



# FOREIGN OFFICE

BRIEFING NOTES

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## ■ Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina visits Finland



*Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina meets Finnish President Sauli Niinistö in Helsinki*

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina visited Republic of Finland from 3 to 7 June 2019. During her visit she met the President of Finland Sauli Niinistö at his official residence in Helsinki. Finnish President welcomed her and admired her dynamic and visionary leadership for the economic uplift of Bangladesh. Prime Minister thanked Finnish people for their moral support during the War of Liberation of Bangladesh under the leadership of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. She also lauded the people and Government of Finland for recognizing Bangladesh immediately after the War of Liberation in 1971.

Prime Minister briefed the Finnish President on the latest situation of more than 1.1 million Rohingyas, who had been forced to take refuge in Bangladesh from their homeland Myanmar. She sought strong

support from Finland particularly during its upcoming EU presidency to ensure the safe and secured repatriation of these unfortunate peoples to their motherland Myanmar. Finnish President highly praised Prime Minister for giving shelter to this huge number of Rohingyas purely on humanitarian ground and assured her to continue his country's political and financial support on this important issue.

The two leaders vowed to work together on various issues including climate change. Prime Minister briefed the Finnish President on different initiatives taken by her Government to mitigate climate

change consequences. Finnish President emphasized on the strengthening of global warning system to reduce possible losses from the natural calamities.

Prime Minister, pointing to the establishment of 100 Special Economic Zones including high-tech parks with infrastructural facilities and logistical support for foreign investors, hoped that Finnish investors would invest in Bangladesh in the sectors of ICT, energy, green technology, education, etc. Finnish President informed her that his Government with the support of Finnpartnership and Team Finland would hold a two-day seminar in Dhaka on 18-19 November this year on 'Doing Business with Finland' aiming to provide a platform for greater interactions between the business communities of the two countries.





## New UNICEF Country Representative lauds Bangladesh's achievements



*UNICEF Country Representative Tomoo Hozumi calls on Foreign Minister Dr. A K Abdul Momen, MP at his office*

Newly appointed Country Representative of UNICEF in Bangladesh, Tomoo Hozumi lauded Bangladesh's remarkable achievements in the field of child education and health while presenting credentials to Foreign Minister Dr. A K Abdul Momen, MP on 11 June 2019. He assured, UNICEF will continue to work

with the Government of Bangladesh for the overall development of the children of the country from grassroots to national level.

Welcoming the new Country Representative, Foreign Minister expressed deep appreciation for the long-standing cooperation between Government of Bangladesh and UNICEF in the field of education, health and overall development of children which dates back to 1972. He highlighted Bangladesh's stellar performances in achieving all children related Millennium Development Goals including primary enrolment and reducing child and maternal mortality. He reiterated Government's maximum priority to replicate this performance in achieving SDGs. He further stated that Bangladesh, being a signatory of Child Right Conventions, was committed to ensure the rights of all children in its endeavor to achieve inclusive development.

## Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Affairs Minister of Luxembourg calls on Foreign Minister

Minister for Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Affairs of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg Paulette Lenert met Foreign Minister Dr. A K Abdul Momen, MP at the State Guest House Padma on 12 June 2019. She led a five-member delegation.

Foreign Minister thanked the Luxembourg Minister for her Government's support, including humanitarian assistance, for the Rohingya crisis. He urged the international community, particularly Luxembourg, to mount pressure on Myanmar authorities to take sincere and visible steps to create "conducive environment" in Rakhine State so that Rohingyas could go back to their ancestral homes in Myanmar in safety and security. Luxembourg Minister termed the Rohingya crisis as "liability for all" and assured of extending continued support for a durable and peaceful solution of the protracted crisis.

Foreign Minister encouraged the exchange of business and trade delegations between the



*Luxembourg Minister for Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Affairs Paulette Lenert calls on Foreign Minister Dr. A K Abdul Momen, MP at the State Guest House Padma*

two countries to explore the untapped business and investment opportunities in Bangladesh. He urged the Luxembourg authorities to establish a Resident Diplomatic Mission in Dhaka or at least designate the Embassy of Luxembourg in New Delhi to be concurrently accredited to Bangladesh. He called upon the Luxembourg Minister for bilateral cooperation focusing on private sector development and urged her to encourage Luxembourg's globally





acclaimed financial services sector companies to establish business with and in Bangladesh.

Luxembourg Minister expressed interest on establishing “logistics services” facilities between Bangladesh and Luxembourg. In that context, she

urged early conclusion of the “Air Services Agreement” between the two countries. She further offered to extend “sustainable finance” for Bangladesh’s journey towards achieving 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

## Foreign Minister calls on Indian External Affairs Minister in Dushanbe, Tajikistan



*Foreign Minister Dr. A K Abdul Momen, MP calls on Indian External Affairs Minister Dr. S Jaishankar in Dushanbe, Tajikistan*

During the 5th summit of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA), Foreign Minister Dr. A K Abdul Momen, MP met the newly appointed Indian External Affairs Minister Dr. S Jaishankar for the first time in a bilateral meeting in Dushanbe, Tajikistan on 14 June 2019.

Both the Foreign Ministers expressed their satisfaction over the deep-rooted cordial bilateral relations that exist between Bangladesh and India. They expressed optimism that this relationship would expand further in future.

Foreign Minister attracted the attention of his Indian counterpart in carrying out the much-expected

Teesta deal and stopping the killing of civilians at the border. He sought India’s active support and cooperation in solving the Rohingya issue. Indian Minister assured the necessary cooperation in this regard, saying that Prime Minister Narendra Modi had shown mature sensitivity in developing the goodwill and relations of India with the neighboring countries.

Dr. S Jaishankar remarked that strengthening BIMSTEC would be beneficial for both the countries and added that India placed greater importance on regional connectivity.

Foreign Minister congratulated Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi on behalf of Bangladesh Prime Minister for the overwhelming victory in the Lok Sabha elections in India. He also congratulated Dr. S Jaishankar for assuming the Ministry of External Affairs. He sought his cooperation to attract Indian investment in the 100 Special Economic Zones (SEZ) in Bangladesh and invited his country to participate in the celebration of the Birth Centennial of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in 2020 and the 50th anniversary of Independence of Bangladesh.

## Georgian Ambassador calls on Foreign Minister

Archil Dzuliashvili, Ambassador of Georgia to Bangladesh with residence in New Delhi, called on Foreign Minister Dr. A K Abdul Momen, MP at the latter’s office on 23 June 2019.

Foreign Minister expressed happiness at the existing friendly relations and bilateral engagements between the two countries and stressed on further



*Georgian Ambassador Archil Dzuliashvili calls on Foreign Minister Dr. A K Abdul Momen, MP at his office*



strengthening of relations by expanding areas of cooperation for the mutual benefits of the two countries. He stressed on the promotion of trade and investment between the two countries, especially in areas like pharmaceuticals, RMG sector, agricultural products, ceramics, etc. Both of them agreed to enhance cooperation in the agriculture sector.

Apart from the bilateral issues, the two sides exchanged views on international issues of common

interest. The elections in different International Organization of UN including Food and Agriculture Organization and International Organization for Migration were also discussed.

Foreign Minister briefed the Ambassador about the recent development of the Rohingya issue and sought support of the Georgian government in this regard.

## ■ Chinese Ambassador calls on Foreign Minister



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

Chinese Ambassador Zhang Zuo paid a courtesy call on Foreign Minister Dr. A K Abdul Momen, MP

at his office on 25 June 2019. He briefed Foreign Minister about his recent visit to Rohingya camp. He underlined the importance of the strengthening communication channels between Bangladesh and Myanmar for finding solution of the Rohingya crisis.

Foreign Minister sought China's support to convince Myanmar to start taking back their people from Bangladesh at the earliest. He mentioned, Bangladesh is ready to send back the Rohingyas who are in the verified list. He also requested the Chinese Ambassador to redouble his efforts so that agreements and decisions reached at leaders' summit in the past might be realized with speedy implementation process.

## Foreign Minister invites six countries to invest in Bangladesh

Newly appointed Ambassadors and High Commissioners of six countries, namely, Mali, Namibia, Cyprus, Belarus, Portugal and Iceland made joint call on Foreign Minister Dr. A K Abdul Momen, MP on 27 June 2019 at his National Parliament office.

Foreign Minister urged them to take the opportunity to invest in Bangladesh mentioning about the positive atmosphere for investment with high prospects of return existing here. He briefed them about the remarkable level of development that Bangladesh had been able to achieve under the dynamic and



*Ambassadors and High Commissioners of Mali, Namibia, Cyprus, Belarus, Portugal and Iceland jointly call on Foreign Minister Dr. A K Abdul Momen, MP at his Parliament office*

dedicated leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. He also highlighted Bangladesh's achievement in various social indicators as well as the huge success of the Government in poverty reduction.



## State Minister demands Climate Justice and compensation in Berlin Conference

State Minister for Foreign Affairs Md. Shahriar Alam, MP asked for climate justice to be established and demanded compensation and adequate financial and other assistances for adaptation measures while attending the Berlin Climate and Security Conference 2019 on 04 June 2019. He called for more concrete global coordination and insisted that the developed countries and the countries responsible for producing huge amount of green house gases must triple their Nationally Determined Commitments (NDCs). To deal with climate change related displacement, he called for new and binding legal instruments as the existing instruments were mostly voluntary. He described the grave threat of climate change to Bangladesh and explained how this would cause extreme devastation to every sector of Bangladesh endangering all the achievements.

State Minister called for considering the issue necessarily as a development concern which should

be covered by all organs and agencies of UN. He demanded true implementation of the Paris Agreement, 2030 Development Agenda (SDGs) and the Sendai Framework and continuation of existing facilities for Bangladesh after its graduation from LDC to effectively fight climate change.

German Federal Foreign Office, 2 German independent think tanks - Adelphi and Potsdam Institute of Climate Research and the German Foreign Ministry project 'Climate Diplomacy' jointly organized this annual conference. President of Nauru, Deputy Prime Minister of Belgium, Foreign and State Ministers of Germany, Sweden, Ghana, Maldives, Malta, Palau, UK, Cote d'Ivoire, Afghanistan, former US Secretary of State John Kerry, UN High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi, Foreign Secretaries of different countries and scores of high officials and academicians from several leading think tanks of Europe participated in this year's Conference.

## State Minister meets with the UN Secretary General and the Head of Peace Operations

State Minister for Foreign Affairs Md. Shahriar Alam, MP had a bilateral meeting with UN Secretary General António Guterres on 11 June 2019. They had a fruitful discussion on Rohingya issue together with the celebration of the Birth Centennial of the Father of the Nation and other issues relevant with Bangladesh and the United Nations. State Minister presented the latest updates on the Rohingya crisis. He informed the UN Secretary General about the non-cooperation of the Myanmar Government and other existing challenges hindering the repatriation of the forcibly displaced Rohingyas to their homeland in Rakhine. He also informed the Secretary General about the steps taken at the recent OIC Summit for taking legal recourse at the International Court of Justice against Myanmar for creating the Rohingya crisis.

UN Secretary General praised the unprecedented advancement Bangladesh achieved under the leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.



*State Minister for Foreign Affairs Md. Shahriar Alam, MP calls on UN Secretary General António Guterres in New York*

He expressed deep concern over the Rohingya repatriation not being started. He appreciated Bangladesh for its active participation in Climate Change issue and UN peace operations.



State Minister also had a bilateral meeting with Jean-Pierre Lacroix, United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Peace Operations. He informed the Under-Secretary-General about the strong resolve of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for maintaining world peace and security.

Jean-Pierre Lacroix praised Bangladesh for its continuous participation and success in the UN peace operations. He assured the State Minister of considering his request to appointment Bangladeshi officers to high positions of the UN peace operations.

## Ministry's welfare activities

92 migrants were repatriated to Bangladesh from Libya and Tunisia under the AVRR (Assisted Voluntary Repatriation and Reintegration) program of International Organization for Migration (IOM) In June 2019 and 30 Bangladeshi Nationals were repatriated to Bangladesh from Vanuatu with the help of IOM.

A mobile application titled 'Dutabash' is developed for providing Consular and Welfare Services at Home and Abroad. The application is being tested at various Missions. Soon, it will be launched globally to ensure consular services at the fingertips of the citizens.

## Bangladesh High Commission in Abuja shares the success stories of Bangladesh



*A 14-member group of students from Gratem Montessori School, Kubwa visited the High Commission of Bangladesh in Abuja, Nigeria*

A 14-member group of students from the Abuja-based Gratem Montessori School, Kubwa visited the High Commission of Bangladesh in Abuja, Nigeria on 10 June 2019 to familiarise themselves with Bangladesh. The Head Teacher and 4 teachers accompanied them.

High Commissioner warmly welcomed them and gave an overview on the War of Liberation, history, culture, heritage, development journey, religious harmony and the role of Bangladesh in the international arena in his presentation. Bangladesh people's love for music, food and passion for sports like football and cricket also came up. Voice of moderation, secular fabric of the society, democratic credentials and longing for peace characterised the nation - the audience was told. The presentation generated huge interest among the young students and the visit turned into a lively interactive session. A documentary on Bangladesh was also screened.

A copy of the 'Unfinished Memoir' of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and few other publications were handed over to the library of the School.

## Bangladesh Consulate General, Dubai organizes 'Exchange of Views' program

Bangladesh Consulate General, Dubai organized an Exchange of Views program with parents of Bangladeshi students of Bangladesh English Private School and College in Ras Al Khaimah on 26 June 2019. More than 400 parents and civil society members were present and actively participated in the program. The parents appreciated the Mission's initiatives to renaming the school in the name of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.





## ■ Seminar on Trade and Investment held in Sofia, Bulgaria

Bangladesh Embassy in Ankara, concurrently-accredited to Bulgaria, organized a Seminar titled "Trade and Investment Relations between Bangladesh and Bulgaria and Future Prospects" at the Bulgaria Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Sofia, Bulgaria on 15 June 2019. Representatives from different business entities of Bulgaria attended the seminar. Bangladesh Ambassador to Bulgaria introduced Bangladesh to the audience highlighting the history, heritage, geo-strategic importance, recent socio-economic development and recognition of Bangladesh at the international arena. He urged the businessmen and investors of both the countries



*Participants at a seminar in Sofia, Bulgaria*

to explore ways to enhance trade and economic relations.

## ■ Bangladesh represented at the 3rd Asian Festival in Sofia, Bulgaria

Bangladesh Embassy in Ankara, concurrently-accredited to Bulgaria, took part in the 3rd Asian Festival held from 14-15 June 2019 in Sofia, Bulgaria. The event was jointly organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Tourism of Bulgaria, the National Cultural Institute of Bulgaria, the Sofia Municipality as well as a host of Asian Embassies in and outside Bulgaria. 15 diplomatic Missions participated in the event.

The event with the theme "East of Magic" was focused upon showcasing the Asian Arts and Culture among the Bulgarian people. A couple of video documentaries highlighting the natural beauty, economic advancement and the future prospects of Bangladesh were run at the Bangladesh stall. Apart from publications, posters and souvenirs, traditional Bangladeshi foods were displayed and distributed. Bangladesh cultural team preformed songs and dances.

## ■ Public Diplomacy success in upholding Bangladesh image Brazilian participant portrays Bangladesh positively

Bangladesh Embassy in Brasilia organized a seminar titled "Bangladesh in the Eyes of the Brazilians" on 28 June 2019 for the third time, where the participants of the 'Visit Bangladesh Programme' presented their objective views—as they perceived it—on Bangladesh to Brazilian and foreign audience.

Marilia Marquese, a journalist from one of the biggest media outlets of Brazil, who participated in the 'Visit Bangladesh programme' in April 2019, spoke elaborately about her impressions on Bangladesh—to an audience of about hundred people including journalists, professors, government and non-

government officials, Brasilia-based diplomats, and others. She recalled the great leadership of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in our two-decades-long struggle for freedom and talked very highly about almost all aspects of today's Bangladesh. She eloquently talked, to a captivated audience, about Bangladesh's people, culture, society, religious harmony, socio-economic progress, women empowerment, touristic attractions, etc. She devoted a great part of her presentation on the Rohingya crisis and called upon all to do their part in resolving the humanitarian crisis.



## Painting Exhibition and Art Workshop organized by Bangladesh Embassy in Athens

The Embassy of Bangladesh in Athens with cooperation of Athens City Corporation and Union of Artists and Writers of Illiopolis organized a painting exhibition at the Serafio Art Gallery in Central Athens on 28 June 2019. A total of 80 artworks of eighteen artists were exhibited. Seven prominent Bangladeshi artists and eleven Greek artists took part in the exhibition. Bangladesh Ambassador inaugurated the exhibition. A workshop for children was also organized at the exhibition venue. A large number of people including artists, art critics, Athens Municipality officials, leaders of the UNESCO club of Piraeus, expatriate Bangladeshi nationals, teachers, students and representatives of social, political, cultural and business organizations enjoyed the exhibition.

## Bangladesh Foreign Service Academy delegation visits Malaysia

A group of 07 member trainee officers led by the Principal of Bangladesh Foreign Service Academy (BFSA) paid an official visit to Malaysia from 26 June to 03 July 2019. The delegation attended Road-show and Branding Bangladesh program held in Perak organized by Bangladesh High Commission. They attended a meeting at the Ministry of International

Trade and Industry (MITI) and paid courtesy call on Dato' Sri Muhammad Shahrullkram Bin Yaakob, Secretary General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Malaysia. The delegation also attended meetings at the Institute of Diplomatic and Foreign Relations and the World Islamic Economic Forum Foundation.

## Bangladesh Embassy, Male' participates in Maldives Partnership Forum 2019

A three members delegation of Bangladesh Embassy in Male' participated in the Maldives Partnership Forum (MPF) 2019 held from 17-18 June 2019 at Kurumba, Maldives. The MPF 2019 was designed to galvanize action on the Maldives Government's vision of "Jazeera Rajje" (Island nation) – where equitable, inclusive and sustainable growth, access to justice and the rule of law were to prevail.

A total of 63 delegations from 38 countries and 25 development partners and a total of 133 delegates attended this event, making this one of the largest multilateral events held in the Maldives in over a

decade. The 02 days' event was comprised of a series of sessions reflecting the key priority areas of the host Government. The sessions were - macroeconomic and fiscal performance; investing in a blue economy; ensuring social outcomes; enhancing good governance, justice and the rule of law; and partnering for development.

Bangladesh Embassy in the Maldives has reiterated the assurance for signing an MOU in the field of Fisheries and Pelagic Fishing between Bangladesh and the Maldives.

## State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism visits Bhutan

Md. Mahbub Ali, MP, State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism, visited Bhutan from 02 to 07 June 2019 to participate in the 31st Joint meeting of UNWTO Commission for East Asia, South Asia and the Pacific. The meeting aimed to promote commitments at both regional and national levels in advancing sustainable tourism development.





## Photo Exhibition titled 'Faces of Bangladesh' held in the Philippines

Bangladesh Embassy in Manila and Bangladesh Honorary Consulate in Mindanao organized a photo exhibition titled 'Faces of Bangladesh' at SM Lanang Premier Atrium in Davao on 7-9 June, 2019 showcasing the rich culture and diverse way of life in Bangladesh. Local dignitaries, press, academia, leaders, and diplomats based in Davao attended the exhibition. The photographs displayed were taken by Ian Gerald Jinggoy Salvador and Architect Michelangelo E. Dacudao, PhD both of whom visited Bangladesh early this year under "Visit Bangladesh Programme". The event was widely covered in the local media.



Photo Exhibition titled 'Faces of Bangladesh' held in Davao City, the Philippines

## Bangladesh promotes 'disability inclusion' in line with the CRPD and Agenda 2030

"At national level, our Government under the leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, has put special emphasis for the development and inclusion of the persons with disabilities in our journey towards inclusive socio-economic development. We have not only put considerable efforts in increasing their access in day-to-day life thus promoting 'disability inclusion' but also has updated our national legislations in line with the CRPD and Agenda 2030" –said the Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the UN at the 12th Conference of the State Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) at UNHQs on 13 June 2019.

"Ms. Saima Wazed Hossain, daughter of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, has been an ardent advocate in this field. As the WHO SEARO Goodwill Ambassador and Chairperson of National Advisory Committee on Autism, she is championing awareness-building on autism in particular and disabilities in general in the country, the region and beyond" –the Ambassador added. He mentioned that Bangladesh Government shall provide allowances for all of the 1.4 million differently able persons from July this year.

## Bangladesh wins a land slide victory in ECOSOC's election

Bangladesh was elected as a member of the prestigious Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the United Nations on 14 June 2019 for the term 2020-2022 from the Asia-Pacific region by securing 181 votes out of 191. The election was held at the UN General Assembly Hall. Thailand, South Korea and China were the other countries elected from the same region. ECOSOC, one of the six principal organs of UN, is also the most important platform of the UN system and for that matter multilateral diplomacy when it comes to development.

The election was conducted under the Presidency of Ms María Fernanda Espinosa Garcés, the President of 73rd United Nations General Assembly through secret ballot. Through the membership of ECOSOC, Bangladesh will be able to work more intensively in implementing the Agenda 2030 through various forums, commissions, committees, executive boards and regional forums such as UNESCAP under ECOSOC.

Bangladesh will commence its ECOSOC membership from January 2020.



## Bangladesh High Commission in Port Louis organizes blood donation program

Bangladesh High Commission, Port Louis, Mauritius in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Quality of Life, the Republic of Mauritius organized a blood donation program on 30 June 2019. The event was held at a local shopping mall on the occasion of 'World Blood Donor Day, 2019' with the participation of Bangladeshi workers.

The Minister, Ministry of Health and Quality of life of Mauritius inaugurated the program as Chief Guest. He highly appreciated the initiative of Bangladesh High Commission to organize such an event, in particular, to mobilize the expatriate Bangladeshi from different corners of Mauritius to donate blood for the people of Mauritius.

## Bangladesh Embassy organizes Film and Food Festivals in Korea

Bangladesh Embassy in Seoul organized the 2nd Bangladesh Film Festival at the Yongsan Art Hall, Seoul on 11-13 June 2019. Ambassadors, Diplomats from different embassies, Korean dignitaries, Korean nationals and expatriate Bangladeshis attended the grand inauguration ceremony. Four Bangladeshi films – 'Debi (The Goddess)', 'Akhi and Her Friends', 'Sincerely Yours, Dhaka' and 'Under Construction' were screened during the Festival.

The Embassy organized the first-ever Bangladesh Food Festival at a five-star Hotel in Busan on 13-

19 June 2019 in cooperation with Hotel Pan Pacific Sonargaon. The Ambassador for International Relations, Busan Metropolitan City was the Guest of Honour at the festival. Honorary Consuls Generals of different diplomatic Missions located in Busan, representatives of the Busan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Chairman and high officials of Korean Export and Import Association, CEOs of important business houses, Heads of a number of Tourist, Business, Cultural organizations and the Embassy officials attended the opening ceremony.

## Bangladesh participates in Tourism, Book and Import Goods Fairs in Seoul



Display of books at the Bangladesh Stall in the 25th Seoul International Book Fair

Bangladesh participated in the Seoul International Tourism Industry Fair (SITIF), the largest tourism fair in Korea, on 6-9 June 2019 at Convention and Exhibition (COEX) Center, Seoul with the active cooperation of the Bangladesh Embassy. Bangladesh Pavilion won "The Best Tourism Marketing Award 2019". About 1300 travel agencies and airlines from 50 countries participated this year. Bangladesh participated in country presentation, cultural performance, B2B meetings and quiz competitions to attract more tourists in Bangladesh. Tourism promotional materials such as poster, brochures, and informational booklets were distributed to the visitors during the fair.





Besides, for the first time, Bangladesh Embassy participated in the 25th Seoul International Book Fair (SIBF) held in COEX Center, Seoul on 19-23 June 2019. This is the biggest book fair in Korea in which 400 publishing houses participated from 40 countries.

Bangladesh stall exhibited books on the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, Liberation War, Bangladesh and Bangla literature published in Bangla and English languages. Many Korean book-lovers visited the stall and expressed their keen interest about Bangladeshi books and its culture.

Korea-Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KBCCI) in Dhaka participated at the Import Goods Fair (IGF) 2019 held in the same venue from 27-29 June 2019 with the assistance of the Bangladesh Embassy. 12 participants including NPOLY, Meghna Group of Industries, ZEESHAN, MUNSHI, Index Accessories Ltd, Novo Cargo Services Ltd, Genetica Agro and A & L Limited displayed their products and services. Bangladeshi exportable items like RMG products, jute and leather products, T-shirts, bangles, ceramic products, agro products, cargo services, IT services and products and different types of food items were displayed in the Bangladesh Pavilion which attracted the dignitaries and the visitors.

## ■ Croatia keen to recruit manpower from Bangladesh

Croatia has expressed its interest to recruit manpower from Bangladesh. This was informed to the visiting Ambassador of Bangladesh to the Netherlands while he was holding a meeting with Assistant Minister for Labour and Pension Affairs of Croatia. Bangladesh Ambassador was on an official visit to Croatia from 17-19 June 2019.

The Assistant Minister informed that Croatia needed skilled manpower in health

care, information technology, tourism and construction sector. This year, the country would issue work permits for 51,000 workers majority of whom would be employed from the European countries. A few of them would be recruited from countries outside Europe. In this regard, he disclosed, considering the availability of skilled Bangladeshi workforce, Croatia is interested to sign a memorandum of understanding between the relevant organizations of the two countries.

## ■ Fourth Meeting of the SAARC Agriculture Ministers held in Thimphu

Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture visited Thimphu, Bhutan from 24 to 28 June 2019 to attend the 4th Meeting of the SAARC Agriculture Ministers. The Ministerial Meeting, held on 27 June 2019, reaffirmed commitments to further strengthen regional cooperation by promoting cooperation in Agriculture and Rural Development for enhancing food, nutrition and livelihood security of the Region.

'Thimphu Statement on Agriculture and Rural Development' was unanimously adopted by the Meeting, with 19-points regional pledges and strategies, to deal with the emerging challenges being faced by the region in agriculture and allied sectors and to advance agricultural sector of the Region.

The Meeting, among others, agreed to promote multi-sectoral approaches to attain higher level of food safety and nutrition security; promote climate resilient

agricultural strategies and technologies; expand agro-processing and building competitive agricultural value chains; facilitate gender mainstreaming and attracting youth and women in agriculture; intensify agricultural research, development and innovation through higher public investment and public-private partnership; adopt appropriate measures for addressing the issues related to transboundary animal diseases.

Recognizing the increasing challenges, posed by Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) to animal and human health in the region, the Ministers also adopted a Statement on SAARC's Cooperation on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) with some specific directives to tackle this menace.

The Government of Nepal will host the Fifth Meeting of the SAARC Agriculture Ministers.



## Bangladesh Missions host reception and reunion on occasion of the Holy Eid-ul-Fitr

Bangladesh Missions abroad hosted receptions and reunions on occasion of the Holy Eid-ul-Fitr. Ambassadors, High Commissioners, Diplomats, Defence Advisors from diplomatic

missions, politicians, bureaucrats, businessmen, journalists and the members of Bangladesh community attended the receptions and dinner parties.

## Bangladesh Missions celebrate birth anniversaries of Rabindranath and Nazrul

Bangladesh Embassies abroad celebrated the 158th birth anniversary of Nobel laureate poet Rabindranath Tagore and the 120th birth anniversary of National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam in June 2019 in a befitting manner. To mark the occasion, discussion meetings, screening of video documentaries on the lives and works of Rabindranath and Nazrul and cultural programmes were organized. Embassy officials, their family members and Bangladesh expatriates including community members, their children, spouses, students, as well as members of professional groups attended and enjoyed the programmes.

Speakers at the discussion paid glowing tribute to the memories of Rabindranath Tagore and Kazi Nazrul Islam highlighting their contributions to Bengali literature. They acclaimed the two poets for their faith in humanity and their stand against all superstitions in the society. They also mentioned that the perpetual appeal of the patriotic works of these two pre-eminent poets inspired the Bengalis in the War of Liberation. Recitation of poems, songs and dances were performed in the cultural segment. A gallery of photographs of the event follows:



*Bangladesh Embassy in Abu Dhabi*



*Bangladesh Assistant High Commission in Agartala*



*Bangladesh Embassy in Athens*



*Bangladesh High Commission in Islamabad*



*Bangladesh Embassy in Kathmandu*



*Bangladesh Embassy in Seoul*



*Bangladesh Embassy in The Hague*



*Bangladesh Embassy in Thimphu*

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