



# Newsletter

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## Visit of Rt. Hon. Chief Justice

At the invitation of Chief Justice of Bangladesh Hon. Mr. Obaidul Hassan, Chief Justice of Nepal Rt. Hon. Mr. Bishowambhar Prasad Shrestha visited Bangladesh from 6-9 June 2024 to attend the “International Conference on Judiciary Across the Borders: 21<sup>st</sup> Century Challenges and Experiences from the Himalayas and Beyond” held in Dhaka on 7-8 June.



*(Chief Justice Rt. Hon. Mr. Bishowambhar Prasad Shrestha addressing the conference)*

As the Guest of Honour at the Conference, Rt. Hon. Chief Justice delivered a keynote address at the conference on 8 June. In his address, he underscored that the Constitution of Nepal guarantees the right to justice as a fundamental right and judicial independence as a core value.



*(Chief Justice Rt. Hon. Mr. Shrestha attending the conference)*

While highlighting the crucial components of judicial reform aimed at enhancing fairness, efficiency, and public trust, he stressed the ongoing

preparations to formulate the 5<sup>th</sup> five-year strategic plan of the Judiciary.

The Chief Justice had a meeting with Chief Justice Hon. Mr. Obaidul Hassan and Justices of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh on 7 June. During the visit, he also visited Tungipara, Gopalganj and paid tribute to the ‘Father of the Nation’ of Bangladesh Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.



*(Chief Justice of Nepal with Chief Justice and Justices of Bangladesh)*

Chief Justice of Bangladesh hosted dinner in his honour on 7 June. Law Minister Hon. Mr. Anisul Huq and Justices of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh were among the guests present on the occasion. The Rt. Hon. Chief Justice was accompanied by his spouse Ms. Roshani Amatya Shrestha, Registrar Mr. Bimal Paudel and Ambassador of Nepal to Bangladesh Mr. Ghanshyam Bhandari during his engagements.

## Nepal Visit of Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change of Bangladesh

Environment, Forest and Climate Change Minister of Bangladesh H.E. Mr. Saber Hossain Chowdhury visited Nepal from 21-23 May. During the visit, Mr. Chowdhury called on Prime Minister of Nepal Rt. Hon. Pushpa Kamal Dahal ‘Prachanda’.

They discussed the long-standing mutual relations of Bangladesh and Nepal, the potential areas of cooperation on climate change and the scope to increase trade possibilities between the two countries.



*(Minister Mr. Chowdhury calls on the Rt. Hon. PM of Nepal)*

Discussion was also focused on exploring opportunities for collaboration on various environmental initiatives.

The Minister also addressed the ‘International Expert Dialogue on Mountains, People, and Climate Change’ held in Kathmandu on 22-23 May.



*(Minister Mr. Chowdhury addressing the International Expert Dialogue)*

He underscored the critical role of the Hindu Kush Himalayas in the global climate landscape, describing the region as ‘ground zero for climate change.’

He further stressed the paramount importance of decarbonization, pointing out the inherent limitations of current adaptation and mitigation measures. Highlighting the concept of climate justice, Chowdhury articulated the disparity faced by nations like Bangladesh and Nepal, which contribute minimally to global emissions but suffer disproportionately from climate impacts.

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Round of Nepal-Bangladesh Foreign Office Consultations

Ambassador Mr. Ghanshyam Bhandari participated in the third round of Nepal-Bangladesh Foreign Office Consultations (FOC) held in Kathmandu on 17 April.



*(Delegations of Nepal and Bangladesh during the 3<sup>rd</sup> FOC)*

While the Nepali delegation was led by Foreign Secretary H.E. Ms. Sewa Lamsal, the Bangladesh delegation was led by Foreign Secretary H.E. Mr. Masud Bin Momen. During the meeting, the two Foreign Secretaries reviewed the whole gamut of Nepal-Bangladesh relations.



*(Foreign Secretary Ms. Lamsal with Foreign Secretary Mr. Momen)*

The discussions were focused on cooperation between the two countries in the areas of trade and commerce, transit and connectivity, power and energy, tourism, culture, and education.

The two Foreign Secretaries deliberated on the need

to enhance cooperation in regional and sub-regional frameworks including the SAARC, BIMSTEC, and BBIN, among others. They also agreed to work together at various multilateral forums, especially at the UN to pursue common interests in the areas of LDC graduation, poverty alleviation, climate change and safety and security of migrant workers.



*(Delegations of Nepal and Bangladesh during the 3<sup>rd</sup> FOC)*

The Foreign Secretaries also signed an MoU between the Institute of Foreign Affairs of Nepal and the Foreign Service Academy of Bangladesh.

### **Nepal-Bangladesh Commerce Secretary Level Meeting**

Ambassador Mr. Bhandari participated in the seventh Nepal-Bangladesh Commerce Secretary Meeting (CSLM) held in Kathmandu on 18-19 April 2024. The Nepali delegation was led by Commerce Secretary H.E. Mr. Dinesh Kumar Ghimire while the Bangladeshi delegation was led by Bangladesh's Commerce Secretary H.E. Mr. Tapan Kanti Ghosh.



*(Nepali and Bangladeshi Delegations during the 7<sup>th</sup> CSLM)*

The two Secretaries made deliberations on economic partnership and commercial linkages between Nepal

and Bangladesh and discussed ways to enhance bilateral trade between the two countries.

The meeting reviewed existing bilateral Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) on agriculture and trade-related technical regulations.



*(Delegations of Nepal and Bangladesh in the CSLM)*

The two sides agreed on the effective implementation of these MoUs to foster a favourable environment for business communities from both nations. Both countries reiterated the importance of harmonizing and streamlining customs procedures to bolster trade facilitation.

### **Meeting with Youth and Sports Minister**

Ambassador Mr. Bhandari called on the Minister of Youth and Sports of the Government of Bangladesh and President of Bangladesh Cricket Board H.E. Mr. Nazmul Hasan, MP on 8 April 2024.



*(Ambassador Mr. Bhandari with H.E. Mr. Nazmul Hasan, MP)*

The Minister recalled the fond memories of his multiple visits to Nepal since the 1980s and expressed his admiration for the welcoming nature of

Nepali people. Ambassador Bhandari recalled the frequent exchanges of sports delegations for tournaments and friendly matches which have consolidated youth engagement and promoted sports diplomacy between the two countries.

During the meeting, the Ambassador stressed the need for broader cooperation between the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) and the Cricket Association of Nepal (CAN), particularly by having bilateral matches for both men's and women's national teams.

### Meeting with Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change

Ambassador Mr. Bhandari called on Minister for Environment, Forest, and Climate Change of the Government of Bangladesh H.E. Mr. Saber Hossain Chowdhury on 14 May. He congratulated Mr. Chowdhury on his appointment as the Environment Minister and appreciated his role as a 'well-known leader' of Bangladesh and South Asia region in environment and climate change issues.



*(Ambassador Mr. Bhandari with Hon. Mr. Saber Hossain Chowdhury)*

The Ambassador handed over an invitation letter addressed to Mr. Chowdhury by the Minister for Forest and Environment of Nepal Hon. Mr. Nawal Kishor Sah Sudi, requesting him to attend the International Expert Dialogue on Mountains, People, and Climate Change, held on 22-23 May 2024 in

Kathmandu. The Minister expressed his willingness to attend the event and shared about the tentative travel plan that his office was working on.

The Minister underscored the need for strengthening Nepal-Bangladesh bilateral ties and sub-regional cooperation in environmental conservation and climate resilience. The Minister also focused on the need to accelerate collective efforts in multilateral fora to combat climate change.

### Meeting with Secretary of Medical Education

Ambassador Mr. Bhandari had a meeting with the Secretary of Medical Education and Family Welfare of the Government of Bangladesh H.E. Mr. Md. Azizur Rahman on 12 May.



*(Ambassador Mr. Bhandari with Secretary and Officials of the Ministry)*

During the meeting, the Ambassador discussed various interests and concerns of Nepali students studying all over Bangladesh including the issue of 22 scholarship seats provided to Nepali students under Bangladesh Government's scholarship programme for SAARC countries for the academic year 2023/24.

### Third Meeting of BIMSTEC Eminent Persons' Group

Ambassador Mr. Bhandari attended the third meeting of the BIMSTEC Eminent Persons' Group (EPG) on the Future Directions hosted by the chair of the

Group for an interaction with EPG members on 12 May. All Ambassadors/High Commissioners of the BIMSTEC member States in Dhaka joined the EPG meeting.

Participating in the interaction, the Ambassador highlighted the crucial role of EPG in outlining a new direction to the BIMSTEC process. He also spoke on how the Dhaka-based Ambassadors and High Commissioners could be better utilized for the cause of the organization.

Stressing the need to have broader collaboration between BIMSTEC and other inter-governmental organizations and international organizations, he contended that the visibility and ‘ownership’ of the organization must be enhanced at the grassroots level.

### Buddha Jayanti Celebrations

Ambassador Mr. Bhandari attended the reception hosted by President Mohammed Shahabuddin on the occasion of Buddha Purnima on 22 May 2024.

On the occasion, the Ambassador exchanged greetings with President Shahabuddin and conveyed to him the greetings and best wishes of Rt. Hon. President of Nepal. The event was attended by Buddhist religious leaders, representatives of Buddhist communities, government officials and ambassadors of Nepal, Bhutan, Thailand, Vietnam, China, and the Republic of Korea, among others.

On the same day, Ambassador Mr. Bhandari also attended a programme organized by Bangladesh Bouddha Kristi Prachar Sangha in Dhaka to observe the Buddha Purnima.

As he spoke as the Special Guest, Ambassador underscored that the teachings of Lord Buddha and the essence of Buddhism held a central place in the civilizations of South Asia, Southeast Asia, and beyond. He emphasized that the teachings of Lord Buddha serve as a beacon of hope for all those who

strive to foster understanding and respect among our diverse communities.



*(Ambassador Mr. Bhandari addressing the audience at the Symposium on Buddhism & Humanity)*

### Celebration of the Republic Day of Nepal

On 28 May, the Embassy hosted a programme to observe the 17<sup>th</sup> Republic Day of Nepal. On the occasion, Ambassador Mr. Bhandari hoisted Nepal's national flag at the Embassy premises.



*(Ambassador Mr. Bhandari hoisting the Nepali flag)*

Extending his warm greetings to all Nepali nationals living in Bangladesh, he highlighted the significant democratic milestones achieved by Nepal and Nepali

people including the promulgation of Constitution in 2015.



*(Embassy Officials with Nepali community in Dhaka)*

The programme was attended by Nepali nationals based in Dhaka, a Nepali delegation of lawyers and civil society representatives visiting Bangladesh and the Embassy families.

### **Closing Ceremony of CBL Training**

On 2 May 2024, Ambassador Mr. Bhandari attended the closing ceremony of a training course on 'Case Study Based Learning' organized by the South Asian Institute of Policy and Governance-SIPG of North South University for officials of Nepal Administrative Staff College (NASC). Eleven officials from NASC attended the five-day training program which involved the exchange of knowledge and experiences between the two institutions.



*(Ambassador Mr. Bhandari addressing the closing ceremony at NSU)*

In his remarks, the Ambassador expressed his happiness over the exchange of officials between SIPG and NASC and stated that the training was a means for the two institutes to share knowledge and expertise through techniques of 'Case Study Based Learning'. He highlighted the importance of collaboration between academic institutes and think tanks of Nepal and Bangladesh.



*(Ambassador Mr. Bhandari with officials of NASC and NSU)*

Acknowledging NASC's reputation as a premier institution in Nepal for training government employees, he appreciated the partnership between NASC and SIPG consolidated by an MoU signed between the two to facilitate such exchanges over the years.

### **Meeting with Bankers from BFIN**

Ambassador Mr. Bhandari welcomed a delegation of bankers from Banking, Finance, and Insurance Institute of Nepal Ltd. (BFIN) at the Embassy on 28 April 2024. BFIN had organized a three-day exposure visit to Bangladesh for some senior executives of Citizens Bank International from Nepal which aimed at providing valuable insights into the banking practices and financial landscape of Bangladesh.

During a brief meeting at the Embassy, the delegation discussed the overall aspects of Nepal-Bangladesh bilateral relations including the socio-economic and development aspects of the two countries. They exchanged views on cooperation between Nepal and Bangladesh in knowledge

sharing and exchange of best practices in the banking sector.



*(Ambassador Mr. Bhandari with officials of BFIN)*

The delegation shared their experiences and insights into banking practices of Bangladesh. They stated that the exposure visit was beneficial in gaining a comprehensive understanding of key aspects of the Bangladeshi banking sector.

### **Eid-ul-Fitr Receptions**

Ambassador Mr. Bhandari attended a reception hosted by the President of Bangladesh at Bangabhaban on 11 April to exchange Eid greetings on the occasion of Eid-ul-Fitr 2024. The same day, he also attended an Eid reception hosted by the Prime Minister of Bangladesh at Ganobhaban.

Both events were attended by political leaders, parliamentarians and other high-level dignitaries of Bangladesh, and heads of the diplomatic missions based in Dhaka.

On both occasions, Ambassador Mr. Bhandari had the opportunity to greet the President and the Prime Minister personally and convey to them the Eid greetings on behalf of Hon. President and Rt. Hon. Prime Minister of Nepal.

### **Meeting with Managing Director of Unique Group**

Ambassador Mr. Bhandari had a meeting with Mr. Mohd. Noor Ali, Managing Director of Unique Group on 3 April 2024 in connection with the Nepal Investment Summit 2024 held in Kathmandu. The Ambassador handed over the original copy of the invitation letter extended by then Finance Minister of Nepal Hon. Dr. Prakash Sharan Mahat addressed to the Managing Director Mr. Ali.



*(Ambassador Mr. Bhandari with Mr. Mohd. Noor Ali)*

The Ambassador briefed about the preparations made by the Government of Nepal for hosting the Nepal Investment Summit 2024 and requested Mr. Ali to attend the Summit in person.

The meeting involved candid discussions about investment prospects in Nepal particularly in the area of hydropower production and energy sector in Nepal.

### **Meeting with Members of TOAB**

On 24 June, Ambassador Mr. Bhandari had an interaction with the newly elected President and Executive Committee members of Tour Operators Association of Bangladesh (TOAB).

During the interaction, the Ambassador congratulated Mr. Md Rafeuzzaman on being elected as the new President of TOAB. He also congratulated the newly elected 21-member committee of TOAB for the 2024-2026 term and highlighted their role in promoting tourism of Nepal and appreciated their support and cooperation.





*(Ambassador with the new Executive Committee Members of TOAB)*

They also exchanged views on ways to further enhance tourism linkages and people-to-people contacts between Nepal and Bangladesh.

### **Meeting with the MoALD delegation**

The Embassy welcomed a delegation led by the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development (MoALD) of Nepal.



*(Embassy officials with the delegation of MoALD of Nepal)*

Discussions were held on promoting cooperation in the field of agriculture between Nepal and Bangladesh. The delegation was on an exposure visit to Bangladesh for a study on fertilizer and soil fertility management.

### **Ambassador's Lecture at the National Defence College**

Ambassador Ghanshyam Bhandari delivered a lecture on 'Contemporary Nepal: Foreign Policy, Security, and Development Dimensions, and Nepal-Bangladesh Relations' to the NDC-2024 course participants at National Defence College, Dhaka.

In his lecture, the Ambassador shared with the class the major aspects of Nepal's foreign policy, security policy, and development strategies as well as the recent developments in Nepal-Bangladesh relations. He also responded to the participants' questions which ranged from Nepal's foreign policy to Nepal-Bangladesh relations to Nepal's perspective on current regional and international geopolitical developments.



*(Ambassador Mr. Bhandari delivering his lecture at NDC)*

### **Photography Exhibition Organized to Mark the International Mt. Everest Day**

The Embassy, with the support of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy and Bangla Mountaineering Trekking Club, organized a three-day 'Photography Exhibition' to observe the International Mount Everest Day-2024, from 31 May-2 June. The Exhibition was held at Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy under the theme of 'Mountain Memories: Connecting Peaks and People'.



*(Ambassador Mr. Bhandari with Chief Guest and Special Guests at the Inauguration Ceremony)*

Hon. Minister of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change of Bangladesh H.E. Mr. Saber Hossain Chowdhury, MP, Foreign Secretary (Senior Secretary) H.E. Mr. Masud Bin Momen, and Ambassador Mr. Ghanshyam Bhandari jointly inaugurated 'Photography Exhibition' at an inauguration ceremony held on 31 May.



*(Chief Guest H.E. Mr. Saber Hossain Chowdhury inaugurating the Photography Exhibition)*

The Inauguration Ceremony was attended by over 300 guests, including Bangladesh government officials, ambassadors, high commissioners, scholars, mountaineers, trekkers, photographers, media persons, and people from all walks of life.



*(Participants at the Inauguration Ceremony of Photography Exhibition)*

Delivering his welcome remarks, Ambassador Mr. Ghanshyam Bhandari stated that Mt. Everest Day was not only a reminder of the first historic ascent of the highest peak on earth but also an occasion to reflect on the importance of mountains and mountain ecology. He stressed the urgent need to preserve and

protect the entire Himalayan range from the onslaught of climate change.

Chief Guest of the event H.E. Mr. Saber Hossain Chowdhury, MP, stated that Nepal was one of the favoured destinations of Bangladeshi travelers and that mountains including Mt. Everest continued to have a special appeal among them.



*(Chief Guest H.E. Mr. Chowdhury addressing the Ceremony)*

Stating that mountains are at the frontline of the climate crisis, he emphasized the need to build regional and international partnerships to ensure the prominence of mountain agenda in global climate negotiations.

Special Guest Foreign Secretary (Senior Secretary) H.E. Mr. Masud Bin Momen highlighted the strong cultural and people-to-people contacts between Nepal and Bangladesh.

Mr. Salahuddin Ahmed, Secretary of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy commended the Embassy's initiative in celebrating Mt. Everest Day by organizing the 'Photography Exhibition'.

The curator of the Exhibition Mr. Enam Ul-Haque highlighted the emerging trends of mountaineering and adventure tourism in Bangladesh. He stated that each photograph included in the Exhibition would tell a distinct story of courage, determination, and resilience.

On the occasion, Mr. Mohad Babar Ali, a Bangladeshi national who summited Mt. Everest on

19 May 2024, was felicitated. Mrs. Tahmina Shaily, the wife of late Khaled Hossain who reached the summit of Mt. Everest in 2013, was also honoured.



*(Visitors observing the photographs displayed at the Exhibition)*

About 120 photographs by Bangladeshi and Nepali mountaineers, trekkers, and photographers were on display for three days at the Exhibition and more than 2000 trekkers, mountaineers, and photography enthusiasts visited the Exhibition.

### Visit to Bogura District and Rangpur Division

Deputy Chief of Mission Ms. Lalita Silwal, accompanied by Second Secretary Ms. Yojana Bamjan, visited Bogura district and Rangpur Division of Bangladesh from 22-24 May.



*(The Embassy officials receiving Mr. Bir Bahadur Rai in Bogura)*

On the first day of the visit, they visited Bogura district to receive Mr. Bir Bahadur Rai who had been living there for over 40 years. They had a meeting

with the Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) of Dupchanchia Upazila of Bogura district Ms. Jannat Ara Thiti.

Mr. Rai was successfully repatriated and handed over to his family members and relatives on 23 May at Banglabandha Land Port in Panchagarh district.



*(The Embassy officials with the family of Mr. Rai along with the Immigration authorities of Bangladesh and India at Banglabandha Land Port)*

On the same day, the Embassy team visited Banglabandha Land Port and interacted with the Port authorities. A brief presentation was made by the officials of Banglabandha Land Port regarding the port activities and updates about the import and export from Nepal.



*(Interaction with Banglabandha land port authorities)*

In the evening of 23 May, the Embassy organized an interaction programme with the officials of Panchagarh Chamber of Commerce and Industry and

prominent business leaders of Panchagarh, Bangladesh.

On 24 May, the Embassy team visited Hajee Mohammad Danesh Science and Technology University (HSTU) in Dinajpur and held an interaction with Nepali students studying at the University. They also met with Vice Chancellor of HSTU Professor Dr. M. Kamruzzaman and other faculty members.



*(The Embassy officials with Vice Chancellor and faculty of HSTU)*

### **Interaction with Panchagarh Chamber of Commerce and Industry**

On 23 May 2024, the Embassy organized an interaction programme with the officials of Panchagarh Chamber of Commerce and Industry and prominent business leaders of Panchagarh, Bangladesh.



*(DCM Ms. Lalita Silwal addressing the Interaction Programme in Panchagarh)*

Speaking on the occasion, Deputy Chief of Mission Ms. Lalita Silwal highlighted major aspects of Nepal-Bangladesh trade and underscored potential areas for further expansion and diversification. She appreciated the role played by Panchagarh business community in strengthening bilateral trade relations and addressed their concerns. She also expressed the Embassy's commitment to play a proactive role in deepening the economic partnership between the two countries.

President of Panchagarh Chamber of Commerce and Industry Mr. Abdul Hannan Sheikh and Vice President Mr. Mehedi Hasan Khan Bawla highlighted the opportunities and challenges and sought the Embassy's support for facilitation of trade between the two countries.



*(Officials of Panchagarh Chamber of Commerce & Industry and business leaders of Panchagarh at the Interaction Programme)*

During the programme, the officials of Panchagarh Chamber of Commerce and Industry and prominent business leaders of Panchagarh voiced their concerns on issues such as long-term business visas for Bangladeshi traders and businessmen.

### **Interaction Programme with DCAB**

On 9 June 2024, the Embassy hosted a networking reception in honour of the members of Diplomatic Correspondents Association, Bangladesh (DCAB) at the Embassy. During the reception, Ambassador Mr. Bhandari highlighted the constructive role played by

diplomatic correspondents in promoting Nepal-Bangladesh relations and appreciated their support and cooperation.



*(The Embassy officials with the members of DCAB)*

President of DCAB, Mr. Nurul Islam Hasib expressed gratitude to the Ambassador for hosting the networking reception and hoped for increased interaction with the Embassy in the days ahead. On the occasion, the members of DCAB also inquired about various issues including power cooperation between Nepal and Bangladesh, and ways to enhance trade between the two countries. Some members also emphasized the importance of organizing familiarization trips to Nepal.

Ambassador Mr. Bhandari addressed their concerns and highlighted the efforts of the Embassy in further strengthening the relations between the two countries at people-to-people level.

### **Participation in the BIMS Training Programme**

Ambassador Mr. Bhandari attended the Valedictory Session of the 40-hours Mediation Training organised by Bangladesh International Mediation Society (BIMS) in Dhaka on 28 May, as the Guest of Honour. The session also featured a Gold Medal Award Ceremony, in which the Gold Medal on Mediation Handover was awarded to Hon'ble Justice (Rtd.) Kurian Joseph, Judge of the Supreme Court of India.

The ceremony was also attended by a former Justice

of the Supreme Court of Nepal Mr. Ishwar Prasad Khatiwada, esteemed Justices of the Bangladesh Supreme Court, and a former Chief Justice of the State of Jammu and Kashmir of India. A delegation of twelve lawyers from the Nepal Bar Association also participated in the mediation training and were awarded certificates of completion at the session.

Addressing the valedictory session, Ambassador Mr. Bhandari commended the role of BIMS in honoring the Justice (Rtd.) of the Supreme Court of India for his accomplishments. He also congratulated the advocates from Nepal on the successful completion of their Mediation Training. He emphasized the significance of such programs in further strengthening regional cooperation and fostering increased engagement among countries within the region.

### **Bangabandhu International Kabaddi Cup 2024**

Ambassador Mr. Bhandari and the Embassy team attended the semi-final and final matches of the Bangabandhu International Kabaddi Cup 2024, held in Dhaka on 30 and 31 May respectively.



*(Ambassador Mr. Bhandari with Nepal's national team)*

In the semi-final, Nepal's national team defeated Kenya by 59-55 points in a tie breaker to reach the final of the tournament for the first time. However, Nepal lost to Bangladesh with a score of 31-46 in the

final match. A total of 12 countries participated in the tournament.

### 27<sup>th</sup> BIMSTEC Day Celebrations

Deputy Chief of Mission Ms. Silwal attended a reception hosted by the BIMSTEC Secretariat to celebrate the 27<sup>th</sup> BIMSTEC Day on 6 June 2024.

Speaking as the Chief Guest of the event, Adviser to Honourable Prime Minister of Bangladesh for Power, Energy and Mineral Resources Affairs H.E. Dr. Tawfiq-e-Elahi Chowdhury stressed the pioneering role played by Bangladesh in establishing BIMSTEC and hosting its Secretariat in Dhaka.

BIMSTEC Secretary General H.E. Indra Mani Pandey highlighted the organization's key achievements since its establishment and emphasized the significance of the BIMSTEC Charter, which came into force on 20 May.



*(DCM Ms. Silwal with Secretary General of BIMSTEC and Heads of Missions based in Dhaka)*

Ms. Silwal joined the Ambassadors and representatives of BIMSTEC member countries, the Chief Guest, and the BIMSTEC Secretary General in a cake cutting ceremony. The event was attended by ministers, state ministers, secretaries and high-ranking officials of the Government of Bangladesh, ambassadors/high commissioners, members of the diplomatic corps, and media representatives, among others.

### Repatriation of Mr. Bir Bahadur Rai

Mr. Bir Bahadur Rai, an elderly Nepali national who left his home in Ilam, Nepal, some four and half decades ago, had been living in Bogura District of Bangladesh for about 40 years.

According to the Embassy's plan to repatriate Mr. Rai via land route, the Embassy officials visited Bogura district and on 23 May, the Embassy officials travelled from Bogura to Banglabandha Land Port in Panchagarh district.

After completing the necessary documentation formalities at Banglabandha immigration, Mr. Rai was handed over to his nephew, Mr. Rajen Rai and other family members in the presence of Bangladeshi and Indian immigration authorities. Mr. Bir Bahadur Rai was finally able to reunite with his family after almost 45 years.



*(Embassy officials with the family of Mr. Rai and Immigration Authorities)*

On 23 May, the Embassy notified all about the successful repatriation of Mr. Rai through its official Facebook page as well. The Embassy thanked all those who supported Mr. Rai during his stay in Bangladesh, brought his case to the notice of the Embassy, and followed up consistently for his repatriation.

### Visit to BSMMU

Ambassador Mr. Bhandari visited Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) in Dhaka and had a meeting with the newly appointed

Vice Chancellor (VC) of BSMMU Professor Dr. Deen Mohd. Noorul Huq on 12 June.

The Ambassador congratulated the Vice Chancellor on his appointment and wished him a successful tenure as the VC of BSMMU.



*(Ambassador Mr. Bhandari with VC of BSMMU Prof. Dr. Deen Mohd. Noorul Huq)*

During the meeting, the Ambassador raised the issues and concerns of Nepali students studying at the university and requested the Vice Chancellor to make necessary intervention.



*(Ambassador Mr. Bhandari with Nepali resident doctors at BSMMU)*

The Ambassador also had a brief interaction with the Nepali resident doctors studying post graduate degree at BSMMU. The BSMMU is a premier Postgraduate Medical Institution in Bangladesh. A total of 56 Nepali resident doctors are currently pursuing postgraduate degree at BSMMU.

## Visit to Hajee Mohammad Danesh Science and Technology University (HSTU)

The Embassy team visited Hajee Mohammad Danesh Science and Technology University (HSTU) in Dinajpur and had an interaction with university officials and Nepali students studying there.



*(Embassy officials with Nepali students at HSTU in Dinajpur)*

The Embassy team first had a meeting with Vice Chancellor of HSTU Professor Dr. M. Kamruzzaman and other faculty members. The Embassy team also had a separate interaction with Nepali students at HSTU. During the interaction, the students shared about the various issues concerning accommodation, admission process, certificate equivalency in Nepal among others.

Deputy Chief Ms. Silwal addressed the concerns of the students and informed them of the Embassy's increasing engagements and activities in Bangladesh.

She encouraged the students to keep up their good academic records. Second Secretary Ms. Bamjan also addressed the concerns of the students and encouraged them to remain in close contact with the Embassy during their stay in Bangladesh.

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## Media Coverage and Important Links

### Nepal Visit of Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change of Bangladesh

- **Dhaka Tribune:** [Saber: Failing to meet 1.5°C goal will result in severe consequences](#)
- **Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS):** [Saber Chowdhury meets Nepalese PM in Kathmandu](#)
- **The Financial Express:** [Environment Minister meets Nepalese PM in Kathmandu](#)
- **The Daily Sun:** [Saber invited to join expert dialogue on climate change in Nepal](#)
- **The Daily Messenger:** [Bangladesh, Nepal stress joint commitment to addressing climate issues](#)
- **My Republica:** [International dialogue on Mountains, People and Climate begins from today](#)
- **Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS):** [Saber urges South Asian nations to take urgent actions to address climate change](#)
- **The Daily Sun:** [Climate minister Saber discusses environmental cooperation with Nepali envoy](#)

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Round of Nepal-Bangladesh Foreign Office Consultations

- **The Daily Star:** [Dhaka, Kathmandu stress on operationalisation of BBIN MVA framework](#)
- **The Financial Express:** [Dhaka, Kathmandu for operationalisation of BBIN to boost trade, connectivity](#)
- **New Age:** [Dhaka wants expeditious deal for power import](#)
- **The Kathmandu Post:** [Nepal and Bangladesh hold third round of foreign office consultations meeting in Kathmandu](#)

- **The Annapurna Express:** [Nepal-Bangladesh Foreign Office Consultations to be held in Kathmandu tomorrow](#)
- **The Hindu:** [Bangladesh Foreign Secretary calls for swift conclusion of tripartite power agreement with India and Nepal](#)

### Nepal-Bangladesh Commerce Secretary Meeting

- **The Business Standard:** [Bangladesh, Nepal to sign agreement on exchange of customs related data](#)
- **The Financial Express:** [Bangladesh, Nepal stress finalizing PTA](#)
- **The Kathmandu Post:** [Dhaka wants preferential trade pact. Nepal says drop 'hidden tariffs' first](#)
- **Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS):** [Bangladesh, Nepal stress finalizing PTA](#)

### Photography Exhibition Organized to Mark the International Mt. Everest Day-2024

- **Dhaka Tribune:** [Saber: Preserving mountains crucial for survival](#)
- **The Business Standard:** [Preserving mountains crucial for survival: Saber](#)
- **The Financial Express:** [Preserving mountains crucial for survival: Saber Hossain Chy](#)
- **United News of Bangladesh:** [Nepalese envoy stresses urgent need to preserve, protect entire Himalayan range from onslaught of climate change](#)
- **My Republica:** [Photo exhibition organized in Dhaka to mark International Mt Everest Day](#)
- **Daily Sun:** [Three-day photo exhibition begins in city today](#)



- **New Age:** [Photographs offer glimpses of mountaineering adventures](#)
- **The Business Post:** [Nepalese envoy stresses urgent need to protect Himalayan range](#)
- **United News of Bangladesh:** [Preserving mountains crucial for survival: Saber Hossain Chowdhury](#)
- **Somoy News:** [মাউন্ট এভারেস্ট দিবসে চিত্র প্রদর্শনী](#)
- **Jago News 24:** [নেপাল দূতাবাস-বিএমটিসির উদ্যোগে আলোকচিত্র প্রদর্শনী](#)
- **Kaler Kantho:** [ছবিতে হিমালয়ের স্মৃতি](#)
- **Barta24:** [Conservation of mountains is essential for healthy human survival: Environment Minister](#)

### [Video Links to the Events](#)

#### Photography Exhibition organized by the Embassy



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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](mailto:eondhaka@dhaka.net)  
[eondhaka@mofa.gov.np](mailto:eondhaka@mofa.gov.np)  
Website: [bd.nepalembassy.gov.np](http://bd.nepalembassy.gov.np)

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