

***Staff Reporter***

Foreign Minister AH Mahmood Ali on Sunday said he and his New Zealand counterpart Murray McCully have agreed to further widen and strengthen bilateral relations between Bangladesh and New Zealand after discussing matters of mutual interests.

During a meeting held on the sidelines of the Asean Regional Forum (ARF) Meeting in Myanmar's capital Nay Pyi Taw, the two Foreign Ministers also discussed the issue of purchasing a ferryboat by New Zealand from Bangladesh.

The New Zealand Foreign Minister also conveyed an invitation of the New Zealand Prime Minister to the Bangladesh Prime Minister to visit New Zealand early next year.

McCully appreciated the positive contributions made by the Bangladesh community in his country, especially in its socioeconomic development.

Mahmood Ali recalled with gratitude the valuable support and contributions of the people and government of New Zealand during Bangladesh's Liberation War in 1971 and the post-independence period.

The Foreign Minister was attending the two-day ARF meeting being held in Nay Pi Taw that began on August 9.