

**Ministry of Foreign Affairs
External Publicity Wing
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Press Release

Foreign Secretary's Busy Engagements in Washington DC

Washington DC, 20 February 2014: Bangladesh's Foreign Secretary Shahidul Haque had a busy schedule today in Washington DC. He met Acting Under Secretary for Arms Control & International Security Rose Gottemoeller at the US Department of State and discussed wide range of global issues of mutual interests including security issues. The Foreign Secretary expressed satisfaction at the regular completion of the security dialogue and the defense dialogue between the two countries and welcomed the third defense dialogue to be held in Dhaka on 22 April 2014.

Previously, the Foreign Secretary also met senior officials of the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC), Assistant Secretary Anne C. Richard of Bureau of Population, Refugee & Migration (PRM) at the State Department, Senior Director for South Asia of National Security Staff at the White House Nicholas Dean, and Senior Advisor to the Secretary of State on Development Daniella Ballou-Aares. The MCC officials congratulated Bangladesh for achieving eligibility for its assistance program according to MCC's 2014 Annual Scorecard and expressed optimism that in near future Bangladesh would be included in the threshold program. The Foreign Secretary briefed the MCC on the recent achievements of Bangladesh in the economic and social sectors as well as in the governance and anticorruption measures. The MCC officials assured to reflect Bangladesh's success in the Board of Directors Meeting to be held in December, 2014.

The Bureau of PRM highly appreciated the Government of Bangladesh for adopting the first ever National Strategy to address the issue of Refugees & Undocumented Myanmar Nationals in Bangladesh. She assured to extend full support of the US Government towards implementation of the strategy. She also assured the Foreign Secretary of US' continued constructive engagement with Government of Myanmar to quickly and effectively resolve the problem of Muslims of Myanmar. The Foreign Secretary thanked the US side for its continued engagements with Myanmar. He particularly appreciated US President's insistence that the

displacement of Myanmar Muslims should be resolved within Myanmar as that had its origin there.

In the meeting with Senior Advisor on Development, the Foreign Secretary had an in-depth discussion on the possible areas of bilateral and multilateral engagements with the US Government on Post-2015 Development Agenda. He stressed on the need for US Government's leadership initiatives in advancing the concerns of the countries facing serious sustainable development challenges including climate change impacts on the Vulnerable Countries. He offered possible partnership opportunities between the two countries on issues of mutual development including, among others, combating adverse impacts of climate change, water use efficiency, renewable Energy, technology transfer, and engagements in Blue Economy (Oceans and Seas).

Referring to President Obama and Secretary of State John Kerry's unwavering commitment in advancing the issues of sustainable development including climate change and clean energy both domestically and globally, the Senior Advisor expressed US Government's keen interests in working with Bangladesh as the contours of new global partnership surrounding development issues take shape.

The Foreign Secretary briefed the White House Senior Director on the recent development in Bangladesh particularly the workers' rights and workplace safety in the RMG sector. The Senior Director appreciated the achievements made by Bangladesh in ensuring safety and rights of workers in the RMG sector within a very short span of time and acknowledged the commitment of the Government.
