

FOREIGN OFFICE

BRIEFING NOTES

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Foreign Minister attends OIC Council of Foreign Ministers in Abu Dhabi



Foreign Minister Dr. A K Abdul Momen, MP attends the 46th session of OIC Council of Foreign Ministers in Abu Dhabi

Foreign Minister Dr. A K Abdul Momen, MP called for collective action to ensure accountability and justice to the Rohingyas and their immediate repatriation to their homeland in the Rakhine state of Myanmar while attending the 46th session of the OIC Council of Foreign Ministers in Abu Dhabi on 01 March 2019. He was referring to the OIC's decision to pursue the legal path to justice through the International Court of Justice (ICJ) – as was decided in the Banjul meeting of the OIC Ministerial Committee early last month this year.

He also called for a stronger resolve from the OIC to fight terror and violent extremism in all their manifestations and conveyed the consistent efforts of the government of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to fight terror with both hard and soft measures. Bangladesh chaired the 45th OIC CFM, held in Dhaka in 2018 and led the various OIC processes for the last one year. Foreign Minister opened the conference at the Emirates Palace in Abu Dhabi and handed over the CFM Chair to the UAE Foreign Minister Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan.

Indian External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj addressed the CFM as a Guest of Honour. Bangladesh remains a part of the OIC Troika and continues as an influential member of the important 8 member OIC Executive Committee for the next two years – as the rapporteur. The theme chosen for this year's Council is '50 years of Islamic cooperation: Road map for prosperity and development' and it continues in a seamless thematic from the Bangladesh CFM's theme of "Islamic Values for Sustainable Peace, Solidarity and Development".

Highlighting the intricate inter-linkages amongst challenges of economy, ecology and security, the Foreign Minister noted that Bangladesh is striving hard to energise the OIC

in a spirit of cooperation, particularly for peacebuilding and conflict mitigation, implementation of the OIC 2025 Programme of Action (POA), connectivity, regional economic integration, SDGs, STI and humanitarian priorities.

All countries, including the new Chair – United Arab Emirates - lauded Bangladesh's leadership role in the OIC. The OIC Secretary General Dr. Yousef Otthaimen thanked Bangladesh and the government of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for its pioneering work in the field of sustainable development and

countering terrorism and violent extremism.

External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj – in her speech – categorically referred to Bangladesh as a primary pillar of India's strategic partnership with not only the Muslim world but also for various other processes in economy and security for the prosperity and stability of the region.



Foreign Minister Dr. A K Abdul Momen, MP meets Indian External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj in Abu Dhabi

In the afternoon, the Foreign Minister had a bilateral meeting with the Indian External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj at the hotel. The two sides discussed issues of bilateral interest – which included, amongst others, trade, finance and connectivity. The two sides discussed various regional issues and reaffirmed their resolve to address strategic issues together.

The Foreign Minister also met his counterparts from the Maldives, Indonesia, the Gambia, Malaysia and several other key Ministers on the sidelines of the CFM and discussed issues related to cooperation in Blue Economy, production, finance and trade.





Kenyan Foreign Minister visits Bangladesh



Foreign Minister Dr. A K Abdul Momen, MP is with Kenyan Foreign Minister Dr. Monica Juma at a joint press briefing in Dhaka

Kenyan Foreign Minister Dr. Monica Juma was on an official visit to Bangladesh from 6-8 March 2019 with a 6-member delegation. During the visit, bilateral talks were held at the State Guest House, Meghna on 08 March 2019. Foreign Minister Dr. A K Abdul Momen, MP joined other high officials of the Foreign Ministry at the talks.

During the discussions, Kenyan Foreign Minister commended the tremendous social progress and economic development that is taking place in Bangladesh under the pragmatic leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. She underlined the importance of enhancing bilateral relations between Bangladesh and Kenya by intensifying and diversifying cooperation in different sectors.

Foreign Minister briefed the Kenyan delegation on the significance of historic 7th March for Bangladesh and highlighted the leadership of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. He emphasized

on the potential of enhancing trade ties between Bangladesh and Kenya and underscored the high quality of Bangladeshi products and services. He particularly stressed on the high standard of Bangladeshi Ready Made Garments, pharmaceuticals, jute and jute products, leather products which could be imported from Bangladesh at a competitive price. He appreciated the Kenyan side for creating favourable investment climate for the Bangladeshi entrepreneurs who have already initiated joint ventures in Kenya. During the talks, it was agreed that a business delegation from Bangladesh could visit Kenya to identify products and services which can be exported to Kenya. He also mentioned that Bangladesh is ready to extend support in the agriculture sector of Kenya.

Both sides agreed that cooperation in education, science, technology, should be institutionalized through signing relevant agreements. Both sides also agreed on holding foreign office consultations soon. Foreign Minister also briefed the visiting Kenyan Foreign Minister about the more than one million forcibly displaced Rohingyas from Myanmar who are being sheltered by Bangladesh. He stressed the need for the international community to put pressure on the Myanmar government to implement the agreement signed between Bangladesh and Myanmar for repatriation of the Rohingyas in safety, security and dignity back to their homeland in Myanmar.

Kenyan Foreign Minister thanked the Government of Bangladesh led by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for the unprecedented and historic humanitarian gesture shown by Bangladesh to give shelter to the Rohingyas who fled inhuman violence and atrocities in Myanmar.

Kenyan Foreign Minister is also visiting India and Sri Lanka during her South Asian tour.

Australian High Commissioner Julia Niblett calls on Foreign Minister

Australian Foreign Minister Senator Marise Payne has congratulated Dr. A K Abdul Momen, MP on his appointment as Foreign Minister of Bangladesh. Australian High Commissioner Julia Niblett handed over the Letter of Congratulations to Dr. A K Abdul Momen, MP while she met him at his office on 12 March 2019.

High Commissioner described Bangladesh-Australia relationship as warm, longstanding and constructive underpinned by education, energy cooperation and expanding trade and investment ties. She said Australia highly values cooperation of Bangladesh in addressing shared regional challenges like irregular migration and Rohingya crisis.

Foreign Minister deeply appreciated valuable support of Australia for Bangladesh since its independence. While appreciating Australia's humanitarian assistance for the Rohingyas, Foreign Minister sought Australia's active



Australian High Commissioner Julia Niblett calls on Foreign Minister Dr. A K Abdul Momen, MP at his office





role for solution of the Rohingya crisis. Australian High Commissioner said Australia has taken into account the findings of UN fact finding mission on assessing accountability of crimes committed against the Rohingyas and underlined the importance of cessation of ongoing violence in Myanmar to create a conducive condition of return of the displaced people.

Expressing gratitude to High Commissioner for providing scholarship for students of Bangladesh to study in Australia, Foreign Minister requested to create a joint research mechanism for collaborative research to harness creativity and knowledge. Foreign Minister also requested to review the travel advisory of Australia on Bangladesh to facilitate more business interaction between the two countries.

■ Belgium will send a trade mission to Bangladesh

Belgium is planning to send a trade delegation to Bangladesh later this year to explore trade and investment opportunities. New Belgian Ambassador to Bangladesh, with residence in New Delhi, Francois Delhaye informed this at a meeting with Bangladesh Foreign Minister Dr. A K Abdul Momen, MP on 13 March 2019. During the meeting, Foreign Minister briefed the Ambassador about tremendous socio-economic developments that Bangladesh has achieved particularly during the last one decade under the visionary leadership of the Prime Minister.

Foreign Minister requested the Belgian Ambassador for his country's partnership in Bangladesh's journey towards a middle income country by 2021 and a developed one by 2041 in line with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's Vision 2021 and Vision 2041. He also highlighted Bangladesh's demographic dividend and attractive packages that are on offer for foreign direct investment (FDI). Belgian Ambassador informed the Foreign Minister about Belgian company Jan De Nul's entering into concession agreement with the Government of Bangladesh for the dredging of Payra Port.

Rohingya issue figured high on the agenda as Foreign Minister Momen asked Belgium to continue to play leadership role in the European Union and the UN Security Council (as Belgium has been elected as non-Permanent



Belgian Ambassador Francois Delhaye calls on Foreign Minister Dr. A K Abdul Momen, MP at his office

member of the UNSC for the term 2019-2020) to mount persistent pressure on Myanmar for sustainable solution to the crisis including creating congenial environment for their safe and dignified return at the earliest. Ambassador Delhaye reiterated Belgium's commitment to that end.

Ambassador yesterday presented his credentials to President Md. Abdul Hamid at Bangabhaban. Earlier on 13 March 2019, he also had meetings with Science and Technology Minister Architect Yeafesh Osman and State Minister of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources Nasrul Hamid, MP at their respective offices in Bangladesh Secretariat.

■ Bangladesh underscores the importance of South-South Cooperation for the Agenda 2030



Foreign Minister Dr. A K Abdul Momen, MP addressing at the plenary meeting of the Second UN High-Level Conference on South-South Cooperation in Buenos Aires

Bangladesh's Foreign Minister Dr. A K Abdul Momen, MP underscored the importance of South-South Cooperation (SSC) in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in

developing countries while delivering country statement at the plenary meeting of the Second UN High-Level Conference on South-South Cooperation in Buenos Aires, Argentina on 20 March 2019. In this regard, he said, "I may recall here that Bangladesh highlighted the importance of SSC in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda even before its adoption in the 'High Level Meeting on South-South and Triangular Cooperation in the post Development Agenda: Financing for Development in the South and Technology Transfer' that it hosted in Dhaka in May 2015".

To strengthen and further invigorate South-South cooperation, the UN General Assembly is convening this high-level conference on South-South cooperation (SSC) on the occasion of the fortieth anniversary of the adoption of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action (BAPA) for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries. The High-level Conference is being hosted by Argentina which commenced on 20 March and will continue till 22 March 2019. Bangladesh has been elected as one of the Vice Presidents of the Conference. The Minister also chaired the high-level plenary meeting for a while.



In his country statement, the foreign Minister shared some thoughts and plans of Bangladesh to promote SSC including proposal to establish a forum of Development, Finance, Economic and Foreign Ministers of the South to discuss, dialogue, and explore the potentials as well as the critical issues of the South in the context of achieving the SDGs.

He also announced that Bangladesh is planning to set up a "South-South Knowledge and Innovation Centre" which would provide a platform to it and other countries to co-create solutions addressing challenges they face in advancing technology transformation, particularly emanating from 4IR, share their innovative practices and identify experiences which could be transferred, replicated and scaled up.

Mentioning that the Diaspora of the South, which possesses wealth of knowledge and experience, is expanding across the globe, the FM stressed upon that SSC should provide them a platform to work closely in their countries of origin and play a more meaningful role in their development.

Recognizing SSC as an effective cooperation mechanism in the development trajectory of Bangladesh, the Foreign Minister said, "Under the leadership of our Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, we are now implementing our national development Vision 2021 to see ourselves as a middle-income country and Vision 2041 to transform the country into a 'Sonar Bangla', a developed one. We are in the process of graduation from the LDC category and we are conscious that this transition would make us face a new set of development challenges as a middle-income country. As we embark on that journey, we wish to harness the potential of SSC to address our huge development needs and challenges". Bangladesh Foreign Minister informed the audience that Bangladesh has included SSC in its National Policy for Development Cooperation such as in various programmes and platforms under the Access to Information (A2I).

Foreign Minister thanked the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) for incorporating five innovative development solutions of Bangladesh which are

Union Digital Centre, SDG Tracker, Empathy Training, Service Innovation Fund and Time Cost Visit Model of public service delivery in 'the UN Global Publication on Best Practices'. He referred to another UNOSSC's publication named "South-South in Action: Citizen Friendly Public Service Innovation in Bangladesh" which tells Bangladesh's success in ensuring good governance.

The Foreign Minister urged the member states of SSC to come forward for strengthening strategic partnership through the framework of South-South and Triangular Cooperation.

Prior to delivering the country statement, the Minister attended a side event titled "A Glimpse of the future South-South and Triangular Cooperation: Asia-Pacific's contribution in Science, Technology and Innovation" at University of Buenos Aires, jointly hosted by A2I and UNOSSC. In this side event the Foreign Minister enumerated the achievements of the government of Sheikh Hasina in science, technology and innovation and urged South-South and Triangular Cooperation to offer more collaboration among the developing countries and the development partners in the areas of knowledge, experience, best practices, training, capacity building and technology transfer as well as mutual learning and the coordination of STI policies and strategies towards achieving sustainable development.

In the day-long engagements, the Minister also met the President of General Assembly (PGA) María Fernanda Espinosa Garcés, Foreign Minister of Georgia David Zalkaliani and the Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs of Guatemala Jairo D. Estrada B.

In those bilateral meetings, he and his counterparts exchanged views and ideas and shared their respective country's development endeavors. PGA praised Bangladesh's generosity for providing shelter and humanitarian support to the forcibly displaced Rohingyas from Myanmar. She also lauded Bangladesh's indomitable success in social and economic development and its proactive role in climate change negotiations.

British High Commissioner Alison Blake pays farewell calls on Foreign Minister and State Minister for Foreign Affairs



British High Commissioner Alison Blake calls on Foreign Minister Dr. A K Abdul Momen, MP at his office

British High Commissioner Alison Blake paid farewell call on Foreign Minister Dr. A K Abdul Momen, MP at his office on 05 March 2019. Foreign Minister appreciated the High Commissioner for her dedicated and hard work to further strengthen and broaden bilateral relations between the two countries. He sought her continued support to encourage more investment by the UK companies in Bangladesh. Referring to more than half a million strong British-Bangladeshis in the UK, mostly from Sylhet, he further urged the High Commissioner to make UK visa processing more hassle free.

High Commissioner thanked Foreign Minister for all the support she received from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the government, as a whole. Referring to the upcoming 3rd Strategic Dialogue between Bangladesh





and the UK, to be held in April 2019 in Dhaka, she termed it as a “wonderful framework” for in-depth review of bilateral relations between the two countries. On Foreign Minister’s reference to post-Brexit trade preferences for Bangladesh, the British High Commissioner reassured that Bangladesh would continue to enjoy EU’s Everything But Arms (EBA) like trade preferences until an even better deal is being worked out between the two countries.

Foreign Minister thanked the British High Commissioner for playing the pivotal role in mobilizing strong UK

leadership at the global level for finding a sustainable and peaceful solution to the Rohingya crisis.

High Commissioner Blake also called on the State Minister for Foreign Affairs Md. Shahriar Alam, MP on the same day and thanked him for all the support during her tenure in Bangladesh. They exchanged views on current political relations including high number of incoming visits from UK over past few years, Rohingya crisis, countering terrorism and upcoming Cricket World Cup in the UK.

South Korean Ambassador Calls on State Minister for Foreign Affairs

South Korea has turned out to be an important development partner of Bangladesh and Bangladesh seeks expansion of scope of activities of Korean Economic Development Cooperation Fund (EDCF). This was stated by State Minister Md. Shahriar Alam, MP while he met Ambassador of South Korea Hu Kang Ilat at his office on 11 March 2019.

Ambassador highly praised the technical skill of young professionals in Bangladesh who are presently working in assembly plant and research centre of South Korea’s electronic giant Samsung. State Minister recalled the pioneering role of South Korean’s companies to develop textile and garments industries in Bangladesh. He said that, Korean success in transforming South Korea within a generation has inspired Bangladesh to steer the nation on a development path. The Ambassador praised rapid industrialization and development of Bangladesh under the able leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, which gives a bright future of Bangladesh. He expressed confidence that, Bangladesh will graduate from LDC by



South Korean Ambassador Hu Kang Ilat meets State Minister for Foreign Affairs Md. Shahriar Alam, MP at his office

2024. While mentioning Employment Permit System (EPS) of South Korea as a model in recruitment of foreign workers, State Minister requested him to increase the intake of Bangladesh nationals for recruitment under EPS.



State Minister for Foreign Affairs Md. Shahriar Alam, MP addressing at a UN Ministerial Conference in New York

State Minister leads Bangladesh delegation in Ministerial Conference in the UN

State Minister for Foreign Affairs Md. Shahriar Alam, MP led a 6-member Bangladesh delegation to the Peacekeeping Ministerial on Uniformed Capabilities, Performance and Protection held on 29 March 2019 at the UN Headquarters in New York. As one of the co-chairs along with the UN, Canada, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Japan, The Netherlands, Pakistan, Rwanda, Uruguay, the United States and the United Kingdom, Bangladesh contributed towards both the organizational and substantive matters



of the meeting to make it a success. The main theme of the meeting was 'Strengthening Uniformed Capabilities, Performance and the Protection of Civilians in the UN Peacekeeping'. The meeting was organized around three thematic sessions namely i) Training and Capacity Building ii) Performance, and iii) Protection of Civilians. The meeting also highlighted the theme of the Women, Peace and Security for promoting enhanced participation of women in all spheres of peacekeeping.

State Minister delivered his statement in the session on Protection of Civilians. In his statement, he said that Bangladesh's unwavering commitment to Peacekeeping comes from the Foreign policy guidelines as enshrined in the Constitution and the vision of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman for a peaceful world. He highlighted the efforts of the Honorable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to carry forward this vision of the Father of the Nation. Referring to the atrocity crimes committed by Pakistani armies against our civilians during the Liberation War in 1971, he said that Bangladesh had incorporated a strong and comprehensive Protection

of Civilian component in peacekeeping training with in-built demonstration and tabletop exercises. He also stressed the importance of adequate resources and critical enablers to ensure the safety and security and the performances of the peacekeepers.

In the meeting, Bangladesh pledged 26 components to UN "Peacekeeping Capability Readiness System" including 09 components from Army, 06 from Navy, 03 from Air force and 08 from Police. In addition, Bangladesh also pledged a unit for operational level Unmanned Aerial Surveillance (UAS) in partnership with the United States.

The Ministerial offered an opportunity to Ministers and high-level participants to voice their shared Commitments to UN Peacekeeping Operations and announce specific pledges to enhance peacekeeping capabilities, including specialized enabling capabilities for high-risk missions, rapidly deployable units, training and capacity-building support and related partnership initiatives. The meeting had a Chair's summary as an outcome document which captured key elements of the discussions and pledges.

Bangladesh-Bhutan 2nd Foreign Office Consultations held in Dhaka

Two Foreign Secretaries of Bangladesh and Bhutan led two respective delegations at the 2nd Foreign Office Consultations (FOC) between Bangladesh and Bhutan held at the State Guest House, Padma in Dhaka on 19 March 2019. During the talks, both sides discussed the entire gamut of bilateral relations and took stock of the progress in ongoing bilateral cooperation including in the areas of power, trade and investment, education, tourism, human resources development, science and technology, agriculture, food security, water resources management, climate change and people-to-people contact.

Apart from bilateral issues, the two sides also discussed cooperative frameworks on transit and connectivity, specially, under the BBIN framework which Bangladesh believes is crucial for the future development of the sub-region. Trilateral cooperation between Bangladesh, Bhutan and India in the field of hydroelectric power was also discussed. During the talks Bhutan showed keen interest to recruit Bangladesh Doctors to work in Bhutan.

■ Seminar titled '1971 Genocide in Bangladesh' held at BISS

A commemorative seminar titled '1971 Genocide in Bangladesh' was held in Dhaka on 24 March 2019. Ministry of Foreign Affairs organized the event at Bangladesh Institute of International & Strategic Studies (BISS). United Nations Special Adviser on Prevention of Genocide Adama Dieng attended the seminar as Chief Guest.

The current government of Bangladesh has declared 25th March as National Genocide Day and has engaged in drastic efforts for gaining UN recognition on the issue. The speakers talked about the heinous attack of the Pakistani Military on the unarmed civilians throughout the Bangladesh liberation war. They also mentioned about the current Governments vigorous endeavor towards attaining

UN recognition for the 1971 genocide and gave suggestions to raise awareness about this grave mistreatment of humanity at both domestic and international levels.

The seminar included a lively open discussion. Senior officials from different ministries of Bangladesh, management authorities, representatives from different organizations, academia, researchers, teachers from various universities and media representatives participated and expressed their valuable opinions and observations on the topic. They asked many questions and gave their suggestions about how Bangladesh can proceed at attaining international recognition for the genocide of 1971 genocide successfully.





■ Ministry's welfare activities in March

The Welfare Section has issued No Objection Certificate in favour of 30 Bangladesh nationals who intended to visit Libya for working purpose in the month of March. On 29 March 2019, 27 illegal migrants were deported from

Germany to Bangladesh under the SOP arrangement with EU through a Chartered Flight. After the terrorist attack at Christ Church in New Zealand, 3 dead bodies were repatriated back to Bangladesh.

■ Observance of International Women's Day in a different manner in the Netherlands

The Embassy of Bangladesh, The Hague in association with Aerofit organized a discussion meeting on "Making their Presence Felt" as part of observing the International Women's Day on March 6, 2019 in a different manner. The spouses of Embassy officials including the spouses of the Ambassadors of United Kingdom, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, Iran, South Africa, Afghanistan, Belarus, Lithuania,

Rwanda, Ambassador of Uruguay, and few Dutch friends attended the meeting.

The discussant in the event expressed their solidarity with all the oppressed women of the world and underscored the need for identifying the challenges faced by those distressed women all around the world as part of celebrating this year's "international women day".

■ Historic 7th March observed in Bangladesh Missions

The historic 7th March was observed in Bangladesh Missions abroad recalling Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and his epoch-making speech that led the nation towards independence of the country. The event began with the placing of wreaths at the portrait of Bangabandhu. Special munajat was offered seeking the eternal peace of the departed souls of Bangabandhu and

his martyred family members as well as the progress and prosperity of the country. This was followed by a discussion session and recitation of poems based on Bangabandhu's 7th March speech. Later, the video of Bangabandhu's 7th March speech was screened. Expatriate Bangladeshis and officials of the Mission joined the programme along with their families.

99th Birth Anniversary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman celebrated

Bangladesh Missions abroad celebrated the 99th Birth Anniversary of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and the 'National Children's Day' on 17th March 2019 with due fervour and festivity. The day's programmes included placing a floral wreath and lighting candles at the portrait of the Father of the Nation, recitation from the Holy Books, observing one minute silence to show respect to the Father of the Nation, special prayer seeking blessings for eternal peace of the soul of Bangabandhu, special discussion, art and painting exhibition, screening of documentaries on the life and works of Bangabandhu, recitation of poems on Bangabandhu, art and essay competition, cultural segment, etc. Messages on the occasion delivered by the President, Prime Minister, Foreign Minister and State Minister for Foreign Affairs were read out.

■ Missions celebrate Independence and National Day of Bangladesh

All Bangladesh Missions abroad celebrated the Independence and National Day on 26 March 2019 with reverence and fervour. At the early hours of 26 March 2019, floral wreath was placed at the portrait of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, verses were recited from the Holy Books, special prayer was offered seeking blessings for eternal peace of the souls of the martyrs, one minute silence was observed in remembrance of the martyrs of the War of Independence. Embassy officials along with the members of their families and members of Bangladesh community attended the programme of singing of the national anthem in authentic

tune as per the guideline given by the Cabinet Division. Messages of the President, Prime Minister, Foreign Minister and State Minister for Foreign Affairs issued on the occasion were read out. The national flag was duly hoisted at the Chancery premises. Special discussion, photo exhibition, screening of documentaries, cultural segment, etc were also organized along the whole day. In the evening, a reception was hosted by the Heads of Missions.

A photo gallery of the events on 17 and 26 March 2019 organized by some of the Bangladesh Missions abroad is as follows:





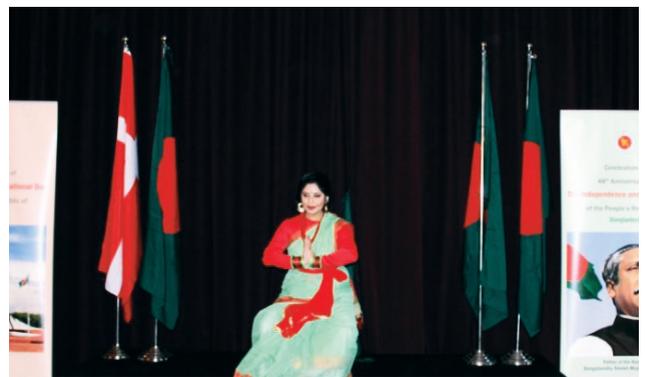
Bangladesh Assistant High Commission, Agartala (26 March)



Bangladesh Embassy, Addis Ababa (17 March)



Bangladesh Embassy, Athens (17 March)



Bangladesh Embassy, Copenhagen (26 March)



Bangladesh Consulate General, Jeddah (17 March)



Bangladesh Embassy, Kathmandu (17 March)



Bangladesh Deputy High Commission, Kolkata (17 March)



Bangladesh Embassy, Kuwait (17 March)





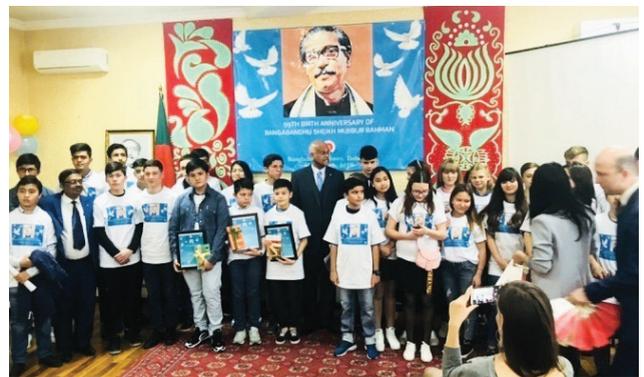
Bangladesh Embassy, Male' (17 March)



Bangladesh Deputy High Commission, Mumbai (17 March)



Bangladesh Embassy, Seoul (17 March)



Bangladesh Embassy, Tashkent (17 March)



Bangladesh Embassy, The Hague (17 March)



Bangladesh Embassy, Thimphu (17 March)



Bangladesh Embassy, Tripoli (17 March)



Bangladesh Embassy, Vienna





Prince of Wales and Duchess of Cornwall interacting with Bangladesh High Commissioner to the United Kingdom and the artists in London

Bangladesh performed at a Reception celebrating Commonwealth Day in London

At an annual reception to mark the Commonwealth Day held at Marlborough House in London on 11 March 2019, Bangladesh High Commission made spectacular participation in the cultural part of the event. Prince of Wales, Duchess of Cornwall, former Prime Minister John Major and Foreign Secretary Jeremy Hunt and Commonwealth Secretary-General Patricia Scotland were among others enjoying Bangladesh's performance.

Bangladesh Embassy, Ankara organizes business and cultural events in Samsun City

Bangladesh Embassy, Ankara organized a Seminar titled 'Trade and Investment Opportunities in Bangladesh' on 6 March 2019 at the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Black Sea city Samsun. A total of 21 member companies were represented at the Seminar. The inaugural speech was made by the President of the Chamber Salih Zeki Murzioğlu who put emphasis on enhancing the economic relations between Bangladesh and Turkey. Bangladesh Ambassador briefed the audience about the progress made by Bangladesh in the socio-economic fields under the leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

Earlier on 5 March 2019 a delegation from Bangladesh Embassy, Ankara attended the 'Meet Bangladesh' event organized at the Ondokuz Mayıs University in Samsun with support of Bangladesh students studying there. It included presentation on Bangladesh and Bangladesh-Turkey bilateral relations followed by a cultural program with participation of multi-national performers reflecting upon the Bangladeshi culture. More than 400 students enjoyed the event. Bangladesh Ambassador had a meeting with the Governor of the Samsun Province Osman Kaimak on the same day.

Bangladesh Embassy in Ankara organizes 'Spring Festival'

Bangladesh Embassy in Ankara organized 'Spring Festival' at a local hotel on 19 March 2019 at the advent of the colourful spring. At the invitation of the Embassy, 55 Embassies and a good number of members of the civil society based in Ankara participated at the event. The association of the spouses of the Heads of Missions in Ankara (SHOM) and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Spouses' Solidarity Association (DMEDD) extended cordial support to the Embassy in organizing the event. The spouse of the Foreign Minister of Turkey Hülya Çavuşoğlu graced the event as the Chief Guest.



Bangladesh Embassy organizes Spring Festival in Ankara





Bangladesh High Commission, Canberra responds to terror attack in Christchurch

Bangladesh High Commission in Canberra sent a team to Christchurch, New Zealand to help the victims of a terror attack during Friday prayer on 15 March 2019 causing the death of 50 Muslims and injury to 50 others including 5 deceased and 3 injured of Bangladesh origin. High Commission officials coordinated with the relevant authorities as well as the relatives of the victims in Bangladesh. Two dead bodies were buried in Christchurch as per the desire of the family members while three others were repatriated to Bangladesh.

6th meeting of the Joint Task Force on Human Trafficking held in New Delhi

The 6th meeting of the Joint Task Force of India and Bangladesh on Human Trafficking was held in New Delhi on 11-12 March 2019. During the meeting of the Joint Task Force, held after an interval of 3 years, discussion was held on easing the repatriation process of the trafficked victims.

Both sides also discussed on how to prevent human trafficking effectively. Apart from the meeting, Bangladesh delegation visited a Shelter Home-“Nirmal Chhaya”. Located at the outskirts of New Delhi, the Shelter Home provides shelter to the victims of trafficking.

Speaker and young Parliamentarians visit New Delhi

Speaker along with five Members of Parliament visited New Delhi from 25 to 28 March 2019 to attend a Seminar organized by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for the South Asian Parliamentarians. Parliamentarians from India, Bhutan, Nepal and Sri Lanka also attended the event. At the Seminar, Speaker addressed the gathering during a Session titled “Public Investment/Public Dividend”.

Earlier a team of 20 young political leaders of Bangladesh, including 10 parliamentarians, paid a familiarization visit to New Delhi and Mumbai from 10 to 16 March 2019 upon invitation from the Observer Research Foundation (ORF)- a New Delhi-based think tank. During the visit, they called on the President and Prime Minister of India. Besides, they held interactive sessions with the Foreign Policy Cell of BJP, Foreign Affairs Committee of Congress Party and Vivekananda International Foundation of India.

Bangladesh Embassy, Seoul organizes seminar

Bangladesh Embassy, Seoul organized a seminar titled “Development Journey of Bangladesh” at Chung Ang University on 28 March 2019. More than 100 Korean students participated in the event. Power point

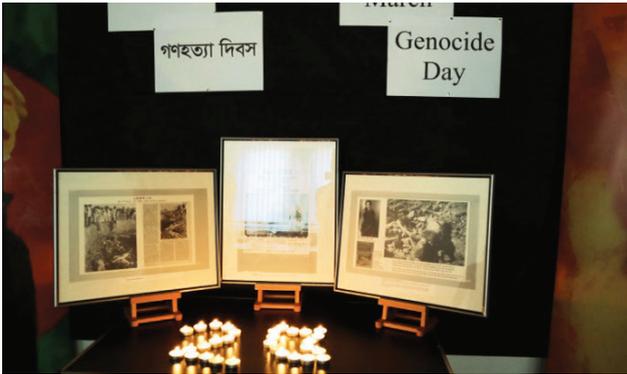
presentations on the bilateral political relations between Bangladesh and the Republic of Korea, culture and tourism, and recent economic progress of Bangladesh were delivered in the seminar.

Genocide Day on 25th March 2019 observed across the globe

Remembering the horrendous episode of human massacre in Bangladesh by the Pakistan army on 25 March 1971, Bangladesh Missions abroad observed “Genocide Day” with due solemnity. The event commenced with the singing of national anthem followed by reading out of verses from the Holy Books and conducting of special prayer for the salvation of the departed souls of the martyrs. Blackout of the Chancery premises and one minute silence was observed followed by candlelight vigil and paraded in

remembrance of the martyrs of 25th March and the War of Independence. The messages of the President and Prime Minister given on this occasion were read out followed by a special discussion and poetry recital on the Liberation War. A documentary titled “Genocide 1971” was screened and a drama was staged. Also, a booklet titled “Bangladesh Genocide Revisited” was distributed among the attendees. A photo gallery of the event organized by some of the Bangladesh Missions abroad is as follows:





Bangladesh Embassy, Berlin



Bangladesh High Commission, Canberra



Bangladesh High Commission, Islamabad



Bangladesh Permanent Mission, New York



Bangladesh Embassy, Paris



Bangladesh Embassy, Washington DC

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