

# FOREIGN OFFICE BRIEFING NOTES

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## Austrian Chancellor exchanged greetings with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on the 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations



**A**ustrian Chancellor Karl Nehammer exchanged greetings over phone with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on the occasion of Golden Jubilee of diplomatic relations of the two countries on 04 February 2022. The Chancellor expressed that Austria wanted to remain as a

partner in Bangladesh's development journey and further strengthen economic ties with the country. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina urged the Chancellor to come up with more investment in Bangladesh; specially, in the economic zones. She thanked Chancellor Nehammer for providing Bangladesh with 1.5 million

coronavirus vaccines to Bangladesh as gift. Karl Nehammer said that his country was ready to provide more vaccines if Bangladesh needs so in future. Prime Minister Hasina invited Chancellor Nehammer to visit in the near future which the Chancellor accepted gladly.

## Hon'ble Prime Minister held video conference with Luxembourg's Prime Minister marking 50 years of Bangladesh-Luxembourg diplomatic relations

On 07 February 2022, Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina exchanged greetings with her counterpart Mr. Xavier Bettel, Prime Minister of Luxembourg through a video conference on

the occasion of the two countries completing 50 years of diplomatic relations. During the conversation, both Prime Ministers discussed a range of cooperation areas between the two countries. Prime

Minister Sheikh Hasina mentioned Luxembourg as a steady supporter and trusted partner in the ongoing socio-economic development journey of Bangladesh.





Prime Minister of Luxembourg highlighted the need to explore new opportunities to further widen and deepen the existing bilateral relations. He reaffirmed Luxembourg's support to Bangladesh regarding the repatriation of Rohingyas to their homeland Myanmar

alongside. Both sides also expressed their collective willingness to boost trade and economic cooperation.

Highlighting that Bangladesh will officially graduate from the UN LDC category in 2026, Hon'ble Prime Minister sought cooperation of the

Luxembourg government within the European Union for trade preferences such as the GSP+ during the post-graduation transition period. Prime Minister of Luxembourg agreed in principle to extend wholehearted support for Bangladesh.



## Visit of high level South Sudanese delegation comprising Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Deputy Minister of Defense and high officials of Trade and Commerce Ministries to Dhaka from 07- 11 February 2022

A high-level delegation of the government of South Sudan paid official visit to Bangladesh from 07-11 February 2022. During the visit South Sudanese delegation met with Hon'ble Minister for Foreign Affairs, Dr. A. K. Abdul Momen, MP at the State Guest House, Padma on 07 February 2022. At the meeting, Hon'ble Minister for Foreign Affairs, Dr. Momen stated that the visit was

taking place at a very special moment of Bangladesh when the country was celebrating the twin programmes of Birth Centenary of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and the Golden Jubilee of our Independence. The South Sudanese Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs handed over the letter of the South Sudanese Minister of Foreign Affairs, addressed to

Hon'ble Foreign Minister focusing which on enhancing the bilateral relations between Bangladesh and South Sudan. Hon'ble Minister for Foreign Affairs proposed that both sides may conclude agreements which are under discussion by both sides. He also proposed that military officers of the Bangladesh and South Sudan may share knowledge in peace keeping area.



The visiting delegation also called upon Hon'ble State Minister for Foreign Affairs, Md. Shahriar Alam, MP at his office on 07 February 2022. During the call, both sides discussed bilateral issues of mutual interest and focused on identifying the potential avenues of co-operation. The visiting delegation underscored the importance of mutual cooperation in bilateral platforms as well as cooperation at the UN.

During the visit to Dhaka, the South Sudanese delegation visited Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Memorial Museum and laid flower wreath as tribute to the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at the museum.

The South Sudanese delegation also met with the Dr. Abdur Razzaque, Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture, Secretary, Ministry of Commerce and Secretary, Ministry of Industries

and Director General, Bureau of Manpower, Employment and Training.

They South Sudan delegation paid a visit to Bangladesh Agriculture Research Council (BARC), Dhaka and Nursing & Midwifery Education and Services in Bangladesh (NIANER) in Mugda, Dhaka. They also visited Pran-RFL group in Narsingdi, Walton production area in Savar and Beximco Industrial Park in Gazipur.

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## The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Embassy of Japan celebrated the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations

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An event was organized jointly by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Embassy of Japan in Dhaka on 08 February 2022 at the Foreign Service Academy on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Bangladesh and Japan. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida issued separate goodwill video messages

congratulating the people of the two friendly countries on this momentous occasion.

Japan officially recognized Bangladesh as an independent state on 10 February 1972. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, in her message, expressed the gratitude of the people of Bangladesh for the precious support and contributions of Japan

and its people during Bangladesh's War of Liberation. She highlighted the historic visit of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman to Japan in October 1973, which laid the foundation of a steadfast and lasting friendship between the two countries.

She also mentioned the solid foundation of bilateral relations





between the two countries, poised to be raised from “Comprehensive Partnership” to “Strategic Partnership” in the near future. She acknowledged the sustained economic cooperation and support of Japan and expressed the hope that the last fifty years’ enviable cooperation would remain an inspiration for the coming fifty years for mutually beneficial gains.

Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, in his message, reiterated Japan’s commitment to strengthen bilateral ties with Bangladesh. Highly appreciating the socio-economic progress of Bangladesh, he expressed his determination to work with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and the

people of Bangladesh more closely to elevate bilateral relations between the two countries to new heights. Foreign Minister, Foreign Secretary (Senior Secretary), and Ambassador of Japan to Bangladesh spoke at the celebration event.

As the Chief Guest of the ceremony, the Foreign Minister recalled with gratitude the moral and material support provided to us by the Government and people of Japan in our War of Liberation. He also paid deep respect to the “Friends of Bangladesh” from Japan, whom Bangladesh has awarded for their invaluable contributions to the independence of Bangladesh. He also expressed gratitude to Japan

for being the largest development partner of Bangladesh. He stressed on the instrumental role of Japan as a key development partner in this endeavor. Ambassador of Japan Ito Naoki highlighted the robust multifaceted cooperation between the two countries, especially in the areas of infrastructure development, trade, investment and people-to-people contacts. He assured Japan’s continued cooperation for the socio-economic development of Bangladesh as well as repatriation of Rohingya people. Chairmen of BIDA, BEPZA, BEZA and high-level representatives from Japanese business community in Bangladesh, among others, attended the event.





## 50 Years of Bangladesh-Italy diplomatic relations was celebrated



H.E. Mr. Md. Shameem Ahsan, Ambassador of Bangladesh to Italy, on 11 February 2021 handed over to H.E. Ambassador Ettore Francesco Sequi, Secretary General (Foreign Secretary), Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs & International Co-operations, the message of felicitations from H.E. Dr. A. K. Abdul Momen, MP, Foreign Minister of Bangladesh addressed to H.E. Mr. Luigi di Maio, Foreign Minister of Italy on the occasion of 50 years of diplomatic relations between Bangladesh and Italy. During his meeting with the Secretary General, both of them recalled the excellent bilateral relations between the two countries while they discussed possible areas of cooperation to further strengthen bilateral cooperation. Mr. Mohamamd Jasim Uddin, Counsellor(Political) was also present.



A copy of the message from H.E. Mr. Foreign Minister of Bangladesh Luigi di Maio, Foreign Minister of Italy was also handed over to Hon'ble by H.E. Enrico Nunziata, Italian Ambassador to Bangladesh earlier.

## Hon'ble Foreign Minister delivered lecture on the vision of Bangabandhu on world peace & security at Emirates Centre for Strategic Studies and Research (ECSSR)

Foreign Minister Dr. A. K. Abdul Momen, MP highlighted the vision and philosophy of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on world

peace and security and its enduring relevance in today's global context in a lecture event on 11 February jointly organized by the Embassy

of Bangladesh in Abu Dhabi and ECSSR at the Centre's conference hall in Abu Dhabi. Referring to Bangabandhu's foreign policy dictum





of 'Friendship to all, malice to none', his adherence to the policy of non-alignment, strong support to the cause of Palestinian people, his historic speech at the UNGA, being awarded the Julio Curie Peace Prize, Dr. A. K. Abdul Momen, MP elaborated how Bangabandhu sacrificed his whole life to establish peace not only for his own people but also for the entire global community. He noted that the philosophy of Bangabandhu

is still relevant and effective for establishing a world of peace, justice, tolerance and co-existence with independent space for the human life and the human dignity. The Foreign Minister pointed that following the path of Bangabandhu and under the leadership of the Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Bangladesh has been promoting a "Culture of Peace". Opening the border and giving shelter to 1.1 million forcibly displaced

Myanmar nationals in Bangladesh is a vivid testimony to country's policy of promoting culture of peace, he added.

More than one hundred distinguished participants including university teachers, students, academia, journalist, researchers, government high officials and member of the diplomatic corps attended the interactive session.



## Foreign Minister Dr. A. K. Abdul Momen, MP held bilateral meeting with the UAE Foreign Minister

Foreign Minister Dr. A. K. Abdul Momen, MP held a bilateral meeting with the UAE Foreign Minister Sheikh Abdullah bins Zayed Al Nahyan on 13 February 2022 at Expo 2020 Dubai. During the meeting, both the Foreign Ministers reviewed the whole gamut

of bilateral relations between the two countries especially in view of the expected visit of the Hon'ble Prime Minister to the UAE in March 2022. Among the issues, they highlighted mutual commitment to deeper political engagement, cooperation in trade, commerce, investment and

economic areas, enhanced air and maritime connectivity especially establishing direct shipping links between the two countries' sea-ports and introducing direct cargo flights to maintain seamless and uninterrupted supply chains. Dr. Momen congratulated the UAE



leadership and people on their 50th anniversary of their nationhood while appreciating the spectacular

achievements during last five decades. In this regard, the two Foreign Ministers agreed to organize

few special events to mark the twin golden jubilee of nationhood of Bangladesh and UAE.



## Hon'ble Foreign Minister joined Munich Security Conference

Foreign Minister Dr. A. K. Abdul Momen, MP along with Lieutenant General Waker-Uz-Zaman, Principal Staff Officer (PSO), Armed Forces Division joined the Munich Security Conference (MSC) on 18-20 February 2022 which was attended by the global leaders from both public and private sectors.

At a discussion panel concerning climate change-induced crisis, Foreign Minister drew attention to the possible consequences of climate-induced displacements in different parts of the world and mentioned that climate change poses a security challenge. He urged the global leadership to assist forging international partnerships to ensure financing and technologies for climate vulnerable countries like Bangladesh. The panel consisted of John Kerry, the climate envoy of the US President, Franziska Brantner, state secretary at the German Federal Minister for Economic Affairs and Climate Action, and Sultan Ahmed Al Jaber, Minister of Industry and



Advanced Technology of UAE which had been moderated by Zanny Beddeos, editor-in-chief, The Economist and the scene was set out by Professor Johan Rockström, Director of the Postdam Institute of Climate Impact Research.

In a separate session concerning the possible way out of the Covid-19 pandemic, the Foreign Minister reiterated the call for considering vaccines to be 'global public goods'

and ensuring vaccine equity around the world. In the presence of his counterparts from Canada, Sweden and Bill Gates, he stressed the need for transferring the technological know-how to developing countries like Bangladesh for vaccine production.

Foreign Minister had a meeting with Mr. John Kerry where Ambassador of Bangladesh to Germany was also present. There were discussions concerning the possibilities of widened





cooperation in the areas of climate actions. Mr. Kerry took interest in the project envisaged for heightening and widening embankments with afforestation and renewable energy generation capacity along the coastal belt of Bangladesh. The US Presidential envoy invited Bangladesh to join the Global Methane Pledge as a means to benefit from support for reducing emissions from solid waste, among other sectors.

Dr. Momen also held a meeting with the Foreign Minister of Australia and exchanged views on the issues of mutual concerns. Md. Mosharraf Hossain Bhuiyan, the Ambassador of Bangladesh to Germany was also present during the meeting.



## Hon'ble Foreign Minister informed UN about the Covid-19 management of the Government of Bangladesh

On 26 February, 2022, Hon'ble Foreign Minister Dr. A. K. Abdul Momen, MP informed UN about the Covid-19 management of the

govt of Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina strengthening the healthcare system at the grassroots level, distribution of cash among

the vulnerable, rapid vaccination of the mass people. 101M people have already got at least one dose of vaccine.





## Hon'ble Foreign Minister updated Hon'ble Minister of International Development and Pacific Economic Development of Canada about Rohingya situation

On 26 February, 2022, in New York, Hon'ble Foreign Minister Dr. A. K. Abdul Momen, MP updated H.E. Harjit Sajjan, Hon'ble Minister of International Development and

Pacific Economic Development, Canada about situation of Rohingyas and sought Canada's cooperation in repatriating them to Myanmar. Hon'ble Foreign Minister of Bangladesh drew

the attention of the government of Canada to the repatriation of Nur Chowdhury, a convicted killer of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.



## Hon'ble Foreign Minister spoke at Panel on Finding a Way Out of Pandemic

On 19 February, 2022, speaking at Panel on Finding a Way out of Pandemic, Hon'ble Foreign Minister

Dr. A. K. Abdul Momen, MP reaffirmed the need for vaccine equity and making vaccine production

technologies available for capable developing countries.







## Hon'ble State Minister for Foreign Affairs attended the 10th Round of India-Bangladesh Friendship Dialogue in Shimla, India

Hon'ble State Minister for Foreign Affairs Md. Shahriar Alam, MP led a high-level delegation comprising Presidium Member of Awami League Mr. Jahangir Kabir Nanak; Deputy Minister for Education Barrister Mohibul Hasan Chowdhury, MP, Mr. Mirza Azam, MP and Mr. Ashim Kumar Ukil, MP to attend the 10th Round of India-Bangladesh Friendship Dialogue, held from 17-20 February 2022 in Shimla, Himachal Pradesh in India.

In his remarks at the inaugural session titled 'Reliving Bangabandhu's Vision for India-Bangladesh

Friendship', Hon'ble State Minister said, "Bangabandhu laid a strong foundation of Bangladesh-India relationship based on respect for each other's independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity, democratic norms and values". He also stressed on the unwavering commitment of the government under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and guided by the principles of Bangabandhu to ensure peace and stability in the region and beyond.

The 10th Round of the Dialogue was attended by Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh Mr. Jai Ram

Thakur, Minister of State for External Affairs of India Mr. Rajkumar Ranjan Singh and Member of Governing Council of India Foundation Mr. Ram Madhav. Bangladesh High Commissioner to India H.E. Muhammad Imran also attended the dialogue and chaired a session titled 'Towards a Shared Prosperity: Promoting Trade and Investment for Economic Growth'. After completion of the 10th round dialogue, 'Shimla Declaration' was issued as an outcome document.



## Bangladesh High Commission in London commemorated 50 years of Bangladesh-UK relationship

Bangladesh High Commission in London celebrated 50 years of Bangladesh-UK relationship virtually on 04 February 2022. Hon'ble State

Minister for Foreign Affairs Md Shahriar Alam, MP, graced the event as the chief guest while Hon'ble UK FCDO Minister for South and

Central Asia Lord Ahmed was the guest of honour.

High Commissioner for Bangladesh to the UK and Ireland Said Muna



Tasneem presided the hybrid event, participated by Chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Bangladesh and UK's Trade Envoy for Bangladesh Rushanara Ali, MP, President of the Confederation of British Industry Lord Karan Bilimoria, Patron of Conservative Friend of India and Vice-Chair of All-Party Parliamentary Group on Indo-Pacific Lord Rami Range, Director for Global Network of the British Council Charlie Walker, Development Director of the UK FCDO Judith Herbertson, Senior Fellow for South Asia of the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS) Rahul Roy Chaudhury, former British High Commissioner to Bangladesh Robert W Gibson, organizer of Bangladesh Liberation War Overseas Freedom Movement in the UK Sultan Mahmud Sharif and eminent person from British-Bangladeshi Community Syed Sajidur Rahman Faruk.

Hon'ble State Minister for Foreign Affairs Md Shahriar Alam, MP, said, "UK has steadfastly stood by Bangladesh since our War of Liberation in 1971 to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's relentless efforts to

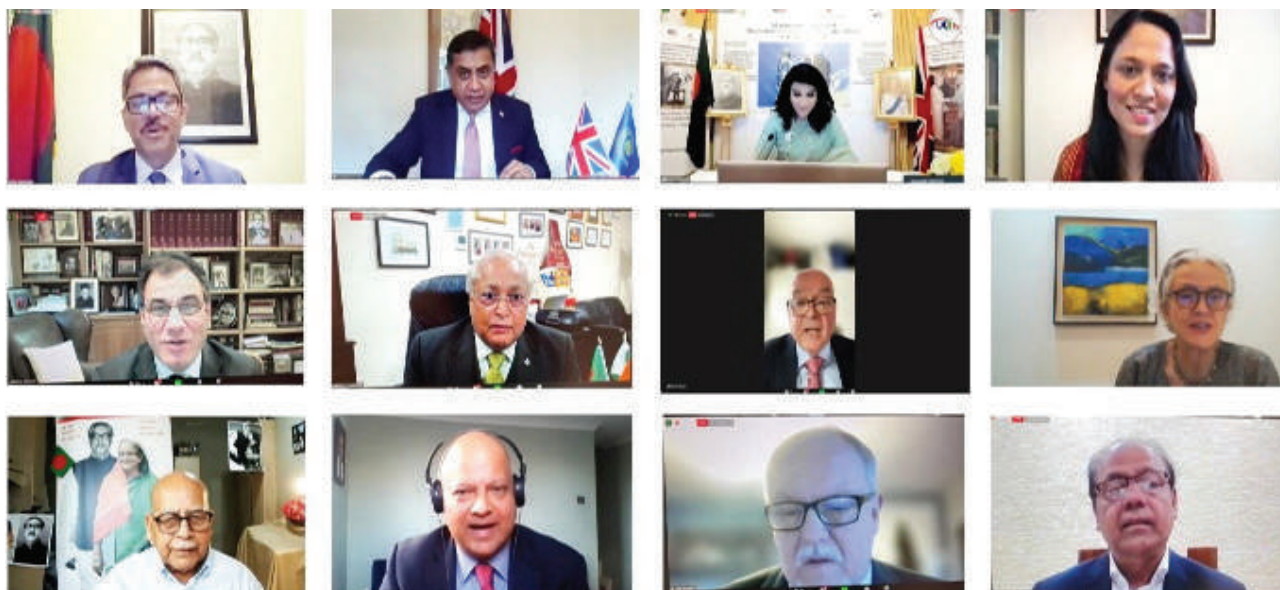


leapfrog Bangladesh into Asia's fastest-growing economy." Highlighting the historic background of Bangladesh-UK relations and its geopolitical and diplomatic significance, he also said, "Bangabandhu's official meeting at the 10 Downing Street on 8 January followed by the UK's recognition on 4 February in 1972 was a major geopolitical development during the height of the cold war, which encouraged other Western nations to recognize Bangladesh."

"The United Kingdom has stood by Bangladesh for the past 50 years through good times and bad times and will continue to remain its trusted

friend and partner in the next 50 years and beyond", said UK FCDO Minister for South and Central Asia Lord Ahmed.

High Commissioner Saida Muna Tasneem said, "UK assumes a special place and appreciation in the foreign policy and future climate aspiration and sustainable development of Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina." High Commissioner Saida Muna Tasneem and UK Minister Lord Ahmed simultaneously cut two cakes to celebrate 50 years of diplomatic relations between the two countries.







## Hon'ble State Minister called for implementation of Paris Agreement

At a webinar organized by Permanent Mission of Bangladesh, Geneva on 22 February, 2022, Hon'ble State Minister Mr. Md. Shahriar Alam,

MP called for implementation of Paris Agreement to address root causes of climate migration and displacement. He also noted the

roles Bangladesh is to play in climate issues as the current Chair of the Climate Vulnerable Forum.



## IORA Secretariat welcomed Foreign Secretary Ambassador Masud Bin Momen



Foreign Secretary (Senior Secretary) Ambassador Masud Bin Momen accompanied by Rear Admiral Md.

Khurshed Alam (retd.), Secretary, Maritime Affairs Unit visited the IORA Secretariat in Mauritius on 14

February 2022 and charted the way forward with the IORA Secretary-General, H.E. Ambassador Salman



Al Farisi. Bangladesh is the current IORA Chair (2021-2023) and has adopted the theme of 'Harnessing the Opportunities of the Indian Ocean Sustainably for inclusive development' for its Chairship.

During his visit, Foreign Secretary stressed the importance of the Indian Ocean as a 'home of opportunities' and IORA's role as the key to build and strengthen peace, development, and stability with its diverse Members. Ambassador Momen pointed out on the 25th anniversary of IORA which coincided with Bangladesh's chairship and the assumption of the new IORA Secretary-General, H.E. Ambassador

Salman Al Farisi. He further emphasized on many topics including the strategic importance of the Association within the Indian Ocean region, and Bangladesh's role as the Chair to increase IORA's relevance to strengthen the implementation of actionable and practical projects for the region. In addition, Ambassador Momen highlighted the IORA-Dhaka Development Initiative which is currently underway focused on promoting regional integration, economic and sustainable development initiatives in the region. He also appreciated recent efforts towards the strengthening of the

IORA Secretariat and offered further support in this endeavor.

Two signing ceremonies were held on 15 February 2022 at the IORA Secretariat. The Annual Operation Plan for 2022 was signed between Rear Admiral (Retd.) Md. Khurshed Alam, Secretary, Maritime Affairs Unit and the IORA Secretary General, H.E. Mr Salman Al Farisi. The Financial Contribution Agreement was signed by the IORA Secretary General and Project Director for the German Development Agency (GIZ), aimed at further improving the service delivery capacity of the IORA Secretariat in Mauritius.

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## Foreign Secretary (Senior Secretary) met dignitaries during his visit to Mauritius

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Foreign Secretary (Senior Secretary) Ambassador Masud Bin Momen visited Mauritius in mid-February 2022. In addition to his visit to the IORA Secretariat on the occasion of assuming Bangladesh's Chairship at IORA. Foreign Secretary of Bangladesh also met Mauritian dignitaries. He visited Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Street in Port Louis on 14 February 2022 and called on the Hon'ble Deputy Prime Minister of Mauritius Mr. Louis Steven Obeegadoo on 15 February 2022. During this call, Mr. Obeegadoo lauded Bangladesh as the 'Shining Example' of socio-economic development. Foreign Secretary stressed the need for direct air connectivity for promoting tourism between Bangladesh and Mauritius.

Foreign Secretary had a bilateral meeting with the Hon'ble Foreign Minister Mr. Alan Ganoo where he expressed his sincere gratitude for naming Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib



Street. Both sides agreed to continue enhancing cooperation in trade, economic, and business relations and establish contacts between the apex chambers.

Ambassador Masud Bin Momen had a tete-e-tete with Foreign Secretary Mr. Haymandoyal. Foreign Secretary of Bangladesh requested

to take collaborative projects where development partners would invest. Both sides agreed to establish cooperation in tourism, fisheries, and ocean economy areas under the IORA.

Foreign Secretary also met with the Minister of Labour & Commerce Mr. Soodesh Satkam Callichurn on





15 February. During this meeting, Mr. Callichurn proposed an FTA and requested the Bangladesh side to furnish the draft agreement.

Foreign Secretary paid a courtesy call on the Minister of Information

Technology, Mr. Darsanand Balgobin on 15 February 2022. Foreign Secretary handed over to him a draft MoU on ICT cooperation between Bangladesh and Mauritius during this meeting and discussed

with the IT Minister possible areas of cooperation. Foreign Secretary also visited a textile Factory in Port Louise where more than 1200 Bangladeshi skilled workers, mostly women, are employed.

## Foreign Secretary visited Chennai and New Delhi in India

Foreign Secretary (Senior Secretary) Ambassador Masud Bin Momen visited India from 23-25 February 2022 at the invitation of Indian Foreign Secretary Mr. Harsh Vardhan Shringla. Foreign Secretary met his Indian counterpart on 24 February 2022 where they discussed wide range of issues of mutual interests.

Both the Foreign Secretaries expressed satisfaction on the excellent bilateral relations that exist between the two countries. They noted that 2021 was a landmark year as both the countries were celebrating the 50th year of establishment of diplomatic relationship and witnessed the landmark visits of the President and the Prime Minister of India to Bangladesh. Foreign Secretary Momen sought India's cooperation in resolving the outstanding issues especially water sharing agreement of the common rivers and sought support in completing Shadhinota Sharak and handing over of the historic building at 8 Theatre Road, which served as the headquarters of the first Bangladesh Government in 1971.

Earlier, on 23 February 2022 Foreign Secretary visited the newly opened Bangladesh Deputy High Commission in Chennai. He exchanged his views with Mission's officials and urged them to work sincerely to promote relations with all the southern states of India and



extend necessary consular assistance for thousands of Bangladeshis visiting every year to these cities for medical treatments. High Commissioner of Bangladesh to India Muhammad Imran, Secretary (East) Ambassador

Mashfee Binte Shams and Director General (South Asia) Mr. Rokebul Haque were among the delegation of the Foreign Secretary during the visit.



## Secretary General of D-8 briefed Foreign Secretary (Senior Secretary) about the organization's initiatives

On 22 February, 2022, the Secretary General of D-8 H.E. Mr. Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam briefed Foreign Secretary (Senior Secretary) Ambassador Masud Bin Momen about the organization's initiatives in trade, technology and innovation. Bangladesh's Foreign Secretary reaffirmed his continued support to D8 and wished to see it more effective and functional. Bangladesh is D8's current chair.



## Hon'ble Home Minister visited Jordan and inaugurated the E-passport system

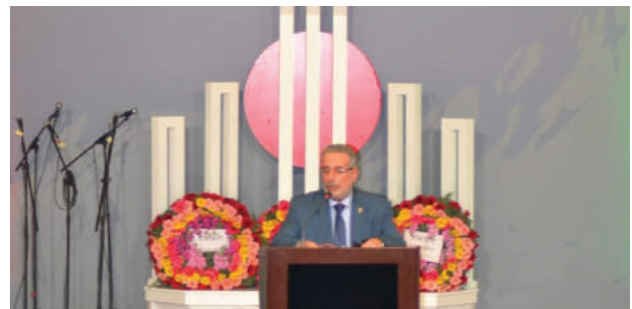
Hon'ble Home Minister Mr. Asaduzzaman Khan, MP visited Jordan from 18 to 23 February, 2022 and met the Minister of Interior of Jordan Mr. Mazen Farayeh and discussed bilateral relations between the two countries. During the visit, the Hon'ble Home Minister inaugurated the E-passport system at the Embassy. Hon'ble Home Minister was accompanied by Mr. Anwarul Islam Khandker, Cabinet Secretary and Mr. Mohammad Ayub Chowdhury, Director General of the Department of Immigration & Passports.

Earlier in January 2022, an eight-member delegation from Bangladesh



visited the Embassy and installed the E-Passport system. The service was officially declared open during the visit of Home Minister.

Hon'ble Home Minister also visited the Bangabandhu Corner at the Embassy premises during this tour.







## Hon'ble Minister for Posts and Telecommunications joined Mobile World Congress 2022 in Barcelona

Hon'ble Minister for Posts and Telecommunications Mr. Mustafa Jabbar led a delegation from Bangladesh to the Mobile World Congress (MWC) held in Barcelona on 25 February-3 March 2022. One of the largest and most important global conferences in the telecommunications industry held annually, the MWC this year laid emphasis on six different themes: 5G Connect, Advancing

AI, Cloudnet, Fintech, Internet of Everything and Tech Horizon. Delegates and participants from 183 countries attended the Ministerial Meetings of the MWC. Included in the Bangladesh delegation were Secretary of the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications Division and the Chairman of the Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC). The Hon'ble Minister joined several bilateral

meetings at the conference. The Bangladesh delegation also met high officials of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and CEOs of Telenor Asia, ZTE, Ericsson, Nokia, Axiata Group, the global coalition Alliance for Affordable Internet (A4AI) and the Minister of Transportation and Telecommunications of Bahrain, H. E. Mr. Kamal Bin Ahmed Mohammed.



## Bangladesh High Commission, London announced launching of 'Bangabandhu-Thomas Williams QC Award'

To commemorate the historic day of release of Bangabandhu and other accused from the Agartala conspiracy case on 22 February 1969, Bangladesh High Commissioner to the UK Saida Muna Tasneem announced the

launch of "Bangabandhu-Thomas Williams QC Award" on 22 February 2022.

On the occasion, recalling the contribution of Sir Thomas Williams at a commemorative function

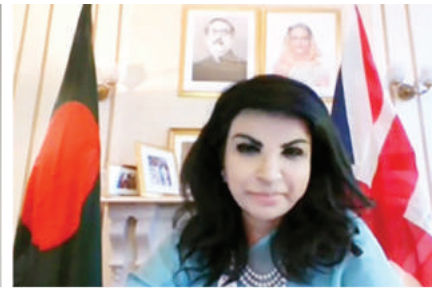
organised by Bangladesh High Commission, London, the High Commissioner said, "Sir Thomas Williams went to Pakistan in 1968 as a defence lawyer for Bangabandhu and the other accused in the Agartala



case under the patronisation of the expatriate Bangladeshis in the UK. The Bangladesh High Commission, London has introduced this award to highlight the significance of his historic role and his friendly relationship with Bangabandhu.” Hugh Burns, a prominent British writer and journalist and president of the All European Bangabandhu Council, was the special guest at the event and thanked the Bangladesh High Commission, London for introducing the “Bangabandhu-Thomas Williams QC Award”.

The award will be given for outstanding contribution to the development of Bangladesh-UK alliance and common values of the two countries.

Hugh Burns’s father, Michael Burns, a prominent British politician and



former British MP, had long been the chairman of the All-European Bangabandhu Council. He supported the “Recognize Bangladesh-Release Sheikh Mujib-Stop Genocide” movement in 1971.

Sultan Mahmud Sharif, one of the organizers of the Great Liberation War in Bangladesh and Ansar Ahmed Ullah, vice president of All European Bangabandhu Parishad also spoke on the occasion.

## Bangladesh Embassy in Rome facilitated repatriation of dead bodies of seven Bangladesh nationals

Bangladesh Embassy in Rome successfully completed the repatriation process of seven deceased Bangladesh nationals who met tragic death recently in the Mediterranean near Lampedusa island of Italy due to hypothermia. They were on a boat carrying 287 migration aspirants among which 273 were reported by the Italian authorities as Bangladesh nationals. The first dead body reached Dhaka on 11 February 2022 by a direct flight from Catania, while the last dead body reached Dhaka on 21 February 2022. The Embassy played a coordinating role with the Italian authorities, Airlines and relevant Bangladeshi agencies in order to expedite repatriation of the human remains and also remained vigilant



in disseminating the updated information to the family members.

H.E. Mr. Md. Shameem Ahsan, Bangladesh Ambassador to Italy, met Dr. Fransesco Micciche, Hon’ble Mayor of Agrigento, Sicily

on 3 February, 2022 at the latter’s office and expressed profound gratitude and deep appreciation to the Mayor for his overwhelming generosity following the tragic incident. The Mayor thanked the





Bangladesh Ambassador for being the first Envoy to visit his city and for the welfare of the community.

The Ambassador also met Ms. Maria Rita Cocciufa, Prefect of Agrigento Province, Sicily on 4 February 2022

and expressed profound gratitude for her all-out support following the tragic incident.

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## 15 Bangladeshi students fleeing Ukraine war received at Hungary border by the Bangladesh Mission in Vienna

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Bangladesh Mission in Vienna, in cooperation with the Hungarian Foreign Ministry, facilitated arrival in Hungary of 15 Bangladeshi medical students fleeing the war in Ukraine on 26 February 2022. Deputy Chief of Mission Rahat Bin Zaman, accompanied by the Honorary Consul of Bangladesh in Hungary Dr. Greg Pataki received them at the Hungary-Ukraine border. The Mission arranged accommodation for those students in the Semmelweis University dormitory in Budapest and provided all necessary supports including foods for a few weeks. The Mission later also managed to enroll those students in the Semmelweis Medical University to continue their



studies with the assistance henceforth provided by the University authority.

Apart from the first batch of 15 students, the Mission also coordinated arrival of 34 Bangladeshi

nationals, mostly students, from Ukraine. The Embassy also arranged repatriation of two Bangladeshi nationals to Bangladesh at the cost of the government.

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## Bangladesh and European Investment Bank (EIB) signed 250 million Euros Loan contract to strengthen Covid-19 Public Health Programme

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On 03 February 2022, Mr. Christian Kettel Thomsen, Vice President, European Investment Bank (EIB), and Mr. Mahbub Hassan Saleh, Ambassador of Bangladesh to Belgium and Luxembourg and Head of Mission to the European Union, ceremonially announced at the EIB Headquarters in Luxembourg, the signing of the Finance Contract between Government of Bangladesh and European Investment Bank for a loan of 250 million Euros for procuring Covid-19 vaccines and countrywide immunization under





‘Bangladesh Covid-19 Public Health Programme’.

This is so far the largest amount of loan provided by EIB to Government

of Bangladesh in the 22 years’ journey of Bangladesh-EIB partnership.

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## Bangladesh Ambassador to Iraq met Senior Deputy Foreign Minister for Bilateral Relations of Iraq

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Bangladesh Ambassador to Iraq H. E. Mr. Md. Fazlul Bari met the Senior Deputy Foreign Minister for Bilateral Relations of Iraq H.E. Mr. Nazar Al Khairullah on 01 February 2022 at the latter’s office in Baghdad. In addition to handing over an invitation letter to visit Bangladesh, the two sides discussed on exchange of land for permanent chancery building, joint celebration of 50 years of diplomatic bondage, manpower export, promotion of bilateral trade, cooperation in the areas of education, agriculture, culture, ICT, electronics, defense, etc.



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## Bangladesh High Commissioner to Maldives paid farewell call on the President

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High Commissioner of Bangladesh to Maldives H.E. Rear Admiral Mohammad Nazmul Hassan paid his farewell call on H.E. Ibrahim Mohamed Solih, President of the Republic of Maldives on 1st February 2022 at the President’s Office.

At the meeting, President Solih expressed his admiration of the High Commissioner’s contribution to reinforcing existing bilateral relations during his tenure and went on to discuss future areas of cooperation between the two countries. The

President also expressed his gratitude for Bangladesh’s assistance in critical areas of mutual interest, such as human resource development, higher education, healthcare, and economic cooperation.







## Bangladesh becomes the President of the WFP Executive Board for the year 2022

The 36-Member Executive Board of the Rome-based WFP (World Food Programme) on 28 February 2022 in its first regular session unanimously elected Bangladesh as the President of the Board for the first time for the year 2022. H.E. Mr. Md. Shameem Ahsan, Ambassador of Bangladesh to Italy and Permanent Representative to FAO, IFAD and WFP assumed the

charges as President by acclamation of all member states. With the Presidency, Bangladesh will lead the Board supporting efforts of the WFP, world's largest humanitarian organization, in providing life-saving assistance in humanitarian crises, particularly in conflict affected countries and under the current COVID-19 pandemic, which is

lasting longer than expected. In his introductory remarks, Ambassador Ahsan reiterated that this organization has a crucial role to play in supporting food security for many of the world's most vulnerable populations and as members of the Executive Board, Bangladesh has the responsibility to provide guidance and help WFP deliver on its mandate.



## Bangladesh-Italy direct container shipping route opened on 07 February 2022

MV Songa Cheetah, the first direct container ship in Bangladesh-Italy route, left Chattogram Port of Bangladesh for the Port of Ravenna, Italy with 952 TEUs (Twenty-Foot Equivalent Units) of exportables on 07 February 2022. This marks a new chapter in export-import and international maritime trade trajectory of Bangladesh. The ship anchored at NCT-4 jetty of the Chattogram port on 05 February 2022 carrying empty containers after sailing for 19 days since its voyage on 17 January 2022 from the Italian port. H.E. Mr. Charles Whiteley, Ambassador of the European Union





(EU), H.E. Mr. Enrico Nunziata, Ambassador of Italy to Bangladesh and Mr. Faruk Hasan, President of Bangladesh Garments Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) visited the ship at Chattogram Port on 06 February 2022. They described this as the opening of a new horizon for Bangladesh. Italian Ambassador in Dhaka has termed this “as a very good step forward having the vessels coming directly from Europe which will significantly boost export-import trade of RMG products”. According to Mr. Md. Omar Faruk, Secretary of Chattogram Port Authority, the new arrangement is expected to reduce transportation costs by 45-50% as the shipping time will be reduced to



15 days from 45 days. Bangladesh enjoys two-way annual bilateral trade of around US\$ 2.3 billion with Italy which is overwhelmingly in favour of Bangladesh. Bangladesh Embassy in

Rome has been pursuing vigorously to enhance bilateral trade including for attracting investment from Italian companies in Bangladesh.

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## Baghdad University offered ten scholarships for Bangladeshi students

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H.E. the Ambassador of Bangladesh to Iraq Mr. Md. Fazlul Bari called on the Honorable President of Baghdad University Prof. Dr. Moneer Hameed Tolephih at the latter's office on 08 February 2022. During the meeting, the President of Baghdad University announced 10 scholarships for Bangladeshi students. He also provided photocopies of newspapers from the university archive that published news on the historical visit of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman to Iraq in 1974. The University authority also



responded positively to the request of Bangladesh Ambassador for allocating

some suitable space for setting up a 'Bangladesh Corner' in its premises.

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## Ambassador of Bangladesh to Spain presented credentials to the Secretary General of UNWTO

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Ambassador of Bangladesh to Spain, Andorra and Equatorial Guinea

and Permanent Representative to the United Nations World Tourism

Organization (UNWTO) Mr. Mohammad Sarwar Mahmood,

Mr. Sarwar Mahmood,





ndc presented his credentials to the Secretary General of the UNWTO Mr. Zurab Pololikashvili at the organization's headquarters in Madrid on 9 February 2022. A series of meetings between them and Ambassador Mahmood's efforts resulted in getting Bangladesh elected as the Vice Chairman of the UNWTO's Regional Commission for South Asia and Mr. Shahid Hamid, a Bangladeshi tourism entrepreneur, as the alternate member-2 of the Ethics Committee.



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## Meeting between Bangladesh Ambassador to Jordan and Representative of UNFPA in Palestine

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Ms. Kristine Blokhuis, UNFPA Representative in Palestine visited Bangladesh Embassy in Amman on 22 February, 2022 and met H.E. the Ambassador of Bangladesh to Jordan.



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## Bangladesh Embassy in Tokyo celebrated the 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Bangladesh and Japan

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Bangladesh Embassy in Tokyo celebrated the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Bangladesh and Japan on 10

February 2022. The reception was well attended by Parliament Members as well as representatives from the local embassies, ministries, business houses,

media and academia and expatriate Bangladeshis. Parliamentary Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan, H.E. Honda Taro was the Chief Guest.



The congratulatory video messages from Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina of Bangladesh and Prime Minister Fumio Kishida of Japan were screened followed by video message of Foreign Minister of Bangladesh, Dr. A. K. Abdul Momen, MP and message from the President of the Japan-Bangladesh

Parliamentary Friendship League, Mr. Taro Aso.

An exhibition of diplomatic archive documents and photographs showcasing the past and present of the bilateral relations between Bangladesh and Japan, unveiling of design of commemorative stamps by Japan Post,

presentation of commemorative coin by Japan Mint enriched the content of the momentous occasion. The event ended by the viewing of video titled “Welcome Bangabandhu” on the historic visit of the Father of the Nation Sheikh Mujibur Rahman to Japan on 18-24 October 1973.



## Bangladesh Ambassador to Brazil presented Letters of Credence to President Jair Bolsonaro

Ambassador Sadia Faizunnesa presented her Letters of Credence as Ambassador Extraordinary and

Plenipotentiary of Bangladesh to the President of the Federative Republic of Brazil President Jair

Messias Bolsonaro, on February 10, 2022. The vibrant presentation ceremony was held at the Planalto





Palace, Presidential Office of the Brazilian Presidency. The ceremony was attended, among others, by the Foreign Minister of Brazil Mr. Carlos Franza. The presentation of credentials was followed by a courtesy meeting between the President and the Ambassador.

Mentioning the 50th anniversary of Bangladesh-Brazil diplomatic relations Ambassador Sadia Faizunnesa stated that Bangladesh looks forward to deeply engaging in a multitude of ways with Brazil- the largest economy in the region and to gain a thrust momentum in the partnership there is no alternative to an exchange of VVIP visit. President Bolsonaro was enthusiastic about visiting Bangladesh, and he committed that his government would continue working with Bangladesh to further strengthen the relations.



During her departure from the Planalto Palace Ambassador Sadia Faizunnesa received a Guard of Honour. Immediately following the ceremony, the Ambassador returned

to the chancery and paid homage to Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman by placing a floral wreath at the portrait of the Father of the Nation.



## Director of the University of Lisbon called on Ambassador of Bangladesh to Portugal

The Director of the Indian Studies Centre of the University of Lisbon Professor Shiv Kumar Sing called on Ambassador Tarik Ahsan in the

Embassy on 11 February 2022. Ambassador Tarik Ahsan highlighted different initiatives of the Mission in fostering bilateral relations with

Portugal as well as focused on few key issues that the Mission wants to get into engagement with Portuguese universities. In particularly,



Ambassador Tarik Ahsan proposed Professor Shiv in organizing joint workshops, seminars and cultural programs on the Genocide during the Liberation War of Bangladesh in 1971. In response, Professor Shiv Kumar expressed his keen interests to collaborate with the Embassy in organizing different events of mutual interests including the genocide issue. He also opined that Portuguese society and intellectuals should know about the genocide and crime against humanity that the Pakistani military along with its accomplices committed



against the people of Bangladesh. Professor Shiv Kumar also said that he would facilitate cooperation

between the Embassy of Bangladesh and the administration of the Lisbon University.

## Embassy of Bangladesh, Tokyo arranged a virtual agreement signing ceremony

Embassy of Bangladesh, Tokyo arranged a virtual signing ceremony on February 16, 2022 of 'Agreement Concerning Technical Intern Training Program' between Bangladesh Overseas Employment and Services Limited (BOESL) and ZENBI CO-OP of Japan, a company of ASEAN Financial Holdings Co. Ltd. Mr.

Toshiaki Nishikawa, Chairman and CEO of ASEAN Financial Holdings Co. Ltd. and Mr. Md. Abdus Sobhan, Company Secretary of BOESL signed in the agreement on behalf of ZENBI CO-OP of Japan and BOESL respectively.

ASEAN Financial Holdings Co. Ltd. will assist BOESL to send technical

interns and specified skilled workers to Japan. H.E. Shahabuddin Ahmed, Ambassador of Bangladesh to Japan, Managing Director of BOESL Officials of the Tokyo Mission and BOESL and journalist were present at both end of the virtual signing ceremony.



## Ambassador of Bangladesh to Italy met Italian Under Secretary of Foreign Affairs

H.E. Mr. Md. Shameem Ahsan, Ambassador of Bangladesh to Italy,

met Under Secretary of Foreign Affairs Honourable Benedetto della

Vedova on 17 February 2022. During the courtesy call, they exchanged





greetings on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Bangladesh and Italy. They expressed deep satisfaction at the excellent bilateral relations between the two friendly countries and reiterated to work closely to further widen the scope of collaboration. The Italian dignitary visited Bangladesh twice (January and November 2016). The Ambassador invited him to visit Bangladesh and the Under Secretary gladly accepted the invitation. Ms. Aysha Akter, Second Secretary (Political) accompanied the Ambassador.



## International Mother Language Day celebrated in Kuala Lumpur



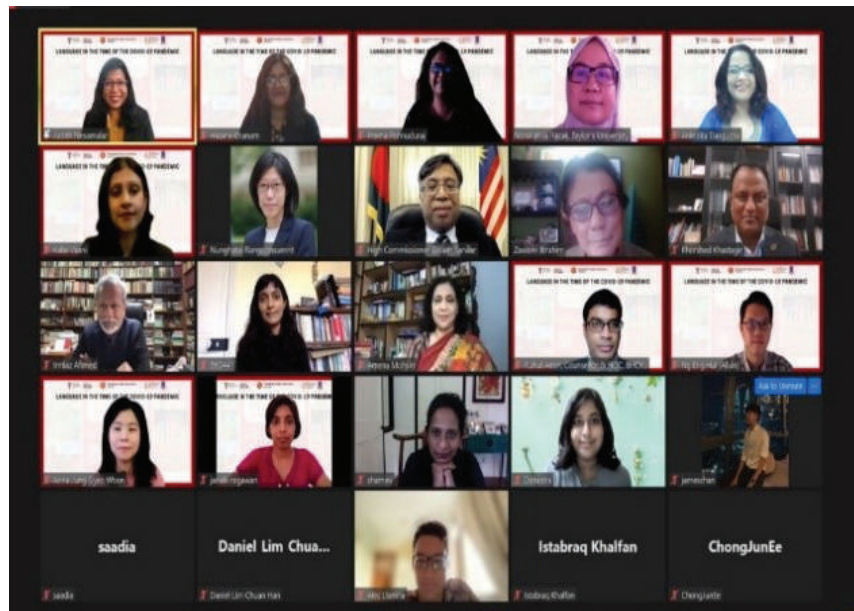
A two-day event to celebrate the International Mother Language Day themed Language in the Time of the Covid-19 Pandemic was organized by Bangladesh High Commission in Kuala Lumpur in collaboration with

the Centre for Genocide Studies, Dhaka University and School of Liberal Arts & Sciences, Taylor's University, Malaysia on 17-18 February 2022 on a virtual platform. Foreign Minister of Bangladesh Dr.

A. K. Abdul Momen, MP in his video message for the event emphasized on the importance of clear and unambiguous interpretation of languages and expressions in the time of the COVID-19 pandemic. A panel



discussion themed ‘Pandemic and Language’ was held wherein scholars Dr. Nunghathai, Chulalongkorn University of Thailand, Shamini Flint from Singapore, Preeta Samarasan from France, Prof. Joseph Gonzales from Hong Kong & Professor Amena Mohsin from Dhaka University, Bangladesh participated. On the 2nd day, in the cultural event, Bangladesh, Malaysia - Kuala Lumpur based diplomatic Missions of India, Nepal, Maldives, Sri Lanka, Russian Federation, Japan, Uzbekistan, and Tajikistan participated with their distinct cultural heritage through plays, musicals and dance performances.



## Martyrs’ Day and International Mother Language Day celebrated at Bangladesh High Commission, Colombo in presence of Prime Minister of Sri Lanka



Bangladesh High Commission, Colombo observed the International Mother Language Day (IMLD) - 2022 at the historic Independence Square with the gracious presence of Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa as well as other dignitaries and hundreds of students from different schools across the island. The theme of this year’s celebration was “Mother-Mother Language- Motherland”. On

this occasion, with the assistance of Sri Lanka’s Ministry of Education, an island-wide creative writing and art competition for children was conducted. In the event, the fifteen winners received their awards and certificates from the Prime Minister and other dignitaries. The day’s attraction was an enthralling multilingual cultural performance by students and performers of Russia

House in Colombo, SAARC Cultural Centre, Maldivian Educational and Cultural Centre, Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre, Alliance Francaise, Bangladesh High Commission in Colombo and singers from Sri Lanka. Their performance represented quintessentially their respective cultural tradition and the love for mother tongue in the forms of song, dance, and recitation. As a part of





the observance, Bangladesh High Commission and the University of Colombo jointly organized a

webinar titled 'Using Technology for Multilingual Learning: Challenges and Opportunities'. A blood-

donation camp was also arranged in association with Sri Lanka Scouts Association.

## Bangladesh Mission in Vienna observed Martyrs' Day and International Mother Language Day' with due solemnity

Language Martyrs' Day and International Mother Language Day was observed by the Embassy and Permanent Mission of Bangladesh in Vienna with due solemnity. Programs of the day started with hoisting of the national flag at half-mast by Ambassador and Permanent Representative Muhammad Abdul Muhith.

A discussion meeting on the significance of the day was held at the Chancery. At the discussion, Ambassador Muhith paid deep tribute to the Father of the Nation Bangbandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman who played a momentous role in the language movement as well as the language martyrs who made supreme sacrifices for the sake of the mother tongue. He mentioned that International Mother Language Day has now become a day of observance of linguistic diversity around the world. He also underscored the significance of the language movement in the evolution



of our national history which became a forerunner to Bengali nationalist movement and subsequently the Liberation War.

In the evening, synchronizing with the first hours of the day back in the country, Ambassador Muhith, accompanied by the officials of the Mission paid homage, in a somber mood, to the 1952 language

movement martyrs by placing floral wreaths at the temporary Shaheed Minar in the Chancery. A large number of Bangladeshis and their family members also placed wreaths and flowers at the Shahehed Minar.

The Embassy hosted a dinner for the guests participating at the events at Chancery.





## International friends joined to celebrate Omor Ekushey and International Mother Language Day, 2022 in Brussels

The Embassy of Bangladesh in Brussels and Mission to the European Union marked 70 years of Omor Ekushey and International Mother Language Day 2022 in Brussels through a day-long programme in two parts, participated by members of the Bangladesh community and international friends.

In his remarks, Ambassador Mahbub Hassan Saleh highlighted the instrumental role of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in the Language Movement building up to the Liberation War of Bangladesh, the vision of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in internationalizing Omor Ekushey as well the role of Sajeeb Wazed Joy in creating a digital Bangladesh.

The programme also saw screening of the song 'Ekush Amar' written by Ambassador Mahbub Hassan Saleh and composed and rendered by Sujit Mustafa.

A record number of international dignitaries provided messages of felicitations, both in live and pre-recorded format highlighting the importance of mother language and recognizing 21st February as the International Mother Language Day. They included, Ms. Louise Haxthausen, UNESCO Representative to the European



Union and Director of the UNESCO Liaison Office in Brussels, Professor Dr. Marc Vervenne, President of the Flemish Commission for UNESCO in Belgium, Ms Themis Christophidou, Director-General, Directorate-General for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture of the European Commission, Prof. Dr. Hans Harder from Heidelberg University, Dr. Wim Vandenbussche,

Professor of Linguistics at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel.

On the occasion of the Day, the Embassy screened the feature film Fagun Haway, based on the Language Movement of 1952. The screening was preceded by a conversation with the Director of the film Mr. Tauquir Ahmed, conducted live by Ambassador Saleh.



## Martyrs' Day and International Mother Language Day observed in Brasilia on 21st February, 2022

Bangladesh Embassy in Brazil in collaboration with UNESCO-Brazil observed and celebrated the Language Martyrs' Day and Celebration of

International Mother Language Day on 21 February 2022 with a webinar and multicultural presentation displaying 7 languages. The blended

virtual event was live streamed in from the Bangabandhu Corner and the Bangabandhu Memorial Library established at the Chancery.





Highlighting the fact that the 1952 Language Movement was the initiation of the struggle for independence of the Bengali nation, Ambassador Sadia Faizunnesa discussed the political significance of the day and the role of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's charismatic leadership that led to the ultimate emancipation of the Bengali nation. The other panellists at the webinar were Ms. Marlova J. Noleto, the PR of UNESCO-

Brazil, Ambassador Shabbir Ahmad Chowdhury, Secretary-West of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Dhaka, and Mr. Eddie Avila- winner of International Mother Language Day award and Director of Activismo Leguas (from Bolivia).

Ambassadors of France, Sri Lanka and the United Kingdom to Brazil and Director of International Relations of the Federal District Governor delivered welcome remarks

in their respective mother tongue. In the multicultural segment, in addition to the Embassy family rendition of the "Amar Bhaiyer rokte Rangano Ekushe February" in Bangla and Brazilian Portuguese, troupes from Brazil, Argentina, Cuba, Egypt, Jamaica, and Bangladesh presented dances traditional to their respective cultures. A highlight of the event was messages depicting the love for mother tongue presented by children in 11 (eleven) different languages.



## Martyrs' Day and International Mother Language Day observed in Addis Ababa on 21st February, 2022



The Embassy of Bangladesh in Addis Ababa observed 'Martyrs' Day and International Mother Language Day 2022' on 21st February, 2022 with due solemnity. The Mission jointly celebrated this significant day in collaboration with UNECA (United Nations Economic Commission for Africa) and UNESCO at UNECA premise, splendidly with a colourful cultural event. Hon'ble Minister of State for Culture and Sports of the

Government of Ethiopia was the Chief Guest at the event. Ambassadors and diplomats from various countries based in Addis Ababa, heads of various UN agencies, high-ranking officials from various Ethiopian Government Ministries and officials, local media representatives and members of the expatriate Bangladeshi community attended the program. Enthusiastic participants including Ambassadors from different countries like Ethiopia,

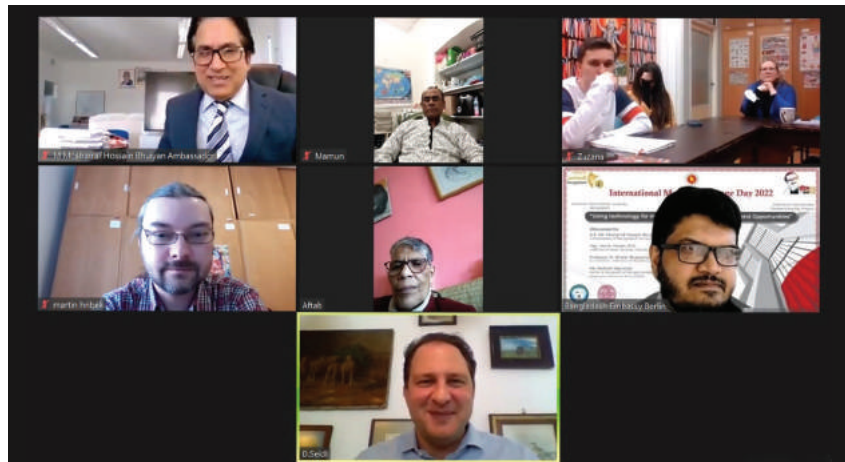
Kazakhstan, Iran, Ghana, India, New Zealand, Yemen and Mexico performed music, poems and dances in their respective languages depicting their culture. A number of dances, songs and poem recitations were performed by the Bengali community. UN telecast the event live and the local media also broadcasted the program with great importance. Traditional Bengali food was served among the guests at the end of the programme.



## Martyrs' Day and International Mother Language Day observed in Bangladesh Embassy, Berlin

The Embassy of Bangladesh, Berlin organized a webinar in collaboration with the Institute of Asian Studies, Charles University, Prague and the American International University Bangladesh. The panel discussants consist of H.E. Md. Mosharraf Hossain Bhuiyan, ndc, Ambassador of Bangladesh to Germany, Mgr. Martin Hribek, PhD, Institute of Asian Studies, Faculty of Arts, Charles University and Ms. Nadirah Majumdar, a Prague based Writer of Bangladeshi origin & the Recipient of Bangla Academy Literary Award (2019) & Anannya Literature Award (2019).

The Ambassador of Bangladesh underlined the sacrifice and contribution of the Father of Nation Sheikh Mujibur Rahman who had been jailed for his involvement in the Language Movement. He highlighted the various initiatives taken by the government concerning digitalization of the education sector and publications of text books into different languages of ethnic minorities of Bangladesh



and emphasized the essentiality of universal access to technology for multilingual education.

Dr. Martin underscored the need of multilingual education in digital platform which evolved as an essential part amid the COVID-19 pandemic. He stressed for enhanced accessibility to digital platforms for multilingual education.

Ms. Majumdar presented her anecdotes concerning the contribution of Czech intellectuals and writers who promoted Bengali literature and culture in Czech

Republic and wrote books about the liberation war of Bangladesh.

The webinar was attended by the students of Bengali language under Asian Studies Department, Charles University, the students from Bangladesh resident in Germany and Czech Republic, students of AIUB and the eminent personalities from Bangladeshi diaspora/ communities in Germany and Czech Republic. American International University Bangladesh Performing Arts Club presented a recorded cultural program marking the occasion.

## Martyrs' Day and International Mother Language Day observed at Bangladesh Embassy in Athens

The Martyrs' Day and International Mother Language Day-2022 was observed at the Bangladesh Embassy in Athens in a befitting manner. The elaborate programme organized by the Embassy on the occasion started with placing of floral wreath by the Ambassador of Bangladesh

to Greece H.E. Mr. Ashud Ahmed at the temporary Shaheed Minar established in the Embassy premises. All Embassy officials and expatriate Bangladeshis living in Greece were present at the time and laid wreaths in memory of the language martyrs. In the morning of 21st February

2022, the programme started with the hoisting of the National Flag at half-mast at the Embassy by H.E. the Ambassador. Messages sent by the Hon'ble President, Hon'ble Prime Minister, Hon'ble Foreign Minister and the Hon'ble State Minister for Foreign Affairs were read out. Special





documentary was also screened. Thereafter a general discussion was held on the significance of the Day.

The Embassy also organized essay writing and art competitions with participation of children and youths

of Bangladesh community on the occasion.



## Bangladeshi expatriates paid tribute to the Shahid Minar at Robin Park, Italy



H.E. Mr. Md. Shameem Ahsan, Ambassador of Bangladesh to Italy,

accompanied by his wife and all the officers of the Embassy of Bangladesh

in Rome and their family members joined the Bangladeshi expatriate



community in Italy in paying deep tribute to the Language Martyrs at 7.01 pm Rome time on 20th February 2022 (12.01 am 21 February 2022 Bangladesh time) at the permanent

Shahid Minar at Itzhak Robin Park, Rome. This Shahid Minar was formally inaugurated in 2011 but was not usable since 2014 due to geological reasons. With vigorous

effort of the Embassy, the Embassy alongwith the community could pay their tribute at the monument this year.

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## Martyrs' Day and International Mother Language Day observed at Bangladesh Embassy in Jordan on 21 February 2022

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Bangladesh Embassy in Jordan organized a program to commemorate Martyrs' Day and International Mother Language Day on 21 February 2022. The Ambassador hoisted the national flag at half-mast and a minute of silence was observed in memory of language martyrs. Hon'ble Home Minister Mr. Asaduzzaman Khan MP attended the program organized at 'Generation for Peace' Auditorium at Sports City as the Chief Guest. Governor of Amman and the Assistant Secretary General of the Ministry of Culture attended as Special Guests. Ambassadors and Diplomats laid floral wreaths to the Monument of Language Martyrs led by the Hon'ble Minister and a

minute of silence was observed in memory of language martyrs. Maj. Gen. Mohammad Ayub Chowdhury, Director General of Passport and Immigration Department and Mr. Md. Abdullah Al Masud Chowdhury, Additional Secretary of Ministry of Home Affairs were present. Hon'ble Home Minister Mr. Asaduzzaman Khan paid homage to Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and said that 21st February is a memorable day with deep significance in the field of socio-economic, literary, civilization and culture of Bangladesh. The Assistant Secretary General of the Ministry of Culture said that International Mother Language Day created an opportunity

to show respect and preserve all the languages. Ambassador Nahida Sobhan paid homage to language martyrs highlighting the language movement which was recognized by UNESCO in 1999.

Various artists from Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Jordan participated in the cultural program. Dances and songs were performed with the participation of Jordanian Music Conservatory, Bangladesh Embassy officials and expatriate Bangladeshi children and adolescents. Ekushey's song "Ekushey February painted in my brother's blood" was performed in Bengali and Arabic with the participation of all.



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## Bangladesh High Commission in Maldives observed Martyrs' Day and International Mother Language Day

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High Commission of Bangladesh in Maldives observed the Martyrs'

Day and International Mother Language Day 2022 with due

respect and solemnity on 21st February. The Mission organized





discussion and art competition for the Bangladeshi expatriate children to observe the day.

Acting High Commissioner Mr. Md Sohel Parvez was the chief guest in the Programme. A good

number of expatriate Bangladeshi participated in the event.



## Martyrs' Day and International Mother Language Day observed in Lisbon

Bangladesh Embassy in Lisbon observed the glorious Language Martyrs' Day and the International Mother Language Day with due solemnity and dignity. Embassy organized a programme at the permanent Shahid Minar at Campo Martires de Patria, Lisbon

in collaboration with the Junta Freguesia de Arroios, the local government body. The Shahid Minar premises was decorated with banners, posters and alphabetic characters. Portraits of language martyrs were put on display at the premises. The programme started with the laying of

floral wreaths by the Ambassador, the President of the Junta de Freguesia de Arroios Ms. Madalena Natividade, and Representative from Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Portugal, Embassy officials and their family members and members of Bangladesh community in Lisbon.



## Bangladesh Embassy in Madrid paid homage to language martyrs

Language Martyrs' Day and the International Mother Language Day was observed at Bangladesh Embassy in Madrid on 21 February 2022 with

due solemnity, commemorating the supreme sacrifice of the language martyrs of 1952. The national flag was hoisted at half-mast. A

discussion session was held at the Embassy in the morning. Messages of the Hon'ble President, Hon'ble Prime Minister, Hon'ble Foreign



Minister and Hon'ble State Minister for Foreign Affairs were read out. Later, in the evening, a reception event was organized at the Casa Asia Conference Centre in Madrid, which was attended by dignitaries from the diplomatic community and academia and also by the members of the expatriate Bangladeshis in Spain. Hon'ble Member of the Bangladesh Parliament Ms. Naheed Ezaher Khan, MP graced the occasion as Chief Guest. Ambassador Mr. Mohammad Sarwar Mahmood, ndc addressed the audience and discussed the rising significance of Bangla as the fourth most widely spoken language of the world.



## Embassy of Bangladesh in Ankara observed Martyrs' Day and International Mother Language Day

The Martyrs' Day and the International Mother Language Day-2022 was observed in Ankara by the Embassy of Bangladesh on 21 February 2022 with due solemnity and reverence. The Day's programs included hoisting of the national flag at half-mast, placing of floral wreaths at the Shaheed Minar and at the bust of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at the Chancery premises by H.E. Mosud Mannan, ndc, Ambassador of Bangladesh to







Turkey, reading out of messages, discussion meeting and a cultural

programme, observing of a minute of silence and offering of a special

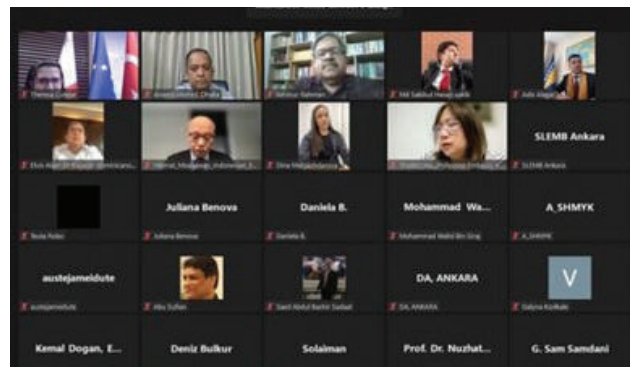
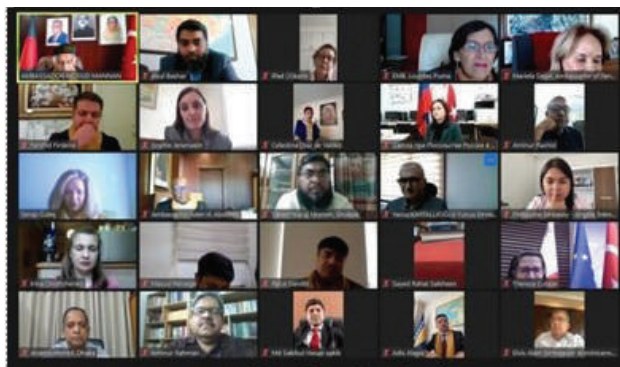
prayer for the martyrs of the language movement.



In the afternoon of the same day, the Embassy hosted an online poetry recitation event. The main purpose of the program was to highlight the importance of mother tongue

to the people of Turkey and other countries in the world. Ambassadors and members of Diplomatic corps, representing 40 countries, attended in the event and many participants

recited poems in their own mother languages. The event was also participated by a good number of Turkish dignitaries and representatives of different organisations.



## Bangladesh High Commission, London commemorated International Mother Language Day

Bangladesh High Commissioner to UK Ms Saida Muna Tasneem called upon the Mayor of London to declare the 21st February as the “London Multilingual Day” during a high-profile event, organised by the Bangladesh High Commission, London in partnership with UK National Commission for UNESCO. Paying rich tribute to 1952 language martyrs and Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the high commissioner recalled that according





to BBC, Bangabandhu was the first Bengali to take Bangla at the United Nations General Assembly; and his visionary daughter Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is now carrying forward the legacy by internationalizing the Bangla Language Martyrs' Day as International Mother Language Day as well as advocating for recognizing Bangla as an official language of the UN.

Commonwealth Secretary-General Baroness Patricia Scotland, UK Ambassador to UNESCO Ms. Laura Davies, Ambassadors and High Commissioners of different countries, Director of the British Council, Lyricist of Amar Ekushey theme song and eminent columnist Abdul Gaffar Choudhury, Bangladesh Liberation War Action Committee UK veteran Sultan Mahmud Sharif

and the Chief Executive of the UK National Commission for UNESCO Mr. James Bridge spoke at the event. A multi-lingual cultural soirée comprising songs, dance and poetry recitations was performed by different high commissions and embassies in London, highlighting language and cultural diversity and paying tribute to the language martyrs.



## Bangladesh Embassy in Hanoi observed Martyrs' Day and International Mother Language Day

Bangladesh Embassy in Hanoi, Vietnam observed 'Omor Ekushe' or the Language Martyrs' Day and International Mother Language Day 2022 with due solemnity and

manner on 21 February 2022. Due to Corona pandemic restrictions imposed by the Vietnam Government on public gathering (diplomatic prog), the programme was limited

to participation of Bangladesh community, some Vietnamese friends and Embassy Officials within the Chancery premise.







## Bangladesh Embassy in Jordan hosted AALIA meeting for diplomatic community members

Ambassador of Bangladesh to Jordan H.E. Nahida Sobhan hosted the meeting of Asian Ambassadors' Ladies in Amman (AALIA) at Bangladesh House. The meeting focused on promotion of Jamdani weaving. During the meeting, the Ambassador hosted lunch for the diplomatic community. Two documentaries were displayed on Jamdani weaving and the Ambassador demonstrated how to put on Jamdani sari. Some spouses of Ambassadors volunteered to try Jamdani sari.



Chief Patron	Dr. A. K. Abdul Momen, MP, Foreign Minister
Patron	Md. Shahriar Alam, MP, State Minister for Foreign Affairs
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