



Mohammed Shahabuddin takes oath as 22nd president of Bangladesh



Mohammed Shahabuddin has taken the oath as the 22nd president of Bangladesh.

Speaker Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury administered the oath during a ceremony at the Darbar Hall of the Bangabhaban on April 24.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Chief Justice Hasan Foez Siddique, cabinet members and hundreds of distinguished guests attended the event. Cabinet Secretary Md Mahub Hossain conducted the programme.

New President Mohammed Shahabuddin and outgoing President M Abdul Hamid officially altered the seat on the dais after taking the oath.

Later, Shahabuddin signed the oath documents for the office of the president.

Earlier, the 73-year-old politician was elected as the 22nd president of Bangladesh on February 13, 2023.

Source: <https://www.dhakatribune.com/bangladesh/2023/04/23/mohammed-shahabuddin-to-take-oath-as-22nd-president-of-bangladesh-on-monday>

Last speech in parliament: President Abdul Hamid calls for standing united against evil forces

President M Abdul Hamid has called upon all to stand united against any evil force that threatens the country's hard-earned democracy as he addressed the "Special Jatiya Sangsad Session" marking the parliament's golden jubilee.

"All must stand united against any evil force that threatens democracy," the President told the House on April 7. It was his last speech in the Jatiya Sangsad (JS) as the President Abdul Hamid as his second term in office came to end on April 23.

Urging the people of the country, irrespective of political affiliations, the head of state said, "Let's join together to build a welfare-oriented state keeping the beloved motherland away from conflicts and any extremist and terror acts."

The Jatiya Sangsad is the 'heart of democratic practice', said the President and urged the parliamentarians of both the treasury and opposition benches to stay above all sorts of enmity, personal and party interests for constructive, effective and active participation to establish democracy.

Source: <https://www.bssnews.net/news-flash/119700>



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina pays official visit to Japan: Dhaka-Tokyo ink 8 deals to boost cooperation



Dhaka and Tokyo have signed eight instruments on the second day of Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's four-day state visit to Japan at the invitation of her Japanese counterpart Fumio Kishida.

The agreements signed on April 26 were agriculture, metro rail, industrial upgrade, ship recycling, customs matters, intellectual properties, defence cooperation, ICT and cyber security cooperation.

The instruments were later exchanged between Bangladesh and Japan in presence the premiers of both the countries at Prime Minister Kishida's Office.

Prior to signing of the instruments, bilateral talks were held between the Bangladesh Prime Minister and her Japanese counterpart in a very cordial environment.

Issues of mutual interests involving security cooperation, investment, enhanced trade relations, power and energy sector cooperation and Rohingya topped the agenda during the talks.

On her arrival at the Prime Minister's Office, her Japanese counterpart Fumio Kishida received the Bangladesh Prime Minister and accorded a ceremonial reception in her honor.

Source: <https://www.newagebd.net/article/200065/bangladesh-set-to-ink-eight-deals-with-japan-as-pm-leaves-for-tokyo-today>

Bangladesh, Japan elevate bilateral ties to 'Strategic Partnership': Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has said Bangladesh and Japan have successfully elevated the bilateral relations to a "Strategic Partnership" from the existing "Comprehensive Partnership".

The Prime Minister made this remarks a in joint statement after meeting with her Japanese counterpart Kishida Fumio at his office in Tokyo on April 26.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said Mr. Kishida and she have discussed the entire gamut of their bilateral relations in the meeting.

She said they also discussed about Rohingya crisis as the presence of the Rohingyas is seriously affecting the lives and livelihoods of the local communities in Bangladesh.

"We also requested Japan to help finding a durable solution to the crisis by using its channel of communication with Myanmar," she said.

Meanwhile, Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida reiterated his country's support for Bangladesh in repatriation of Rohingyas to their homeland Myanmar.

"Bangladesh has sheltered over one million displaced persons from Myanmar and we will continue to support its endeavour," Mr. Kishida said in the joint statement after meeting between the two premiers.

He said that both the countries will work to increase bilateral relations in different areas and to expand the cooperation in the international community.

The Japanese Prime Minister said in the meeting both the countries have affirmed their commitment to uphold free and open international order based on the rule of law as strategic partners at a time, when the international order stands at a historic turning point.

Source: <https://www.bssnews.net/news-flash/122494>



Bangladesh takes IMF loan as a 'breathing space': Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has said Bangladesh has taken a loan from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) as a "breathing space" while the global lender assured of continuing to provide such support in future.

The Prime Minister made the remarks when an IMF delegation led by its Managing Director (MD) Kristalina Georgieva paid a courtesy call on her at the meeting room of The Ritz-Carlton hotel in Washington on April 29. After the meeting, Foreign Minister Dr AK Abdul Momen briefed reporters.

The IMF has recently approved a loan of 4.7 billion US dollars for Bangladesh.

The Foreign Minister said that the IMF MD has highly praised the unprecedented advancement of Bangladesh in various sectors under the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina which makes Bangladesh economy stable after the Covid-19 pandemic.

"Bangladesh is a role model in the world (in terms of its overall development) which makes its economy stable even after the Coronavirus pandemic," Dr Momen said quoting the IMF managing director.

The IMF chief said leadership like Bangladesh Prime Minister is necessary to go ahead towards prosperity confronting all the hurdles.

She said Bangladesh has achieved remarkable progress due to establishing massive infrastructure development, well connectivity and maintaining the law and order.

Ms Kristalina also hailed the maintaining stability in the macro economy even in the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Prime Minister apprised the IMF chief of her government initiatives to ensure overall development of her country.

Source: <https://www.bssnews.net/news-flash/123073>

Article 70 gives stability to government, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina tells parliament

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has come down heavily on a few parliament members as they are advocating against Article 70 in the Constitution despite the article has given sustainability to the government and thus the development.

The Prime Minister, also Leader of the House, was delivering the valedictory speech in the 22nd (special) session of the 11th parliament on April 10, marking the Golden Jubilee of Parliament with Speaker Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury in the chair.

The Prime Minister said a few parliament members are expressing concern over Article 70 in the Constitution due to their inexperience, referring to the unseating of the governments formed after 1946 and 1954 elections mainly due to floor-crossing of the parliament members.

During his submission, Deputy Leader of the Opposition, Ghulam Muhammed Quader spoke about revoking Article 70 of the Constitution.

Earlier, the parliament held a special discussion in line with a resolution taken by the prime minister on 7 April under section 147 of the rules of procedure of the parliament.

President Md. Abdul Hamid delivered a memorial speech in the parliament highlighting the country's achievements.

Source: <https://www.dhakatribune.com/bangladesh/2023/04/10/pm-hasina-tells-parliament-article-70-gives-stability-to-government>



Bangladesh to welcome EU, UK observers in next general polls: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has said the government would welcome observers from the European Union (EU) and the United Kingdom (UK) in the upcoming general election.

The Prime Minister made the remarks when the outgoing UK High Commissioner in Dhaka Robert Chatterton Dickson paid a farewell call on her at the latter's official Ganabhaban residence in Dhaka on April 20.

Mentioning that some local election observers have separate agenda, the Prime Minister said her government has established the voting rights of the people in Bangladesh.

About Rohingya issue, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has sought international cooperation to for sustainable repatriation of the Rohingyas to their homeland.

The UK envoy said his country wants to strengthen further the economic partnership and cooperation in aviation sector with Bangladesh.

Source: <https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/bangladesh-welcome-eu-uk-observers-next-general-polls-pm-619854>

No journalist arrested for reporting on cost of living: Foreign Ministry

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has said no journalists were arrested in Bangladesh due to reporting on the cost of living.

The Ministry in a statement on April 1 said that it has been brought to the notice of the government that few international media and institutions are claiming that a journalist in Bangladesh, named Shamsuzzaman, has been arrested as he wrote about 'cost of living in Bangladesh'.

"This information is totally false and fabricated. This journalist was arrested because of 'child abuse' and 'child exploitation'," said the statement.

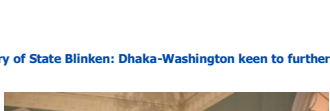
It said the journalist was arrested because of child abuse and child exploitation, as he offered a 10 to a 9-year old boy and then expressed his own views in the name of that child. That is surely an act of child abuse and exploitation, read the statement.

Secondly, the statement said, that Shamsuzzaman tried to undermine the Independence of Bangladesh on the great Independence Day.

Source: <https://www.bssnews.net/news-flash/118634>



Foreign Minister Momen holds talks with US Secretary of State Blinken: Dhaka-Washington keen to further bolster bilateral ties



Bangladesh and the United States have expressed their eagerness to further bolster bilateral ties for the next 50 years, building on the solid foundation of the past 50 years.

The two countries showed the keenness during the official talks between visiting Bangladesh Foreign Minister Dr. A.K. Abdul Momen, MP, and US Secretary of State Antony Blinken at the US Department of State in Washington DC on April 10.

In their introductory remarks in the presence of media, both the leaders expressed satisfaction over the existing bilateral relations and echoed their desire to further enhance bilateral ties for the next 50 years, building on the solid foundation of the past a half a century.

Termining Bangladesh-US relationship wide-ranging, dynamic and multifaceted, Dr. Momen hoped to develop, strengthen and solidify the ties. He thanked President Joe Biden for his warm message to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on the occasion of the Independence Day of Bangladesh, which the US President ended with "Joy Bangla".

During the meeting, the two leaders discussed various bilateral and other issues of mutual interest, including strengthening and diversifying economic partnership, addressing Rohingya crisis and climate change, labour rights, civil liberty, and elections.

Apprising the US Secretary of State of the ongoing and completed works in labour sector reforms in Bangladesh, the Foreign Minister hoped that these efforts would be duly acknowledged and appreciated through stronger economic partnership between the two countries. Mr. Blinken lauded the ongoing US-Bangladesh consultative process in improving labour situation in Bangladesh.

Foreign Minister Dr. Momen called upon the United States to take advantage of the generous investment regime of Bangladesh and encourage the US private sector to invest in special economic zones and hi-tech parks in Bangladesh.

The Foreign Minister thanked the US government for their generous support in combating COVID-19 pandemic and continued humanitarian support for the Rohingyas sheltered in Bangladesh. He stressed the need for sustained international pressure on Myanmar for creating environment for voluntary repatriation of Rohingyas to Myanmar. Secretary Blinken highly praised Bangladesh for generously hosting over one million Rohingyas and assured to continue work towards repatriation of the Rohingyas.

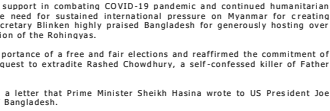
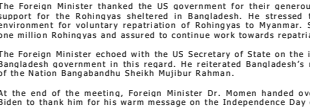
The Foreign Minister echoed with the US Secretary of State on the importance of a free and fair elections and reaffirmed the commitment of Bangladesh government in this regard. He reiterated Bangladesh's request to extradite Rashed Chowdhury, a self-confessed killer of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

At the end of the meeting, Foreign Minister Dr. Momen handed over a letter that Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina wrote to US President Joe Biden to thank him for his warm message on the Independence Day of Bangladesh.

Bangladesh Ambassador to the USA Mr. Muhammad Imran, Deputy Head of Mission Ms. Ferdousi Shahriar, Director General (North America) Mr. Khandker Masudul Alam, and officials of the Bangladesh Embassy in Washington and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs were present at the meeting.

Accompanying Derek Chollet, Assistant Secretary of State for Population, Refugees and Migration Ms. Julieta Vallis Noyes, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Democracy, Human Rights and Labor Ms. Kara McDonald, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asia Ms. Afsheen Akhter accompanied Secretary Blinken in the meeting.

Foreign Minister Dr Momen joins events of Atlantic Council & IRI in Washington



Foreign Minister Dr. A. K. Abdul Momen, MP, delivered a keynote speech on emerging Bangladesh and its socioeconomic achievements at an event organised by South Asia Centre of Atlantic Council, a prominent think-tank of the USA, at George Washington University in Washington DC on 11 April.

He also discussed economic partnership and prospects with the USA, and other issues related to economic diplomacy, regional development and navigating relations with major powers.

At the event, the Foreign Minister said Bangladesh has been recognized as a role model of development in the world under the leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and highlighted its success stories in different sectors.

The talks were followed by a lively question-answer session moderated by Professor Dr. Irfan Nuruddin, Senior Director of the South Asia Center of the Council.

Earlier, Foreign Minister Abdul Momen joined a meeting as the chief guest at the International Republican Institute (IRI) in Washington DC.

At the general meeting, he talked about Bangladesh's political landscape, its electoral process and preparedness for a free, fair and participatory general elections.

The IRI officials expressed their interest to observe the general elections which was cordially welcomed by the Foreign Minister. President of the Institute Mr. Daniel Twining moderated the event.

Bangladesh Ambassador to the USA Mr. Muhammad Imran, Director General (North America) of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Mr. Khandker Masudul Alam and officials of Bangladesh Embassy were present at the two events.

Bangladesh reveals its Indo-Pacific Outlook

Bangladesh has officially revealed its 15-point Indo-Pacific Outlook (IPO) envisioning a free, open, peaceful, secure, and inclusive Indo-Pacific.

"The Indo-Pacific area's collective share in global GDP, preponderance in international trade, enhanced climate action and growing technological dynamism can be key determinants for ensuring Bangladesh's long-term resilience and prosperity," State Minister for Foreign Affairs Md Shahrir Alam said.

The State Minister read-out the Bangladesh's IPO in presence of Foreign Minister Dr AK Abdul Momen at a briefing at the Foreign Ministry on April 24.

The Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's foreign policy objectives following four guiding principles with the first one as – "Father of the Nation State Bhabanur Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's foreign policy objective 'Friendship towards all, malice toward none'.

According to the text the three other guiding principles are –

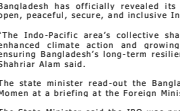
—Constitutional mandate on the conduct of international relations based on the principles of respect for national sovereignty and equality, political independence, non-interference in internal affairs, peaceful settlement of international disputes, as well as respect for international law and the principles enshrined in the United Nations Charter; and striving for renunciation of the use of force in international relations and for general and complete disarmament.

—Adherence to the relevant UN treaties and international conventions, as applicable, including the 1982 UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).

—Constructive regional and international cooperation for sustainable development, international peace and security, humanitarian action, and fundamental rights and freedoms.

Source: <https://www.observverb.com/news.php?id=416769>

Foreign Minister Dr Momen urges EU to play pragmatic role for cessation of Ukraine conflict



Foreign Minister Dr AK Abdul Momen has urged the European Union (EU) to play a more pragmatic role for the cessation of hostilities in Russia-Ukraine conflict.

The Foreign Minister made the call when Ambassador and Head of Delegation of the European Union to Bangladesh Charles Whiteley called on him at the latter's office in Dhaka on April 17.

He also expressed Bangladesh's continued concerns over the situation in Ukraine, particularly the loss of civilian lives, and consequential socio-economic fallout around the globe.

During the meeting, both sides expressed satisfaction over the 50 years of robust partnership between Bangladesh and the European Union and agreed to work together on further strengthening the Bangladesh-EU relations.

The Foreign Minister observed that the EU's position on Indo-Pacific is largely similar to that of Bangladesh. He stressed that Bangladesh believes in a free, open, inclusive, peaceful, secure and rules-based Indo-Pacific region with shared prosperity for all.

Source: <https://www.bssnews.net/news/121376>

Shahrir Alam for deepening relations in region through connectivity

State Minister for Foreign Affairs Md. Shahrir Alam has emphasized on deepening relations in the region for shared prosperity through regional connectivity where the Bay of Bengal is the common strategic interlocutor.

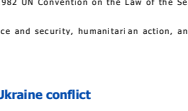
He was speaking at the 'Third India-Japan Intellectual Conclave', held at Aqartala in Indian state of Tripura on April 11. The event was jointly organized by Assam-based influential think tank Asian Confluence, the Indian Ministry of External Affairs, Bangladesh Mission in Aqartala and the Embassy of Japan in India.

Shahrir Alam highlighted the transformative changes in the bilateral ties between Bangladesh and India in the recent years under the leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The State Minister said Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina always advocated regional and sub-regional cooperation.

With its advantageous geographic location between South and South East Asia, and the Bay of Bengal to the south, Bangladesh was working to establish itself as the regional hub of connectivity, he noted.

Source: <https://www.dhakatribune.com/foreign-affairs/2023/04/12/shahrir-alam-stresses-regional-connectivity-at-india-japan-conclave-in-aqartala>



Foreign Secretary Momen at UN: Let's ensure an inclusive world for persons with autism



Bangladesh has urged all to work together to come up with innovative solutions to better integrate individuals with disabilities into society and ensure that none is left behind.

"We reaffirm our commitment to ensuring that 75 million people in the world who live with autism can make the most of their talents and participate fully in our societies," said Foreign Secretary Masud Bin Momen.

He was speaking at a high-level event, titled "World Autism Awareness Day 2023: Inclusion for health through the life course", which was jointly organized by the Permanent Mission of Bangladesh, Qatar, World Health Organization and UNICEF at the United Nations Headquarters on April 3.

In his keynote speech, Foreign Secretary Momen said that Bangladesh has seen tremendous increase in awareness on autism in the past decade, thanks to Saima Wazed, chairperson of Bangladesh National Advisory Committee on Autism and Neurodevelopmental Disorders.

Ambassador Alya Ahmed Saif Al-Thani, Permanent Representative of Qatar, and Ambassador Muhammad Abdul Muhith, Permanent Representative of Bangladesh, delivered the welcome remarks.

Source: <https://www.daily-sun.com/post/682826/Let%E2%80%99s-ensure-an-inclusive-world-for-persons-with-autism-Foreign-Secretary-at-UN>

Historic Mujibnagar Day observed at Bangladesh Embassy in Washington



The historic Mujibnagar Day was observed at Bangladesh Embassy in Washington DC on April 17 in a befitting manner, recalling the historic ceremonial oath-taking of the first government of independent Bangladesh on 17th April in 1971.

The day's program commenced with placing of a floral wreath by Bangladesh Ambassador to the USA Muhammad Imran at the bust of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at the Bangabandhu Corner of the Embassy. Officials and employees of the Mission were present during the time.

Later, the messages issued on the occasion by President Md. Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina were read out by Defense Attaché Brigadier General Md Shahedul Islam and First Secretary Md Aatur Rahman at the Bangabandhu Auditorium.

Afterwards, a documentary titled "Mujibnagar: The First Capital of Bangladesh" was screened which was followed by a discussion session highlighting the significance of the day.

Taking part in the discussion, Ambassador Imran paid rich tributes to Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, and four national leaders -- Syed Nazrul Islam, Tajuddin Ahmed, Captain M Mansur Ali and AHM Qamaruzzaman -- who successfully led the nation's nine-month war of independence in absence of Bangabandhu.

The Ambassador described the Mujibnagar Day as a glorious and memorable day of the country's history, and Mujibnagar as a symbol of heroics of the Bengali nation. On this day in 1971, the first provisional government of independent Bangladesh ceremonially took oath at a mango orchard at Baldyanathatala later named as Mujibnagar in the then Meherpur sub-division, he noted.

Ambassador Imran also said the first provisional government performed their responsibilities with utmost devotion, efficiency and sincerity in leading the War of Liberation and mobilizing international opinion in favour of independent Bangladesh.

He urged all to work together to build a hunger-and-poverty-free developed and prosperous "Sonar Bangla" (Golden Bengal) and "Smart Bangladesh" being imbued with the spirit of the great War of Liberation and ideology of Bangabandhu.

Canadian parliament passes International Mother Language Day Act

Canada will now officially observe International Mother Language Day on February 21 every year as its House of Commons has passed Bill S-214 to this effect recently.

Ken Hardie MP, who introduced the bill to the House, and Mobina S Jaffer, a senator, who led the passing of the Bill earlier by the Canadian Senate, were present during the discussion and passing of the bill.

Bangladesh High Commissioner to Canada Khalilur Rahman was present at the House of Commons.

The high commission acknowledged the initiative and praised the passing of the Mother Language Laws of the World Society and its President Aminul for pursuing the Bill S-214 with the MPs and senators for almost a decade.



Source: <https://www.thedailystar.net/news/bangladesh/news/canadian-parliament-passes-international-mother-language-day-act-3285201>

Bangladesh's brand value more than twice of Pakistan, 10 times of Sri Lanka



Meanwhile, India topped the brand value list in South Asia with a whopping \$2,924 billion. With the latest ranking, Bangladesh is now the 97th Soft Power nation up from 105 out of 121 countries.

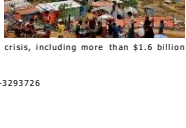
Source: <https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/bangladeshs-brand-value-more-twice-pakistan-10-times-sri-lanka-609>

United States provides \$23.8m more for for Rohingya refugees

The United States, through the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), is providing an additional \$23.8 million in humanitarian assistance to Bangladesh to deliver urgent food and nutrition assistance to Rohingya refugees.

With this new funding, USAID will work with the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) to provide critically needed food and nutrition, including electronic vouchers to purchase staple and fresh foods, feeding 925,000 refugees, with a focus on children and pregnant and lactating women in Cox's Bazar and Bhasan Char, the U.S. Embassy in Dhaka said in a press release on April 10.

The United States is the leading contributor of humanitarian assistance in response to the Rohingya crisis. Since August 2017, the U.S. has provided over \$2 billion in response to this regional crisis, including more than \$1.6 billion to assist Rohingya refugees and host communities in Bangladesh, the release said.



Source: <https://www.thedailystar.net/rohingya-influx/news/us-provide-additional-238m-rohingyas-3293726>

Bangladesh's largest solar park ready for inauguration



Teesta Solar Limited started building this plant in 2018. Beximco owns 80% share of the plant while the rest by a Chinese company. On November 30 last year, the plant started supplying 90-140MW of electricity on a trial basis to the Rangpur grid substation through a newly-built 34km transmission line.

Bangladesh has achieved another milestone in renewable energy sector as a private firm has completed construction of the country's largest solar power plant, with a capacity of 200MW, in Sundarqanj Upazila of Gaibandha.

The power project is implemented at the cost of around Tk1,800 crore on a land of around 700 acres in the char areas of Khodda and Lathshala at Tarapur Union.

The plant that has 520,000 solar panels is expected to start commercial production at the soonest, project officials said. Located near the Teesta River, it has already become a tourist attraction in the area.

Source: <https://www.thesouthasiatimesbd.com/bangladesh/news/19154>

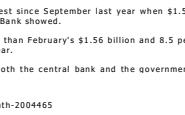
Bangladesh becoming IT hub of South Asia

Bangladesh is fast becoming a global player in the Information Technology (IT) industry, having already grabbed a major share of the IT market in South Asia.

According to the latest Global Location Service Index, the country's IT outsourcing ranking stands at 21, while it is also the second largest producer of IT freelancers in the world.

Recent data from the Export Promotion Bureau shows that Bangladesh earned \$592 million from exports of IT and Information Technology Enabled Service (ITES)-related services, including software, consultancy, and equipment maintenance, in the 2021-22 fiscal year.

Bangladesh Association of Software and Information Services (BASIS) data shows even higher earnings, with \$1.4 billion in export earnings in FY22 and near 100% domestic value-addition, holding a \$1.5 billion equivalent market share in local market earnings.



Source: <https://www.dhakatribune.com/bangladesh/2023/04/08/bangladesh-becoming-it-hub-of-south-asia>

Bangladesh's remittance inflow crosses \$2b in March



Inward remittance flow to Bangladesh witnessed a seven-month high in March as expatriate Bangladeshis sent a remarkable amount of greenback worth around \$2.02 billion to their near and dear ones centring the holy Eid-ul-Fitr.

Expatriates sent home \$2.02 billion in March, the highest since September last year when \$1.53 billion flew into the country, data from the Bangladesh Bank showed.

The receipts of March were nearly 29.3 per cent higher than February's \$1.56 billion and 8.5 per cent higher from \$1.85 billion recorded in March last year.

The latest inflow of remittances would certainly help both the central bank and the government manage the macroeconomic situation, an official of the bank said.

Source: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/remittance-hits-2b-mark-third-straight-month-2004465>

Bangladesh's total population stands at 16.98 crore

Bangladesh's total population stood at 16,98,28,911, according to the Post Enumeration Check (PEC) report of the sixth Population and Housing Census, 2022.

Considering the 2.75 percent Net Coverage Error (NCE), some 46,70,295 people have been added to the initially enumerated population and thus the total number of population stood at 16,98,28,911.

The adjusted population figure in light of the PEC survey of the Census was published on April 9 at a function held at the NEC Conference Room in the city's Sher-e-Bangla Nagar area.

Planning Minister MA Mannan addressed the ceremony as the chief guest while State Minister for Planning Dr Shamsul Alam spoke as the special guest.

Out of the total population, some 68.34 percent or 11,60,66,925 people live in the rural areas while 31.66 percent or 5,37,61,986 people live in the urban areas.



Source: <https://www.bssnews.net/news/109279>

Poverty rate comes down at 18.7% in Bangladesh



The poverty rate in Bangladesh came down to 18.7 percent at the national level, which is 20.5 percent in the rural areas and 14.7 percent in the urban areas, according to the key findings of the Household Income and Expenditure Survey (HIES) 2022.

The findings of the latest HIES 2022, conducted during the period of January 1 to December 31 last year, was revealed on April 12 at a function held at the auditorium of the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) at Aqarqon in the capital.

The survey findings also showed that the overall rate of extreme poverty in the country is 5.6 percent, which is 6.5 percent in the rural areas and 3.8 percent in the urban areas.

The poverty rate in the country in 2016 was 24.3 percent while the extreme poverty rate was 12.9 percent.

The survey findings showed that the daily intake of calories in the country increased over the years as it has reached 2393 kilocalorie in 2022 which was 2210.4 kilocalorie in 2016 while it was 2,318.3 kilocalorie in 2010.

Source: <https://www.bssnews.net/news/top-news/120491>