

FOREIGN OFFICE

BRIEFING NOTES

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

NOVEMBER 2019



“I hope, this Dialogue would substantially contribute to the socio-economic development and in maintaining security of the countries in Asia and the Pacific region”

PRIME MINISTER INAUGURATES DHAKA GLOBAL DIALOGUE 2019



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is delivering speech in the inaugural session of the Dhaka Global Dialogue 2019 at a local hotel in Dhaka on 11 November 2019

The first ever Dhaka Global Dialogue was held on 11-13 November 2019 in Dhaka, organized by the Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies (BISS) and the Observer Research Foundation (ORF), India. The Foreign Service Academy acted as the focal point on behalf of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. On 11 November 2019 Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina inaugurated the event.

700 participants along with 150 representatives from around 50 countries participated in that event. Foreign Minister, State Minister for Foreign Affairs and the Foreign Secretary participated in the Dialogue as panelists in a number of sessions.

The Dialogue emphasized on both of the evolving political order and the associated institutional framework demonstrating the full depth of human-first growth and development policy paradigm. It stressed the pivotal role of Bangladesh as per its overarching “Vision 2041”. If focused on attaining the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of countries, such

as Bangladesh, responding to their people’s aspirations in a manner that is sustainable, equitable and ‘leaving no one behind’. It was mentioned that Bangladesh, through its magnificent achievements in economic growth, social progress and women’s empowerment, had already pinnacled as a ‘role model of development’ for many countries in the region and beyond notwithstanding manifold restraints. Bangladesh will be one of the crucial actors of the Asian century and therefore creating an ‘ideas arena’ to discuss key developments and challenges in Dhaka was an acknowledgement of its role in this Dialogue.

PRIME MINISTER SHEIKH HASINA VISITS INDIA



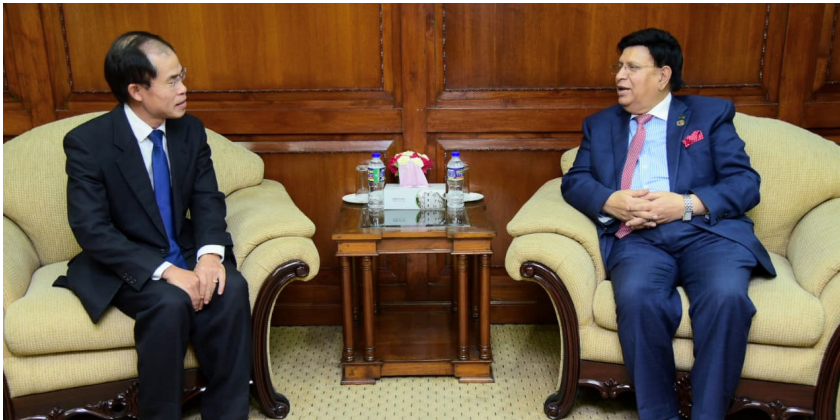
► Chief Minister of West Bengal Mamata Banerjee calls on Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in Kolkata on 22 November 2019

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina visited Kolkata, India on 22 November 2019 at the invitation of the Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the President of BCCI (Board of Control

for Cricket in India) Sourav Ganguly to inaugurate the first ever day-night test match with pink ball. Sheikh Hasina enjoyed the first innings of the match from the gallery. Chief Minister of

West Bengal Mamata Banerjee called on the Bangladesh Prime Minister at her place of residence where both the leaders discussed many issues of bilateral interests.

VIETNAM AND THAI AMBASSADORS CALL ON FOREIGN MINISTER



The outgoing Ambassador of Vietnam to Bangladesh Tran Van Khoa called on Foreign Minister Dr. A K Abdul Momen, MP at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 4 November 2019

The outgoing Ambassador of Vietnam to Bangladesh Tran Van Khoa called on Foreign Minister Dr. A K Abdul Momen, MP at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 4 November 2019.

Foreign Minister congratulated the Vietnam Ambassador on the successful

completion of his assignment in Dhaka. He urged upon Vietnam to invest in the economic zones and hi-tech parks of Bangladesh as Bangladesh offered the most attractive investment package among the competing regional countries. He sought Vietnam's support on the

He urged upon Vietnam to invest in the economic zones and hi-tech parks of Bangladesh as Bangladesh offered the most attractive investment package among the competing regional countries.

Rohingya issue within ASEAN framework of which Vietnam is likely to take over as the chair from January 2020. Ambassador Khoa thanked the Foreign Minister for the support during his assignment in Dhaka. He assured to convey to the Headquarters Bangladesh's concerns on the Rohingya

issue and play a positive role as ASEAN chair for a safe, secured and dignified repatriation of the Rohingya.

The newly appointed Ambassador

of Thailand to Bangladesh Arunrung Phothong Humphreys called on Foreign Minister Dr. A K Abdul Momen, MP at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 5 November

2019. Foreign Minister congratulated the Ambassador on her appointment in Dhaka and assured all out support in discharge of her responsibilities.



The newly appointed Ambassador of Thailand to Bangladesh Arunrung Phothong Humphreys called on Foreign Minister Dr. A K Abdul Momen, MP at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 5 November 2019

The Ambassador informed that her mission had already sent a proposal to Bangkok to explore the possibility of investing in the healthcare sector of Bangladesh.

Dr. Momen suggested Thailand to invest in Bangladesh, particularly in constructing joint venture hospitals, so that the huge trade imbalance between the two counties could be minimized. He requested the Thai Ambassador to organize training sessions and technical capacity building programmes on tourism in Bangladesh.

He also sought a pro-active role from Thailand on the repatriation of the Rohingyas.

The Ambassador informed that her mission had already sent a proposal to Bangkok to explore the possibility of investing in the healthcare sector of Bangladesh. She

assured to provide Thailand’s technical support in Bangladesh’s tourism sector. She mentioned that the Thai Embassy in Dhaka was planning to hold a Business Forum either in Dhaka or in Bangkok soon. She also assured to remain engaged on the Rohingya issue and to convey Dhaka’s concerns to her headquarters.

DR. BAN KI-MOON MEETS WITH FOREIGN MINISTER DR. A K ABDUL MOMEN, MP



► *Former Secretary General of the United Nations Ban Ki-moon met with Foreign Minister Dr. A K Abdul Momen, MP on a courtesy call at a local hotel in Dhaka on 23 November 2019*

Former Secretary General of the United Nations Dr. Ban Ki-moon met with Foreign Minister Dr. A K Abdul Momen, MP on a courtesy call at a local hotel in Dhaka on 23 November

2019. They discussed various issues including the grave danger of climate change and the possible adaptation measures to fight its adverse effects, Rohingya crisis, the establishment

of a regional office of Global Centre on Adaptation in Dhaka and possible leadership role of Bangladesh at Climate Vulnerable Forum.

FOREIGN MINISTER INAUGURATES SMART NID CARD AND VOTER ENROLMENT SERVICES AT BANGLADESH EMBASSY IN ABU DHABI

Foreign Minister Dr. A K Abdul Momen, MP inaugurated the Smart NID card and voter enrolment services at Bangladesh Embassy in Abu Dhabi on 17 November 2019. He commented that the facility, being provided at doorstep of the expatriates, would reduce the hassles for them. He encouraged the Bangladeshi expatriates to send more remittance to Bangladesh as the government was providing lucrative

incentives to the remitters. He urged the expatriate nationals to help in presenting positive image about Bangladesh from abroad.

Foreign Minister mentioned that the provision of Smart NID card service was a long felt expectation of the Bangladeshi nationals living in the UAE and it would ensure them access to various services. Five Smart NID

cards were distributed among five Bangladeshi expatriates. It was the first ever such distribution of Smart NID cards to expatriates from any Mission of Bangladesh abroad.

Director General (NID) of the National Election Commission, officials of the Foreign Ministry and Bangladesh Embassy in Abu Dhabi were present in the programme.

NEWLY JOINED AMBASSADOR OF JAPAN MEETS WITH THE STATE MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS



He requested for the support of Japan on the early repatriation of the forcefully displaced Myanmar nationals to Bangladesh.

► *The newly appointed Ambassador of Japan to Bangladesh Naoki Ito called on the State Minister for Foreign Affairs Md. Shahriar Alam, MP at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 19 November 2019*

The newly appointed Ambassador of Japan to Bangladesh Naoki Ito called on the State Minister for Foreign Affairs Md. Shahriar Alam, MP at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 19 November 2019.

State Minister thanked the Ambassador for concluding Memorandum of

Cooperation (MoC) on recruiting ‘Specified Skilled Workers’ by Japan from Bangladesh. He expressed confidence that it would be beneficial for both the countries. He requested for the support of Japan on the early repatriation of the forcefully displaced Myanmar nationals to Bangladesh.

Both the State Minister and the Ambassador expressed confidence that the regular holding of the Public Private Economic Dialogue (PPED) between the two countries would deepen the economic cooperation and would attract increased investment to Bangladesh from Japan.

FOREIGN MINISTRY JOINTLY ORGANIZES A SEMINAR ON THE PREVENTION OF MONEY LAUNDERING AND COMBATING FINANCING OF TERRORISM



Guests of a seminar on 'National Strategy for Prevention of Money Laundering and Combating Financing of Terrorism 2019-2021' held on 17 November 2019 at a hotel in Dhaka

Ministry of Foreign Affairs along with Financial Institutions Division of the Ministry of Finance, Bangladesh Bank and Bangladesh Financial Intelligence Unit (BFIU) organized a seminar on 'National Strategy for Prevention of Money Laundering and Combating Financing of Terrorism 2019-2021' on 17 November 2019 at a hotel in Dhaka. Finance Minister was the Chief Guest of the event while State Minister for Foreign Affairs was present as the Special Guest. The Governor of Bangladesh Bank moderated the seminar. Among others, Senior Secretary of the Financial Institutions Division, Chairman of National

Board of Revenue (NBR), Chairman of the Anti-Corruption Commission, Additional Inspector General of Police (IGP), members of NCC and Working Committee, ambassadors of different foreign Missions in Bangladesh were present in the seminar.

The seminar was held in order to raise awareness among the stakeholders on the National Strategy for Prevention of Money Laundering and Combating Financing of Terrorism for the term 2019-2021. This Strategy is a well-articulated roadmap for implementations of action plans in an organized manner for Prevention of Money Laundering and Combating

Financing of Terrorism. The aims of the formulation of the national strategy are to stem illicit flow of funds and trade-based money laundering, develop an effective judicial system and maintain strict AML and CFT compliance by the reporting organization. This national strategy paper has 11 strategies and 137 action items.

The seminar focused on the effective implementation of all strategies through proper coordination among responsible agencies and collective efforts. Speakers of the seminar urged the world community to work together for preventing money laundering and terrorist financing.

THE FIRST FOREIGN OFFICE CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN BANGLADESH AND ETHIOPIA HELD IN DHAKA

The first-ever Foreign Office Consultations (FOC) between Bangladesh and Ethiopia was held in Dhaka on 26 November 2019. Foreign Secretary Md. Shahidul Haque led the Bangladesh delegation while the Ethiopian delegation was led by Ambassador Mahlet Hailu Guadye, Permanent Secretary (Foreign Secretary), Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ethiopia.

The meeting covered the whole gamut of bilateral issues including political relations and enhanced cooperation especially in the fields of trade and investment, education, culture, agriculture, textiles, pharmaceuticals and peace-keeping under the UN. Bangladesh Foreign Secretary shared some of the success stories of the country

The meeting covered the whole gamut of bilateral issues including political relations and enhanced cooperation especially in the fields of trade and investment, education, culture, agriculture, textiles, pharmaceuticals and peace-keeping under the UN.

in the economic and social sectors and informed the Ethiopian delegation about the provisions and privileges of foreign

investment in Bangladesh. Both sides stressed on the need for a framework of co-operation and consultation. The Ethiopian Foreign Secretary applauded the remarkable socio-economic growth of Bangladesh in the recent years.

Before the consultations, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Bilateral Consultations between the Foreign Ministries of the two countries was signed by the respective Foreign Secretaries.

Ambassador of Bangladesh to Ethiopia, Director General (Africa) of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and a number of senior officials from different government ministries and organizations were present at the FOC.

SAIDA MUNA TASNEEM PRESENTS CREDENTIALS TO IRISH PRESIDENT MICHAEL DANIEL HIGGINS



► High Commissioner of Bangladesh to the United Kingdom Saida Muna Tasneem presented her letter of credence to Irish President Michael Daniel Higgins as a non-resident Ambassador of Bangladesh to Ireland on 20 November 2019

Bangladesh High Commissioner to the UK Saida Muna Tasneem presented her letter of credence to Irish President Michael Daniel Higgins at his residence Áras an Uachtaráin in Dublin on 20

November 2019 as a non-resident ambassador of Bangladesh to Ireland.

Bangladesh Ambassador conveyed the warm greetings of President Md. Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister

Sheikh Hasina to the Irish President and reaffirmed her commitment to further developing the excellent bilateral relations existing since Bangladesh's recognition by Ireland in early 1972.

“BANGLA BOND” IS LISTED IN LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE



'To Ring The Bell' ceremony of listing of 'Bangla Bond' in the London Stock Exchange on 11 November 2019

The International Finance Corporation (IFC), a sister concern of the World Bank, floated the first-ever Bangladeshi Taka - “Bangla Bond” in the London Stock Exchange (LSE). ‘To Ring The Bell’ ceremony of listing of the bond was held on 11 November 2019 followed by an ‘Investor’s Roundtable’

to showcase Bangladesh’s growth story and investment opportunities. Bangladesh High Commission in London also organized a “Bangladesh Investment Dialogue” on the same day to celebrate the “To Ring The Bell” ceremony of the listing of the “Bangla Bond”. Finance Minister AHM Mustafa

Bangladesh High Commission in London also organized a “Bangladesh Investment Dialogue” on the same day to celebrate the “To Ring The Bell” ceremony of the listing of the “Bangla Bond”.

Kamal, Prime Minister’s Adviser on Private Industry and Investment Salman F Rahman and High Commissioner of Bangladesh to the United Kingdom Saida Muna Tasneem attended the enlistment ceremony and the investment dialogue.

BANGLADESH HIGH COMMISSION, LONDON ORGANIZED A SEMINAR ON ‘SHIP RECYCLING’



Bangladesh High Commission organized a seminar titled “Ship Recycling for Sustainable Development: Perspective from Bangladesh and the Region” in London on 21 November 2019

Bangladesh High Commission, London organized a seminar titled “Ship Recycling for Sustainable Development: Perspective from Bangladesh and the Region” at the sidelines of the International Maritime Organization’s (IMO) 30th extraordinary council session held at the IMO Headquarters in London on 21 November

2019. Bangladesh High Commissioner to the United Kingdom and Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the IMO Saida Muna Tasneem moderated the seminar. Kitack Lim, Secretary-General of IMO graced the event as the Guest of Honour. Director-General of Department of Shipping, Bangladesh Commodore

the environmental and occupational hazards were merely the aspect on the surface, whereas, from deep inside, the ship recycling industry was inherently a green industry”.

Syed Ariful Islam presented the key-note paper on Bangladesh’s ship recycling and shipbuilding industries. Md. Abdus Samad, Secretary, Ministry of Shipping and the Head of Bangladesh delegation to the IMO Extraordinary Session, chaired the seminar.

In her opening remark, Bangladesh High Commissioner said that the world should

have a fresh look at the ship recycling, instead of projecting it as dirty industry. She mentioned that the environmental and occupational hazards were merely the

aspect on the surface, whereas, from deep inside, the ship recycling industry was inherently a green industry". She assured of Bangladesh's strong commitment to

reducing the local environmental and occupational hazards associated with ship breaking.

UNESCO WILL CELEBRATE THE BIRTH CENTENARY OF BANGABANDHU SHEIKH MUJIBUR RAHMAN



► Bangladesh delegation after the declaration of UNESCO's association with the Birth Centenary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on 25 November 2019

UNESCO formally adopted Bangladesh's proposal on 25 November 2019 to celebrate the Birth Centenary of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in 2020. In February 2019, Bangladesh submitted the proposal to UNESCO which was co-sponsored by Cuba, India, Japan, Nepal and Poland. The Permanent

Delegation of Bangladesh to UNESCO had closely coordinated and negotiated the issue with UNESCO Secretariat and its Member States to secure their supports for the final adoption of the proposal. Bangladesh Delegation was deeply engaged at different stages of the approval process including recommendation of the 206th Executive

Board (3-17 April, 2019), approval of the Administrative, Program and External Relations (APX) Commission under the 40th General Conference (13 November 2019) and adoption of the proposal of Bangladesh by the General Conference of UNESCO on 25 November 2019 as a formal and final decision.

SECRET DOCUMENTS OF THE INTELLIGENCE BRANCH ON BANGABANDHU GIVEN TO QUEENS LIBRARY



► Bangladesh Consul General in New York Sadia Faizunnesa hands over the first 3 volumes of the 'Secret Documents of Intelligence Branch on Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman' to the Queens Library's Chief Librarian Nick Buron in New York on 15 November 2019

Bangladesh Consul General in New York Sadia Faizunnesa formally handed over the first 3 volumes of the 'Secret Documents of Intelligence Branch on Father of the Nation

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman' to the Queens Library's Chief Librarian Nick Buron in New York on 15 November 2019. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina edited the

book written on Bangabandhu on the basis of intelligence report from 1948 to 1971. From now on these books will be displayed in the library.

NATIONAL ACTION PLAN ON WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY (2019-2022) LAUNCHED



► National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security (2019-2022) was launched on 24 November 2019 at a hotel in Dhaka

The first National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security (2019-2022) was launched on 24 November 2019 at a hotel in Dhaka. Ministry of Foreign Affairs and UN Women jointly organized the launching ceremony. Foreign Secretary, Secretary

of the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs, Principal Staff Officer of Armed Forces Division, Country Representative of UN Women Bangladesh, Special Envoy for Women, Peace and Security of Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs,

Executive Director of Bangladesh Nari Progati Sangha (BNPS) attended the event. Director General (UN) of Foreign Ministry moderated the event. She also made a brief presentation on the National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security.

NIGERIA-BANGLADESH FRIENDSHIP CLUB LAUNCHED DURING THE FIRST EVER JOINT CULTURAL NIGHT



► Former Nigerian Foreign Minister Prof. Ibrahim Agboola Gambari, Bangladesh High Commissioner Md. Shameem Ahsan and the Director General of National Council of Arts and Culture, Nigeria Otunba Runsewe cut a cake to mark the launching of the Nigeria-Bangladesh Friendship Club on 26 November 2019 in Abuja

Bangladesh and Nigeria jointly held a cultural night at the FCT Exhibition Auditorium, Abuja on 26 November 2019 which marked the first ever joint performance by the artistes of the two friendly countries. Around 300 guests including dignitaries, elected officials, Ambassadors/High Commissioners, journalists, members of the civil society, leaders of the business community, representatives of various social and

cultural organizations and members of the Bangladesh diaspora attended the event.

Md. Shameem Ahsan, Bangladesh High Commissioner to Nigeria remarked that the day would be considered as one of the most memorable days in the history of bilateral relations between Bangladesh and Nigeria. He thanked Otunba Runsewe, Director General of National Council of Arts and Culture (NCAC), Nigeria for his generous support to make it happen. In the

midst of the programme, Prof. Ibrahim Agboola Gambari, former Nigerian Foreign Minister cut a cake together with the High Commissioner of Bangladesh and the Director General, NCAC to mark the launching of the Nigeria-Bangladesh Friendship Club. Stellar performances by the artists of the cultural troupes from Bangladesh and Nigeria enthralled the audience. The guests were served with traditional cuisine of the two countries.

BANGLADESH EMBASSY PARTICIPATES AT THE 'CHRISTMAS BAZAR' IN ATHENS



Bangladesh stall at the 'Christmas Bazar' in Athens displays posters, traditional handicraft items and Bangladeshi cuisines

Bangladesh Embassy in Athens put up a stall at the 'Christmas Bazar' on 23-24 November 2019 in Athens to showcase the rich culture, tradition and development activities of Bangladesh. An organization named 'Friends of Children' organized the 'Christmas Bazar' to support the Children of Athens. 37 countries along with a large number of local organizations participated

in this festival.

Posters on the celebration of the Birth Centenary of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, Bangladeshi sharees, Panjabis, traditional handicraft items and Bangladeshi cuisines were exhibited in the Bangladesh stall. Brochures and leaflets on Bangladesh's

Bangladesh Embassy in Athens put up a stall at the 'Christmas Bazar' on 23-24 November 2019 in Athens to showcase the rich culture, tradition and development activities of Bangladesh.

development, tourism, trade and investment, special T-shirts, pens, key-rings with the logo of 'Beautiful Bangladesh' and lapel pins with the flag of Bangladesh were distributed among the visitors who came to Bangladesh stall. A special 'photo booth' decorated with Bangladeshi traditional costumes were placed beside the Bangladesh stall for the visitors.

BANGLADESH DELEGATION VISITS BRAZIL TO EXPLORE THEIR PHARMACEUTICAL MARKET



A Bangladesh delegation from the pharmaceutical sector met with the officials of the Brazilian Ministry of Health in Brasilia

The first-ever Bangladesh delegation from the pharmaceutical sector visited Brazil during 16-22 November 2019 to explore the possibilities of entering into the

Brazilian pharmaceutical market worth of US\$ 7 billion. DG (Drug Administration) led the 21-member Bangladesh delegation which included MDs/CEOs of 11 top-

ranking pharmaceutical companies, the Secretary-General of the Bangladesh Association of Pharmaceutical Industries, officials from the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The delegation had extensive meetings with the Brazilian Ministry of Health and ANVISA—the pharmaceutical regulatory agency of Brazil in Brasilia and with three relevant organizations - SINDUSFARMA, ABIQUIFI and ABIMO in São Paulo. The Brazilian Ministry of Health, the biggest buyer of pharmaceutical products in Brazil, was extremely forthcoming and promised all support to facilitate Bangladesh's entry into the Brazilian pharmaceutical market. ANVISA officials thoroughly explained the registration procedure, which the Bangladeshi pharmaceutical companies found to be simple and doable.

BANGLADESH HIGH COMMISSION IN ISLAMABAD PROMOTES BANGLADESH AS AN EXPORTING NATION

The idea of the event was to celebrate jute, the golden fibre of Bangladesh, which had come back into spotlight in recent years for being a natural substance, due to environmental concerns over artificial products like synthetic fibres and plastics.



A wide array of finished jute items are put on the display at a local hotel in Islamabad on 30 November 2019

Bangladesh High Commission in Islamabad organized an event titled ‘From Jute to Shipbuilding: Emergence of Bangladesh as an Exporting Nation’, at a local hotel on 30 November 2019. A large number of guests including the heads of diplomatic missions and local dignitaries including Mayor of Islamabad, Federal Parliamentary Secretary for Commerce and Chairperson of the Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians, former State Minister for Foreign Affairs, Central Senior Vice President of PML-Q and a former MNA attended the event.

In order to highlight the advancement

and diversification of jute products of Bangladesh, a wide array of finished jute items, including the biodegradable ‘Sonali Bag’ made from jute extracts, were put on display on the occasion. High Commissioner Tarik Ahsan mentioned that the idea of the event was to celebrate jute, the golden fibre of Bangladesh, which had come back into spotlight in recent years for being a natural substance, due to environmental concerns over artificial products like synthetic fibres and plastics. He informed the visitors that, like diversifying jute products, Bangladesh was also diversifying its main export

basket, with addition of many non-traditional high-end export items such as RMG, ceramics, pharmaceuticals, ICT and shipbuilding. A video presenting a brief genesis of jute industry and its gradual modernization was also screened.

Earlier in the week, on 24 November, the High Commission took part in the annual ‘Charity Bazar’ of the Pakistan Foreign Office Women Association. Almost all foreign missions in Islamabad took part in the annual festival. Traditional Bangladeshi cuisine and sweets were the main attraction for the local and foreign guests during the fair.

BANGLADESH MISSION IN ISTANBUL ORGANIZES ROUND-TABLE DISCUSSIONS AND EXCHANGE OF VIEWS

Bangladesh Mission in Istanbul organized a round-table discussion titled ‘Bangladesh-Turkey Business Relations’ in Istanbul on 29 November 2019. Economic Adviser to Prime Minister Dr. Moshir Rahman was present as the guest of honour. Among others, a

good number of Turkish businessmen, investors and representatives of the civil society were present. Turkish businessmen and investors were called upon to explore Bangladesh with its investment friendly climate and a range of fiscal and non-fiscal incentives

provided by the government. The Mission organized another round-table discussion titled ‘Bangladesh and Neighbourhood’ earlier on 01 November with former High Commissioner of Bangladesh to India, Tariq Ahmed Karim as the guest of honour.

The Mission organized an exchange of views on ‘Role of Bangladesh expatriates in development of Bangladesh’ in collaboration with ‘Centre for Non-Resident Bangladeshi’ on 30 November 2019. Dr. Moshir Rahman was present

as chief guest. Among others, a good number of Bangladeshi expatriates and students studying in Istanbul were present at the discussion. Consul General Mohammad Monirul Islam welcomed the guests and urged them to

contribute to the development process of Bangladesh from their respective fields and play pro-active role in further brightening Bangladesh’s image in Turkey.

EXPATRIATES’ WELFARE AND OVERSEAS EMPLOYMENT MINISTER VISITS MALAYSIA

Expatriates’ Welfare and Overseas Employment Minister Imran Ahmad, MP paid a visit to Malaysia on 05-07 November 2019. During the visit, he met with Malaysian Minister of Human Resources M. Kula Segaran on 06 November to discuss and sort out the outstanding issues for the resumption

of Bangladeshi workers to Malaysia. Both of the Ministers agreed on the collaboration between Bangladesh and Malaysia through joint and coordinated efforts to reduce the cost of migration on both sides to a reasonable limit. They also agreed upon to implement a secured, holistic and integrated online system

to ensure transparency, efficiency and effectiveness for the benefit of both the countries. Bangladesh Minister attended the inauguration ceremony of NID programme for expatriate Bangladeshis living in Malaysia. Bangladesh High Commission is the first Bangladesh Mission abroad to do so.

BANGLADESH EMBASSY PARTICIPATES IN THE ASIAN FOOD FESTIVAL AND INTERNATIONAL DIPLOMATIC BAZAR-2019 IN LISBON



► Bangladesh pavilion in the ‘International Diplomatic Bazar-2019’ in Lisbon displays traditional clothing, pearls and other jewelry, ladies’ bags, muslin table-cloths and tapestry and other handicrafts

Bangladesh Embassy participated in the first ever Asian Food Festival in Lisbon showcasing the rich culinary tradition of Bangladesh. More than six hundred people of Portuguese and other nationality attended the Festival.

Bangladesh stall drew great attention of the visitors who appreciated Bangladeshi food and speak highly of the rich culinary traditions of the Bengalis.

The Embassy also participated in the

‘International Diplomatic Bazar-2019’. A pavilion was set up in a traditional Bengali way for displaying traditional clothing, pearls and other jewelry, ladies’ bags, muslin table-cloths and tapestry and other handicrafts.

HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE MINISTER VISITS DELHI

Zahid Maleque, MP, Minister of Health and Family Welfare of Bangladesh attended the “2019 World Conference on Access to Medical Products -

Achieving the SDGs 2030”, held during 19-21 November 2019 in New Delhi, India. The meeting particularly focused on creating an enabling legal and trade

environment for public health which are critical to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals 2030 Agenda.

BANGLADESH PARTICIPATES IN THE 40TH GENERAL CONFERENCE OF UNESCO



► Education Minister Dr. Dipu Moni, MP delivering the National Statement at the Plenary of the 40th UNESCO General Conference on 13 November 2019

Bangladesh participated in the 40th General Conference of UNESCO held in Paris during 12-27 November 2019 and was elected as a Vice-President. Education Minister Dr. Dipu Moni, MP led the 13-member Bangladesh delegation and delivered

the National Statement at the Plenary of the Conference. She attended few Ministerial Panel discussions and meetings on different issues. She had bilateral meetings with Ramesh Pokhriyal, Union Human Resource Development Minister of India and

with Audrey Azoulay, Director General of UNESCO. Following the General Conference, at the 208th Session of the Executive Board, Bangladesh was elected as one of the Vice-Chairs of the Executive Board of the UNESCO for the period 2019-2021.



► State Minister for Cultural Affairs K M Khalid, MP participated in the 'Forum of Ministers of Culture' at the sideline of the 40th General Conference of UNESCO on 19 November 2019

State Minister for Cultural Affairs K M Khalid, MP attended the Forum of Ministers of Culture held on 19 November 2019 at the sideline of UNESCO General Conference. He participated in the Panel discussion titled “Culture at the heart of education,

a fundamental dimension for human development and innovation”. Cultural Ministers from 122 member countries attended the Forum. Earlier the State Minister attended the Grand Opening of a Joint Exhibition titled “Walking the Indigo Walk” on 18 November

2019. He also had bilateral meetings with Hilmar Farid, Deputy Minister for Culture of Indonesia and with Dr. Salim M. Al Malik, Director General of the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO).

BANGLADESH EMBASSY PARTICIPATES IN THE 17TH BUSAN INTERNATIONAL SEAFOOD AND FISHERIES EXPO 2019 AND THE SIWA BAZAAR 2019



Nationals have visited the Bangladesh pavilion during the EXPO and showed keen interest on our Crabs, Eel and Shrimp products. They were also eager to learn about the marketing formalities of fish products in Bangladesh.

► Bangladesh pavilion in the 17th Busan International Seafood and Fisheries EXPO 2019 in Busan, South Korea

Bangladesh Embassy in Seoul participated in the 17th Busan International Seafood and Fisheries EXPO 2019 from 06-08 November 2019 in Busan, the commercial city of South Korea, jointly organized by Busan Metropolitan City/BEXCO and Korea Fishery Trade Association. Around 420 companies from 30 countries have participated in this event and displayed

their Seafood items. Mayor of Busan City Oh Keo-don inaugurated the event in the presence of Ambassadors of participating countries.

The attractive decoration of the Bangladesh pavilion was appreciated by the visitors. Brochures, leaflets and related information on Bangladeshi fishes

like the Hilsa, Shrimp, Cat Fish, Ruhi, Katla, Eel and Crabs were distributed among the visitors. Nearly 250 Korean and other foreign nationals have visited the Bangladesh pavilion during the EXPO and showed keen interest on our Crabs, Eel and Shrimp products. They were also eager to learn about the marketing formalities of fish products in Bangladesh.



► Visitors are served with Bangladeshi potato patty, fish kebab, chicken biriyani and milk-tea at the Bangladesh stall

Ambassador Abida Islam welcomed Kang Nan Hee to Bangladesh stall and presented her with a traditional handicraft item. Jute

products, nakshi Kantha, wooden dolls, hand fans, and other handicraft items were displayed in the Bangladesh stall which

attracted the attention of the visitors who also enjoyed Bangladeshi potato patty, fish kebab, chicken biriyani and milk-tea.

BANGLADESH PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE OPCW SHEIKH MOHAMMED BELAL ELECTED CHAIRPERSON OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES

Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), Sheikh Mohammed Belal has been elected as the Chairperson of the prestigious Committee of the Whole of the Conference of the States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention during the 24th Conference of the States Parties held on 25-29 November 2019. The election manifests appreciation by the international community of Bangladesh's contribution to the world peace and signifies international recognition of the country's efforts to attain global disarmament and stem proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

BANGLADESH MISSIONS IN LONDON, SEOUL AND ISLAMABAD CELEBRATE ARMED FORCES DAY

The 48th Bangladesh Armed Forces Day celebrated in London, marking the founding of army, navy and air force during the War of Liberation in 1971. Defence Wing of Bangladesh High Commission in the UK organized a reception at the British National Army Museum in London on 25 November 2019. A digital photographic exhibition on valiant freedom fighters of 1971 gave the celebration a special grace. A documentary on the Armed Forces role and the recent development of Bangladesh in different sectors was also screened.

Around 400 guests including veteran freedom fighters and organizers of 1971 War of Liberation living in the UK,

Deputy Minister of Wales July Morgan, Members of House of Lords, Dean of Diplomatic Forum, Ambassadors, Defence Advisors and diplomats of different countries, senior military and civil officers of UK Ministry of Defence, Foreign and Home Ministries, professors from different UK universities including Cambridge, Sheffield, Oxford, Portsmouth, different media personnel and elite members of both UK and Bangladesh-British Community enjoyed the programme.

Bangladesh Embassy in Seoul celebrated Bangladesh Armed Forces Day on 21 November 2019 for the first time ever after the opening of the Defence Wing at the Embassy in June 2019. The

event was attended by Ambassadors, Defense Attaches and local dignitaries. Rear Admiral Lee Sanghun, Director of Foreign Intelligence, Korean Defense Intelligence Agency also attended the event as a representative from the Korean Defense Ministry.

The 48th Anniversary of the Armed Forces Day of Bangladesh was celebrated in Islamabad, Pakistan on 21 November 2019 with festivity and due solemnity. Defence Wing of Bangladesh High Commission organized a reception at a hotel in Islamabad to mark the day. Dean of the Diplomatic Corps, High Commissioners and Ambassadors of SAARC countries and Dean of Defence Advisors attended the event.

Chief Patron : Dr. A. K. Abdul Momen, MP, Foreign Minister
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