

## BANGLADESH AND THE US TO FORGE COVID 19 COOPERATION



Bangladesh and the U.S. have expressed willingness to work more closely to fight against the COVID-19 pandemic. This was discussed during a meeting held between the Adviser for Private Industry and Investment of the Prime Minister Mr. Salman F. Rahman, MP, and the Senior Official for Economic Growth, Energy, and the Environment of the U.S. Department of State Ambassador Marcia Bernicat on July 27 at the U.S. Department of State in Washington, DC. The meeting was a follow-up of the first Bangladesh-US Economic Partnership Meeting, held virtually on September 30, 2020. Adviser Rahman thanked the U.S. Government for providing more than 5.5 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines to Bangladesh through COVAX. Adviser Rahman stressed the scaling up of the global production of the COVID-19 vaccines and other pandemic management equipment to tackle the virus. In this regard, he sought the assistance of the U.S. Government to encourage their vaccine-producing companies to partner with capable pharmaceutical companies in Bangladesh. He also stated that Bangladesh is ready to make necessary investments for the capacity enhancement of pharma companies for such partnerships.

## WITH VOW TO TRANSFORM GRIEF INTO STRENGTH, BANGLADESH EMBASSY WASHINGTON DC OBSERVES NATIONAL MOURNING DAY

The Embassy observed National Mourning Day commemorating the 46th anniversary of the martyrdom of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman with due solemnity. The embassy officials paid their rich tributes to the departed souls of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the architect of Bangladesh's independence, and members of his family brutally killed on August 15, 1975. Mr. Anwar Hossain Manju, MP, and Mr. Mohammad Shafiqul Alam, Alternate Executive Director of Bangladesh to the World Bank, were also present. The day's programs began with the ceremonial hoisting of the national flag at half-mast by Ambassador M Shahidul Islam. The Ambassador, accompanied by Mr. Anwar Hossain Manju, MP, Mr. Mohammad Shafiqul Alam, and the officials of the Embassy placed a floral wreath at the bust of the Father of the Nation and observed a moment of silence for paying homage. Messages of President, Prime Minister, Foreign Minister, and State Minister were read out. The Ambassador called for upholding the ideals of Bangabandhu and transform grief into strength through working relentlessly to build Sonar Bangla- the dream of the Father of the Nation. Mr. Anwar Hossain Manju, MP, said he was proud to work under the able leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and committed to carrying forward his duties to the nation till the last days. A documentary on the life of Bangabandhu and the history of our Liberation War was screened, followed by a special prayer seeking divine blessing for all the martyrs of August 15 and the heroes of our liberation war.



## FEATURING BANGABANDHU IN TIMES SQUARE BILLBOARD UNIQUE INITIATIVE TO PROJECT BANGABANDHU ABROAD



Bangladesh Ambassador to the USA, M Shahidul Islam, has praised the initiative to display the life and work of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on the Times Square Ball-drop Billboard of New York City. This unique initiative to display highlights of Bangabandhu's life and work on the world-famous Times Square Billboard has been spearheaded by Fahim Feroj, a Bangladeshi American entrepreneur and CEO of publicity farm N.Y. Dreams Production. The exhibition ran on the iconic billboard for 15 seconds every two minutes for 24 hours, from midnight on August 15 to 11:59 pm. Bangabandhu's picture appeared in Times Square a total of 720 times in 24 hours. In a congratulatory message, the Ambassador said that such events would play a very effective role in highlighting the life and ideals of Bangabandhu to the expatriate Bangladeshis, especially the second and third-generation Bangladeshi Americans.

## BANGAMATA'S 91ST ANNIVERSARY OBSERVED IN WASHINGTON DC

Bangladesh Embassy observed the 91st birth anniversary of Bangamata Sheikh Fazilatun Nessa Mujib, wife of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, in a befitting manner. The Embassy organized a programme at the Bangabandhu Auditorium on August 08 to commemorate the sacrifice and dedication of Bangamata for her family, country, and nation. Messages from the Hon'ble President and the Hon'ble Prime Minister on the occasion were read out. Bangladesh Ambassador M. Shahidul Islam delivered a speech highlighting the commitment of Bangamata to her family, her influence in the life of Bangabandhu, and her behind-the-scenes but pivotal role in determining the course of the history of Bangladesh. A special prayer was offered, seeking eternal peace of souls of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, Bangamata Fazilatun Nessa Mujib, their family members, and others martyred on the fateful night of August 15, 1975.



## 72nd BIRTH ANNIVERSARY OF SHAHEED SHEIKH KAMAL OBSERVED IN WASHINGTON DC



In a befitting manner, the Embassy of Bangladesh observed the 72nd birth anniversary of Shaheed Captain Sheikh Kamal, the eldest son of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. Marking the day, the Embassy organized a programme at the Bangabandhu Auditorium on August 05. Minister (Consular) Habibur Rahman read out a brief biography of Shaheed Captain Sheikh Kamal. The Bangladesh Ambassador M. Shahidul Islam, in his remarks, highlighted the qualities of Shaheed Sheikh Kamal and his constant efforts of self-development to prepare himself with education and organizational and leadership skills and encouraged all to learn from the life and works of the valiant hero. A special prayer was offered, seeking divine blessing for the souls of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, Bangamata Fazilatun Nessa Mujib, Shaheed Captain Sheikh Kamal, and others martyred on August 15, 1975.

## ADVISER SALMAN F RAHMAN AND SENATOR MENEDEZ DISCUSS BANGLADESH-US RELATIONS

On July 29, 2021, Mr. Salman Fazlur Rahman, MP, Adviser for Private Industry and Investment to the Prime Minister, held a meeting with Senator Bob Menendez, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, at the latter's Senate Hart Office Building, Washington DC. The Adviser briefed the Senator on the impressive socio-economic development that has taken place in Bangladesh during the last 12 years under the dynamic and visionary leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. He sought the Senator's support to strengthen Bangladesh-US relations further. Senator Menendez noted with appreciation Bangladesh's economic growth and social progress under the leadership of Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. In this regard, the Senator also underscored the importance of upholding labor rights and workers' safety side by side with economic progress.



## PRIVATE INDUSTRY AND INVESTMENT ADVISER TO PM MEETS WORLD BANK'S MANAGING DIRECTOR



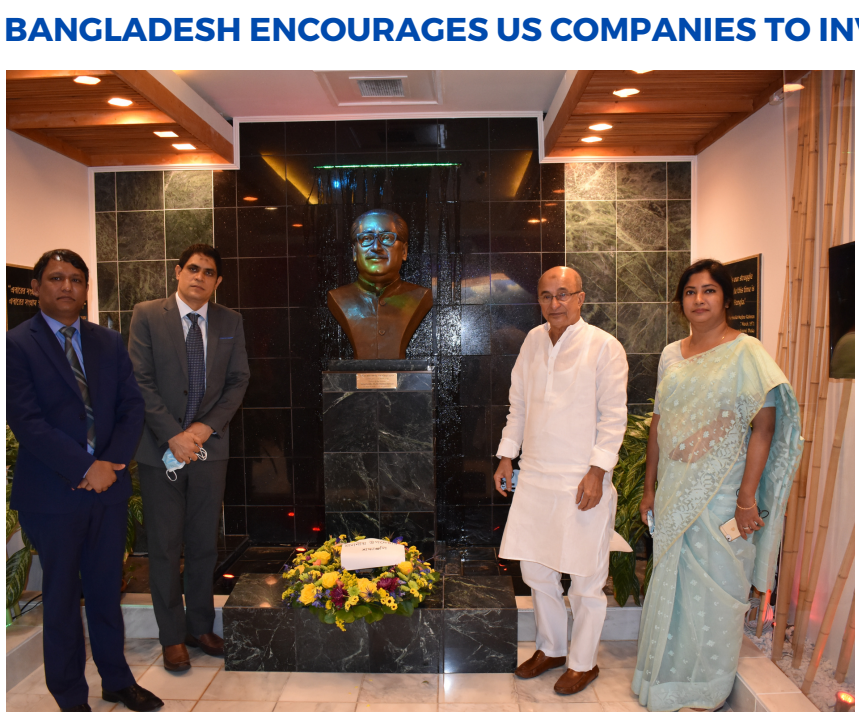
Private Industry and Investment Adviser to the Prime Minister, Salman F Rahman, MP, on July 28, 2021, met with the World Bank's Managing Director (Operation), Axel van Trotsenburg, and other high-ranking officials at its headquarter in Washington DC, USA. The Adviser led the Bangladesh delegation, which comprised Abdur Rouf Talukder, Senior Secretary, Finance Division, Ministry of Finance; Executive Chairman, BIDA; Secretary, Ministry of Commerce; Secretary, Economic Relations Division, Ministry of Finance; and Chairman, Securities, and Exchange Commission. In addition to Trotsenburg, the World Bank Group was also represented by John F. Gandolfo, VP, South Asia Region, International Finance Corporation (IFC); Illango Patchamuthu, Acting South Asia VP, World Bank; Zoubida Allaoua, Regional Director, World Bank; Wendy Werner, Country Director Bangladesh, IFC; and Mohammad Shafiqul Alam, Bangladesh's Alternate Executive Director to World Bank. In the meeting with the World Bank's MD, Axel van Trotsenburg, Adviser Rahman highlighted Bangladesh's unprecedented economic development under the leadership of the Prime Minister, reiterating that Bangladesh's economy was on a solid footing. Bangladesh's economic performance and the GDP growth of 5.24% despite the global pandemic were duly acknowledged across the board.

## BANGLADESH AND THE US AIM TO ADVANCE ENERGY COOPERATION

Adviser to Prime Minister for Power, Energy and Mineral Resources Dr. Tawfiq-e-Elahi Chowdhury held a meeting with Acting Assistant Secretary of the US Department of State's Bureau of Energy Resources Ambassador Virginia E. Palmer to discuss Bangladesh-US energy cooperation at the Embassy of Bangladesh. During the meeting, Ambassador Palmer expressed her government's willingness to work with Bangladesh to deepen its energy cooperation, particularly in renewable energy and nuclear power production. Appreciating the US proposals, Adviser Chowdhury emphasized exploring the possibility of joint research and development projects by the two countries on renewable energy storage and nuclear power modular reactors to ensure uninterrupted power at an affordable cost in a country like Bangladesh. He further mentioned that having a balanced mix of energy sources is critical for Bangladesh and its development as Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is committed to providing electricity to all citizens. Adviser Chowdhury also discussed the potentials of South Asia for regional power distribution with Ambassador Palmer and welcomed any US projects that would meet the needs of the countries of the region vis-à-vis energy sharing.



## BANGLADESH ENCOURAGES US COMPANIES TO INVEST IN OFFSHORE OIL AND GAS EXPLORATIONS



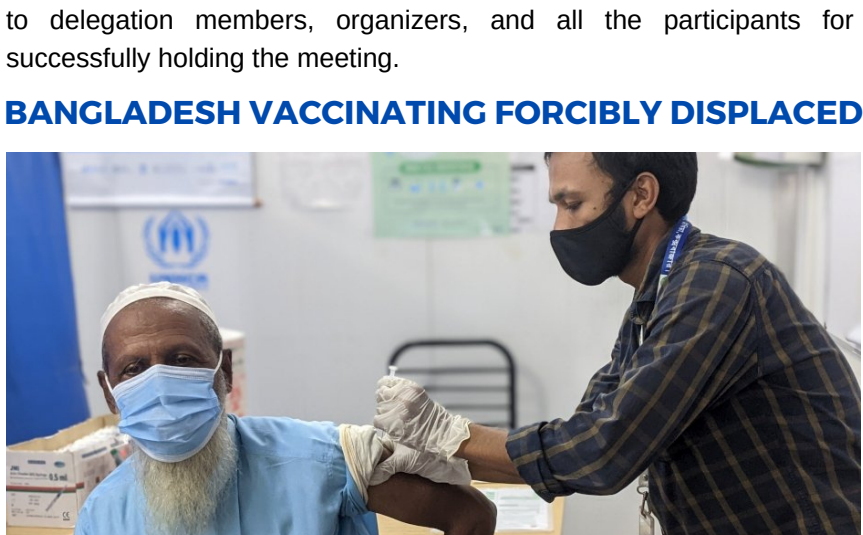
Bangladesh Prime Minister's Adviser for Power, Energy and Mineral Resources Dr. Tawfiq-E-Elahi Chowdhury, BB, held a meeting with the senior officials of the American multinational oil and gas corporation ExxonMobil on July 30 in the Embassy of Bangladesh in Washington DC. The Adviser highlighted the crucial role of the U.S. companies in the energy sector in Bangladesh and welcomed their further contributions in these areas. In the meeting, He encouraged the officials to invest in oil and gas explorations, particularly the offshore ones. He highlighted the need for investment in building storage facilities for renewable energy in Bangladesh. He mentioned that having a balanced mix of energy sources is critical for Bangladesh and its development. The Adviser acknowledged that the companies like ExxonMobil, who are looking for LNG businesses in Bangladesh, require guarantying hedges against price volatilities. He asked ExxonMobil to expedite deep-sea exploration and to invest in upgrading transmission networks and land-based facilities. ExxonMobil expressed a keen interest in working with Bangladesh to support Bangladesh's current development pace and ensure access to energy.

## BSEC HOLDS 'STAKEHOLDERS MEETING' IN WASHINGTON, DC TO ATTRACT US INVESTMENT

Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) organized a 'Stakeholders' Meeting' in the U.S. capital, Washington, DC, on July 28 to showcase the potentials of Bangladesh's capital market and trade and investment opportunities in the country to the U.S. investors. The meeting was a part of BSEC's ongoing Roadshow titled 'The Rise of Bengal Tiger: Potentials of Trade and Investment in Bangladesh' was held in Washington DC, New York, Los Angeles, and San Francisco. A high-level delegation led by the Adviser for Private Industry and Investment to the Prime Minister Salman Fazlur Rahman, MP, participated in the discussion and exchanged views with the stakeholders in a lively interactive session. Senior Secretary of the Finance Division, Abdur Rouf Talukder, Commerce Secretary Tapan Kanti Ghosh, ERD Secretary Fatima Yasmin, Executive Chairman of BIDA Sirajul Islam, BSEC Chairman Professor Shibli Rubayat-Ul-Islam were among others in the discussion panel. Ambassador of Bangladesh to the USA M Shahidul Islam proposed the vote of thanks to delegation members, organizers, and all the participants for successfully holding the meeting.



## BANGLADESH VACCINATING FORCIBLY DISPLACED ROHINGYAS IN CAMPS



Bangladesh government has started vaccinating forcibly displaced Rohingyas in Myanmar where more than 1 million people who fled genocide in Myanmar are temporarily sheltered. The government's Civil Surgeon's office in Cox's Bazar, along with the UN and other agencies, began the vaccination campaign across 34 camps alongside Bangladesh's national vaccination effort. Over 65,000 of the nearly 900,000 refugees are being vaccinated in the first cohort. The government of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina bolstered its effort to get vaccines from many sources, particularly the USA, and began a new round of vaccinations nationwide in early August.

## BANGLADESH REJECTS WORLD BANK PROPOSAL ON ROHINGYA INTEGRATION

The Bangladesh government strongly opposed the World Bank's proposal to integrate temporarily sheltered Rohingya into Bangladesh. On August 2, 2021, Foreign Minister A.K. Abdul Momen stated that the World Bank proposed a long-term program for 16 countries that are hosting refugees for their integration and welfare. The World Bank will provide financial support of \$2 billion if the proposal is implemented. The Foreign Minister also said that the forcibly displaced Rohingyas are not refugees in Bangladesh, and their repatriation to Myanmar remains Bangladesh's top priority. He urged the World Bank and UN agencies to implement the repatriation of Rohingya to Myanmar instead.

