

FOREIGN OFFICE

BRIEFING NOTES

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اسبوع أبوظبي للاستدامة
ABU DHABI 2020
SUSTAINABILITY WEEK



PRIME MINISTER SHEIKH HASINA VISITS ABU DHABI, UAE ON 12-14 JANUARY 2020



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina attends the 'Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week 2020' on 13 January 2020 in Abu Dhabi, the UAE

Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi, Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed bin Sultan Al-Nahyan received Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at the opening ceremony of the 'Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week 2020' at the Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Centre (ADNEC) on 13 January 2020. She witnessed the 'Zayed Sustainability Award' giving ceremony.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina visited Abu Dhabi on 12-14 January 2020 to attend the 'Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week 2020' programme. She was accompanied by Foreign Minister, Minister for Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment, State Minister for Foreign Affairs, State Minister for Power, Energy and Mineral Resources, Foreign Secretary, Secretary of the Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment and some other high officials of Bangladesh Government.

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Hasina at the opening ceremony of the 'Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week 2020' at the Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Centre (ADNEC) on 13 January 2020. She witnessed the 'Zayed Sustainability Award' giving ceremony. The Award was conferred to 10 organizations and institutions of different countries under five categories. Sheikh Hasina handed over the prestigious prize to Eutan Tarawa Ieta Junior Secondary School of Kiribati as the winner in the Global High School category. While addressing, she briefed the guests and participants about the initiatives taken by her government towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina took part in a key note interview titled ‘The Critical Role of Women in Delivering Climate Action’ at the Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Centre on 14 January 2020

Delegations of DP World of UAE, Emirates National Oil Company (ENOC), Saudi ARAMCO, ACWA Power of KSA and a prominent entrepreneur of the UAE separately met with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. She urged the DP World to invest in the ship-building sector, Payra port and in Bangladesh’s Special Economic Zones and also urged them to set up a hi-tech park in Bangladesh. The representatives of ENOC, Saudi ARAMCO and ACWA Power of KSA expressed their interest in investing in power and energy sector in Bangladesh.

Prime Minister also took part in a key note interview titled ‘Future Sustainability Summit’ at the ADNEC on 14 January 2020.

During the visit, Prime Minister chaired an Envoys’ Conference held on 14 January 2020 and made necessary directives to the Heads of Bangladesh Missions in countries of West Asia region on how to attract more investment to Bangladesh, increase trade and strengthen the existing relations. Bangladesh Ambassadors to Bahrain, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the UAE attended the Conference.

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Two instruments were signed between Bangladesh and the UAE. The first one was the “Addendum to the MoU signed between Emirates National Oil Company (ENOC) and Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources, Bangladesh” and the second one was the “Protocol of Amendment to the Agreement on Allotment of land plot in Baridhara Diplomatic Enclave, Dhaka for Construction of Embassy Premises” signed by the Foreign Ministers of Bangladesh and the UAE on the basis of the principle of reciprocity.

FOREIGN MINISTER MET WITH THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION OF UAE IN ABU DHABI



Foreign Minister Dr. A K Abdul Momen, MP and his UAE counterpart Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan exchange the Agreement on Allotment of land in Dhaka and in Abu Dhabi on the basis of the principle of reciprocity

Foreign Minister Dr. A K Abdul Momen, MP met with Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the

United Arab Emirates at Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Centre on 14 January 2020 while attending the ‘Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week 2020’. Foreign

Secretary Masud Bin Momen, Secretary to Prime Minister Tofazzal Hossain Miah and some other high officials of Bangladesh and UAE sides were present at the meeting.

Foreign Minister briefed his UAE counterpart about Bangladesh's development march with a sustained GDP growth of about 7% per year for a decade highlighting the participation of women in all sectors of policy and society

which contributed to the high growth of the economy. He added that the poverty level had been drastically reduced from 42% to 20% during the present tenure of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. UAE Foreign Minister profusely admired the overall socio-economic development of Bangladesh and the advancement of the people.

Foreign Minister Dr. Momen expressed his gratitude to the UAE for supporting

Bangladesh at different platforms on the crisis related to the forcefully displaced Myanmar nationals living in Bangladesh and called for their continued support. He urged the UAE Foreign Minister to consider opening up of all the sectors of recruitment for Bangladesh nationals in his country. UAE Foreign Minister Sheikh Abdullah assured that they would consider the proposal.

NEW ICRC HEAD OF DELEGATION PRESENTS CREDENTIALS TO FOREIGN MINISTER



► Newly appointed Head of Delegation of International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC) in Bangladesh Pierre Dorbes presented his credentials to Foreign Minister Dr. A K Abdul Momen, MP on 15 January 2020

Newly appointed Head of Delegation of International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC) in Bangladesh Pierre Dorbes presented his credentials to Foreign Minister Dr. A K Abdul Momen, MP on 15 January 2020. Foreign Minister welcomed him to Bangladesh and expressed deep appreciation for ICRC's

invaluable role in supporting Bangladesh nationals during the 1971 Liberation War and their recent humanitarian assistance for the displaced Rohingya people taking shelter in Bangladesh.

Foreign Minister urged ICRC to work with Myanmar in creating conducive

environment to enable the safe, voluntary, dignified and sustainable repatriation of the Rohingyas.

Mr. Dorbes thanked Foreign Minister for the cooperation of his Ministry and hoped that the activities and support of ICRC to Bangladesh would be sustained in the future.

BANGLADESH PARTICIPATES IN THE HEIMTEXTIL FAIR AND THE BVMW ECONOMIC FORUM IN GERMANY

Bangladesh Embassy, Berlin in collaboration with Export Promotion Bureau (EPB), Dhaka facilitated twenty Bangladeshi companies to participate in the Heimtextil Fair 2020 held in Frankfurt from 07-10 January 2020. This fair is

considered to be the biggest international trade fair for home and contract textiles. To mark the 50th edition of Heimtextil this year, the fair presented design classics from the past 50 fair editions in a showcase area under the theme 'Heimtextil Journey

through Time – Celebrating 50 Years of Interior Design'. The fair invited visitors to take a tour through five decades of Heimtextil history where 2952 exhibitors from 65 countries presented their items to 63000 visitors. It provided a great



► The participating Bangladesh delegation are standing in front of the Bangladesh stall at Heimtextil Fair held in Frankfurt from 7-10 January 2020

opportunity to represent Bangladeshi products to a big international trade community. A delegation from the

Ministry of Commerce and EPB attended the fair. The visitors were given useful information with a view to further

promoting Bangladeshi products in the world market. They showed keen interest in Bangladeshi products.



► German entrepreneurs visit Bangladesh stand and interact with the Ambassador at the BVMW Economic Forum held in Berlin on 27 January 2020

Bangladesh Embassy in Berlin participated in the Federal Association of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (BVMW) Economic Forum and the New Year's Reception on 27 January at a local hotel in Berlin. The BVMW and the Committee for Economic

Cooperation of the German Bundestag jointly organized the event in which around 2000 German entrepreneurs and 62 Embassies attended. While participating in this event, Bangladesh Embassy availed the opportunity to get in direct contact with German

Parliamentarians and entrepreneurs to exchange information on the business and investment opportunities in Bangladesh. Brochures, leaflets, flyers etc. were distributed among the visitors from the Bangladesh stand installed by the Embassy.

BANGLADESH PARTICIPATES IN ASIAN FINANCIAL FORUM AND HOSTS WORKSHOP TO ATTRACT FOREIGN INVESTMENT

Bangladesh participates in the 13th Asian Financial Forum (AFF) held from 13-14 January 2020 at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre

(HKCEC). Salman Fazlur Rahman, MP the Private Industry and Investment Adviser to Prime Minister led the Bangladesh Delegation comprising

of representatives from Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (BIDA), Public Private Partnership Authority (PPPA) and Bangladesh

Hi-Tech Park Authority. The three authorities also participated in the AFF Deal Flow Matchmaking session.

More than 3500 distinguished speakers including influential global financial experts, policymakers, business leaders, economists and investors participated in the 13th Asian Financial Forum. Under the theme “Redefining Growth: Innovation • Breakthrough • Inclusiveness”, the forum enabled participants to examine the current global economic landscape, gauging their views through on-site real-time polling on issues ranging from

prospects for the global economy and sustainability challenges to investment opportunities and the risks brought by technology and innovation.

Bangladesh Ambassador to China Mahbub Uz Zamam, Consul General of Bangladesh in Hong Kong and the Commercial Counsellor of Bangladesh Embassy in Beijing, China also attended the Forum. Consul General hosted a networking Dinner on 13 January 2020 at the HKCEC. More than 100 Foreign and Bangladeshi Expatriate Investors, Businessmen, Professionals, Media

personnel and the delegation members from Bangladesh attended the Dinner.

A workshop titled “Investment Opportunities in Bangladesh” was held at the Hong Kong Trade Development Council SME Centre, HKCEC on 15 January to attract foreign investment. Investment Promotion Agencies of Bangladesh (IPA), BIDA, PPPA, Bangladesh Hi-Tech Park Authority and Consulate General of Bangladesh in Hong Kong jointly organized the workshop in which more than 60 businessmen, investors and professionals participated.

BANGLADESH AMBASSADOR PRESENTS CREDENTIALS TO THE KING OF BHUTAN



Ambassador A K M Shahidul Karim presented his Letter of Credence to the King of Bhutan Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck at the Tashichhodzong (King’s Secretariat) on 17 January 2020. The ceremony was magnificent and unique with the display of local traditions, religious rites and royal practices. The warmth shown by the King by allowing presentation of credentials immediately upon arrival of the Ambassador was exemplary and the audience that followed

after the ceremony was enlightening.

Ambassador Shahidul Karim conveyed to the King the deepest regards and greetings from the President and Prime Minister of Bangladesh. He sought the King’s support to further advancing the bilateral relations between the two countries.

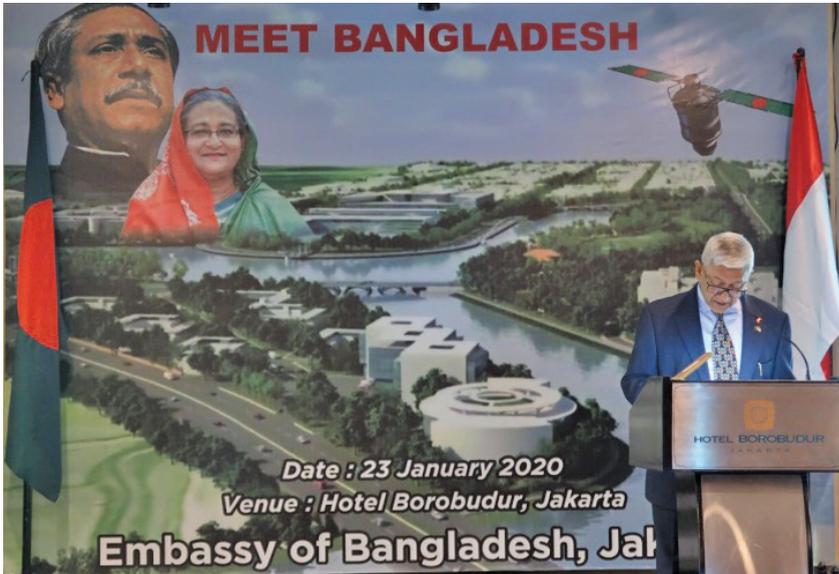
The King assured of his continued and all-out support to further widen and deepen bilateral relationship between Bangladesh and Bhutan. He spoke of his own and the

The King assured of his continued and all-out support to further widen and deepen bilateral relationship between Bangladesh and Bhutan. He spoke of his own and the Queen’s personal respect and admiration to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and termed their relations as ‘above any professional courtesy’.

► Ambassador A K M Shahidul Karim presents his credentials to the King of Bhutan Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck at the Tashichhodzong (King’s Secretariat) on 17 January 2020

Queen’s personal respect and admiration to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and termed their relations as ‘above any professional courtesy’. He also recalled his last visit to Bangladesh in 2013 and thanked for the hospitality extended by the Government of Bangladesh during the visit. He also shared his vision and plans towards introducing a year-long National Service (Gyalsung) for the youth aged 18 years and above, which will begin by 2022.

EMBASSY OF BANGLADESH IN JAKARTA ORGANIZES ‘MEET BANGLADESH’ PROGRAMME



Around 150 Indonesian businessmen and Government officials attended the event. Bangladesh Ambassador urged the Indonesians to visit Bangladesh and explore its potentialities.

► Ambassador Major General Azmal Kabir delivered a presentation at a seminar held in Jakarta on 23 January 2020

Bangladesh Embassy in Jakarta organized a seminar titled "Meet Bangladesh" on 23 January 2020 at a local hotel in order to portray the image of Bangladesh and to explore the investment potentials. Ambassador Major General Azmal Kabir delivered a presentation on the development of Bangladesh under the worthy leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina with mentioning some of the potential sectors for investment. Major General S M Salauddin Islam, Executive Chairman of Bangladesh Export Processing Zone Authority (BEPZA) and

Md. Harunur Rashid, Executive Member of Bangladesh Economic Zone Authority (BEZA) delivered presentations on the investment opportunities in EPZs and Special Economic Zones respectively.

Ni Made Ayu Marthini, Director for Bilateral Negotiations, Ministry of Trade of Indonesia discussed on the Indonesia Bangladesh Preferential Trade Agreement (IB-PTA) while Wisnu Wijaya Soedibjo, Deputy Chairman for Investment Cooperation, Indonesia Investment Coordinating Board (BKPM) discussed on the Investment opportunities, priority

sectors and fiscal incentives of investment in Indonesia. This interactive session was followed by the presentations of some Indonesian Business companies - PT Istana Karang Laut (supplier of coal to Bangladesh), PT INKA (exporter of Broad Gauge and Meter Gauge Carriages for Bangladesh Railway) and CV Laksana (Exporter of Bus to Bangladesh).

Around 150 Indonesian businessmen and Government officials attended the event. Bangladesh Ambassador urged the Indonesians to visit Bangladesh and explore its potentialities.

JUSTICE MOHAMMAD ABDUR RASHID BECOMES A MEMBER OF THE PERMANENT COURT OF ARBITRATION

Justice Mohammad Abdur Rashid, a former judge of the High Court Division of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh and a former Chairman of Bangladesh Law Commission, became a member of the Permanent Court of Arbitration based in The Hague for the next 6 six years

with effect from 27 January 2020 in accordance with the relevant provision of the 1907 Convention for the Pacific Settlement of International Disputes.

The appointment reflects the continued engagement of Bangladesh for

promoting world peace through extensive engagements with the legal institutions in The Hague and beyond. This is the court from where arbitration decision on maritime boundary dispute between Bangladesh and India was awarded.

BANGLADESH NATIONAL CRICKET TEAM TOURS PAKISTAN

Bangladesh National Cricket Team visited Pakistan for a series of 3 International T20 matches held on 24, 25 and 27 January 2020 in Lahore. Pakistan won the first two matches, while the third one was washed out by rains. The Bangladesh team was accompanied by

President of Bangladesh Cricket Board Nazmul Hasan Papon, MP and senior officials of BCB as well as the security officials from Bangladesh. Bangladesh High Commission in Islamabad assisted the Bangladesh security team during pre-match security assessment and

during the on-site security supervision. The High Commission also secured the landing clearance for the chartered flights carrying the players and officials. It was the first tour of Bangladesh National Cricket Team to Pakistan in 12 years.

BANGLADESH MISSIONS ABROAD CELEBRATE THE HOMECOMING DAY OF BANGABANDHU AND START THE COUNTDOWN FOR THE INAUGURATION OF ‘MUJIB BORSHO’

Bangladesh Missions abroad celebrated the historic Homecoming Day of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on 10 January 2020 with due reverence and in a befitting manner and also started the countdown for the inauguration of ‘Mujib Borsho’.

The events of the day began with placing of floral wreaths at the portrait of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. One minute silence was observed in memory of the Father of the Nation, the martyred members of his family and all martyred freedom fighters of the Liberation War of 1971. A special prayer was offered seeking eternal peace

of their souls as well as for the continued peace, progress and prosperity of Bangladesh. Messages from the President, Prime Minister, Foreign Minister and State Minister for Foreign Affairs were read out. Video documentaries were screened. Some Missions installed digital clock on their official website to begin the countdown. Live telecast of the countdown programme of ‘Mujib Borsho’ inaugurated by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at the old Airport, Tejgaon was screened in some Missions.

Special programmes were arranged to discuss the life and works of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh

Mujibur Rahman and the significance of his Homecoming Day. The speakers paid their deep homage to the memory of the Father of the Nation and recalled his dedication for the country and his vision for establishing ‘Sonar Bangla’ (The Golden Bengal). They also expressed hope that through the celebration of ‘Mujib Borsho’ the young generation would get the unique opportunity to know about Bangabandhu and would be inspired to work for the development of the country. A gallery of photographs of different Missions celebrating the event is as follows:



Ambassador inaugurates the countdown of ‘Mujib Borsho’ held in Bangladesh Embassy, Berlin



High Commissioner pays tribute to Bangabandhu in Bangladesh High Commission, Islamabad



Ambassador attends the discussion on the Homecoming Day of Bangabandhu held in Bangladesh Embassy, Moscow



Lord Mayor of Port Louis and High Commissioner inaugurate the countdown in Bangladesh High Commission, Port Louis



Participants join a discussion on the Homecoming Day of Bangabandhu held in Bangladesh Embassy, Seoul



Participants join a discussion on the Homecoming Day of Bangabandhu held in Bangladesh Embassy, The Hague

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