



FOREIGN OFFICE BRIEFING NOTES

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

APRIL 2023





A Warm Welcome was Accorded to The Hon'ble Prime Minister, Sheikh Hasina on Her Arrival at The Haneda International Airport



▶ A warm welcome was accorded to the Hon'ble Prime Minister on her arrival



▶ A red-carpet reception was laid down at the tarmac of the VIP area at Haneda International Airport

The Hon'ble Prime Minister of Bangladesh, Sheikh Hasina has concluded an official visit to Japan from 25 to 28 April 2023 at the invitation of the Prime Minister of Japan, H.E. Fumio Kishida. A warm welcome was accorded to the Hon'ble Prime Minister on her arrival at the Haneda International Airport by a Special Chartered Flight of Bangladesh Biman on 25 April 2023. During the visit the Hon'ble Prime Minister was accorded the highest honor and elaborate courtesies which were not seen in an official visit in recent times.

Last time similar courtesies were offered in 2014. During the visit the Hon'ble Prime Minister was hosted in the Akasaka Palace State Guest House. On her arrival at Haneda International Airport by a Special Chartered Flight of Bangladesh Biman, a smartly turned-out contingent of Japan's Self-Defense Force presented the ceremonial Guard of Honor. A red-carpet reception was laid down at the tarmac of the VIP area at Haneda International Airport. State Minister for Foreign Affairs H.E. Mr. YAMADA Kenji along with the Chief of Protocol

of Japan, Ambassador Takehiro Shimada and Ambassador IWAMA Kiminori se Ambassador of Japan to Bangladesh received her at the ceremonial line from Japanese side. H.E. Ambassador Shahabuddin Ahmed and Mrs. Shahina Akhter received the Hon'ble Prime Minister with flowers on arrival accompanied by Mr. Shah Asif Rahman, Deputy Chief of Mission. A ceremonial motorcade then departed with the Hon'ble Prime Minister to the Akasaka Palace State Guest House where she stayed during her official visit.



Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina had an Audience with His Majesty the Emperor of Japan During Her Official Visit to Japan

Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina had an audience with His Majesty the Emperor of Japan at the Imperial Palace on 26 April 2023 during her official visit to Japan from 25-28 April 2023.

His Majesty Emperor Naruhito welcomed Hon'ble Prime Minister to Japan and expressed his wish to strengthen cooperation between the two countries. Hon'ble Prime Minister stated that she is honored

to meet His Majesty on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Bangladesh and Japan.



A Summit Level Bilateral Talk was held Between Bangladesh and Japan



A Summit level bilateral talk was held between the two Prime Ministers at the Prime Minister's Office of Japan on 26 April 2023. At the summit level talks both sides concurred on promoting bilateral cooperation to a

new height and decided to elevate the bilateral relationship to a "Strategic Partnership" as a guiding principle to lead the two countries' journey into the next 50 years and beyond. Both sides cordially exchanged

views on bilateral, multilateral and regional issues of mutual interest and concern, including infrastructure development in Bangladesh, bilateral trade, Japanese investment in Bangladesh, particularly in



Bangladesh Special Economic Zone, human resources development, Free and Open Indo-Pacific, Japanese support to Rohingyas in Cox's Bazar and Bhasan Char and repatriation of Rohingyas etc.

Both leaders reiterated that the development of Bangladesh through

regional connectivity would contribute to the overall stability of the Indo-Pacific region and that the two countries would develop economic infrastructure, improve investment environment and enhance regional connectivity, in Bangladesh under the BIG-B initiative. On conclusion

of the Summit Talks, the two leaders witnessed the exchange of the eight (08) bilateral instruments between the two countries in the field of customs cooperation, agriculture, ICT and cybersecurity, industrial upgrading partnership, defense, metro rail, ship recycling and intellectual property.

Hon'ble Prime Minister met with the Business Leaders of Japan



On April 27, 2023, the Hon'ble Prime Minister participated in a meet-and-greet event with the CEOs and business leaders of Japan's renowned business organizations at the Westin Hotel in Tokyo. Later, she attended the Bangladesh Business Summit

organized at the same hotel. In the presence of a large number of local businessmen, the Hon'ble Prime Minister made a speech calling for more investment and trade in Bangladesh citing the existing political stability of Bangladesh

and the unprecedented development achieved in recent years. Meanwhile, a total of eleven (11) memorandums of understandings (MoUs) were signed between the business leaders of the two countries in her presence.

Four Japanese Citizens were Awarded the Friends of Liberation War



On April 27, 2023, in the evening, four Japanese citizens were awarded

the Friends of Liberation War Honor by the Hon'ble Prime Minister for

their special contribution to the Liberation War of Bangladesh at



Akasaka Palace. The honorees are: Former President of the International Red Cross Society Mr. Tadateru Konoye, Professor Gyalpo

Pema, politician Mr. Hideo Takano (posthumous), photojournalist Mr. Taizo Ichinose (posthumous). Later, the Hon'ble Prime Minister

attended a civic reception hosted by Bangladeshi citizens living in Japan at the Westin Hotel in Tokyo.

Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina had a Call on by H.E. Kristalina Georgieva

Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina had a call on by H.E. Kristalina Georgieva, Managing Director of IMF at hotel The Ritz- Carlton, Washington DC on 29 April 2023.



UN Resident Coordinator (UNRC) in Bangladesh Called on Hon'ble Foreign Minister

UN Resident Coordinator (UNRC) in Bangladesh Ms. Gwyn Lewis called on Hon'ble Foreign Minister Dr. A. K. Abdul Momen, MP on 3 April 2023. During the call on, discussion was held, among others, on the Rohingya situation. Hon'ble Foreign Minister called upon the UN, specially the UNHCR, to assist Bangladesh in the ongoing efforts for the repatriation of forcibly displaced Rohingyas. Discussion was also held on possible ways

and means to raise funding for the humanitarian assistance for the forcibly displaced Rohingyas as per the Joint Response Plan 2023. Hon'ble Foreign Minister also asked for the UN's more engagement in the humanitarian operations in Bhashan Char. The UNRC also informed about UN Secretary General's new initiative about ensuring early warning for natural disasters; and expressed willingness to work with Bangladesh Government in this

regard. She also discussed on the recently concluded LDC5 Summit in Doha, and expressed hope that the cooperation between Bangladesh and the UN on LDC issues would continue. Discussion also took place on the ongoing democratic process in the country including the next National Parliamentary Election; on which Hon'ble Foreign Minister reiterated the Government's strong commitment to hold a free and fair Election. He also underscored on



Bangladesh's continued cooperation with the UN and international community on human rights issues, including the recent visits of a number of UN Special Procedure mandate

holders to Bangladesh. They also discussed on upcoming major events in the UN, including the upcoming SDG Summit. The UNRC informed that the UN is looking forward to

extend further support to Bangladesh in realizing the SDGs, especially in some priority areas to be determined by Bangladesh.



Hon'ble Foreign Minister Dr. A. K. Abdul Momen, MP held a Meeting with the US Secretary of State Antony Blinken

Foreign Minister Dr. A. K. Abdul Momen MP held a meeting with the US Secretary of State Antony Blinken at the US Department of State in Washington on 10 April 2023.

In their initial remarks in presence of the media, both leaders expressed satisfaction in the existing bilateral relations and echoed their desire to further strengthen bilateral relations for the next 50 years, building on the solid foundation of the past 50 years. Terming the Bangladesh-US relationship wide-ranging, dynamic and multifaceted, Dr. Momen hoped to develop, strengthen and solidify the relations. He thanked President Biden for his warm message to the Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on the Independence Day of Bangladesh, which ended with "Joy Bangla".

During the meeting, they discussed

various bilateral and other issues of mutual interest, including strengthening and diversification of economic partnership, resolution of Rohingya crisis, climate change, labour rights, civil liberty, and elections.

Apprising Mr. Blinken of the ongoing and completed works in labour sector reforms in Bangladesh, the Foreign Minister hoped that these efforts would be duly acknowledged and appreciated through stronger economic partnership between the two countries. Mr. Blinken appreciated the ongoing US-Bangladesh consultative process in improving labour situation in Bangladesh. Foreign Minister called upon USA to take advantage of the generous investment regime of Bangladesh and encourage US

private sector to invest in special economic zones and high-tech parks in Bangladesh.

Dr. Momen thanked the US government for their generous support in combating COVID-19 and continued humanitarian support for the Rohingyas sheltered in Bangladesh. He stressed the need for sustained international pressure on Myanmar for creating environment for voluntary repatriation of Rohingyas to Myanmar. Secretary Blinken highly appreciated Bangladesh for generously hosting over one million Rohingyas and assured to continue to work towards repatriation of the Rohingyas.

Foreign Minister echoed with the US Secretary of State on the importance of a free and fair elections and reaffirmed



the commitment of Bangladesh government in this regard. He reiterated Bangladesh's request to extradite Rashed Chowdhury, a self-confessed killer of Bangabandhu.

At the end of the meeting, Foreign Minister handed over a letter that Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina wrote to US President Joe Biden to thank him for his warm message on the

Independence Day of Bangladesh.

The Ambassador of Bangladesh to the US Mr. Muhammad Imran, Deputy Head of Mission Ms. Ferdousi Shahriar, Director General (North America) Mr. Khandker Masudul Alam, and officials of the Bangladesh Embassy in Washington and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs were present in the meeting. Counselor

Derek Chollet, Assistant Secretary of State for Population, Refugees and Migration Ms. Julieta Valls Noyes, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Democracy, Human Rights and Labor Ms. Kara McDonald, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asia Ms. Afreen Akhter accompanied Mr. Blinken in the meeting.



Hon'ble Foreign Minister Dr. A. K. Abdul Momen, MP delivered a keynote speech at Atlantic Council South Asia Center in George Washington University



A Conversation With
the Foreign Minister
of Bangladesh



Keynote Speaker: Dr. Abul
Kalam Abdul Momen
Foreign Minister of
Bangladesh

April 11th, 5-6:30 PM EST

Foreign Minister Dr. A. K. Abdul Momen, MP delivered a keynote speech at Atlantic Council South Asia Center in George Washington University on 11 April 2023 on emerging Bangladesh,

its socioeconomic achievements, economic partnership and prospects with USA, economic diplomacy, regional development and navigating relations with major powers. The talks

were followed by a lively question-answer session moderated by Professor Dr. Irfan Nuruddin, Senior Director of the South Asia Center of the Council.

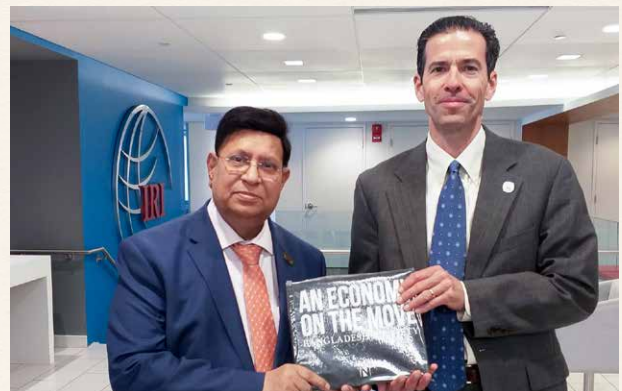


Hon'ble Foreign Minister Dr. A. K. Abdul Momen, MP held a Discussion Session at the International Republican Institute (IRI), Washington DC

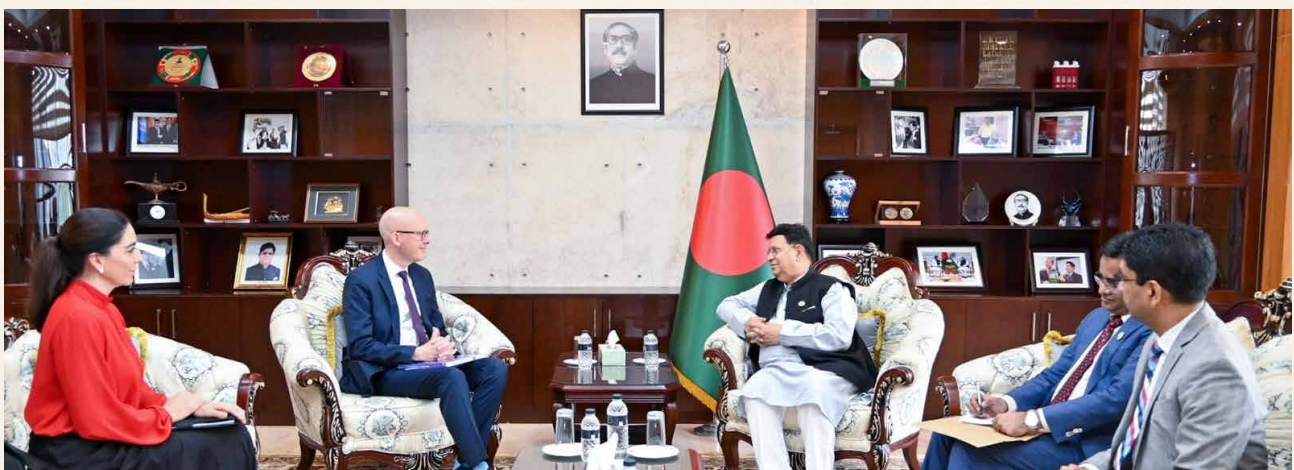
Hon'ble Foreign Minister Dr. A. K. Abdul Momen, MP held a discussion session at the International Republican Institute (IRI), Washington DC on 11 April 2023. He was hosted at the Institute by

its President Mr. Daniel Twining, where the Minister talked about Bangladesh's political landscape, its electoral process and preparedness for a free, fair and participatory general elections scheduled within less than

a year's time. He was accompanied by Ambassador Muhammad Imran, Director General (North America) Mr. Khandker Masudul Alam and officials of the Embassy.



Ambassador and Head of Delegation of the European Union to Bangladesh His Excellency Charles Whiteley called on Hon'ble Foreign Minister



Ambassador and Head of Delegation of the European Union to Bangladesh His Excellency Charles Whiteley

called on Hon'ble Foreign Minister Dr. A. K. Abdul Momen, MP on 17 April 2023 at the latter's office.

During the call, both sides expressed satisfaction at the 50 years of robust partnership between Bangladesh



and the European Union and agreed to work together on further strengthening the Bangladesh-EU relations.

The Hon'ble Foreign Minister observed that the EU's position on Indo-Pacific is largely similar to that of Bangladesh. He stressed that Bangladesh believes in a free, open, inclusive, peaceful, secure and rules-based Indo-Pacific region with shared prosperity for all. He stressed that economic development is Bangladesh's top priority and urged the EU to come up with more

infrastructure and green investments in Bangladesh, particularly in green transport, renewable energy, and climate change adaptation sectors. The EU Ambassador informed about the growing interest of the European Investment Bank in investing in renewable energy and transport sectors of Bangladesh. He also informed of the scope and interest from the EU to invest in Bangladesh through its 'Global Gateway' initiative. The Hon'ble Foreign Minister expressed Bangladesh's continued concerns over the situation in Ukraine, particularly the loss of

civilian lives, and consequential socio-economic fallout around the globe. He reiterated Bangladesh's calls for the cessation of hostilities and urged the EU to play a more pragmatic role in this regard.

Hon'ble Foreign Minister reiterated that the government wants free, fair and credible general elections. He informed the Ambassador of the steps taken to empower the Election Commission to enable it to conduct a free and fair election. He welcomed observers from the EU and other countries during the elections.

Outgoing British High Commissioner Called on Hon'ble Foreign Minister



Outgoing British High Commissioner to Bangladesh H.E. Mr. Robert Chatterton Dickson paid a farewell call on Hon'ble Foreign Minister Dr. A.K. Abdul Momen, MP on 24 April 2023 at the latter's office. Hon'ble Foreign Minister congratulated the outgoing British High Commissioner on his successful tenure in Bangladesh and appreciated the High Commissioner's

contribution to further strengthening Bangladesh-UK bilateral relations. He particularly lauded the High Commissioner for fostering trade and investment relations and cooperation in climate change between the two friendly countries. The High Commissioner appreciated the cooperation he received from the government in discharging his mandates in Bangladesh.

The British High Commissioner expressed satisfaction at the Hon'ble Prime Minister's decision to attend the royal coronation of their Majesties The King Charles III and The Queen Camilla of the United Kingdom on 6 May 2023 in London. Lauding His Majesty, The King's interest in the Commonwealth and climate change, Hon'ble Foreign Minister expected a royal visit from the UK



to Bangladesh and the British High Commissioner hoped that a royal visit would take place in the future.

Lauding the UK's role in multilateral fora, particularly at the UN Security Council on Rohingya crisis, Hon'ble Foreign Minister commended UK's humanitarian support to the forcibly displaced Rohingyas, temporarily sheltered in Bangladesh. He expressed concerns over the deteriorating focus on the Rohingyas, particularly humanitarian assistance, and urged the international community to

play more decisive role in ensuring their safe, voluntary, sustainable repatriation to their homeland in Myanmar at an early date.

Hon'ble Foreign Minister reiterated that the government wants free, fair and credible general elections. He briefed the High Commissioner of the steps taken to enable the Election Commission to conduct free and fair elections. The Hon'ble Foreign Minister, however, underscored the necessity of commitments of all political parties for a free, fair,

credible and violence-free general elections. He welcomed independent international observers, including from the EU and other countries during the elections.

The two sides also discussed various other bilateral and international issues of mutual interest and concerns, including bilateral cooperation in aviation and defence sectors, roles of British-Bangladeshi diaspora in mainstream British politics, situations in Sudan, Afghanistan, and war in Ukraine, etc.

Hon'ble State Minister Md. Shahriar Alam Attended the 3rd India-Japan Intellectual Conclave



► Hon'ble State Minister also called on the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tripura





Hon'ble State Minister Md. Shahriar Alam attended the 3rd India-Japan Intellectual Conclave held in Agartala, India on 11 April 2023 organized by Asian Confluence, a Shilong based think-tank in collaboration with the Ministry of External Affairs of India, Embassy of Japan in India and Bangladesh Assistant High Commission in Agartala. In his statement he enumerated that with its advantageous geographic

location between South and South East Asia, with the Bay of Bengal to the south, Bangladesh is working to establish itself as the regional hub of connectivity and a gateway to landlocked Nepal, Bhutan and the north-eastern States of India for promoting trade and people to people contacts. Bangladesh is also equally very keen to be connected with the India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral Highway (IMTTH) to connect herself with South East

Asia. During the visit Hon'ble State Minister also called on the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tripura Prof. Dr. Manik Saha. He congratulated Prof. Dr. Manik Saha for assuming the office of Chief Minister of Tripura for the 2nd time on 08 March 2023. During the call on both discussed on various issues related to trade, connectivity and cooperation between Bangladesh and Tripura.

Member of the European Parliament Ms. Valérie Hayer Called on Hon'ble State Minister for Foreign Affairs

Ms. Valérie Hayer, Member of the European Parliament called on Hon'ble State Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr. Md. Shahriar Alam, MP at the latter's office on 10 April 2023. During the call, Hon'ble State Minister highlighted the spectacular socio-economic development of

Bangladesh under the visionary leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina with special focus on economic growth, food autarky, massive infrastructure development, industrialization, poverty reduction, women empowerment, etc. He expressed satisfaction that the EU

remains as Bangladesh's largest export destination and an important development partner. The MEP underscored the importance of circularity, sustainability, due diligence and improvement of societal living standards in the RMG sector of Bangladesh.



Hon'ble State Minister for Foreign Affairs hosted a Luncheon in Honour of the Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Affairs Minister of Luxembourg

H.E. Mr. François FAYOT, Minister for Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Affairs of Luxembourg visited Bangladesh on 28 April-2

May 2023. Minister FAYOT visited Gaibandha and Kurigram to see different activities of 'Friendship' NGO in rural char areas. He also visited

Rohingya camps in Cox's Bazar.

H.E. Mr. François FAYOT paid homage to the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur



Rahman at the Bangabandhu Memorial Museum at Dhanmondi 32 on 30 April 2023. On the same day, Hon'ble State Minister for Foreign Affairs hosted a luncheon in honour of the Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Affairs Minister of Luxembourg at the State Guest House Padma.

Hon'ble State Minister thanked

the Luxembourg Government for their continued assistance to the vulnerable communities in Bangladesh, especially in char areas in the districts of northern part of the country. He further commended Luxembourg's humanitarian and political support in the EU, UN, and other international fora to address the Rohingya crisis. Minister FAYOT

highly lauded Bangladesh's immense socio-economic development and deeply appreciated Bangladesh's generosity in hosting more than 1.1 million forcibly displaced Rohingyas. He assured Luxembourg's continued support to Bangladesh's development and underscored the importance of more trade and investment between the two countries for mutual benefit.



Regional Director of UN Women for Asia and the Pacific Ms. Sarah Knibbs Called on Foreign Secretary (Senior Secretary)



Regional Director of UN Women for Asia and the Pacific Ms. Sarah Knibbs called on Foreign Secretary (Senior Secretary) Ambassador Masud Bin Momen on 12 April 2023. During the discussion, the UN Women Regional

Director appreciated the adoption of the National Action Plan for the Women, Peace and Security (NAP WPS) by the Government of Bangladesh, which has recently been extended till 2025. She assured of UN Women's continued

support in the implementation of the NAP WPS. Foreign Secretary, referring to Hon'ble Prime Minister's recent directive to include unpaid household works of women in the national GDP, sought for UN's assistance



in calculating the contribution. The Regional Director informed that they are ready to provide such support, and UN Women is already in touch with concerned government agencies on this. Both sides discussed the prevailing situation of and challenges being faced by the women and girls in the forcibly displaced Rohingya population. Foreign Secretary emphasized that the repatriation of forcibly displaced Rohingyas to Myanmar remains as the

only viable solution to end the crisis, as Bangladesh cannot continue to bear the burden for long. He requested for UN's support in commencing the repatriation process, specially through enhancing UN Women and other UN agencies' humanitarian presence in the other side of the border. They also discussed the existing situation of women in the regional context, especially in Afghanistan. The Regional Director appreciated Bangladesh's

strong commitment to and actions on ensuring women empowerment and to combatting discrimination and violence against women. She assured about UN Women's continued support and cooperation to Bangladesh Government in this endeavor.

Ms. Sarah Knibbs has visited the Rohingya camps in Cox's Bazar during her ongoing visit, and is scheduled to meet high officials of Bangladesh Government.

British High Commissioner to Bangladesh H.E. Mr. Robert Chatterton Dickson paid a Farewell Call on Foreign Secretary (Senior Secretary)



British High Commissioner to Bangladesh H.E. Mr. Robert Chatterton Dickson paid a farewell call on Foreign Secretary (Senior Secretary) Ambassador Masud Bin Momen on 24 April 2023 at the State Guest House Padma.

Foreign Secretary congratulated the outgoing British High Commissioner for his efforts and contributions to further strengthening Bangladesh-UK bilateral relations. The British High Commissioner expressed satisfaction at the Hon'ble Prime Minister's attending the royal coronation of their Majesties The King Charles III and The Queen Camilla of the United Kingdom on 6

May 2023 in London. The two sides also discussed various issues of mutual interest and concerns, including regular exchanges at different levels, UK's new preferential trading schemes to developing countries, bilateral trade and investment, Bangladesh-UK Climate Accord, defence cooperation, cooperation in higher education, trination Aviation Summit in Dhaka, Bangladesh's Indo-Pacific Outlook, EU's Election Observation Mission to observe the upcoming general elections in Bangladesh, war in Ukraine, etc.

The Foreign Secretary lauded the UK's leadership role on Rohingya issue in the UN Security Council.

He underscored the necessity of commencing repatriation of the forcibly displaced Rohingyas, temporarily sheltered in Bangladesh, to their homeland in Myanmar at an early date and expected support of the international community in this regard.

The outgoing British High Commissioner thanked the Foreign Secretary for the support he received from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs throughout his tenure in Bangladesh. He hoped that the new British High Commissioner will be able to take the Bangladesh-UK bilateral relations to a higher trajectory.



Bangladesh Genocide of 1971 has been Recognized by IAGS Resolution

The International Association of Genocide Scholars (IAGS) has adopted on 24 April 2023, a resolution entitled “Resolution to Declare the Crimes Committed during the 1971 Bangladesh Liberation War as Genocide, Crimes Against Humanity and War Crimes”. The IAGS, founded in 1994, is a global, interdisciplinary, non-partisan organization that seeks to undertake further research and teaching about the nature, causes, and consequences of genocide; and to advance policy studies on genocide

prevention. Several formal resolutions have so far been adopted by the IAGS with the view to recognize the genocides occurred in various parts of the world. The Association holds biennial conferences and co-publishes the scholarly journal named “Genocide Studies and Prevention”.

The IAGS resolution is an important recognition, in the international arena, of the atrocities committed during the Bangladesh Genocide of 1971. The Government of Bangladesh has been making continuous efforts to

achieve international recognition of the Genocide that occurred against the mass people during the great War of Liberation in 1971. Thus, the adoption of the resolution is an important stepping stone towards receiving the due recognition from the wider international community. The Government of Bangladesh is determined to persist its relentless endeavor for getting more and more international recognition of Bangladesh Genocide of 1971 in the days ahead.

Bangladesh Embassy in Cairo, Celebrated Ramadan Night



Under the overall supervision of the Bangladesh Embassy in Cairo, a Bangladeshi team consisting of the Embassy officials and Bangladeshi students of AL-Azhar University celebrated the “Bangladesh Ramadan Night” at the Cairo Opera House on 11 April 2023. Traditional Bengali folk music, Arabic songs, self-composed poetic rhythms and jokes were performed at the wonderful evening. The opera house was filled to the

brim with expatriate Bangladeshi and Egyptian audiences. At Egypt’s popular Cairo Opera House, such an enjoyable show was appreciated by all. Everyone burst into applause after each performance. Every moment of the program was filled with joy and entertainment. At his welcome speech, H.E. the Ambassador of Bangladesh expressed his sincere thanks to the Opera House Authority for the opportunity to present Bangladeshi

culture at the historical opera house. H.E. also wished to organize such cultural events on a large scale in future. Various media in Egypt broadcasted the Bangladesh Ramadan Night program.

In addition to Bangladesh, different countries including the host Egypt, Sudan, Yemen, Pakistan and Indonesia performed their own ‘Ramadan Nights program’ on different days of the month of Ramadan.



School Adopted by Bangladesh Embassy in Rome Received the Best Delegation & Best Social Media Team Awards in 'Embassy Adoption Programme'



The closing ceremony of the final part of the Diplomacy Education Programme organized by Global Action was held on 28 April 2023 at the Headquarters of the World Food Programme (WFP), Rome. Students who participated in the GAMUN (Global Action Model United Nations) simulation programme received Awards in various categories. 'Liceo Galileo Galilei School' which was adopted by Bangladesh Embassy in Rome in 'Embassy Adoption Programme' (EAP) received two

Best Awards namely, Best Delegation & Best Social Media Team Awards respectively of GAMUN for the year 2023. The Italian students earned these Awards by representing Bangladesh and by competing with students of different schools adopted by thirty-two (32) Embassies in Rome. H.E. Md. Shameem Ahsan, Bangladesh Ambassador to Italy, Montenegro and Serbia and Permanent Representative to FAO, IFAD and WFP, Rome also spoke along with other invited panellists/Ambassadors at the

concluding ceremony. Bangladesh Ambassador warmly congratulated the students of the adopted school along with other Awardees and thanked the Global Action for organizing the event successfully which witnessed participation by 800 young delegates and students acting as journalists, social media managers and experts-representing 32 Embassies and Permanent Representations based in Rome in the Final Simulation GAMUN between 24-28 April 2023. Bangladesh Ambassador also thanked



the WFP for hosting the inaugural and closing ceremony of the GAMUN.

Fifteen students of Liceo Galileo Galilei School from Macomer, Sardinia along with two teachers and School Principal and one representative of Global Action visited the Bangladesh Embassy on 27

April 2023 as a part of Second Step (Meet the Embassy) of the Embassy Adoption Programme (EAP). The Ambassador and all Officers briefed them on the activities of the Embassy and responded to their queries. Later, students and faculties were taken on a short tour to 'Bangabandhu Corner',

consular service areas and the Shahid Minar at the Embassy premises. The Ambassador handed over souvenirs and Embassy publications to the students and faculties while the school team also shared mementos. It was followed by lunch with traditional Bangladeshi cuisine.

Bangladesh Ambassador in Athens met with Greek Foreign Secretary



► Bangladesh Ambassador met the Greek Foreign Secretary

Ambassador Ashud Ahmed called on the Greek Foreign Secretary Mr. Haris Lalakos on 19 April 2023. They discussed, in a cordial atmosphere, a wide-ranging issues including bilateral visits, political consultations, commercial cooperation and the latest status of the ongoing implementation process of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed with a view to expand the scope of the migration & mobility.

Bangladesh Embassy in Amman Donated Clothes for Women, Under the Programmes of 'Save the Children'

Ambassador Nahida Sobhan visited the office of Save the Children Jordan and handed over a donation of 1400

pieces of clothes to its Director. The clothe is meant for distribution among the girls and young women under

various programmes of the Save the Children.





Donation of Clothes for the Jordanian Hashemite Fund for Human Development

Ambassador Nahida Sobhan visited the Jordanian Hashemite Fund for Human Development (JOHUD). JOHUD is the leading non-profit, non-governmental organization

dedicated to promoting rights-based sustainable human development in Jordan and in the region. During the visit, the Ambassador donated 1000 pieces of clothes to

the Goodwill Campaign, which is dedicated to provide comfortable clothing to vulnerable families.



Ambassador of Bangladesh in Mexico City Presented her Credentials to the Honorable President of the Republic of Guatemala

On April 14, 2023, Ambassador Abida Islam of Bangladesh presented her credentials to the Honorable President of the Republic of Guatemala, Dr. Alejandro Giammattei, at the President's House. Vice Minister

Shirley Aguilar and other officials from the President's office were present. This ceremony intends to enhance relations between the two nations and promote cooperation in commerce, investment, disaster preparedness,

peacekeeping, agriculture, culture, tourism, and various other domains. Guatemala's commitment to forging strategic partnerships and alliances for peace and progress was also highly appreciated.



► Ambassador Abida Islam presenting her credentials to the Hon'ble President of Guatemala





The Embassy of Bangladesh in Madrid Participated in the 29th Edition of Global Seafood Expo in Barcelona

The Embassy of Bangladesh in Madrid participated in the 29th edition of Global Seafood Expo in Barcelona on 25-27 April 2023 with the setting up of a pavilion. A high-level delegation led by the Hon'ble Minister for Fisheries and Livestock

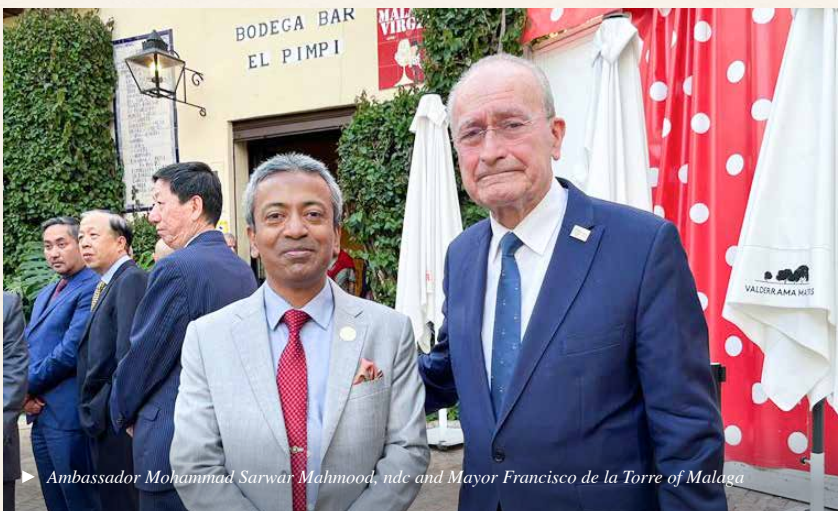
Mr. S.M. Rezaul Karim, along with Ambassador Mohammad Sarwar Mahmood, ndc joined the event. One of the largest in the world, the seafood fair was attended by industry leaders, exporters, agencies and buying houses from around 80 countries, including

7 companies from Bangladesh. These Bangladeshi exporters secured export orders worth US\$28.73 million from the Expo, of which US\$18.63 million accounted for confirmed order, while US\$10.10 million as commitments.



► Bangladesh delegation led by Hon'ble Minister for Fisheries and Livestock Mr. S.M. Rezaul Karim and Ambassador Mohammad Sarwar Mahmood, ndc at the Barcelona Seafood Expo 2023

Ambassador Mohammad Sarwar Mahmood, ndc held Meeting with the Mayor of Malaga



► Ambassador Mohammad Sarwar Mahmood, ndc and Mayor Francisco de la Torre of Malaga

Invited by the Spanish Government, Ambassador Mohammad Sarwar Mahmood, ndc visited Malaga on

27 April 2023 and held a meeting with the city's Mayor Mr. Francisco de la Torre, where they both agreed

on collaboration to bring Bangladesh closer to the thriving city and its production system. Malaga has shown interest in recent years to be a global reference in tourism, culture and business, positioning itself as the European headquarters of the world's leading technology multinationals such as Google, Vodafone, Oracle, etc. The Mayor highly appreciated the spectacular socio-economic development achieved by Bangladesh. During the visit, the City Council of Malaga arranged a briefing session and sight visits in support of their candidature as the host of the 'Specialised International Expo 2027'.



Bangladesh Embassy in Madrid held Meeting with Expatriates Community in Barcelona

As part of its initiatives to effectively engage the diaspora, the Embassy of Bangladesh in Madrid organized a “View Exchange Meeting” with the Bangladeshi community in Barcelona on 28 April 2023. The meeting was attended by a large number of expatriates and leaders of various social and cultural organizations,

who highly acclaimed the meeting and expressed satisfaction at many innovative services launched by the Embassy. In his speech, Ambassador Mohammad Sarwar Mahmood, ndc briefed them about the salient features of the Embassy’s state of the art service delivery systems, urged them to acquire technical competence

and become skilled at the Spanish language and complement the efforts of the Government to realize the visions of “Smart Bangladesh” by sending remittance through banking channel. Barcelona is home to the majority of the expatriates in Spain.



Bangladesh Embassy in Madrid hosted Iftar for the Expatriates Community

In pursuance of its diaspora engagement policy, the Embassy of Bangladesh in Madrid hosted an Iftar for the expatriates on 5 April

2023 at a local mosque. The event was attended by people from all strata of the community, who highly appreciated the move that enhanced

affinity between the Embassy and the Bangladesh community in Spain.





Bangladesh High Commission, Colombo hosted Iftar-Dinner

Bangladesh High Commission in Colombo hosted Iftar-Dinner during Ramadan. The event was attended by the heads of Diplomatic Missions, members of diplomatic corps, Muslim

community members and religious association in Colombo. In the pre-iftar address, the chief guest Foreign Minister of Sri Lanka M.U.M. Ali Sabry appreciated Bangladesh High

Commission for arranging the iftar to share joy and blessings of the holy month of Ramadan.



Bangladesh High Commissioner to Brunei met Minister of Primary Resources and Tourism Dato Haji Abdul Manaf Bin Haji Metussin

High Commissioner of Bangladesh Mrs Nahida Rahman Shumona met Minister of Primary Resources and Tourism Dato Haji Abdul Manaf

Bin Haji Metussin at his Office on 12 April 2023. She briefed him about the smart agriculture innovations in Bangladesh, and high-quality

agricultural products: crops, livestock, fisheries, and horticulture. The High Commissioner gave him a gift box of Haldah Tea.





Bangladesh High Commission to Brunei hosted, Eid-UI-Fitr Open House for the Bangladesh Diaspora

The High Commissioner hosted an open house for the members of the Bangladesh community at the High Commission on the first day of Eid-UI-Fitr.

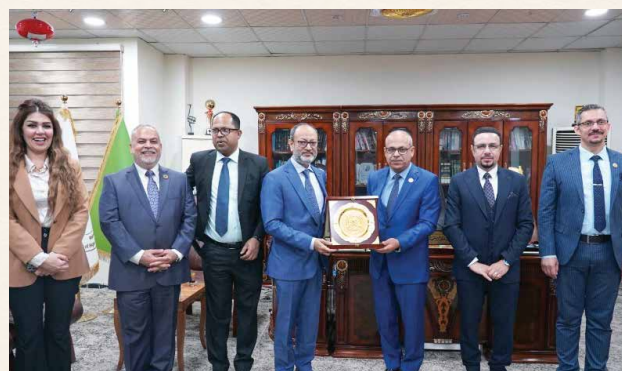


Bangladesh Ambassador in Bagdad Called on the President of Mustansiriyah University of Bagdad, Offers Scholarship to Bangladeshi Students

His Excellency the Ambassador Md. Fazlul Bari, PAA had a call on the President of Mustansiriyah University, Baghdad Professor Dr. Hameed F. H. Al-Tamimi on Sunday, 30 April, 2023 at the latter's office. Higher officials of the University were present during the meeting. Thanking the Ambassador for the visit, Dr. Hameed expressed his eagerness to extend all sorts of

possible cooperation in the field of education and scientific research between universities of Bangladesh and Mustansiriyah University. He stated that any initiative of Exchange Programs for students as well as faculty members between his university and universities of Bangladesh will be highly welcomed. Referring to the 465 Scholarship

(Undergraduate-265, Masters-125 and PhD-75 programs for international students he mentioned that Bangladeshi students can apply for these scholarships via following the website (<https://cc.uomustansiriyah.edu.iq/scholarship/>). It may be noted that the Mustansiriyah University is one of the oldest educational institutes in the Middle East and second largest University in Iraq.





Bangladesh Deputy High Commission in Kolkata Celebrated the Bangladesh Foreign Service Day

Bangladesh Deputy High Commission in Kolkata celebrated the Bangladesh Foreign Service Day on 18 April 2023 by hoisting the National Flag and circling around the Mission

Building with the National Flag. The Deputy High Commissioner proudly commemorated the extraordinary courage and sacrifice of the 62 officers and staff of the then Pakistan's

Deputy High Commission in Calcutta that expressed their allegiance to the Mujibnagar government and hoisted the National Flag of Bangladesh on 18 April 1971.



Bangladesh Deputy High Commission in Kolkata Repatriated of 15 Bangladeshi fishermen

Bangladesh Deputy High Commission in Kolkata repatriated 15 Bangladeshi fishermen through Benapole check post on 28 April 2023 who had been rescued by Indian fishing boats from Bhadrak District of Odisha. Deputy High Commission handed over these fishermen to concerned Local Administration of Bangladesh Government.





President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan Received Bangladesh Deputy High Commissioner in Karachi at Governor House in Karachi



The Hon'ble President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan H.E. Dr. Arif Alvi received and exchanged Eid greetings with the Bangladesh Deputy High Commissioner in Karachi, S. M. Mahbubul Alam on the 3rd Day of the Eid-ul-Fitr on 24 April 2023 at the at the Sindh Governor's House in Karachi. The

High Officials and the Presidential Protocol very warmly received the Deputy High Commissioner on arrival at the Governor House. The First Lady of Pakistan and the family members of the Hon'ble President of Pakistan were present at the event.

Deputy High Commissioner of Bangladesh exchanged Eid Greetings

with the President of Pakistan and the First Lady of Pakistan. Expressing thanks and gratitude for the Eid Reception, the Deputy High Commissioner also conveyed very warm Eid Greetings to the President of Pakistan and the brotherly people of Pakistan on behalf of the Hon'ble President of Bangladesh. The President of Pakistan extended Eid Greetings to Deputy High Commissioner and through him to the Hon'ble President of Bangladesh and the people of Bangladesh. Deputy High Commissioner mentioned that the 22nd President of Bangladesh has taken Oath of Office in the morning of 24 April 2023. The President of Islamic Republic of Pakistan extended his warm felicitations to the Hon'ble President of Bangladesh through the Deputy High Commissioner and commented that he would arrange to send a written felicitation message shortly to his Bangladesh counterpart.

The Hon'ble President of Pakistan also lauded Bangladesh on her impressive socio-economic development.

Bangladesh Deputy High Commissioner in Karachi Briefed the Journalists in Reputed Newspapers in Pakistan, about Model Masjid in Bangladesh

“Model Masjid in Bangladesh –A Phenomenal Initiative by Bangladesh” –Bangladesh Deputy High Commissioner in Karachi briefed the journalists in reputed newspapers in Pakistan and generate a huge media coverage.

Deputy High Commissioner of Bangladesh in Karachi S. M.

Mahbubul Alam briefed the journalists of different reputed newspapers in Pakistan on “Model Masjid in Bangladesh –A Phenomenal Initiative by Bangladesh”. The Journalists were from The Daily News Lark, The Daily Business Recorder, The Daily Regional Times, The Daily AZB, The Daily National Courier, The Daily Dunia,

the Daily GEO TV News and The Daily Pakistan Observer.

Deputy High Commissioner highlighted that the Government of Hon'ble Prime Minister of Bangladesh Sheikh Hasina has been constructing a total of 564 “Model Masjid and Islamic Cultural Centers” at a cost of around US



Dollar One Billion all over the country. The Model Masjid and the Islamic Cultural Centers are being built at all the Divisional, District, and Upazilla levels across the country. He further outlined that out of total 564 Model Masjid, a total of 200 are already completed

and inaugurated. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina inaugurated 50 mosques each in four different phases. The first phase was on June 10, 2021, the second phase was on January 16, 2023, the third phase on was on March 16, 2023 and the forth phase was on 17 April 2023. In

each phase Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina opened 50 Model Masjid at different corners and parts of Bangladesh. The construction of the remaining model mosques and Islamic cultural centers is scheduled to be completed by June, 2024.



“Improvement of Consular Services”: An Exchange of Views Meeting, Arranged by deputy high commission, Karachi





Consul General of Bangladesh in Hongkong met with the Chief Executive of the Macao Special Administrative Region, China

Ms. Israt Ara, Consul General paid a courtesy call on the Chief Executive of the Macao SAR, Hon. Ho Iat Seng GLM on 03 April 2023 at the latter's office. It may be mentioned that Macao is the only accredited region of this Consulate. Consul General briefed the Chief Executive about the present government's remarkable achievement under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in attaining economic self-reliance including sustained GDP growth even during the pandemic, poverty eradication,

women empowerment and other sectors and highlighted the successes achieved by Bangladesh in the recent years in the domestic political, economic and social sectors as well as in the international arena. Mr. Ho Iat Seng GLM was highly impressed with the success stories of Bangladesh and expressed admiration for the leadership of the present Government & the hard working people for achieving these successes.

The Consul General also mentioned about our excellent relationship

with China and Bangladesh's firm adherence to the "One Country, Two Systems" policy. She further highlighted the importance of bilateral relationship with the Macao SAR especially in the sectors of trade and investment, education, culture and tourism and sought his Government's support and cooperation in developing mutually beneficial ties with Macao. The Chief Executive assured the Consul General of his all possible cooperation in this regard.



► Ms. Israt Ara, Consul General of Bangladesh met with the Chief Executive of Macao SAR on 03 April 2023



Bangladesh Missions Abroad Celebrated Pohela Boishakh 'Bangla New Year' with Great Joy and Enthusiasm

Bangladesh missions abroad celebrated Pohela Boishakh 'Bangla new year' with great joy and enthusiasm. On this occasion, the Embassy premises were decorated with traditional Boishaki item, special banners and festoons prepared. Cultural program was held when Bangladeshi poems, songs and dances were performed.

The Bangladesh Embassy in Cairo organized Mangal Shobhajatra, Baisakhi fair at the Embassy premises on the occasion of Pohela Baishakh celebration Mangal Sobhayatra with the participation

of expatriate Bangladeshis. The premises of the Embassy became a joyful miniature Bangladesh in the colorful native clothes, decorations, favorite pitha-payes arrangement. Various pithas including pantahilsa, Chepashutki bharta, chitai and nakshi, singara, samucha, jhalmuri, jilapi and rasmalai along with stalls of various products were decorated. Various traditional sports competitions and cultural activities were also organized. The Embassy of Bangladesh in Amman organized a colorful Mangal Shobhajatra was brought out from the Bangladeshi workers dominated factory premises

and ended there after marching through the streets of the Aqaba International Industrial Estate. The Mangal Shobhajatra was followed by lunch where traditional Bangladeshi food was served. His majesty the king of Bhutan gifted a special cake wishing the Bangladeshi community the 'Bangla new year.'

All the officials and employers of the missions, spouse of diplomatic corps, civil society, students, workers, Bangladeshi migrants joined the celebration wearing colorful sarees, Punjabis and enjoyed the program with lots of joy and enthusiasm.



► Mangal Shobhajatra arranged by Bangladesh Embassy in Cairo



► Mangal Shobhajatra arranged by Bangladesh Embassy in Cairo



► Boishakhi fair arranged by Bangladesh Embassy in Cairo



► Bangladesh Embassy in Athens



► Bangladesh Embassy in Athens



► Mangal Shobhajatra arranged by Bangladesh Embassy in Amman



► Bangladesh Embassy in Amman



► Bangladesh Embassy in Thimpu



► Bangladesh Embassy in Thimpu



► Bangladesh Deputy High Commission in Karachi



Bangladesh Missions Around the World Celebrated the Historic Mujibnagar Day

Bangladesh missions around the world celebrated the Historic Mujibnagar Day with due solemnity and dignity. On this occasion the National Flag raising followed by placing floral wreath at the portrait of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh

Mujibur Rahman. Documentary, marking this occasion was screened. Reading out the messages from the Hon'ble President and Hon'ble Prime Minister of Bangladesh. The missions highlighted the exemplary leadership of Bangabandhu and

enormous contribution of the Mujibnagar Government in attaining the independence of Bangladesh. Bangladeshi expatriates spontaneously joined the celebration programs arranged by Bangladesh Missions abroad.



► Bangladesh Embassy in Lisbon



► Bangladesh Embassy in Lisbon



► Bangladesh Embassy in Madrid



► Bangladesh High Commission in Bandar Seri Begawan



► Bangladesh Deputy High Commission in Kolkata



► Bangladesh Deputy High Commission in Karachi



Bangladesh Missions in Abroad Observed World Autism Awareness Day

World Autism Awareness day was observed by the missions of Bangladesh in abroad as per instruction of the ministry. Commemorating the day,

the missions were decorated with the 'blue light' for raising awareness about autism among the expatriate nationals, among others. A fundraising campaign

for Smarter Brunei Autism School was supported by the High Commissioner of Bangladesh in Bandar Seri Begawan.



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