

Bangladesh High Commission
Canberra

Press Release

(12 June 2012)

The Hon'ble Home Minister Advocate Shahara Khatun MP formally inaugurated the Installation of MRP and MRV facility at the Bangladesh High Commission in Canberra

The Hon'ble Minister for Home Affairs Advocate Shahara Khatun MP today formally inaugurated Machine Readable Passport (MRP) and Machine Readable Visa (MRV) facility at the Bangladesh High Commission in Canberra at a simple ceremony. The Hon'ble Minister handed over seven MRPs, which were processed through the newly installed MRP processing unit at this High Commission. With the inauguration of the work for installing MRP and MRV processing Machines, the High Commission will be able to process MRP and MRV applications from tomorrow. At the opening ceremony the Hon'ble Home Minister noted that the present government under the dynamic leadership of the Honourable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has taken various measures to serve the needs of the expatriate Bangladesh communities. The installation of MRP and MRV facilities at this High Commission bears testimony to that fact and marks a significant step forward in extending hassle-free consular services to the valued members of expatriate Bangladesh community, whose contribution for the socio-economic development of Bangladesh is unparalleled – she pointed out. At the end of the inauguration ceremony, the Hon'ble Minister interacted with the expatriate Bangladesh Community living in Australia and replied their various queries.

Earlier this morning the Hon'ble Home Minister had a meeting with the Hon Chris Bowen MP, Minister for Immigration and Citizenship, Australia at the Parliament House in Canberra and had discussion on issues of mutual interests particularly related to Vocational and Technical Education (VET) and employment of more Bangladeshi skilled workers in Australia. Bangladesh delegation requested the Australian Immigration Minister to lower the assessment level for students desiring to undertake studies in VET from Level 4 to Level 3. Bangladesh delegation also requested the Immigration Minister to employ Bangladeshi professionals in regions with skill shortage as Bangladesh has a good number of highly skilled and experienced professionals. The Australian Immigration Minister praised Bangladesh Government for inaugurating MRP & MRV facilities at the Bangladesh High Commission in Canberra and offered assistance of the Australian government if required. He also thanked Bangladesh Government for implementing the MoU on

Work and Holiday Visa signed between the two governments in 2006. The Hon Chris Bowen MP also recognised the contribution of expatriate Bangladesh community to various socio-economic sectors of Australia. During the meeting the Hon'ble Home Minister was assisted by H E Lieutenant General Masud Uddin Chowdhury, High Commissioner for Bangladesh; Mr Main Uddin Khandaker, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs; Mr Md Abdul Mabud, PPM, Director General, Department of Immigration and Passports; Brig Gen Md Refayet Ullah, Project Director, MRP & MRV Project and Ms Sultana Laila Hossain, Director General (Consular & Welfare), Ministry of Foreign Affairs as well as other Senior Officials of the Ministry of Home Affairs.

Australian Ambassador for Counter-Terrorism Mr Bill Paterson will call on the Hon'ble Home Minister Advocate Shahara Khatun MP tomorrow, 13 June 2012 at the Bangladesh High Commission. The Hon'ble Home Minister will also meet the Hon Nicola Roxon MP, Attorney-General for Australia on 14 June 2012 at the Parliament House in Canberra. Advocate Shahara Khatun MP, Hon'ble Minister for Home Affairs, Government of Bangladesh will depart Australia on 14 June 2012 after finishing her four-day visit to Australia.
