

# FOREIGN OFFICE

## BRIEFING NOTES

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### FOREIGN MINISTER ATTENDS NANSEN INITIATIVE GLOBAL CONSULTATION IN GENEVA



Foreign Minister A. H. Mahmood Ali, MP, participated in the 'Nansen Initiative Global Consultation' in Geneva held on 12-13 October 2015 inaugurated by Swiss Foreign Minister Didier Burkhalter. Around 350 delegates from 132 Countries including the Prime Minister from Cook Islands, Ministers from different countries including Kenya, Madagascar, Kiribati, Lesotho, and high officials from 132 States and international UN and other organizations including civil society leaders attended the meeting to discuss and recommend actions for protection of the climate and disaster induced displaced unfortunate people. Foreign Minister also launched a book titled "A Tale from Climate Ground Zero: Climate Change, Land and People of Bangladesh" with the Bangladesh Foreign Secretary Md. Shahidul Haque, Permanent Representative



and Ambassador of Bangladesh in Switzerland, M Shameem Ahsan. The Foreign Minister also met the Foreign Ministers of Switzerland and Costa Rica. The Swiss Foreign Minister lauded the role of Bangladesh in the international fora and hoped that in the Nansen Initiative, Bangladesh could also play a very significant role. Costa Rican Foreign Minister emphasized on sharing the experiences and good practices among the States.

### BANGLADESH TAKES OVER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF LDC

Bangladesh has been elected as the new Chairman of the Global Coordination Bureau of the Least Developed Countries (LDCs). The new Chairman was ceremonially handed over the responsibility of leading the 49 LDCs at New York on 1 October 2015. Md. Shahriar Alam, MP, State Minister for Foreign Affairs formally took over the

role from the Minister of MDGs and SDGs of Benin, the immediate past Chairman of the Group. The meeting of LDC Minister, where the new Chair is elected, takes place at the United Nations Headquarters every year on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly. Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations, participated at the high profile meeting. In his remarks, Secretary-General called on the LDCs to invest efforts in implementing the recently adopted 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. He also assured the LDCs of full support of the UN systems in the LDC initiatives to graduate from the Group. In his acceptance speech, State Minister for Foreign Affairs expressed thanks to the Least Developed Countries for expressing confidence on the leadership of Bangladesh by electing it unanimously as the next Chair of the Group. He flagged that since becoming a member of the LDCs back in 1974, Bangladesh always remained an active Member of the LDCs, promoting and protecting the interests of the 48 Member countries. He highlighted the plans of Bangladesh



during its tenure as the Chairman of the Group of LDCs. He also emphasized on the importance of maintaining harmony and coherence in the Group with its diverse membership. He referred to the Istanbul Programme of Action (IPoA), the roadmap of graduation for the LDCs, and informed that Bangladesh would hold consultations soon to ensure that the mid-term review of IPoA, scheduled to be held in Turkey next year, is successful, and is favorable to the LDCs. State Minister for Foreign Affairs also mentioned that Bangladesh as the new Chair of the LDCs will be following up on the issue of Technology Bank for the LDCs, investment promotion mechanism, and crisis mitigation and



resilience building fund. He also assured that Bangladesh would pursue for implementation of the LDC related commitments, including the investment promotion support center and regimes for

LDCs. The meeting was also attended by the Under-Secretary-General and United Nations High Representative for LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS, Deputy Prime Minister of Belgium and Foreign Ministers of Bhutan, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Italy, Nepal, Solomon Islands, Sudan, Tanzania, Turkey, Tuvalu, and representatives of Japan, European Union.

#### FOREIGN OFFICE CONSULTATION BETWEEN BANGLADESH AND SINGAPORE HELD



The Second Foreign Office Consultation between Bangladesh and Singapore was held on 28 October 2015 at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Singapore, in a very cordial and productive atmosphere. The Bangladesh delegation was led by Foreign Secretary Md. Shahidul Haque and the Singapore delegation was led by the Permanent Secretary of Singapore Ministry of Foreign Affairs Albert Chua. High Commissioner of Bangladesh to Singapore and High officials from the Power Division, Ministry of Commerce and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs also took part in the consultation. The day long consultation looked at all aspects of the relationship. In the morning the Foreign Secretary also paid a courtesy call on the Senior State Minister for Foreign Affairs, Dr. Maliki Osman and exchanged views on mutual interests and concerns. The Foreign Secretary highlighted Bangladesh's stable political and economic environment and potential for a long sustained economic growth hailed by various global institutions including the World Bank and how the country is firmly moving ahead to achieve the status of middle income country by 2021 under the wise leadership of the Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. The foreign Secretary invited the Singapore side to take note of the prospect of Bangladesh as a preferred destination for relocation of manufacturing industries and fast growing domestic demand for consumer goods as every year around 2 million people are being added to the middle-income class. He suggested that Singaporean investors might take advantage of the potentials and invest more in Bangladesh. Welcoming the ongoing Singaporean investment ventures in the power generation sector, the Foreign Secretary invited further Singaporean investment in the areas of power distribution sector and the information technology. The Singapore side informed that Singaporean investors were increasingly interested to invest in Bangladesh, particularly in the areas of power, township and industrial parks, food services and oil and gas exploration. The Foreign Secretary highlighted that Bangladesh is developing 100 Economic Zones to provide suitable infrastructure for foreign investors. Referring to the positive response received from other leading global and regional economies, he encouraged the Singapore side to take advantage of it. Referring to the fast growing IT sector of Bangladesh and its potential, the Foreign Secretary sought support from Singapore for capacity building in that area to turn the IT sector. The Singapore side responded positively and suggested for increased interaction between IT authorities of the two countries. In this connection, the Singapore side invited a delegation from Bangladesh to visit and meet the concerned authorities and private sector in Singapore. Both the sides agreed to work jointly to enhance E-governance and

E-commerce in Bangladesh. They also discussed ways and means to enhance cooperation in the area of air and cargo services. The Foreign Secretary requested to increase the number and scope of training opportunities and thanked Singapore Government for providing training courses to Bangladesh Government Officials. The Foreign Secretary also thanked Singapore for hosting around 160,000 Bangladesh workers and hoped that Bangladesh workers would continue to contribute to the development of Singapore. The Foreign Secretary also requested to keep open the opportunities for Bangladesh workers to continue to seek job opportunities in Singapore. Responding positively, the Permanent Secretary praised the dedication and professionalism of Bangladesh workers and mentioned that they were being appointed to higher grades because of their qualities and qualifications. Both the countries expressed satisfaction over the level of cooperation at the UN and other multilateral forums. They also exchanged views on issues like Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), combating climate change and violent extremism. Both the sides agreed to work jointly to develop eco-friendly sustainable cities for their citizens. The Foreign Secretary briefed the Singapore side on Bangladesh's contribution in formulating the SDGs, how Bangladesh has positioned itself at the forefront of the global fight against climate change under the leadership of the Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. The issue of violent extremism was also deliberated. The Foreign Secretary elaborated the zero tolerance policy of Bangladesh against violent extremism. Both the sides agreed to work together in the area. Views were also exchanged on regional and international issues of mutual interest.

#### BANGLADESH ASSUMES GFMD CHAIR FOR 2016

Bangladesh has assumed the Chair of the 'Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD)' initiatives of the United Nations, for 2016 beginning on



01 January, 2016. The Chairmanship was handed over by the outgoing Chair, Turkey to Bangladesh in the 8<sup>th</sup> GFMD Summit held in Istanbul during 14-16 October, 2015. Bangladesh will host the 9<sup>th</sup> GFMD Summit meeting towards the end of 2016 in Dhaka. A high level 15-member Inter-Ministerial Bangladesh delegation led by Minister for Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment, Nurul Islam attended the 8<sup>th</sup> GFMD in Istanbul. The delegation included Md. Shahidul Haque, Foreign Secretary, Khandker Md. Iftekhar Haider, Secretary, Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment and other senior officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment, Permanent Missions of Bangladesh in Geneva and New York and Prime Minister's Office, Dhaka. Turkish Prime Minister Prof. Dr. Ahmet Davutoglu inaugurated the 8<sup>th</sup> GFMD. Foreign Secretary Md. Shahidul Haque, as the incoming chair of 9<sup>th</sup> GFMD chaired several sessions in the 8<sup>th</sup> GFMD in Istanbul. In the Concluding ceremony of the Istanbul meeting, the incoming Chair, Foreign Secretary Shahidul Haque asserted that "As a Chair, Bangladesh would be in a position to effectively pursue and further promote the rights and well-beings of the migrant workers, refugees and the non-refugee population worldwide and their families in the global migration discourse." He noted that the 9<sup>th</sup> GFMD under

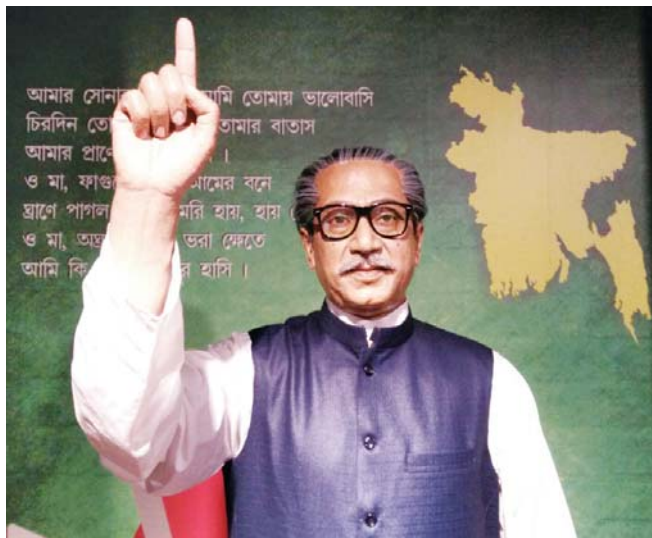


Bangladesh Chairmanship beginning on 01 January 2016, being the first year of implementation of the 2030 SDG Agenda, Bangladesh would initiate discussions aiming at migration related policies, strategies, institution drawing coherence between national processes and global commitments, contribute to identification of migration indicators, align national level migration institutions and systems with migration relevant and related provisions of the 2030 Agenda. In such a broad canvass, the Foreign Secretary proposed the overall 9<sup>th</sup> GFMD theme as 'Migration that works for Sustainable Development of All: a transformative migration agenda by 2030'. He added that in the transformation of the world of migration, GFMD must contribute to bolster mutual trust and confidence and continue to offer a space for open and dialogue among all stakeholders. At the end of the concluding ceremony of the 8<sup>th</sup> GFMD, Turkish Deputy Foreign Minister Naci Koru handed over the ceremonial GFMD Chairmanship plaque to Bangladesh Foreign Secretary, Md. Shahidul Haque.

### BANGLADESH TAKES RESPONSIBILITY OF LDC COORDINATOR

The LDC Group Members have reiterated their trust and confidence on Bangladesh as Coordinator for the second term. At a recent meeting of the LDCs at Heads of Delegation (HoD) level, the Members of the Group have agreed to extend the responsibility of Coordination for another term. As a result, Bangladesh will continue the responsibilities of LDC Coordinator. In the HoD level meeting, the Ambassadors of Nepal, Uganda, Sierra Leon, Tanzania, Haiti, Democratic Republic of Congo registered their deep appreciation for the activities performed by Bangladesh during last term. The Ambassadors extended special thanks to Ambassador of Bangladesh M. Shameem Ahsan for his sincere efforts and transparency as the Coordinator. In his statement, Ahsan extended thanks and gratitude to the LDC Group Members for their continuous confidence and support in during the last tenure.

### THE WAX STATUE OF BANGABANDHU UNVEILED IN KOLKATA



The Chief Minister of West Bengal, Mamata Banerjee unveiled the wax statue of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at Mother's Wax Museum in Kolkata on 9 October 2015. In her speech, the Chief Minister mentioned that the people of West Bengal would never forget Bangabandhu Sheikh Muibur Rahman and placing the statue was just a small demonstration of their respect towards him. The Deputy High Commissioner of Bangladesh in Kolkata Zokey Ahad was present at the ceremony and he thanked the CM for the honor she showed towards Bangabandhu.

### BANGLADESH URGES WTO MEMBERS TO ENGAGE MORE FOR THE SUCCESS IN MC 10



Ambassador M. Shameem Ahsan delivering statement at WTO 20th Anniversary event of LDCs System as a panelist on 13 October, 2015. Director General of WTO Roberto Azevedo and Secretary General of UNCTAD, Mukhisa Kituyi was also present in the event. In his statement, M. Shameem Ahsan acknowledged the steps taken for the LDCs by WTO through an overview and underscored the responsibilities of the Members to meet the challenges in order to harvest a meaningful outcome for the LDCs in the Nairobi Ministerial.

### FOREIGN MINISTER INAUGURATES SIKDER MD. ZAHIDUR RAHMAN MEMORIAL AMBASSADORS' LOUNGE

Foreign Minister A. H. Mahmood Ali, MP, inaugurated the Sikder Md. Zahidur Rahman Memorial Ambassadors' Lounge at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 09 October 2015. This lounge is dedicated in memory of late Sikder Md. Zahidur Rahman. The lounge has been established at the 1<sup>st</sup> floor (west side) of the old building for use of the visiting and retired Ambassadors of Bangladesh. Career diplomat Sikder Md. Zahidur Rahman entered Foreign Service in 1986. Mr. Rahman was a Director General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs at the time of his premature and sad demise.

### UNESCO APPROVES INTERNATIONAL MOTHER LANGUAGE INSTITUTE AS A UNESCO CATEGORY II INSTITUTE

The 197<sup>th</sup> session of the UNESCO Executive Board of United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) has approved Bangladesh's proposal to grant International Mother Language Institute (IMLI) of Dhaka the status of Category II Institute of UNESCO. While taking an unanimous decision to approve this proposal, the Executive Board members noted that "given the linguistic diversity of the Asia-Pacific region and the Institute's unique emphasis on mother tongue and multilingual education, IMLI will serve as a hub of knowledge and research and contribute towards new forms of learning and mother tongue education in the region and throughout the world". The decision of the Executive Board will now be transmitted for approval by the UNESCO General Conference scheduled to be held on 03-18 November 2015. An agreement between UNESCO and Bangladesh side in this regard is expected to be signed at the UNESCO Headquarters in Paris. This is the first time that Bangladesh is going to host an UN-affiliated institute on its soil.

### BANGLADESH-JAPAN IT B2B MEETING HELD

Bangladesh-Japan IT B2B Meeting which was held at Shinagawa Prince Hotel on 26 October 2015. It was jointly organized by Bangladesh Association of Software & Information Services (BASIS) and Embassy of Bangladesh, Tokyo. The event was supported by the Bangladesh IT professionals in Japan. This event was in line with the series of IT events organized by the Embassy in the past. Nearly 60 people attended this event which included the

The Ambassador and PR of Bangladesh M. Shameem Ahsan attended the WTO 20th Anniversary event of LDCs and participated as the LDC Coordinator in a session titled LDCs and the WTO- An Overview of 20

integration into the multilateral Trading System as a panelist on 13 October, 2015. Director General of WTO Roberto Azevedo and Secretary General of UNCTAD, Mukhisa Kituyi was also present in the event. In his statement, M. Shameem Ahsan acknowledged the steps taken for the LDCs by WTO through an overview and underscored the responsibilities of the Members to meet the challenges in order to harvest a meaningful outcome for the LDCs in the Nairobi Ministerial.

representatives of 25 Japanese companies and 13 Bangladesh companies led by Shameem Ahsan, President, BASIS. After the event, a cocktail reception was held. On 28 October 2015, the Bangladesh delegation visited Japan IT Week Autumn 2015 to discuss with the senior officials of the organizer about preparation for the next fair to be held in May 2016.

#### **FORUM ON 'NATURAL DISASTER RESILIENCE AND RESPONSE' ORGANIZED IN BRUSSELS**

The European Institute for Asian Studies (EIAS), a leading Brussels-based Think Tank and Policy Research Centre, organized a high-level one-day forum titled "Natural Disaster Resilience and Response" on 22 October 2015 in Brussels. The Embassy of Bangladesh, Brussels co-sponsored the event. The purpose of the forum was to focus on cooperation among the Asian countries with each other including foreign partners and international organizations to improve resilience against disasters and emergency response. Representatives from different Embassies, EU Institutions, FAO, World Bank, KOICA, ASEAN, JICA etc. participated at the forum. The Asia Pacific Women's Association (APWA) in which Bangladesh Embassy is also a member, organized a charity dinner on 07 October 2015 in Brussels. The purpose of the Dinner was to support the Nepal earthquake victims through a Charity Organization 'Child Protection Centres & Services' working in Nepal and Belgium. The Embassy of Bangladesh co-sponsored the program.

#### **TOURISM AND SPORTS MINISTER OF THAILAND VISITS BANGLADESH**

Minister of Tourism and Sports of the Kingdom of Thailand, Kobkarn Wattanavrangkul visited Bangladesh to attend the "International Conference on Developing Sustainable and Inclusive Buddhist Heritage and Pilgrimage Circuits in South Asia's Buddhist Heartland" on 28 October 2015. She was the Special Speaker at plenary session of the conference and spoke on setting directions for preparing a road map for the planning, development and marketing of sustainable and inclusive cross border Buddhist tourism circuits and routes in South Asia.

#### **BAHRAINI DELEGATION VISITS BANGLADESH**

A two member Bahraini delegation headed by Abdullah Abdul Aziz Kathan Al Ashri, Director of the Quran Affairs of the Ministry of Justice, Islamic Affairs and Waqf of Bahrain, visited Bangladesh on 22-26 October 2015 to discuss the issues relating to the Bahrain International Holy Quran Recitation Contest (Global Reciter) over the Internet with the concerned authorities in Bangladesh.

#### **CHIEF JUSTICE VISITS INDIA**

Chief Justice of Bangladesh Surendra Kumar Sinha paid an official visit to India on 4-10 October 2015 at the invitation of the Government of India. On 4-6 October 2015, Chief Justice visited Gujarat and delivered lecture in Gujarat National Law University (GNLU) on Bangladesh legal affairs and recent developments in this regard followed by interaction with the faculty members, and had meetings with the Governor, Chief Minister and Acting Chief Justice of Gujarat province. He also visited Gujarat Science City and Gujarat Forensic Science University. In the second part of the visit in Delhi on 7-9 October, Chief Justice had meetings with the President, Prime Minister, Law Minister, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court and Foreign Secretary of India.

#### **DEPUTY SPEAKER AND THE OPPOSITION LEADER VISIT GENEVA**

A 17-member Bangladesh parliamentary delegation led by the Deputy Speaker, Fazle Rabbi, MP, attended the 133rd Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) held in Geneva on 16-22 October 2015. The Leader of the Opposition, Raushan Ershad, MP,

along with 9 Members of the Parliament also attended the Assembly. The Deputy Speaker and the Leader of the Opposition addressed the Assembly on 20 October 2015. In the context of the present refugee crisis, they highlighted on the need for an enhanced and well coordinated international campaign with active engagement of the Governments to adopt a fair global migration policy alongside an effective Plan of Action against human traffickers who expose thousands to extreme miseries and death risks. The Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Bangladesh M. Shameem Ahsan accompanied the parliamentary delegation. In principle, it was decided that the 136<sup>th</sup> Assembly of the Inter-parliamentary Union (IPU) would be held in Bangladesh in 2017. The Deputy Speaker also held bilateral meetings with the Chairman, International Relations of Myanmar, Ha Myint, MP, Deputy Speaker of Bhutan, Chim Dorji, First Vice President of Thailand, Surachai Liengboonlertchai, First Deputy Speaker of United Arab Emirates (UAE), Dr. Amal Abdullah Al Qubaisi, and the Speaker of Iraq, A. Ali in the sidelines of IPU Assembly.

#### **BANGLADESH DELEGATION VISITS PHILIPPINES**

A 8-member delegation led by Shamsur Rahman Sherif, MP, Minister, Ministry of Land, visited Manila on 26-30 October 2015 for a study tour programme for experience sharing on land reform. The team visited the Department of Agrarian Reform, Land Registration Authority and Land Management Bureau of the Philippines. The State Minister also visited a cooperative society and beneficiary group of land reform in the Philippines out side Manila. The Minister also attended a meeting participated by a visiting business delegation led FBCCI President Abdul Matlub Ahmad and Bangladesh businessmen in the Philippines.

#### **STATE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY VISITS INDIA**

State Minister of Science and Technology Architect Yafes Osman, accompanied by seven delegation members, paid an official visit to India on 13-18 October 2015. During the visit, he had meeting with the Minister of Science and Technology, and visited Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB) and Institute of Plant Genome Research (NIPGR) in New Delhi, Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant in Tamil Nadu and National Institute of Oceanography in Goa of India. During the visit, the delegation discussed issues related to cooperation in the field of nuclear technology, as well as scientific research in biotechnology and plants, and genetic engineering.

#### **BANGLADESH DELEGATIONS VISIT SRI LANKA**

A 47-member Armed Forces' War Course (AFWC) of Bangladesh National Defence College (NDC) visited Sri Lanka on a five-day study tour on 04-08 October 2015. Among other elements in the programme, the delegation called on Commander of Sri Lankan Army Lt. Gen. Crishanthe De Silva and attended dinner by the Defence Adviser of the High Commission. A 12-member youth delegation from Bangladesh visited Sri Lanka in the first part of October 2015 under a study tour programme. The delegation accompanied by representatives of National Youth Services Council of Sri Lanka as well as some Sri Lankan youths visited Bangladesh High Commission on 06 October 2015. A 12-member delegation of Bangladesh National Cadet Corps (BNCC) visited Sri Lanka in October 2015 at the invitation of its Sri Lankan counterpart. Bangladesh Navy Ship BNS Abu Bakr visited Colombo Port on 19-23 October 2015. Among others, the programme included courtesy calls on by the Commanding Officer to Bangladesh High Commissioner to Sri Lanka, Tarik Ahsan at the Chancery on 20 October 2015 and the Commander of the Sri Lanka Navy, Vice Admiral Ravindra Wijegunaratne on 21 October 2015. On 22



October 2015, a reception was also hosted on board BNS Abu Bakr, which was attended by key defence officials of Sri Lanka Government including Defence Secretary Eng. Karunasena Hettiarachchi and Commander of Sri Lanka Navy, members of diplomatic corps, Defence Advisers of diplomatic missions, members of Bangladesh community in Sri Lanka and officials of Bangladesh High Commission in Colombo.

#### **BANGLADESH DELEGATION VISITS KUWAIT**

A Bangladesh delegation comprising of the representatives from the Armed Forces Division (AFD), Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Defence visited the State of Kuwait on 25-27 October 2015 to attend a negotiation meeting on the revision of the Agreement between Ministry of Defence of Kuwait and Ministry of Defence of Bangladesh for the Deputation of Bangladesh Armed Forces Personnel to the State of Kuwait. Another Bangladesh delegation comprising of the representatives from the Ministry of Industries, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Board of Investment (BOI) visited the State of Kuwait on 28-29 October 2015 to attend the 1<sup>st</sup> round of negotiation meeting on the draft of the Agreement on Reciprocal Promotion and Protection of Investment between Bangladesh and Kuwait.

#### **BANGLADESH CRICKET TEAM VISITS PRETORIA**

Bangladesh "A Cricket Team" visited Pretoria on 15 October 2015 in their first leg of the tour to South Africa and Zimbabwe. They played 2 One Day matches against Irene Village Cricket Club and three one day matches with Northern Academy, Northern and Gauteng Strikers respectively.

#### **BANGLADESH AMBASSADOR PRESENTS LETTER OF CREDENCE IN CAPE VERDE**



Ambassador Imtiaz Ahmed presented Letter of Credence to the President of Cabo Verde (Cape Verde) Dr. Jorge Carlos da Almeida Fonseca as first ever Non Resident B a n g l a d e s h Ambassador to Cabo

Verde (Cape Verde) on 28 October 2015. After presentation of credential, the Ambassador had a brief meeting with the President of Cape Verde. President welcomed him to Cape Verde and Ambassador conveyed the compliments of the President of Bangladesh to Cabo Verdian President. Later they discussed issues of mutual interest.

#### **BANGLADESH HIGH COMMISSIONER TO ZAMBIA PRESENTS LETTER OF CREDENCE**

Bangladesh High Commissioner in South Africa and also non-resident High Commissioner to Zambia Shabbir Ahmad Chowdhury presented his Letters of Credence to President of the Republic of Zambia Edgar Chagwa Lungu, on 21 October, 2015 at the President's office in Lusaka, Zambia. While presenting the credentials, Chowdhury conveyed the greetings of the President and the Prime Minister to President Edgar Chagwa Lungu and also assured President Lungu of his sincere efforts to elevate the level of the bilateral relations between Bangladesh and Zambia during his tenure of assignment. President Lungu welcomed and congratulated Chowdhury on his new appointment and wished his success.

#### **BANGLADESH AMBASSADOR TO QATAR PRESENTS LETTER OF CREDENCE**

Newly appointed Ambassador of Bangladesh to Qatar, Ashud Ahmed, presented Letter of credence to Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad

Al-Thani, Emir of the State of Qatar, at the Emiri Dewan on 27 October 2015, in Doha. The Emir of Qatar warmly welcomed the Bangladesh Ambassador and wished him success during his tenure as Ambassador in Qatar. The Ambassador of Bangladesh conveyed to the greetings and compliments of the President and the Prime Minister of Bangladesh. The Emir highly appreciated the Bangladesh expatriates living in Qatar for their contribution in the development of Qatar. They discussed different bilateral issues including energy cooperation & trade augmentation between Bangladesh and Qatar.

#### **BANGLADESH AMBASSADOR TO LEBANON MEETS LEBANESE LABOUR MINISTER**

Abdul Motaleb Sarker, Ambassador of Bangladesh to the Republic of Lebanon, called on SejaanAzzi, Labour Minister of the Republic of Lebanon, on 29 October 2015. Although it was his first meeting with the Minister of Labour, the Ambassador took the opportunity to discuss at length, almost all the problems/issues concerning Bangladesh workers in Lebanon. Referring to the existing excellent relations between Bangladesh and Lebanon, the Ambassador requested the Minister's personal intervention in resolving the workers' problems. The Minister listened to all the problems with great attention. He also seemed to be aware of some of the problems. He suggested that the Embassy and his Ministry needed to work closely in addressing the problems of the Bangladesh workers in Lebanon.

#### **BANGLADESH AND CHINA CELEBRATE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS**

Foreign Affairs Office of the People's Government of Yunnan Province, and Yunnan People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries and the Consulate General of the People's Republic of Bangladesh in Kunming hosted a reception of the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations between the People's Republic of China and the People's Republic of Bangladesh at the Centre Lawn of Kunming Foreign Consulate Area. Gao Shuxun, Vice Governor of Yunnan Province, attended and delivered a speech. He mentioned that the People's Republic of Bangladesh and the People's Republic of China officially established diplomatic relations on 4<sup>th</sup> October 1975. Since the establishment of the diplomatic relations 40 years ago, the two countries have respected and supported each other with mutual understanding, and fully promoted a pragmatic cooperation in a wide range of areas, the two countries have maintained a relatively smooth communication and coordination in terms of international and regional affairs. In 2014, the total trade volume between Bangladesh and Yunnan province is 129 million USD, has increased by 17 times recorded in 2000. During January to August 2015, the total trade volume between Bangladesh and Yunnan province is 133 million USD, 204.5% higher the same period.

#### **BANGLADESH EMBASSY PARIS ORGANIZES RECEPTION AND POETRY SOIREE AT UNESCO**

The Embassy and Permanent Delegation of Bangladesh to UNESCO organized a reception and poetry recitation evening on 14 October 2015 at Circle of Delegations of UNESCO on the occasion of the 197th session of the UNESCO Executive Board. In his welcome remarks, the Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to UNESCO, M. Shahidul Islam made reference to the long tradition of poetry in Bangla language that has been enriched by works of such great poets like Nobel Laureate Poet Rabinranath Tagore and National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam. The main attraction of the evening was recitation by Bangladesh poet Kamal Chowdhury, Senior Secretary of Ministry of Public Administration, attended the UNESCO Executive Board meetings as Bangladesh's representative to the Executive Board of UNESCO. Others who recited poems

included personalities like Dr. Karan Singh, renowned intellectual and Representative of India to Executive Board of UNESCO; Ambassador Zhang Xiuqin of China; eminent poet and writer Ambassador Georgios Veis of Greece; Ambassador Ahmad JALALI of Iran; Ambassador Huseyin Avni Botsali of Turkey; famous poet of Spanish language Ambassador Luis Alberto CRESPO of Venezuela; and Dr. Chris Rampersad, Representative of Trinidad and Tobago to UNESCO Executive Board. More than 150 foreign delegates including several Ambassadors from 58 Member countries of the Executive Board attended the event. The idea of organizing a poetry soiree at UNESCO was widely appreciated by foreign delegations and they wished to continue this practice during next Executive Board sessions. From Bangladesh community in Paris mime artist Partha Pratim Majumder and film-maker Amirul Arham were also present.

#### **BANGLADESH EMBASSY PARTICIPATES BUSAN INTERNATIONAL SEAFOOD AND FISHERIES EXPO 2015**



Bangladesh Ambassador alongside Busan Mayor Suh Byeong-soo visiting the fair at the opening ceremony of Expo

The Ambassador attended the opening ceremony of the event and joined the VIP luncheon following the ceremony. The Bangladesh booth was decorated with posters and banners of seafood and fisheries items and offered, posters, pamphlets, and brochures of Bangladesh's seafood and fisheries products and list of exporters to the visitors.

#### **BANGLADESH EMBASSY IN SEOUL PARTICIPATES FESTIVITIES IN KOREA**

The Embassy of Bangladesh in Seoul participated at the 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Charity Bazaar of Korean Red Cross held in Seoul on 13 October 2015 and sold Bangladesh handicraft items to raise money for charity. The sales proceed of the Bazaar was donated to impoverished people, including multicultural families, children living without their parents and senior citizens living alone. The Embassy in Seoul participated in Itaewon Global Village Festival 2015, one of the biggest multicultural festivals in Korea held at Yongsan district of Seoul on 17-18 October 2015. Bangladesh's colorful participation at the opening rally with traditional costumes, musical instruments, festoons and flags was appreciated by the thousands of visitors of the fair. A 15-minute cultural performance by Bangladesh Embassy was also a part of attraction of the fair. The Embassy booth, decorated with handicrafts, cultural artifacts and musical instruments of Bangladesh attracted a large number of visitors. Visitors enjoyed the activities offered at the booth such as, trying Bangladesh musical instruments, mehedi tattooing etc. The Embassy participated in a fair organized by Human Resources Division (HRD) Korea in Ansan city of Gyeonggi Province of Korea on 18 October 2015 to celebrate the 11th anniversary of the introduction of Employment Permit System for unskilled labourers. The Embassy operated a booth at the fair and displayed cultural

items of Bangladesh there. Some Bangladesh traditional foods such as Chotpoti, Fuchka, fruit punch of native fruits etc. were offered to the visitors at the booth. The Embassy participated in the 2015 Migrants Arirang Multicultural Festival held in Gyeongnam Province of South Korea on 2-4 October 2015. The event was organized by Gyeongnam Foreigners Shelter and a television channel named MBC. The Embassy alongside the Bangladesh community in the area participated in the festival through a cultural booth, a cultural performance and a costume parade.

#### **BANGLADESH PARTICIPATES TRADE FAIR IN HONG KONG**

The 'MEGA SHOW Part 1', regarded as the largest sourcing trade exhibition for gifts, premiums, house wares, kitchen & dining, lifestyle products, toys & games and stationery in the Asia-Pacific region was held in Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre during 20-23 October, 2015. The 2-session MEGA SHOW showcased a very wide range of toys, gifts, premiums, and houseware products from approximately over 4,000 exhibitors and attracted over 50,000 visitors. A delegation from Export Promotion Bureau, and the proprietors of 16 companies along with their exhibits, attended the 'MEGA SHOW Part 1'. The exhibitors from Bangladesh displayed handicrafts, basket wares, flower/plant tubs, planters, trays, laundry baskets, cylinders, seaters, rugs, paper baskets, paper bins, bamboo blinds, bags, jute bags, jute gardening products, place mats, cushion covers, candles, terra cottas, wooden items etc in the fair. The Consulate General was actively involved with various activities for the successful participation of the Bangladesh exhibitors in the above mentioned fair. The Consulate assisted the EPB as well as the participating companies in disseminating information on fair, reserving booths, facilitating their smooth travel to Hong Kong, assistance during the fair, etc.

#### **BANGLADESH CONSULATE GENERAL IN MILAN ORGANIZES CULTURAL EVENING**

On 27<sup>th</sup> October 2015, Bangladesh Consulate General in Milan organized a cultural evening at EXPO centre Milano 2015 to showcase the culture of Bangladesh on the eve of closing of EXPO on 31<sup>st</sup> October 2015. The visitors experienced and honored the wonders of Bangladesh culture through songs, dance performances, and a beautifully choreographed Fashion show. Filippo Ciantia, the Director of the Cluster Countries and Civil Society, graced the event as the Chief Guest. He congratulated Bangladesh on the success of Bangladesh pavilion during the entire six months of EXPO Milano 2015 and appreciated the active cooperation with the EXPO authority all the time. Exemplifying the theme, the event wrapped up with a fashion show highlighting the traditional dress of Bangladesh women, saree. The member of Bangladesh community in Milan and a few Italian girls exhibited Jamdani, Nakshikatha, Rajshahi silk, Katan, cotton and Maslin sarees to the audience. Many distinguished guests from different pavilions were present at the event and was entertained with the one hour cultural event. The event has attracted about one thousand visitors of EXPO and a huge round of applause by the audience.

#### **BANGLADESH DEPUTY HIGH COMMISSION IN KOLKATA PARTICIPATES IN FOOD FESTIVAL**

Bangladesh Deputy High Commission, Kolkata participated actively in the food festival "Ahare Bangla" organized by the West Bengal Government during 30 October to 02 November 2015 at Milan Mela, Kolkata. This Mission had a food stall where traditional Bangladesh cuisines were served. Food items of the stall were one of the main attractions of the food lovers during the entire festival.