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## Ministry of Foreign Affairs Royal Government of Bhutan

4 April 2019

## **Press Release**

Ms. Saima Wazed Hossain, the Chairperson of Shuchona Foundation, is in Bhutan to hold consultations with the Ministry of Health on the draft strategy document to address Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) and Neurodevelopment Disorders (NDDs).

Ms. Saima, who is a school psychologist, is a leading expert in ASD and NDDs, and has won numerous international accolades for her pioneering work to raise awareness on ASDs and NDDs in Bangladesh as well as throughout the world.

During the visit, Ms. Saima called on the Hon'ble Prime Minister, the Foreign Minister, and the Health Minister, and met numerous stakeholders in Bhutan.

Shuchona Foundation is a not-for profit advocacy, research and capacity-building organization specializing in neurodevelopmental disorders and mental health, located in Dhaka, Bangladesh. Established in 2014, it aims to provide a new beginning for people who suffer because their disabilities prevent them from inclusion in the country's economic development.

In collaboration with Shuchona Foundation, ABS, WHO and the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare of Bangladesh, the Royal Government of Bhutan hosted a three-day International Conference on Autism and Neuro-Development Disorders in April 2017.

Department of Bilateral Affairs Ministry of Foreign Affairs