

FOREIGN OFFICE

BRIEFING NOTES

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CHINESE FOREIGN MINISTER VISITS BANGLADESH

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi paid an official visit to Bangladesh on 18-19 November 2017 with two major objectives: review the progress in bilateral cooperation under Strategic Partnership and discuss possible ways of resolving the Rohingya crisis. During his call on the Prime Minister, Wang Yi expressed China's willingness to facilitate talks between Bangladesh and Myanmar to resolve the Rohingya crisis. The Prime Minister said that Bangladesh has given shelter to Myanmar nationals on humanitarian ground and Myanmar should take back its nationals. Foreign Minister Abul Hassan Mahmood Ali, MP, briefed Wang Yi about the bilateral engagement with Myanmar to resolve the Rohingya crisis.



Chinese Foreign Minister with Prime Minister of Bangladesh in Dhaka

BANGLADESH-MYANMAR SIGN AGREEMENT TITLED "ARRANGEMENT ON RETURN OF DISPLACED PERSONS FROM RAKHINE STATE"



Foreign Minister A H Mahmood Ali, MP, exchanging signed copy of "Arrangement of Return" with the Minister of the Office of the State Counsellor of Myanmar U Kyaw Tint Swe, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar on 23 November 2017

Foreign Minister Abul Hassan Mahmood Ali, MP, visited Myanmar on 19-23 November 2017. In the first lap of his visit he attended the ASEM Conference of Foreign Ministers in Nay Pyi Taw from 19-21 November 2017. He continued his bilateral visit to Myanmar where he led the Bangladesh side in negotiation with the Union Minister at the State Counsellor's Office U Kyaw Tint Swe and eventually finalized the "Arrangement on return of displaced persons from Rakhine State". The Arrangement was signed by the Foreign Minister on 23rd November 2017. Earlier, led by the respective Foreign Secretaries of Bangladesh and Myanmar, the draft Arrangement was negotiated at the Senior

Officer's level. It is stipulated in the Arrangement that repatriation would commence within two months of signing of the Arrangement. In this regard, a "Joint Working group" would be

formed and its “Terms of Reference” would be finalized within three weeks. “Physical Arrangement for Repatriation” would also be concluded to start repatriation within January 23, 2018. During the visit, Foreign Minister called on the State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and discussed issues of bilateral cooperation including the areas of connectivity and energy. A supplementary protocol (2007) to the protocol on the Demarcation of a fixed Boundary between the two countries was signed by the respective Foreign Secretaries in the presence of the Foreign Minister. An Instrument of Ratification of the Agreement relating to the demarcation of the land section of the boundary north of the Naaf River between the two countries was also exchanged. Moreover, Foreign Minister handed over three ambulances to the Ministry of Social Service, Relief and Rehabilitation for use in the Rakhine State of Myanmar.

JAPANESE FOREIGN MINISTER VISITS BANGLADESH



Japanese Foreign Minister with Foreign Minister of Bangladesh in Dhaka

Japanese Foreign Minister Taro KONO, during an official visit to Bangladesh on 18-19 November 2017, expressed gratitude to Foreign Minister Mahmood Ali for the security measures undertaken for the implementation of the mega projects of Japanese Official Development Assistance. Japanese Foreign Minister assured Prime Minister that Japan will continue its development assistance to Bangladesh to realize its goal of becoming a middle income country by 2021. Taro

KONO congratulated Prime Minister on registration of the 7th March Speech of the Father of the Nation in the Memory of the World International Register, maintained by UNESCO. Taro KONO visited Cox’s Bazar to see the camps of displaced people from Myanmar.

FOREIGN MINISTER ATTENDS ASEM FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEETING IN MYANMAR

Foreign Minister Abul Hassan Mahmood Ali, MP led the Bangladesh delegation to the 13th ASEM Foreign Ministers' Meeting (ASEM FMM13) held in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar on 20-21 November 2017. He attended an informal briefing on Rakhine issue attended by the Foreign Ministers of Myanmar, Bangladesh, China, India, Indonesia, Estonia, Germany, Malta, Russia, Luxemburg, France, Thailand, Hungary,



Foreign Minister at ASEM meeting in Myanmar

Finland, Sweden and the High Representative of the EU. Speakers, in general, agreed in many areas and asked for immediate cessation of hostilities, halting of outflow, early return of externally displaced Rohingyas from Bangladesh, implementation of recommendations of the Kofi Annan Commission for a durable solution. Foreign Minister attended two plenary sessions, “Synergizing Peace and Sustainable Development” and “3rd Decade of ASEM: Making ASEM Partnership more Dynamic and connected.” In his intervention, Mahmood Ali, M.P. reaffirmed Bangladesh’s firm commitment to peace and development. He stressed on inclusive development embracing all, particularly minorities, by ensuring rights and equal opportunity for attempting durable peace. He highlighted on shared interest in encouraging peace, security and stability in the region and beyond. Foreign Minister emphasized that marginalization and denial of basic rights create insecurities, which can lead to forced displacement and destabilize the region. He urged to work together to promote inclusion and tolerance for peace and development. He cautioned against resurgent nationalism and use of prejudices and exaggerated imaginary threat perceptions. He urged ASEM to focus more on connectivity of ideas and culture to reduce tensions among countries and region while focusing on trade and physical connectivity. In the sidelines of the event, Foreign Minister held bilateral meetings with his counterparts of Switzerland, Hungary, Estonia, Finland and the United Kingdom. They discussed bilateral matters and exchanged views on Rohingya crisis, particularly early return of displaced Rohingyas and imperative of an inclusive and durable solution of the protracted problem. He sought constant engagement and support from them.

DIALOGUE ON BLUE ECONOMY HELD IN DHAKA

The Second International Dialogue on Blue Economy was held in Dhaka on 22-23 November 2017. As many as 32 prominent experts on ocean affairs from different countries played the role of Moderators and Experts during the five working sessions of the two days long Dialogue hosted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh. The Dialogue was also participated by 250



Participants at International Dialogue on Blue Economy in Dhaka



officials, experts, teachers and students from Bangladesh. Planning Minister A H M Mustafa Kamal, MP, was the Chief Guest at the Inaugural Session while State Minister for Foreign Affairs Md. Shahriar Alam, MP, was the Special Guest. The 2-day long dialogue underscored the substantial potential that the oceans offer and called for greater inclusion of oceans and marine resources into mainstream economy. The Dialogue put forward a number of specific recommendations covering areas such as: sustainable

use of oceans and its resources, capacity building, innovation and R&D, investments, private sector participation, international cooperation in maritime security, litter management, maritime transport and related logistics issues, port management, coastal shipping, and so on.

PARTNERSHIP DIALOGUE BETWEEN BANGLADESH AND USA HELD IN DHAKA

The “Working Group” discussion of the 6th Partnership Dialogue between Bangladesh and USA was held in Dhaka on 1 November 2017. In that dialogue, DG (Americas), Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Deputy Chief of Mission, Bangladesh Embassy of Washington DC and Additional Secretary of Ministry of Commerce moderated the three sessions on behalf of Bangladesh namely trade and investment, security cooperation and development and governance. On the other hand, Simon Henshaw, Assistant Secretary for Population, Refugee and Migration and Thomas Vajda, Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for South Asia from U.S. State Department, led the delegation of USA. Bilateral relationship between Bangladesh and USA, trade and



Foreign Secretary with Under Secretary for Political Affairs of U.S.A

investment cooperation, security cooperation, regional issues and issues related to development and governance were discussed during the Dialogue. The U.S. delegation called on State Minister for Foreign Affairs following the discussion. During the call on, State Minister conveyed gratitude towards the U.S. government for their strong support and humanitarian assistance for the Rohingyas. Bangladesh also urged for continuous political support from the U.S regarding this issue. The visiting U.S. delegation visited Kutupalong Rohingya camp at Cox’s bazar on 2-3 November 2017. They also visited Gundum border and met UNHCR officials.

The “Plenary Session” of the 6th Partnership Dialogue between Bangladesh and USA was held in Dhaka on 5 November 2017. Foreign Secretary led Bangladesh delegation and Ambassador Thomas A. Shanon, Under Secretary for Political Affairs, led the U.S. delegation. Different bilateral, regional and global issues were discussed in this session. Bangladesh urged for the international cooperation for safe, sustainable and dignified return of the forcibly displaced Myanmar Nationals and narrated the grievous ongoing condition of the Rohingyas and the long term negative impact on Bangladesh. After the discussion, Foreign Secretary and Under Secretary Shanon participated in a joint press briefing. Both of them replied to questions from the journalists. Under Secretary Shanon called on the Prime Minister and the Foreign Minister on the same day.

BANGLADESH HIGH COMMISSION IN NEW DELHI ARRANGES BRIEFING SESSIONS FOR THE HEADS OF MISSIONS CONCURRENTLY ACCREDITED TO BANGLADESH

As part of Bangladesh’s diplomatic efforts to withstand Rohingya crisis, Bangladesh High Commission in New Delhi arranged briefing sessions for the Heads of Missions of 77 Embassies/ High Commissions concurrently accredited to Bangladesh with residence in New Delhi, on the latest development of Rohingya crisis. Representatives from 53 Diplomatic Missions participated in three interactive briefing sessions held on 8th, 9th and 10th of November 2017 at the High Commission. Bangladesh High Commissioner to India Syed Muazzem Ali



Briefing session for the Heads of Missions in New Delhi

briefed the representatives on the latest developments of the crisis and Bangladesh Government's position on the issue. The High Commissioner sought continuous support of corresponding countries of the diplomatic envoys for any international move to press Myanmar Government to take back their nationals who have been forcibly displaced from their ancestral homes in the Rakhine State. During the briefing sessions, participating Heads of Missions and other diplomats expressed their utmost sympathies for the Rohingyas and conveyed their willingness to stand by Bangladesh to resolve the crisis. Following the briefing, as many as 20 non-resident Ambassadors, High Commissioners and other diplomatic representatives from the New Delhi based Missions expressed their eagerness to embark on a visit to the refugee camps in Bangladesh in December 2017 to witness the inhumanity caused to the Rohingyas.

BANGLADESH-AUSTRALIA FOREIGN OFFICE CONSULTATIONS HELD IN DHAKA

The 2nd Foreign Office Consultations (FOC) between Bangladesh and Australia took place on 21 November 2017 in Dhaka. The Australian side was led by Penny Williams, Deputy Secretary, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade while the Bangladesh side was led by Mahbub Uz Zaman, Secretary (Asia & Pacific). The consultation reviewed whole gamut of bilateral relation and took stock of implementation status of decisions



Officials of Bangladesh and Australia in Dhaka

taken in the past at different levels of the two governments. New/emerging issues also came up for discussion. During the Consultation, Australia assured cooperation in areas of counterterrorism, energy and power, defense, maritime security, trade and investment, agriculture, sports.

DEPUTY SPEAKER OF SOUTH AFRICA VISITS ROHINGYA CAMP AT COX'S BAZAR

Deputy Speaker of South Africa S.L. Tseoli, MP visited Rohingya camp on 8 November 2017. High Commissioner of South Africa to Bangladesh with residence in Colombo, Robina R. Marks accompanied the Deputy Speaker of South Africa during the visit in Cox's Bazar at the Rohingya camp. South African High Commissioner continued her visit to Bangladesh from 06

November to 09 November 2017. She paid a courtesy call on with Director General (Africa), Director General (South East Asia) and Director General (Humanitarian Affairs Cell) to convey that South Africa is interested to provide relief for the Rohingyas. In this meeting, the Directors General had a brief discussion with the visiting High Commissioner on Rohingya crisis. They sought support of South Africa in favor of Bangladesh in the international fora, particularly at the UN bodies including at the third committee on the situation of Rohingya.

SPECIAL ENVOY OF THE CANADIAN PRIME MINISTER TO MYANMAR VISITS KUTUPALONG ROHINGYA CAMP

Special Envoy of the Canadian Prime Minister to Myanmar, Hon. Robert K. Rae visited Bangladesh on 02-05 November 2017. He visited Kutupalong Rohingya camp on 3-4 November 2017. Rae called on Foreign Minister on 4 November 2017 during which he shared his experience at Kutupalong camp. On behalf of Bangladesh, Foreign Minister sought support of Canada to implement the five point agenda proposed by Prime Minister for safe and sustainable return of the forcibly displaced Myanmar nationals. Bangladesh deeply appreciated the support of the Canadian government on Rohingya Issue.

CANADIAN MINISTER VISITS KUTUPALONG ROHINGYA CAMP

After a gap of three decades (since 1986), a Ministerial level visit from Canada to Bangladesh took place. Marie-Claude Bibeau, Minister for International Development and La Francophonie, Global Affairs, Canada, visited Bangladesh on 22-23 November 2017. She visited Kutupalong camp on 21-22 November. There she met different NGOs and development partners of Canada working in that area. She called on the Prime Minister on 23 November 2017. State Minister for Foreign Affairs called on Minister Bibeau. During the call on, Bangladesh sought support for implementing the five point agenda proposed by Prime Minister for the early repatriation of the Rohingyas. Bangladesh also requested for continued political support from the Canadian government on Rohingya issue.

U.S SENATOR JEFFREY ALAN MERKLEY VISITS KUTUPALONG ROHINGYA CAMP

U.S Senator Jeffrey Alan Merkley led a high level congressional delegation to visit Bangladesh on 18-19 November 2017. It was the first delegation of its kind to visit Bangladesh since 2013. The delegation visited Kutupalong Rohingya camp on 18 November 2017. In the evening of 18 November 2017, Foreign Minister hosted a dinner for the visiting delegation. The delegation shared their experience of talking with the forcibly displaced Myanmar nationals, the grave nature of the crisis and expressed their concern over the condition of the distressed people. Bangladesh thanked the U.S. government for their support and urged for continued political support from the U.S for safe and sustainable repatriation of the Rohingyas. The visiting delegation had a courtesy call on the Prime Minister on 19 November 2017.

ROUND-TABLE DISCUSSION ON 'BANGLADESH IN THE 21ST CENTURY: REFLECTIONS ON BANGLADESH - TURKEY RELATIONS' HELD

Bangladesh Consulate General in Istanbul, in cooperation with the Marmara Group Foundation organized a Round-table Discussion on 'Bangladesh in the 21st Century: Reflections on Bangladesh - Turkey Relations' at Istanbul Kadir Has University on 02 November 2017. The program was attended by as many as 35 prominent academicians, think tanks, business elites and media personalities who are widely known as opinion initiators/ builders in Turkish society. Notably the participants included a couple of former cabinet Ministers of Turkey. This



Round-table discussion on Bangladesh-Turkey Relations at Istanbul

event assumed a special significance in view of the fact that it was held at a time when Rohingya issue has generated a great deal of interest among the Turkish people. Bangladesh Ambassador to Turkey M. Allama Siddiki delivered a key note speech in the Discussion where he gave brief description of the glorious Liberation War of

Bangladesh in 1971 as well as the courageous and visionary leadership of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and briefed the audience about the political, societal, demographic and cultural strengths of Bangladesh. Consul General Monirul Islam made a presentation, explaining the growing importance and relevance of Bangladesh in the context of evolving geo-political realities.

BANGLADESH EMBASSY IN ANKARA ORGANIZES SEMINAR ON PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRIES OF BANGLADESH



Participants at a seminar in Ankara

The Embassy of Bangladesh in Turkey and Bangladesh Association of Pharmaceutical Industries organized a half-day long Seminar on “Phenomenal Growth in Bangladesh Pharmaceutical Industries: Enormous Potential of Cooperation with Turkey” at J.W. Marriot Hotel, Ankara on 15 November 2017. The Seminar was followed by B2B Meetings between the business

delegations of Bangladesh and Turkey. During the Seminar, documentaries highlighting fascinating growth of Bangladesh’s pharmaceutical industries, as well as Bangladesh’s nature, culture, trade, development and investment opportunities were screened. The Mission also organized a pharmaceutical products exhibition along with a photo exhibition on Bangladesh’s development landscape.

The event was graced by Deputy Minister for Labour and Social Security of Turkey, Orhan Yegin. President of Turkish Medicines and Medical Devices Agency (TMMDA) Dr. Hakkı GÜRSÖZ was present as Special Guest. A host of high-level officials from various Departments of Turkish Government, local chambers, members of business community, members of the print and electronic media, and senior representatives of nine leading pharmaceutical manufacturers of Bangladesh attended the event.

BANGLADESH EMBASSY IN ATHENS ORGANIZES BANGLADESH CULTURAL DAY AND FOOD PROGRAM IN ATHENS

Bangladesh Embassy in Athens organized a Bangladesh Cultural Day and Food Program on 29 November 2017 at the Bangladesh House. The Embassy invited the spouses of the Ambassadors in Athens, members of the Women's International Club (WIC) of Athens along with ladies from



Bangladesh Cultural Day and Food Program at Bangladesh House in Athens

different social and cultural organizations of Greece to attend the event. A large number of Bangladeshi expatriate women were also present. The programme included a presentation of Bangladesh traditional wedding and a fashion show representing Bangladeshi culture. Children of expatriate Bangladeshi nationals participated at the cultural show. A Bangladesh food festival was also organized alongside the fashion show where traditional Bangladeshi foods were served.

BANGLADESH AMBASSADOR PRESENTS CREDENTIALS TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC

Ambassador Imtiaz Ahmed presented his 'Letter of Credence' to the President of the Slovak Republic Andrej Kiska at the Presidential Palace of Bratislava on 07 November 2017. The Ambassador raised the Rohingya issue during his talk with the President. The Slovak President assured the non-resident Bangladesh Ambassador of his cooperation in discharging his duties.

BANGLADESH PARTICIPATES AT THE INTERNATIONAL SOURCING EXPO AUSTRALIA (ISEA)-2017

Bangladesh participated at the International Sourcing Expo Australia (ISEA)-2017, held on 14-16 November 2017 at the International Convention Centre (ICC) in Sydney, Australia. The Expo was attended by 600 exhibiting companies from over 16 countries including major representation from China, India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Fiji, Pakistan, Mauritius, Indonesia, Turkey, Australia, New Zealand and broader Asia, displaying a vast collection of fashion garments, apparel and accessories. Bangladesh Pavilion at the ISEA 2017-Sydney had seven (7) exhibitors from readymade garments, leather and knitwear industries. Bangladesh also participated at the 2017 Seminar program which was held in the seminar theatre on the show floor on 14 November 2017. Bangladesh High Commission conducted the seminar and presented a multi-media presentation focusing on Bangladesh's potentials as a sourcing country and investment destination. The 45-minute long seminar was attended by a large audience.

BANGLADESH EMBASSY IN THE HAGUE HOSTS STUDENT COMMUNITY NETWORKING EVENT

On 18 November 2017, Bangladesh Embassy in The Hague hosted a student community networking event in association with Brainchain, a community network established by the Bangladeshi expatriates living in the Netherlands. Under the theme 'We care', the network event accorded reception to all new students from Bangladesh to the Netherlands. Around 120



Student community networking in The Hague

students, alumni, academics and young professionals attended the event. The main objective of the event was to create a platform for new students for sharing ideas, thoughts and problems with the Embassy, alumni and other concerned so that all can contribute towards sustaining development in Bangladesh.

BANGLADESH REITERATES ITS COMMITMENT TOWARDS A WORLD FREE OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS

Bangladesh attended the Twenty-Second Conference of the States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) held on 27 November -1 December 2017 in The Hague. Kazi Russel Pervez, CDA, a.i of Bangladesh Embassy in The Hague and Alternate Permanent Representative to the OPCW delivered Bangladesh’s national statement at the Conference. Referring to the celebration of the 20th anniversary of the entry into force of the CWC and the establishment of the OPCW, Kazi Pervez stated that Prime Minister of Bangladesh Sheikh Hasina issued a message in April 2017 on this auspicious occasion expressing Bangladesh’s firm commitment to the aspirations of the OPCW in making the world safer by eliminating the threat of chemical weapons both by destroying the stockpile and preventing re-emergence of such weapon in any form. The Prime Minister reiterated utmost support of Bangladesh for the Convention and the OPCW towards achieving our common goal of a world free of chemical weapons.

BANGLADESH MISSIONS ABROAD CELEBRATE INCLUSION OF BANGABANDHU’S 7TH MARCH SPEECH IN UNESCO’S MEMORY OF THE WORLD REGISTER

Bangladesh Missions abroad celebrated the UNESCO recognition of the historic 7th March speech of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in a befitting manner. The celebratory event began with the screening of the 7th March speech of Bangabandhu. This was followed by a discussion session, in which speakers dwelt on the significance of the 7th March speech. Terming the speech as an epoch-making milestone in the history of Bangladesh, speakers mentioned that Bangabandhu, in this speech, prepared the nation for independence struggle, as all democratic efforts for achieving the rights of Bengali people were being exhausted. The speech, exceptional in vocabulary, spontaneity and delivery, was not only a source of inspiration for the freedom fighters but also a beacon of patriotism for succeeding generations.



Ananda Shovajatra (Rally) at Agartala

BANGLADESH RANKS TOP LIST COUNTRIES IN THE CATEGORY OF 'ASIA'S FASTEST GROWING NATION FOR MANUFACTURING'

RHA media publisher of the premier business, people and lifestyle magazines, Top10 of Asia and Top of Malaysia recently carried out online research survey/poll to find the most potential countries of Asia in different categories. Bangladesh ranked first among 5 shortlisted countries in the category of 'Asia's Fastest Growing Nation for Manufacturing' by poll. The award was handed over to the High Commission representative at the corporate hall of TOP 10 on 10 November 2017. This recognition is a testimony to the tremendous potential of Bangladesh in manufacturing sector.

BANGLADESH PARTICIPATES WORLD ISLAMIC ECONOMIC FORUM (WIEF)

Bangladesh High Commissioner in Malaysia led a 4-member delegation at the 13th World Islamic Economic Forum (WIEF) held in Sarawak, Malaysia on 21-23 November 2017. Director General (IO) of the Ministry and First Secretary (Commerce) of the High Commission accompanied him at the conference.

BANGLADESH DEPUTY HIGH COMMISSION IN MUMBAI PARTICIPATES WORLD TRADE EXPO 2017

Bangladesh Deputy High Commission participated for the first time at the World Trade Expo, organized by the World Trade Center (WTC), Mumbai and the All India Association of Industries (AAI), on November 16-17, where 37 countries, five Indian state governments and thirty industrial companies participated. Secretary, Ministry of Small and Cottage Industries, Dr. Arun Kumar Panda, was the chief guest. During the 2 day Expo, Bangladesh Stall "Bangladesh, Your next business destination" was able to meet the audience's curiosity about Bangladesh and this created a positive image of Bangladesh among the businessmen present there. Bangladesh Deputy High Commissioner in Mumbai, Md. Lutfar Rahman, highlighted the commercial potential of



Bangladesh Deputy High Commissioner speaks at the Expo in Mumbai

Bangladesh through a "Country Presentation". Also, to highlight the tourism potential of Bangladesh, "Beautiful Bangladesh, school of life" documentary was displayed screened.

BANGLADESH HIGH COMMISSION, ISLAMABAD ORGANIZES DISCUSSION ON "BANGLADESH'S PURSUIT OF PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT: NATIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS AND GLOBAL ENGAGEMENTS"

Bangladesh High Commission in Islamabad organized a session of discussion and exchange of views on "Bangladesh's Pursuit of Peace and Development: National Achievements and Global Engagements" at the Chancery on 18 November 2017. High Commissioner of Bangladesh to Pakistan Tarik Ahsan presented a paper giving a broad outline of the topic. Executive Director of Sustainable Development Policy Institute Dr. Abid Qaiyum Suleri and Defence Advisor of

Bangladesh High Commission Brigadier General Khondaker Shafiur Rahman were the panel discussants who highlighted Bangladesh's socio-economic achievements and contribution to peacekeeping respectively. In his paper, the High Commissioner maintained that Bangladesh has been internationally acclaimed for her pro-peace policies and practices such as signing of CHT Peace Treaty, annual sponsorship of UNGA resolution on 'culture of peace', proactive role in disarmament diplomacy, zero-tolerance to terrorism, peaceful settlement of maritime/land boundaries, leading role in peacekeeping missions. Referring to branding of Bangladesh as 'role model for developing countries' by the UN, Secretary general, the High Commissioner underlined Bangladesh's particular focus in development diplomacy in the areas of climate action, migration, LDC leadership and so on.

BANGLADESH EMBASSY IN THIMPHU HOSTS INTERACTIVE BUSINESS EVENT

Bangladesh Embassy in Thimphu, in collaboration with the Bhutan Chamber of Commerce & Industry (BCCI), organized an interactive Business Event titled "Doing Business with Bangladesh" on 08 November 2017 at the BCCI Conference Hall. The event was planned to overlap with the 3rd Meeting of the Joint Working Group of Customs (JWGC) Meeting (held in Thimphu on 06-08 November). Potential entrepreneurs, investors, businessmen, representatives of trade and industry bodies in Bhutan, officials from relevant ministries and departments of the Royal Government of Bhutan attended the event. Leaders and members of the Joint Working Group also attended the event and took note of the comments and suggestions from the business community.



Interactive Business event in Thimphu

bi-monthly Newsletter (September-October 2017) of the Bhutan Chamber of Commerce & Industry (BCCI).

BANGLADESH EMBASSY IN ADDIS ABABA ORGANIZES BANGLADESH FESTIVAL 2017

The Embassy of Bangladesh in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia organized Bangladesh Festival 2017 on 18 November 2017 in the Chancery premises. The day-long programme was part of the Embassy's ongoing drive towards showcasing the development achievements and initiatives, promoting national interests, highlighting the rich culture and heritage and enhancing the glorious positive image of our country. The programme included Bangladeshi live music, dance, recitals, fashion show, quiz programme, seminar-discussion session, Mehdi design, 'Churi' (bangles), 'Tip' and



Cultural programme in Addis Ababa

floral decoration, arrangement of delicious Bangladeshi cuisine of nearly 45 different items and exhibition and sales of Bangladeshi industrial and agricultural produces.

Nearly a thousand invitees attended the festival including the Advisor to the Ethiopian Prime Minister (having Ministerial Rank) and Heads of Diplomatic Missions of Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Azerbaijan, China, Chile, Chad, Germany, India, Indonesia, Iran, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Korea, Netherlands, New Zealand, Pakistan, Russia, UK, USA, Spain, Sri Lanka, Arab League in Addis Ababa along with their families.

The High watermark of the Festival was the participation of a good number of reputed Bangladeshi private business conglomerates like Pran-RFL, Square, Beximco Pharma, Globe, Sajeeb Group, Urmi Group, Rahimafrooz, DBL Group, Golden Fibre Trade Centre Ltd who were invited by the Mission for this festival to expand trade and business ties between Bangladesh and Ethiopia. Also, some local reputed companies partnered with the Mission for the festival. The officials from the Ethiopian Ministry of Health applauded the Bangladeshi pharmaceutical products and assured to do the necessary for the convenient access of Bangladeshi pharma products to the Ethiopian market.

BANGLADESH MISSION IN AGARTALA ARRANGES BAUL UTSAB

Bangladesh Mission in Agartala arranged 'Baul Utsab' on 26 November 2017 for portraying positive image of Bangladesh. Eleven Bauls including eight from Kushtia Lalon Academy performed from the work of Bengali Baul saint, mystic, songwriter, social reformer and thinker Lalon Shah; influential Sylheti dhamail music composer and lyricist Radha Raman Dutta; Baul musician Shah Abdul Karim and poet, mystic philosopher, folksong writer and composer Dewan Hason Raja.



Artists sing Baul song in Agartala



Baul Kangalini Sufia in Agartala

The 500-seating capacity auditorium was full of audience who enjoyed 4 hours long mind-blowing performances. People even enjoyed the show standing. Baul Begum Kangalini Sufia made the audience magic charm in spite of her old age (80). When she started the song 'Buri Hoilam Tor Karonaa....' the audience gave a big clap. The people of Agartala had the opportunity to listen to authentic song from the performers and sent felicitations to the Mission for bringing bauls from Bangladesh.

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