Abdul Momen, MP delivered keynote speech at the "High Level

meeting on Rohingya Refugees" arranged by UNHCR in Bangkok, Thailand on 17 October 2023.

Mentioning safe, voluntary and sustainable repatriation is the only solution of the Rohingya crisis, he



urged for international community's meaningful engagement in Rakhine State to improve the situation there and to boost humanitarian support for

the Rohingyas staying in Bangladesh. The ongoing learning in Myanmar Curriculum and portable skill development activities for Rohingyas

in Cox's Bazar and Bhasan Char should complement the repatriation initiatives, he mentioned.



UN High Commissioner for Refugees called on Hon'ble Foreign Minister in Bangkok

The UN High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi called on Hon'ble Foreign Minister Dr. A. K. Abdul Momen, MP on 17 October 2023 during a "High Level meeting on Rohingya Refugees" arranged by

UNHCR in Bangkok. The Foreign Minister thanked UNHCR for its continued humanitarian support for the Rohingyas and sought cooperation to realize the right and expectation of the Rohingyas

to return to Myanmar. Mr. Grandi mentioned voluntary repatriation as the solution of the Rohingya crisis and assured to continue efforts to achieve that objective.





Hon'ble Foreign Minister paid a courtesy call on Minister of Public Health of Thailand in Bangkok



During the Thailand visit, on 16 October 2023, Hon'ble Foreign Minister Dr. A. K. Abdul Momen, MP paid a courtesy call on H.E. Dr. Cholnan Srikaew, Minister

of Public Health of Thailand. He appreciated Thailand's highly advanced public health system and hoped that both the countries would have collaboration in the health

sector in future. He also mentioned that a good number of Bangladeshis visit Thailand each year as medical tourists.

Bangladesh dispatched humanitarian assistance for war-affected people of Gaza

Pursuant to the directives of the Hon'ble Prime Minister, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in collaboration with the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief handed over the first instalment of humanitarian assistance consignments meant for the war-affected people of Gaza Strip

to the Palestinian Envoy in Dhaka on 23 October 2023. Foreign Minister handed over a representational box of relief materials to the Envoy. The State Minister for Foreign Affairs, Foreign Secretary (Senior Secretary), Secretary of the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief

and other officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs were present during the ceremony.

In his brief remarks, Hon'ble Foreign Minister expressed solidarity with the brotherly people of Palestine in this moment of crisis and assured Bangladesh's possible support to the



people of Palestine. He also thanked the Egyptian Embassy in Dhaka and Egypt Airways for extending collaboration to dispatch this humanitarian assistance to Egypt

for onward passage to Gaza Strip through the Rafah border crossing.

The Palestinian Envoy expressed deep appreciation and gratitude to the Hon'ble Prime Minister for

the strong and steadfast support to the cause of Palestine and thanked the Government for much needed assistance to the people in Gaza.



High-level parliamentary delegation of Nepal called on Hon'ble State Minister for Foreign Affairs

A high-level parliamentary delegation comprising 11 members led by Dr. Arzu Rana, Chair of Agriculture, Cooperatives and Natural Resources Committee of Nepal Parliament visited Bangladesh from 2-7 October 2023. The delegation visited Bangladesh to learn about Bangladesh's success stories in Agriculture especially achieving self-sufficiency in food and see some agriculture projects in Bangladesh.

The delegation started their official programs in Bangladesh by paying their tribute to the Father of the Nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, at the Bangabandhu Memorial Museum at Dhanmondi-32, Dhaka. During the visit, they mentioned that Bangladesh is lucky to have such a charismatic leader like Bangabandhu.

The parliamentary delegation called on Md. Shahriar Alam, MP, State

Minister for Foreign Affairs at the Ministry. They discussed on various areas of cooperation to further strengthen the bilateral relations. The discussion focused on power, and connectivity, among others. The visiting delegation appreciated the current government led by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for making phenomenal socio-economic progress during last 15 (fifteen) years.



The delegation visited places like Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (BARC), Bangladesh

Rice Research Institute (BRRI), SAARC Agriculture Center (SAC), Bangladesh Seed Association (BSA)

as well as various agriculture projects in Bangladesh.



Hon’ble State Minister for Foreign Affairs attended opening ceremony of 1st Bangladesh Climate Action Forum 2023 in Dhaka



On 04 October 2023, Md. Shahriar Alam, MP, Hon’ble State Minister for Foreign Affairs attended the opening ceremony of the 1st Bangladesh Climate Action Forum 2023 held

in Dhaka as the Chief Guest. The event was organized by Bangladesh Apparel Exchange (BAE) under the theme of “Driving Climate Action through Technology, Innovation,

and Collaborative Financing for a Just Transition.”

In his speech, he emphasized financing, technology, and innovation as significant tools for



the just transition to a greener economy. He also highlighted that the Government of Bangladesh has intensified its focus on a just transition by fostering green growth, as envisioned in the landmark Mujib Climate Prosperity Plan.

The Hon'ble State Minister for Foreign Affairs stressed the fulfillment of international commitments by the developed countries on climate financing and technology transfer under various multilateral mechanisms including

the Paris Agreement to achieve the goal of a just transition. He further emphasized trade collaborations within North-South, South-South, as well as the active role of the private sector in this regard.

Hon'ble State Minister for Foreign Affairs had a meeting with State Secretary for International Development Cooperation of the Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Dhaka



Hon'ble State Minister for Foreign Affairs Md. Shahriar Alam, MP had a meeting with H.E. Ms. Diana Janse, State Secretary for International Development Cooperation of the Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 09 October 2023 in Dhaka. H.E. Ms. Alexandra Berg Von Linde, Ambassador of Sweden to Bangladesh and Mr. Niclas Trouvé, Head of South Asia Group at the Asia and Latin America Department of the Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, among others, also joined the meeting. Thanking the Swedish State

Secretary for her maiden visit to Bangladesh, Hon'ble State Minister for Foreign Affairs fondly recalled his recent fruitful meeting with H.E. Mr. Hekan Jevrell, State Secretary for Foreign Trade and Export and Investment Promotion of Sweden and exchange of views on different issues of mutual interest with the cross-party Parliamentary Committee on Foreign Affairs of the Swedish Parliament in Stockholm in June this year. He acknowledged with gratitude that Sweden was one of the first few European countries to

recognize Bangladesh as a sovereign state on 4 February 1972. He appreciated Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency SIDA's support to Bangladesh to rebuild a war-ravaged country after our Independence and its continued support to us to the improvement of living conditions of the poor, particularly women and children, and promoting gender equality. Hon'ble State Minister highlighted Bangladesh's contributions to world peace under the UN, remarkable socio-economic



development, particularly in poverty reduction, attainment of food autarky, successes in health and education and massive infrastructural developments under the visionary leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. He requested for Swedish support in digital transformation, trade facilitation, climate change adaptation, and DFQF market access to the EU until 2032.

Impressed by the massive socio-economic and infrastructural developments, the Swedish State Secretary highly appreciated Bangladesh's extraordinary developmental journey and expressed Sweden's willingness to take bilateral relations

between the two friendly countries to a new height. She highlighted that more than 50 Swedish companies are successfully doing business in Bangladesh and indicated orientation of Swedish development cooperation to trade promotion. She also underscored the importance of green transition and offered development financing in this regard. The State Secretary appreciated the generosity of the government of Bangladesh for hosting the forcibly displaced Rohingyas and assured continued Swedish humanitarian support. Her Excellency Diana Janse expected that the upcoming parliamentary election in Bangladesh will be free

and fair. Hon'ble State Minister assured that the government will extend all possible cooperation to the Election Commission to conduct free, fair and peaceful election. He welcomed independent international observers to observe the upcoming parliamentary election in Bangladesh.

The two sides also shared their views on war in Ukraine and its resulting impacts on global economy and food security, rules-based world order, and climate change.

Hon'ble State Minister for Foreign Affairs had a meeting with the Parliamentary Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan in Dhaka



H.E. Mr. KOMURA Masahiro, the Parliamentary Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan visited Bangladesh on 07 October, 2023 to attend the soft opening of the Hazrat

Shahjalal International Airport (HSIA) - Terminal 3. During the visit, Hon'ble State Minister for Foreign Affairs Md. Shahriar Alam, MP and H.E. Mr. KOMURA

Masahiro had a very cordial meeting which took place at the State Guest House Padma. Mr. Alam thanked him for coming to Dhaka to attend the inauguration ceremony of the 3rd



terminal of HSIA. Mr. KOMURA expressed his satisfaction on the recent development achievements in Bangladesh. The two sides discussed various aspects of bilateral

collaborations including that of the civil aviation. Hon'ble State Minister reiterated the commitment of the Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to uphold the democratic

process. Mr. KOMURA Masahiro assured for ongoing Japanese technical assistance in Bangladesh's endeavour of progress and prosperity.

Hon'ble Agriculture Minister participated the World Food Forum and Hand-in Hand Investment forum in Rome

Dr. Muhammad Abdur Razzaque, MP, Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture of Bangladesh led a 5-member delegation at the World Food Forum (WFF) and Hand-in Hand Investment forum held on 16-20 October 2023 at the FAO Headquarters. The Hon'ble Minister addressed two thematic questions provided by the FAO at the opening session of the World Food Forum on 16 October 2023. The Minister, in

his statement at the inauguration of the 2nd HiH Forum on 17 October 2023, emphasized the consistency of Bangladesh to attract investment for the transformation of agri-food systems. The Hon'ble Minister presented an update on the actions taken by Bangladesh following the 1st HiH Forum and the investment plan for Bangladesh in agriculture, its priorities and prospects, which was attended by a large number of

participants. On the sideline of the forum, the Minister had multiple engagements with a large number of senior officials representing UN Bodies, World Bank and other International Organizations. He also met the DG, FAO on 17 October 2023. H.E. Mr. Md. Monirul Islam, Ambassador of Bangladesh to Italy and senior officials of the Ministry of Agriculture were present in the sessions.



Bangladesh and Libya signed a MoU for mutual cooperation in the field of manpower in Tripoli

Bangladesh has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for mutual cooperation in the field of recruitment of workers to Libya. The MoU was signed on 25 October 2023 in Tripoli by Mr. Imran Ahmad, MP, the Hon'ble Minister of Expatriate Welfare and Overseas Employment of Bangladesh and

Engr. Ali Abed Reda, the Hon'ble Minister of Labor and Rehabilitation of Libya. At this time, the members of the high-level delegation from Bangladesh, including the H.E. the Ambassador of Bangladesh to Libya, Major General Abul Hasnat Mohammad Khairul Bashar and high-ranking officials from the

Ministry of Labour of Libya were present.

By signing the MoU, new employment opportunities will be expanded for Bangladeshis in Libya legally. It will protect the rights of Bangladeshi nationals employed in Libya and ensure remittances and the security of expatriates. The MoU



will also play an effective role in curbing illegal immigration to Libya. It is expected to improve bilateral relations between Bangladesh and Libya and strengthen the brotherly relations between the two countries.

A high-level delegation from Bangladesh, headed by the Hon'ble Expatriates' Welfare Minister, visited Libya for two days. During the visit, the Hon'ble Minister had meeting

with the Libyan counterparts. In the meetings, the Hon'ble Minister discussed various issues related to the recruitment of skilled professionals in Libya, the control of illegal immigration, and the interests of expatriates. The Hon'ble Minister also interacted with expatriate Bangladeshis working in various professions in Tripoli.

The previous MoU signed by Libya

in 2008 regarding the recruitment of workers from Bangladesh has already expired. The MoU was finalized after long, continuous and tireless efforts on the part of the Embassy, under the supervision of the Ministry of Expatriate Welfare and Overseas Employment and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.



A high level delegation of senior government officials of Oman called on Foreign Secretary in Dhaka

A high level eight member delegation of senior government officials from the Sultanate of Oman led by H.E. Ambassador Dr. Sulaiman Saud Al Jabri, Head of Legal Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Oman visited Bangladesh from 11-14 October 2023. The delegation comprised high level representations from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Labor and Ministry of Interior of the Sultanate of Oman.

The delegation called on Foreign Secretary (Senior Secretary) at his office on 12 October 2023. Ambassador Jabri expressed Oman's interest to sign the two Memorandum of Understandings which would enhance the existing manpower cooperation, safeguard Bangladeshi workers' interests and combat illegal migration and trafficking. Foreign Secretary (Senior Secretary) informed the

delegation about Hon'ble Prime Minister's commitment towards safe migration and zero tolerance on illegal trafficking. He assured them of all cooperation on signing the Memorandums at an early date.

Earlier, the delegation attended two separate discussion meetings with the Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment and Public Security Division of the Ministry of Home Affairs, which



were coordinated by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. With a rising trend, around seven hundred thousand Bangladeshi expatriates are hosted

by Oman. From this perspective, the discussions in the fields of migration and employment between Bangladesh and Oman side were quite significant

to further cooperation in these areas in days to come.



New Ambassador of Italy to Bangladesh called on Foreign Secretary



Foreign Secretary (Senior Secretary) Ambassador Masud Bin Momen congratulated H.E. Mr. Antonio Alessandro on his appointment as the new Ambassador of Italy

to Bangladesh, during the latter's maiden courtesy call on him on 16 October 2023. Referring to the recent visit of Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to Rome in

July this year and her meeting with Her Excellency Giorgia Meloni, President of the Council of Ministers of Italy, both sides stressed on the follow-up actions.



The meeting discussed existing and potential bilateral cooperation on migration, skill development, anti-human trafficking, Indo-Pacific,

shipping, energy, defense and space. Both sides also shared political developments in each other's country and hoped that the upcoming general

elections in Bangladesh would be free, fair and peaceful.

Newly appointed Ambassador of Viet Nam in Dhaka called on Foreign Secretary

On 16 October 2023, H.E. Mr. Nguyen Manh Cuong, the newly appointed Ambassador of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam in Dhaka, called on H.E. Ambassador Masud Bin Momen, Foreign Secretary (Senior Secretary), at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The Foreign Secretary warmly welcomed Ambassador Cuong to Bangladesh, congratulated him on his new assignment, and assured him of full cooperation and support.

As 2023 marks the golden jubilee of diplomatic relations between

Bangladesh and Viet Nam, he recalled the historic contributions of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and Ho Chi Minh in leading the respective struggles for freedom and nation building.

Their discussions encompassed trade and investment relations, cooperation on addressing the issue of forcibly displaced nationals of Myanmar and Bangladesh's bid to become a Sectoral Dialogue Partner of ASEAN.

The Foreign Secretary highlighted the potential of establishing direct

air links between Dhaka and Hanoi - for accelerating trade, investment, tourism and people-to-people contacts, and suggested the Ambassador to pursue this objective.

Both of them reaffirmed the commitment to further strengthen the growing bilateral relations between Bangladesh and Viet Nam, including through VVIP visits, exchange of trade delegations and holding of Joint Trade Commission (JTC) and Foreign Office Consultation (FoC) in near future.





Permanent Secretary (Foreign Secretary) of Nigeria called on Foreign Secretary

Permanent Secretary (Foreign Secretary) of Nigeria H.E. Ambassador Adamu Ibrahim Lamuwa called on Foreign Secretary (Senior Secretary) H.E. Ambassador

Masud Bin Momen at latter's office on 22 October 2023. Both of them agreed to increase level of engagement for achieving both countries common goals. They

also reviewed different aspects of bilateral relationship ahead of the celebration of the Golden Jubilee of the diplomatic relations.



Foreign Secretary inaugurated the 47th Session of the D-8 Commission in Dhaka

Foreign Secretary (Senior Secretary), H.E. Ambassador Masud Bin Momen inaugurated the two-day long meeting of the 47th Session of the D-8 Commission held on 22 October 2023 in Dhaka. The D-8 Secretary-General, H.E. Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, D-8 Commissioners from the D-8 Member States and Officials from the D-8 Secretariat participated in the meeting.

In his opening remarks, Foreign

Secretary (Senior Secretary) reaffirmed Bangladesh's unwavering support for the Palestinian people's inalienable right to self-determination and a two-state solution based on the 1967 borders. Condemning the horrific atrocities against the innocent civilians in Gaza by the Israeli occupation forces, he called for an immediate cessation of violence in Gaza and provide humanitarian access to the conflict zones in order to save lives

of the innocent civilians.

During the meeting, Foreign Secretary of Bangladesh requested the D-8 Commissioners to adopt a Joint Declaration to express steadfast solidarity and support for the Palestinian People. The D-8 Commissioners and the D-8 Secretary-General echoed the proposal of Bangladesh and agreed to adopt a Joint Declaration at the 47th session of the D-8 Commission.

Appreciating D-8's remarkable



journey of 26 years as an economic bloc, Foreign Secretary further urged the D-8 Commissioners to deliver tangible outcomes of this economic

cooperation by combining efforts of the Member States.

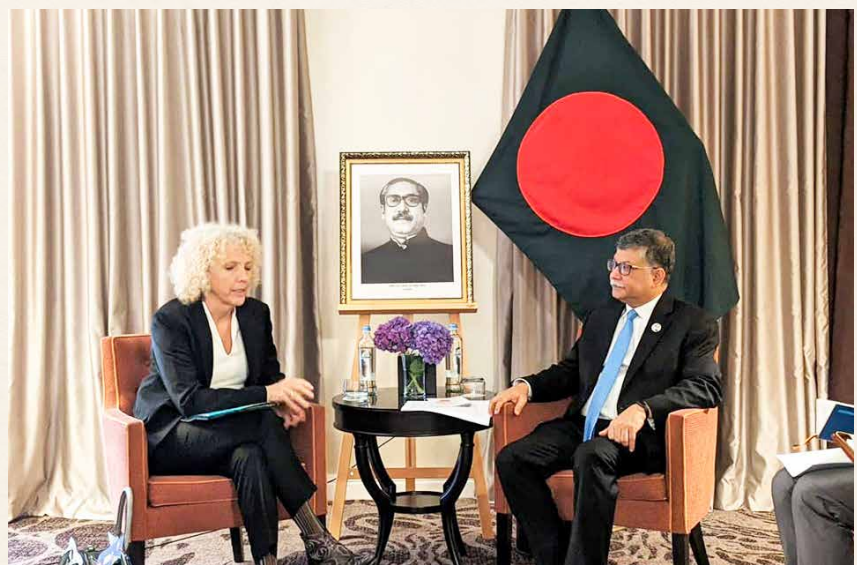
Hon'ble Prime Minister of Bangladesh assumed the Chairmanship of the

Developing-Eight Organization for Economic Cooperation (D-8) from the President of Turkiye on 08 April 2021 at the 10th D-8 Summit.



Foreign Secretary (Senior Secretary) held a meeting with Germany's State Secretary of the Federal Foreign Office and Special Envoy for International Climate Action in Brussels

Foreign Secretary (Senior Secretary) Ambassador Masud Bin Momen held a meeting with Germany's State Secretary of the Federal Foreign Office and Special Envoy for International Climate Action on 25 October 2023 in Brussels. Both sides discussed loss and damage and its operational mechanism, cooperation on technology and financing in renewable energy and energy transition, green hydrogen, climate mitigation and adaptation, as well as upcoming COP28.





Fifth Bangladesh-Canada Foreign Office Consultations was held in Ottawa



The fifth Bangladesh-Canada Foreign Office Consultations was held on 27 October 2023 at the Global Affairs Canada in Ottawa. Ambassador Masud Bin Momen, Foreign Secretary (Senior Secretary) led the Bangladesh delegation while the Canadian delegation was led by Mr. Weldon Epp, Assistant Deputy Minister, Asia Pacific, Global Affairs Canada. A wide range of issues including political relations, economic cooperation, trade and investment, technical assistance, movement of people, response to the Rohingya crisis and global and regional issues were covered in the consultations.

The Foreign Secretary applauded the strong partnership between Bangladesh and Canada that is built on shared values and mutual cooperation. The Assistant Deputy Minister commended the

tremendous economic growth that has taken place in Bangladesh. He also appreciated Bangladesh for generously hosting over 1.1 million Rohingyas and reaffirmed their continued partnership in responding to the crisis.

Highlighting the increased role of trade in bilateral relations, the two sides agreed to devise a mechanism to explore ways and means to diversify and expand trade. The two countries also agreed to work on elevating the relations to the next level. The Foreign Secretary emphasized increasing collaboration in the capacity building of Bangladesh's service sectors including skill development, trade facilitation, clean tech and energy and agri-food processing sectors.

Bangladesh side reiterated its request for the early deportation of Nur Chowdhury, the self-confessed and

convicted killer of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

The two sides also discussed various global and regional issues including climate change, peace and security, and transnational crime over a lunch hosted by Mr. David Morrison, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Canada.

The High Commissioner of Bangladesh to Canada Dr. Khalilur Rahman, Director General (North America) Mr. Khandker Masudul Alam, and officials of the Bangladesh High Commission in Ottawa and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs were present in the meeting. The High Commissioner of Canada to Bangladesh Dr. Lilly Nicholls and senior officials of the Canadian Government participated in the bilateral consultations.



Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Bangladesh Missions in abroad observed ‘Sheikh Russel Day’ 2023

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Bangladesh Missions in abroad observed ‘Sheikh Russel Day’ 2023 and the 60th Birth Anniversary of Sheikh Russel, the youngest son of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on 18 October 2023. At the outset placed a floral wreath at the portrait of

Sheikh Russel. Special prayers were offered for the salvation of the souls of Bangabandhu, his family members and all the martyrs of the great war of independence as well as for the country’s continuous peace, progress and prosperity. Messages of Hon’ble President and Hon’ble Prime Minister were read out at the

event. The event was attended by Embassy officials and members of the expatriate Bangladeshi community.

Besides, a discussion on the brief life of Sheikh Russel was the main feature of the programme in which Embassy officials and Bangladeshi community members took part.



▶ Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Dhaka



▶ Bangladesh Embassy in Bangkok



▶ Bangladesh Embassy in Vienna



▶ Bangladesh Embassy in Amman



▶ Bangladesh Embassy in Kathmandu



▶ Bangladesh Embassy in Madrid



▶ *Bangladesh Embassy in Stockholm*



▶ *Bangladesh High Commission in Colombo*



▶ *Bangladesh Embassy in Brunei*



▶ *Bangladesh Embassy in Cairo*



▶ *Bangladesh Embassy in Tokyo*



▶ *Bangladesh Embassy in Tripoli*



▶ *Bangladesh Deputy High Commission in Kolkata*



▶ *Consulate General of Bangladesh in New York*



► Bangladesh Deputy High Commission in Karachi



► Consulate General of Bangladesh in Hong Kong



► Bangladesh Deputy High Commission in Chennai

NID Services rolled out in Embassy of Bangladesh in Rome

As part of implementation of the expatriate-friendly policies of the government, NID services were rolled out in the Embassy of Bangladesh in Rome on 27 October 2023. Bangladesh expatriates in Italy are now able to enroll for their new National Identity Cards (NID) through the Embassy.

Election Commission Secretariat jointly collaborated with the Embassy in launching the service. While expressing satisfaction for opening the new line of services for the expatriate community of commendable number, H.E. Mr. Md. Monirul Islam, Ambassador of Bangladesh to Italy highlighted

the importance of having NID and thanked the government for such a prudent initiative to roll out NID from the Missions abroad. The programme was attended by senior officials of the Election Commission Secretariat, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, officers of the Embassy, community leaders and journalists.





High Commissioner of Bangladesh to Malaysia paid farewell call on with the Director General of Immigration of Malaysia



Md. Golam Sarwar, High Commissioner of Bangladesh to Malaysia paid a farewell call on with Datuk Ruslin Jusah, Director General of Immigration of Malaysia on 04 October 2023 to say goodbye. Both stressed on further strengthening bilateral relations

between Bangladesh and Malaysia and the interests of Bangladeshi workers living in Malaysia. Mr. Sarwar thanked for all support and cooperation received during his tenure as High Commissioner to Malaysia. Mohammad Khorshed Alam Khastagir, Deputy High

Commissioner, Md Nazms Sadat Salim, Minister (Labour), Syed Shariful Islam, Counsellor (Labour), Farhana Ahmed Chowdhury, Counsellor (Political) & Head of the Chancery and G.M Rasel Rana, Counsellor (Consular) were present.

Highly appraised docu-drama "Hasina: A Daughter's Tale" was screened in Embassy of Bangladesh in Rome



The highly appraised docu-drama "Hasina: A Daughter's Tale" featuring the life sketch of Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina,

the able daughter of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh

the able daughter of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh



Mujibur Rahman was screened in the Embassy of Bangladesh in Rome, Italy on 02 October 2023. A large number of audience including Italian artists, teachers, Bangladeshi community leaders, journalists and the Embassy officers and officials were present during the event.

In short remarks, H.E. Mr. Md. Shameem Ahsan, Ambassador of Bangladesh to Italy underscored the importance of screening the documentary in front of foreign audience and children to make them aware about the tragic history of our nation. He also mentioned that this

documentary is a testimony of the real life story of how Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina became a strong and dynamic leader after bearing the immense pain of losing literally every one of her family.

Bangladesh High Commissioner to Malaysia attended Sharodia Durga Puja



On 21 October 2023, Md. Shameem Ahsan, Bangladesh High Commissioner to Malaysia, attended Sharodia Durga Puja (Maha Saptami) organised by Abhijan Recreation Club at Vivekananda Ashrama in Kuala Lumpur. In his remarks, the High Commissioner conveyed warm greetings to all

devotees celebrating Durga Puja at home and abroad. Mr. Ahsan reiterated Bangladesh's secular, non-communal and pluralistic credentials and appreciated the Hindu community for celebrating the festivities in a befitting spirit. The High Commissioner further said that the Government remains

committed to uphold the secular fabric of the society and state in line with the principles of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman for a secular, democratic polity which is being pursued by Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.



Bangladesh High Commission in Malaysia organized Sheikh Russel Memorial Football Tournament

Sheikh Russel Memorial Football Tournament was inaugurated on 21 October 2023 with the participation of the Bangladesh expatriates' community living in Malaysia organized by the Bangladesh High Commission in Kuala Lumpur on the occasion of the 60th birthday of

Sheikh Russel, the youngest son of the father of the nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. Bangladesh High Commissioner to Malaysia Md Shameem Ahsan, Datuk Dr. Wan Ahmed Fauzi Bin Wan Husain, associate professor of the Faculty of Islamic Thought and

Civilisation, International Islamic University Malaysia, officers and officials of the High Commission, teachers and students of International Islamic University, Malaysia and leaders of the expatriate Bangladeshi community living in Malaysia were present on the occasion.



► H.E High Commissioner inaugurated Sheikh Russel Memorial Football Tournament

Ambassador of Bangladesh to Greece had a Meeting with Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign, European and Trade Affairs of Malta

H.E the Ambassador Mr. Ashud Ahmed had a fruitful meeting with H.E. Christopher Cutajar, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign, European and Trade Affairs at his

office on 11 October 2023. During the meeting, they discussed a number of bilateral issues that included political matters, opening of the legal channel for employment of Bangladeshi

nationals and global issues of common concern. In the same vibe, the Ambassador emphasized the importance of holding the first-ever foreign office consultations between



our two Foreign Ministries at the Foreign Secretary level which was readily agreed upon by him. The Permanent Secretary proposed that the Foreign Office consultations between Bangladesh and Malta may be organized in Malta in the 1st

quarter of 2024 at the convenient time of our Foreign Secretary. At the end of the meeting, both sides vowed to continue cooperation in possible areas of development. On both sides, much emphasis was laid on enhancing institutional

cooperation. There has been a reiteration of commitment from both sides for further advancing the bilateral engagements for the mutual benefit of the peoples of Bangladesh and Malta.



Ambassador of Bangladesh to Greece met Mayor of Pinios, Vardah of Greece



H.E. the Ambassador Mr. Ashud Ahmed had a fruitful meeting with the Mayor of Pinios, Vardah, Mr. Andreas Sp. Marinos at his office on 14 October 2023. During the visit, they discussed on development of the welfare of Bangladeshi nationals, especially in the agricultural

sector. Central to these discussions was the MoU, which serves as a foundational document guiding the welfare, regularization, and potential migration of Bangladeshi workers to Greece. The Mayor insights and feedback on the MoU's implementation provided

valuable perspectives on its on-ground impact. The discussions were comprehensive, covering potential areas of collaboration, challenges faced by Bangladeshi workers, and the broader implications of the MoU in shaping the future of Bangladeshi-Greek relations in Peloponnese.



Bangladesh Embassy in Amman participated 58th Annual International Diplomatic Bazaar

Bangladesh Embassy, Amman participated at the 58th Annual International Diplomatic Bazaar in Jordan on 07 October 2023. The Embassy presented Bangladeshi own colorful products and various traditional foods in two separate stalls. The proceed collected through the fair was deposited in the fund of Mabarrat Umm Al Hussain in Jordan. This participation contributed to the promotion of Bangladeshi handicrafts and cuisine to the world and to brightened the image of Bangladesh by providing financial assistance to the charitable institutions run by the Jordanian royal family.

Embassies of different countries presented their products in their stalls decorated according to their culture and tradition. Handicrafts made in Bangladesh including nakshi kantha, silk and jamdani sarees, scarves, jute products, copper products, wood and cane products, leather products and other types of crafted products were displayed in the stall. Apart from this, the interest of the visitors in Bangladeshi tea, mustard oil and different kinds of spices was noticeable. 22 types of traditional Bangladeshi food were presented in the food stall, including different types of pithas and snacks.

Milk tea made from Bangladeshi tea leaves and phuchka topped the visitors' list of favourites.

Jordanian Princess Basma bint Talal inaugurated the Diplomatic Bazaar. While visiting Bangladeshi stalls, she highly praised Bangladeshi products and contribution of Bangladesh in charity work. Members of the Embassy participated in the Bazaar under the overall planning and guidance of H.E. the Ambassador Ms. Nahida Sobhan. Members of Bangladesh community living in Jordan also participated spontaneously in the Bazaar.



Bangladesh Embassy in Jordan facilitated delivery of humanitarian aid to war-affected Gaza Strip

Bangladesh community in Jordan, under the supervision of Bangladesh Embassy in Amman, has sent humanitarian assistance to the war-affected Gaza Strip on 25 October

2023. This assistance comprises of 550 blankets, specifically intended to support the affected Gazans as winter approaches. The assistance was handed over to Jordan Press

Foundation (JPF), the organization that is collecting humanitarian aid in line of Jordanian Royal directives to support Gazans. Jordan Hashemite Charity Organization



sent the assistance to Gaza. Earlier, H.E. the Ambassador Ms. Nahida Sobhan met with the members of the Bangladesh community to

discuss the humanitarian assistance initiative. They responded promptly and actively engaged in arranging the assistance. The Ambassador

and Embassy officers and officials also donated to the fund.



Bangladesh Ambassador to Amman attended the meeting titled “Female Youth Leaders Meetup” in Amman

H.E. the Ambassador Ms. Nahida Sobhan was invited to join the meeting of Al-Hussein Fellowship Networking Series titled ‘Female Youth Leaders Meetup’ at a five-star hotel in Amman, as a speaker on 08 October 2023. The Al-Hussein Fellowship Program (HFP) is a Crown Price Foundation flagship which spearheads youth leadership development in Jordan. The event

was intended to bring together female role models in the Diplomatic Corps with female youth leaders in Jordan. At the event, H.E. Ms Nahida Sobhan addressed the female young leaders from various sectors and engaged with them through informal dialogue and productive conversations. During her speech, Ms. Nahida Sobhan highlighted the tremendous development of

Bangladesh in various sectors, under the dynamic and prudent leadership of the Hon’ble Prime Minister of Bangladesh Sheikh Hasina, including women empowerment. While interacting with the young professionals, she focused on providing an international outlook for fostering cultural and economic exposure.





Bangladesh Embassy in Mexico participated for the first time in the International Cervantino Festival in Guanajuato

Bangladesh Embassy participated first time at the prestigious International Cervantino Festival with five Bangladeshi movies, known as the largest cultural event in the Spanish-speaking world and one of the top four artistic celebrations globally. The festival was held in the State of Guanajuato, Mexico,

from October 13 to October 29, 2023 featuring participation from over 2,200 artists representing 31 countries. The inaugural screening took place on October 15, 2023, with the presence of Ambassador Abida Islam, where 'JK 1971,' directed by Fakhrul Arefeen Khan was screened.

In addition to 'JK 1971,' four other

Bangladeshi films, namely 'Ora 7 Jon' directed by Khijir Hayat Khan, 'Priyanka' directed by Najmus Sakib Ahmed, 'Mrittunjoyee' directed by Uzzawal Kumar, and 'Saatao' directed by Khandker Sumon, were screened during the festival.



Bangladesh Ambassador to Mexico Inaugurated the Bangladesh Corner at the National Museum of Mexico

The Embassy of Bangladesh in Mexico City, in collaboration with the National Museum of Mexico, hosted a seminar titled "Bridging Bangladesh and Mexico through Literary Dialogue" on 17 October 2023, at the National Museum of Mexico aiming to unite

distinguished writers from both countries to explore and highlight their shared literary connections and rich cultural heritage. It was attended by the distinguished Mexican writers like Pablo Rulfo, Arturo Vazquez, Fabrizio Ramirez, Eugenio Partida, Ernesto Lumbreras, and renowned

Bangladeshi writer Anis Uz Zaman. The seminar began with the screening of a documentary introducing Bangladesh and its cultural richness to the audience. Mexican writers put importance of having literary ties between Bangladesh and Mexico and the significance of presenting



Bangladesh's cultural heritage to native readers. Ambassador Abida Islam also highlighted key figures who bridged the gap between the two literary worlds and underscored the importance of literary translation, particularly in Mexican literature.

One "Bangladesh Corner" was also inaugurated at the National Museum Shop, aiming to enhance

the Museum's collection and promote cultural exchanges between the two friendly nations. This dedicated section showcased various Bangladeshi handicrafts and publications generously donated by the Embassy for both exhibition and sale. The proceeds from the sale of these items will support the Museum's welfare initiatives,

further fostering meaningful cultural exchange between Bangladesh and Mexico. The Embassy of Bangladesh presented a Bangladeshi Nakshi Kantha to the museum and renowned Mexican artist Mrs. Anis also presented a painting of her during the event.



▶ Inaugurating the Bangladesh Corner at the National Museum of Mexico



▶ Presenting Nakshi Kantha and a painting to the National Museum of Mexico

Bangladesh Ambassador to Egypt presented credentials to Assistant Foreign Minister and Chief of Protocol

Bangladesh Ambassador to Egypt, H.E. Ms. Samina Naz called on His Excellency Ambassador Mr. Nabil Habashi, Assistant Foreign Minister and Chief of Protocol of Arab Republic of Egypt at the latter office on 31 October 2023. The meeting took place at a cordial and warm atmosphere. Welcoming H.E. to Egypt, Ambassador Nabil mentioned that she arrived at a 'turbulent' time of so much happenings in the neighbourhood with regard to 'Gaza situation' which is directly affecting Egypt, especially the 'Rafah' border now the only means to reach humanitarian assistance for Palestine from all corners of the world.



Bangladesh Ambassador stated that it has been an honour for her to represent Bangladesh to Egypt

— having great old civilizations, heritage and culture; also playing an important role in the regions.

Arriving at such a 'hot happening' time will pose challenging days for any new Ambassador. But she



expressed her willingness to work closely in good cooperation with CP's Office, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other Egyptians authorities. The Chief of Protocol assured her of his cooperation and support.

H.E. also raised the issue of 'customs and diplomatic clearance' of the humanitarian aid sent by

Government of Bangladesh for the Palestine People in Gaza and requested for his intervention in this regard. Mentioning the huge pressure of aid to be delivered through Rafah border, the CP assured full support to clear it out (already cleared and delivered. waiting for the clearance for the 2nd and 3rd consignment).

The Chief of Protocol stated that he would try to propose to hold date for the Presentation of Credentials of H.E. to Hon'ble President of Egypt soon. At the end of the meeting, H.E. extended a couple of souvenir gifts to him.

Ambassador of Bangladesh to Spain met HM King of Spain, Hon'ble President of Spain and Hon'ble Foreign Minister of Spain



▶ Ambassador Mohammad Sarwar Mahmood, ndc (left) exchanged greetings with the HM King Felipe VI of Spain (right)



▶ Ambassador Mohammad Sarwar Mahmood, ndc (left) with President Pedro Sánchez of Spain (right)



▶ Ambassador Mohammad Sarwar Mahmood, ndc (right) with Foreign Minister Jose Manuel Albares of Spain (left)

The Ambassador of Bangladesh to Spain Mohammad Sarwar Mahmood, ndc exchanged greetings with the His Majesty King Felipe VI of Spain, the Hon'ble President

of the Spanish Government, Mr. Pedro Sánchez Pérez-Castejón, and the Hon'ble Foreign Minister, Mr. Jose Manuel Albares, on the occasion of the National Day Reception of

Spain, organized by HM the King at his palace on 12 October 2023. While exchanging pleasantries with them, the Ambassador also conveyed them the best wishes of the Hon'ble



President and the Hon'ble Prime Minister for the continued peace, progress and prosperity of Spain. President Sánchez fondly recalled his last meeting with the Hon'ble Prime Minister of Bangladesh in New York, held on 19 September 2023, during the high-level roundtable

titled "Towards a Fair International Financial Architecture" at the UN Headquarters convened by Spain and the European Council on the sidelines of the 78th UNGA Session. He appreciated his meeting with the Hon'ble Prime Minister. The Spanish President and the Ambassador both

hoped that the bilateral relationship between Bangladesh and Spain would be further widened and strengthened. The Ambassador also held fruitful talks with the Spanish Foreign Minister Jose Manuel Albares.

Bangladesh High Commission in Colombo organized 3rd Bangladesh Film Festival

Bangladesh High Commission in Colombo organized the 3rd Bangladesh Film Festival at Tharangani Theatre of Sri Lankan National Film Corporation. A few contemporary acclaimed Bangladeshi movies were screened at the film

festival. A sizeable movie-lovers including renowned personalities of Sri Lankan cinema and cine connoisseurs experienced the taste of Bangladeshi movie. Renowned actress Swarna Mallawarachchi who is known as the Golden Star

of Sri Lankan cinema, graced the inauguration ceremony as the Chief Guest. Many High dignitaries including Sri Lankan Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs Minister Vidura Wickramanayaka enjoyed the festival.



Sri Lanka–Bangladesh Business Council (SBBC) launched in Colombo

The Sri Lanka–Bangladesh Business Council (SBBC) was formally initiated by the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce (CCC) at their office with an inauguration event. H.E. Tareq Md. Ariful Islam graced the event as the Chief Patron of the Council. The Council is formed to serve as a platform for businesses from Sri Lanka and Bangladesh to collaborate, explore opportunities for mutual growth, and promote trade, tourism, and investments between the two countries.





Bangladesh High Commissioner to Brunei met with Rector of Universiti Islam Sultan Sharif Ali

The Bangladesh High Commissioner Mrs. Nahida Rahman Shumona met with Rector of Universiti Islam Sultan Sharif Ali (UNISSA) Dr. Haji Norarfan bin Haji Zainal during a meeting held on 26 October 2023 at UNISSA. The meeting was also attended by the Bangladesh High Commission Officials and UNISSA representatives including Dr. Awang Haji Hambali Bin Haji Awang Jaili, Director, Centre of International and Public Relations, UNISSA who

delivered a presentation covering background of UNISSA, their offered programme, mission, vision, faculty, campus and future main building. They also talked about their special interest in collaborating with other institutions. The Bangladesh High Commissioner discussed possible ways of collaboration between Bangladesh High Commission and UNISSA. As they offer Arabic language course, she proposed that a Foreign Service Officer from

Bangladesh can come to UNISSA to learn Arabic language. Her verbal proposal was followed up with a fax message requesting the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Dhaka to kindly consider about MoU between Foreign Service Academy, Dhaka and the UNISSA, that will enable interested Foreign Service Officers from Bangladesh to learn Arabic from UNISSA.



Ambassador of Bangladesh to Ankara presented his Credential to the Chairperson of the Parliament of Turkmenistan



H.E. Mr. M. Amanul Haq, the Ambassador of Bangladesh to Ankara presented his Credential to

the Chairperson of the Parliament of Turkmenistan H.E. Ms. Dunyagozel Gulmanowa on 10 October 2023

in connection with his concurrent accreditation to Turkmenistan. During the presentation ceremony,



the Ambassador conveyed the greetings of the Hon'ble President, Prime Minister and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh

and had a conversation with the Chairperson of the Parliament of Turkmenistan. H.E. Ms. Dunyagozel mentioned that there is much to be

done in developing economic and social ties between Bangladesh and Turkmenistan, and they are ready for it.

Ambassador of Bangladesh to Ankara had a meeting with the President of YTB



On 03 October 2023, H.E. the Ambassador of Bangladesh to Türkiye, Mr. M. Amanul Haq had a meeting with H.E. Mr. Abdullah Eren, the President of Yurtdışı Türkler ve Akraba Topluluklar Başkanlığı (YTB). The discussion centered

around fostering collaboration in education sector between Bangladesh and Türkiye. During the meeting, YTB President Mr. Eren expressed his commitment to enhancing cooperation in education and expected an increase in the number

of Bangladeshi students applying for Türkiye Education Scholarships. The President and Ambassador agreed on specified number of scholarships (at least 50) for Bangladeshi students and will be implemented after signing an MOU between the entities.

Twenty-nine Bangladeshi citizens returned home from Myanmar

Twenty-Nine Bangladeshi citizens returned home on 03 October 2023 after serving jail terms in different prisons in Myanmar. They went back to Bangladesh through Teknaf border following a “Battalion Commander level flag meeting” between the Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) and Border Guard Police (BGP) of Myanmar. The steadfast and continued efforts by the Bangladesh Embassy in Yangon and its Sittwe Consulate made the latest repatriation possible after a gap of 18 months from the previous meeting.





Embassy of Bangladesh in Tokyo organized Seminar on “Trade, Investment and Human Resources.”



Embassy of Bangladesh, Tokyo organized a Seminar on “Trade, Investment and Human Resources” on 6th October 2023 at the Hall Room of Tochigi Chamber of Commerce and Industry Building. Nearly 100 participants from Japanese companies and manpower recruiting organizations were present at the event. H.E Ambassador Mr. Shahabuddin Ahmed in his welcome speech, urged Japanese businessmen and investors to invest in various sectors in Bangladesh and recruit workers from Bangladesh. The other speakers include, Mr. Kenichi Aragane, Chairman, Tochigi Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Mr. Masaaki Mashiyama, Vice Mayor of Tochigi City. Mr. Shinsuke Nagai, Senior Director, South Asia Department of JICA made presentation on “JICA’s assistance policy for

strengthening Bangladesh’s industrial infrastructure” while Ms. Kaoru Terashima of Research & Analysis Department of JETRO explained business environment in Bangladesh and prospects of Japanese companies in doing business in Bangladesh. Mr. Daisuke Kobori, Director, Marusan Sangyo Co., Ltd. a Tochigi based company and investor in Bangladesh shared their business experiences in Bangladesh while Mr. Yasuo Mega, president, Gakubun Group Co., Ltd. shared experiences with Bangladeshi workers and expressed their interest in recruiting more Bangladeshi workers in their respective companies. Dr. Ariful Haque, Minister (Commerce) of the Embassy highlighted trade and investment opportunities in Bangladesh as well as support services provided by the Embassy to Japanese investors. Md. Zoynal Abedin, First Secretary (Labour), of

the Embassy presented on “Human Resources of Bangladesh-How it can benefit both Japan and Bangladesh”. A video on Development of Bangladesh was shown. The seminar was co-organized by Tochigi Chamber of Commerce and Industry and supported by Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO), Tochigi, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and UNIDO-ITPO Tokyo. Officials and representatives from Japanese entities and Embassy officials were also present at the Seminar. Earlier, Mr. Kenichi Aragane, Chairman, Tochigi Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Mr. Masaaki Mashiyama, Vice Mayor of Tochigi City had a courtesy meeting with the H.E Ambassador at the conference room of the Chamber and they discussed possible collaboration for strengthening bilateral relation.



Ambassador of Bangladesh to Japan inaugurated Bangladesh Pavilion at Fashion World Tokyo



H.E Ambassador Mr. Shahabuddin Ahmed inaugurated Bangladesh Pavilion at Fashion World Tokyo (FaW), October, 2023 on 10th October, 2023 at the Tokyo Big Sight, Japan. Bangladesh is a regular participant at this largest trade show for the fashion industry in Japan which gathers all kinds of fashion wear, apparel, bag, shoes, textile, leather, fashion accessory and fashion sourcing companies from all over the world, and with around 600 exhibitors. RX Japan Limited, one of the world's reputed event organizers, is organizing the event. Under the market development initiative of the Export Promotion Bureau (EPB), Ministry of Commerce, Bangladesh, 20 (twenty) reputed exporters belonging to the apparel industry as well as leather goods are participating

in this year's fair. H.E Ambassador along with other Embassy Officials visited Bangladeshi booths and were introduced to the Bangladeshi companies and NRB exhibitors.

On the 2nd day of the Fashion World Tokyo on 11 October 2023, the Embassy of Bangladesh, Tokyo organized a networking dinner reception at Washington Bay Hotel with the participation of the exhibitors, Japanese companies, entities and Embassy officials. H.E Ambassador Mr. Shahabuddin Ahmed delivered the welcome speech and urged Japanese companies to source more "Made in Bangladesh" quality products from Bangladesh to Japan. Ms Mayumi Murayama, Executive Vice President of Japan External Trade Organization

(JETRO) was the special guest. She praised Bangladesh's economic success over the years and assured to continue JETRO's support for strengthening Bangladesh-Japan trade relation.

The Embassy also organized a seminar on 'Made in Bangladesh' Textile, Leather and Jute products at Tokyo Big Sight on 11 October 2023. Mr. Kiminobu Hiraishi, President, Maruhisa Co. Ltd., and Mr. Toshinao Okunaka, President, Marutomi Co. Ltd., delivered presentations on their business experiences in Bangladesh while Dr. Ariful Haque, Minister (Commerce) of the Embassy highlighted on the sustainable factories in Bangladesh and opportunities for Japanese companies.

Ambassador of Bangladesh to Japan made courtesy call on State Minister for Foreign Affairs

H.E. Ambassador Mr. Shahabuddin Ahmed made a courtesy call on H.E. Mr. HORII Iwao, Hon'ble

State Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan, at the Foreign Ministry on 18 October 2023. Ambassador

Ahmed congratulated State Minister Mr. HORII Iwao on his recent appointment after the 2nd



Cabinet reshuffle by Prime Minister Fumio Kishida in September 2023. Immediate after that, the Hon'ble State Minister for Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh sent congratulatory letters to his new Japanese counterparts. State Minister Mr. HORII recalled his visit to Bangladesh in 2017 as the then Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs, during which he held meetings with the Hon'ble State Minister for Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh and other high officials. He thanked him for the warm

hospitality extended to him during that visit. Ambassador Ahmed hoped that he would again visit Bangladesh at a mutually convenient time.

Ambassador Shahabuddin Ahmed recalled the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's official visit to Japan in 1973, that began on this date, 18 October. He mentioned that warm hospitality was extended to Bangabandhu by Japanese leadership. Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh

Hasina was accorded red carpet reception during her just concluded official visit to Japan in April 2023 where both the countries elevated their bilateral relations to a "Strategic Partnership" level. Ambassador Ahmed thanked the Foreign Ministry and the government of Japan for the assistance provided to Bangladesh by Japan since independence. He expressed his full commitment and desire to work towards implementing the Joint Statement in words and spirit.



Bangladesh Ambassador to Libya visited Benghazi and the eastern Libya

A delegation from the Bangladesh Embassy in Tripoli, led by His Excellency the Ambassador Major General Abul Hasnat Mohammad Khairul Bashar, visited Benghazi, as well as the cyclone-affected cities of Derna and Al-Bayda. During the visit, the Ambassador met with the affected Bangladeshi citizens in Derna city to inquire about their

well-being. He reassured them that the Embassy will continue to provide necessary support for the welfare of the affected expatriates. Additionally, efforts are underway by the embassy to compensate the families of Bangladeshis who lost their lives in the cyclone.

During the visit, the Ambassador also interacted with Bangladeshi citizens

of various professions residing in Benghazi and Al-Bayda. Through these interactions, he gained insights into the challenges faced by the expatriates, and the Embassy took necessary initiatives to address those issues. The Ambassador emphasized the steps taken by the Embassy for the welfare of the expatriates and informed them about the recent



visit of the Honorable Minister of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment to Libya, as well as the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the two countries.

The Embassy delegation visited the Gunfuda Detention Center, where they interviewed detained

Bangladeshis and assured them of the steps being taken to facilitate their repatriation as soon as possible. Meetings were also held with senior officials of the detention center and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) to ensure various welfare measures, including medical treatment, for the detained

Bangladeshis. The Embassy delegation provided consular and welfare services in Benghazi, Derna, and Al-Baida during the visit. A significant number of expatriates residing in Benghazi, Tobruk, Darna, Al-Baida, and Sahat in Libya availed themselves of various services provided by the Embassy.



Bangladesh Ambassador to Iraq met Minister of Transportation



In a meeting with the Hon'ble Minister of Transportation of Iraq H.E. Mr. Razaq Mehebis Ejaimi

Al-Sadawi, on 15 October 2023, the Bangladesh Ambassador H.E. Mr. Md. Fazlul Bari briefed the Iraqi

Minister about the Air Services Agreement (ASA) signed in 1988 and both sides' agreement to update



it in September 2014 in Dhaka.

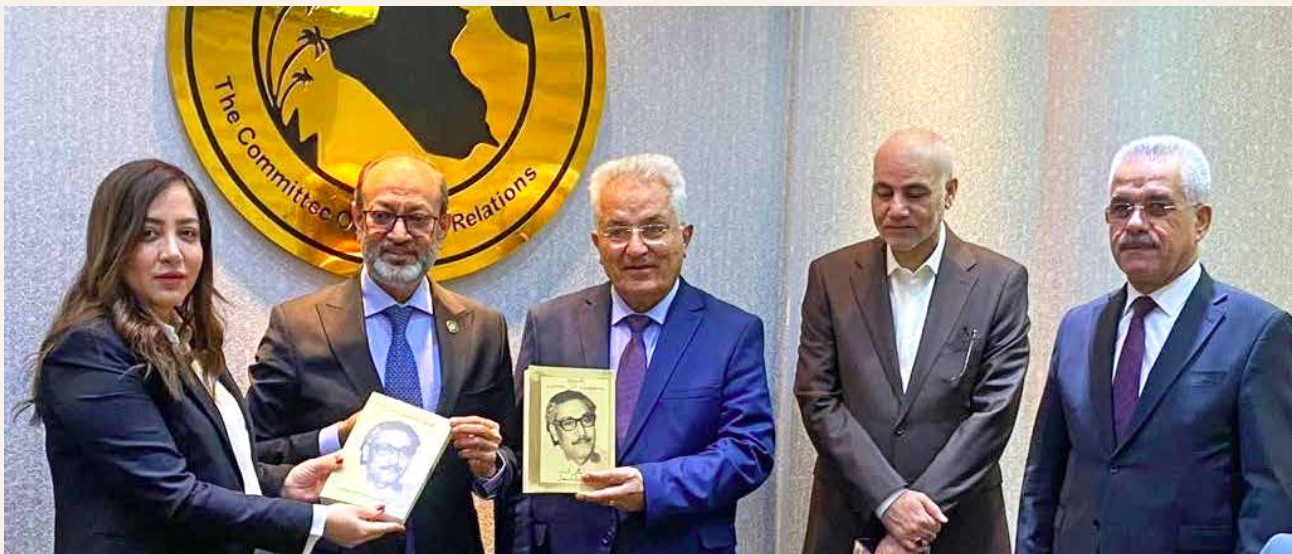
Explaining the importance of direct air communications for enhancing bilateral trade, the Bangladesh Ambassador mentioned that in absence of national airlines, private carriers can play a pivotal role. He mentioned further that the Fly

Baghdad has secured clearance from the Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh to operate direct flights in January 2023. However, it is yet to start its operation.

The Iraqi Minister, in response to Ambassador's request, also emphasized on updating the ASA

and resumption of direct flights for stronger bilateral relations. Mentioning that the direct air operation with Dhaka is under active consideration of his Ministry, the Minister added that the Ministry will take steps to conclude the new ASA at the earliest possible time.

Bangladesh Ambassador to Iraq met the Foreign Relations Committee (FRC) of the Council of Representatives of Iraq



On invitation, the Bangladesh Ambassador to Iraq H.E. Mr. Md. Fazlul Bari met the Foreign Relations Committee (FRC) of the Council of Representatives of Iraq, at its office on 31 October 2023. Held in a very cordial atmosphere, the meeting exchanged views on pending MoUs, Agreements and other relevant issues impacting the bilateral relations. Withdrawal of ban on Bangladesh nationals and

settlement of outstanding claims of Bangladesh on Iraq also came up in the discussion. In response to the request from the Ambassador, the Chairwoman, H.E. Ms. Delan Ghafour Salih, of the Committee promised FRC's all-out support in a bid to resolve the pending issues.

The Committee also expressed its keen interest to form a friendship association of MPs from both sides as soon as it is possible. The

Chairwoman mentioned categorically about exchange of parliamentary delegations between the two sides and requested the Ambassador for his support. Welcoming the interest and explaining about the upcoming general election in Bangladesh in January 2024, the Ambassador mentioned that such initiative may jointly be undertaken by both sides around March 2024.

Ambassador of Bangladesh to Lebanon called on Prime Minister of Lebanon

H.E. Air Vice Marshal Javed Tanveer Khan, OSP, BSP, ndc,

afwc, acsc, psc, the new Ambassador of Bangladesh to Lebanon called

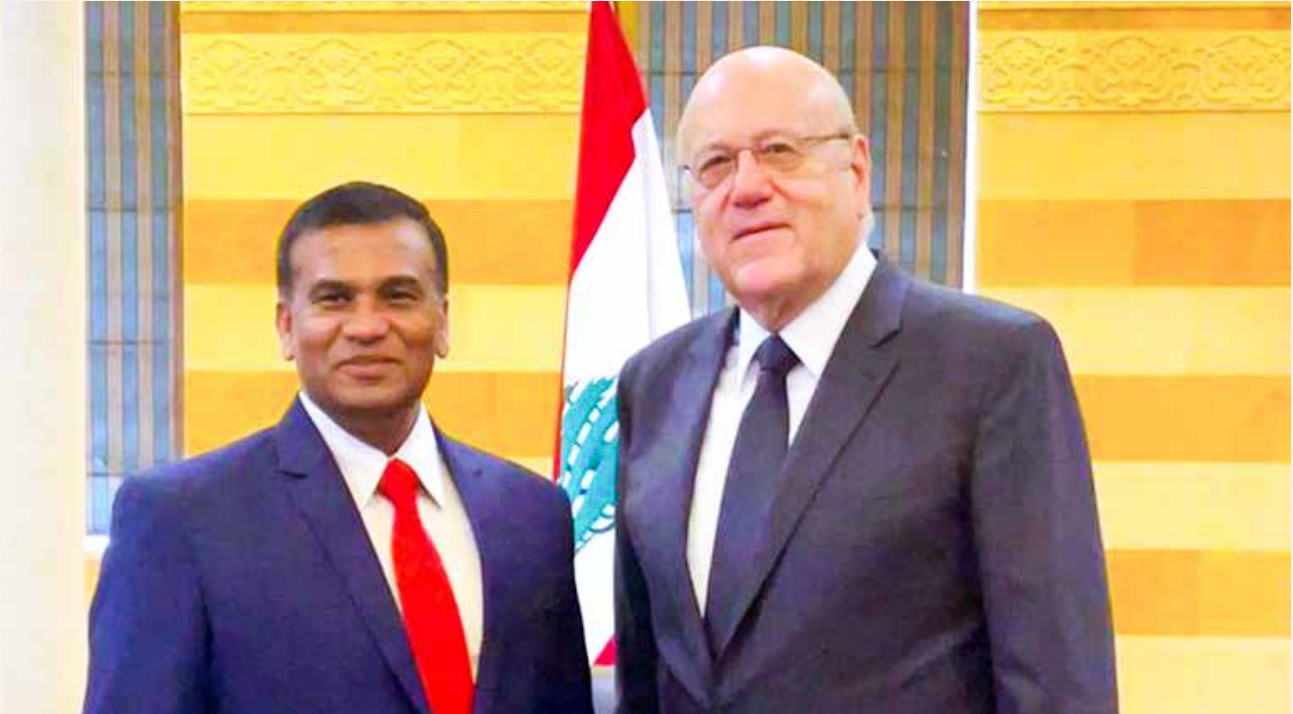
on H.E. Mr. Najib Mikati, Prime Minister of Lebanon, on 09



October 2023. In the meeting, the Bangladesh Ambassador informed the Lebanese Prime Minister about the phenomenal socio-economic

development in Bangladesh under the visionary leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. They also discussed the potential

opportunities for both countries to deepen cooperation in different areas, with a particular emphasis on trade and investment.



Bangladesh Deputy High Commission in Kolkata organized session with heads of departments of Jadavpur University

An interactive session was organized with the heads of departments of Jadavpur University on 04 October 2023 at the Bangladesh Gallery of the

Mission premises to discuss possible areas of collaboration between Jadavpur University and different universities of Bangladesh. Prof.

Buddhadeb Sau, the Vice-Chancellor of Jadavpur University thanked the Deputy High Commission for organizing the event.





Director General of Bangladesh Coast Guard visited Bangladesh Deputy High Commission in Kolkata

Rear Admiral Ashraful Hoq Chowdhury, NBP, BCGM, ndu, afwc, psc, Director General of Bangladesh Coast Guard visited the Bangladesh Deputy High

Commission in Kolkata on 06 October 2023. The Director General was warmly received by the Deputy High Commissioner. He laid floral wreath at the bust of Bangabandhu

at the 'Mujib Chiranjeeb' which was followed by his visit to the 'Bangabandhu Corner' of the Mission.



Deputy High Commission of Bangladesh in Karachi arranged seminar on “Branding Bangladesh: The Development Journey of Bangladesh”

Bangladesh Deputy High Commission in Karachi arranged a seminar titled “Branding Bangladesh: The Development Journey of Bangladesh” at the Chancery on 31 October 2023. Around 50 persons were present at the session.

Deputy High Commissioner elaborated on the success stories of Bangladesh and mentioned that under the charismatic and dynamic leadership of Prime Minister

Sheikh Hasina, Bangladesh has become a ‘Role Model’ of socio-economic development in the world. Bangladesh is currently among the five fastest growing economies in the world, ranking 35th in terms of GDP. He further added that Bangladesh has fulfilled all the criteria for the graduation to developing country from the LDC status and has been confirmed to be graduated from the LDC in 2026. The present per capita income of Bangladesh is USD2824.

Deputy High Commissioner further briefed that Bangladesh has completed or has been working on many mega projects such as the Padma Bridge, which is opened on 25 June 2022. The Padma Bridge is constructed with the own finance worth over US\$3.8billion. He also mentioned few other mega projects such as the Dhaka Metro Rail (opened on 28 December 2022), Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Tunnel-(Karnaphuli



Tunnel) the first ever under the river tunnel in South Asia (opened on 28 October 2023), first ever Elevated Expressway in Dhaka (opened on 02 September 2023), the 3rd Terminal at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport (opened on 07 October 2023), Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant (the

33rd Country in the world to produce nuclear power), Construction of 564 Model Masjid and Islamic Cultural Centers across Bangladesh, Deep-Sea Port, Bangabandhu Satellite-1, distribution of free over 43 crore copies of free text books every year on 1st of January and so forth.

The audience was deeply impressed to listen about the outstanding development stories of Bangladesh and profoundly appreciated socio-economic development of Bangladesh.



Bangladesh Deputy High Commissioner to Karachi had a meeting with the delegation of Tea Division of Unilever in Karachi

Deputy High Commissioner had a meeting at the Chancery with the President of Regional Head of Pakistan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka of Tea Division of Unilever & GM of Pakistan-eketerra and Head of Legal for Lipton BSPAN. During the meetings the Deputy High Commissioner briefed the delegation about the tea industries and the potential of export of quality tea from Bangladesh. They also discussed to deepen the tea trade and expansion of tea market between the two countries.



Deputy High Commissioner mentioned that the quality, variety, and grade of Bangladesh tea is world class. He mentioned that there are 168 tea gardens across Bangladesh and the yields were 86.39 million kg in 2020, 96.51 million kg in 2021 and 93.83 million kg in 2022. He

further added that the Government of Bangladesh has taken up various initiatives and policies for more tea production. Since 2021, the 4th of June is being observed as the 'National Tea Day' in Bangladesh. On 4 June 2023, the Government has awarded for the first time the

'National Tea Award-2023' to eight persons/organizations to recognize their contribution in tea industry in Bangladesh. Deputy High Commissioner invited the potential tea traders from Pakistan to import tea from Bangladesh.



Consul General of Bangladesh visited City University of Hong Kong

H.E. Ms. Israt Ara, Consul General of Bangladesh to Hong Kong visited the renowned City University of Hong Kong at the invitation of Professor Freddy Boey, President of the University on 30 October 2023. After briefly describing about the curriculum and other basic information of the University, the President stressed on the vision of the university to bring more students from various countries including Bangladesh to make a diverse group of talented students.

Mentioning that Bangladesh could be a potential place for recruiting more students, Ms. Ara in her remarks proposed to the President to consider opening of a campus or a consultation office of City University in Bangladesh. She also proposed for student exchange programmes, exchange of curriculum, recognition of certificate of Bangladeshi universities. At her recommendation to make any institutional arrangement/MoU for collaboration in the research, innovation,

knowledge sharing/ technology transferring between universities, the President agreed on it and confirmed to share a draft soon in this regard.

Later, the President offered training programmes in International Policy Affairs to the civil servants of Bangladesh as well as co-funding scholarship for the students which were deeply appreciated by the Consul General. A campus tour followed by a lunch was also arranged in honour of the Consul General.





Bangladesh Deputy High Commissioner to Chennai had a meeting with President of Tamil Nadu Cricket Association

H.E. Mr. Shelley Salehin, The Deputy High Commissioner of Bangladesh for South India had an engaging discussion with Dr. Ashok Sigamani, President, Tamil Nadu Cricket Association on 04 September

2023. Had an engaging discussion about the ongoing development of cricket infrastructure, professional management of teams, training facilities and very proactive engagement in overall development

of Sports in Tamil Nadu and beyond. Mr. Shelley also briefed about the interest of initiating joint venture in the sports sector of Bangladesh benefiting both the countries.



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