

N Bangladesh Newsletter



JANUARY 2024
ISSUE 09



Addressing Climate Change and Waste
Management



Pioneering Swedish Smart Farming
Technology in Bangladesh

Bangladesh
Embassy,
Stockholm

CONTENTS

EDITORIAL

BANGLADESH STORIES

EMBASSY ACTIVITIES

CONTACT



EDITORIAL

As we step into 2024, Bangladesh stands as a beacon of success under the dynamic leadership of its current Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. In recent years, the nation's commitment to holistic development has become increasingly apparent, marking a transformative journey across key sectors. This promising trajectory positions Bangladesh on the path to a brighter and more sustainable future.

In addressing climate change, Bangladesh's commendable measures showcase a commitment to environmental sustainability. The nation has implemented innovative solutions to address the challenges posed by climate change, demonstrating a forward-thinking approach to safeguarding the environment for future generations.

In pursuance of Economic Diplomacy, the nation's diplomatic efforts have fostered partnerships and collaborations that contribute to mutual growth and development. This diplomatic outreach has not only strengthened Bangladesh's standing on the international stage but has also allowed for the exchange of knowledge and resources.

Gender equality has been a key focus area, with the government implementing effective policies and initiatives to empower women across various sectors. Bangladesh's commitment to gender inclusivity is reflected in the increasing participation of women in the workforce, education, and decision-making processes.

These accomplishments merely scratch the surface of the myriad achievements that underscore the transformative leadership steering Bangladesh towards a future marked by prosperity and sustainability - a Developed and Smart Bangladesh by 2041.

In this newsletter, the Embassy endeavours to disseminate pertinent information to the residents of Sweden, Finland, and Norway regarding the accomplishments of Bangladesh and its people, both within the homeland and abroad. This newsletter also serves as a conduit for conveying the initiatives and undertakings of the Embassy.

Mehdi Hasan
Ambassador

BANGLADESH STORIES

ADDRESSING CLIMATE CHANGE AND WASTE MANAGEMENT: PROBHA AURORA'S BLACK SOLDIER FLY FARMING

Probha Aurora, a climate-based social enterprise in Bangladesh, is dedicated to transforming youth into environmentally conscious individuals with strong moral values. Their mission involves empowering teenagers and young adults to respond to climate change through sustainable skills, career opportunities, and digital access. The enterprise focuses on upliftment – prioritizing climate-vulnerable areas, especially those facing social inequities. Probha Aurora has launched a visionary initiative called the Black Soldier Fly: Eco-Friendly Farming and Nutrition Solutions Farm. The innovative project focuses on sustainable agriculture, waste management, and environmental conservation with a zero waste and circular economy approach.



The Black Soldier Fly (BSF) Farm is located in Satkhira district, a climate-vulnerable region in the southern part of Bangladesh. On May 11, 2023, the BSF was officially launched in collaboration with Bank Alfalah. The program integrates eco-friendly farming practices. Under this initiative, organic waste will be collected as feed to nurture the black soldier fly to yield a type of larvae. The larvae are further used as feed for fish, and poultry, fertilizer for indoor planting, etc. – following a circular economy and circular waste metabolism approach. The BSF, a harmless insect, presents a unique solution to food waste issues, particularly in Bangladesh. The initiative also produces nutrient-rich organic fertilizer, contributing to a circular economy model.

The targets of this initiative are many, including waste reduction, protein source enhancement, organic fertilizer production, awareness and economic impact. The BSF Farm has shown promising early strides in reducing organic waste, laying the foundation for more substantial achievements.



Poultry and fish farmers report enhanced productivity and feed efficiency through the incorporation of BSF larvae into diets. The organic fertilizer derived from waste processing has demonstrated positive effects on indoor plants, emphasizing the eco-friendly nature of BSF-derived fertilizer. Efforts to raise awareness about BSF larvae have garnered interest, leading to potential market demand for BSF-derived products. The initiative has also created employment opportunities.



It is mentionable that BSF farming is also gaining attraction globally, with notable activity in Africa, Southeast Asia, North America and Europe. The initiative in Satkhira, Bangladesh aims to address not only waste management challenges but also contribute to the local economy, poultry, fisheries, and agriculture. Probha Aurora outlines long-term plans, including scaling up waste management, technology integration, innovative farming practices aquaculture expansion, and increased community engagement.

SPOWDI, RURAL SERVICES FOUNDATION AND IMPACT RUNWAY: PIONEERING SWEDISH SMART FARMING TECHNOLOGY IN BANGLADESH

Swedish Smart Farming technology is set to positively impact small-hold farming in Bangladesh through collaboration between Spowdi, Rural Services Foundation (RSF), and Impact Runway. This tripartite partnership aims to empower tens of thousands of small-hold farmers in Bangladesh, transforming them into profitable and resilient food producers.



The innovative Spowdi technology, featuring a patented solar-powered drip irrigation system, promises up to three times larger crop yields with 80% less water, promoting sustainability and profitability. RSF, an established nonprofit in Bangladesh, is instrumental in on-ground implementation, targeting the first 700 small-hold farmers in the initial phase. The partnership plans to roll out Spowdi Smart Farming across Bangladesh, starting with five reference farms that will serve as demo sites and training hubs. The second phase aims to impact a minimum of tens of thousands of small-hold farmers across multiple Upazilas (subdivisions in a district).

Spowdi AB is a green-tech innovation company, founded in 2016, that focuses on the world's most energy-efficient solar-powered drip irrigation system for small-hold farms in emerging markets. Rural Services Foundation (RSF) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to reducing poverty and supporting rural communities in Bangladesh through various programs – including solar home systems, irrigation pumps, cooking stoves, biogas, and agent banking. Impact Runway Bangladesh Ltd is a hands-on innovation consultancy founded in 2022 that aims to bridge climate and societal gaps in Bangladesh through next-generation agriculture, water, energy and climate technologies. Spowdi, Rural Services Foundation and Impact Runway will together enable of small-hold farmers to secure a more profitable food production system in Bangladesh.



Henrik Johansson, CEO, Spowdi

Mashrukh Talukder, Founder,
Impact Runway

Nitai Pada Saha, CEO, RSF

EMBASSY ACTIVITIES

THE AMBASSADOR OF BANGLADESH MET MR. LAURI TIERALA, STATE SECRETARY OF THE FINNISH FOREIGN MINISTRY AND MR. ATTE KALEVA, MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT OF FINLAND IN HELSINKI, FINLAND

The Ambassador of Bangladesh H.E. Mr. Mehdi Hasan had a meeting with Mr. Lauri Tierala, State Secretary of Finnish Foreign Ministry and Mr. Atte Kaleva, Member of Parliament of Finland, besides holding talks with some business people.

The discussions covered the whole gamut of bilateral relations as well as contemporary global and regional issues. The Finnish side expressed keen interest in strengthening bilateral relations, particularly cooperation in skilled manpower import, renewable energy, sustainable and green solutions, IT, trade, etc.



THE AMBASSADOR OF BANGLADESH MET MR. DANIEL WOLVÉN, NEW HEAD OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ASIA, THE PACIFIC REGION & LATIN AMERICA OF SWEDISH FOREIGN MINISTRY

The Ambassador of Bangladesh H.E. Mr. Mehdi Hasan met with Mr. Daniel Wolvén, the new Head of the Department of Asia, the Pacific Region & Latin America, Swedish Foreign Ministry and former Swedish Ambassador to South Korea.

They discussed the whole gamut of bilateral relations between Bangladesh and Sweden, which has grown over the years. Discussion was particularly focused on trade, renewable energy, sustainability, climate, green solutions, IT, etc, and other areas of mutual interest.



THE AMBASSADOR OF BANGLADESH PARTICIPATED AT THE UPPSALA LINNÉ ROTARY CLUB'S "EAT AND MEET" PROGRAM



The Ambassador of Bangladesh H.E. Mr. Mehdi Hasan attended the Uppsala Linné Rotary Club's "Eat and Meet" program, and showcased the diverse facets of Bangladesh's development journey, its vibrant people, rich culture, and breathtaking nature.

The Rotarians of the club showed keen interest in the different aspects of Bangladesh. They also admired the recent success stories emerging from Bangladesh, engaging in an interesting discussion and exchange.

THE EMBASSY OF BANGLADESH IN STOCKHOLM OBSERVED 'THE HOMECOMING DAY OF BANGABANDHU SHEIKH MUJIBUR RAHMAN, FATHER OF THE NATION'

The Embassy of Bangladesh in Stockholm observed 'The homecoming day of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, Father of the Nation' with dignity and solemnity. The events of the day included an open discussion, putting a floral wreath on the portrait of the Father of the Nation, and a special documentary exhibition.





In the open discussion, the speakers highlighted the importance of the day in achieving the ultimate victory of independent Bangladesh, emphasizing the different aspects of the Father of the Nation to the building of Bangladesh. The Ambassador Mehdi Hasan paid deep tribute to the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and urged all present to work from their positions to build Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's dream and Bangladesh's rich in developments by 2041.

THE EMBASSY OF BANGLADESH CELEBRATED NATIONAL EXPATRIATE DAY 2023

The Bangladesh Embassy in Stockholm celebrated National Expatriate Day 2023 with joy and festivity. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from Embassy officials, employees, and the Bangladeshi community residing in Sweden, Norway, and Finland.

On the day, a documentary on the contributions of expatriates was displayed.

The Ambassador, in his speech, emphasized the undeniable support and contributions of expatriates to Bangladesh's economic development post-independence, expressing optimism that, with expatriates' continued support, Bangladesh will emerge as a developed and smart nation by 2041.



The program also included a cultural programme by the Bangladesh expatriates. They performed songs, dances, poetry recitations, etc.

Through the event, the Embassy reaffirms its commitment to nurturing a strong partnership with expatriates in building a smart and prosperous Bangladesh.



THE AMBASSADOR OF BANGLADESH VISITED SCANIA'S HEAD OFFICE IN SÖDERTÄLJE, STOCKHOLM

The Ambassador of Bangladesh H.E. Mr. Mehdi Hasan visited Scania's head office in Södertälje, Stockholm.

The visit included a discussion about technology transfer, sustainability, smart and green solutions in the transport sector, visit to the museum and the factory. Scania also showed interest in working with Bangladesh in this sector, particularly in the public transport sector.



THE AMBASSADOR ATTENDED THE EXECUTIVE LOUNGE EVENT: AID TO TRADE BY SBBC

The Ambassador of Bangladesh H.E. Mr. Mehdi Hasan attended the Executive Lounge event on 'Aid to Trade' organized by Sweden-Bangladesh Business Council (SBBC).

Ms. Johanna Brismar Skoog, Swedish Ambassador, Department for International Development Cooperation, Mr. Rickard Nätjehall, Department for International Trade Policy and the EU Single Market, Mr. Oscar Carlsson, Business Sweden, and members of SBBC also participated in the event.

The event discussed Sweden's new aid policies, strategic approach to Aid to Trade, priorities of the Swedish government, etc. The participants also discussed the graduation of Bangladesh from LDC (Least Developing Countries) status, the challenges ahead and the way forward.



THE AMBASSADOR OF BANGLADESH MET THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF TEKNIKFORETAGEN

The Ambassador of Bangladesh H.E. Mr. Mehdi Hasan had a meeting with Mr. Klas Wahlberg, the Director General of Teknikforetagen. Teknikforetagen is the association of Swedish Engineering Industries which supports the member companies in enhancing competitiveness and promoting technology.

They discussed the industrial growth both in Sweden and Bangladesh, the need for skilled manpower in Sweden, etc.

The Director General showed interest in recent developments of Bangladesh and also in the challenges that Bangladesh is facing in furthering its development and in how Sweden can be more engaged with Bangladesh. The meeting also highlighted the potential to further strengthen bilateral tech cooperation between the two countries.



CONTACT:



004687305850



Anderstorpsvägen 12,
171 54 Solna, Stockholm



www.stockholm.mofa.gov.bd



[@BDinSWE](https://twitter.com/BDinSWE)



[@Embassy_of
Bangladesh](https://www.facebook.com/Embassy_of_Bangladesh)



[Embassy_of
Bangladesh](https://www.linkedin.com/company/Embassy_of_Bangladesh)