

FOREIGN OFFICE

BRIEFING NOTES

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PRIME MINISTER ATTENDS 70TH SESSION OF THE UNGA



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina addressing at the 70th Session of the UN General Assembly

A Bangladesh delegation led by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina attended the 70th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) on 24 September–01 October 2015 at the UN Headquarters in New York. In this Session, the Prime Minister received two prestigious awards, i.e. 'ICT Sustainable Development Award' and 'Champions of the Earth' that brought laurels for the country and the people. The Prime Minister co-chaired an interactive dialogue session titled "Fostering Sustainable Economic Growth, Transformation and Promoting Sustainable Consumption and Production" with the Prime Minister of Belgium during the 'UN Summit on Post-2015 Development Agenda'. The Prime Minister delivered her Statement at the Plenary Session of the Summit on 27 September 2015. The Prime Minister delivered her Statement at the General Debate session on 30 September 2015. She urged the international community to work together to address the twin challenges of terrorism and violent extremism and climate change. The Prime Minister also attended the High Level Round Table on South South Cooperation, the Global Leaders' Meeting on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment and Leaders' Summit on UN Peacekeeping and the Leaders' Forum on Countering Violent Extremism. The Prime Minister also Chaired a side event on 'MDGs to SDGs: A Way Forward' organized by Bangladesh. The Prime Minister had bilateral meetings with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Chinese President Xi Jinping, Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte and Queen Máxima of the Netherlands. The Prime Minister had a meeting with a 3-member delegation from the



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina receiving 'Champions of The Earth' award from UNEP Executive Director Achim Steiner for her global leadership in climate action and initiative to address climate change nationally and internationally on 27 September 2015 in New York



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina receiving 'ICT Sustainable Development' award from ITU Secretary General Haolin Zhu for her achievement in creating 'Digital Bangladesh' on 26 September 2015 in New York

US Congress. The Prime Minister also addressed a meeting of the US Business Council for International Understanding (BCIU). The Foreign Minister, the State Minister for Foreign Affairs and Foreign Secretary attended a number of international/ regional Ministerial meetings, including SAARC, OIC, G-77 and China and Commonwealth.

FRENCH AND GERMAN FOREIGN MINISTERS VISIT BANGLADESH



Foreign Minister Abul Hassan Mahmood Ali, MP, and State Minister for Foreign Affairs Md. Shahriar Alam, MP, with visiting French Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Development Laurent Fabius and German Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs Frank-Walter Steinmeier on 21 September 2015 in Dhaka

French Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Development Laurent Fabius and German Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs Frank-Walter Steinmeier visited Bangladesh on 21-22 September 2015. During the joint visit, they paid a joint courtesy call on the Prime Minister on 21

September 2015. The two visiting Ministers had discussed, among others, climate change and migration issues with the Prime Minister. Lauding Bangladesh's impressive success in all socioeconomic fronts, they said that the people of Bangladesh are very active to further the country's development. In addition, the visiting Foreign Ministers along with accompanying delegations have had a joint trilateral meeting with the Bangladesh delegation headed by the Foreign Minister on 21 September 2015, followed by lunch at State Guest House 'Padma'. The Ministers visited Savar to see the climatic impact and other development works in Bangladesh. During their visit to Dhaka, the first French-German co-located Embassy in the world was inaugurated by the Bangladesh Foreign Minister A. H. Mahmood Ali in their presence. This is a unique recognition for Bangladesh as a peace-loving country where the two European as well as global major powers, i.e. France and Germany have started its journey of co-located Embassy in Dhaka.

COMMONWEALTH SECRETARY GENERAL MEETS FOREIGN MINISTER

The Secretary General of the Commonwealth Kamallesh Sharma met Foreign Minister A.H. Mahmood Ali, MP, in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 12 September 2015. The purpose of the meeting was to brief the Bangladesh leadership on the forthcoming Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) to be held this year. The Secretary General thanked the Foreign Minister and appreciated important role played by Bangladesh in Commonwealth and its different bodies. They discussed various Commonwealth cooperative projects exist in Bangladesh. The Foreign Minister welcomed the Secretary General on his third visit to Bangladesh. He said that Commonwealth of Nations as a global organization covering all the continents with wide diversity in fostering and promoting common and fundamental Commonwealth values and principles. He mentioned that "The Commonwealth - Adding Global Value" is a pertinent and timely theme for CHOGM-2015, which should highlight major impact that the Commonwealth could have significantly and constructively to influence international politics, effectively address global issues, and ultimately facilitate lives of Commonwealth citizens for better future. The Foreign Minister said that Bangladesh would like to see the outcome of CHOGM 2015 to voice for and enhance the interests of LDCs and Small Island developing states (SIDS) in international fora in priority areas such as trade, market access, investment, poverty eradication, sustainable development, women's empowerment, climate change, blue economy and others. The Foreign Minister also appreciated the efforts of the Secretary General in advancing the agenda and interest of the Commonwealth during his term. The Secretary General led a three-member delegation on a three-day official visit to Bangladesh from 11-13 September.

UN UNDER-SECRETARY GENERAL CALLS ON FOREIGN MINISTER

UN Under- Secretary General Atul Khare called on Foreign Minister A H Mahmood Ali, MP in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs 14 September 2015. During the call on, mentioning Bangladesh as the top troops contributing country, Foreign Minister A.H. Mahmood Ali observed that more Bangladesh Nationals deserve to be appointed for policy and command level positions at both the Headquarters and at the field Missions. Mahmood Ali also appreciated the suggestions made by Atul Khare on the possibility of engaging Bangladesh business sector in providing logistics and



UN under-Secretary General Atul Khare called on Foreign Minister A.H. Mahmood Ali, MP, in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

services support to UN peacekeeping Missions. The Under-Secretary General informed the Foreign Minister that his visit was primarily aimed at conveying the UN's thanks and appreciation to Bangladesh for its highest contribution of troops and police to UN peacekeeping operations. The Under-Secretary General requested Bangladesh to contribute further addressing certain capability gaps in UN peacekeeping Missions. Atul Khare appreciated the role of Bangladesh's female peacekeepers, and urged the major troops and police contributing countries to deploy more women in the Missions. He also underscored the need for minimizing the carbon footprint of UN peacekeeping Missions to promote environmental protection. The Under-Secretary General expressed his wish to work together with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to organise outreach events for building civilian capacities for UN peacekeeping Missions.

PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE VISITS BANGLADESH MISSIONS IN THE U.A.E



The Parliamentary Standing Committee (PSC) on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs headed by its Chairman Dr. Dipu Moni, MP, visited the Embassy of Bangladesh in Abu Dhabi and Consulate General of Bangladesh in Dubai on 07-08 September 2015, along with 4 other members of the committee namely Mr. Muhammad Faruk Khan MP, Mr. Golam Faruk Khandakar, MP, Mr. Mohammed Suhrab Uddin, MP, and Mr. Salim Uddin, MP. The sole objective of the visit was to exchange views with the members of Bangladesh Community in UAE on current important issues particularly on the target of MRP enrollment and problems and solutions for achieving so. On 07 September 2015, the delegation visited the Bangladesh Embassy Abu Dhabi. The Ambassador of Bangladesh to the UAE Muhammed Imran presented a power point presentation in the Mission's conference hall on UAE-Bangladesh diplomatic & bilateral

relations and also updated them with necessary information regarding MRP activities done by the Missions and the performance of the out sourcing company in the UAE.

FIRST-EVER FOC BETWEEN BANGLADESH AND THE NETHERLANDS HELD AT THE HAGUE



The first-ever Foreign Office Consultation between Bangladesh and the Netherlands was held in The Hague on 10 September 2015. The Bangladesh

delegation was led by Foreign Secretary Md. Shahidul Haque while Renée Jones-Bos, Secretary-General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands led the Dutch delegation. During consultation, the gamut of bilateral relations between the two countries was discussed at length. Both sides agreed for early implementation of the three instruments signed during the twin ministerial visit from the Netherlands to Bangladesh in June this year on partnership for knowledge and innovation for sustainable development, Bangladesh Delta Plan 2100 and the collaboration in the field of land reclamation and land accretion in Bangladesh. Bangladesh and the Netherlands also agreed to intensify and broaden technical cooperation in the areas of water sector development, infrastructure and logistics including port development, blue economy, textile and RMG, agriculture, leather and leather goods, ICT, private sector development, capacity building in Bangladesh's judicial sector etc. Bangladesh also requested the Netherlands for increasing the scholarships for students from Bangladesh significantly and the Netherlands assured to consider this request with due earnest. Appreciating Bangladesh's exemplary achievements in the spheres of socio-economic developments, the Netherlands expressed their keenness to work with Bangladesh towards harnessing their mutual potential to its entirety. Bangladesh and the Netherlands felt that the bilateral relations between the two countries are going through a transition from traditional aid relations to trade and investment-driven relations. The Netherlands assured to focus on capacity development of important sectors to facilitate Bangladesh becoming a middle income country by 2021. Both sides also agreed to closely cooperate on multilateral and global issues including on climate change and post-2015 development agenda.

BIMSTEC WORKING GROUP (BWG) MEETING HELD



The 144th BIMSTEC Working Group (BWG) Meeting was held at the BIMSTEC Secretariat, Dhaka, Bangladesh

on 14 September 2015. The Meeting extensively discussed the various issues related to Trade and Investment, Climate

Change, Energy, Agriculture, Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime, People to people Contact, Fisheries and other areas. During the Meeting, the decisions taken at previous Meeting and present implementation levels were reviewed

FOURTH BANGLADESH-USA SECURITY DIALOGUE HELD AT WASHINGTON



The 4th round of Bangladesh-USA Security Dialogue was held on 11 September 2015 at the U.S. State Department, Washington D.C., USA.

Mizanur Rahman, Secretary (Bilateral & Consular), Ministry of Foreign Affairs, led the 9-member Bangladesh delegation in the dialogue comprising representatives from the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Home Affairs, Defence, Armed Forces Division (AFD), and the Embassy of Bangladesh in Washington, DC. The U.S. delegation which was composed of diverse inter-agency group from different bureaus of the Department of State, Department of Defense, U.S. Pacific Command, was led by principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Political-Military Affairs, Todd Chapman. U.S. Ambassador to Bangladesh Mercia Bernicat also participated in the dialogue. The day-long dialogue contained discussions encompassing a wide range of issues pertaining to the security partnership between the two countries including, among others, strategic priorities and regional issues, Military-to-Military cooperation, cyber security, UN Peacekeeping, counter terrorism and violent extremism, and disaster management. Both the sides converged on the importance of deeper and stronger partnership in their common pursuit to seek effective solutions to their mutual security concerns.

BILATERAL MEETINGS BETWEEN BANGLADESH AND INDIA HELD

The 8th Line of Credit (LoC) review meeting between Bangladesh and India was held in New Delhi, India, on 14-19 September 2015. Additional Secretary of Prime Minister's office led the Bangladesh delegation. Representatives from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, ERD, Ministry of Railways and Bangladesh Railway also attended the meeting as members of the delegation. Under the soft loan of US\$ 1 billion extended to Bangladesh by Government of India (First LoC) various infrastructural development activities of roads and railways are going on. In the meeting, progress of those projects was discussed.

The 61st meeting of the Joint Committee on sharing of the Ganga/Ganges waters at Farakka of Bangladesh and India and technical level meeting JRC were held in Chandigarh and New Delhi respectively on 15-18 September 2015. Member, Joint Rivers Commission (JRC), Bangladesh led the Bangladesh delegation. Representatives from JRC, Ministry of Water Resources and Ministry of Foreign Affairs were also present in the meeting as delegation members. Both sides analyzed the field level data of Ganga/Ganges water flow and water sharing in January-May 2015 and discussed on ensuring flow of water in dry season according to Agreement on Sharing of the Ganges Water at Farakka-1996.

AGREEMENT RATIFIED BETWEEN BANGLADESH AND MALAYSIA

Malaysia has ratified the Agreement between Bangladesh and Malaysia on the Partial Abolition of Visa Requirements for Diplomatic and Official Passports which was signed in December 2014 in Putrajaya during the visit of the Prime Minister to Malaysia. Earlier, Bangladesh sent the instrument of ratification of this agreement and specimen of Bangladesh Diplomatic and Official Passports to the Malaysian side on 5 February 2015. This agreement will be implemented from 15 October 2015 and therefore, officials and diplomats from the two countries will not require visas for traveling to each others' country. The implementation of this agreement is an emblem of cordial relations existing between Bangladesh and Malaysia.

PROPOSED DRAFT MOU BETWEEN BANGLADESH AND MYANMAR FINALIZED

To strengthen the security cooperation, Bangladesh and Myanmar are working on two MOUs namely the MOU on Security Cooperation and Dialogue and the MOU on Establishment of Border Liaison Offices. An Inter-Ministerial Meeting for finalizing the drafts of the proposed two MOUs was held on 03 September 2015 with the Foreign Secretary in the chair. The texts of the drafts of these two MOUs from Bangladesh side were finalized in the meeting and then sent to the Myanmar side for further necessary action.

MOU SIGNED BETWEEN BANGLADESH POLICE AND AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL POLICE

A K M Shahidul Haque, IGP, Bangladesh Police, led a two-member delegation to Australia on 02-04 September 2015 to attend the International Counter-Improvised Explosive Device (IED) Leader's Forum. The meeting was held in Canberra and the delegation had opportunity of extensive discussion with their counterpart during the meeting. An MOU on Combating Transnational Crime and Developing Police Cooperation between Bangladesh Police and Australian Federal Police was signed in Canberra on 04 September 2015 by A K M Shahidul Haque, IGP of Bangladesh Police and Commissioner of Australian Federal Police Andrew Colvin. It is expected that the MOU will provide scope for cooperation in information sharing in the area of law enforcement, strengthening and consolidating existing cooperative networks between the participants and cooperative assistance in the field of capacity building and professional development.

BANGLADESH AMBASSADOR JOINS A THEMATIC DIALOGUE IN GENEVA

M. Shameem Ahsan, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Bangladesh in Geneva, called for bringing collective voices of the 'affected people' in the discussion of 'localization of humanitarian assistance' during the World Humanitarian Summit. Ambassador Ahsan was invited as a panelist at a thematic dialogue on 'Localizing Humanitarian Assistance' on 24 September 2015 at the Permanent Mission of the Federal Republic of Germany in Geneva. This was a part of the series of dialogues among stakeholders, in the run up to the Global Consultation of the World Humanitarian Summit, which is scheduled to take place in Geneva on 14-16 October 2015. The Panel also included German Ambassador Dr. Joachim Ruecker, Wolfgang Jamann, Secretary General of the CARE International and Rob Smith, Head of Geneva Office for the World Humanitarian Summit. Ambassador Ahsan said "For humanitarian interventions to be truly effective, we need Long-term strategic partnerships

based on respect, mutual empowerment and trust among donors, IGOs, INGOs and local organization to increase preparedness and capacity of the local actors so that they can not only respond better in future but also assume leadership role in humanitarian emergencies". Citing the notable success of Bangladesh Humanitarian Coordination Task Team (HCTT) during the recent 'cyclone Komen', which was able to assess and produce actionable report within a week on 2.6 million affected people, the Ambassador concluded, "it proves that under strong national leadership, localization works, and works on a scale".

BIMSTEC TRADE NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE MEETING HELD IN THAILAND



The 20th Meeting of the BIMSTEC Trade negotiating Committee (BIMSTEC TNC) was held at Khon Kaen, Thailand, on 07-09 September 2015. The Meeting was attended by all the Member states including a delegation of seven members' representatives from Bangladesh. The Meeting effectively discussed the issues with a view to finalizing the Four Agreements/Protocols on a) Agreement on Trade in Goods of the Framework Agreement on BIMSTEC Free Trade Area, b) Protocol to Amend the Framework Agreement on the BIMSTEC Free Trade Area, c) Agreement on Dispute Settlement Procedures and Mechanism of the Framework, and d) Agreement on Cooperation and Mutual Assistance in Customs Matters for BIMSTEC Free Trade Area.

IRANIAN FOREIGN MINISTER VISITS BANGLADESH

Dr. Mohammad Javad Zarif, Foreign Minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran, visited Dhaka on 16 September 2015 to brief the Bangladesh leadership on different aspects of the nuclear deal concluded in July 2015 between Iran and E3/EU+3 (China, France, Germany, the Russian Federation, the UK, the USA and the EU). Iranian Foreign Minister's programme in Dhaka included courtesy calls on the President and the Prime Minister and meeting with the Foreign Minister. Foreign Minister hosted a lunch at the State Guest House, Padma in honour of the Iranian Foreign Minister.

VATICAN CABINET MINISTER PAYS OFFICIAL VISIT TO BANGLADESH

Cabinet Minister of Vatican Cardinal Fernando Filoni visited Bangladesh on 9-13 September 2015. The purpose of the Minister's visit was to participate at the religious celebration to mark the 25th anniversary of the establishment of the Diocese of Rajshahi as the special Envoy of the Supreme Pontiff of the Catholic Church Pope Francis. During his visit in Bangladesh, the Minister has paid courtesy calls on the Prime Minister on 13 September 2015. In addition, the visiting Minister has had call on the State Minister for Foreign Affairs on 13 September 2015.

JAPANESE DELEGATION VISITS BANGLADESH

A five-member delegation headed by the Parliamentary Vice-Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry of the Government of Japan, Yoshihiro Seki, visited Bangladesh on 29 September-01 October 2015. The Vice Minister was accompanied by senior officials of the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry and Ministry of Foreign Affairs and a high level business delegation. The Japanese Vice Minister held official talks with Tofail Ahmed, MP, Minister for Commerce who was also in charge of the Ministry of Industry. They discussed mainly about the investment opportunities in Bangladesh and ways and means of attracting Japanese investment in Bangladesh. The Japanese side informed that there are over 230 Japanese companies presently in Bangladesh and a large number of them are also keen to invest in Bangladesh. Both sides agreed that expeditious setting up of the Special Economic Zone (SEZ) for Japanese investors in Bangladesh would boost Japanese investment in Bangladesh. On the same day Seki also called on State Minister for ICT Division, Zunaid Ahmed Palak MP, who hosted a working luncheon in honour of the visiting Vice Minister. They also witnessed the signing of a MoU between Bangladesh Hi-Tech Park Authority (BHTPA) and Re-Tem Corporation of Japan on planning, development and successful implementation of Hi-Tech Parks in Bangladesh.

KOREAN DELEGATION VISITS BANGLADESH

A six-member delegation headed by Kim Choon Jin, Chairman, Health and Welfare Committee of the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea and Vice President of the International Conference of Asian Political Parties (ICAPP) Parliamentarians' Union, visited Bangladesh on 26-28 September 2015. The delegation included four members of the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea. During the visit, the delegation had a meeting with Faruk Khan MP, Chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism and Member of Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 27 September 2015.

DEPUTY MINISTER OF TREASURY OF POLAND VISITS BANGLADESH

Deputy Minister of Treasury of Poland Zdzislaw Gawlik visited Bangladesh on 16-17 September 2015. The Deputy Minister was accompanied by a business delegation and representatives of the defense sector. During his visit to Bangladesh, the Deputy Minister paid courtesy calls on the Finance Minister on 16 September 2015. In addition, the Deputy Minister paid courtesy calls on the Advisor of the Prime Minister on Security Affairs and representatives of the Armed forces Division. He also called on the State Minister for Foreign Affairs.

AUSTR TEAM VISITS BANGLADESH

AUSTR delegation led by Assistant U.S. Trade representative Michael J. Delaney visited Bangladesh on 19 to 24 September 2015 to hold discussions with Bangladesh Government officials and other stakeholders on overall improvements of the implementation of GSP Action Plan in Bangladesh. Foreign Secretary hosted a luncheon on 19 September at the State Guest House Padma in honour of the visiting AUSTR Delaney. Commerce Secretary, Labour and Employment Secretary, and other high level government officials participated in the luncheon. Foreign Secretary, in his welcome address, expressed his satisfaction on the substance and outcome of the discussions during the visit.

FOREIGN SECRETARY PAYS OFFICIAL VISIT TO WASHINGTON

Foreign Secretary Md. Shahidul Haque led a five-member Bangladesh delegation to Washington DC, USA, on 21-23 September 2015. During the visit, Foreign Secretary held meetings with the Regional Program Director of American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organization (AFL-CIO), Tim Ryan, Regional Deputy Vice President of Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC), Fatema Schumer, Deputy Vice President, Thomas Kelly, and Managing Director Christopher Melony. Foreign Secretary also met the Director of National Security Council Peter Lavoy, Assistant Secretary for Population, Migration and Refugees Anne C. Richard, Undersecretary of State Wendy Sherman, and Assistant Secretary for Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor Tom Melownoski, Undersecretary-designate Tom Shannon, and Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asia Nisha Desai Biswal separately. In the meetings, issues related to bilateral interests were discussed in depth and dimension.

BANGLADESH DELEGATION VISITS MALDIVES

A high level delegation from the Prime Minister's office visited Maldives on 04 September 2015 to join The First Project Steering Committee Meeting arranged by National Centre for Information Technology (NCIT) of Maldives. Mentionable, there is a MoU which was signed on 12 February 2015 between Access to Information (a2i) Programme, Prime Minister's Office of Bangladesh and National Centre for Information Technology (NCIT) in Maldives to establish framework of cooperation in the field of Information and Communication Technology.

BANGLADESH DELEGATION VISITS SOUTH AFRICA

The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of South Africa hosted the XIV World Forestry Congress (WFG-2015) 2015 in Durban, South Africa, on 7-11 September, 2015. The WFG-2015 was represented by a five-member Bangladesh delegation led by Dr. Kamal Uddin Ahmed, Secretary-in-Charge, Ministry of Environment and Forests. The WFG is convened every six years by a host country in collaboration with the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) of the UN upon the decision of the FAO Council. The Congress serves as a forum for governments, universities, civil society and the private sector to exchange views and experiences and to formulate recommendations for implementation at national, regional and global levels.

BANGLADESH HIGH COMMISSIONER PRESENTS LETTER OF CREDENCE IN MOZAMBIQUE

Bangladesh High Commissioner to South Africa and also non-resident High Commissioner to Mozambique Shabbir Ahmad Chowdhury presented his Letter of Credence to Filipe Jacinto Nyusi, President of the Republic of Mozambique, on 17 September, 2015 at the President's Office in Maputo, Mozambique. While presenting the credentials, the High Commissioner conveyed the greetings of the President and the Prime Minister to President Filipe Jacinto Nyusi and also assured President Nyusi of his sincere efforts to elevate the level of the bilateral relations between Bangladesh and Mozambique during his tenure of assignment. President Nyusi welcomed and congratulated Chowdhury on his new appointment and wished him success.

TURKISH AMBASSADOR PRESENTS CREDENTIALS

Ambassador-designate of the Republic of Turkey to Bangladesh Devrim Ozturk presented his credentials to the President on 15 September 2015.

FOREIGN SECRETARY HOSTS FAREWELL LUNCH IN HONOR OF THE DEPARTING AMBASSADOR OF THAILAND TO BANGLADESH

On 13 September 2015, Foreign Secretary hosted a farewell lunch in honor of the departing Ambassador of Thailand to Bangladesh, Madurapochana Ittarong at the State Guest house Padma. Foreign Secretary thanked the Ambassador for excellent contribution to the development of bilateral relations between Bangladesh and Thailand. The departing Ambassador also expressed her deep satisfaction while serving in Bangladesh and mentioned that Bangladesh would always occupy a special place in her heart. Heads of Missions from the South and the Southeast Asian countries resident in Dhaka as well as the senior officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs attended the event.

BANGLADESH MISSION IN TOKYO PARTICIPATES IN JATA TOURISM EXPO 2015

Bangladesh Embassy in Japan participated in a major tourism promotion event titled the JATA Tourism EXPO Japan 2015 which was held at Tokyo Big Sight on 25-27 September 2015. Bangladesh has been continuously participating in this JATA fair. A delegation led by Md. Aftab Uddin Sarker, MP, Member, Parliamentary Standing Committee on Ministry of Civil Aviation & Tourism (MoCAT) including senior officials from Bangladesh Tourism Board (BTB), Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation and MoCAT attended the fair. As many as eight tour operators from Bangladesh attended the fair and actively interacted with the business partners as well as the visitors by presenting the promotional materials and souvenirs on Tourism in Bangladesh. The opening ceremony of the Bangladesh Pavilion was held on 25 September 2015 which was attended by, among others, Md. Aftab Uddin Sarker, MP, and Ambassador Masud Bin Momen. The delegation had bilateral meetings with Vice Commissioner of Japan Tourism Agency as well as the JATA Chairman. The event included programs like JAPAN NIGHT, the International Tourism Forum, the ASEM Symposium on Promoting Tourism during the EXPO in which Bangladesh actively participated. On 27 September 2015 evening, a Dinner Reception was held at the Washington Hotel adjacent to Big Sight to create an opportunity for the Bangladesh delegation to meet the Japanese entities engaged in the travel industry as well as in fostering Japan-Bangladesh friendship.