



## Bangladesh celebrates 53rd Independence Day and National Day



Bangladesh celebrated the 53rd Independence and National Day on March 26, recalling the martyrs of the great Liberation War and Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur and taking a renewed vow to materialize their dream of establishing a prosperous and developed country.

The day's programs commenced by heralding gun salutes early in the morning as a mark of profound respect to the heroic struggle of this nation, which suffered a protracted subjugation under foreign rules from time to time till achieving its Independence in 1971.

On the occasion, President Md. Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina paid rich tributes to the Liberation War martyrs by placing wreaths at the National Memorial at Savar on the outskirts of the capital.

Every year, the March 26 brings the most tragic reminiscence of the history's darkest episode that heralded a nine-month bloody ordeal from the night of March 25, 1971, achieving the long-cherished independence on December 16 the same year at the cost of a sea of blood.

## Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina hands over Independence Award



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has handed over "Swadhinata Padak" (Independence Award) to nine individuals and one institution in recognition of their outstanding contributions to their respective fields at the national level.

The programme to distribute the highest civilian award was held at the Osmari Memorial Auditorium in Dhaka on March 23.

Valiant Freedom Fighters Colonel (ret'd) Shamsul Alam, late Lieutenant AG Mohammad Khurshid (posthumous), martyr Khwaza Nizamuddin Bhuiyan (posthumous) and Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury (Maya) Bir Bikram got the award in the 'Independence and Liberation War' category.

Late Dr Mohammad Mainuddin Ahmed (Selim Al Deen) (posthumous) received the award in the 'Literature' category, while Pabitra Mohan Day and ASM Rakibul Hasan got the award in 'Cultural' and 'Sports' categories respectively.

Department of Fire Service and Civil Defence got the award in the 'Social Services/Public Services' category and Begum Nadira Jahan (Surma Jahid) and Dr Ferdousi Kadri received the award in the 'Research and Training' category.

The Cabinet Division earlier on March 9 announced the names of the Independence Award recipients. Each award recipient received a gold medal, a certificate and a cheque of honorarium.

Bangladesh honours individuals and institutions with the award every year ahead of Independence Day that is celebrated on March 26. The award was introduced in 1977.

## US President Joe Biden greets Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on Independence Day



US President Joe Biden has greeted Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and the people on the Independence Day and National Day, saying that the South Asian nation understand deeply the value of freedom and independence as it fought courageously in 1971 to choose their own fate.

"On behalf of the United States, I wish you (Sheikh Hasina) and the people of Bangladesh a happy Independence Day. The Bangladeshi people understand deeply the value of freedom and independence as they fought courageously in 1971 to choose their own fate and to speak their own language," the US President wrote in a letter to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

President Biden said during the over 50 years of diplomatic relations, the United States and Bangladesh have achieved a lot together. He wrote the past half a century of bilateral ties yielded advancing economic development, strengthening people-to-people ties, addressing global health and climate issues, partnering on the humanitarian response to Rohingya refugees, and committing to a prosperous, secure, democratic, and independent Bangladesh.

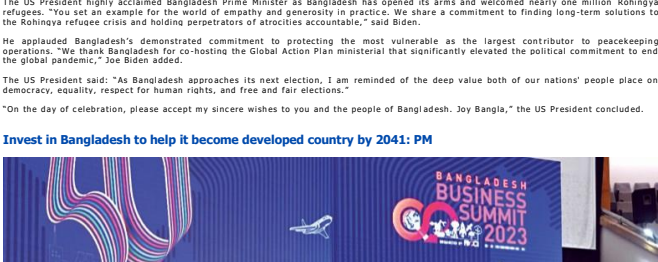
The US President highly acclaimed Bangladesh Prime Minister as Bangladesh has opened its arms and welcomed nearly one million Rohingya refugees. "You set an example for the world of empathy and generosity in practice. We share a commitment to finding long-term solutions to the Rohingya refugee crisis and holding perpetrators of atrocities accountable," said Biden.

He applauded Bangladesh's demonstrated commitment to protecting the most vulnerable as the largest contributor to peacekeeping operations. "We thank Bangladesh for co-hosting the Global Action Plan ministerial that significantly elevated the political commitment to end the global pandemic," Joe Biden added.

The US President said: "As Bangladesh approaches its next election, I am reminded of the deep value both of our nations' people place on democracy, equality, respect for human rights, and free and fair elections."

"On the day of celebration, please accept my sincere wishes to you and the people of Bangladesh. Joy Bangla," the US President concluded.

## Invest in Bangladesh to help it become developed country by 2041: PM



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has called upon the global businessmen and investors to invest in Bangladesh to join hands in making smooth journey of transforming Bangladesh into a developed, prosperous and Smart Bangladesh by 2041.

"You people (world business community) come. Bangladesh is always ready to welcome you---invest in Bangladesh thinking it as your country," she said while inaugurating a three-day "Bangladesh Business Summit 2023" on March 11.

The Prime Minister reminded the business people from home and abroad that her government has been attaching topmost priority in improving the investment environment in Bangladesh to attract both the local and foreign direct investments.

In this context, she said the BIDA is implementing the Bangladesh Investment Climate Improvement Programme mainly to put an end to the bureaucratic red tape.

The Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) organised the summit at the Bangabandhu International Conference Centre (BICC) in the capital city to commemorate the Golden Jubilee of the country's apex business body FBCCI.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Commerce Ministry and the Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (BIDA) were partnering the summit with the FBCCI.

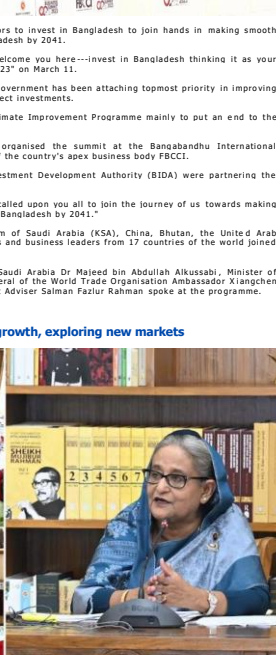
Welcoming the business people attending the summit, the Prime Minister said: "I called upon you all to join the journey of us towards making Bangladesh a high income generated, developed, prosperous and innovative Smart Bangladesh by 2041."

Ministers from seven countries including the United Kingdom (UK), the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA), China, Bhutan, the United Arab Emirates, CEOs of 12 multinational companies and more than 200 foreign investors and business leaders from 17 countries of the world joined the summit.

Foreign Minister Dr AK Abdul Momen, Minister of Commerce of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Dr Majeed bin Abdullah Alkussabi, Minister of Industry, Commerce and Employment of Bhutan Karma Dorji, Deputy Director General of the World Trade Organisation Ambassador Xiangchen Zhang, Commerce Minister Tipu Munshi and PM's Private Industries and Investment Adviser Salman Fazlur Rahman spoke at the programme.

Source: <https://www.bssnews.net/news-flash/114926>

## Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for ensuring sustainable export growth, exploring new markets



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has directed all concerned to find out a way to ensure sustainable export growth and explore new global markets for Bangladeshi goods in the context of Ukraine war.

Steps will have to be taken to achieve sustainable export growth after analysing situation stemming from the global economic recession due to the war in Ukraine," she said to the 11th meeting of the national committee on export at her official Ganabhaban residence on March 20.

The Prime Minister also asked all concerned to diversify the export items and explore new markets for those alongside revitalising the local markets.

"A new scope has been created globally to explore new markets for Bangladesh items due to enhanced demands for goods because of the war in Ukraine. We have to grasp the markets," she said.

The Premier also called for formulating a new export policy for another four or five years by revising, changing and improving the existing one that is going to expire by 2024.

She said the new export policy should be adopted by analyzing the ongoing global economic recession, sanctions, counter-sanctions for the war and the challenges and scopes possibly to be created in Bangladesh after the graduation from the LDC by 2026.

Source: <https://www.bssnews.net/news-flash/116518>

## Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina inaugurates Bangladesh's first submarine base



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina inaugurated the first submarine base of Bangladesh "BNS Sheikh Hasina" at Pekua in Cox's Bazar on March 21.

Describing the newly inaugurated naval base as an "ultra-modern submarine base", she called the event a proud chapter in the history of the Bangladesh Navy.

Inaugurating the submarine base virtually from her official residence Ganabhaban in Dhaka, Prime Minister Hasina said that the newly commissioned submarine base would help the navy increase its operational capacity to secure the vast marine resources.

The Prime Minister said that her government was working on "Forces Goal 2030" to transform its military force into a modern organisation suitable for the times. She said that two submarines were added to the fleet of the Bangladesh Navy in March 2017 which has turned it into a three-dimensional naval force.

The government of Bangladesh signed an agreement with China in September 2019 to construct the submarine base. The groundbreaking function was held in February 2021.

Source: <https://albd.org/articles/news/40677/HPM-Sheikh-Hasina-inaugurates-Bangladesh's-first-submarine-base>

## LDCs seek dues, not charity under international commitments: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has said the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) want its dues, not charity under international commitments for their real structural transformation.

"I can assure you that LDCs will also keep their side of the bargain. Our nations do not ask for charity; what we seek are our dues under international commitments," she said.

The Prime Minister was addressing the opening plenary meeting of the 5th United Nations Conference on Least Developed Countries (LDCs: From Potential to Prosperity) at the Qatar National Convention Centre (QNCC) in Doha on March 5.

"The Doha Programme of Action is yet another assurance of hope for the world's most vulnerable countries. The international community must renew its commitment for real structural transformation in LDCs," she said.

President of the conference and Qatar Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani delivered opening statement.

UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres, President of UNGA Csaba Korosi, President of the Economic and Social Council Lachezara Stoeva, and Malawi President and Chairperson of the LDC Group Lazarus M'Carthy Chakawera spoke.



Source: <https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/lcds-see-no-charity-dues-international-commitments-pm-hasina-594706>

## Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said she will never bow down to foreign pressure



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has said she will never bow down to any foreign pressure as the people are her strength, reiterating to hold the next general election in a free and fair manner.

Addressing a press conference on March 13 about her recent official visits to Qatar, the Prime Minister said, "You have to keep one thing in mind that there is no such pressure that can pressurize Sheikh Hasina."

She said this in reply to a question - whether she is feeling any foreign pressure over the next general election in the context that the BNP has been lobbying foreigners and publication of an advertisement with the statement of 40 global personalities regarding Dr Yunus.

"My power is only my people - nothing to happen to us whatever pressure is given by whom. We will do whatever is required for the welfare of the people," she added.

In this context, the Prime Minister said her government has constructed the Padma Bridge with its own finance, confronting all the hurdles, adding, "I have endured that pressure."

About publishing an advertisement in the Washington Post in favour of Dr Yunus, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina questioned why an advertisement was published in a foreign newspaper in favour of a person who is famous as well as a Nobel laureate.

The Prime Minister said she could not do anything as the head of the government as there are laws and courts to deal with labour rights and tax evasion. "If anyone breaches the laws, the court will look into the matter and what can I do as the head of the government?" she added.

Sheikh Hasina, also president of the Awami League, clarified her stance that no dialogue will be held before the next general election, saying, "With whom we will hold the dialogue."

Mentioning that they held dialogue before the 2018 election and the BNP gave nominations after taking money and withdrawing their candidates, she questioned "What was the result of that dialogue?"

Source: <https://www.bssnews.net/news-flash/115341>

## Foreign Minister Dr Momen urges int'l community to help Rohingyas in returning home

Foreign Minister Dr A.K. Abdul Momen has urged the international community including the G20 to help ensure repatriation of forcibly displaced Rohingyas to Myanmar without further delay.

"The prolonged stay of Rohingyas is creating huge security problems with ramifications across the region and they may also be a potential target group for radicalization and recruitment by terrorist groups," he said.

The Foreign Minister made the remarks while addressing a session at the G20 Foreign Ministers' Meeting in New Delhi on March 2 under the presidency of India.

India's External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar chaired the meeting.

Dr. Momen, however, said that in addition to help displaced Rohingyas, Bangladesh continues to stand ready to respond to any emergency to save lives and protect people in humanitarian crises.

The sessions began with the recorded video speech of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi. As many as 40 delegations including nine specially invited countries including Bangladesh and 13 international organisations attended the meeting that began on March 1 following a qala dinner.

The theme of this year's meeting was - 'One Earth, One Family, One Future'. India got presidency of the world's major economic grouping last December.

Source: <https://www.newagebd.net/article/195927/bangladesh-fm-urges-intl-community-to-help-rohingyas-in-returning>

## Bangladesh elected vice-president of UN 2023 Water Conference



Bangladesh has been elected as the Vice-President of the UN 2023 Water Conference held at the UN Headquarters in New York on March 22-24.

It was formally announced on March 22 during the opening of the Conference, the first UN water conference in a generation which aims to mobilize Member States, the UN system and all relevant stakeholders to take action and bring successful solutions to global water agenda.

A 13-member delegation led by Bangladesh Foreign Minister Dr. A.K. Abdul Momen, MP, took part in the conference.

Following the election, Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the United Nations in New York Ambassador Abdul Muhiith said that this Vice-Presidency comes as recognition to the trust and confidence of the global community on the able leadership of Bangladesh to the work of the United Nations.

This will allow Bangladesh to support the global efforts to take concerted action to achieve the internationally agreed water - related goals and targets, including those contained in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, he said.

Source: <https://bdun.org/2023/03/22/bangladesh-elected-as-the-vice-president-of-the-un-2023-water-conference/>

## Upcoming election to be held in free, fair, transparent, credible manner: Foreign Minister Dr. Momen

Foreign Minister Dr A.K. Abdul Momen has urged all the political parties in the country to join the next general election saying that it would be held in a free, fair, transparent and credible manner.

"We believe the upcoming election will be held in a free, fair, transparent and credible manner...we invite all the opposition political parties to join the elections as they will have a level-playing field," he said.

The Foreign Minister said this while responding to a volley of questions from CNN Anchor and business editor at large Richard Quest at a session titled "Bangladesh Growth Story: What's the future road map" held at the Bangladesh International Conference Center (BICC) in Dhaka on March 11.

The session was a part of the three-day Bangladesh Business Summit, 2023 which was inaugurated by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

Commerce Minister Tipu Munshi was the other guest at the session.

Responding to the question from Quest on the government's stance on polls, Dr. Momen said that the present government did an excellent job in this regard over the last 14 years as over 1,000 elections were held in a free, fair, transparent and credible manner during this period.

He said although there was fake voter list, but later voter ID cards were introduced while all the concerned institutions were developed in a transparent manner like the Election Commission has been made fully independent having its full authority.

Replying to another question, the Foreign Minister said that the government is delivering ideas one after another like "Smart Bangladesh" from the "Digital Bangladesh".  
Source: <https://www.bssnews.net/news/114983>



## US Congress introduces resolution commending Bangladesh, its socioeconomic progress



On the occasion of the 52nd anniversary of Independence of Bangladesh, the United States Congress introduced a resolution on March 29 recognizing and commending Bangladesh and its remarkable socioeconomic progress under the leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

Republican Congressman Joe Wilson of South Carolina introduced the resolution at the Congress as the co-chair of the Congressional Bangladesh Caucus.

Joe Wilson Sr. (born July 31, 1947) has been serving as the U.S. representative for South Carolina's 2nd congressional district since 2001. He earlier served as the South Carolina state senator from the 23rd district from 1985 to 2001.

While placing the resolution, Congressman Wilson recalled that 51 years ago on April 4, 1972, the United States recognized Bangladesh's independence from Pakistan.

During the nine-month-long Bangladesh Liberation War, members of the Pakistan Armed Forces and pro-Pakistani militias killed hundreds of thousands of people and injured many more. The war for independence was a struggle for democracy and freedom led by Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the resolution said.

It said Bangladesh has made enormous strides in the last five decades from one of the poorest nations to having one of the fastest-growing economies in the world, with their GDP per capita increasing to \$2,457 in 2021 according to the World Bank which now exceeds that of its regional neighbors.

The resolution mentioned since its independence in 1971, Bangladesh's economy has grown from \$9 billion to \$450 billion, life expectancy has risen from 47 years to 73 years, and the adult literacy rate has risen to more than 75 percent.

Bangladesh, through the leadership of current Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, has made substantial socioeconomic progress in food production, disaster resilience, poverty reduction, improved health, education, and women's empowerment, it noted.

The resolution said Bangladesh has successfully maintained a moderate Muslim society and curbed extremism in the country, and its people have sought to maintain support for democracy and rule of law rather than descending into authoritarian rule of gun.

The resolution said the United States and Bangladesh have extensive cooperation on matters of regional and global security, counter terrorism, and climate change. The U.S. is the largest export market for Bangladesh and one of the largest sources of foreign direct investment, it said, adding the nation of Bangladesh has also contributed to the U.S. economy through bilateral trade and international security cooperation in return.

The resolution said the American people appreciate the generous and indispensable role that Bangladesh performs in accepting and sheltering more than 1 million Rohingya people from a genocide perpetrated by its neighbor, Burma. The United States has contributed the largest amount of humanitarian aid to address this crisis, totaling more than \$2 billion.

It said the American people welcome that Bangladesh is one of the world's largest contributors to United Nations peacekeeping efforts globally. Both countries seek to enhance their people-to-people and government-to-government relationship for shared prosperity.

The resolution mentioned that Bangladesh has expressed their gratitude to the United States for contributing more than 100 million doses of the COVID-19 vaccine to the people of Bangladesh.

It said the American people recognize and commend the Nation and people of Bangladesh as they celebrate 51 years of independence. The United States extends its sincere determination to remain a constructive partner of Bangladesh in achieving mutual economic, social and national security objectives now and into the future, the resolution concluded.

## Bangabandhu's 103rd birth anniversary celebrated in Washington



The 103rd birth anniversary of greatest Bangalee of all time Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and the National Children's Day-2023 was celebrated at Bangladesh Embassy in Washington DC on 17 March (Friday) with due respect and festivity.

To celebrate the day, the Embassy organized elaborate programs which included hosting of the National Flag, placing a floral wreath at the bust of Bangabandhu, discussion meeting, essay and painting competition for the children, cultural function and screening of two documentaries on Bangabandhu.

The day's programs of the Embassy began in the morning with formally hoisting of the National Flag in front of the Chancery Building by Ambassador Muhammad Imran. Officials and employees of the Mission were present at that time.

Later, the Ambassador placed a floral wreath at the bust of the Father of the Nation at Bangabandhu Corner in the presence of the officials and employees of the Mission.

Messages issued on the occasion by Hon'ble President, Prime Minister, Foreign Minister and State Minister for Foreign Affairs were read out at the Bangabandhu Auditorium. Consular (Minister) Mohammad Habibur Rahman, Defense Attaché Brigadier General Md Shahedul Islam, Counsellor (Public Diplomacy) Arifa Rahman Ruma and First Secretary (Passport and Visa Wing) Md Abdul Hye Milton read out the messages.

Taking part in the discussion, Ambassador Imran paid glowing tributes to the Father of the Nation and recalled his long struggle from the great Language Movement to the War of Liberation to achieve the much-anticipated independence of Bengali nation.

Under the undaunted leadership of Bangabandhu, Bangladesh emerged as an independent and sovereign country in the world after the nine-month-long armed war in 1971, he said.

While talking about the National Children's Day, the Ambassador said the government led by Bangabandhu's able daughter Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has taken various programs to make the country a safe abode for the future generations.

He urged the guardians to let their children know about the country's glorious history, culture and Bangabandhu's great sacrifice for independence.

Ambassador Imran called upon all to work unitedly under the leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasin to build a happy and prosperous Bangladesh free from hunger and poverty by embracing the spirit of the Liberation War and the ideology of the Father of the Nation.

Minister (Press) AZM Sajjad Hossain also took part in the discussion highlighting Bangabandhu's long struggle for independence and huge contribution to rebuilding war-ravaged nation.

The morning part of the programs ended with offering a special prayer seeking eternal peace of the departed soul of Bangabandhu and other martyrs of the August 15 carnage as well as continued peace, progress and prosperity of the nation.

Later in the evening, the Ambassador cut a cake with the participation of the children. A colorful cultural function was staged where Bangladeshi children living in Greater Washington Metro Area enthralled the audience by performing patriotic songs and dances.

Afterwards, Ambassador Imran distributed prizes among the winners of the essay and art competitions. A competition on making traditional Bangladeshi Pitha (cake) was also organized marking the day.

Spouse of the Ambassador Zakia Hasnat handed over the prizes among the winners of the cake making competition.

Counsellor (Political-I) Mohammad Moniruzzaman, Counsellor (Political-III) Shamima Yeasmin Smrite and First Secretary Md Ataur Rahman conducted the three parts of the programs.

## Bangladesh quickly becoming a regional leader: Antony Blinken



US Secretary of State Antony J Blinken has said Bangladesh is 'quickly becoming a regional leader' with a rapidly growing economy, an increasingly well-educated workforce, and a dynamic youth demographic.

"Americans and Bangladeshis are stronger together because of our cooperation on the defining issues of this era," he said in a press statement on behalf of the United States, conveying his best wishes to the people of Bangladesh on its 53rd Independence Day and National Day on March 26.

Mr. Blinken said he looks forward to "deepening their partnership" with Bangladesh in the years ahead. "As you celebrate your Independence Day, Bangladesh has many reasons to be proud," he said.

Antony Blinken said the United States is proud of its partnership with Bangladesh and of the resulting achievements made over the last five decades. "Most recently, we have made real strides together battling COVID-19, tackling climate change, and promoting a free and open Indo-Pacific region," he said.

By committing to democratic norms, good governance, human rights, and media freedom - all of which are hallmarks of developing, stable, and prospering societies - the US Secretary of State said he believes Bangladesh will achieve its great potential. "We commit to working with you in support of free and fair elections, open to all," he said.

Mr. Blinken said by generously welcoming the Rohingyas fleeing genocide, Bangladesh has demonstrated its humanitarian commitment to sheltering vulnerable refugees. He said Bangladesh has shown leadership in protecting the environment and strengthening climate resilience by developing adaptation strategies to the climate crisis.

Source: <https://www.thedailystar.net/news/bangladesh/diplomacy/news/dhaka-wants-apology-pakistan-first-strengthening-ties-3239681>

## Bangladesh serves as a model for rest of the world: US Assistant Secretary of State Julieta Noyes; Bangladesh considers USA an important partner: Ambassador Imran



The US Assistant Secretary of State for the Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration, Ambassador Julieta Valls Noyes, has said rebuilding the country after the 1971 war, and now forging the path toward economic growth, inclusion and development, Bangladesh serves as a model in many ways for the rest of the world.

Ambassador Julieta Noyes applauded Bangladeshi leadership and openness as its host over one million Rohingya refugees. In 2017, hundreds of thousands of Rohingyas fled genocide in Burma, and Bangladesh opened its doors and the people of the country opened their arms and hearts for the refugees, she said.

US Assistant Secretary of State Julieta Valls Noyes was addressing as the "Guest of Honour" a reception hosted by Bangladesh Embassy in Washington DC on Thursday (March 30) evening on the occasion of the 53rd Independence and National Day.

Bangladesh Ambassador to the USA Muhammad Imran delivered the welcome address at the function held at the Bangabandhu Auditorium of the Embassy.

Ambassador Julieta Valls Noyes said more than half a century of friendship, Bangladesh and the United States have strengthened cooperation across a broad range of sectors. The two countries have built close trade and investment ties fueled by vibrant diaspora community and strong business links, she said.

She mentioned that Bangladesh and the USA are deepening defense and development partnership to build the safer and more prosperous future now and for generations to come.

Ambassador Julieta Noyes said she is proud that the US is the single largest donor to the Rohingya crisis. The USA is eager to continue and expand collaboration with Bangladesh to address the host communities' needs and advance durable solutions for Rohingya refugees, she said.

On behalf of the USA and its government, the US Assistant Secretary of State congratulated the people of Bangladesh on the occasion of their Independence and National Day.

Bangladesh Ambassador Muhammad Imran, in his speech, paid deep homage to Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and three million martyrs of the Great War of Liberation.

He said Bangladesh considers the USA an important and valuable partner in its journey towards emerging as a peaceful and prosperous nation and looks forward to working closely with the United States for stronger economic ties.

Ambassador Imran said Bangladesh attaches high importance to its long-standing partnership with the United States. He said Bangladesh was encouraged by the words of encouragement and appreciations in the messages of President Joe Biden and Secretary of State Antony Blinken on its Independence and National Day.

Regarding the Rohingya issue, the Ambassador extended Bangladesh's sincere thanks to the United States for its steadfast support and commitment to a durable solution of the Rohingya crisis.

Mr. J Chapman Petersen, State Senator from Virginia, Dr. Ahmad Kaikaus, Alternate Executive Director in World Bank, Ms Afreen Akhter, US Deputy Assistant Secretary, the Bureau of South and Central Asian Affairs, the US Department of State, President of US Chapter Awami League Dr. Siddiqur Rahman, ambassadors and diplomats of different countries, senior officials of the US government and members of the Bangladeshi diaspora were present on the occasion.

Later, Bangladesh Ambassador Muhammad Imran and Guest of Honour Ambassador Julieta Noyes and other guests cut a cake marking the Independence and National Day. Counsellor (Political-III) of Bangladesh Embassy Ms Shamima Yeasmin Smrite conducted the function.

## Bangladesh Embassy in Washington DC celebrates 53rd Independence and National Day



The Bangladesh Embassy in Washington DC on March 26 celebrated the 53rd Independence and National Day on March 26 with a fresh vow to materialize the dreams of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and the martyrs of the great Liberation War.

To celebrate the day, the Embassy arranged elaborate programs that included hoisting of the National Flag, placing a floral wreath at the bust of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, screening of a documentary and discussion session.

The day's programs began in the morning with ceremonially hoisting of the National Flag by Bangladesh Ambassador to the USA Muhammad Imran on the Chancery premises. Officials and employees of the Mission were present on the occasion.

Later, the Ambassador placed a floral wreath at the bust of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in the presence of the officials of the Embassy.

The messages issued on the occasion 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.

Deputy Chief of Mission Ferdousi Shahriar, Minister (Consular) Mohammad Habibur Rahman, Counsellor (Public Diplomacy) Arifa Rahman Ruma and Counsellor and Head of Chancery Mohammad Moniruzzaman read out the messages.

Later, a discussion session highlighting the significance of the Independence and National Day was held at the Bangabandhu Auditorium of the Embassy.

Taking part in the discussion session, Ambassador Imran termed the great Independence and National Day as the most glorious and memorable day of Bangladesh and extended his heartfelt greetings to all Bangladeshis across the USA on the occasion.

He also paid deep homage to Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and three million martyrs who sacrificed their life for the cause of independence.

Ambassador Imran said in the wake of the Pakistani army's barbaric attack on the unarmed Bengalees in Dhaka on the night of 25th March in 1971, Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman formally declared the independence of Bangladesh at the first hour of 26th March.

The nation, he said, soon launched the War of Liberation at the call of the Father of the Nation, and under his fearless leadership, Bangladesh achieved long-cherished independence on December 16 in 1971 after the nine-month bloody war against Pakistan.

The Ambassador said Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman fought throughout his life for transforming Bangladesh into a developed and prosperous 'Sonar Bangla' (Golden Bengal).

But Bangabandhu could not materialize his cherished dream as he was brutally assassinated by the anti-liberation elements on the black night of 15th August in 1975, Ambassador Imran continued.

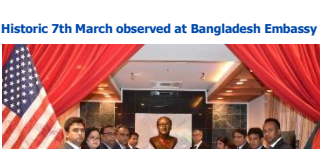
He called upon all to work unitedly to materialize the dreams of Bangabandhu and martyrs of the War of Liberation by turning Bangladesh into a hunger-and-poverty-free developed and prosperous country.

Ambassador Imran also requested the expatriate Bangladeshis to project the country's tremendous achievements and progress abroad that took place in the last 14 years under the leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

Defense Attaché Brigadier General Md. Shahedul Islam also took part in the discussion and highlighted the significance of the Independence and National Day. He also discussed in detail the important contribution of the members of the Armed Forces in the War of Liberation in 1971.

After the discussion, a special prayer was offered seeking eternal peace of the departed souls of the Father of the Nation and the martyrs of the Liberation War. First Secretary Md Ataur Rahman conducted the programs.

## Historic 7th March observed at Bangladesh Embassy in Washington DC



The Bangladesh Embassy in Washington D.C. observed the historic 7th March, commemorating Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's landmark speech in 1971 which was considered as the indirect declaration of Bangladesh's independence.

The fiery speech of Bangabandhu on March 7 at a mammoth rally in the then "Race Course Maidan", now Suhrawardy Udyan, inspired the freedom-loving Bangladeshis to fight and earn the long-cherished independence of Bangladesh in 1971.

The day's program of the Embassy started with the formal hoisting of the National Flag by Bangladesh Ambassador to the USA Muhammad Imran on the Embassy premises in the morning. Officials and employees of the Mission were present on the occasion.

Later, the Ambassador placed a floral wreath at the bust of the Father of the Nation at the Bangabandhu Corner of the Embassy in the presence of the Embassy officials.

After laying the wreath, they stood in solemn silence for some time as a mark of profound respect to the memory of the great leader.

The messages issued on the occasion by President Md. Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina were read out by Minister (Political-I) & Head of Chancery Dewan Ali Ashraf and Counsellor (Political-III) Shamima Yeasmin Smrite. Later, a video film on the historic 7th March speech of Bangabandhu was screened.

Following, a discussion highlighting the significance of the day was organized.

Taking part in the discussion, Ambassador Imran paid deepest homage to Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on the occasion of the historic 7th March and highlighted different aspects of his epic speech.

He termed 7th March as the then Race Course Maidan in the history of the Bengali nation and said on this day in 1971, Bangabandhu delivered the momentous speech at the unopposed Course Maidan (now Suhrawardy Udyan) in Dhaka, effectively declaring the War of Independence.

Realizing the importance of the historic speech, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) has included the speech in its Memory of the World International Register, a list of the world's important documentary heritage, he said.

Ambassador Imran called upon all to work unitedly to build a hunger-and-poverty-free happy and prosperous 'Sonar Bangla' (Golden Bengal) as dreamt by Bangabandhu under the leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

The day's program ended with offering a special prayer seeking divine blessings for eternal peace of the departed soul of Bangabandhu as well as Bangladesh's continued peace, progress and prosperity. First Secretary Md Ataur Rahman conducted the program.

## Bangladesh Embassy in Washington DC observes "Genocide Day"



paid rich tributes to the greatest Bangalee of all time, Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, and three million martyrs of the Liberation War.

Recalling the Pakistani army's atrocities in the War of Liberation War, he said the Pakistan army launched the infamous "Operation Searchlight" in Dhaka on the night of March 25 in 1971 as part of their blueprint to thwart the Awami League's assumption of office following its victory in the elections held in 1970.

He described the March 25 massacre as the worst genocide in human history and mentioned that the systematic mass killing and atrocities perpetrated by the Pakistani junta on the unarmed Bangalees on that day left thousands of people dead and a trail of destruction which continued till December 1971.

Ambassador Imran said Bangabandhu formally proclaimed the independence of Bangladesh at the first hour of the 26th March 1971 after the Pakistan army's barbaric attack. Under Bangabandhu's undisputed leadership, Bangladesh achieved ultimate victory on December 16 in 1971 after the nine-month long bloody war against Pakistan, he said.

The Ambassador called upon all to work unitedly to build "Sonar Bangla" (Golden Bengal) as dreamt by Bangabandhu and join the journey of establishing a "Smart Bangladesh" by 2041 under the leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina being imbued with the spirit of the Liberation War.

Minister (Economic) Md. Mahadee Hasan also took part in the discussion and urged all to highlight the issue of Pakistani army's brutality on 25th March before the world community to get the international recognition of the genocide.

The programs ended with offering a special prayer seeking divine blessings for eternal peace of the departed souls of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and the martyrs of the War of Liberation. First Secretary (Visa & Passport Wing) Muhammad Abdul Hye Milton conducted the programs.

The Bangladesh Embassy in Washington DC observed the "Genocide Day" on 25 March commemorating one of the most brutal genocides in world history that was committed by the Pakistan army on 25th March in 1971 in Bangladesh.

The Embassy organized elaborate programs to pay deep homage to the martyrs who were killed mercilessly by the Pakistani military junta's operation code named "Operation Searchlight" on the black night of 25th March in that year.

The day's programmes began with observance of one-minute silence to pay profound respect to the martyrs of the War of Liberation. This was followed by screening of a documentary on the brutalities of the Pakistani army in Bangladesh in 1971.

The messages issued by Hon'ble President Md. Abdul Hamid and Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina were read out by Minister (Commerce) Md Salim Reza and Minister (Political) Md Rasheduzzaman.

Taking part in the discussion, Bangladesh Ambassador to the USA Muhammad Imran, Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, and three million martyrs of the Liberation War.

## Bangladesh adopting \$1.2b plan to boost tourism: Tourism Secretary



of foreign direct investment (FDI).

Source: <https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade/govt-adopting-12b-plan-to-boost-tourism>

Bangladesh is adopting an action plan, involving investment worth about US\$ 1.2 billion, to help boost the country's tourism industry, said Secretary of the Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism Md. Mokammel Hossain.

The government has already drafted a 15-year master plan to develop tourist spots and infrastructure in different destinations, he said.

The Tourism Secretary made the remarks while addressing the session - "Tourism & Blue Economy: Market Readiness and Opportunities for Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in the Tourism Industry" - in the Bangladesh Business Summit on March 14.

Prof Santus Kumar Deb of Dhaka University Tourism and Hospitality Management Department said the Asia-Pacific region is the most attractive destination in terms

## Bangladesh total labour force is 73.41m: Survey



Speaking on the occasion, Planning Minister MA Mannan said that the survey was conducted in line with the ILO standard. Quoting survey findings during the COVID-19 pandemic, he said that the number of unemployment and poverty rate had reduced in the capital.

Source: <https://www.jagonews24.com/en/national/news/67623>

Bangladesh's total labour force is 73.41 million of which 47.48 million are males, while 25.93 million are females, according to the provisional report of the labour force survey 2022.

The provisional survey findings released on March 29 also showed that some 9.91 million labour force joined the labour market from 2016-17 to 2022, over the last five years.

The survey findings were unveiled a dissemination ceremony of Quarterly Labour Force Survey 2022 Bangladesh held at the auditorium of the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) in the capital's Agargaon area.

Planning Minister MA Mannan addressed the function as the chief guest, while State Minister for Planning Dr Shamsul Alam spoke as the special guest. BBS director general Md Matiar Rahman presided over the function.