



Embassy of Bangladesh, Tokyo, Japan

Newsletter

August 2023

74th Birth Anniversary of Shaheed Captain Sheikh Kamal observed at the Embassy of Bangladesh, Tokyo

Bangladesh Embassy, Tokyo observed the 74th Birth Anniversary of the valiant Freedom Fighter Shaheed Captain Sheikh Kamal, the eldest son of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on 05 August 2023 at the Chancery in a befitting manner.

The program started in the morning with the placing of floral wreath at the portrait of Shaheed Captain Sheikh Kamal, which was followed by offering of special prayer for him and all martyred family members of the Father of the Nation.



Laying of floral wreath at the portrait of Shaheed Captain Sheikh Kamal

The messages issued by the Hon'ble President and the Hon'ble Prime Minister on the occasion were read out by Embassy officials.

In his remarks, H.E. the Ambassador paid profound tribute to the Father of the Nation and prayed for his departed soul. He paid homage to the four national leaders as well. He remembered with deep sadness Bangamata Fazilatun Nessa Mujib and other family members of the Father of the Nation including Freedom Fighter Shaheed Sheikh Kamal who embraced martyrdom on the fateful night of August 15, 1975. He recalled with admiration the sufferings of our fearless freedom fighters and the oppressed womenfolk during the war of liberation. He also remembered the innumerable martyrs who sacrificed their lives in all the mass movements including the language movement of 1952, the six-

point demand of 1966 and the mass upsurge of 1969 for establishing human and democratic rights leading to the independence of Bangladesh in 1971.

H.E. the Ambassador mentioned in his remark that valiant Freedom Fighter Shaheed Captain Sheikh Kamal, who was born on this day, was a youthful character and a pioneer sports and cultural organizer in Bangladesh. He established 'Abahani Krira Chakra' which is now grown to become 'Abahani Limited Dhaka' - the top professional sports club in Bangladesh. The Ambassador added Sheikh Kamal with his modern outlook and youthful character would have done much more for the country if he had remained alive, highlighting the significant contributions he made to the country's politics, culture, youth, and sports.

A discussion on the life and work of Shaheed Captain Sheikh Kamal was held following the address of H.E. the Ambassador. Mentioning that Sheikh Kamal's goal was to build better sports organizations for youth and children to have a better life, the speakers highlighted the role of Sheikh Kamal in shaping the country's sports and cultural arena after independence. They recalled the contribution of Shaheed Captain Sheikh Kamal in various areas including his involvement in the mass upsurge of 1969 and active participation in the liberation war of 1971. They said Shaheed Captain Sheikh Kamal showed diverse talent for his time. In addition to his prowess in sports, he was actively involved in cultural and aesthetic activities like music, acting and debating. As a student of Dhaka University's Social Science Department, Shaheed Captain Kamal tried to represent Bangladesh and Bengali culture. All the speakers recalled and admired his simple lifestyle and progressive vision.

A documentary was screened on the life and work of Shaheed Captain Sheikh Kamal.

H.E. Mr. Shahabuddin Ahmed, Ambassador of Bangladesh to Japan attended Hiroshima Peace Memorial Ceremony

Ambassador of Bangladesh to Japan H.E. Mr. Shahabuddin Ahmed attended Hiroshima Peace Memorial Ceremony on 6 August 2023. Ms. Shahina Akter, spouse of the Ambassador and Sheikh Farid, Minister (Political) & HOC accompanied him.



H.E. Ambassador Mr. Shahabuddin Ahmed with his wife Ms. Shahina Akter at the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Ceremony

The City of Hiroshima holds the Peace Memorial Ceremony every year at Peace Memorial Park to console the souls of those lost to the atomic bombing, as well as pray for the realization of lasting world peace. Selected Government officials, international dignitaries, children's representatives, Hiroshima city officials, atomic bomb survivors (hibakusha) and bereaved families participated in the event this year to mark the 78th anniversary of atomic bombing.

The program started in the morning with dedication of the register of the names of the fallen atomic bomb victims which was followed by the speech of Mr. Motani Tatsunory, Chairperson of the Hiroshima City Council. Then flowers were dedicated by the Mayor of Hiroshima, Chairperson of the Hiroshima City Council, representatives of the bereaved families as well as atomic bomb survivors and distinguished guests. A moment of silent prayer with peace bell was observed at 8:15

a.m., the exact time when the atomic bomb was dropped over the city on Aug. 6, 1945.

Mr. MATSUI Kazumi, Mayor of the city of Hiroshima delivered Peace Declaration at the ceremony urging the policy makers to cease all nuclear threats and turn towards a security regime based on trust through dialogue in pursuit of civil society ideals.

Hon'ble Prime Minister of Japan, Mr. Fumio Kishida has also attend the event and made his remarks. The ceremony ended with the Hiroshima Peace Song (chorus).



H.E. Ambassador Mr. Shahabuddin Ahmed with his wife Ms. Shahina Akter receiving 'Peace Message Card'

Ambassador Ahmed also attended the 'Peace Message Card' handover program organized by junior high school students. He visited the Peace Memorial Museum and Hiroshima Castle during his visit to Hiroshima.

The 93rd Birth Anniversary of Bangamata Fazilatun Nesa Mujib was observed at the Embassy of Bangladesh in Tokyo

The Embassy of Bangladesh in Tokyo observed the 93rd Birth Anniversary of Bangamata Fazilatun Nesa Mujib at the Embassy premises on 08 August 2023 in a befitting manner.

The program started in the morning with the placing of floral wreath at the portrait of Bangamata Fazilatun Nesa Mujib. H.E. Ambassador Mr. Shahabuddin Ahmed and all guests joined in the special prayer for the salvation of the martyred souls of

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, Bangamata Fazilatun Nesa Mujib and all her family members. Prayers were made for the Hon'ble Prime Minister and for the continued peace, progress and prosperity of the country, its people including expatriates Bangladeshis.



The placing of floral wreath at the portrait of Bangamata Fazilatun Nesa Mujib

The messages issued by the Hon'ble President and the Hon'ble Prime Minister on the occasion were read out by Embassy officials.

H.E. the Ambassador in his remarks highlighted the great contribution of Bangamata Fazilatun Nesa Mujib in various stages of our independence struggle especially as a capable partner and inspiration for Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman through her entire life. The Ambassador said Bangamata silently and closely followed Bangabandhu in all his personal, social and political activities and provided crucial, timely and significant advice and assistance. Bangamata showed extraordinary skill and courage in carrying out responsibilities both at managing the family and on many occasions the party when Bangabandhu was detained in Jail, managed party affairs and gave prudent advice. The Ambassador further said that Bangamata was the prime motivation and encouragement behind Bangabandhu's penning of his autobiography 'Unfinished Memoir'. Ambassador touched upon on the noble and inspiring characteristics of Bangamata by saying she was an ideal lady. As a mother, she was soft and caring but when needed she was stern in taking decisions, he supported and shadowed

Bangabandhu for the cause of the country. He urged the new generation to learn from the extraordinary sacrifice, courage, patriotism, apt and visionary traits of Bangamata's life and work.



H.E. Ambassador Shahabuddin Ahmed giving speech at the 93rd Birth Anniversary program of Bangamata Fazilatun Nesa Mujib

A discussion on the life and work of Bangamata Fazilatun Nesa Mujib was held following the address of H.E. the Ambassador. The speakers recalled Bangamata's contribution, inspiration and sacrifices in the transformation of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman to the Father of the Nation. They said Bangabandhu's political career for the cause of mass people was possible due to the constant support, self-less sacrifices of Bangamata. The immense contribution of Bangamata as a "behind-the-scene architect" of the struggle for independence in the history of Bangladesh and rebuilding of the country post-independence came up in the discussion. A documentary was screened on the life, sacrifices and struggle of Bangamata Fazilatun Nesa Mujib.

The Commencement Ceremony to celebrate the arrival of first Assistant Language Teacher (ALT) from Bangladesh through the Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) Program was held at the Embassy of Bangladesh in Tokyo

The Commencement Ceremony which was held to celebrate the arrival of first Assistant Language Teacher (ALT) from Bangladesh

through the Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) Program on 8 August 2023 at the Embassy of Bangladesh in Tokyo. H.E. Ambassador Mr. Shahabuddin Ahmed attended the program.



H.E. Ambassador Shahabuddin Ahmed with the participants of the Commencement Ceremony to celebrate the arrival of first Assistant Language Teacher (ALT)

In his speech the Ambassador said that this exchange program is yet another milestone in the ever-enhancing friendly relationship between Japan and Bangladesh. He acknowledged that the JET Program of Japan, which started since 1987, is now one of the largest exchange programs in the world. It may be noted that this exchange program is supported by the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (MIC), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA), Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT), and the Council of Local Authorities for International Relations (CLAIR). Through JET, Assistant Language Teachers are recruited overseas and dispatched to local public bodies across Japan in an effort to foster better understanding of foreign cultures while also providing participants the chance to learn more about Japan.

This commencement of dispatching Bangladeshi ALT to Japan will be helpful to further strengthen the bilateral cooperation between Bangladesh and Japan. H.E. thanked the Japanese government for starting to recruit from Bangladesh and hoped that more collaborative efforts will be there for harnessing mutual benefits for both the countries and their peoples.

In his speech, Mr. Honno Yuichiro of the Japanese Education Bureau thanked the Ambassador and the team for organizing this

reception ceremony which will encourage the incumbent. He also expressed hope that there will be more Bangladeshi participants under the exchange program in future.

The Economic Minister of the Embassy Mr. Syed Nasir Ershad conducted the program while high officials from both the Japanese relevant departments and the Embassy including Deputy Chief of Mission Mr. Shah Asif Rahman, Minister Commerce Dr. Ariful Haque and Minister (Political) Mr. Sheikh Farid attended the event.

Bangladesh Embassy in Tokyo participated the `2nd International Conference on Japan-Bangladesh Research and Practice (JBRP) 2023`

Bangladesh Embassy in Tokyo participated the `2nd International Conference on Japan-Bangladesh Research and Practice (JBRP) 2023` held at Nanzan University in Nagoya on August 11-12, 2023.

Mr. Syed Nasir Ershad, the Economic Minister of Bangladesh Embassy in Tokyo attended the Conference as representative from the Embassy.

About 26 papers under 9 sessions were presented around four multidisciplinary domains mostly from Bangladeshi (origin) researchers working in Japan. Apart from those sessions and the best presentation award, an insightful keynote, a tutorial session, and a panel discussion were also organized.

JBRP is a flagship event organized by the Network of Bangladesh Researchers in Japan (NBRJ). The NBRJ was formally established on August 12, 2022, through a general meeting held at the Tokyo International Forum at its first annual workshop inaugurated by H.E. Mr. Shahabuddin Ahmed, the Ambassador of Bangladesh in Japan. NBRJ aims to bring together Bangladeshi (origin) researchers working at different universities, research organizations, industries, and corporate sectors across Japan.



Economic Minister of Bangladesh Embassy in Tokyo Syed Nasir Ershad, with the participants of the `2nd International Conference on Japan-Bangladesh Research and Practice (JBRP) 2023`

Bangladesh Embassy in Tokyo observed the National Mourning Day and 48th Martyrdom Anniversary of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman with due solemnity

National Mourning Day and 48th Martyrdom Anniversary of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was observed with due solemnity by the Bangladesh Embassy in Tokyo.

A significant number of expatriate Bangladeshi citizens including academia, journalist and other professionals and embassy officials attended the event. The program started in the morning at the Embassy premises with hoisting of the National Flag at half-mast by the Ambassador of Bangladesh to Japan, Mr. Shahabuddin Ahmed. The National Anthem was played at this time.



H.E Ambassador Shahabuddin Ahmed, his wife Mrs. Shahina Akter and embassy officials are laying floral wreath at the portrait of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman

After this, one-minute silence was observed followed by the laying of a floral wreath at the portrait of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at the Bangabandhu Auditorium. Ambassador Ahmed followed by other participants paid deepest homage to the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

A special dua and munajat was offered for the salvation of the martyred souls of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, his family members, and all other martyrs of 15th August in 1975 with the participation of all Embassy officials and expatriate Bangladeshis.



Special munajat for the salvation of the martyred souls of 15th August

Messages of the Hon'ble President, Hon'ble Prime Minister, Hon'ble Foreign Minister, and Hon'ble State Minister for Foreign Affairs issued on the occasion were read out to the audience.

In his remarks, Ambassador Shahabuddin paid profound homage to the greatest Bengali of all time and Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman as he dreamt for freedom of his Bengali people and their independent statehood. Under the visionary, fearless and strong leadership of the Father of the Nation, the Bengali Nation was united to forge a struggle for independence and fought liberation war to attain an independent country- Bangladesh and established its national identity as Bangalee in the comity of nations.

Immediate after independence, under his leadership, Bangladesh joined all major

international and regional bodies and established bilateral relations with large number of countries including Japan thus firmly establishing Bangladesh's place in the world stage.



H.E. Ambassador Shahabuddin Ahmed giving speech at program of the National Mourning Day and 48th Martyrdom Anniversary of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman

The Ambassador said the historic foreign policy adage postulated by the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, which is 'Friendship to all and malice towards none', remains as the guiding principles of Bangladesh's foreign policy.

Bangladesh opened its Embassy in Tokyo in 1972. The Ambassador mentioned that the historic Japan visit of the Father of the Nation during 18-24 October 1973 laid the political foundation for advancing the bilateral relations between the two countries. His daughter the Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in recent years has developed bilateral relations in a robust manner. As a successful outcome of Hon'ble Prime Minister's visit to Japan held on 25-28 April 2023, the bilateral relations between two countries have now elevated to a "Strategic Partnership". He said Bangabandhu is not with us today, but his dream, ideals and directives are still guiding us in the pathway for emancipation of Bangladesh. Under the leadership of his daughter and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Bangladesh will implement the Vision 2041 to build a knowledge-based, modern, developed, and smart Bangladesh in line

with the dream of Bangabandhu's "Shonar Bangla", Ambassador expressed his resolve.

A discussion on the significance of the day was held following a documentary screening on the life and work of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

In this segment, Bangladeshi community members and professionals working in Japan highlighted the significance of the day and vowed to turn the grief of losing Bangabandhu into strength. They called upon everyone to work together in strengthening the hands of the Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to further develop the country and fulfil the dream of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman to build a 'Sonar Bangla' by implementing the Vision 2041 of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

Ambassador Mr. Shahabuddin Ahmed inaugurated a Group Art Exhibition titled "Silent Beauty of Bangladesh"

Ambassador of Bangladesh to Japan Shahabuddin Ahmed inaugurated a Group Art Exhibition titled "Silent Beauty of Bangladesh" on August 20, 2023 in Gallery Sugino, Ginza, Tokyo.

The exhibition was held from 20 to 26 August 2023. 8 artists displayed their artworks depicting Bangladesh's unique culture, people, and colorful life.



H.E. Ambassador Shahabuddin Ahmed at the Art Exhibition titled "Silent Beauty of Bangladesh" on August 20, 2023 in Gallery Sugino, Ginza, Tokyo

From the Embassy Deputy Chief of Mission, Mr. Shah Asif Rahman and Economic Minister Mr. Syed Nasir Ershad also attended the event.

Orientation program for the JDS fellows of Bangladesh 2023 was held at the Embassy of Bangladesh in Tokyo, Japan

The orientation program for the JDS fellows of Bangladesh 2023 was held in the Embassy of Bangladesh on 29 August 2023. H.E. Mr. Shahabuddin Ahmed, Ambassador of Bangladesh to Japan was present as the Chief Guest.

Starting since 2002, every year a group of JDS fellows are coming from Bangladesh to pursue master's degree. This year a total of 33 fellows have been selected - 30 for master's and 3 for PhD program.



H.E. Ambassador Shahabuddin Ahmed with JDS fellows, JICA and Embassy officials at the JDS orientation program

In his speech, Ambassador Shahabuddin Ahmed welcomed the fellows and said that Japan is a true friend of Bangladesh which has been manifested in many aspects. Bilateral cooperation includes Human Resource Development as one of the topmost areas. The Ambassador mentioned JDS fellowship program as a flagship project for Bangladesh.

He thanked JICA for financing and JICE for managing the program. He advised the fellows to study hard and live well in Japan and wished them very best.

Among others, Syed Nasir Ershad, Economic Minister of the Embassy and Senior Director of JICA Nagai Shinsuke also spoke at the event.

All the fellows introduced themselves and some of them expressed their expectations from this program. Three former JDS fellows – Dr. Ariful Haque, Minister (Commerce), Mr. Sheikh Farid, Minister (Political) & HOC, and Mr. Md. Zoynal Abedin, First Secretary (Labor) – shared their experiences and provided some insight which would be helpful for the fellows. Mr. Muhammed Bashir, Counsellor (Political) conducted the program.

Several high officials from JICA and JICE were present at the event. Everybody, especially the fellows thanked the Embassy for arranging such an orientation program for the JDS fellows.

**Published by Bangladesh Embassy, Tokyo
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