

FOREIGN OFFICE

BRIEFING NOTES

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

May 2021

Hon'ble Prime Minister participated in the P4G Seoul Summit 2021



Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina participated through a pre-recorded video message in the second P4G Seoul Summit 2021 under the theme *"Inclusive Green Recovery towards Carbon Neutrality"* which was held on 30 May 2021 in a virtual set-up convened by His Excellency Moon Jae-In, Hon'ble President of the Republic of Korea.

In her statement, Hon'ble Prime Minister gave utmost importance to sustainable

recovery, green growth and low carbon development path. She also underscored the significance of the efficient use and preservation of water in her speech as described in Bangladesh's Delta Plan 2100. While informing that Bangladesh was the first LDC country to establish a *"Climate Change Trust Fund"* from its own resources, she mentioned that Bangladesh had spent about 5 billion US dollars on climate adaptation. She further mentioned about Bangladesh's key focus in promoting locally-led adaptation

solutions to address the adverse impact of climate change.

As the Chair of CVF, and a Member of P4G, she suggested some collective measures including the engagement of more financiers, innovators, policymakers and creative entrepreneurs in the five P4G focus areas (food, water, energy, cities and circular economy). She also called for a whole-of-world attitude and closer cooperation of the world leaders towards a greener future for our next generation.

Hon'ble Prime Minister Participated in the Asia Regional Commonwealth Heads of Government Roundtables

Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina participated in the Asia Regional Commonwealth Heads of Government Roundtables, convened virtually by His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales on 24 May 2021. In her speech, Hon'ble Prime Minister urged the countries of the Commonwealth to advocate for eradicating poverty and minimizing climate vulnerabilities of the vulnerable communities. She further said that Commonwealth can play a pivotal role towards sustainable and nature-

based solutions for a prosperous future. Hon'ble Prime Minister highlighted the government's ongoing activities to fight against the negative effects of climate change by focusing on the fact that Bangladesh had emerged as a global leader on adaptation despite having resource constraints and other challenges. She mentioned that as the Chair of the CVF and the host of the South Asian regional office of Global Center on Adaptation, Bangladesh was promoting the interests of the vulnerable countries

and taking their voices to the international platforms. In order to address the climate change issue, Hon'ble Prime Minister also suggested a few measures like promotion of green and sustainable economic growth and investment for low greenhouse gas emissions, giving emphasis on carbon-neutral technologies with provision of knowledge and technology transfer, and supporting the vulnerable countries to get access to climate finance for addressing the possible barriers towards de-carbonization.

Medicine Diplomacy



► On 11 May 2021, Ministry of Foreign Affairs sent to Nepal 5,000 vials of Remdisivir injection as gift from Hon'ble Prime Minister of Bangladesh to the Nepalese Ambassador in Dhaka

On 11 May, the Hon'ble Foreign Minister Dr. A. K. Abdul Momen, MP handed over a token box of 5,000 vials of Remdisivir injection to the Nepalese Ambassador in Dhaka, as gift from the Hon'ble Prime Minister of Bangladesh for the COVID-19 affected people of Nepal from 'SAARC

COVID-19 Emergency Fund' maintained in Bangladesh. The consignment containing Remdisivir injection was transported to Nepal by air on the same day. This Ministry also arranged and coordinated the handover of token of 5,55,000 units of three types of masks and

79,580 Hydroxy Chloroquine tablets to Nepalese Ambassador by Hon'ble Health Minister Mr. Zahid Maleque. These items were given by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

Visit of the President of United Nations General Assembly to Bangladesh



► H.E. Mr. Volkan Bozkir called on Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at Ganabhaban on 25 May 2021



► H.E. Mr. Volkan Bozkir (L) met Hon'ble Foreign Minister Dr. AK Abdul Momen, MP (R) at the Foreign Service Academy on 25 May 2021

H.E. Mr. Volkan Bozkir, President of the 75th Session of the UNGA (PGA), visited Bangladesh from 25 to 26 May 2021. During his visit, the PGA called on the Hon'ble Prime Minister at Ganabhaban. The PGA discussed with the Hon'ble Prime Minister about the plight of the Rohingya people, the situation in Myanmar, the impact of climate change, the importance of human-centric development, gender equality and women's empowerment, culture of peace and peacekeeping. Later, the PGA visited Bangabandhu

Memorial Museum at Dhanmondi 32, and placed a floral wreath at the portrait of Bangabandhu. The President also met separately H.E. Mr. AK Abdul Momen, MP Hon'ble Minister for Foreign Affairs. The topics of discussion included the situation of the Rohingya, climate change, the COVID-19 response, LDC graduation, South-South Cooperation, and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. While in Dhaka, Mr. Bozkir also delivered the sixth lecture of the Bangabandhu Lecture Series at the Foreign Service

Academy of Bangladesh on the theme of 'Bangladesh and the United Nations'. After seeing a short video on Bhashan Char, he lauded Bangladesh's initiatives in equipping the Bhashan Char with modern facilities to relocate a hundred thousand Rohingyas. On the 2nd day, he visited the Rohingya camps at Cox's Bazar and had an interactive interaction with the Rohingya representatives. The President also met with camp authorities, healthcare workers and inspected facilities at the Turkish Field Hospital there.

Hon'ble Foreign Minister inaugurated the IORA Blue Carbon Hub think tank meeting on "Nature-based solutions for coastal risk reduction", jointly organized by Bangladesh and Australia





Hon'ble Foreign Minister Dr. A. K. Abdul Momen, MP inaugurated the 3-day long IORA Blue Carbon Hub think tank meeting on "Nature-based solutions for coastal risk reduction" on 25 May 2021, organized by the governments of Bangladesh and Australia in collaboration with the

Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization (CSIRO) and IORA Blue Carbon Hub today. Rear Admiral (Retd.) Md. Khurshed Alam, Secretary (Maritime Affairs Unit) chaired the opening session. Foreign Secretary (Senior Secretary) of Bangladesh Ambassador

Masud Bin Momen delivered the concluding remarks on the final day of the meeting. The 3-day meeting successfully concluded with the participation of around a hundred representatives and a number of future programmes/projects related to nature-based solutions for coastal risk reduction.

Commemoration of International Day of UN Peacekeepers 2021



► Celebration of International Peacekeeping Day-2021 at Senakunja, 29 May 2021

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in cooperation with Armed Forces Division and Bangladesh Police jointly observed the International Day of Peacekeepers

on 29 May 2021. The day was observed through various joint activities and events that included commemoration ceremony at Sena Kunja, Peacekeepers' Day Run

etc. In addition, supplementary in the daily newspapers was published incorporating the messages from Hon'ble President, Hon'ble Prime Minister, Hon'ble Foreign

Minister, Hon'ble Secretary-General of UN, Chief of Staffs and other relevant dignitaries as part of the commemoration of the day.

Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina virtually addressed the commemoration ceremony as the chief guest. Hon'ble

Foreign Minister, Hon'ble State Minister for Foreign Affairs, Chief of Army Staff, Chief of Naval Staff, Chief of Air Staff, Foreign Secretary, Principal Staff Officer, Inspector General of Police, and UN Resident Coordinator in Bangladesh, among others, attended the ceremony. The

families and relatives of the injured and martyred peacekeepers were honoured during the program at Sena kunja. Earlier in the morning, Hon'ble Foreign Minister Dr. A. K. Abdul Momen, MP inaugurated UN Peacekeepers Day Run and delivered a short speech as chief guest.

Foreign Minister urged international community to work together for a comprehensive solution to the Palestine cause during the OIC Executive Committee meeting



Foreign Minister Dr. A. K. Abdul Momen, MP strongly condemned the repeated attacks by the Israeli occupation forces against the Palestinian people in Al-Quds Al Shareef and the entire occupied land of the State of Palestine, and expressed his deep condolences to the victims of the atrocities, while speaking at the *'Open-ended Meeting of the OIC Executive Committee at the level of Foreign Ministers to discuss the ongoing developments in the Palestine'* held virtually on 16 May 2021 and requested the UN Security Council to take up the issue of violence and breach of security in the Al-Quds Al-Shareef and the entire occupied land of the State

of Palestine. He urged international community to work together for a comprehensive solution to the Palestine cause.

Foreign Minister Dr. Momen briefed the OIC Member States' Foreign Ministers that Hon'ble Prime Minister of Bangladesh in her letter to the Hon'ble President of the State of Palestine has said that 'I take this opportunity to reiterate Bangladesh's unflinching commitment in realizing the inalienable rights of the brotherly people of Palestine for an independent homeland and a sovereign and viable State of Palestine based on the 1967 borders with East Jerusalem as its capital'.

Bangladesh has been elected as the Chairperson of the IOC Regional Committee for the Central Indian Ocean (IOCINDIO)

Secretary (Maritime Affairs Unit) at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Rear Admiral (Retd.) Md. Khurshed Alam has been elected as the Chairperson of the IOC Regional Committee for the Central Indian



Ocean (IOCINDIO) for the term May 2021–May 2023 during the final day of the virtual meeting of the Eighth Session of the IOC Regional Committee for the Central Indian Ocean (IOCINDIO-VIII) held on

17–19 May 2021. Dr. Saif Mohammed Al Ghais from United Arab Emirates and Ms. Maryam Ghaemi from Islamic Republic of Iran were also elected as the Vice-Chairpersons during the session.

The High Commissioner Paid a Courtesy Call on the Chief Justice of Maldives

High Commissioner of Bangladesh to Maldives Mohammad Nazmul Hassan paid a courtesy call on Uz. Ahmed Muthasim Adnan, Chief Justice of Maldives on 2 May 2021. The High Commissioner requested for the support of Maldives Government's in providing defence lawyer to the Bangladeshi nationals during trial at the court considering the rule of fairness. The High Commissioner also requested for speedy disposal of ongoing cases of Bangladeshi nationals and remission of sentences of convicted prisoners.



► Call on between the Chief Justice of Maldives and the High Commissioner of Bangladesh to Maldives

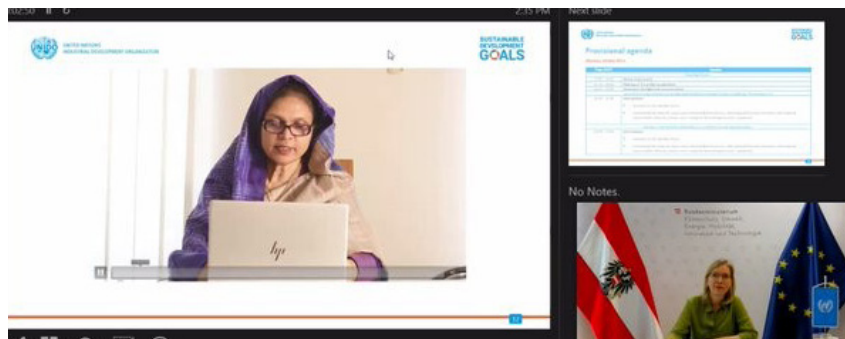
Abuja University expresses interest on conducting research on Bangabandhu



Bangladesh High Commissioner to Nigeria Mr. Masudur Rahman paid a courtesy call on Professor Abdul-Rasheed Na'Allah, Vice Chancellor of Abuja University on 4 May 2021. During the meeting, both expressed interest in expanding the bilateral relations in the field of education as well as people-to-people contact. They also stressed on the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Abuja University and an appropriate University in Bangladesh. Referring to the interest shown by Professor Sadiq Abba, Deputy Vice Chancellor of the university, the High Commissioner assured of necessary cooperation on conducting research on life and works of Bangabandhu. On his part, the Vice Chancellor showed keen interest to organize physical or virtual or hybrid format workshops/seminars with the participation of teachers and students of universities from both the countries.

Bangladesh participated in the UNIDO Global consultations on circular economy

Bangladesh delegation led by H. E. Zuena Aziz, Principal Coordinator for SDG Affairs of Bangladesh participated in the 'UNIDO Global consultations on circular economy' held virtually on 10–12 May 2021. The objective of the consultations on circular economy was to consider ways and means to promote circular economy principles and practices, in particular in developing



countries, identify barriers and devise action-oriented solutions. The global consultations were attended by senior-level representatives from governments, United Nations entities, international organizations, industry, private sector, civil society, and academia. The consultation was co-chaired by the

Federal Minister for Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology of Austria H. E. Leonore Gewessler and the Minister of Environment and Energy of Costa Rica H. E. Andrea Meza Murillo.

In her speech, Ms. Aziz highlighted the

importance of the circular economy as a key component to reach the SDGs and requested the member states of the UNIDO to consider 3R (Reduce-Reuse-Recycle) approach in the pursuit of circular economy for sustainable development and green transition.

Bangladesh Embassy in Kathmandu arranged repatriation flights on 11 May and 27 May 2021

To facilitate the return of Bangladeshis who were stranded in Nepal following lockdown and ongoing travel restrictions

imposed in both Bangladesh and Nepal, Bangladesh Embassy in Kathmandu arranged repatriation flights on 11 May and 27 May 2021.

The flights also carried essential medicine from Bangladesh to Nepal as part of SAARC COVID related assistance.

Bangladesh Ambassador presented his Credentials to the President of Palau on 14 May 2021



Ambassador Asad Alam Siam virtually presented his Credentials to the President of the Republic of Palau H.E. Surangel Whipps Jr. on 14 May 2021.

Conveying the felicitations of the Hon'ble President and the Hon'ble Prime Minister on H.E. Surangel Whipps' victory in the recent election in Palau, Ambassador briefed him on the enormous progress and

remarkable socio-economic developments that Bangladesh has made under the leadership of the Hon'ble Prime Minister. He also thanked him for hosting a few hundred Bangladeshis in Palau and highlighted their contribution in the economy of Palau. Citing two countries' common vulnerability to climate change, Ambassador aspired that the two countries

would work together in the global forums. Accepting the Credentials, the President praised the tremendous development that Bangladesh has made under the present leadership. He assured to work with Bangladesh on common issues globally and hoped that Bangladesh and Palau would be able to maximize their friendly relations for mutual benefits.

Bangladesh Embassy, Manila handed over graphic novel 'Mujib' to Filipino school students as part of Birth Centenary celebration of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman



In observance of the 'Mujib Year', the Embassy of Bangladesh in Manila has gifted a set of three graphic novels

'Mujib' to a hundred of students in the Philippines. The virtual handing-over ceremony, held on 17 May 2021, was

deeply appreciated by the Principals and administrators of the three schools. In their remarks, the school administrations said that the colourful books would introduce Father of the Nation of Bangladesh, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman to the children and inspire them to be a great leader like him. They also thanked the Embassy for making them partners in the celebration. In his speech, the Ambassador thanked the schools for accepting the gifts and said that the enormous sacrifice made by Bangabandhu for Bangladesh and his people would always remain a source of inspiration to all children, within and beyond Bangladesh. The programme ended with a reading session by the children.

Medicine Diplomacy



Representative of Indian Ministry of External Affairs in Kolkata received the consignment at Petrapole land border port from Bangladesh Deputy High Commissioner in Kolkata. On 18 May, Ministry of Foreign Affairs organized, facilitated and coordinated the dispatch of another consignment of 18 types of medicines to India given by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare at the kind instruction of Hon'ble Prime Minister.

Facilitation of return of foreign diplomats to Bangladesh and exit of foreign nationals through Land Ports

This Ministry facilitated return of Indian diplomats and officials posted in Bangladesh through designated land

ports and coordinated for ensuring health protocol during the whole month of May. The exit of around

1,600 stranded Indian nationals from Bangladesh was also facilitated by this Ministry.

Bangladesh Ambassador meets Bahrain MOFA Undersecretary for Consular and Administrative Affairs



► Dr. Md. Nazrul Islam at a courtesy visit to Ambassador Tawfiq Ahmed Al-Mansour, Undersecretary for Consular and Administrative Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Ambassador Dr. Md. Nazrul Islam paid a courtesy call on H.E. Ambassador Tawfiq Ahmed Al-Mansour, Undersecretary for

Consular and Administrative Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Bahrain on 20 May 2021. During

the meeting, the Ambassador praised the growing bilateral relations between both the countries and commended the comprehensive development of bilateral ties at various levels and wished Bahrain's further advancement and prosperity.

In his turn, the Undersecretary took pride in the distinguished level of friendship and cooperation existing between Bahrain and Bangladesh in all fields.

He noted the importance of strengthening and developing bilateral cooperation to serve the aspirations and interests of the two friendly countries and benefit their peoples, wishing Bangladesh's continued progress and development.

Presentation of Credentials to Pope Francis by Ambassador of Bangladesh to Holy See



► Bangladesh Ambassador presented Credentials to HH Pope Francis

The newly appointed non-resident Ambassador of Bangladesh to the Holy See Md. Mustafizur Rahman, presented his credentials to Pope Francis at a pompous ceremony held at the Apostolic Palace in the Vatican City on 22 May 2021. Ambassador Rahman conveyed

greetings from Hon'ble President and Hon'ble Prime Minister of Bangladesh to the Pope. The Ambassador highlighted, *inter alia*, the historic celebrations of the golden jubilee of Bangladesh's independence and Birth Centenary of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu



Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, recognition of Bangladesh's graduation from a Least Developed Country, remarkable achievements of the present Government in socio-economic development and the Government's success so far in tackling the COVID-19 disease. He also briefed

the Pope on Myanmar's lack of genuine political will in resolving the Rohingya crisis and sought his active support in mobilizing the international community to ramp up pressure on Myanmar.

Pope Francis highly praised Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's generosity in providing shelter and continued assistance to the forcibly displaced Rohingyas. Recalling his recent meetings with the Prime Minister, the Pope also lauded her

visionary leadership in advancing the remarkable development of Bangladesh over the last decade. He requested the Bangladesh Ambassador to convey his greetings to the Hon'ble President and Hon'ble Prime Minister.

Celebration of 48th Anniversary of Bangabandhu's conferral with the "Joliot-Curie Medal of Peace" at Foreign Service Academy



Bangabandhu Birth Centenary Celebration Cell conducted a discussion session/webinar on 23rd May, 2021 at the Multipurpose Hall, Foreign Service Academy to commemorate the occasion of the 48th anniversary of Bangabandhu's



conferment with the "Joliot-Curie Medal of Peace".

Hon'ble Foreign Minister graced the occasion as chief guest. The occasion was glorified with the speech delivered by the key note speaker Lt. col. (retired) Quazi Sazzad Ali Zahir, Bir Pratik.



Hon'ble State Minister for Foreign Affairs, Foreign Secretary (Senior Secretary) and the Chief Coordinator of the National Implementation Committee were kindly present and shared their valuable thoughts and views.

Congresswoman Grace Meng and Congressman Juan Vargas wish to work together for stronger Bangladesh-US Relationships



The Ambassador of Bangladesh to the United States, M Shahidul Islam urged Congresswoman Grace Meng (Democrat-New York) for supplying 2 million AstraZeneca Vaccines to Bangladesh from the US urgently. He



also requested the Congresswoman for her continued support on the issue of Rohingya repatriation. He made this request during his meeting with the Congresswoman on 24 May 2021. Congresswoman Meng, a member of



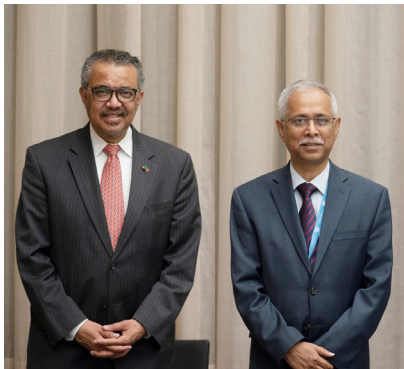
the House Appropriation Committee, was seized on Bangladesh's urgent need for COVID-19 vaccines and expressed her hope that the Biden Administration would consider an equitable share of COVID-19 vaccines for Bangladesh.

while distributing the same among different countries. She also assured of her continued efforts in the Congress regarding Rohingya repatriation issue. Earlier, on May 21, the Ambassador

held a meeting with Congressman Juan Vargas (Democrat-California). He apprised the Congressman about Bangladesh's impressive socio-economic achievements in the

recent times. The Ambassador also discussed with the US Lawmakers, issues of mutual cooperation to further strengthen Bangladesh-US relationships.

Bangladesh calls for a temporary TRIPS waiver at the World Health Assembly to ramp up COVID-19 vaccine production



► Permanent Representative and Ambassador of Bangladesh, H.E. Md. Mustafizur Rahman in the World Health Assembly



In the 74th session of the World Health Assembly (WHA 74) held on 24 May–1 June 2021 in Geneva, H.E. Md. Mustafizur Rahman, Permanent Representative and Ambassador of Bangladesh to the United Nations Office in Geneva called for a temporary waiver from certain TRIPS obligations for the production of vaccines, medicines and

other health technologies to effectively respond to the pandemic. He stated that the pharmaceutical industries across the developing countries, including Bangladesh, capable of producing vaccines, therapeutics, diagnostics and other medical equipment should get licenses as well as technology and technical know-how to produce the

vaccines and health technologies for COVID-19 and those items should be provided to other developing countries free of cost. Besides, Bangladesh delegation highlighted the timely actions taken by the Government of Sheikh Hasina, including health measures and stimulus packages, to combat the socio-economic impacts posed by the pandemic.

In addition to the 74th WHA, two important meetings of the WHO Executive Board (EB) and the Program, Budget and Administration Committee (PBAC) also took place. Bangladesh participated in the meetings as an elected member of both EB and PBAC. Health Minister Zahid Maleque was the Rapporteur for the EB session while Ambassador Rahman served as the Vice-Chair of Committee-B of the 74th WHA.

6th Bangabandhu Lecture Series held at Foreign Service Academy



In continuation of celebrating and paying deepest respect to the Birth Centenary of the greatest Bengali of all time Father

of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Bangabandhu, Birth Centenary Celebration Cell organized the

6th Bangabandhu Lecture Series on 25th of May, 2021 at the Multipurpose Hall, Foreign Service Academy.

H.E Mr. Volkan Bozkir, the President of the 75th Session of the United Nations General Assembly delighted the occasion

with his thoughtful speech as the keynote speaker.

Hon'ble Foreign Minister and Foreign Secretary (Senior Secretary) ennobled the occasion with their kind presence.

Bangladesh Ambassador to Indonesia had a virtual meeting with Secretary General of ASEAN



Ambassador Air Vice Marshal Mohammad Mostafizur Rahman had a virtual meeting with H.E. Dato Lim Jock Hoi, Secretary General of ASEAN on 28 May 2021. Issues of Bangladesh's application to become Sectoral Dialogue Partner to ASEAN,

Rohingya repatriation and the integration of Bangladesh in the RCEP were discussed. The Secretary General informed that the application is under assessment. He suggested to provide additional information and proposal on practical cooperation in



the areas of education, cultural and tourism. He assured that ASEAN will support and work closely with Bangladesh for peaceful and dignified repatriation of Rohingya and provided information for integration of Bangladesh in RCEP.

Bangladesh Missions abroad celebrated the 48th Anniversary of Bangabandhu's Conferment with "Joliot-Curie Medal of Peace"

Bangladesh Missions abroad celebrated the 48th anniversary of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's receiving the 'Joliot-Curie Medal of Peace' befittingly with due reverence. Special prayer, discussion session on the

life and works of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, reading out of articles, screening of video documentaries comprised main parts of the programmes. Due to the ongoing pandemic and regulations of the host government,

some missions celebrated the event virtually with the participation of embassy officials, diplomats, local dignitaries and members of the expatriate community. Some photos of the celebration by different missions are furnished below



► Celebration of the 48th Anniversary of Bangabandhu's Conferment with "Joliot-Curie Medal of Peace" by Bangladesh Embassy, Hanoi



► Consulate General of Bangladesh in Istanbul organized a roundtable discussion titled 'Bangabandhu: A Symbol of Peace' on 27 May 2021



► Port Louis celebrates 48th Anniversary of Receiving 'Joliot-Curie Medal of Peace' by Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman



► High Commissioner of Bangladesh in Maldives, made his valuable remarks on the occasion of 'Bangabandhu's Conferment with Joliot-Curie Medal of Peace'



► On 23 May 2021, the Bangladesh Embassy in Brussels virtually celebrated the 48th anniversary of the awarding of the historic 'Joliot-Curie Medal of Peace' to Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman



► Bangladesh High Commission in Colombo celebrated the 48th anniversary of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's receiving the 'Joliot-Curie Medal of Peace' on 23 May 2021



► The Embassy of Bangladesh, Seoul celebrated the 48th Anniversary of the Bangabandhu's receipt of Joliot-Curie Medal of Peace on 23 May 2021

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