



# FOREIGN OFFICE

BRIEFING NOTES

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## Bangladesh President attends the Oath taking ceremony of Indian Prime Minister



*President Md. Abdul Hamid calls on Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi*

President of Bangladesh Md. Abdul Hamid visited New Delhi, India from 29 to 31 May 2019 to attend the Swearing-in Ceremony of the Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the second term after the landslide victory in the 17th Lok Sabha Elections. President, accompanied by his spouse Mrs. Rashida Khanam, Minister for Liberation War Affairs A K M Mozammel

Haque and Bangladesh High Commissioner to India Syed Muazzem Ali participated in the ceremony on 30 May 2019. Heads of State/Government and representatives from all the BIMSTEC countries and Presidents of Kyrgyz Republic and Mauritius also attended the oath taking ceremony.

Bangladesh President had a courtesy meeting on 31 May 2019 with the Prime Minister of India at Hyderabad House. Both sides discussed wide ranges of bilateral issues. Prime Minister of India highly appreciated the participation of President of Bangladesh in the Oath taking ceremony as a positive gesture of warm bilateral relations existing between Bangladesh and India. President sought India's continuous support in resolving the refugee crisis

in Bangladesh. He also urged the Indian Prime Minister to resolve Teesta water sharing issue in an equitable manner. In all the events, President of Bangladesh was given the most prominence. The visit set the tone of a warm beginning between the two governments which would pave the way for greater cooperation.

## Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina visits Japan, Saudi Arabia and Finland

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina paid an official visit to Japan on 28-31 May 2019. During the visit, she attended the Japan-Bangladesh Summit Meeting with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on 29 May, and the two Prime Ministers witnessed the signing of the 40th ODA loan package involving US\$ 2.5 billion. Taro Aso, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance and Taro Kono, Minister for Foreign Affairs attended the meeting from Japanese side, Finance Minister A H M Mustafa Kamal and others from Bangladesh side also attended the meeting. Japanese Prime Minister congratulated Sheikh Hasina on her reappointment as Prime Minister and welcomed her visit to Japan. He stated that Japan highly appreciated the efforts being made by the Government of Bangladesh,



*Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe at a joint press briefing in Tokyo*







under her leadership, to generously accept and shelter so many displaced persons from Myanmar. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina stated, Japan is a long-standing friend of Bangladesh and she is delighted to come back to Japan and be reunited with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe. She offered her congratulations on the beginning of the Reiwa era and expressed deep appreciation for Japan's contributions to the development of Bangladesh to date.

Both leaders reiterated their commitment that efforts would be made to expand people-to-people exchanges in various fields, including through the utilization of Japan's new resident status "specified skilled workers" and the milestone 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Japan and Bangladesh in 2022. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina expressed Bangladesh's support for Japan's aspiration to become a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) and for Japan's candidature for the UNSC non-permanent membership election in 2022, to which Prime Minister Shinzo Abe expressed his appreciation. Japanese Prime Minister expressed concern about the prolonged issue of forcibly displaced persons from Myanmar, and after commenting on the importance of creating a conducive environment in Myanmar with a view to realizing the early repatriation of the displaced persons in a safe, voluntary and dignified manner, he stated that Japan would continue to provide assistance for the efforts of Bangladesh to relieve the burden on host communities. Bangladesh Prime Minister stressed the need of measures to be taken by the Government of Myanmar to create an environment conducive for return of the displaced persons.

Following the meeting, the two leaders held a joint press conference, after which Prime Minister Abe hosted a banquet for Bangladesh Prime Minister.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina also addressed the 25th Nikkei Conference on the Future of Asia, where she delivered a keynote address. Besides, Prime Minister attended a round table meeting with leading Japanese business leaders and a community reception. During the visit, a number of agreements were also signed with Japanese companies.

On 31 May, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina left Japan for Saudi Arabia to attend the 14th OIC Summit 2019 held in Makkah. Makkah Region Deputy Governor Prince Badr bin Sultan bin Abdulaziz, Foreign Minister Dr. A K Abdul Momen, MP, Bangladesh Ambassador to Saudi Arabia and Permanent Representative to OIC Golam Moshir and Jeddah Consul General F M Borhan Uddin received the Prime Minister at the airport. She was accorded red carpet and ceremonial reception.

During her three-day stay in Saudi Arabia, the Prime Minister attended the 14th session of the OIC's Islamic Summit in Makkah, performed the holy Umrah and offer Ziarat at the Rawza Mubarak of Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (PBUH) in Madinah.

Prime Minister left Saudi Arabia for Finland on 3 June 2019. During her stay in Finland, Sheikh Hasina had a meeting with Finnish President Sauli Niinisto on 4 June and joined a community reception accorded to her by All European Awami League and Finland Awami League on 5 June 2019.

## ■ China is willing to play constrictive role for resolving Rohingya crisis



Chinese Ambassador Zhang Zuo calls on Foreign Minister Dr. A K Abdul Momen, MP at his office

Ambassador of China to Bangladesh Zhang Zuo paid a courtesy call on Foreign Minister Dr. A K Abdul Momen, MP at his office on 16 May 2019. While appreciating Chinese humanitarian assistance for the displaced people of Rakhine State, Foreign Minister sought China's strong support so that Myanmar moves in the right direction for resolving Rohingya crisis. Ambassador asserted, China is willing to play constrictive role to realize repatriation of displaced people and will facilitate communication between Bangladesh and Myanmar to find a practical solution of the crisis.

Foreign Minister also appreciated the fact that many bilateral instruments worth billions of dollar investment were signed during Chinese President Xi Jinping's visit to Bangladesh in 2016 when bilateral relationship was elevated to strategic partnership.

## ■ Bangladesh and India's co-production of feature film and documentary

Dr. Gowher Rizvi, Adviser to Prime Minister for International Affairs accompanied with a high level delegation visited India on 06-07 May 2019. Bangladesh delegation met with the concerned authorities of India and finalized the modalities, terms and conditions for making a feature film on the glorious life of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu

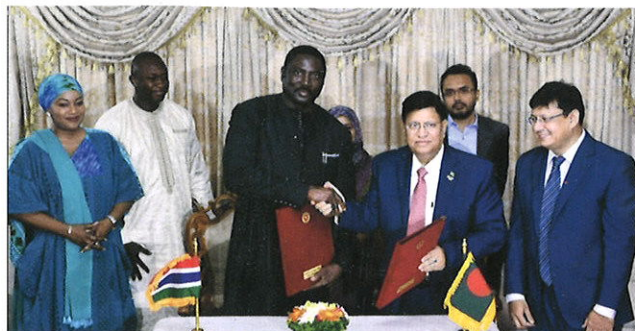
Sheikh Mujibur Rahman which would be co-produced by the Governments of Bangladesh and India under the direction of noted Indian film Director Shri Shyam Benegal. In addition to that, a decision on the co-production of a documentary by Bangladesh and India on the Liberation War of Bangladesh was finalized.







## Gambian Foreign Minister visits Dhaka as the Special Envoy of the President



*Foreign Minister Dr. A K Abdul Momen, MP and Gambian Foreign Minister Dr. Mamadou Tangara after the meeting at the State Guest House Meghna*

Gambian Foreign Minister Dr. Mamadou Tangara visited Dhaka as the Special Envoy of the President of Gambia Adama Barrow. The Gambian delegation also comprises the High Commissioner of Gambia in New Delhi and other high officials of the Gambian government. The Gambian Foreign Minister met with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina

and Foreign Minister Dr. A K Abdul Momen, MP on 17 May 2019.

A bilateral meeting was held between the delegations led by Gambian Foreign Minister Dr. Mamadou Tangara and Bangladesh Foreign Minister Dr. A K Abdul Momen, MP on 17 May at State Guest House Meghna. At the outset of the meeting, Bangladesh Foreign Minister thanked the Gambian government for their leadership role in the OIC on the accountability of issue related to the displaced Rohingyas. He briefed the Gambian Foreign Minister about the gravity of the crisis that Bangladesh was facing with the displaced Rohingyas. He urged for the necessity of creation of conducive environment for return of the Rohingya people to their homeland with the guarantee of safety and security. He added that the accountability on the Rohingya issue must be determined and Bangladesh would support all OIC initiatives in this regard. He also briefed about Bangladesh's march towards development and informed the delegation that Bangladesh was among the most rapidly growing economies in the world expecting the economic growth to exceed 8 percent in the next fiscal year.

## ADB to strengthen cooperation in the areas of infrastructure and skill development

Country Director of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) for Bangladesh, Manmohan Prokash met the Foreign Minister Dr. A K Abdul Momen, MP at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 20 May 2019.

During the meeting the ADB country Director expressed his organization's willingness to strengthen its cooperation further with Bangladesh especially in the areas of infrastructure and skill development

Highlighting various socio-economic achievements of the present Government of Bangladesh under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Foreign Minister informed, Bangladesh has been acclaimed for success in human development areas like education, health and social safety net and received huge support from the



*ADB Country Director Manmohan Prokash calls on Foreign Minister Dr. A K Abdul Momen, MP at his office*

development partners. He highlighted the implementation of the mega projects undertaken by the present government and sought ADB's continued assistance in this regard.

## "Water Diplomacy" Course held at Foreign Service Academy, Dhaka

Foreign Service Academy, Dhaka organized the first ever "Course on Water Diplomacy" from 27 April to 4 May 2019. More than twenty-five mid-level officials from different ministries, divisions and offices attended the course. It was inaugurated by Foreign Minister Dr. A K Abdul Momen, MP. He underscored the importance of acquiring adequate knowledge of water diplomacy and water cooperation against the background of the growing multi-level competition in the sector across the world. He thanked the Principal of Foreign Service Academy for taking initiative for organizing such a timely course.

The course offered a great opportunity for the government officials to get acquainted with a wide range of issues pertaining to water discourse. It was designed in a way as to enhance deeper understanding of the complexities of water management, cooperation, coordination and constraints and prospects including the legal framework of the regional and global scenarios. After the completion of the course, certificates were awarded to the participants.





## Chinese Manufacturers' Association's delegation meets Foreign Minister

A delegation from Chinese Manufacturers' Association (CMA), Hong Kong met Foreign Minister Dr. A K Abdul Momen, MP on 23 May 2019 at a seminar titled 'Trade and Investment Opportunities in Bangladesh' held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in presence of the Executive Heads of BIDA, BEZA, BEPZA, Hi-Tech Park and Public Private Partnership Authority (PPPA). Twenty eight delegates from CMA led by Dr. Dennis NG, President of the Chinese Manufacturers' Association Hong Kong attended the meeting at the Ministry.

Foreign Minister welcomed them and wished them a fruitful visit in Bangladesh. In his introductory remarks Foreign Minister highlighted the pro-business, trade and investment friendly climate of Bangladesh. He reiterated, Bangladesh is now recognised worldwide as 'Development Miracle' under the visionary leadership and bold measures and initiatives taken by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and her government; this program is the true reflection of her vision and the commitment of the whole of the government approach to advocate and emphasize economic and trade diplomacy. He also highlighted different investment and trade entitlement and facilities provided by the government to the foreign investors like low cost of gas, electricity, water, Economic Zones, demographic dividend, etc. He added, recent stable economic growth and the strong growth projections in the coming decade by a number of world's reputed organizations has turned Bangladesh as one of the attractive destinations for investment in the present time. He assured the fact, under the leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Bangladesh is politically most stable country in the region and her government shows 'zero tolerance' policy to any disruptive activities in the country that can affect business



*CMA delegation is seen with Foreign Minister Dr. A K Abdul Momen, MP at UNCLOS conference room in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs*

or otherwise. The Minister reassured of full support to foreign investors from the government.

Executive Heads of all the National Investment Authorities' of Bangladesh-Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (BIDA), Bangladesh Economic Zones Authority (BEZA), Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority (BEPZA), Bangladesh Hi-Tech Park Authority, Public Private Partnership Authority made presentations before the visiting delegates to apprise them business opportunities available in Bangladesh to foreign investors.

Delegates from Chinese Manufacturers' Association (CMA) showed interest and expressed their optimism about investment in Bangladesh. CMA delegates visited some already running factories established by Hong Kong in Bangladesh. On 25 May 2019 the delegation also participated in a business matching Seminar with local business counterparts.

## Foreign Minister highlights the need for solidarity among the member states of OIC

Foreign Minister Dr. A K Abdul Momen, MP led a Bangladesh delegation to the OIC Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM) preparatory to 14th Islamic Summit of the OIC on 30 May 2019 at Jeddah Conference Palace of Saudi Arabia. His delegation included Director General (IO), A F M Gousal Azam Sarker; Bangladesh Ambassador to Saudi Arabia and PR to OIC, Golam Moshi and other officials of the Ministry and Bangladesh Embassy and Consulate General in Saudi Arabia.

Foreign Minister highlighted the need for solidarity and unity among the member states of OIC and stressed on cooperation in diversified fields while underscoring the urgency for addressing the major challenges of the Muslim Ummah such as the conflict situation and tension in many OIC countries, terrorism, Islamophobia, humanitarian issues, and underdevelopment. He emphasized that the Muslim nations should be able to resolve their own issues within OIC and proposed a new platform for the Ulema

to work together to counter extremism and terrorism. While speaking on cooperation for faster development, he stressed the need for synchronizing policies and programmes of the IsDB with the goals and targets of the OIC under its second ten year development plan.

Foreign Minister prominently highlighted the issue of the forcibly displaced Rohingya community of Myanmar sheltered in Bangladesh and sought support of the OIC member states in resolving the crisis. He particularly urged on addressing the two important issues- their repatriation to Myanmar and the issue of accountability and justice for gross human rights violations and crimes against humanity done against the Rohingya. He appreciated the Gambia led initiative of taking legal recourse to establish Rohingya rights and address their justice question at the International Court of Justice against Myanmar. The meeting agreed on the outcome documents – a resolution on Palestine and the draft final communique, which among other issues,







covered the Rohingya crisis and contain directions for member states to address the return and accountability questions.

In the sidelines, the Foreign Minister attended the AdHoc Ministerial Committee Meeting dealing with the Banjul process of accountability and justice for Rohingya. He met his counterparts from Indonesia, Malaysia, Brunei

and Maldives. The issue of Rohingya featured prominently during the discussion and the leaders put emphasis on the repatriation and accountability of the perpetrators. He also called for greater economic integration and trade facilitation among the countries. He also discussed with South East Asian Cooperation Forum for economic integration in the region which is expected to be launched in Dhaka in June 2019.

## ■ SEACO initiative of Bangladesh gets support from Indonesia

State Minister for Foreign Affairs Md. Shahriar Alam, MP led a four-member delegation to Jakarta to garner Indonesian support in an initiative called South and South East Asian Cooperation (SEACO). It is a private sector and track-II level Forum of five OIC countries in the region- Bangladesh, Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia and Maldives with an objective of advancing regional economic integration. The Forum in the emergence is going to function in the model of World Islamic Economic Forum (WIEF) exclusively with the agenda of economic cooperation among the member countries and their neighborhoods. Bangladesh has taken the initiative and ready to host SEACO's launching conference in Dhaka towards the end of June 2019 with expected participation of the Foreign Ministers along with the public and private stakeholders.

State Minister had a fruitful meeting with the Foreign Minister of Indonesia Rento Marsudi on 17 May 2019 and got their spontaneous support for the initiative. He also handed over a formal letter of invitation to Indonesian Foreign Minister for attending the upcoming Conference in Dhaka.

The Rohingya issue also figured prominently in the discussion where they agreed enhanced role of the ASEAN in the repatriation of the forcibly displaced Rohingyas sheltered in Bangladesh.



*State Minister for Foreign Affairs Md. Shahriar Alam, MP meets with Foreign Minister of Indonesia Rento Marsudi in Jakarta*

The delegation also met with Indonesian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KADIN) and Indonesian Investment Coordinating Board (BKPM). The Minister's delegation included Bangladesh High Commissioner to Indonesia Major General Azmal Kabir, Dr. Shammi Ahmed, International Secretary of Awami League, Executive Chairman of SEACO Foundation Bangladesh Salauddin K Khan, Adviser Dr. Abdul Mazid and other officials of the Ministry and Bangladesh High Commission.

## Bangladesh Missions hold iftar and dinner parties during the month of Ramadan

Bangladesh Missions abroad hold iftar and dinner parties during the month of Ramadan. The parties were attended by Ambassadors, High Commissioners, Diplomats, Defence Advisors from diplomatic missions, politicians, bureaucrats, businessmen, journalists and the members of Bangladesh community.

## ■ Bangladesh-Turkey Foreign Office Consultations held in Ankara

The 3rd round of Bangladesh-Turkey Foreign Office Consultations was held in Ankara on 20 May 2019. In the Consultations, both sides expressed their satisfaction over the current status of Bangladesh-Turkey bilateral relations, focused attention on the exchange of high level visits, and reiterated their mutual desire and commitment to further strengthen the existing cordial relations and all-round bilateral cooperation. Both sides agreed to enhance cooperation in areas such as political issues, culture, bilateral trade, investment, education, agriculture, etc. It was agreed, bust of the Father of the Nation of Bangladesh Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman will be placed at the head of a boulevard named after him in Ankara soon. The Turkish side will take a

similar step as regards placement of a bust of Ataturk in Dhaka. The two sides explored in detail ways and means to enhance economic transactions between the two sides. The upcoming Joint Economic Commission meeting scheduled in Ankara in November 2019 came up for discussion in light of the interest of the two sides to ensure greater volume of economic transaction.

Turkish cooperation towards the Rohingya people also received special attention in the talks. The Foreign Secretary thanked the Turkish government for their moral and material support to the displaced Rohingyas. The two countries agreed to continue cooperation in the international global forums to pave the way for early and safe return of the Rohingyas.





It was also agreed to expedite the finalization of pending bilateral agreements currently under negotiation between the two countries. Next Foreign Office Consultations will take place in Dhaka in 2020. Bangladesh Foreign Secretary and Deputy Foreign

Minister of Turkey led their respective delegations in the political consultations. Bangladesh Ambassador to Turkey and representatives of relevant Ministries and officials from Bangladesh Embassy in Ankara took part at the meeting.

## Bangladesh-USA 7th Security Dialogue held in Dhaka

The 7th Bangladesh-USA Security Dialogue concluded successfully in Dhaka on 02 May 2019. Among the key issues discussed in the dialogue were: peacekeeping with reference to Bangladesh's role and involvement in building peacekeeping capacity, military to military cooperation, security assistance, defense trade, counterterrorism, countering violent extremism, border and regional issues with reference to the ongoing Rohingya crisis, vision of a Free and Open Indo-Pacific, human security and border issues.

The two sides agreed to strengthen cooperation on counterterrorism and civilian security issues. Bangladesh reiterated its stated position of "zero-tolerance" against any form of terrorism. Bangladesh requested the US to return Rashed Chowdhury, a convicted killer of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, to Bangladesh to face justice. Information and data sharing was identified as a very vital area of cooperation in nabbing terrorists and preventing crimes.

The Rohingya issue was identified as threat multiplier in regional and global contexts. The US side assured to remain beside Bangladesh in executing a sustainable and dignified return of the forcibly displaced Rohingyas to their homeland, Myanmar. The US side responded affirmatively to Bangladesh's call for working together in the maritime domain on security matters. The two sides agreed to work together on multiple aspects of non-traditional security (NTS) in future.

Director General, Americas Wing, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Bangladesh and Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Bureau of the Political Military Affairs, US State Department led the respective sides in the dialogue.

## Bangladesh Pavilion in the Niger National Trade Fair-2019 attracts huge crowd

Bangladesh High Commission in Abuja, Nigeria for the first time participated in the Niger National Trade Fair-Niger 2019, Nigeria (15-25 May, 2019). Alh Mudi Muhammad, Commissioner, Trade Affairs of the Niger State Governor Office of Nigeria, represented the Executive Governor of Niger State inaugurated the Fair. Local dignitaries and the business leaders were present at the inaugural ceremony which marked 17th yearly event, in Niger, the largest State of Nigeria. Mohammad Shah Ekramul Hoque, Head of Chancery of Bangladesh High Commission, Abuja, Nigeria was also present.

In line with the Bangladesh Government's thrust on 'economic diplomacy', Bangladesh Mission put up a large stall with its own collection of exportables. Pharmaceuticals, ceramics, jute and leather products, RMG and knitwear, tea, jute leaf tea, electrical appliances, light engineering, plastic and melamine products, spice and curry powder, pickle, food items, snacks, pearl items, sari (maslin, silk), nakshikantha, handicrafts, among others, were on display which drew huge crowd each day. Representative of the Governor, Niger Chamber Officials and business leaders also visited the stall and admired the quality of Bangladeshi products. Publications on export and investment and tourism potentials, among others, were also on display. Roll-up-Banners containing pictorial description of the impressive achievements of Bangladesh at home and abroad were put around the pavilion. Documentaries on the development journey of Bangladesh were screened simultaneously which was an added attraction.



*Bangladesh Pavilion in the Niger National Trade Fair-2019 attracts huge crowd*

In view of the huge potentials of the expansion of market of Bangladeshi products and as a part of Mission's on-going commercial drive, the High Commission is in the process of launching a Commercial Display Centre at the Chancery soon to showcase the exportables to the visitors and potential importers and investors of Nigeria which is the largest economy of Africa and 6th largest producer of oil in the world having a population of 200 million.







## 3rd Foreign Office Consultations between Bangladesh and Finland held in Helsinki

The third Foreign Office Consultations between Bangladesh and Finland was held in Helsinki, Finland on 15 May 2019. A five-member delegation from Bangladesh side headed by Ambassador Kamrul Ahsan, Secretary (Bilateral and Consular), attended in the Political Consultations while Anne Sipilainen, Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Security Policy, Ministry for Foreign Affairs, led the Finnish side.

During the meeting, both sides reviewed different aspects of the bilateral relationship highlighting the importance of expanding and strengthening cooperation and initiatives in all areas of trade, economy, investment, education, infrastructure development, energy, ICT sectors, etc. Both parties committed to build stronger cooperation in bilateral trade and investment to enhance bilateral trade up to its potential. In this context the Finnish side expressed interest to organize a two day seminar on "Doing Business with Finland" in Bangladesh in November 2019. Bangladesh delegation urged the Finnish companies to invest more in Bangladesh particularly in the Special Economic Zones (SEZs).

Bangladesh side briefed the Finnish side regarding different ongoing mega projects. Referring to Bangladesh's rapidly growing economy, Bangladesh side invited Finnish

businesses to avail new opportunities and possibilities offered by Bangladesh. Both sides emphasized the need to promote cooperation in education sector, including creating more opportunities for Bangladeshi students and professionals for higher education, research and vocational education (e.g. skills development) by building partnerships among the educational institutions of the two countries.

In addition to political consultations, on 16 May 2019, Bangladesh delegation visited a school named Meilahti Comprehensive School, upper stage for age group 13-15, to have the real-time experiences about the Finnish education system. After visiting the school, the delegation moved to introduce with Startup Sauna, a meeting point for the university graduates, young entrepreneurs and investors alike. Junction, Kiuas, Startuplifers and Altoes are working with this Startup incubator. Bangladesh side showed their interest in entrepreneurial skill development of the young graduates during the conversation with Director of Community, Sini Pirinen of Startup Sauna. Bangladesh delegation also met with Matti Anttonen, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Finland. Both the parties agreed to celebrate 50 years of diplomatic relations and looked forward the regular consultations between Bangladesh and Finland during the meeting with Matti Anttonen.

## Bangladesh Embassy in Athens participated at the 16th Thessaloniki Book Fair

Bangladesh Embassy in Athens participated in the 16th Thessaloniki Book Fair held in the second largest city of Greece, Thessaloniki on 9-12 May 2019. It is considered as the biggest and the most important one of its kind in Greece and in the whole of Balkan region. This year, other than numerous diplomatic missions and international organizations, more than 300 independent publishers from 21 countries participated in the book fair and more than 1 lac visitors checked in the fair. There were more than 500 side-line events including book review sessions, book launching, discussions on life and works of famous writers, presentations, seminars and press conferences which brought to the book fair a completely different and eventful flavour.

On the opening day of the Fair, Bangladesh Ambassador in Greece made a presentation on "The Unfinished Memoirs", the autobiography of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, before the readers and critics in the Cosmos Hall of the Fair venue. He highlighted the struggle and glorious work and life of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and his unmatched contribution to Bengali nation in their struggle for self-determination and ultimate independence. The audience, most of them not familiar with our history and heritage, expressed keen interest to get Greek translation of the book.



*School children gather at the Bangladesh stall in the Thessaloniki Book Fair*

Besides, Bangladesh stall displayed books on the works, speeches and visions of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. Different publications on tourism development, archaeological importance, cultural heritage, history, language movement and liberation war of Bangladesh were also displayed. There was also on display a large selection of Bangla literature including novels, short stories, articles of a wide range of legendary Bangla writers from Rabindranath Tagore, Kazi Nazrul Islam and Jibanananda Das to the famous writers of 20th century including Humayun Ahmed, Akhteruzzaman Elias and Selina Hossain.





## Bangladesh Delegation participates at the 72nd World Health Assembly in Geneva

Zahid Maleque, Minister for Health and Family Welfare led a Bangladesh delegation in the 72nd World Health Assembly (WHA) held on 20-28 May 2019 in Geneva. He highlighted the achievements and progress made by Bangladesh in public health arena under the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. The Assembly elected Bangladesh as a member of the WHO Executive Board for the period 2019-2022.

Saima Wazed Hossain, Chairperson, National Advisory Committee on Autism and Neuro developmental Disorders and Chief Advisor, National Mental Health Strategic Plan Working Group attended a technical briefing on 'Mental health: Time to scale-up' as a panelist at the invitation of WHO organized on the sidelines of the 72nd World Health Assembly. Apart from attending the technical briefing, she held bilateral meetings with Lyonpo Dechen Wangmo, Health Minister of Bhutan; Jean Paul Adam, Health Minister of Seychelles and Dr. Ganglip Kim, Deputy Minister of Health and Welfare, Republic of Korea, and discussed how

to promote better mental health regionally and globally. She also held very productive meetings with Dr. Poonam Khetrpal Singh, Regional Director, South East Asia Region, WHO and Devora Kestel, Director, Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse, WHO. Earlier, she had a bilateral meeting with Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General, WHO.

A side event titled "Nutrition4Health: Nutrition Innovations along with NCDs Prevention for Achieving Universal Health Coverage within the Context of the 2030 Agenda and the UN Nutrition Decade" was jointly organized by the Governments of Bangladesh and Italy on 21 May 2019 in Geneva. Albania, Bhutan, Cyprus, Egypt, Greece, India, Lebanon, Malawi, Montenegro, the Philippines, Tunisia, Uganda and Zimbabwe were the co-sponsoring countries of the event. Zahid Maleque, Minister for Health and Family Welfare made the opening remarks on behalf of the Government of Bangladesh.

## Bangladesh Embassy in Ankara organizes seminar

A Seminar on Bangladesh was organized by Bangladesh Embassy in Ankara at the University of Economics and Technology (TOBB) in Ankara, Turkey on 29 May, 2019. The two-hour long Seminar, which was held at the Conference Centre of the University in association with the Faculty of International Relations and Politics, focused on the recent advancement of Bangladesh in socio-economic fields, Bangladesh-Turkey bilateral relations and the Rohingya Crisis. Apart from the Faculty members, more than 200 students attended the Seminar.

## Bangladesh Embassy, Male' Celebrates birth anniversaries of Rabindranath and Nazrul

Bangladesh Embassy in Male', Maldives celebrated the 158th Birthday of Noble Laureate Bishhookobi Rabindranath Tagore on 08 May 2019 in a befitting manner. The celebration commenced with a discussion session, where speakers spoke on the different phases of life of this renowned personality. After the discussion session, a short video clip depicting the life sketch, literature and arts of Rabindranath Tagore was screened.

The Embassy also celebrated the 120th Birthday of the National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam with due respect on 26 May 2019 at the Embassy conference hall.



*A documentary on the life of National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam was screened in Male'*

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