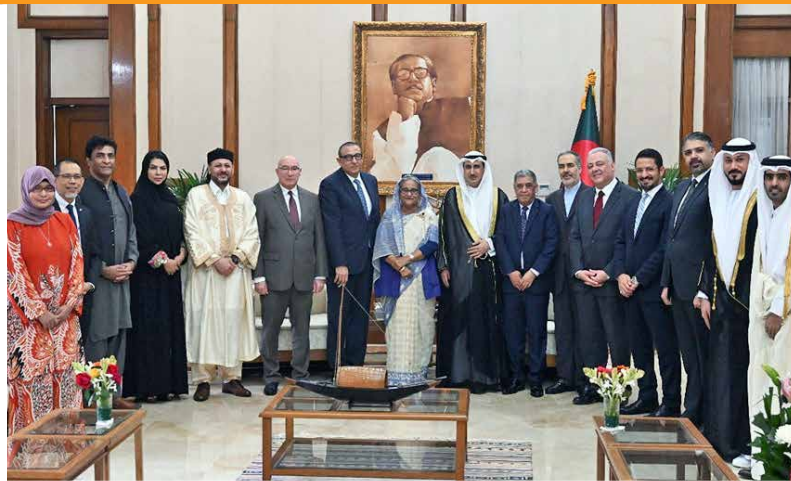




# FOREIGN OFFICE BRIEFING NOTES

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

JANUARY 2024





## How Democracy Won Over Anarchy on January 7th

The 12th national parliamentary election of Bangladesh was held on January 7, 2024, which saw the Bangladesh Awami League winning an overwhelming majority and H.E. Sheikh Hasina taking oath as the Prime Minister of the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh for the fourth straight term (altogether fifth term). The election saw a total voter turnout of 41.8% (Bangladesh

Election Commission), despite a major voter intimidation campaign by the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) and its allies (details below).

More than 119 million voters (119,691,633 to be precise) were on the roll for voting in the 42,024 designated polling stations throughout the country. A total of 2,741 candidates submitted their nomination forms for the 300 directly

elected parliamentary seats, from 30 registered political parties and independents. After thorough vetting by the Election Commission, 28 political parties registered with the Election Commission, and a total of 1,970 candidates, participated in 299 seats, including 436 independent candidates.

### Dateline October 28

In an unsurprising development, Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP)'s much-hyped Grand Rally of October 28, 2023 resulted in widespread violence across Dhaka, targeting law enforcement agents, ruling party activists, as well as civilian populations. There were attacks on journalists, on duty police officials, political rivals, public transport, the residence of the Chief Justice, and even on a hospital. Apart from 41 on duty police officials getting injured, a police constable named Aminul Parvez was killed

during clashes with supporters of BNP in the city's Fakirapool area.

In a post right before their October 28 rally on BNP's Media Cell Facebook page, it was threatened "...we are putting a tight leash on journalists: who are with democracy and who are with autocrats..." True to their words, several journalists belonging to mainstream media outlets of Bangladesh came under attacks from workers and activists of BNP just for covering the political developments. Confirmed attacks took place on

journalists belonging to Dhaka Tribune, Daily Ittefaq, Somoy TV, Jamuna TV, Bangla Tribune, and Daily Kalbela.

Consistent with their legacy of electoral violence (note the violence of 2013-15), unruly BNP activists and supporters once again resorted to vandalism and arson of public and private property before and after their October 28 Grand-Rally. Hundreds of vehicles were torched and/or vandalised in multiple areas of Dhaka.

### Coercive Political Programmes

October 28 was the start of a series of coercive and economy-destroying political programmes from BNP and its allies. Each day of such strikes or blockades cost the Bangladesh economy at least TK 6,000 Crore (US\$ 546.0 million). From October 28 2023 to January 7, 2024, BNP and allies observed a total of 23 days of blockade and 6 days of strikes. During this time, BNP and their allies clashed with law enforcers, attacked political rivals, innocent bystanders, and journalists, and carried out widespread sabotage, vandalism, and arson, targeting both private and public properties. These violence resulted in the death of one Awami League activist, two bus conductors, and six train passengers. Hundreds of law enforcers and first responders were injured too. Attacks were carried out on Awami League offices, educational institutions, and

even hospitals and ambulances.

This violent episode saw a total of 144 police officials, 25 Ansar forces, 3 fire service personnel, 102 ordinary people and more than 50 journalists being burnt and/or injured by BNP-Jamaat activists. A total of 655 vehicles and 10 ambulances were set on fire and/or vandalised. 12 trains and 6 Awami League party offices were burnt down and/or vandalised across Bangladesh, and a courtroom was set on fire in Khulna.

The final phase of the violence just two days before the elections. Till the afternoon of January 6, within a span of 24 hours, a total of 21 arson attacks were reported, mostly targeting schools, which are also used as polling stations during elections in Bangladesh. The most cruel and barbaric of these attacks took place two nights before

the election on a passenger train in Dhaka's Gopibagh area. The attack on Benapole Express claimed the lives of four people (including a child and both his parents) and severely injured a dozen other passengers.

These news and images evoked a horrific flashback of previous similar violent tactics by BNP and its allies. Ten years ago, BNP-Jamaat targeted similar places in a bid to intimidate voters and compel them to stay home and not go out to vote. For instance, the targeting of schools is not new. In Bangladesh, public schools are used as temporary polling centres during elections. The attack on schools comes straight out of the January 2014 election playbook when BNP-Jamaat's arson attacks burnt 553 school buildings across Bangladesh. BNP-Jamaat's violent quest to prevent voting



in the 10th parliamentary elections led to as many as 200 people, including 20 law enforcers, being killed by petrol bombs, handmade bombs and other sorts of violence.

An atmosphere of siege prevailed. BNP-Jamaat activists felled thousands of roadside trees to obstruct highways. They torched small shops, government and private establishments, and even power plants. The goons of BNP-Jamaat vandalised mosques, temples, pagodas and churches, and torched hundreds of copies of the holy Quran. On the day of the election, they killed 26 people, including a presiding officer. Braving all obstacles, people exercised

their voting rights and helped continue the democratic process.

There were more than one spates of violence. From 4 January 2015 onward, marking a year from the 10th parliamentary elections, BNP-Jamaat unleashed another reign of terror. This episode was even more deadly than the 2014 one. This time around, BNP-Jamaat activists' activities resulted in the deaths of 231 people (mostly through arson and petrol bomb attacks) and injured (mostly through burning) 1,180 others. Arson attacks were conducted to burn 2,903 cars, 18 rail carriages and 8 passenger water vessels. Through targeted attacks, 70

government offices were vandalised and/or destroyed and 6 land offices were burnt.

#### Resist Elections, Intimidate Voters

The objective behind the multiple rounds of violence, as well as the consistent coercive political programmes like strikes and blockades since October 28, 2023, was clear: to coerce people to stay home on January 7, 2024. Because a low voter turnout in an election where they are absent would afford BNP and its allies like Jamaat-E-Islami to call into question the legitimacy of the polls. They did the same in 2014 surrounding the 10th parliamentary election.

## Festive Polling Atmosphere

In Bangladesh, national polls are considered quite festive occasions, with a tradition of mass participation. January 7 was no exception. While 41.8% turnout was not the best in Bangladesh's history, it means that despite the violent voter intimidation campaign by BNP and its allies, over

50 million voters went out from their homes to their respective polling centres to exercise their democratic franchise. Except for a few isolated incidents of violence and irregularities, the voting took place among a largely peaceful atmosphere on the day of the vote. Voting took place from 8am

to 4pm, without any break, using transparent ballot boxes and ballot papers in 299 constituencies (election in one constituency was suspended due to the death of a candidate). The 50 million voters voted at around 260,000 polling booths in 42,024 polling stations.

## Role of EC

To increase the transparency of the process, the EC sent ballot papers to the polling centres across the country, except for those in remote and hard-to-reach areas, on the morning of the election day. Throughout the campaign period, the EC played a strict role to encourage compliance with the electoral code of conduct, including cancelling the candidacy of one candidate. The election inquiry

committees issued 746 notices summoning candidates, both party-nominated ones and independents, and also their supporters for breaching poll codes during campaigns with 157 showcases on the last day of campaign.

Around 51 cases have been filed against over 60 violators, including candidates and supporters. Besides, executive magistrates penalised 1,051 people and fined a total TK 3,315,300.

The visible presence of observers also played a big role in the visible polling atmosphere. A total of 20,773 local observers from 84 local organisations registered to monitor the elections, while some 126 observers from 34 countries and 4 organisations, as well as 76 foreign journalists, observed and covered the January 7 elections.

## Security

To ensure security during voting, as well as during the campaign, the government (as per requirements of the EC) deployed 750,000 members of the police, RAB, Ansar, Border Guards, and Coast Guard. To supplement, 38,154 members of the armed forces

(army, navy and air force) were deployed across the country to act as mobile and strike forces. Additionally, 300 electoral inquiry committees, 693 judicial magistrates and 1,965 executive magistrates were on the field to keep the law and order.

And thus, in a continuation for Bangladesh's democratic journey, and a rejection of chaos and terror in the name of politics, democracy once again won over anarchy in Bangladesh on January 7, 2024.

### Shah Ali Farhad

Senior Political Associate

Centre for Research and Information (CRI)

Advocate, Supreme Court of Bangladesh



## **Foreign Secretary Congratulated Hon'ble Prime Minister on 12th National Parliament Election Win**



Foreign Secretary (Senior Secretary) Ambassador Masud Bin Momen congratulated the Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on behalf of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 08 January 2024 at Ganabhaban for winning the 12th National Parliament Election.

## **High Commissioner of India Congratulated Hon'ble Prime Minister**

H. E. Mr. Pranay Kumar Verma, High Commissioner of India to Bangladesh congratulated the Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on 08 January 2024 at Ganabhaban for winning the 12th National Parliament Election.





## **Ambassador of Nepal Congratulated Hon'ble Prime Minister**

H.E. Mr. Ghanshyam Bhandari, Ambassador of Nepal to Bangladesh congratulated the Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on 08 January 2024 at Ganabhaban for winning the 12th National Parliament Election.



## **Ambassador of Bhutan Congratulated Hon'ble Prime Minister**

H.E. Mr. Rinchen Kuentsyl, Ambassador of Bhutan to Bangladesh congratulated the Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on 08 January 2024 at Ganabhaban for winning the 12th National Parliament Election.





## High Commissioner of Sri Lanka Congratulated Hon'ble Prime Minister

H.E. Mr. Dharmapala Weekrakkody, High Commissioner of Sri Lanka to Bangladesh congratulated the Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on 08 January 2024 at Ganabhaban for winning the 12th National Parliament Election.



## Russian Ambassador Congratulated Hon'ble Prime Minister

H.E. Mr. Alexander Vikentyevich Mantytskiy, Ambassador of the Russian Federation to Bangladesh congratulated the Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on 08 January 2024 at Ganabhaban for winning the 12th National Parliament Election.





## Ambassador of China Congratulated Hon'ble Prime Minister

H.E. Mr. Yao Wen, Ambassador of China to Bangladesh congratulated the Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on 08 January 2024 at Ganabhaban for winning the 12th National Parliament Election.



## High Commissioner of Pakistan Congratulated Hon'ble Prime Minister

H.E. Mr. Syed Ahmed Maroof, High Commissioner of Pakistan to Bangladesh congratulated the Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on 08 January 2024 at Ganabhaban for winning the 12th National Parliament Election.





## Moroccan Ambassador Congratulated Hon'ble Prime Minister

H.E. Mr. Majid Halim, Ambassador of Morocco to Bangladesh and Dean of Diplomatic Corps congratulated the Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on 08 January 2024 at Ganabhaban for winning the 12th National Parliament Election.



## Ambassador of Brazil Congratulated Hon'ble Prime Minister

H.E. Mr. Paulo Fernando Dias Feres, Ambassador of Brazil to Bangladesh congratulated the Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on 08 January 2024 at Ganabhaban for winning the 12th National Parliament Election.







## **CDA of Singapore Congratulated Hon'ble Prime Minister**

H.E. Ms. Sheela Pillai, CDA of Singapore to Bangladesh congratulated the Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on 08 January 2024 at Ganabhaban for winning the 12th National Parliament Election.



## **Philippines Ambassador congratulated Hon'ble Prime Minister**

H.E. Mr. Leo. Tito L. Ausan Jr., Ambassador of the Philippines to Bangladesh congratulated the Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on 08 January 2024 at Ganabhaban for winning the 12th National Parliament Election.





## Resident Representative of AKDN Congratulated Hon'ble Prime Minister

Mr. Munir M. Merali, Resident Representative of Aga Khan Development Network congratulated the Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on 08 January 2024 at Ganabhaban for winning the 12th National Parliament Election.



## Japanese Ambassador Congratulated Hon'ble Prime Minister

H.E. Mr. Iwama Kiminori, Ambassador of Japan to Bangladesh congratulated the Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on 09 January 2024 at Ganabhaban for winning the 12th National Parliament Election.





## High Commissioner of Malaysia Congratulated Hon'ble Prime Minister

H.E. Ms. Haznah binti Md. Hashim, High Commissioner of Malaysia to Bangladesh congratulated the Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on 09 January 2024 at Ganabhaban for winning the 12th National Parliament Election.



## CDA of Oman Congratulated Hon'ble Prime Minister

H.E. Ms. Fathia Ahmed Al Bulushi, CDA of Oman to Bangladesh congratulated the Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on 09 January 2024 at Ganabhaban for winning the 12th National Parliament Election.





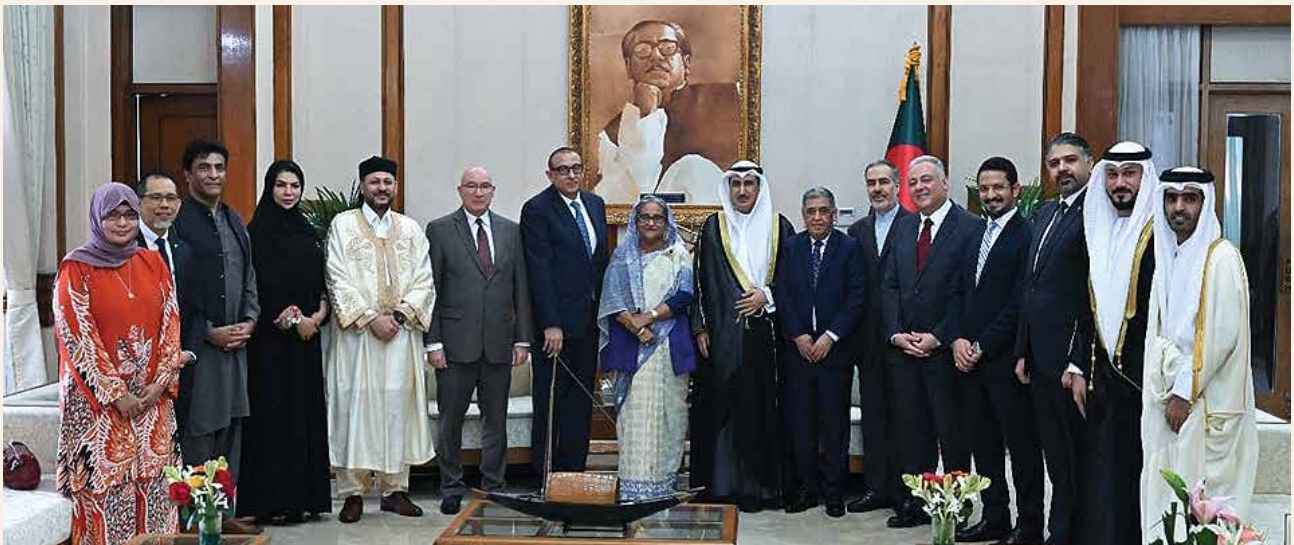
## **CDA of Saudi Arabia Congratulated Hon'ble Prime Minister**

H.E. Mr. Abdulaziz Fahad M Alibrahim, CDA of Saudi Arabia to Bangladesh congratulated the Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on 09 January 2024 at Ganabhaban for winning the 12th National Parliament Election.



## **OIC Member Countries Heads of Mission Congratulated Hon'ble Prime Minister**

OIC member countries Heads of Mission to Bangladesh (Indonesia, Brunei Darussalam, Malaysia, Egypt, Algeria, Kuwait, Libya, Iran, Iraq, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Palestine, Morocco & Pakistan) congratulated the Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on 09 January 2024 at Ganabhaban for winning the 12th National Parliament Election.





## Ambassador of Kuwait Congratulated Hon'ble Prime Minister

H.E. Mr. Faisal Mutlaq Aladwani, Ambassador of Kuwait to Bangladesh congratulated the Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on 09 January 2024 at Ganabhaban for winning the 12th National Parliament Election.



## Ambassador of Libya Congratulated Hon'ble Prime Minister

H.E. Mr. Abdulmutaleb Suliman Mohammed Suliman, Ambassador of Libya to Bangladesh congratulated the Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on 09 January 2024 at Ganabhaban for winning the 12th National Parliament Election.





## **CDA of the UAE Congratulated Hon'ble Prime Minister**

H.E. Mr. Humaid Al Tamimi Charge d' Affaires a.i of the United Arab Emirates to Bangladesh congratulated the Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on 09 January 2024 at Ganabhaban for winning the 12th National Parliament Election.



## **CDA of Qatar to Bangladesh Congratulated Hon'ble Prime Minister**

H.E. Mr. Saeed Jaralla Al-Samikh, CDA of Qatar to Bangladesh congratulated the Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on 09 January 2024 at Ganabhaban for winning the 12th National Parliament Election.





## **CDA of Iraq congratulated Hon'ble Prime Minister**

H.E. Mr. Mohanad Al Darraji, Chargé d' affaires, a.i of Iraq to Bangladesh congratulated the Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on 09 January 2024 at Ganabhaban for winning the 12th National Parliament Election.



## **Ambassador of Algeria Congratulated Hon'ble Prime Minister**

H.E. Mr. Rabah Larbi, Ambassador of Algeria to Bangladesh congratulated the Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on 09 January 2024 at Ganabhaban for winning the 12th National Parliament Election.





## Ambassador of Egypt Congratulated Hon'ble Prime Minister

H.E. Mr. Omar Mohie Eldin Ahmed Fahmy, Ambassador of Egypt to Bangladesh congratulated the Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on 09 January 2024 at Ganabhaban for winning the 12th National Parliament Election.



## Ambassador of Iran Congratulated Hon'ble Prime Minister

H.E. Mr. Mansour Chavoshi, Ambassador of Iran to Bangladesh congratulated the Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on 09 January 2024 at Ganabhaban for winning the 12th National Parliament Election.







## **High Commissioner of Brunei Darussalam Congratulated Hon'ble Prime Minister**

H.E. Mr. Haji Haris bin Othman, High Commissioner of Brunei Darussalam to Bangladesh congratulated the Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on 09 January 2024 at Ganabhaban for winning the 12th National Parliament Election.



## **Ambassador of Palestine Congratulated Hon'ble Prime Minister**

H.E. Mr. Yousef S Y Ramadan, Ambassador of Palestine to Bangladesh congratulated the Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on 09 January 2024 at Ganabhaban for winning the 12th National Parliament Election.





## Ambassador of Republic of Korea Congratulated Hon'ble Prime Minister

H.E. Mr. Park Young-sik, Ambassador of Republic of Korea to Bangladesh congratulated the Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on 09 January 2024 at Ganabhaban for winning the 12th National Parliament Election.



## Ambassador of Indonesia Congratulated Hon'ble Prime Minister

H.E. Mr. Heru Hartanto Subolo, Ambassador of Indonesia to Bangladesh congratulated the Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on 09 January 2024 at Ganabhaban for winning the 12th National Parliament Election.





## Thai Ambassador Congratulated Hon'ble Prime Minister

H.E. Mrs. Makawadee Sumitmor, Ambassador of Thailand to Bangladesh congratulated the Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on 09 January 2024 at Ganabhaban for winning the 12th National Parliament Election.



## Ambassador of Vietnam Congratulated Hon'ble Prime Minister

H.E. Mr. Nguyen Manh Cuong, Ambassador of Vietnam to Bangladesh congratulated the Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on 09 January 2024 at Ganabhaban for winning the 12th National Parliament Election.





## Hon'ble Foreign Minister Joined Uganda NAM Summit



Hon'ble Foreign Minister Dr. Hasan Mahmud, MP led the Bangladesh delegation to the 19th Summit of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) scheduled on 19-20 January 2024 and the Third South Summit of the G77 and China scheduled on 21-22 January 2024 in Kampala, Uganda.

He joined the NAM Summit on 19 January 2024, which was inaugurated by His Excellency Yoweri Museveni, the President of Uganda as the new Chair of the Movement. The inaugural ceremony was also addressed by the President

of Azerbaijan, the outgoing Chair of the NAM, the President of the General Assembly, the Vice President of Cuba as the Chair of the Group of 77 and China and the representatives of different regional groups. Hon'ble Foreign Minister also joined the State Banquet hosted by the President of Uganda.

The Minister had bilateral meetings with a good number of his counterparts. He also had courtesy calls with the UN Secretary-General and Secretary-General of the Commonwealth.

Dr. Hasan Mahmud was accompanied by Ambassador Masud Bin Momen, the Foreign Secretary, who led Bangladesh delegation to the Ministerial meeting and the Senior Official meetings of the NAM, Ambassador Muhammad Abdul Muhith, Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the United Nations, and Ambassador Tareque Muhammad, Bangladesh High Commissioner to Kenya and concurrently accredited to Uganda.

## Hon'ble Foreign Minister Called for Peace, Support to Palestine and Rohingya Repatriation at NAM Summit

Hon'ble Foreign Minister Dr. Hasan Mahmud, MP while leading the Bangladesh delegation in the 19th NAM Summit, called for peaceful settlement of disputes and promotion of culture of peace speaking at the 19th NAM Summit in Kampala,

Uganda on 20 January 2024.

In his speech Hon'ble Foreign Minister referred to the statement of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at the NAM Summit in Algiers in 1973. He highlighted

that Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is carrying forward Bangabandhu's legacy of peace, development and human rights with courage and determination.

Dr. Hasan Mahmud reiterated Bangladesh's unwavering support to



the oppressed people of Palestine and demanded justice for them. He urged the world community to stand with Palestinians and use all tools available to support their cause. He also urged all concerned to redouble efforts to

ensure a sustainable solution to the Rohingya issue. He underscored the need for a constructive and non-confrontational dialogue approach to promote peaceful, just and inclusive societies. The two-day Summit

inaugurated by Uganda President Yoweri Museveni as new Chair of the Movement, adopted the outcome document, Kampala Declaration and a declaration on Palestine.



**Hon'ble Foreign Minister had a meeting with Myanmar Counterpart on NAM Summit Sidelines**

On the sideline of NAM Summit Hon'ble Foreign Minister Dr. Hasan Mahmud, MP held a meeting with Myanmar Foreign Minister Mr. Than Swe. They discussed on Rohingya repatriation and other issues of importance between the two countries.





## **Hon'ble Foreign Minister held talks with Indian Minister of External Affairs in Kampala**

Hon'ble Foreign Minister, Dr. Hasan Mahmud, MP had a bilateral meeting with H.E. Dr. S. Jaishankar, Minister of External Affairs of India, on 20 January 2024 on the sidelines of the 19th Summit of the

Non-Aligned Movement held in Kampala, Uganda.

While Dr. Jaishankar congratulated Dr. Hasan Mahmud in his new role as Foreign Minister, both the leaders discussed various issues

of mutual interests and ways to carry forward the existing excellent bilateral relations between the two countries. They also discussed about the upcoming visit of Bangladesh Foreign Minister to New Delhi.



## **Hon'ble Foreign Minister met Palestinian Counterpart in Kampala**



Hon'ble Foreign Minister, Dr. Hasan Mahmud, MP met H.E. Riyad al-Maliki, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates of the State

of Palestine on 20 January 2024 on the sidelines of the 19th Summit of the Non-Aligned Movement held in Kampala, Uganda.

Palestine Foreign Minister fondly recalled Bangabandhu's unflinching support for the Palestine cause and expressed gratitude to Hon'ble Prime



Minister Sheikh Hasina for carrying forward his legacy and firmly standing by the people of Palestine at this critical moment.

Dr. Hasan Mahmud assured Foreign Minister al-Maliki of the continued

support of the government and people of Bangladesh. Underscoring the profound need for a lasting and permanent solution to the Palestine issue, Dr. Hasan Mahmud committed to continue to extend

necessary diplomatic and legal support and further humanitarian assistance to our brothers and sisters of Palestine.

## Hon'ble Foreign Minister called for strong South-South Cooperation



On 21 January 2024, Hon'ble Foreign Minister Dr. Hasan Mahmud, MP urged the countries in the global South to stand in solidarity and unity to achieve the ultimate goals of sustainable development in his address at the General Debate of the Third South Summit of the Group of 77 (G-77) and China in Kampala, Uganda.

Underlining the ongoing global crisis due to climate change, wars and sanction-counter sanction, debt crisis, and escalating protectionism, he also said that the Member States of G-77 and China must leverage South-South cooperation

to overcome these challenges. He recalled the historic address of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman delivered at the 29th UN General Assembly in 1974 and said that Bangabandhu's message is still very much relevant in the present global context.

Hon'ble Foreign Minister emphasized five pressing issues for a fairer and more equitable world such as, (i) more effective actions for SDGs implementation; (ii) reforming the current international financial architecture; (iii) addressing the technological divides; (iv) ensuring gender equality everywhere and

(v) empowering the youth people through skill development and job creation.

In his address, he further highlighted the pragmatic and pro-development policies of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina that have resulted in sustained economic growth in Bangladesh in the last one and a half decade. He also reaffirmed Bangladesh's commitment to supporting the struggles of the Palestinian people for achieving their right to freedom and justice.

Earlier in the day, he attended the Opening Ceremony of the



Summit. The Opening Ceremony was inaugurated by the President of Uganda Yoweri Museveni, as Chair of the Third South Summit and the new Chair of the Group. The session was also addressed by

Mr. Dennis Francis, President of the 78th Session of the UN General Assembly; Mr. Antonio Guterres, UN Secretary-General; Mr. Liu Guozhong, Special Representative of the President of China; and Mr.

Soltan bin Saad Al-Muraikhi, State Minister for Foreign Affairs of the State of Qatar, the host country of the Second South Summit.

## Hon'ble Foreign Minister Attended Last of Third South Summit

The two-day-long Third South Summit ended with the adoption of the outcome document. Hon'ble Foreign Minister Dr. Hasan Mahmud, MP who led the Bangladesh delegation in the Third South Summit, attended the last day of the Summit on 22 January 2024. Earlier, on the first day, he delivered national statement in the Summit.

The Summit was held with the theme “Leaving No One Behind”. In the statements delivered by the member-States emphasized

trade, investment, sustainable development, climate change, poverty eradication, and the digital economy in fostering South-South Cooperation and collaboration. The member States including Bangladesh called for solidarity, unity, and complementarity in the South to achieve the ultimate goals of sustainable development.

The member-States of the Group of 77 and China adopted the outcome document. With this Summit, Cuba handed over the Chairmanship of the Group of 77 and China to

Uganda. Uganda will be the Chair of the Group of 77 and China for the next one year.

Foreign Minister, Dr. Hasan Mahmud departed for Dhaka after the end of the Summit. On a 4-day visit, he led the Bangladesh delegation in two different important Summits- 19th NAM Summit and Third South Summit. During this time, he held 16 bilateral meetings and calls on including meeting with the Secretary General of the United Nations, Foreign Minister of India and Foreign Minister of Palestine.



## Hon'ble Foreign Minister met UN Secretary General at Third South Summit

Hon'ble Foreign Minister Dr. Hasan Mahmud, MP met UN Secretary General on 21 January 2024 on the sidelines of the Third South Summit

in Kampala, Uganda. During the meeting, UN Secretary General H.E. Antonio Guterres congratulated Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh

Hasina and commended her leadership. Secretary General also appreciated Bangladesh's vital role in the call for reforming global





financial architecture. He also praised Hon'ble Prime Minister for championing some UN-led global processes.

On behalf of the government and the people of Bangladesh, Foreign Minister Dr. Hasan Mahmud commended Secretary General for his bold and crucial role with regard to the War in Gaza. He also requested the Secretary General to keep the Rohingya issue on the top of the UN's agenda.

Noting that 2024 marks the golden jubilee of Bangladesh's membership at the UN, Dr. Hasan Mahmud underscored the need for celebrating this in a befitting manner. He also invited H.E. Guterres to Bangladesh at the latter's convenience.

Dr. Hasan Mahmud briefed the Secretary General on the recently held free, fair and peaceful elections in Bangladesh with people's participation. Hon'ble Foreign Minister led the Bangladesh

delegation to the 19th Summit of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) and the Third South Summit of the G77 and China in Kampala, Uganda. Foreign Secretary (Senior Secretary) Masud Bin Momen, Bangladesh Permanent Representative to the UN Muhammad A Muhith and Bangladesh High Commissioner to Kenya and Uganda Tareque Muhammad among others accompanied Hon'ble Foreign Minister.



## Hon'ble Foreign Minister Had Sideline Meetings in Kampala NAM Summit

Hon'ble Foreign Minister, Dr. Hasan Mahmud, MP had meetings with H.E. Abdullatif bin Rashid Al Zayani, Foreign Minister of Bahrain, H.E. Mauro Vieira, Foreign Minister of Brazil, and H.E. Mohamad Maliki bin Osman, Minister in the Prime Minister's Office & Second Minister for Foreign Affairs of Singapore on 21 January 2024 on the sidelines of the 19th Summit of the Non-Aligned

Movement held in Kampala, Uganda. Foreign Minister Dr. Hasan Mahmud was also called on by H.E. John Mulimba, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of the host country Uganda.

During the meetings, his counterparts congratulated the new government in Bangladesh and, particularly, Dr. Hasan Mahmud for assuming his new

role. They discussed various issues of mutual interests including trade, investment, strengthening of people to people relations and various other aspects of bilateral relationship.

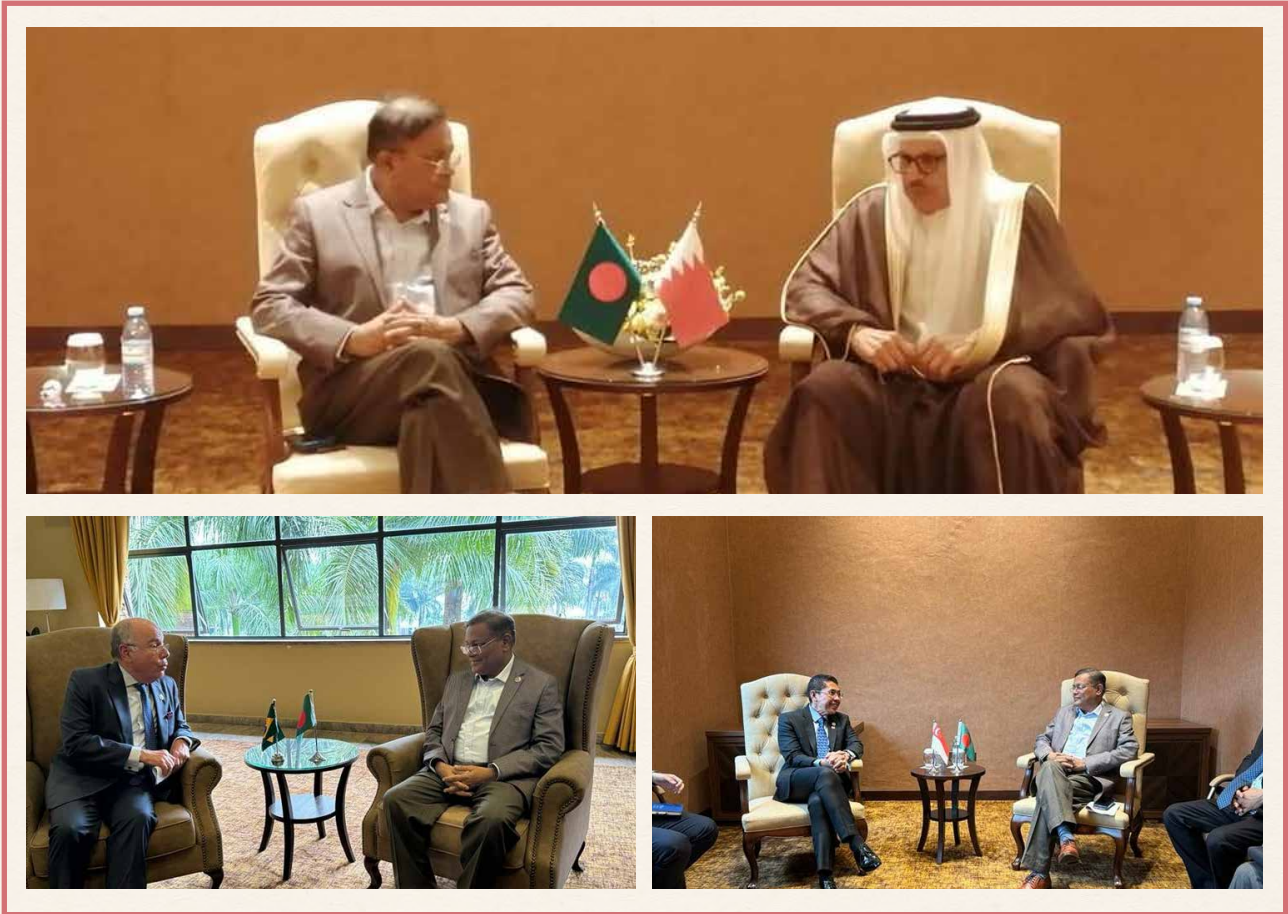
Foreign Minister led the Bangladesh delegation to the 19th Summit of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) and the Third South Summit of the G77 and China in Kampala, Uganda. Foreign Secretary (Senior Secretary)



Masud Bin Momen, Bangladesh Permanent Representative to the UN Muhammad A Muhith and

Bangladesh High Commissioner to Kenya and Uganda Tareque Muhammad among others

accompanied Hon'ble Foreign Minister.



**KSA Vice Minister Called on Hon'ble Foreign Minister in Kampala**

H.E. Waleed El Khereiji, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia called on Hon'ble Foreign Minister, Dr. Hasan Mahmud, MP on 21 January 2024 in Kampala, Uganda.

Vice Minister El Khereiji congratulated Dr. Hasan Mahmud for assuming his new role as Foreign Minister. The two dignitaries discussed various issues of mutual interest including enhancing trade, investment and connectivity between the two brotherly nations.





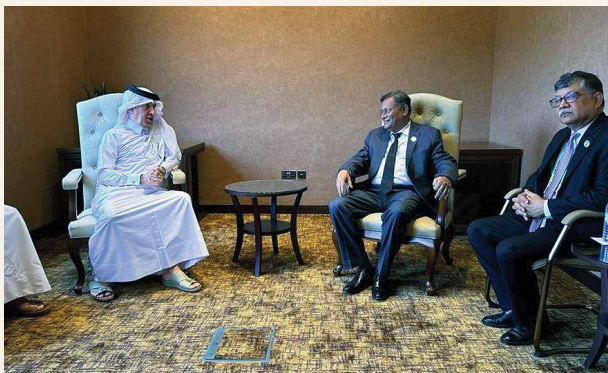
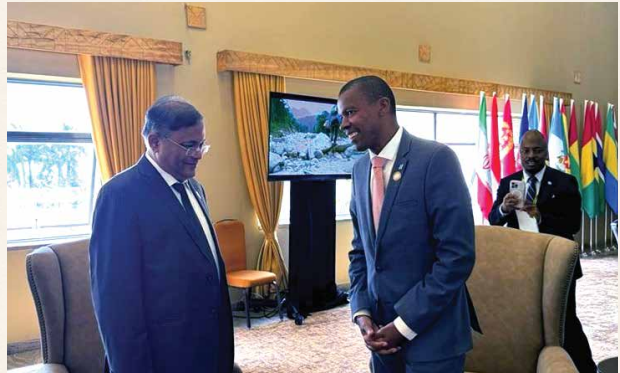
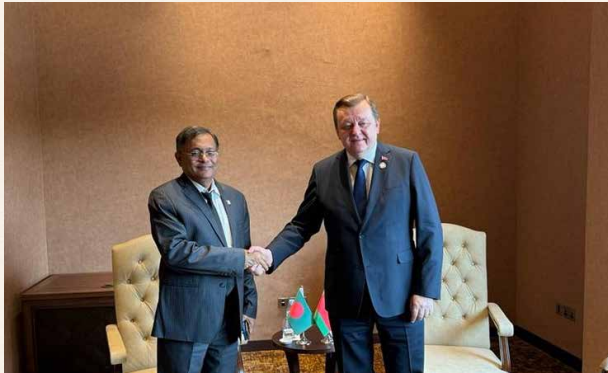
## Sideline Meetings of Hon'ble Foreign Minister in Kampala

Hon'ble Foreign Minister, Dr. Hasan Mahmud, MP had a series of meetings with H.E. Narayan Prakash Saud, Foreign Minister of Nepal, H.E. Lemogang Kwape, Foreign Minister of Botswana, and H.E. Sergei Aleinik, Foreign Minister of Belarus on 20 January 2024 on the sidelines of the 19th Summit of the

Non-Aligned Movement held in Kampala, Uganda.

In a busy day in Kampala, Foreign Minister had also been called on by State Minister of Foreign Affairs of Qatar, H.E. Soltan bin Saad Al-Muraikh and Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs of Indonesia H.E. Pahala Nugraha Mansury.

His counterparts congratulated the new government in Bangladesh and, particularly, Dr. Hasan Mahmud for assuming his new role. Foreign Minister discussed various issues of mutual interests including political, economic and strengthening people to people relations.





## High Commissioner of India called on Hon'ble Foreign Minister

High Commissioner of India H.E. Mr. Pranay Kumar Verma paid a courtesy call on the newly appointed Hon'ble Foreign Minister of Bangladesh H.E. Dr. Hasan

Mahmud, MP on 15 January 2024 at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. This was the first call by a foreign envoy on the Hon'ble Foreign Minister after assuming his charges. During the

meeting, Hon'ble Foreign Minister expressed satisfaction on the existing bilateral relations between the two closest neighbors and hoped to work closely in the coming days.



## Head of EU Delegation called on Hon'ble Foreign Minister

Head of EU Delegation to Bangladesh H.E. Ambassador Charles Whiteley congratulated Hon'ble Foreign Minister Dr. Hasan Mahmud, MP on his appointment as the Foreign Minister of the Government of Bangladesh, during an introductory courtesy call on 17 January 2024 at the latter's Office.

The Hon'ble Foreign Minister referred to Bangladesh's longstanding value-driven partnership with the EU and recalled the recent visit of Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to Brussels in October 2023 to further elevate the partnership

to a new height. He expressed the hope that the negotiations on the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement between the two sides would commence soon to open a new chapter in Bangladesh-EU relations.

Commending the EU as Bangladesh's largest export market, the Hon'ble Foreign Minister requested for EU's Everything But Arms (EBA) trade concessions until 2032 to support Bangladesh's smooth graduation from the LDC status as well as EU's import of diversified products from Bangladesh including jute and jute goods along with traditional

products like apparels and shrimps. The two sides also discussed ongoing Bangladesh-EU cooperation on migration management and talent partnership. Thanking the EU for its humanitarian assistance to the forcibly displaced Rohingyas, temporarily sheltered in Bangladesh, the Hon'ble Foreign Minister underlined the necessity to keep the Rohingya crisis under global attention and sought EU's strong support in resolving the crisis through their repatriation to Myanmar with safety, security and dignity.

The Ambassador highlighted EU's



interest in supporting Bangladesh's green transition, particularly renewable energy sector under the Global Gateway and appreciated the Hon'ble Foreign Minister's offer of a dedicated zone for establishing factories by the EU businesses at the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Shilpa Nagar. The Hon'ble Foreign Minister suggested that European

businesses and financing institutions can strongly participate in Bangladesh's renewable energy sector through private sector collaboration as the government has given special emphasis on the generation of electricity from renewable sources.

Both sides expressed concerns over the conflicts around the world and

shared their views on the Russia-Ukraine war and the war in Gaza. The Hon'ble Foreign Minister expressed deep concerns over the indiscriminate killing of innocent civilians, mainly women and children, in Gaza.



**US Ambassador called on Hon'ble Foreign Minister in Dhaka**

US Ambassador H.E. Mr. Peter Haas made his maiden call on Hon'ble Foreign Minister of Bangladesh, Dr. Hasan Mahmud, MP at his

office in the Ministry on 17 January 2024. During the meeting, the Foreign Minister appreciated the existing dynamic and multifaceted

relationship with the US and expressed hope to deepen and broaden it in the coming days.





## World Bank Country Director paid a courtesy call on Hon'ble Foreign Minister

Mr. Abdoulaye Seck, World Bank Country Director to Bangladesh and Bhutan paid a courtesy call on the Hon'ble Foreign Minister on 23 January 2024 at his office at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Mr. Abdoulaye Seck congratulated Hon'ble Foreign Minister for being appointed as Foreign Minister of Bangladesh. He mentioned that World Bank has been intensively engaged in Bangladesh and would

like to further strengthen the partnership in the coming days.

Hon'ble Foreign Minister thanked the World Bank for its support since the independence of Bangladesh. He mentioned about Bangladesh's tremendous socio-economic progress attained under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. Hon'ble Foreign Minister requested the World Bank to support in improving the quality of people's

life, especially in the environment and health sectors of Bangladesh. They discussed about how support could be scaled up for the Rohingya humanitarian crisis in Bangladesh. Hon'ble Foreign Minister requested the World Bank to engage with the government of Myanmar for safe, voluntary and dignified repatriation of the Rohingyas to Myanmar.



## British High Commissioner Called on Hon'ble Foreign Minister

British High Commissioner to Bangladesh H.E. Ms. Sarah Cooke congratulated Hon'ble Foreign Minister Dr. Hasan Mahmud, MP on his appointment as the Foreign Minister and handed over a felicitation message from the UK's Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs the Rt Hon Lord Cameron addressed to Hon'ble Foreign

Minister, during the courtesy call on 24 January 2024 at the latter's office.

The Hon'ble Foreign Minister termed the relations between the two Commonwealth nations as historic and stated that today's vibrant Bangladesh-UK relations started its journey on 8 January 1972, when Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman first reached London on

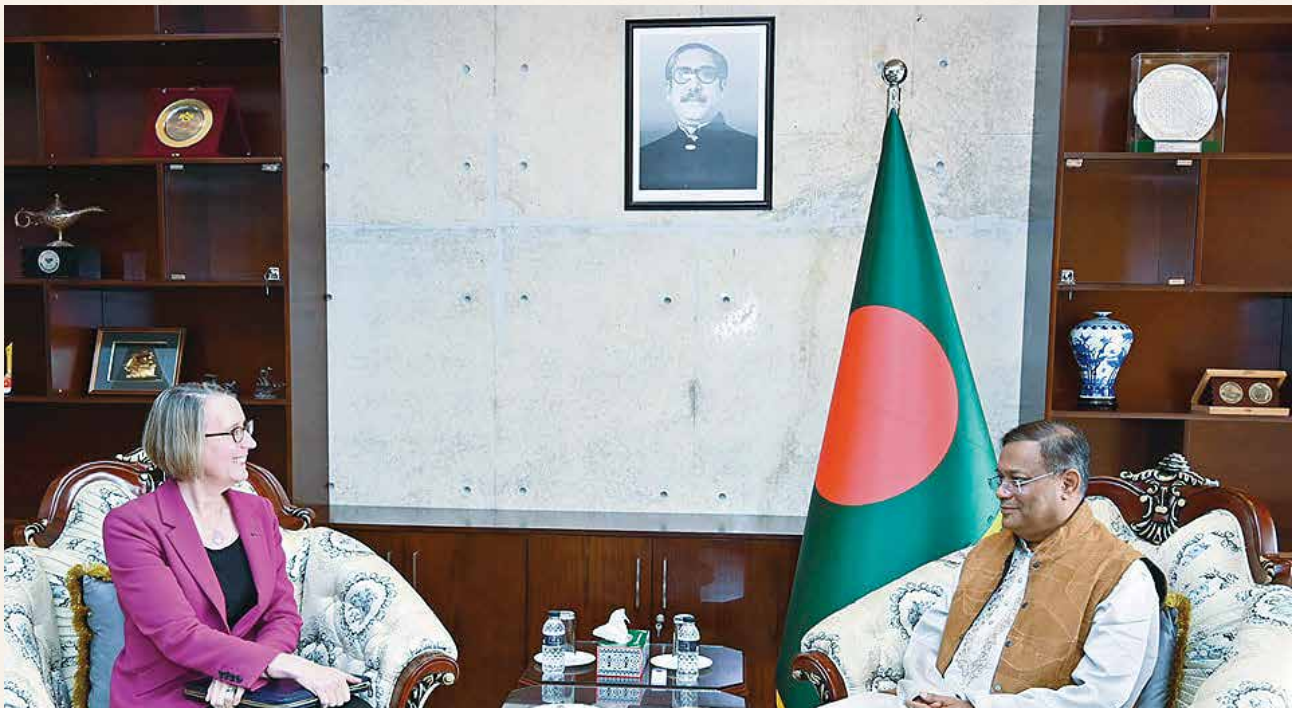
his way to independent Bangladesh from the captivity in Pakistan. He thanked the British Government for being one of our important development, trade and investment partners, and underlined the need for further collaboration in trade and investment, general economic reform, ICT and cybersecurity, tackling climate related challenges and Rohingya issue.



The British High Commissioner lauded the spectacular socio-economic development of Bangladesh over the last decade and expressed satisfaction that bilateral relations between the two countries have been evolving from development-centric to strategic. She looked forward to strengthening bilateral ties in trade and investment, finance, climate change, migration, defence,

cybersecurity and aviation. The British High Commissioner assured UK's continued humanitarian assistance to the Rohingyas, temporarily sheltered in Bangladesh and political support to the Rohingya crisis. Both sides also acknowledged that a large number of British-Bangladeshi Diaspora continue to remain an important force in the Bangladesh-UK bilateral relations.

The Hon'ble Foreign Minister and the British High Commissioner shared their views on wars and conflicts in different parts of the world, including in Ukraine, Gaza and the Red Sea and their resultant negative impacts on the economies of the two countries.



## German Ambassador called on Hon'ble Foreign Minister

Ambassador of Germany to Bangladesh H.E. Mr. Achim Truster congratulated Hon'ble Foreign Minister Dr. Hasan Mahmud, MP on his appointment as the Foreign Minister and handed over a felicitation message from the German Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs H.E. Ms. Annalena Baerbock addressed to Hon'ble Foreign Minister, during the courtesy call on 25 January 2024 at the latter's office. The German Ambassador also handed over the hard copy of

the congratulatory message from the German Chancellor H.E. Olaf Scholz addressed to Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

The Hon'ble Foreign Minister termed the relations between the two nations as historic and stated that today's vibrant Bangladesh-Germany relations has its roots since Bangladesh's War of Liberation in 1971. He recalled the remarkable support rendered by Germany and its nationals in adopting numerous war-babies as foster parents and

lauded German medical support to a number of injured freedom fighters after the independence. The German Ambassador thanked the Hon'ble Foreign Minister for his recollection and reaffirmed the amity between the people of the two nations, officially since 1972.

The German Ambassador lauded the spectacular socio-economic development of Bangladesh over the last decade. He particularly underscored the projection of Bangladesh as of now instead



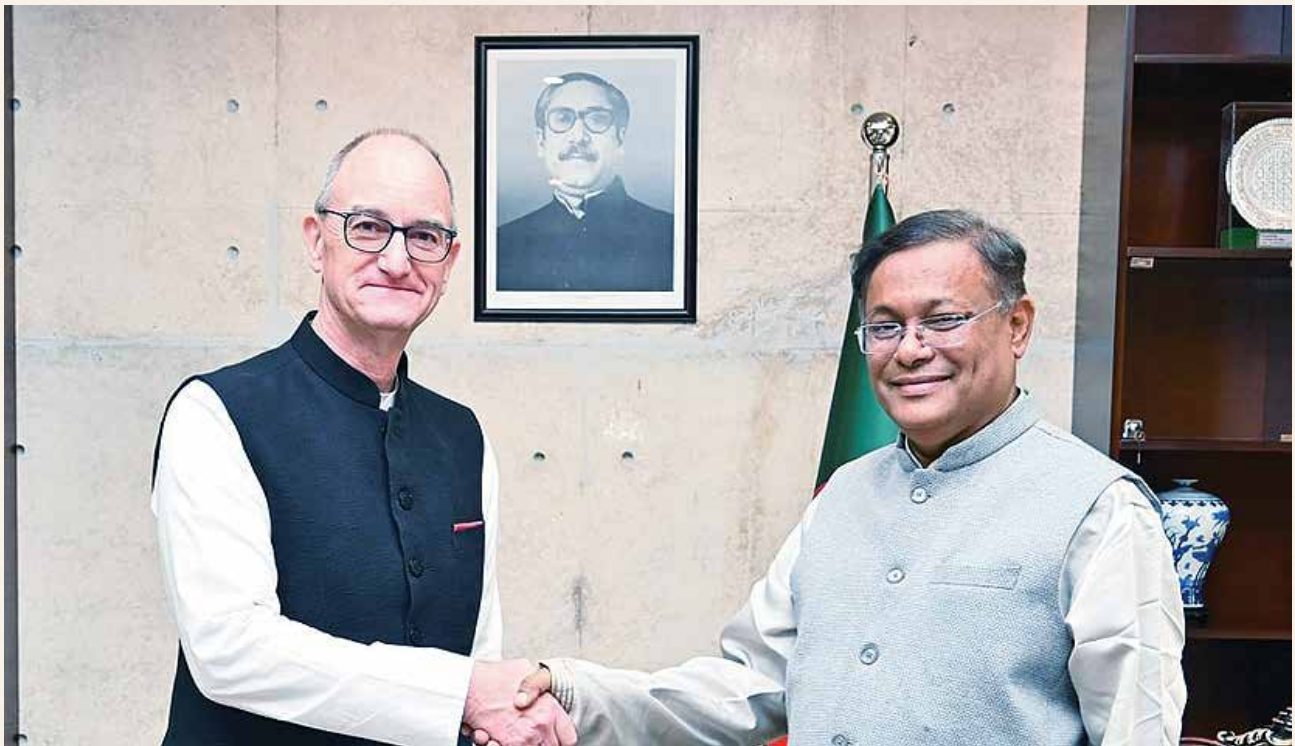
of what it has historically been projected as. He informed that he has been actively connecting with the strong and vibrant modern socio-economic reality of Bangladesh and highly praised initiatives taken by Bangladesh government in strongly projecting achievements of new Bangladesh in Germany.

Hon'ble Foreign Minister thanked

the Ambassador and added that the new Bangladesh is already offering amazing investments opportunities, facilitated through Special Economic Zones and Hi-Tech and Software Technology Parks across the country.

The Hon'ble Foreign Minister and German Ambassador expressed satisfaction between the two countries in international fora,

including in the UN. The Hon'ble Foreign Minister and the German Ambassador also shared their views on wars and conflicts in different parts of the world, including in Ukraine, Gaza and the Red Sea and their resultant negative impacts on the economies of the two countries.



## **The French Ambassador Paid Courtesy Call on Hon'ble Foreign Minister**

The French Ambassador to Bangladesh H.E. Ms. Marie Masdupuy congratulated Hon'ble Foreign Minister H.E. Dr. Hasan Mahmud, MP on his assumption of office of the Foreign Minister, during an introductory courtesy call on 25 January 2024, at the latter's office. The Hon'ble Foreign Minister fondly recalled the recognition of Bangladesh's independence by France in February 1972 as one of the first few countries and termed the

relations between the two countries as long-standing friendship. He referred to the recent exchange of visits by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to France in November 2021 and French President Emmanuel Macron to Bangladesh in September 2023 that transformed our bilateral relations towards a strategic one and thanked for the congratulatory letter to Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina from the French President on her re-election. The Hon'ble

Foreign Minister thanked the French government for its development cooperation as well over the years, including financial commitments of Euro 1 billion for the next 3 years towards Bangladesh's climate actions, poverty alleviation, and economic development, etc.

The French Ambassador expressed interest of the French government to have more strategic collaboration and partnership in the areas of climate





change, migration, cybersecurity, ICT, defense, aviation, space, economic reforms and vocational education and skills development. She underlined similarities of culture, cuisine and arts between the two peoples and requested enhanced

cooperation in archaeological missions and exchange of cultural troupes. Paris will host a two-week-long festival on Bangladeshi culture and arts in Paris next year, she informed.

In reply to the deep concerns raised

by the Hon'ble Foreign Minister on the Rohingya issue, the French Ambassador assured of continued humanitarian and political support of her government. Both sides also shared views on the war in Gaza and hoped for an early end to the crisis.



## **British Cross-Party Parliamentary Delegation Called on Hon'ble Foreign Minister**

A 4-member Cross-Party Parliamentary delegation from the UK paid a courtesy call on Hon'ble Foreign Minister Dr. Hasan Mahmud, MP on 27 January 2024 at the State Guest House-Padma.

The Hon'ble Foreign Minister recalled with gratitude the immense moral and political support of the British government and people during our War of Liberation and the historic journey of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman to London on 8 January 1972 on his way to independent Bangladesh from the captivity in Pakistan. He appreciated

the UK for being a long-standing friend of Bangladesh and one of our largest development partners and noted the sharing of the same values of democracy and parliamentary practices.

The British Cross-Party Parliamentary delegation praised the spectacular socio-economic development of Bangladesh under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and appreciated the changed Bangladesh with mega infrastructures like new airport terminal, elevated expressway, metro rail in Dhaka. They acknowledged

the immense contributions of the British-Bangladeshi Diaspora to the economy, culture and society of the UK and termed them as the living bridge between the two Commonwealth nations.

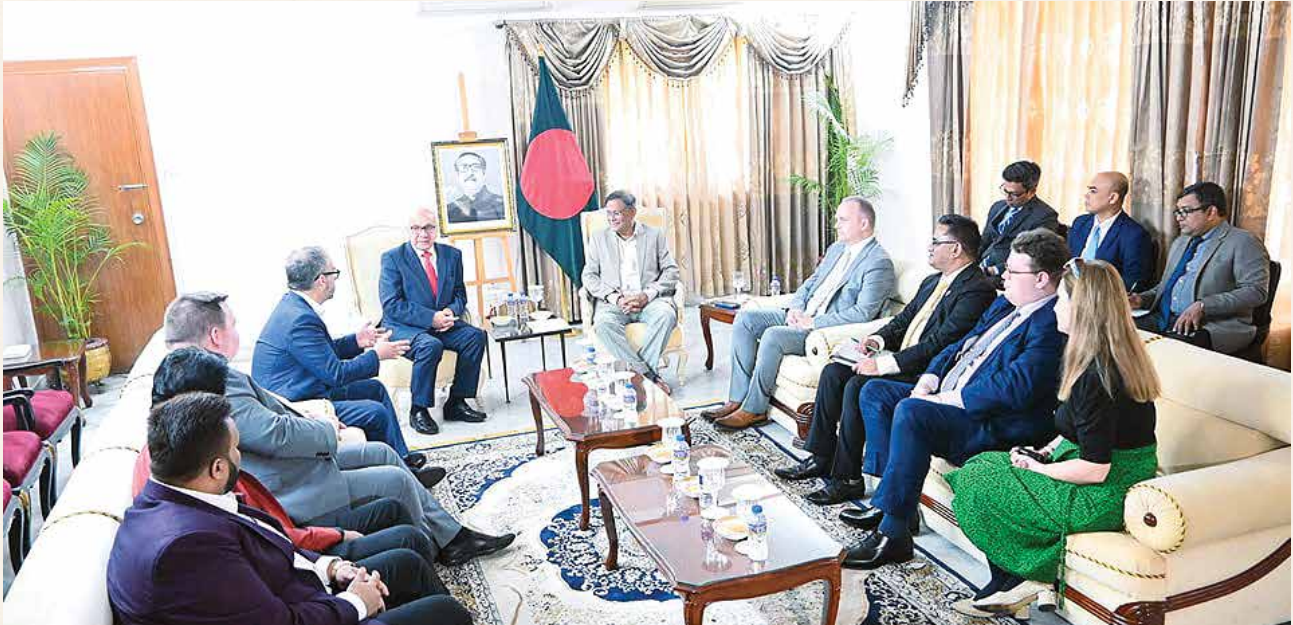
Hon'ble Foreign Minister invited more FDI from UK into Bangladesh in emerging sectors like ICT, light engineering, and agro- and food-processing sectors, while highlighting the remarkable success stories of Bangladesh in agriculture mechanization, food sufficiency, disaster management and tackling climate change. The delegation



assured of their contributions towards further support of the UK government to the Rohingya crisis.

They also expressed interest in further strengthening bilateral ties through collaboration in trade and

investment and climate change issues.



**Hon'ble Foreign Minister Highlighted Economic And Power Sector Cooperation With Nepal**



Ambassador of Nepal to Bangladesh H.E. Mr. Ghanshyam Bhandari paid a courtesy call on H.E. Mr. Dr. Hasan Mahmud, MP, Hon'ble Foreign Minister at latter's Office on 28 January 2024. Foreign

Minister Dr. Mahmud expressed his satisfaction over the increasing momentum of bilateral engagements between Bangladesh and Nepal. He underlined the need for expanding economic and power sector

cooperation for the betterment of the people of the two countries.

Congratulating the Foreign Minister, Nepalese Ambassador Mr. Bhandari expressed happiness on the existing friendly relations between



the two countries. He termed the relationship between Bangladesh and Nepal as trouble-free relations. He appreciated Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for achieving unprecedented socio-economic advancement in the last fifteen years. He also briefed the Hon'ble Foreign Minister about the activities undertaken by the Mission with view to strengthening and deepening the areas of cooperation

between the two countries. He mentioned that the excellent relations at the political and people-to-people levels further may be strengthened in the areas like trade, connectivity, energy, tourism and education, among others.

They also discussed regional and international issues of mutual interest. Both sides agreed to

advance the relations for promoting regional cooperation and they agreed to work together towards further consolidating the existing relations. Both sides also stressed to work together to address challenges to be faced after graduating from LDC status. Nepalese Ambassador extended invitation to Dr. Mahmud on behalf of the Foreign Minister of Nepal to visit Nepal.

## Ambassador of China Called on Hon'ble Foreign Minister



The Ambassador of China to Bangladesh H.E. Mr. Yao Wen paid his maiden call on the Hon'ble Foreign Minister H.E. Dr. Hasan Mahmud, MP at the latter's office in MoFA on 28 January 2024.

Ambassador Wen congratulated the Hon'ble Foreign Minister for being the new Foreign Minister of Bangladesh. He appreciates the impressive socio-economic development that Bangladesh has achieved in the last one-and-a-

half decades. He congratulated all concerned in Bangladesh for holding the free, fair and festive national elections recently. China reiterated its position to further strengthen the bilateral relations during the new tenure of the government in Bangladesh. HFM thanked the Ambassador for the congratulatory letters that the Hon'ble President and the Hon'ble Premier of China have sent to the Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina as well as the congratulatory letter that the Hon'ble

Foreign Minister of China has sent to him for assuming the charge in respective offices. Hon'ble Foreign Minister expressed his satisfaction in the existing development cooperation between Bangladesh and China and hoped the engagements will further increase to bring mutual benefit of the peoples. He stressed the need of more people-to-people connectivity between the two countries. He also referred to the existing trade deficit and requested for China's further imports from Bangladesh.



Ambassador Wen informed that China is taking necessary actions to import more from Bangladesh, especially the items like jute and jute goods, leather, meat and sea-food. China is also expecting to complete their internal process to start importing Bangladeshi mangoes by the 2nd half of this year. HFM appreciates the progress in Free

Trade Agreement (FTA) negotiations between Bangladesh and China and hoped that it will be finalized by 2026 before the graduation of Bangladesh from the LDC category. HFM also acknowledged China's contribution to vaccine support for Bangladesh during the Covid-19 pandemic. HFM thanked China for helping the process to repatriate

the Forcibly Displaced Myanmar Nationals from Bangladesh to their home in Myanmar. Ambassador Wen reiterated China's stance that repatriation is the only means to have a sustainable solution of the crisis and China is working with all the stakeholders to that end.

**UN Resident Coordinator Met Hon'ble Foreign Minister**



UN Resident Coordinator in Bangladesh, Ms. Gwyn Lewis paid a courtesy call on Hon'ble Foreign Minister Dr. Hasan Mahmud, MP on 28 January 2024.

Ms. Lewis congratulated the Foreign Minister on his appointment.

Foreign Minister referred to his recent meeting with UN Secretary General H.E. Antonio Guterres in Kampala and appreciated Secretary General's steadfast stance on critical global issues, including on the catastrophic situation in Gaza. He further commended the Secretary General for his congratulatory letter to Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina acknowledging her leadership and valuable contributions to addressing pressing

global challenges. On the Rohingya issue, Dr. Hasan Mahmud noted the significant burden on Bangladesh and underscored the urgency of early repatriation. Mentioning the diminishing humanitarian support to the forcibly displaced Myanmar nationals, he requested the UN and the international community to keep the Rohingya issue at the top of the agenda. The Resident Coordinator acknowledged the security implications arising from the prolonged crisis.

The Resident Coordinator briefed the Foreign Minister on the various areas of collaborations between the UN country team and the Government of Bangladesh including on technical assistance provided by the UN with regard to Bangladesh's graduation

from the LDCs.

Indicating Bangladesh's multifaceted collaboration with the UN system, Hon'ble Foreign Minister emphasized the importance of maintaining consistency across the UN system. He requested the UN to ensure that all its offices remained on the same page on various issues and to verify information before making public statements.

Noting that 2024 marks the golden jubilee of Bangladesh's membership at the UN, Dr. Hasan Mahmud underlined the need for celebrating the occasion in a befitting manner. He assured the Resident Coordinator and her team of his office's all-out support and cooperation in discharging their responsibilities.



## Canadian High Commissioner Called on Hon'ble Foreign Minister



Canadian High Commissioner for Bangladesh, H.E. Ms. Lilly Nicholls called on the Hon'ble Foreign Minister Dr. Hasan Mahmud, MP at his office on 29 January 2024. They discussed forward-

looking engagements in trade and investment, education and skills development, migration and people-to-people contacts, Rohingya issues and other facets of bilateral relations. The Hon'ble Foreign Minister has

also asked for working together to find legal avenues to bring back Nur Chowdhury, the self-confessed killer of Bangabandhu, who has been taking refuge in Canada.

## New FAO Representative Presented Credentials to Hon'ble Foreign Minister



Mr. Shi Jiaoqun, the new FAO Representative to Bangladesh presented his Credentials to the Hon'ble Foreign Minister Dr. Hasan Mahmud, MP at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 29

January 2024. The Hon'ble Foreign Minister welcomed the new FAO Representative and assured him of necessary support in discharging his responsibilities. He highlighted Bangladesh's remarkable progress

in food security and agricultural production despite facing the challenges of shrinking arable land, growing population and climate impacts. He sought FAO's customized technical assistance



for enhancing local wheat and maize production in order to help address growing demands currently met through imports. He also urged the Country Representative to align FAO's activities with the relevant priority areas identified in the Bangladesh Delta Plan 2100. Hon'ble Foreign Minister reiterated

Bangladesh's interest in supporting contract farming through private sector engagement in interested African countries.

Mr. Shi congratulated the Hon'ble Foreign Minister on his new assignment and recalled the excellent partnership forged since

Bangladesh's FAO membership in 1973. He flagged that FAO has so far implemented more than 400 projects worth USD 500 million over the last fifty years, and assured of sustained support to the line Ministries and agencies towards achieving the national goals and aspirations.

**Danish Ambassador Paid Courtesy Call on Hon'ble Foreign Minister**

Ambassador of Denmark to Bangladesh H.E. Mr. Christian Brix Moller congratulated Hon'ble Foreign Minister Dr. Hasan Mahmud, MP on his appointment as the Foreign Minister, during an introductory courtesy call on 29 January 2024 at the latter's office.

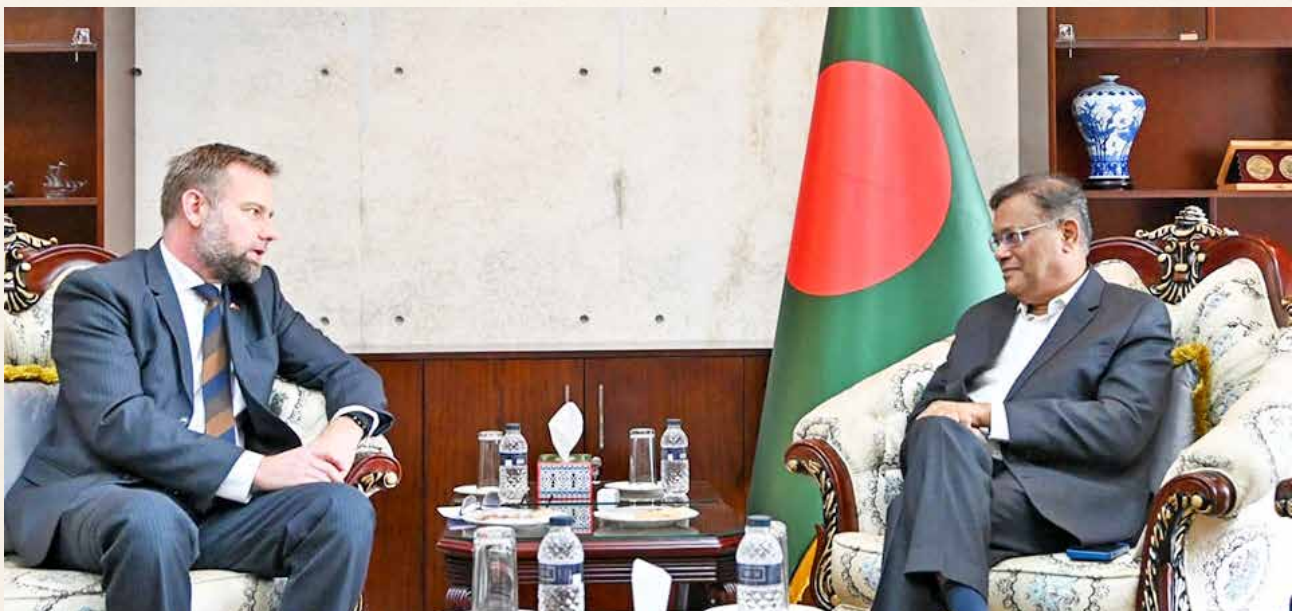
The Hon'ble Foreign Minister thanked Denmark for its continued development cooperation support to our climate affected communities along coastal areas and the Danish businesses for their investment, particularly in the shipping, logistics and pharmaceuticals sectors and suggested establishing factories at the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Shilpa Nagar in Chattogram with a dedicated

area for Danish investments. Highlighting Danish knowledge and expertise, he requested for Danish investments in renewable energy, particularly offshore wind and solar energy as well as in ICT sector. The Hon'ble Foreign Minister expressed optimism to further strengthen our bilateral ties and widen business baskets further.

The Danish Ambassador termed the relations between the two countries as value-based, exceptional and strong. Bangladesh is Denmark's second largest development partner and the largest in terms of per capita trade, he added. He raised increasing interests of Danish companies in our port infrastructure

and renewable energy sectors e.g. APM Terminals initiatives to construct and operate a container terminal at Laldia in Chattogram and Copenhagen Infrastructure Partners and Copenhagen Offshore Partners proposal to invest US\$ 1.3 billion in Bangladesh to generate 500 MW offshore wind energy. He also expressed Danish investors interest in establishing cold chains in Bangladesh. The Ambassador hoped for a visit by the Danish Foreign Minister to Bangladesh in near future.

Both sides also expressed satisfaction over collaboration between the two countries in multilateral fora and on climate and green transition issues.





## Foreign Secretary Attended NAM Ministerial Meeting in Kampala

Foreign Secretary, Ambassador Masud Bin Momen urged for greater unity and solidarity among the NAM member-States to ensure shared global prosperity.

While speaking at the Ministerial meeting of the NAM in Kampala, Uganda on 17 January 2024, Foreign Secretary referred to the statement of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at the NAM Summit in Algiers in 1973 where Bangabandhu emphasized the principles of self-reliance and effective economic

cooperation among the non-aligned countries which is still relevant after 50 years.

Foreign Secretary also highlighted the progresses achieved under the leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and mentioned that the people of Bangladesh re-elected her through a free, fair, peaceful and participatory election, to continue her march towards development and prosperity. He also called for establishing effective mechanisms inside the NAM to help the NAM countries from LDC graduation and

also to deal with the aftermath of the graduation.

Foreign Secretary also attended the meeting of the NAM Ministerial Committee on Palestine and reiterated Bangladesh’s unequivocal support for the legitimate right and just struggle of the Palestinian people for their freedom from Israeli occupation and oppression. He also urged the members of the Movement to use all tools available to secure an immediate ceasefire in Gaza.



## 19th NAM Summit Commenced With Ministerial Meeting in Kampala

The 19th Summit of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) kicked off with ministerial level meeting in Kampala, Uganda with the theme “Deepening cooperation for shared global affluence”. The Ministerial meeting was inaugurated by Jessica Alupo, Vice President of the Republic of Uganda. The Ministerial meeting continued on 17 and 18 January followed by the Summit level meeting on 19 and 20 January 2024.

Before the Ministerial meeting, the Senior Officials Meeting of the Non-

Aligned Movement was held on 15-16 January 2024 to finalize the outcome document and declaration of the Summit. In the meeting, the issue of Israeli attack in Gaza dominated the discussion. Along with other political, economic and social issues, the Palestine issue remained in focus during the Ministerial meeting. The Ministers of the member States of the Non-Aligned Movement adopted the outcome document of the Summit as well as the Kampala Declaration and Political declaration on Palestine at the Ministerial level and put forward

the documents for the consideration of the Head of States and Head of Governments at the Summit.

Presidents, Prime Ministers and Foreign Ministers of more than 80 countries attended the 19th Summit of the NAM – the largest multilateral platform after the United Nations. In the Summit, Azerbaijan handed over the Chairmanship of NAM to Uganda for the next three years.

Bangladesh delegation in the NAM Summit took place on 19-20 January 2024 led by Hon’ble Foreign



Minister, Dr. Hasan Mahmud, MP. Whereas, in the Ministerial meeting of the NAM, Bangladesh delegation was attended by Foreign

Secretary Ambassador Masud Bin Momen, Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the United Nations Ambassador Muhammad Abdul

Muhith, and High Commissioner of Bangladesh to Kenya Ambassador Tareque Muhammad.

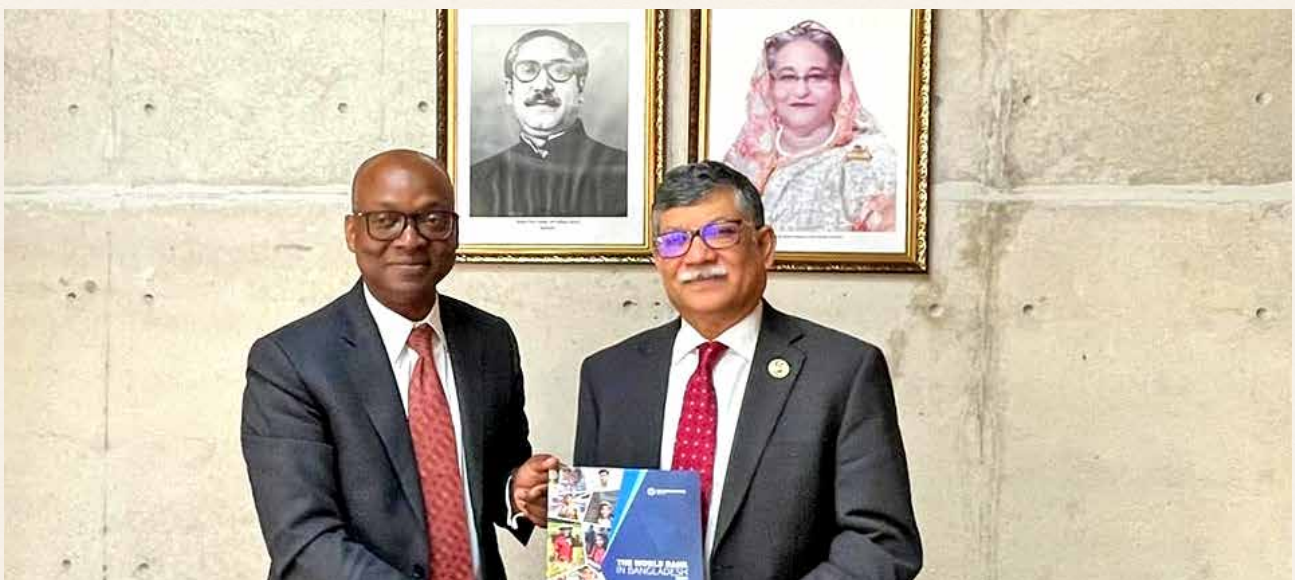


### **World Bank Country Director Called on Foreign Secretary**

The World Bank Country Director in Bangladesh Mr. Abdoulaye Seck called on Foreign Secretary (Senior Secretary) Ambassador Masud Bin Momen on 11 January 2024 to discuss World Bank's ongoing

projects and possible new projects for the Forcibly Displaced Myanmar Nationals and host communities. The Foreign Secretary mentioned that any proposal or project leading towards integration of Forcibly

Displaced Myanmar Nationals in Bangladesh or that contradicts their repatriation to Rakhine State will not be acceptable to Bangladesh.







## Danish Ambassador to Bangladesh Called on Foreign Secretary

Danish Ambassador to Bangladesh H.E. Mr. Christian Brix Moller made his first call on the Foreign Secretary (Senior Secretary) Mr. Masud Bin Momen on 25 January 2024.

While receiving the Ambassador at his office the Foreign Secretary congratulated him for winning the Champion trophy in the recently held Bangabandhu Diplomatic Cup

Tennis Tournament organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. During the call on, they discussed issues of mutual interests of Bangladesh and Denmark.



## Foreign Secretary Visited Polling Centres in Dhaka City and Dohar



Foreign Secretary (Senior Secretary) Ambassador Masud Bin Momen visited Kalachadpur High School

and College Polling Center in Dhaka during the 12th national parliamentary election on 07

January 2024. During his visit to the polling center Ambassador Masud Bin Momen had the opportunity



to meet with His Excellency Mr. Victor OH and His Excellency Mr. Chandrakanth Arya of Canada. Both of them are among the numerous international observers currently visiting in Bangladesh to observe the 12th National General Election.

Later, while visiting the Padma Government College polling center in Dohar upazila on the same day, His Excellency Ambassador Masud Bin Momen, had the opportunity to meet with His Excellency M I Abdool Rahman, the Electoral

Commissioner of Mauritius, and Mr J K Ramasamy. The local administration informed him that the polling is proceeding in a festive and joyful environment.

## MoFA and Bangladesh Missions Abroad Marked Father of the Nation's Homecoming Day

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Bangladesh Missions abroad observed the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's Homecoming Day on 10 January 2024 with due solemnity. The programmes of the day included

recitation from the holy books, putting floral wreath at the portrait of Father of the Nation, displaying video documentaries and discussion on the glorious life and works of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. The discussants of the

program highlighted the sacrifice and the contribution of the father of nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in achieving independent Bangladesh.



▶ Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Dhaka



▶ Bangladesh Embassy, Washington DC



▶ Bangladesh Embassy, Lisbon



▶ Bangladesh Embassy, Amman



▶ Bangladesh Embassy, Mexico



▶ Bangladesh Embassy, Cairo



▶ Bangladesh Embassy, Madrid



▶ Bangladesh Embassy, Stockholm



▶ Bangladesh Embassy, Brunei Darussalam



▶ Bangladesh Embassy, Brunei Darussalam



▶ Bangladesh Embassy, Tokyo



▶ Bangladesh Embassy, Tokyo



▶ Bangladesh Embassy, Tripoli



▶ Bangladesh High Commission, Colombo



▶ Bangladesh Embassy, Maldives



▶ Bangladesh Embassy, Ankara



▶ Bangladesh Embassy, Yangon



▶ Bangladesh Embassy, Tashkent



▶ Bangladesh Consulate General, Istanbul



▶ Bangladesh Deputy High Commission, Karachi



▶ Bangladesh Consulate General, Hong Kong



▶ Bangladesh Embassy, Manama

**Call Centre inaugurated at Bangladesh High Commission in Kuala Lumpur**



On 05 January 2024, H.E. Dr. A. K. Abdul Momen, MP, Hon'ble Foreign Minister of Bangladesh virtually inaugurated the Call

Centre at the E-passport and Visa Application Centre of the Bangladesh High Commission in Malaysia. The official launching

ceremony took place virtually at the Southgate Commercial Centre in Kuala Lumpur.



In his remarks, Hon'ble Foreign Minister thanked to the High Commission for launching the Call Centre, in line with Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's 'Prabashi-Bandhob Policy' for extending services to the expatriate nationals. The outsourcing company has been appointed to make passport and visa services easier and faster under the guidance of the government based

on the concept of 'Public Private Partnership', Dr. Momen added.

Bangladesh High Commissioner to Malaysia, H.E. Mr. Md. Shameem Ahsan expressed satisfaction for the inauguration of the 'Call Centre'. He expressed optimism that e-passport and visa services will be launched in near future which could not be launched sooner

due to some technical reasons. It may be mentioned here that an agreement was signed recently with the Expat Services Limited (ESL), as an outsourced company, for extending passport, visa and other consular services. All officers, local representatives of the Bangladeshi media, among others were present.

## High Commission of Bangladesh in Kuala Lumpur conducted special Passport Delivery Service



The High Commission of Bangladesh in Malaysia conducted a special Passport Delivery Service on 20 January 2024 at the office of the CBL Money Transfer in Kuala Lumpur by distributing passports among the expatriates to meet the increased demands of passports in connection with the regularization programme (Recalibration -2.00) for

the irregular workers in Malaysia. The High Commissioner of Bangladesh to Malaysia H.E. Mr. Md. Shameem Ahsan, oversaw the activities. Among others, the CEO of CBL Money Transfer Md. Saidur Rahman Farazi and the Counsellor (Passport and Visa) of Bangladesh High Commission Mia Mohammad Keyamuddin were also present.

During the visit, the High Commissioner exchanged views with the service-seekers, gathered valuable feedback and urged them to send remittances through legal channels. Mr. Ahsan sincerely thanked the CEO of CBL for facilitating the use of his office for the efficient conduct of the Passport Delivery Service.



## Ambassador of Bangladesh to Athens visited Malta

H.E. Mr. Ashud Ahmed, Ambassador of Bangladesh Embassy, Athens attended a New Year's greetings exchange ceremony and had meetings with the Dr. Byron Camilleri, Minister for Home Affairs Security, Reforms and Equality of Malta. During the

meeting they discussed on issues of mutual interest, the enhancement of consular services and culminating in the advancement of a draft MOU on cooperation in migration and mobility. The Ambassador further urged the Minister for Home Affairs of Malta to explore the possibility of

formalizing this agreement during his forthcoming visit to Dhaka. The visit underscored the strengthening of bilateral relations and marked significant progress towards solidifying cooperation between Bangladesh and Malta.



## Bangladesh Embassy in Athens Hosted Online Session on Shipping Cooperation with Greece

The Embassy of Bangladesh in Athens organized an online brainstorming session on shipping cooperation between Bangladesh and Greece on 23 January 2024. Representatives from various Greek stakeholders and Bangladeshi shipping companies attended the session. The Ambassador

highlighted the significance in exploring avenues for enhanced cooperation in shipbuilding, import-export dynamics, shipbreaking, recycling, sourcing, and maritime education. Stakeholders emphasized collaboration, especially in the areas of environmentally friendly practices, steel production, and

educational collaboration. The session aimed to contribute to the successful execution of the upcoming conference on shipping cooperation between the two countries.

The representatives from various organizations and companies expressed their willingness and interest in collaborating with



Bangladesh in the maritime industry. They discussed potential partnerships in areas such as online education programs, crewing, manning, training, research, ship

breaking and ship recycling. They emphasized the importance of collaboration, understanding local customs, and fostering positive relationships between Greece and

Bangladesh. The representatives also highlighted the opportunities and potential for growth in the shipping sector in Bangladesh.



## Bangladesh Ambassador to Portugal Presented Credentials to President of Portugal

The newly appointed Ambassador of Bangladesh to Portugal H.E. Rezina Ahmed presented her credentials to the President of Portugal H.E. Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa at Belém Palace, Office of the President in Lisbon on 8 January 2024. During the presentation of the credentials,

Minister of Foreign Affairs of Portugal H.E. Joro Gomes Cravinho, Secretary General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Francisco Ribeiro Telles, Senior Diplomatic Adviser to the President, Ambassador Maria Amélia Paiva, Head of State Protocol (Chief of Protocol), Ambassador

Jorge Silva Lopes, Heads of Civil and Military Households of the President as well as Counsellor Ms. Laila Muntajeri Deena and First Secretary Mr. Md Alamgeer Hossain of Bangladesh Embassy were in attendance.







## Bangladesh Ambassador to Portugal called on Portuguese Foreign Ministry DG

Ambassador H.E. Rezina Ahmed called on the Director General for Foreign Policy of the Portuguese Foreign Ministry Ambassador Rui Vinhas at Foreign Office in Lisbon on 17 January 2024. Amb. Rui Vinhas received Ambassador H.E Rezina Ahmed warmly in his office. In the meeting, the whole gamut of bilateral issues of mutual interests was discussed in the meeting. Ambassador H.E Rezina Ahmed stressed on strengthening the existing bilateral relations between Bangladesh and Portugal to a new height. She sought cooperation of



the Portuguese Foreign Ministry in this regard. Ambassador Rui Vinhas assured of full cooperation during

tenure of duty of Ambassador H.E Rezina Ahmed.

## Dutch NGOs Reaffirmed Commitment to Bangladesh



On 19 January 2024, the Bangladesh Embassy in The Hague gathered 60 representatives from over forty Dutch NGOs at The Third Conclave of Dutch NGOs/ Foundations in Bangladesh who are actively engaged in Bangladesh in areas like children, women and girls, climate adaptation, health, education, water and sanitation, agriculture, mental health.

Moderated by the Bangladesh Ambassador, M Riaz Hamidullah,

the Conclave was addressed by Director-General (International Cooperation), Amb. Pascale Grotenhuis, and Amb. Wouter Jurgens, Director (Asia & Oceania), in the Dutch Foreign Ministry. Amb. Hamidullah elaborated how the two deltaic people connect in respect of innovation, resilience, and entrepreneurship in spite of differences in capacity and knowledge. Calling the Dutch NGOs as ‘Friends of Bangladesh people’,

he also elaborated the areas and ideas as to how the Dutch NGOs could engage further in Bangladesh towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In her keynote, Amb. Pascale lauded Bangladesh's attainments over decades and shared her reflections on a socially-economically inclusive society towards protection of vulnerable populations and fulfilling livelihood access worldwide.

Three Panels focused on cross-



cutting themes of Inclusion, Climate Action and Livelihood. As many as ten Dutch experts and development practitioners from leading Dutch Government entities, Universities and NGOs reflected on the key issues impacting grassroots, women and children, youth; the future challenges facing Bangladesh economy and changing societal attitudes as also scope for testing

transformative choices; discussed potential solutions; and ways to introduce technology-driven solutions to generate livelihood options for climate-vulnerable population.

The Netherlands International Cooperation Collection (NICC) highlighted a timeline of the Dutch NGOs/development organizations’

over five decades’ engagements in diverse areas in Bangladesh. The Dutch NGOs and others joining the meet appreciated Bangladesh as an ‘open and liberal society’ and a ‘living lab’ contributing to many sustainable solutions, social cohesion and climate resilience, even beyond Bangladesh.

## **Bangladesh Embassy in The Hague welcomed Leiden University MUN delegates**

On January 22, 2024, the Embassy hosted the Model United Nations (MUN) delegates from the

Leiden University. As they were off to Harvard MUN (Boston), the Ambassador shared with

them Bangladesh perspectives on development, climate change, technology, global justice et al.



## **Bangladesh Embassy in Amman Hosted Signing Ceremony of Medical Distributorship**

Bangladesh Embassy, Amman, hosted the signing ceremony of the distributorship agreement between BEACON Medicare Limited Bangladesh and Al Rahma Drug Store, Jordan. In the presence of H.E. the Ambassador Ms. Nahida Sobhan, Jordanian Member of

Parliament and President of Al Rahma Drug Store, Mr. Abdul Rahim Maaiah and Monjurul Alam, CEO of BEACON Medicare Limited, signed the agreement. Through this agreement, BEACON Medicare Limited is expected to get sales, marketing, distribution and

regulatory support from Al Rahma Drug Store to market their products in Jordan.

Previously, H.E. Ambassador Ms. Nahida Sobhan, hosted a working lunch for a 30-member delegation from BEACON Medicare Limited at the Embassy. During the event, Her



Excellency exchanged views with the delegation members on various aspects of international markets for

the pharmaceutical sector. She also provided them with insight on the potential market of Bangladeshi

pharmaceutical products in Jordan and the wider Arab region.



**Bangladesh Ambassador to Jordan Met Amman Chamber of Commerce**



H.E. Ambassador Ms. Nahida Sobhan had a meeting with Amman Chamber of Commerce, the biggest chamber of commerce in Jordan. The both sides discussed mechanisms for

strengthening bilateral cooperation, especially in the economic fields and expressed their keenness to develop economic relations by taking practical, institutional and

concrete steps. H.E. Ms. Nahida Sobhan expressed her appreciation for the role played by the Chamber in enhancing economic cooperation and bilateral relations, especially in



the economic, trade and investment fields. She pointed to the wide scope for enhancing tourism cooperation between the two countries, especially in light of the presence of many major archaeological sites, in addition to many religious sites. H.E. Ambassador called for organizing a visit for a Jordanian trade delegation to Bangladesh, calling at the same time for the delegation to include the Minister of Industry and Trade in Jordan, in addition to signing

a memorandum of understanding between the Amman Chamber of Commerce and its counterpart in Dhaka.

During the meeting, Director General of the Chamber Mr. Hisham Dweik, Al-Khatib stressed the importance of developing new horizons for the two countries' economic relations and strengthening them at the level of private sector institutions, expanding trade exchanges, and the necessity of

developing cooperation opportunities between business owners, especially in promising sectors, indicating that the two countries' trade exchanges are still modest. Mr. Dweik pointed out the need to communicate with the Amman Chamber of Commerce to help promote the products of the two countries, stressing the Chamber's readiness to circulate all information about goods made in Bangladesh to Jordanian merchants and importers through the Chamber's website.

## **Bangladesh Delegation, Headed by Additional Foreign Secretary, Attended 3rd DCO General Assembly in Bahrain**



The Additional Foreign Secretary (Bilateral – East & West) and former Ambassador of Bangladesh to Bahrain, H.E. Dr. Md. Nazrul Islam visited Bahrain for representing Bangladesh in the 3rd General Assembly of Digital Cooperation Organization (DCO) on 31 January 2024 as the Head of Bangladesh delegation. He was accompanied by Chargé d'Affaires a.i. Mr. A.K.M. Mohiuddin Kayes and two other officials of the Embassy.

The Assembly formally commenced under the chairmanship of Bahrain's Minister of Transportation and Telecommunications, H.E. Mohamed bin Thamir Al Kaabi,

who warmly welcomed Bangladesh as the 14th member state of the DCO, followed by Qatar and Greece as the 15th and 16th member states respectively. H.E. Dr. Islam expressed his gratitude for the acceptance of Bangladesh's membership in the DCO and reaffirmed our government's goal towards propelling Bangladesh towards a technologically advanced and sustainable future under the able leadership of our Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's Smart Bangladesh initiative. He also talked about sustainable digital economy, cyber security, and AI during the Assembly, and sought

mutual support and collaboration between DCO and its member states.

During the Assembly, all 16 member states unanimously voted on five resolutions, most notably the approval of sending membership invitations to 8 countries, approval of Bangladesh NGOs Network for Radio and Communication (BNNRC) as a DCO observer, and the approval for Bangladesh to benefit from the LDC waiver for 2024 and 2025, lowering its mandatory financial contributions to 50,000 USD for two years.

The Assembly closed with the transfer of DCO presidency from Bahrain to Jordan and the adoption of the Council Declaration.



Following its conclusion, Head of Bangladesh Delegation H.E. Dr. Islam and his deputy, CDA a.i. Mr.

Kayes interacted with the DCO Secretary-General, H.E. Deemah Al-Yahya as well as ministers

and high-level government officials of other member states.

## Bangladeshi Manufacturers Participated Baghdad International Fair 2023

The Bangladesh Embassy in Baghdad has successfully pursued and ensured participation of Bangladeshi manufacturers for the first time in the 47th edition of Baghdad International Fair. The initiative finally saw the light after a lot of efforts from the Embassy particularly in convincing the companies and arranging visas. It

basically gained momentum from the meeting held between the visiting BGMEA business delegation led by H.E. Bangladesh Ambassador to Iraq and the Hon'ble Minister of Trade of Iraq in August 2023. And Ambassador's subsequent meeting with the Hon'ble Minister of Interior of Iraq that helped getting visa for 18 people from four companies. Finally,

two of the Bangladeshi companies took part in the coveted Baghdad International Fair held from 10-18 January 2024. The participating companies expressed their deep satisfaction for the support from the Embassy and at the response from the Fair.



▶ Two Bangladeshi stalls in the Fair

## Kurdish Version of Bangabandhu's The Unfinished Memoirs shared with Kurdistan Training Institute

The Embassy in Baghdad distributed around 100 copies of the Kurdish version of "The Unfinished Memoirs" of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman among the trainees of Kurdistan Training Institute. The Embassy earlier took the initiative to translate the same book into Kurdish language with permission from the competent authority. This was the first of its type and handed over to the management of the institute in a simple ceremony





on 27 January 2024 in Dohuk province of Iraq (Kurdistan Region).

The Institute authority and the participating trainees expressed their

gratification for the gift and thanked the initiative from the Embassy.

## **Bangladesh Ambassador to Mexico Attended Guatemala President's Inauguration and Costa Rica President's New Year Reception**

Ambassador H.E. Abida Islam had a notable diplomatic visit to Central America, where she attended two significant events. Firstly, she was present at the dramatic and historic inauguration ceremony of Guatemala's 52nd Constitutional President, H.E. César Bernardo

Arévalo de León, who began his term for 2024-2028 on 14 January 2024, in Guatemala City. Subsequently, she also graced the new year reception hosted by H.E. Rodrigo Chaves Robles, Honorable President of Costa Rica, on 26 January 2024, at the President's House in San Jose.

At both events, Ambassador Islam conveyed the warm wishes of the Hon'ble President and Prime Minister of Bangladesh, emphasizing Bangladesh's keen interest in fostering closer ties and collaboration with these countries.



▶ *Newly Elected President of Guatemala*



▶ *Hon'ble President of Costa Rica*

## **Egyptian Red Crescent Thanked Bangladesh for Gaza Humanitarian Aid**

Dr. Ramy El Nazer, CEO of Egyptian Red Crescent sent a letter to H.E. Ms. Samina Naz, Bangladesh Ambassador to Egypt extending warmest greetings to the Government of Bangladesh for the continuous supportive efforts for the humanitarian aid work for

the Palestinian people. He also requested to contact Egyptian Red Crescent if the Government of Bangladesh kindly wishes to send more humanitarian aid for the people in Gaza.

It is to be noted that Bangladesh Government has sent three batches of

Humanitarian aid for the Palestinian people in Gaza. Bangladesh Embassy in Cairo handed over those aid to the Egyptian Red Crescent to delivery to the Palestine Red Crescent for their people in Gaza.

## **Bangladesh Ambassador to Egypt Attended Cairo International Book Fair**

Bangladesh Ambassador to Egypt H.E. Ms. Samina Naz participated at the 55th edition of the Cairo International Book Fair on 31st

January 2024. H.E. delivered a speech on the occasion. During her speech, H.E. called on world poets to adhere to their language.

She appreciated the efforts of the Cairo International Book Festival in inviting many world poets and insisted that we need these cultural



platforms to bring together the poets of different languages around the globe. H.E. also requested the organizer to invite publishers from Bangladesh in this festival, especially

since more than five thousand Bangladeshi students are studying in different Egyptian universities, Al-Azhar in particular. H.E. hoped that there will be more translation of

the literary works to keep the readers around the world informed of the works by the renowned authors.



### **Bangladesh Embassy in Kathmandu Hosted Consular Camp in Nepal**

Bangladesh Embassy in Kathmandu organized a consular camp in Biratnagar from 09-10 January 2024 to provide expeditious consular services to the people living in the

eastern part of Nepal. This year, around 400 Nepalese citizens were issued visas to attend the Bishwa Ijtema in Tongi. The consular camp has contributed in improving the

Embassy’s service delivery outreach and expanding religious tourism in Bangladesh.





## Bangladesh Ambassador to Madrid Exchanged New Year's Greetings with HM King of Spain

Ambassador Mohammad Sarwar Mahmood, ndc exchanged greetings with His Majesty King Felipe VI of Spain on the occasion of the New Year's reception on 31 January 2024 at the Royal Palace in Madrid. They

briefly exchanged views on matters of bilateral interest. The Spanish King lauded Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's statesmanship in leading Bangladesh towards development and prosperity. A noble

friend of Bangladesh, the King fondly recalled his mother Queen Sofia's visit to Bangladesh (in 2004) and expressed his ardent eagerness to undertake a visit to the country himself.



## Bangladesh Ambassador to Madrid Attended Annual Pitha Festival in Barcelona



As part of its continued efforts to promote the richness of Bengali culture and heritage in Spain, including popularizing traditional

Bangladeshi cuisine, the Mission partnered with the Friendly Women's Association of Expatriates in Catalonia in organizing 'Pitha

Utsob', a grand cultural event held annually, in Barcelona on 28 January 2024. Ambassador Mohammad Sarwar Mahmood, ndc attended the





event as the chief guest and patron. He called for concerted efforts on the part of the expatriates in Spain in preserving and further promoting the treasures of the Bangladeshi

way of life. The festival showcased varieties of delicious Bangladeshi pitha and gathered a large number of Bangladeshi expatriates and local Spanish people, who appreciated

that such events contribute to the values of multiculturalism and social harmony in Spain.

## Bangladesh Ambassador to Madrid Launched Sewing Course for Women in Spain

In collaboration between the Embassy of Bangladesh in Madrid and Valiente Bangla, a Madrid-based Bangladeshi organization, a sewing training course for expatriate Bangladeshi women was launched in Madrid on 18 January 2024, with assistance from the European

Parliament and Oxfam Intermon, an international NGO. Ambassador Mohammad Sarwar Mahmood, ndc inaugurated the training course as the chief guest and patron. In his speech, the Ambassador said, facilitating expatriate women's greater access to financial

instruments are critical to enabling their full participation in the host economy. This can only be achieved through raising their entrepreneurial competence by equipping them with adequate vocational skills, along with mandatory language proficiency.



## Bangladesh Embassy in Madrid Expanded Services to Remote Regions in Spain



As part of its policy to bring consular and welfare services to the doorsteps of the expatriates living in the farthest

regions of Spain, the Embassy organized a service delivery camp in the Tenerife Island of Canarias on 24

January 2024. Various sorts of consular services and assistance were provided to the expatriates living there and



running small business. Ambassador Mohammad Sarwar Mahmood, ndc was present at the event and oversaw the delivery of services. During his visit to the Tenerife Island, he also had several engagements with the expatriates, including holding two

views-exchange meetings. Earlier, the Ambassador also held separate views-exchange meetings with two social associations of Bangladeshi expatriates in Spain on 10 January 2024 and 23 January 2024 held at the Embassy. In all these meetings, the

expatriates were encouraged to enroll for E-passports rather than MRPs, as well as Universal Pension Scheme, to send remittance through legal channel, and to become members for Wage Earners' Welfare Fund.

## **Bangladesh High Commissioner Briefed Sri Lankan Foreign Minister on General Elections**

High Commissioner for Bangladesh to Sri Lanka H.E. Tareq Md. Ariful Islam called on the Foreign Minister of Sri Lanka at latter's office on 08 January 2024, the next day of the 12th general elections in Bangladesh.

High Commissioner informed the Foreign Minister of the result of the elections and briefed him about the free and fair conduct of the elections. Later in the day, Sri Lankan President and Prime Minister sent

formal Letters of Congratulations to Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on her election victory. Notably, Sri Lanka was one of the first countries to have sent such early congratulatory messages.



## **Bangladesh Ambassador met Foreign Minister of Japan**

H.E. Ambassador Mr. Shahabuddin Ahmed met H.E. Ms. Kamikawa Yoko, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan on 23 January 2024 while attending a reception jointly hosted by the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Governor of Niigata Prefecture. Additionally, Mr. Ahmed exchanged warm greetings with H.E. Mr. Hanazumi Hideyo, the Governor of Niigata Prefecture, and other distinguished guests and dignitaries present at the event.





## Japanese State Minister for Foreign Affairs Called on Ambassador Shahabuddin Ahmed in Tokyo



State Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan Tsuge Yoshifumi paid a courtesy call on Ambassador Shahabuddin Ahmed at the Bangladesh Embassy in Tokyo on 24 January 2024.

Ambassador Shahabuddin Ahmed and his wife Shahina Akther and the Embassy officials welcomed State Minister Yoshifumi at the Bangladesh Embassy. During the

meeting, State Minister Tsuge Yoshifumi expressed gratitude on behalf of the government and people of Japan to Hon'ble Prime Minister of Bangladesh for expressing condolences and solidarity with the Japanese government and people over the recent earthquake in Japan. Ambassador Shahabuddin Ahmed congratulated Tsuge Yoshifumi on his recent appointment as

State Minister for Foreign Affairs during Japan's cabinet reshuffle in December 2023.

Ambassador Ahmed mentioned Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's visits to Japan on different occasions over the years to improve the relationship between the two countries and said that Bangladesh-Japan relations have been upgraded from comprehensive partnership to strategic partnership



through the Hon'ble Prime Minister's most recent official visit to Japan in April 2023. He sought the cooperation of State Minister Yoshifumi in implementing the joint statement on strategic partnership signed by the Prime Ministers of the two countries.

Ambassador Ahmed said that Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has expressed deep grief over the recent earthquake in Japan and

Bangladesh is ready to offer all possible cooperation to deal with this crisis. Ambassador Ahmed thanked Japan for its continued cooperation in resolving the Rohingya issue. He requested Japan to play a more proactive role in solving this problem and in the speedy, dignified, and safe repatriation of the Rohingyas from Bangladesh to Myanmar.

The Ambassador expressed his determination to work together

with the government of Japan to strengthen bilateral relations with Japan and continue the development and progress of Bangladesh during the tenure of the new government formed after the recent parliamentary elections in Bangladesh.

Representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan and officials of the Bangladesh Embassy were present during the meeting.

**Bangladesh High Commissioner Met Maldivian Education Minister**

H.E. Rear Admiral S M Abul Kalam Azad paid a courtesy call to the Hon'ble Minister of Higher Education, labour and skills

development of Republic of Maldives H.E. Dr. Maryam Mariya on 25 January 2024 at her office. The High Commissioner highlighted various

important aspects of higher studies in Bangladesh and requested the Maldivian students to explore more for their higher study in Bangladesh.





## Bangladesh High Commissioner Met Finance Minister of Maldives

H.E. Rear Admiral S.M. Abul Kalam Azad met with the Hon'ble Minister of Finance, Republic of Maldives H.E. Dr. Mohamed Shafeeq on January 3, 2024. The

High Commissioner requested the Minister to solve the issue of US dollar crisis in the banks for the expatriates. In addition, he also requested to facilitate establishment

of more branches of money transfer agencies for sending remittance through proper channel.



## Bangladesh Ambassador to Libya met Hon'ble Prime Minister of Libya



H.E. Major General Abul Hasnat Mohammad Khairul Bashar, BGBM, PBGM, ndc, afwc, psc, the Ambassador of Bangladesh to Libya, attended a meeting with His Excellency Mr. Abdul Hamid Al-Dbeibeh, the Hon'ble Prime Minister of the Government of

National Unity of the State of Libya on 03 January 2024. During the meeting, the Prime Minister briefed the foreign Ambassadors to Libya about the political situation and his efforts to conduct free and fair elections. He also provided a detailed update on the government's efforts to

make meaningful improvements in various aspects.

Taking this opportunity, the Ambassador delivered a speech during the briefing session and interacted with the Prime Minister. In his speech, the Ambassador mentioned that the 12th General



National Election of Bangladesh is scheduled to be held on 07 January 2024. The Bangladesh Election Commission is a constitutional body entrusted with the responsibility of conducting free, fair, transparent, and credible elections, ensuring a robust democratic system, good governance, and economic development in the country. He also informed that Bangladesh is committed to keeping democratic institutions and constitutional bodies at the core of the election mechanism, preventing

any undemocratic mechanisms or forces from taking charge of election matters and hindering Bangladesh's democratic journey. The Ambassador further informed the Prime Minister that Bangladesh is ready to offer assistance to Libya based on its own experience in conducting successful elections. In response, the Prime Minister extended his best wishes for the successful general election in Bangladesh.

In conclusion, the Ambassador

expressed sincere appreciation for the government's endeavors. He emphasized the strong partnership between Bangladesh and Libya. He further underscored the potential for diversifying the bilateral relations between the two countries, particularly in areas such as trade and investment. The Ambassador extended his heartfelt wishes for the Prime Minister's well-being and conveyed his hopes for the continued happiness, progress, and prosperity of the friendly people of Libya.

### Bangladesh Ambassador to Libya Visited Tunisia



The non-resident Ambassador of Bangladesh to Tunisia, His Excellency Major General Abul Hasnat Mohammad Khairul Bashar, BGBM, PBGM, ndc, afwc, psc, visited Tunisia from 08-13 January

2024 to enhance the existing bilateral relations and explore trade and commerce opportunities between Bangladesh and Tunisia. During the visit, they facilitated the attendance of the Senior Secretary of the Ministry

of Commerce of Bangladesh at the Regional Workshop for the 13th WTO Ministerial Conference for the Member States of the OIC, held in Tunis from 10-11 January 2024. The Ambassador held several meetings



with different ministries and high-ranking officials of the Tunisian government, discussing various issues for mutual cooperation. He also met with officials from international organizations working in Tunisia in the field of migration, with the aim of ensuring the welfare of distressed Bangladeshi nationals.

In the sidelines, the Embassy arranged a meeting between His Excellency Mr. Tapan Kanti Ghosh, the Senior Secretary of the Ministry of Commerce of Bangladesh, and Her Excellency Ms. Kalthoum Ben Rejeb Guezzah, the Honorable Minister of Commerce and Export Development of Tunisia. The meeting was attended by His Excellency the Ambassador. During the meeting, both sides discussed the current state of economic and trade relations between Tunisia and Bangladesh,

as well as the potential for further development. They also emphasized the importance of enhanced cooperation in different fields, including B2B contacts and import-export activities. In response to the invitation from the Senior Secretary, the Honorable Minister expressed her wish to visit Bangladesh at a convenient time.

During the visit, the Ambassador presented a copy of his credentials as the non-resident Ambassador of Bangladesh to Tunisia to His Excellency Mr. Nabil Ammar, the Honorable Minister of Foreign Affairs, Migration, and Tunisians Abroad, and held a bilateral meeting. In the meeting, the Ambassador provided an overview of the 12th Parliamentary National Elections in Bangladesh, held on 07 January 2024 in a free, transparent, and

credible manner. He highlighted and valued the bilateral relations between Bangladesh and Tunisia, expressing sincere gratitude for Tunisia's support to Bangladesh in various international forums, including the United Nations, CFC, and IMO etc. The Honorable Minister extended congratulations on the election and conveyed his best wishes to the Ambassador, assuring the Ministry's support for the successful completion of his duties. He commended the friendship and cooperation between the two countries and emphasized the significance of their development, particularly in the commercial and economic sectors. The Minister appreciated the Ambassador's constructive proposals and expressed willingness to continue close collaboration in the future.

## Bangladesh Embassy in Libya Repatriated 270 Bangladeshis



As part of efforts to safely repatriate Bangladeshi nationals detained and distressed in Libya, the embassy, in cooperation with the International Organization for Migration (IOM), successfully repatriated 131 from

Tripoli and 139 Bangladeshi nationals from Benghazi on 17 and 31 January 2024, respectively. The repatriation included Bangladeshi citizens detained in the Tarik Matar Detention Center in Tripoli and

distressed migrants in Benghazi.

H.E. the Ambassador of Bangladesh to Libya, Major General Abul Hasnat Mohammad Khairul Bashar, bid farewell to the repatriated Bangladeshi citizens at the reception



hall of the Libyan Directorate of Immigration. He highlighted the various steps taken by the Bangladesh government to ensure safe immigration and prevent human trafficking. He also urged them to take necessary measures against smuggling groups and promised legal action back home.

The Ambassador requested the repatriated migrants not to risk their lives by being lured by brokers and

traffickers to travel abroad illegally in the future. He also urged them to share their horrific experiences with friends, relatives, and acquaintances to create awareness about the dangers and negative effects of illegal immigration. The Ambassador expressed his gratitude and appreciation to all concerned local authorities and IOM, including the Libyan Directorate of Immigration, for their full cooperation in

handling the repatriation process.

The embassy continues to visit Bangladeshi nationals detained in the detention centers of Tripoli and Benghazi and takes various steps for their welfare after coordinating with the relevant authorities. At the same time, the embassy is making ongoing efforts to complete their registration with the IOM and repatriate them in phases, subject to the permission of the local authorities.

## Bangladesh Ambassador to Turkey Welcomed by D-8 Secretary General



Ambassadors of the Developing-8 countries gathered at a Lunch on 29 January 2024. The New Year Lunch was attended by D-8 Commissioners and Co-hosted by D-8 Secretary General H.E. Isiaka Abdul Qadir Imam and H.E. Mr. M Amanul Haq, Ambassador of Bangladesh to Türkiye. Media representatives and other dignitaries were also invited to the Lunch.

Ambassador Haq delivered his welcome speech as the Co-host as well as the representative of D-8 summit Chair. In his speech, he welcomed everyone to the important gathering and noted that their presence here was proof of their country's commitment to

the D-8. He expressed his sincere appreciation for the adoption of the "Joint Communique of the D-8 Commission on Solidarity with the Palestinian People" during the 47th Session of the D-8 Commission.

He mentioned that the Hon'ble Prime Minister of Bangladesh, H.E. Sheikh Hasina, one of the founding members of the D-8, has been elected Prime Minister for the fourth consecutive term. Therefore, Bangladesh's commitment and support to D-8 remains unchanged.

He underlined that the D-8 had made significant progress in recent years and had implemented many decisions. Bangladesh, with great

respect, has been privileged to play an important role in advancing some important initiatives. Bangladesh hosted the D-8 Council of Ministers and Commission Meetings in 2022 and the 47th Session of the D-8 Commission in 2023. There is also a possibility of organizing a senior official meeting in Dhaka in February 2024. Bangladesh has consistently emphasized the importance of enhancing mutual relations among the countries. In line with this commitment, the Foreign Service Academy in Dhaka organized a training for diplomats from D-8 Countries last year. This initiative has not only created valuable opportunities for interaction





between foreign service academies and similar institutions of the D-8-member states but also facilitated the exchange of best practices in foreign policy and diplomacy. He confidently said that if every member state takes the initiative to organize such interaction every year, it will not only increase the communication

in the diplomatic field but also pave the way for effective cooperation in various other fields. He noted that by acting as a united front, D-8-Member Countries can gain greater influence in international trade negotiations and potentially secure better deals for our economies.

Afterwards, the D-8 Commissioner

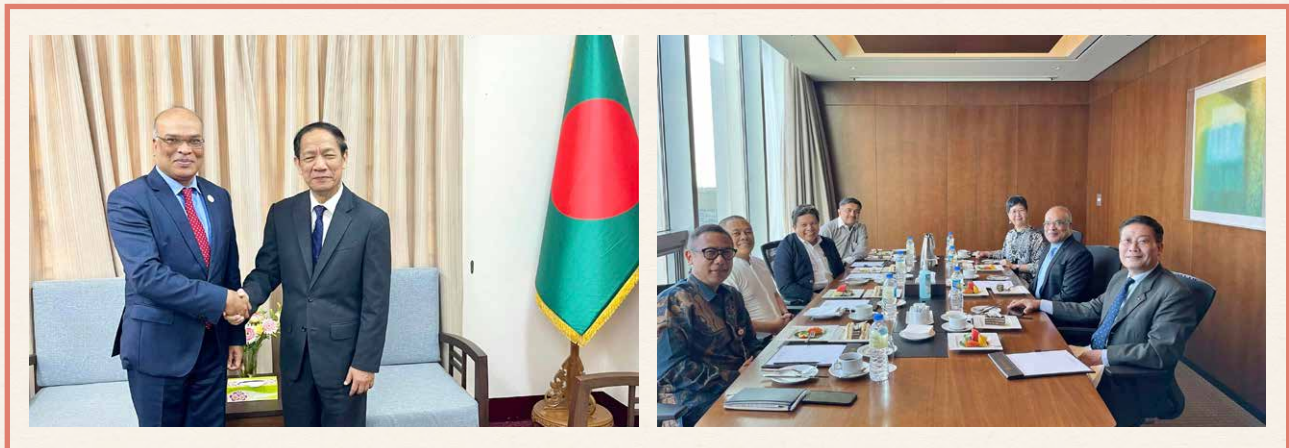
of the Republic of Türkiye Ambassador Esen Altug and the D-8 Secretary General Ambassador Isiaka Abdul Qadir Imam made their speeches. During lunch, the guests continued their conversation. The event concluded with a family photo session.

## **Bangladesh Ambassador Met ASEAN Special Envoy and Heads of Missions in Yangon**

ASEAN Special Envoy to Myanmar, H.E. Mr. Alounkeo Kittikhoun met with H.E. Ambassador Dr. Md. Monwar Hossain on 12 January 2024 at Bangladesh Embassy in Yangon. They discussed about the various aspects of Rohingya issue, including

the start of the repatriation process and support of the ASEAN member states in facilitating the process. Ambassador Dr. Hossain also had a meeting with Ambassadors and heads of missions of ASEAN member states in Yangon on Friday,

19 January 2024. He called for strong political commitment of the ASEAN and increased involvement of the AHA Centre in the repatriation of Rohingyas to Myanmar.



## **Bangladesh Ambassador to Uzbekistan met Health Minister of Uzbekistan**

Bangladesh Ambassador H.E. Dr. Mohammad Monirul Islam held a meeting with the Hon'ble Health Minister of Uzbekistan H.E. Asilbek Xudayarov on 31 January 2024 at the latter's office. Highlighting the quality and growing demand of our pharmaceuticals world-wide, Bangladesh Ambassador sought his support in facilitating the exports

of Bangladeshi pharmaceutical products to Uzbekistan. He also underlined the readiness from the Bangladesh side to share the skill and expertise of our doctors and nurses/caregivers with the Uzbek side in order to contribute towards further strengthening the Uzbek healthcare system. He also laid a great amount of emphasis on deepening the

collaborations between the relevant educational institutes of two countries on a wide range of issues, especially in science, research and innovations.

In his remarks, Hon'ble Minister Mr. Xudoyarov demonstrated genuine interests for importing Bangladeshi medicines, underlining



that 80% of their domestic demands are met by exported medicines. He expressed his willingness to explore the possibility of engaging highly qualified Bangladeshi doctors

in Uzbekistan’s health sector, especially in cardiology and neuroscience fields. He also equally stressed the need for enhanced level of communications and connectivity

between the academics, researchers and students of medical related educational institutes of Bangladesh and Uzbekistan.



**Bangladesh Participated at 'International Gourmet' in Karachi**



Bangladesh has participated at the “International Gourmet” arranged by the Air War College Institute in Karachi on 27 January 2024. Bangladesh’s participation was to represent Bangladesh, to promote Bangladesh and to highlight her rich

history, development journey and culture in Karachi. Different countries namely Egypt, Bangladesh, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Malaysia, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, South Africa, Zimbabwe, Oman, Iran, Jordan, Nigeria, and Pakistan

participated the event to showcase their respective countries. Those countries which have their trainee officers at the Institute on official training had their participation at the event. Bangladesh was highly projected

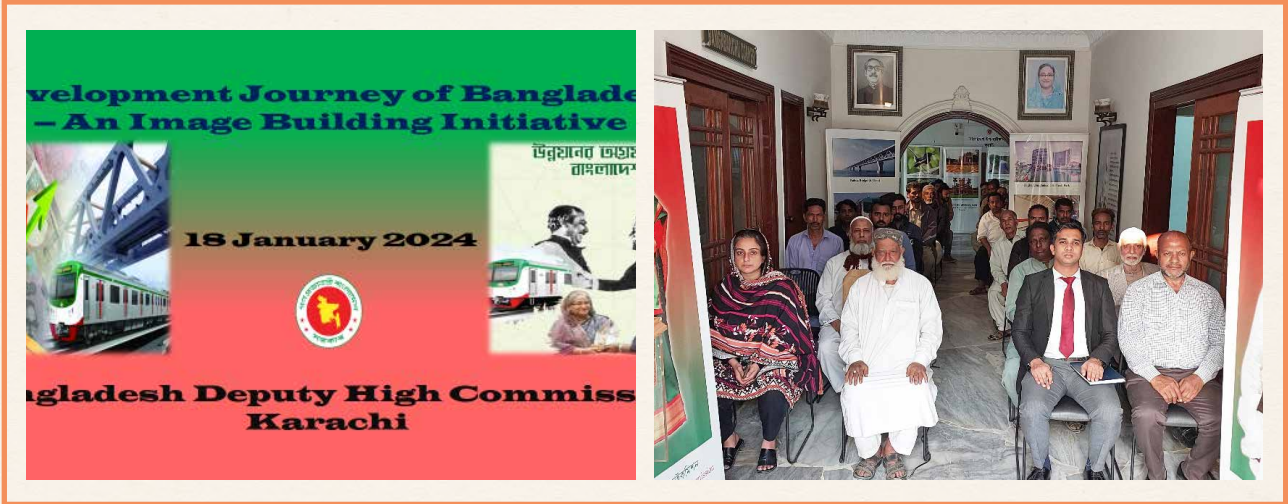


at the event. Her development journey, art, culture, & tradition and Bangladeshi cuisine were particularly highlighted. Over one thousand invited guests and dignitaries including Consuls

General, trainee officers and their family members of participating countries and businessperson from Pakistan participated and visited the stalls of different countries including “Bangladesh Pavilion”. All the

visiting dignitaries were impressed to see and know more about Bangladesh particularly the art, culture & tradition, cuisine and the socio-economic and development journey of Bangladesh.

**Bangladesh Deputy High Commission in Karachi Hosted 'The Development Journey of Bangladesh' Program**



Bangladesh Deputy High Commission in Karachi arranged a program titled “The Development Journey of Bangladesh” – An Image Building Initiative at the Chancery on 18 January 2024. Around 80 persons were present at the Showcase Bangladesh program.

Welcoming the visitors at the Mission, the Deputy High Commissioner S. M. Mahbubul Alam highlighted the success stories and the development journey of Bangladesh. He mentioned that under the charismatic and dynamic leadership of the Hon’ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Bangladesh has become a ‘Role Model’ of socio-economic development in the world. Deputy High Commissioner added

that Bangladesh is currently among the five fastest growing economies in the world, ranking 35th in terms of GDP. He also highlighted on mega projects in Bangladesh such as the Padma Bridge, Dhaka Metro Rail, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Karnaphuli River Tunnel, Elevated Expressway in Dhaka, the 3rd Terminal at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport, Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant, 564 Model Masjid and Islamic Cultural Centers across Bangladesh, Deep-Sea Port, Bangabandhu Satellite-1, Free Text Book distribution and so forth. He also highlighted on the programs related to and wide range of social safety net coverage, education particularly the women education, women empowerment,

development in health care facilities and so forth. He further mentioned that Bangladesh will be a trillion dollar Economy and the 9th largest consumer market in the world by 2041. Government of Bangladesh has been striving hard to implement “Vision-2041” to turn Bangladesh into an upper middle-income country by 2031 and Developed and Smart Bangladesh by 2041.

The participants at the “The Development Journey of Bangladesh” – An Image Building Initiative by the Mission was deeply impressed to know about the outstanding development stories of Bangladesh and profoundly appreciated socio-economic development of Bangladesh.



**Seminar titled “Sending of Remittances through Legal Channels” held at Bangladesh Deputy High Commission, Karachi**



Bangladesh Deputy High Commission in Karachi arranged a seminar at the Chancery on 16 January 2024 titled: “Sending of Remittances through Legal Channels”. Around 50 participants including the Mission officials and expatriate Bangladeshis in Pakistan participated at the Seminar.

In the seminar different aspects of remittances were discussed with particular focus on the sending of remittances to Bangladesh through legal channels. The ways/modes and importance of sending remittances in legal/formal/banking channels were explained and discussed in details.

It was mentioned that there are few

Banks of Pakistan such as Bank Alfalah, Habib Bank Ltd (HBL), National Bank of Pakistan (NBP), United Bank Ltd (UBL), and HSBC have their branches in Bangladesh, which are eligible to remit money smoothly to Bangladesh from Pakistan. There are also designated Money Exchange Companies and agencies like Western Union, which are also eligible to remit money to Bangladesh in legal channels.

Deputy High Commissioner of Bangladesh in Karachi S. M. Mahbulul Alam in his remarks outlined the importance of remittances to Bangladesh sent by the Bangladeshi diaspora to Bangladesh. He mentioned that

there are over 15 million Bangladesh nationals, who have been living in over 180 countries in the world and through the remittances they send to Bangladesh have been contributing vital role for the economy of Bangladesh.

He also emphasized that the sending of money in legal channels is also very crucial in preventing money laundering. Deputy High Commissioner highlighted that the Government of Bangladesh has introduced 2 per cent incentive, which was increased to 2.5% on 1 January 2022 and to 5% from October 2023 against each remittance to encourage the remitters to remit more of their hard-earned money to Bangladesh.

**President of Macao International Elite Networking Chamber of Commerce called on Consul General of Bangladesh to Hong Kong**

Professor Tim Wong, President of Macao International Elite Networking Chamber of Commerce paid a courtesy call on Ms. Israt

Ara, Consul General of Bangladesh on 09 January 2024. During the meeting, the Consul General briefed the President about the current

socio-economic development of Bangladesh as well as business opportunities. Professor Wong mentioned that Bangladesh has



unlimited business opportunities for investors from Macao and other countries. Referring to the "one-plus-four" economic development plan of the Macao Government targeting multiple sectors such as culture, health, finance, and

science and technology, he expressed willingness to assist Bangladeshi students in pursuing education in Macao. They further discussed possible cooperation on trade and investment sector, exchange of business delegation to Bangladesh

and Macao, inclusion of Bangladesh in Macao's talent attraction plan, Human Resources Development, etc. Both sides agreed to continue close collaboration for exploring more business opportunities.



### Consul General of Bangladesh to Hong Kong handed over the 'Hong Kong Volunteer Award'



The Consul General of Bangladesh in Hong Kong was invited by the Agency for Voluntary Services

(AVS) and the Home and Youth Affairs Bureau of the Hong Kong SAR Government at the Hong

Kong Volunteer Award Presentation Ceremony to present the award on 03 January 2024 at the Queen Elizabeth



Stadium. Guests from government, business sectors and academia were present in the ceremony. The Consul General has recently been nominated

as the Honorary Advisor of the AVS. More than 22,000 individual volunteers, enterprises, schools and non-government organizations

were awarded in the ceremony in recognition for their outstanding contributions to the society this year.

## Bangladesh Deputy High Commissioner in Chennai called on CM of Telangana

H.E. Mr. Shelley Salehin, Bangladesh Deputy High Commissioner in Chennai called on H.E. Mr. A. Revanth Reddy, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Telangana on 24 January 2024. Mrs. A. Santhi Kumari, IAS, Chief Secretary, Mr. Jayesh Ranjan, IAS, Principal Secretary IT, and Ms. J. Snehaja IFS, MEA Branch Head were present during the call on. Mr.

Salehin also had a very productive interactive sessions at Telangana Chamber of Commerce & Industry, as well as with the Federation of Telangana Chamber of Commerce & Industry. Major discussions involved areas such as, evolving growth and development landscape of Bangladesh, trade opportunities, education, Pharma, IT, connectivity,

medical tourism, and participation in Trade Expo in Bangladesh. He also had engaging meeting with Director General of Police (DGP) of Telangana Mr. Ravi Guptha, IPS. Mr. Salehin also interacted with Bangladeshi students at Osmania University as well as with the Vice Chancellor.



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