

March 2023



# Newsletter

Embassy of Bangladesh, Tokyo

## **H.E. Mr. Shahabuddin Ahmed, Ambassador of Bangladesh to Japan attended the closing session and reception of the Japan-IMF Macroeconomic Seminar (JIMS)**

H.E. Mr. Shahabuddin Ahmed, Ambassador of Bangladesh to Japan attended the closing session and reception of the Japan-IMF Macroeconomic Seminar (JIMS) on 3 March 2023. The theme of 2023 JIMS was "Macroeconomic Challenges in the Post-Pandemic Era". This year 29 participants from 17 countries including Bangladesh attended the event. Japan-IMF Macroeconomic Seminar (JIMS) is an executive training program specifically designed for senior government officials from the ministries of Finance, Central Banks and other relevant agencies of emerging Asian countries. It is

a collaborative project between the Asia Pacific Office of the IMF and the National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS), supported by the Japanese government. The closing session was attended by, among others, Dr. Yuqing Xing, Professor of GRIPS and Director of JIMS 2023, Mr. Akihiko Yoshida, Director of the Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific of IMF and Mr. Daisaku Kihara, Director of the International Bureau of the Japanese Ministry of Finance. The Ambassador was accompanied by Syed Nasir Ershad, Economic Minister of the Embassy.



*H.E. Mr. Shahabuddin Ahmed, Ambassador of Bangladesh to Japan attended the closing session and reception of the Japan-IMF Macroeconomic Seminar (JIMS)*

## **H.E. Mr. Shahabuddin Ahmed, Ambassador of Bangladesh to Japan attended 14th Tokyo Spring Festival**

H.E. Mr. Shahabuddin Ahmed, Ambassador of Bangladesh to Japan attended 14<sup>th</sup> Tokyo Spring Festival as the Chief Guest (টোকিও বসন্ত উৎসব) held at Tokyo Green Hall. The event was organized by Bangladesh Art Forum. A significant number of Expatriate Bangladeshi living in Tokyo and surrounding areas attended this joyful festival wearing colorful dress and with cheerful mode to celebrate the bright season of Spring.



*H.E. Mr. Shahabuddin Ahmed, Ambassador of Bangladesh to Japan attended 14th Tokyo Spring Festival as chief guest*

H.E. Mr. Shahabuddin Ahmed said the Spring Festival has now turned into a non-communal and universal celebration where people of all walks of life irrespective of caste, creed, color, religion, age and sex usually attend in large number. He said such festival will not only strengthen the mutual

bondage of expatriate Bangladeshis living in Japan but also showcase our vibrant and positive Bangladeshi culture to the Japanese. He expressed his heartfelt thanks to the organizer for arranging such meaningful event every year and offered his support in arranging such event in future.

## **The Embassy of Bangladesh, Tokyo observed the Historic 07th March**

The Embassy of Bangladesh, Tokyo observed the Historic 07th March commemorating the landmark speech of the Greatest Bengali of all times, Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

The day's programme began with the placing of a floral wreath at the portrait of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at the Embassy early in the morning. Ambassador Shahabuddin Ahmed hoisted the national flag along with 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

to the martyrs who sacrificed their lives in the journey of Bangladesh's independence. Later, 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 martyrs of the liberation war of Bangladesh as well as for the peace, progress and prosperity of the country under the leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. The messages issued by Hon'ble President and Hon'ble Prime Minister on "Historic 07 March" were read out by Embassy officials. All Embassy officials and a significant number of expatriate Bangladeshis attended the event.



*Delivering speech by H.E the Ambassador*



*Placing floral wreath*

In his remarks, Ambassador Ahmed paid homage to the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and explained the significance of the 7th March speech. He said 7th March is a glorious and important day in the history of Bangladesh, when the Father of the Nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman declared his vision of independence. His clarion call conveyed a clear message to his people that it was time to prepare ourselves for the ultimate struggle to freedom and attain independence. Following his call, after the brutal crackdown of the Pakistani military forces on the unarmed Bengalis on the black night of the 25th of March, the whole country

joined the liberation war and after nine-months of war we became victorious. Ambassador Ahmed termed the 7th March speech as the expression of deep commitment of Bangabandhu for the nation and extreme love for mass people. He also said that this speech gained international recognition when UNESCO enlisted the historic speech as 'World's Documentary Heritage' in the "Memory of the World Register" in 2017 as part of a list of the world's important documentary heritage maintained by UNESCO.

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 in a lively discussion paying their deep tribute to the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and the role and significance of the historic speech of 7th March in the independence of Bangladesh. The speakers said the 7th of March speech of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman provided inspiration to the Bengali people in their

quest for freedom and emancipation. They expressed their strong commitment to work together to realize the dream of Bangabandhu to build a 'Sonar Bangla' through implementing the vision 2041 of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina by contributing from their respective positions. As the last element of the program, a documentary was screened on the historic March 7 speech.

## **Bangladesh Embassy, Tokyo Celebrated International Women's Day 2023**

International Women's Day 2023 was observed at the Bangabandhu conference room of the Embassy of Bangladesh in Tokyo on 8th March 2023. As part of the celebration of the day, Mrs. Shahina Akhtar, the spouse of Ambassador of Bangladesh to Japan, H.E. Shahabuddin Ahmed, hosted a reception at Bangladesh Embassy where a significant number of guests attended. The program was attended among others by spouses of the Ambassador of Nepal Mrs. Subedi Poonam Rajyalaxmi and the Ambassador of Myanmar, Mrs. Lei Lei War. From the Asian- Pacific Ladies Friendship Society (ALFS), Vice Presidents Ms. Mariko Nakasone and Ms. Seiko Urakami, Sr. Executive Director Ms. Atsuko Fujimoto, Executive Director Ms. Chiemi Ueda, all other Directors and

Japanese language teachers attended. All spouses of the Embassy officials also attended the event. The event started with the speech of Mrs. Shahina Akhtar, who congratulated all the women all over the world on the special day. She mentioned the importance of the role of the women in the family, society and the world. She highlighted the significant progress made by the women in Bangladesh. After the speech she cut a cake with all women present there to celebrate the International Women's Day. Then, some Bangladeshi video content were projected to show the importance and strength of women. All guests were entertained with delicious Bangladeshi food and desserts.



*Mrs. Shahina Akhtar, the spouse of Ambassador of Bangladesh to Japan delivered her speech*



*Cake cutting*

## **The Embassy of Bangladesh, Tokyo observed the 103rd Birth Anniversary of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and National Children's Day-2023**

With due fervor and festivity, the Embassy of Bangladesh, Tokyo observed the 103rd Birth Anniversary of the Father of the Nation

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and National Children's Day-2023 on 17 March 2023. The day's program began in the morning by

placing a floral wreath at the portrait of the Father of the Nation located at the Bangabandhu Auditorium of the Embassy. Ambassador Shahabuddin Ahmed 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 the offering of special prayer (munajat) for the salvation of the souls of the Father of the Nation, his family members and for the continued peace, progress and prosperity of Bangladesh. 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.

Ambassador Ahmed paid homage to the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and explained the significance of the 17th of March. The Ambassador shed light on the life and achievement of Bangabandhu. He also explained how the birth of Bangladesh is intertwined with the

birth of Bangabandhu. The Ambassador stated that Bangabandhu had a charismatic leadership quality and magnetic appeal to his people which was demonstrated from the very early years of his life. He possessed a lion-heart full of courage but at the same time kindness and love for mass people including children. The Ambassador mentioned that the theme for this year's Children's Day is "স্মার্ট বাংলাদেশের স্বপ্নে বঙ্গবন্ধুর জন্মদিন, শিশুদের চোখ সমৃদ্ধির স্বপ্নে রঙিন". Referring to this theme of the National Children's Day of this year, the Ambassador said that the dream of a 'Smart Bangladesh' will be realized if the children of our country are taught to be self-reliant, disciplined, and hard-working through modern education in science and ICT, and are raised from an early age as tolerant, respectful, creative and patriotic citizens with humane values. He urged upon all irrespective of age to learn from the life, struggle and ideology of Bangabandhu and impart those qualities in our children.



*Delivering speech by H.E the Ambassador*



*Cake cutting*

A discussion on the significance of the day was held where 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. They said Bangabandhu ensured all rights of the children in the constitution of Bangladesh. Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman formulated the Children Act in 1974 and restructured the Girls Guide Association. He also established Kochikachar Mela- a children organization with a view to creating an enabling environment for child development. The discussants thanked Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh

Hasina for making huge efforts in promoting the rights, wellbeing and future of children especially girls. The participants also called to inculcate in the young minds of the children the human attributes, values and patriotism from the life of the Father of the Nation. A special documentary on the life of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was screened.

Since it was a working day and schools were open, the Embassy arranged a program in the evening for children and their family to celebrate the joyous occasion. A good number of children attended and participated in the cultural programme. The

evening segment of the day's programme featured placing a floral wreath at the portrait of the Father of the Nation 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. He recalled that Graphic Novel 'Mujib' based on animated life of Bangabandhu has been translated into Manga in Japanese and parents and children who can read Japanese can also read those. He reminded that Bangabandhu loved children, and he took early steps in independent Bangladesh to promote children's development

including enactment of Children's Act 1974 to promote and protect the rights of children. He also provided an account of successes Bangladesh has achieved in the recent years under Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for the advancement of children's rights in Bangladesh especially girl child. After this, children charmed all present with their colorful performances. A documentary was screened on the life of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. H.E the Ambassador then cut a cake with the cheerful children to mark this occasion. Finally, all the children who participated in the event received a special gift bag from H.E the Ambassador.

### **H.E. Mr. Shahabuddin Ahmed, Ambassador of Bangladesh to Japan attended 4th Kahal Award & Exhibition 2023**

H.E. Mr. Shahabuddin Ahmed, Ambassador of Bangladesh to Japan attended 4th Kahal Award & Exhibition 2023 as the Chief Guest held at the Kahal Gallery located at Saitama-ken, Japan on 19 March 2022.

This year Kahal Award has been conferred to FUKUZAWA Ikufumi (ফুকুজাওয়া ইকুফুমি) who has been involved with Bangladesh since 1972. As a young graduate, he went out to help Bangladesh reeling after the devastating war of 1971. He

traveled to Bangladesh as a member of the Agricultural Reconstruction Volunteer Corps under the reconstruction and development initiative and provided technical guidance on agricultural cultivators, etc. in Chittagong (Chattogram) and Dinajpur. Since then, he maintained his active involvement with Bangladesh whenever there was an opportunity. He was also one of the founding and still active member of Shapla Neer, an NGO, which has made significant contribution to Bangladesh's grass root development.



*H.E. Mr. Shahabuddin Ahmed, Ambassador of Bangladesh to Japan attended 4th Kahal Award & Exhibition 2023*

Mentionable that Kahal has been giving Kahal Awards to talented artists from Bangladesh and Japan since 2014. In the case of Japanese artists, those artists who have contributed to the arts and social work of Bangladesh are being honored. H.E the Ambassador thanked the organizer, Kamrul

Hasan Lipu, who is doing an amazing work in promoting Bangladesh-Japan relations through art, literary activities, workshop etc. The Ambassador was accompanied by Sheikh Farid, Minister (Political) and Head of Chancery of the Embassy.

## **Ambassador of Bangladesh H.E. Mr. Shahabuddin Ahmed attended the 42nd Lecture Series organized by Japan- Bangladesh Society (JBS)**

Ambassador of Bangladesh H.E. Mr. Shahabuddin Ahmed attended the 42nd Lecture Series organized by Japan- Bangladesh Society (JBS) on 21 March 2023 at Waseda Hosien, Tokyo.

President of JBS, Ambassador Rtd Watanabe, Director of JBS, Osamu Hayakawa and several Japanese friends of Bangladesh attended the event. This is part of the ongoing cooperation of the Embassy with JBS and as part of the public diplomacy initiatives.

Lecturer of TUFs, Ms. Yuka OKUDA, who studied in Shantiniketan, presented the keynote speech on 'The World of Tagore Songs' at the event. She highlighted on the special wordings featured in the Bangladesh's national anthem.

H.E. Ambassador in his remarks thanked JBS for arranging such an event. He mentioned how

Rabindranath Tagore is respected in the world, his art and literary works many of which were created in present day Bangladesh and how his songs inspired our people during our independence struggle and nine-month long liberation war in 1971. Father of the Nation was influenced by his works and chose Rabindranath Tagore song 'Amar Shonar Bangla' or 'My Golden Bengal' as Bangladesh's national anthem. He recalled, in 2014, in presence of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina 254,537 participants created Guinness World Record by singing the national anthem. Later participants practiced singing 'Amar Shonar Bangla' together. Deputy Chief of Mission, Shah Asif Rahman, accompanied the Ambassador at the event.



*H.E. Mr. Shahabuddin Ahmed attended the 42nd Lecture Series organized by Japan- Bangladesh Society (JBS)*

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

The Embassy of Bangladesh, Tokyo observed the dreadful 25th March, the 'Genocide Day' with due solemnity. The program started with observance of 01 (one) minute silence in remembrance of all martyrs of the dreadful night followed by offering special prayers for the salvation of the souls of the 3 million known and unknown martyrs who sacrificed their lives on 25th March and during the nine-months of Liberation War in 1971. Prayer was also offered to the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and his family members, who were martyred on 15 August

1975. The messages issued by Hon'ble President and Hon'ble Prime Minister on Genocide Day were read out by Embassy officials.

In his remarks of H.E. Mr. Shahabuddin Ahmed, Ambassador of Bangladesh to Japan 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 attacks on the sleeping 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

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. Ambassador said that soon after the crackdown, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman had declared independence and called upon the countrymen to fight the occupation force till we attained victory.

A discussion on the significance of the day was held. Embassy officials took part in a discussion. The speakers remembered with deep respect all the martyrs who were killed on the terrible 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 that happened in the dark night of 25th March 1971. As the last element of the program, a documentary was screened on the Genocide Day.



*Delivering speech by H.E the Ambassador*



*Observance of 01 (one) minute silence*

## **The Embassy of Bangladesh in Tokyo observed the 52nd Independence and National day**

The Embassy of Bangladesh in Tokyo observed the 52nd Independence and National day in a befitting manner. In the morning, the day's programme started with placing a 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 who embraced martyrdom on 15 August 1975 and to the memories of the 3 million martyrs who sacrificed their lives in the liberation war. 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 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 52nd Independence and National day" were read out by Embassy officials.

Ambassador Shahabuddin Ahmed paid his deepest homage to the Greatest Bengali of All Time, 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. 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 "Smart Bangladesh" 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. To celebrate the auspicious occasion, the Embassy also held a reception on Monday, the 27th March in hotel New Otani- a renowned hotel holding memories of our Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's stay in Tokyo in 1973. A significant

number of guests including Ministers, Parliament Members, Ambassadors, representatives of different diplomatic missions, high officials from different ministries and agencies, renowned businesspersons, academicians, journalists from Japan and Bangladeshi expatriates attended the event to celebrate the special day.



*Delivering speech by H.E the Ambassador*



*Newspaper supplements*

## **Bangladesh Embassy in Tokyo organized a Reception on 27th March 2023**

Bangladesh Embassy in Tokyo organized a Reception on 27th March 2023 at Hotel New Otani – a historical venue where the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman stayed during his Japan visit in 1973. Due to the holy Ramadan, the event started in the evening and continued up to iftar followed by dinner. Approximately 350 guests including Ministers, Members of Parliament, high officials from the Foreign Ministry and various other ministries and agencies of Japan, Ambassadors and representatives of diplomatic missions, renowned businesspersons, academicians, journalists from Japan and Bangladeshi expatriates attended the event. H.E Mr. NISHIMURA Yasutoshi, Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) of Japan, H.E Mr. TAKEI Shunsuke, State Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan and Mr. IBAYASHI Tatsunori, Secretary-General of JBPFL were present as Guests of Honour. To name a few dignitaries, H.E. Nakatani Gen, Special Adviser to Prime Minister Kishida on International Human Rights, H.E. Mr. Taro Kono, Head of the Public Affairs Department, the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, H.E. Ms. NAKAGAWA Yuko, Member, The House of Representatives, H.E. Mr. KIKAWADA Hitosh Chairman, The House of Representative, H.E. Mr. TSUKADA Ichiro, Member, The House of Representatives and former

Secretary General of JBPFL, H.E. Keitero Ohno, Deputy Secretary General, Liberal Democratic Party and Member of the House of Representatives, H.E HAYASHI, Toshiyuki, Vice Minister for International Affairs, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism and H.E Mr. Noriko Shibata, Assistant Vice Minister of Ministry of Justice of Japan attended the reception program. A number of Ambassadors including from South Asia namely India, Nepal, Sri Lanka and the Maldives also attended the reception.

The day's program started with playing the National Anthems of Bangladesh and Japan successively. After this, H.E Mr. NISHIMURA Yasutoshi, Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) of Japan delivered his remarks on the occasion as Guest of Honor, which was followed by the remark of H.E Mr. TAKEI Shunsuke, State Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan. The message issued by H.E. Taro Aso, President of Japan-Bangladesh Parliamentary Friendship League (JBPFL) was read by H.E. Mr. IBAYASHI Tatsunori, Member of the House of Representative and Secretary-General of JBPFL which was followed by the remark of H.E Mr. Shahabuddin Ahmed, Ambassador of Bangladesh to Japan. After this, the Guests of Honor and H.E the Ambassadors

joined in a cake cutting ceremony which was followed by a group picture with guests. In his remark, H.E Mr. NISHIMURA Yasutoshi, Minister of Economy, Trade, and Industry (METI) said Japan was ahead of the other countries in the world to recognize the newly independent Bangladesh and established the diplomatic relations. Ever since, both countries have been united by unwavering trust. In Japan, Bangladesh is well known to be one of the Japan friendly nations in Asia-he said in his remarks. The METI Minister

mentioned Bangladesh achieved the economic growth of 7.2% in the year of 2022 which was the highest among the countries in the world and the country is the promising country among the NEXT11 countries. He mentioned that the presence of the Japanese manufacturers is progressive and that in furthering the Japan-Bangladesh economic relations, the two countries have formed "Joint Study Group on the possibility of a Japan-Bangladesh Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA)".



*Delivering speech by Mr. NISHIMURA Yasutoshi, Minister of METI, Japan*



*Delivering speech by H.E Mr. TAKEI Shunsuke, State Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan*



*Delivering speech by Mr. IBAYASHI Tatsunori, Secretary-General of JBPFL*

H.E Mr. TAKEI Shunsuke, State Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan thanked the Embassy for inviting him to the reception to celebrate of the 52nd anniversary of Independence and National Day. He expressed his heartfelt congratulations to the government and people of Bangladesh on behalf of the Government of Japan. He referred to the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries in 2022. He mentioned, Japan's

support for the realization of the "Bay of Bengal Industrial Growth Zone (BIG-B)" will further boost the growth in Bangladesh. In this year 2023, Japan and Bangladesh have commenced a new chapter toward the next fifty years. Referring to the recent announcement by Prime Minister Kishida on a new plan for a "Free and Open Indo-Pacific", he mentioned that Bangladesh, located at a strategic juncture, is an important partner of Japan in this regard.



*Delivering speech by H.E the Ambassador*



*Cake cutting ceremony*



*H.E the Ambassador with the Guests of Honor*

On a congratulatory message, 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 52nd Independence and National Day of the People's Republic of Bangladesh. He said the bilateral relationship is entering a new era, thanks to high economic growth of Bangladesh where Japanese support for infrastructure development such as airports, ports, and metro systems are progressing. Japanese companies are attracted to Bangladesh in terms of investment and trade.

In his remark, H.E Mr. Shahabuddin Ahmed, Ambassador of Bangladesh to Japan delightfully welcomed all at the 52nd National and Independence Day celebration of Bangladesh in Tokyo. At the onset, he paid his deep reverence to the Greatest Bengali of all time, the Father of the Nation of Bangladesh, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. He also paid homage to four national leaders, all the martyrs and valiant freedom fighters of our Independence movement, and the martyred family members of the Father of

the Nation. He also paid his deep respect to the Hon'ble President and Hon'ble Prime Minister of Bangladesh who have sent congratulatory messages on this occasion. On this special occasion, he conveyed his profound respect to Their Majesties, the Emperor and Empress of Japan, and greetings to the government of Hon'ble Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, and the friendly people of Japan. The Ambassador said, Bangladesh and Japan have been enjoying excellent relations since Japan recognized Bangladesh on 10 February 1972. Japan was among the first few countries to open resident diplomatic mission in Dhaka the same year. He mentioned last year, on 10th February, we celebrated in a grand manner the 50th Anniversary of our bilateral relations here in Tokyo where many of guests joined despite COVID related constraints. He said Japan has been a time-tested friend and our people always remember with gratitude the precious support and contributions of Japan not only during our independence but also later on in our developmental pursuit. Over the years, we maintained our bilateral relations based on respect, mutual trust, friendship and cooperation.



*Delivering speech by H.E the Ambassador*

The Ambassador said, immediately after the independence and Japan's recognition of Bangladesh, Takashi Hayakawa san, who later formed Japan-Bangladesh Association, visited Bangladesh as a Special Envoy of Japan government. Soon after the historic visit of our Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman to Japan took place in October 1973. The

visit laid the solid foundation of a steadfast and lasting friendship. Bangladesh's Foreign Policy motto "Friendship to all and malice towards none" emanates from our Father of the Nation's vision. Due to his pragmatic policies Bangladesh was recognized by most countries and international organizations in a short period of time. H.E. Ambassador stated that our Prime Minister holds

Japan and her friendly people very close to her heart. Following that she visited Japan as Prime Minister in 1997, 2010, 2014, 2016 and 2019 which over the years have further strengthen and deepened our bilateral relations. The back-to-back visits of two Prime Ministers in 2014 bolstered the existing level of bilateral relations to a "Comprehensive Partnership". During the past several years due to continuity in leadership, the relations have developed into multifaceted one. As committed by the leadership of the two countries, we are now poised to take the relations to a new height.

The Ambassador also elaborated on the recent development in our bilateral relations in which our partnership has been robust. He recalled that on 06 December 2022, the Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina inaugurated Japan Special Economic Zone in Arahazar, Narayanganj. Bangladesh also had its first electric run Dhaka Metro Rail (MRT-6) constructed by Japan also inaugurated by the Hon'ble Prime Minister on 28 December 2022. The construction of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Railway Bridge, Terminal-3 of Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport Dhaka and MRT-1 Project, and Matarbari Ultra Super Critical Coal Fired Power Project are also in advance stages of completion. Most of these projects are expected to be completed by 2026, the year Bangladesh is expected to become a developing country. These projects will not only benefit Bangladesh but also will benefit other neighboring countries using Bangladesh as a connectivity hub of South Asia

and Southeast Asia. Bangladesh offers the most liberal and investor friendly environment with fiscal and non-fiscal incentives which is the most competitive in South Asia. A country of close to 170 million with 34 million middle-income and affluent class offers to be 9th largest consumer market globally by 2030 beckoning future investors and businessmen to the country. At present more than 340 Japanese companies have their operation in Bangladesh. Bangladesh ranked among top 20 Promising Countries for the 3rd consecutive year in a survey conducted by the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC). Therefore, there is all the encouraging factors present for more Japanese investors to invest in Bangladesh. We are developing 100 Special Economic Zones, 39 IT/ High-tech Parks and have offered Special Economic Zones to friendly countries. According to recent census, Bangladesh has a young population of 45.9 million, therefore, Bangladesh can provide human resources to Japan by imparting quality education, language and skills. We expect a good number of technical and skilled workforce would join agriculture, manufacturing and production sectors in Japan. The Ambassador concluded his remark by congratulating the fellow Bangladeshis living in Japan, including students, awardees of JDS and other scholarship holders many of whom also attended the event.

All the guests were entertained with iftar and standing buffet dinner where Bangladeshi and Japanese foods were served.

## **H.E Mr. Shahabuddin Ahmed, attended Iftar hosted by Prime Minister Fumio Kishida**



*H.E Mr. Shahabuddin Ahmed, the Ambassador of Bangladesh to Japan attended iftar hosted by Prime Minister Fumio Kishida*

H.E Mr. Shahabuddin Ahmed, the Ambassador of Bangladesh to Japan attended iftar on March 30, 2023 hosted by Prime Minister Fumio Kishida at his residence in Tokyo. Prime Minister of Japan, Kishida Fumio, hosted the iftar reception for delegates from countries with predominantly Muslim

populations. He pledged to advance efforts to strengthen cooperation with their nations. Ambassadors and other officials from 43 countries and one region attended the event held at the prime minister's official residence in Tokyo.

## **Hon'ble Mayor of Narayanganj City Corporation Dr. Salina Hayat Ivy visited Bangladesh Embassy, Tokyo**

Hon'ble Mayor of Narayanganj City Corporation Dr. Salina Hayat Ivy visited Bangladesh Embassy, Tokyo on 31 March 2023. She interacted with H.E. Ambassador Shahabuddin Ahmed. All Embassy officers were present. Later she visited Bangabandhu corner and signed the visitor's book. It may be mentioned that Hon'ble Mayor is visiting

Japan from 27 March to 02 April 2023 during which a Friendship City Agreement between Narayanganj City Corporation and Naruto City was signed on 28 March 2023. During the discussion at the Embassy, she sought Embassy's cooperation in implementing various aspects of the agreement.



*Hon'ble Mayor of Narayanganj City Corporation Dr. Selina Hayat Ivy visited Bangladesh Embassy, Tokyo*

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