

## KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA NATION RELIGION KING

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

## PRESS RELEASE Official Visit of Foreign Minister of Bangladesh to Cambodia 14-16 July, 2022

At the invitation of His Excellency **PRAK Sokhonn**, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Kingdom of Cambodia, His Excellency Dr. **A.K. Abdul Momen**, MP, Foreign Minister of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, paid an official visit to the Kingdom of Cambodia from 14-16 July 2022 in order to review and further strengthen the existing good bilateral ties and cooperation between Cambodia and Bangladesh.

On 15 July 2022, Foreign Minister **Abdul Momen** paid a courtesy call on **Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo HUN SEN**, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, during which he underlined Bangladesh government's wishes to promote cooperation with Cambodia, particularly on economy and food security while the world is facing food crisis. He also informed Samdech Prime Minister on the situation and his government's intention concerning the Rohingya refugees issue.

On the same day, Deputy Prime Minister **PRAK Sokhonn** and Minister **Abdul Momen** held a bilateral meeting, during which the two Foreign Ministers exchanged information and experiences on the process of national reconciliation, peace building and socio-economic development in their respective country, sharing the common understanding about the importance of peace and stability as the preconditions for development. The two Foreign Ministers noticed with pleasure the similarity between both countries on several aspects, serving as ground for building and expanding the existing good relations. Foreign Minister **Abdul Momen** praised the high turnout of more than 80% in the recent Commune/ Sangkat Councils election, assessing it was conducted in a "free and fair" manner.

In the ASEAN framework, Foreign Minister **Abdul Momen** sought Cambodia's support, as the ASEAN Chair this year, for Bangladesh's bid to become an ASEAN Sectoral Dialogue Partner. Deputy PM **Prak Sokhonn** assured the Foreign Minister of Cambodia's support, underlining the process that requires to pass through the ASEAN Secretariat's assessment and the consensus among all ASEAN member states.

Foreign Minister Abdul Momen briefed Deputy PM Prak Sokhonn on the situation of the displaced people from Rakhine State, Myanmar that have been taking shelter in Bangladesh and asked Cambodia, the current ASEAN chair, to help in bringing about a sustainable solution to their speedy, safe and dignified repatriation, saying Bangladesh wishes to see the first process of repatriation to happen during Cambodia's ASEAN Chairmanship. Deputy PM Prak Sokhonn made known to his counterpart of the ASEAN's and ASEAN Chair's attention to this issue, stressing that its solution would depend mainly on the solution of Myanmar's current crisis. Then, the Deputy PM touched on the development of the situation in Myanmar, stressing on the complexity and challenges facing as well as the endeavors of Samdech Techo Prime Minister HUN SEN, as the Chair of ASEAN in 2022, and of himself, as Special Envoy of the ASEAN Chair on Myanmar, in pushing the implementation of the ASEAN Leaders' 5 Point Consensus. He also highlighted the main outcomes of his two working visits to Myanmar in this purpose, underlining the remarkable progress with regard to humanitarian aspect and at least to make move the wheel of political process.

The two Foreign Ministers have also exchanged views on other regional and international issues of mutual concerns and interests, during which Foreign Minister **Abdul Momen** sought Cambodia's support for Bangladesh candidature in some international organisations. They shared commitment to support each other on the multilateral fora.

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At the conclusion of the meeting, both Foreign Ministers witnessed the signing of an MoU between the National Institute of Diplomacy and International Relations of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Cambodia and the Foreign Service Academy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh. Foreign Minister **Abdul Momen** has also delivered a lecture at the seminar hosted by the National Institute of Diplomacy and International Relations.

Phnom Penh, 15 July 2022