



Bangladesh celebrates 52nd Victory Day



Bangladesh on December 16 celebrated the 52nd Victory Day, the most precious day of the Bangalee nation, in a befitting manner.

On this day in 1971, Bangladesh was born as an independent country under the leadership of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at the cost of supreme sacrifice of three million people and the honour of nearly half a million women.

On the occasion, President Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina paid homage to the martyrs of the Liberation War by placing wreaths at the National Memorial at Savar in the morning.

Later, leaders of other political and socio cultural organisations placed wreaths at the National Memorial to show respect for the memories of the war martyrs.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina went to Dhanmondi Road No 32 in the capital and laid separate wreaths, as Prime Minister and the AL President, at the portrait of the Father of the Nation in front of Bangabandhu Memorial Museum.

Besides, the programmes taken at the national level marking the 'Victory Day' included a 31-gun salute, placing of wreaths at the monuments to pay homage to martyrs, and hoisting of the national flag atop all government, semi-government and private offices as well as offices of autonomous bodies across the country.

The victory day programmes also included decorating city streets with miniature national flags and colourful festoons, and illuminating important buildings and establishments, roads and street islands at night.

Contingents of the Bangladesh Army, Navy and Air Force as well as Freedom Fighters, Paramilitary forces and law enforcement agencies participated in the parade held at the National Parade Square in the city.

President Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina attended the parade at the National Parade Ground marking Victory Day.

Receptions were accorded to valiant freedom fighters and family members of martyrs at city, upazila and district levels.

Special prayers were offered at mosques and other places of worship, seeking eternal peace of the departed souls of the martyrs of the Liberation War and peace, progress and prosperity of the country.

Source: <https://www.bssnews.net/news-flash/100465>

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina seeks people's help to overcome global crisis, resist anti-state intrigues

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has alerted the countrymen about anti-state plots being hatched by local and foreign conspirators, urging them (people) to help her government overcome the current global crisis stemming from the Covid-19 pandemic and the Russia-Ukraine war.



"Crisis will come. Getting afraid of a crisis is not right. We have successfully faced the coronavirus pandemic with the help of the people. InshaAllah, we will also overcome the global recession. We are seeking cooperation from you for that," she said in a televised address to the nation on December 15 on the eve of the great Victory Day.

In her 23-minute speech, the Prime Minister said, "Local and foreign conspirators are becoming active. But the country has identified them and no conspiracy can mislead the people."

Describing the Awami League as the people's government, she said her government's main target is to work for the welfare of the masses.

The Premier said 51 years have passed since Bangladesh's independence and her government has been tirelessly working to build "Sonar Bangladesh", free from poverty, hunger and communalism as envisioned by Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

"Let's take an oath being inspired by the spirit of the Liberation War on this Victory Day to take ahead the journey of Bangladesh's development overcoming all the conspiracies," she said.

Source: <https://www.bssnews.net/news-flash/100288>

Bangladesh enters into metro rail era: Another feather added to the crown of Bangalees' pride: Prime Minister



Bangladesh has entered into metro rail era as Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on December 28 inaugurated the country's first ever elevated metro rail, setting another milestone in the country's development history after opening the dream Padma Bridge.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina opened the 11.73 km part of the Mass Rapid Transit (MRT) Line-6 of the much-awaited metro rail project from Diabari to Aqarqan by unveiling its plaque at Diabari in the city. Prime Minister's younger sister Sheikh Rehana was present at the function.

She later addressed a civic rally at the Diabari Playground in Uttara to mark the opening of the metro rail.

Addressing the rally, the Premier said another feather was added to the crown of Bangalee's pride and Bangladesh's development with the opening of country's first-ever metro rail, vowing to build a prosperous "Smart Bangladesh" by 2041 confronting all odds.

"One more feather after the Padma Bridge was added to the Journey of Bangladesh's development with inaugurating the metro rail," she said.

The Prime Minister said her government has brightened the country's image across the globe by building the Padma Bridge with own finances.

With the opening of the metro rail, the country has entered into the electric, remote controlled and fastest ever communication era, she added.

The Prime Minister took the first official ride of the Metro Rail from Diabari of Uttara to Aqarqan after buying a ticket. Mariam Afiza was the first operator of the metro train as the general people started riding it from December 29.

With the opening of the metro rail, Bangladesh embarked on a new era of commuting with a new mode of transport as it will reduce immensely the public sufferings by transporting more passengers in limited time with providing comfort to the commuters.

Traffic congestion in the capital will be eased significantly after complete operation of the metro rail alongside increasing revenue collection.

Initially, the metro train will run from 8 am to 12 noon every day from Uttara to Aqarqan stations without any break. The government-owned company DMTCL is implementing the metro rail projects.

Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) has been constructing the metro rail and providing soft loan for the project.

The construction work of the MRT Line-6 began in 2016. The second section of metro rail from Aqarqan to Motijheel and the third section from Motijheel to Kamalapur railway station will be launched in phases.

The metro rail from Aqarqan to Motijheel will be introduced in December next year. It will be able to carry 60 thousand passengers per hour and half a million passengers per day and the trains will arrive at each station every four minutes.

Source: <https://www.bssnews.net/news-flash/102302>

US greets Bangladesh for opening its first-ever Metro Rail

The United States has congratulated Bangladesh for inaugurating the country's first-ever Metro Rail.



"We want to give a special shoutout to the six female metro train operators, including Maryam Afiza," the US Embassy in Dhaka said on its verified Facebook page on December 28.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on December 28 inaugurated the country's first-ever elevated metro rail, setting another milestone in the country's communication history between a span of six-month after opening the dream Padma Bridge.

She opened the 11.73 km part of the Mass Rapid Transit (MRT) Line-6 of the much-anticipated metro rail project from Diabari to Aqarqan by unveiling its plaque at Diabari in the city.

Source: <https://www.dhakatribune.com/dhaka/2022/12/28/us-embassy-greets-bangladesh-for-inaugurating-the-countrys-first-ever-metro-rail>

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina reelected AL President



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has been reelected as President of Awami League (AL) for the 10th consecutive time in the 22nd National Council of the party on December 24.

Obaidul Quader was reelected to the post AL General Secretary for the third consecutive term.

They were reelected for the next three years at the second session of the national council in the auditorium of Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh (IEB) in Dhaka.

Earlier, a three-member election commission was formed to conduct the council.

Awami League President and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina inaugurated the 22nd national council of one of the sub-continent's largest political parties, Bangladesh Awami League in the morning.

She opened the council by hoisting the national flag and releasing pigeons and balloons at 10.30am at the historic Suhrawardy Udyan, amid tight security. As many as 7000 councilors joined the council session of the Awami League.

Source: <https://www.bssnews.net/news-flash/101785>

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina seeks international partners' support to implement National Adaptation Plan

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has urged the international partners to support the efforts of Bangladesh to implement its National Adaptation Plan (NAP) for 2023-2050 which requires a total of US\$ 230 billion.



"We shall need 230 billion US dollars for implementing our NAP from both domestic and international resources. Bangladesh continues to seek a 50-50 distribution between adaptation and mitigation from international climate financing," she said.

The Premier said this while opening the Global Hub on Locally Led Adaptation at Foreign Service Academy in Dhaka, joining virtually from her official residence Ganabhaban on December 11.

She said Bangladesh government now spends 6 or 7 percent of its GDP for climate adaptation and has recently launched the NAP for 2023-2050.

Mentioning that Bangladesh has set up a Climate Change Trust Fund back in 2009 after COP15 with its own resources, the Prime Minister said the fund has so far implemented 800 projects for both climate adaptation and mitigation.

GCA Chair former UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, GCA Chief Executive Officer Dr Patrick Verkojoen, Bangladesh Foreign Minister Dr AK Abdul Momen, Environment, Forest and Climate Change Minister Md Shahab Uddin and British High Commissioner to Bangladesh Robert Chatterton Dickson spoke on the occasion.

Source: <https://www.bssnews.net/news-flash/99534>

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina unveils vision to build 'Smart Bangladesh' by 2041



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has unveiled her vision to build a "Smart Bangladesh" by 2041 along with making it a developed country.

"We will make Bangladesh a developed one by 2041, and that will be a Smart Bangladesh," she declared at the inaugural programme of Digital Bangladesh Day 2022 and distribution of prizes among the winners of an online quiz competition on December 11.

The ICT Division organised the programme at the Bangabandhu International Conference Center with the theme "Advanced Technology Inclusive Development".

The Prime Minister said the government has fixed four bases to make Smart Bangladesh. These are - Smart Citizen, Smart Economy, Smart Government, and Smart Society.

"Every citizen will be skilled in using technology, economic activities will be done through technology, the government will be [technologically] smart and we have already partially done that. And the whole society will be smart," she said.

Source: <https://www.bssnews.net/news-flash/99534>

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina urges countrymen not to be misled by rumour on foreign reserve, bank liquidity

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has urged the countrymen not to pay heed to any propaganda over foreign reserve and bank liquidity as Bangladesh is economically stable despite many developed countries face economic crisis for the Covid-19 pandemic and Russia-Ukraine war.



The Prime Minister was addressing a graduation ceremony of the National Defence Course-2022 and Armed Forces War Course-2022 at Sheikh Hasina Complex, DSCSC in Mirpur Cantonment in the capital on December 5.

Pointing at rumours on foreign currency reserve and liquidity in banks, she said, "Some words will spread rapidly and you (people) might be misled. But, I will say there is nothing to be misled."

The Premier said the reserve was only 2.5 billion USD while Awami League assumed power for the first time in 1996 as it was only 5 billion USD when her party came to the power for the second time in 2001.

The reserve increased to 48 billion USD from the 5 billion USD during the tenure of the present government as everything including import was almost stopped, she said.

Source: <https://www.bssnews.net/news-flash/98045>

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina made 'Global Ambassador for Diabetes'



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has been made the "Global Ambassador for Diabetes" by the International Diabetic Federation (IDF).

On behalf of the Prime Minister, Bangladesh's Ambassador to Portugal Tarik Ahsan received the honorary letter from the newly elected President of the IDF Prof Akhter Hossain at the inaugural session of the World Diabetic Conference-2022 held at Lisbon, capital of Portugal on December 5.

The honorary "Global Ambassador for Diabetes" was conferred on a person in recognition to his or her significant contribution to upgrade the life standard of the people living with diabetes.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will discharge the duty of "Global Ambassador for Diabetes" for the next two years as the representative of the diabetic patients for their wellbeing.

Source: <https://www.bssnews.net/news-flash/98389>

Forbes lists Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina 42nd most powerful woman

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has been ranked 42nd on Forbes' list of The World's 100 Most Powerful Women of 2022. Last year, she was ranked 43rd on the list.



The Premier has also been ranked 11th in the special category of politics and policy among 22.

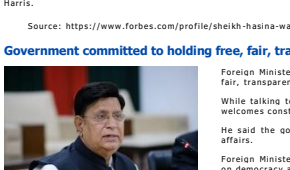
Sheikh Hasina, the longest serving prime minister in the history of Bangladesh, is currently serving her fourth term in office.

She won her fourth term, which is also her third consecutive term, after Awami League won 288 of the 300 parliamentary seats in the 11th general election.

The Forbes list put Ursula von der Leyen, the President of the European Commission as the most powerful woman in the world. She was followed by European Central Bank President Christine Lagarde and US Vice President Kamala Harris.

Source: <https://www.forbes.com/profile/sheikh-hasina-wajed/?sh=4ea5fec77965>

Government committed to holding free, fair, transparent elections: Foreign Minister



Foreign Minister Dr. A.K. Abdul Momen has said the government is committed to holding free, fair, transparent and inclusive elections under the independent Election Commission.

While talking to reporters at his office on December 26, the Foreign Minister said Bangladesh welcomes constructive suggestions from foreign friends.

He said the government does not want any country to get involved in Bangladesh's internal affairs.

Foreign Minister Momen said other countries do not need to give prescriptions to Bangladesh on democracy and human rights as these are deeply rooted in Bangladesh's DNA.

Source: <https://www.newagebd.net/article/183377/article/index.php>

Foreign Minister Momen stresses conducting strategic research like great powers



Foreign Minister Dr A. K. Abdul Momen has put emphasis on taking more research in the field of strategic studies like Great Powers do while attempts are being made to polarize the Indo-Pacific region.

"We have to remember that the Great Powers enjoy a strong research and think-tanks .. strategic research, backed by facts and insights, can help governments plan and implement its survival and growth strategies," he said.

The Foreign Minister was speaking as the chief guest at the BIIS Research Colloquium organized by Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies (BIIS) at its auditorium in Dhaka on December 20.

He said that research on strategic studies assists in understanding hidden opportunities from multiple perspectives, such as geopolitical situations, a nation's inclination, and its political alignment.

BIIS Chairman Ambassador Kazi Imtiaz Hossain and its Director General Major General Sheikh Pasha Habib Uddin also spoke at the function.



While talking to reporters after the event, Foreign Minister Momen said the relation between Bangladesh and United States is "very good".

He said Bangladesh and the US had 16 different meetings this year.

Source: <https://www.bssnews.net/news/101186>

Foreign Minister Abdul Momen urges PUIIC to keep Rohingya issue alive as global agenda



Foreign Minister Dr A.K. Abdul Momen has urged members of the Parliamentary Union of the OIC Member States (PUIIC) to enhance diplomatic efforts with major global powers keeping the Rohingya issue alive as the global agenda.

He made the call when a visiting 11-member Parliamentary Union of the OIC Member States (PUIIC) delegation called on him at the State Guest House Padma in the capital on December 21.

During the meeting, the Foreign Minister called upon the PUIIC to continue its efforts for ensuring safe, dignified and sustained repatriation of the forcibly displaced Rohingyas to Myanmar.

He deeply appreciated contribution of the Committee on Muslim Communities and Minorities for portraying the picture of the persecuted Rohingyas to the members of the OIC.

The visiting PUIIC delegation thanked the Bangladesh government for hosting persecuted Rohingyas on humanitarian ground, and reaffirmed their continued support for settlement of the crisis.

Source: <https://www.bssnews.net/news-flash/101318>

Government's sharing information with foreign missions 'nothing new': State Minister Shahriar Alam

State Minister for Foreign Affairs Md Shahriar Alam has said the government felt the urge to share certain information with foreign missions in Dhaka so that there is no room for "misinformation" and "confusion".



"It is nothing new. It falls within normal diplomatic practice as we always do that and keep all informed when something big happens," he told reporters on December 13, referring to BNP's plan to create anarchy centring their December 10 divisional rally in Dhaka.

Shahriar Alam said BNP is spreading propaganda at home and abroad and they had chosen December 10 as major countries announced new sanctions on December 9 and they tried to block streets from December 7.

Source: <https://www.thedailystar.net/news/bangladesh/diplomacy/govt-sharing-info-foreign-missions-nothing-new-shahriar-alam-3195241>

US stands with Bangladesh to tackle Rohingya crisis: US Assistant Secretary Julieta Noyes



The United States (US) will continue its support to Bangladesh to tackle Rohingya crisis and to maintain the living standard of the Bangladeshi host community, said US Assistant Secretary Julieta Valls Noyes.

"We stand with Bangladesh in responding to the needs of refugees (Rohingyas) and the Bangladeshis who host them because all people deserve to live in safety and with dignity," she said in a statement on December 8.

US Assistant Secretary for the Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration Noyes paid a visit to Bangladesh from December 3 to 7 to visit Rohingya camps in Cox's Bazar and Bhashanchar as well as met government and non-government officials.

In her statement, she said the US commends the people of Bangladesh for generously welcoming Rohingya into their communities and also for recognizing that it is not yet safe for the displaced people to return home in Myanmar.

The US Assistant Secretary said her country also supports the efforts to hold the perpetrators of the genocide against Rohingya accountable and to ensure justice for the victims.

During her meeting with Foreign Minister Dr A.K. Abdul Momen, Noyes informed that the US will take few Rohingyas to the USA from Bangladesh for resettlement each year.

She also held a meeting with officials from different UN agencies including UNHCR, IOM, UNICEF, UNFPA, AFP and WHO in Dhaka on December 4.

"We won't let this become a forgotten crisis," Assistant Secretary Noyes tweeted after the meeting.

Source: <https://bd.usembassy.gov/28937/>

UN takes resolution on Bangabandhu's foreign policy quote

The historical quote - friendship to all, malice towards none - of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman has been incorporated in a UN resolution.

The quote, which is the foreign policy dictum of Bangladesh, was inserted in the 14th paragraph of the UNGA resolution entitled "International Year of Dialogue as a Guarantee of Peace, 2023".

In the global context of the post-Covid world order and the Russia-Ukraine war, this resolution was introduced by Turkmenistan at the UNGA plenary. It was adopted unanimously on December 6.

The historical quote of Bangabandhu, one of the advocates of world humanity and peace, was included in the UN resolution for the first time.

This text was developed based on his maiden speech at the UNGA on 25th September 1974, where Bangabandhu emphasised the need for establishing World Peace.

Source: <https://www.bssnews.net/news-flash/98576>



6th TICFA Meeting held: Bangladesh urges enhanced market access to USA



The 6th Meeting of the US-Bangladesh Trade and Investment Cooperation Forum Agreement (TICFA) was held in Washington D.C. on December 6. Mr. Tapan Kanti Ghosh, Senior Secretary of the Ministry of Commerce, and Mr. Christopher Wilson, Assistant US Trade Representative (USTR) for South and Central Asia, led the Bangladesh and US delegations respectively to the meeting.

The Bangladesh side also included Labour Secretary Md. Ehsan-E-Elahi, Agriculture Secretary Md. Sayedul Islam, Bangladesh Ambassador to the USA Muhammad Imran and high officials from the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Commerce and the ICT Division.

At the outset of the meeting, Deputy USTR Ms Sarah Bianchi welcomed the Bangladesh delegation to the 6th TICFA Meeting in Washington D.C. In her short opening remarks, Ms Sarah said that Bangladesh's socioeconomic strides have made this TICFA Meeting more relevant than any time for both the countries.

The major areas discussed at the meeting were market access of Bangladesh goods to the US, production sharing of US cotton-based RMG, trade & investment climate, Intellectual Property Rights, technical cooperation for quality certification infrastructure, labour issues and IDFC funding.

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Both sides discussed removing fumigation on the imported US cotton. The Bangladesh delegation proposed 'zero' tariffs on the export of finished apparels made of US cotton being exported to the USA. The head of US delegation Assistant USTR Wilson agreed to continue further discussion on the subject.

The US side requested to simplify the profit repatriation for the US investment in Bangladesh. The Bangladesh delegation assured to examine the issue upon return to Dhaka.

Among others, both sides discussed the proposed Data Protection Act, biotechnology in agriculture, simplifying registration of Bangladeshi pharmaceuticals with USFDA, tariff reduction on tree nuts export to Bangladesh and simplifying seed act provision for US access to the seed market in Bangladesh.

Both sides agreed to hold the 7th TICFA Meeting in October 2023 in Dhaka.

Bangladesh Embassy in Washington DC celebrates great Victory Day: Bangladesh a truly important strategic partner of the USA, says Afreen Akhter



The Bangladesh Embassy in Washington DC celebrated the 52nd Victory Day of Bangladesh on December 16, remembering the valiant Freedom Fighters who fought and made the supreme sacrifice for the cause of long-aspired independence of the Bangladeshi nation.

To commemorate the glorious Victory Day, the Embassy arranged a day-long program.

The day's first part of the program began with the hoisting of the National Flag ceremonially on the chancery premises in the morning by Bangladesh Ambassador to the United States Muhammad Imran. Officials and employees of the Embassy were present at that time.

Later, the Ambassador along with officials and employees of the embassy placed a floral wreath at the bust of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at the Bangabandhu Corner of the Embassy.

The messages issued on the occasion of the Victory Day by President Md. Abdul Hamid, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Foreign Minister Dr. A.K. Abdul Momen, and State Minister for Foreign Affairs Md. Shahriar Alam were read out by Deputy Chief of Mission Ferdousi Shahriar, Minister (Commerce) Md. Salim Reza, Counsellor (Public Diplomacy) Arifa Rahman Ruma and Counsellor (Political-1) Mohammod Moniruzzaman.

A special prayer seeking continued peace, progress and development of the nation as well as eternal peace of the departed soul of martyrs of the Liberation War and Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was offered.

In the second part of the program, a discussion session highlighting the significance of the day was held at the Bangabandhu Auditorium in the evening.

Bangladesh Ambassador to the USA Muhammad Imran and Deputy Assistant Secretary in the Bureau of South and Central Asian Affairs (SCA), US Department of State, Ms Afreen Akhter delivered their speeches at the discussion.

Ambassador Imran, in his welcome remarks, extended heartfelt greetings to the countrymen and expatriate Bangladeshis on the occasion of the great Victory Day.

He recalled with profound respect the greatest Bengali of all time and the founding Father of Bangladesh Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. He also paid deep homage to three million martyrs for their supreme sacrifices and two hundred thousand women dishonored during the Liberation War.

The Ambassador said the Victory Day is a glorious day for the Bangalee nation. On this day in 1971, the Bangalee nation, under the undaunted leadership of Bangabandhu, achieved the ultimate victory after 23 years of intense political struggle and the nine-month-long War of Liberation, he said.

Ambassador Imran called upon all to work from their respective position under the leadership of Bangabandhu's able daughter Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for building a hunger-and-poverty-free happy and prosperous Bangladesh as dreamt by the Father of the Nation and three million martyrs.

Afreen Akhter, in her address, said the United States sees Bangladesh as a truly important strategic partner and looks forward for next 50 years of strong relationships.

She said in the last 50 years Bangladesh-USA relations have seen incredible progress between our peoples, economies and governments. The people to people ties between the two countries are very deep, Afreen Akhter noted.

Praising Bangladesh's progress in different sectors, the US Deputy Assistant Secretary said Bangladesh's economy has expanded from largely agriculture society to economic powerhouse over the just few decades.

This is story to really be proud of that Bangladesh has lifted millions of people out of poverty and country will achieve middle income status within generations which is truly remarkable, she said.

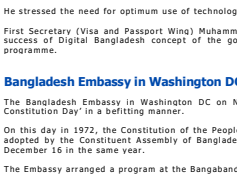
Beyond the economic cooperation, Afreen Akhter mentioned the close partnership between the two countries in providing COVID-19 vaccines and addressing climate change issue. She thanked the Bangladesh government for hosting a huge number of displaced Rohingyas.

The day's program ended with a colourful cultural function. Embassy officials and their spouses performed patriotic songs at the event, while James Brennan Flanigan of US State Department recited a poem of leading poet Shamsur Rahman. The artists of Dhroopdi, a Bangladeshi-American cultural organisation, performed group dances on patriotic songs.

Counsellor Shameema Yasmin Smrite and First Secretary Md Ataur Rahman conducted the evening and morning parts of the program respectively. The Embassy also arranged a photo exhibition on the great Victory Day.

Ambassadors and senior diplomats from different countries, senior officials of the US government and members of Bangladeshi diaspora and family members of the officials and employees of the Embassy were present on the occasion.

Bangladesh Embassy celebrates "Digital Bangladesh Day-2022"



The Bangladesh Embassy in Washington DC celebrated the "Digital Bangladesh Day-2022" on December 12 in a befitting manner.

Marking the day, the Embassy arranged a programme at its Bangabandhu Auditorium in the afternoon.

The programme began with screening of the day's theme song produced by the ICT Division. Later, a short documentary on the progress of digitalisation in Bangladesh was screened.

Taking part in the discussion, Bangladesh Ambassador to the United States Muhammad Imran highlighted the tremendous progress of digitalisation in Bangladesh under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina since the government launched the epoch-making "Digital Bangladesh" campaign in 2009.

In this regard, he also mentioned the important role of Sajeed Prize, the architect of "Digital Bangladesh" vision and the ICT Adviser to the Wazed Minister.

Ambassador Imran called upon the expatriates to project Bangladesh's success stories in different fields including digitalisation abroad that took place over the last decade.

He stressed the need for optimum use of technology in the activities of the Mission to further enhance its services and image as well.

First Secretary (Visa and Passport Wing) Muhammad Abdul Hye Milton also took part in the discussion and highlighted the background and success of Digital Bangladesh concept of the government. Minister (Political-1) and Head of Chancery Dewan Ali Ashraf conducted the programme.

Bangladesh Embassy in Washington DC observes 'National Constitution Day'

The Bangladesh Embassy in Washington DC on November 4 observed 'National Constitution Day' in a befitting manner.

On this day in 1972, the Constitution of the People's Republic of Bangladesh was adopted by the Constituent Assembly of Bangladesh, and it came into effect on December 16 in the same year.

The Embassy arranged a program at the Bangabandhu Auditorium in the afternoon to commemorate the historic day.

The program began with placing of floral wreaths at the bust of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman by Bangladesh Ambassador to the United States Muhammad Imran. Officials and employees of the Embassy were present at that time.

Then the messages from the President and the Prime Minister were read out by Minister (Consular) Mohammad Habibur Rahman and Counsellor (Political-III) Shamima Yeasmin Smrite.

Later a discussion session was held highlighting the significance of the day.

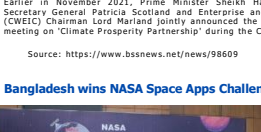
Taking part in the discussion, Ambassador Muhammad Imran described 'National Constitution Day' as a historic day for the Bengali nation and highlighted its importance.

He paid tributes to Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and said the greatest Bangalee of all time presented the long-awaited Constitution to the newly-independent nation within only 11 months of independence.

Ambassador Imran urged all to work unitedly under the leadership of honourable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to build a hunger-and-poverty-free developed and prosperous Bangladesh being imbued with the spirit of the great War of Liberation and the ideology of Bangabandhu.

Minister (Economic) Md. Mahadee Hassan also took part in the discussion, while Counsellor Mohammad Moniruzzaman conducted the program.

Cabinet Secretary Anwarul Islam visits Bangladesh Embassy in Washington



Cabinet Secretary Khandaker Anwarul Islam visited Bangladesh Embassy in Washington DC on December 7 and exchanged views with officials of the Mission.

Speaking at the meeting, the Cabinet Secretary asked officials of the Embassy to discharge their responsibilities with utmost sincerity and integrity as well as more coordinated way to further enhance the country's image abroad.

He also instructed the officials to work with keeping in mind the issues of ensuring good governance, transparency, proper use of technology and the 4th Industrial Revolution to advance the country further.

Bangladesh Ambassador to the United States Muhammad Imran welcomed the Cabinet Secretary at the Mission and briefed him about its various activities.

Senior Secretary of the Ministry of Commerce Tapan Kanti Ghosh, Labour Secretary Md. Ehsan-E-Elahi, Agriculture Secretary Md. Sayedul Islam and other members of a Bangladesh delegation which attended the 6th Meeting of the US-Bangladesh Trade and Investment Cooperation Forum Agreement (TICFA) in Washington DC were present at the meeting.

Later, Cabinet Secretary Anwarul Islam paid tributes to Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman by placing a floral wreath at the bust of Bangabandhu.

'Planet Green Africa' wins Bangabandhu Green Investment Award

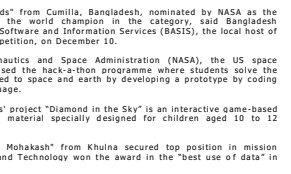
'Planet Green Africa', an organization of Southeastern African country Malawi, has been conferred the first-ever 'Commonwealth-Bangladesh Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Green Investment Award'.

The award was handed over to 'Planet Green Africa' at the closing ceremony of Commonwealth Trade and Investment Summit-2022 held in London on December 6.

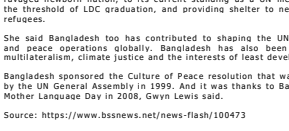
Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's Private Industry and Investment Adviser Salman F Rahman handed over the award as a special envoy of Bangladesh premier.

Earlier in November 2021, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Commonwealth Secretary General Patricia Scotland and Enterprise and Investment Council (CWEIC) Chairman Lord Marland jointly announced the award in a high-level meeting on 'Climate Prosperity Partnership' during the COP26 held in Glasgow.

Source: <https://www.bssnews.net/news/98609>



Bangladesh wins NASA Space Apps Challenge



Bangladesh has won the NASA Space Apps Challenge for the third time securing top position in the "most inspirational" category contesting participants from 162 countries this year.

"Team Diamonds" from Cumilla, Bangladesh, nominated by NASA as the team, became the world champion in the category, said Bangladesh Association of Software and Information Services (BASIS), the local host of the global competition, on December 10.

National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), the US space agency, organised the hack-a-thon programme where students solve the problems related to space and earth by developing a prototype by coding computer language.

Team Diamonds' project "Diamond in the Sky" is an interactive game-based space learning material specially designed for children aged 10 to 12 years.

Earlier, "Team Mohakash" from Khulna secured top position in mission category and "Team Data" from Dhaka won the award in the "best use of data" in 2018 at the global competition.

Source: <https://www.daily-sun.com/printversion/details/661602/Bangladesh-wins-NASA-space-apps-challenge#:~:text=Bangladesh%20has%20won%20the%20NASA,from%20162%20countries%20this%20year.>

Bangladesh an example for other countries: UN resident coordinator

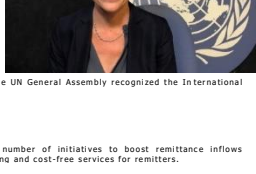
UN Resident Coordinator in Dhaka, Ms Gwyn Lewis, has said that Bangladesh's achievements in human development and disaster response, long before it became a middle-income country, made it an example for other countries to emulate.

In a message congratulating Bangladesh on the 51st anniversary of the victory, she said the country has been on an extraordinary voyage from being a war and famine-ravaged newborn nation, to its current standing as a UN member state standing at the threshold of LDC graduation, and providing shelter to nearly a million Rohingya refugees.

She said Bangladesh too has contributed to shaping the UN's development agenda and peace operations globally. Bangladesh has also been a vocal advocate for multilateralism, climate justice and the interests of least developed countries.

Bangladesh Generalised the Culture of Peace resolution that was unanimously adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1999. And it was thanks to Bangladesh's advocacy that the UN General Assembly recognized the International Mother Language Day in 2008, Gwyn Lewis said.

Source: <https://www.bssnews.net/news-flash/100473>



Bangladesh takes massive steps taken to boost remittance



Bangladesh Bank has rolled out a number of initiatives to boost remittance inflows including simplification, mobile banking and cost-free services for remitters.

The central bank has recently allowed mobile financial service (MFS) providers to bring inward remittance, in order to increase remittance inflow. As part of its move, expatriates will send money themselves through the MFS without any document and free of cost with the shortage of time, which will encourage them to send money through legal channels.

Over the space of a decade, the inflow of remittance has marked a significant rise, thanks to prudent diplomatic achievements by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in opening up new destinations for skilled manpower.

Source: <https://www.bangladeshpost.net/posts/massive-steps-taken-to-boost-remittance-100457>

Bangladesh to become 20th largest economy by 2037: CEBR

Bangladesh is slated to become the 20th largest economy in the world out of 191 countries by the year 2037, according to a London-based think tank.

The think tank, Centre for Economics and Business Research (CEBR), made the projection that was disclosed recently.

The latest findings were disclosed in CEBR's annual World Economic League Table (WELT 2023) report that cited Bangladesh as one of the fastest-growing economies in the world for more than a decade.

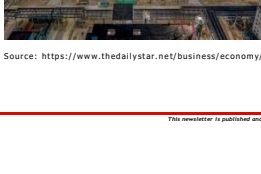
As per CEBR, Bangladesh's long-term outlook looks promising based on its macroeconomic stability, strong external flows and robust export market.

According to the report, Bangladesh is currently the second largest economy in the region and will continue to sustain it till 2037 with a GDP size of \$1,628 billion at current prices (currently \$429 billion).

Source: <https://cebr.com/reports/the-business-standard-bangladesh-projected-to-be-20th-largest-economy-by-2037/>



Investors flocking to Bangladesh's private economic zones



Twelve private economic zones in Bangladesh have received good responses from investors drawing investment proposals involving \$4.27 billion from local and foreign entrepreneurs in the past six years.

At least 70 per cent of the sum has already been invested in the zones, set up as part of the government initiative to establish 100 economic zones across the country as it looks to accelerate industrialisation, create jobs and cut poverty.

The commercial production at more than 20 industrial units in the private economic zones, including Meghna, City, Abdul Monem and Bay has begun and they are exporting goods, according to the sources at the Bangladesh Economic Zones Authority (BEZA).

Another 35 industrial units are under construction and they are expected to go into production within one and a half years.

Automobile, chemical, pharmaceuticals, light engineering, hospital, plastic, edible oil and food-processing are among the sectors that have attracted investment proposals.

Source: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/news/investors-flocking-private-economic-zones-3175006>

Bangladesh's RMG export to EU witnesses 16.27pc growth, USA 4.07pc during July-Nov

The export of RMG items to European Union (EU) has witnessed 16.27 percent growth during the July-November period of this year compared to the same period last year.

The RMG export to the USA during the mentioned period was \$3.47 billion, registering 4.07 percent year-over-year growth.

As per the statistics of the Export Promotion Bureau (EPB), RMG export to the EU increased by 16.27 percent, from US\$ 7.81 billion to \$9.07 billion in July-Nov 2022-23.

Germany is the largest European market fetching \$ 2.71 billion with 1.88 percent growth compared to the same period of the previous year.

Export to Spain and France also increased by 19.15 percent and 38.87 percent respectively. Export to other major EU countries such as Italy, Austria, Netherlands and Sweden have shown growth by 50.95 percent, 48.87 percent, 34.39 percent and 22.90 percent respectively.

Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) Director Md Mohiuddin Rubel said, "Our exports to major countries have shown encouraging growth during July-November of FY2022-23."

Source: <https://www.observerbd.com/news.php?id=398378>



Bangladesh's export earnings post 10.58% growth in July-Dec



Bangladesh's overall export earnings have bounced back from the global uncertainties as it posted a growth of 10.58 percent during the first half (July-December) period of the current fiscal year (FY23) compared to the same period of the last fiscal.

The export earnings during the first half of the current fiscal year totaled \$27,311.26 million against \$24,698.55 million during the same period of the last fiscal year (FY22).

According to the latest statistics of the export promotion bureau (EPB), the single-month exports witnessed a record \$5,365.19 million, a single-month historic high of Bangladesh.

The previous earning record was \$5.09 billion in November last year. The single-month export earnings in December last year were \$4,907.68 million.

The EPB data showed that as usual the RMG represents the bulk of the earnings during this six-month period with \$22,996.69 million having a growth of 15.56 percent.

Source: <https://www.bssnews.net/news/103039>