

FOREIGN OFFICE

BRIEFING NOTES

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

March-July 2020

PRESIDENT MR. MD. ABDUL HAMID VISITS URUGUAY



President Mr. Md. Abdul Hamid had a bilateral meeting with the newly elected Uruguayan President Luis Lacalle Pou at the Presidential Palace on 02 March 2020

President Mr. Md. Abdul Hamid visited Uruguay from 26 February to 04 March 2020 to attend the inauguration ceremony of the newly elected Uruguayan President Luis Lacalle Pou, the 42nd President of the Oriental Republic of Uruguay assumed presidency on 01 March 2020.

They had a bilateral meeting on 02 March 2020 at the Presidential Palace focusing on the Bangladesh-Mercosur Free Trade Agreement (FTA) as proposed by Bangladesh. Bangladesh President

requested his Uruguayan counterpart to honour the just-immediate Uruguayan administration's commitment to support the Bangladesh proposal in the Mercosur group, to which he readily agreed.

President Mr. Md. Abdul Hamid thanked the Uruguayan government for its unflinching support on the Rohingya issue and briefed on the current state of play of the Rohingya crisis, the ICJ interim order, etc. Uruguayan President promised his government's continued support to Bangladesh on the issue

for an eventual repatriation of the Rohingya people to their homeland in Myanmar.

The two leaders also discussed on the potentials of some of the ongoing Bangladeshi and Uruguayan proposals designed to further improve the two countries' relations, including conclusion of instruments related to MOU on FOC, MOU on cooperation between diplomatic academies, visa exemption for holders of diplomatic and official passport, avoidance of double taxation, cultural cooperation, etc.

PRIME MINISTER SHEIKH HASINA INAUGURATES THE DHAKA OIC YOUTH CAPITAL 2020



Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina inaugurates the Dhaka OIC Youth Capital 2020 in a virtual inauguration declaration ceremony on 27 July 2020

Dhaka OIC Youth Capital 2020 was inaugurated by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in a virtual inauguration declaration ceremony on 27 July 2020. It was attended by Dr. A K Abdul Momen, MP, Foreign Minister of Bangladesh; Md. Zahid Ahsan Russel, MP, State Minister for Youth and Sports of Bangladesh; Yousef bin Ahmad Al-Othaimeen, Secretary General, Organization of Islamic Cooperation; Azad Rahimov, Minister of Youth and Sports of the Republic of Azerbaijan; Dawda A. Jallow, Justice Minister and Attorney General of the Gambia; Taha Ayhan, President, Islamic Cooperation Youth Forum (ICYF) along with other global leaders and dignitaries.

In her inaugural speech, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina announced “Bangabandhu Global Youth Leadership Award” to be awarded at the closing ceremony

HPM reiterated Bangladesh's commitment to arrange safe, secured and dignified return of Rohingyas to their own motherland with the help of the international community. She also extolled the role of youth leadership to build a resilient and sustainable future.

of Dhaka-OIC Youth Capital 2020 for outstanding contribution in the field of Innovation, Environment,

Humanitarianism, Sports, Culture & Arts and Entrepreneurship to honour the true spirit of Bangabandhu's undying idealism. She reiterated Bangladesh's commitment to arrange safe, secured and dignified return of Rohingyas to their own motherland with the help of the international community. She also extolled the role of youth leadership to build a resilient and sustainable future.

Earlier, Dhaka was announced as the “OIC Youth Capital 2020” marking a significant recognition for the leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and her spirited Government in the youth sector. The Istanbul based Islamic Cooperation Youth Forum (ICYF), an entity affiliated to the OIC, made this declaration on 25 December 2019.

INDIA HANDS OVER EMERGENCY MEDICAL ASSISTANCE TO BANGLADESH UNDER SAARC COVID-19 EMERGENCY FUND



On 06 May 2020, the third tranche of medical assistance, containing RT-PCR COVID-19 testing kits capable of running 30,000 tests was delivered. Bangladesh was the first country to receive these test kits from India on priority.

► *Indian High Commissioner Riva Ganguly Das hands over the humanitarian aids to Foreign Minister Dr. A K Abdul Momen, MP at his office*

During the crisis period of COVID-19 pandemic, the Government of India extended humanitarian assistance to the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh under the SAARC COVID-19 Emergency Fund to support its efforts to contain the spread of Coronavirus. On behalf of the Government of India, Riva Ganguly Das, the High Commissioner of

India, handed over the humanitarian aids to Foreign Minister of Bangladesh Dr. A K Abdul Momen, MP.

The first tranche of Indian emergency medical assistance containing 30,000 surgical masks and 15,000 head-covers was handed over to Bangladesh on 25 March 2020 while the second one

consisting of 50,000 sterile surgical latex gloves and 1,00,000 Hydroxychloroquine medicine tablets arrived here on 26 April 2020. On 06 May 2020, the third tranche of medical assistance, containing RT-PCR COVID-19 testing kits capable of running 30,000 tests was delivered. Bangladesh was the first country to receive these test kits from India on priority.

FOREIGN MINISTER CALLED BRITISH SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT TO INCREASE PRESSURE ON MYANMAR FOR EARLY REPATRIATION OF ROHINGYAS

Foreign Minister Dr. A K Abdul Momen, MP while talking with British DFID Secretary Anne-Marie Trevelyan on 24 June 2020 called on the UK to exert and increase pressure on Myanmar for solving the Rohingya crisis urgently by sustainable repatriation of the

Rohingyas to Rakhine. Dr. Momen also expressed his sympathy for the severity of COVID-19 in the UK and briefed her on the steps taken by Bangladesh to contain the virus. He briefed the Secretary of State for DFID about the economic and social impact

of COVID-19 in Bangladesh, including the challenge of job loss by a significant number of Bangladeshi migrant workers abroad, particularly in the Middle East. He requested for the support of the UK in overcoming this difficulty.

During the meeting, Foreign Minister



During the meeting, Foreign Minister also flagged that Myanmar has not done anything till date for repatriation of the Rohingyas.

► Foreign Minister Dr. A K Abdul Momen, MP attends a virtual meeting with DFID Secretary Anne-Marie Trevelyan on 24 June 2020

also flagged that Myanmar has not done anything till date for repatriation of the Rohingyas. He insisted that until

the international community exerts more pressure on Myanmar, including by putting trade and investment

moratorium, the Rohingya crisis will not be resolved.

STATE MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS URGED UK FOR CREATING FUND TO CONTINUE RMG IMPORTS FROM BD



State Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr. Md. Shahriar Alam, M.P. had a telephone meeting with Lord Tariq Ahmad, UK Minister (State Minister) for South Asia and Commonwealth in the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office on 18 May 2020.

During the discussion, State Minister Alam raised the issue of confirmed orders of RMG exports from Bangladesh to the UK being cancelled by the UK brands

and retailers. He highlighted that orders amounting to close to 300 million dollars have been cancelled or postponed by UK buyers, putting the livelihoods of close to a million workers in Bangladesh in jeopardy. He suggested that the UK may take the initiative of creating a COVID19 fund which can be used to bail out the UK brands/retailers so that they can continue with their imports from Bangladesh. On the other hand, the fund can also be used to help the workers to sustain their families. Lord Ahmad agreed that action needs to be taken on this regard

During the meeting, the two Ministers discussed the current situation of the COVID19 pandemic, and the way forward. The UK Minister appreciated the steps taken by the Government of Bangladesh led by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in containing the spread of Coronavirus. The two Ministers agreed to work together in WHO to find a solution of the global crisis of COVID19. The Ministers also discussed how the Commonwealth can

play an important role globally in the post COVID19 world.

The two Ministers also discussed the issue of the Rohingya crisis. Lord Ahmad appreciated the humanitarian gesture by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in providing shelter to the 1.1 million Rohingyas who have been persecuted in their own country by their own state machinery. The UK Minister highlighted that as the penholder on this issue in the UN Security Council, the UK has remained engaged on ensuring that the accountability for the atrocities committed against Rohingyas is established, and the perpetrators are brought into justice. In this regard, he informed about the UN Security Council meeting held last week. UK also reiterated its commitment to the decision of the International Court of Justice regarding genocide and the crimes against humanity committed against the Rohingyas in Myanmar. The two Ministers agreed to continue their fruitful dialogue in near future.

RESILIENT YOUTH LEADERSHIP SUMMIT HELD IN JULY 2020

The two day long Resilient Youth Leadership Summit under the auspices of Dhaka-OIC Youth Capital 2020 was held on 27-28 July 2020 with the participation of 250 influential youths from more than 75 countries. Foreign Secretary Masud Bin Momen moderated the first session of the summit titled 'COVID-19 Crisis: Youth and Technology for Building a Resilient Future'. UNDP Resident Representative in Bangladesh Sudipto Mukherjee and Policy Advisor of a2i Anir Chowdhury jointly keynoted this session with the presence of other distinguished panelists from home and abroad. To build a socially equitable and ecologically sound future, the

panelists stressed on reshuffling economics theory to ensure resilient global supply chain, robust production mechanism and equitable wages. The speakers lauded the Bangladesh's commitment to readjust Rules of procedure to conform to the ever-changing ICT-centric evolution.

The first session was followed by a Virtual Rohingya Camp Visit on 28 July in collaboration with UNHCR and IOM to sensitize global youths with the plights of the Rohingyas and the atrocities committed by the Myanmar Military. After the Virtual Rohingya Camp Visit, a session titled 'Rohingya Case in ICJ: Road to Accountability and Justice' was

held with the presence of Justice Minister of Turkey Abdulhamit Gül. He reiterated his country's unwavering support to ensure justice and accountability for the persecuted displaced people of Myanmar to pave the path to sustainable repatriation. The session was also attended by Prof. Dr. Payam Akhavan of McGill University, Professor Imtiaz Ahmed of University of Dhaka and Antonia Mulvey of Legal Action Worldwide. The speakers praised the exemplary role played by OIC and the Gambia in lodging the case against Myanmar in the International Court of Justice (ICJ) and the diplomatic efforts of Bangladesh in this regard.

BANGLADESH PARTICIPATES IN THE 10TH IORA BI-ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE OF SENIOR OFFICIALS



► Bangladesh participates in the 10th IORA bi-annual meeting of the Committee of Senior Officials on virtual platform

He further added that through sustained dialogue and cooperation, it has gathered momentum and is now a key driving force for ensuring peace, development and stability in the Indian Ocean Region.

The 10th Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) Bi-annual Meeting of the Committee of Senior Officials (CSO) was held virtually on 29 June-01 July 2020. Delegations from 22 Member States of IORA participated in the CSO Meeting. Bangladesh, the current Vice-chair of the IORA, participated in the meeting with a delegation led by Rear Admiral (Retd.) Md. Khurshed Alam, Secretary (Maritime Affairs) of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Bangladesh will assume the charge of the Chair of IORA from October 2021 for two years' tenure.

In the opening remarks as a Vice-chair, denoting Indian Ocean is of paramount significance to the region for security, connectivity, peace and prosperity, Md. Khurshed Alam mentioned that the legacy of IORA is exemplary in relation to issues of regional and global development and security during the last two decades of its existence. He further added that through sustained dialogue and cooperation, it has gathered momentum and is now a key driving force for ensuring peace, development and stability in the Indian Ocean Region. He stated that holding the CSO amidst the pandemic owing to COVID-19 is a testament towards IORA's continued relevance at this extraordinary critical time of humanity.

BANGLADESH SEEKS UK’S SUSTAINED SUPPORT FOR THE POST-COVID TRADE, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL HEALTH RECOVERY AND SUSTAINABLE CLIMATE RESILIENCE



► Bangladesh High Commissioner Saida Muna Tasneem attends the “High Commissioners’ Virtual Conference” on 28 May 2020

Bangladesh High Commissioner Saida Muna Tasneem sought UK’s sustained support for the post-COVID trade, economic and social health recovery and sustainable climate resilience while speaking at the “High Commissioners’ Virtual Conference” organized by the UK FCO Minister of State for South

Asia, Commonwealth, the UN and the DFID, Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon on 28 May 2020. She was one of the eight speakers at the conference participated by more than 48 High Commissioners of the Commonwealth and senior officials of the British Government. She also called upon the United Kingdom to ensure equitable

and affordable access to vaccines and therapeutics manufactured by the UK for Bangladesh and called for assurances that Bangladesh would continue to receive all flexibilities including sustained GSP facilities even after meeting the LDC graduation thresholds.

THE SUCCESS OF PRIME MINISTER SHEIKH HASINA’S ‘DIGITAL BANGLADESH’ VISION IS HIGHLIGHTED AT THE COMMONWEALTH LEADERS’ MEETING



Bangladesh High Commission partnered an Investment Dialogue on virtual platform with Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (BIDA) and British Business Group (BBG) on 29 June 2020

High Commissioner Saida Muna Tasneem, representing Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at the Commonwealth Leaders Meeting held on 24 June 2020 said that Bangladesh, under the prudent and visionary leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, was delivering public health services and humanitarian emergency aide to our people’s door step, utilizing ‘GovTech’ and ‘DevTech’ under her ‘Digital Bangladesh’ vision”. Presidents, Prime Ministers and Foreign Ministers of 30 Commonwealth member countries including Nigeria, Kenya, Belize, Bahamas, Uganda, Tanzania, Guyana, and the Gambia attended the meeting.

BANGLADESH HIGH COMMISSIONER MET WITH EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER OF INDIA



► *Bangladesh High Commissioner to India Muhammad Imran called on Dr. Subrahmanyam Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister of India on 21 February 2020*

Bangladesh High Commissioner to India Muhammad Imran called on Dr. Subrahmanyam Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister of India on 21 February 2020. Dr. Jaishankar welcomed the High Commissioner to India during this first meeting. The External Affairs Minister

noted that Indian attaches high importance to her relations with Bangladesh. The newly appointed High Commissioner expressed gratitude for arranging his Presentation of Credentials within a day upon his arrival in India, as a special gesture. He emphasized that Bangladesh

considers India as the most important and closest neighbour and that he is committed to take the excellent relationship forward during his tenure. They discussed various bilateral issues specially the celebration of Mujib Year 2020 and the golden jubilee of Bangladesh's independence in 2021.

BANGLADESH AMBASSADOR TO JORDAN PRESENTS CREDENTIALS



► *Bangladesh Ambassador presented Credentials to the King of Jordan*

Ambassador Nahida Sobhan presented her Credentials to King Abdullah-II on 01 March 2020. When she arrived at Basman Palace, she was given a Guard of Honour along with a motorcade. Highlighting the

strong friendship between Bangladesh and Jordan, Ambassador Nahida Sobhan requested for strengthening the economic and commercial relations between the two countries. The King also showed his

interest to work with Bangladesh in some areas. He also assured his full support for Bangladeshi workers living in Jordan.

BANGLADESH EMBASSY IN AMMAN DISTRIBUTED FOOD AMONG BANGLADESHI EXPATRIATES DURING COVID-19 LOCKDOWN



► Bangladesh Embassy in Amman distributed food among Bangladeshi Expatriates during COVID-19 lockdown

Due to Covid-19 lockdown, Bangladesh Embassy in Amman launched a food distribution program to help those expatriate Bangladeshis who were in food crisis. Food items were distributed among

4140 destitute Bangladeshi Expatriates in 31 spots in different cities including Amman, Marka, Zarqa, Sahab and Aqaba. In spite of strict lockdown and curfew, Embassy had managed to collect a list of

such Bangladeshis and verified everyone in the list over telephone to prevent any duplication and ensure that the relief items reach the people who are actually vulnerable.

BANGLADESH EMBASSY IN BERLIN ORGANIZES BANGABANDHU CUP TABLE TENNIS TOURNAMENT



► Embassy of Bangladesh in Berlin, Germany organized 'Bangabandhu Cup Table Tennis Tournament-2020' on 7 March 2020

As part of the celebration of 'Mujib Year' and to observe the historic 7th March, the Embassy of Bangladesh in Berlin, Germany organized 'Bangabandhu Cup Table Tennis Tournament-2020' on 7 March 2020 with due festivity at the Embassy premise. 24 players from

different parts of Germany participated in the event in both singles and doubles category and the event was cheered by a good number of expatriate Bangladeshis.

Ambassador Imtiaz Ahmed handed over certificates and trophies to the winners

and medals to all participants of the event. Maldives Ambassador to Germany Ahmed Latheef was the special guest. The trophies and medals were specially made by the Embassy those contained logo of 'Mujib Year' and title of the tournament.

BANGLADESH EMBASSY IN BERLIN HELD A BUSINESS SEMINAR



► Bangladesh Embassy in Berlin hosted a seminar titled “Interaction with German Entrepreneurs” on 11 March 2020

Bangladesh Embassy in Berlin hosted a seminar titled “Interaction with German Entrepreneurs” on 11 March 2020 focusing on the investment potential in Bangladesh and expansion of trade and commerce. The event was jointly organized by the Embassy with the Federal Association of Economic Development and Foreign Trade (BWA), a leading German business association and think tank.

More than 35 businessmen from different sectors of Germany including Marcus Held, Member of Parliament from German Social Democrat Party, participated in the event. In his speech and interactions, Ambassador Imtiaz Ahmed stressed on the initiatives of the government with regard to Special Economic Zones, Hi-tech Parks, jute plastic, ICT sector, green factories, one-

stop service, agreements on avoidance of double taxation, ongoing mega projects, Vision-2021 and 2041 etc. The German parliamentarian and businessmen highly appreciated the initiatives taken by the Bangladesh Government and opted that the business relations and ties between these two countries would expand further in the coming days for mutual benefits.

IRAN, BANGLADESH STRESSED NEED FOR JOINT INVESTMENT IN EACH OTHER



► Bangladesh Ambassador to Iran AFM Gousal Azam Sarker met the President of Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industry, Mine and Agriculture Gholam Hossein Shafeie on 18 July 2020 at the Chamber Building in Tehran

Bangladesh Ambassador to Iran AFM Gousal Azam Sarker met the President of Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industry, Mine and Agriculture Gholam Hossein Shafeie on 18 July 2020 at the Chamber Building in Tehran. After touching upon

brotherly bilateral relations, he stressed on the promotion of trade and investment between the two countries especially, in areas of RMG sector, agriculture, energy, IT and nano-technology, knowledge based sector and emphasized on

removing barriers to trade. He urged the Chamber President and Iranian business community to take the opportunity of attractive investment advantages and incentives of Bangladesh and voiced his country’s readiness for joint investment

in each other in different areas of cooperation.

The Chamber President appreciated Bangladesh's economic performance and assured their readiness for economic

cooperation and sending a high powered business delegation to the forthcoming D-8 Business Summit scheduled to be held in Dhaka. He stressed on early holding of Joint Economic Commission (JEC) meeting as it was not held in long 7

years. He referred to the Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) concluded between Bangladesh and Iran and expressed hope that it would be implemented as soon as possible. He also emphasized on barter arrangements of trade.

BANGLADESH HIGH COMMISSION, MALÉ AWARDS THREE BANGLADESHI VOLUNTEERS OF MALDIVES RED CRESCENT



► Bangladesh High Commission in Male' honoured three Bangladeshi expatriates in recognition of the commendable labour and services they rendered by volunteering with the Maldives Red Crescent during the COVID-19 pandemic crisis

Bangladesh High Commission in Male' honoured three Bangladeshi expatriates in recognition of the commendable labour and services they rendered by volunteering with the Maldives Red

Crescent during the COVID-19 pandemic crisis. A simple award giving ceremony was held on 15 July 2020 to make it remarkable. High Commissioner Rear Admiral Mohammad Nazmul Hassan

distributed souvenirs and token gifts. He thanked them for their spontaneous support to the expatriate Bangladeshis through their voluntary work.

BANGLADESH HIGH COMMISSIONER MEETS WITH MALDIVIAN AUTHORITIES TO RESOLVE PASSPORT RELATED ISSUES OF BANGLADESHI MIGRANTS

Bangladesh High Commissioner in Male' joined a meeting organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Maldives together with Maldives Immigration, Ministry of Economic Development and Police Services. They discussed the issuance of police reports in cases where passports were lost/stolen/withheld and other issues faced by Bangladeshi migrant workers in Maldives.

BANGLADESH HIGH COMMISSION IN KUALA LUMPUR EXTENDS FOOD ASSISTANCE TO BANGLADESH NATIONALS IN DIFFERENT PARTS OF MALAYSIA

During the COVID-19 pandemic situation in Malaysia, many Bangladeshi workers suffered from food crisis. Some of them could not manage to get food due to restriction of movement

while some of them did not get wage. They requested the High Commission for food assistance. Accordingly, Bangladesh High Commission has distributed food assistance among 8790

Bangladesh nationals. The Mission also gave RM 20,000 to the Malaysian government to provide food assistant to 861 Bangladeshi expatriates who were under red zone area.

BANGLADESH MISSIONS REPATRIATE STRANDED BANGLADESHI NATIONALS THROUGH SPECIAL FLIGHTS DURING CORONA PANDEMIC



Bangladesh Missions abroad took necessary initiatives to repatriate stranded Bangladesh nationals through special flights during corona pandemic due to suspension of regular flight. Bangladesh Embassy in Hanoi repatriated 123 Bangladesh Nationals through two separate special flights from Hanoi to Dhaka on 02 July and 18 August 2020.

► Bangladesh Ambassador is with the repatriated Bangladesh Nationals in Hanoi on 02 July 2020

Bangladesh Consulate General in Istanbul repatriated Bangladesh nationals who were stranded in Istanbul because of corona pandemic on several occasions including the one on 21 April 2020 when 20 people were repatriated to Bangladesh by a Turkish Airlines special flight. The Mission had extended all possible supports and assistances to the stranded Bangladesh citizens during their stay in Istanbul.



► Bangladesh Consul General is with the repatriated Bangladesh Nationals in Istanbul on 21 April 2020



► 68 undocumented Bangladeshi nationals were flown out of Maldives in a Bangladesh Air Force plane C130

The first batch of undocumented Bangladeshi migrant workers in Maldives was repatriated on 21 April 2020. A Total of 68 undocumented Bangladeshi nationals were flown out in a Bangladesh Air Force plane C130.

These Bangladeshi workers were transported back to Bangladesh as part of the Government's efforts to repatriate undocumented foreign labourers. The High Commission worked in collaboration with the Ministry of Economic Development

and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Maldives in this regard. Rear Admiral Mohammad Nazmul Hassan, the High Commissioner of Bangladesh to Maldives was also present during the departure of Bangladeshi expatriates in the Velana

International Airport in Maldives.

Government of India imposed a countrywide lockdown in March 2020 due to COVID-19. Thousands of Bangladesh nationals, especially medical tourists and their attendants became stranded in different parts of India with overwhelming majority of them in southern Indian cities

like Chennai, Vellore and Bengaluru.

The High Commission with the approval of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs arranged a total of 38 repatriation flights from India to Bangladesh repatriating over 4,500 stranded Bangladesh nationals from April to July 2020. The High Commission also arranged more than 50

special buses from faraway cities like Vellore, Chennai, Bengaluru, Punjab, Ahmedabad etc. Besides, many stranded people in the bordering Indian states also returned to Bangladesh with the help of Bangladesh Missions in Kolkata, Guwahati and Agartala. A total of more than 8,000 stranded Bangladesh nationals were repatriated during the time.



► Bangladesh High Commissioner Saida Muna Tasneem saw off 125 stranded Bangladeshis on 10 May 2020

Bangladesh High Commission organized two special chartered flights on 10 May and 13 June 2020 respectively to repatriate the stranded Bangladeshis in the UK. Bangladesh

High Commissioner Saida Muna Tasneem and Bangladesh Biman London Office's Country Manager saw off the 125 stranded Bangladeshis going back to Bangladesh by

the 1st special charter flight. Bangladesh High Commissioner Saida Muna Tasneem saw off 153 stranded Bangladeshis travelling back to Bangladesh on 13

ACTING HIGH COMMISSIONER MEETS WITH THE CHAIRMAN OF THE NATIONAL CRAFTS COUNCIL OF SRI LANKA AND MANAGING DIRECTOR OF MORISON PLC SRI LANKA

Acting High Commissioner of Bangladesh to Sri Lanka Hazrat Ali Khan visited the National Crafts Council of Sri Lanka on 15 July 2020 and held a meeting with the Chairman of the Council Sudath Abeysekara discussing various issues on the sector including cementing a good partnership with the same kind of

organization in Bangladesh patronized by the Government of Bangladesh. Other senior executives of the Council remained present at the meeting.

Murtaza Esufally, Managing Director of Morison PLC Sri Lanka, held a meeting with Acting High Commissioner Hazrat Ali Khan at the High Commission on

16 July 2020. Morison PLC, which is the largest private manufacturer of pharmaceuticals in Sri Lanka, looks at the opportunities for new pharmaceutical products in diabetes and cardiovascular areas for the Sri Lanka market as they think Bangladeshi companies could provide this opportunity for Sri Lanka.

BANGLADESH MISSION IN PORT LOUIS AWARDS BANGABANDHU SCHOLARSHIP

The Bangladesh High Commission in Mauritius organized an in-house programme on 10 June 2020 with the presence of few members of Bangladesh community to award a onetime scholarship in total of one lakh Mauritian Rupee to 2 Mauritian children with special needs as a part of the celebration of the Birth Centenary of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

CHANCERY OF THE BANGLADESH CONSULATE GENERAL IN HONG KONG RELOCATED



► Reception area of the new Chancery of the Bangladesh Consulate General in Hong Kong

The Chancery of the Bangladesh Consulate General in Hong Kong has been relocated to a new premise on 01 April 2020. This new Chancery premises has almost double area than the previous one. The reception area,

hall room, conference room and other common areas were decorated and furnished with Bangladeshi arts and modern cozy furniture. Other facilities were being created. Before starting office in the new premises, the whole

area was hygienically cleaned and disinfected at the end of March 2020. All the guests, visitors, Bangladesh community members appreciated the new look and premises of the Consulate.

BANGLADESH HIGH COMMISSIONER TO MAURITIUS PRESENTS CREDENTIALS TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF MADAGASCAR

The Bangladesh High Commissioner to Mauritius Rezina Ahmed presented her Letter of Credence to the President of the Republic of Madagascar Andry Rajoelina on 04 March 2020 as a non-resident Ambassador of Bangladesh to

Madagascar. During the ceremony, they discussed on several bilateral issues and agreed to work together for developing trade, business and investment. The President thanked the Government of Bangladesh for giving shelter to the

Rohingyas and he assured of continued support in this regard. He said that the Rohingya issue is a crime against humanity and that his government is always against any form of genocide.

MINISTRY'S WELFARE ACTIVITIES DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC SITUATION

Since the beginning of COVID-19 pandemic, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in collaboration with all other relevant Ministries and Agencies has undertaken various initiatives for the welfare of the expatriate Bangladesh nationals. In this connection, the Ministry has organized various inter-Ministerial meetings for taking necessary measures for the

expatriate Bangladeshis who would return to Bangladesh. As per the decision of those meetings, special flights were arranged by the Ministry for repatriation of the stranded Bangladesh nationals from across the countries of the world. At the early stage of COVID-19, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs with the cooperation of Ministry of Civil Aviation and Ministry

of Home Affairs have rescued 312 Bangladesh students from Uhan State of China who had been studying at different Universities. They returned home by special flights of Biman Bangladesh Airlines. Most other Bangladesh nationals came from India who became stranded as a result of COVID-19 pandemic. Starting from 05 March 2020,

a good number of Bangladesh nationals have been repatriated from India. Most of them were critical patients and their attendants. Besides, a considerable number of Bangladesh nationals from Middle East, West Asia and South East Asian countries repatriated as well.

Due to the constant efforts rendered by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Bangladesh Missions abroad, the number

of returnees is smaller as compared to the number of returnees in our neighboring countries. Apart from that, the Ministry has further facilitated the repatriation of 15,056 foreign nationals to their respective countries.

The welfare section also extended support to provide all kinds of information relating to flight information and visa/work permit matters for the Bangladesh nationals who

were stranded in Bangladesh. During the pandemic situation, no dead body has been repatriated to Bangladesh who died by COVID-19. Under the circumstances, the Welfare section communicated to the family members of the deceased for collecting the family consent (no objection) for burial the dead body in the foreign land.

HISTORIC 7TH MARCH OBSERVED IN BANGLADESH MISSIONS

The historic 7th March was observed in Bangladesh Missions abroad recalling the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and his epoch-making speech that led the nation towards independence of the country. The event began with the placing of flower wreaths at the portrait of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur

Rahman. National anthem was played. Special munajat was offered seeking the eternal peace of the departed souls of Bangabandhu and his martyred family members as well as the progress and prosperity of the country. Verses from the Holy Scriptures and the messages of the President and the Prime Minister were read out. This was followed by

a discussion session. Later, the video of Bangabandhu's 7th March speech was screened. Expatriate Bangladeshis and officials of the Mission joined the programme along with their families. A photo gallery of the event organized by some of the Bangladesh Missions abroad is as follows:



Bangladesh Consulate General in Istanbul organized a discussion on 7 March 2020



National anthem was played before a discussion organized by Bangladesh High Commission in Male' on 7 March 2020



Flower wreaths were placed at the portrait of Bangabandhu in Bangladesh Embassy, Rome



Bangladesh Embassy in Seoul unveiled a booklet containing the Historic 7 March speech of Bangabandhu in Korean language

BANGLADESH MISSIONS CELEBRATE THE BIRTH CENTENARY OF THE FATHER OF THE NATION BANGABANDHU SHEIKH MUJIBUR RAHMAN

Bangladesh Missions abroad celebrated the Birth Centenary of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and the ‘National Children’s Day’ on 17th March 2020 with due fervour and festivity. The day’s programmes included hoisting of national flag, placing floral wreaths at the portrait of the Father of the Nation, recitation from the Holy

Books, observing one minute silence to show respect to the Father of the Nation, reading out messages on the occasion delivered by the President, Prime Minister, Foreign Minister and State Minister for Foreign Affairs, special prayer seeking blessings for eternal peace of the soul of Bangabandhu, special discussion, photo exhibition, screening of documentaries

on the life and works of Bangabandhu, recitation of poems on Bangabandhu, art competition, cultural segment, etc. A commemorative stamp on the occasion of the Birth Centenary of the Father of the Nation and the celebration of ‘Mujib Year’ was inaugurated in Seoul. A gallery of photographs of the event follows:



Bangladesh Deputy High Commission in Kolkata inaugurates a terracotta mural on 17 March 2020



Bangladesh Embassy in Amman



Bangladesh Embassy in Berlin



Bangladesh Embassy in Brasilia



Bangladesh Embassy in Hanoi



Bangladesh Embassy in Seoul



Bangladesh Consulate General in Istanbul



Bangladesh High Commissioner to the UK



Bangladesh Embassy in Male'



Bangladesh High Commission in New Delhi



Bangladesh Consulate General in New York



Bangladesh High Commissioner to Mauritius

GENOCIDE DAY ON 25TH MARCH 2020 OBSERVED IN BANGLADESH MISSIONS ABROAD

Remembering the horrendous episode of human massacre in Bangladesh by the Pakistan army on 25 March 1971, Bangladesh Missions abroad observed “Genocide Day” with due solemnity. The event commenced with the singing of national anthem followed by reading out of verses from the Holy Books and conducting of special prayer for the salvation of the departed souls of the martyrs. The messages of the President and Prime Minister given on this occasion were read out followed by a special discussion on the Liberation War. A documentary titled “Genocide 1971” was screened.

BANGLADESH CONSULATE GENERAL IN ISTANBUL CELEBRATES PAHELA BOISHAKH



In view of the height and magnitude of COVID-19 prevalence in Turkey during April 2020, the Mission had a video message published in the digital platform on the occasion of Pahela Boishakh on 14 April 2020 with the comments from Turkish media and cultural personalities who are familiar with Bangladesh’s cultural heritage. In addition to an introductory remark by the Consul General Mohammad Monirul Islam, the video was participated by Orhan Kural, President of Turkish Travelers’ Club; Musa Kesler, Journalist of the daily Hurriyet and Sufi singer Hakan Menguc. The video, carried by Turkish social media, is expected not only to introduce Bangladesh’s cultural richness to the Turkish audience but also to contribute towards further enhancing the levels of understanding, connectivity and friendship between the peoples of Bangladesh and Turkey.

► Turkish media and cultural personalities comment on a video message published in the digital platform on the occasion of Pahela Boishakh on 14 April 2020

MISSIONS CELEBRATE INDEPENDENCE AND NATIONAL DAY OF BANGLADESH

All Bangladesh Missions abroad celebrated the Independence and National Day on 26 March 2020 with reverence and fervour. At the early hours of 26 March 2020, floral wreath was placed at the portrait of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, verses were recited from the Holy Books, special prayer was offered seeking blessings for eternal peace of the souls of the martyrs, one minute silence was

observed in remembrance of the martyrs of the War of Independence. Embassy officials along with the members of their families and members of Bangladesh community attended the programme of singing of the national anthem in authentic tune as per the guideline given by the Cabinet Division. Messages of the President, Prime Minister, Foreign Minister and State Minister for Foreign Affairs issued on the occasion were read

out. The national flag was duly hoisted at the Chancery premises. Special discussion, photo exhibition, screening of documentaries, cultural segment, etc were also organized along the whole day. In the evening, a reception was hosted by the Heads of Missions. A photo gallery of the events 26 March 2020 organized by some of the Bangladesh Missions abroad is as follows:



Ambassador hoisting the National Flag at the Bangladesh Embassy in Amman on 26 March 2020



Bangladesh National Flag was displayed in the world's tallest building Burj Khalifa in Dubai on 26 March 2020 at 7:00 p.m local time on the occasion of Independence and National Day of Bangladesh



Ambassador hoisting the National Flag at the Bangladesh Embassy in Male'



Ambassador hoisting the National Flag at the Bangladesh Embassy in Seoul

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