



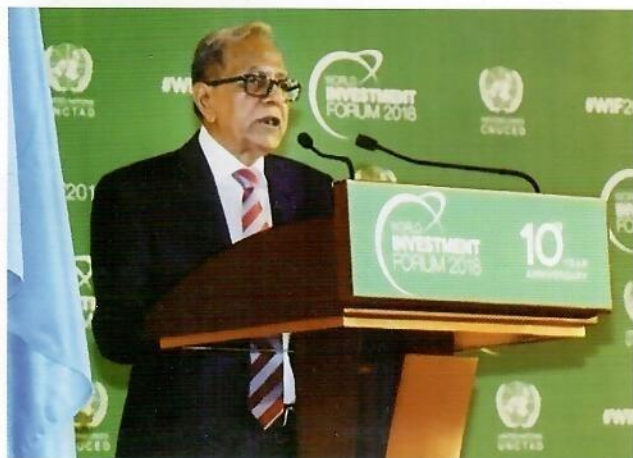
FOREIGN OFFICE

BRIEFING NOTES

THE MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE MINISTRY
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Issue: October 2018

Bangladesh President Visits Geneva



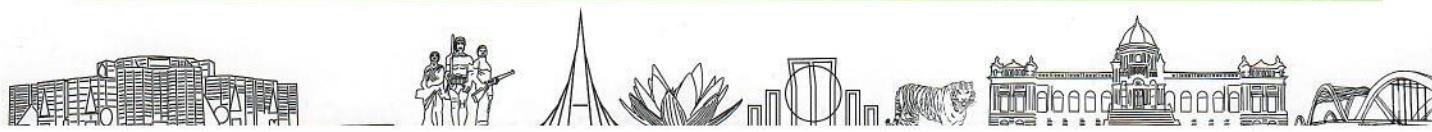
President Md. Abdul Hamid addresses at the summit of 'World Investment Forum 2018' in Geneva

President Md. Abdul Hamid paid an official visit to Geneva, Switzerland, from 22-26 October 2018. During the visit, he attended the summit of "World Investment Forum 2018", organized by United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

(UNCTAD), on 23 October 2018 at the United Nations premises in Geneva. President, in his intervention, underscored the importance of ensuring favourable international environment for more investment in developing countries so that the benefit of globalization is shared by all and the development requirements of developing countries, including the LDCs, to fulfil the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda goals are achieved. He also attended a lunch discussion entitled "Leaders Luncheon", organized by the Secretary-General of UNCTAD, following the Summit. On 26 October 2018, he attended the Official Opening session of the 20th "Homeland & Global Security Forum" organized by Crans-Montana Forum, a private think tank, and stressed upon the importance of international cooperation in addressing global security challenges including terrorism and political conflicts, through resisting the erosion of multilateralism.

Bangladesh Delegation led by Speaker participate at the 139th IPU Assembly

A Bangladesh delegation, led by the Speaker of the Bangladesh Parliament Dr. Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury, MP attended the 139th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) held from 14-18 October 2018 in Geneva. The Bangladesh delegation exchanged views with their counterparts and participated in various debates on important topics of international concern, including Rohingya issue, migration, sustainable development, international peace and security, gender equality and human rights. During this Assembly, a Bangladesh proposal entitled "Achieving universal health coverage by 2030: The role of parliaments in ensuring the right to health" was endorsed as the subject of its next resolution. A preparatory debate on this would take place at the 140th Assembly and the resolution would be finalized at the 141st Assembly in October 2019.

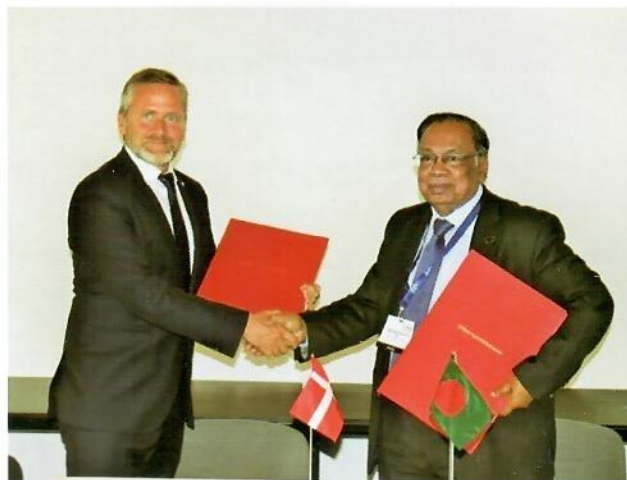




Copenhagen P4G Summit opens new horizon for green growth in Bangladesh

The 1st P4G (Partnering for Green Growth and the Global Goals 2030) was held in Copenhagen, Denmark on 19-20 October 2018. Foreign Minister of Bangladesh Abul Hassan Mahmood Ali, MP led a thirteen-member Bangladesh delegation, both from public and private sectors to the Summit. The Summit, inaugurated by the Danish Prime Minister Lars Lokke Rasmussen, was attended by Heads of States/Governments from Republic of Korea, Vietnam, Ethiopia and the Netherlands; Ministers from Bangladesh, China, Japan and other countries; CEOs; academicians; international organizations and entrepreneurs.

Besides attending the High-Level Dialogue of the 1st P4G Summit, a bilateral meeting between Bangladesh Foreign Minister and the Danish counterpart Anders Samuelsen took place in the side-line. Both the Foreign Ministers put ink on a framework G2G MoU in relation to Danish support to the dairy sector in Bangladesh on



Foreign Minister A H Mahmood Ali, MP meets his Danish counterpart Anders Samuelsen

a platform for Public Private Participation. Another B2B MOU was signed between Milk vita Bangladesh and Danish dairy giant Arla Foods to promote collaboration to achieve sustainability in the Dairy sector of Bangladesh through business sector.

State Minister for Foreign Affairs attends the General Assembly of ISA and the 2nd IORA Renewable Energy Ministerial Meeting



State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shahriar Alam, MP addressed on a seminar titled 'Foreign Direct Investment Opportunities in Bangladesh' in Doha

State Minister for Foreign Affairs Md. Shahriar Alam, MP attended the 1st General Assembly of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) and the 2nd IORA (Indian Ocean Rim Association) Renewable

Energy Ministerial Meeting held in New Delhi from 02-04 October 2018. 44 ISA Member States and 21 IORA countries were represented at the events at the level of Ministers/State Ministers. In his speech, the State Minister laid emphasis on the use of renewable energy in Bangladesh which is manifestation of the commitment of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to combat global climate change. He maintained that Bangladesh had planned to generate 10% of its total electricity production from renewable sources by 2021. He also informed that over five million solar panel systems had illuminated households in remote parts of Bangladesh and Solar Home Systems (SHS) were providing electricity to over fifteen million poor people in off-grid areas of Bangladesh.





Bangladesh joins Global Commission on Adaptation

The Global Commission on Adaptation (GCA) was launched on 16 October 2018 in The Hague. The GCA is a new initiative to elevate the political visibility of climate change adaptation and to focus on solutions. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina along with the Presidents of South Africa, Senegal, Indonesia, Mexico, Costa Rica, Marshall Islands, Argentina; Premier of China, Chancellor of Germany, and Prime Ministers of the Netherlands, India, UK, Canada, Denmark, Ethiopia and Grenada are the Conveners of the GCA.

Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte inaugurates the GCA launching ceremony. The ceremony included a video message

from Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, where she highlighted Bangladesh's stellar successes in climate change related disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation strategies and programmes. Anisul Islam Mahmud, MP, Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, represented Bangladesh Prime Minister at the ceremony. Highlighting trans-boundary nature of climate, Anisul Islam drew the attention of global community on the problem of melting of snow in the Himalayas at an alarming rate and wished to see a Himalayan basin wide approach for more coordinated actions against the problems of climate change adaptation.

An array of hydro-diplomats is needed for Bangladesh Delta Plan 2100

Bangladesh Delta Plan 2100 needs an array of hydro-diplomats and other professionals in the water and climate sector. Sheikh Mohammed Belal, Bangladesh Ambassador to the Netherlands, stated this as he proposed to the Netherlands for more capacity building assistance while delivering inaugural welcome speech to a conference titled "Empowering Hydro-diplomacy" at the Humanity Hub, The Hague on 6 October 2018. The seminar was organized by London Water Research Group in collaboration of Wageningen University & Research (WUR), IHE-Delft and the City Corporation of The Hague and was participated by experts from the Netherlands, United Kingdom, France, USA, Palestine, etc.

The Ambassador highlighted the importance of basin wide research as our Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina stated in HLPW in 2016 that "we need to ensure equitable sharing of trans-boundary water bodies, including integrated management of river basins and promote access to water-intensive technologies to effectively address water related challenges".





Two seminars on migration and safe apparel industry in The Hague

Association of Nigerian Students in the Netherlands organized a seminar titled "Migration Crisis: The Rhetorics and Realities, What is the Real Story?" on 1 October 2018 at the International Institute of Social Studies of the Erasmus University of the Netherlands (ISS) in association with the Embassy of Bangladesh in The Hague, the ISS and Embassy of Nigeria in The Hague. The Bangladesh Ambassador urged for heightened global voice for the immediate repatriation of the forcibly displaced Rohingyas from Bangladesh to their origin in Myanmar as well as for ensuring accountability of the atrocity crimes committed against the Rohingyas in Myanmar. He highlighted Bangladesh Prime Minister's three points placed at the 'High-level Event on the Global Compact on Refugees on 24 September 2018 in New York during the 73rd UN General Assembly to solve the protracted Rohingya crisis.

The Embassy of Bangladesh in The Hague organized a discussion on "Sustainability, Transparency and Transformation of Apparel Industry of Bangladesh" on 22 October 2018 where more than 40 participants from the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, CBI (the Centre for the promotion of imports from Developing Countries), MODINT (Dutch business network of manufacturers, importers, agents and wholesalers in clothing and fashion accessories), International Apparel Federation, fashion houses, apparel industry, etc. participated. Bangladesh Ambassador thanked the Dutch buyers and fashion houses for their continued support for flourishing of our apparel sector and sought their cooperation for the further improvement of the sector. He appreciated the constructive and innovative role of MODINT and hoped that they would help BGMEA for capacity building through academic collaboration with Dutch universities and institutions and for technology transfer.

Iraqi Transport Minister calls for reactivating Dhaka-Baghdad direct flight

A delegation from Bangladesh Embassy in Baghdad led by the Ambassador Abu Maksud M Forhad called on Minister of Transport of Iraq, Kadhim Finjan al-Hamami on 17 October 2018. They discussed the prospects of bilateral cooperation between the two countries. Iraqi Minister expressed his keenness for Bangladesh-Iraq bilateral relations and called for exploring possibility of reactivation of direct flights between Dhaka and Baghdad.



Ambassador Abu Maksud M Forhad meets Iraqi Transport Minister Kadhim Finjan al-Hamami

Sports Diplomacy in Greece

Bangladesh Embassy in Athens has initiated sports diplomacy to strengthen people-to-people communications between Bangladesh and Greece through organizing a football tournament titled 'Expatriate Bangladeshi Friendly Football Tournament' in Manolada, Western Greece, 250 km away from Athens where there is a high concentration of expatriate Bangladeshi community who are mainly employed in the agricultural sector.





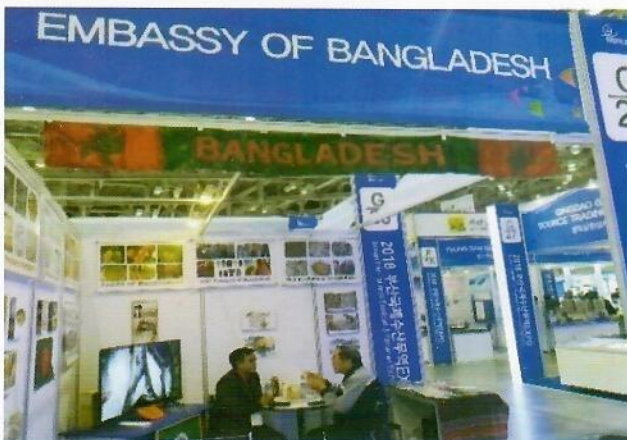
Bangladesh Embassy, Seoul participates in festivals and exhibition

Bangladesh Embassy, Seoul participated in the 'Migrants Arirang Multicultural Festival (MAMF) 2018', one of the biggest multicultural festivals in Korea, held on 5-7 October 2018 in Changwon City and the 'Itaewon Global Village Festival' held on 13-14 October 2018, organized by Yongsan-gu City Council with support from the Korean Government. Bangladesh Embassy officials and the local Bangladesh community participated in the rally and cultural programme of MAMF and took part in all the three segments of the Itaewon Global Village Festival namely "World Crafts Fair", "Global Cultural Performance" and "Global



Bangladesh community participating in 'Mongol Shobha Jatra'

Parade". Traditional culture of Bangladesh including 'Mongol Shobha Jatra' and exportable handicrafts hugely attracted the spectators.



Bangladesh Embassy's stall at Busan International Seafood & Fisheries EXPO 2018

The Embassy has also participated in the 16th Busan International Seafood & Fisheries EXPO 2018 which was held from 31 October-02 November 2018 in Korea's Commercial city Busan. During the three-day event, Embassy officials disseminated information about the fisheries sector of Bangladesh and also distributed a huge number of brochures and leaflets among them. Nearly 200 Korean and national of other countries have visited Bangladesh pavilion during the EXPO.

Bangladesh and India sign agreements to enhance inland and coastal waterways links

Bangladesh and India sign several agreements for enhancing inland and coastal waterways connectivity between the two countries for trade and cruise movements at a secretary-level talk held in New Delhi on 26 October 2018. The two countries signed the agreement to use Chattogram and Mongla Ports in Bangladesh for movement of goods to and from India. The two countries agree on another important understanding to finalize the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP)

in connection with passenger and cruise services from Cox's Bazar in Bangladesh to Chennai in India along with Kolkata-Dhaka and Guwahati-Jorhat. An addendum to Protocol on Inland Water Transit and Trade (PIWTT) for inclusion of Dhubri (India) and Pangaon (Bangladesh) as new Ports of Call has also been signed. The two countries also agreed to reopen an old route Dhulian-Rajsahi for the benefit of supplying materials to Bangladesh from India in a shorter time span.





Art Exhibition "The Hope" and South Asian Literature Festival held in New Delhi

Bangladesh High Commission in New Delhi organized an art exhibition titled "The Hope" in collaboration with the "Indo-Bangla Artists Relation Group Exhibition" on 12 October 2018 at the All India Fine Arts and Crafts Society Gallery. Paintings based on semi-realistic, abstract, realistic and traditional folk motifs of four emerging Bangladeshi female artists were presented in the exhibition.

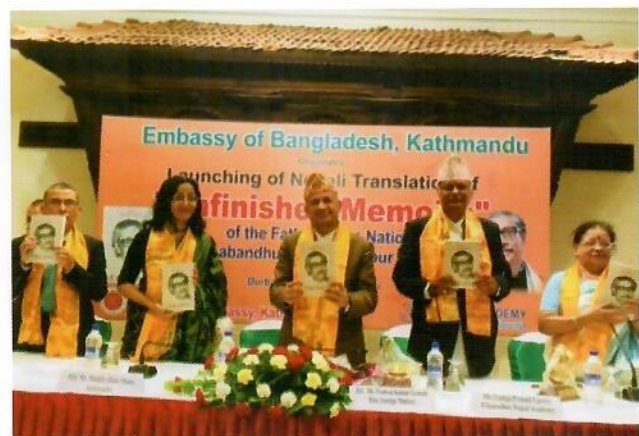
Bangladesh and Bhutan Joint Working Group meets on Transit Agreement

The 2nd Joint Working Group Meeting on Transit Agreement and its related protocol between Bangladesh and Bhutan was held on 25 October 2018 in Thimphu, Bhutan. The meeting reviewed and discussed the provisions of the draft Transit Agreement to finalize it serving mutual interest of both the countries. Once finalized, the Transit Agreement would enable Bhutan to have access to Mongla and Chittagong seaports which would facilitate Bhutan's international trade. The Transit Agreement between Bhutan and Bangladesh was initially signed in 1980 and expired in 2000.

Bangladesh Embassy, Kathmandu launches the 'Unfinished Memoirs' in Nepali language and also organizes an art exhibition

Bangladesh Embassy, Kathmandu, in collaboration with Nepal Academy, counterpart of Bangla Academy, completed the translation in Nepali language of "Unfinished Memoirs" of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. The book launch of the translation was organized by the Embassy on 8 October 2018. Foreign Minister of Nepal, Pradeep Kumar Gyawali was present on the occasion as Chief Guest. Ganga Prasad Uprety, Chancellor of Nepal Academy also attended.

Bangladesh Embassy in collaboration with Bangladesh-Nepal Friendship Society organized 'Bangladesh-Nepal Friendship Fine Arts Exhibition-2018' at Park Gallery, Lalitpur from 2-9 October 2018. The exhibition showcased various art works of 23



Bangladesh Embassy, Kathmandu launches 'Unfinished Memoirs' of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in Nepali language

Artists and photographer from Bangladesh and Nepal, including works by noted artists Hamiduzzaman Khan, Samarjit Roy Choudhary, Ranjit Das, Saeeda Kamal and Akhtar Jahan Ivy.





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Chairman of Parliamentary Standing Committee, Principal Secretary and UGC Chairman visit Kuala Lumpur

Abdul Kalam Azad, MP, Chairman, Parliamentary Standing Committee led a 12 member delegation of Ministry of Planning to an official visit to Kuala Lumpur from 06-09 October 2018. Principal Secretary to Prime Minister Md. Nojibur Rahman paid an official visit to Kuala Lumpur on 17-19 October 2018. Professor Abdul Mannan, Chairman, University Grants Commission visited Kuala Lumpur from 31 October to 03 November 2018 to attend a meeting on innovation in e-Governance, Public Service and University Industry Collaboration Research.

Bangladesh HC to Malaysia attends Joint Working Group meeting

Bangladesh High Commissioner to Malaysia attended 2nd Joint Working Group (JWG) meeting on 31 October 2018 in Dhaka on the Memorandum of Understanding between Bangladesh and Malaysia on the recruitment,

employment and repatriation of general workers. The High Commissioner paid a courtesy visit to Minister of International Trade and Industry, Malaysia Darell Leiking on 2nd October 2018 at MITI Tower, Putrajaya.

Bangladesh High Commissioner presents Credentials to the President of Fiji

Bangladesh High Commissioner to Australia presented his credentials to the President of Fiji on 30 October 2018 at Borron House, Suva. During the ceremonial presentation of credentials First Secretary (Political), Bangladesh High Commission, Canberra and the Honorary Consul of Bangladesh in Suva accompanied the High Commissioner. There was a brief discussion between Bangladesh High Commissioner and President of Fiji over a range of topics pertaining to Fiji and Bangladesh. At the outset the High commissioner conveyed warm greetings of President and Prime Minister of Bangladesh to the President of Fiji.





Bangladesh Missions abroad organized '4th Development Fair'

All Bangladesh Missions abroad chalked out different important events to organize '4th Development Fair'. Exhibition of photographs, posters, multimedia projection on the sustained growth and development success over the past decade under the leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, discussions focusing

on the achievements of the Government, such as socio-economic development, Bangladesh's projected graduation from the Least Developed Country category and its ongoing journey towards achieving the Vision 2021, Vision 2041 and the 2030 Agenda. A gallery of photographs of the '4th Development Fair':



Bangladesh Embassy, Kathmandu launches 'Unfinished Memoirs' of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in Nepali language



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Bangladesh Ambassador is seen among others watching the display board at the 4th Development Fair in Ankara



Deputy Chief Minister of Tripura, along with Bangladesh Assistant High Commissioner, inaugurates the Fair



Display at the 4th Development Fair in Athens



Participants attending a seminar on development issues of Bangladesh in Beijing

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