



Embassy Newsletter

February 2022



**Embassy of Bangladesh
Tokyo**

Bangladesh Embassy in Tokyo celebrates the 50th anniversary of the diplomatic relations between Bangladesh and Japan

The Bangladesh Embassy in Tokyo celebrated the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Bangladesh and Japan on 10 February 2022 with due fervor. The Embassy organized a reception in a local reputed hotel- the New Otani. The venue has a historical connection to the long-standing friendly relations between Bangladesh and Japan. It may be recalled that the Father of the Nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, stayed at this hotel during the historical and first official visit to Japan in 1973. Bangabandhu had chosen Japan as one of the first few countries to visit after independence. That historic visit laid the foundation of the unwavering friendship between the two countries and its peoples till today. The Hon'ble Prime Minister of Bangladesh, H.E. Sheikh Hasina, visited Japan in 1997, 2010, 2014, 2016 and 2019 and successfully elevated the relations to a 'comprehensive partnership' level encompassing mutual cooperation at bilateral, regional and global level.

The reception was well attended by high dignitaries like Parliament Members as well as representatives from the local embassies, ministries, business houses, media and academia including expatriate Bangladeshis. Ambassador Shahabuddin Ahmed welcomed the guests to the reception where Parliamentary Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan, H.E. Honda Taro was the Chief Guest.



Receiving Chief Guest, H.E. Honda Taro, by H.E. the Ambassador of Bangladesh to Japan



Welcome remark by H.E. the Ambassador of Bangladesh to Japan

Ambassador Ahmed in his welcome remarks, expressed gratefulness to Japan and its people for their recognition of newly independent country Bangladesh on 10 February 1972. He stated that from 1972 to 2022, it has been a journey of moving together in an unwavering show of friendship and solidarity, mutual trust and understanding. Ambassador quoted from the speech of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman that was delivered at an official dinner of his Japan visit, "We have been watching with profound admiration and, if I may say so, with a sense



Congratulatory video messages by Hon'ble Prime Minister of Bangladesh Sheikh Hasina



Congratulatory video messages by Hon'ble Prime Minister of Japan Fumio Kishida

of pride as fellow Asians, the tremendous achievements of Japan in the social and economic fields which constitute one of the most powerful influences of our time.” He further added, “The experience of Japan cannot but hold lessons for other countries such as ours”. Ambassador Shahabuddin recalled that following the experience of Japan, Bangabandhu wanted to turn Bangladesh into a major social and economic force. The congratulatory video messages from Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina of Bangladesh and Prime Minister Fumio Kishida of Japan were screened followed by video message of Foreign Minister of Bangladesh, Dr. A K Abdul Momen and message from the President of the Japan-Bangladesh Parliamentary Friendship League, Mr. Taro Aso.

An exhibition of diplomatic archive documents and photographs showcasing the past and present of the bilateral



Inauguration of exhibition by Chief Guest and H.E the Ambassador



Unveiling of design of commemorative stamps by Japan Post



Presentation of commemorative coin by Japan Mint

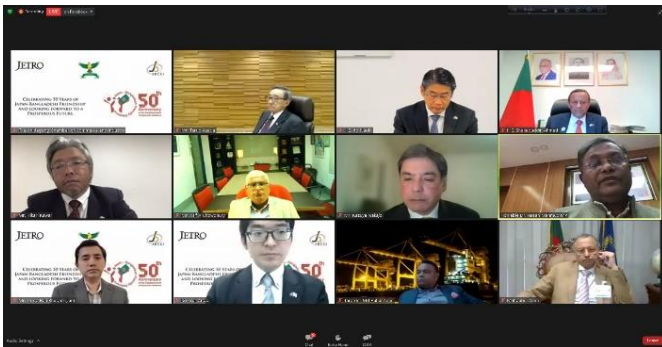
relations between Bangladesh and Japan, unveiling of design of commemorative stamps by Japan Post, presentation of commemorative coin by Japan Mint enriched the content of the momentous occasion. The event ended by the viewing of video titled “Welcome Bangabandhu” on the historic visit of the Father of the Nation Sheikh Mujibur Rahman to Japan on 18-24 October 1973.

The guests were treated with traditional Bangladeshi and Japanese delicacies. A celebratory cake was cut and served to the guests. All Embassy officials along with their spouses attended the event that they feel were lucky to witness in their lifetime.



H.E Ambassador Mr. Shahabuddin Ahmed spoke as one of the special guests in the webinar titled “Celebrating 50 Years of Japan Bangladesh Friendship and Looking forward to a prosperous future”

Ambassador Shahabuddin Ahmed spoke as one of the special guests in the webinar titled “Celebrating 50 Years of Japan Bangladesh Friendship and Looking forward to a prosperous future” jointly organized by Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO), The Chittagong Chamber of Commerce & Industry (CCCI) and Japan Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce & Industry (JBCCI) on 15 February, 2022. Hon’ble Minister, Dr. Hasan Mahmud MP, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting of Bangladesh graced the program as the Chief Guest. Other special guests included H.E. Ito Naoki, Ambassador of Japan to Bangladesh; Ambassador Ms. Mashfee Binte Shams, Secretary (East), Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Bangladesh; Mr. Teruo Asada, Chairman, Japan-Bangladesh Committee for Commercial & Economic Cooperation; Mr. Kazuya Nakajo, Executive Vice President, JETRO, Tokyo, Japan; Mr. Hikari Kawai, President, Japanese Commerce & Industry Association in Dhaka; Mr. Mahbubul Alam, President, CCCI and Mr. Asif A Chowdhury, President, JBCCI who also delivered remarks. The program was jointly moderated by Mr. Yuji Ando, Country Representative, JETRO, Bangladesh and Mr. Tareq Rafi Bhuiyan (Jun), Secretary General, JBCCI.



Ambassador Shahabuddin Ahmed spoke as one of the special guests

The Embassy of Bangladesh, Tokyo arranged a virtual agreement signing ceremony

The Embassy of Bangladesh, Tokyo arranged a virtual signing ceremony on February 16, 2022 of “Agreement



The Embassy of Bangladesh, Tokyo arranged a virtual signing ceremony on February on 16, 2022 on “Agreement Concerning Technical Intern Training Program” between BOES of Bangladesh and ZENBI CO-OP of Japan

Concerning Technical Intern Training Program” between Bangladesh Overseas Employment and Services Limited (BOESL) and ZENBI CO-OP of Japan, a company of ASEAN Financial Holdings Co. Ltd. Mr. Toshiaki Nishikawa,



Chairman and CEO of ASEAN Financial Holdings Co. Ltd. and Mr. Md. Abdus Sobhan, Company Secretary of BOESL signed in the agreement on behalf of ZENBI CO-OP of Japan and BOESL respectively.

ASEAN Financial Holdings Co. Ltd. will assist BOESL to send technical interns and specified skilled workers to Japan. H.E. Shahabuddin Ahmed, Ambassador of Bangladesh to Japan, Managing Director of BOESL Officials of the Tokyo Mission and BOESL and journalist were present at both end of the virtual signing ceremony.

The Embassy of Bangladesh, Tokyo celebrated the Shaheed Dibash and International Mother Language Day

The Embassy of Bangladesh, Tokyo celebrated the Shaheed Dibash and International Mother Language Day on 21st February 2022 with due respect, solemnity and enthusiasm. In the morning, floral wreath was laid at the altar of temporary Shaheed Minar located at the Embassy premises by H.E. Ambassador and all the Embassy officials. H.E. the Ambassador hoisted the national flag at half-mast along with rendition of national anthem in presence of Embassy officials. This was followed by observance of 01 (one) minute silence in memory of the Language Martyrs, who sacrificed their life to establish the right of mother tongue in 1952.

Later an online event was held due to the ongoing COVID-19 countermeasures in Tokyo. Special prayer was offered for the salvation of the souls of the Language Martyrs and Martyrs of Liberation War. Prayer was also offered for the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, his family members, for the wellbeing of the expatriate Bangladesh Community and for the peace and prosperity of the country. The message issued by the Hon'ble President, Hon'ble Prime Minister, Hon'ble Foreign Minister and Hon'ble State Minister for Foreign Affairs on the occasion of "Shaheed Dibosh" and the "International Mother Language Day" were read out by Embassy officials.

A discussion on the significance of the day was held following the address of H.E. the Ambassador. In this phase, a significant number of Bangladesh community members as well as Japanese speakers took part in a lively discussion. The speakers paid their tribute to the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and the Language Movement Martyrs, the greatest sons of the soil for their contribution in achieving our right to speak mother tongue. Ambassador Masato Watanabe, President, Japan-Bangladesh Society, Ambassador Matsushiro Horiguchi, Former President of JBS, Mr. Masaaki Ohashi, Professor, Sacred Heart University & Vice President of Japan-Bangladesh Society and Professor Kyoko Niwa, Bengali Department, Tokyo University of Foreign Studies were eminent Japanese discussant. They praised Bangladesh for not only upholding Bangla as well as other language.

Representing Japanese National Commission for UNESCO, Ms. Hiromi Kawamura, Deputy Secretary General, sent a video message. The participants also shared their views on this year's theme of the day "Using technology for the multinational learning: Challenges and Opportunities".

A short documentary outlining the history and significance of the day and cultural aspect of Bangladesh titled "Bangla" was screened. As the event was held online, a significant number of Bangladesh community members from various prefectures of Japan as well as Japanese nationals were able to join the program



Celebration of the Shaheed Dibash and International Mother Language Day 2022 in Tokyo

Japan to require four times more foreign workers, study says

Japan will need 6.74 million foreign workers in 2040, four times more than it has today, a study by the country's aid agency shows. The study, released on Thursday by the Japan International Cooperation Agency, also demonstrates that the country will have trouble attracting so many foreign workers as the Southeast Asian nations that many workers now hail from are expected to have to deal with aging and declining populations of their own. The study projects that Vietnam will remain the biggest source of labor for Japan, accounting for 28% of all foreign workers in 2040. Other countries that are expected to send more workers to Japan are Myanmar, Cambodia, Bangladesh, Nepal and India, the study shows.

(Nikkei Asia 02-03-2022)

'Bangladesh Group Company Profile' Updated Version Released

On February 3, JETRO released the Bangladesh Group Enterprise Profile (Updated January 2022) on its website. In Bangladesh, there are many local group companies (conglomerates) that have developed a wide range of businesses by taking advantage of their abundant financial resources. These conglomerates are important as potential business partners for Japanese and other foreign companies looking to sell local products, outsource production, or consider joint ventures with local companies. On the other hand, it is not easy to obtain necessary information as corporate information is generally not disclosed in the country. Against this background, JETRO prepared this report in 2015.

Since then, the report has been updated in response to requests for the latest information from Japanese companies considering business expansion and many new entrants.

(JETRO 02-04-2022)

Opening of Japan Desk at Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Bangladesh

JETRO Dhaka Office in collaboration with Chittogram Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCCI) and Japan Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry (JBCCI) has opened a Japan Desk at CCCI. This is the first time that a Japan Desk has been established in a Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Bangladesh, and it will support Japanese companies' expansion into Chittogram, the country's commercial capital.

(NNA 02-17-2022)

Bangladesh: Rainwater-harvesting hospital wins U.K. award

The Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) has announced the Friendship Hospital project — designed by architect Kashef Chowdhury, director of Bangladeshi architecture firm Urbana — the winner of the 2021 International Prize for the World's Best New Building. A model of climate-conscious design built with the bare minimum of resources, the Friendship Hospital beat off competition from a gallery in Berlin by David Chipperfield, and a cycle and footbridge in Denmark by Wilkinson Eyre, The Guardian reported on Jan. 25. The RIBA award-winning hospital is located in Satkhira, in Bangladesh's southwest. A canal zigzags its way through the site, collecting valuable rainwater and helping to cool the surrounding courtyards during the sweltering summer months. It also serves as a



barrier between the inpatient and outpatient departments, separating the two sides of the site across shared courtyards, without the need for a dividing wall, according to The Guardian report. “There is water everywhere here,” the Guardian quoted architect Kashef Chowdhury as saying.

(Japan News 02-18-2022)