

## Immigration issues highlighted as US ambassador meets foreign minister

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**Dhaka: Immigration and people-to-people mobility featured prominently in discussions as U.S. Ambassador to Bangladesh Brent Christensen paid a courtesy call on Foreign Minister Dr. Khalilur Rahman at his office in Dhaka on Monday, February 23.**

During the meeting, both sides reaffirmed the longstanding partnership between Bangladesh and the United States, built on mutual respect, shared democratic values, and a joint commitment to peace and development, read a press release of the foreign ministry.

A significant part of the discussion focused on immigration matters, including visa processes, legal migration pathways, and strengthening people-to-people exchanges. The two sides emphasized the importance of facilitating legitimate travel for students, professionals, and family members while ensuring orderly and secure migration systems.

Broader areas of cooperation, such as trade, investment, defense and security, and development partnerships, were also reviewed. The upcoming visit of U.S. Assistant Secretary for South and Central Asia Paul Kapur to Bangladesh in early March was discussed, with both sides expressing hope that the visit would further deepen bilateral engagement.

The Rohingya issue also came up during the meeting. The Foreign Minister conveyed appreciation for continued U.S. humanitarian assistance and sought sustained political support for the safe and sustainable repatriation of displaced Rohingya people to Myanmar.

Both sides expressed optimism that Bangladesh-U.S. relations would reach new heights in the coming years through enhanced collaboration across multiple sectors, including migration and mobility.

Earlier, Ambassador Christensen paid a maiden courtesy call on State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shama Obaed Islam, MP, where bilateral issues of mutual interest were discussed.

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