



Embassy Newsletter

December 2021



Embassy of Bangladesh
Tokyo





Bangladesh and India jointly celebrated the 50 years of Bangladesh – India Relations in Tokyo

The Embassies of Bangladesh and India in Tokyo celebrated the 50 years of Bangladesh – India Relations through Maitri Diwas or Friendship Day with due fervor on 06 December 2021 in Tokyo. To mark the day, a reception was organized at a local hotel this evening where H.E. Mr. Honda Taro, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan has graced the program as the Chief Guest. Ambassador of Bangladesh, H.E. Sahabuddin Ahmed and Ambassador of India, H.E. Sanjay Kumar Verma received the distinguished guests.



H.E. Mr. Honda Taro, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan is with H.E. Sahabuddin Ahmed, Ambassador of Bangladesh, and H.E. Sanjay Kumar Verma, Ambassador of India at reception venue

Ambassadors and representatives of different diplomatic missions, dignitaries, high-officials, renowned businesspersons, academicians, journalists from Japan and expatriates from both Bangladesh and India attended the event. Attendees paid solemn respect to all Martyred who sacrificed their lives in the Liberation War of Bangladesh in 1971. A colorful cultural program enthralled the audience.

On the occasion, Chief Guest, Honda Taro delivered his speech. He congratulated the governments and the peoples of Bangladesh and India, on the Golden Jubilee of Bangladesh's Independence and the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Bangladesh and India. He expressed satisfaction on maintaining cordial relations with Bangladesh and India during Japan's long history of exchanges which made bilateral relationships even more solid in recent years through a wide range of cooperation in both the public and private sectors.

Besides, Ambassador Sahabuddin Ahmed and Ambassador Sanjay Kumar Verma gave their remarks. Ambassador Ahmed paid deepest respect to the Greatest Bengali of all times, Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, 3 million martyrs who sacrificed their lives, 2 hundred thousand women who lost their dignity, all freedom fighters, and the organizers of independence war in 1971. The Ambassador also recalled with profound gratitude the support India had provided during the wartime in 1971.



H.E. Mr. Honda Taro, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan, H.E. Sahabuddin Ahmed, Ambassador of Bangladesh, and H.E. Sanjay Kumar Verma, Ambassador of India delivered their speech

He also solemnly remembered the supreme sacrifices of all the members of the Indian Armed Forces and Indian nationals. Ambassador Ahmed pointed out that in recent years, Bangladesh and India have scripted a “Sonali Adhyay” or “Golden Chapter” of bilateral ties and given new dimension and direction to our partnership under the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Prime Minister Narendra Modi. We have come a long way in our journey to peace, progress and prosperity and would forge ahead together in amity and cooperation in the days ahead, he added.

Ambassador Verma paid a respectful tribute to Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, who dedicated his life for Bangladesh and its people. He also highlighted the role played by the then Prime Minister of India Mrs. Indira Gandhi and former Prime Minister of India Mr. Atal Bihari Vajpayee in liberation of Bangladesh. He recalled the historical circumstances that led to the birth of Bangladesh when millions of people of Bangladesh sacrificed their lives, he also remembered the brave soldiers of Indian Armed Forces who stood with their Bangladeshi brothers and sisters and played a significant role in realizing the dream of independent Bangladesh. Ambassador Verma explained the India-Bangladesh special partnership, which goes beyond even a strategic partnership and consequently bilateral relations between Bangladesh and India have achieved great degree of maturity and comfort, with complex issues been resolved in an amicable manner.



H.E. Sahabuddin Ahmed at reception gate



Cake cutting ceremony

India-Bangladesh relations today are deeper than any other strategic partnership, told Mr. Verma and was confident that the spirit of friendship, understanding and mutual respect engendered during the liberation war of Bangladesh will continue to promote values of secularism, pluralism, and democracy.



Video documentaries and photographs highlighting the deep friendship and cooperation between Bangladesh and India were displayed at the reception.

Bangladesh Embassy arranged Blood Donation Program

To mark the Birth Centenary of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and the 50th Anniversary of the Glorious Independence Day of Bangladesh, the Embassy in cooperation with the Japanese Red Cross Society has arranged a day long Blood Donation Event on 12 December 2021 at the Bangabandhu Auditorium.



H.E. Shahabuddin Ahmed delivered his speech during inauguration of the program



DCM Mr. Shah Asif Rahman received certificate after donating blood

Ambassador of Bangladesh to Japan Shahabuddin Ahmed inaugurated the program started this morning and continued till afternoon, fifty (50) expatriate Bangladeshi and Japanese citizens donated blood voluntarily. Chief Director of Japanese Red Cross Tokyo Metropolitan Blood Center Toshihiro HATAMOCHI was also present at the occasion.



H.E. the Ambassador is with Chief Director of Japanese Red Cross Tokyo Metropolitan Blood Center Toshihiro HATAMOCHI, blood donors and Embassy officials

In his remarks, Ambassador Ahmed said, donating blood is a noble virtue that can save others' lives. Appraising the donors, he conveyed heartfelt thanks to all participants and organizers, especially the Japanese Red Cross Society.



Recalling the history of our Independence, Ambassador told, “Bangladesh has achieved this Independence sacrificing the blood of 3 million people under the leadership of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman”; so, we know the value of blood more than any nation, he added.

Toshihiro HATAMOCHI in his speech said that due to the COVID-19 pandemic it became very difficult to organize any blood donation campaign in Tokyo, though demand for blood for Covid patients has gone up. In this regard, he thanked the embassy for hosting this initiative and hoped that this will help further deepen the bond between Bangladesh and Japan. Blood donors were acknowledged with a certificate and token gifts from the Embassy.

Japan provided another 1.5 million doses of AstraZeneca vaccines to Bangladesh.

As part of its commitment of 1.5 million doses of AstraZeneca vaccine in 2nd phase, the first shipment of 788,200 doses of vaccines was dispatched on 13 December 2021 by a flight of All Nippon Airways (ANA). H.E. Mr. Shahabuddin Ahmed, the Ambassador of Bangladesh to Japan has seen off the shipment at the Narita airport. The Deputy Chief of Mission, Shah Asif Rahman, was present with him during vaccine dispatch at the Airport.



H.E. Mr. Shahabuddin Ahmed and Deputy Chief of Mission, Shah Asif Rahman were present at the Airport

2nd & final batch of the Second phase delivery of AstraZeneca vaccine was dispatched on 20 December 2021 from Japan by a flight of All Nippon Airways (ANA). The batch of 704,910 doses of Japan manufactured AstraZeneca vaccine arrived in Dhaka on 21 December 2021 by a Cathay Pacific flight. The Head of Chancery Mr. Sheikh Farid and First Secretary (Press) Mr. Shiplu Zaman were present during vaccine dispatch at the Airport. With this shipment, the Government of Japan supplied nearly 4.5 million doses of vaccine in total in the first and second phase to Bangladesh under WHO-COVAX GAVI mechanism as committed.



The Head of Chancery Mr. Sheikh Farid and First Secretary (Press) Mr. Shiplu Zaman were present during vaccine dispatch at the Airport

Bangladesh's Glorious 50th Victory Day celebrated in Tokyo

The Embassy of Bangladesh, Tokyo celebrated the Glorious 50th Victory Day on 16th December 2021. In backdrop of prevailing pandemic and new challenges emerged by Omicron variant of Covid-19, the Embassy hosted the program at the Chancery premises with the physical attendance of a significant number of Bangladeshi expatriates as well as Japanese dignitaries and academician following standard health protocol. The program started in the morning with hoisting the national flag by H.E. the Ambassador along with rendition of national anthem in presence of community members and embassy officers as well as staffs. This was followed by observance of 01 (one) minute silence in memory of the martyrs of the War of Liberation. After this H.E. the Ambassador unveiled a bronze half bust of Father



of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman designed and prepared by Professor Otsubo which was placed on the 3rd floor of the Chancery building. Later, the programme continued with offering special prayer (munajat) for the salvation of the souls of the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, Liberation War martyrs, for the peace and prosperity of the country and the wellbeing of the expatriate Bangladesh Community. The messages issued by Hon'ble President, Hon'ble Prime Minister, Hon'ble Foreign Minister and Hon'ble State Minister for Foreign Affairs on the occasion of Victory Day-2021 were read out by Embassy officials.



H.E. Mr. Shahabuddin Ahmed, the Ambassador delivered his speech on Victory Day 2021



Mr. Minoru KIUCHI, Hon'ble Member of The House of Representatives and Chairperson, House Committee on Foreign Affairs

In his remarks, H.E. Ambassador paid his deep homage to the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman who led us in our freedom struggle, and we attained independent and sovereign Bangladesh. He also paid his homage to the 3 million martyrs who sacrificed their lives, 2 hundred thousand women who lost their dignity, all freedom fighters and the organizers of independence war in 1971 including the 4 national leaders of the Mujib Nagar government. He remembered with deep gratitude the support extended by the Government and the people of Japan, and the Friends of Bangladesh here to our liberation movement and struggle for independence. He said Japan continued to be our true friend and trusted partner in our development pursuit since independence. He underscored that the friendship laid down by the Father of the Nation during his visit in 1973 has strengthened over the years especially in recent times by her able daughter Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina through her visit in 2010, 2014, 2016 and 2019. He mentioned the bilateral relations between Japan and Bangladesh elevated to a "Comprehensive partnership" in 2014 and look forward to elevating it to a "Strategic Partnership" in the coming days.

H.E. Ambassador stated that Bangladesh has come a long way from the days of the war devastated country of 1971. With a steady growth of over 6% for more than a decade, which crossed 8% in 2019, and despite the adverse impact of the pandemic COVID-19, Bangladesh achieved 5.4 % of GDP growth in FY-2020-21, which is highest in Asia under the prudent leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. Bangladesh is marching steadily towards its development targets to achieve the status of a middle-income country by 2021 and that of a developed country by 2041. He added, even amidst the pandemic, Bangladesh could fulfill for the second time all the UN criteria for graduating to a developing country which the UN has approved this November. He expressed deep gratitude to Japan and other friendly countries for their support as we move towards our goal.

H.E. Ambassador also expressed gratitude to Japan for its contribution during this ongoing pandemic. He said Japan stood by Bangladesh as a time-tested friend during this COVID-19 pandemic by providing COVID-19 Crisis Response Emergency Support Loan in two phases which helped Bangladesh mitigate the COVID related adverse impact and delivering more than 3 million AstraZeneca vaccines through WHO-COVAX-GAVI process during July-August 2021, when we needed the doses most. He also extended his heartfelt thanks to Professor Otsubo for an admirable job of creating an aesthetic portrait / sculpture of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.



The event was graced by the presence of Japanese dignitaries including Mr. Minoru KIUCHI, Hon'ble Member of The House of Representatives and Chairperson, House Committee on Foreign Affairs, who shared his experience of visiting Bangladesh as State Minister for Environment in 2017 and Professor Otsubo, who gifted the half bust of Bangabandhu, talked about his involvement with Bangladesh over 30 years. After the Japanese dignitaries, a significant number of Bangladesh community members took part in a lively discussion. The speakers paid rich tribute to the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and to all the martyrs who sacrificed their lives for Bangladesh's independence. The speakers said Bangladesh has achieved unprecedented success in terms of socio-economic development with the spirit and values of Liberation War under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. They vowed to continue to work for the betterment of the country with a renewed vigor. As the last element of the programme, a DFP documentary was screened highlighting some of the historical moments of Bangabandhu's life and his leadership towards our independence.



Participant of the event



Oath taking ceremony

The program concluded by providing launch box to the participants and thanking everyone for their spontaneous participation and cooperation for holding the solemn occasion, despite their busy schedule. In the evening, the Embassy officials and their families joined in to celebrate the glorious victory day epitomized by participation in the national oath taking by Hon'ble Prime Minister holding small national flags and cutting a cake on the momentous occasion.

A bronze half bust of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman unveiled at Bangladesh Embassy, Tokyo

H.E the Ambassador unveiled a bronze half bust of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in Bangladesh Embassy Tokyo. The bust was designed and gifted by Professor Otsubo who presented the replica of the same bust to Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at Ganobhaban in 2012. The design of the bust has also been approved by Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Memorial Trust. The bust is placed on the 3rd floor of the Chancery building



Inauguration of half bust of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman

International Migrants Day 2021 Observed in Tokyo



International Migrants Day 2021 was observed in Bangladesh Embassy Tokyo on 18th December 2021. H.E the Ambassador of Bangladesh to Japan inaugurated the event in the morning at the Bangabandhu Auditorium of the Embassy where a significant number of representatives from Japanese organizations, sending organizations and Bangladeshi expatriates were present. Deputy Chief of Mission Mr. Shah Asif Rahman was also present in the occasion. The messages issued by Hon'ble President, Hon'ble Prime Minister, Hon'ble Foreign Minister, Hon'ble Minister of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment and Hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs on the occasion were read out by Embassy officials.



H.E Mr. Shahabuddin Ahmed, the Ambassador delivered his speech on International Migrants Day 2021

In his remark, H.E the Ambassador called upon Bangladeshi workers to uphold their country's image of loyalty and hard work. He said the population of the country has now transformed into human resource due to appropriate policy initiatives of the government. He also highlighted the efforts of the Bangladesh government at national and international levels to expand overseas employment opportunities and improve the welfare of expatriate workers. The ambassador also put forward plans to expand the Bangladeshi labor market in Japan. A power point presentation on the significance of the day and labor market potential in Japan was made by Counselor of the Mission Mr. Sheikh Farid.

Ambassador Shahabuddin Ahmed held interactive discussion with expatriates during his official visit to Fukuoka

H.E. Mr. Shahabuddin Ahmed, Ambassador undertook an official visit to Fukuoka on 19-20 December 2021.



H.E. Mr. Shahabuddin Ahmed, Ambassador undertook an official visit to Fukuoka

This was his first visit to this prefecture. During the visit, on 19 December 2021, Ambassador Shahabuddin Ahmed attended the Revival Fashion EXPO- A Celebration of Cultural Heritage which was being held from 16 to 19 December 2021 at the Fukuoka Asian Art Museum. He also attended an attractive programme organized by Bangladeshi expatriates to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Bangladesh's glorious victory day. The Ambassador spoke on the occasion as Chief Guest. He also unveiled few books authored by the Bangladeshi professors. H.E. Ambassador joined in an interactive discussion and responded to the various queries from the expatriates ranging from embassies ongoing work, consular service delivery to arranging future programmes or events to promote and project image of Bangladesh in Japan.



On the 20th of December, Ambassador Shahabuddin Ahmed visited the exhibition titled “My Golden Bengal” organized by the Fukuoka Asian Art Museum from 23 September to 25 December to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Bangladesh’s Independence showcasing painting, art works and handicrafts (like Nakshi Kantha) from Bangladeshi prominent artists. The Ambassador also met the Chief of Management and Operation Department of Fukuoka Asian Art Museum and other officials.

At the same venue but in a different location, H.E. Ambassador took a tour and were informed by Professor Mokhlesur Rahman on the Bangladesh To Te Wo Tsunagu Kai (An Association of Shaking Hands with the Bangladeshis) about the various activities that this organization has undertaken in Bangladesh.

Deputy Chief of Mission, Shah Asif Rahman, accompanied H.E. Ambassador.

H.E. Mr. Shahabuddin Ahmed, the Ambassador of Bangladesh to Japan inaugurated the Bangabandhu International Art Exhibition

H.E. Mr. Shahabuddin Ahmed, the Ambassador of Bangladesh to Japan inaugurated the Bangabandhu International Art Exhibition titled "Bangabandhu and Bangladesh" today on 26 December 2021 in Tokyo organized by Kahal Gallery where 71 art works of 71 artists from Bangladesh and Japan were displayed. In his remark, the Ambassador mentioned that the Greatest Bengali of all times Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was the architect of our independence.



H.E. Mr. Shahabuddin Ahmed, the Ambassador of Bangladesh to Japan inaugurated the Bangabandhu International Art Exhibition

The Ambassador thanked the organizers as well as the participants for arranging such an exhibition through which deep respect is shown to Bangabandhu. At the same time culture of Bangladesh is also exhibited in Japan. He wished all the success for this wonderful endeavor. Mr. Syed Nasir Ershad, Economic Minister of the Mission was present during inauguration session. Among others, Mr. Yoshinari Katsuo, President of Takashimadaira Foreigners Support Center; Professor Mizukami Tetsuo, Dean, Sociology Department, Rikkyo University, Tokyo and Mr. Kamrul Hasan Lipu, Artist and Chairman of Kahal gallery also spoke on the occasion. A good number of expatriate Bangladeshis and Japanese friends attended the event.