



**KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA  
NATION RELIGION KING**

**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION**

**JOINT COMMUNIQUÉ  
on the Official Visit of  
H.E. Sheikh Hasina, Prime Minister  
of the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh  
to the Kingdom of Cambodia**

Phnom Penh, 04 December 2017

At the invitation of Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, Her Excellency Sheikh Hasina, Prime Minister of the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh paid an official visit to the Kingdom of Cambodia from 03-05 December 2017.

The Prime Minister of Bangladesh laid wreathes at the Monument of Independence and paid homage to the memory of the great war heroes and heroines of Cambodia. She paid tribute and respect at the Royal Memorial of His Majesty Preah Bat Samdech Preah NORODOM SIHANOUK, PREAH BOROM RATANAK KAUDH, the Late King Father of Cambodia. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina also visited Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum.

The Prime Minister of Bangladesh was granted a royal audience by His Majesty Preah Bat Samdech Preah Boromneath NORODOM SIHAMONI, King of Cambodia. His Majesty recalled the special affinity of the Late King Father of Cambodia towards the Father of the Nation of Bangladesh, BANGABANDHU SHEIKH MUJIBUR RAHMAN and appreciated admiration of the people of Bangladesh for the Late King Father of Cambodia NORODOM SIHANOUK. In this regard, His Majesty welcomed the announcements made by the Prime Ministers of the two countries for mutual naming of a prominent street in the capitals Phnom Penh and Dhaka after the two great leaders.

In an atmosphere of friendship and mutual understanding, the two Prime Ministers held in-depth discussions on wide-ranging bilateral, regional and multilateral





issues of mutual interest at the Official Talks held on 4<sup>th</sup> December 2017. They reaffirmed their commitment to further deepen the bilateral relations between Cambodia and Bangladesh, deeply rooted in the shared historic, religious, cultural and linguistic heritage of the two nations.

Recalling his historic visit to Bangladesh in June 2014, Samdech Prime Minister Hun Sen welcomed the return visit by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina as a 'landmark' visit, and noted that her visit would take the excellent relations already existing between the two friendly countries to new heights. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina termed Cambodia as 'Bangladesh's close friend and important partner in the ASEAN region'. Both Prime Ministers also noted with satisfaction that Cambodia and Bangladesh have developed a strong and mutually beneficial partnership at bilateral, regional and multilateral levels for the sustainable development, peace and security in the region.

Samdech Prime Minister Hun Sen congratulated Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for the spectacular economic, social and human development successes achieved by Bangladesh over the past decade under her visionary leadership. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina also lauded Samdech Prime Minister Hun Sen on his Government's continued successes in sustaining high economic growth, a robust tourism industry and improvements in the quality of life of the Cambodian people. She also congratulated Samdech Prime Minister Hun Sen on the victory of his Cambodian People Party (CPP) in the Commune/Sangkat election last June which was conducted smoothly in a free and fair manner, and wished for the same in the Senate and the general elections scheduled for February 25, and July 29, 2018 respectively. Both Prime Ministers noted with satisfaction the globally acclaimed poverty reduction successes achieved by their two countries over the past decade, and attainment by both Cambodia and Bangladesh of the Lower Middle-Income Status in 2015.

The two Prime Ministers underscored the need and benefit of regular exchange of high-level visits and bilateral interactions that would afford ways and means to review and expand the entire gamut of bilateral cooperation between the two friendly countries. Recalling the formation of the Cambodia-Bangladesh Joint Commission in 2014 headed by the Foreign Ministers of the two countries, both sides agreed that the first meeting of the Joint Commission may take place in 2018 in Dhaka. Expressing satisfaction at the formation of the Cambodia-Bangladesh Parliamentary Friendship Group in 2009, both Prime Ministers also called for regular exchange of visits and cooperation between the two Parliaments.





Highlighting that bilateral trade between the two countries has enjoyed a steady growth of 12% over the last two years, the two Prime Ministers agreed that the full potential of bilateral trade and investment between the two developing economies needs to be further realised utilising comparative advantages and complementarities. In this regard, they noted with satisfaction the signing of the MoU on Rice Trade between the two countries in August 02, 2017, through which Bangladesh agreed to buy up to one million metric tons of rice from Cambodia with agreed terms and conditions. In this respect, Bangladesh hoped that Cambodia would consider importing Bangladesh's 100% environment friendly jute gunny bags for storage of their rice as well as its globally acclaimed pharmaceuticals, ceramic ware and leather crust and finished leather, whereas Cambodia also expected that Bangladesh would consider importing Cambodia's agricultural products namely maize, pepper, dried cassava and cashew nut.

The two Prime Ministers welcomed the signing of MoU on Modalities for Institutional Cooperation under the Joint Trade Council between the Ministry of Commerce of the two countries and also called for early convening of the First Meeting of the newly formed Cambodia-Bangladesh Joint Trade Council (JTC) headed by the two Commerce Ministers in 2018 in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. The Prime Ministers welcomed holding of the first ever "Bangladesh Trade and Investment Conference" organised in Phnom Penh in January 2017 by Bangladesh in joint collaboration with the Ministry of Commerce of Cambodia and encouraged both parties to organize more such conferences and trade fairs in order to increase and diversify bilateral trade. The two Prime Ministers tasked relevant institutions of both countries to explore the possibility of reviewing and renewing the Trade Agreement signed in 2006, with a view to reflect the development and current status of bilateral trade between Cambodia and Bangladesh.

The two Prime Ministers noted with satisfaction the rapidly growing ready-made garment (RMG) export sector of Cambodia and Bangladesh and stressed the need for both countries to work together for securing greater market access for their RMG products in developed countries.

Samdech Prime Minister Hun Sen expressed satisfaction at Bangladesh's investments made in Cambodia, especially in the ready-made garments sector and invited new investments from Bangladesh including in the areas of agriculture (crops, livestock, rubber, forestry, fisheries and fish processing and agricultural contract farming) leather products and IT sector. Highlighting the liberal investment package and incentives offered to foreign investors by her Government, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina also invited Cambodian investments in Bangladesh, especially in the tourism, hospitality and services sectors. In this connection, the two Prime Ministers welcomed signing of





the MoU on Institutional Cooperation on Matters Related to Promotion of Investment between the Council for Development of Cambodia (CDC) and the Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (BIDA). The two Prime Ministers stressed in this regard, the need for greater interactions between the private sectors, chambers and business communities of the two countries for enhanced trade and business connectivity. The two Prime Ministers also welcomed, in this regard, the signing of the Agreement of cooperation between the Cambodia Chamber of Commerce (CCC) and the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI).

Recalling the MoU on Scientific and Technical Cooperation in the area of Agriculture signed between the two countries on 17<sup>th</sup> June 2014, the two Prime Ministers welcomed the formation of the Joint Agricultural Working Group (JAWG) between the two governments and decided that the first meeting of the JAWG will be held in Dhaka during the second quarter of 2018. Stressing the need for deepening technical cooperation between the two fish exporting countries, the two Prime Ministers welcomed the signing of a MoU on cooperation in the field of Aquaculture and Fisheries between the two governments.

The two Prime Ministers welcomed the signing of an MOU concerning the Cooperation in the Field of Labour and Vocational Training between the Government of the Kingdom of Cambodia and the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina commended Samdech Prime Minister Hun Sen for his country's tremendous successes in the growth of the tourism and hospitality industry and hoped for greater collaboration and cooperation in the Tourism sector. Samdech Prime Minister Hun Sen lauded Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for her Digital Bangladesh vision and spectacular progress in universal digitalisation of her country. In this connection, the two Prime Ministers emphasised the need for greater IT connectivity between the two countries and welcomed the signing of the MoUs on Cooperation in the Tourism Sector and Cooperation in the field of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) between the two governments. To further deepen air connectivity and tourism, they stressed the need for early signing of an Air Services Agreement between the two countries paving the way for direct air connectivity between the two capitals.

Paying respects to the similar history of struggle for liberation and sufferings endured by the peoples of Cambodia and Bangladesh including during the Cambodian Civil War and the Bangladesh War of Liberation, the two Prime Ministers expressed solidarity for collaboration to preserve the memories of their national war histories, war heroes, war monuments and genocide museums and create greater awareness for





successive generations. In this regard, they welcomed the signing of an MoU on Collaboration and Co-operation in the Preservation of their respective War History, War Monuments and War Relics between the two governments. The two Prime Ministers also stressed the need to increase cooperation in the areas of culture, religion and education through cultural, religious and educational exchange programmes.

Highlighting their national sustainable development aspirations and recalling the political commitment expressed by their respective governments to attain the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030 under the aegis of the United Nations, the two Prime Ministers reaffirmed their solidarity to intensify cooperation in the sharing of best practices in the national implementation of SDGs between the two countries. In this regard, they welcomed the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding on “Cooperation and Collaboration on Matters related to Implementation of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals” between their two governments and looked forward to collaborative partnership in showcasing their sustainable development successes at the UN and other multilateral fora.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina congratulated Samdech Prime Minister Hun Sen on Cambodia’s unanimous selection as the LDC Group Coordinator under the World Trade Organisation in February this year, succeeding Bangladesh. Expressing confidence that Cambodia would meaningfully promote and safeguard LDCs interests at the 11<sup>th</sup> session of the WTO Ministerial Conference in Buenos Aires, Argentina, she assured Bangladesh’s full support and cooperation to Cambodia during its LDC Group Coordinatorship.

Highlighting Bangladesh’s strong trade, economic and regional security partnerships with the ASEAN economies including with Cambodia under the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) and the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM), Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina reaffirmed her Government’s deep commitment to intensify economic engagements and connectivity with the ASEAN. In this connection, she sought Cambodia’s support to Bangladesh’s bid to ASEAN Sectoral Dialogue Partnership. She also sought support in favour of Bangladesh’s desire to join the Mekong Ganga Cooperation Forum as a co-riparian in the Ganges basin. Prime Minister of Cambodia welcomed Bangladesh’s close cooperation and engagements with ASEAN member states and assured Bangladesh of full support of his Government for ASEAN consensus on Bangladesh’s aspiration to become a Sectoral Dialogue Partner.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina mentioned that hundreds of thousands of displaced people from Rakhine State of Myanmar took shelter in Bangladesh in the last three months. She sought Cambodia’s support towards a durable solution of the crisis.





Samdech Prime Minister Hun Sen lauded Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's extraordinary humanitarian gesture to host these displaced people. The two Prime Ministers called for peaceful dialogue and cooperation amongst all concerned for a lasting peace, stability and prosperity of the region.

Recalling active contributions of both Bangladesh and Cambodia in the 2nd Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD) Summit in Bangkok, the two Prime Ministers reaffirmed their resolve to pursue deeper connectivity and socio-economic partnerships under the ACD framework and decided to organise collaborative events as co-prime movers in cross-cutting issues such as culture, religion and tourism, connectivity and water, food security and climate change.

20. During the visit, the two Prime Ministers welcomed and witnessed the signing of the following bilateral instruments between the two countries:

- i. Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation and Collaboration on Matters Related to Implementation of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (Agenda 2030) between the Government of the Kingdom of Cambodia and the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh.
- ii. Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the Kingdom of Cambodia and the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Concerning the Cooperation in the Field of Labour and Vocational Training.
- iii. Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in the Field of Tourism between the Government of the Kingdom of Cambodia and the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh.
- iv. Memorandum of Understanding on the Modalities for Institutional Cooperation under the Joint Trade Council between Ministry of Commerce of the Kingdom of Cambodia and Ministry of Commerce of the People's Republic of Bangladesh.
- v. Memorandum of Understanding on Institutional Cooperation on Matters Related to Promotion of Investment between the Council for the Development of Cambodia (CDC) of the Kingdom of Cambodia and the Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (BIDA) of the People's Republic of Bangladesh.
- vi. Memorandum of Understanding on Co-operation in the Field of Information and Communications Technology between the Government of the Kingdom of Cambodia and the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh.
- vii. Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of the Kingdom of Cambodia and the Ministry of Fisheries and





Livestock of the People's Republic of Bangladesh on Cooperation in the Field of Aquaculture and Fisheries.

- viii. Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the Kingdom of Cambodia and the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh on Collaboration and Co-operation in the Preservation of War History, War Monuments and War Relics.
- ix. Memorandum of Understanding on Academic Cooperation between Royal Academy of Cambodia and Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies.
- x. Agreement of Cooperation between the Cambodia Chamber of Commerce (CCC) and the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI).

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina expressed her deep appreciation to Samdech Prime Minister Hun Sen and to the people of Cambodia for the warm welcome and gracious hospitality extended to her and her entourage during the visit. She extended an invitation to Samdech Prime Minister Hun Sen to visit Bangladesh at a mutually convenient time in the future. Samdech Prime Minister conveyed his appreciation for the invitation and assured his counterpart a return visit in the future to further intensify friendship and cooperation between the two countries.

Phnom Penh, 05 December 2017

