



Embassy Newsletter

March 2022



**Embassy of Bangladesh
Tokyo**

Embassy of Bangladesh, Tokyo observed the Historic 7th March

The Embassy of Bangladesh, Tokyo observed the Historic 7th March on March 07, 2022, with due respect and fervor by recalling the epoch-making speech of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman made on this very day in 1971. The day's program was inaugurated by placing of floral wreath at the portrait of the Father of the Nation located at the embassy premises in the early morning. In the second part of the event, H.E. the Ambassador hoisted the national flag along with the rendition of the national anthem. This was followed by observance of 01 (one) minute silence in remembrance of the Father of the Nation, his family members and to the memories of the martyrs who sacrificed their lives in the journey of independence.



Placing of floral wreath at the portrait of the Father of the Nation located at the embassy premises



H.E Mr. Ambassador Shahabuddin Ahmed delivering speech

Following the pandemic guidelines, the program resumed indoors with offering of special prayer (munajat) for the salvation of the souls of the Father of the Nation, his family members and all martyrs as well as for the peace and prosperity of the country under the leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. The messages issued by the Hon'ble President and Hon'ble Prime Minister on "Historic 07 March Speech" were read out.

In his remarks, Ambassador Ahmed remembered with deep respect Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman under whose charismatic leadership Bangladesh emerged as an independent sovereign country. The Ambassador said 7th March is a glorious and important day in the history of Bangladesh, when Father of the Nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman made his clarion call for our independence and freedom in his thunderous voice, "The struggle this time is a struggle for our emancipation, the struggle this time is the struggle for Independence". Following this call the whole country joined the liberation war and became victorious after nine-month. The Ambassador recalled how this historic speech was recognized by the UNESCO and enlisted as part of the world's heritage by including in the "Memory of the World Register" in 2017.

A discussion on the significance of the day was held following the address of the Ambassador where a significant number of Bangladesh community members took part in a lively discussion paying their deep tribute to the Father of

the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and his historic speech of 7th March and its significance. The speakers said Bangabandhu's lifelong dream was emancipation of his people and to turn the independent sovereign Bangladesh into a prosperous “Golden Bangla”. They expressed their strong commitment to work together to realize the dream of Bangabandhu and also to implement Prime Minister vision 2041 to turn Bangladesh into a developed country by contributing from their respective position. At the end, a video documentary was screened on historic 7th March speech.

H.E Mr. Shahabuddin Ahmed attended the Hybrid Seminar on “Bangladesh-Japan Partnership for the Next Development Journey” hosted by Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD)

H.E. Mr. Shahabuddin Ahmed was a guest of honor and made remarks at the “Bangladesh-Japan Partnership for the Next Development Journey” held today on 16 March 2022, organized by the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), Bangladesh. Hon’ble Minister for Planning, Mr. M. A. Mannan MP graced the program as the Chief Guest while other speakers included Mr. Kazi Nabil Ahmed, MP; H.E. Mr. Ito Naoki, Ambassador of Japan to Bangladesh; Mr. Yuho Hayakawa, Chief Representative, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), Bangladesh; Dr Fahmida Khatun, Executive Director, CPD etc. Notable Japanese and Bangladeshi speakers from various fields attended and contributed to the dialogue.



Hon’ble Minister for Planning, Mr. M. A. Mannan MP graced the program as the Chief Guest



H.E. Mr. Shahabuddin Ahmed made his remarks as a guest of honor

The Embassy of Bangladesh, Tokyo observed the 102nd Birth Anniversary of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and National Children's Day-2022

The Embassy of Bangladesh, Tokyo observed the 102nd Birth Anniversary of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and National Children's Day-2022 on 17 March 2022 with due fervor following the standard health protocol to prevent the spread of the new coronavirus infection.

The day’s programme was inaugurated in the morning by placing floral wreath at the portrait of the Father of the Nation located at the Embassy premises. H.E. the Ambassador then hoisted the national flag along with rendition of national anthem in presence of all Embassy officials and invited guests from Bangladesh community living in Japan.

This was followed by offering of special prayer (munajat) for the salvation of the souls of the Father of the Nation and his family members.



Placing floral wreath at the portrait of the Father of the Nation

Prayer was also offered for the peace and prosperity of the country and people along with the wellbeing of the children of Bangladesh and all around the world. The messages issued by Hon'ble President, Hon'ble Prime Minister, Hon'ble Foreign Minister and Hon'ble State Minister of Foreign Affairs on the occasion were read out by Embassy officials. In his remarks, Ambassador Ahmed paid homage to the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and explained the significance of the 17th of March. Ambassador mentioned that the theme for this year's Children's Day is "Equal rights of the children, Commitment of Bangabandhu's Birthday". Ambassador stated that Bangabandhu had a charismatic leadership quality and magnetic appeal to his people.



H.E. Mr. Shahbuddin Ahmed delivered his speech



The message of the Hon'ble Prime Minister was read by Mr. Shah Asif Rahman, DCM

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 took part. The speakers paid their rich tribute to the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. With heavy heart, they recalled the family members of Bangabandhu and others who embraced martyrdom on 15th August 1975 and with that many of his dream to create

an enabling environment for the children of the new country to flourish could not be implemented. After this, the Ambassador along with the invited guest cut a cake to celebrate this joyous occasion. As the last element of the program, a special documentary on the life of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was screened. The participants were then entertained with traditional Bangladeshi cuisine.



Children enthralled all present with their colorful performance



Children cut cake with Ambassador H.E. Mr. Shahbuddin Ahmed

Since it was a working day and schools were open, the Embassy, therefore arranged a program in the evening for children and their family. A good number of children attended and participated in a cultural programme. The evening segment of the day's programme featured placing of floral wreath at the portrait of the Father of the Nation and cutting cake by the children, family members along with the Ambassador. H.E the Ambassador made a brief remark to the children encouraging them to read books on Father of the Nation Bangabandhu to learn his human qualities, values and ideas. After this, children enthralled all present with their colorful performance. A documentary was screened on the life of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

The Embassy of Bangladesh, Tokyo observed the dreadful 25th March, the 'Genocide Day'

The Embassy of Bangladesh, Tokyo observed the dreadful 25th of March, the 'Genocide Day' with due respect paying rich tributes to the martyrs. In a solemn way the Mission commemorated the most brutal killing that took place in 1971 in Bangladesh perpetrated on the hapless Bengalis throughout the country by Pakistani military and their collaborators. The program started with observance of 01 (one) minute silence in memory of all martyrs which was followed by offering special prayer for the salvation of the souls of the 3 million known and unknown martyrs who sacrificed their lives on the fateful night of 25th March and during the nine-months of Liberation War of 1971. Prayer was also offered for Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and his family members. The messages issued by Hon'ble President and Hon'ble Prime Minister on Genocide Day were read out by Embassy officials.

In his remarks, Ambassador Mr. Shahabuddin Ahmed paid homage to the heroes who embraced martyrdom in the dark and deadly night of 25th March 1971 when Pakistani occupation forces carried out cowardly attack on the sleeping and unarmed Bengalese. The Ambassador said, the main purpose of the Pakistani military's "Operation Searchlight"

was to unleash a genocide to kill prominent leaders of Bangladesh Awami League, students and renowned intellectuals living in the Dhaka and other major cities of then East Pakistan with an aim to crush the independence movement under the leadership of Bangabandhu and establish their control over the province. Bangabandhu declared independence and called upon the countrymen to fight the occupation force till we attain victory. Ambassador Shahabuddin respectfully recalled the Greatest Bengalee of All Times, Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and all his family members including Bangamata Fazilatun Nessa Mujib, who were brutally assassinated on August 15, 1975. He also paid due respect to the four National Leaders, all the martyred freedom fighters, the war wounded freedom fighters, the two lakh mothers and sisters who lost their dignity though which we achieved victory on 16 December 1971.



H.E. Mr. Shahabuddin Ahmed, Ambassador of Bangladesh to Japan delivered his speech



Mr. Shah Asif Rahman, DCM read out the message issued by Hon'ble Prime Minister on Genocide Day

A discussion on the significance of the day was held following the address of H.E. the Ambassador. In this phase, embassy officials took part in a discussion. The speakers remembered with deep reverence all the martyrs who were killed in the tragic night of 25 March 1971. They also recalled with profound respect the architect of the independence of Bangladesh, Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman his role and intrinsic contribution that led to independent Bangladesh after nine-months of bloody war. The speakers said, people from all walks of life including students, teachers, intellectuals, members of different services especially from police and the EPR were killed in the massacre happened on the black night of 25th March 1971. Bangladesh Parliament enacted the decision to observe 25 March as “Genocide Day” in 2017 and now all over the world our Missions and expatriates are observing this day. The speakers call upon the conscious citizen of the world to recognize the genocide and denounce genocide in strongest terms. As the last element of the program, a documentary was screened on the Genocide Day.

The Embassy of Bangladesh in Tokyo observed the 51st anniversary of the Independence and National day

The Embassy of Bangladesh in Tokyo observed the 51st anniversary of the Independence and National day today in a befitting manner. In the morning, the day's programme was inaugurated by placing of floral wreath at the portrait of the Father of the Nation located at the Embassy premises by Ambassador Shahabuddin Ahmed and all the Embassy officials.

Ambassador Shahabuddin hoisted the national flag along with rendition of national anthem in presence of all Embassy officials. This was followed by observance of 01 (one) minute silence in remembrance of the Father of the Nation, his family members and to the memories to the 3 million martyrs who sacrificed their lives in the journey of independence. Special prayer (munajat) was offered for the salvation of the souls of the Father of the Nation, his family members and for the continued peace, progress, and prosperity of the country under the leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the coming years. 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 "the 51st Independence and National day" were read out by the Embassy officials.



Placing of floral wreath at the portrait of the Father of the Nation



Hoisting of the national flag along with rendition of national anthem

Ambassador Shahabuddin Ahmed paid his deepest homage to the Greatest Bengalee of All Times, the Father of the Nation of Bangladesh, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, under whose charismatic leadership Bangladesh was born as an independent and sovereign state in 1971. He also remembered four national leaders, all the valiant martyrs and freedom fighters, dishonored women, and brave people of Bangladesh for their supreme sacrifices for which we attained our flag, a national anthem, our identity and freedom. Ambassador Shahabuddin urged all to play their due role in fulfilling the Bangabandhu's dream of "Sonar Bangla" or Golden Bengal by implementing Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's Vision 2041 to build a modern and developed country by 2041.

The Embassy has brought out special newspaper supplements in mainstream major English daily newspaper - Japan News and also in a widely circulated Japanese newspaper - The Yomiuri Shimbun on the occasion where the Messages of Hon'ble President, Hon'ble Prime Minister the supplement contained message from the Hon'ble Prime Minister of Japan.

Bangladesh Embassy in Tokyo organized a Reception on 28th March 2022

As part of the elaborate programme, the Embassy in Tokyo organized a Reception on 28 March 2022 at Hotel New Otani – a historical venue where the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman stayed during his Japan visit in 1973. In the grand reception, approximately 300 guests including high officials from Foreign Ministry

and various ministries and agencies of Japan, Members of Parliament, Ambassadors and representatives of diplomatic missions, renowned businesspersons, academicians, journalists from Japan and Bangladeshi expatriates attended.

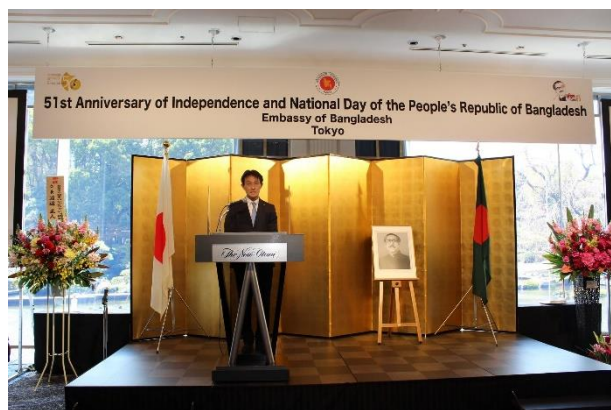


Delivering speech by H.E. Mr. Shahbuddin Ahmed



Delivering speech by H.E. Mr. Honda Taro

H.E. Mr. Honda Taro, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan was the Chief Guest. In addition to a number of Ambassadors and high dignitaries, the following dignitaries attended the reception program: H.E. Mr. Shunsuke Mutai State Minister for Environment & Member of the House of Representatives, H.E. Mr. Minoru Kiuchi, Chairperson, Foreign Affairs Committee, House of Representatives, H.E. Mr. Shingo MIYAKE Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs, H.E. Mr. Akihiro Nishimura, Member of the House of Representatives, H.E. Mr. Shinpei Matsushita, Member of the House of Councillors, H.E. Mr. Iwao Horii, Member the House of Councillors, and H.E. Mr. Tatsunori Ibayashi, Member, the House of Representatives and Secretary-General of JBPFL.



H.E. Mr. IBAYASHI Tatsunori read out the message issued by H.E. Taro Aso



Chief Guest and H.E. the Ambassadors conducted cake cutting ceremony

The event started with playing of the National Anthems of Bangladesh and Japan successively. After this, H.E. Mr. Honda Taro, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan delivered his remarks on the occasion as Chief Guest, which was followed by reading out of messages from H.E. Taro Aso, President of Japan-Bangladesh Parliamentary Friendship League (JBPFL) by H.E. Mr. IBAYASHI Tatsunori, Member of the House of Representatives and Secretary-General of JBPFL. After this, the Chief Guest and H.E. the Ambassadors conducted

cake cutting ceremony which was followed by taking group picture. On his remarks, Chief Guest expressed his heartfelt congratulations to the government and people of Bangladesh. He said Japan and Bangladesh have fostered a firm friendship and developed a heart-to-heart relationship in a wide range of areas in both the public and private sectors over the past 50 years. He mentioned that Japan attaches great importance to its relationship with Bangladesh, which is situated in a strategic location and plays an important role in the region's development.



H.E. Mr. Shahabuddin Ahmed greeted the Chief Guest



Mr. Shunsuke Mutai State Minister for Environment & Member of the House of Representatives attended the reception

Mr. ASO Taro, President of the Japan-Bangladesh Parliamentary Friendship League expressed his heartfelt congratulations to the government and the people of Bangladesh on behalf of the Japan-Bangladesh Parliamentary Friendship League on the occasion of the 51st Independence and National Day of the People's Republic of Bangladesh. He said, this year is a special one, which marks the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Japan and Bangladesh. He mentioned, Japan and Bangladesh are now enjoying closer ties than ever before. In his remarks, Ambassador Shahabuddin recalled with gratitude The Greatest Bengali of All Times, Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, who laid the foundation of a strong bilateral relations with Japan during his visit in 1973. Bangladesh's Foreign Policy motto "Friendship to all and malice towards none" emanates from his vision. Bangabandhu made it a point to visit all those friendly countries who recognized Bangladesh soon after independence, and Japan was one of them. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina followed her father's legacy and visited Japan in 1997, 2010, 2014, 2016 and 2019 to further strengthen our bilateral relations to elevate our relations to a "Comprehensive Partnership".

Ambassador Shahabuddin encouraged more and more Japanese investors to invest in Bangladesh. With bilateral trade of about 3 billion USD, Japan is still our top export destination in Asia. He said that Bangladesh remains open to explore opportunities to further deepening and widening of our bilateral relations, not only by greater trade and investment cooperation, but also in the areas of infrastructure, ICT, high-tech products, electronics, deep sea fishing and mining, high-end consumer and bio-tech products, renewable energy, skilled and professional manpower engagement, tourism, direct air connectivity, and promotion of cultural exchanges to the mutual benefit of our two peoples.



Ambassador Ahmed stated that the next 50 years would be greatly important for Bangladesh as we play our role in the “Asian Century” of growth and development. We look to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) while mitigating challenges like conflict and climate change. It is important to have leadership, vision and political stability to move in the right direction. He encouraged young generation to serve their country to the fullest of their ability to realize the “Golden Bengal”- as dreamt by our Father of the Nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman

The Embassy made arrangement for an exhibition of historical documents and photographs, the past and present of our steadfast bilateral relations for the guests who visited these items with great interest.

Embassy of Bangladesh in Japan and the Tokyo University of Foreign Studies (TUFS) jointly organized seminar on the occasion of the 50th anniversary (Golden Jubilee) of independence of Bangladesh

A seminar was jointly organized by the Embassy of Bangladesh in Japan and the Tokyo University of Foreign Studies (TUFS) on the occasion of the 50th anniversary (Golden Jubilee) of independence of Bangladesh on 30 March 2022 at 10:30-11:55am (Bangladesh Time) and 1:30-2:55pm (Japan Time) in a hybrid webinar format. The embassy put efforts for organizing the event in the month of independence.



Hon'ble Foreign Minister Dr. A. K. Abdul Momen, M.P and Hon'ble Minister for Liberation War Affairs Mr. A K M Mozammel Haque delivered their speeches



The title of the Seminar was “Bangabandhu in the International Arena and Bangladesh”. Bangabandhu and Bangladesh-the two words have become synonymous.



H.E. Mr. Shahbuddin Ahmed delivered speech



Professor Kayoko Hayashi, President of TUFS extended a warm welcome to all participants



The discussion in the seminar focused on the role and intrinsic contribution of Father of the Nation of Bangladesh, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the amazing journey of Bangladesh in the international arena and more so in the recent 13 years under the leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. Hon'ble Foreign Minister Dr. A. K. Abdul Momen, M.P and Hon'ble Minister for Liberation War Affairs Mr. A K M Mozammel Haque delivered their speeches in the seminar. The participants were from a wide range of professionals and students from TUFS. More than 100 attendees took part in the seminar in-person and virtually through Zoom platform. The Embassy in Tokyo have organized a number of events for the year-long celebration on the 50 years of our independence and also the birth centenary of the Father of the Nation for 2020-2021. This seminar is part of the above celebrations. We also celebrated the establishment of diplomatic relations with Japan on the 10th of February this year. The seminar gave an opportunity to not only showcase Bangladesh@50 but also for highlighting the excellent bilateral relations that Bangladesh is enjoying with Japan and other members of the international community.



Keynote speaker Mr. Monzurul Huq presented on 'Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and Global Exposure of Bangladesh'



Mr. Kazuhiro Watanabe Japanese, translator of the "Unfinished Memoirs" of Bangabandhu spoke in the seminar

After the opening remarks by His Excellency Mr. Shahabuddin Ahmed, Ambassador of Bangladesh Professor Kayoko Hayashi, President of TUFS extended a warm welcome to all participants of the seminar. The seminar had keynote speech from, Mr. Monzurul Huq, who presented his views on 'Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and Global Exposure of Bangladesh' and also from Mr. Kazuhiro Watanabe, who has translated in Japanese the "Unfinished Memoirs" of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

JICA's newly appointed Director for Bangladesh desk Mr. Shinsuke Nagai paid a courtesy call on H.E. Ambassador Mr. Shahabuddin Ahmed

JICA's newly appointed Director for Bangladesh desk Mr. Shinsuke Nagai paid a courtesy call on H.E. Ambassador Mr. Shahabuddin Ahmed at the Embassy on 3 March 2022. They discussed various issues pertaining to Japan's ODA support for the economic development of Bangladesh. The Ambassador assured him of the Embassy's full cooperation in this regard. Following the meeting, the Director visited the Bangabandhu corner and signed the guestbook there.



JICA's newly appointed Director for Bangladesh desk Mr. Shinsuke Nagai paid a courtesy call on H.E. Ambassador Mr. Shahabuddin Ahmed at the Embassy



President of Bangladesh Honda Limited, Mr. Shigeru Matsuzaki, paid a courtesy visit to His Excellency Ambassador Mr. Shahabuddin Ahmed



Newly appointed President of Bangladesh Honda Limited, Mr. Shigeru Matsuzaki, along with officials of Honda Motor Co., Ltd. paid a courtesy visit to His Excellency Ambassador Mr. Shahabuddin Ahmed on 22nd March 2022. They briefed about Honda's business in Bangladesh and discussed possible cooperation. H.E Ambassador assured all possible supports in this regard.