



FOREIGN OFFICE

BRIEFING NOTES

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■ Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina visits UAE and Germany



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina calls on Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum

President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai to visit Bangladesh at a mutually convenient time. The UAE Prime Minister accepted the invitation and conveyed that the dates would be decided through mutual consultations.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina earlier visited Munich, Germany from 14 to 16 February 2019 to attend the 55th Munich Security Conference. Around 40 Heads of Government and Heads of State, as well as 50 Foreign and 30 Defense Ministers participated in the Conference. During the Conference, She attended the round table on "Health in Crisis – WHO cares?!" organized jointly

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina paid an official visit to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) from 17-19 February 2019 at the invitation of the Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum. During the visit, the two Prime Ministers held official discussions on bilateral, regional and global issues of mutual interests. During the discussion, the two sides acknowledged with deep reverence the contributions of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, Father of the Nation of Bangladesh and late President Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan, founding father of the UAE, for laying the foundation of the existing excellent relationship between the two countries.

Prime Minister of the UAE thanked the Bangladesh Prime Minister for giving shelter to more than one million Rohingyas who have been uprooted from their homeland by the Myanmar authorities. Bangladesh Prime Minister thanked her UAE counterpart for moral and material support extended to Bangladesh on this issue. Bangladesh Prime Minister highly appreciated the declaration of Amnesty to the irregular residents by the Government of the UAE. She mentioned that this humanitarian gesture has benefited a large number of people including several thousand Bangladesh nationals. She extended an invitation to the Vice

by WHO and Centre for Strategic and International Studies on 15 February, 2019 as a key panellist. During her speech and subsequent intervention, Prime Minister emphasized on 3 important areas, which are – achievements of Bangladesh in health sector, global health security scenario and health security among the Forcibly Displaced Myanmar nationals and how Bangladesh is addressing the situation.

On the 2nd day of the Conference (16 February), Prime Minister attended a panel discussion on "Climate Change and Security: Too Hot to Handle?" In her intervention she pointed out the risk, casualty and achievements of Bangladesh in the context of climate change. Furthermore, Global President and CEO of Siemens AG Mr. Joe Kaeser, CEO of German-based E-passport implementing company in Bangladesh 'Veridos GmbH' Hans-Wolfgang Kunz, Chief Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC), The Hague, Fatou Bansouda, Director of The International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) Beatrice Fihn and Secretary General of Amnesty International Kumi Naidoo separately called on with Prime Minister on 15 February and 16 February 2019. Mentionable, German-based company 'Siemens' proposed to invest in the Power sector of Bangladesh and a Joint Development Agreement (JDA) was signed in this regard.





Foreign Minister Dr. A K Abdul Momen makes his maiden visit to India



Foreign Minister Dr. A K Abdul Momen, MP calls on Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi at his official residence in New Delhi

Foreign Minister Dr. A K Abdul Momen paid a visit to New Delhi from 06 to 09 February 2019 to attend the Fifth meeting of the India-Bangladesh Joint Consultative Commission (JCC). During the visit, he met the Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi, held exclusive talks with the External Affairs Minister of India Sushma Swaraj and met former Indian President Pranab Mukherjee and former Indian Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh. During the meeting with Indian Prime Minister, Bangladesh Foreign Minister conveyed him the greetings of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, and her appreciation for congratulating her as the first foreign leader following the victory of the Awami League in the last parliamentary elections of Bangladesh. Prime Minister Narendra Modi conveyed his good wishes to the Bangladesh Prime Minister for her success in this third consecutive term in office, and reaffirmed India's abiding commitment to remain Bangladesh's most committed partner for security and development.

Bangladesh Foreign Minister along with the External Affairs Minister of India co-chaired the Fifth meeting of the India-Bangladesh Joint Consultative Commission on 08 February 2019. The JCC reviewed ongoing cooperation including the implementation of decisions taken during the visits of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, as well as at the last meeting of JCC in October 2017 held in Dhaka. The Ministers expressed satisfactions that both countries are working closer than ever before in every sector, from security and border management to mutually-

beneficial trade and investment flows, power and energy, river water sharing, development partnership, transport connectivity, culture and people-to-people contacts. They welcomed the fact that the relationship was now broadening to include new and high technology areas for partnership, such as space, nuclear energy, IT and electronics. The Ministers tasked their accompanying officials to develop a forward-looking roadmap for bilateral cooperation to make the partnership irreversible. In particular, they desired that partnership-building efforts should be enhanced in a manner commensurate with commemoration of the 50th anniversary of Bangladesh's Liberation.

External Affairs Minister of India expressed appreciation for the humanitarian gesture of Bangladesh in supporting a large number of displaced persons from the Rakhine region of Myanmar and assured Bangladesh Foreign Minister of India's continued support for safe, speedy and sustainable return of the displaced persons to Myanmar.



Indian External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj welcomes Foreign Minister Dr. A K Abdul Momen, MP in New Delhi

During the visit, 3 MoUs/Agreements were signed between the two countries, namely (i) MoU on mid-career training of 1800 Bangladesh civil servants, (ii) MoU between AYUSH and the Ministry of Health of Bangladesh on cooperation in the field of medicinal plants and (iii) MoU between Anti-Corruption Commission of Bangladesh and Central Bureau of Investigation of India. Besides, an MoU was signed between Hiranandani Group and Bangladesh Economic Zones Authority to facilitate investments in the Indian Economic Zone in Mongla.





Foreign Minister urges Austrian companies to invest in Bangladesh

Foreign Minister Dr. A K Abdul Momen urged the Austrian businessmen and investors to invest in Bangladesh taking advantage of the country's demographic dividend and attractive packages that are on offer for foreign direct investment (FDI). He also highlighted Bangladesh's tremendous socio-economic developments particularly during the last one decade in light of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's Vision 2021 and Vision 2041 that envisages the transformation of Bangladesh into Sonar Bangla or Golden Bengal as dreamt by Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. He was speaking at a Business luncheon that he hosted in honor of the visiting Federal Minister for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs of Austria Dr. Karin KNEISSL and her delegation at the State Guest House Padma on 20 February 2019. The event was also attended by an Austrian Business delegation comprising representatives of 13 leading companies from Austria and different Bangladesh public and private authorities responsible for invest and business promotion, including BIDA, BEZA, BEPZA, ERD, FBCCI, DCCI, MCCI, BWCCI etc. A few leading Bangladesh companies also took part in the event.

Earlier on the day, the two Foreign Ministers had bilateral at the State Guest House Meghna. During the talks, the two Foreign Ministers discussed various bilateral issues including cooperation between the two countries in vocational training, agriculture, e-learning and renewable energy sectors. Rohingya issue was discussed with due importance and Austria promised to do its part through



Foreign Minister Dr. A K Abdul Momen, MP is with Austrian Foreign Minister Dr. Karin KNEISSL at a joint press briefing in Dhaka

the EU. Both sides expressed hope that the proposed Air Services Agreement would be concluded soon to establish direct air link between Dhaka and Vienna.

Foreign Minister Dr. Karin KNEISSL and her delegation are scheduled to call on the Hon'ble President at Bangabhaban in the evening and lay floral wreath at Shaheed Minar in the first hour of Amar Ekushe.

Russian Ambassador meets Foreign Minister



Russian Ambassador Alexander I. Ignatov calls on Foreign Minister Dr. A K Abdul Momen, MP at his office

Ambassador of the Russian Federation Alexander I. Ignatov called on Foreign Minister Dr. A K Abdul Momen at the latter's office on 27 February 2019. Recalling the support of the Russian Federation in our Liberation War in 1971, Foreign Minister expressed gratitude to the Russian people

and stressed on further enhancing the existing bilateral relations between the two time-tested friendly countries in the days ahead. He thanked the Russian government for extending support in establishing the Rooppur Nuclear Power Projects and also for the active collaboration in gas field. Mentioning the investment-friendly environment of Bangladesh, Foreign Minister invited the Russian investors to invest in Bangladesh in different sectors. On trade issues, he mentioned that in addition to RMG, considering the quality and price the Russian government may import our pharmaceuticals in large scale for the benefit of the two peoples.

Russian Ambassador assured Foreign Minister that his government would continue cooperation with Bangladesh in power, energy, information communication, trade, defense and other areas of mutual importance. He informed that Russian private sector is eager to invest in joint venture projects in Bangladesh. He expressed his country's specific interest in importing medicine from Bangladesh and also showed interest in joint venture investment in pharmaceutical sector.



French Inter-parliamentary Friendship Delegation meets Foreign Minister



French Inter-Parliamentary delegation call on Foreign Minister Dr. A K Abdul Momen, MP at his office

'France-South East Asia' an Inter-parliamentary Friendship Group headed by the Senator and President Jacky DEROMEDI, met Foreign Minister Dr. A K Abdul Momen at his office on 28 February 2019. The other members of the delegation were Jerome DURIAN, President of the Bangladesh sub-group, Simon SUTOUR, Senator of Gard Region and Anne Laure SAINT-DIZIER, Executive and Secretary of the Senate House. The Group covers six ASEAN countries (Burma/Myanmar, Brunei, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand) and Bangladesh.

Welcoming the delegation, Foreign Minister thanked them for visiting Bangladesh. Referring to French

support during our Liberation War in 1971, he fondly recalled the important contribution made by renowned French intellectual and politician Andre Malraux during and after the Liberation War of Bangladesh. He also praised France and her people for being the beacon of democracy for freedom loving people across the world.

The French inter-parliamentary delegation highly appreciated the significant support that was extended by Bangladesh to the Rohingya people.

Foreign Minister sought continued French support to create conducive environment inside the Rakhine State of Myanmar for their dignified return in safety and security. The French delegation assured to continue supporting the cause of the Rohingyas.

On 27 February 2019 the delegation met with the Speaker of Bangladesh Parliament, Dr. Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury, MP and the Chairperson of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs. The delegation also visited a Garment Factory, nearby Dhaka.

State Minister attends the launch of the UN Joint Response Plan for the Rohingya Humanitarian Crisis for 2019 in Geneva

State Minister for Foreign Affairs Md. Shahriar Alam, MP attended the launch of the UN Joint Response Plan for the Rohingya Humanitarian Crisis for 2019 in Geneva on 15 February 2019. Earlier on 14 February, at an OIC meeting of Ambassadors and delegates he said, "By opening our borders to the persecuted Rohingya, Bangladesh has not only saved lives but also stabilized the entire region. The international community has a shared responsibility to help restore the Rohingyas' fundamental rights and freedoms, including their right to return to Myanmar in safety and dignity".

While briefing OIC Ambassadors and delegates about the evolving situation with the crisis, State Minister sought OIC Member States' support for creating a conducive situation



State Minister for Foreign Affairs Md. Shahriar Alam, MP meets UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet in Geneva



in Myanmar for the Rohingyas' safe and dignified return. He raised the possibility of creating a civilian "safe zone" for the returnee Rohingyas in Myanmar, to be monitored by the human rights and humanitarian outfits in the concerned regional context. He also shared information on the government's plans to relocate a portion of the Rohingya population in Cox's Bazar to the Bhashan Char Island in consultation with all concerned stakeholders.

The OIC Member States reiterated their commitment to help find a peaceful and lasting solution to the crisis through sustained engagement in the relevant human rights and humanitarian fora in Geneva. State Minister also had a bilateral meeting with Michelle Bachelet, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, where they discussed the latest developments with the Rohingya crisis.

State Minister earlier had a meeting with Houlin Zhao, Secretary General of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU). State Minister encouraged ITU to contribute further in Member States' capacity building for cyber-security, including through existing regional arrangements. The Secretary General congratulated Prime Minister Sheikh



State Minister for Foreign Affairs Md. Shahriar Alam, MP meets Secretary General of International Telecommunication Union Houlin Zhao in Geneva

Hasina on her re-election, and recalled his previous visits to Dhaka to witness the progress with "Digital Bangladesh".

Japanese State Minister for Foreign Affairs meets Md. Shahriar Alam, MP

Japan will continue its support to Bangladesh in its bilateral efforts to repatriate Rohingyas to Myanmar, said Japanese State Minister for Foreign Affairs Toshiko Abe during official talks with Bangladesh State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shahriar Alam, MP in Dhaka on 19 February 2019. Japanese State Minister is paying a two day visit to Bangladesh to reiterate Japan's efforts in resolving Rohingya crisis. Issues of bilateral relations between Bangladesh and Japan came up in the discussion.

Bangladesh State Minister expressed hope that Bay of Bengal Industrial Growth Belt (Big-B) Initiative will accelerate cooperation for development of quality infrastructure and the investment environment in Bangladesh and will strengthen regional connectivity. He requested to include Bangladesh as a source country for recruitment of workers under Japan's New Immigration Law.



Foreign Secretary Md. Shahidul Haque meets UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres in New York

Bangladesh for safe, voluntary, sustainable and dignified repatriation of Rohingyas

Bangladesh wanted nothing but a safe, voluntary, sustainable and dignified repatriation of Rohingyas, Foreign Secretary Md. Shahidul Haque told at a special UN Security Council meeting on the situation in Myanmar on 28 February 2019. He placed a three-point proposal regarding Rohingya repatriation before the Security Council. The proposals were: Full implementation of the recommendations of



the Kofi Annan Advisory Commission as well as bringing again the resolution before the table of the UN Security Council to facilitate the investigation on violation of human rights and thus ensure an international supervision for safe repatriation; visit to the Rohingya refugee camps by the Security Council again; and setting up "safe zones" for people of all backgrounds in conflict-torn parts of Myanmar as proposed by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

Earlier on the day, during a bilateral meeting, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres praised the generosity and humanity extended to the Rohingyas by Bangladesh, especially by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. UN Secretary-General also lauded the continued socio-economic development of Bangladesh initiated by the present government.

Foreign Secretary also attended the ongoing UN's Migration Week in New York. He underscored the importance of geopolitics in global migration governance in the context of Rohingya humanitarian Crisis while speaking as a panelist at the 'High-level Debate on International Migration and Development' on the previous day convened by the President of the UN General Assembly as a part of the UN's Migration Week. In another High-level briefing session Foreign Secretary informed the audience about our National Migration Framework and elaborated its usefulness in solving complex issues such as mixed migration, human trafficking, and irregular migration through a comprehensive approach.

First Foreign Office consultations between Bangladesh and UAE held in Abu Dhabi

The first ever Foreign Office consultations between Bangladesh and the United Arab Emirates were held on 19 February 2019 at the UAE Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Abu Dhabi, UAE. The Foreign Secretary Md. Shahidul Haque led the Bangladesh delegation while the UAE delegation was led by Khalifa Shaheen Al-Marar, Assistant Foreign Minister for Political Affairs of the UAE. The meeting was held in a cordial and friendly atmosphere at the sidelines of the bilateral visit of the Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to the UAE.

Both delegations took stock of the whole gamut of bilateral relations between the two countries and exchanged views on issues of mutual concern in regional and international arena. Increased economic cooperation between the two countries through expansion of trade and investment and cooperation in the manpower sector had been highlighted during the discussions. UAE side hailed the signing of the MOUs towards increased investment in Bangladesh and informed that relevant agencies of their government is working towards streamlining and opening the sector for Bangladeshi nationals. The next consultations would be held in Dhaka.

Initiative taken for establishing 'Shahid Minar' in Athens and Brasilia

On the eve of this year's Martyrs and International Mother Language Day, the Municipality of Athens has approved a proposal of Bangladesh Embassy in Athens for establishing a Shaheed Minar in Athens. The Committee of the Monument of the Municipality of Athens had a meeting on 19 February 2019 and unanimously approved Embassy's proposal. The news created huge excitement and jubilant atmosphere among the expatriate Bangladeshi nationals living in Athens. The process of establishing a Shaheed Minar in Athens started on 11 July 2017 when Bangladesh Ambassador Md. Jashim Uddin proposed it to the Mayor of Athens Yiorgos Kaminis at a meeting. A replica of Shaheed Minar was also presented to the Mayor. Mayor responded positively.

A permanent Shaheed Minar, the unique global symbol of Bangladesh, would be established in Brasilia also. This was decided at a meeting between Bangladesh Ambassador to Brazil and the Vice-Governor of the Federal District of Brasilia, on 22 February 2019. When built, hopefully before

the next year's IMLD programmes, this would be the first official permanent Shaheed Minar in the entire South and North Americas.

Ambassador Md. Zulfikur Rahman, who spoke in Brazilian Portuguese, narrated the history of 21st February to the audience in the most eloquent manner and elaborated on the significance of 21 February for the global community in their effort to save the thousands of languages facing existential threat. Thanking the Ambassador for the magnificent event, Ms. Marlova Jovchelovitch Noletto, Director and Country Representative of UNESCO- Brazil, appreciated the role of Bangladesh in preserving linguistic heritage and cultural diversity at the global level.

The hours-long multi-cultural show representing ten different countries (Bangladesh, Brazil, Argentina, Egypt, Greece, Japan, Lebanon, Russia, South Africa and Spain) and participated by almost a hundred performers enthralled and captivated the audience.





Bangladesh High Commission participates in Canberra Multicultural Festival



*Bangladesh High Commission organizes a parade in Canberra
Multicultural Festival*

Bangladesh High Commission in Canberra in association with Bangladesh community in Australia participated in the Multicultural Festival in Canberra on 16 February 2019 for the first time in all segments - parade, stalls and stage performance. It is estimated that over tens of thousands of viewers joined this celebration of cultural diversity in Canberra.

In the Parade, a Bangladesh contingent comprised of members of community, students and the High Commission officials and their families, showcased colours, costumes, tradition and various aspects of Bangladesh culture.

Bangladesh Embassy, Lisbon participates in Asian Cultural Week

Bangladesh Embassy, Lisbon participated at the Asian Cultural Week organized by League of Asian Studies at the University of Lisbon during 18 to 22 February 2019. The third day of the week, 20 February 2019 was designated as 'South Asia Day' where the Embassy participated and showcased the glorious history, culture and traditions of Bangladesh through different programmes. On that day, the Embassy put up a pavilion at the foyer of the Arts Faculty building of the university displaying books, periodicals, journals, magazines, posters, leaflets handbills as well as Bangladeshi handicrafts and artifacts.

At Bangladesh pavilion, 'Gurer Payes', one of the typical Bangladeshi sweet dishes of Portuguese origin was offered to the visitors for free. The Embassy also donated vegetable polao and chicken korma for 100 people to the students for sale to raise funds for themselves.



Bangladesh Pavilion in Asian Cultural Week at the University of Lisbon

Power, Energy and Mineral Resources Advisor attends Petrotech-2019 in New Delhi

Adviser to the Prime Minister for Power, Energy and Mineral Resources Dr. Tawfiq-e-Elahi Chowdhury (Bir Bikram) took part in a 3-day event entitled "Petrotech-2019" held in Noida, India on 10-12 February 2019. Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the bi-annual event - which is dubbed as Asia's largest international oil and gas conference and exhibition. In his inaugural speech, PM Modi, among others, pointed out India's growing cooperation with Bangladesh in the power and energy sectors and expressed optimism that this partnership would continue to scale up. As many as 18 Ministers and 7,000 participants from 60 countries attended the global event hosted by the Government of India. The Adviser addressed the Ministerial Session of the Petrotech as Key Note Speaker highlighting the progress the Government of Bangladesh has made in the power and energy sectors since Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina assumed office in 2009.

On the sidelines of the event, the Adviser met the Indian Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas and Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Dharmendra Pradhan and held discussion on progress of bilateral projects.



Health Minister attends the 4th Global Digital Health Partnership Summit held in New Delhi

Health Minister Zahid Maleque paid a visit to New Delhi from 24 to 27 February 2019 to attend the Fourth Summit of the Global Digital Health Partnership (GDHP). GDHP is an international collaboration of governmental agencies and multinational organisations aimed at improving the health and well-being of their citizens through the best use of evidence-based digital technologies. Bangladesh is an Observer Country of the GDHP. As many as 12 Ministers/State Ministers from various countries attended the Summit and pledged to facilitate global collaboration and cooperation for implementation of safe, secure digital technologies to improve the quality, accessibility and sustainability of health systems. During a Ministerial Conclave at the Summit, the Bangladesh Health Minister shared Bangladesh perspectives of the digital health interventions. He particularly highlighted the policies and priorities of the Bangladesh Government to ensure that all citizens get the benefits of the digital health interventions.

Bangladesh seeks to further consolidate its relations with South India



High Commissioner Syed Muazzem Ali speaks at a meeting in Tamil Nadu

In consultation with the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) of India and as arranged by State Government, High Commissioner of Bangladesh to India Syed Muazzem Ali

paid his first official visit to the State of Tamil Nadu from 22 to 27 February 2019. During the course of the visit, he met the high officials of the State Government to expedite the State Government's clearance to a proposal by Bangladesh Government for opening a Deputy High Commission in Chennai. He also met the editors of two main dailies, namely the Hindu and the New Indian Express. In some interactive sessions, he also met the Presidents of the two main Chambers of Commerce and Industry-Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and Southern Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (SICCI) and the President of Tamil Nadu Society, where he delivered the key note addresses on Bangladesh-India bilateral relations and trade and investment prospects. He also met the Director of Christian Medical College (CMC), Vellore, where a large number of Bangladeshi patients visit every year to get specialized treatments, and interacted with the Bangladeshi patients.

Exchange of views with Turkish Journalists on the glorious history of Bangladesh

Following the discovery of a group of Istanbul based journalists, who had followed and covered the story of the emergence of Bangladesh in 1971 Bangladesh Mission, Istanbul organized a meeting with them on 07 February 2019. The participants were highly impressed at learning the phenomenal socio-economic progress of Bangladesh and extended sincere appreciation to Bangladesh Prime Minister for her role and leadership in handling the Rohingya crisis.

Round Table Discussion on women empowerment of Bangladesh

Bangladesh Mission, Istanbul organized a round table discussion on women empowerment in Gedik University, Istanbul on 13 February 2019. The meeting was attended by academicians and students of the university, civil society, NGO officials based in Istanbul.



Bangladesh Mission, Istanbul organizes a round table discussion on women empowerment at Gedik University



Protocols signed between Bangladesh and Turkey on educational cooperation

Under the active initiative and support of Bangladesh Consulate General in Istanbul two Protocols on educational cooperation were signed between Military Institute of Science and Technology (MIST) and Yildiz Technical University (YTU) as well as Noakhali Science and Technology University and Istanbul Technical University on 15 February 2019 and 27 February 2019 respectively. The Protocols are aimed at further intensifying collaborations between the Institutes of two countries on academic and students' exchanges, research and development cooperation, technology transfer and capacity building as well as human resource development, which would in turn contribute towards further strengthening the existing bond of friendship between Bangladesh and Turkey.

Election Commissioner exchanged views with Bangladeshi expatriates

Chief Election Commissioner K M Nurul Huda exchanged views with Bangladeshi expatriates living in Istanbul about voter registration system and National Identification Cards for Bangladeshi expatriates on 23 February 2019 at the consulate. Highlighting the number and contributions of Bangladeshi expatriates living abroad, he stressed the need for inclusion of the members of expatriates into the voter registration system and outlined the Commission's efforts in this regard.

Bangladesh Day observed at 43rd Kolkata International Book Fair 2019

Like every year, Kolkata had its 43rd International Book Fair from 31 January to 11 February 2019 where Bangladesh Deputy High Commission with the collaboration of the Ministry of Cultural Affairs participated and celebrated the Bangladesh Day on 10 February 2019. State Minister for Cultural Affairs, K M Khalid, MP graced the occasion as the Chief Guest whereas two Members of Parliament, the Secretary of Cultural Ministry, Vice Chancellor of Visva Bharati University, DG of Bangla Academy, renowned writer Sanjib Chattopadhyay, academicians, cultural connoisseurs were also present.

2nd Bangladesh Film Festival held in Kolkata

The Mission along with the Ministry of Information arranged the 2nd Bangladesh Film Festival from 15 to 18 February 2019 in Kolkata. Information Minister Dr. Hasan Mahmud, MP inaugurated the Film Festival. Minister-in-Charge of the Tourism Department of West Bengal State Government, Goutam Deb, Indian High Commissioner designate to Bangladesh Riva Ganguly Das, renowned film maker Goutam Ghosh, TMC Bidhayak Munmun Sen and famous actors and actresses like Ferdous, Riaz, Joya Ahsan, Tarin, Apu Biswas, directors of Bangladesh and film critics were present during the event.



Information Minister Dr. Hasan Mahmud, MP inaugurates 2nd Bangladesh Film Festival in Kolkata

State Minister for ICT visits London to promote the UK cooperation with Bangladesh

State Minister for ICT Zunaid Ahmed Palak was on a two-day visit to the UK from 11-12 February 2019 to promote Bangladesh's public sector, B2B and public-private sector cooperation with the UK.

In an event organized by Bangladesh High Commission during his visit, he met senior members of Conservatives and Labour at the House of Lords, on 11 Feb 2019 and called upon the UK to take a fresh look on Bangladesh for outsourcing UK's digital products in Bangladesh especially in 12 hi-tech parks.



Bangladesh High Commission, London organizes event to display cultural diversity



Eleven High Commissions/Embassies performed in the 21 February event in London

Bangladesh High Commission, London organized a high profile commemorative programme on 'Bangla Language Martyrs' Day' and 'International Mother Language Day

2019', dedicating to the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and upholding multilingualism, friendship and peace amongst nations.

The event highlighted the historic 7th March speech of Bangabandhu in Bangla, not in English that was included as a document heritage in the Memory of the world International Register of UNESCO. Following the footsteps of the Father of the Nation, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has been championing Bangla by calling upon the United Nations to declare it as one of its official languages.

The High Commission organised the programme at Millennium Gloucester Hotel in partnership with UK National Commission for UNESCO with active support from 11 other Embassies, High Commissions, UK Institutions and the Commonwealth.

Bangladesh Embassy, The Hague organizes seminar

Bangladesh Embassy organized seminar titled 'Brainport in Bangladesh: Lessons from Eindhoven, the Netherlands' on 2 February 2019. A good number of expatriate Bangladeshis, who are working in different high-tech organizations/research institutions in Eindhoven of the Netherlands, which is commonly known as Brainport of the Netherlands, attended the session. Bangladesh Ambassador to the Netherlands congratulated the expatriate community, who have kept their footprints in Brainport and acknowledged their contribution towards the development of various tech industries/research institutes of the Netherlands. The Ambassador briefly outlined the latest development/status of IT sector of Bangladesh in light with the goals and targets embedded in the vision – 2021 and election manifesto of the present government. Officials of the A2i project joined the seminar in Skype.

Pitha Festival held in the Netherlands

Bangladesh Embassy, The Hague organized the 'Pitha' festival on 09 February 2019 at the 'Bangladesh House'. A good number of The Hague-based diplomats, Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC), journalists and expatriate Bangladesh community took part in the programme.



Bangladesh Mission, Istanbul organizes a round table discussion on women empowerment at Gedik University

Bangladesh and the Netherlands ink Memoranda of Understanding for capacity building for the water sector of Bangladesh

The Ministry of Water Resources of Bangladesh signed two Memoranda of Understanding with the famous Dutch institutions on 13 February 2019 in the Netherlands – one with Deltares, a prominent Dutch research organization involved in water-related research, and the other with the IHE Delft Institute for Water Education, a world famous Dutch institution involved in pertaining education, training and research in water sector.

The Memorandum of Understanding with the Deltares will enable the Ministry of Water Resources of Bangladesh to have support from Deltares in water research, particularly in the fields of delta planning, river management, policy planning and implementation, management of floods and droughts, water quantity and quality, disaster management, coastal polder management as well as geotechnical, river and coastal engineering, etc.





Bangladesh appoints an Honorary Consul in Nagoya

President of the Mitsubishi Aircraft Corporation, Hisakazu Mizutani has been appointed as the Honorary Consul of Bangladesh in Nagoya, Japan. Bangladesh Embassy in Tokyo handed over his appointment letter on 19 February 2019.

MoU signed to facilitate Black Tiger Shrimp production in Bangladesh

Embassy of Bangladesh in The Hague organized a seminar on "Shrimp Technology : How Bangladesh can be benefitted through cutting-edge Dutch Technology" on 27 February 2019 where more than 40 participants from different academic and research institutes, marketing agencies from the Netherlands as well as a high level delegation from Bangladesh led by Mr. Raisul Alam Mondal, Secretary, Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock of Bangladesh and comprising representatives from Government and Business organization attended. The seminar was organized to promote the shrimp sector of Bangladesh through adopting sustainable aquaculture practices as well as premium branding of Bangladeshi shrimp products in the EU markets.

'Lebanese Chapter' of 'Bangladesh-Lebanon Parliamentary Friendship Group' formed

'Bangladesh-Lebanon Parliamentary Friendship Group' has been formed with Yassine Jaber, Member of Lebanese Parliament and former Chairman of Parliamentary Foreign Relations Committee as its Chairman. The Speaker of Lebanese National Parliament, Nabih Berry signed the relevant document on 06 February 2019 and formed the 'Lebanese Chapter' of the 'Bangladesh-Lebanon Parliamentary Friendship Group'.

'Shaheed Dibosh' and International Mother Language Day 2019 is observed on 21 February

All Bangladesh Missions abroad observed 'Shaheed Dibosh' and 'International Mother Language Day 2019' on 21 February 2019 with due solemnity and fervor. The events included hoisting of the national flag at half-mast at the Missions' premises, observance of one minute silence in honour of the language martyrs, special prayer for all the martyrs, placing of floral wreath at the Shaheed Minar, seminar, discussion, screening of documentary film and cultural segment. The messages of the President, the Prime Minister, the Foreign Minister and the State Minister for Foreign Affairs were read out at the beginning of the discussion. A photo gallery of the event organized by some of the Bangladesh Missions abroad is as follows:



Bangladesh Assistant High Commission, Agartala



Bangladesh Embassy, Ankara



Bangladesh Embassy, Athens



Bangladesh Embassy, Beirut



Bangladesh Embassy, Doha



Bangladesh High Commission, Islamabad



Bangladesh Embassy, Kathmandu



Bangladesh Deputy High Commission, Kolkata



Bangladesh Embassy, Male'



Bangladesh High Commission, Abuja



Bangladesh Permanent Mission, New York



Bangladesh High Commission, Ottawa



Bangladesh Embassy, Seoul



Bangladesh Embassy, The Hague



Bangladesh Embassy, Tashkent



International Mother Language Day observed in the UN



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