



EMBASSY OF THE
PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH
MANAMA, KINGDOM OF BAHRAIN



Press Release

Bangladesh Ambassador to Bahrain, Dr. Md. Nazrul Islam, paid a courtesy call on the Foreign Minister of the Kingdom of Bahrain, H.E. Dr. Abdullatif bin Rashid Al-Zayani

Manama, Bahrain
20 March 2022

Ambassador Dr. Md. Nazrul Islam paid a courtesy call on Bahrain's Foreign Minister, Dr. Abdullatif bin Rashid Al-Zayani today. During the meeting, he highlighted the importance of enhancing bilateral relations between Bangladesh and Bahrain, and then extended the warm invitation from Bangladesh's Foreign Minister Dr. A. K. Abdul Momen to visit Dhaka by handing over a copy of the invitation letter to him again. The Foreign Minister of Bahrain cordially accepted the invitation of our Foreign Minister and expressed his interest to visit Dhaka soon.

Ambassador Dr. Islam also highlighted the success story of the unprecedented progress and development of Bangladesh under the able leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina during the COVID-19 pandemic. In particular, he highlighted Bangladesh's incredible progress in sustainable economic growth, education, health, women's empowerment, food security and taking measures against climate change. He also briefed the Bahrain Foreign Minister on the various initiatives taken by the Government of Bangladesh in the fight against COVID-19, and highly appreciated the various initiatives taken by the Government of Bahrain.

The Ambassador then brought up the long pending case of around 1,000 Bangladeshi expatriates who are left stranded in Bangladesh as their visas were unable to be renewed due to COVID-19 flight restrictions and as result of that, they are unable to return to Bahrain. He said that the list of those stranded expatriates was sent to all relevant authorities of the Bahrain Government multiple times but the issue is still yet to be resolved. He further requested for the kind consideration of the His Majesty the King of Bahrain for the safe return of those stranded Bangladeshis to Bahrain. The Foreign Minister assured a positive decision on the matter by liaising with the appropriate authorities himself. The Ambassador also sought the Foreign Minister's personal mediation in another matter regarding the recent difficulties in obtaining visas for the general public, government officials and even diplomats and their family members. The Ambassador proposed the signing of an already finalized agreement on visa exemption at the diplomatic and official levels to further enhance the ties between two nations.

In 2015, an MoU was signed between the two nations for Foreign Office Consultation (FOC). The Ambassador drew the attention of the Foreign Minister and stressed the importance of having a FOC in order to develop bilateral relations in all fields such as economic, trade and investment, cultural and sports between the two countries. He further said that Dhaka is very much interested in organizing the first FOC, and in preparation for this, there may even be a visit at the Secretary level of the two countries. The Foreign Minister agreed with the Ambassador on this matter and assured to take necessary steps.

The Ambassador also mentioned that on the occasion of the birth centenary of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and the Golden Jubilee of Independence, the Government of Bangladesh has expressed a great deal of interest in constructing its Embassy on a land provided by the Kingdom of Bahrain. In this regard, the Foreign Minister stated that the Bahrain government is seriously considering allocating a land to the Bangladesh Embassy in Bahrain. In addition, the Ambassador urged him to set up a Bahrain Embassy in Bangladesh as well. In conclusion, the Ambassador apprised the Foreign Minister about the construction project of Bangladesh School Bahrain funded by the Government of Bangladesh on the land provided by His Majesty the King and sought his cooperation in this regard.

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