

FOREIGN OFFICE

BRIEFING NOTES

THE MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, DHAKA, BANGLADESH

DECEMBER 2019



“ We are at the most important crossroad of human history facing the gravest global challenges of our time ”

BANGLADESH

PRIME MINISTER SHEIKH HASINA ATTENDS COP 25 IN MADRID, SPAIN

She mentioned that Bangladesh was the first Least Developed Country to set up a Climate Change Trust Fund and had spent US \$ 415 million on climate change with its own funds. Prime Minister called on the leaders for the speedy and full implementation of the Paris Declaration on Climate Change.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina was welcomed by Spanish President Pedro Sánchez at the inaugural session of COP25 at the Feria de Madrid Hall in Madrid, Spain

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina attended the inaugural session of the 25th Annual Conference of Parties (COP 25) of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) on 2 December 2019 in Madrid, Spain. Foreign Minister Dr. A K Abdul Momen, MP; Environment, Forest and Climate Change Minister Md. Shahab Uddin and other high officials accompanied her. Heads of States/Governments from 41 countries attended the conference.

After the inaugural session, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina attended the Climate Vulnerable Forum (CVF) roundtable at the sidelines of COP 25. UN Secretary General António Guterres,

President of Costa Rica Carlos Alvarado Quesada, President of Honduras Juan Orlando Hernandez, Prime Minister of the Netherlands Mark Rutte, Speaker of the United States House of Representatives Nancy Pelosi and the Executive Secretary of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change Patricia Espinosa also attended the roundtable. Bangladesh Prime Minister apprised other leaders present at the meeting that Bangladesh, the largest delta in the world, was one of the most vulnerable countries in the world to the adverse effects of climate change. She also apprised the participants that the presence of more than 11 lakh Rohingyas in Bangladesh had caused great damage to our environment, especially the

biodiversity, forests and hills of Cox's Bazar and above all the livelihood of the local population. She mentioned that Bangladesh was the first Least Developed Country to set up a Climate Change Trust Fund and had spent US \$ 415 million on climate change with its own funds. Prime Minister called on the leaders for the speedy and full implementation of the Paris Declaration on Climate Change. She demanded the establishment of "Climate Justice". She also called on the leaders to fully implement the "Loss and Damage" policy under the Paris Agreement for countries that have no role to play in environmental pollution or climate change. Bangladesh has been elected as the next President of the CVF.

AMBASSADORS OF JAPAN, TURKEY AND CHINA MEET WITH FOREIGN MINISTER



Newly appointed Ambassador of Japan to Bangladesh Naoki Ito called on Foreign Minister Dr. A K Abdul Momen, MP on 11 December 2020 in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Dhaka

Newly appointed Ambassador of Japan to Bangladesh Naoki Ito called on Foreign Minister Dr. A K Abdul Momen, MP on 11 December 2020 in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Dhaka. During the meeting, they seized the opportunity to discuss all the major bilateral issues. Foreign Minister

thanked the Ambassador of Japan for concluding Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) on recruiting ‘Specified Skilled Workers’ from Bangladesh.

He requested for the support of Japan for early repatriation of the Rohingyas. Foreign Minister also mentioned that

He requested for the support of Japan for early repatriation of the Rohingyas. Foreign Minister also mentioned that Bangladesh was driving for the digital economy through Hi-Tech Parks in different places in the country which were ready for investment with all necessary off-site infrastructures.

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► *Ambassador of Turkey to Bangladesh Devrim Öztürk made farewell call on Foreign Minister Dr. A K Abdul Momen, MP in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Dhaka on 19 December 2019*

Ambassador of Turkey to Bangladesh Devrim Öztürk made farewell call on Foreign Minister Dr. A K Abdul Momen, MP in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Dhaka on 19 December 2019.

Foreign Minister expressed happiness at the existing friendly relations and bilateral engagements between the two countries. Both sides agreed to enhance cooperation in all possible sectors of mutual interest

including political issues, bilateral trade, investment, disaster management, education, culture, ICT sector, defense, energy and gas exploration, etc.

Foreign Minister thanked the Ambassador

for their continuous support extended to the Rohingyas including health support through establishment of Turkish field hospital in Cox's Bazar. He sought the support of the Turkish government in Rohingya repatriation.

Ambassador of China to Bangladesh Li Jiming paid a courtesy call on Foreign Minister Dr. A K Abdul Momen, MP on 26

December 2019 in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Dhaka. He deeply appreciated the proactive engagement of the Foreign Minister and underlined the importance of the bilateral consultation mechanisms to steer the meaningful cooperation between the two countries.

Foreign Minister recalled the signing of 27 bilateral instruments signed during

Chinese President Xi Jinping's visit to Bangladesh in 2016 when the existing bilateral relationship was elevated to strategic partnership. While appreciating Chinese humanitarian assistance for the forcefully displaced people of Rakhine State, Foreign Minister sought China's strong support so that Myanmar moves in the right direction for resolving the crisis.

STATE MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS ATTENDS 14TH ASEM FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEETING IN MADRID



► State Minister for Foreign Affairs Md. Shahriar Alam, MP addresses at 14th ASEM Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Madrid, Spain on 16 December 2019

State Minister for Foreign Affairs Md. Shahriar Alam, MP led the Bangladesh delegation to the 14th ASEM (Asia Europe Meeting) Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Madrid, Spain on 16 December 2019.

Bangladesh State Minister emphasized on the need of decisive global collective actions to ensure voluntary, safe, dignified and sustainable return of Rohingyas to their homeland in Myanmar. He flagged the humanitarian position taken by Bangladesh in providing shelter to the Rohingyas who have fled from their own country after state persecution. He insisted the international community to put pressure on Myanmar for ensuring accountability and justice for the atrocities committed

The Chair's statement, adopted by the Foreign Ministers of the ASEM Member Countries, called for a durable solution of the Rohingya crisis and for the creation of the conditions conducive to safe, dignified, sustainable and voluntary return of the Rohingyas. It also underlined the importance of ensuring accountability in this regard.

against the Rohingyas and for creating conducive environment in Myanmar which is necessary for the safe, dignified and sustainable repatriation process. The Chair's statement, adopted by the Foreign Ministers of the ASEM Member Countries, called for a durable solution of the Rohingya crisis and for the creation of the conditions conducive to safe, dignified, sustainable and voluntary return of the Rohingyas. It also underlined the importance of ensuring accountability in this regard.

In his intervention at the ASEM Foreign Ministers' Meeting which was inaugurated by the King of Spain, State Minister Md. Shahriar Alam, MP called upon the international community to address the issue of climate change on

most immediate basis. He explained the challenges faced by Bangladesh as a climate vulnerable country, and the initiatives taken by the present government under the leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to address these enormous challenges. He highlighted the achievements of Bangladesh, particularly in the area of

women empowerment and in ensuring gender parity.

On the sidelines of the ASEM FMM14, State Minister Md. Shahriar Alam, MP had bilateral meetings with the Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Ireland; Foreign Minister of Austria; Foreign Minister of Poland;

Foreign Minister of Indonesia; Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Russian Federation; Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Spain and Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Czech Republic. In the bilateral meetings, he invited the Foreign Ministers of ASEM Members States to invest in Bangladesh.

FOREIGN SECRETARY PARTICIPATES IN THE FIRST GLOBAL REFUGEE FORUM

Foreign Secretary Md. Shahidul Haque led Bangladesh delegation to the First Global Refugee Forum held in Geneva from 17-18 December 2019. He underscored that the Government of Bangladesh under the

leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina was doing its best to take care of the Rohingyas and had spent USD 628 million from its own resources since 2017 in addition to the allocation of 6500 acres of forested

land. He underlined that Myanmar must fulfill its obligation to create conducive environment for the repatriation of the forcibly displaced Rohingyas to their homeland in Myanmar.

BANGLADESH DELEGATION PARTICIPATES IN THE GAMBIA VS MYANMAR CASE AT THE ICJ



► Foreign Secretary Md. Shahidul Haque had meeting with the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court Fatou Bensouda on 11 December 2019 at the ICC Headquarters in The Hague

A Bangladesh Delegation of 11 members led by Foreign Secretary Md. Shahidul Haque attended the hearing of a case filed by Gambia on behalf of 57 OIC members against Myanmar in the International Court of Justice. Gambia filed the case on 11 November 2019 alleging violation of obligations under the 4th Genocide Convention. The hearing of the case started on 10 December 2019 with

Gambian lawyers presenting their case to the 17 judges of the ICJ. On 11 December, Myanmar Delegation led by Aung San Suu kyι made their presentation. On 12 December, Gambian lawyers made their rebuttal to the presentations made by Myanmar Delegation. Myanmar made the final observations and arguments on the same day.

In the sidelines of the Court attendance, Foreign Secretary met with the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court Fatou Bensouda on 11 December 2019 at the ICC Headquarters in The Hague.

The Prosecutor briefed on the 14 November 2019 Pre-Trial Chamber III's decision authorizing the commencement of an investigation into the situation

in Bangladesh/Myanmar pursuant to Article 15 of the Rome Statute. The Pre-Trial Chamber III had accepted that at least on 9 October 2016, members of the Tatmadaw (the Myanmar Armed Forces), jointly with other security forces and with some of the local civilians might have committed coercive acts that could qualify as the crimes against humanity on grounds of ethnicity and/or religion against the Rohingya population.

Earlier on 10 December, Bangladesh, Saudi Arabia, UAE and Malaysia jointly organized a reception at a local hotel in The Hague in honour of

Gambian Minister for Justice Abubakar Tambadou and Canada's Special Envoy to Myanmar Bob Rae. Foreign Secretary Md. Shahidul Haque, President of the International Criminal Court Judge Chile Eboe-Osuji, Director-General of the OPCW Ambassador Fernando Arias, Gambia's Legal Team, Dutch politicians and senior government officials, Ambassadors, members of diplomatic corps, representatives from The Hague-based international organizations, representative from the OIC Secretariat, members of international media and international civil society organizations,

Rohingya representatives, among others, joined the Reception.

The speakers including Canada's Special Envoy Bob Rae highly praised Bangladesh, in particular Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, for opening the borders to host the persecuted Rohingyas and extending generous supports towards them. Governments of all the countries and international community were urged to extend all possible support to Gambia to ensure justice for the victims of genocide committed against the Rohingyas in the Rakhine State by Myanmar authorities.

SECOND BANGLADESH-PHILIPPINES FOREIGN OFFICE CONSULTATIONS (FOC) HELD IN DHAKA



► *Second Bangladesh-Philippines Foreign Office Consultations (FOC) held in Dhaka on 03 December 2019*

Bangladesh and the Philippines had their second Foreign Office Consultations on bilateral relations on 03 December 2019 in Dhaka, Bangladesh. Masud Bin Momen, Secretary, Asia Pacific, of Ministry of

Foreign Affairs led the Bangladesh side, while Meynardo Montealegre, Assistant Secretary, Asia Pacific, of the Department of the Foreign Affairs, led the Filipino delegation. The discussions took an

inventory of the existing relations and charted future courses. Also, visiting Filipino delegation called on the State Minister for Foreign Affairs Md. Shahriar Alam, MP.

THE FIRST EXPERT EXCHANGE FOR NATIONAL IHL COMMITTEES IN ASIA HELD IN DHAKA

The first ever Expert Exchange for National IHL (International Humanitarian Law) Committees in Asia was held on 15 December 2019 in Dhaka with participation of representatives from 07 countries, namely, Afghanistan,

Bangladesh, Iran, Malaysia, Nepal, Philippines and Sri Lanka. Deputy Prime Minister of Nepal Upendra Yadav graced the inauguration along with the Head of ICRC delegation in Bangladesh.

The participants exchanged views and experiences on the role of the national committees in the implementation of international humanitarian principles in their respective countries in terms of legislation, capacity building and

A Chair's summary was finally adopted. NIHLC is a committee that advises and assists governments in implementing and spreading knowledge of IHL. ICRC supports the NIHLC for effective implementation of IHL. Bangladesh has established its National IHL Committee in May 2014.

dissemination of IHL principles among key stakeholders. The issue of Rohingya humanitarian crisis was discussed in the programme. The participants expressed their unequivocal appreciation to the government of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for hosting over one million Rohingya people in Bangladesh. Recognizing the enormity of the crisis and different dimensions of the humanitarian response in that area, the participants opined that the National IHL Committee can extend their support to the national stakeholders during the humanitarian crisis of this nature.

Taking into account the 70th anniversary of Geneva conventions and related international instruments that form the concept of international humanitarian law, the meeting acknowledged the need for stronger commitment to increase awareness and respect of IHL principles. A Chair's summary was finally adopted. NIHLC is a committee that advises and assists governments in implementing and spreading knowledge of IHL. ICRC supports the NIHLC for effective implementation of IHL. Bangladesh has established its National IHL Committee in May 2014.

PUBLIC DIPLOMACY INITIATIVES OF THE MINISTRY

External Publicity Wing of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs arranged a 'Visit Bangladesh' programme in December 2019. 36 dignitaries from 20 countries visited Bangladesh from 14 to 21 December 2019. The participants visited the National Shaheed Minar, the National Museum, the Liberation War Museum, the Father of

the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Memorial Museum, Bangabandhu Mausoleum at Tungipara, Gopalganj and the Sixty Dome Mosque in Bagerhat. They called on Foreign Minister, Information Minister and State Minister for Foreign Affairs. They witnessed the Victory Day parade on 16 December 2019 at the National

Parade Ground. They also travelled through the Sundarbans from 19 and 20 December 2019. It was a rare opportunity for the participants to know about the country which inspired them to make positive reports on Bangladesh in the media of their respective countries. A gallery of photographs of the event follows next:



GALLERY OF PHOTOGRAPHS OF 'VISIT BANGLADESH 2019'



Group photo with HFM



At Bangabandhu Mausoleum



At Shaheed Minar



At the Sundarbans

SEMINAR TITLED ‘RESPONSIBLE CITIZEN, PROSPEROUS COUNTRY’ HELD IN ANKARA



Participants of a seminar titled ‘Responsible Citizen, Prosperous Country’ held in Ankara, Turkey on 01 December 2019

As a part of the ‘World Conference’ Series-2019 a seminar titled ‘Responsible Citizen, Prosperous Country’ was jointly organized by the NRB Centre in Dhaka and Bangladesh Embassy in Ankara on 01 December 2019 at a local hotel in Ankara. Bangladeshi students in Turkey and the Embassy officials attended the seminar.

The Adviser to Prime Minister for Economic Affairs Dr. Mashiur Rahman graced the event as the Chief Guest. Bangladesh Ambassador to Turkey M. Allama Siddiki chaired the programme.

Dr. Mashiur Rahman shared with the audience the development journey of Bangladesh under the strong and far-sighted leadership of Prime

The Adviser to Prime Minister for Economic Affairs Dr. Mashiur Rahman graced the event as the Chief Guest. Bangladesh Ambassador to Turkey M. Allama Siddiki chaired the programme.

Minister Sheikh Hasina. He informed them about the initiatives taken by the present Government for the betterment of living conditions of the Bangladeshi expatriates at home and abroad. Ambassador M. Allama Siddiki mentioned of the contribution of the Bangladeshi expatriates to the socio-economic development of the country.

BANGLADESH AMBASSADOR PRESENTS CREDENTIALS TO CUBAN PRESIDENT



► Bangladesh Ambassador to Brazil Md. Zulfiqur Rahman, concurrently accredited to Cuba, presented his credentials to the Cuban President Miguel Mario Díaz-Canel Bermúdez in Havana on 06 December 2019

Bangladesh Ambassador to Brazil Md. Zulfiqur Rahman, concurrently accredited to Cuba, presented his credentials to the Cuban President Miguel Mario Díaz-Canel Bermúdez in Havana on 06 December 2019. Ambassador conveyed greetings of the President and the Prime Minister of Bangladesh to the Cuban President and also conveyed the warm wishes of the people of Bangladesh to

the Cuban people. Ambassador recalled the historic meeting between the Greatest Leader of the Bengali nation, the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and the Cuban Great Leader Fidel Castro in Algiers in 1973 and referred to the world-famous statement of Fidel Castro, “I have not seen the Himalayas. But I have seen Sheikh Mujib. In personality and in courage, this man

is the Himalayas. I have thus had the experience of witnessing the Himalayas.”

In order to immortalize the historical friendship between Bangabandhu and Fidel Castro, and also to have a permanent display of Bangladesh in Cuba, Ambassador Md. Zulfiqur Rahman proposed to build a bust of Bangabandhu in Havana which was readily agreed upon by the Cuban President.

CONSUL GENERAL IN ISTANBUL TALKS ON BANGLADESH ISSUES

Consul General in Istanbul Mohammad Monirul Islam gave a talk at the prestigious diplomatic lecture series in Islamic Cooperation Youth Forum of Istanbul on 06 December 2019 in the presence of the participants of 70 representatives of different countries. He highlighted the growing significance of

the Asia-Pacific/Indo-Pacific region in terms of politics, economy and security and rising importance of Bangladesh at the international stage and to the global actors.

Consul General gave another talk on various dimensions of Bangladesh's foreign relations in a session titled

'Bangladesh's Issues and position: Regional and International Context' at Yeditepe University on 13 December 2019. He highlighted the successes of Bangladesh on a number of issues, capturing global attention as well as the current status of Bangladesh-Turkey bilateral relations and way forward.

BANGLADESH EMBASSY IN LISBON ORGANIZES 'BANGLADESH PITHA UTSAB'



► Various types of pithas and other food items were displayed in the 'Bangladesh Pitha Utsab' held in Albufeira, Portugal on 21 December 2019

Bangladesh Embassy in Lisbon organized 'Bangladesh Pitha Utsab' at the grand hall-room of Espaço Multiusos de Albufeira (EMA) in Albufeira, a city in the Algarve region of Portugal on 21 December 2019 to showcase the rich tradition and heritage of Bangladesh. More than 300

guests including the nationals of different countries and expatriate Bangladeshis living in that region attended the festival.

Various types of pithas including vapa, puli, chittoi, pakon, patishapta, nakshi, etc. were served in around 25 varieties (steamed, fried and dudh-pitha). In

addition, jhal-muri, chanachur, paju, patali gurer payes, semai, khichuri and mutton-biriyani were also served. The guests hugely appreciated Bangladeshi pithas and other food and praised about the rich culinary tradition of the Bengali people.

CONSUL GENERAL MEETS WITH THE DEAN OF THE CONSULAR CORPS IN LOS ANGELES



Consul General Tareque Muhammad held a courtesy meeting with the Dean of the Consular Corps and Consul General of Azerbaijan Nasimi Aghayev on 11 December 2019 at the Consulate General of Azerbaijan in Los Angeles

Consul General Tareque Muhammad held a courtesy meeting with the Dean of the Consular Corps and Consul General of Azerbaijan Nasimi Aghayev on 11 December 2019 at the Consulate General of Azerbaijan in Los Angeles. They discussed the current political and economic scenario of their respective countries. The Dean of

the Consular Corps highly commended Bangladesh for its remarkable progress especially in the Socio- economic sector. The Consul General briefed the Dean about the current status of Rohingya issue and requested him for building pressure on Myanmar through OIC, UN and other international bodies. They also discussed

about the NAM summit recently held in Baku where Prime Minister of Bangladesh participated. Both the Consuls General expressed their satisfactions on the friendly relations between Bangladesh and Azerbaijan. Both of them assured each other for their cooperation and support during their stay in Los Angeles.

BANGLADESH AMBASSADOR CALLS ON THE FOREIGN MINISTER OF MALDIVES



► Bangladesh Ambassador presented a Book on the life of Bangabandhu to the Foreign Minister of Maldives on 03 December 2019

Bangladesh Ambassador to Maldives Rear Admiral Akhtar Habib called on the Foreign Minister of Maldives Abdulla Shahid on 03 December 2019. During the meeting, Bangladesh Ambassador focused on various issues including the land size allocated for the construction of the Bangladesh Chancery Building, the early action to sign in the MoU on the Manpower between Bangladesh

and Maldives, the early steps to sign in the MoU on the Fisheries and Pelagic Fishing between Bangladesh and Maldives and the appropriate steps to sign in the MoU on the Coastal Shipping between Bangladesh and Maldives. Foreign Minister of Maldives assured to take necessary and quick steps for the raised issues and also sought all-out support of the Bangladesh Embassy

for the Maldivian government's ongoing legalization process for the undocumented Bangladeshi expatriates.

Bangladesh Ambassador assured the Foreign Minister of Maldives regarding the support required to expedite the legalization process. At the end, he presented a book to the Foreign Minister on the life of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

BANGLADESH EMBASSY IN MALE' ARRANGES PROGRAMMES TO CELEBRATE "DIGITAL BANGLADESH DAY-2019" AND TO PORTRAY POSITIVE IMAGE OF BANGLADESH

Bangladesh Embassy in Male' organized a special program to celebrate the 3rd "Digital Bangladesh Day-2019" on 12 December 2019 in the multipurpose hall of the Embassy. The theme of the

day was "Share Internet Contents after verifying the truth and falsehood". A good number of Bangladeshi expatriates and officials of the Embassy were present. Video clips were screened depicting

the astonishing development of ICT sector of Bangladesh. Ambassador Rear Admiral Akhtar Habib was the Chief Guest. He delivered a speech presenting the foundation of Digital Bangladesh,



► Participants in the multipurpose hall of the Embassy in Male' are watching video clips on the e-services provided by the Bangladesh Government on 12 December 2019

connectivity, promotion of ICT industry, e-governance, knowledge-based economy and manpower development.

The Embassy organized another special programme on 18 December 2019 in Male' to portray the positive image of

Bangladesh. A good number of high profile government and private officials and business personnel of Maldives including Embassy officials and staffs attended the function. Two video presentations were screened focusing on the growth and development of Bangladesh to achieve

Vision 2021 and Vision 2041. Ambassador Rear Admiral Akhtar Habib was the Chief Guest. He briefed the participants about the extraordinary socio-economic progress and prosperity of Bangladesh under the present Government.

BANGLADESH EMBASSY IN SEOUL PRESENTS TWO RICKSHAWS AS PART OF PUBLIC DIPLOMACY



The Embassy also presented Bangladeshi traditional clothes, saree and Panjabi, to the office of the Mayor. The second Rickshaw was handed over to the Director of Multicultural Museum in Seoul Kim Yun Tae so that the visitors could learn about the cultural tradition of Bangladesh.

► Bangladesh Embassy in Seoul presented one Rickshaw, one saree and one panjabi to the Mayor of the Yongsan City Sung Jang-hyun on 09 December 2019

Bangladesh Embassy in Seoul presented two Bangladeshi Rickshaws to the Korean authorities as part of its public diplomacy initiative. The first one was handed over to the Mayor of

the Yongsan City Sung Jang-hyun on 09 December 2019. The Embassy also presented Bangladeshi traditional clothes, saree and Panjabi, to the office of the Mayor. The second Rickshaw

was handed over to the Director of Multicultural Museum in Seoul Kim Yun Tae so that the visitors could learn about the cultural tradition of Bangladesh.

AMBASSADOR SHEIKH MOHAMMED BELAL ELECTED AS THE MANAGING DIRECTOR OF THE CFC

Bangladesh's nominee Sheikh Mohammed Belal, Ambassador of Bangladesh to the Netherlands has been elected for four years as the Managing Director of the Common Fund for Commodities (CFC). CFC is an autonomous intergovernmental financial institution with 101 member States and 09 member organizations established within the framework of the United Nations. It is mandated to enhance the socio-economic development of commodity producers

and contribute to the development of society as a whole through projects financed from its own resources.

The election took place on 04 December 2019 during the 31st Annual Meeting of the Governing Council of the CFC held in The Hague, where member States decided by consensus from a list of six candidates by vote. Bangladesh, the Netherlands, UK, Russia, China, Germany, Italy, Brazil, Argentina, India, Pakistan,

Saudi Arabia, UAE, Egypt, Indonesia, Malaysia, the European Union, African Union, etc. are the members of CFC.

Ambassador Sheikh Mohammed Belal's election as the Managing Director of CFC manifests the appreciation, by the international community, of our success in socio-economic emancipation and commitment to the attainment of SDGs by 2030.

BANGLADESH MISSIONS ABROAD OBSERVE THE INTERNATIONAL MIGRANTS DAY 2019



► Bangladesh Embassy in Athens, Greece conferred 'Remittance Awards' to honour and recognize the remittance senders who send remittance through legal channels on 18 December, 2019

To observe the International Migrants Day 2019 on 18 December, Bangladesh Embassy in Athens, Greece conferred 'Remittance Awards' in three categories: male, female and organizations to honour and recognize the remittance senders who send remittance through legal channels.

The Mission has been conferring this award since 2016. The Bangladeshi expatriates described this as a milestone initiative.

Bangladesh High Commission in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia organized a

discussion on 20 December 2019 where the welfare activities undertaken by the government including 2% cash incentive on remittance were elaborated in details. More than 300 expatriate workers attended the event.



► Bangladesh High Commission in Port Louis, Mauritius organized a cultural programme on 18 December 2019 to mark the International Migrants Day

Bangladesh High Commission in Port Louis, Mauritius and International Organization for Migration (IOM), Mauritius jointly organized a discussion on the International Migrants Day 2019

in which the Attorney General and Minister of Agro-Industry and Food Security of the Republic of Mauritius Maneesh GOBIN was the Chief Guest. At the end of the programme a cultural

event was also organized where the expatriate workers from different factories performed. The performance was thoroughly enjoyed by the audience.



► Bangladesh Embassy in Seoul, Republic of Korea organized a cultural programme on 22 December 2019 to mark the International Migrants Day

Bangladesh Embassy in Seoul, Republic of Korea accorded mementos to 21 Bangladeshi EPS workers in five different categories and 05 Korean employers for employing the highest number of Bangladeshi EPS workers under a single establishment while celebrating

the '2019 International Migrants Day'. Over 200 guests including high ranking officials from KCOMWEL, Kbiz, KEB Hana Bank, Labor Attaches from other Embassies, Bangladeshi EPS workers and members of Bangladesh community were present at the event. The guests enjoyed

the cultural performances of "Srishti Cultural Academy", a prominent dance group of Bangladesh and Bangladeshi artists living in South Korea. The event came to an end by offering of traditional Bangladeshi cuisine to the invited guests.

5TH JOINT GROUP OF CUSTOMS MEETING HELD IN THIMPHU

The 5th Joint Group of Customs meeting between Bangladesh and Bhutan was held in Thimphu on 18-19 December 2019 to discuss and resolve customs related issues for facilitating trade, commerce

and investment and also for further promoting the relation between the two friendly countries. Member (Customs Audit, Modernization and International Trade) of the National Board of Revenue led

the Bangladeshi delegation while Director General of Department of Revenue and Customs of Bhutan led the Bhutanese delegation. The next JGC meeting will be held in 2020 in Bangladesh.

BANGLADESH DELEGATION ATTENDS A CONFERENCE IN VIETNAM

From 4-7 December 2019 a team of Bangladesh Delegation headed by State Minister for Woman and Children Affairs Fazilatun Nessa Indria attended the 'Asia Pacific Regional Early

Childhood Development Conference' in Vietnam. Bangladesh Delegation mentioned about the initiatives taken by the Government on early childhood development, particularly on the

development of the autistic children, citing the leadership role of Saima Wazed Putul, the blessed daughter of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

BANGLADESH-VIETNAM 2ND JTC MEETING HELD IN HANOI



► Bangladesh-Vietnam Second Joint Trade Committee (JTC) meeting held in Hanoi from 26-27 December 2019

Bangladesh Embassy in Hanoi plays a great role in the signing of agreed minutes of the Bangladesh-Vietnam Second Joint Trade Committee (JTC) meeting held in Hanoi from 26-27 December 2019. The issues they discussed were pharmaceutical exports from Bangladesh;

agricultural trade; Vietnamese investment in Bangladesh's Special Economic Zones; ICT sector cooperation; joint venture in textile and garments sector; direct air link; promotion in jute and jute goods; banking sector cooperation; trade in halal products; rice import and trade in tourism

sector cooperation with the target to enhance the business worth of \$ 1 billion to \$ 2 billion by the year 2021. Both sides concluded to an understanding to explore the scope of trade and investment in the fields where both the countries would be highly benefited.

BANGLADESH MISSIONS ABROAD CELEBRATE 'GLORIOUS VICTORY DAY 2019'

All Bangladesh Missions abroad celebrated 'Glorious Victory Day 2019' on 16 December with due reverence and in a befitting manner. The events included hoisting of National flag at the Mission premises in the morning, offering of special prayer, observing one minute

silence as a mark of respect to the martyrs, paying homage to the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and the martyrs of the liberation war, reading out messages from the President, Prime Minister, Foreign Minister and State Minister for Foreign Affairs, screening of

documentary on Bangladesh's liberation struggle, discussion, art competition, 'Bijoy Ful' making competition, quiz contest and staging cultural programme. A gallery of photographs of different Missions celebrating 'Glorious Victory Day 2019' is as follows:



Participants of the Victory Day's discussion held in Bangladesh Embassy, Ankara



Participants of the Victory Day's discussion held in Bangladesh Embassy, Athens



Participants of the Victory Day's discussion held in Bangladesh Embassy, Hanoi



Participants of the Victory Day's discussion held in Bangladesh Permanent Mission, Geneva



An artist was performing in the Victory Day's cultural programme held in Bangladesh High Commission, Islamabad



Artists were performing in the Victory Day's cultural programme held in Bangladesh Consulate General, Istanbul



High Commissioner was hoisting the National flag on the Victory Day in Bangladesh High Commission, Kuala Lumpur



Players of the Victory Day football match organized by Bangladesh Embassy, Lisbon



Consul General was placing flower wreath at the portray of Bangabandhu in Bangladesh Consulate General, Los Angeles



Artists were performing in the Victory Day's cultural programme held in Bangladesh Embassy, Male



Ambassador was hoisting the National flag on the Victory Day in Bangladesh Embassy, Paris



Artists were performing in the Victory Day's cultural programme held in Bangladesh High Commission, Port Louis



Artists were performing in the Victory Day's cultural programme held in Bangladesh Embassy, Seoul



Artists were performing in the Victory Day's cultural programme held in Bangladesh High Commission, Singapore



Artists were performing in the Victory Day's cultural programme held in Bangladesh Embassy, The Hague



Ambassador was hoisting the National flag on the Victory Day in Bangladesh Embassy, Thimphu

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