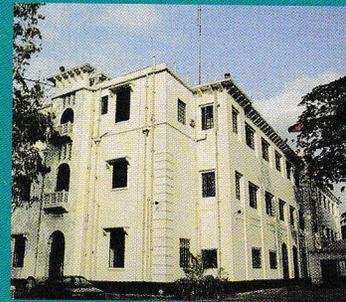


FOREIGN OFFICE

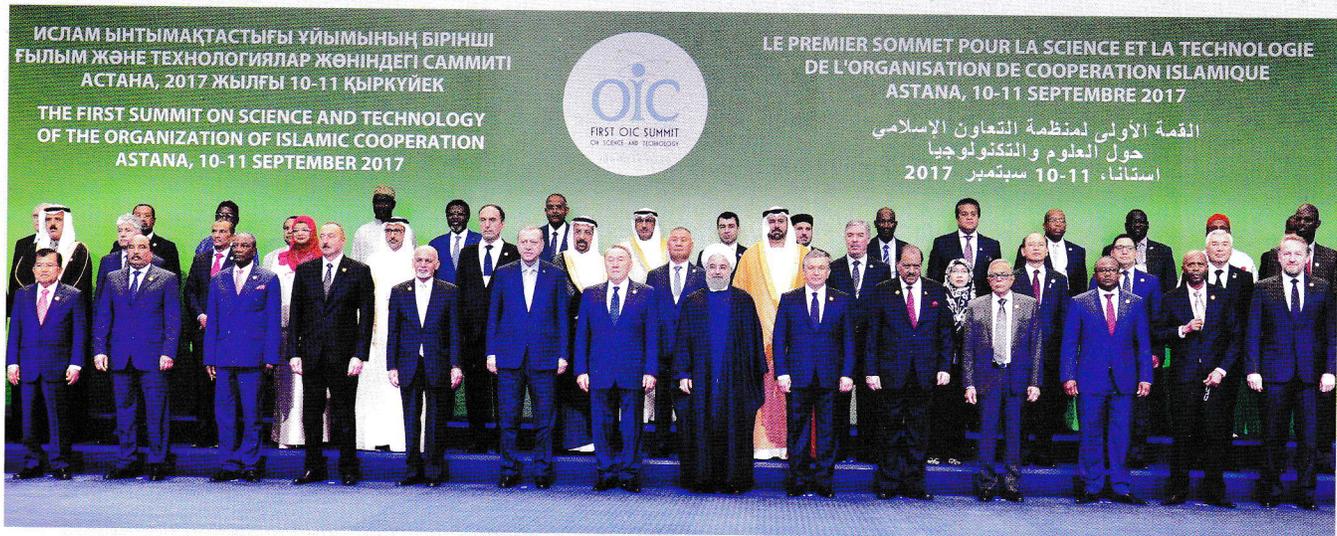
BRIEFING NOTES

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, DHAKA, BANGLADESH



Issue : September 2017

PRESIDENT MD. ABDUL HAMID LEADS BANGLADESH DELEGATION TO THE OIC SUMMIT ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY



President at the OIC Science & Technology Summit, Astana, Kazakhstan

President Md. Abdul Hamid led Bangladesh delegation to ‘The First Summit of the OIC on Science & Technology’ held in Astana, Kazakhstan on 10-11 September 2017. It was the first ever Summit of OIC in the area of Science and Technology. The summit adopted three outcome documents, i.e. OIC Ten Year Action Plan on Science and Technology “OIC STI Agenda 2026”, Astana Declaration and OIC Chairman’s Summary Report of the Meeting of the Heads of State and Government on the Rohingya Muslim Community in Myanmar. President made a statement at the Summit where he urged for creating a new story of development for the well being of the Muslim Ummah through active cooperation in science and technology. He also shared the initiatives, programmes and success stories of Bangladesh Government with OIC member states in many areas of science and technology and gave invaluable guidance to the OIC with his recommendations. The summit also adopted a summary report of the OIC Chair on a special session on the Rohingya situation and urged upon the Muslim world and the international community for a halt of the violence and ethnic cleansing of Rohingyas by Myanmar.

PRIME MINISTER ATTENDS 72ND SESSION OF THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina led the Bangladesh delegation to the 72nd session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York on 18-22 September 2017. The Permanent Mission of Bangladesh to the United Nations in New York facilitated the visit.

One of the main achievements of this visit was utilizing Prime Minister’s presence to sensitize world leaders, UN leadership and the international community and seek their support on the issue of forcibly displaced Myanmar nationals. International community highly commended Bangladesh especially the Prime Minister for keeping the border open and giving shelter to these people. Prime Minister in her General Assembly statement on 21 September made a strong appeal to the UN member states for finding a peaceful and lasting solution to the Rohingya issue and proposed a



Statement at the General Debate of the 72nd Session of the UN General Assembly, UNHQ, New York, 21 September 2017

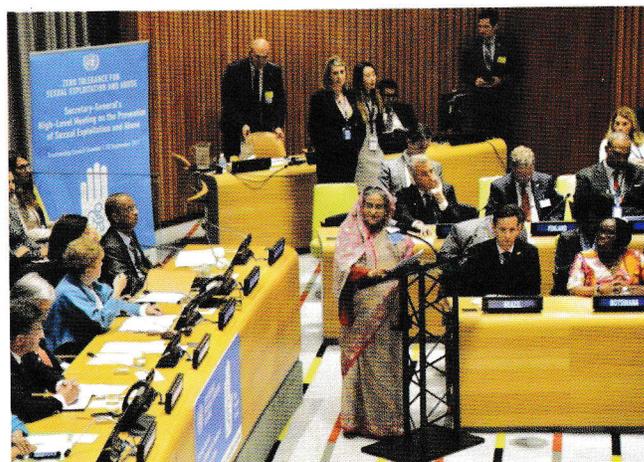
5-point action plan to that effect. Besides, she attended an OIC Contact Group Summit level meeting on Rohingya Muslims on 19 September where she sought OIC's support for ensuring return of the forcibly displaced Myanmar nationals in safety, security and dignity. The OIC Contact Group adopted a declaration urging the Security Council to take immediate action and adopt a General Assembly resolution on the plight of Rohingya minority of Myanmar. During her meeting with the UN Secretary-General António Guterres, Prime Minister requested him to continue using his good offices for a viable solution to the Rohingya crisis.

During her participation in various UN events and engagements with world leaders, Prime Minister highlighted Bangladesh's impressive socio-economic developments. In her General Assembly statement, she demanded international recognition of the genocide committed in Bangladesh during the War of Liberation in 1971.

On 18 September, upon invitation of the US President, Prime Minister attended a high-level meeting on UN Management Reform where a political declaration was adopted. Bangladesh endorsed the declaration. The same day, Prime Minister attended a high-level meeting on the Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA), especially in peacekeeping missions. She was one of the few world leaders invited to speak at the event. In her statement, Prime Minister reiterated Bangladesh's 'zero tolerance' against SEA and highlighted the steps the government had taken to combat this scourge. She announced Bangladesh's contribution of US\$ 100,000 for the Secretary-General's Victim



Bilateral meeting with António Guterres, UN Secretary General, UNHQ, New York, 21 September 2017



High-level Meeting on the Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse, UNHQ, New York, 18 September 2017

Support Fund and another US\$100,000 for the UN Peace building Fund. In the evening, Prime Minister attended, on invitation from the Swedish Prime Minister, another high-level Follow-up Meeting on Global Deal for Decent Work and Inclusive Growth where she highlighted the progress made in protection of workers' rights, promotion of social dialogue and improvement in working conditions in the RMG sector.



High Level Roundtable of the UN Secretary General's High Level Panel on Women's Economic Empowerment for Leaving No one Behind, UNHQ, New York, 19 September 2017

On 19 September, Prime Minister attended a roundtable of the UN Secretary-General's High-level Panel on Women's Economic Empowerment where she apprised the international community about the government's multi-pronged initiatives for promoting women's social and economic empowerment. The same day, Prime Minister, on invitation from the French President, attended a Summit on Global Pact for the Environment, where she highlighted her

government's commitments and efforts with regard to environmental protection and climate change impact mitigation.

On 20 September, Bangladesh hosted two back-to-back high-level side-events on SDGs—the first one with UN Office for South-South Cooperation & UNDP and the other with Canada & UNDP. Prime Minister, as Chief Guest at the events, launched two innovative tools from Bangladesh, i.e. the 'SDG Tracker' for SDG data monitoring and analysis and 'Build Bangladesh Fund' for private sector financing for SDGs. The same day, Prime Minister attended a luncheon meeting, arranged by the Business Council for International Understanding (BCIU), where she exchanged views with representatives from US business houses and apprised them of the investment scenario and potentials in Bangladesh.

On 21 September, Prime Minister attended a meeting of the Secretary-General's High-level Panel on Water, as one of its members.

UNIDO AND BANGLADESH TO STRENGTHEN PARTNERSHIP FOR INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (ISID)

Li Yong, Director General of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), paid a courtesy call on the Prime Minister and held meetings with Foreign Minister, Minister for Finance, Minister for Commerce and Minister for Industries during his three-day official visit to Bangladesh on 6-8 September 2017, coordinated by the Bangladesh Embassy in Vienna.

Li extolled the visionary leadership of the Prime Minister and "Vision 2021" and "Vision 2041" she presented for Bangladesh's becoming a middle income country by 2021 and achieving the status of a developed nation by 2041. He also appreciated the Government's continued support for UNIDO's activities while commending the country's earnest efforts towards inclusive economic growth by way of inclusive and sustainable industrial development. In this context, he referred to ICT parks and 100

Special Economic Zones (SEZs) being built across the country besides existing eight EPZs. He was very amazed to see the level of industrial development in Bangladesh.



Li Yong paying courtesy call on the Prime Minister



Director General of UNIDO with the Foreign Minister

CANADIAN FOREIGN MINISTER APPRECIATES BANGLADESH'S ROLE IN ROHINGYA CRISIS

The Foreign Minister of Canada had a teleconference with the Foreign Minister of Bangladesh regarding the ongoing violence in Northern Rakhaine State of Myanmar and the following refugee crisis in Bangladesh. Canadian Foreign Minister appreciated Bangladesh's role in this crisis and expressed their support to Bangladesh regarding this issue.

BANGLADESH DEPUTY HIGH COMMISSION IN KOLKATA ARRANGES "BANGLADESH TODAY" SEMINAR

Bangladesh Deputy High Commission in Kolkata organized a seminar titled "Bangladesh Today" at the Satyajit Ray auditorium of ICCR, Kolkata on 18 September 2017 in order to portray the positive images of Bangladesh. Jadavpur University, Kolkata has extended their kind support and cooperation to successfully hold the seminar. H.T. Imam, Political Affairs Adviser to Prime Minister, Md. Shahriar Alam, MP, State Minister for Foreign Affairs, Syed Muazzem Ali, High Commissioner of Bangladesh to India, Prof. Shafi Ahmed, Department of English, Jahangirnagar University, Abed Khan, Editor, Daily Jagaron and Senior Media Personality of Bangladesh and Prof. Suranjan Das, Vice Chancellor, Jadavpur University, Kolkata and other faculties of Jadavpur University, participated at the seminar. In the first session on "Exemplary Socio-Economic Achievements of Bangladesh" the Political Affairs Adviser to the Prime Minister and State Minister for Foreign Affairs focused and discussed about the different socio economic statistics of Bangladesh which were widely recognized and helped Bangladesh to become a Role Model for the developing world. The professors of Jadavpur University discussed and compared those aspects to India and mentioned that in some particular fields Bangladesh had



State Minister for Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh at the seminar

State Minister for Foreign Affairs, Syed Muazzem Ali, High Commissioner of Bangladesh to India, Prof. Shafi Ahmed, Department of English, Jahangirnagar University, Abed Khan, Editor, Daily Jagaron and Senior Media Personality of Bangladesh and Prof. Suranjan Das, Vice Chancellor, Jadavpur University, Kolkata and other faculties of Jadavpur University, participated at the seminar. In the first session on "Exemplary Socio-Economic Achievements of Bangladesh" the Political Affairs Adviser to the Prime Minister and State Minister for Foreign Affairs focused and discussed about the different socio economic statistics of Bangladesh which were widely recognized and helped Bangladesh to become a Role Model for the developing world. The professors of Jadavpur University discussed and compared those aspects to India and mentioned that in some particular fields Bangladesh had

remarkably crossed the index much ahead than India.

In the second session namely “Bangladesh-India Cultural Relations” Syed Muazzem Ali, Professor Shafi Ahmed and Abed Khan pointed out the cultural similarities and bondage of the two nations and the recent trend of Bangla literature and how the literature identified the recent development of Bangladesh. They also reiterated the empowerment of women in Bangladesh and the effects in Bangla literature.

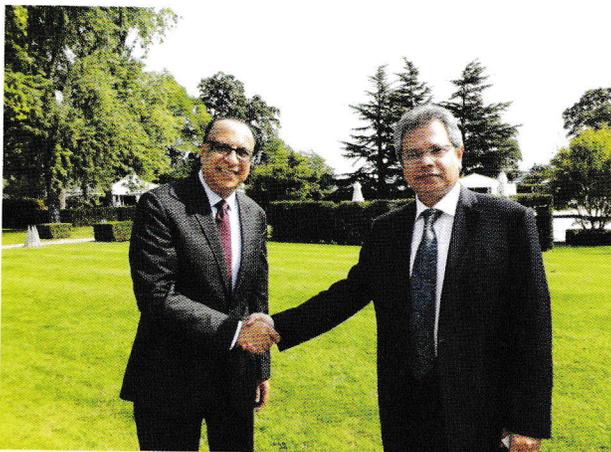
SAUDI AMBASSADOR CALLS ON STATE MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS



Saudi Ambassador with the State Minister for Foreign Affairs

Ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Abdullah M. H. Almutairi paid a courtesy call on State Minister for Foreign Affairs Md. Shahriar Alam, MP, at the Foreign Ministry. They exchanged views on various issues of bilateral relations as well as regional and international issues of common concern. While updating the latest situation of the forcibly displaced Myanmar nationals who entered Bangladesh, State Minister expressed deep gratitude to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz for extending humanitarian support to the distressed Myanmar nationals as well as for the leading role of the Kingdom for

successfully holding summit level meeting of the OIC Contact Group on Rohingya Minority in New York on 19 September 2017 at the sideline of the 72nd UN General Assembly. It may be mentioned that King Salman has instructed King Salman Centre for Relief and Humanitarian Aid to allocate \$15 million as humanitarian aid for the Rohingya people. Saudi Arabia has already sent 100 tons of relief materials for them to be distributed through International Organization for Migration (IOM). During the meeting, Saudi Ambassador informed that a Saudi delegation was in Cox’s Bazar and another delegation was scheduled to visit Bangladesh soon to continue relief support. He reassured that Saudi Arabia would continue to provide support to ensure return of the forcibly displaced Myanmar nationals. Saudi Ambassador also informed that the Saudi Government had taken decision to fund \$ 20 million for construction of mosques in Bangladesh.



Resident Representative of AKDN with Bangladesh Permanent Representative in Geneva

RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE OF AKDN (DHAKA) MEETS AMBASSADOR M SHAMEEM AHSAN IN GENEVA

The Resident Representative to Bangladesh of the Aga Khan Development Network, Munir M Merali met with the Bangladesh Ambassador and Permanent Representative in Geneva on 8 September 2017. Merali briefed the Ambassador on AKDN’s expanding initiatives in a number of sectors including education. The Ambassador discussed with him prospect of AKDN’s contribution in implementation of SDGs in Bangladesh.

DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER OF IRAN VISITS BANGLADESH

Deputy Foreign Minister of Iran, Ebrahim Rahimpour along with his spouse visited Bangladesh to distribute relief goods among Rohingya Refugees. They landed in Chittagong on 23 September and returned to Iran on 24 September 2017. Another flight with relief materials landed on 26 September 2017.

BANGLADESH EMBASSY IN ANKARA PARTICIPATES INTERNATIONAL YOUTH FESTIVAL



Bangladesh Embassy in Ankara participates in Youth Festival

Bangladesh Embassy in Ankara with support from Bangladeshi students in Turkey participated at the International Youth Festival held in Ankara, Turkey from 14 to 17 September 2017. The traditional Festival was organized by the Ministry of Youth and Sports of Turkey and Cubuk Municipality of Ankara. Apart from local stalls, there were international stalls representing more than 27 countries. The Festival was inaugurated by the Chief Adviser to the Turkish President Yalcin Topcu, while Parliamentarian Metin Gundogdo was

the Chief Guest. Bangladesh Embassy took part at the Festival for the first time as part of its Public Diplomacy initiative. Bangladesh stall was decorated with items and video screening which highlighted the culture, history and recent socio-economic achievements of Bangladesh. Traditional Bangladeshi food items such as Biriani, Khichury, Peaju, Samucha, Jilapi etc. were served from the stall among the visitors.

DUTCH NGOS REASSURES SUPPORT FOR BANGLADESH'S ATTAINING SDGS



Bangladesh Ambassador speaks at the seminar

The Embassy of Bangladesh in The Hague, with support from Niketan (a Dutch NGO) hosted a seminar titled “Bangladesh NGO network and friendship meeting: Towards a dynamic Bangladesh” on 22 Sept 2017 at the Embassy premises. Around 50 representatives from more than 35 Dutch

NGOs, which are active in Bangladesh, participated in the meeting. Representative from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands also joined the meeting. At the meeting, the Dutch NGOs reassured that they would continue their support to Bangladesh for her attaining the sustainable development goals.

BANGLADESH EMBASSY IN LISBON ORGANIZES INTERACTIVE AWARENESS SESSION ON “IMMIGRANT VICTIMS OF CRIME AND THEIR RIGHTS”

Bangladesh Embassy in Lisbon organized an interactive awareness session on “Immigrant Victims of Crime and their rights” on 14 September 2017 at the Embassy. Joana Menezes from Associação Portuguesa de Apoio à Vítima-APAV (Portuguese Association for Victim Support) conducted the 2-hour interactive session. The objective of the session was to create awareness among the members of Bangladesh diaspora about their rights in case they are victim of any crime or discrimination. Through

a power point presentation and video documentary, the APAV representative made an elaborate presentation on the immigrant victims of crime and their rights. The presentation also described the ways and means of getting support by the victims of crimes and any kind of discrimination from the relevant Portuguese government offices and non-government organizations.

VIDEO CONFERENCE BETWEEN BANGLADESH AND COLOMBIA HELD



Video Conference with Colombia

On 19 September 2017, the first ever video conference between the Governments of Bangladesh and Colombia was held. Three Colombian Advisers from the Colombian Ministry of Tourism, Industry & Commerce, Social Protection Department and National Unit for Disaster Risk Management along with a Third Secretary from the Ministry Foreign Affairs, Bogota actively participated in this video conference. Director General (Americas) moderated the conference from Bangladesh side. Representatives from Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism, Ministry of Social Welfare and Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief were

present during the Conference along with officers from the Americas Wing of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Dhaka. During the video conference, three draft MoUs on Technical cooperation focusing on tourism, social protection and disaster management were discussed in details.

FEDERAL STATE MINISTER OF PAKISTAN CALLS ON BANGLADESH HIGH COMMISSIONER

Federal State Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony of Pakistan Pir Muhammad Amin-ul-Hasnat Shah called on Tarik Ahsan, High Commissioner of Bangladesh to Pakistan at the Bangladesh Mission on 27 September 2017. The State Minister personally came to the High Commission to express solidarity with Bangladesh in tackling the huge challenge of Rohingya crisis. The Pakistani State Minister thanked the government of Bangladesh for providing shelter to an enormous number of Displaced Rohingyas.

BANGLADESH PARTICIPATES RED CROSS INTERNATIONAL CHARITY BAZAAR IN SINGAPORE

Bangladesh High Commission in Singapore participated at the Red Cross International Bazaar which was



Bangladesh Stall at the Red Cross Bazaar In Singapore

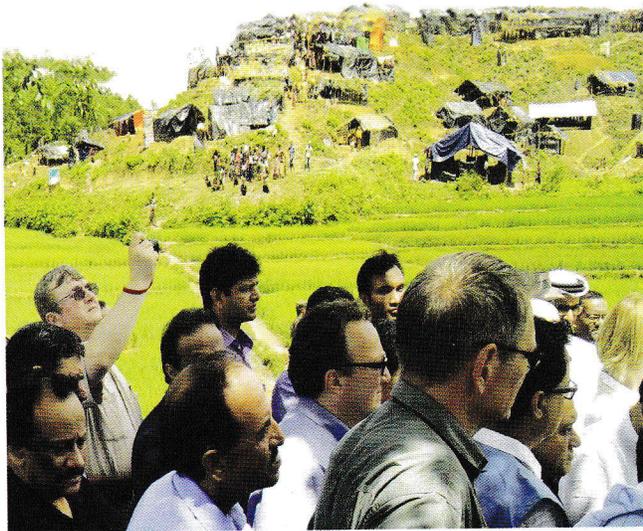
held at the Suntec Convention Centre on 23 September 2017. The event was aimed to raise funds to help the disabled, elderly and vulnerable in the local community. The International Bazaar brought together diplomatic missions and local enterprises in a dazzling 50-stall showcase, with 100% sales proceeds going to a good cause. The event was graced by the guest-of-honor Josephine Teo, Minister, Prime Minister's Office and Second Minister for Home Affairs and Manpower of Singapore.

Aptly themed 'Together for Humanity', the bazaar was a truly global extravaganza

featuring international cuisine, local delights, traditional goods, and more. Bangladesh High Commission showcased Bangladeshi handicrafts, garments and Bangladeshi delicacies at its stall. A good number of visitors visited the Bangladeshi stall and appreciated the Bangladeshi products. Mrs. Tanzina Binte Alamgir, spouse of Bangladesh High Commissioner presented some Bangladeshi gift items to the Guest-of-Honour.

HEADS OF MISSIONS IN DHAKA VISIT ROHINGYA CAMPS IN COX'S BAZAR

On 13 September 2017, Ministry of Foreign Affairs organized a day-long visit for the Ambassadors and other Heads of Missions based in Dhaka to the Rohingya camps and makeshift settlements in



Foreign Diplomats visiting Rohingya Camps in Cox's Bazar

Cox's Bazar. The objective of the visit is to share with the diplomatic community the ground situation of Rohingya Crisis. Diplomats from 42 Missions and 4 international organizations visited the camps, met with the Rohingyas who have taken shelter in Bangladesh fleeing the atrocity and violence in Rakhine State. During their visit to the border areas at Ghumdhum in Bandarban they witnessed distressed Rohingyas stranded in the 'no man's land' and waiting for an entry to Bangladesh. The delegation also witnessed incidents of fire in the Myanmar side of the border with their own eyes. Foreign Minister, State Minister for Foreign Affairs, Foreign Secretary and senior officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs accompanied them.

BANGLADESH EMBASSY IN MANILA ORGANIZES CULTURAL EXCHANGE PROGRAMME

Embassy of Bangladesh in Manila in collaboration with De La Salle-College of St. Benilde jointly organized a cultural exchange programme titled 'Shades and Sounds of Bangladesh' featuring paintings, tapestries and music of Bangladesh. The programme included an Exhibition of paintings and Nakshi Kantha that ran from 12 to 26 September and a concert "An Evening with Flute" on 13 September led by Ustad Murtaza Kabir Murad and his team. The orchestra also played together with the students of the Benilde Music Department blending Bangladeshi music with Jazz and Bluez. The students of the Dance Department produced a dance number, choreographed with a tune of Bangladeshi folk. This was attended by diplomats, Bangladeshi expatriates, a cross-section of Filipino society, and faculty and students of the St. Benilde.