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Press Release



Senator Jeff Merkley leads congressional delegation to Bangladesh

Washington, DC November 17, 2017:

Bangladesh Ambassador to the United States H.E. Mr. Mohammad Ziuaddin met today with senator Jeff Merkley (Democrat- Oregon), an influential member of the U.S. Senate Committee on Foreign Relations. He is leading a congressional delegation to Bangladesh from 18-19 November 2017. The other members of the delegation include Senator Richard Durbin (Democrat- Illinois), Representative Betty McCollum (Democrat - Minnesota), Representative Jan Schakowsky (Democrat - Illinois) and Representative David Cicilline (Democrat - Rhode Island). During the trip, the congressional delegation is expected to visit Rohingya camp in Kutupalong and the Northern Rakhine State.

The purpose of H.E. the Ambassador's meeting with Senator Merkley was to brief and convince him about Bangladesh's position with respect to the present Rohingya crisis ahead of their visit to Bangladesh.

Senator Merkley and H.E. the Ambassador discussed the issues of ongoing violence in Myanmar, influx of a huge number of persecuted Rohingyas to Bangladesh and its possible consequences.

Thanking the Senator for leading the delegation to Bangladesh, H.E. the Ambassador pointed out the ramifications of the crisis. He stressed upon sustained continued pressure on Myanmar government by the United States and international community to stop the violence and ensure continuous flow of humanitarian assistance to the Rohingyas temporarily sheltered in Bangladesh, as well to those uprooted Rohingyas in Northern Rakhine region of Myanmar. H.E. the Ambassador referred to some concrete steps to be considered by the U.S. authorities to create sustained pressure on the Myanmar government to stop the violence immediately and to take back the Rohingyas to their own homes.

Senator Merkley lauded Bangladesh's humanitarian efforts to the persecuted Rohingyas sheltered in Bangladesh. He expressed deep appreciation to the government of Bangladesh and stated that it had not been easy for any country of the world to give shelter to such a huge number of forcibly displaced people that Bangladesh had done. He mentioned that the U.S. lawmakers were continuously pushing the U.S. administration to take actions against the Myanmar government to end the violence and implement the suggestions of Kofi Annan Commission's Report.

Shamim Ahmad
Minister (Press)