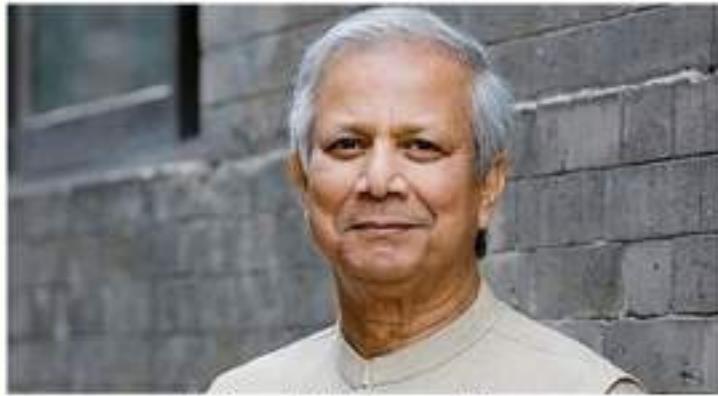


BANGLADESH CONNECT

Issue No: 13

September 2024

Interim Government formed in Bangladesh



Professor Dr. Muhammad Yunus
Chief Adviser

A new interim government has been formed in Bangladesh following a student led mass movement during mid-July to August. The previous cabinet was dissolved on 05 August and a new cabinet has been formed on 08 August 2024 comprising total 21 advisers. H.E. Professor Dr. Muhammad Yunus has sworn in as the Chief Adviser of the 'Interim Government'. A political transition is underway in Bangladesh representing a historic opportunity to ensure governance anchored in human rights, inclusivity, the rule of law and address all forms of discrimination from the society & the country.

In an address to the nation on 25 August 2024, Hon'ble Chief Adviser H.E. Professor Dr. Muhammad Yunus highlighted the support of the international community towards Bangladesh and the priorities of the interim government. He expressed keen interest of his government to work with the international community to find a pragmatic solution to the Rohingya crisis. The Chief Adviser also said that Bangladesh will maintain friendly relationship with all the countries and the basis of foreign policy will be mutual trust, confidence and cooperation.



Chief Adviser Sworn in

Foreign Affairs Adviser of the Interim Government assumes office



Ambassador M Touhid Hossain
Foreign Affairs Adviser

H.E. Mr. M Touhid Hossain has assumed the charges of the Foreign Affairs Adviser of the interim government of Bangladesh on 08 August 2024. Ambassador Md. Touhid Hossain is a career diplomat who joined Bangladesh Foreign Service in 1981. In his diplomatic career Mr. Hossain served in Bangladesh High Commission in New Delhi, Deputy High Commission of Bangladesh in Kolkata, High Commissioner of Bangladesh to South Africa, and Principal of the Foreign Service Academy. He was also a former foreign secretary of Bangladesh.

Ambassador attends IASC meeting

Ambassador Dr. Md. Monwar Hossain attended the Inter Agency Standing Committee (IASC) meeting, organized by the UNICEF Representative and the acting UN Resident Coordinator (UNRC) in Yangon, on 29 August 2024. The briefing was conducted by the visiting UN Emergency Directors Group (EDG). The briefing focused on the ongoing and future cooperation between Myanmar and the United Nations, particularly focusing on the facilitation of humanitarian assistance to those in need, UN approach to implementing and managing humanitarian aid. Bangladesh Ambassador, during discussion session, drew attention of the international community to strengthen their efforts on safe and sustainable repatriation of the 1.1 million Rohingyas who are currently sheltered in Bangladesh since 2017. He also mentioned that the incident has marked the 7th year and it demands a coordinated effort to ensure safe and sustainable return.

Ambassador meets with the Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister



Ambassador Dr. Md. Monwar Hossain met with the Deputy Prime Minister & Foreign Minister of Myanmar H.E. U Than Swe on 23 August 2024 at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Myanmar in Nay Pyi Taw. During the meeting, Ambassador discussed issues of mutual interest including bilateral issues covering areas of education, trade and commerce, tourism, culture and health etc. He also briefed the minister about the updated political situation in Bangladesh, newly formed interim government and Bangladesh's foreign relations priorities. Ambassador also discussed about various new initiatives taken by him to boost bilateral relations. Permanent Secretary of the Ministry Ambassador U Aung Kyaw Moe and senior officials were also in attendance. Mentionable that this was the first meeting of the Ambassador with the DPM & FM after the interim government of Bangladesh has been formed.

Rohingya crisis marks the 7th year

It has been 7 years since 25 August 2017 when more than 800,000 Rohingya families started fleeing to Bangladesh to escape brutal violence and persecution in Myanmar's western coastal state of Rakhine. They joined the refugees who were already in Bangladesh as a result of previous waves of displacement, bringing the total Rohingya population to more than 1 million. Even though repatriation is yet to kick-off, the two governments remain engaged in discussion to finalize modalities to commence safe and sustainable repatriation of Rohingyas to their places of original home.



Minister for Agriculture of Myanmar received Bangladesh Ambassador



Union Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Min Naung received Ambassador Dr. Md. Monwar Hossain at the Ministry in Nay Pyi Taw on 22 August 2024. Ambassador highlighted various potential areas under agricultural sector to strengthen bilateral relationship between the two countries. Minister discussed matters relating to agricultural produce and aquatic products sectors of Myanmar and furthering the cooperation to ensure food security between the two countries.

Ambassador meets the Health Minister of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar



"Bangladesh and Myanmar can work together for strengthening cooperation in the health sector", said by Ambassador Dr. Md. Monwar Hossain while he was meeting with H.E. Dr. Thet Khaing, Health Minister of Myanmar on 22 August 2024 at the Ministry. They discussed various issues of mutual interest including sharing best practices, exchange of health experts, particularly in public health area and training & capacity building of health workers.

Smart
Bangladesh

Ambassador attends the Rotary Club Installation Ceremony in Yangon



Heads of Diplomatic Mission at the installation ceremony of the Rotary Club of Yangon

The Rotary Club of Yangon, Myanmar celebrated its installation ceremony on 24 August 2024 at the Park Royal Hotel in Yangon to elect the new President. Mr. Ravindra Jain, a renowned entrepreneur from Indore, India, was sworn in as the new President of the Rotary Club of Yangon. The ceremony was attended by more than 150 distinguished guests, including Ambassadors & Heads of Mission, diplomats, civil society representatives, entrepreneurs and the members of the club. Rotary club of Yangon provides service to the people in Myanmar, promotes integrity, and advances world understanding, goodwill, and peace through fellowship of business, professional, and community leaders.

Campus Connect: Ambassador visits Patheingyi University



Rector of the Patheingyi University welcomes the Ambassador

Ambassador Dr. Md. Monwar Hossain recently visited the Patheingyi University in Patheingyi Township, Ayeyarwady Region, Myanmar. Rector of the university Dr. Than Tun, Pro-Rectors Dr. Yin Yin Aye and Dr. Nolar Kyu welcomed the Ambassador. In a meeting with the research students and the faculties of the university, Dr. Hossain highlighted the status of higher education in Bangladesh and emphasized the necessity of exchange program and cooperation between the universities of the two countries. Ambassador also highlighted some programmes including seminar, symposium, cultural events jointly organized by the Embassy and other reputed universities in Myanmar.

It may be mentioned that the Patheingyi University was established in 1996. It is Located in one of the most commercially vibrant cities of Myanmar, Patheingyi. It has a land area of 331.5 acres, comprising with 15 departments, 06 hostels, 370 faculties along with other quality education facilities.



Guests attending the reception



Ambassador addresses the research students & faculties

In Photos



Advisers of the newly formed Interim Government of Bangladesh sworn in at the Bangabhaban



Welcomed by the Foreign Minister at the Ministry



Meeting with the Health Minister & senior officials



Pro-rectors of the Pathein University greet Ambassador



Meeting with the HOM of the Norway Embassy, Yangon



Exchange of views with the research fellows of PU



Newly installed committee of the Rotary Club of Yangon