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DIPLOMATS

WORLD

The Only Diplomatic Magazine in Bangladesh

**Upholding the Legacy of Ekushey February: Bangladeshi
Artists Pay Tribute to Language Martyrs on the Global Stage**

**The 5th August Victory and Future Bangladesh—
An Appeal to the Political Masters**

**Echoes of Tulip Mania: Speculative Bubbles and the Fragile
Realities of Bangladesh's Economy**





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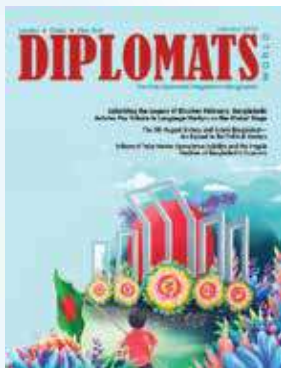
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Diplomat's World joins the nation in paying homage to the language martyrs of February 21, 1952. Both the people of Bangladesh and its Missions abroad observed Amar Ekushey and International Mother Language Day with solemnity and fervor. Chief Adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus remarked that the spirit of Amar Ekushey inspired the July uprising, uniting the people to build a "New Bangladesh." He emphasized that the indomitable spirit of the 1952 language movement gave strength to the people during the mass uprising, ultimately transforming the country. This year's annual book fair was inaugurated with the theme "The July Uprising: Rebuilding a New Bangladesh," symbolizing national unity and renewal.

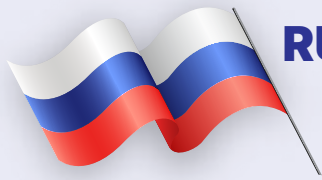
The interim government expressed gratitude to the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) for conducting an independent and comprehensive investigation into the student-led revolution of July and August that led to the end of Sheikh Hasina's regime. The investigation, undertaken at the invitation of the interim government, documented widespread human rights violations. The OHCHR report identified grave abuses—including extrajudicial killings, arbitrary arrests, torture, and the disproportionate use of force—allegedly carried out by the former Sheikh Hasina-led government, elements of the Awami League, and various security and intelligence agencies. The findings indicate systematic patterns of violence and repression, resulting in the deaths of hundreds and injuries to thousands of protesters.

At a recent seminar on SAARC, Foreign Affairs Adviser Touhid Hossain highlighted the ongoing Rohingya crisis as a major concern. Bangladesh continues to grapple with the humanitarian burden, which has worsened following the arrival of an additional 80,000 Rohingyas amid escalating conflict between Myanmar's military and the Arakan Army. Hossain stressed that the crisis is not solely Bangladesh's responsibility but a global challenge requiring collective international action to ensure safe and dignified repatriation.

Meanwhile, the World Bank has pledged support for urgent reforms in Bangladesh to enhance transparency and governance. These reforms—spanning tax policy, public procurement, and statistical accuracy—are critical to strengthening public confidence and facilitating the nation's democratic transition and inclusive growth.

This month's issue delves into these pressing developments and offers insights on matters of global significance.

Shahed Akhtar
Ambassador & Fmr. Secretary, GoB
and Editor, Diplomats World



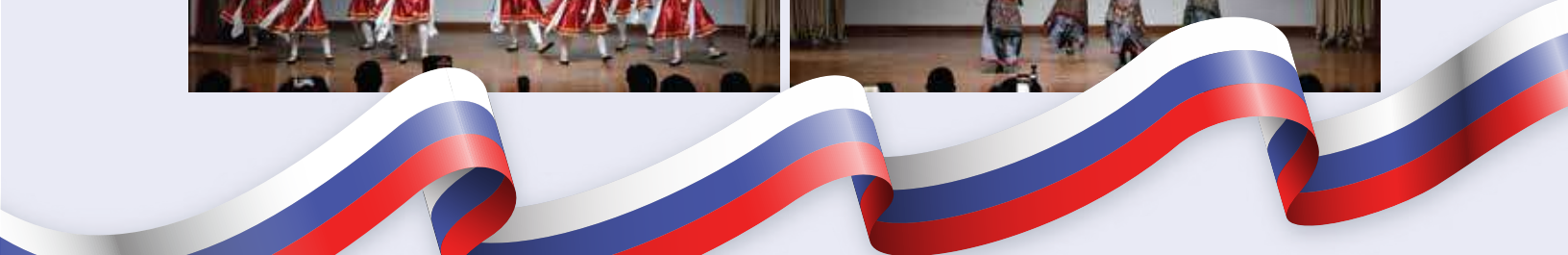
RUSSIAN HOUSE IN DHAKA MARKS 50 YEARS OF STRENGTHENING RUSSIA-BANGLADESH TIES



The Russian House in Dhaka celebrated its 50th anniversary, marking a significant milestone in Russia-Bangladesh diplomatic and cultural relations. The grand event was attended by key dignitaries, including Dr. Touhid Hossain, Advisor of Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh; Russian Ambassador Aleksandr Khozin; and Dr. Syed Jamil Ahmed, Director General of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy.

The ceremony featured a special video message from Yevgeny Primakov, Head of Rossotrudnichestvo, who praised the Russian House as a bridge of friendship and cultural exchange. Ambassador Khozin reaffirmed Russia's commitment to deepening ties, while Dr. Hossain emphasized the longstanding educational and artistic collaborations between the two nations.

A cultural program followed, showcasing Russian folk dances and performances by the Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy. The event was attended by government officials, diplomats, and representatives from various sectors, highlighting the enduring partnership between Russia and Bangladesh.





THE 5TH AUGUST VICTORY AND FUTURE BANGLADESH—AN APPEAL TO THE POLITICAL MASTERS

Prof. Dr. Mohd. Aminul Karim

The 5th August victory has brought an end to the despotic, fascist and authoritarian rule in the body politic of Bangladesh. This despotic rule spanned over a period from 2014–2024. No genuine elections were held during this period. This tyrannical rule was deep-seated and most repressive. Corruption was rampant and all pervasive. Hundreds of billions of dollars of money were siphoned off to overseas countries. It had practically pauperized the state coffer. FDI had almost stagnated. Internal investment had also

nosedived. Inflation had skyrocketed to the scale of two digits.

Freedom of the citizens in different spheres were muzzled. Fundamental human rights were looking good in the written Constitution but, in reality, it was badly defiled. The UN Human Rights Council had to intervene in such matters. There were many cases of forced disappearances, custodial deaths, murder during encounters etc. by the state law enforcing and intelligence agencies. The

Council has recently estimated about one thousand and five hundred people were killed during the July uprising. Shotguns with pellets were used to kill the unarmed citizens at almost point-blank range. Many more thousands have been grievously injured.

Judiciary, specially the lower judiciary was running during the pleasure of the executive. The oligarchs were looting and plundering the country with all impunity. It was lawlessness in every nook and corner of the



Bangladesh is a nation state. So, it has a better foundation as a state.

Sound political culture and practice can contribute immensely to a nation building. Sadly, that is lacking glaringly.

Our state building is tenuous. Institutions like judiciary, presidency, election commission, anti-corruption commission, human rights commission, universities etc. are fragile, and most of the times were without real power and delivery system.

country. There was no semblance of civility and democratization in the country.

There had to be a stop to this unwarranted dysfunction of a state that only existed in its statutes, not in its practicality. So, the July victory led by students and people had to be staged, at the most supreme cost, to rid this country from the shackles of capitulation and servitude. The actors beyond our boundary were even remote-controlling the state of affairs in Bangladesh.

So, on 5th August 2024, the nation-state earned a new freedom on the foundation of the War of Independence in 1971. That said, the 1971 War remains monumental, to which was added the crown in the jewel called the July victory.

I will be mostly talking about certain challenges and commitments, where Political consensus is desired to make this state better functional and humane, over and above the proposals made by different commissions.

Bangladesh is the most homogenous nation in the world after the two Koreas. This is a great strength of this nation.

Ninety percent of its people practice the same religion. Ethnically, they are almost similar. Other people practicing different faiths have full freedom to practice their respective religions.

We need to develop both as a nation and also as a state.

National integration is, however, satisfactory except some bit of disturbance in the CHT. Such disturbance, however, can cause damage to our territorial integrity. There are artificial constructs in Bangladesh society, which are self-defeating.

The following questions are raised basically to realize the aims and objectives of the July Victory. These questions are directed to the politicians, in particular, and people, in general.



Religious harmony—ensuring the peaceful coexistence of all faiths in Bangladesh's pluralistic society



Judicial independence under threat—ensuring an impartial legal system remains a critical challenge

Greatest challenge of this nation:

1. Ethics and values have degenerated to an unimaginable level. Bribes, kickbacks and extortion, siphoning off money overseas, lying, cheating and bluffing, syndicates-controlling markets, favouritism and nepotism, providing false witness in the courts of law etc. have become norms in our societal and national life.

How are you going to address these menaces, may be gradually? Do you have any concrete plan for eradicating these. Can you indicate any social movement and thus inculcating those in the schools and colleges?

2. Please come out clearly to spell out the fundamental principles of the state. Can you

come to terms together to prescribe similar principles? You have to keep the historic War of Liberation of 1971, anti-autocracy movement of 1990, and the eventful July student led mass upsurge of 2024.

3. I have few suggestions on identifying the core values or vital national interests of Bangladesh. These are relevant to fundamental principles of state and its security. Are these core values appreciated by the politicians and people?

Core Values/ Vital National Interests of BD:

a. Sovereignty and territorial integrity. This is non-violable. All means including military should be utilized to safeguard our sovereignty and territorial integrity. Comprehensive national power should be utilized to its maximum. However, shared sovereignty is an accepted concept. CHT and present border issues are cases in point.

b. Spirit of the Liberation War. Equality, human dignity and social justice, democracy, nationalism, social and economic security for all, freedom of expression and thought, rule of law, patriotism, corruption-free society, secularism in worldly matters and pluralism etc. To this, we also need to add the spirit the July 2024 victory.

c. Democracy—Westminster type with certain modifications as agreed to by the dominant political groups may be the way forward. A balance may be proposed between the powers of



The looming crisis—Bangladesh's fight against environmental degradation and climate change



The promise of a Blue Economy—securing Bangladesh's maritime resources for sustainable development

the President and the Prime Minister. A French model or a Sri Lankan model can be an option for us to emulate.

d. Economic and Social stability. Identify the competitive advantage of BD and turn them into competitive advantage such as manpower, agriculture, gas and oil, if discovered in the Bay. Coal may be too expensive to extract. Economic solvency and value-driven society should be able to address this. Attainment of a just and egalitarian society, free from exploitation of man by man.

e. Religious Tolerance and Coexistence. All religions should thrive together in harmony, which is rooted in our history for centuries together. In worldly matters, we should all learn to live like true Bangladeshis. This is already incorporated in our Constitution.

f. Social and National Values. This is the most critical challenge of our society. This needs to be revived at all levels of society. Family and educational institutions can play a transformational role. Political

and social leaders have to take lead. It needs a sustained national movement. Ethics and values are critical here. Degeneration of these values are eating into the vitals of this nation-state.

g. Good Governance and Accountability. There is a great need of extensive training for our civil bureaucracy. We need to enforce strict legal measures to punish the law breakers, and eradication of corruption. Anti-corruption Commission needs to be made fully independent without any sort of restrictions. It will only report to

the President and the Parliament. The Commission may be upgraded as a constitutional body.

h. Environmental and Climatic Sustainability. The looming challenge that may derail the sustainability of this greatest deltaic nation-state. This is looming large to cripple our society. The southern part of our country is already under serious threat.

j. Sustainable Blue Economy in the Bay of Bengal ---this is the future for Bangladesh. We should keep our sea healthy, and ensure its bio-diversity is not disturbed. The Bay is a great hub of fisheries. There are reports of a formation of a dead zone, plastic pollutions and depletion of oxygen in its water. These are serious concerns that need to be arrested for our sustenance.

k. Institutional Vitality are critical for all types of institutions like constitutional, statutory, autonomous, private, educational institutions, family, etc. Vibrant institutions can ensure better security, both need and fear. These institutions should work



Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus speaks at a views-exchange meeting with the leaders of different political parties at the capital's Foreign Service Academy. The need for national dialogue—can Bangladesh's political leaders agree on a common vision?



Investing in the future—quality education and human resource development as the backbone of national progress

independently without unnecessary executive interference.

4. Political culture, internal democracy within a political party may be followed mandatorily, conducting party conventions at regular interval in all tiers to select leaders. All such leaders should be elected through secret ballot. There should be transparency and integrity in party financing, including election funding, role an MP needs to play, strengthening of local government etc.

“Politics in our country is confrontational in nature where there is no cooperation, trust and solidarity among political parties and groups. There is no consensus among political parties on issues of national interest. They oppose each other only for the sake of opposition. In our country, there is no sign of absolute tolerance of politics. One leader is busy working to defeat another

leader, one group and another”.

“Political intolerance among the political parties in Bangladesh has created an unstable political situation over the past twenty-three years of parliamentary democratic rule. Lack of practicing tolerance and lack of respect to others is now vigorously observed in Bangladesh politics. Though trust is another important factor of political culture, political leaders most often do not trust anybody. That’s why, at the time of holding elections, opposition parties are involved in agitation.

Since the independence of Bangladesh, all the government regimes have nurtured corruption which expedited confrontational politics. The arrangement of one-party election is a great cause of confrontation and factional politics in Bangladesh. It has accelerated mistrust among the political parties and general people. The most significant

factor of our current political crisis is the absence of democracy within the political parties. Both the incumbent and the opposition parties do not practice intra and inter party democracy even in parliamentary function”.

An MP should not get involved in the development activities in his constituency. He should be a law maker in its truest sense. This is the best way to wriggle out of the influence of the bureaucrats.

Local government is basically bureaucrat-dependent, as it stands today. It practically violates the constitutional spirit as spelt out in its articles 59 and 60.

How are you going to overcome these constraints? Only commitments? No. The nation seemingly doesn’t have trust in those.

Can these be formalized in statutes. Should the Election Commission be empowered to ensure their adherence?

5. Make police, civil bureaucracy and military accountable, politically neutral, and corruption free. Make them more humane and efficient. Modernize them. Provide them better technology. Provide them better education and training.

What are your suggestions and commitments for such reforms.

6. Sort out certain key leadership issues like identifying historical position to Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, Ziaur Rahman, Moulana Bhasani, Hussain Shaheed Suhrawardy etc.



A vision for the future—balancing urban progress with rural development for an inclusive Bangladesh

7. Sort out delicate differences between Bengali and Bangladeshi nationalism. Is it an artificial construct?

Can you make an agreed national charter on these issues?

8. You have to ensure the judiciary, including the lower judiciary, is fully separate and independent. There is already a judgement on this from the apex court.

Will you not honour that?

The executive should not have any business in the activities of the judiciary.

Why don't you make an independent secretariat for the

Supreme Court, as recently suggested to the government by the Chief Justice of Bangladesh? This is also prescribed in article 22 of the Constitution.

Will you make formal commitment and show the ways to implement those?

9. We need your commitment to make our economy self-reliant, productive and competitive. Make sincere efforts to turn our manpower into human resources. Exploit the blue economy in the Bay of Bengal.

10. You have to commit you will spend five percent of GDP each for both education and public health. These are also the prescriptions of the UNESCO.

Do you give such commitments? If you create good quality human resources, those human resources will take care of this nation. Then your tasks become much simpler. This is a tested option. Singapore is classic case of such development.

Unless you sort these out politically, through political consensus, and also make commitments to the nation, different reform commission's reports will only gather dusts?

To conclude, future of Bangladesh depends greatly on the commitments you make, and implement those in the greater interests of this great nation. These are all the more necessary as we have a volatile geopolitical milieu. Internal cohesion and prosperity are the best guarantee for development, defence and security of this nation.

If you can sort out these constraints-- a difficult task indeed-- we can easily become a democratic, prosperous, corruption-free, an open society in not-too-distant a future.

Prof. Dr. Mohd. Aminul Karim

Former Commandant, National Defense College, Bangladesh
Former Visiting Professor, University of Malaya, Kuala Lumpur

EMBASSY OF IRAN IN DHAKA CELEBRATES 46TH ANNIVERSARY OF ISLAMIC REVOLUTION WITH CULTURAL SHOWCASES

On February 7, 2025, the Embassy of Iran in Dhaka commemorated the 46th Anniversary of the Islamic Revolution of Iran with a vibrant program hosted by H.E. Mr. Mansour Chavoshi, Iranian Ambassador to Bangladesh, and Madam Zahra Chavoshi. The event highlighted Iran's cultural heritage and diplomatic ties with Bangladesh.

Mustafa Sarwar Farooqui, Adviser on Cultural Affairs of the interim government of Bangladesh, attended the event as the chief guest.

A short film showcasing Iran's rich cultural heritage captivated the audience, offering a glimpse into the nation's art, history, and traditions. Ambassador Mansour Chavoshi emphasized the importance of cultural diplomacy in fostering mutual understanding and strengthening bilateral relations.

Madam Zahra Chavoshi greeted the guests warmly, expressing her gratitude for their participation and underscoring the significance of cultural exchanges in bridging communities.

Chief Guest Mustafa Sarwar Farooqui praised the cultural presentation and lauded the strong historical and cultural ties between Iran and Bangladesh, expressing optimism for future collaborations in various fields.

The program brought together diplomats, government officials, cultural enthusiasts, and members of both communities, celebrating the shared values of friendship and cooperation.





BRUNEI-BANGLADESH TIES: A JOURNEY OF FRIENDSHIP, COOPERATION, AND SHARED PROGRESS

H.E. Haji Haris Bin Haji Othman

Brunei Darussalam proudly celebrates its 41st National Day, marking more than four decades of independence, resilience, and growth. This occasion is not only a reflection of Brunei's remarkable journey but also a testament to its strong and enduring partnerships worldwide. Among these, the relationship between Brunei and Bangladesh stands as a shining example of cooperation, mutual respect, and shared aspirations. Since the establishment of

diplomatic ties in 1984, both nations have cultivated a partnership that continues to expand across various sectors, fostering economic collaboration, cultural exchange, and global engagement.

Brunei's Rich History and the Leadership of His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah

Brunei Darussalam boasts a rich history that dates back over

1,400 years, with a legacy deeply rooted in Islamic traditions, maritime trade, and cultural heritage. From its golden age during the Brunei Sultanate's dominance in the 15th and 16th centuries to its modern transformation into a prosperous, stable, and forward-thinking nation, Brunei continues to uphold its values of peace, progress, and unity.

At the heart of this remarkable journey is His Majesty Sultan



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam

Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam. As the world's longest-reigning current monarch, His Majesty has guided Brunei with wisdom and dedication, fostering economic growth, ensuring social stability, and maintaining strong diplomatic relations. Under his visionary leadership, Brunei has

emerged as a nation with a robust economy, a high standard of living, and a commitment to sustainable development, underpinned by its vast oil and gas resources. His Majesty's emphasis on Islamic values, education, healthcare, and international cooperation has positioned Brunei as a respected global partner committed to peace and prosperity.

A Journey of Shared Progress

For over four decades, Brunei and Bangladesh have enjoyed a relationship built on mutual trust and meaningful cooperation. The contributions of Bangladeshi professionals and workers have played a pivotal role in Brunei's development, while their remittances have provided significant economic support to Bangladesh. High-level diplomatic engagements, state visits, and sectoral collaborations have strengthened our strategic dialogue, leading to productive exchanges in areas such as defence, finance, academia, arts, and culture.

This sustained engagement has created a foundation for innovative partnerships in research, education, and business, ensuring that our relationship continues to flourish. The deepening of these ties is a reflection of our shared



The majestic Omar Ali Saifuddien Mosque in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei, stands as a symbol of Islamic architecture and Bruneian heritage. Completed in 1958, its grand Mughal-inspired design and golden dome make it one of the most striking mosques in the Far East



Jame'Asr Hassanil Bolkiah Mosque: A Symbol of Brunei's Royal Legacy
Built in 1992 to commemorate Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah's 25th year of reign, this grand mosque features 29 golden domes, representing the 29th ruler of Brunei's dynasty. It stands as a stunning example of Islamic architecture and royal heritage

commitment to progress and prosperity.

Strengthening Our Partnership Through Strategic Agreements

The bilateral relationship between Brunei and Bangladesh is reinforced by a series of agreements aimed at expanding cooperation and

deepening mutual understanding:

Labour and Employment: The Memorandum of Understanding on the Employment and Recruitment of Bangladeshi Workers has ensured ethical recruitment, fair treatment, and dignity for

workers, benefiting both economies.

Energy Cooperation: The MOU on the Supply of LNG and Other Petroleum Products highlights Brunei's role in supporting Bangladesh's growing energy needs through sustainable and diversified solutions.

Connectivity: The Air Services Agreement is expected to boost trade, investment, and tourism by enhancing travel and business interactions between the two countries.

Recent Developments in Bilateral Cooperation

In recent years, the commitment to strengthening Brunei-Bangladesh ties has been evident through key initiatives:

The 1st Joint Agriculture Working Group Meeting (3rd–5th February 2025) refined the recruitment process for Bangladeshi citizens in Brunei, ensuring a more structured and efficient approach.



Kampong Ayer, Brunei's historic 'Water Village,' stands as the world's largest stilted settlement, home to over 10,000 residents and a living testament to over a millennium of rich cultural heritage



Brunei Darussalam unveils the 30-kilometer Temburong Bridge, Southeast Asia's longest, connecting the Brunei-Muara and Temburong districts and offering a seamless travel route without the need to pass through Malaysia

The 1st Joint Agriculture Working Committee Meeting (13th February 2025), co-chaired by senior officials from both countries, reinforced the commitment to addressing sectoral challenges through coordinated action.

Following the success of the Foreign Office Consultation held in Brunei in 2023, a similar dialogue in Dhaka is anticipated, further aligning strategic interests and exploring new areas of collaboration.

Expanding Our Global Engagement

Beyond bilateral agreements, Brunei and Bangladesh continue to work together in international and regional platforms such as the ASEAN Regional Forum, the

Asia Cooperation Dialogue, the Asia-Europe Meeting, the Commonwealth, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, the United Nations, and the World Trade Organization. Their shared commitment to tackling global challenges—ranging from climate change and food security to regional stability—demonstrates their dedication to international cooperation and sustainable development.

A Vision for the Future

As Brunei moves forward beyond its 41st year of independence, it looks toward the future with optimism and a commitment to further strengthening ties with Bangladesh. The achievements

of the past decades serve as a foundation for even greater success, and by leveraging strategic agreements, both nations can accelerate economic growth, foster cultural exchange, and develop innovative solutions to shared challenges.

The friendship between Brunei and Bangladesh extends beyond official agreements and diplomatic engagements. The friendly golf tournament organized by the Tiger Club Bangladesh is a reflection of the warm people-to-people ties that continue to grow between the two nations, further strengthening mutual goodwill and understanding.

In Conclusion

Brunei Darussalam's 41st National Day is not just a celebration of its sovereignty but also of the strong friendships it has built globally. Bangladesh remains a key partner in Brunei's journey, and together, both nations can look forward to a future of prosperity, peace, and continued collaboration. As we move forward, may our partnership serve as a beacon of hope and progress, inspiring excellence and unity in every endeavour.

Long live the Brunei-Bangladesh friendship!

H.E. Haji Haris Bin Haji Othman

High Commissioner

High Commission of Brunei Darussalam in Dhaka, Bangladesh

SRI LANKA HIGH COMMISSIONER HOSTS RECEPTION CELEBRATING 77TH INDEPENDENCE DAY

His Excellency Mr. Dharmapala Weerakkody, Sri Lanka's High Commissioner to Bangladesh, hosted a grand reception in Dhaka to commemorate the 77th Anniversary of the Independence of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka.

The event featured a short film showcasing Sri Lanka's rich heritage and progress, as well as a captivating dance performance by a renowned Sri Lankan dancer. It was attended by heads of mission, high-ranking military and civil service officials, prominent cultural personalities, journalists from leading media houses, and members of civil society.

Brigadier General (Retd.) Dr. M. Sakhawat Hossain, Adviser on Labour, Employment, and Shipping, reaffirmed Bangladesh's commitment to strengthening ties with Sri Lanka. He highlighted key areas of cooperation, including trade, investment, agriculture, ICT, pharmaceuticals, and maritime connectivity.

Dr. Hossain praised Sri Lanka's resilience in overcoming economic challenges and emphasized the importance of regional partnerships through SAARC and BIMSTEC to foster a stronger South Asia. He also reiterated the interim government's dedication to promoting inclusive democracy and ensuring free and fair elections in Bangladesh.

The reception reflected the shared aspirations of both nations for peace, stability, and sustainable development.





UPHOLDING THE LEGACY OF EKUSHEY FEBRUARY: BANGLADESHI ARTISTES PAY TRIBUTE TO LANGUAGE MARTYRS ON THE GLOBAL STAGE

Lutfun Nahar Taposhi

As we observe the 73rd anniversary of the historic Ekushey February, it is essential to recall the immense sacrifices made by the martyrs of the 1952 Language Movement, who fought for the recognition of Bangla as a state language in the Pakistan. The significance of Ekushey goes far beyond the confines of national borders; it is a testament to the power of language, culture, and identity. This movement, which

eventually led to the liberation of Bangladesh in 1971, has left a profound impact on the collective psyche of the nation and continues to inspire millions to preserve their linguistic and cultural heritage.

This year's commemoration of International Mother Language Day, which has its roots in Ekushey February, saw a unique tribute paid by Bangladeshi artistes on a

global stage. A grand celebration held at UNESCO headquarters in Paris showcased Bangladesh's rich cultural heritage through captivating performances that captured the spirit of the language movement. This tribute was a symbol of how the legacy of Ekushey has transcended geographical boundaries and become a part of the global movement to preserve linguistic diversity and promote cultural pride.



The Language Movement catalysed the assertion of Bangali national identity in the then-Pakistan, and became a forerunner to Bangali nationalist movements

The Language Movement: A Struggle for Identity and Dignity

The Language Movement of 1952 was not just a fight for the recognition of Bangla as one of the state languages of Pakistan; it was a struggle for identity, dignity, and self-determination. The decision by the Pakistani rulers to impose Urdu as the sole state language, despite Bangla being spoken by the majority of the population, was seen as an attack on the cultural and linguistic identity of the Bengali people. On February 21, 1952, students and activists took to the streets of Dhaka in protest, and several brave souls, including Salam, Barkat, Rafiq, Jabbar, and others, laid down their lives to protect the dignity of their mother tongue.

The bloodshed of February 21 sowed the seeds of Bengali nationalism, which eventually grew into the liberation movement that gave birth to Bangladesh in 1971. The martyrs of the Language Movement became symbols of resistance against oppression, and their sacrifices continue to inspire

generations to uphold the values of linguistic and cultural pride.

International Recognition of Ekushey February

In recognition of the significance of Ekushey February, the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) declared February 21 as International Mother Language Day in 1999. Since 2000, this day has been observed across UN

member states to promote linguistic and cultural diversity and multilingualism. This year marked the silver jubilee of UNESCO's recognition, and the celebration in Paris was a fitting tribute to the spirit of Ekushey.

Bangladeshi artistes, through their performances at the UNESCO headquarters, highlighted the country's cultural heritage and paid homage to the language martyrs. The event not only celebrated the legacy of Ekushey February but also underscored the importance of preserving indigenous languages and cultures, which are increasingly at risk of disappearing in the face of globalization and homogenization.

A Night of Cultural Pride in Paris

The event at UNESCO headquarters featured performances that showcased the rich tapestry of Bangladesh's cultural heritage,



On February 21, 2025, the International Mother Language Day commemoration in Dhaka included a wreath-laying ceremony with the diplomatic corps to honor the sacrifices made on February 21, 1952, in the struggle to preserve the Bengali language



A group of Bangladeshi performers traveled to Paris to participate in the event. Professor Muhammad Yunus, Chief Advisor of the caretaker government, was invited as the chief guest for the inaugural ceremony, delivered his speech virtually. On February 21, at the main event, cultural advisor Mostofa Sarwar Farooki was present and shared his reflections on the Bangladeshi artists' performances on the prestigious UNESCO stage.

with Bangladeshi artistes taking center stage. Among the performances was a powerful rendition of the iconic song "Amar Bhaiyer Rokte Rangano," which has become synonymous with the Language Movement. The song, performed in four different languages spoken in Bangladesh, served as a reminder of the linguistic diversity within the country and the need to preserve not only Bangla but also the languages of indigenous communities.

Bangladeshi cultural advisor Mostofa Sarwar Farooki, who was present at the event, shared his reflections on the performances and their significance. He expressed his gratitude to the artistes for portraying Bangladesh in a different light on such a prestigious platform. The event also featured a video interview with prominent researcher and communist leader Badruddin Umar, whose work on cultural politics has played a significant role in shaping democratic movements in Bangladesh.

The presence of Bangladeshi artistes at UNESCO

headquarters and their performances were a source of immense pride for the nation. It was a testament to how far Bangladesh has come since the dark days of the Language Movement and the Liberation War. Today, Bangladesh stands tall on the global stage, and its rich cultural heritage is being recognized and celebrated worldwide.



Bangladeshi artists delivered a captivating performance at UNESCO headquarters in Paris as part of a grand celebration marking the 25th anniversary of International Mother Language Day

The Continued Relevance of the Language Movement

While the legacy of Ekushey February is celebrated every year, it is essential to reflect on the continued relevance of the Language Movement in today's context. Despite the passage of 73 years, the full implementation of Bangla in all spheres of life remains a challenge. Although the High Court Division issued a ruling in 2014 mandating the use of Bangla at all levels of government and administration, the language still faces neglect in many areas, particularly in scientific and academic writing.

The Language Movement was not just about preserving the linguistic identity of Bengalis; it was also about asserting the right to self-expression and self-determination. In this spirit, it is crucial that Bangla is used not only in literature and the arts but also in science, technology, and education. As a nation, we must ensure that Bangla is used in all aspects of life, while also embracing the importance of learning other languages, particularly English, to stay



An ethnic mother passing down her language and heritage to the next generation, preserving cultural identity through education

connected with the global community.

Additionally, the preservation of indigenous languages remains a pressing issue. Many of these languages are on the verge of extinction, and there is a lack of initiative to ensure their survival. The recognition of February 21 as International Mother Language Day serves as a reminder that all languages, big or small, deserve to be protected and preserved.

Moving Forward: The Responsibility of a Nation

The legacy of Ekushey February has bestowed upon us a great responsibility—to uphold the dignity of our language and culture and to ensure that future

generations understand the sacrifices made by those who fought for the right to speak in their mother tongue. The celebration of International Mother Language Day is not just a moment of reflection but also a call to action.

As we look to the future, we must continue to nurture the spirit of unity and pride that the Language Movement instilled in us. Our forefathers, who were experts in both Bangla and English, showed us that it is possible to embrace our heritage while also engaging with the world. We must follow in their footsteps and ensure that our children grow up with a strong sense of cultural identity while

also being equipped with the skills to succeed in a globalized world.

The tribute paid by Bangladeshi artistes at UNESCO headquarters is a reminder of the power of culture to unite people and preserve their heritage. It is a symbol of how the legacy of Ekushey February has transcended national borders and become a part of the global movement to preserve linguistic diversity. As we move forward, let us remember the sacrifices of the martyrs and continue to uphold the values of linguistic and cultural pride that they fought for.

In the words of the Adviser on Cultural Affairs of Bangladesh, Mr. Mostofa Sarwar Farooki, "While we have to work with inefficient officers, we can also accomplish things thanks to dedicated ones." As a nation, we have faced numerous challenges, but through dedication and unity, we have continued to progress. Just as the language martyrs fought for our right to speak Bangla, we must now not only fight to preserve our cultural heritage but also the language, culture, and heritage of our ethnic groups and ensure that Bangladesh continues to stand tall on the global stage. The journey that began in 1952 is far from over, and it is up to us to carry the torch forward.

Lutfun Nahar Taposhi

Creative Editor
Diplomats World

KOSOVO CELEBRATES 17TH INDEPENDENCE ANNIVERSARY IN DHAKA

The Embassy of the Republic of Kosovo in Dhaka hosted a grand reception to mark the 17th anniversary of Kosovo's independence. The event was attended by diplomats, government officials, business leaders, and academics.

H.E. Mr. Lulzim Pllana, Ambassador of Kosovo to Bangladesh, highlighted the growing bilateral ties between the two nations, emphasizing agreements on diplomatic cooperation, visa-free travel, and educational initiatives. The Chief Guest, H.E. Mr. Adilur Rahman Khan, praised Kosovo's achievements and called for stronger collaboration in trade, investment, and technology.

The celebration featured cultural performances, networking sessions, and discussions on future cooperation, reaffirming the warm friendship between Kosovo and Bangladesh.





CELEBRATING 46 YEARS OF THE ISLAMIC REVOLUTION: STRENGTHENING IRAN-BANGLADESH FRIENDSHIP FOR A PROSPEROUS FUTURE

H.E. Mr. Mansour Chavoshi

I would like to extend my heartfelt greetings to the people of Bangladesh on the occasion of the 46th anniversary of the victory of the Islamic Revolution of Iran.

The July 2024 Revolution in Bangladesh represented the will and unity of the people. It was a movement that started with the people's wishes and changed the future. From the beginning, Iran showed support for the interim government, respecting the efforts for progress, development and bright future. Bangladesh has shown that no change is possible without people's unity and efforts. I



Leader: Great Ayatollah Sayyid Ali Khamenei

hope that the people of Bangladesh will achieve great success in all sectors such as the economy, education, technology, and culture in the future. A bright future is ahead for Bangladesh, as the nation deserves the best.

Forty-six years ago, the Iranian nation, under the unwavering determination and wise leadership of Imam Khomeini (RA), achieved one of the greatest and most popular revolutions of the 20th century which was founded on religious values and democracy. Since then, the people determined their political and social destiny through elections and democratic participation. Despite facing many internal and external challenges, the Islamic Republic of Iran has made significant progress in science, technology, economy, and industry. Today, Iran holds a strong position in the region and the world in fields such as biotechnology, nanotechnology, stem cells, robotics, the aerospace industry, and steel production. For instance, Iran

ranks 5th in nanotechnology, 8th in electrical engineering, and 11th in renewable energy all over the world.

In the agricultural sector, Iran has become self-sufficient in producing many essential goods and remains among the world's top 22 economies. The

industrial growth of the country, particularly in steel, petrochemicals, and advanced technologies, shows its national determination and strategic planning.

Additionally, Iran's advancements in women's participation and higher education are remarkable. Today, more than 55% of Iranian university students are female, and their presence in the scientific, cultural, and social spheres is constantly increasing.

Iran has always based its foreign policy on the principles of peace, justice, and independence and has also played a key role in ensuring regional security in the fight against terrorism, extremism, and drug trafficking. We firmly believe that dialogue and international cooperation are



H.E. Mr. Mansour Chavoshi, Ambassador of The Islamic Republic of Iran to Bangladesh



The Majestic Lut Desert, Iran – A Breathtaking Landscape of Sand and Sun

keys to resolving global crises, and Iran is always ready to engage in interactions to achieve lasting peace and stability.

In this respect, the relations with the neighbors has been expanded and deepened. In the light of a proactive, effective and dynamic foreign policy, Iran has expanded its multilateral interactions with regional organizations such as BRICS,

Shanghai, ECO and D-8 as we seek a stronger and prosperous region for all.

Iran and Bangladesh have strong historical, cultural, religious, and language ties. The Persian language has been present in the region for over 700 years, and this shared cultural heritage is valuable to both countries. Both nations have made many sacrifices for

independence and freedom, with many martyrs.

The relationship between Iran and Bangladesh has always been friendly and respectful. They have worked together in many political and cultural areas. In recent years, their cooperation has grown, especially in culture, science, and healthcare. This has opened up new opportunities for both countries. They also have great potential in business, technology, and education.

Iran and Bangladesh have a close artistic connection. Many Persian books and films have been translated into Bengali, helping both nations share their cultures. Some Iranian TV series are very popular in Bangladesh, showing a common love for stories and cinema. As the friendship between the two countries grows, there is hope for even more cooperation in arts and culture. The bond between the two nations continue to expand, showing a



A breathtaking view of snow-covered mountains in Iran, showcasing nature's serene beauty and majestic winter landscape



Persepolis, Shiraz, Iran

strong commitment to working together for a better future. High-level meetings play an important role in strengthening this relationship. The latest meeting of the Foreign Office

Consultations (FOC) was held in Dhaka, where both sides discussed ways to improve cooperation in different sectors. We are planning the next round of Foreign Office Consultations

(FOC) and Joint Ministerial Commission meetings in Tehran this year. This will help to find the ways and means of closer cooperation, opening doors to new possibilities and shared success.

In conclusion, I would like to say that the success, development and progress of Bangladesh are considered ours and I believe that the same perception and sentiment is shared with the people and government of Bangladesh. I sincerely hope that the friendship between our two nations grows even stronger, bringing more progress, prosperity, and opportunities.

Long live Bangladesh-Iran friendship!

This article is based on the speech of H.E. Mr. Mansour Chavoshi, Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Bangladesh, on the occasion of the 46th anniversary of the victory of the Islamic Revolution of Iran

H.E. Mr. Mansour Chavoshi
Ambassador
The Islamic Republic of Iran to Bangladesh

FOREIGN ENVOYS PAID HOMAGE TO THE LANGUAGE MOVEMENT HEROES ON THE INTERNATIONAL MOTHER LANGUAGE DAY



Wishing all the Bangladeshis around the world International Mother Language Day.

On 21 February, the world commemorates International Mother Language Day, a tribute to linguistic diversity and multilingualism's importance. The day not only honors the vast array of languages spoken around the world but also emphasizes the significance of preserving cultural heritage through language.

On this day, we also celebrate together the resilience, courage, and the spirit of freedom. Here's to decades of friendship and shared values!

Long Live Algeria and Long Live Bangladesh and long live the brotherly and friendly relationship between the two countries.

H.E. Dr. Abdelouahab Saidani
Ambassador
Embassy of Algeria in Bangladesh



As we commemorate International Mother Language Day here in Bangladesh this year. I wanted to celebrate a unique cultural connection between our two countries, bringing together language, music and literature. Did you know one of Rabindranath Tagore's most famous poems was inspired by the music of 'Auld Lang Syne' written by Scotland's national poet Robert Burns? The poem, 'Purano Shei Diner Kotha' has inspired and been much loved across the generations in Bangladesh.

As I'm learning Bangla, I wanted to read this poem today.

পুরানো সেই দিনের কথা ভুলবি কিরে হয়।
ও সেই চোখের দেখা, প্রাণের কথা, সে কি ভোলা যায়।
আয়, আর- একটিবার আয়রে সখা, প্রাণের মাঝে আয়।
মোরা সুখের দুঃখের কথা কব, প্রাণ জুড়াবে তায়।

So let us celebrate our mother tongues and the cultural connections that unite us.
Happy International Mother Language Day!

H. E. Sarah Cooke
High Commissioner
British High Commission Dhaka





আন্তর্জাতিক মাতৃভাষা দিবসে সকল ভাষা শহীদের প্রতি গভীর শ্রদ্ধাঞ্জলী।

On this International Mother Language Day, let us celebrate the beauty and richness of linguistic diversity — for it is through our languages that we express our deepest truths and connect with each other on a profound level.

We hope for a world where every individual, from the plains or the hills, can speak their own language without fear or restraint.

H.E. Christian Brix Møller

Ambassador

Royal Danish Embassy in Dhaka, Bangladesh



International Mother Language Day is observed on February 21 to promote linguistic and cultural diversity worldwide. It commemorates the struggle of Bangladeshis in 1952 to recognize Bangla as an official language, a movement that inspired linguistic rights worldwide. Similarly, Kosovo experienced a struggle to preserve Albanian as a primary language against restrictions.

The official languages of Kosovo are Albanian and Serbian; however, Bosnian, Turkish, Romani, and German are also widely used. Similarly, while Bengali is the official language of Bangladesh, the country is home to various other ethno-linguistic communities. The ability to speak one's own language is fundamental to preserving identity, cultural heritage, and freedom of expression. On this day, let us be reminded of the importance of protecting linguistic rights and fostering respect for all languages.

H.E. Lulzim PLLANA

Ambassador

Embassy of Kosovo in Bangladesh



21st February reminds us that Bangladesh is the unique country who devoted their lives for their own language. Mother tongue is the most beautiful language to express the feelings of heart and mind.

On this International Mother Language day, let's celebrate the linguistic diversity.

H.E. Abdulmutalib S M Suliman

Ambassador

Embassy of the State of Libya



International Mother Language Day all over the world.

This day is not only a moment to honor linguistic diversity but also coincides with Martyrs' Day in Bangladesh, a day observed in the Country to remember those who sacrificed their lives for their language and culture. My colleagues Ambassadors, High Commissioners, Chargé d'Affaires, and I had the privilege of participating in the ceremony held last night, precisely at midnight and one minute, to mark this solemn occasion, and also this morning in this prestigious institution.

Multilingualism is central to today's observance. Mother languages are vital, and every child should have the opportunity to learn both the official language and their mother tongue. This isn't just about preserving culture; it's about fostering inclusion and understanding.

International Mother Language Day highlights the power of language in promoting inclusivity and respect. It supports the Sustainable Development Goals, especially the principle of leaving no one behind. Language connects people and cultures, driving progress and mutual understanding.

International Mother Language Day highlights the importance of linguistic diversity. For example, in my Country, the Kingdom of Morocco, great steps have been made in promoting, preserving, and protecting multilingualism and multiculturalism. Also, the State ensures the coherence of national linguistic and cultural policy and the learning and mastery of the foreign languages, as tools for communication, integration and interaction with the knowledge society, and openness to different cultures and contemporary civilizations.

Let us keep honoring our languages and cultures, as they are the foundation of our identity, history, and future.

H.E. Majid Halim

Ambassador

Embassy of Morocco to Bangladesh



On the occasion of the International Mother Language Day - 2025, I extend my warmest greetings and best wishes to the friendly people of Bangladesh.

This day serves as a reminder of the profound significance of mother languages worldwide. Every language carries the history, culture, and identity of its people. Therefore, promoting and safeguarding languages across the globe is important to preserve the history and culture of every society. Embracing linguistic diversity will not only enrich our societies but also further consolidate the bonds of friendship among cultures and communities.

সবাইকে আন্তর্জাতিক মাতৃভাষা দিবসের অনেক অনেক শুভেচ্ছা !

H. E. Ghanshyam Bhandari

Ambassador

Embassy of Nepal in Bangladesh





21 February marks the 25th anniversary of 'International Mother Language Day', a milestone that underscores a quarter-century of global commitment to preserving linguistic diversity and promoting the use of mother tongues.

On this solemn occasion, I pay my deepest respects to the martyrs of the 1952 Language Movement, whose sacrifices paved the way for the recognition of the Bangla language. This day holds profound significance in Bangladesh's history, reminding us of the power of language in shaping identity, culture, and unity.

This morning, I had the honor of placing a wreath at the Central Shaheed Minar to pay tribute to the brave souls who laid down their lives for the right to speak their mother tongue. Their legacy continues to inspire generations, not only in Bangladesh but across the world.

Let us celebrate linguistic diversity and ensure that every language and culture is valued and preserved for future generations.

সকলকে আন্তর্জাতিক মাতৃভাষা দিবসের আন্তরিক শুভেচ্ছা ও সকল ভাষা শহীদের প্রতি আমাদের বিনম্র শ্রদ্ধা।

H.E. Håkon Arald Gulbrandsen
Ambassador
Royal Norwegian Embassy in Dhaka



বিসমিল্লাহির রাহমানির রাহিম

আসসালামু আলাইকুম ওয়া রাহমাতুল্লাহ

মহান মাতৃভাষা দিবসে আমি বাংলাদেশের জনগণকে আন্তরিক শুভেচ্ছা জানাই। আমি বাংলাদেশের সমৃদ্ধ, সাংস্কৃতিক ঐতিহ্যের প্রতি শ্রদ্ধা জানাই এবং বাংলাদেশের অগ্রগতি সমৃদ্ধ ও স্থিতিশীলতা কামনা করি। এই দিনটি বিশ্বব্যাপী সকল মাতৃভাষা সুরক্ষায় অনুপ্রেরণা হয়ে থাকুক।

H.E. Essa Yousef Essa Alduhailan
Ambassador
Embassy of Saudi Arabia in Dhaka, Bangladesh



“মাতৃভাষার শহীদের প্রতি শ্রদ্ধা জানাতে পেরে আমি সম্মানিত বোধ করছি।”

আন্তর্জাতিক মাতৃভাষা দিবসে সকল ভাষা শহীদের প্রতি বিনম্র শ্রদ্ধা।

“I am honored to pay my respects to the martyrs of the mother tongue.”

On International Mother Language Day, I express my heartfelt tribute to all the language martyrs.

H.E. Nicholas Wicks
Ambassador
Embassy of Sweden, Dhaka



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THE EMBASSY OF NEPAL HOSTED A RECEPTION TO MARK THE 262ND RAISING DAY OF THE NEPALI ARMY AT THE EMBASSY PREMISES 24 FEBRUARY 2025

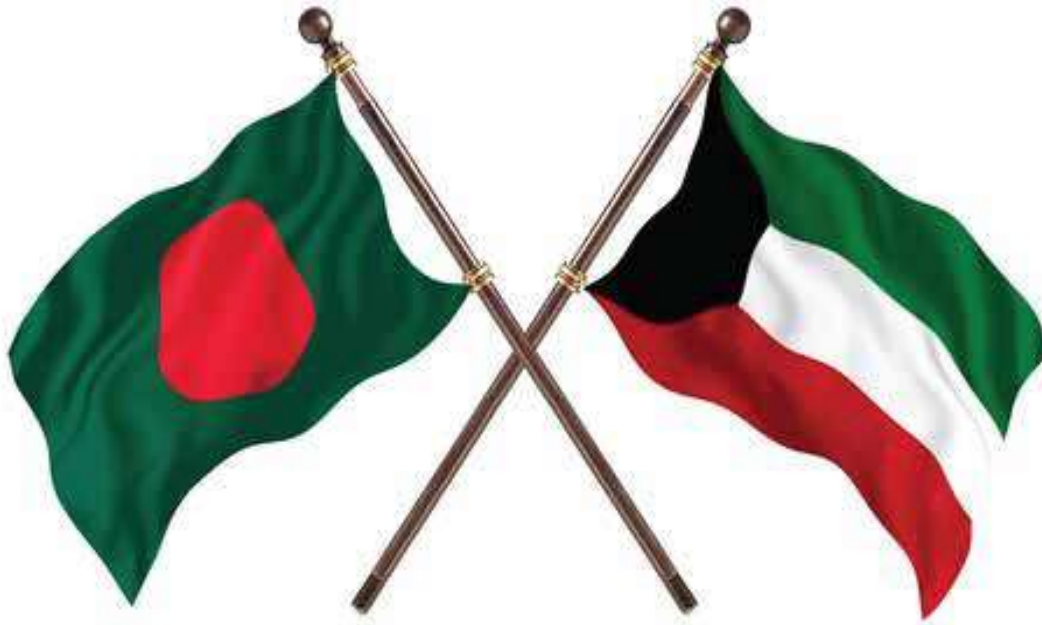
Speaking on the occasion, Ambassador Mr. Ghanashyam Bhandari stated that the day served as a reminder of the unwavering dedication, loyalty, and service of the Nepali Army towards Nepal and the Nepali people. While highlighting the military cooperation between Nepal and Bangladesh, he expressed confidence that such cooperation would contribute to further consolidating the friendly bilateral ties.

In his welcome remarks, Military Attaché Colonel Anjan Keshar Khatri highlighted the role of the Nepali Army in safeguarding Nepal's sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity. He also shed light on the Nepali Army's contributions to Nepal's socio-economic development as well as on their role in maintaining international peace and security through UN peacekeeping.

Chief Guest of the event, Chief of the Army Staff of Bangladesh Army General Waker-Uz-Zaman commended the wide-ranging efforts of the Nepali Army both at home and abroad. He emphasized the longstanding and friendly relations between the armed forces of Nepal and Bangladesh and stressed the importance of military cooperation as a key component of bilateral relationships.

Over 170 guests including government officials, ambassadors and heads of mission, high-ranking officers from the armed forces of Bangladesh, defence attaches, members of the diplomatic corps, business leaders, and representatives from the Nepali community in Bangladesh were present on the occasion.





KUWAIT-BANGLADESH PARTNERSHIP: A LEGACY OF BROTHERHOOD AND PROSPERITY

H.E. Mr. Ali Th A Q Hamadah

On the occasion of the 64th National Day and 34th Liberation Day of the State of Kuwait, I would like to pay my profound respect to His Highness Sheikh Meshal Al Ahmad Al Jaber Al Sabah, Amir of the State of Kuwait (May Allah keep him safe) and His Highness Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al Hamad Al Mubarak Al Sabah, Crown Prince of the State of Kuwait (May Allah keep him safe).

I would like to laud (lod) the pragmatic and sagacious leaderships of our two countries in taking this multifaceted relationship between Kuwait and Bangladesh to new heights.

The bonds between Kuwait and Bangladesh are historically rooted in our values, mutual respect, and a deep understanding. Our two

friendly countries have enjoyed a strong and friendly relationship since the establishment of diplomatic ties in the early 70s, with Kuwait being one of the first among Arab countries to recognize the new born country of Bangladesh.

Our economic relationship reflects our commitment and dedication to building a world



His Highness the Amir of Kuwait, Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al Sabah

advantage of the investment opportunities in the two countries that will not only increase the Two-way trade and business relations, but it will also promote connectivity and people to people contact.

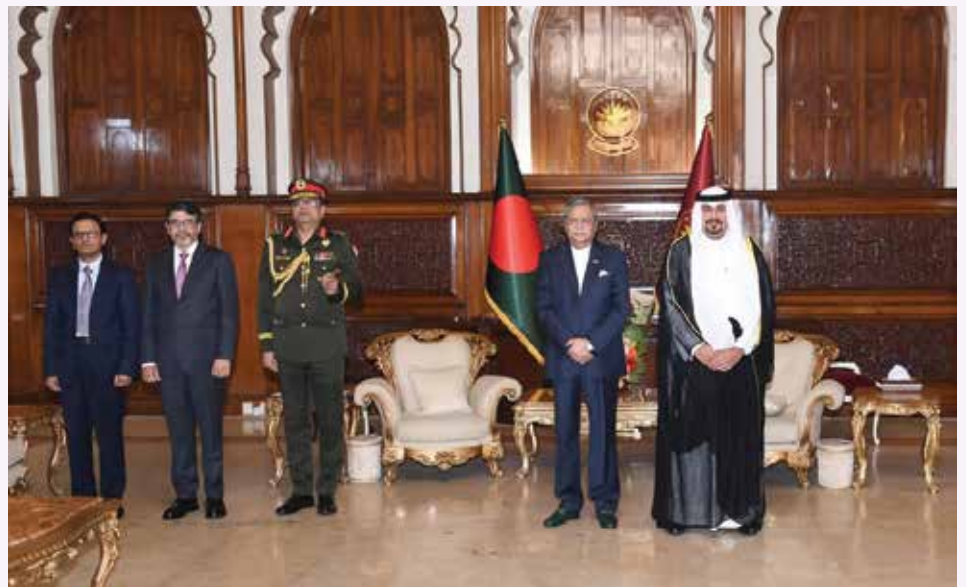
Since 1974, Kuwait has been an active participant in Bangladesh's development initiatives through the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development which has so far provided 650 million USD to finance different infrastructural projects.

To complement Kuwait Funds efforts in Bangladesh, we have Kuwaiti NGOs that over the years, have financed numerous projects in critical sectors such as infrastructure, healthcare, socio-economic upliftment, and education. These projects have contributed significantly to the socio-economic development of Bangladesh by improving the quality of life of hundreds of people.

I would like to highlight the defence cooperation between

free from hunger, threats, poverty, and insecurity. We have set up a mechanism for enhancing our bilateral trade and economic cooperation, and I hope to use this scope to take our cooperative relations to new levels. Kuwait is a proud partner in Bangladesh's economic journey and we take pride in supporting Bangladesh in 26 key projects covering critical sectors like Energy and Power, bridges and road communication, and agriculture. The volume of trade between our countries has steadily increased, covering various sectors such as energy, textiles, and agriculture but I am sure there are scopes to increase it to a desired level in the coming years.

For this to happen, we have to explore new avenues for trade and investment that will be mutually beneficial. I urge Kuwait and Bangladesh business chambers to take



Ambassador of State of Kuwait H. E. Mr. Ali Tunyan Abdul Wahab Hamadah presented credential to the Hon'ble President of Bangladesh



Kuwait's partnership in Bangladesh's economic growth through key infrastructure projects



Kuwait Towers: Icon of Resilience and Progress
A striking blend of tradition and modernity, symbolizing Kuwait's cultural heritage and innovation

our two countries that with other landmark agreements, play a very important role in strengthening our political and economic relations. The contribution of Bangladeshi defense personnel in Kuwait, is highly commendable and exemplary. We deeply appreciate their dedication and professionalism, which have reinforced our mutual commitment to peace and security. They along with the over 280,000 strong Bangladeshi expatriates in Kuwait play commendable role in fostering strong cooperation and understanding.

On this auspicious occasion, I would like to reaffirm our commitment to deepen and expand our cooperative relations.

Thank you for joining us in this celebration.

May the bonds between Kuwait and Bangladesh continue to grow stronger.

The above article is based on the speech delivered by His Excellency Mr. Ali Th A Q Hamadah, the Ambassador of the State of Kuwait, on the occasion of the 64th National Day and the 34th Liberation Day

H.E. Mr. Ali Th A Q Hamadah
Ambassador
Embassy of the State of Kuwait

NORDIC DAY CELEBRATED IN DHAKA WITH FOCUS ON JUSTICE, REFORM, AND ELECTIONS

Dhaka observed Nordic Day on Thursday (February 6) with a series of events at the Radisson Blu Hotel, celebrating the shared values and partnerships between Bangladesh and Nordic countries.

Syeda Rizwana Hasan, Adviser to the Ministry of Environment, Forest, Climate Change, and Water Resources, graced the occasion as the chief guest.

The event featured speeches from prominent Nordic diplomats, including Danish Ambassador Christian Brix Møller, Norwegian Ambassador Haakon Arald Gulbrandsen, Swedish Ambassador Nicolas Weeks, and Finland's Non-Resident Ambassador Kimmo Lähdevirta.

In her address, Syeda Rizwana Hasan emphasized the interim government's focus on three critical issues: justice, reform, and elections. She highlighted justice as the highest priority to ensure accountability for past human rights violations and to provide redress for victims who suffered under repressive regimes.

The adviser expressed heartfelt gratitude to the Nordic nations for their unwavering support, noting their contributions to both civil society and the interim government. She acknowledged receiving Nordic assistance during her tenure as an NGO leader and stressed its continuing importance for Bangladesh's progress.

The event drew a diverse audience, including diplomats, policymakers, and prominent personalities from various sectors, underscoring the deep ties between Bangladesh and the Nordic region.





CELEBRATING SRI LANKA'S 77TH INDEPENDENCE ANNIVERSARY: STRENGTHENING BILATERAL TIES WITH BANGLADESH AND EMBRACING A PROSPEROUS FUTURE

H.E. Mr. Dharmapala Weerakkody

It is my honour and privilege to welcome all of you to this event to celebrate the 77th Anniversary of the Independence of Sri Lanka.

On this occasion, we pay tribute to all our forefathers and leaders, who made various sacrifices to achieve the independence of our motherland. As we celebrate this significant day, we take a moment to embrace the rich cultural diversity that defines Sri Lanka. Our cultural diversity is our strength, and it is a testament to the harmonious coexistence of various ethnicities, religions, and languages in Sri Lanka.

Today, Sri Lanka has displayed one of the greatest economic



H.E. Mr. Dharmapala Weerakkody

comebacks, after implementing a series of reforms, to build a robust foundation towards sustainable and inclusive economic recovery.

Sri Lanka has now bounced back with a significant economic recovery. The World Bank forecasts a 3.5% economic growth in 2025. Receipts from the exports of goods and services, tourism, and workers' remittances continued to increase. Sri Lanka's currency was one of the best-performing currencies in the world in 2024, appreciating by more than 20% against the USD. The country has managed to lower its inflation to minus 4%.

With this economic progress, the government of Sri Lanka is now moving forward with a renewed vision, to build a prosperous nation.

Sri Lanka is now fully open for

businesses and foreign investments, and its economy remains resilient with high growth potential.

Sri Lanka greatly acknowledges with thanks, the consistent support extended by the International Monetary Fund (IMF), other bilateral/multilateral creditors, friendly countries, and

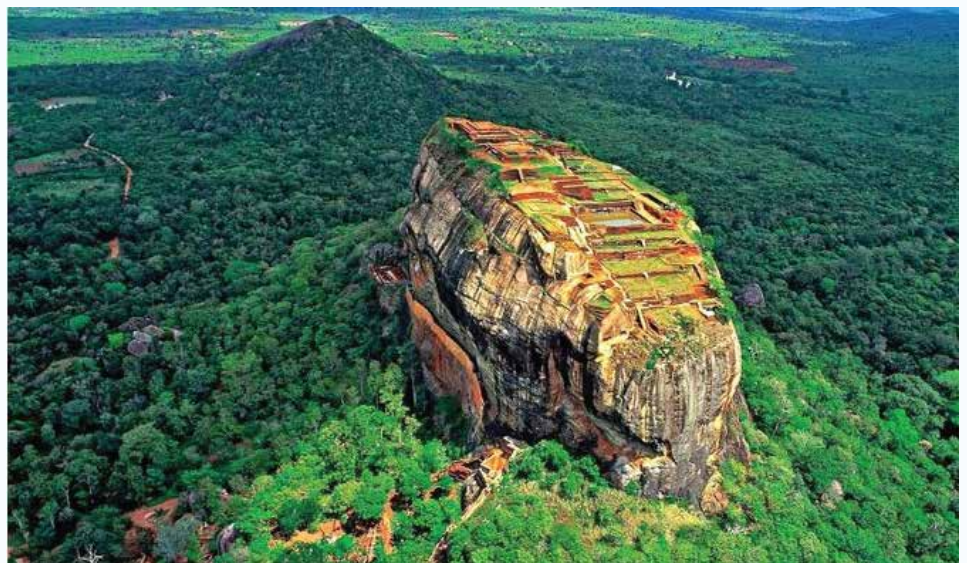
well-wishers, towards the country's successful economic recovery journey.

Sri Lanka was one of the first countries to establish formal diplomatic relations with Bangladesh. Since then, the two countries have enjoyed very cordial friendship, based on historical linkages, mutual respect, and shared democratic values covering multiple areas of cooperation.

Today, our two countries are keen to expand this bilateral relationship, into a more dynamic political and business partnership.

I hope that the Fourth Round of Sri Lanka -Bangladesh Foreign Office Consultations (FOC) to be held in Colombo this year, will serve as a useful platform, to further advance our bilateral agenda.

Our two countries have also been cooperating in many multilateral platforms and regional forums including the



Sigiriya is an ancient rock fortress located in the northern Matale District near the town of Dambulla in the Central Province, Sri Lanka. It is a site of historical and archaeological significance that is dominated by a massive column of rock approximately 180 metres high

Commonwealth, Non-Aligned Movement, the SAARC, BIMSTEC, and the Indian Ocean Rim Association.

The close relationship between our two countries has been further consolidated, through regular high-level visits and exchanges.

We are always grateful to Bangladesh for its consistent support extended to Sri Lanka, at the bilateral and multilateral levels, during challenging times.

Bangladesh is emerging as one of Sri Lanka's important trading partners. Diversifying two-way exports and broadening the economic agenda are our top priorities. Towards achieving this objective, the two countries are currently negotiating to finalize a Preferential Trade Agreement.

Our renewed partnership with Bangladesh includes developing shipping, ports, and air



Sri Lanka has the highest density of elephants in Asia

connectivity and we are getting ready to sign a new agreement to enhance shipping sector cooperation.

I would like to mention that Sri Lankan business interest in Bangladesh is continuing to expand. Our companies have a longstanding presence in Bangladesh and have invested significantly in the finance and banking, textiles and apparel, power generation, retail markets, and logistics sectors.



Nine Arches Bridge, Ella, Sri Lanka

Bangladesh is also home to more than 2500 Sri Lankan entrepreneurs, professionals, and skilled workers. They make significant contributions to the socio-economic development of our two countries. We highly appreciate the continuous support, extended by the Government of Bangladesh, officials of the Bangladesh Investment Development Authority, Bangladesh Economic



Zones Authority, and Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority, towards the Sri Lankan community, for their smooth business operations and employment in Bangladesh.

Sri Lanka is poised to become a leading maritime, logistics, and commercial hub in the Indian Ocean. We welcome Bangladesh investments including

public-private partnerships into promising investment opportunities, that are emerging in the Colombo Port Development Project, Colombo Port City Project, and the pharmaceutical manufacturing sector in Sri Lanka.

Education, health and tourism sectors have been identified as key potential areas where the

two countries could gain mutual benefits. The cooperation in the Defence sector is progressing well in the areas of training, capacity building, and intelligence sharing.

People-to-people contacts and tourism have greatly helped to build bridges of friendship. Around 50000 Bangladeshi tourists visited Sri Lanka in 2024. The availability of easy air connectivity between Colombo and Dhaka has contributed towards this increase. We warmly welcome more Bangladeshi visitors to Sri Lanka, enjoy its hospitality, and discover the country's rich natural and cultural heritage.

We thank, all authorities of the Government of Bangladesh, for working closely with us, to advance our bilateral agenda, into a more meaningful cooperation.

In conclusion, I convey my best wishes for the continued progress of the bilateral relationship, and for the enduring friendship between Sri Lanka and Bangladesh.

H.E. Mr. Dharmapala Weerakkody
High Commissioner

The Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka in Bangladesh

KUWAIT EMBASSY IN DHAKA CELEBRATES NATIONAL AND LIBERATION DAY

The Kuwait Embassy in Dhaka hosted a grand reception to mark Kuwait's 64th National Day and 34th Liberation Day. H.E. Mr. Ali Th A Q Hamadah, Ambassador of Kuwait, welcomed Asif Nazrul, Adviser for Law, Justice, and Parliamentary Affairs of Bangladesh's interim government, as the chief guest.

Ambassador Hamadah highlighted the strong Bangladesh-Kuwait ties, noting Kuwait's \$650 million investment in Bangladesh's key sectors. He praised the contributions of 280,000 Bangladeshi expatriates and defense personnel in strengthening bilateral cooperation.

The event was attended by diplomats, military officials, government representatives, and media personalities, underscoring the deep friendship between the two nations.





ECHOES OF TULIP MANIA: SPECULATIVE BUBBLES AND THE FRAGILE REALITIES OF BANGLADESH'S ECONOMY

AKM Sayedad Hossain

The tale of Tulip Mania in 17th-century Netherlands remains one of the most infamous examples of speculative excess in economic history. At its peak, the price of a single tulip bulb reached astronomical levels—equivalent to the value of an entire house—only for the market to collapse abruptly, leaving thousands financially ruined. While centuries apart, the underlying causes and consequences of

Tulip Mania find striking parallels in Bangladesh's current economic landscape.

In this analysis, we explore how Bangladesh's stock market volatility, real estate boom, and rising foreign debt reflect patterns reminiscent of Tulip Mania. By understanding these parallels, we can assess whether the Bangladeshi economy is at risk of a similar speculative collapse and explore strategies

for ensuring long-term economic stability.

Understanding Tulip Mania: The Birth of Economic Bubbles

Tulip Mania, which unfolded between 1634 and 1637, was fueled by a speculative frenzy surrounding rare tulip bulbs in the Netherlands. What began as a fascination among the elite quickly spread to ordinary citizens, with people from all walks of life buying tulip bulbs in hopes of making a fortune. At



A historic painting of Tulip Mania in 17th-century Netherlands: A vivid depiction of Tulip Mania in the 17th century, when speculative excess drove the price of tulip bulbs to astronomical levels, only for the market to collapse

its height, the most coveted tulip bulbs sold for more than ten times the average annual wage of a skilled worker.

This speculative boom was characterized by key factors such as the overvaluation of assets, market illiquidity, and a sudden collapse. Prices were driven by investor speculation rather than the intrinsic value of tulip bulbs. Many transactions occurred through futures contracts, where buyers and sellers traded on promises rather than physical goods. When confidence in the market evaporated in February 1637, prices plummeted, leaving investors bankrupt. This episode revealed how greed, herd mentality, and poor regulation can create and burst economic bubbles—an enduring lesson for modern economies.

Comparing Bangladesh's Economy with Tulip Mania

Bangladesh has emerged as a rising economic force in South Asia, achieving impressive GDP growth and industrial expansion. However, beneath this growth lies a fragile foundation marked

by overleveraged sectors and speculative behaviors. Three areas in particular—the stock market, real estate, and foreign debt—exhibit symptoms of a speculative bubble akin to Tulip Mania.

Stock Market Volatility: A Speculative Playground

Bangladesh's stock market, particularly the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE), mirrors the structure of Tulip Mania in several ways. The DSE has

experienced dramatic fluctuations, most notably the 2010–2011 stock market crash, which saw share prices surge by 62% before collapsing by 50%, wiping out billions of taka in investor wealth. Similar to Tulip Mania, overvalued assets and rampant speculation fuel these booms and busts.

Much like the "wind trade" of tulip futures, the stock boom in Bangladesh is often driven by borrowed money through margin trading, amplifying risks if market sentiment shifts. The concentration of investment in a handful of blue-chip stocks further increases market vulnerability. Regulatory lapses, including weak enforcement against insider trading and price manipulation, undermine market confidence. If political turmoil or global economic shifts trigger a sudden shock, the resulting collapse could devastate small investors.

Real Estate: A Bubble in the Making?

The real estate sector in Bangladesh, especially in urban



The volatility of Bangladesh's stock market, reminiscent of Tulip Mania, has seen dramatic rises and falls, leaving small investors vulnerable to market fluctuations



The soaring real estate prices in Bangladesh mirror the speculative frenzy of Tulip Mania, with luxury developments dominating the market while affordable housing remains out of reach for many

centers like Dhaka and Chattogram, has experienced staggering price increases over the past decade. Land prices in these cities have surged by 300%, making housing unaffordable for many middle-class families. This boom is reminiscent of the speculative excesses of Tulip Mania.

Luxury housing developments dominate the market, while affordable housing remains neglected. A growing number of properties remain unsold or unoccupied, suggesting that investments are driven by speculation rather than genuine demand. Many property purchases are financed through loans, increasing the risk of default if prices decline. If the real estate bubble bursts, it could destabilize the financial system by increasing non-performing loans (NPLs) and causing a credit crunch, echoing the collapse of tulip prices in 1637.

Foreign Debt and Currency Devaluation: Structural Weaknesses

Bangladesh's external debt exceeds \$100 billion, with the burden increasing due to the depreciation of the Bangladeshi Taka (BDT). Rising global interest rates further escalate the cost of debt repayment,

posing a significant challenge for the economy. As with the Dutch economy during Tulip Mania, the heavy reliance on external borrowing creates vulnerabilities that could lead to a systemic crisis.

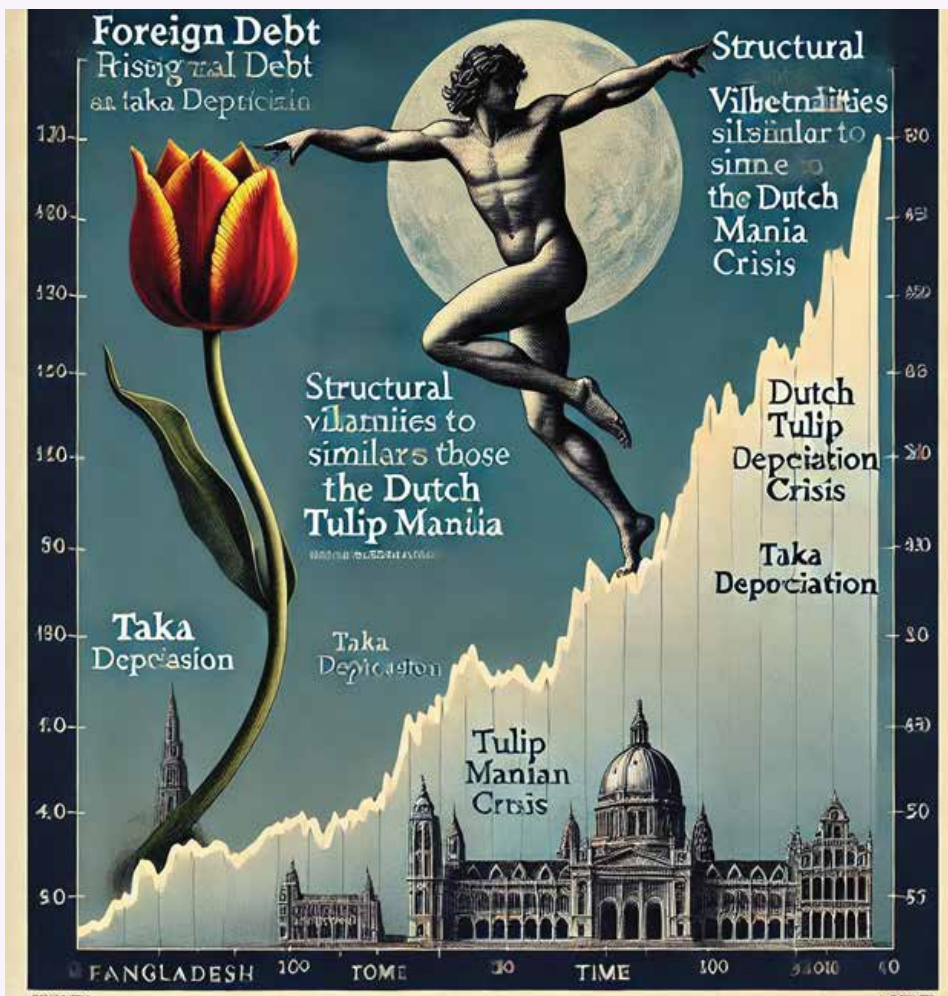
The Taka's depreciation against the U.S. dollar fuels inflation and erodes purchasing power, increasing economic uncertainty. Overdependence on remittances and textile exports leaves Bangladesh susceptible to external shocks. A sudden withdrawal of foreign investment could trigger a balance-of-payments crisis, pushing the economy into deeper turmoil.

The Psychological Dimension: Fear and Greed Drive

Both Tulip Mania and Bangladesh's current economic risks are fueled by emotional investing. In both cases, investors chase unrealistic returns, believing that prices will continue rising indefinitely. Herd mentality



An economy at risk—Bangladesh's heavy reliance on textiles and remittances leaves it vulnerable to external shocks



The promise of a Blue Economy—securing Bangladesh's maritime resources for sustainable development

drives people to follow the crowd rather than conduct rational analysis, while overconfidence fosters the belief that "this time is different." These psychological drivers make speculative bubbles self-reinforcing until the first signs of weakness cause panic and collapse.

Lessons for Bangladesh's Future Stability

To avoid a modern-day replay of Tulip Mania, Bangladesh must adopt proactive policy measures. Strengthening financial regulation is crucial to prevent manipulation and excessive speculation. Diversifying the

economy by reducing reliance on the garment sector and promoting tech innovation, pharmaceuticals, and agriculture can create a more resilient economic foundation. Enhancing financial literacy will empower retail investors to make informed decisions and reduce speculative behavior. Sustainable debt management, including limiting external borrowing and improving foreign reserve management, is essential to withstand global shocks.

Can Bangladesh Avoid Its Own Tulip Mania?

While Bangladesh's economy remains fundamentally stronger than 17th-century Holland, the warning signs of a speculative bubble—particularly in the stock market and real estate sector—are impossible to ignore. Without proactive policy intervention and prudent economic management, the country risks a modern-day replay of Tulip Mania's tragic end.

By learning from the mistakes of history and embracing sustainable growth strategies, Bangladesh can preserve its economic progress and avoid the devastating consequences of unchecked speculation.

AKM Sayedad Hossain
Associate Editor
Diplomats World



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BRUNEI HIGH COMMISSIONER REAFFIRMS STRONG TIES WITH BANGLADESH ON 41ST NATIONAL DAY

The Brunei High Commission in Dhaka celebrated the 41st National Day of Brunei Darussalam, highlighting the strong diplomatic and economic partnership between Brunei and Bangladesh.

H.E. Haji Haris Bin Othman, Brunei High Commissioner to Bangladesh, praised Bangladesh's contributions to Brunei's development and emphasized key agreements on labour, energy, and connectivity. He also underscored both nations' collaboration in global forums like ASEAN, OIC, and the UN.

The event, attended by top government officials, diplomats, and business leaders, reflected the commitment to strengthening bilateral cooperation. Looking ahead, the High Commissioner expressed optimism for deeper economic and cultural ties, reaffirming:

"Long live the Brunei-Bangladesh friendship!"



ALGERIA REAFFIRMS SUPPORT TO INTERIM GOVERNMENT, INVITED CA TO VISIT THE COUNTRY



Algeria reaffirmed its full support to Bangladesh's Interim Government on February 24, 2025 and invited Chief Adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus to visit the North African country.

Dr. Abdelouahab Saidani, the Ambassador of Algeria to Bangladesh, conveyed the message when he called on Professor Yunus at the State Guest House Jamuna in Dhaka.

The Chief Adviser also invited his Algerian counterpart to visit Bangladesh and requested the country to send their business delegations to Dhaka in an effort to deepen trade and investment ties.

During the meeting the ambassador said his country would continue political and economic support to

Bangladesh and their Energy Minister will visit Dhaka in March.

He said that Algeria was planning to import more Bangladeshi products such as textiles, jute, pharmaceuticals, food, and electronics.

Chief Adviser sought Algeria's support in the Council of the International Maritime Organization (IMO), the UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC), and the UN Security Council as Bangladesh is a candidate in elections in all these three international organisations.

The election for the Council of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) under Category C, for the term 2026-2027 is scheduled for December 2025 in London.

The election for membership to the UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC) for the term 2028-2030, will be held in 2027 in New York.

Bangladesh will also contest for the Non-Permanent Seat of the UN Security Council for the term 2031-2032, with the election scheduled for 2030 in New York.

Lamiya Morshed, senior secretary and the chief coordinator of SDG affairs, and B M Jamal Hossain, Director General of the Foreign Ministry, were also present during the meeting.

AUSTRALIAN HIGH COMMISSIONER SUSAN RYLE PRESENTS CREDENTIALS TO BANGLADESH PRESIDENT



On February 11, 2025, Australia's High Commissioner to Bangladesh, Her Excellency Susan Ryle, presented

her credentials to the Hon'ble President of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, His Excellency Mohammed Shahabuddin.

The ceremony marked a reaffirmation of the strong bilateral ties between Australia and Bangladesh, built on deep people-to-people connections, expanding trade and investment, and a shared commitment to regional peace, stability, and prosperity.

High Commissioner Ryle expressed her commitment to further strengthening cooperation between the two nations in various sectors, including economic development, education, and security.

NEW KUWAITI AMBASSADOR CALLS ON BANGLADESH'S FOREIGN ADVISER TO STRENGTHEN BILATERAL TIES



H.E. Mr. Ali Tunyan Abdul Wahab Hamadah, the newly appointed Ambassador of the State of Kuwait to Bangladesh, paid a courtesy call on Hon'ble Foreign Adviser Mr. Md. Touhid Hossain. The meeting focused on enhancing bilateral relations and exploring new avenues of cooperation in trade, investment, employment, and economic collaboration.

Hon'ble Foreign Adviser congratulated the Ambassador on his new role, while the Ambassador expressed Kuwait's commitment to strengthening ties across multiple sectors. Discussions emphasized the need to boost bilateral trade and investment, with the



Adviser encouraging greater engagement with Bangladesh's business community, including the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industries (FBCCI).

Key topics included employment opportunities for Bangladeshi workers in Kuwait, particularly ensuring safe working conditions for female workers and expanding recruitment for skilled professionals such as medical practitioners, engineers, and IT specialists. Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to structured cooperation, focusing on workforce security and economic partnership.

MOROCCO AND BANGLADESH STRENGTHEN COOPERATION IN TRANSPORT AND ROAD SAFETY



On the sidelines of the 4th Global Ministerial Conference on Road Safety held in Marrakech from February 18-20, 2025, the Moroccan Minister of

Transport and Logistics met with Bangladesh's Minister of Industry, Public Works, and Housing, Mr. Adil Rahman Khan.

During the bilateral meeting, both officials discussed key areas of mutual interest, particularly technical cooperation in civil aviation and enhanced collaboration in road safety initiatives.

Following the discussion, Minister Adil Rahman Khan reaffirmed the commitment of both nations to deepening their partnership, emphasizing that the meeting highlighted the strong bilateral ties and the shared ambition to advance road safety measures.

**NEWLY APPOINTED BANGLADESH AMBASSADOR TO BAHRAIN PRESENTS CREDENTIALS TO
BAHRAINI FOREIGN MINISTER**

The newly appointed Ambassador of Bangladesh to Bahrain, H.E. Mr. Md. Rais Hasan Sarower, ndc, presented a copy of his credentials to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Bahrain, H.E. Dr. Abdullatif bin Rashid Al Zayani, 22 February 2025.

During the meeting, the Bahraini Foreign Minister commended the strong bilateral ties between Bangladesh and Bahrain, emphasizing the importance of further strengthening these relations. He expressed his best wishes to H.E. Mr. Rais Hasan for the successful execution of his ambassadorial duties in Bahrain. The Minister also took the opportunity to express his admiration for the Hon'ble Chief Adviser of Bangladesh, H.E. Prof. Muhammad Yunus.



The discussions also touched upon the possibility of enhanced high-level visits and the upcoming second round of Foreign Office Consultations. Following the meeting, the date and time for the presentation of credentials to His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa were confirmed.

The Bahraini Foreign Minister was accompanied by H.E. Mr. Salah Mohamed Shehab, Chief of Protocol, and H.E. Mrs. Muneera Nofal Al Doseri, Chief of Asian & Pacific Affairs. The Bangladeshi Ambassador was accompanied by Mr. A.K.M. Mohiuddin Kayes, Counsellor & Head of Chancery, and Mr. Md. Iliasur Rahman, Counsellor (Passport & Visa).

ROMANIAN PRESIDENT KEEN ON EXPANDING LABOUR RECRUITMENT FROM BANGLADESH

Romanian President Ilie Bolojan has reaffirmed Romania's interest in strengthening labour recruitment from Bangladesh, acknowledging the significant contributions of Bangladeshi workers to Romania's economy.

During a meeting with Bangladesh's Ambassador to Romania, Shahnaz Gazi, at the Presidential Palace, Palatul Cotroceni, on February 17, President Bolojan praised the enduring Bangladesh-Romania ties and encouraged greater business-to-business collaboration.

He assured that necessary steps would be taken to address visa challenges, facilitating smoother access for Bangladeshi workers and students.

Ambassador Shahnaz, who presented her Letters of Credence to the President, was accompanied by First Secretary (Labour) Mohammad Mohsin Mia and Second Secretary & Head of Chancery Sheikh Kaushik Iqbal.

The Romanian President also emphasized Romania's commitment to deepening trade and economic cooperation with Bangladesh.

Ambassador Shahnaz extended greetings from President Mohammad Shahabuddin and Chief Adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus and urged Romania to enhance its recruitment of Bangladeshi workers. She also requested the reopening of the Romanian Embassy in Dhaka to boost bilateral exchanges and ease visa processing.

PAKISTAN HIGH COMMISSION ORGANIZES 2ND MIAN SULTAN KHAN CHESS TOURNAMENT IN DHAKA



The Pakistan High Commission in Dhaka, February 08, 2025, in collaboration with the Bangladesh Chess Federation, successfully hosted the 2nd Mian Sultan Khan Chess Tournament, honoring the legendary chess player.

The tournament saw participation from 200 chess enthusiasts, including diplomats, professionals, and students. Adviser on Cultural Affairs of Bangladesh, H.E. Mostofa Sarwar Farooki, attended as the chief

guest, alongside Syed Shujauddin Ahmed, President of the Bangladesh Chess Federation, and Bangladesh's first International Master, Rani Hamid. Diplomats from the Philippines, Sri Lanka, and Brunei also graced the event.

Sakline Mostafa Sajid emerged as the champion, followed by runner-up Manon Reja Neer, with Subrota Biswas and Nayem Haque securing third and fourth place, respectively. Trophies and cash prizes were awarded by Adviser Farooki and Pakistan High Commissioner Syed Ahmed Maroof.

High Commissioner Maroof emphasized the importance of such events in strengthening Bangladesh-Pakistan ties, stating that sports foster friendship and cultural exchange. He also extended condolences on the passing of His Highness Prince Karim Aga Khan IV, with a moment of silence observed in his honor.

The High Commissioner congratulated all participants and expressed hope for an even more successful tournament next year.

BANGLADESH, MOROCCO REAFFIRM COMMITMENT TO STRENGTHEN BILATERAL TIES



Ambassador of Morocco to Bangladesh Majid Halim has paid a courtesy call on Foreign Affairs Adviser Md Touhid Hossain at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Dhaka.

During the meeting the adviser and the ambassador reaffirmed their shared commitment to further strengthening the longstanding friendly relations between Bangladesh and Morocco.

Ambassador Halim highlighted Morocco's interest in deepening bilateral ties and praised Bangladesh's active role in global platforms, including the United Nations.

The discussions also encompassed broader bilateral issues, including trade, investment, and cultural cooperation.

Both sides expressed optimism about advancing collaboration for the mutual benefit of the people of the two friendly nations.

RUSSIA CELEBRATES ARMED FORCES DAY IN DHAKA WITH GRAND RECEPTION

Dhaka, February 23 the Embassy of the Russian Federation in Bangladesh hosted a vibrant reception to mark the occasion of Russian Armed Forces Day. The event was organized by Military, Air & Naval Attaché Colonel Sergey V. Naydenov and his wife, bringing together defense attachés from various foreign missions, diplomats, and senior military officials from Bangladesh.

Lieutenant General Mizanur Rahman Shamim, Chief of General Staff (CGS) of the Bangladesh Army, graced

the event as the Chief Guest. Rear Admiral Mohammad Musa, OSP, NPP, reds, afwc, psc, PhD, Assistant Chief of Naval Staff (Operations) of the Bangladesh Navy, also attended.

In his address, Colonel Naydenov highlighted the historical significance of February 23 as the Day of Defenders of the Fatherland, tracing its origins back to 1918. He emphasized Russia's commitment to military readiness and modernization, stating that the Russian Armed Forces are prepared to respond to modern threats while ensuring international peace and stability.

He also reaffirmed Russia's strong and enduring ties with Bangladesh, expressing confidence that bilateral military and military-technical cooperation will continue to grow. The event concluded with a renewed commitment to fostering defense collaboration between the two nations.

RUSSIAN EMBASSY IN DHAKA CELEBRATES DIPLOMATS' DAY WITH CULTURAL FINESSE

On the occasion of Russian Diplomatic Worker's Day, the Russian Embassy in Dhaka hosted a grand celebration led by H.E. Mr. Alexander Khozin, Ambassador of the Russian Federation, and Mrs. Valentina Kuznetsova. The event brought together

diplomats and dignitaries involved in fostering international relations.

In his speech, H.E. Mr. Khozin highlighted the rich history of Russian diplomacy, tracing its roots back to the 9th century and the establishment of the Ambassadorial Prikaz in 1549. He emphasized the enduring commitment of Russian diplomacy to its traditions and values while adapting to global challenges. As the new ambassador to Bangladesh, Mr. Khozin pledged to deepen the bilateral relationship between the two nations, promoting mutual benefits and striving for a more equitable world order.

The evening featured a captivating performance by a unique duo of Russian musicians, blending the violin and bayan with Russian, Bengali, and international tunes, leaving the audience mesmerized.

APOLOGY NOTE

We sincerely apologize for the design and printing mismatch in our recent coverage of the meeting between H.E. Mr. Alexander Khozin, Ambassador of Russia to Bangladesh, and H.E. Mr. Md. Touhid Hossain, Foreign Adviser of the Interim Government of Bangladesh.

Despite our best efforts to maintain accuracy, an unintended error occurred in the headline. We deeply regret this unintentional mistake and assure our valued readers and stakeholders that we are taking necessary measures to prevent such errors in the future.

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