

PRIME MINISTER URGES TO ENSURE \$100 BILLION ANNUAL FUND AT THE LEADERS SUMMIT ON CLIMATE



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina called for ensuring the annual target of 100 billion US dollars which would be shared 50:50 between adaptation and mitigation with particular attention to the vulnerable communities. "Major economies, international financial institutions, and private sectors should come forward for concessional climate financing as well as innovation," she said virtually on April 22 at the Leaders Summit on Climate hosted by US President Joe Biden. Prime Minister also suggested pursuing "Loss and Damage," a process that refers to the harms caused by anthropogenic climate change within the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). She thanked President Biden for convening the Summit and deeply appreciated the US' return to the Paris Climate Agreement.

BANGLADESH SEEKS US SUPPORT FOR COVID-19 RESPONSE

The Embassy has been in discussion with the U.S. Government to obtain at least 2 million doses of AstraZeneca vaccines from the existing U.S. stockpile to address Bangladesh's immediate vaccination challenge. It has also engaged with the US Chamber of Commerce, and newly established US-Bangladesh Business Council to coordinate both with the US Government and the private sector to meet the country's vaccine needs. The Embassy is deeply engaged with the USAID for assistance in terms of COVID-19 management equipment, particularly the oxygen generator, in addition to vaccines. Bangladesh Ambassador Shahidul Islam urged several Congressmen and Senators and engaging prominent members of Bangladeshi diaspora to voice their support for Bangladesh to help with 2 million AstraZeneca vaccine doses. The Embassy has also established contact with some vaccine producers in the US to explore modalities for possible bilateral cooperation on vaccine supply to Bangladesh. Earlier on 07 May, Foreign Minister Dr. A.K. Abdul Momen MP, at a meeting with US Ambassador to Bangladesh Earl Miller, requested the US government to consider providing 20 million AstraZeneca vaccines to Bangladesh from its stock.



Foreign Minister at the meeting with the US Ambassador to Bangladesh

BANGLADESH PRIME MINISTER GREETES THE US PRESIDENT ON BANGLA NEW YEAR AND EID-UL-FITR



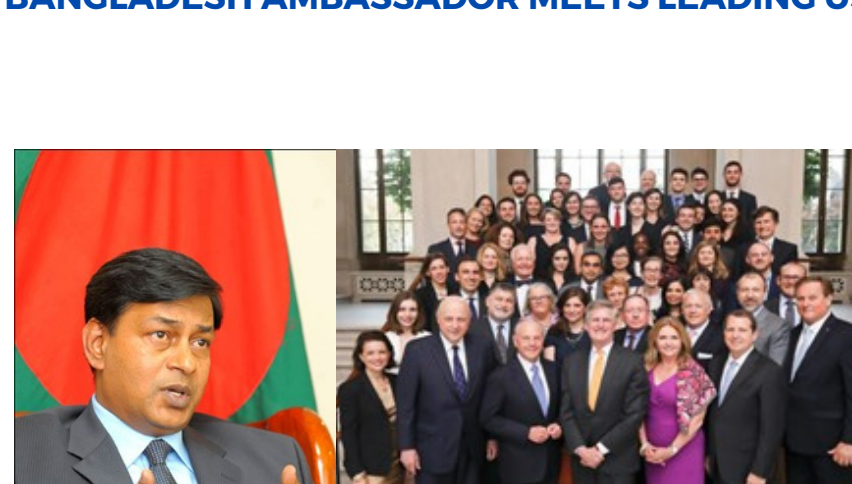
Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has conveyed her greetings to the US President Joe Biden on the occasions of Bangla New Year and Holy Eid-ul-Fitr. Separate greetings cards from the Prime Minister were sent to the White House on these occasions.

BANGLADESH EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON DC OBSERVES HISTORIC MUJIBNAGAR DAY

Bangladesh Embassy in Washington DC observed the historic Mujibnagar Day on April 17, 2021, with due solemnity and respect. To mark the day, the Embassy organised a discussion meeting at Bangabandhu Auditorium of the Chancery. Messages issued by President Md Abdur Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on Mujibnagar Day were read out. In addition, a documentary titled "Mujibnagar Sarker" was screened. Ambassador M. Shahidul Islam, in his speech, paid deep tribute to Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, three million martyrs, and two lakh tortured mothers and sisters. He said that Bangladesh earned liberation not only by sacrifice but also by valor of the freedom fighters. He added that Mujibnagar embodies the pride of the Bangalee nation in the struggle for freedom from the occupational forces.



BANGLADESH AMBASSADOR MEETS LEADING US COMPANIES



Business Advisory Firm, McLarty Associates, hosted Bangladesh Ambassador M. Shahidul Islam at a meeting on April 26 with companies with investments in Bangladesh and those considering investments in various sectors. Ambassador Islam drew attention to Bangladesh's situation due to the second wave of the Covid 19 pandemic and expressed appreciation for US support in earlier stages of the pandemic. He highlighted changes in the energy market, the challenges of the supply chain for the Bangladeshi garment sector, the strides Bangladesh has made toward financial inclusion of industrial workers, and the growing number of digital parks to support the expanding information technology industry around the country. Among others, Nelson W. Cunningham, President of McLarty Associates, Ambassador Teresita Schaffer, Senior Advisor of McLarty Associates, Karen Knutson, Chevron Vice President, and Priscilla Baek, Google, Asia Pacific Lead for International Government Affairs attended the meeting.

STATE MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND FOREIGN SECRETARY CONGRATULATE THEIR US COUNTERPARTS

Bangladesh State Minister for Foreign Affairs Md. Shahriar Alam, MP has congratulated the new US Deputy Secretary of State Wendy R. Sherman on her appointment to the position. In a letter addressed to the new Deputy Secretary, State Minister Alam expressed hope to work with her in the coming days to achieve common goals and objectives between the two countries. Highlighting various aspects of Bangladesh-US bilateral relations, State Minister expressed his Government's willingness to work closely with the Biden Administration to advance mutual support and collaboration. Foreign Secretary Ambassador Masud Bin Momen also sent a congratulatory letter to the new Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs Victoria J. Nuland. Foreign Secretary emphasized on working with the Under Secretary to further enhance bilateral ties between the two countries.



CONGRESSWOMAN GRACE MENG AND CONGRESSMAN JUAN VARGAS WISH TO WORK TOGETHER FOR STRONGER BANGLADESH-US RELATIONSHIPS

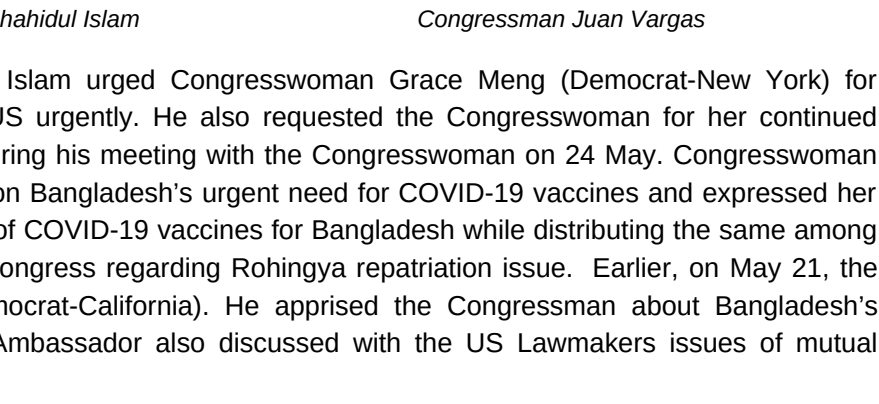


Congresswoman Grace Meng



Ambassador M. Shahidul Islam

The Ambassador of Bangladesh to the United States, M. Shahidul Islam urged Congresswoman Grace Meng (Democrat-New York) for supplying 2 million AstraZeneca Vaccines to Bangladesh from the US urgently. He also requested the Congresswoman for her continued support on the issue of Rohingya repatriation. He made this request during his meeting with the Congresswoman on 24 May. Congresswoman Meng, a member of the House Appropriation Committee, was seized on Bangladesh's urgent need for COVID-19 vaccines and expressed her hope that the Biden Administration would consider an equitable share of COVID-19 vaccines for Bangladesh while distributing the same among the different countries. He also assured of her continued efforts in the Congress regarding Rohingya repatriation issue. Earlier, on May 21, the Ambassador held a meeting with Congressman Juan Vargas (Democrat-California). He apprised the Congressman about Bangladesh's impressive socio-economic achievements in the recent times. The Ambassador also discussed with the US Lawmakers issues of mutual cooperation to further strengthen Bangladesh-US relationships.



Congressman Juan Vargas

BANGLADESH SENDS MEDICAL ASSISTANCE TO INDIA

Bangladesh sent a consignment of 10,000 vials of antiviral injection Remdesivir on May 19 as gifts for the Indian people in the backdrop of the unprecedented surge of the COVID 19 pandemic. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina conveyed her sympathy for the Indian people and reiterated Bangladesh's support to stand by her closest neighbor India during their critical time. Earlier on April 29, the Deputy High Commissioner of Bangladesh in Kolkata handed over 2672 boxes of medicines and protective items to the Indian Red Cross Society representative. Being instructed by Bangladesh's Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and coordinated and facilitated by the Foreign Ministry, these medicines, produced by Essential Drugs Co Ltd., were sent by the Health Ministry. The consignment contained 18 different COVID-related medicines, including Anti-biotics, Paracetamols, different injections/vials, and Hand Sanitizers.



NOKIA TO START MAKING PHONES IN BANGLADESH



Nokia is set to launch its first production unit in Bangladesh, following the local mobile handset manufacturing industry, OPPO and Realme. The local mobile handset manufacturing industry began its journey back in 2017 when electronics brand Walton launched production in Bangladesh. Since then, ten brands – including Samsung, OPPO, Realme, Tecno, ITEL – started production here. These brands produce 85% of the smartphones in the local market and meet 55% of local demand for both smartphones and feature phones. The total number of handsets manufactured and imported in the country in the 2019-20 fiscal year was 29.48 million units of which, 16.21 million units were manufactured locally by ten companies, whereas 13.27 million units were imported.

BANGLADESH AMBASSADOR ATTENDS THE CHANGE-OF-COMMAND CEREMONY OF INDO PACIFIC COMMAND

Ambassador M. Shahidul Islam attended the Change-of-Command ceremony of the new Commander of the United States Indo-Pacific Command (USINDOPACOM), Admiral John C. Aquilino, on April 30 held at the Joint Base Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. Following the ceremony the Ambassador exchanged greetings with the new Commander and congratulated him on assuming this important position. During his Hawaii visit, Ambassador Islam also met the Director of the Daniel K. Inouye Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies (DKI APCSS) Rear Admiral (rt) Peter A. Gumataotao. They discussed various aspects of Bangladesh-US relations, collective response to combat the COVID-19 pandemic, and forging Bangladesh's stronger partnership with the APCSS. After the meeting Director Gumataotao also accompanied the Ambassador on a tour to various facilities of the Center.



CONGRESSMAN McCaul ISSUES STATEMENT ON ADDITIONAL SANCTIONS AGAINST MYANMAR'S REGIME



The U.S. Treasury Department on 17 May announced additional sanctions against Myanmar military, including against the State Administrative Council, a body created by the military regime after its take-over of government. In response, House Foreign Affairs Committee Lead Congressman McCaul stated that actions to hold the Burmese military accountable was another welcome step to respond to their bloody coup. Taking this action in coordination with Canada and the United Kingdom highlights our joint commitment to defend the democratic values the countries shared. The United States and its allies stand for freedom over tyranny and will continue to stand with the brave people of Burma as they fight to regain the democracy their military stole, the lawmaker remarked in his statement.