Quarterly Bulletin





Bangladesh International Arbitration Centre

The Institution for Alternative Dispute Resolution

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Encouraged by Bangladesh public policy and growing requirement of businesses to settle disputes outside court system, International Chamber of Commerce Bangladesh (ICC-B), the world business organization and two prominent business chambers of Bangladesh namely, Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce & Industry (MCCI), Dhaka and Dhaka Chamber of Commerce & Industry (DCCI) obtained a license from the Government in 2004 to establish the Bangladesh International Arbitration Centre (BIAC) as a not-for-profit organization.

BIAC formally started its operation on 9th April 2011. It is an ADR service-provider organization, facilitating resolution of domestic and international commercial disputes in an expeditious and amicable manner, through Arbitration and Mediation. BIAC has its own Arbitration and Mediation Rules. BIAC's Panel of

Arbitrators consists of 12 eminent jurists among them 5 are former Chief Justices of Bangladesh and Justices of the Supreme Court. 38 experts and trained Mediators are in BIAC's list of Mediators. BIAC has developed all the facilities required for systematic and comfortable Arbitration and Mediation. Till date, BIAC has handled 267 ADR hearings of 97 ADR cases.

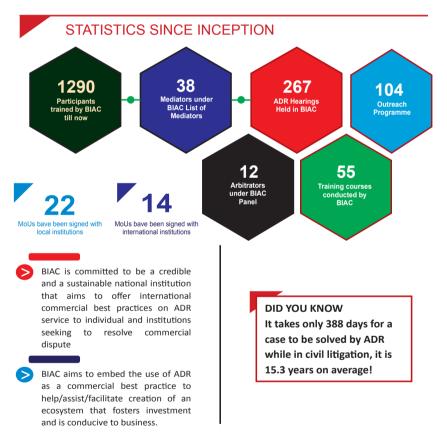
BIAC offers excellent facilities for Arbitration meetings, hearings and Mediation including two state-of-the-art meeting rooms with audio-aids and recording facilities, arbitrators' chambers, private consultation rooms, transcription and interpreter services. BIAC provides all necessary business facilities like video powerful multimedia conferencing, projection, computer and internet access, printing and photocopying. Full-fledged secretarial services and catering service are also available on request.

As the only ADR institution in the country, apart from facilitating Arbitration and Mediation, BIAC also provides training courses on ADR, especially Arbitration, Mediation and Negotiation. BIAC has taken initiative of providing specialized ADR training courses for different sectors, for instance, ADR in Artha Rin Adalat Ain, ADR in Procurement

Disputes, ADR in Human Resource Management and others. BIAC also organizes training programmes abroad jointly with those ADR centres which BIAC has already signed collaboration agreements with. Till date, BIAC has organised 29 arbitration training courses, 17 mediation training courses and 9 negotiation training courses and trained 1290 participants.

From the very beginning, BIAC has been working hard to create awareness about ADR facilities by conducting several outreach programmes, seminars, workshops and dialogues. BIAC has arranged 104 workshop/seminar/dialogues as of 31 December 2018.BIAC has received recognition by signing cooperation agreement with 14 International ADR Centres, namely, The Permanent Court of Arbitration

(PCA), SAARC Arbitration Council (SARCO), Asian International Arbitration Center (AIAC). Vietnam Centre International Arbitration (VIAC), Malaysia Arbitration Tribunal Establishment (MATE), Thailand Arbitration Center (THAC), Singapore International Arbitration Centre (SIAC), Indian Institute of Arbitration and Mediation (IIAM), Hong Kong Mediation Center (HKMC), Mainland-Hong Kong Joint Mediation Center (MHJMC), Hong Kong International Arbitration Centre (HKIAC). Institute for the Development of Commercial Law and Practice (ICLP) Sri Lanka, Bombay Chamber of Commerce & Industry (BCCI), India and Mediation and Consulting Pvt. Ltd., India. Moreover, 22 leading corporate companies, banks, real estate, NGO, universities, law firm and financial institutions have signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to seek BIAC's assistance in matters related to ADR and BIAC, namely,



Green Delta Insurance Company Limited, Building Technologies and Ideas Ltd. (bti), Friendship Bangladesh, The City Bank Limited (CBL), First Security Islami Bank Limited (FSIBL), Dhaka Bank Limited (DBL), Eastern Bank Limited (EBL), Islami Bank Bangladesh Ltd. (IBBL), Mutual Trust Bank Ltd (MTB), IFIC Bank Limited, Mars Financial And Legal Consultancy Limited (MARS), Anwar Group of Industries (AGI), Apex Group of Companies, International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh (icddr'b), RANGS Group, Skayef Bangladesh Limited (SK+F), Summit Alliance Port Ltd., TRANSCOM LIMITED, University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB), Prime Bank Limited, London College of Legal Studies (South) and Rahman & Rabbi Legal.



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The Institution for Alternative Dispute Resolution

BIAC BOARD



Mr. Mahbubur Rahman Chairman, BIAC Board



Mr. Latifur Rahman Member. BIAC Board



Ms. Nihad Kabir Member, BIAC Board



Mr. Osama Taseer Member, BIAC Board





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BIAC NEWS

BIAC represented at a Meeting held at the Ministry of Commerce regarding proposed Host Country Agreement (HCA) with the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA), The Haque, The Netherlands.

04 October 2018

inter-ministerial meeting under the chairmanship of Mr. Shubhashish Bose, Senior Secretary, Ministry of Commerce was held in the conference room of the Ministry at Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka on 04 October 2018 in the afternoon. The subject matter of the meeting was proposed Host Country Agreement (HCA) with the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA), The Hague, The Netherlands. The meeting was attended among others by representatives from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, BIDA, Legislative and Parliamentary Affairs Division. Commission, BKMEA, DCCI, BPC, etc. BIAC was represented by Mr. M A Akmall Hossain Azad, Director.

The Senior Secretary, Ministry of Commerce outlined the purpose of the meeting saying that our Ambassador in the Hague suggested to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) that MoFA should take initiatives in order to sign a Host Country Agreement (HCA) with the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA); such agreement will raise our international profile as an arbitral forum and would also attract more foreign investment in the country. He said that as approached by MoFA, the Ministry of Commerce asked for opinion on the subject from a number of Ministries and agencies, among which so far BIAC, the Tariff Commission and BGMEA had sent their written observations. He acknowledged BIAC's opinion dated 12 July 2018 and lauded BIAC's multifarious activities towards help implement best practices of Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) in the country as well as carrying out extensive networking and training programs at home and abroad.

Director, BIAC, taking part in the discussion highlighted BIAC's activities and achievements in

the recent years including facilitating Arbitration. Mediation and other methods of ADR for the benefit of various economic and business strata in the country: for handling NPLs of banks and quick and amicable dispute resolution by banks, financial institutions, corporate houses, NGOs, etc and trying to raise a human resource base by imparting training on ADR on regular basis at home and abroad as well as organizing seminars, workshops, roundtable discussions with stakeholders from banking industry, legal community, corporate institutions, the civil service and many more sectors. He said that BIAC signed cooperation agreements with14 international ADR institutions including the PCA and with 20 local banks, corporate houses, construction firm, NGO, universities, etc. BIAC will assist the Government wholeheartedly in framing HCA with the PCA which will help achieve the best outcomes in the interest of the country, he said. Director, BIAC hoped that signing of the proposed HCA will accelerate Government's aim to enhance Bangladesh's ranking in the World Bank Doing Business Index. He said that once BIAC receives the draft of the proposed HCA with the PCA, it will share its specific opinion with the Ministry of Commerce. He emphasized institutional arbitration and said that as the only Government recognized and licensed ADR institution BIAC will do its best under the guidance of the Ministry of Commerce after an HCA is signed with the PCA which will definitely increase domestic and regional awareness of arbitration and other methods of dispute settlement offered by the PCA. He opined that strengthening cooperation between the PCA and national and regional ADR institutions including BIAC and facilitating the exchange of expertise should be the main thrust of the proposed HCA with the PCA.



Day-long training on Alternative Dispute Resolution exclusively for students at Bhuiyan Academy

06 October 2018



A day-long training programme on "Alternative Dispute Resolution" for students was organized by Bangladesh International Arbitration Centre (BIAC) on 6th October, 2018 at Seminar Hall, Bhuiyan Academy, Dhaka. The course highlighted ADR in Bangladesh Laws, BIAC dispute settlement clause – "Mediation" & "Arbitration", stages of mediation and arbitration, ADR under Civil Procedure Code and Artha Rin Adalat Ain.

To ease congestion of cases at every level of our court system and to get around complex court procedures, Bangladesh Government has undertaken a number of measures to expedite disposal of cases. As part of these efforts a number of significant enactments has also been passed in recent years incorporating provisions for making ADR as an

alternative method of dispute resolution. But to get results of these changes in our laws we require trained ADR professionals in the country. Barrister Shireen Scheik Mainuddin and Barrister Imtiaz Farooq were the trainers, while trainees were the students of Bhuiyan Academy who participated in the programme. Certificates were distributed among the trainees at the end of the programme by Mr. M A Akmall Hossain Azad, Director, BIAC.

Malaysian High Commissioner Visits BIAC

10 October 2018



H.E. Ms. Nur Ashikin Binti Mohd Taib, High Commissioner of Malaysia visited BIAC on 10 October 2018. She was received by Mr. Mahbubur Rahman, Chairman, BIAC. Welcoming the High Commissioner in a briefing session, Chairman, BIAC highlighted the activities of BIAC and narrated the background of the emergence

of BIAC as the country's first Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) institution. An introductory presentation on BIAC and its achievements was delivered by Mr. M A Akmall Hossain Azad, Director of BIAC on the occasion of the visit the Malaysian High Commissioner who was accompanied by Mr. Idham Zuhri Mohammed Yunus, Counselor. The

High Commissioner lauded the role of BIAC in settling disputes. Ms. Rokia Afzal Rahman, Vice President, International Chamber of Commerce-Bangladesh, Ms. Mahbuba Rahman, Senior Counsel and Ms. Rubaiya Ehsan Karishma, Counsel of BIAC were also present on the occasion.



ASEAN diplomats visit BIAC

14 October 2018



Members of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) Dhaka Committee comprising the envoys of ASEAN countries visited the Bangladesh International Arbitration Centre International Chamber (BIAC) and Commerce-Bangladesh (ICC-B) on 14 October 2018 in the forenoon. They paid the visit at the invitation of BIAC Chairman and ICC-B President Mr. Mahbubur Rahman, who briefed them about

the activities of both BIAC and ICC-B. ICC-B Vice President Ms. Rokia A. Rahman was also present on the occasion. In his remarks BIAC CEO, Mr. Muhammad A. (Rumee) Ali highlighted BIAC's goals and objectives. The members of the ASEAN Committee Mvanmar present were-Ambassador and Chairman of the Committee HE Lwin Oo. Indonesian Ambassador HE Rina P. Soemarno. Malaysian High

Commissioner HE Nur Ashikin Binti Mohd Taib, the Philippines Ambassador Vicente Vivencio T. Bandillo, Acting High Commissioner of Brunei Mr. Wan Hadsic Lutsan bin Haji Abd Latif, Charge d' Affaires of Vietnam Mr. Tran Bao Son and Consul Singapore Mr. William Chik. A brief presentation on the programs and achievement of BIAC was given by BIAC Director Mr. M A Akmall Hossain Azad.

National Consultation Session on proposed Arbitration (Amendment) Act 2018 organized by BIAC

27 October 2018



User friendly Arbitration Act emphasized to attract more foreign investment

Speakers at the National Consultation Session on the proposed Arbitration (Amendment) Act 2018 organized by Bangladesh International Arbitration Centre (BIAC) held on 27th October, 2018 at the Conference Hall of Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI),

Dhaka stressed on the need of amendment to the existina Arbitration Act of 2001.

Speaking at the event as Chief Guest Mr. Justice Shahidul Karim, Judge of the High Court Division,



Supreme Court of Bangladesh said Bangladesh economy that

growing fast and existing provisions of law are not enough to handle business and commercial disputes expeditiously. He welcomed the initiative of Law Commission Bangladesh to amend the Arbitration Act 2001 and hoped that the proposed Arbitration (Amendment) Act 2018 will be user friendly and after passing of the Act stakeholders will be enormously benefitted and more foreign

investment will pour in which in turn will be able to contribute to overall development of our economy.



The Session was presided over and moderated by Mr. Mahbubur Rahman, Chairman of BIAC and President, International Chamber of Commerce- Bangladesh (ICC-B). In

his speech Mr. Mahbubur Rahman hoped that arbitration framework in Bangladesh will be more competitive and attractive for both Bangladeshi and international clients, as soon as the Arbitration Act is amended and made up to date in line with international best practices. It will definitely reduce cost and time of disposal of business disputes through Arbitration, he said.



In his welcome speech CEO of BIAC Mr. Muhammad A. (Rumee) Ali said that the proposed amendment to the existing Arbitration Act aims at addressing the twin and very

important objectives of the Government, 'Access to Justice', one of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to which Bangladesh is a signatory and second, the issue of our very low ranking in the 'Enforcing Contracts' of Global Doing Business Index. He hoped that participation by judges, Government policy makers, the legal academia and legal executives from the corporate sector will be able to agree on important recommendations for bringing about positive changes in arbitral laws.



In the Keynote speech Barrister Khandoker M S Kawsar elaborated as to how Bangladesh can be one of the top Arbitral seats in Asia by 2028. He presented a comparative

study of arbitral statutes in India, China, Singapore, Hong Kong and South Africa. He hoped that the proposed Arbitration Amendment Act 2018 will help Bangladesh grow as a neutral, accessible, predictable and balanced seat of

arbitration where disputing parties from different nationalities will feel comfort to arbitrate commercial disputes in Bangladesh. He also highlighted BIAC's capacity as a unique facilitator of arbitration in the country.



Among others as a Panelist Discussant Mr. Fowzul Azim, Chief Research Officer, Law Commission Bangladesh highlighted the exigencies that led the Law

Commission to initiate a draft to amend the Arbitration Act 2001. He said that the experience of the Act in the last 17 years needs to be reviewed in order to practice arbitration outside the Court so that the overburdened judiciary can function better and especially disputes arising out of businesses between Bangladeshi and expatriate parties can be resolved maintaining international standards. He said that the Law Commission sought opinion on the proposed Arbitration (Amendment Act) 2018 from a number of stakeholders and users including BIAC.



Ms. Mubina Asaf, Head of Legal and External Affairs, British American Tobacco Bangladesh pointed out issues faced by potential arbitrating parties, including cost and time to complete

process, Court's intervention during the process of arbitration and enforcement of arbitral awards.



Mr. AKM Iftekhar Ahmad, Consultant, Green Delta Insurance Co. Ltd. in his remarks said that in policies written on indemnification

basis, the insurer reimburses the insured for claims and Arbitration Clause is there in the Indemnification Contract to assess the quantum of loss. In this regard appropriate arbitral rules are required, he opined.



Mr. M A Akmall Hossain Azad, Director, BIAC in his observation emphasized the need of specific provision in the Arbitration (Amendment) 2018 Act for

execution of its own Award by an Arbitral Tribunal. He also gave a few recommendations on behalf of BIAC for the proposed amendment of the arbitration law.



Dr. Mohammad Mohiuddin, Joint Legislative and Secretary. Parliamentary Affairs Division, pointed out some issues such as, provision for enforcement of

international commercial arbitration and accommodation of foreign arbitral award. There are other problems within the legislation, regarding the appointment of arbitrator, the award and then the cost of arbitrator.



Barrister Margub Kabir, Associate, Hug and Company, pointed out two for reasons the proposed amendment. One is the need of the Arbitration Act to be effective and

number two is, the need of it to be attractive. One of the recommendations he provided was the power to give interim measure and the power to stay proceedings, that is, multiplicity of proceedings should be to the effect that the Bangladesh courts can exercise even in the case of foreign arbitration.



Barrister Forrukh Rahman. Head of Chambers. Rahman's Chambers-Barristers & Advocates, taking part in the discussion pointed out the problem that we have with our laws is that our

people try to make it so that it is final. It could be in the law that the way of conducting the arbitration is given but it will only be one forum and not final. The one that the parties have agreed to go by their clause in their agreement should be final.



Mr. Md. Golam Sarwar. Secretay, Law and Justice Division mentioned two important issues, one is time limit and the other is the cost of the arbitrators. Regarding the

time, it is alright that everybody wants to expedite the process but realization is a major issue. Regarding the cost of the arbitrators it seems an innovative idea and he pointed out that if an arbitration involving 2 crore taka results in 75 lac taka as cost of arbitrators, in that case no one will be encouraged to go for arbitration.



Mr. Golam Kibria, Director (Training), Judicial Amendment Training Institute (JATI), taking part in the discussion said that the time limit prescribed for enforcement of award

is 60 days, this can not be reasonable and it needs to be worked on to be reasonable. If the law provides for a time limit that is not followed then it is pointless. There should be consequences for not adhering to the time limit, otherwise the Supreme Court will say that it is under directory not mandatory and it has no consequence.



Mr. Md. Zilfiquar Ali, FVP, Legal Affairs Division, Dhaka Bank, opined that the Arbitration Act must include a provision on appointing professional Arbitrators. Again, if arbitration

relates to the construction sector, then a professional with expertise on construction matters will understand the arbitration better and this will give parties the required faith in the process.



Ms. Christabel Randolph, Head of Legal, Marico Bangladesh Ltd. in her remarks said that, with regard to appeal proceedings the Act can look at the broader jurisprudence and

see whether appellate proceeding before the tribunal itself can be entertained.



BIAC and ABB had a review meeting on the Draft ADR Guidelines for Banks

29 October 2018



A review meeting between BIAC and Association of Bankers Bangladesh (ABB) was held at the head office of the City Bank Limited on 29 October 2018 on the draft ADR guideline, led by Mr. Muhammad A. (Rumee) Ali, CEO of BIAC. Since the last meeting was held on 31 May 2018 at BIAC the committee has been informed by the Bangladesh Bank that Ms. Munira Islam has been transferred to another department and Mr. A.K.M Ehsan will be taking over her duties and responsibilities towards the committee. Also Deputy Governor Mr. Ahmed Jamal has taken over the duties of ex-Deputy Governor Mr. Abu Hena Mohd. Razee Hassan. In the meantime, the committee has agreed to avail the services of Mr. Kaiser A. Chowdhury in preparing the draft guidelines given his experience in risk management as an MD in several banks and drafting guidelines for the central bank, Mr. Chowdhury had submitted the draft on 26 September 2018 which was circulated to ABB. Subsequently this meeting

was arranged to discuss the draft. Quite a few issues came up concerning the Bangladesh Bank's intervention and therefore, BIAC and ABB have decided to arrange the next meeting with the Central Bank to discuss and if possible finalize the same. Participants of this meeting also included Syed Mahbubur Rahman, Chairman, ABB and MD, Dhaka Bank Ltd. Mr. Sohail R.K. Hossain, Vice Chairman, ABB and MD, The City Bank Ltd. Mr. Kaiser A. Chowdhury, Mr. Shafayat Ullah, SEVP & Head of Legal, The City Bank Ltd. and Ms. Rubaiya Ehsan Karishma, Counsel, BIAC.

training

of

highlighted

ADR

Elements. Importance and Effects of Arbitration Clause; Composition of Arbitration Tribunal; Appointment of Arbitrator: Difference between ad-hoc and institutional arbitration: national

the

Methods.

Courts

One Day Training on "Application and Process of Arbitration" held at BIAC.

30 October 2018



Arbitration: Commencement and conduct of arbitration proceedings, Arbitral Award and its enforcement. This training programme will help a long way in creating a pool of ADR professionals in the country and will popularize ADR methods which will also encourage Foreign Direct Investment to

do business in Bangladesh.

Role

of

The

concept

A day long training programme on "Application" and Process of Arbitration" was organized by Bangladesh International Arbitration Centre (BIAC) on 30 October 2018.



Barrister Mohammed Forrukh Rahman and Barrister Nabil Ahsan were the trainers, while a total number of 16 participants from different sectors including commercial banks, insurance, corporate offices, financial institutions attended this training. Certificates were distributed among the trainees after successful completion of the programme.

Bangladesh International Arbitration Centre (BIAC) signs MoU with London College of Legal Studies (South)

04 November 2018



A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed recently between London College of Legal Studies (South), an Affiliate Centre of University of London International **Programmes** and International Arbitration Bangladesh Centre (BIAC) with a view to establishing a basis upon which both LCLS (South) and BIAC may explore areas of further collaboration in respect of the use of facilities and services provided by both the institutions. Under the MoU both the institutions will be able to exchange information and publications of mutual interest in the field of commercial Arbitration and Mediation and organize seminars, symposia, workshops, roundtable discussions, conferences, awareness programmes and trainings. The MoU was signed by Mr. Muhammad A. (Rumee) Ali, Chief Executive Officer, BIAC and Barrister Khaled Hamid Chowdhury, Head of Laws, LCLS (South).

The Instrument of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between London College of

Legal **Studies** (South) and Bangladesh International Arbitration Centre (BIAC) was Barrister Khaled Hamid exchanged by Chowdhury and Mr. M A Akmall Hossain Azad, Director, BIAC at a simple ceremony held on 01 November 2018 on the LCLS (south) campus at Kalabagan in the city. Visiting BPTC interviewers Professor Katherine Dunn and Dr. Jacqueline Holland, from the Northumbria University, Newcastle Upon Tyne, UK attended the ceremony. Members of LCLS (South) teaching staff Ms. Mariha Zaman Khan, Mr. Maruf Abir and Mr. Faran Md Araf along with BIAC Counsel Rubaiya Ehsan Karishma were also present.

"In the long history of humankind those who learned to collaborate and improvise most effectively have prevailed."

Charles Darwin



Japanese Ambassador visits BIAC

14 November 2018



The Japanese Ambassador to Bangladesh HE Mr. Hiroyasu IZUMI paid a visit to the BIAC Secretariat on 14 November 2018 in the afternoon who was greeted by Mr. Mahbubur Rahman, Chairman, BIAC and Mr. Muhammad A. (Rumee) Ali, CEO, BIAC. Introducing BIAC in a briefing session Chairman of BIAC said that BIAC, as the country's only alternative dispute resolution institution has been trying to facilitate resolution of commercial and business disputes through globally recognized best practices of Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR). He appreciated massive Japanese investment in Bangladesh and Japan's recent approach of building greater economic cooperation with Bangladesh. Taking part in the discussion CEO of BIAC narrated the background and necessity of BIAC's emergence seven years ago and highlighted the activities of BIAC. He also said interested that BIAC is meet local to representatives of Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO) which promotes mutually trade and investment relations beneficial between Japan and other nations and solicited guidance by the Ambassador in this regard.

HE Mr. Hiroyasu IZUMI showed keen interest in the activities of BIAC and hoped that as a neutral and cost effective facilitator of ADR processes, BIAC will flourish in the days to come. The Ambassador said that as BIAC's mandate is to facilitate resolution of business disputes, its success will definitely help foster a developing economy. He also stressed the need of collaborative efforts between the

Government of Bangladesh and BIAC for more ADR friendly legislation in the country.

A brief presentation on the programs and achievements of BIAC was given in the session by Mr. M A Akmall Hossain Azad, Director, BIAC. He requested the Japanese Ambassador to consider recognizing BIAC as a forum for resolution of Japanese investors' trade disputes and highlight BIAC's role in international commercial dispute resolution through the Embassy's publicity/media wing. Mr. Yasuharu Shinto, Counselor (General/ Economic/ Development Assistance) and Ms Anri Uno, Third Secretary accompanied the Japanese Ambassador. Mr. Shinto said that in the absence of any ADR Clause in business contracts by the Japanese entrepreneurs with the Bangladeshi counterparts the embassy will be happy to recommend Japanese parties to go to BIAC for consultation. He was also keen to see that BIAC works closely with Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO) and Japan-Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry (JBCCI). Ms Mahbuba Rahman Runa, Senior Counsel, BIAC and Ms Rubaiya Ehsan Karishma, Counsel, BIAC were also present at the briefing session.

BIAC and CIArb jointly organized International Arbitration Training course in Singapore

19-22 November 2018



A four day long training programme on "Introduction to International Arbitration" was organized jointly by Bangladesh International Arbitration Centre (BIAC) and Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (CIArb) in Singapore recently.

This course led to become Associate member of CIArb, UK which is recognized worldwide. A total number of 20 participants from different sectors including Government organizations, Central Bank, Commercial Banks and representatives from Bangladesh Defense participated in the training programme.

Mr. Chou Sean Yu, Chairman of the Board of CIArb Singapore Branch and Ms. Camilla Godman, Regional Director for CIArb Asia Pacific conducted the training along with Ms. Amanda Lees, former Co-chair of the Asia-Pacific Forum for International Arbitration (AFIA) and a Director of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (CIArb), Singapore Branch, Ms. Hazel Tang Counsel in charge of the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) International Court of Arbitration case management team in Singapore, Mr. Kent Phillips, dispute resolution Lawyer and a Director of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators,

Singapore Branch, Mr. Rob Palmer, Fellow, CIArb and Partner in Ashurst's dispute resolution team in Singapore and Managing Partner of Singapore office and Mr. Kevin Nash, Deputy Registrar & Centre Director of Singapore International Arbitration Centre (SIAC). Participation certificates were distributed among the trainees after

successful completion of the training. Participants will sit for online assessment in December 2018 to become Associate Members of CIArb.

The Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (CIArb) is the world's leading professional body for promoting the settlement of disputes arbitration, mediation and other Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) methods. Founded in 1915, it promotes the use of ADR internationally through 15,000 professionally qualified members in over 133 countries. CIArb is a UK registered organization which works in the public interest through an international network of 40 branches.

BIAC is the first and only Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) institution in Bangladesh and it aims to embed the use of ADR as a commercial best practice to help/assist/facilitate creation of an eco-system that fosters investment and is conducive to business. BIAC has received recognition by signing cooperation agreement with 14 International ADR centres. BIAC has also signed MoUs with 22 local business and financial institutions, NGO, Universities, Law firm, etc. to work together in adhering to ADR practices at home and abroad.



Director, BIAC visits LCLS (South)

28 November 2018



Head of Laws, LCLS (South) Barrister Khaled Hamid Chowdhury in a discussion session held on the LCLS (South) Campus in Dhaka on 28 November 2108 appreciated BIAC's institutional role in training and research on ADR methods in the country. He expressed satisfaction over recent signing of the MoU with BIAC and proposed for organizing a Mediation Training Course in Dhaka sometime in mid of 2019 in collaboration with BIAC and ADR-ODR International, London.

Barrister Maruf H Abir briefed about the upcoming Mediation Training Course to be held in Dhaka on 17-21 January 2019 and to be jointly organized by LCLS (South) and ADR-ODR International and sought BIAC's cooperation in successful completion of the Course. He also said that LCLS (South) will arrange a meeting between visiting ADR-ODR International trainers and Director, BIAC in order to chalk out future programs of mutual interests.

Director, BIAC Mr. M A Akmall Hossain Azad reiterated BIAC's support and willingness to work together with LCLS (South) in general and in the field of training law students and organizing workshops for academicians in particular. He also pointed out that BIAC looks forward to contributing to future training courses to be organized by LCLS (South) and ADR-ODR International. BIAC Counsel Ms. Rubaiya Ehsan Karishma also attended the discussion session.

Presentation by BIAC at monthly meeting of the Shoo-Koo-Kai (Japanese Commerce and Industry Association) in Dhaka

2 December 2018

During the visit of H.E. Mr. Hiroyasu Izumi, Ambassador of Japan to Bangladesh along with Mr. Yasuharu Shinto (Counsellor) and Ms. Anri Uno (Third Secretary) to Bangladesh International Arbitration Centre (BIAC) on November 14, 2018, the Ambassador invited BIAC officials to make a presentation for the Japanese investors in Bangladesh. Subsequently the Japanese Embassy and Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO) requested BIAC to deliver a presentation at the Japanese investors' monthly meeting.

The monthly meeting of the Shoo-Koo-Kai, also known as Japanese Commerce and Industry Association in Dhaka, was scheduled for Sunday, December 2, 2018 at the Grisha Hall of the Six Seasons Hotel at Gulshan, Dhaka. BIAC was represented by Mr. Muhammad A. (Rumee) Ali, Chief Executive Officer and Ms. Rubaiya Ehsan Karishma (Counsel). Over 60 guests including the Ambassador were present at the meeting and Mr. Ali addressed the issue of Non-Performance of Contracts and the risks associated with it. He talked about the World Bank's Doing Business Index from the investors' perspectives and how

they can manage and mitigate this risk by resorting to Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR). Countries like United States, United Kingdom, Malaysia, China, Singapore, etc. have all faced the same problem and have combated the issue by introducing and making compulsory ADR methods such as Mediation and Arbitration. He went on to explain how BIAC came into being and passed the floor to Ms. Rubaiya to explain what activities BIAC is engaged in.

Ms. Rubaiya talked about the services and facilities BIAC has been offering and the projects that BIAC has recently undertaken in association with the Central Bank, Association of Bankers Bangladesh, the Law Commission Bangladesh among other programs. CEO, BIAC Mr. Muhammad A. (Rumee) Ali mentioned that BIAC has successfully facilitated the resolution of a dispute between a Japanese investor and a local agent, via Mediation in 14 hours over a period of two days. He requested that any member of the audience is welcome to contact BIAC and avail our assistance to which some of the investors showed great interest.

One-day Training on Mediation held at BIAC

8 December 2018



Bangladesh International Arbitration Centre (BIAC) organized One-day training on "Mediation Process and its Application" on 8 December 2018 at BIAC. This training focused on the concept of Mediation and its application. The training covered among other things, Overview of Alternative Dispute Resolution, Principles and Process of Mediation. Skills of a Competent Mediator, Mediation under Artha Rin Adalat Ain Civil Procedure Code Mediation under BIAC Mediation Rules.

Certificates were awarded to the participants at the end of the training. Resource persons for this training Barrister Khaled Hamid Chowdhury and Barrister Shahariar

Sadat - both of whom are Accredited Mediators of Centre for Effective Dispute Resolution (CEDR). Sixteen participants from different Banks, law chambers and other organizations participated in the training.

The Ambassador of France H.E. Mrs. Marrie-Annick Bourdin visits BIAC

11 December 2018



Ambassador H.E. The of France Mrs. Marrie-Annick Bourdin visited BIAC along with Mr. Pierre- Henry LENFANT, Economic Counselor on 11 December 2018. Chairman of BIAC, Mr. Mahbubur Rahman welcomed the team along with the newly elected President of the Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI) as well as new BIAC Board Member Mr. Osama Taseer, Mr. Muhammad A. (Rumee) Ali, CEO of BIAC, introduced BIAC and explained how this institution emerged and the reason why it was needed by the business community of Bangladesh. The Director of BIAC, Mr. MA Akmall Hossain Azad delivered a brief presentation on the activities.

achievements and current projects undertaken by BIAC. Ms. Mahbuba Rahman, Senior counsel and Ms. Rubaiya Ehsan Karishma, Counsel were also present on this occasion.



Bangladesh International Arbitration Centre (BIAC) signs Collaboration Agreement with Rahman & Rabbi Legal

24 December 2018



A Collaboration Agreement was signed recently in the city between Rahman & Rabbi Legal, a prominent law chambers based in Dhaka and Bangladesh International Arbitration Centre (BIAC) with a view to establishing a basis upon which both Rahman & Rabbi Legal and BIAC may explore areas of further collaboration in respect of the use of facilities and services provided by both institutions. Under the Collaboration Agreement, both the institutions will be able to exchange information and publications of mutual interest in the field of Commercial Arbitration and Mediation and organize seminars, workshops, conferences, awareness programs and trainings.

Rahman & Rabbi Legal aims at speedy resolution of disputes. The Senior Partner of the chambers Barrister Md. Monzur Rabbi is a Fulbright Scholar on International Arbitration and all the partners of this set of chambers are highly efficient in resolving disputes through Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) methods and they are skilled at both the adjudicative and consensual processes. They have experience of handling a wide variety of civil disputes proceedings. domestic international arbitration. statutory,

regulatory and criminal proceedings in a corporate context and assisting in formulating litigation strategies relating to foreign investments and corporate transactions.

The Collaboration Agreement was signed by Mr. Muhammad A. (Rumee) Ali, Chief Executive Officer, Bangladesh International Arbitration Centre (BIAC) and Barrister Md. Monzur Rabbi, Senior Partner of Rahman & Rabbi Legal on behalf of their respective institutions. The Instrument of the Collaboration Agreement was exchanged by Barrister Md. Monzur Rabbi and Mr. M A Akmall Hossain Azad, Director, BIAC at a simple ceremony held on 24 December 2018 at the office of the Rahman & Rabbi Legal in the city.

"Peace is not absence of conflict, it is the ability to handle conflict by peaceful means."

— Ronald Reagan



International News

SIAC Signs Memorandum of Understanding with the China International Economic and Trade Arbitration Commission

12 October 2018





The Singapore International Arbitration Centre

Under the MOU, SIAC and CIETAC will set up a joint working group to discuss SIAC's proposed Cross-Institution Consolidation Protocol. SIAC and CIETAC will also work together to jointly

Chairman, SIAC Board of Directors; and Zhao

Jian, Vice President, Arbitration Court of CIETAC.



promote international arbitration to serve the needs of businesses. SIAC and CIETAC will hold an annual joint signature event on international arbitration in either China or Singapore. In addition, the institutions will co-organise conferences, seminars and workshops on international arbitration in China and Singapore.

Both institutions will, upon request and where appropriate, provide recommendations of arbitrators to each other, and will, upon request, conduct training programmes for each other's staff. Pursuant to the MOU, CIETAC will also extend the use of its hearing facilities at preferential rates for SIAC arbitrations that are held in China.

Wang Chengjie, Vice Chairman and Secretary-General of CIETAC, said, "We look forward to working closely together with SIAC to extend our outreach efforts to existing and potential users of international arbitration in China and Belt and Road economies." Lim Seok Hui, CEO of SIAC, said, "We are delighted to be entering into this collaboration with CIETAC, and to be holding our inaugural annual joint arbitration event in Beijing to commemorate this special milestone."

http://www.siac.org.sg/69-siac-news/584-siac-signs-me morandum-of-understanding-with-the-china-internation al-economic-and-trade-arbitration-commission



PCA to host Vis Pre-Moot in April 2019

08 November 2018



The Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA), The Hague, has announced that on 8th and 9th April 2019, the PCA will host practice moots to prepare students for the 26th

Annual Willem C. Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot in Vienna. The practice moots will be held at the PCA's facilities in the Peace Palace, The Hague. The PCA is also planning other academic and social events surrounding the Pre-Moot but will provide more information in due course. Over the two days, each team will have the opportunity to plead twice as Claimant and twice as Respondent. Highly qualified international arbitration specialists from a variety of jurisdictions will serve as arbitrators and provide feedback to the teams. All teams will be scored and ranked and each team will separately receive the scores of its

individual oralists. The top three teams will be announced at a final cocktail event.

In the past years, participating universities included among others: Amsterdam University, University of Auckland, Catholic University of America, ILS Law College, Pune, King's College, London, Maastricht University, McGill University, Monash University, National University of Singapore, Pontifical Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro, Queen Mary College, University of London, São Paulo University, Stockholm University, The Hague University of Applied Sciences, Universidad Católica Nuestra Señora de la Asunción, Université Paris 1 -Panthéon Sorbonne, University of Buenos Aires, University of Cologne, University of Copenhagen, University of Indonesia, University of New South Wales, University of Notre Dame, Sydney, University of Sheffield, Utrecht University, and Victoria University, Melbourne.

https://pca-cpa.org/en/news/pca-to-host-vis-pre-moot-in-april-2019/

AIAC Launches its 2019 Edition of the Standard Form of Building Contract and Sub-Contract

28 November 2018, Kuala Lumpur



The Asian International Arbitration Centre (the "AIAC") is delighted to introduce its 2019 Edition of the Standard Form of Building

Contract and Sub-Contract (the "AIAC 2019 SFC").

The AIAC 2019 SFC is a comprehensive unified contract that does away with the distinction between With and Without Quantities. Users can now customize the contract to meet their specific needs. Further, the AIAC 2019 SFC provides an option for the Parties to select a Contract Administrator ("CA"). If no CA is appointed, then the Architect will be the CA. The dispute resolution sections of the AIAC 2019 SFC incorporate the

AIAC Arbitration Rules 2018 and the 2005 Arbitration Act (as amended 2018) and provides for adaptability to the latest tax regime.

The AIAC 2019 SFC will be up and running for customization on the AIAC Standard Form Contracts ("SFC") web portal (http://sfc.aiac.world/). Through the AIAC SFC web portal, users will have the ability to customise, save, store and share completed contracts. Registered users may also save incomplete contracts for later completion. The website is being improved to include a tutorial video to provide the users with a step-by-step walkthrough of customising the contract.

Since the inception of the Standard Form Contracts, there have been 19,000 visitors to the AIAC SFC web portal. Also, a total of 46,000 AIAC SFC forms

have been downloaded with 250 contracts customised. Further, there have been 3,500 road show delegates with over 15,000 copies disseminated and 6 in-house company trainings.

The AIAC is the first arbitral institution in the world to launch a suite of this kind that is suitable for all building construction projects in both Malaysia and abroad as it can be easily adjusted to the needs of a particular user. The AIAC SFC reflects the best international standards and were prepared by the Expert Advisory Committee comprised of distinguished professionals.

testament of our AIAC 2019 SFC is а commitment towards ensuring continuous improvements to the construction industry. That commitment began with the AIAC SFC inaugural launch on 15th August 2017 and was followed by the launch of the AIAC Standard Form of Design and Build Contracts on 3rd July 2018. The AIAC SFC launches serve as an acknowledgement that the AIAC will continue to evolve and adapt in response to the needs of the construction industry to best serve its stakeholders.

https://www.aiac.world/news/271/The-AIAC-Launche s-its-2019-Edition-of-the-Standard-Form-of-Building-Contract-and-Sub-Contract-(AIAC-2019-SFC)

Egypt settles arbitration case worth \$1.75bn with Israel

08 November 2018



The government reached an agreement to settle the international arbitration case filed by the Israel Electric Company against Egypt. The Egyptian Petroleum Corporation (EGPC) and the Egyptian Gas Holding Company (EGAS) were fined \$1.75bn due to the suspension of gas exports in 2012.

A government source told Daily News Egypt that the agreement included a reduction in the value of the fine, which was decided by the International Chamber of Commerce in Geneva in 2015, in addition to the scheduling of payment to begin with the operation of the gas pipeline between Egypt and Israel.

He explained that the agreement has been on soft scheduling of fine to be paid from the proceeds of the gas line and the national network, which will transport and export gas from the fields of both Delek and Noble companies through the Damietta liquefaction plant.

The source stressed that the agreement is the result of the strength of Egypt's position and Israel's need for it because the gas produced from the Mediterranean has no path for export, except through Egypt and its national pipelines.

He pointed out that gas will be moved from the fields to Egypt by the first quarter of next year. The source added that Egypt did not retreat from the conditions announced since 2014, and that he settlement of international arbitration cases and the achievement of the best economic return to the state, are the condition of the export of Israeli gas through Egypt.

The International Chamber of Commerce in Geneva in 2015 issued a decree requiring the Egyptian Ministry of Petroleum through the EGAS and EGPC to pay compensation to the Eastern Mediterranean Gas Company worth \$288m, along with another ruling fining Egypt \$1.7m to the Israeli electricity company.

The source pointed out that the Egyptian liquefaction plants are a major hub in the Mediterranean region for the export of 1.88bn feet per day of gas to the European markets, in addition to a national network for the transportation of natural gas within Egypt with a capacity of 9bn feet per day.



Egypt achieved self-sufficiency of gas domestically and total production rose to about 6.8bn cubic feet per day, compared to the market needs estimated at 6.3bn feet of gas per day.

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https://dailynewsegypt.com/2018/11/21/egypt-settles-ar bitration-case-worth-1-75bn-with-israel/

"'Mediation is one of the most effective tools of non-violence. It can turn parties away from conflict, towards compromise."

— Miroslav Lajcak



Articles



Alternative Dispute Resolution: Challenges and some Recommendations.

From a paper presented by

Muhammad A. (Rumee) Ali

CEO, BIAC

At Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs,

Gurgaon, New Delhi, India, on 25 March, 2018.

If I were to describe at the Scope of Mediation in Commercial Disputes in Bangladesh in a sentence I would say; "We have just started, we have a long way to go and the best is yet to come".

Although formal institutional mediation appears in our quasi judicial landscape fairly recently, but we have a rich tradition of mediation in our cultural heritage. Rural communities historically accepted mediation of the village elders in all disputes, both family and commercial ones too. The Bangla word for the mediation/conciliation/arbitration process is "shalishi" which has Persian origin, indicating its antiquity from the early Muslim rule in the subcontinent. The breakdown of the existing power structures in rural Bangladesh after the emergence of British colonial rule significantly weakened this process to the extent that more and more the rural and urban community has moved to the formal judicial system. The colonial rulers introduced the formal legal system as a part of establishing their dominance in the country. Over time the demands on the judicial system increased with rising living standards and awareness but there was very little concurrent overall capacity systems or enhancement to take care the increased demand. This has inevitably, created a huge capacity and 'access to justice' issue for the country.

The reason why I went into a bit of history was to explain the reason why Bangladesh unfortunately

finds itself ranked very low in the Doing Business Index of World Bank, particularly in the area of "Enforcement of Contracts". An analysis shows that the main reason is the time, 1442 days to resolve a commercial dispute and the cause is the monumental back log of outstanding cases with more being added each year. Of course, it is within the domain of the policy makers to increase capacity to the extent it can bring the resolution time to lower levels, but it is time consuming and expensive more importantly, judges cannot be created by just appointing a person to the position. Similar situations in many countries have been addressed through extensive use of 'out of court' mediation processes.

To cover the scope and potential commercial mediation in Bangladesh we need to find out:

First, is the present regulatory and legal infrastructure conducive to application of mediation

Second, how much of the existing infrastructure is being used and the reasons why it is not being used.

Third who are using it and what has been their experience and Finally, what are the areas we need to look at or change for mainstreaming mediation.

The significant laws that have formal Commercial Mediation in the structure are the following:



- Money Loans Court Act 2003 (amended in 2010)
- Civil Procedure Code (CPC) 1908 (amended in 2012)
- Mediation in Customs, VAT, Income Tax laws
- Insurance Act 2010
- Bangladesh Labor Act 2006

At present the reality is; except in the family courts mediation as mooted in the above laws' has not yet been successful in creating an impact. Mostly, as the a part of the process, the Money Loans Court observes the 60 days period prescribed by the Act to obtain the 'no results' certification, for the case to continue on the judicial process.

In the case of CPC which makes it mandatory for parties to attempt to mediate for resolution is not being used as the procedures under CPC has not been formalized.

There has been some very limited successes in the VAT and Income Tax Act mediation process

To look for an answer to the question why there has been very little success so far, I would like to propose the following:

- 1. The main feature of all these Acts is that the mediation takes place at the direction of the court after the cases are filed. This means that parties to the dispute have essentially taken adversarial position and less likely to come to an understanding.
- 2. There is nothing in these acts that takes into cognizance a pre-litigation mediation process.
- 3. No formal recognition of an institutional rule based mediation as a better alternative to non institutional one.
- 4. And very a important issue is the power imbalance between the parties means a consensual process can be and often is abrogated by the more powerful party without consequences.

- I would like to end my paper with the recommendations we have made to the policy makers on what we consider are the key success drivers for effective commercial mediation in Bangladesh:
- 1. Mediation is included in many of our legislations, however, the law must be amended to provide for and take cognizance of pre-litigation mediation.
- 2. Mediation provisions in our legislation in Sec 89 of CPC as amended in 2012, only envisage what can be done in the event a dispute arises, however, the rules for their implementation have not been enacted to lay down the process, thus impeding implementation. For expedited dispute resolution institution for Mediation, such as BIAC can offer its rules and be an appointing authority as an accredited institution.
- 3. The Money Loans Court Act 2003 needs amendment to include the provision of cognizance of pre litigation preferably through an institutional mediation. Effective mediated settlement in money dispute and reduce the burden for both the courts and the financial institutions.
- 4. We have about 10 judges per million which is insufficient. Our judges and legal professionals have need to appreciate the benefits that can come through mediation. This can be changed through awareness, training and appreciation of the merits of mediation.
- 5. For Mediation to be successful there should be a balance of power between the parties involved. Provisions to address this imbalance suitably need to be examined. Penalty provisions to address stalling tactics by one party can be introduced.
- 6. BIAC or similar institutions may be utilized as the third party neutral platform on a pilot basis to deal with Mediation outside court system. All organizations should incorporate ADR Clause in the commercial contracts with the provision of Mediation under an institutional framework with Rules to administer these processes like BIAC.





Why Most Muslim Societies are Lagging behind in Adopting ADR and Arbitration Mechanisms in **Their National Justice Systems?**

Md. Maimul Ahsan Khan

Professor of Law, Green University Bangladesh and University of Dhaka. Former Chairman, Department of Law, University of Dhaka. Fulbright Fellow and Country Specialist on Afghanistan for Amnesty International-USA (2000-2006)

Founding Prime Minister of India and the author of The Discovery of India, Pandit Nehru has demonstrated in his this renowned book that prior to the British colonization, in Murshidabad both Hindu and Muslim communities loved to take most of their legal and economic disputes to the mediators and arbitrators, majority of whom belonged to the Muslim communities.

Muslim Kadis had very few cases to deal with. Those informal justice systems were not simply an addition to the government-sponsored court system; they were kind of parallel justice system with all kinds of prudence, fairness, and little time consuming judicial procedure having wider acceptability and effectiveness.

Court-systems under all colonial legal regimes did maintain many anti-people character and served predominantly the interests of the colonizers. Most Muslim Nation-states had to adopt the court procedure left behind by the colonial rulers. Mahatma Gandhi being a British trained Barrister in many ways warned his friends and adversaries that colonial concepts of justice and colonial minded judges and lawyers would fail many countries in post-colonial era simply because of their wrong perceptions of justice.

Mahatma Gandhi had been insisting both Mr. Jinnah and Pundit Nehru that they should not allow London to go for partition of Indian territories, which witnessed the most bloody riots of the entire mankind. Any kind of federation or

confederation of the entire sub-continent could be the best course for avoiding the colonial legal and judicial systems and replace them by home-grown methodologies along with traditional systems of ADR and Arbitration.

All forms of ADR have been getting a stronger currency all over the world. Unfortunately Muslim countries are lagging far behind. We can find many causes for this bad situation with ADR and Arbitration in the Muslim world. However, some of the reasons are ingrained with poor higher education and ill tempered ruling and political elite. cultural and educational other words, backwardness is the prime cause of weak judicial, ADR and Arbitration systems running through the Muslim World.

However, some countries, specially country like Bangladesh can make a very quick come back in adopting new methodologies of ADR and Arbitration for meeting the need of new foreign investments and mixed migration of labor forces across the globe. For that we don't need to discover the wheels of ADR and Arbitration. We need to follow the model of Arbitration laws adopted under the auspicious UN and other international Arbitration centers such as New York, Singapore, Hong Kong, London, Beijing, Berlin, KL, and many others. Making a home-grown system is of paramount importance that cannot be done without innovative ideas and many commercial and business nuances.



BIAC's Upcoming Events

Organization	Events	Date	Venue
Bangladesh International Arbitration Centre (BIAC)	Get together of participants of training/Conferences	17 January 2019	BIAC
Bangladesh International Arbitration Centre (BIAC)	Training Course on ADR for Students	29 January 2019	BIAC
Bangladesh International Arbitration Centre (BIAC)	Dialogue with Academicians on Alternative Dispute Resolution	31 January 2019	ICC-B
Bangladesh International Arbitration Centre (BIAC)	Meeting with Participants from Arbitration and Mediation Training	2 nd week of February 2019	BIAC
Bangladesh International Arbitration Centre (BIAC)	Meeting with Print Media	3 rd Week of February 2019	BIAC
Bangladesh International Arbitration Centre (BIAC)	Workshop with SARCO	23 February 2019	Hotel Sonargaon Dhaka
Bangladesh International Arbitration Centre (BIAC)	Meeting with Participants from Arbitration and Mediation Training programmes	2 nd Week of March 2019	BIAC
Bangladesh International Arbitration Centre (BIAC)	Training on Negotiation	4 th Week of March 2019	BIAC





Bangladesh International Arbitration Centre

The Institution for Alternative Dispute Resolution

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