



Embassy of Bangladesh  
Tokyo, Japan

# Newsletter

September 2023



## State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism, Md. Mahbub Ali visited the Bangladesh Embassy in Tokyo

State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism, Md. Mahbub Ali accompanied by his spouse Shameema Jafrin visited the Bangladesh Embassy in Tokyo on 04 September 2023.

Other officials of the Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism and Chairman, Bangladesh Biman Board, Mostafa Kamal Uddin were also present.

Ambassador Shahabuddin Ahmed and his spouse Shahina Akhter welcomed the guests at the Bangladesh House. Other officers of the Embassy were present at that time. The state minister visited the Bangabandhu Corner and the Bangabandhu Auditorium in the Chancery and praised the aesthetic, modern and own property of Bangladesh at the heart of Tokyo. He also visited different areas of the Embassy and was enthralled to see the stuffed head of the Royal Bengal Tiger that was gifted by Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman to late Takashi HAYAKAWA, a Japanese Diet Member and President of Japan-Bangladesh Association in 1973, which is being preserved at the Chancery building.

Later in the evening the Ambassador and all officials of the Embassy attended a reception of “Biman Bangladesh Inaugural Ceremony” organized by Bangladesh Biman at a local hotel to launch the Biman operation in Tokyo.



*State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism, Md. Mahbub Ali is signing the visitor book at Bangladesh Embassy in Tokyo.*

A number of Japanese dignitaries, Ambassador and diplomats of few select Embassies, representatives of various Ministries and Chairman and CEO of Narita International Airport attended the event. The event featured a cultural programme performed by Biman crew

and officials. Prominent expatriate Bangladeshis living in Tokyo attended the event with much enthusiasm.

Earlier, on 02 September 2023, the state minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism reached Narita airport with the inaugural flight of Bangladesh Biman from Dhaka leading a high-level delegation. Ambassador and Embassy officials received and greeted the delegation on arrival early in the morning. The delegation returned to Dhaka on 05 September 2023 by Biman flight from Narita.

## Bangladesh Embassy celebrates the 50th Anniversary of the Japan Overseas Cooperations Volunteer Program (JOCV) in Bangladesh

Bangladesh Embassy in Tokyo organized a program on 11 September 2023, Monday at the Embassy premises to mark the 50th Anniversary of the Japan Overseas Cooperations Volunteer Program (JOCV) in Bangladesh. The occasion called for double celebration as the JOCV program in Bangladesh is resuming this month after a gap of almost seven years.

Ambassador of Bangladesh to Japan Shahabuddin Ahmed, Parliamentary Vice Minister of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan Yoshikawa Yuumi, and Senior Vice President of JICA Miyazaki Katsura were present at the event.

Secretary of the Economic Relations Division (ERD) of Ministry of Finance Sharifa Khan joined online.

Economic Minister of Bangladesh Embassy Syed Nasir Ershad conducted the program. Among others, high officials of important ministries, departments and agencies including Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, JICA, JETRO, JITCO and the past and newly recruited JOCVs as well as the Embassy officials attended the program.

In her opening speech, the ERD Secretary thanked the Bangladesh Embassy in Tokyo and JICA for organizing such befitting event on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of JOCV in Bangladesh. She said, Japan is the single largest bilateral development partner of Bangladesh

with total commitment of ODA amounting to more than USD 30 billion. She expressed satisfaction that the JOCV program, which was suspended in 2016 due to an undesirable and sad incident, resumed this month and thanked the Japanese government and the people of Japan for this.



*Ambassador Shahabuddin Ahmed with the officials and the participants of the 50th anniversary of JOCV program.*

Vice Minister of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan Yoshikawa Yuumi said that the Government of Japan attaches great importance to the resumption of the JOCV program in Bangladesh. She referred Bangladesh as a special friend of Japan and hope that the relations between the two countries would improve further and the existing cooperation would continue to increase in future.

JICA Senior Vice President Miyazaki Katsura thanked the efforts of all concerned in Japan and Bangladesh for resumption of the JOCV program and hoped that this JICA Volunteer Program in Bangladesh will expand further in the future.

In his closing speech, Bangladesh Ambassador to Japan Shahabuddin Ahmed said that Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman visited Japan in 1973 which laid the foundation of friendship between the two countries and their peoples. He also said that the 50th anniversary of JICA's JOCV program in Bangladesh has taken the existing friendly relations between the two countries to a new height. He referred to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's visit to Japan at different times to improve the relations between the two countries and said that Bangladesh-Japan relations have been upgraded to strategic partnership through the Prime Minister's recent visit to Japan in April this year. Ambassador Shahabuddin

Ahmed expressed his gratitude to Japan and its people for their unwavering support throughout. He hoped that the existing relationship between the two countries would be further strengthened in the future by increasing communication in various arena.

Earlier, JICA Director General Mr. Tachibana Hideharu made a power point presentation on JOCV activities. One Ex-JICA volunteer shared his experiences from the perspective of former volunteers' activities. And the two newly recruited volunteers who will be going to Bangladesh soon shared their opinions too. Overall, it was a successful program which helped further strengthen the bonding between Japan and Bangladesh.

### **Ambassador Shahabuddin Ahmed attended a program on Overseas Human Resources for Japan**

Ambassador Shahabuddin Ahmed attended a program titled "Overseas Human Resources Utilization Forum: Bangladesh- A Highly Potential Source Country of Skilled Workers for Japan" on September 14, 2023, Thursday at the Tokyo Convention Hall. The program was organized by Cooperative Kigyo Koryu Center and supported by JAMCF and JBFF. Around 100 Japanese guests and participants attended the program.



*Ambassador Shahabuddin Ahmed giving speech at the program organized by Cooperative Kigyo Koryu Center, JAMCF and JBFF.*

Focusing on the utilization of Bangladeshi care-workers to meet the increasing demand of foreign care workers in Japan, the Ambassador addressed the forum on the investment opportunities for the Japanese investors in Bangladesh and the highly potential skilled workers of Bangladesh who can play an



important role in the Japanese economy by providing services to the Japanese companies. He added that they can also contribute to the economic development of Bangladesh by sending their hard-earned remittance from Japan. First Secretary (Labour) of Bangladesh Embassy, Tokyo made a presentation highlighting the increasing trend of Bangladeshis in the Japanese companies and high potentials of Bangladeshi Skilled Human Resources for Japan for the mutual benefits of both the countries.

The program was attended by Prof. Toshiro Konishi, Vice President, Tokyo Healthcare University; Prof. Osamu Otsubo, Chairman, Japan Bangladesh Society; Prof. Yozou Takehisa, Chairman, Heisei Medical and Welfare Group; Prof. Suga Sakamoto, Vice President and Dean, College of Medical Insurance, Tokyo Health Care University; Mr. Kazuhisa Sumino, Chief Director, Cooperative Kigyō Koryū Center and Prof. Sarder A Nayem, Chairman of Japan Bangladesh Friendship Foundation.

**Ambassador Shahabuddin Ahmed met Chairman of Nippon Foundation Yohei Sasakawa**

Ambassador Shahabuddin Ahmed met with Chairman of Nippon Foundation Yohei Sasakawa at his office on 19 September 2023.



*Ambassador Shahabuddin Ahmed and Deputy Chief of Mission Shah Asif Rahman with Chairman of Nippon Foundation Yohei Sasakawa*

Mr. Sasakawa visited Bangladesh recently and the meeting discussed matters of mutual interest as a follow up to his visit to Bangladesh. The meeting was a part of regular engagement of the Embassy with the leading think tanks and civil

society organization in Japan. Earlier, the Ambassador met Sasakawa in January this year. Shah Asif Rahman, Deputy Chief of Mission accompanied the Ambassador.

**Bangladesh’s Embassy in Tokyo organized a Networking Event titled “Bangladesh-Japan Trade Opportunities: Way Forward to Economic Partnership.”**

Embassy of Bangladesh, Tokyo organized a Networking Event titled “Bangladesh-Japan Trade Opportunities: Way Forward to Economic Partnership” on 22 September 2023, Friday at the Embassy auditorium.

Ambassador Shahabuddin Ahmed gave welcome remarks at the program. Yasuharu Shinto, Senior Regional Coordinator, Southwest Asia Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA), Japan and Katsuhiko Murayama, Director, Southwest Asia Office, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI), Japan also delivered remarks. Senior Secretary of Ministry of Commerce Tapan Kanti Ghosh delivered closing remarks.



*Ambassador Shahabuddin Ahmed delivering speech at the Networking Event organized by Bangladesh Embassy in Tokyo*

All the speakers stressed importance on Bangladesh-Japan Economic Partnership for enhancing trade and investment opportunities. The program was attended by the officials of Japanese ministries and agencies, embassy officials and visiting delegates from Ministry of Commerce, Bangladesh. The program was moderated by Dr, Ariful Haque, Minister (Commerce) of the Embassy.

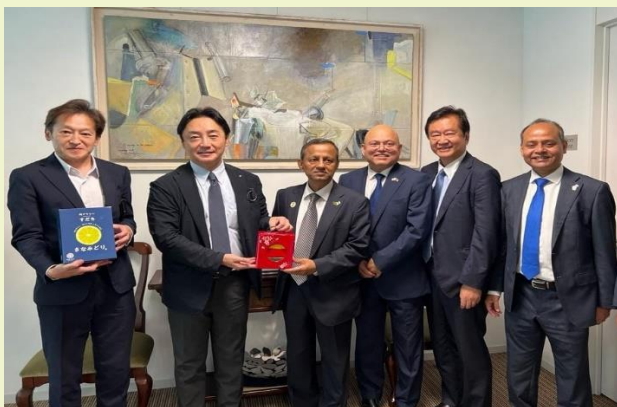
## Governor of Tokushima Prefecture Masazumi Gotoda paid a courtesy call on Ambassador Shahabuddin Ahmed

A delegation led by Governor of Tokushima Prefecture Masazumi Gotoda, paid a courtesy call on Shahabuddin Ahmed, the Ambassador of Bangladesh to Japan on 25 September 2023. He was accompanied by Kiminobu Hiraishi, Chairman of Maruhisa Group of Japan.

The Governor discussed various aspects of future possible collaboration between Tokushima Prefecture and Bangladesh in different fields.

Ambassador Shahabuddin Ahmed welcomed the Governor and assured all possible support to strengthen future relationship between Tokushima Prefecture and Bangladesh.

The Ambassador said that the Tokushima Prefecture and Bangladesh are now strongly connected through the sister city agreement between the cities of Naruto and Narayanganj which was initiated on 28th January 2020 by a MOU signed between Naruto City of Japan and Narayanganj City of Bangladesh in presence of LGED Minister of Bangladesh Tajul Islam.



*Governor of Tokushima Prefecture Masazumi Gotoda and Ambassador Shahabuddin Ahmed exchanging gifts*

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Mentionable that a "Friendship City" agreement was signed between Naruto City in Tokushima Prefecture of Japan and Narayanganj City in Bangladesh on March 28, 2023. The signing ceremony was held in Naruto City and the agreement was signed by Mayor of Naruto City Michihiko Izumi and Mayor of Narayanganj City Dr. Selina Hayat Ivy.

Syed Nasir Ershad, Economic Minister, Sheikh Farid, Minister (Political) and Zoynal Abedin, First Secretary (Labor) of the Embassy were present during the meeting.

## Bangladesh Embassy in Tokyo organized a Webinar on "Investment Opportunities in Startups in Bangladesh"

Embassy of Bangladesh in Japan, jointly with UNIDO ITPO Tokyo and Startup Bangladesh Ltd. organized a Webinar on "Investment Opportunities in Startups in Bangladesh" today on 26 September 2023. State Minister for ICT Zunaid Ahmed Palak MP was the Chief Guest.

He urged Japanese investors to invest in thriving startups in Bangladesh.

Ambassador Shahabuddin Ahmed in his welcome remarks, requested Japanese companies to recruit IT Professionals from Bangladesh.

Fumio ADACHI, Head of UNIDO ITPO Tokyo gave opening remarks while Sami AHMED, Managing Director and CEO of Startup Bangladesh Limited made keynote presentation on "Investment Opportunities in Startups in Bangladesh" and highlighted incentives for investors, prospects in investments in startups in Bangladesh.

Two Bangladeshi startups, HISHAB (FinTech), ShareTrip (TravelTech) made pitch presentation. Motoyuki ODACHI, COO, Cipher Core Co. Ltd., a Japanese company shared investment experiences in Bangladesh.

Yuji ANDO, Country Representative, Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO), Dhaka delivered presentation on "Investment Opportunities in Bangladesh for Japanese Companies" while Dr. Ariful Haque, Minister (Commerce) of the Embassy explained about support services to Japanese companies by the

embassy. More than 200 participants attended the webinar, and it was supported by Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO).

### Holy Eid-e-Milad-un-Nabi 2023 observed in Tokyo

The Bangladesh Embassy in Tokyo observed the Holy Eid-e-Milad-un-Nabi -2023 on 28 September 2023, marking the birth and death anniversary of Prophet Hazrat Mohammad (PBUH) with due religious festivity and fervor.

The program started in the morning with hoisting of the National Flag as per rules. The messages issued by Hon'ble President and Hon'ble Prime Minister on the occasion were read out by Embassy officials. In his remarks, Ambassador Shahabuddin Ahmed said, on this day Hazrat Mohammad (PBUH) was made the last Prophet by Almighty Allah and was guided as an example for the entire mankind to the path of peace.

Ambassador said, Almighty Allah sent Prophet Mohammad (PBUH) as the savior for the people of this world on the path of Islam from the path of sin, tyranny, oppression, falsehood, superstition, and anarchy. A discussion on the significance of the day was held following the remarks of the Ambassador.



*Ambassador Shahabuddin Ahmed delivering speech on Holy Eid-e-Milad-un-Nabi*

The programme ended with offering a special prayer for the Prophet Mohammad (PBUH) and for the peace, progress and prosperity of our country and people.

### Delegation from the National Defence College (NDC) visited the Embassy of Bangladesh in Tokyo

A 27- member delegation from the National Defence College (NDC) of Bangladesh visited

the Bangladesh Embassy in Tokyo on 25 September 2023.

Ambassador Mr. Shahabuddin Ahmed hosted a lunch for the members of the visiting NDC 2023 delegation at the Bangabandhu Auditorium of the Chancery. The delegation was briefed on the Embassy activities including on strengthening and development of bilateral partnership between Japan and Bangladesh.

NDC delegation visited Japan from 24-30 September 2023 as part of their overseas study tour. The delegation was comprised of senior members of the Armed Forces and Civil Servants from Bangladesh and included foreign participants from Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia, South Sudan, Tanzania, and Zambia.



*Ambassador Shahabuddin Ahmed with NDC delegation at Bangladesh Embassy in Tokyo.*

The delegation visited the Joint Staff College (JSC), National Institute of Defense Studies (NIDS) and the Ministry of Defense of Japan (MODJ) where they met the Commandant, JSC; Vice-President, NIDS and Director General, MODJ respectively having discussion on how to further enhance cooperation and understanding between Bangladesh and Japan especially under the purview of the recently signed Joint Statement on "Strategic Partnership". The delegation also received briefing on Japan's recent Defense strategy and outlook.

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