

# Monthly Highlights

Volume : 1, June 2021

## Hon'ble Prime Minister attends Qatar Economic Forum



While addressing virtually the Qatar Economic Forum, Hon. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said "We

need a whole-of-the-world approach now" to frame an inclusive, sustainable and holistic post-Covid-19 recovery plan for expansion of trade, business and investment for the common prosperity. She also placed a six-point suggestion to frame a post-COVID-19 economic recovery plan and also urged the public and private investors of Qatar and other Middle-East countries to seize the opportunities in Bangladesh.

## Hon'ble Prime Minister: Help for dignified repatriation of Rohingyas

Hon. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, reiterated her call for global assistance at the IX Moscow Conference on International Security to ensure dignified and peaceful repatriation of the Rohingyas as they are posing a huge security threat to Bangladesh as well as for the region underlining that Bangladesh has been hosting more than 1.1 million forcibly displaced Myanmar nationals-Rohingyas for about four years. In her pre-recorded message the Premier also put emphasis on ensuring vaccination to all to fight COVID-19, humanitarian assistance to the marginalized people, safe return of all Rohingyas to Myanmar, stopping financing and supply of arms to terrorists and increasing cooperation among military agencies to ensure global security.

## Prime Minister unveiled the book titled "Bangabandhu in Disaster Risk Reduction"

At the outset of the ECNEC meeting, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina unveiled the cover of a book titled "Bangabandhu in Disaster Risk Reduction" highlighting various orders and directives of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and his the then government in disaster risk management.

The Premier said that her government's planned measures for the country's development have put Bangladesh as one of the top three performers on the Sustainable Development Goals-SDGs Index score.

## Prime Minister hands over 53,340 more houses to landless families



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina handed over 53,340 more houses to the landless and homeless families as

a part of her government's pledge. In January 2021, over 69,904 homeless and landless families received houses on the occasion of the birth centenary of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. Besides, 100,000 more houses will be given by December 2021 as part of the government's move to rehabilitate the country's homeless people.

## 'We expect UK to promote interests of climate vulnerable countries': Prime Minister



UK's Member of Parliament and COP-26 President-designate Alok Sharma, visited Dhaka to

strengthen support for UK COP-26 climate

priorities ahead of hosting the crucial UN climate change summit in Glasgow in November 2021. During his call on to Hon. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, she said, Bangladesh, as the current Chair of CVF, expects that the UK will promote the interest and priorities of climate vulnerable countries to the international platforms. Bangladesh is moving towards green energy and so far 5.8 million solar power connections have been provided including a massive tree plantation campaign both at government and party levels, she added.

## **NAM should initiate concrete actions for the Palestinian crisis: HFM**



Hon. Foreign Minister Dr. A K Abdul Momen has called upon Non-Aligned

Movement-NAM to redouble its efforts for a just, durable and peaceful solution to the long-lingering Palestine crisis. While virtually addressing an extraordinary meeting, of the NAM Committee on Palestine, Dr. Momen reiterated Bangladesh's solidarity and continued commitment in support of the inalienable rights of the Palestinians to self-determination, independence, statehood and sovereignty. At the same time, the Minister urged the Movement to ensure urgent humanitarian assistance and COVID-19 vaccines to the Palestinian people.

## **Government updates 'Bangladesh Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan'**

Bangladesh government has updated the 'Bangladesh Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan' to adapt to climate change and set up a 'Bangladesh Climate Change Trust Fund' with its own funding and various government and nongovernment projects are being implemented in the country with the fund. Besides, the

government has also made a 'National Adaptation Plan Implementation Roadmap' and received US\$2.55 million from the Green Climate Fund for the National Adaptation Plan Process Formulation.

## **Bangladesh eyes 40% renewable energy by 2041**

State Minister for Power, Energy and Mineral Resources Nasrul Hamid has said that 40% of electricity in Bangladesh will come from renewable sources by 2041. The strategy was adopted in the country's Power System Master Plan (PSMP). Already about 2 crore rural people were brought under the electrification facilities through 58 lakh solar home systems and the development plan and strategy was taken up giving priority to the sustainable development goals.

## **Bangladesh to introduce COVID-19 vaccine passport**

Bangladesh government is planning to introduce a COVID-19 vaccine passport through the Surokha digital platform in order to facilitate overseas travel. This app will help people to travel to foreign countries that allow only vaccinated passengers. The government has also decided to include the outbound expatriate Bangladeshi workers in the priority list for getting COVID-19 shot.

## **UNESCO-2005 convention: Bangladesh elected inter-state committee member**

Bangladesh has been elected inter-state committee member of UNESCO 2005 Convention for the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions for the period 2021-2025 for the first time. The election was held virtually at the 8th general assembly of



the member states of the convention on 1-4 June 2021. It is to be noted that the “UNESCO-Bangladesh Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Interactional Award for creative Economics” will be provided for the first time at the 41<sup>st</sup> General Assembly of UNESCO to be held in November 2021.

## **Bangladesh elected vice-president of 76th UNGA session**

Bangladesh has been elected vice president for the upcoming 76th Session of the UN General Assembly from the Asia Pacific Region for a one-year term, beginning from September 2021. The election was held at the UN General Assembly (UNGA) in June 2021 where Bangladesh was elected unanimously. Along with Bangladesh, Kuwait, the Lao People's Democratic Republic and the Philippines have also been elected as vice presidents from Asia Pacific Region.

## **Bangladesh reelected as deputy member of ILO's governing body**

Bangladesh has been re-elected for the third time as a Deputy Member of the Governing Body of the International Labour Organization-ILO from the Asia-Pacific region for the term 2021-2024, in an election virtually held in Geneva during the 109th International Labour Conference-ILC with the highest 210 votes.



## **Report: Bangladesh among 3 top performers in sustainable development**

Bangladesh and two other Countries-Afghanistan and Cote d'Ivoire, have progressed the most on the SDGs Index score since the adoption of the 2030 global agenda in 2015, according to the Sustainable Development Report 2021, launched by the Sustainable



Development Solution Network-SDSN. Besides, Bangladesh ranked 109th on the SDG Index 2021 and ahead of its other South Asian neighbors like India (120th), Pakistan (129th) and Afghanistan (137th).

## **BGMEA wins prestigious green award**

Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association-BGMEA, as the first organization in the world, has been



awarded the prestigious '2021 Leadership Award' by the United States Green Building Council-USGBC for the Association's efforts for building a green garment sector. Currently, Bangladesh has 143 Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design LEED-certified garment factories, the highest in the world. Of the top 10 LEED-certified buildings, nine are in Bangladesh, which reflects the country's efforts to follow good practices for saving the environment during production.

## **Foreign exchange reserves set a new record of US\$46 billion**



Bangladesh Bank data showed that Bangladesh's foreign exchange reserves have set a new record of US\$46 billion.

## **\$47m additional Korean loan for water supply project**

A loan agreement was signed in June 2021 under which South Korea would provide a US\$47 million soft loans to Bangladesh for the "Bhandal Jhuri Water Supply Project" to be implemented by Chattogram Water Supply and Sewerage Authority (CWASA).

## Activities of the Embassy

### Screening of the Film 'The Salt in our Waters'

To raise awareness about the direct and indirect impacts of climate change on Bangladesh especially on its people of coastal areas, the Embassy of Bangladesh in Seoul, in partnership with UNDP Seoul Policy Centre and Korea University, screened a film at the International Studies Hall of Korea University, titled 'The Salt in our Waters' on 01 June 2021 to mark the 2021 World Environment Day.



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Diplomats, representatives from the UNDP Policy Centre and World Bank, young climate activists including students were present at the event. The audience highly admired the film Directed and Produced by Rezwan Shahriar Sumit and Co-Produced by Ilann Girard who were virtually connected after the screening to responded to the queries of the participants.



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### Webinar on 'Bangladesh and ROK: Trade and Investment Opportunities'



A webinar titled 'Bangladesh and ROK: Trade and Investment Opportunities', organized by the Embassy of Bangladesh in Seoul was held on 16<sup>th</sup> June 2021. It discussed and exchanged views on the existing trend of bilateral cooperation especially in Pharmaceutical and Bio-

Industry including the ICT sector as well as charting the future course of action in expanding cooperation in these thriving sectors. H.E. Mr. Salman Fazlur Rahman, MP, Hon'ble Adviser to the Hon'ble Prime Minister on Private Investment and Industry graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. The virtual meeting was participated by the dignitaries and representatives of the government and other trade bodies of both Bangladesh & the Republic of Korea.

### Ambassador Abida Islam gave a special lecture on the Culture of Bangladesh

Ambassador Abida Islam delivered a vivid presentation on the 'Culture of Bangladesh' to a group of Korean students from Dong-Ah Institute of Media and Arts on 25 June 2021 in partnership with the Multicultural Museum at a local hotel in Seoul. During her deliberation, Ambassador Islam highlighted the historical and cultural similarities between Bangladesh and South Korea by the screening of two cultural contents prepared at the initiative of the Embassy on Bangladesh's Language Martyrs' Day 'and South Korea's Hangul Day' and also on making 'Sandesh'- a sweetmeat of Bangladesh.

Ambassador Islam also portrayed the rich and diverse cultural heritage of Bangladesh by focusing on its history, language and literature, religion, music and folk culture, fairs and festivals, cuisine and costume, arts, handicrafts and paintings, archaeological sites and architecture. She also elaborated on the concept of 'Sonar Bangla' while discussing the political philosophy of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and presented the students with the Korean version of the book "The People's Hero"



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and handicrafts from Bangladesh in the conclusion of her presentation. The lecture has provided the Korean students an opportunity to acquire in-depth knowledge about Bangladesh that may further enhance people-to-people contact and cultural exchanges between the two countries in the days ahead.

## Embassy of Bangladesh in Seoul participated Seoul International Tourism Fair (SITF)

The Embassy of Bangladesh has actively participated in the largest international tourism fair of South Korea



titled Seoul International Tourism Fair (SITF) from 24-27 June 2021 at the Convention and Exhibition Center (COEX), Seoul. Immediately after the inauguration, the Embassy offered a fascinating presentation on the tourist attractions of Bangladesh



followed by a musical performance by a local Bangladeshi artist that enchanted the audience. Promotional leaflets, posters, brochures on attractive tourist places, and traditional handicraft items of Bangladesh were distributed among the visitors. Documentaries on the attractive tourist destinations of Bangladesh as well as Bangladesh's tradition and culture were also screened during the fair. Many Koreans and foreigners visited the Bangladesh booth and expressed their interest in the tourist destinations of Bangladesh.

## Labour and Welfare Issues:

The arrival of EPS Workers	00
Dispute settlement	03
Legal Advice	65
Interaction with EPS workers IMO/FB/SMS/Kakao/Phone /others	75
Factory/Jail/Hospital/Morgue/ Deportation Centre/Job Centre/Accommodation/Police station visits	07
Coordinate Flight for stranded EPS workers	00
Extended Release and Job searching Period of EPS workers	00

## Consular Affairs:

Delivered new Passports	301
Renunciation/Duel	01
Birth Certificate	08
Endorsement	nil
Visas issued	78
NVR issued	05
Travel Permits issued	03
Attestation	154
Consular Service provided	550 nos.

## Commercial Affairs:

Meeting with Korean businessmen	05
Trade queries	02
Holding/participating in Trade Fair/Seminar/	02

Chief Patron : Ambassador of Bangladesh to the Republic of Korea

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