

February 2023



Embassy Newsletter

Embassy of Bangladesh, Tokyo



Hon'ble Minister for Food, H.E. Sadhan Chandra Mojumder, MP visited Bangladesh Embassy

Hon'ble Minister for Food, H.E. Sadhan Chandra Mojumder, MP and his delegation visited Bangladesh Embassy, Tokyo on 06 February 2023 with a high-level delegation that includes Md. Ismiel Hossain Secretary, Ministry of Food. Hon'ble Minister and his delegation attended a dinner hosted in his honour by CDA, a.i. Mr. Shah Asif Rahman. Senior Vice President of JICA, Ms. IMOTO Sachiko and other officials related to JICA activities in Bangladesh, the visiting members of the delegation and Embassy officials attended the event. Hon'ble Minister also visited the 'Bangabandhu Corner' at the Chancery and signed the visitor's book. The Hon'ble Minister and the delegation from the Ministry of Food visited Japan from 05-09 February 2023 to attend a JICA organized programme.



Hon'ble Minister for Food, H.E. Sadhan Chandra Mojumder, MP visited Bangladesh Embassy

Air Chief Marshal Shaikh Abdul Hannan visited Bangladesh Embassy, Tokyo

Air Chief Marshal Shaikh Abdul Hannan, BBP, BUP, nswc, fawc, psc, Chief of Air Staff, Bangladesh Air Force led a 5-member delegation and visited Japan from 17-23 February 2023 at the invitation of the Acquisition, Technology & Logistics Agency, Ministry of Defense of Japan to explore future Defense Equipment and Technology Cooperation between Bangladesh and Japan. Besides, Tokyo he also visited Osaka and Nagoya to visit Mitsubishi Electric Corporation and Kawasaki Heavy Industries. During the visit he held bilateral meetings with his counterpart General Shunji Izutsu, Chief of Staff, JASDF and Mr. Tuchimoto, ATLA Commissioner in the Ministry of Defence, inter alia, his other engagements. Air Chief also visited Bangladesh Embassy in Tokyo and attended a dinner hosted by H.E Mr. Shahbuddin Ahmed, Ambassador of Bangladesh to Japan





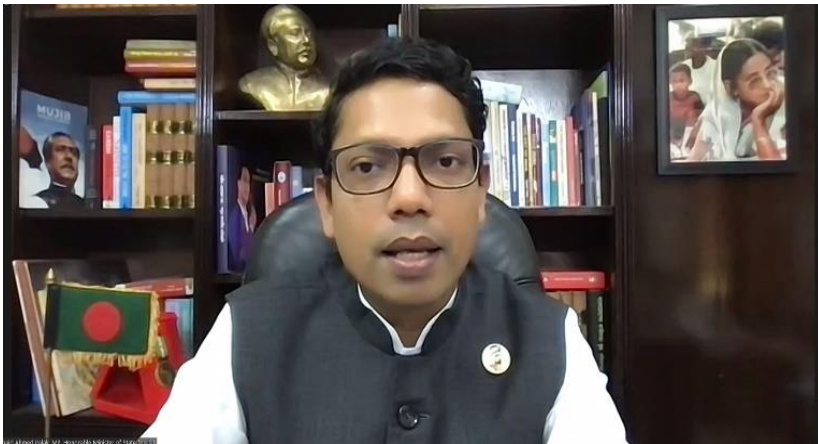
Mr. Shah Asif Rahman, CDA, a.i. of the Embassy, visited the Sasakawa Peace Foundation (SPF) in Tokyo

Mr. Shah Asif Rahman, CDA, a.i. of the Embassy, visited the Sasakawa Peace Foundation (SPF) in Tokyo on 03 February 2023. He discussed possible areas of collaboration with SPF with Dr. Akiko Horiba, Senior Programme Officer of the Peacebuilding Programme. Mr. Toru Kimura, Research Officer was also present at the meeting.



The Embassy of Bangladesh in Japan jointly with UNIDO ITPO Tokyo and the Bangladesh Hi-Tech Park Authority (BHTPA) hosted a webinar titled "Investment Opportunities in Hi-Tech Parks in Bangladesh"

The Embassy of Bangladesh in Japan jointly with UNIDO- ITPO Tokyo and the Bangladesh Hi-Tech Park Authority (BHTPA) hosted a webinar titled "Investment Opportunities in Hi-Tech Parks in Bangladesh" on 16 February 2023. More than 100 Japanese companies attended the webinar. The webinar focused on investment opportunities in Hi-Tech Parks established in different parts of Bangladesh. Mr. Zunaid Ahmed Palak, MP, Honourable Minister of State for Information and Communication Technology (ICT), Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh graced the event as the Chief Guest and urged the Japanese companies to invest in Bangladesh. Ambassador Mr. Shahabuddin Ahmed made opening remarks and assured all possible support from Embassy to the Japanese investors. Mr. Khandoker Azizul Islam, Managing Director, Bangladesh Hi-Tech Park Authority (BHTPA), delivered Keynote Presentation on "Investment Opportunities in Hi-Tech Parks" and highlighted One Stop Services, various incentives such as exemption of taxes and duties are also available for investors. Mr. Masaki Horikawa, CEO, BJIT Inc., a Japanese investor company in Bangabandhu Hi-Tech City (BHTC), shared Business Experiences in Bangladesh. Mr. Yuji Ando, Country Representative, JETRO Dhaka delivered Presentation on "Latest Business Environment in Bangladesh". Dr. Ariful Haque, Minister (Commerce) of the Embassy explained about support services of the Embassy to the Japanese investors. The program was moderated by Ms. Ikuo Toshinaga of UNIDO ITPO Tokyo.



Mr. Zunaid Ahmed Palak, MP, Honourable Minister of State for ICT graced the event as the Chief Guest.



H.E. Ambassador Mr. Shahabuddin Ahmed, made opening remarks



The Embassy of Bangladesh, Tokyo celebrated the Shaheed Dibash and International Mother Language Day on 21 February 2023

The Embassy of Bangladesh, Tokyo celebrated the Shaheed Dibash and International Mother Language Day on 21 February 2023 with due respect, solemnity and enthusiasm. Events organized to mark the day was inaugurated in the early morning with offering of floral wreath at the altar of the temporary Shaheed Minar located at the Embassy premises. Expatriate Bangladeshis and invited Japanese friends of Bangladesh along with Embassy officials attended the program.



The Embassy of Bangladesh, Tokyo celebrated the Shaheed Dibash and International Mother Language Day on 21 February 2023

H.E. the Ambassador said Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman played a vital role in shaping the “language movement” of 1952 as a young leader, which sowed the seed of the independence of Bangladesh. In his efforts to uphold our mother tongue Bangla, in his first appearance at the General Assembly of the United Nations, he delivered his speech in Bangla in 1974.

The Ambassador discussed role of Sheikh Mujib during that time in the language movement. He mentioned that the sacrifices of the language martyrs turned into strength not only to achieve independence in 1971 but also till today as we put our efforts globally to protect, promote and preserve the right to speak in one’s own language. He referred to the theme of UNESCO for the IMLD 2023 and stated that multilingual study is a need of the time.

A discussion session was then held with the participation of a significant number of Bangladesh community members and Japanese friends. The speakers paid their tribute to the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and sacrifices of the Language Martyrs, the need to uphold the spirit of Ekushey in every aspect of our lives and to take the country forward to build a “Sonar Bangla”. Ambassador Masato Watanabe, President, Japan-Bangladesh Society (JBS) shared his experience in Bangladesh and expressed his commitment to strengthen the relationship between Bangladesh and Japan through cultural exchange. Professor Masaaki Ohashi, Mr. Osamu Hayakawa and other members of JBS were present. A documentary titled “Bangabandhu and the Language Movement” and a documentary titled “My Mother Tongue” outlining the history and significance of the day and cultural aspect of Bangladesh were screened.



Ambassador Shahabuddin Ahmed hoisted the national flag at half-mast along with rendition of national anthem at the Embassy premises. 01 (one) minute of silence was observed in memory of the Language Martyrs, who sacrificed their life to establish the right of our mother tongue, Bangla, in 1952. Later, the program resumed indoors offering special prayer (munajat) 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 Bangladeshi community and for the peace and prosperity of the country. The messages by the Hon'ble President, Hon'ble Prime Minister, Hon'ble Foreign Minister, Hon'ble State Minister for Foreign Affairs and Director-General of UNESCO issued on the occasion of "Shaheed Dibash" and the "International Mother Language Day" were read out by Embassy officials. In his remarks, Ambassador Shahabuddin paid solemn tribute to the Language Martyrs Salam, Barkat, Rafique, Jabbar and many more unknown heroes for their supreme sacrifices for which we attained the right to use mother tongue. He paid profound respect and gratitude to the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, who emerged as a leader through 1952 to 1971 and gave us an independent country where we can speak freely in Bangla. The Ambassador also remembered all his family members with deep respect, including Bangamata Fazilatunnesa Mujib, who embraced martyrdom on the fateful night of 15 August 1975. He also paid his profound respect to our four national leaders, thirty lakh martyrs and freedom fighters who sacrificed their lives and two lakh women who lost their honour and dignity during the liberation war of Bangladesh.

Foreign Secretary (Senior Secretary) Ambassador Masud Bin Momen led the Bangladesh delegation to the 4th Foreign Office Consultations between Bangladesh and Japan that was held on 28 February 2023 in Tokyo. Day on 21 February 2023

Foreign Secretary (Senior Secretary) Ambassador Masud Bin Momen visited Tokyo on 27 February to 01 March 2023 to lead the Bangladesh delegation to the 4th Foreign Office Consultations (FOC) between Bangladesh and Japan that was held on 28 February 2023 in Tokyo. During the meeting, Bangladesh and Japan agreed to further intensify their existing excellent ties and work towards building a strategic relationship. Foreign Secretary Ambassador Masud Bin Momen had an extensive meeting with Senior Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan, Mr. Shigeo Yamada, that continued over one and half hours. The two sides discussed the entire gamut of bilateral relations as well as regional and global issues. Ambassador Shahabuddin Ahmed and other senior officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Bangladesh Embassy in Tokyo also attended the meeting. Both sides recalled Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's historic visit to Japan in 1973 which cemented the bilateral relations. Japan highly appreciated the well planned and structured approach to development led by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina through her visions 2021 and 2041. As part of building stronger bonds, Japan agreed to partner with Bangladesh in further developing the southern Chattogram area centering on the Matarbari Infrastructure Development Initiative (MIDI) project in the context of connectivity. Both sides concurred that these projects being built under Japan's Big-B initiative have potentials to benefit not only Bangladesh but also the entire region. Both sides discussed issues of bilateral relations in the areas of trade, investment, agriculture, especially ICT and high-tech industries, blue economy, health, human resource development, capacity development in maritime security, disaster management and defense cooperation. By emphasizing to promote connectivity in the coming days, Foreign Secretary appreciated the Japanese involvement in Bangladesh's development projects including in Matharbari, Metro Rail and the Third Terminal of Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport etc. Japanese Senior Deputy Minister appreciated Bangladesh's growth in spite of the pandemic and global economic downturn.



Foreign Secretary expressed his gratitude for COVID-related assistance extended by Japan including vaccine provision and direct budgetary support for the next couple of years.

Japanese Senior Deputy Minister assured that Japan will continue to support in all development projects of Bangladesh related to connectivity. Both sides expressed satisfaction at the inauguration of the first phase of Bangladesh Special Economic Zone at Araihasar and Dhaka Metro Rail. Bangladesh hopes that this economic zone will attract more Japanese investments since Bangladesh attaches high importance to the bilateral relations with Japan and will facilitate Japanese investors in this regard. Foreign Secretary also apprised his counterpart of Biman's plan to resume its flights to Tokyo in the running year. Japanese Senior Deputy Minister Mr. Yamada welcomed the idea and stated that the proposed air-link would help greater people to people contact and promote businesses. Foreign Secretary stressed the urgency for early repatriation of the Rohingyas to their ancestral homes at the Rakhaine state of Myanmar. The Japanese side stated that they would continue their assistance to Bangladesh in this regard. Foreign Secretary invited Japanese Senior Deputy Minister Mr. Yamada to visit Bangladesh for the next FOC in 2024. The same evening, a reception was hosted by Ambassador Shahabuddin Ahmed in honour of the visiting Foreign Secretary (Senior Secretary) at the Bangabandhu Auditorium of the Embassy. The visiting delegation members, Embassy officials and more than 50 invited dignitaries attended the reception representing Japan-Bangladesh Parliamentary Friendship League (JBPFL), Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI), Ministry of Justice, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO), Japan Bangladesh Society (JBS), Asia-Pacific Ladies Society (APLS) and Friends of Bangladesh in Japan including former Ambassadors of Japan to Bangladesh. Many of whom were delighted to be able to interact with Ambassador Momen, who served as Bangladesh Ambassador to Japan in 2012-2015 period. Foreign Secretary visited various parts of the Chancery complex that was built during his period, spent some time at the Bangabandhu Corner and signed the visitor's book. Foreign Secretary and his delegation left Tokyo for Dhaka on the morning of 01 March 2023.



A reception was hosted by Ambassador Shahabuddin Ahmed in honour of the visiting Foreign Secretary (Senior Secretary) Ambassador Masud Bin Momen at the Embassy

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