



## **Embassy of Nepal, Dhaka**

### **Press Release**

#### **MOU on the establishment of Bilateral Consultation Mechanism between Nepal and Bangladesh**

At the invitation of Foreign Secretary of Bangladesh Mr. Mohammed Mijarul Quayes, Foreign Secretary Mr. Durga Prasad Bhattarai arrived in Dhaka on 30 July 2012 for a 3 day official visit of Bangladesh.

During the visit, the Nepalese delegation and the Bangladeshi delegation held extensive discussions on entire gamut of bilateral relations. The talks covered to enhance bilateral cooperation in such areas as trade and investment, transit, connectivity, tourism and people-to-people contacts, education, hydro-power and water resources management. The two Foreign Secretaries also discussed on matters of common interests in regional forums such as SAARC and BIMSTC and in the UN. They also discussed issues relating to climate change, migration and issues of concern to LDCs of which Nepal is the current Chair.

The Foreign Secretaries of Nepal and Bangladesh signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Bilateral Consultations between the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of Nepal and Bangladesh on 31 July 2012 at the Foreign Ministry of Bangladesh. The MoU envisages the establishment of a mechanism for regular consultations between the two Foreign Ministries to further strengthen the bilateral relations between the two countries. As per the MoU, the Foreign Secretaries will meet annually to consult on bilateral, regional and multilateral issues of common interest of both the countries. The first round of consultation will be held in Kathmandu in latter part of 2012.

Foreign Secretary Mr. Bhattarai called on H.E. Ghulam Muhammed Quader , Minister of Commerce of Bangladesh at his office on 1 August 2012 and exchanged views on matters of expanding and diversifying bilateral trade between Nepal and Bangladesh.

The other members of the Nepalese delegation were comprised of H.E. Mr. Hari Kumar Shrestha, Ambassador of Nepal to Bangladesh, Mr. Kali Prasad Pokhrel, Under Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Krishna Chandra Aryal, Counsellor of Embassy of Nepal Dhaka, Mr. Harihar K. Paudel, Section Officer, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

The members of Bangladeshi delegation were comprised of Director General (South Asia) of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Ms Mashfree Binte Shams, Director General (SAARC and BIMSTEC) Mr. Sayed Masud Mahood Khundoker, Director of UN Division Mr. Iqbal Ahammed, Mr. Mohammad Jobayed Hosen, Assistant Secretary (South Asia).

**Dhaka, 1 August 2012**