



**Prime Minister attends the 74th session of the UN General Assembly**



*Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina addresses the 74th Session of UNGA*

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina led the Bangladesh delegation to the 74th session of the UN General Assembly (UNGA) from 23-28 September 2019.

The most important events for Bangladesh during this year's UNGA were the Climate Summit, high-level Plenary Meeting on Universal Health Coverage, SDG Summit, high-level side event on Sustainable Universal Health Coverage: Comprehensive Primary care inclusive of mental health and disabilities and high-level side event of Global Commission on Adaptation. Another high-level side event on the Situation of Rohingya Minority in Myanmar was also successfully organized.

Prime Minister attended 13 main and side events and

engaged in 09 bilateral meetings. She addressed the UNGA on 27 September afternoon. In her speech, she expressed her Government's firm commitment to multilateralism-especially to the UN, citing the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's statement in 1974 UNGA and to the UN's leadership role in establishing development, peace and justice. She also approached to the members of the UN for their greater understanding on the impacts of Rohingya crisis and sought their support in resolving it.

During this UNGA session, Prime Minister was awarded with the prestigious 'Vaccine Hero' award by Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization (GAVI) in recognition of her contribution in achieving outstanding success in vaccination to immunize children in Bangladesh. She also received UNICEF's 'Champion of Skill Development for Youth' award for Bangladesh's great success in youth skill development.

On the sidelines, Prime Minister had bilateral meetings with UN Secretary-General António Guterres, Prime Ministers of India and Thailand, Queen of Netherlands, UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Chairman of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Chairman of ExxonMobil LNG Market Development, Chief Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court and President of Global Hope Coalition.

**Bangladesh organizes a side event on Sustainable Universal Health Coverage at the UN**

Bangladesh organized a high-level segment of event titled 'Sustainable Universal Health Coverage: Comprehensive Primary Health Care inclusive of Mental Health and Disabilities' on the side line of the 74th Session of UNGA on 27 September 2019. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Bhutanese Prime Minister Lotay Tshering,



*Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Bhutanese Prime Minister Lotay Tshering, Foreign Minister Dr. A K Abdul Momen, MP, Health Minister Zahid Maleque, MP and Chairperson of National Advisory Council of Neurodevelopment Disorder and Autism of Bangladesh Saima Wazed Hossain participated at a side event in the United Nations*







Nepal's Deputy Prime Minister and Health Minister Upendra Yadav attended the event among others.

Bangladesh Prime Minister said that Bangladesh was pursuing both the issues – mental health and disability – “seriously” in formulating health policies and programmes

keeping in mind the Target 3.4 of SDGs on mental health and the WHO global action plan on disability. The Chairperson of National Advisory Council of Neurodevelopment Disorder and Autism of Bangladesh, Saima Wazed Hossain participated and delivered speech at the event.

## Bangladesh hosts the 3rd IORA Blue Economy Ministerial Conference in Dhaka



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Foreign Minister Dr. A K Abdul Momen, MP and other local and foreign dignitaries in the 3rd IORA Blue Economy Ministerial Conference in Dhaka

This year, Bangladesh hosted the 3rd IORA Blue Economy Ministerial Conference in the Intercontinental, Dhaka on 04-05 September 2019. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina inaugurated the Conference on 5 September. 21 member states and 9 dialogue partners participated in the Conference. It was organized to outline a basis to set forth crucial strategic areas for cooperation between countries on sea based growth in the Indian Ocean, exploring potentials in sectors like aquaculture, marine tourism, private sector's involvement in infrastructure, port network, sustainable exploration and exploitation of various living and non-living resources from the seas and tackling the menace of marine pollution and plastic debris, etc. The Ministerial Conference was preceded by four

working sessions of the Committee of Senior Officials held on 04 September 2019 to discuss the means and ways to strengthen Blue Economy implementation.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina called upon the IORA Member States to build a unified sustainable blue economic belt in this subcontinent with the help of untapped resources of the sea. She underscored on the fact that there is no alternative to cooperation and coordination among the partners to get the best results from the Blue Economy.

The Ministerial Conference adopted the Dhaka Declaration and other outcome documents, aimed to illustrate the commitment of IORA Member States to further strengthen and deepen cooperation on Blue Economy priority areas in the years ahead.

## Foreign Minister awards certificates among participants of 'Bangabandhu Cambridge Policy Simulation Lab'

Foreign Minister Dr. A K Abdul Momen, MP distributed certificates among the participants of “Bangabandhu Cambridge Policy Simulation Lab” on “Policies for Improving Resilience for Industry 4.0 in Bangladesh” at the State Guest House Padma on 04 September 2019.

Earlier on 1 September, State Minister for Foreign Affairs Md. Shahriar Alam, MP inaugurated the programme.

The Bangabandhu Cambridge Programme is a collaborative policy simulation and innovation initiative of the Bangladesh Government and the Resilience and Sustainable Development Programme (RSDP) of the University of Cambridge.



Foreign Minister Dr. A K Abdul Momen, MP is with the participants of 'Bangabandhu Cambridge Policy Simulation Lab'







## Foreign Minister meets his Australian and Sri Lankan counterparts on the sideline of IORA Conference



*Foreign Minister Dr. A K Abdul Momen, MP meets his Australian counterpart Marise Payne on the sideline of the 3rd IORA conference in Dhaka*

Australia assured to intensify development cooperation with Bangladesh and also assured to promote the economic partnership while Foreign Minister Dr. A K Abdul Momen, MP met his Australian counterpart Marise Payne in Dhaka on 5 September 2019 on the side line of IORA Blue Economy Ministerial Conference. Dr. Momen expressed his gratitude to the Australian Foreign Minister for reaffirming her country's support for the repatriation of the forcefully displaced Myanmar nationals. Australian Foreign Minister assured to increase the humanitarian assistance for the Rohingyas through NGOs and UN agencies.

Foreign Minister Dr. A K Abdul Momen, MP met his Sri Lankan counterpart Tilak Marapana on the same day. Both sides discussed various areas of bilateral cooperation between the two countries, with particular focus on enhancing business to business connectivity.

Dr. Momen urged his Sri Lankan counterpart to expedite conclusion of the Coastal Shipping Agreement between the two countries which is expected to enhance trade and commerce. Concurring with this view, the Sri Lankan Foreign Minister also touched upon the potential of developing cruise tourism in the Bay of Bengal.



*Foreign Minister Dr. A K Abdul Momen, MP meets his Sri Lankan counterpart Tilak Marapana on the sideline of the 3rd IORA conference in Dhaka*

## State Minister for Foreign Affairs calls on the President of the Maldives and his Japanese counterpart in Male'

State Minister for Foreign Affairs Md. Shahriar Alam, MP called on the President of the Maldives Ibrahim Mohamed Solih on 03 September 2019 in Male' on the sidelines of the 4th Indian Ocean Conference. He conveyed the greetings of Bangladesh President Md. Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to the Maldivian President. At the outset, cooperation on ocean and maritime issues was discussed and both sides stressed on the need for sustainable harnessing of oceanic resources. The Maldivian President sought greater support from Bangladesh in the area of medical education for prospective students from Maldives.

State Minister Md. Shahriar Alam, MP met his Japanese counterpart Toshiko Abe on 04 September 2019 in Male'. He thanked Japan for facilitating the very fruitful visit of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to Japan earlier in May 2019. He expressed gratitude to the Japanese Government for listing Bangladesh as a source country for skilled migration.

He updated his Japanese counterpart on the latest status of the 1.1 million Rohingyas being sheltered by Bangladesh, including Bangladesh's concerns about security at the camps. He underscored that Bangladesh needs the support of Japan for repatriation of the Rohingyas in safety and dignity to Myanmar.

Japanese State Minister expressed gratitude that Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina met all the family members of the Japanese victims of the Holey Artisan attack during her visit to Japan. She mentioned that Japan is particularly happy that Bangladesh has decided to name metro rail stations after the names of the victims. Both sides agreed on timely implementation of ODA.

State Minister Md. Shahriar Alam, MP requested his Japanese counterpart for his country's support for building a new Railway bridge over the river Jamuna. The Japanese State Minister reassured him of the support and cooperation for building that bridge.



## Bangladesh joins the Partnering for Green Growth and the Global Goals 2030 (P4G)



State Minister for Foreign Affairs Md. Shahriar Alam, MP delivers speech at a seminar titled 'The Global Goals 2030' in New York

Bangladesh joined the Partnering for Green Growth and the Global Goals 2030 (P4G), which was officially announced on 23 September 2019 at an event held in New York on the sidelines of the 74th UN General Assembly.

In his speech on 24 September 2019 marking Bangladesh's inclusion into this prestigious global Forum on Green Growth, State Minister for Foreign Affairs Md. Shahriar Alam, MP commented that P4G would provide much needed new and innovative approaches and business models for our transition from the LDC to middle income country.

P4G was launched in 2018, with the ambition of becoming the world's leading forum for developing concrete public-private partnerships on the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change. P4G brings together government, business and civil society organizations in innovating partnerships to advance solutions to help meet humanity's greatest needs in five key areas: food and agriculture (SDG2), clean water and sanitation (SDG6), affordable clean energy (SDG7), sustainable cities (SDG11) and circular economy (SDG12).

## Ambassador Masud urges the UN member states to utilize the notion of 'Culture of Peace' for attaining Agenda 2030

Ambassador Masud Bin Momen, Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the UN urged the UN member states to utilize the notion of 'Culture of Peace' for attaining Agenda 2030 while he was delivering the country statement at the General Debate of the UN High Level Forum on the 'Culture of Peace' commemorating of its 20th Anniversary on 13 September 2019. He highlighted that 20 years back, under the leadership of the then Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, it was an honour for Bangladesh to facilitate the norm-setting resolution the 'Culture of Peace' (resolution 53/243). He said, "It was therefore, not a coincidence that during the first term of the government of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Bangladesh mooted the idea of 'Culture of Peace' and it was included in the agenda of General Assembly (GA) in 1997 and subsequently on 13 September 1999, the GA adopted the resolution by consensus. It is therefore, gratifying for Bangladesh that when we are observing this 20th anniversary, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is still here to lead our country to peace and sustainable development".

Ambassador Masud stated, "We are happy that this notion has now matured into a dominant theme at the UN with widespread resonance. It is noteworthy that in recent years a number of new resolutions have been adopted under this agenda item". He further added, "We should now engage ourselves to see how best we can utilize the notion to attain Agenda 2030 and even beyond that to sustain the relevance of this agenda".

Several events were organized as part of commemorating the auspicious occasion. On 12 September 2019, a side-event was held at International Peace Institution (IPI) in New York entitled 'On the Road to Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals: Celebrating Twenty Years of the Culture of Peace'. President of GA of the 73rd UNGA María Fernanda Espinosa Garcés, IPI Vice President DR. Amem Lupel, Former Under-Secretary General and PR of Bangladesh to the UN Ambassador Anwarul Karim Chowdhury and Ambassador Masud Bin Momen, PR of Bangladesh to the UN participated this interactive discussion.

## 'Acclaim Nigeria' carries special story on Bangladesh

Acclaim Nigeria – Nigeria's most prominent Magazine on diplomatic issues carried a special feature on Bangladesh in its issue published in September, 2019. The issue, illustrated with photographs, covers the development journey of Bangladesh and role of the country in the international arena under the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. It also covered the Bangladesh Mission's pro-active engagements and projected activities to strengthen bilateral relations with Nigeria – the largest economy of Africa and 6th largest producer of oil in the world. Olumide Ogunlade, Editor-in-Chief of the Magazine handed over a copy to the High Commissioner of Bangladesh to Nigeria.







## Bangladesh participates in the 84th Thessaloniki International Fair in Greece



*Bangladesh stall in the 84th Thessaloniki International Fair displays a large collection of jute products and handicrafts of Bangladesh*

Bangladesh participated in the 84th Thessaloniki International Fair (TIF) held on 7-15 September 2019 in Thessaloniki – the second largest city of Greece. TIF is one of the largest and most prestigious fairs in the Mediterranean and Balkan region. This year more than a thousand entrepreneurs, traders and business houses from 20 countries and representatives from more than 40 regional chambers of Greece participated in the fair.

Bangladesh stall with the slogan “Bangladesh, golden destination for trade and investment” acted as booth for the promotion of Bangladesh as investment destination and a home of world class export items. A large collection of products including packaging materials made of jute, shopping bags, modern and luxury items like lady’s bags, household items and handicrafts were displayed. Private companies from Bangladesh also had a successful participation in the fair. They promoted jute and jute goods to the local users and traders. Bangladesh stall drew attention of a large number of visitors including businessmen, traders, retailers and importers from Greece and surrounding areas.

## Charity event ‘Roll & Run’ held in Germany for raising fund for Bangladeshi orphans

For Kids Sake, a German NGO led by Thomas Stukenberg, organized a charity event ‘Roll & Run’ on 15 September 2019 to raise fund for two orphanages in Bangladesh – one in Brahmanbaria and the other in Chittagong. Adults and Children ran for 5 Kilometres while physically handicapped persons in wheel chairs went for 1.5 Kilometres. Ambassador Intiaz Ahmed attended the event as special guest and delivered an encouraging speech appreciating such noble efforts and handed over medals to the winner



*A charity event ‘Roll & Run’ held in Germany to raise fund for Bangladeshi orphans*

of the competition. More than 11,000 Euro was collected from the event.

## Bangladesh and Sweden hold Political Consultations

Bangladesh and Sweden agreed to work together to upgrade their cooperation to a **‘broader relationship’** while the Foreign Offices of the two countries met for the first round of Political Consultations at the State Guest House Padma on 16 September 2019.

Ambassador Kamrul Ahsan, Secretary (Bilateral & Consular), led the Bangladesh side in the consultations while Swedish side was headed by Ambassador Cecilia Ruthstrom-Ruin, Head of the Department for Asia and the Pacific in Swedish Foreign Office. The Foreign Ministers of the two countries signed an MOU in Stockholm in September 2016 for holding of regular Consultations between the two Foreign Offices.

The Consultations went off in a cordial atmosphere and figured prominently the bilateral trade and investment in view of Bangladesh’s scheduled graduation from LDCs in 2024 and Sweden’s genuine interest in having robust economic relations with Bangladesh. Rohingya issue was discussed with due importance as Bangladesh side appreciated Sweden’s strong political and humanitarian support for the forcibly displaced Myanmar nationals. Swedish side expressed deepest appreciation for Bangladesh’s generous hosting of the displaced Rohingyas fleeing atrocities in Myanmar. They also vowed to remain seized in terms of humanitarian and political support including the issue of accountability on the part of Myanmar.



## Brazilians enthralled with Bangladeshi cuisine in a Gastronomic Fair

Bangladesh Embassy participated in a Gastronomic Fair held at the Clube Das Nações in Brasilia on 21 September 2019 arranged by Asia Oceania Ladies Association (AOLA). The spouses of the Heads of Missions of the Asia-Oceania countries formed the association. Twelve countries of Asia and Oceania participated in the festival and an estimated 5,000 Brazilians and foreigners visited the day-long fair.

Bangladesh stall drew attention of hundreds of visitors – because of its attractive decoration in red and green, the Bangladeshi handicrafts and in particular, the homemade traditional Bangladeshi cuisines like – biriyani, beef and chicken preparations, daal puri, pakora, singara, kheer and gurer sondesh. Traditional mehendi (henna) was also offered, which drew a huge enthusiastic crowd of girls and women.

The fund which was raised from the sale proceeds of the handicrafts, mehendi painting and food was donated to AOLA for Brazilian charities working for the underprivileged children.

## Bangabandhu Corner draws attention at the Bangladesh Book Fair 2019 in London



State Minister for Cultural Affairs K M Khalid, MP inaugurates the Bangladesh Book Fair 2019 in London

The 'Bangabandhu Corner' of Bangladesh High Commission, London added a new dimension at the two-day Bangladesh Book Fair 2019 held on 9-10 September 2019 in London. At the initiative of Bangladesh High Commission, London for the first time the Bangabandhu Corner was created at the book fair and It became a centre point for the book lovers visiting the fair. With deep interest, the visitors crowded at the 'Bangabandhu Corner' to see the books written by the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and other books written on his life and works. Books written by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina were also exhibited. State Minister for Cultural Affairs K M Khalid, MP inaugurated the book fair, while Bangladesh High Commissioner Saida Muna Tasneem was present on the occasion.

## Diplomat Magazine unveils its cover story on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina as the Mother of Humanity

The prestigious Diplomat Magazine of the Netherlands has unveiled its cover story "Sheikh Hasina: The Mother of Humanity" in its edition on 12 September 2019 in The Hague. The edition was introduced to members of The Hague-based diplomatic corps, international media, think-tanks, business personalities, etc. in a simple ceremony at a local hotel.

Publisher of the Diplomat Magazine, Dr. Mayelinne De Lara and Bangladesh Ambassador to the Netherlands, Sheikh Mohammed Belal introduced the edition to the audience. Bangladesh Ambassador highlighted to the audience how the world came to know Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina as the 'Mother of Humanity' after her bold decision to open Bangladesh-Myanmar borders for the persecuted Rohingya people fleeing from Myanmar's Rakhine State and thereby saving thousands of lives.



Bangladesh Ambassador to the Netherlands Sheikh Mohammed Belal and publisher of the Diplomat Magazine, Dr. Mayelinne De Lara unveil the special edition of the magazine with a cover story titled "Sheikh Hasina: The Mother of Humanity"







## Photo Exhibition titled 'Bangladeshis Livelihood and Festivals' held in Hong Kong

Dr. Eddy Li, a Hong Kong entrepreneur and National Geographic photographer, Dr. Kong, Vice President of Hong Kong Doctors Union and also a photographer, two of their photographer friends Wong and Au Yuen went to Bangladesh in last April 2019 on a photographic trip. With their wonderful captures during the tour, they jointly organized a photographic exhibition titled 'Bangladeshis Livelihood and Festivals' which was opened at Dr. Eddy Li's art gallery on 13 September 2019 by the Consul General of Bangladesh in Hong Kong. The two week long exhibition ended on 27 September 2019.

## Bangladesh Embassy in Seoul introduces B.A. program for Bangladeshi workers

During her brief visit to the Republic of Korea on 23 September 2019, Education Minister Dr. Dipu Moni, MP announced the introduction of the Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) Program through distance learning. Bangladesh Embassy in Seoul took the initiative to introduce the program in association

with Bangladesh Open University especially for the Bangladeshi workers under the Employment Permit System. This course is expected to commence from 1 December 2019. Earlier, Bangladesh Embassy in Seoul also introduced the H.S.C. Program for the Bangladeshi workers.

## Bangladesh Embassy in Thimphu organizes 'Cultural Evening'

Bangladesh Embassy in Thimphu organized a vibrant 'Cultural Evening', at the Royal University of Bhutan Convention Hall, Thimphu, on 21 September 2019, as part of the Mission's image-building initiatives under the APA.

Lyonpo Ugyen Dorji, Minister for Labour and Human Resources, Royal Government of Bhutan, graced the event as the Chief Guest. Chairman, Royal Privy Council, Foreign Secretary of Bhutan, Vice Chancellor of the Royal University of Bhutan, Former Education Minister and other dignitaries and high officials of the Royal Government of Bhutan, Diplomats, Embassy officials and their family members, a number of Bangladeshi expatriates and Bhutanese nationals attended the event, among others.

Bangladesh Ambassador Jishnu Roy Choudhury delivered the welcoming address. The Chief Guest in his remarks applauded the Embassy of Bangladesh for bringing Bangla music and culture under the spotlight through this programme.



*Bangladesh Embassy in Thimphu organized a 'Cultural Evening' at the Royal University of Bhutan Convention Hall, Thimphu*



## First ever Bangladesh-Canada Business Forum held in Toronto



*An MOU between Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) and Ontario Chamber of Commerce (OCC) was signed in Toronto, Canada*

The Consulate General of Bangladesh in Toronto in collaboration with Ontario Chamber of Commerce

(OCC) organized 'Bangladesh-Canada Business Forum-2019' in Toronto on 3 September 2019. Commerce Minister Tipu Munshi, MP led a high-level business delegation to the Forum. Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade of Ontario Victor Fedeli was the guest of honour. This is the first ever Business Forum of this kind with Canada. The Forum comprised of high-level deliberations, presentations and two panel discussions and a valedictory session followed by a press outreach.

The Business Forum was also marked by signing of an MOU between the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) and Ontario Chamber of Commerce (OCC). This is the first ever MOU on 'Business Cooperation' signed with Canada.

## Implementation of Projects under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is currently implementing quite a good number of projects. Construction of the Chancery building for the Embassy in Riyadh was completed last year while the new building for Foreign Service Academy will soon be inaugurated. A Chancery Complex in Ankara will also be ready for opening in few months. Apart from these, construction work of a Chancery Complex in Islamabad and Bangladesh House in Washington D.C. is going on in full swing. Construction of an 8-storied office building at the Ministry premises will start in October 2019 and is expected to be completed by February 2021. Construction of Chancery Complexes in Thimphu, Berlin and Bandar Seri Begawan will start soon.



*Newly built Foreign Service Academy at State Guest House Sugandha in Baily Road, Dhaka*

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