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Inauguration of Power Flow from Nepal to Bangladesh

The historic inauguration of the export of 40 MW hydroelectricity from Nepal to Bangladesh via the Indian grid took place on 15 November 2024, marking the implementation of the first-ever trilateral power-sales agreement among Nepal, Bangladesh, and India signed on 3 October. This milestone marks a significant step toward (sub)regional energy cooperation in South Asia.



(Virtual inauguration of the power flow. Photo: Courtesy of Dipak Khadka/X)

While the inaugural power transmission took place on 15 November, the regular flow of power is scheduled for five months annually from mid-June to mid-November, aligning with Nepal's peak energy generation period.

The power flow was jointly inaugurated by Nepal's Energy Minister Hon. Dipak Khadka, India's Union Minister for Power H.E. Manohar Lal, and Bangladesh's Power Adviser H.E. Fouzul Kabir Khan. Ambassador Mr. Ghanshyam Bhandari also participated in the virtual inauguration of the power flow hosted at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Nepal.

Signing of the Tripartite Power Agreement

On 3 October, Ambassador Mr. Ghanshyam Bhandari attended the signing ceremony of a tripartite power sales agreement (PSA) to export 40

MW of electricity from Nepal to Bangladesh using Indian transmission lines.

The agreement was signed between Nepal Electricity Authority (NEA), Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB), and NTPC Vidyut Vyapar Nigam (NNVN) of India amidst a special ceremony organized in Kathmandu. The historic agreement has enabled the first-ever energy trade at the sub-regional level and set the stage for further energy cooperation in the region.



(Signing ceremony of Power Sales Agreement)

Adviser for Environment, Forest, Climate Change, and Water Resources of the Interim Government of Bangladesh H.E. Ms. Syeda Rizwana Hassan visited Nepal to witness the signing of the historic power sales agreement between Nepal, Bangladesh, and India. Minister for Energy, Water Resources, and Irrigation of the Government of Nepal Hon. Mr. Dipak Khadka also witnessed the signing of the agreement.

Call on the Adviser for Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs

Ambassador Mr. Ghanshyam Bhandari called on Adviser for Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs as well as Adviser for Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment of the Government of Bangladesh H.E. Dr. Asif Nazrul on 18 November.

As Ambassador congratulated the Law Adviser on his appointment, he recalled the press statement issued by the Government of Nepal on 7 August 2024

expressing solidarity with the people of Bangladesh in their efforts to restore peace and democracy.



(Ambassador with Law, Justice & Parliamentary Affairs Adviser)

The Adviser highlighted excellent relations existing between Nepal and Bangladesh and thanked Nepal for its support and goodwill as Bangladesh navigates through the current transitional period. He appreciated Nepal's transition to a vibrant democracy following the Second People's movement and emphasized that Bangladesh could benefit from Nepal's peace process and broader political experiences of drafting a new constitution.

Call on the Religious Affairs Adviser

On 18 November, Ambassador Mr. Bhandari called on the Religious Affairs Adviser of the interim Government of Bangladesh Dr. A F M Khalid Hossain. During the meeting, they exchanged views on ways to further promote cultural and people-to-people ties between the two countries.



(Ambassador with Religious Affairs Adviser Dr. Hossain)

The Ambassador reiterated the solidarity of the Government and people of Nepal with the Government and people of Bangladesh as the country transitions towards a democratic process.

The Adviser recalled the long-standing friendship and underscored the close cultural and people-to-people linkages between the two countries. They also discussed the Bangladesh Government's plan to construct a Buddhist Monastery in Lumbini.

Ambassador's Meeting with BNP Secretary General

Ambassador Mr. Ghanshyam Bhandari met with the Secretary General of Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) Mr. Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir at the BNP party headquarters on 28 October. The party's Standing Committee member Mr. Amir Khasru Mahmud Chowdhury and Organizing Secretary Ms. Shama Obaid were also present on the occasion.



(Ambassador with Mr. Alamgir)

During the meeting, they discussed cooperation in areas of trade, connectivity, energy, tourism, education, culture and people-to-people exchanges.

Ambassador referred to the press statement issued by the Government of Nepal on 7 August and reiterated solidarity of the Government and people of Nepal with the Government and people of Bangladesh.



(Ambassador with BNP Secretary General)

The Secretary General stressed that Nepal and Bangladesh are close neighbours and good friends, which is evident in the immense goodwill our countries and people have for each other.

Meeting with Special Assistant to the Chief Adviser

On 24 December, Ambassador Mr. Bhandari met with Mr. Abdul Hafiz, Special Assistant to the Chief Adviser (Defense and National Solidarity Development).



(Ambassador with Special Assistant Mr. Abdul Hafiz)

During the meeting, Mr. Hafiz shared his experience of collaborating with Nepali army officers during his UN missions, highlighting the consistent participation of Nepali officers in the National Defense College of Bangladesh and the ongoing exchange of visits of army officials of both countries. He further observed that these exchanges and training programs are progressing smoothly,

reflecting the strong and friendly relationship between Nepal and Bangladesh.

Ambassador Bhandari emphasized the strong ties and collaborative defense efforts between the armies of Nepal and Bangladesh, citing joint exercises like Shanti Doot and Shanti Prayas. He expressed gratitude for the Bangladesh Army's substantial assistance following the 2015 earthquake and the COVID-19 pandemic and commended their support for the protection and wellbeing of Nepali students during the July-August unrest.

Meeting with BIDA Executive Chairman

On 24 December, Ambassador Mr. Bhandari met with the Executive Chairman of Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (BIDA) Mr. Ashik Chowdhury. They deliberated on ways to strengthen trade and investment linkages for the mutual benefit of Nepal and Bangladesh.

During the meeting, Mr. Chowdhury provided an overview of BIDA's activities, including its efforts to stabilize the banking sector and repatriate funds to Bangladesh.



(Ambassador with Executive Chairman of BIDA)

The Ambassador commended Chairman Mr. Chowdhury's leadership of BIDA during this transitional period, expressing confidence in BIDA in attracting investment to key sectors of Bangladesh and also in enhancing investment linkages with Nepal. Chairman Mr. Chowdhury expressed willingness to continue discussions on investment and explore potential collaboration with Nepal.

Meeting with Secretary for Medical Education

On 2 December, Ambassador Mr. Bhandari met with Dr. Md. Sarwar Bari, Secretary for Medical Education and Family Welfare at the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare of Bangladesh.



(Meeting with Secretary for Medical Education and Family Welfare)

During the meeting, they discussed matters concerning Nepali students including the scholarships provided annually by the Bangladesh Government, internship of Nepali medical students, and issues related to intern doctors, among others.

Meeting with Chairman of Mongla Port Authority

On 29 December, Ambassador Mr. Bhandari visited Mongla Port, the seaport offered by the Government of Bangladesh to Nepal for transit facilities.



(Meeting with the Chairman and officials of Mongla Port Authority)

The Ambassador met with the Chairman of Mongla Port Authority (MPA) Rear Admiral Mr. Shaheen Rahman. During their meeting, Chairman Mr. Rahman provided an overview of the Mongla Port Authority activities.

Ambassador Mr. Bhandari emphasized the significance of Mongla Port for Nepal's bilateral and third-country trade, highlighting the use of Chittagong Port by Nepal in the past. He underscored the port's benefits were seen when Nepal imported 50,000 tons of fertilizers from Bangladesh via Mongla in 2021.



(Ambassador with the Chairman of MPA Rear Admiral Mr. Shaheen Rahman)

The Ambassador thanked the Government of Bangladesh for providing Nepal with access to Mongla port. Highlighting Mongla port's importance in Nepal's bilateral and third-country trade, he underscored that a rise in trade volume would naturally lead to greater utilization of the port as a transit point for Nepal.

Meeting with the BCB President

On 7 November, Ambassador Mr. Bhandari had a meeting with the President of Bangladesh Cricket Board Mr. Faruque Ahmed.

Ambassador Mr. Bhandari emphasized the significance of fostering stronger ties between the two countries through the shared passion for cricket and discussed enhancing collaboration between the Bangladesh Cricket Board and the Cricket Association of Nepal. He also emphasized the importance of regional cooperation in the sports sector and proposed exploring opportunities for friendly cricket matches between the national teams of Nepal and Bangladesh.



(Ambassador with President of Bangladesh Cricket Board)

President of the BCB appreciated Ambassador's proposal to organize friendly cricket matches between Nepal and Bangladesh. He also commended the remarkable progress and achievement of Nepali cricket team in the recent years.

Meeting with MD/CEO of Biman Bangladesh Airlines

Ambassador Mr. Bhandari had a meeting with Managing Director and CEO of Biman Bangladesh Airlines Limited Dr. Md. Shafiqur Rahman on 17 October.



(Ambassador with MD & CEO of Biman Bangladesh Airlines)

During the meeting, they took stock of air connectivity between Kathmandu and Dhaka and explored possibilities of making Biman Bangladesh flights more affordable for travelers. They also deliberated on the prospects of expanding Biman flights to new international airports in Nepal.

Durga Puja Reception Hosted by the President of Bangladesh

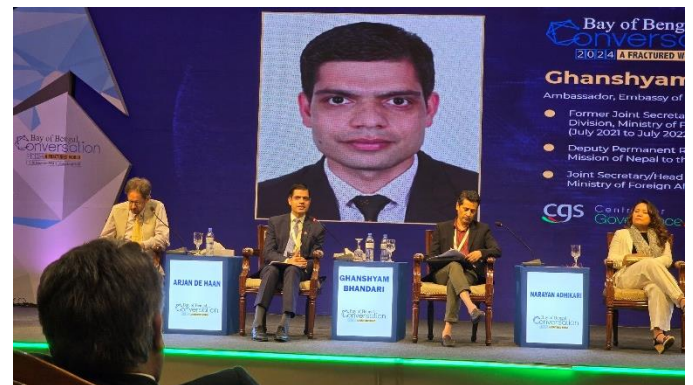
Ambassador Mr. Bhandari attended a reception hosted by Hon. President of Bangladesh to exchange greetings with the members of the Hindu community on the occasion of Durga Puja on 13 October. The Ambassador had the opportunity to exchange greetings with the President at the latter's official residence.

Speaking on the occasion, President Hon. Mohammed Shahabuddin greeted the Hindu community celebrating Durga Puja and wished harmony and amity among all, irrespective of caste and religion. He highlighted Durga Puja as an important festival in creating mutual solidarity and unity among the country's people, along with other religious festivals.

The reception was attended by Religious Affairs Adviser AFM Khalid Hossain, Primary and Mass Education Adviser Professor Dr. Bidhan Ranjan Roy Poddar, Heads of Missions and members of the diplomatic missions, Hindu religious gurus, leaders of Hindu Religious Welfare Trust, among others.

Participation in Bay of Bengal Conversation

On 16 November, Ambassador Mr. Bhandari spoke as a panelist at the session on 'From Crisis to Opportunity: Redefining Climate Leadership in a Changing World' at the Bay of Bengal Conversation 2024.



(Ambassador speaking as a panelist at the Bay of Bengal Conversation)

On the occasion, Ambassador Bhandari underscored that most of South Asia was at the sharp end of climate crisis and that countries like Nepal had been facing the toughest impacts despite their negligible contribution to global greenhouse gas emissions. He also highlighted measures taken by Nepal to align its development efforts with climate priorities. He stressed the need for clean energy solutions including the (sub)regional hydroelectricity trade to effectively address the adverse impacts of climate change.



(Audience during a session at Bay of Bengal Conversation)

Ambassador Mr. Bhandari also briefly touched upon the recently concluded trilateral agreement to export 40 megawatts of hydroelectricity from Nepal to Bangladesh through the Indian transmission lines and the operationalization of the agreement since 15 November. The historic agreement marks the first ever power transaction among our three countries and it indeed is a significant step that is expected to serve as a springboard for future energy cooperation in the sub-region, he said.

As he emphasized the challenges faced by climate vulnerable countries like Nepal and Bangladesh, he called for the fulfilment of climate finance commitment, replenishment of Green Climate Fund, and operationalization of loss and damage fund, with simple and easy access procedures for the LDCs.

Ambassador's Interview with Dhaka Tribune

A full-page interview of Ambassador Mr. Ghanshyam Bhandari was published in Bangladesh's leading English daily- *Dhaka Tribune* on 3 November.

The interview primarily focused on the recently concluded tripartite power sales agreement for the export of 40 MW electricity from Nepal to Bangladesh using Indian grid. The Ambassador highlighted Nepal's huge hydropower potential and emphasized energy cooperation as win-win enterprise for both Nepal and Bangladesh. With the signing of this agreement, we are close to realizing power cooperation in real terms, he added.

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Envoy: Nepal, Bangladesh have entered new phase of economic partnership

Ambassador of Nepal to Bangladesh **Ghanshyam Bhandari** talks about a trilateral agreement Dhaka recently signed to import 40MW of hydroelectricity from Nepal via India and the current state of bilateral relations in an interview with **Dhaka Tribune's** Diplomatic Correspondent **Murad Islam Hasib**

How would you describe the current state of Bangladesh-Nepal relations?

■ Bilateral Relations: Nepal and Bangladesh share strong longstanding ties, rooted in trust, respect, and shared culture.

■ On closer neighbors: Nepal and Bangladesh have always enjoyed excellent relations, characterized by historical friendship and solidarity. Through an diplomatic relation were established in 1975, cementing our ties as neighbors and comrades in development. We have a long history of bilateral cooperation at all levels and we all continue to have confidence in our relations.

■ To describe this dynamic relationship in terms of the Bay of Bengal Dialogue: As a member of the Bay of Bengal Dialogue, we have a wealth of dialoguing with each other in terms of knowledge and expertise, strengthening each other's capabilities and expanding the development.

■ The recent trilateral agreement: The recent trilateral agreement is a landmark step, especially as it marks the first ever power transaction among our three countries, marking a significant step that is expected to serve as a springboard for future energy cooperation in the sub-region.

■ I call it a historic agreement: For us, this is a historic agreement for us as this enables the first ever power transaction among our three countries, marking a significant step that is expected to serve as a springboard for future energy cooperation in the sub-region.

Can you explain the key points of the trilateral agreement?

■ Trilateral Energy Agreement: Historic 40MW power trade via India marks the first energy transaction among Nepal, Bangladesh, and India, opening doors to further cooperation.

■ I call it a historic agreement: For us, this is a historic agreement for us as this enables the first ever power transaction among our three countries, marking a significant step that is expected to serve as a springboard for future energy cooperation in the sub-region.

Could you shed light on educational linkages between our two countries?

■ Educational Links: Strong academic exchange, with 1000 Nepali students in Bangladesh, Nepal also aims to attract Bangladeshi students.

■ Approximately 1,000 Nepali students: Currently study in various universities and colleges across Bangladesh. More than 1,000 Nepali students are in the medical field. Bangladesh is providing high-quality medical education and health services. Bangladesh has made a profound contribution for our students in this area.

What challenges do you foresee in implementing this agreement?

■ Challenges: Mainly technical, only technical procedures remain.

■ Show all three countries - Nepal, Bangladesh and India - which will have their part

How do you see this agreement benefiting Nepal and Bangladesh in terms of energy security and economic growth?

■ Benefits and Future Prospects: Agreement and economic growth: qualified hydropower projects are under discussion.

■ Hydropower Project: Nepal has already shared the report of the feasibility study and environmental impact assessment with Bangladesh. We want the partner's response. Initially, the government of Bangladesh is negotiating with the Government of India on the power purchase agreement of a 40MW of capacity from the 400MW run-of-river Upper Karnali Hydropower Project. It is expected to be signed by the end of 2024. The agreement on the export and import of hydroelectricity and these two other projects, under discussion are part of the beginning.

■ It is a mutual investment and an investment of energy security and economic growth. It is a mutual investment and an investment of energy security and economic growth. It is a mutual investment and an investment of energy security and economic growth.

What are the key areas of trade, transit and economic cooperation between our countries?

■ Trade and Connectivity: Economic ties are expanding, with efforts to simplify trade, transit, and enhance land and air connectivity.

■ Similarly, transit and connectivity: Economic ties are expanding, with efforts to simplify trade, transit, and enhance land and air connectivity.

What do you envision for the future of Nepal-Bangladesh relations?

■ Vision for Deepening Cooperation: Strengthening ties in energy, trade, ICT, and tourism.

■ Strengthening ties in energy, trade, ICT, and tourism: Strengthening ties in energy, trade, ICT, and tourism.

(The full-page interview published in Dhaka Tribune)

Other significant aspects of Nepal-Bangladesh relations, including trade, connectivity, tourism, education, people-to-people exchanges, and cooperation at regional and international forums were also discussed in the interview.

(Link to the full interview: <https://www.dhakatribune.com/bangladesh/foreign-affairs/363813/envoy-nepal-bangladesh-have-entered-new-phase-of>)

Ambassador Attends International Chef Day Event

On 20 October, Ambassador Mr. Bhandari attended as the Chief Guest the Graduation and Award Ceremony hosted by ICI International Culinary Institute-Bangladesh in partnership with LCCI Global Qualifications Nepal on the occasion of International Chef Day 2024.



(Ambassador inaugurating the International Chef Day Event)

Addressing the gathering, Ambassador Mr. Bhandari underlined the importance of vocational skills and culinary arts in promoting shared culture, tradition, tourism, and people-to-people contacts. He also felicitated the selected graduates at the ceremony. As he highlighted the close socio-cultural ties between Nepal and Bangladesh, he underscored the role of culinary arts in bringing the peoples of two countries together.

Approximately 400 aspiring young chefs and senior chefs from Bangladesh attended the Graduation and

Award Ceremony after completing the LCCI training course.

Closing Ceremony of National Climate Championship 2024

On 10 November, Ambassador Mr. Bhandari addressed, as the Chief Guest, the closing ceremony of Bangladesh National Championship on Climate Action jointly organized by GEIST International Foundation and United International Foundation and felicitated the winners.

The Ambassador commended the young participants for demonstrating innovative ways through sports, artworks, projects, research works, and wall magazines, among others, to combat climate change. He also thanked the organizers for taking this novel initiative to engage youth in climate action.



(Ambassador with the participants of the National Climate Championship 2024)

As he highlighted the challenges faced by Nepal and Bangladesh due to climate change, he shed light on Nepal's efforts in balancing development endeavours and climate action. He also emphasized the significance of climate action at the grassroots level through the active participation of youth, women, and marginalized groups.

Ambassador Attends a Solo Painting Exhibition

On 22 November, Ambassador Mr. Bhandari inaugurated, as the Chief Guest, a solo painting exhibition entitled 'Impressions of Surrounding' by artist Mr. Md. Mohiuddin Ahmed.



(Ambassador speaking at the solo painting competition)

Speaking on the occasion, Ambassador Bhandari underscored that art is a doorway to knowledge, and the focal point and the soul of every civilization.

Ambassador stressed the deep-rooted cultural connections between Nepal and Bangladesh and the role art plays in bringing societies together. Exhibitions like this are much more than platforms for showcasing talent; they are opportunities to unite people across borders, inspiring conversations and connections that go beyond the realm of art itself, he added.



(Ambassador observing the paintings of artist Mr. Md. Mohiuddin Ahmed)

Participation in Press Conference and Flag-in Ceremony

On 06 December, Ambassador Mr. Bhandari participated in a press conference and flag-in ceremony organized to commemorate Mountaineer

M.A. Mohit's successful ascent of Thorong Peak in Nepal on 5 November 2024.



(Ambassador attending the flag-in ceremony)

During the press conference, Ambassador Mr. Bhandari emphasized the significant contribution of mountaineers and trekkers to fostering closer ties between Nepal and Bangladesh. He congratulated Mr. Mohit on his successful ascent of Thorong peak and acknowledged the notable role of mountaineers like him in strengthening people-to-people ties between the two countries.



(Ambassador speaking at the flag-in ceremony)

An Everest summiteer Mr. M. A. Mohit made a presentation highlighting his experiences on the way to summit. He commended the role of Bangladesh Mountaineering and Trekking Club (BMTTC) in promoting mountaineering among Bangladeshi youths.

Participation in FOSA Chairty Bazaar

The Embassy participated at the International Charity Bazaar 2024 organized by Foreign Office Spouses Association of Bangladesh (FOSA) on 07 December.



(Ambassadors and their spouses at FOSA Charity Bazar)

The Embassy showcased Nepali products including handicrafts, pashminas, and traditional artifacts. A separate food stall of the Embassy at the Bazaar featuring Nepali delicacies including momos, selrotis, and choila, among others, also drew a large crowd present at the Bazaar.



(The Embassy team displaying Nepali products at FOSA Charity Bazar)

The Embassy family also presented two cultural dance performances on the occasion.

Hon. Foreign Adviser of Bangladesh H.E. Mr. Md. Touhid Hossain and Foreign Secretary H.E. Mr. Md.

Jashim Uddin visited the Embassy's stall and were warmly welcomed by the Ambassador and the Embassy family.



(Ambassador welcoming Foreign Affairs Adviser at the Nepali stall)

Durga Puja Celebrations in Dhaka

On 10 October, Ambassador Mr. Ghanshyam Bhandari and the Embassy officials visited Dhakeshwori temple, one of the oldest temples in Dhaka. During the visit, they offered puja at the Mandap set up at the temple premises and exchanged greetings on the occasion of Durga Puja and best wishes to all devotees for their peace, happiness and prosperity.



(Ambassador speaking at Dhakeshwori Temple)

Speaking on the occasion, the Ambassador emphasized that Durga Puja serves as an opportunity to foster communal harmony and spread the message of the victory of good over evil.

Ambassador Mr. Bhandari also visited Puja Mandap set up by Gulshan-Banani Sarbajanin Puja Foundation in Banani of Dhaka on 11 October and conveyed his heartfelt greetings and best wishes to all devotees, praying for their peace, happiness and prosperity on the auspicious occasion of Durga Puja.



(Ambassador speaking at Puja Mandap in Banani)

On the same day, he also visited Ram Krishna Mission in Dhaka and attended the Kumari Puja organized therein.

Interaction Programme with Nepali Students

On 1 November, 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 for the year 2081.



(The Embassy team with Nepali students)

Speaking on the occasion, Ambassador Mr. Ghanshyam Bhandari emphasized the significant role played by Nepali students in strengthening

people to people relations between Nepal and Bangladesh. He assured the students of the Embassy's commitment to providing assistance and support to address any issues or concerns faced by the students.

The Ambassador encouraged the students to remain in close contact with the Embassy and requested them to report any incidents that may occur during their stay in Bangladesh. The students expressed their appreciation for the Embassy's efforts in coordinating with the concerned authorities of Bangladesh to ensure the safety and wellbeing of Nepali students.



(Nepali students participating in the interaction programme at the Embassy)

Visit to Rajshahi Division

Deputy Chief of Mission Ms. Lalita Silwal and Second Secretary Ms. Yojana Bamjan visited Rajshahi Division from 11-13 December 2024.

They visited North Bengal Medical College in Sirajganj and Rajshahi Medical College and held interactions with Nepali students studying in the respective colleges and also met with the college authorities. On 12 December, they visited Rohanpur-Singhabad railway route and held meetings with railway authorities.

Tourism Promotion and Networking Event

The Embassy organized a 'Tourism Promotion & Networking Event' in Rajshahi, Bangladesh on 11

December. The programme featured an interaction with travel and tour entrepreneurs based in Rajshahi.



(DCM Ms. Silwal delivering her remarks)

The programme featured interaction with local travel and tour entrepreneurs based in Rajshahi. During the event, Deputy Chief of Mission Ms. Lalita Silwal thanked the travel agencies and tour operators for their contributions towards promoting Nepal as a key tourist destination. She also urged the participating travel agents and tour operators to build robust partnership with their Nepali partners to further promote people-to-people ties.



(Second Secretary Ms. Bamjan making a presentation)

Second Secretary Ms. Yojana Bamjan made a presentation underlining Nepal's major touristic products. Highlighting Bangladesh as one of the significant tourist source markets for Nepal, she underscored the role of travel and tour entrepreneurs in enhancing tourism exchanges and fostering people-to-people contacts between the two countries.



(Participants during Tourism Promotion & Networking Event in Rajshahi)

Participants including the travel and tour entrepreneurs based in Rajshahi, representatives of Rajshahi Chamber of Commerce, tourist police and Department of Tourism and Hospitality Management of Rajshahi University participated in the event.

Visit to Rohanpur Railway Station

On 12 December, DCM Ms. Silwal and Second Secretary Ms. Bamjan visited Rohanpur-Singhabad railway route to gain firsthand insights into the operation of the railway route and its possible use by Nepali traders and businesspeople for trade with Bangladesh as well as with third countries.



(The Embassy team with authorities of Rohanpur Railway Station)

During the visit, the Embassy team interacted with the railway officials at Rohanpur railway station. DCM Ms. Silwal recalled that during President of Nepal Rt Hon Mrs. Bidya Devi Bhandari's visit to Bangladesh in March 2021, Nepal and Bangladesh signed the Exchange of Letters on the designation of Rohanpur-Singhabad railway route as an additional

transit route for the movement of traffic-in-transit between Nepal and Bangladesh. She underscored the importance of the route for Nepal's third-country trade.

Visit to Khulna City Medical College

On 29 December, Ambassador Mr. Bhandari visited Khulna City Medical College in Khulna and had an interaction with Nepali students studying there. They also had a meeting with the Chairman of Khulna City Medical College & Hospital and discussed the overall issues and concerns of Nepali students.



(Ambassador with Nepali Students at Khulna City Medical College)

The Ambassador noted the concerns of the students and assured the students of the Embassy's efforts in prioritizing the concerns of Nepali students all over Bangladesh. A total of 20 Nepali students, are currently studying at Khulna City Medical College.

Interaction with Students of Gazi Medical College

On 29 December, Ambassador Mr. Bhandari had an interaction with Nepali students studying at Gazi Medical College in Khulna City. As reported by the students, there are currently eight Nepali students studying at Gazi Medical College.

During the interaction, some of the students raised the issue of internship of Nepali medical students. They also requested for more regular visits by the Embassy to their medical college in Khulna.



(Ambassador with Nepali Students of Gazi Medical College)

The Ambassador addressed most of the concerns of the students and assured them that the Embassy would make efforts to visit the colleges and interact with them on a regular basis.

Second Secretary Ms. Bamjan asked the students to remain in close contact with the Embassy and to follow its website and social media pages for regular updates.

Visit to North Bengal Medical College in Sirajgunj

On 11 December, DCM Ms. Silwal and Second Secretary Ms. Bamjan visited North Bengal Medical College in Sirajgunj. They held meeting with the principal and the college authorities and discussed the overall issues and concerns of Nepali students.



(Embassy officials with Nepali Students at North Bengal Medical College)

The Embassy team also had a separate interaction with Nepali students at North Bengal Medical College. A total of 38 Nepali students are currently studying at North Bengal Medical College.

The Embassy officials addressed the concerns raised by the students and assured them that the Embassy, as the guardian of Nepali students in Bangladesh, is committed to ensuring their safety and security during their stay in the country.

Visit to Rajshahi Medical College

On 12 December 2024, the Embassy officials visited Rajshahi Medical College in Rajshahi and had an interaction with Nepali students studying there.



(Embassy officials with the Principal of Rajshahi Medical College)

They also had a meeting with the Principal and the Director of Rajshahi Medical College & Hospital and discussed about the overall issues and concerns of Nepali students.



(Embassy team with Nepali students at Rajshahi Medical College)

During the interaction with students, the Embassy officials addressed the various concerns raised by Nepali students, which primarily focused on their safety and security, stipend for intern doctors, and the need for regular visits from the Embassy. As reported by the college authorities, a total of 16 Nepali

students are currently studying at Rajshahi Medical College.

Interaction Organized by the Export Promotion Bureau

On 7 October, DCM Ms. Silwal participated in an interaction meeting organized by the Export Promotion Bureau (EPB) of Bangladesh to discuss the upcoming Dhaka International Trade Fair scheduled to be held from 1 to 31 January 2025. Trade and commercial counsellors representing various missions in Dhaka participated in the meeting.



(DCM Ms. Silwal speaking during the interaction)

Speaking on the occasion, Ms. Silwal commended the EPB's initiative in organizing the meeting and emphasized that the Embassy would make efforts in bringing Nepali businesses and exhibitors to the Fair.

Roundtable Discussion on 'Break the Silence, End the Violence'

On 25 November, DCM Ms. Silwal participated in a roundtable discussion on 'Break the Silence, End the Violence' jointly organized by the Danish Embassy in Dhaka, UN Office for Project Services (UNOPS) and Diplomats Magazine.

Speaking on the occasion, Ms. Silwal stated that the gender -based violence remains a pressing issue in the region including in Nepal. She also highlighted the policies and legislations of Nepal to address violence against women and girls and underscored

that Nepal is the first and only country in South Asia to criminalize marital rape.



(DCM Ms. Silwal speaking at the event)

As she acknowledged the challenges like limited access to justice, stigma, and resource constraints, she stressed the need for collective action including the engagement of men and boys in changing the societal attitudes to ensure a safe and just society for women and girls.

Participation in the International Cultural Diversity Festival

On 2 November, Deputy Chief of Mission Ms. Lalita Silwal attended the International Cultural Diversity Festival 2024, organized by the Ethics and Diversity Club (NSUEDC) at North South University in Dhaka.



(DCM Ms. Silwal delivering her remarks)

Speaking as the special guest, Ms. Silwal highlighted Nepal's identity as a multi-ethnic, multi-religious, and multilingual nation that embodies the essence of

cultural diversity. She emphasized the close socio-cultural ties between Nepal and Bangladesh while recognizing the uniqueness of each nation's traditions, histories, and cultures. While our commonalities are connecting threads between our two countries, our individual identities enrich the cultural landscape of our societies, she stressed.



(DCM Ms. Silwal during the event)

Underscoring the global challenges of conflict and division, Ms. Silwal called on the youth of Nepal and Bangladesh and beyond to lead the way in fostering a world where cultural differences are not only respected but also celebrated.

Inaugural Ceremony of International Conference on Sustainable Development

On 25 October, DCM Ms. Lalita Silwal attended an International Conference titled "Sustainable Development in South Asia: Where Do We Stand".



(Nepali delegation during the conference)

The three-day conference, jointly organized by Dhaka International University, South Asian Network for Public Administration (SANPA), and

International Organization for Migration (IOM) was held from 25 to 27 October in Dhaka.

The speakers from Nepal included Former Foreign Secretary Mr. Madhu Raman Acharya and Former Secretary Mr. Krishna Hari Baskota and representatives of the Public Administration Association of Nepal (PAAN).

Meeting of the Governing Board of SAARC Agricultural Center

Second Secretary Ms. Yojana Bamjan participated in the Governing Board meeting of SAARC Agricultural Center (SAC) in Dhaka on 8 November 2024. During the meeting, the Executive Chairman of SAC highlighted the challenges in agriculture, efforts to improve rice research, and the exchange of germplasm in SAARC nations.



(Ms. Bamjan during the meeting)

The Chief Guest of the meeting, Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture of Bangladesh Mr. Dr. Mohammad Emdad Ullah Mian highlighted SAC's role in sharing knowledge with regional organizations and promoting investment in technology for proper collaboration among member states.

Participation in SAARC Charter Day Celebrations

On 10 December, Second Secretary Ms. Yojana Bamjan participated in the 40th SAARC Charter Day celebration hosted by the SAARC Agriculture Centre (SAC) in Dhaka.

The event was attended by diplomats, and representatives of all SAARC member countries. To mark the occasion, Ms. Bamjan joined representatives of fellow member states in hoisting the flags of their respective countries.



(Second Secretary Ms. Bamjan participating in the 40th SAARC Charter Day celebration)

Dr. Ganesh Raj Joshi, Former Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture, Government of Nepal delivered a keynote presentation on 'Regional Cooperation for Climate Resilient Agri-food System in South Asia'.

Dr. Md. Harunur Rashid also made a presentation on the SAARC Agriculture Centre's overview and way forward. Officials from different ministries of the Government of Bangladesh, head of the institutions, agencies, scientists and officials from BARC, among others, participated in the programme.

Media Coverage and Important Links

Signing of the Tripartite 40 MW Power Agreement

- **Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS):** [Tripartite deal inked to bring 40-MW power from Nepal to Bangladesh](#)
- **The Financial Express:** [Bangladesh, Nepal, India sign tripartite power trading deal](#)
- **Dhaka Tribune:** [Nepal, Bangladesh, India sign 40MW power agreement](#)
- **The Daily Star:** [Bangladesh to get electricity from Nepal thru India](#)
- **The Kathmandu Post:** [Three-nation deal signed for Nepal to trade power with Bangladesh via India](#)
- **My Republica:** [Nepal signs historic agreement to export energy to Bangladesh](#)
- **New Age:** [Bangladesh CA Yunus, Nepal PM Oli discuss ties between two countries](#)
- **The Business Standard:** [Bangladesh inks landmark deal with Nepal, India to import 40MW electricity in Jun-Nov](#)
- **The Financial Express:** [PM Oli holds talks with Bangladesh chief advisor](#)
- **The Himalayan Times:** [Historic agreement signed to export Nepal's power to Bangladesh](#)

Inauguration of Power Flow from Nepal to Bangladesh

- **Dhaka Tribune:** [India sees power from Nepal to Bangladesh as step towards South Asian Grid](#)
- **The Daily Star:** [Power supply from Nepal via India begins](#)
- **The Financial Express:** [Bangladesh begins importing power from Nepal via Indian grid](#)

- **Daily Sun:** [Dhaka, Delhi, Kathmandu launch first trilateral power flow transaction](#)
- **The Business Standard:** [Electricity from Nepal will now reach Bangladesh through Indian grid](#)
- **Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India:** [Inauguration of first trilateral power transaction – from Nepal to Bangladesh through the Indian Grid](#)
- **The Hindu:** [Nepal starts exporting energy to Bangladesh with Indian grid support](#)
- **The Kathmandu Post:** [Nepal begins historic power export to Bangladesh via India](#)
- **Hindustan Times:** [In a first, Nepal exports electricity to Bangladesh via Indian power grid](#)
- **The Telegraph:** [First power transmission from Nepal to Bangladesh via Indian grid begins](#)
- **The Times of India:** [Nepal's power starts flowing to Bangladesh through Indian grid](#)

Courtesy Call on the Adviser for Religious Affairs

- **United News of Bangladesh:** [Nepalese Ambassador meets Bangladesh's Religious Adviser](#)
- **The Financial Express:** [Nepalese Ambassador meets Bangladesh's Religious Adviser](#)

Ambassador's Meeting with BNP Secretary General

- **Dhaka Tribune:** [Fakhrul, Nepalese envoy discuss bilateral ties, Saarc revival](#)
- **The Business Standard:** [Fakhrul, Nepalese envoy discuss bilateral ties, Saarc revival](#)

- Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha: [Nepalese envoy calls on BNP secretary general](#)

Ambassador's Meeting with MD/CEO of Biman Bangladesh Airlines

- Diplomatic Journal: [Nepalese Ambassador meets Biman MD](#)

Ambassador Attends International Chef Day Event

- Diplomatic Journal: [Nepalese Ambassador attends award ceremony](#)

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