

# Press Releases: Under Secretary Shannon's Meeting With Bangladeshi Foreign Secretary Shahidul Haque

Media Note  
Office of the Spokesperson

Washington, DC  
November 5, 2017

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As part of the continuing U.S.-Bangladesh Partnership Dialogue, Under Secretary for Political Affairs Thomas Shannon met with Bangladeshi Foreign Secretary Shahidul Haque today in Dhaka, where they discussed further strengthening the U.S.-Bangladesh political, economic and energy partnership, counterterrorism cooperation, the nuclear threat from North Korea, and U.S. assistance for Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh. The United States recognized Bangladesh's central role in maintaining a free and open Indo-Pacific.

During the meeting, Under Secretary Shannon thanked the government of Bangladesh for its generosity in responding to the refugees fleeing Burma's Rakhine State, and expressed appreciation for its continued efforts to ensure assistance reaches the affected population. He noted that we call on Bangladeshi and Burmese officials to continue developing a framework for the safe and voluntary return of Rohingya communities to Burma and that we urge rapid and complete implementation of the Annan Commission's recommendations.

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# [Press Releases: Tonga National Day](#)

Press Statement  
Rex W. Tillerson

Secretary of State

Washington, DC  
November 3, 2017

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On behalf of the Government of the United States of America, we offer congratulations to the people of Tonga to commemorate the anniversary of the adoption of your nation's constitution on November 4th, 1875.

The United States and the Kingdom of Tonga have enjoyed a long-standing partnership based on shared values and close cooperation on matters ranging from improving maritime security to enhancing law enforcement cooperation. Over the decades, we have found opportunities to partner through the work of the U.S. Peace Corps, which this year marks its fiftieth anniversary in Tonga, and through the contributions of Tongans residing in the United States. We have enriched our economies through trade, and better secured maritime resources.

As a close friend and partner, the United States celebrates with you on this special day.

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## [Press Releases: Deputy Secretary](#)

# Sullivan Address in Support of the Minnesota-USA 2023 Expo Bid

Notice to the Press  
Office of the Spokesperson

Washington, DC  
November 3, 2017

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As announced on October 26, Deputy Secretary of State John J. Sullivan will travel to Paris, France to address the 162nd Bureau of International Expositions (BIE) General Assembly in support of the United States' bid to host the 2023 World's Fair in Minnesota (see [video](#) and [transcript](#) of announcement).

The United States is one of three countries competing to host the 2022/2023 World's Fair. Minnesota's proposed specialized exposition would take place between May and August 2023 under the banner "Healthy People, Healthy Planet" focusing on health, wellness, and medical technology. The member states of the BIE, an international organization based in Paris, will select the host city during its General Assembly on November 15. The United States is once again a member of the BIE, following the passage of legislation signed by President Trump on May 8, 2017 (P.L. 115-32).

*Media interested in attending the 162nd General Assembly of the BIE may request accreditation until November 7 through the BIE accreditation [form](#) available on the BIE [website](#).*

For further information on the United States' bid to host the 2023 Expo please visit <http://expo2023.info/> or [@Expo\\_2023](#) on Twitter. For more information about covering the November 15 vote in Paris, please contact the State Department's Office of Press Relations, 202-647-2492.

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## **Press Releases: Dominica Independence Day**

Press Statement  
Rex W. Tillerson

Secretary of State

Washington, DC  
November 3, 2017

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On behalf of the United States, we offer our best wishes to the people of Dominica as you celebrate 39 years of independence.

The United States celebrates with the people of Dominica today and recognizes your resilient spirit, which was demonstrated to the world in the aftermath of the recent hurricanes. Our countries have enjoyed a long history rooted in shared goals and mutual respect, which continue to be hallmarks of our bilateral relationship. The United States is committed to Dominica through this period of recovery and we look forward to strengthening our bonds under the framework of the Caribbean 2020 diplomatic engagement strategy.

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## **Press Releases: Under Secretary Shannon to Travel to Bangladesh and**

# Sri Lanka

Media Note  
Office of the Spokesperson

Washington, DC  
November 3, 2017

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Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs Thomas A. Shannon will visit Dhaka, Bangladesh, and Colombo, Sri Lanka, November 5–7. While in Dhaka, November 5–6, Under Secretary Shannon will co-lead the U.S.-Bangladesh Partnership Dialogue and discuss bilateral, regional, and global issues, including the Rohingya crisis, with government and non-government officials.

Under Secretary Shannon will then travel to Colombo on November 6, where he will co-lead the U.S.-Sri Lanka Partnership Dialogue and meet with government and non-government officials. Follow the Under Secretary's travel via @StateDept and @State\_SCA on Twitter and go to the Department's Flickr account for the latest trip photos.

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