

# FOREIGN OFFICE

## BRIEFING NOTES

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



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### PRIME MINISTER ATTENDS MUNICH SECURITY CONFERENCE 2017

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, for the first time, attended the 53<sup>rd</sup> annual conference titled “Munich Security Conference 2017” on 17-18 February 2017 in Munich, Germany.



Prime Minister attended the inaugural session of the Conference on 17 February 2017 afternoon along with 30 Heads of State and Government. On 18 February 2017 the Prime Minister participated in a panel discussion, entitled “Climate Security: Good COP, Bad Cops”. The other discussants were Patricia Espinosa Cantellano, Ambassador, Executive Secretary, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change; Sauli Niinistö, President, Republic of Finland; Margot Wallström, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Kingdom of Sweden; Sheldon Whitehouse, Senator, Member of the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works, United States of America; Co-Chairman and Co-Founder, Bicameral Task Force on Climate Change and the Bipartisan Senate Oceans Caucus; Mary Robinson, Former

President of the Republic of Ireland; Honorary President, Oxfam; Member, The Elders Foundation. Melinda Crane-Röhrs, Chief Political Correspondent, Deutsche Welle acted as the moderator in the panel discussion.

During the Security Conference, The Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany Angela Merkel invited Prime Minister to a bi-lateral lunch meeting on 18 February 2017. Foreign Minister and Foreign Secretary were present during the meeting. The two Heads of Government discussed important mutual and international issues. Among these, the Prime Minister raised the matter of recent influx of Myanmar nationals of Rohingya ethnic group and requested for Federal Chancellor’s active support in solving this humanitarian issue.



Foreign Minister also met with the Japanese delegation to the Conference on 18 February 2017. Kiyoshi Odawara, Parliamentary Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan headed the Japanese delegation. The two leaders discussed important mutual issues. The Foreign Minister focused on Bangladesh’s “Zero Tolerance” stand on terrorism and explained the steps taken by the government to curb the terrorist activities, specially the policy to include the religious and community leaders in motivating people against terrorism. Kiyoshi Odawara appreciated very much the government’s initiatives, especially after the killings in Gulshan on 1 July 2016. Kiyoshi assured the continuity of economic



assistance and cooperation of Japan to Bangladesh in future.

### **FOREIGN MINISTER ACCOMPANIES EU HEADS OF MISSION TO THE NORTHERN DISTRICTS OF BANGLADESH**



Foreign Minister A. H. Mahmood Ali, MP, accompanied a high powered EU Delegation, led by Ambassador and Head of EU Delegation Pierre Mayaudon to the northern districts of Bangladesh Nilphamari, Dinajpur and Panchagarh on 22 February 2017. Other members of the delegation include: British High Commissioner Alison Blake, Ambassadors of Germany Dr. Thomas Prinz, Leoni Margaretha Cuelenaere of the Netherlands and Mikael Hemniti Winther of Denmark. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs organized this field trip as part of "Visit Bangladesh" programme for the diplomats to see for themselves the changes that the northern districts of the country have undergone in the last seven or more years especially in connectivity including roads, bridges, railways, electricity and socio-economic development.

The day began with the delegation visiting Uttara EPZ in Nilphamari, one of the growing EPZs. The delegation was briefed by the EPZ Authorities about the impact that the EPZ is contributing to socio-economic condition of the area especially uplifting the women through their employment. Although it is situated away from land or sea port the overall cost of doing business is lower in this EPZ. They also took the delegation to visit a leather factory. Afterwards the delegation visited Khansama Upazilla complex and met with the Chairmen of Upazilla and Union Parishads. Officials of Upazilla administration were also present at that time. They visited the "Haque-er Haat" Community Health Clinic and saw local level health services

delivery- an exemplary health service delivery programme initiated by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for the people in rural areas all over Bangladesh. The first day ended with visit to a Litchi garden for which Dinajpur is famous and historic tourist site "Ramsagar". The delegation also visited UNESCO heritage site Kantajew temple in Dinajpur and tea gardens in Panchagarh.

### **NORWEGIAN FOREIGN MINISTER VISITS BANGLADESH**

Norwegian Foreign Minister Borge Brende undertook an official visit to Bangladesh on February 2017. During the visit he had bilateral talks with the Foreign Minister A. H. Mahmood Ali, MP, on 20 February 2017 at the State Guest House Padma. In the official talks, they discussed the entire gamut of bilateral relations and issues of mutual interest. State Minister for Foreign Affairs, Md. Shahriar Alam, MP, and other senior officers of the Ministry were present in the bilateral meeting. Foreign



Minister Mahmood Ali apprised the visiting Norwegian Foreign Minister of the initiatives taken by the Government of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to contain the situation immediate after the Gulshan Restaurant attack on July last year. He informed that almost all the masterminds of the attack are either arrested or killed by law enforcing agencies while resisting or trying to avoid arrest. He also briefed how government made inclusive effort to create awareness among the mass people against terrorism and violent extremism.

Norwegian Foreign Minister appreciated the

balanced position Bangladesh has taken regarding the Myanmar refugees and humanitarian support extended to them. He expressed hope that the Myanmar refugees could return to their own land in near future. They also discussed the bilateral trade and investment situation and Foreign Minister Mahmood Ali urged the visiting Foreign Minister to encourage the Norwegian investors to take opportunity of investing in Bangladesh and be benefitted like Telenor. He, as the first western dignitary, paid homage to the Martyrs' of the language movement by laying floral wreath in the Central shahid Minar in Dhaka University campus in the first hour of 21<sup>st</sup> February.

### UN SPECIAL RAPPOREUR ON THE SITUATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN MYANMAR CALLED ON FOREIGN MINISTER

The United Nations Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar called on A. H. Mahmood Ali, MP, the Foreign Minister of Bangladesh in Dhaka on 20 February 2017. The Special Rapporteur, Yanghee Lee undertook 3-day mission to Cox's Bazar. Lee visited various locations in Cox's Bazar and interact with the newly arrived Myanmar population who fled from the recent military atrocities in the Northern Rakhine of Myanmar.



During the meeting, Foreign Minister apprised the Special Rapporteur of the steps that the Government of Bangladesh had taken vis-à-vis Myanmar refugees and the undocumented Myanmar nationals who entered Bangladesh over the years from the Rakhine State of Myanmar. He informed about repatriation status of the refugees under an agreement negotiated by him in 1992 and informed that as many as

236,599 Rakhine Muslims had been repatriated under that agreement until it came to a halt in 2005. Foreign Minister stressed that the presence of the huge number of Myanmar Nationals in Cox's Bazar district has not only created formidable challenges for the authorities to manage humanitarian assistances to them but also created a number of adverse effects on the overall socio-economic, political, demographic, environmental, and humanitarian and security situation of Cox's Bazar and adjacent districts and also negatively affecting the eco-tourism prospects. Citing the vulnerable nature of this population, he added that networks have emerged in this area for the purpose of human trafficking and smuggling of narcotic drugs.

Foreign Minister also informed the Special Rapporteur about the initiatives of the Government of Bangladesh to engage with Myanmar bilaterally through establishment of border liaison offices and introduction of dialogue on security cooperation. He highlighted about the endeavours to foster regional connectivity involving Myanmar through BCIM and BIMSTEC and thus ensure sustainable development in the region. He stressed on the peaceful resolution of the longstanding issue of influx from Myanmar to Bangladesh and urged the international community to take measures for addressing the root causes of the problem.

### FOREIGN MINISTER BRIEFS THE MEMBERS OF THE DIPLOMATIC COMMUNITY

Foreign Minister A. H. Mahmood Ali, MP, briefed the members of the diplomatic community on the situation of Myanmar refugees and undocumented Myanmar nationals at the State Guest House Padma on 05 February 2017. About 60 (sixty) Ambassadors/High Commissioners/ Heads of Missions/ representatives of various Diplomatic Missions in Dhaka as well as representatives from Office of UNRC, IOM, UNHCR and other UN agencies attended the briefing. The briefing was also graced by Advisor to the Prime Minister on Political Affairs, State Minister for Foreign Affairs, Cabinet Secretary, Principal Secretary to Prime Minister and Foreign Secretary, among others.

During the briefing, Foreign Minister apprised the diplomatic community of the steps that the Government of Bangladesh had taken vis-à-vis Myanmar refugees and the undocumented Myanmar nationals who entered Bangladesh to flee persecution and communal violence in the Rakhine State of Myanmar. This huge population numbering more than 400,000 (including the newly arrived 69,000) has been living mainly in Cox's Bazar in two registered camps and makeshift settlements. He also mentioned about successful repatriation of around 236,599 Myanmar refugees through an agreement negotiated during 1991-92 in which he had been deeply involved in his official capacity.

## STATE MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS MEETS HIS INDIAN COUNTERPART

State Minister for Foreign Affairs Md. Shahriar Alam, MP met the Indian State Minister of External Affairs, M.J. Akbar on 13 February 2017 at the sidelines of 'Indian Geo-economic Dialogue' held in Mumbai. Both the Ministers expressed deep satisfaction at the level of relations that the two countries had been maintaining especially, over the last eight years. They noted that tremendous progress was made in almost all sectors of cooperation between Bangladesh and India including connectivity, power, trade and commerce, security, cultural

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exchange, tourism and people-to-people contact. They also hoped that the goodwill generated by peaceful and historic settlement of land boundary and maritime boundary issues provided more confidence in the bilateral relations to deepen further. During the meeting, State Minister of Bangladesh drew attention of his counterpart on the issues of demonetization of Rupees that affected a large amount, currently deposited in Bangladesh Bank and recent anti-dumping

measure imposed on Jute by India creating difficulties in its import from Bangladesh, among others. The Indian counterpart assured the State Minister that both the countries can resolve issues with good will and existing good relations to take it to further deeper level.

## MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS ARRANGES VISIT BANGLADESH PROGRAMME



Like every year, External Publicity Wing of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs arranged "Visit Bangladesh" programme on 19-23 February 2017. Six foreign journalists both from print and electronic media attended the programme. These media personnel were from Japan, Lebanon, Italy, and India. The journalists called on State Minister for Foreign Affairs Md. Shahriar Alam, MP, on 22 February 2017 at the Bengal Lounge, Dhaka Club. During the call on, while emphasizing on people to people contact, the State Minister and the journalists exchanged views on various nationally and internationally important issues. Secretary (Bilateral & Consular), all officers of the External Publicity Wing and other high officials of the Ministry were also present during the call on. At the end, the State Minister hosted a dinner in honour of the foreign journalists where he introduced them with the Press Advisor and Press Secretary to Prime Minister, Press Secretary to the President and local senior journalists.

## STATE MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS ATTENDS IN RECEPTION PROGRAMME ON INDEPENDENCE DAY OF SRI LANKA AS THE CHIEF GUEST

State Minister for Foreign Affairs Md. Shahriar Alam, M.P, attended the reception on the occasion of the 69<sup>th</sup> Independence Day Celebration of Sri Lankan High Commission in Dhaka on 02 February 2017 as the Chief Guest. Felicitation messages from the President and

Prime Minister were also sent to their Sri Lankan counterparts on the occasion of National Day of Sri Lanka.

### **PALESTINE PRESIDENT PAYS STATE VISIT TO BANGLADESH**

Palestine President Mahmoud Abbas paid a 3-day State Visit to Bangladesh on 01-03 February 2017. He led a 12-member delegation comprising Foreign Minister, Chief Justice and few of his advisors. During this visit, Palestine President met with President, Prime Minister and Foreign Minister. He attended a State Dinner hosted by President in his honour. During the meeting with President Md. Abdul Hamid, Palestinian President regarded Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman a visionary leader for the Muslim Ummah. He expressed deep gratitude for the unwavering support of Bangladesh and its people for the just struggle of the Palestinian people. He informed about the Arabian translation works on “The Unfinished Memoirs”, the autobiography of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman by a former translator to Yasser Arafat. President thanked the Palestinian authority for taking such great initiative. He pledged Bangladesh’s all out support in the UN, OIC and among the International community to see a peaceful and viable solution for an Independent Palestine State.

President Abbas held official talks with the Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. Prime Minister recalled the historic visit of Yasser Arafat to join the Silver Jubilee celebration of Bangladesh’s independence in Dhaka in 1997. She condemned the ongoing Israeli settlements in the occupied Palestinian and Arab lands. Palestine President highlighted on various issues of two-state policy and briefed the Prime Minister on his government’s policies and priorities in the coming days to achieve the final goal of an independent land for Palestinian people. He also briefed Bangladesh leadership on the outcome of Paris Peace Conference (15 January 2017) and the UNSC resolution of 2334 (23December 2016).

Both leaders expressed the hope for expanding bilateral cooperation in the areas of military training, health, education, power, energy, trade

& investment and other prospective areas in the coming days. Palestinian President pledged for extending support to Bangladesh’s candidature to host the CFM of the OIC in 2018. At the end of the bilateral meeting, an MoU on Intergovernmental Joint Committee at the level of Foreign Ministers between Bangladesh and Palestine was signed.

Foreign Minister paid a courtesy call on the Palestine President at his hotel suite. Welcoming President Abbas to Bangladesh he expressed that the bilateral relations between Bangladesh and Palestine would be deepening further with this visit. They discussed on various bilateral, regional, and international issues of common concern. They underscored the need for united efforts of Muslim Ummah to compel Israel to stop systematic violation of human rights in Palestine and immediate cessation of all illegal settlements. Palestine side informed about their willingness of applying for membership in the Commonwealth as well as in the Interpol and sought Bangladesh’s support in this regard. Leader of the Opposition in the Parliament also paid a courtesy call on the visiting Palestine President.

### **BIMSTEC SENIOR OFFICIALS’ MEETING HELD IN NEPAL**



The Seventeenth Session of the BIMSTEC Senior Officials’ Meeting (SOM), the Seventh Meeting of the BIMSTEC Joint Working Group on Establishment of the Permanent Secretariat of BIMSTEC and the Second Preparatory Meeting to the SOM, were held in Kathmandu, Nepal on 5-7 February 2017. Foreign Secretary Md. Shahidul Haque led the Bangladesh delegation to the Seventeenth Session of the BIMSTEC Senior Officials’ Meeting (SOM). Representatives from all Member States attended this Meeting. The Seventeenth Session of the BIMSTEC SOM discussed on various issues including the administrative and budgetary issues of the

BIMSTEC Secretariat and the future directions of BIMSTEC. The Meeting deliberated extensively on the outcome of the BIMSTEC Leaders' Retreat held in Goa, India on 16 October 2016 and the Agenda of Action, agreed by the Leaders of BIMSTEC during informal consultations at the Retreat held on the sideline of BRICS-BIMSTEC Outreach Summit.

Foreign Secretary of Bangladesh emphasized on revitalizing the activities of BIMSTEC and to have strong collaboration and meaningful cooperation among the Member States, especially on the four areas of cooperation, i.e, Climate Change, Technology, Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime and Trade and Investment. During the meeting, Bangladesh offered to host a workshop on Agenda 2030 to explore the interface between the Agenda 2030 and the BIMSTEC fourteen priority areas of cooperation in the Second Half of 2017, International Conference on Blue Economy in July 2017, 21st Meeting of the BIMSTEC Trade Negotiation Committee in March 2017, workshop on Climate Change in 2017, Second Ministerial Meeting of the BIMSTEC Ministers of Culture in 2017, and BIMSTEC Tourism Ministers' Roundtable in 2017. Other Member States also offered to host various relevant sectoral meetings.

The Seventeenth SOM also reviewed the progress made by BIMSTEC and endorsed the recommendations of the Preceding Meetings, including expediting the signing of the BIMSTEC Free Trade Agreement (FTA) and Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Grid Interconnection. The SOM also deliberated on the proposed events for celebration of the 20th Anniversary of the establishment of BIMSTEC in 2017 and finalized the time-frame for several important events and meetings, including the Fourth BIMSTEC Summit to be held in Nepal, later this year.

#### **BANGLADESH-EU DIPLOMATIC CONSULTATIONS HELD IN BRUSSELS**

The second Bangladesh-European Union diplomatic consultations took place in Brussels, Belgium on 15 February 2017. Bangladesh delegation was led by the Foreign Secretary Md. Shahidul Haque, while Gunner Wiegand, Managing Director of the European External Action Service (EEAS) led the European Union



delegation. Representatives from various EU organizations including the Directorate-General for Home and Migration Affairs, Directorate-General for Development Cooperation and Directorate-General for Trade participated in the meeting. The meeting was held in a frank and positive environment where both the delegations agreed to work on a number of areas including the sustainable development goals (SDGs), migration, and training for young diplomats from Bangladesh. A joint statement was also issued after the diplomatic consultations.

#### **BANGLADESH ATTENDS IN ANNUAL MARITIME POWER CONFERENCE-2017**

National Maritime Foundation (NMF) India conducted its Annual Maritime Power Conference-2017 at the Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (IDSA) Auditorium, New Delhi, on 09-10 February 2017, with the theme 'The Blue Economy: Concept, Constituents and Development'. Experts, academics, policymakers from different countries attended the conference. Rear Admiral Md. Khurshed Alam (Retd.), Head of Maritime Affairs Unit gave his keynote speech on the "Role of Fisheries, Aquaculture and Management of Fish Stocks" in the Discussion Session 2. The NMF was established in 2005 to provide a common platform for discourse between maritime-related institutions, organizations and disciplines, within the country and abroad. The Foundation conducts independent academic research and provides policy-relevant recommendations to advance the nation's maritime goals. The conference was conducted over five sessions, namely: a) Blue Economy and Sustainable Development; b) Habitat Protection and Ocean Ecology; c) Ocean Governance and Marine Resources; d) Maritime Security and Industry and, e) Enablers of Blue Economy.

## CHINESE DELEGATION VISITS BANGLADESH

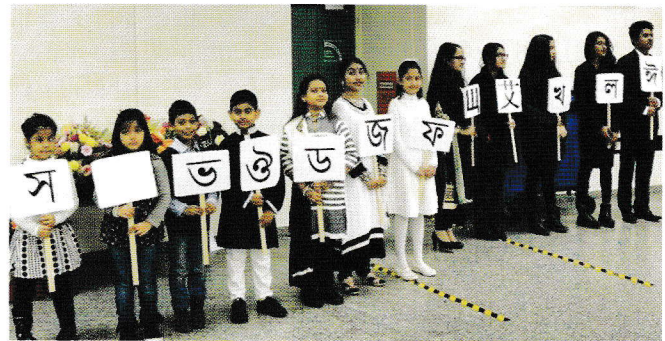
Lyu Xinhua, Chairman of Council for promoting South-South Co-operation (CPSSC) and Vice Chairman of Foreign Affairs Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference visited Bangladesh on 18-22 February, 2017 with 47 delegations. During the visit, he met adviser to Prime Minister for International Relations, Dr. Gowher Rizvi. In that meeting China proposed to support Bangladesh with regards to e-passport and e-commerce. During the visit, the delegations talked to business representatives of the country including FBCCI about enhancement of trade and investment between the two countries.

## AGREEMENT BETWEEN BANGLADESH AND RUSSIAN FEDERATION ON VISA-FREE VISIT COMES INTO FORCE

The Agreement between the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh and the Government of the Russian Federation on visa-free visit for persons holding diplomatic and official (service) passports came into force on 12 February 2017 as the Russian side received the notification from Bangladesh side on 12 January 2017. Both parties ratified the agreement and completed the internal procedures for entry into force of this Agreement, as stipulated by the respective national legislation. The Bangladesh Foreign Minister A. H. Mahmood Ali, MP, and the Russian Foreign Minister Sergei V. Lavrov signed the Agreement on behalf of their respective countries on 22 September 2016 at the sideline of 71<sup>st</sup> United Nations General Assembly in New York. This agreement would facilitate mutual visits of the diplomats and officials of the two countries without visas for a period not exceeding 30 days from the date of entry.

## BANGLADESH MISSIONS ABROAD OBSERVE MARTYRS' DAY AND INTERNATIONAL MOTHER LANGUAGE DAY

The Martyrs' Day and International Mother Language Day was observed by all Bangladesh Missions abroad on 21 February 2017 with due solemnity and fervour. The programme started in the morning with the ceremonial half-mast of the National Flag by the Ambassadors/High Commissioners in presence of Mission officials and staffs along with Bangladesh Community members of the respective host country. The second part of the programme began later with one



Bangladesh Embassy in Vienna



Bangladesh Embassy in Athens



Bangladesh Consulate General in New York

minute's silence to pay homage to the martyrs. Messages from President, Prime Minister, Foreign Minister and State Minister for Foreign Affairs were read out at the beginning of the discussion. Apart from the Heads of Missions, a number of eminent Bangladeshis delivered speeches expressing their emotions and thoughts on the occasion highlighting the significance of the day.

## BANGLADESH HIGH COMMISSION IN LONDON CONFERS AWARDS TO BRITISH-BANGLADESHI OUTSTANDING ACADEMIC ACHIEVERS

Bangladesh high commission in London for the 11th consecutive year, organized an extraordinary event to confer awards to the British-Bangladeshi brilliant students on 18 February 2017 at the Kensington Town Hall in

Central London. Through the event, the High Commission awarded a total of 88 students who achieved at least 10 'A'/'A\*' in GCSE and 3 'A'/'A\*' in 'A' level examinations.

### **SESSION OF SAARC PROGRAMMING COMMITTEE HELD IN KATHMANDU**

The 53<sup>rd</sup> Session of the SAARC Programming Committee (PC) was held on 01-02 February 2017 in Kathmandu, Nepal. The Meeting was attended by all the Member States. Three-member Bangladesh delegation was led by the Director-General (SAARC & BIMSTEC). The 53<sup>rd</sup> Session of the PC mostly discussed the activities of SAARC for 2017, administrative and budgetary issues and approved budgets of the SAARC Secretariat, SAARC Specialized bodies and SAARC Regional Centres for 2017.

### **BANGLADESH PARTICIPATES IN GULF FOOD EXHIBITION**

Gulf food 2017 was held on 26 February-02 March 2017 at Dubai World Trade Centre. Bangladesh participated in the exhibition with 35 food and beverage companies. This time, the number of participating companies from Bangladesh increased by double compared to last year.

### **BANGLADESH EMBASSY IN ATHENS ORGANIZES LEGAL ASSISTANCE WORKSHOP**

The Bangladesh Embassy in Athens, Greece, organized the 1<sup>st</sup> Legal Assistance Workshop for the expatriate Bangladesh Nationals living in Greece on 19 February 2017 at the Chancery. The objective of the workshop was to collect correct information from competent lawyers on legalization and labour issues, to provide legal advice to the expatriates.

### **BANGLADESH COUNTRY TEAM OF THE DUTCH MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS VISITS DHAKA**

Bangladesh Country Team of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands led by Reina Buijs, Deputy Director General International Cooperation visited Bangladesh on 9-17 February 2017. They met Kamrul Ahsan, Secretary (Bilateral & Consular) on 16 February 2017 at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Dhaka. At the meeting, both Bangladesh and the Dutch side discussed cooperation between the two countries in a wide

range of areas including sustainable RMG sector in Bangladesh, food security, reproductive health, land reclamation in Bangladesh, knowledge and innovation, upcoming Delta Coalition Ministerial Conference in Dhaka, etc.

### **UN SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF MIGRANTS CALLS ON AMBASSADOR AND PR OF BANGLADESH IN GENEVA**

François Crépeau, UN Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Migrants called on Ambassador M. Shameem Ahsan, Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the UN and other International Organizations in Geneva on 08 February 2017. The modalities of the upcoming global consultative process for finalizing the Global Compact on safe, orderly and regular migration was the core of the discussion.

### **BUST OF THE FATHER OF THE NATION UNVEILED IN SYDNEY**

A bust of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was unveiled at the International Centre for Ocean Governance (ICOG) of Western Sydney University on 20 February 2017. This was a historic occasion and a proud moment for all Bangladeshis as it is the first time ever that a bust of the Father of the Nation has been installed in a University in Australia.

### **BANGLADESH AMBASSADOR TO PHILIPPINES PRESENTS CREDENTIALS**

Ambassador Asad Alam Siam presented Letter of Credentials to President Rodrigo Roa Duterte of the Philippines at Malacañang Palace on 28 February 2017. The President welcomed the Ambassador and received the Credential papers.

### **BANGLADESH EMBASSY IN ALGIERS PARTICIPATES ANNUAL CHARITY FUNCTION OF AFDA**

The Association of Femme d Diplomatie d Algerie (AFDA) in Algiers, an Association of the spouses of the Diplomatic community in Algiers held its annual charity program in Algiers on 4<sup>th</sup> February 2017 at Hilton hotel. A total of around 48 Embassies in Algiers participated, the bulk of the group were from the Arab and African region. From Asian continent apart from Bangladesh; Indonesia, Malaysia, Japan and South Korea were also present.