

# Newsletter

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# **INSIDE THIS ISSUE**

- Foreign Ministers' Meeting at Doha
   Forum
- Visit of Deputy Speaker
- Visit of the Parliamentary Delegation from Nepal
- Ambassador's Bilateral Meetings with Bangladesh Authorities
- Victory Day Reception
- Fourteenth South Asia Economic Summit

- Visit to Enam Medical College
- FoSA International Charity Bazar
- Interaction with Nepali Students
- Interaction with Travel and Tour Entrepreneurs
- Nepal-Bangladesh Friendship Golf
  Tournament-2023
- Embassy's other Engagements
- Media Coverage and Important Links

# Foreign Ministers Meet at Doha Forum

Foreign Minister of Nepal Hon. Mr. Narayan Prakash Saud held a meeting with H. E. Mr. AK Abdul Momen, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Government of People's Republic of Bangladesh on 10 December 2023 on the sidelines of Doha Forum.



(Foreign Ministers of the two countries in Doha)

Matters of mutual interests and ways to strengthen bilateral cooperation in areas such as trade, energy, tourism, and connectivity between the two countries were discussed during the meeting.

# **Visit of Deputy Speaker**

Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Federal Parliament of Nepal, Hon. Ms. Indira Rana Magar visited Bangladesh from 19-23 November 2023.



(Deputy Speaker of Nepal with Deputy Speaker of Bangladesh at the National Parliament in Dhaka)

While in Dhaka, Hon. Deputy Speaker had a meeting with the Deputy Speaker of the National Parliament of Bangladesh H.E. Mr. Md. Shamsul Haque Tuku on 22 November.

During the meeting, they exchanged views on matters of mutual interest and discussed the role of parliamentary exchanges in further strengthening the bilateral ties between Nepal and Bangladesh. They also deliberated on the need to strengthen economic cooperation, enhance connectivity, and promote people-to-people contacts between the two countries.



(Deputy Speaker Ms. Rana attending 'Youth Talk in Dhaka')

On 22 November, the Deputy Speaker addressed an event titled 'Youth Talk' organized by Global Youth Development Council (GYDC) as the Chief Guest.

She underscored the need to utilize the demographic dividend of both countries for economic growth and prosperity. Highlighting the strong educational ties between Nepal and Bangladesh, she emphasized the importance of youth leadership in bringing the two countries closer.



(Ambassador Mr. Bhandari addressing 'Youth Talk')

Speaking on the occasion, as the Special Guest, Ambassador Mr. Ghanshyam Bhandari underscored the pivotal role of youth in further consolidating Nepal-Bangladesh relations through cooperation in culture, education, digital connectivity, sports, and people-to-people contacts.

The Ambassador also underlined the role of Nepali and Bangladeshi students in bringing the two societies and peoples closer through their academic pursuits and fostering cross-cultural understanding.



(Deputy Speaker addressing an interaction programme in Dhaka)

Hon. Deputy Speaker also attended an interaction programme hosted by Bangladesh Scouts on 21 November.

# Visit of the Parliamentary Delegation from Nepal

An eleven-member parliamentary delegation, jointly led by Chairperson of Agriculture, Cooperatives, and Natural Resources Committee Hon. Dr. Arzu Rana Deuba, and Chairperson of Sustainable Development and Good Governance Committee of the Federal Parliament of Nepal Hon. Mr. Prakash Pantha visited Bangladesh from 2 to 7 October 2023.

The visiting delegation included members of Agriculture, Cooperatives, and Natural Resources Committee –Hon. Ms. Anisha Nepali, Hon. Ms. Binita Kathayat, Hon. Mr. Surya Kumari Shrestha, and Hon. Ms. Rupa Shasi Chaudhary, and members of Sustainable Development and Good Governance Committee –Hon. Ms. Sharada Devi Bhatta and Hon. Mr. Singa Bahadur Biswakarma.

On 3 October, the delegation called on the Speaker of the National Parliament of Bangladesh H.E. Dr. Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury.



(Parliamentary Delegation during a during a courtesy call on the Speaker)

During the meeting, they expressed satisfaction over the growing parliamentary exchanges between Nepal and Bangladesh and exchanged views on the role of parliamentarians in further consolidating the bilateral ties between the two countries.



(Parliamentary Delegation of Nepal with Minister for Agriculture)

The delegation held a meeting with the Minister for Agriculture of Bangladesh H.E. Dr. Muhammad Abdur Razzaque on 3 October. On the occasion, the two sides exchanged views on exploring ways to enhance bilateral cooperation in the agriculture sector, with a focus on technology transfer and sharing of best practices.



(Parliamentary Delegation of Nepal with State Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr. Md. Shahriar Alam)

The visiting delegation also had a separate meeting with the State Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr. Md. Shahriar Alam. During the meeting, the two sides exchanged views on the crucial role of parliamentary diplomacy in further strengthening bilateral collaboration in matters of common concerns such as climate change, sustainable development, and food security.



(Parliamentary Delegation of Nepal with Standing Committee on Ministry of Agriculture of National Parliament of Bangladesh)

On the same day, they also had an interaction with the Standing Committee on Ministry of Agriculture of the National Parliament of Bangladesh, chaired by H.E. Mr. Md. Qamrul Islam.

On the occasion, the two sides deliberated on the need to enhance cooperation and share expertise in the agricultural sector towards ensuring food security in the two countries.



(Parliamentary Delegation at the Bangabandu Memorial Museum)

The delegation visited the Bangabandhu Memorial Museum in Dhaka to pay tribute to the Father of the Nation of Bangladesh Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.



(Parliamentary Delegation of Nepal with officials of BARI)

The delegation also had separate interactions with the scientists and officials of Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute (BARI) and Bangladesh Rice Research Institute (BRRI). They also met with the Executive Chairman of Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (BARC).

They visited SAARC Agriculture Centre (SAC), International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), Lal Teer Seed Ltd, Bangladesh Seed Association (BSA), and Advanced Chemical Industries (ACI) Ltd, among others, during their stay in Dhaka.

# **Victory Day Reception**



(Ambassador exchanging greetings with President of Bangladesh)

On 16 December, Ambassador Mr. Bhandari attended the reception hosted by the President of Bangladesh H.E. Mr. Mohammed Shahabuddin to observe the 52nd Victory Day of Bangladesh.

On the occasion, Ambassador Bhandari congratulated President Shahabuddin and conveyed the warm greetings and felicitations on behalf of Rt. Hon.

President Mr. Ram Chandra Paudel. He also exchanged greetings with Prime Minister H.E. Sheikh Hasina, Foreign Minister H.E. Dr. A.K. Abdul Momen and other high-level dignitaries present at the event.

Speaker of Parliament Dr. Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury and Chief Justice Obaidul Hassan, cabinet members, Dhaka-based ambassadors, high commissioners and heads of mission, Supreme Court judges, members of parliament, senior political leaders, academics, and business community leaders, among others, attended the reception.

# **Meeting with Power Secretary**

Ambassador Mr. Ghanshyam Bhandari held a meeting with Md. Habibur Rahman, Senior Secretary of Power Division at the Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources of Bangladesh on 2 November.

They reviewed the progress made in the field of bilateral energy cooperation and agreed to expedite the process to realize power trade between Nepal and Bangladesh at the earliest.



(Ambassador Mr. Bhandari with Secretary Mr. Rahman)

During the meeting, Ambassador Bhandari underlined that Nepal was ready to expedite the process for Bangladesh to purchase 40 MW electricity from Nepal at the initial stage.

# **Meeting with Secretary of Security Services Division**

Ambassador Mr. Bhandari met with Md. Abdullah Al Masud Chowdhury, Secretary of Security Services Division at the Ministry of Home Affairs on 5 November. They discussed the pending cases of Nepali nationals who were detained in the prisons of Bangladesh.



(Ambassador Mr. Bhandari with Secretary Mr. Chowdhury)

Ambassador Mr. Bhandari highlighted the continued efforts of the Embassy for the rescue and repatriation of those Nepali nationals and requested Bangladeshi authorities to expedite the judicial proceedings and facilitate their repatriation.

# Meeting with Additional Foreign Secretary

Ambassador Mr. Bhandari had a meeting with Additional Foreign Secretary Dr. Md. Nazrul Islam at the latter's office on 27 December.

They reviewed the progress made in several areas of cooperation and discussed ways to enhance the friendly relations between Nepal and Bangladesh.



(Ambassador Mr. Bhandari with Additional Secretary Dr. Islam)

# **Meeting with Chairman of BISS**

Ambassador Mr. Bhandari met with AFM Gousal Azam Sarker, Chairman of Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies (BIISS) on 20 December. Matters of mutual interest and future collaboration between the Embassy and BIISS were discussed during the meeting.



(Ambassador Mr. Bhandari with Chairman of BIISS)

# **Meeting with Ambassadors**

Ambassador Mr. Bhandari met with Indonesian Ambassador to Bangladesh and Nepal H.E. Mr. Heru Hartanto Subolo on 29 October.



(Ambassador Mr. Bhandari with Ambassador of Indonesia)

He also held a meeting with High Commissioner of Pakistan to Bangladesh H.E. Mr. Syed Ahmed Maroof at the Embassy on 25 October.



(Ambassador Mr. Bhandari with High Commissioner of Pakistan)

Ambassador Mr. Bhandari received the new High Commissioner of Sri Lanka to Bangladesh H. E. Mr. Dharmapala Weerakkody at the Embassy on 14 December.



(Ambassador Mr. Bhandari with High Commissioner of Sri Lanka)

During these meetings, discussions were held to enhance the bilateral relationship between Nepal and the respective countries as well as to consolidate cooperation between the diplomatic Missions based in Dhaka.

# Meeting with the Chairman of BPDB

Ambassador Mr. Bhandari had a meeting with Md Mahbubur Rahman, Chairman of BPDB on 20 December.

During the meeting, they underscored the need to materialize the ongoing energy trade negotiations for the mutual benefit of the two countries and peoples.

# **Interaction with Members of Buddhists Religious Welfare Trust**

Ambassador Mr. Bhandari met with Mr. Supta Voshon Barua, Vice Chairman and members of Buddhist Religious Welfare Trust at the Embassy on 13 December. They discussed the progress made regarding the plan to construct a Buddhist monastery in Lumbini by the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh



(Ambassador Mr. Bhandari with the members of Buddhists Religious Welfare Trust)

Vice Chairman Mr. Barua thanked Ambassador Mr. Bhandari for the Embassy's support during their visit to Lumbini in November. A 28-member team of Buddhist Religious Welfare Trust travelled to Nepal on 8 November for an eight-day visit to Kathmandu and Lumbini.

# Visit to Enam Medical College

Ambassador Mr. Bhandari, accompanied by Second Secretary Ms. Yojana Bamjan visited Enam Medical College at Savar, Dhaka, on 4 December and interacted with Nepali students studying there.



(Ambassador Mr. Bhandari with the officials of Enam Medical College)

The ambassador also held a meeting with Professor Md. Aminul Haque Khan, Principal of Enam Medical

College along with other authorities of the college. Ambassador Mr. Bhandari encouraged Nepali students to remain in close contact with the Embassy and requested them to duly communicate with the Embassy in case of any difficulties.



(Ambassador Mr. Bhandari interacting with Nepali students at EMC)

He also assured the students of the support and swift response of the Embassy to address their concerns and expectations. The students expressed happiness and appreciated the role played by the Embassy as a guardian for all Nepali students studying in Bangladesh.



(Ambassador Mr. Bhandari with Nepali students at Enam Medical College)

A total of 140 Nepali students are enrolled at Enam Medical College in the current academic year.

# **Fourteenth South Asia Economic Summit**

The Fourteenth South Asia Economic Summit (SAES XIV) was held in Dhaka on 4-5 November 2023 with the overarching theme "Reframing South Asian Regional Cooperation in the New Context National and Global Dimensions."



(Inaugural Session of the Fourteenth South Asia Economic Summit in Dhaka)

Ambassador Mr. Ghanshyam Bhandari attended the opening plenary and Deputy Chief of Mission Ms. Lalita Silwal participated in the closing ceremony of the Summit. Eight parallel sessions covering various areas of regional cooperation and development in South Asia were held during the Summit. The Summit, organized by the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) of Bangladesh in partnership with South Asia Watch on Trade, Economics and Environment (SAWTEE) of Nepal, Institute of Policy Studies (IPS) of Sri Lanka, Research and Information Centre for Developing Countries (RIS) of India, and Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) of Pakistan, brought together key stakeholders, experts, and scholars from and beyond the region.

Speakers from Nepal included member of the parliament Hon. Dr. Swarnim Wagle, Advisor to the Finance Minister Dr. Posh Raj Pandey, former vice Chair of National Planning Commission Dr. Govinda Raj Pokhrel, and former Foreign Secretaries Dr. Durga Prasad Bhattarai and Mr. Madhu Raman Acharya, among others.

# **FoSA International Charity Bazar**



(Ambassador Mr. Bhandari at FOSA International Charity Bazaar)

The Embassy participated in the International Charity Bazaar organized by the Foreign Office Spouses Association (FOSA) at the Foreign Service Academy, Bangladesh on 17 November. The Embassy showcased Nepali products including handicrafts, pashminas, and traditional artifacts.



(Nepal Embassy Team at FOSA International Charity Bazaar)

The Embassy also had a separate food stall at the Bazaar.



(Foreign Minister Mr. Momen visiting Nepali stall)

Foreign Minister of Bangladesh H.E. Dr. A.K. Abdul Momen along with his spouse, Selina Momen, chief patron of FOSA, visited the Embassy's stall and was welcomed by Ambassador Mr. Bhandari. Eighteen missions in Dhaka, including Nepal, China, India, Pakistan, Russia, Thailand, Indonesia, and Turkey, participated at the event apart from other local organizations in Dhaka.

# **Interaction with Nepali Students**

The Embassy organized an interaction programme to exchange greetings and best wishes with Nepali students currently studying in Bangladesh on the auspicious occasion of Deepawali, Nepal Sambat and Chhath festivals.



(Ambassador speaking at an interaction programme)

Speaking on the occasion, Ambassador Mr. Ghanshyam Bhandari highlighted the role played by Nepali students in strengthening people-to-people relations between Nepal and Bangladesh. He assured the students of the Embassy's assistance and support to resolve any kind of issues concerning students. He urged the students to remain in close contact with the Embassy and requested them to duly communicate with the Embassy in case of any difficulties.



(Embassy officials with Nepali students at the Embassy)

The students expressed happiness over the increased bilateral engagements between the two countries and thanked the Embassy for the invitation to attend the programme.

The event was attended by a number of Nepali students studying in Bangladesh. It was an opportunity to interact and gain insights regarding their concerns and expectations.

# **Interaction with Travel and Tour Entrepreneurs**

The Embassy organized an interaction programme with leading travel and tour entrepreneurs based in

Dhaka on 27 November. The interaction focused on ways to promote tourist linkages and people-to-people ties between Nepal and Bangladesh.



(Embassy officials during an interaction programme with Travel & Tour Entrepreneurs)

On the occasion, Ambassador Mr. Bhandari highlighted the role played by travel and tour entrepreneurs in strengthening people-to-people relations between Nepal and Bangladesh.



(Embassy officials with Travel & Tour Entrepreneurs)

The participants also appreciated the Embassy's active role in facilitating the visa procedures for Bangladeshi nationals.

# Nepal-Bangladesh Friendship Golf Tournament-2023



(Golfers of Nepal and Bangladesh at Golf Tournament in Kathmandu)

The Embassy supported and facilitated the Nepal-Bangladesh Friendship Golf Tournament -2023 which

was organized by the Tiger Gulf Club Bangladesh at Gokarna Golf Course in Kathmandu, Nepal from 5-9 October 2023.



(Ambassador Mr. Bhandari speaking at Nepal-Bangladesh Friendship Golf Tournament-2023 in Kathmandu)

A group of 38 people including prominent golfers of Bangladesh travelled to Nepal to participate in the tournament. On 5 October, Nepal Tourism Board organized a cultural dinner for visiting golfers from Bangladesh.

A Prize Distribution Ceremony attended by both golfers and non-golfers from Nepal and Bangladesh was held on 8 October. Foreign Secretary Mr. Bharat Raj Paudyal attended the Ceremony as the Chief Guest.



(Foreign Secretary of Nepal, Mr. Bharat Raj Paudyal attending the Prize Distribution Ceremony)

#### **Glocal Teen Hero Award 2023**

Ambassador Mr. Bhandari attended the second edition of the Glocal Teen Hero Award held in Dhaka on 16 October. An initiation of Glocal Pvt. Ltd. Nepal, this award recognizes and honours exceptional teens whose work is sustainable and who can think out of

the box to address the issues and create an impact in society.



(Ambassador with the winner of Glocal Teen Hero Award)

Tamzid Rahman, a 15-year-old social entrepreneur from Dhaka was awarded the title of Glocal Teen Hero Bangladesh 2023.

Speaking on the occasion, Ambassador Mr. Bhandari appreciated the organizers' efforts in fostering a collaborative network among recipients and strengthening national recognition of young leaders. He also underscored the pivotal role played by the Award in promoting people-to-people relations between Nepal and Bangladesh.

# **Meeting with BMDC Acting Registrar**

Deputy Chief of Mission Ms. Lalita Silwal and Second Secretary Ms. Yojana Bamjan met with Acting Registrar of Bangladesh Medical and Dental Council (BMDC) Dr. Md. Liaquat Hossain on 30 November.



(Ms. Silwal and Ms. Bamjan with Acting Registrar of BMDC Dr. Hossain)

During the meeting, various concerns and challenges faced by Nepali medical students in Bangladesh were discussed. Ms. Silwal expressed her thanks to BMDC for catering to the needs of Nepali students, including the issuance of licenses and certificates.

# **SAARC Charter Day Celebration**

On 10 December, Deputy Chief of Mission Ms. Lalita Silwal participated in the 39th SAARC Charter Day celebration hosted by the SAARC Agriculture Centre (SAC) in Dhaka. The event was attended by the Ambassadors, diplomats, and representatives of all SAARC member countries.

To mark the occasion, Ms. Silwal joined representatives of fellow member states in hoisting the flags of their respective countries. While Ms. Wahida Akter, Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture of the Government of Bangladesh was the Chief Guest, Mr. Abdul Motaleb Sarker, Director General (SAARC and BIMSTEC) at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh attended the event as the Special Guest.



(Ms. Silwal at SAARC Charter Day Celebration Event)

The event was chaired by Dr. Sheikh Mohammad Bakhtiar, Executive Chairman of the Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (BARC).

Dr. Ganga Dutta Acharya, Senior Program Specialist of SAC, delivered a keynote speech on "Agrifood Systems Transformations for Better Nutrition: Pathways for South Asia". Towards the end of the event, Ms. Silwal, along with representatives from SAARC member states, participated in the launch of the book entitled *Building Climate Resilience in South Asia: A Synthesis of Climate-Smart Agriculture Technologies and Practices*.

# Workshop on BIMSTEC Master Plan for Transport Connectivity

Deputy Chief of Mission Ms. Lalita Silwal joined the Nepali delegation in the BIMSTEC Workshop on the 'Implementation of the BIMSTEC Master Plan for Transport Connectivity', organized by the BIMSTEC Secretariat in collaboration with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) in Dhaka on 2-3 October 2023.



(Delegates from member Countries with BIMSTEC Secretary General)

The Nepali delegation was led by Joint Secretary, Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation Mr. Buddhi Sagar Lamichhane comprising officials of the Ministry of Physical Infrastructure and Transportation and the Ministry of Finance. Officials of other BIMSTEC Member States including Thailand, India, Bhutan, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, and Bangladesh, and ADB officials participated in the workshop.

# **Participation in the Jute Promotion Event**

On 15 December, Deputy Chief of Mission Ms. Silwal participated in a seminar on "Projecting Jute as the Fiber of the Future: Potentials and Challenges", jointly organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Jutes and Textiles of Bangladesh. The event was organized to mark the designation of jute as the "Product of the Year 2023" by the Government of Bangladesh.

Speaking as the Chief Guest of the event, State Minister for Foreign Affairs H.E. Mr. Md. Shahriar Alam highlighted the potential of the 'golden fiber' jute in advancing a global green growth strategy. He called upon international partners to collaborate with Bangladesh in promoting jute as a nature-positive, eco-friendly, and sustainable material. The seminar

was followed by a fashion show which showcased an array of clothing and accessories portraying the versatility of the jute products.

# **Global SDG Youth Summit 2023**

The Global SDG Youth Summit 2023, organized by The Earth and Climate Parliament Bangladesh, was held in Dhaka on 17-18 November 2023. Second Secretary Ms. Yojana Bamjan participated in the closing ceremony of the Global SDG Youth Summit 2023 as a special guest.

The Summit, held under the theme of 'Driving Youth Action: Building a Sustainable Future for All', served as a platform to discuss issues on youth participation and engagement in the SDG implementation process.



(Ms. Bamjan speaking at the Closing Ceremony of 'Global SDG Youth Summit')

Speaking on the occasion, Ms. Bamjan underlined the importance of equal participation of youths in social, economic, and political development endeavours in achieving the SDGs. Highlighting Nepal and Bangladesh as two countries set to graduate from the least developed country status by 2026, she stated that the accelerated implementation of SDGs becomes critical for both countries. She also pointed out how increasing women's representation in leadership is equally essential for SDGs implementation.

# **Impact of Climate Change on Women and Girls**

The United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) and the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) organized a roundtable discussion on the 'Impact of Climate Change on Women and Girls' in Dhaka on 19 December.

Second Secretary Ms. Bamjan participated in the event, which was attended by senior officials from the Government of Bangladesh, representatives from the United Nations offices, diplomatic missions, private sector, and non-governmental organizations based in Dhaka. The event included presentations from professionals and experts of climate change followed by Q&A session.

# Media Coverage and Important Links

# Visit of Deputy Speaker of Nepal

- The Rising Nepal: <u>Deputy Speaker meets her</u> <u>Bangladeshi counterpart</u>
- My Republica: <u>Deputy Speaker Magar meets</u> her Bangladeshi counterpart

# Visit of Parliamentary Delegation from Nepal

- Dhaka Tribune: Speaker proposes parliamentary group on Bangladesh-Nepal relations
- The Business Standard: Nepal parliamentary delegation meets Speaker Shirin Sharmins
- The Daily Star: Nepal parliamentary delegation meets Speaker Shirin Sharmin
- The Financial Express: A prominent parliamentary delegation from Nepal visits

  Bangabandhu Memorial Museum
- Daily Sun: Nepal parliamentary delegation visits Bangabandhu Memorial Museum
- United News of Bangladesh: <u>High-level</u> parliamentary delegation from Nepal visits Bangabandhu Memorial Museum
- Dhaka Tribune: <u>High-level parliamentary</u> delegation from Nepal visits Bangabandhu Memorial Museum

#### **FOSA International Charity Bazaar**

• The Business Post: Int'l Charity Bazaar draws big crowd

Embassy of Nepal United Nations Road, Road No. 2, Diplomatic Enclave, Baridhara, Dhaka Telephone: +88-02- 222292568, 222292490 Fax: +88-02-8832590

> Email: eondhaka@dhaka.net eondhaka@mofa.gov.np Website: bd.nepalembassy.gov.np

 Foreign Office Spouses Association-FOSA: FOSA Int'l Charity Bazaar

# **Glocal Teen Hero Bangladesh**

- The Business Standard: <u>Tamzid Rahman</u> felicitated as Glocal Teen Hero Bangladesh
- Jamuna TV: Glocal Teen Hero Award

# **SAARC Charter Day**

• SAARC Agriculture Centre: SAARC

Agriculture Centre Celebrates the 39th

SAARC Chartered Day 2023

# **Global SDG Youth Summit 2023**

- Global SDG Youth Summit 2023: Official Webpage
- Global SDG Youth Summit: Closing Ceremony
- Bangladesh Post: <u>Youths' cooperation sought</u> to build a beautiful city

#### **Impact of Climate Change on Women and Girls**

- The Business Post: <u>UNOPS</u>, <u>BIMSTEC</u>
   <u>discuss climate change impact on women</u>,
   girls
- The Financial Express: Marginalised people battling climate effects
- Daily Sun: Sustainable development demands inclusive solutions: UNOPS

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