



FOREIGN OFFICE BRIEFING NOTES

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Ministry of Foreign Affairs celebrated the inauguration of the Padma Bridge



Ministry of Foreign Affairs celebrated the inauguration of the Padma Bridge at Foreign Service Academy in Dhaka on 27 June 2022 with the title - পদ্মা সেতুর স্বপ্নপূরণ শেখ হাসিনার অবদান, বিশ্ব জুড়ে গর্বিত আজ বাংলাদেশের কোটি প্রাণ. The program included a discussion session followed by cultural program. Foreign Minister Dr. A. K. Abdul Momen, MP graced the occasion as Chief Guest attending virtually. Economic Affairs Adviser to the Prime Minister Dr. Mashiur Rahman, State Minister for Foreign Affairs Md. Shahriar Alam, MP, Bangladesh Ambassador

to Germany Mr. Md. Mosharraf Hossain Bhuiyan and Professor of Economics of Dhaka University Dr. Selim Raihan were special guests. The speakers highlighted the importance of the Padma Multipurpose Bridge in the socio-economic development of Bangladesh. They termed the Bridge as the symbol of pride and self-confidence, the dream which came true at the hands of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, who took the bold decision of building the bridge with own resources. The speakers also mentioned about the foreign dignitaries and media who made

positive remarks on the successful completion of the Padma Bridge. The program was physically attended by the officers of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs while all the Bangladesh Missions abroad attended the program virtually. Rector of Foreign Service Academy Ambassador Asad Alam Siam gave the opening remarks and Foreign Secretary (Senior Secretary) Ambassador Masud Bin Momen conferred the vote of thanks. The program ended with a marvellous music and dance performance based on patriotic songs by the Srishti Cultural Centre.





First Economic Diplomacy Week celebrated by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs



As part of the Economic Diplomacy initiatives of the government of Bangladesh, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs organized the “First Economic Diplomacy Week” on 9-11 June 2022 at the Foreign Service Academy, Dhaka. The theme of this event was “Economic Diplomacy for National Prosperity” (অর্থনৈতিক কূটনীতি, আনবে দেশের উন্নতি). The program was inaugurated by Foreign Minister Dr. A. K. Abdul Momen, MP as the Chief Guest on 9 June 2022. Foreign Secretary Ambassador Masud Bin Momen, Secretary (Maritime Affairs Unit) Rear Admiral (Retd) Md. Khurshed Alam and Rector of the Foreign Service Academy

Ambassador Asad Alam Siam also delivered their remarks highlighting various aspects of the event.

In his statement, Foreign Minister Dr. Momen sought stronger efforts to promote economic diplomacy, noting that attracting foreign direct investment has always been a cornerstone of the economic diplomacy. He said the economic diplomacy package has five components and these are more foreign investment, more trade and export diversity, gainful employment of human resources both at home and abroad, transfer of technology and quality services to Bangladeshi Diaspora and to others. He said the Ministry of Commerce in collaboration

with Bangladesh Missions abroad, is in the process of finalizing preferential and free trade deals with a number of countries. He hoped that Bangladesh will be a developed nation by 2041 and the dream of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman for building a ‘Golden Bengal’ will be realized. Renowned scholars, high officials, diplomats, business leaders, members of the academia and civil society joined the two-day programme. The issues related to blue economy, climate action, SDGs, agricultural innovations, contract farming, food security, connectivity, human resource and skill development, trade liberalization were





discussed to identify the challenges and opportunities in these sectors.

Six panel discussions on six thematic areas took place during this First Economic Diplomacy Week. Panel discussion 1 was titled 'Blue

Economy-the Blue Bangladesh 2.0 Origins, Evolutions, Trends' and Rear Admiral (Retd) Md. Khurshed Alam, Secretary (MAU) delivered the Keynote speech. 'Climate Action and SDGs: Challenges & Opportunities'

was the theme for Panel Discussion 2, which was moderated by Ambassador Asad Alam Siam, Rector of Foreign Service Academy. He also moderated Panel discussion 3 titled 'Agricultural Innovation, Extension & Contract



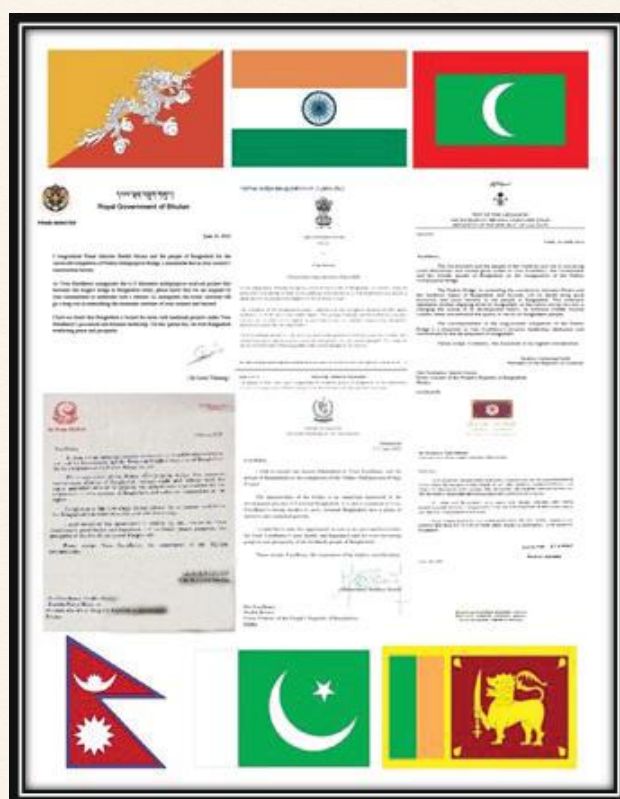
Farming- Food Security for the World'. Ambassador Mashfee Binte Shams, Secretary (East), Ministry of Foreign Affairs moderated Panel Discussion 4 themed on 'Connectivity - Themes, Maps, Ideation'. Panel Discussion 5 focused on 'Human

Skills & Human Resource Export - A New Horizon for Bangladesh' moderated by Md. Iqbal Hussain Khan, Director General (West Asia) of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the last panel discussion centred on 'Trade Liberalization and Due

Diligence: A Roadmap for Future' was moderated by Faiyaz Murshid Kazi, Director General (West Europe & EU and Multilateral Economic Affairs), Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Heads of the States and the Governments of the South Asian nations sent congratulatory messages on the occasion of inauguration of Padma Bridge

The Presidents/Prime Ministers of Nepal, Pakistan, Bhutan, Maldives and Sri Lanka sent messages congratulating the Hon'ble Prime Minister Her Excellency Sheikh Hasina and the people of Bangladesh on the occasion of the successful construction of the Padma Bridge financed by country's own fund. The Indian High Commission in Dhaka issued a press release on the occasion of the inauguration of the Padma Bridge. In the messages and press releases, the construction of the Padma Bridge has been cited as an example of Bangladesh's leadership in regional connectivity development in South Asia. In all the messages received, the implementation of the Padma Bridge project has been mentioned as an indicator of economic capacity of Bangladesh and the determination, strong leadership and visionary planning of the Hon'ble Prime Minister. The messages of the heads of the states and governments of South Asian countries manifested the goodwill and bright image of Bangladesh which has been garnered through the foreign policy envisioned by the Hon'ble Prime Minister on the basis of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's ideology of 'collective prosperity and peaceful coexistence across the region'.



Foreign Minister visited Stockholm to participate in the Stockholm+50 international meeting

Foreign Minister Dr. A. K. Abdul Momen, MP visited Sweden in early June 2022 to participate in the Stockholm+50 international meeting, convened to commemorate the 50 years since the 1972 United Nations Conference on the Human Environment. During his

3-day visit from 1-3 June 2022, he delivered country statement in the Stockholm+50 international meeting, had a bilateral meeting with his Swedish counterpart Foreign Minister Ann Linde, met the Swedish Minister for International Development Cooperation Matilda

Ernkrans, spoke at a roundtable on 'Environment of Peace: Securing a just and peaceful transition in a new era of risk', and also met the Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Director of UNEP Inger Andersen.



Stockholm+50 international meeting

Foreign Minister Dr. Momen highlighted the devastating impacts of climate change and urged for finance, technology transfer and capacity building for the developing countries, while delivering country statement at the Stockholm+50 international meeting, held on 02

June 2022 in Stockholm, Sweden. Speaking at the plenary session of the meeting, Foreign Minister Momen said that the Stockholm+50 platform has offered a unique opportunity to rethink the critical role of the global community for a resilient, healthy and prosperous planet for

all. He emphasized on Bangladesh government's climate actions and initiatives to save the planet including 'Mujib Climate Prosperity Plan' and adoption of 'Planetary Emergency' resolution by the Parliament.

Meeting with Swedish Foreign Minister



Foreign Minister Dr. A. K. Abdul Momen, MP and his Swedish counterpart Ann Linde agreed to strengthen and expand cooperation to combat climate change during a bilateral meeting held on 01 June 2022 in Stockholm, Sweden on the margins of the Stockholm+50 International Meeting. The Swedish Foreign Minister applauded Bangladesh's leadership role in global climate change discourses, especially as CVF Chair under the leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. Bangladesh Foreign Minister said that "we have just passed on the Presidency of Climate Vulnerable Forum (CVF) - an alliance of 55 climate vulnerable nations- to Ghana. However, we will continue to promote the interests of the vulnerable nations as part of the TROIKA of CVF."

During the discussion, Foreign Minister Momen highlighted the plights of displaced people of the coastal area due to sea-level rise. He added that this may turn into a security issue if the current trend continues. He sought Swedish assistance to enhance Bangladesh's capacity to adapt to the adverse effects of the climate crisis. Minister Momen invited Sweden to build partnership with Bangladesh on further cooperation in climate adaptation, renewable energy, innovation, technology transfer and green growth. Foreign Minister also requested Sweden to enhance and diversify its climate cooperation with Bangladesh through GCF, Adaptation Fund (AF), and Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF). He also stressed on the need for additional

financing mechanisms for loss and damage.

The two Ministers underlined the importance of global cooperation for effective implementation of the Paris Agreement and agreed to work together to that end. While emphasizing on the importance of trade and investment for a strengthened bilateral relation, Minister Momen urged Sweden to further diversify its exports beyond the traditional items and invest in the 100 Economic Zones that the government of Bangladesh has established. Bangladesh Foreign Minister further sought Sweden's proactive role in both bilateral and multilateral contexts in promoting the safe, dignified and voluntary return of the forcibly displaced Rohingyas to their homes in Myanmar at the earliest.



Address at Roundtable on 'Environment of Peace: Securing a just and peaceful transition in a new era of risk'



Speaking at a roundtable on 'Environment of Peace: Securing a just and peaceful transition in a new era of risk', organized by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) on the sidelines of the Stockholm+50 international meeting on 03 June 2022, Foreign

Minister warned that climate-induced displacement could lead to a global security risk in today's interconnected world and stressed that international community should share the burden of climate migrants' rehabilitation. Foreign Minister also stated that the international community is not

doing enough for millions of 'climate migrants' who often get subjected to various forms of security risks and exploitations. He emphasized on the significance of creating global awareness on the climate-security nexus and an enforcement mechanism to address the challenges.

Bilateral meeting with the Swedish Minister for International Development Cooperation

Foreign Minister Dr. Momen also held bilateral meeting with the Swedish Minister for International Development Cooperation Matilda Ernkrans and discussed how to enhance cooperation on climate change, education and other areas. He urged the Swedish Minister to put pressure on Myanmar for bringing back the forcibly displaced Rohingyas with safety and dignity underlining that business-as-usual approach with Myanmar would not make any progress.





Meeting with UNEP Executive Director



Dr. Momen also met the Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Inger Andersen and discussed how to strengthen collaboration with UNEP on environmental and climate issues. The Executive Director applauded Bangladesh's successful responses to climate change related challenges under the leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. She proposed to assist Bangladesh from Climate Technology Fund, hosted by UNEP to address climate challenges.

Address at a Leadership Dialogue on “Achieving a sustainable and inclusive recovery from the covid-19 pandemic”



Speaking at a Leadership Dialogue on “Achieving a sustainable and inclusive recovery from the covid-19 pandemic”, Foreign Minister suggested to overcome the division between technology and economic

interests and strengthen international cooperation for a sustainable and inclusive future for all irrespective of ethnicity, religion, colour, gender and political divide. He also recommended to increase investment

in climate adaptation, mitigation and resilience, change food production and consumption pattern and stop natural habitat and biodiversity loss.



Foreign Minister visited Hungary

Bilateral talks with Hungarian Foreign Minister held: Bangladesh and Hungary inked deals on nuclear energy and diplomatic exchange



On his visit to Hungary, Foreign Minister Dr. A. K. Abdul Momen, MP held bilateral talks with the Hungarian Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade Péter Szijjártó in Budapest on 7 June 2022 to discuss a wide range of issues of mutual interest.

Two foreign ministers agreed to deepen relations in the fields of economic cooperation, health, climate change, water and waste-water management, trade and investment including post-graduation facilities, nuclear energy, and post-COVID recovery. The ministers also signed

two MoUs, one on Cooperation in the Field of Training and Education of Atomic Industry on the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy, and another on Diplomatic Exchange Program. Mentioning Bangladesh's leadership role in global climate discourse as the immediate past Chair of the Climate Vulnerable Forum (CVF), Dr. Momen requested his Hungarian counterpart to extend cooperation to mobilize more support to implement the Paris Climate Agreement. Two ministers also agreed to cooperate in clean and renewable energy sectors. They discussed future cooperation

path in the field of nuclear energy as both Bangladesh and Hungary are availing the same technology for respective new nuclear power plants and agreed on training and education of nuclear energy professionals.

The ministers expressed satisfaction on the successful ongoing cooperation within the framework of the Hungarian scholarship (Stipendium Hungaricum) programme, which provides 140 scholarships annually to Bangladeshi students to pursue undergraduate, graduate and post graduate studies in Hungarian universities. Dr.



Momen requested Hungarian Foreign Minister Péter Szijjártó to continue support in multilateral fora for the speedy and sustainable repatriation of Rohingyas to their homeland in Myanmar.

Minister Szijjártó recalled his successful visit to Bangladesh in September 2020 and appreciated the exemplary socio-economic develop-

ment of Bangladesh under the leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. Hungarian foreign minister announced that the Consular Office of Hungary in Dhaka will act as a full-fledged consular facility starting on 7 June 2022. Both the Ministers expressed their hope to open resident missions in Dhaka and Budapest in a not-so-distant future.

Dr. Momen handed over to Minister Szijjártó a special message from Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina addressed to the newly re-elected Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán. The Foreign Ministers agreed to work on a possible visit within 2022 of Prime Minister Orbán to Bangladesh.

Foreign Minister called Bangladeshi students in Hungary for contributing to the development of Bangladesh



Foreign Minister Dr. A. K. Abdul Momen, MP called Bangladesh students studying in various Hungarian Universities under the Hungaricum Stipendium Programme for engaging themselves in the socio-economic development of Bangladesh. While addressing the Bangladeshi students at the Mathius Corvinus Collegium in Budapest, Hungary on 6 June 2022, the Foreign Minister suggested the students to be inquisitive, innovative and passionate for the greater welfare of the humankind. Mr. Miklos Lengyel, Deputy State Secretary for International Training Programs of the Ministry of Foreign

Affairs and Trade of Hungary and Bangladesh Ambassador to Hungary Muhammad Abdul Muhith also addressed the students. Dr. Momen highlighted the commitments of the current government under Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for building a knowledge-based, developed and prosperous nation imbued with modern and technological knowledge. He underscored the importance of skilling up the youths with appropriate knowledge and skills and suggested the students to avail the numerous opportunities in the field of science, technology and innovation to face the domestic and

local challenges. While stating the transformation of high-tech industries in Bangladesh, Foreign Minister suggested the students to equip them with ideas and innovations and advised them to work hard to fulfil the dream of Bangabandhu to make Bangladesh as Sonar Bangla. Foreign Minister appreciated the government of Hungary for providing 140 full scholarships to Bangladeshi students annually for pursuing graduation, post-graduation and PhDs in renowned Hungarian universities under the Hungaricum Stipendium Programme since 2019.



Foreign Minister led Bangladesh delegation to India to attend the 7th Joint Consultative Committee (JCC) meeting, called on the Vice President of India and other Union Ministers of India

Foreign Minister Dr. A. K. Abdul Momen, MP led Bangladesh delegation to India to attend the 7th JCC meeting held on 19 June 2022, co-chaired by the two Foreign Ministers of Bangladesh and India. Foreign Minister held a substantive and fruitful JCC meeting with his counterpart. Apart from this, Foreign Minister called on the Vice President of India and other Ministers including the Minister of Commerce & Industry, Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution and Textiles and Minister of Petroleum, Natural Gas and Housing and Urban Affairs of the Government of India at their respective offices in New Delhi.



7th Round of India-Bangladesh Joint Consultative Commission



The 7th Round of the India-Bangladesh Joint Consultative Commission (JCC) was held in New Delhi on 19 June 2022. The JCC was co-chaired by Dr. S. Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister of India and Dr. A.K. Abdul Momen, MP, Minister for Foreign Affairs of

Bangladesh. During the JCC meeting, both the Foreign Ministers expressed satisfaction over the existing excellent bilateral relationship between the two countries. They touched upon the entire spectrum of the issues broadly-political and security cooperation, trade and connectivity, development

cooperation, cooperation in water, power and energy sector, sub-regional, regional and multilateral cooperation and consular and cultural cooperation. Foreign Minister of Bangladesh urged for taking necessary steps for early conclusion and implementation of interim water



sharing agreements for Teesta and other common rivers. He also sought

support of India for expeditious repatriation of the forcibly displaced

Myanmar nationals to their country of origin.

Call on the Vice President of India



Foreign Minister paid a courtesy call on the Vice President of India, Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu on 20 June 2022. During the call on, the Vice President expressed his satisfaction for the excellent bilateral relationship which has been strengthened in the recent years. He lauded Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for her zero-tolerance against terrorism that brought forth peace and security in the entire South Asian region, especially to the north-eastern states of India. He also stated that the relationship between Bangladesh and

India is based on mutual trust and Bangladesh occupies a special place at the foreign policy outlook of India, as both the countries are linked by shared history, culture, tradition, language and common values. The Vice President also congratulated Bangladesh on the economic success the country achieved in the past decade under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and wished for working together for further prosperity in the days to come. He particularly applauded the initiatives taken by the Prime

Minister Sheikh Hasina and her Government to ensure women empowerment and participation in the economic activities. Foreign Minister expressed his satisfaction on the successful discussion held at the JCC Meeting. He noted that Bangladesh considers India as the closest neighbour and both the countries are working together closely for sectoral cooperation in the areas like common rivers and water resources management, IT and cyber security, renewable energy, agriculture and food security.

Call on the other Ministers of India

Foreign Minister also met the Petroleum, Natural Gas and Housing and Urban Affairs Minister, Shri Hardeep Singh Puri. The two Ministers discussed the existing collaboration of both the countries in the areas of energy cooperation namely- nuclear energy, renewables like solar and wind, LNG, LPG, diesel etc. They also discussed

the global evolving situation with a particular focus on the energy demand and supply discourse. Both the Ministers stressed on the need to ensure energy security and energy cooperation in the sub-region. The Indian Petroleum Minister proposed to hold regular meetings and dialogues for further solidifying the existing collaboration and exploring

new areas of cooperation in the energy sector.

Earlier on 19 June 2022, Dr. Momen met the Minister of Commerce & Industry, Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution and Textiles of India, Shri Piyush Goyal. Foreign Minister stated that under the dynamic leadership of the Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina



Bangladesh has achieved remarkable socio-economic progress during the last decade. Both the Ministers expressed satisfaction that bilateral trade has recorded significant growth during the last few years.

Foreign Minister Momen stated that Indian business houses can take advantage of investing in Bangladesh particularly in the SEZ dedicated for the Indian investors in Mongla and Mirsharai. They agreed

to further deepen collaboration in trade, commerce and investment for mutual benefit. Foreign Minister also met the National Security Adviser of India.



Foreign Minister called for more economic collaboration between Bangladesh and India



Foreign Minister Dr. A.K. Abdul Momen, MP stated that the government of Bangladesh based on development aspirations especially emphasizes economic diplomacy in order to achieve the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Muzibur Rahman's dream of 'Shonar Bangla'. He made the remarks on 18 June 2022 while delivering his keynote address

in a seminar entitled "Economic Diplomacy" in New Delhi, arranged by Bangladesh High Commission in New Delhi in collaboration with the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII). The High Commissioners of both Bangladesh and India and President, CII also spoke at the seminar. Dr. Momen stressed economic diplomacy as the most significant element of

diplomacy in the face of ongoing global economic unrest and recent political developments in Europe. He stated that Bangladesh, once known to be a basket case, after 50 years of its independence, down the line, under the able leadership of the Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, defying all odds, is currently the 41st largest economy in the world, set to be the



25th largest by 2035. He noted that Bangladesh, once known for famine, food and aid dependency is now not only self-sufficient in food production but also one of the largest producers of rice, grains, vegetables, some fruits and freshwater fish. He said Bangladesh has proven its capacity to undertake mega projects like Padma Multipurpose Bridge, the country's longest bridge by its own fund which has been completed and is scheduled to be inaugurated by the Hon'ble Prime Minister on 25 June 2022.

Dr. Momen expressed satisfaction as Bangladesh and India have made remarkable progress in bilateral cooperation during the last decade and emphasized on complementing each other's necessities and priorities

for the overall development of the people of both the countries. He noted that bilateral trade has been growing steadily over the years and crossed the landmark of 16 billion USD last year despite the challenges posed by the pandemic. He also said the proposed CEPA will usher in a win-win situation in terms of possible gains in the realms of trade and commerce. He urged the Indian businessmen to invest in the 2 specialized economic zones of Bangladesh namely Mongla and Mirsharai dedicated to Indian investors. He emphasized that the businessmen and the private investors of the two countries should look beyond the border and work as partners toward building a prosperous and economically vibrant region.

Foreign Minister also met non-resident 80 (eighty) Ambassadors/ High Commissioners to Bangladesh with residence in New Delhi and requested them to open their Mission in Bangladesh for expansion and diversification of the areas of cooperation.

The visit of the Foreign Minister to New Delhi drew much attention and publicized by the media accordingly across the region. In view of all these aspects, the visit of the Foreign Minister played its due role in adding momentum to the ongoing dialogue and also laid the ground in addressing the unresolved issues to solidifying the ties keeping the forthcoming visit to India of the Hon'ble Prime Minister of Bangladesh, at the front.

Foreign Minister led Bangladesh delegation to the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Rwanda

Foreign Minister Dr. A.K. Abdul Momen, MP led the Bangladesh delegation to the 26th Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) held in Kigali, Rwanda from 24-25 June 2022. He arrived in Rwanda on 22 June 2022 and was received by the Bangladesh envoys to London and Nairobi and the high officials from the Rwandan Government. This year, CHOGM took place under the theme 'Delivering a Common Future: Connecting, Innovating, Transforming' with the attendance of more than thirty Heads of Government, Foreign Ministers and delegates. The Commonwealth leaders discussed building more partnerships among Commonwealth countries in areas including sustainable and inclusive development, governance, and rule of law, post-Covid recovery, youth technology, and innovation.

In the afternoon, Foreign Minister had bilateral meetings with his counterpart, the Foreign Minister of Commonwealth of Dominica Dr. Kenneth M Darroux and the Foreign Minister of Sri Lanka Prof. G.L Peiris where the entire gamut of bilateral and multilateral issues was discussed. Dr. Momen also joined the Commonwealth Ministers Meeting on Small States, reassuring Bangladesh's support in seeking the concrete actions by the international community to build resilience for the climate-vulnerable nations. Later in the evening, Dr. Momen attended a sideline event hosted by Bangladesh in partnership with the Government of Rwanda, Shuchona Foundation, and the British Asian Trust under the title 'Rethinking Mental Health: A Commonwealth Call to Empower, Care and Transport'. Advisor to the Director General of WHO on Mental Health and Autism, Ms. Saima

Wazed presented a key-note paper on behalf of the Shuchona Foundation.

While delivering a speech at the CHOGM executive session on 25 June 2022, Foreign Minister Dr. A K Abdul Momen, MP called for strengthening free mobility of trade and investment and human resources and introducing a visa-free Commonwealth regime. He reiterated that commitment made in COP 26 on limiting temperature increase within 1.5 degrees and mobilizing 100 billion climate finance must continue to remain the flagship agenda of the Commonwealth. He also proposed a crisis management mechanism in Commonwealth to address equitable access to global public health goods and services, including vaccines and therapeutics as well as mental health. He called upon Commonwealth nations to exert pressure on the Myanmar regime to comply with the



‘Provisional Measures’ by the ICJ and create a conducive environment in the Rakhine State for the safe, secure and dignified return of their nationals.

During the CHOGM, the role of Bangladesh in climate change was commended by Australian Deputy

Prime Minister and British Prime Minister while the Sultan of Brunei and Deputy Prime Minister of Malta commended Bangladesh on its pioneering role and initiative on Mental Health. The two-day meeting ended with adopting declarations on childcare and protection reform;

the Commonwealth Living Land Charter, the declaration on sustainable urbanization, and the Heads of Governments Communiqué. A Leaders Statement was also adopted at the Retreat.



Bangladesh and Rwanda announced the Kigali-Dhaka compact on mental health

At the 26th CHOGM 2022, a high-level event titled ‘Rethinking Mental Health: A Commonwealth Call to Support, Care and Transform’

was organized by Bangladesh High Commission in London in partnership with the Government of Rwanda, Shuchona Foundation,

and the British Asian Trust on which the key note paper was presented by Saima Wazed Hossain, Advisor to the Director General of WHO on Mental



Health and Autism. The event was attended by the Commonwealth Secretary-General, The Rt Hon. Patricia Scotland QC; the First Lady of Rwanda, Jeanette Kagame; the Rwandan Foreign Affairs Minister, Hon. Dr. Vincent Biruta; Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General of the World

Health Organization; Commonwealth Foreign Ministers and high-level Representatives of State and Government from Commonwealth countries, International and Civil Society Organizations. The Foreign Ministers of Bangladesh and Rwanda announced the Kigali-Dhaka Compact on Mental Health at this high-

level dialogue. This was the first time any high-level event dedicated to mental health of young people and women specially after post-Covid, was organised at the Commonwealth under Bangladesh's leadership on mental health and other neurological disorder.



Meeting with Sri Lankan Foreign Minister held on the sidelines of 26th CHOGM

Foreign Minister Dr. A K Abdul Momen, MP met with his Sri Lankan counterpart Prof. G.L. Peiris on the sidelines of the 26th Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM), held on 24-25 June 2022 in Kigali, Rwanda. During this meeting, fruitful discussions were held between the two Foreign Ministers on various areas of bilateral relations. The Sri Lanka Foreign Minister sought Bangladesh's cooperation to recover from Sri Lanka's ongoing economic crisis.





Bangladesh Foreign Service Association handed over monetary contributions to Foreign Minister for the flood victims

Bangladesh Foreign Service Association (BFSA) handed over monetary contributions to Foreign Minister and lawmaker of Sylhet-1 constituency Dr. A.K. Abdul Momen, MP at the State Guest House Padma. BFSA President Sabbir Ahmed Chowdhury handed over a cheque of BDT 5 lakh to the Foreign Minister. Dr. Momen thanked BFSA for their contribution to the people of Sylhet during this natural disaster.



Ambassador of Japan to Bangladesh called on Foreign Minister



Ambassador of Japan to Bangladesh Mr. Ito Naoki called on Foreign Minister Dr. A.K. Abdul Momen, MP at his office on 14 June 2022. They discussed issues of common interest, including exchange of high-

level visits on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of bilateral relations between the two countries, Rohingya repatriation, increasing bilateral trade and Japanese investment in Bangladesh and in this regard

initiating a joint study towards concluding an FTA between the two countries, cooperation in different multilateral fora, including supporting each other's candidatures, etc.

Outgoing Kuwaiti Ambassador paid a farewell call on Foreign Minister

Outgoing Ambassador of Kuwait Adel Mohammed A H Hayat paid a courtesy call on Foreign Minister Dr. A. K. Abdul Momen, MP on 14 June 2022. Foreign Minister appreciated

the Ambassador for his hard work and sincere efforts in the cause of strengthening the bilateral relations. He also thanked the government of Kuwait for providing free vaccines

and treatments to Bangladeshi expatriates living in Kuwait during the Covid-19 pandemic. He highlighted that the Bangladesh and Kuwait enjoy excellent bilateral



relations in the fields of manpower, trade & commerce, defense and energy sectors. Foreign Minister thanked the Government of Kuwait for extending humanitarian support for Rohingyas. He also mentioned

that Kuwait can recruit more medical professionals including nurse, medical technicians from Bangladesh. The Ambassador expressed his gratitude to the Foreign Minister for the cooperation and support he received

during his tenure in Bangladesh. He expressed hope that in the coming days, economic cooperation will be further strengthened for the mutual benefit of two countries.



2nd US-Bangladesh High Level Economic Consultation held with a mutual hope for enhanced economic cooperation



2nd High Level Economic Consultation (HLEC) between Bangladesh and the United States was held on 2 June 2022 at the US Department of State in Washington, DC Salman F. Rahman, MP, Adviser to the Prime Minister for Private Industry and Investment

and Jose W. Fernandez, US State Department Under Secretary for Economic Growth, Energy, and the Environment co-chaired the day-long meeting. Bangladesh delegation included Md. Shahriar Alam, MP, State Minister for Foreign Affairs; Dr. Ahmad Kaikaus, Principal Secretary

to Prime Minister; Shafiul Islam Mohiuddin, MP; Begum Shamsun Nahar, MP; M Shahidul Islam, Bangladesh Ambassador to the United States and other senior officials of the government. Deputy Assistant Secretary for South and Central Asia Ambassador Kelly Keiderling,



Assistant US Trade Representative Christopher Wilson, Deputy Under Secretary for International Affairs, Department of Labour Ms. Thea Lee and other senior officials of the relevant US departments were present at the meeting.

Adviser Salman F. Rahman underscored business to business and people to people contacts as the key elements for enhanced economic cooperation between the two countries. He urged the US government for preferential market access of Bangladeshi products to the US market, enhanced US investment in manufacturing, technology transfer and International Development Finance Corporation (DFC) funding for infrastructural development. He reiterated Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's earlier offer of dedicated economic zone for the US investors. The Adviser also encouraged the US IT companies to invest in the Hi-Tech Parks taking advantage of the large pool of freelancers in Bangladesh.

State Minister for Foreign Affairs Md. Shahriar Alam, MP stated that continuity of coherent policies under the visionary leadership of the Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina was the key to Bangladesh's tremendous socio-economic progress during past 13 years. Under Secretary Jose W. Fernandez applauded Bangladesh's remarkable economic growth and tremendous success in COVID-19 vaccination. Recognizing the progress made in Bangladesh's labour sector, Under Secretary Fernandez proposed for a regular consultation mechanism to remain engaged on the labour issues.

In the 2nd session on the labor issues, ILO Country Director in Bangladesh Tuomo Poutiainen made an independent presentation on the progress Bangladesh made in the labor sector. Worker's rights Coordinator of the AFL-CIO Laura Gutierrez, Solidarity Center Executive Director Shawna Bader-Blau and Bangladesh labor representative Kazi Rahima

Akter attended this session. Both sides discussed a range of other issues including cooperation on climate change, renewable energy, maritime and blue economy, COVID-19, tourism & hospitality, and civil aviation. Bangladesh side mentioned that the resumption of Dhaka-New York direct Biman flight is a priority for the government and drew US attention for expeditious action on the matter. They agreed to work in close cooperation to resume the flight as early as possible. Both sides agreed on the importance of enhanced people to people contacts in strengthening bilateral relations. In this regard, State Minister Alam drew the attention of the US side to expedite visa processing for the students and the businessmen from Bangladesh. Both the sides agreed to hold the 3rd round of the consultation in 2023 in Dhaka at a mutually convenient time. A Joint Statement was issued at the end of the meeting.





“We must enhance global efforts to save lives and reduce risks and vulnerabilities of migrants” - stated State Minister for Foreign Affairs in New York



On 19th May 2022 while delivering the national statement at the general debate of the International Migration Review Forum (IMRF) at the UN General Assembly, State Minister for Foreign Affairs Md. Shahriar Alam, MP stated, “We must enhance global efforts to save lives and reduce risks and vulnerabilities of migrants during their migratory journey, including

those caught up in situations of crisis”. He urged transit and destination countries not to forcibly return migrants under any circumstances. He also underscored the importance of fulfilling the obligations of Member States for search and rescue of distressed migrants at sea. He added, “on multiple occasions, our own naval forces have rescued Myanmar’s

forcibly displaced Rohingyas adrift at sea along our coasts”. The State Minister led a high-level Bangladesh delegation to the Migration Review Forum. The general debate was chaired by Ambassador Rabab Fatima, Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the United Nations.

Non-resident Finnish Ambassador called on State Minister for Foreign Affairs

The non-resident Ambassador of Finland to Bangladesh Ritva Koukku-Ronde called on the State Minister for Foreign Affairs Md. Shahriar Alam, MP at his office on 8 June 2022. Both of them noted the friendly ties between Bangladesh and Finland and discussed ways to

expand the relations across sectors, especially in the areas of trade and investment, climate action, SDG, migration and mobility, education and research, renewable energy and digital cooperation. Both sides also exchanged views on regional and multilateral issues including the

Ukraine conflict and its implications.

The State Minister encouraged the Finnish companies to benefit from the attractive business opportunities existing in Bangladesh and discussed possible economic engagements between the two countries. He



also advised the Ambassador about Bangladesh's desire to work together in the areas of migration and mobility. The Finnish Ambassador appreciated Bangladesh's role in maintaining regional stability by hosting 1.1 million Forcibly Displaced Myanmar Nationals and providing them with sustainable livelihood and education. She also praised Bangladesh's well recognised role in peacekeeping and peacebuilding. The Ambassador expressed interest in establishing

cooperation in the areas of smart city and smart port constructions. She also conveyed the interest of the Finnish energy companies to collaborate with Bangladesh. The State Minister sought Finland's support to Bangladesh's United Nations Security Council candidature. The Finnish Ambassador indicated to give due consideration to Bangladesh's bid. The State Minister noted the need for further cooperation in the areas of higher education, skill

development and capacity building in key sectors between the countries. He also flagged the issue of the visa difficulties experienced by the students aiming to go to Finland for pursuing higher studies. The Ambassador expressed her desire to collaborate more in the higher education sector and assured of easing the visa complexities shortly. Both sides affirmed their desire to continue the positive momentum in the bilateral relationship.



Kuwaiti Ambassador to Bangladesh paid farewell call on the State Minister for Foreign Affairs

Outgoing Ambassador of Kuwait Adel Mohammed A H Hayat paid a farewell call on State Minister for Foreign Affairs Md. Shahriar Alam on 7 June 2022. The Ambassador thanked State Minister for his support during his tenure in Bangladesh. He mentioned that the government of Bangladesh has made tremendous development under the leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. State Minister appreciated the Ambassador for his sincere efforts for strengthening bilateral cooperation between Bangladesh and Kuwait in





manpower, trade, defense, energy and development projects. State Minister mentioned that Kuwait can recruit more medical professionals including nurse, medical technicians from

Bangladesh. Kuwait Ambassador highlighted that Bangladesh and Kuwait enjoys excellent relations in bilateral and multilateral forum. He expressed that in coming days the

relation will be more strengthened for mutual benefit of Bangladesh and Kuwait.

Canadian High Commissioner to Bangladesh called on the State Minister for Foreign Affairs



Canadian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Ms. Lilly Nicholls called on the State Minister for Foreign Affairs Md. Shahriar Alam, MP on 27 June 2022 at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Dhaka. State Minister welcomed the newly appointed Canadian High Commissioner to Bangladesh. He expressed gratitude for Canada's continued support for the Forcibly Displaced Myanmar Nationals (FDMNs) both inside Bangladesh and in the International Forums including the ICJ case. State

Minister hoped that Canada will continue its General Preferential Tariff (GPT) facility to Bangladesh for much longer period at the backdrop of COVID-19 pandemic.

High Commissioner Ms. Lilly Nicholls highly appreciated Bangladesh's unbelievable success in COVID-19 management and cited Bangladesh as an example in the world in COVID-19 management. She emphasized on the new areas of trade and investment between the two countries, which included agro-based products, ICT,

green tech and aerospace.

State Minister requested the High Commissioner to consider Bangladeshi students to be included in the 'Student Direct Stream'. High Commissioner Lilly informed that currently Canadian government is reviewing the 'Student Direct Stream' programme and as soon as it is finalised, Canada is open to consider Bangladesh to be included in the programme.

Saudi Ambassador called on State Minister for Foreign Affairs

Ambassador of Saudi Arabia to Bangladesh Essa Youssef Essa Al Duhaikan called on State Minister for Foreign Affairs Md. Shahriar Alam, MP at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 27 June 2022.

The Ambassador congratulated the Government of Bangladesh under the leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for successful completion of Padma Multipurpose Bridge. State Minister thanked the Ambassador

and Government of Saudi Arabia for necessary arrangements including pre-immigration facilities for pilgrims in Dhaka Airport.

The Ambassador briefed the State Minister on further willingness



of more Saudi investment in Bangladesh. The State Minister expressed his satisfaction on the excellent relations existing between Bangladesh and Saudi Arabia in bilateral and multilateral sectors.

He also thanked the Ambassador for his efforts in promoting relations between Bangladesh and Saudi Arabia. The Ambassador emphasized for strengthening economic relations between Bangladesh and Saudi Arabia

in the field of trade and investment, direct shipping between Chattogram and Jeddah, culture, education and in tourism.



SAARC Secretary General called on State Minister for Foreign Affairs



SAARC Secretary General Esala Weerakoon called on State Minister for Foreign Affairs Md Shahriar Alam, MP at his office on 6 June 2022. The State Minister welcomed Mr. Esala Weerakoon and asked about different aspects of current activities of SAARC. During their discussion, the Secretary General recalled the role of Bangladesh since the inception of SAARC as a visionary idea of the Father of the

Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman to form regional cooperation and connection among the South Asian countries. He praised the willingness of Bangladesh to activate and motivate the various modalities of regional cooperation within the SAARC system. He also appealed to the State Minister for intervention to save the SAARC process from the existing difficulties. The State Minister assured Bangladesh's

commitment to extend every possible support to materialize the goals of SAARC and to achieve a sustainable and integrated development in the region through cooperation. The State Minister advised the Secretary General to continue his consultation with member states and urged to revitalize SAARC Cooperation to face the growing challenge that the region is facing.



Foreign Secretary asked SAARC Secretary General to reinvigorate SAARC through consultation of member states



Foreign Secretary (Senior Secretary) Ambassador Masud bin Momen received SAARC Secretary General Esala Weerakoon at the State Guest House Padma on 7 June 2022. Foreign Secretary appreciated the Secretary General's active role in coordinating, facilitating, managing SAARC matters especially during the difficult time of COVID 19 pandemic. The Secretary General apprised the Foreign Secretary about various aspects of current status of SAARC cooperation and challenges the Organization has been facing and sought Bangladesh's support in

activating various stalled activities and programmes of SAARC to resolve the stalemate. The Foreign Secretary and the Secretary General exchanged views on how best SAARC process could be revitalized and put to its regular path to exploit the full potentials and benefits of the institutional mechanism and the synergy the organization created over the last thirty seven years of its existence. They discussed different aspects of current activities of SAARC. The Foreign Secretary assured the Secretary General of Bangladesh's commitment to SAARC

and to extend every possible support to materialize the goals of SAARC to achieve a sustainable and integrated development in the region through cooperation under the SAARC system. The Foreign Secretary urged the Secretary General to play an objective role in transforming SAARC into a meaningful regional organization. The Foreign Secretary advised the Secretary General to explore all possible ways and means to find solutions to the existing difficulties in an innovative way through continuous consultation of member states.

Foreign Secretary hosted a working lunch in honor of visiting delegation of the Executive Board of UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS

Foreign Secretary (Senior Secretary) Ambassador Masud Bin Momen hosted a working lunch on 26 June 2022 in honor of visiting delegation of the Executive Board of UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS, led by Ms. Yoka

Brandt, President of the Executive Board, Ambassador, and Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the United Nations. Visiting Board members i.e. Permanent Representatives

of Sweden, Bulgaria, Guatemala, Deputy Permanent Representative of Kenya, representatives from UN Secretariat, and representatives from UN agencies in Bangladesh also attended the working lunch.



Foreign Secretary (Senior Secretary) underscored continued, coordinated, and enhanced role of the UN Development System (UNDS) in the socio-economic progress of

Bangladesh. The President and members of the Executive Board highly appreciated the development & growth of Bangladesh. Foreign Secretary (Senior Secretary) also

elaborated on efforts of Bangladesh to comprehensively resolve the Rohingya crisis through repatriation and requested international community's sustained support in this regard.



Foreign Secretary joined the 50th anniversary celebration event of JICA Bangladesh

Foreign Secretary (Senior Secretary) Ambassador Masud Bin Momen joined the 50th anniversary celebration event of JICA Bangladesh on 16 June 2022 held in Pan Pacific Sonargaon hotel, Dhaka. In his speech, Foreign Secretary highlighted JICA's immense support to Bangladesh worth of commitment of more than USD 27 billion in terms of ODA loans, grant aids, technical cooperation, etc. He hoped that like the past 50 years, JICA will remain engaged with Bangladesh in the future as well towards achieving developed country status by 2041.



Ambassador of Indonesia called on Foreign Secretary

Newly appointed Ambassador of the Republic of Indonesia to Bangladesh Mr. R. Heru Hartanto Subolo paid a courtesy call on Foreign Secretary (Senior Secretary) Ambassador Masud Bin Momen at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 14 June 2022.

They discussed important aspects of the existing excellent bilateral relations between Bangladesh and Indonesia and exchanged greetings on the occasion of the Golden Jubilee of diplomatic relations this year. While discussing the many commonalities

that bind the two countries, Foreign Secretary made specific mention of the syncretic culture and the liberal, tolerant and moderate practice of religion that form the very basic fabric of society both in Bangladesh and in Indonesia. Foreign Secretary



shared that the independence of Bangladesh was achieved on the very ideals of democracy, justice, tolerance and secularism. He also shed light on the phenomenal socio-economic development Bangladesh achieved under the dynamic leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and encouraged the Indonesian investors and business community to take advantage of the huge opportunity prevailing in

Bangladesh for the mutual benefit of the two countries. He also emphasized on starting direct air connectivity between Dhaka and Jakarta. While discussing the global supply chain disruptions and inflationary pressures caused by pandemic and the Ukraine-Russia conflicts, Foreign Secretary stressed on accelerating bilateral & regional cooperation to cope with such challenges. The Indonesian Envoy shared that some new proposal

of large joint-venture investment, approximately to the tune of USD 1.3 billion, in the energy sector of Bangladesh are being considered, which, if materialized, would add significant economic substance to the bilateral relations and help strengthen it further. He also assured of taking necessary initiatives to celebrate the 50 Years of Diplomatic Relations in a befitting manner.



Bangladesh participated in the UN Ocean Conference 2022 in Lisbon

2nd UN Ocean Conference 2022 kicked off on 27 June 2022 in Lisbon with an aim to address many of the challenges through structural transformations and science-based innovative solutions to achieve Sustainable Development Goal-14 which are conservation and sustainable use of the oceans, seas and marine resources. Portugal and Kenya

co-hosted this global conference this year. Secretary of the Maritime Affairs Unit of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Rear Admiral (Retd.) Md. Khurshed Alam, BN, Bangladesh Ambassador to Portugal Mr. Tarik Ahsan and other Embassy officials participated in the both plenary session and interactive dialogue titled 'Addressing Marine Pollution' on the opening

day. On 28th June, the Bangladesh delegation participated in another interactive dialogue titled 'Promoting and strengthening sustainable ocean-based economies, in particular for Small Island Developing States and Least Developed Countries' as well as the plenary session where leaders around the globe made interventions.





Bangladesh co-hosted seminar on blue economy in Lisbon



Bangladesh along with some other countries co-hosted a side event titled 'Fostering international and regional cooperation in support of the sustainable development of the blue economy in LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS' organized by the International Seabed Authority (ISA) on 29 June 2022 on the side-lines of the 2nd UN Ocean Conference being held in Lisbon, Portugal. Secretary of the Maritime Affairs Unit of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh, Rear Admiral (Retd.) Md. Khurshed Alam, BN co-chaired the panel discussions. Vice-President of Tanzania, Foreign and Tourism Minister of Tonga, Minister of International Development of Norway, other Ministers, high representatives and experts from the member states also attended this event.

Rear Admiral Khurshed Alam remarked that oceans and seas

are the potential and versatile resource-frontiers for humankind, which remained under-explored and unexploited. Through a blue economy approach, humankind can harness untapped resources that can be useful in tackling poverty, food insecurity, unemployment, energy crisis and ecological imbalances towards strengthening the sustainable development process. He emphasized the need of fostering international and regional cooperation to develop strategies in support of the sustainable development of the blue economy in LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS. He elaborated that states and organizations in developing regions may not have the capacity to develop and manage their own shared marine resources, as they lack the necessary information, expertise or the financial capacity to follow through with planning and operations. External

assistance can be valuable, and sometimes essential, in establishing shared international marine resources arrangements.

Panellists opined that regional and international cooperation is crucial to develop marine scientific knowledge and research capacity to leverage the benefits offered by the blue economy. They remarked that transfer of technology can create enabling conditions in the LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS states to participate effectively in existing and emerging ocean sectors of the blue economy. Representatives also viewed strongly that strategic partnership is necessary for harnessing the benefits of the blue economy. The seminar was wrapped up with commitments to forging wider regional and international cooperation, devising mechanisms for technology transfer and financing the blue economy.



Ministry jointly organized Bangabandhu Bay of Bengal Festival -2022 at Cox's Bazar



As part of the celebration of the birth centenary of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and the golden jubilee of the independence of Bangladesh, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, SAFE, Department of Shipping and Bangladesh Oceanographic Research Institute jointly organized Bangabandhu Bay of Bengal Festival -2022 at Cox's Bazar on 8 June 2022. Mr. Sajjadul Hasan, Senior Secretary (Retd.), Prime Minister's Office and Chairman, Board of Directors, Biman Bangladesh Airlines was present as the Chief Guest at the Festival. Rear Admiral (Retd.) Md. Khurshed Alam, Secretary, Maritime Affairs Unit, Ministry of Foreign Affairs,

Mr. Md. Ali Kadar, Chairman, Bangladesh Tourism Corporation and Commodore Abu Jafar Md. Jalal Uddin, Director General, Department of Shipping were present as special guest on the occasion. A seminar on Bangabandhu, Bay of Bengal and Blue Economy was held at the auditorium of Bangladesh Oceanographic Research Institute. Rear Admiral (Retd.) Md. Khurshed Alam, Secretary, Maritime Affairs Unit, Ministry of Foreign Affairs presented the keynote address at the seminar. An open discussion and Q&A session was held at the end of the seminar. The programs of 'Bangabandhu Bay of Bengal Festival-2022' included beach cleaning, volleyball at sugandha

Beach Point in Cox's Bazar, surfing at Kalatali Beach Point, opening and closing ceremony at Laboni Beach Point. Mr. Mashiur Khandaker, Chief Coordinator, Bangabandhu Bay of Bengal Festival-2022 addressed the closing ceremony. Speakers highlighted the landmark steps taken by the Hon'ble Prime Minister to develop the country's marine resources and the blue economy in fulfilling its promise to build a prosperous Bangladesh. They pledged to work relentlessly for the realization of the dream of golden Bengal as envisioned by the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

Ambassador Rabab Fatima appointed as UN Under-Secretary-General and the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries, and Small Island Developing States

Ambassador Rabab Fatima, the Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the United Nations, has been appointed as the Under-Secretary-General of the United

Nations and the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries, and Small Island Developing States (UN-OHRLS). UN Secretary-

General Antonio Guterres announced this high-level appointment on 9th June 2022. For the first time, a female diplomat from the Bangladesh Foreign Service has been appointed



as an UN Under-Secretary-General. With this appointment, Rabab Fatima becomes the highest ranking official among the Bangladesh nationals currently working in the UN system. As Permanent Representative, Ambassador Fatima holds the position of Chairperson of the United Nations Peacebuilding Commission, President of the UN Women Executive Board, and Vice-Chair of the 76th Session of the UN General Assembly. She

also served as co-chair of the LDC-5 Preparatory Committee, President of the UNICEF Executive Board, and Vice President of UNDP, UNFPA, and UNOPS. Rabab Fatima, a career diplomat, joined the Bangladesh Foreign Service in 1989. Earlier, in addition to serving in various important positions at the headquarters in Dhaka, including as the Director-General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, she also

served in the Bangladesh Permanent Missions to the United Nations in New York and Geneva and the Bangladesh Missions in Kolkata and Beijing. The high-level appointment of Ambassador Rabab Fatima at the UN is a testament to Bangladesh's deep and intense engagement in the multilateral diplomacy and the recognition of true professionalism of Bangladeshi diplomats.



Secretary (East) received NDC delegations from Tanzania and Nigeria

On 7 June 2022, NDC delegation from Tanzania visited Ministry of Foreign Affairs and interacted with Secretary (East) Ambassador Mashfee Binte Shams. Secretary (East) briefed

the delegation about the remarkable development march of Bangladesh in socio-economic and people's development areas. They also discussed about Bangladesh-Tanzania bilateral

relations. Tanzanian delegation commended the unstoppable progress of Bangladesh.

On 9 June 2022, Ambassador Mashfee Binte Shams received the visiting



NDC delegation from Nigeria. Secretary (East) briefed them about remarkable development trajectory of

Bangladesh and priority sectors of the government. The discussion reflected on potential bilateral cooperation

areas. Nigerian delegation highly praised Bangladesh's commendable progress.





Bangladesh's importance as an emerging player and partner for Australia in the Indian Ocean region discussed at the Perth USAsia Centre



A public event on emerging Bangladesh followed by a panel discussion on Bangladesh-Australia Relations-Opportunities and Challenges was organised at Perth US Asia Center, University of Western Australia on 01 June 2022. Bangladesh High Commissioner Mohammad Sufiur Rahman delivered the Keynote address at the public event on emerging

Bangladesh and its potentials. The panelists argued that Australia and Bangladesh entered a new era of bilateral relations and had significant potential to further their economic, people-to-people and security link. Later, the High Commissioner spoke about Bangladesh's importance as an emerging player and partner for Australia in the Indian Ocean region

at a private round table attended by intelligentsia in Perth including the Minister for International Education of Western Australia. While the private roundtable was for invitees only, the public event was multimodal (in person as well as virtual attendance were allowed) event where more than 150 (mostly Australians) participants attended.

Discussion on 'Bangladesh's Growing Prosperity - Implications for Australian Trade, Investment and Security' held in Melbourne



A discussion on 'Bangladesh's Growing Prosperity - Implications for Australian Trade, Investment and Security' was held at the Australian Institute of International Affairs (AIIA) Victoria, Australia on 21 June

2022. Bangladesh High Commissioner Mohammad Sufiur Rahman delivered the Keynote address at the event elaborating how Bangladesh's emergence is taking shape and what that entails for the Australia-

Bangladesh relations. He also focused on the complementarities between the two countries to create better conditions for the development and peace in the entire region of the Indian Ocean. The panelists highlighted



Bangladesh as a rising economy in the region and how Australia could benefit from partnership with Bangladesh. As part of the celebration of 50

years of bilateral relations between Australia and Bangladesh, the event was organised by AIIA Victoria in partnership with the Bangladesh High

Commission and DFAT Victoria State Office. It was a multimodal event where both in person and virtual attendance were allowed.

Bangladesh participated in IsDB 2022 Annual Meetings



The Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) Group held its 47th Annual Meetings of the Board of Governors for 2022 in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt from 1-4 June 2022 under the theme ‘Beyond Recovery: Resilience and Sustainability’ under the patronage of Egyptian President Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi. Ministers of Economy, Planning and Finance from the 57 member countries of the Bank were invited to these meetings. Representatives of international and regional financial

institutions, as well as representatives of Islamic banks, national development finance institutions, and unions of contractors and consultants from the OIC member countries were also invited. A Bangladesh delegation from the Ministry of Finance participated in the meetings led by Ms. Fatima Yasmin, Secretary, Economic Relations Division, where Bangladesh Ambassador in Egypt was also a member. The agenda adopted by the meeting comprised several

entries including a review of the 47th Annual Report of the Bank, as well as the election of the Chairman of the Board and two Vice-Chairmen for the Board of Governors for the year 2023. They also discussed the allocation of IsDB’s net income to granting technical assistance, scholarship programs for the Financial Year 2023 and the Economic Empowerment Fund for the Palestinian People for the Financial Years 2022 and 2023.

Bangladesh High Commission in London observed ‘First Economic Diplomacy Week’



Bangladesh High Commission in London observed ‘First Economic

Diplomacy week’ by organizing several events. “ ‘Sheikh Hasina factor’ has

been the key guiding force behind Bangladesh’s hard-earned yet steady



economic achievements over the past decade”, remarked Foreign Minister Dr. A. K. Abdul Momen, MP at a Talk at the House of Commons on ‘Bangladesh Rising’ organized by Bangladesh High Commission on 28 June 2022, London in partnership with Mr. Tom Hunt MP, Vice-Chair of the All Party Parliamentary Group on Bangladesh and Mr. Zillur Hussain MBE, Chairman of Connect. Around 15-20 British MPs including Sir Iain Duncan Smith MP, former Leader of the Conservative Party and Leader of the Opposition, Paul Scully MP, British Minister for London, Small Business, Consumers and Labour Markets and officials from No 10 Downing Street were present at the Talk.

As part of the celebration of First Economic Diplomacy Week, a high-level event titled ‘An Afternoon Tea Talk: The Bangladesh Story’ was organized by Bangladesh High Commission in London on 27 June 2022 at the House of Lords, UK. Foreign Minister Dr. A.K. Abdul

Momen, MP was present as the chief guest and Lord Rami Ranger CBE was the Co-host of the event. The purpose of the event was to revive Bangladesh’s tea exports to the UK and explore the opportunities of British investment in the Bangladesh tea sector. The event was participated by more than 50 leading British tea importers and a number of the House of Lords members who own prominent businesses in the UK. During the event, Bangladesh’s top-quality tea was showcased, gifted and tasted. Bangladesh High Commissioner to the UK Saida Muna Tasneem proposed to include Bangladesh tea at the UK parliament’s tearoom menu alongside Darjeeling and Assam teas.

The Bangladesh High Commission London in partnership with SOAS South Asia Institute in partnership organized the first episode of The Bangla Courtyard on 16 June 2022 to showcase revival of the Dhakai Muslin. The event brought together eminent policymakers, experts and

researchers from Bangladesh and the UK, including Golam Dastagir Gazi, Minister for Textiles and Jute of the Government of Bangladesh, Professor Adam Habib, Director of SOAS, Avalon Fotheringham, Curator at the Victoria and Albert (V&A) Museum, Professor Edward Simpson, Director, South Asia Institute of SOAS, Dr. Md. Monzur Hossain, Chief Scientist, Muslin Revival Project and Chairman of Botany, Rajshahi University, Dr. Sonia Ashmore, British design historian, Md. Ayub Ali, Project Director, Muslin Revival Project of Ministry of Textile & Jute, and textile entrepreneurs Sarah Mahaffy and Saiful Islam and textile artist and designer Rezia Wahid. Commenting on the event, High Commissioner Saida Muna Tasneem said, “Our Hon’ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has taken an extraordinary initiative of reviving the ancient technology and lost heritage of the Dhakai Muslin that was destroyed at the advent of industrial revolution nearly three hundred years ago.”



Bangladesh Permanent Mission to the UN Offices in Geneva remained engaged in multilateral platform

The 110th International Labor Conference took place on 27 May - 11 June 2022. This year’s key agendas were inter-alia, occupational

safety and health, apprenticeships, and social and solidarity economy. The Bangladesh Permanent Mission in Geneva actively participated in

the conference while Bangladesh continues its work towards a child-labor free country.



On 15th June 2022, during a Panel Discussion at the 50th Regular Session of the Human Rights Council, the Permanent Representative of Bangladesh in Geneva stressed on creating a conducive environment by Myanmar to commence repatriation of forcibly displaced Rohingyas from

Bangladesh without further delay. He urged the international community to put effective pressure on Myanmar for a permanent solution. The Mission also tabled two resolutions – titled ‘Human rights and climate change’ and ‘Situation of human rights of Rohingya Muslims and other

minorities in Myanmar’- for adoption by the Council. The Mission is also proactively working to garner support for Bangladesh’s candidature to the upcoming Human Rights Council election 2023-2025.



Bangladesh considered by Central Europe as a prospective ICT offshore destination

The Embassy and Permanent Mission of Bangladesh in Vienna organized ‘Economic Diplomacy Week’ on 30 June-01 July 2022 by holding Business Meeting Series in Austria, Slovakia and Hungary under the theme ‘Thriving IT Industry of Bangladesh and its Prospects’. On 30 June 2022, a ‘Business Roundtable’ took place at the premise of the Austrian Federal Economic Chamber (WKO) in Vienna where business entities from Bangladesh and Austria explored the possibilities of mutual collaboration

in the field of ICT, ICT enabled industries and B-2-B opportunities with Austrian IT sectors.

Another business roundtable took place at Bratislava of Slovakia with the IT Association of Slovakia (ITAS). The President of BASIS and officials of the Embassy and Permanent Mission in Vienna participated in the business roundtable. Slovakian ITAS expressed keen interest for further cooperation with Bangladesh as they have shortage of about 20,000

people in their IT Sector. ITAS now are positively looking for enhanced cooperation with Bangladesh in IT sector by making official engagements including signing of an MOU.

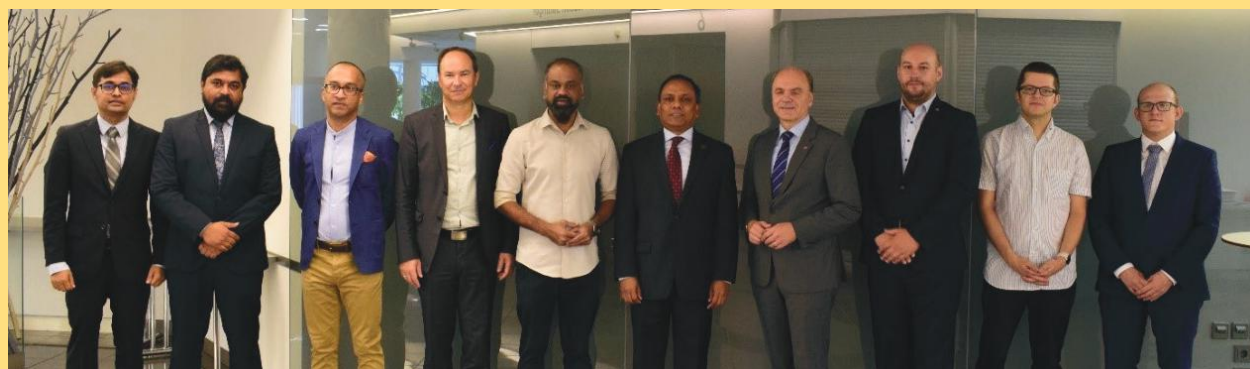
On 01 July 2022, the 3rd and Final session of Business roundtable was held in Budapest, Hungary with the presence of more than 10 leading Hungarian IT companies participated. The participants were briefed about the recent development and economic growth of Bangladesh



particularly its journey towards digitalization. The Hungarian companies expressed their interest for further cooperation with Bangladesh in

IT sector. They assured continued and enhanced cooperation in the coming days. The BASIS President invited the Hungarian side to participate

in the upcoming Software Exposition (SoftExpo 2022) arranged by BASIS in Dhaka to be held on 15-19 November 2022.



Economic Diplomacy Week observed by Bangladesh Embassy, Rome- Dialogue generated huge interest among Italian and Bangladeshi business leaders

Embassy of Bangladesh in Rome organized a discussion meeting titled 'Mapping Exercise: Bangladesh-Italy Trade and Investment Opportunities' on 30 June 2022 at a local hotel in Rome on a zoom platform, as a part

of the first Economic Diplomacy Week initiated by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Dhaka. Appreciating the huge interest shown by Italian and Bangladeshi stakeholders at the maiden initiative of the Embassy,

aimed at attracting foreign investment and promoting bilateral trade, Mr. Md. Shameem Ahsan, Bangladesh Ambassador to Italy, underscored the importance of exploring the huge untapped potentials to inject



dynamism in the existing cordial bilateral relations. Citing the on-going celebration of the golden jubilee of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two friendly countries, he urged the Italian investors and business leaders to invest in Bangladesh in a big way. Ambassador Shabbir Ahmad Chowdhury, Secretary (West), Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Dhaka, identified economic emancipation of the common people as the core objective of the war of liberation of Bangladesh and underscored strengthening economic and trade relations between the two friendly countries. Mr. Gianpaolo Neri,

Head of South Asia Desk, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Italy highly lauded the development journey of Bangladesh while he expressed all-out support from the Italian government to forge strong economic and commercial links between the two countries. Mr. Md. Sirazul Islam, Executive Chairman of BIDA, emphasized on launching of a Business Council, among others. Concerned Directors General at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and EPB, Dhaka, Presidents of FBCCI, BGMEA, BASIS, LFMEAB and Apex Footwear and representatives from Walton, E-CAB joined the interactive session

from Bangladesh side while Trade Commissioner at the Italian Embassy in New Delhi, CEOs/Representatives of top Italian trade bodies including Representatives from energy giant ENI, Confindustria, AICE, Leonardo, Magaldi Power, RifLine, Brachi, iDOGI, DM Italia s.r.l., among others, spoke. Honorary Consuls of Bangladesh in Naples and Florence also joined. The Embassy also organized a 'Meet the Press' on 01 July 2022 at the Chancery to brief on the event and a good number of journalists from Bangladesh and Italy attended.



Bangladesh Ambassador to Rome attended Joint Meeting of the Boards(JMB) in New York

Mr. Md. Shameem Ahsan, Bangladesh Ambassador to Italy, Montenegro and Serbia and President, Executive

Board, WFP, attended the Joint Meeting of the Presidents of the Executive Boards (JMB) of UNDP/

UNFPA/UNOPS, UNICEF, UN-Women and WFP on 3 June 2022 in New York. Ambassador



Ahsan facilitated the interactive discussion between the Presidents of the Executive Boards of UNDP/ UNFPA/UNOPS, UNICEF, UN-Women and WFP and Principals/Deputies of six UN agencies and the membership of the Executive Boards in the capacity of President of the Executive Board, WFP. The event

held at the ECOSOC Chamber, UN Headquarters, New York was themed on 'An integrated approach towards sustainable investment in People and Planet: Leaving No One Behind (LNOB) as a principle for Climate Action to ensure a transformative path for the most vulnerable'. It was a rare moment of Bangladesh's visibility

in multilateral diplomacy. Out of 4 UN Executive Board Presidents on the podium, two Presidents were from Bangladesh. Another President from Bangladesh was Ms. Rabab Fatima, Ambassador and Permanent Representative to UN, New York and President, Executive Board, UN-Women.



Soft Launching of e-services by Embassy of Bangladesh, Doha



Bangladesh Embassy in Doha made a soft launching of e-services titled 'Sheba Batayon' for expatriate Bangladesh nationals living in Qatar. Through this e-service, the service seekers can make online payment. The Embassy has also introduced under 'zero visit' scheme four services (out

of total 14 services embassy renders) which can be availed online and the service seekers do not need to come to the embassy for these services. The Embassy is now aiming at absolute zero visit service which will cover all the passport and consular services. Embassy is working on a campaign

to make e-service popular among the Bangladesh nationals in Qatar. The Embassy is also working to making arrangements with Q-post/Qatar postal for receiving and delivering passports.



Albania emerged as niche labour market for Bangladesh



Ambassador Ashud Ahmed during his visit as non-resident Ambassador to Albania on 05-08 June 2022 had a number of meetings with the concerned public and private sector high officials as well as with the growing Bangladesh diaspora as part of the ongoing efforts for ensuring 'safe, orderly and regular' migration as the Balkan country has, of late,

emerged as a niche market for the Bangladeshi workers and has also brightened the prospect for trade and business development. Signing of legal frameworks for migration like those of Greece and Malta, visa abolition for diplomatic and official passport holders, regular Foreign Office Consultation and development of business cooperation between the

Tirana Chamber of Commerce and the Dhaka Chamber of Commerce topped the agenda of the discussions with the Director Political Mrs. Mimoza Halimi, Director Consular Affairs Mrs. Orieta Cobani of the Foreign Ministry and the President of the Tirana Chamber of Commerce Mr. Nikolin Jaka.





Bangladesh@50: Water Story photo book launched in the Netherlands



The Dutch Water Envoy, Henk Ovink, and Bangladesh Ambassador to the Netherlands, Riaz Hamidullah launched a unique book with award-winning photos from young Bangladeshi and Dutch photographers in Delft on 30 June 2022. Henk Ovink, serving as Sherpa for 2023 UN Conference on Water, stressed on people-focused transformation on

outlook to water in every delta and assured of continuing Dutch support to Bangladesh's water sector. The book is the outcome of 16-months collaboration between the leading Dutch water research institution, Deltares, and the Embassy. Last year, the open Photo Contest drew 800,000+ outreach on social media. Out of 1600 submissions,

10 Bangladeshi photographs were awarded by a jury. The book, produced as part of 50 years of diplomatic ties, was dedicated to the Father of Nation. The launching event drew key figures from the Dutch water sector, Wageningen University as well as maritime industry.





Bangladesh Ambassador to Jordan met the Vice President of the University of Jordan for International Affairs, Accreditation and Quality Affairs and Director of Strategic Studies Centre:

Bangladesh Ambassador to Jordan Ms. Nahida Sobhan met Dr. Zaid Eyadat, the Vice President of the University of Jordan for International Affairs, Accreditation and Quality Affairs and Director of the Strategic Studies Center at his office. During the

meeting, the Ambassador discussed the ways of joint cooperation in the academic and cultural fields. During the meeting, they discussed the possibility of holding a joint symposium on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of diplomatic

relations between the two countries, in addition to the possibility of building bridges of cooperation in the fields of student and academic exchange and establishing joint academic programs with higher education institutions in Bangladesh.



Celebration of Mujib Barsha organized at Al Al Bayt University



Bangladesh Embassy in Jordan and Al Al Bayt University jointly organized an event to celebrate the Mujib Barsha. Ambassador Nahida Sobhan talked there about 'Bangladesh's Development Miracle'. The Ambassador said that Bangladesh,

which has been independent since 1971, was able during the past fifty years, with the efforts of its founder Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, to overcome political and economic difficulties to become today a model for development in various fields

of education, health, agriculture, information technology, crisis management and natural disasters. It also worked on empowering women and youth under the leadership of the Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. The Ambassador referred to



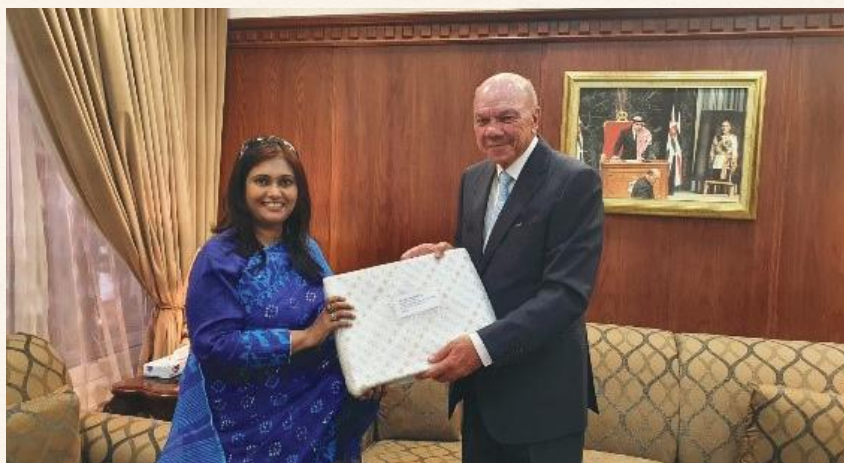
Jordan's role under the leadership of His Majesty King Abdullah II Ibn Al Hussein in clarifying the true image of the Islamic religion as a religion of moderation and called for increasing investment and tourism cooperation opportunities between the two countries, especially in light of the presence of more than 65,000 Bangladeshi workers in Jordan. The

ambassador also showed videos showing civilization renaissance in Bangladesh and the most important tourist areas. The Vice President of the University, Professor Bassam Mahasneh said that the Bengali experience is a model for economic and human development, and that there are common denominators between the two countries that

increase opportunities for investment and cultural cooperation. The meeting was attended by a number of college deans, faculty and administrative staff, and a number of interested people from the local community. The successful event was followed by offering Bangladeshi food and gifts marked with Mujib Barsha logo.

Bangladesh Ambassador to Jordan met with the President of the Jordanian Senate

Ambassador Ms. Nahida Sobhan met Mr. Faisal Al-Fayez, President of the Jordanian Senate at his office. During the meeting, the Ambassador handed over a gift from Dr. Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury, MP, Hon'ble Speaker of Bangladesh Parliament.



Embassy of Bangladesh in Bahrain organised a closing ceremony of the 'Glimpses of Bangladesh' photography exhibition

On 01 June 2022 the Embassy of Bangladesh in Manama, Bahrain organized a closing ceremony to conclude the week-long photography exhibition titled 'Glimpses of Bangladesh' that featured 70 breathtaking photographs of Bangladesh at the 'Colours of the East' art gallery in Seef Mall, Manama between 26 May 2022 and 01 June 2022 inclusively. The ceremony was attended by Ambassador of Bangladesh to Bahrain, Dr. Md. Nazrul Islam along with invited foreign diplomats, senior officials from the Bahrain government, writers, tour operators,

artists, journalists, businessmen and women, students and teachers from Bangladesh School Bahrain, Embassy officials, and members of the Bangladeshi community in Bahrain. The ceremony featured a short cultural program where the talented students from Bangladesh School Bahrain performed in two captivating dance shows that were well-choreographed to go along with two Bangladeshi folk songs. Ambassador Dr. Islam toured the photography exhibition one last time with the distinguished guests shortly after the cultural program, and once again

everyone was enamored to witness the raw and unique natural beauty, culture and heritage of Bangladesh thanks to the beautifully captured photographs. Many even expressed their strong desire to visit Bangladesh at the earliest opportunity. As the ceremony came to a conclusion, the Ambassador expressed his deepest gratitude to Mr. Mustafiz Mamun and Mr. Abdul Momin whose incredible work beautifully captured the essence of Bangladesh with photographs of its growth, culture, agriculture, economy, education, health, women's empowerment,



food security and of course, its amazing natural beauty. Finally, the Ambassador thanked all the

distinguished guests for coming and also thanked the students and teachers from Bangladesh School Bahrain for

their excellent performance.



Bangladesh participated in the International Trade Fair in Kathmandu

Around 50 Bangladeshi business entities representing various sectors such as garments, ceramics, leather, jute and handicrafts participated in a five-day trade fair held at the national convention hall at Kathmandu from 16-20 June 2022. Organized by the Nepal Chamber of Commerce,

the fair was inaugurated by the Prime Minister of Nepal Mr. Sher Bahadur Deuba. The Bangladeshi entrepreneurs were supported by the Export Promotion Bureau in association with the SME Foundation of Bangladesh. The Bangladesh Embassy in Kathmandu coordinated

the participation in Nepal and arranged a number of events including a reception, a dedicated fashion show of Bangladeshi garments and a networking dinner to facilitate promotion of Bangladeshi products in Nepal. Bangladesh was designated as the 'country partner' of the fair.





Bangladesh Embassy in Madrid organized a seminar at Madrid Chamber of Commerce and Industry to observe the first ever Economic Diplomacy Week

The Embassy of Bangladesh in Madrid organized a seminar on 14 June 2022 at the Madrid Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Services on the occasion of the first ever Economic Diplomacy Week, with the participation of a large number of Spanish entrepreneurs, leading trans-national corporations, prospective investors and members of the civil society and press. Several promising Bangladeshi entrepreneurs doing business in Spain for years were also present. Ambassador Mohammad Sarwar Mahmood, ndc and the President of Madrid Chamber Mr. Augusto de Castaceda gave welcome speeches. In his remarks, the Ambassador briefly discussed the evolving features of the bilateral relations, which have recently witnessed substantial growth in many new areas, including in advanced agro-technology and business, railway infrastructure development and sustainable use of water resources, apart from the traditional trade in apparels, which constitutes 95% of Bangladesh's export to Spain. Spain has emerged as the fourth largest export destination in the world. In this regard, the Ambassador particularly stressed the importance

of trade diversification, in addition to trade enhancement.

People attending the seminar were amazed to learn that Bangladesh, with its impressive achievements in terms of almost all the indices of socioeconomic development, is the fastest growing economy in South Asia (7.25%) despite the aftermath of the pandemic and ranks second in global supply of IT freelancers, vegetable production and RMG and textile supply, and third in global fish production. The seminar highlighted Bangladesh's remarkably resilient growth in infrastructure, consumer spending, service sector expansion, demographic dividend, accelerated urbanization and industrialization, universal health and electricity coverage, environmental sustainability and robust digital connectivity. Ambassador Mohammad Sarwar Mahmood, ndc called on Spanish business community to take advantage of lucrative tax incentives and other privileges in investing in 101 Economic Zones and 39 High-Tech Parks in thriving sectors, such as agribusiness and agro-processing, automobile assembling and manufacturing, IT and IoTs, blue economy, healthcare and medical equipment and tourism and hospitality. The Chairman of

Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (BIDA) Md. Sirajul Islam, who joined the seminar online from Dhaka, also referred to the Government's investment-friendly regime and reassured the Spanish business community of all sorts of cooperation and assistance. Among others who addressed the seminar was the President of Spain-Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry Nuria Lopez, who is known as a friend of Bangladesh.

During the seminar, the Spanish version of the Bangladesh Investment Handbook, Manual de Inversi3n en Bangladesh: Gu3a para Inversores, earlier published by the Mission and available on Google Book and Amazon for free, was jointly unveiled by Ambassador Mohammad Sarwar Mahmood, ndc, BIDA Chairman and the Madrid Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Services. Further, a bilingual documentary on Bangladesh, depicting the country's spectacular successes and favourable trade and investment regime, was screened. The seminar is expected to contribute to an enhanced level of Bangladesh's export to Spain as well as an increased inflow of Spanish FDIs in the future.





Expatriate Bangladeshis in Spain urged to send remittance through legal channel



As part of its frequent diaspora engagements, the Embassy of Bangladesh in Madrid held exchange of views and discussion with the leaders of the expatriate community in Spain and money-transfer agents during a meeting on 22 June 2022 organized at the Office of the Bangladesh Association in Madrid. Ambassador Mohammad Sarwar Mahmood, ndc, while appreciating the significant contributions that the expatriate community is making to the economic progress of the country, called upon all to send remittance

through proper banking channel, taking advantage of various incentives offered by the Government. Further, in a video message posted on the Embassy's website and Facebook page and broadcasted on electronic media, the Ambassador made reference to the role of remittance in the self-financing of the Padma Bridge, terming the Bangladesh expatriates as "the proud partners in the construction of the Padma Bridge", and declared that the Embassy would confer "Remittance Awards" upon individuals and

enterprises sending the highest amounts through legal channel, as an honour and encouragement. Earlier, at a reunion and banquet organized in Madrid on 18 June 2022 at Dhaka Frutas, a Bangladeshi-owned business enterprise with 280 employees at 60 of its branches in Spain, Ambassador Mohammad Sarwar Mahmood, ndc reiterated his call to send remittance through proper channel. Spain ranks second in Europe in terms of the size of Bangladeshi diaspora.

Bangladesh High Commission in Colombo hosted a forum on 'Enhancing shipping connectivity between Chattogram and Colombo Ports'

Bangladesh High Commission to Sri Lanka organized a stakeholders' consultation forum on enhancing shipping connectivity between Chattogram and Colombo Ports

pursuant to observance of the First Economic Diplomacy Week. The purpose was to facilitate greater understanding of operational issues between Chattogram and Colombo

Ports and ensure greater connectivity and supply chain security and stronger partnership between the two ports. Representatives from port authorities of Bangladesh and Sri



Lanka, terminal operators, main line operators, feeder operators, freight forwarders as well as users of the

two ports presented their respective perspectives. The Chairman of SLPA, private terminal operators and Sri

Lankan shipping community at large assured of giving continued priority to Bangladesh users.



Bangladesh High Commission in Brunei organized a program to showcase Bangladesh's investment potential



Bangladesh High Commission in Brunei organized a program titled 'Bangladesh: A Potential and Attractive Destination for Investment' on 13 June 2022 at the Brunei Hotel. The members of the 'National Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Brunei Darussalam',

members of other business houses, Bangladesh community members, and some distinguished Bruneians participated in the event. Bangladesh High Commissioner Mrs. Nahida Rahman Shumona informed that economic diplomacy plays a pivotal role to advance the economic interest

of a nation, and Bangladesh needs to use this tool of 'economic diplomacy' even more, as it is all set to graduate from the status of LDC to that of a developing nation in 2026, and aims to become a developed nation by 2041. She expressed her satisfaction over organizing this event to demonstrate



the true potential of Bangladesh's economy, and the incentives and opportunities the nation offers to attract investment. The effort will continue, she added, to facilitate the development journey of Bangladesh. Mr. Jelal Hossain, Counsellor (Labour) & Head of Chancery of the High Commission delivered a presentation on 'Foreign Investment Climate: Tapping the Untapped Human Resources'. He narrated the opportunities and benefits of

investing in Bangladesh, different sectors of investment, and human resources of Bangladesh. Mr. Tanmoy Majumder, Counsellor (Political) delivered another presentation where he highlighted the recent picture of Bangladesh economy, recent statistics of Foreign Direct Investment in Bangladesh, reasons behind rising investment in Bangladesh, the success of the present government in implementing various development projects in Bangladesh including

'Padma Bridge', Bangladesh's potential for becoming the next technology outsourcing destination in South Asia region etc. In the end, a networking event was arranged where the invited businessmen and other stakeholders talked to one another and got the opportunity to increase their knowledge and understanding about the true investment potential of Bangladesh.

1st Economic Diplomacy week observed in Bangladesh Embassy, Brasilia



Embassy of Bangladesh in Brasilia observed the 1st Economic Diplomacy Week through a series of bilateral talks, meetings with different government and trade bodies of Brazil. Ambassador Sadia Faizunnesa met with the Governor of Parana, State Secretary of Agriculture and the President of Invest Parana where the Ambassador presented Bangladesh's glorified history, country's striking development and the possible trade potentials for both Bangladesh and Brazil. Mentionable that Parana is the centre of Agro-business in Brazil where the Ambassador of Bangladesh was honoured by ceremonial salute on 7th June 2022 from the Governor's office. The Ambassador had a fruitful meeting

the Mayor of Curitiba where they discussed the century long cultural connections between both the regions. Ambassador focused on the importance of commercial and cultural cooperation and also the scopes for exchanging cultural troops time to time.

The Ambassador inaugurated the Honorary Consulate of Bangladesh in Curitiba, the capital of Parana. In addition to that, she also had a productive meeting with the president of the Commerce Federation of the State of Parana (FECOMMERCIO) where she upheld the remarkable socio-economic achievements from being LDC country to a Middle-income country in just 50 years'

timespan. The Ambassador had another meeting with Mr. Jose Ricken, President of OCEPAR (Trade Union and Organization of the Cooperatives of the State of Parana). Bangladesh's miracle in the field of agriculture was highly appreciated by him. They discussed about agricultural exports, imports and aimed to build further commitment on this sector for mutual benefit. In another meeting with the Director of the second busiest sea port of Brazil, 'Portos do Parana' Ambassador explained Bangladesh's goal for sustainable development at home and abroad and emphasized the cooperation between Chattogram seaport and 'Portos do Parana'.



Embassy of Bangladesh, Tokyo organized a seminar in collaboration with Japan International Cooperation Agency

A seminar was organized by the Embassy of Bangladesh, Tokyo at the Bangabandhu conference hall on 10 June 2022 in collaboration with Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) titled 'JICA with Bangladesh: Reaching 50th Year and Way Forward'. Ms. Fatima Yasmin, Secretary of Economic Relations Division inaugurated the event through video message while Ms. Mari AKIYAMA, Director spoke on behalf of Japanese Foreign Ministry. The keynote speech was delivered by Mr. Junichi YAMADA, Senior Executive Vice President, JICA. Distinguished members of the

public sector, industry, academia and civil society participated at the interactive panel discussion. Mr. Shahabuddin Ahmed, Ambassador of Bangladesh to Japan delivered the concluding remarks. While looking back on the cooperation with JICA so far, the speakers at the seminar explored ways to further strengthen the partnership in the future. They said reaching 50th year of JICA's cooperation with Bangladesh is a significant milestone. Over the years, Japan has been the single largest bilateral development partner of Bangladesh. JICA's support in infrastructure, transportation, power,

and energy sectors is complementing Government's endeavors. JICA also continues to cooperate in social sectors, such as health, agriculture, and disaster management. On the occasion of reaching the milestone of 50th year of cooperation between JICA and Bangladesh, the speakers at the seminar expected the collaboration to grow stronger and diversified in the next 50 years. They suggested continuous dialogue as a mechanism for effective, efficient, and sustainable implementation of projects and programs.



Bangladesh Seminar on Trade, Investment and Skilled Human Resources held in Saitama, Japan

Bangladesh Embassy, Tokyo organized 'Bangladesh Seminar on Trade, Investment and Skilled Human Resources' on 22 June 2022 at Omiya Sonic Civic Hall in Saitama City. Nearly 200 participants from Japanese companies and manpower recruiting organizations were present at the event. Ambassador Mr. Shahabuddin Ahmed, in his welcome speech,

urged Japanese businessmen and investors to invest in various sectors in Bangladesh such as information technology, garment industry, leather etc. He also highlighted Japan's involvement in various mega projects in Bangladesh and thanked the Japanese Government for continuous support. In the context of the decreasing population in Japan, the

Ambassador urged Japan's manpower recruiting agencies to recruit skilled workers from Bangladesh. From the City of Saitama, Mr. Hitoshi Shibuya, Director, Department of Commerce, Industry, and Tourism, Bureau of Economic Affairs was present and delivered speech. The seminar was organized as part of celebrating 50 years of Bangladesh-



Japan diplomatic relations and was supported by the City of Saitama,

Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), Japan External Trade

Organization (JETRO), Saitama, UNIDO-ITPO Tokyo, and JITCO.



Bangladesh Ambassador to Iraq met the Foreign Minister of the Iraqi Kurdistan Regional Government



Mr. Md. Fazlul Bari, Ambassador of Bangladesh to Iraq met with Mr. Safeen Dizayee, the Foreign Minister of the Iraqi Kurdistan Regional Government on 20 June 2022 at the latter's office in the city of Erbil. The

two sides exchanged views on issues of mutual interest. The Bangladesh Ambassador also briefed the DFR Minister about the upcoming Book launching ceremony and the business seminar and requested for the

support from the DFR. Thanking the Ambassador for his visit, the DFR Minister assured of providing all sort cooperation for the events.



Bangladesh Ambassador to Iraq met the leaders of Iraqi Federation of Industries as part of economic diplomacy



Mr. Md. Fazlul Bari, Ambassador of Bangladesh to Iraq met the leaders of the Iraqi Federation of Industries on 13 June 2022. The Bangladesh Ambassador briefed the Federation members about the facilities and incentives provided by the Bangladesh Government for foreign investors and

requested them to visit Bangladesh and explore the possibilities. Thanking the Ambassador for his visit and briefing on Bangladesh's socio-economic development and facilities for foreign investors, the President of the Federation of Industries supported the idea of exchanging

business delegation. There are also opportunities for Bangladeshi investment in Iraq, the President added. Presidents of the provincial Chambers of Industry of Iraq were also present in the meeting.

Bangladesh Ambassador to Uzbekistan met First Deputy Minister on Investment and Foreign Trade of Uzbekistan



Bangladesh Ambassador to Uzbekistan Mr. Md. Zahangir Alam met the First Deputy Minister on Investments and Foreign Trade of Uzbekistan Mr. Laziz Kudratov on 8 June 2022 at Deputy Prime Minister's Office in Tashkent. During the meeting, it was decided

that Uzbek Deputy Prime Minister will visit Bangladesh on 29 July 2022 and attend Intergovernmental Commission Meeting between Bangladesh and Uzbekistan to be held in Dhaka after a span of nine years. During the meeting, both sides discussed the prospective of

expanding cooperation in the field of pharmaceuticals, agriculture, trade, textile and tourism between Uzbekistan and Bangladesh. Bangladesh Ambassador requested First Deputy Minister to expedite the process of resuming direct flights between Dhaka and



Tashkent and establishing Embassy of Uzbekistan in Dhaka. In reply,

First Deputy Minister assured Ambassador of Bangladesh of their

active consideration for the two issues.

Bangladesh High Commission in Maldives organized Business Night



To celebrate the First Economic Diplomacy Week—2022 declared by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh, a Business Night was arranged on 27 June 2022 by the Bangladesh High Commission in Maldives with great festivity and enthusiasm. Minister of State for Economic Development of Maldives Mr. Mohamed Iaad Hameed was present on the occasion as the Chief Guest. State Ministers, Members of Parliament, high-ranking businessmen and many eminent

personalities from various ministries of the Maldives and officials of the High Commission as well as expatriate Bangladeshis were present on the occasion. A good amount of Bangladeshi products i.e. food items, spices, fresh fruits, ready-made garments, medicine etc. were displayed in the decorated stalls for the guests. First Secretary (Labour) and HOC of the Mission Mr. Md Sohel Parvez delivered a presentation on the investment and sourcing opportunities in Bangladesh. Two

videos provided by BIDA and EPB were also displayed on this occasion. The Chief Guest, State Minister highly appreciated the event and hoped that it would play an important role in enhancing bilateral trade and investment between Bangladesh and Maldives. The High Commissioner Rear Admiral S M Abul Kalam Azad discussed about various business and business opportunities in Bangladesh and invited the Maldivian business community to take the opportunities to invest in Bangladesh.

Bangladesh High Commission handed over gift of the Prime Minister of Bangladesh to the President of Maldives

Hon'ble Prime Minister of the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Sheikh Hasina sent famous mango of Bangladesh as a gift to the Hon'ble President of the Government of Maldives Ibrahim Mohammed Solih as a token of friendship. Rear Admiral SM Abul Kalam Azad, High Commissioner of Bangladesh to the Maldives, handed over the gift to Mr. Ahmed





Saleem, Ambassador at Large of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Maldives. On behalf of the President

of the Maldives, the Ambassador at Large expressed his sincere gratitude to the Hon'ble Prime Minister of

Bangladesh for sending this gift of greetings.

High Commissioner of Bangladesh met the Minister of Higher Education and the Tourism Minister of Maldives

Rear Admiral S M Abul Kalam Azad recently called on the Minister of Higher Education Dr. Ibrahim Hassan and the Minister of Tourism

Dr. Abdulla Mausoom. The meetings were held at the respective ministries on 9th June and 14th June 2022. During the meetings, they discussed

various areas of bilateral cooperation between the two countries under the two ministries.



Consulate General of Bangladesh in New York celebrated the Bangla Noboborsho 1429 and Rabindra-Nazrul Joyanti



The Consulate General of Bangladesh in New York celebrated the Bangla Noboborsho 1429 and Rabindra-Nazrul Joyanti on 3 June 2022. Ms. Rabab Fatima, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the United Nations, State Senator of New York, Hon'ble John C Liu, Consuls General and diplomats

of different countries as well as valiant freedom fighters, political, social, business and media personalities of the Bangladesh community in New York attended the event. Welcoming the guests, Consul General Dr. Mohammad Monirul Islam articulated that with the declaration of the 'mongol shobhajatra' (procession

of goodness) by the UNESCO as the 'Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity', this festival had expanded its essence and meaning beyond the border. On the contributions of Rabindranath-Nazrul, he described them as precious treasures of not only for Bangla literature but also for world literature. He asserted that the



inner meanings of Pahela Baishakh as well as the thoughts and philosophies of Nobel Laureate Rabindranath Tagore and National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam are relevant more than ever in establishing global peace, amity and unity, in

view of the contemporary global situations, beset with many odds and challenges. A colorful cultural event was staged, comprising songs and dances based on patriotic as well as Nazrul and Rabindra's music compositions. Renowned

singers of Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendra and Ekushey award winners, Rathindranath Roy and Shaheed Hasan performed, among others, in the event.

Consulate General of Bangladesh in New York hosted a discussion meeting titled 'Exchange of views: Remittance and Development'

Consulate General of Bangladesh in New York hosted a discussion meeting titled 'Exchange of views: Remittance and Development' on 16 June 2022 marking the International Day of Family Remittances, coinciding with the celebration of Economic Diplomacy Week. Bangladesh Ambassador to Washington D.C. Mr. Md Shahidul Islam graced the event as chief guest. The event was attended, among others, by representatives of remittance houses in New York and leading figures of various political, social,

cultural and media organizations of Bangladesh based in New York. Highlighting the critical importance of remittances in advancing the country's economic interests, Ambassador Mr. Islam urged the Bangladeshi community to resort to legal channels while sending their hard earned foreign currency to Bangladesh. Consul General, Dr. Mohammad Monirul Islam, in his welcome remarks, acknowledged the contributions made by the expatriate community in bringing a paradigm shift to the socioeconomic transformations of

Bangladesh, especially by providing financial supports in the form of remittances. Mr. Davasree Mitra, CEO of local Sonali exchange delivered the keynote address highlighting the current remittance outflow from US to Bangladesh. The event ended with an engaging open discussion spontaneously participated by the members of the community, with the production of a catalogue of suggestions in further enhancing the amount and flow of remittances to Bangladesh from the USA.



A roundtable titled 'Bangladesh – USA@50: Bangladesh at the Global Stage' organized in New York

Bangladesh Consulate General in New York organized a roundtable titled 'Bangladesh–USA@50: Bangladesh at the Global Stage' on 30 June 2022 at the Consulate.

A good number of mainstream US persons, academic cultural and media personalities took part in it. Referring to Bangabandhu's foreign policy dictum "Friendship to all,

malice towards none" dictum, Consul General Dr. Mohammad Monirul Islam narrated the bilateral relations of Bangladesh with other important countries including



the neighbouring countries. Highlighting the unprecedented socio-economic developments in Bangladesh under the visionary leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Consul General said that Bangladesh is now regarded as the role model of development. He commented that the leadership of Bangladesh in poverty alleviation, women empowerment, climate change and

UN peacekeeping is greatly being acknowledged by the international community. He further added that in view of Bangladesh's geostrategic location, demographic dividends, political stability, infrastructural advancements and various tax and non-tax incentives, Bangladesh could be a potential destination for investments by the US investors especially in areas of renewable energy, shipbuilding, ICT, agro-

processing and tourism sectors. The participants deeply appreciated the current development trajectory of Bangladesh. They underlined the need for further strengthening the cooperation between the two countries more importantly in the areas of trade, investment, education, culture and research collaboration.



25 children repatriated from India to Bangladesh

On 28 June 2022, 25 Bangladeshi children detained and sheltered in various safe homes of India were repatriated to Bangladesh through the Benapole land port of Jessore.

The repatriation process was successfully facilitated with the assistance of Bangladesh Deputy High Commission, Home Ministry, Border Guard Bangladesh, Jashore

District Administration. Through repatriation, these children could meet their family of origin and both the children and their parents become very happy to be reunited.





Bangladesh Investment Seminar held in Turkey



Consulate General of Bangladesh in Istanbul, in partnership with Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (BIDA), organized 'Bangladesh Investment Seminar' on 20 June 2022 in Istanbul. More than 50 Turkish investors and businessmen including Bangladesh Ambassador to Turkey, Turkish Ambassador to Bangladesh, Executive Chairman of BIDA, Mr. Sirajul Islam, Consul General Mr. Mohammed Nore-Alam participated in the

seminar. In his welcome remarks, Consul General Nore-Alam stated that Bangladesh achieved an unprecedented economic growth over a decade under the visionary leadership of the Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. In the wake of global economic crisis following the Covid-19 pandemic and the Russia-Ukraine war, Bangladesh has maintained a fairly sound growth and development that manifests the strength of our economic resilience. Consul

General also highlighted that a vibrant domestic market of 170 million population, a big growing middle class, a huge young, energetic, dynamic workforce at a very competitive wage, and rapidly developing infrastructure and regional connectivity make Bangladesh a worthwhile place for investment. Ambassador Mosud Mannan called upon Turkish businessmen and investors to explore the immense opportunities and untapped possibilities



of investing in Bangladesh. Executive Chairman of BIDA in his presentation outlined the

overall ecosystem of investment in Bangladesh. In a panel discussion, the panellists shared their

experiences of doing business and investment in Bangladesh.



Consul General of Bangladesh met Governor of Istanbul

Consul General Mohammed Nore-Alam paid a courtesy call on the Governor of Istanbul Mr. Ali Yerlikaya. During the meeting, both highlighted the existing brotherly relations between Bangladesh and Turkey. Consul General extended his gratitude to the people and the government of Turkey for their active support

and cooperation in Rohingya crisis and Turkey's continued support to early repatriation of Rohingya to Myanmar. In response, Governor Ali Yerlikaya reiterated Turkey's active support for immediate solution to Rohingya crisis. Consul General put forward a proposal of establishing Sister-City arrangement between the

two historic cities-Dhaka and Istanbul. Both sides expressed their readiness to work together on this initiative. The two sides agreed to work closely for enhancing bilateral trade volume from 01 to 02 billion USD. Consul General Nore-Alam presented a traditional Bangladeshi tapestry to the Governor of Istanbul.





Bangladesh Deputy High Commissioner in Karachi spoke at the Quaid-e-Azam House Museum in Karachi



Bangladesh has been striving hard for development in different sectors and a role model for developments for developing countries across the globe- remarked the Deputy High Commissioner of Bangladesh in Karachi S. M. Mahbubul Alam while addressing the members of the Board of Governors of the Karachi Council on Foreign Relations organized by the Institute of Nation Building in collaboration with the Karachi Council on Foreign Relations and the Jinnah Society on 23 June 2022 at the Quaid-e-Azam House Museum in Karachi. He spoke about the significant achievements of Bangladesh and reflected on how the war-ravaged, newly independent Bangladesh began the journey of development under the dynamic and charismatic leadership of the Father of the Nation of Bangladesh

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman to build a nation free from hunger and exploitations and a prosperous country: the 'Sonar Bangla'- the Golden Bangladesh. He added that the Government of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has been working very hard for the comprehensive development of Bangladesh. Under her dynamic, committed and visionary leadership the government has introduced the 'Vision 2021' to turn Bangladesh to a knowledge-based middle-income country by 2021 and the 'Vision 2041' to make Bangladesh a developed country by 2041 to realize the dream of Sonar Bangla/ Golden Bangladesh. He outlined success stories of Bangladesh in areas of 'One House one Farm Project', Asrayan Project (Shelter for all), Digital Bangladesh, education support programme,

empowerment of women, electricity to every household, community clinic, social safety net, enhancement of investment, and climate protection. Bangladesh has been working to set up 100 specialized economic zones (SEZs) with foreign investment-friendly policies. Bangladesh attained all the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and all the goals of 'Vision 2021', he further informed the gathering. He briefed the board of governors that Hon'ble Prime Minister of Bangladesh Sheikh Hasina was going to open the long-dream Padma Bridge of 6.15 km long over the mighty river Padma on 25 June 2022. The audience was very enthusiastic to know about the success stories and development model of Bangladesh in different sector. They highly lauded the development trend of Bangladesh.

Bangladesh Deputy High Commissioner in Karachi met the leaders of Karachi Chambers of Commerce and Industries

Bangladesh Deputy High Commissioner in Karachi S. M. Mahbubul Alam met the leaders of Karachi Chambers of Commerce

and Industries (KCCI) recently. Chairman of the Businessmen Group (BMG) Mr. M. Zubair Motiwala and President of KCCI

Mr. Muhammad Idress among others were present during the meeting. The Deputy High Commissioner outlined to the key



businessmen in Karachi the recent success stories of Bangladesh development in multifarious sectors. They discussed about the potential of trade and commerce and investment in both the countries.

The KCCI leaders expressed their optimism for more trade and commerce with Bangladesh and prospective investment in Bangladesh's SEZs. They requested the Deputy High Commissioner to

ease the visa processing so that the potential business people could exchange their visits from both the countries for the mutual interests of the countries.



Consul General of Bangladesh took part in China-Laos Railway trip for foreign consular missions in Kunming

Mr. A F M Aminul Islam, Consul General of Bangladesh in Kunming, China took part in 'China-Laos Railway trip for foreign consular missions in Kunming' on 15-17 June 2022, organized by the Foreign Affairs office of Yunnan Provincial People's Government. The diplomats visited the 'Pu'er City

Economic and Trade Promotion Conference' in Pu'er city- a place well-known for rich and well-conserved biodiversity and for Pu'er tea- the most exported item from this area. Dai community village in Xishuangbanna was also visited by the diplomats. They also visited the Mohan Railway station which is the

immigration station for traveling to and from Laos and were briefed on the custom procedure of movement of goods. The trip was aimed at familiarizing the diplomats of the development paradigm of China with its neighbours on the basis of international trade and investment.





Celebration of the grand opening of the Padma Bridge by Bangladesh Missions Abroad

Bangladesh Missions around the world celebrated the grand inauguration of the Padma Bridge with due festivity through arrangement of a multitude of programs including decoration of the Chancery premises with colourful banners and festoons, playing theme song, screening of video documentary, cake-cutting, reading out of the messages of the Hon'ble President and the Hon'ble Prime Minister, discussion meeting, live streaming of the inauguration of the Padma Bridge

by the Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, cultural program, offering special prayers, etc. The events took place across different time zones. Despite the variations in time, Bangladeshi expatriates around the world spontaneously joined the celebration programs arranged by Bangladesh Missions abroad. All discussants described the Padma Bridge as a symbol of our pride & glory and an engineering excellence that has been made possible by the courage, determination and supreme

leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. Foreign Minister Dr. A. K. Abdul Momen, MP attended the celebratory event organized by Bangladesh High Commission in London on 29 June 2022 in East London, the heart of British-Bangladeshi community during which he remarked. "Under the courageous leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, the historic Padma Bridge has been built with our funds and resources and now represents a nation on the road to self-reliance and prosperity."

Bangladesh High Commission in London





Bangladesh Embassy in Abu Dhabi



Bangladesh Embassy in Cairo



Bangladesh High Commission in Islamabad





Bangladesh Permanent Mission in Geneva



Bangladesh Embassy in Rome



Bangladesh Embassy in Doha





Bangladesh Embassy in Athens



Bangladesh Embassy in Amman





Bangladesh Embassy in Manama



Bangladesh High Commission in Bandar Seri Begawan



Bangladesh Embassy in Stockholm





Bangladesh Embassy in Madrid



Bangladesh Embassy in Tokyo



Bangladesh Embassy in Tashkent

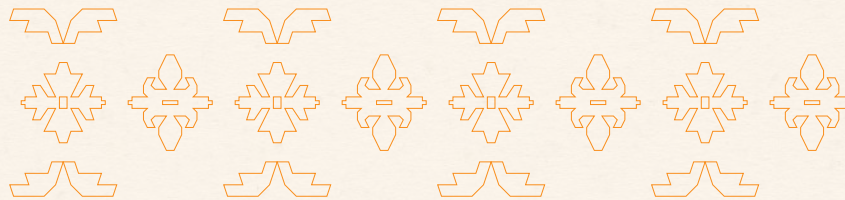




Bangladesh Deputy High Commission in Mumbai



Bangladesh Consulate General in New York



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Patron	Md. Shahriar Alam, MP, State Minister for Foreign Affairs
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