



The FSA QUARTERLY

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Dhaka

1ST SDTC & PMIRD HAS BEEN LAUNCHED AT FOREIGN SERVICE ACADEMY

The Foreign Service Academy (FSA) has launched its 1st Special Diplomatic Training Course and Professional Master's in International Relations and Diplomacy in collaboration with the University of Dhaka. Since its establishment in 1981, the FSA (earlier known as Foreign Affairs Training Institute) has been

imparting Special Diplomatic Training to the officers of the Bangladesh Foreign Service. With this new development, trainee officers will also be conferred a professional Master's degree from the country's premier educational institution, the University of Dhaka under its International Relations Department.

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CERTIFICATE AWARDING CEREMONY OF 28TH SDTC



The Certificate Awarding Ceremony of the 28th Specialized Diplomatic Training Course was held on 30 January 2023 at the Foreign Service Academy. Foreign Minister Dr. A. K. Abdul Momen, MP was the Chief Guest of the ceremony, while State Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr. Md. Shahriar Alam, MP was the Guest of Honour. Foreign Secretary (Senior

Secretary) Ambassador Masud Bin Momen also attended the event as the Special Guest. Ms. Tuhfa Zaman Ali, wife of Ambassador Syed Moazzem Ali, former Foreign Secretary, was also present as a special invitee and handed over the Syed Moazzem Ali Memorial Award to the officer who stood first in the course.

MESSAGE OF THE RECTOR



I feel very proud to share that the Foreign Service Academy has moved ahead with the publication of its quarterly newsletter. It opens a new chapter in the Academy's effort to extend its boundaries as an international institution par excellence.

Inspired by the Dream of Sonar Bangla of the Father of the Nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, and the visionary leadership of Honourable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Foreign Service Academy aims to groom smart diplomats for the future.

I thank the faculties of the Academy, the Publication Committee of 29th SDTC and all parties involved for this pioneering endeavour.

I would also like to extend my deep appreciation and gratitude to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, particularly Foreign Secretary (Senior Secretary), Honourable State Minister, and Honourable Foreign Minister, for their constant guidance and support.

The 28th iteration of the Special Diplomatic Training Course was held from March 2022 to January 2023, where 12 young officers of the 38th BCS Foreign Affairs Cadre took part in.

Senior officials of the Ministry, distinguished members of the academia, and eminent persons from civil society graced the occasion with their presence.

1ST SDTC & PMIRD LAUNCHED AT FSA

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Five diplomats from The Gambia, Iraq, Kenya, Maldives and Nigeria along with 11 diplomats from the Bangladesh Foreign Service are taking part in the year long programme this year. These 11 officers belong to the 38th batch of Bangladesh Civil Service (Foreign Affairs Cadre). The 12 officers of this same BCS batch, who completed their SDTC in 2022, are also part of the 1st batch of the program. Thanks to the presence of diplomats from other countries, participants are getting an international environment and exposure in the classroom, which is helping them to prepare themselves for the days ahead. From next year, more foreign participants are expected to join the course. On top of grooming the new officers, this collaborative effort of FSA and the University of Dhaka would contribute to strengthening the relationship between Bangladesh and the participating countries.

INITIATION OF BANGLA LANGUAGE COURSE FOR FOREIGN DIPLOMATS

Foreign Service Academy initiated a Preliminary Bangla Language Course (PBLC) for foreign diplomats in Dhaka and members of the International Organizations from 12 March 2023. At present, 14 foreign diplomats are pursuing the course. The course is being jointly conducted by the Academy and Institute of Modern Language, University of Dhaka.

INTERNATIONAL TRAINEES AT THE ACADEMY



“ Foreign Service Academy is a great Institution of learning that accommodates global diplomats for their capacity building. ”

Mr. Abubakar Aliyu
First Secretary
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Abuja, Nigeria



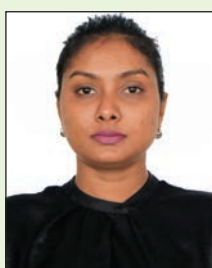
“ The Academy includes a group of highly qualified and experienced people, and aims to improve the negotiation and communication skills of the trainees. ”

Mr. Bareen Amedi
Political Researcher
Republic of Iraq



“ Halfway into the training, the growth, proficiency, & lessons learnt through practice & instructions are immense. ”

Ms. Betty Chelangat
Third Secretary, Ministry of Foreign & Diaspora Affairs, Kenya



“ The program is designed for young diplomats with an in-depth understanding of the variety of issues our world is facing today. ”

Ms. Lamha Saleem
Assistant Director,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Maldives



“ Equipped with the required living and educational facilities, Foreign Service Academy has offered a golden opportunity for me to develop. ”

Mr. Madi Sawo
Protocol / Welfare Officer
The Gambia

TRAINEE OFFICERS' INTERACTION WITH FOREIGN AMBASSADORS

Throughout the first half of the year FSA invited several ambassadors of different countries to exchange views with the participants of the 1st SDTC & PMIRD course. On 7th March Ambassador of Korea to Bangladesh H.E. Mr. Lee Jang-Keun interacted with the trainee diplomats. It is to be noted that, Bangladesh and Korea are celebrating their 50 years of diplomatic tie in 2023. Ambassador Lee gave a presentation on the various aspect of the diplomatic relationship between Bangladesh & Korea. After the presentation he interacted openly with the participants.

In the month of April trainees got the opportunity to interact with several ambassadors. On 6th April during the interaction with Ambassador Mr. Charles Whiteley, Ambassador and Head of Delegation of European Union, trainee officers came to know about different aspects of European Union's relationship with Bangladesh. Ambassador lauded Bangladesh's graduation from LDC and informed the trainees about EU's commitment of continued support to Bangladesh's development after the graduation. On the following day H.E. Alexander Vikentyevich Mantytskiy, Ambassador of Russia to Bangladesh visited FSA. He shared Kremlin's position on the ongoing conflict in Ukraine with the trainees. He also engaged with the participants on global issues.

On 18th April H.E. Ms. Marie Masdupuy, Ambassador of France to Bangladesh shared the experience of her diplomatic stints in different countries with the trainees. During all these interactions participants not only got the opportunity to learn from the highly accomplished diplomats, but also offered their views in the interactive sessions.



OBSERVANCE OF INTERNATIONAL MOTHER LANGUAGE DAY



In commemoration of *Amar Ekushey* and International Mother Language Day, Foreign Service Academy hosted an event on 21 February 2023. State Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Md Shariar Alam M.P, and Foreign Secretary (Senior Secretary) Masud Bin Momen lead a procession of foreign diplomats and Ministry officials to the Shaheed Minar erected at the Academy to pay their tributes.

A discussion on the importance of International Mother Language Day was held after the procession. A vibrant cultural programme followed the discussion, which was made special by the participation of the esteemed diplomatic missions in Dhaka. Participating diplomats and their families presented songs, dance routines, and recitations in their respective languages.

SEMINAR ON INTERNATIONAL MOTHER LANGUAGE DAY

To commemorate the *Amar Ekushey* and International Mother Language Day, Foreign Service Academy arranged a seminar titled '*Language: The most powerful tool that not only preserves and promotes cultural heritage but also bridges nations*' on 22nd February 2023. Four participants of 1st SDTC & PMIRD course, Mr. Noor E Shahan Raz, Mr. Sakib Muktasid, Mr. Md. Arifur Rahman and Ms. Betty Chelangat presented their papers in the seminar. Ambassador Mashfee Binte Shams, and Ambassador Shabbir Ahmad Chowdhury, graced the event respectively as the chief guest and the special guest. Ambassador Asad Alam Siam was also present at the event.

CELEBRATION OF BIRTH ANNIVERSARY OF BANGABANDHU & NATIONAL CHILDREN'S DAY

The 103rd Birth Anniversary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and National Children's Day 2023 was celebrated in the Foreign Service Academy on 17 March 2023. Rector of the Academy, Ambassador Mashfee Binte Shams presided over the celebrations, while Foreign Secretary (Senior Secretary) Masud Bin Momen graced the occasion as Chief Guest.

After paying tribute to the Father of the Nation, a documentary film on his childhood was screened at the Academy. Lively performances by the children of the Ministry officials, along with disadvantaged children from the Programme for Sustainable Development (PSD) School entertained the audience greatly. A monetary endorsement for the students of PSD School was handed over by the Foreign Office Spouses Association (FOSA).



COMMEMORATING FOREIGN SERVICE DAY 2023

On 18 April 2023, the Academy hosted the celebration of the Foreign Service Day. Foreign Minister Dr. A. K. Abdul Momen M. P, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest, while State Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Md Shariar Alam M.P, was the Special Guest of Honour.

A list of diplomats who declared allegiance to the Government of Bangladesh in 1971 was unveiled at the event.



SEMINAR ON BANGABANDHU'S 7TH MARCH SPEECH



A seminar titled '*Bangabandhu's 7th March Speech: An eternal inspirational force that empowers the oppressed people of the world to stand up, unite & fight for their rights*' was held at the Multipurpose Auditorium of Foreign Service Academy on 07 March 2023 to observe Bangabandhu's historic 7th March Speech. Lt. Col. (Retd.) Quazi Sajjad Ali Zahir, Bir Protik presented the key-note speech of the seminar.

Two participants from 1st SDTC & PMIRD course, Ms. Rabita Binte Hannan and Mr. Madi Sawo also delivered their speeches. Ambassador Shabbir Ahmad Chowdhury, Secretary (West), Ministry of Foreign Affairs attended the program as chief guest. Ambassador Mashfee Binte Shams, Rector of the Foreign Service Academy and Professor Dr. Lailufar Yasmin, Chairperson, Department of Intentional Relations, University of Dhaka also spoke at the event.

FSA VISITS MINISTRY OF COMMERCE

Faculty members and participants of Foreign Service Academy paid a visit to the Ministry of Commerce on 05 April 2023. FSA delegation was warmly welcomed by Mr. Tapan Kanti Ghosh, Senior Secretary, Ministry Commerce.

The participants from the Foreign Service Academy had the opportunity to gain valuable knowledge about Bangladesh's trade policies and investment climate, as well as the country's efforts in promoting sustainable trade practices and its interest in bilateral and regional trade agreements.

Ambassador Mashfee Binte Shams, Rector of the Academy, expressed her gratitude to the Commerce Ministry for hosting the visit and acknowledged the significance of such interactions in strengthening economic diplomacy.

SHORT COURSE ON HUMANITARIAN DIPLOMACY

In association with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), Foreign Service Academy arranged a two-day short course on International Humanitarian Law and Humanitarian Diplomacy from 28-29 May. Sixteen participants of the 1st SDTC & PMIRD batch participated in this training. During this course resource persons from ICRC and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs introduced the participants with the different aspects of international humanitarian law, humanitarian diplomacy, protection of persons affected by armed conflict and violence, applicability of



international humanitarian law in peacekeeping operation and maritime security cooperation. Ambassador Mashfee Binte Shams, Rector of the Foreign

Service Academy and Ms. Agnès Dhur, Head of Delegation, ICRC, Bangladesh handed over the certificates to the participants at the end of the course.

PHOTO ALBUM



Presentation of Syed Moazzem Ali Memorial Award, January 2023



Presentation of Book Review, chaired by Foreign Secretary (Senior Secretary), April 2023



FSA Delegation Laying Wreath at the final resting place of Bangabandhu, March 2023



FSA Delegation exploring Bangabandhu Memorial Museum, February 2023



Celebration of Birthday at the Academy, February 2023



Rector and her spouse visiting the overseas trainees during Eid-ul-Fitr vacation, April 2023



*Signing of Concept Note of the PMIRD Programme
October 2022*



*International Trainees explore the Liberation
War Museum, June 2023*



*Leaderships of FSA & DUIR meeting with Vice Chancellor,
University of Dhaka, October 2022*



*Tennis Session at State Guest House, Meghna,
March 2023*



Mid-term Examination at the Academy, June 2023



*Front Elevation of the New Academic Building of
the Academy*

FSA & WIPO SIGNS AGREEMENT

A Letter of Intent (LoI) on Enhancing the *Knowledge and Skills of Diplomats on Intellectual Property (IP)* was signed between FSA and World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) on 04 June 2023 at the Academy.

The agreement was signed by Ambassador Mashfee Binte Shams, Rector of FSA and H. E. Hasan Kleib, Deputy Director General of WIPO. The Multilateral Economic Affairs Wing of the Ministry facilitated the agreement.

Following the signing ceremony, H. E. Kleib participated in an interactive session with trainees of 29th SDTC.



FSA ORGANISES BANGABANDHU LECTURE SERIES



Continuing from the celebration of 'Mujib 100', the centennial birth anniversary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the Foreign Service Academy periodically invites eminent personalities from around the globe to offer lectures as part of the Bangabandhu Lecture Series.

On 12 February 2023, the Academy hosted Dr. Mamadou Tangara, Foreign Minister of the Republic of the Gambia

for a deliberation on '*The Foreign Policy of Gambia, and Rohingya Issue.*' Foreign Minister Dr. A. K. Abdul Momen M. P. graced the occasion as the Guest of Honour.

On 20 March 2023, International Human Rights Activist Barrister Patrick Burgess, Co-founder & President of Asia Justice and Rights (AJAR), lectured on '*Recognition of Bangladesh Genocide of 1971.*' State Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Md Shariar Alam M.P. was the Guest of Honour for the event.



1ST MESS NIGHT OF 29TH SDTC HELD AT FSA



The 1st Mess Night of 29th Specialized Training Course was held at the Foreign Service Academy on 08 May 2023. The trainees of the course showcased their multitude of talents through

musical performances, and poetry recitations. The enthusiastic participation of the foreign trainees lent an air of multiculturalism to the event. A couple of patriotic songs were sung in chorus.

The Rector and the Director General of the Academy offered words of encouragement to the trainees in their speeches. Several senior officials of the Ministry were also in attendance. The event was followed by a sumptuous dinner.



SHORT COURSE ON DIPLOMATIC ORIENTATION

From 14 to 25 May 2023, the Foreign Service Academy organized a Short Training Course on 'Diplomatic Orientation' for Labour Wing officers-designate to different Bangladesh Missions abroad. Eleven officers from different cadres participated in the course.

The objective of the course was to provide guidelines and knowledge to the labour attachés so that they can acquire necessary knowledge, and safeguard the interest of Bangladeshi expatriates around the world. During the course, they received an orientation about consular and welfare activities of Bangladesh Missions abroad, Bangladesh's political and economic relations with other countries of the World, and challenges faced in the working environment of foreign soil.

BILATERAL MEETINGS AT THE ACADEMY

From January to June 2023, Ambassador Mashfee Binte Shams held several bilateral meetings in her capacity as Rector of the Academy. Ms. Katja Lorenz, ICRC's Head of delegation in Bangladesh called on the Rector to negotiate an MoU between FSA & ICRC. Mr. Daniel F. Runde, Senior Vice President of CSIS met with Ambassador Mashfee on 27 March 2023. Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, Secretary General of D-8 called on the Rector to finalize a short training course for the diplomats of the member countries of D-8 at the Academy.



FOREIGN SERVICE ACADEMY ARRANGED HENNA FESTIVAL



The event showcased Bangladesh's culture of colour and festivity. The Programme was held on the first working day of the Bangla New Year 1430. All officers of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Dhaka were invited to the event.

An excellent turnout was observed, and the guests happily waited in the queues that formed in front of the Henna artists. A vendor of 'Kaacher Churi' set up shop at the venue and the guests browsed the wares and bought the trinkets for their near and dear ones.

The Foreign Service Academy arranged a festival to celebrate the tradition of adorning women's hands with Henna on the eve of Eid al-Fitr 2023.

The initiation of this festive celebration may become a tradition of the Academy with time.



FSA EXPLORES BANGABANDHU MEMORIAL MUSEUM AT DHANMONDI 32

On 26 February 2023, faculties and participants of the Foreign Service Academy embarked on a significant visit to the Bangabandhu Memorial Museum in Dhanmondi 32.

The visit was marked by a profound exploration of the life and legacy of Bangladesh's founding father, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, and the sacrifices made by him for his country and people.



FSA PAYS VISIT TO THE BIRTHPLACE OF BANGABANDHU SHEIKH MUJIBUR RAHMAN



Out of respect and admiration for the founding father, the Foreign Service Academy, comprising the participants of the 1st PMIRD, faculty members of FSA and officers from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, paid a

solemn visit to Tungipara on 01 March 2023.

The delegation embarked on a journey through the hallowed grounds of the Bangabandhu Mausoleum Complex, and laid wreaths at the memorial site.

FSA EXPLORES THE LIBERATION WAR MUSEUM



Faculty members and participants of the Foreign Service Academy, visited the Liberation War Museum in Dhaka on 05 June 2023. As the delegates roamed the halls, they were greeted with an enlightening journey through the annals of Bangladesh's history.

Expertly guided through the museum, the visit left an indelible mark on the delegates, reaffirming their commitment to diplomacy, human rights, and the pursuit of global harmony.



FSA EXPLORES PRAN-RFL INDUSTRIES

Faculties and participants of the Foreign Service Academy visited the Pran-RFL industrial complex in Narsingdi on 15 March 2023. FSA delegates were presented with a unique opportunity to witness firsthand the innovative strides made by a trailblazing conglomerate. The CEO of Pran-RFL,

Mr Ahsan Khan Chowdhury, introduced the diverse range of products and services offered by the Pran-RFL consortium.

The Rector of the Foreign Service Academy praised Pran-RFL's transformative impact on Bangladesh's agro-industrial landscape.

OFFICER TRAINEES FROM SSIFS, INDIA VISITS FOREIGN SERVICE ACADEMY

Seven officer trainees from the Sushma Swaraj Institute of Foreign Service (SSIFS), India visited Foreign Service Academy on 4th May. They all belong to the Indian Foreign Service (2022 Batch). Ambassador Mashfee Binte Shams, Rector, Foreign Service Academy had an elaborate interaction with them and Mr. A.T.M. Rokebul Haque, Director General, South Asia Wing, Ministry of Foreign Affairs briefed the visiting delegation



about the important aspects of Bangladesh-India relationship. Participants of the 1st SDTC & PMIRD course were also present during the session and interacted with their counterparts.

TRAINEE OFFICERS OF FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT ACADEMY VISITS FSA



Faculties and trainee officers from the Financial Management Academy (FIMA) paid a visit to the Foreign Service Academy in Dhaka on 10 March 2023.

Faculties of the Academy provided a comprehensive overview of the principles and practices of diplomacy, the complexities of foreign policy, and the significance of international cooperation. The participants of both academies converged with enthusiasm and commitment to foster synergy.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF DEFENCE STUDIES, UK VISITS FSA

A 23-member delegation consisting trainee and faculties from the Royal College of Defence Studies (RCDS), United Kingdom visited Foreign Service Academy in Dhaka on 15 May 2023. FSA organized a short training program on Foreign Policy of Bangladesh and the Academy for the participants from RCDS.



EDITOR'S NOTE



Foreign Service Academy (FSA) has been catering to the professional training needs of the Bangladesh Foreign Service since 1981. Initially used to train only the officers from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, however with the course of time it started imparting training to officers from other ministries as well. In pursuance of its endeavor to transform the academy to an international center of excellence, this year the academy has bundled its flagship Specialized Diplomatic Training Course with the Professional Master's in International Relations and Diplomacy to be conferred by the University of Dhaka. Alongside officers from Bangladesh Foreign Service, diplomats from five friendly countries are also participating in this year-long (January-December) joint program. In this pursuit, we always remain committed to ensure the highest quality and standard of training. Other than conducting different training activities FSA has been facilitating the different national and international events in its state-of-the-art facility. Since our activities have transcended beyond organizing regular training courses, this new quarterly publication will help to chronicle these activities and disseminate them to others.

SSF TRAINEES ATTEND SPECIAL TRAINING AT FSA

A delegation of trainees from the Special Security Force (SSF) attended a special training program at the Foreign Service Academy on 17 April 2023. The intensive training program was specifically designed to equip SSF officers with the necessary tools to tackle emerging security challenges effectively.

By fostering cross-agency partnerships and leveraging the expertise of the FSA, SSF trainees expressed high hopes of becoming adept at safeguarding the nation's interest against evolving threats.



FSA EXPLORES TARASIMA APPARELS & BANGLADESH'S RMG SUCCESS

Faculties and participants of the Foreign Service Academy embarked on a visit to Tarasima Apparels, a leading garment manufacturer on 22 March 2023. The FSA delegation were given a comprehensive tour of Tarasima Apparels' cutting-edge production facilities, their commitment to modern technology, the intricate processes of manufacturing and design, and emphasis on worker safety.

The FSA delegation expressed admiration for the vision and dedication of Tarasima Apparels, which exemplifies Bangladesh's position as a leader in the global RMG industry.



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All Participants of SDTC & PMIRD (1ST Batch)