



## President Mohammed Shahabuddin for maintaining present spree of democracy, development



About country's tremendous development in different sectors, including ICT, infrastructure and electricity, the President said the development trend is now acclaimed worldwide as a "role model of development".

Pointing out the allegations of corruption in Padma Bridge prior to starting of its construction, the President, who was the ACC Commissioner then, said there was no corruption in Padma Bridge but in two particular newspapers reported the corruption on the Padma Bridge.

Source : <https://www.bssnews.net/news/125781>

President Mohammed Shahabuddin has urged all the political parties of the country to continue the present spree of democracy and development.

"Democracy and development must continue in the country . . . There might be problems but it is possible to solve those through amicable discussion," he told a mass reception accorded to him at the Edward College Ground in Pabna on May 16.

Noting that the upcoming general election is very crucial for democratic practice, the Head of State called upon the political parties to analyse the comparative development took place over the last 14 years in the country and take decision in the next polls.

## Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina seeks support of World Bank for Bangladesh's smooth transition



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has sought enhanced World Bank (WB) cooperation for Bangladesh's smooth transition towards a developing nation, subsequent graduation as upper-middle income country and implementation of its Delta Plan-2100.

The Prime Minister was addressing the plenary session on "Reflection on 50 years of World Bank-Bangladesh Partnership" held at the Preston Auditorium of the World Bank Headquarters in Washington DC on May 1.

"Bangladesh is preparing for smooth and sustainable graduation from the UN LDC status in 2026. I request the World Bank to support our human capital and institutional capacity development programmes for a smooth transition. The critical IDA window needs to be preserved and continued," she said.

The Prime Minister has placed five specific suggestions before the World Bank that need to be taken into consideration by the global lender considering upcoming development imperatives.

On the occasion, a deal of 2.5 billion dollars was signed between Bangladesh and the World Bank to implement five projects.

The Premier also presented a picture of the Padma Multipurpose Bridge to the World Bank president at that time.

She said Bangladesh will continue to invest in infrastructure and logistics for realising its vision to become a high-income economy by 2041".

"I would expect the World Bank to engage in both our physical and social mega-projects in the coming years," the Prime Minister said.

She said Bangladesh has aligned UN SDGs with its national aspiration to become an upper middle-income country by 2031.

"There is an urgent expectation that the World Bank and other development partners deliver increased, concessional and innovative financing for SDG implementation," Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said.

She mentioned that ongoing global multiple crises, caused by the pandemic, armed conflicts and climate emergency, have put most developing economies under serious stress.

The World Bank President David Malpass and its Former Chief Economist Kausik Basu, spoke at the programme while the global lender's Vice President Martin Raiser gave the closing remarks.

On her arrival at the WB headquarters in Washington DC, Bangladesh Prime Minister was received by Country Director of World Bank to Bangladesh Abdoulaye Seck and its VP Martin Raiser with a bouquet.

At the outset of the programme, the Prime Minister with World Bank President David Malpass jointly opened a photo exhibition and walked-through some of the key elements of the exhibition. She also witnessed a dance performance.

A video presentation on "Bangladesh-World Bank 50 Years of Partnership" was screened at the function.

The Prime Minister, earlier, on 28 April reached Washington DC to attend the World Bank programme.

Source : <https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/pm-hasina-seeks-wb-support-bangladesh-smooth-transition-624838>

## World Bank reaffirms strong support for Bangladesh



David Malpass said many countries can learn from Bangladesh's development successes. "The country stands out for its innovative approaches to reducing poverty in record time, empowering women, achieving wide-spread electricity access, and adapting to climate change," he added.

Source : <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/world-bank-reaffirms-strong-support-bangladesh-3309086>

World Bank President David Malpass has reaffirmed strong support for Bangladesh and its people as the country navigates unprecedented global challenges.

The World Bank President was addressing as the special guest the plenary session on "Reflection on 50 years of World Bank-Bangladesh Partnership" held at the Preston Auditorium of the World Bank Headquarters in Washington DC on May 1.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina addressed the event as the special guest.

"As Bangladesh is the largest development partner, welcome its progress in income growth and poverty reduction. We are committed to continuing our support to enable the private sector, create new job opportunities, broaden the tax base, strengthen the financial sector, and build the country's resilience to economic and climate shocks," the

## Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina offers SEZ for US businessmen, seeks larger investment in Bangladesh

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has urged the US business community to invest largely in Bangladesh's renewable energy, shipbuilding, automobile and pharmaceuticals sectors, reiterating her offer of a dedicated 'special economic zone' (SEZ) solely for them.

She made this call while presenting a keynote speech at a high-level executive business roundtable on "US-Bangladesh Economic Partnership: Shared Vision for Smart Growth," in Washington DC on May 2.

"I invite you to invest in our many vibrant and high-potential sectors, such as renewable energy, shipbuilding, automobile, pharmaceuticals, light and heavy machineries, chemical fertilizers, ICT, marine resources, and medical equipment, among others," she said.

The Prime Minister also called upon the US business leaders to explore opportunities and invest in Bangladesh. She also inaugurated the US Bangladesh IT Connect portal ([us.itconnect.gov.bd](http://us.itconnect.gov.bd)) at the event.

The US-Bangladesh Business Council organised the event at the Great Hall of the US Chamber of Commerce in Washington, DC.

The Prime Minister hoped that the US-Bangladesh Business Council will play a significant role in advancing trade and investment cooperation between the two friendly countries.

"I also call on you here today to remain and be with us as partners in our journey to a developed, prosperous, and Smart Bangladesh by 2041," she said.

President of U.S.-Bangladesh Business Council and Senior Vice President-South Asia at U.S. Chamber of Commerce Ambassador Atul Keshap delivered the welcome remarks.

The Prime Minister earlier attended separate meetings with USBBC senior executives, the US Chamber and Commerce President and CEOs at the Briefing Centre at the US Chamber of Commerce.

Source : <https://www.bssnews.net/news-flash/123487>



## Bangladesh, WB sign \$2.25 billion loan deal for 5 development projects



Bangladesh Green and Climate Resilient Development (GCRD) and Sustainable Microenterprise and Resilient Transformation (SMART).

Source : <https://www.dhakatribune.com/foreign-affairs/2023/05/02/bangladesh-wb-signs-225bn-loan-deal-for-5-development-projects>

The World Bank (WB) has agreed to provide a loan of 2.25 billion US dollars to Bangladesh for its five development schemes on regional trade and connectivity, disaster preparedness and environmental management.

A loan agreement was signed between Bangladesh and the global lender at the WB headquarters in Washington DC on May 1.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and WB President David Malpass witnessed the exchange of the agreement.

The five projects are: Resilient Infrastructure Building Project (RIVER), Bangladesh Environmental Sustainability and Transformation (BEST), Accelerating Transport and Trade Connectivity in Eastern South Asia (ACCESS) -Bangladesh Phase-1, First

## Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina alerts countrymen against arsonists' return to power

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has urged the people of Bangladesh to ensure that killers, war criminals, and arsonists do not return to power.

"Make sure that the killers, anti-liberation elements and war criminals never return to power again," she told a civic reception accorded to her by expatriate Bangladeshis at the Ritz-Carlton hotel in Washington, DC on May 2.

The Prime Minister said the BNP-Jamaat alliance had burnt many people during their 'so-called' movement to dislodge the Awami League administration from 2013 to 2015.

Awami League had put Bangladesh on the highway to development after the BNP-Jamaat alliance led the country down a path of destruction, Hasina said.

"Bangladesh will march ahead and be transformed into a developed and prosperous country as dreamt by Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. We're working to materialise that dream," she said.

The Prime Minister bashed her opponents for cashing in on Digital Bangladesh to spread anti-state propaganda at home and abroad.

"We've made Digital Bangladesh. They [BNP-Jamaat] are conducting propaganda against us using the tools of Digital Bangladesh. Don't pay heed to that propaganda," she added.

Foreign Minister Dr AK Abdul Momen, among others, was present on the dais, while Ambassador of Bangladesh to the USA Muhammad Imran moderated the function.

Source : <https://www.bssnews.net/news-flash/123522>



## Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina attends coronation of King Charles III



Prior to the reception, she also joined the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting - a biennial summit of governmental leaders from all Commonwealth nations.

Source : <https://www.bssnews.net/news-flash/124002>

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina attended the coronation of King Charles III at Westminster Abbey in London in the UK on May 6.

The ceremony, conducted by the Archbishop of Canterbury, sees His Majesty King Charles III crowned alongside the Queen Consort.

Charles III, 74, became the King of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland on September 8, 2022, after the death of his mother Queen Elizabeth II.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina earlier on 5 May attended King Charles III's reception for heads of state and government or overseas representatives in advance of the coronation of the King and Queen Consort.

The Premier arrived in London on 4 May on the third leg of her visit after attending a programme of the World Bank marking its 50-year partnership with Bangladesh in Washington DC, the USA and a bilateral visit to Japan.

## UK PM Rishi Sunak sees Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina as his 'inspiration'

The United Kingdom (UK) Prime Minister Rishi Sunak today called Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina a successful economic leader, saying, "You're an inspiration for us."

"I'm following you for many years. You're a successful economic leader," Bangladesh High Commissioner to the UK Saida Muna Tasneem quoted Sunak as telling the Bangladesh premier at their maiden bilateral meeting at the Commonwealth Secretariat's Bilateral Meeting Room on 5 May.

The British Prime Minister highly lauded the leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for Bangladesh's prosperity alongside giving shelter to Rohingyas and houses to the landless and homeless Bangladesh people at government expense and her glorious role in various international forums including climate change.



Source : <https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/uk-pm-rishi-sunak-sees-sheikh-hasina-his-inspiration-626930>

## Polls-time government can be formed with incumbent MPs: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina



The Prime Minister, also the president of Bangladesh Awami League, said that she has been working for the welfare of the people and if the people vote for her, she will stay in power, otherwise not.

Replying to a question if any talks will be held with those who (BNP) are now waging movement on the streets against the government, the Prime Minister said, "Why would we go to call them for talks? Their demand is not specific as well."

Responding to a question regarding the dollar crisis, she said that the dollar crisis is worldwide, not only in Bangladesh.

"There is no such crisis (in Bangladesh). The reserve of foreign currencies was only US\$ 0.744 billion in 2006 during the BNP regime. That means less than one billion dollars. But, now we have a reserve of US\$ 31.22 billion. So, there is not much reason to worry about it," she said.

On another question, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said the IMF provided a loan to Bangladesh as the country has capacity to repay it and its economy didn't get poor yet.

Source : <https://www.bssnews.net/news-flash/125592>

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has said an election-time government could be formed with the parties in parliament although the next general election will be held in the country following the Westminster democracy of Britain.

"We follow the Westminster type democracy. We'll hold the election as Britain does... Yes, we can show our liberality if anyone of the MPs (parties) in parliament expresses desire to join the election-time government. We are ready to welcome them," she said.

The Premier made this remark while addressing a press conference on May 15 in Dhaka to brief the media about the outcomes of her recent tri-nation visit to Japan, the United States and the United Kingdom from April 25 to May 08.

Mentioning that her party Bangladesh Awami League (AL) had shown such liberality earlier too, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said that before the national election in 2014, Khaleeda Zia was asked to give her party's representation in that election-time government, but they didn't do that.

She added: "Now they (BNP) are not in parliament. So, there is nothing to think

## Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina places 6 priorities for Indian Ocean region's 'resilient future'

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has called for strengthening mutual trust and respect and building partnership among the Indian Ocean region countries along with fostering maritime diplomacy for the region's 'resilient future'.

Inaugurating the two-day Indian Ocean Conference (IOC) on May 12, the Premier also sought active global support to repatriate the Rohingyas to their homeland in a sustainable manner.

"The Indian Ocean holds significant importance for not only Bangladesh, but for all the countries in the region due to its geographical position. I would like to underscore six priority areas at this 6th Indian Ocean Conference. We have recently formulated its Indo-Pacific Outlook," she said.

The sixth edition of the conference is being organised by India Foundation in association with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Bangladesh.

The Mauritius president and minister and state minister-level delegations from 25 countries, including Indian external affairs minister, are attending the conference.

Besides, around 150 foreign guests, including representatives from DB, SAARC and BIMSTEC are taking part in the event. Myanmar was not invited to the conference.

In the inaugural session, Mauritius president Prithvirajsing Roopun, Vice-President of Maldives Faisal Nassem, External Affairs Minister of India Dr S Jaishankar, Minister in the Prime Minister's Office and Second Minister of Foreign Affairs of Singapore Dr Maliki Osman, also spoke.

Bangladesh Foreign Minister Dr A K Abdul Momen spoke virtually, while State Minister for Foreign Affairs M Shahriar Alam was present on the dais.

Placing the proposals, the Prime Minister put emphasis on strengthening mutual trust and respect among the member countries for building strong partnerships to ensure stability for a resilient future in the Indian Ocean.

She said the countries in the Indian Ocean region should foster "Maritime Diplomacy" for their development, thereby ensuring a prosperous future while climate vulnerability of many countries in the region calls for enhancing cooperation to reduce the impact of natural disasters.

Source : <https://www.dhakatribune.com/bangladesh/2023/05/12/pm-hasina-raises-6-priorities-for-indian-ocean-regions-resilient-future>



The programme was divided in two sessions - in the first session the chief guest, special guests and experts answered various questions. This session of the programme was moderated by Saima Wazed Putul, Adviser on Mental Health and Autism to the Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO) and Commissioner of the Chatham House Commission on Public Health.

Calling for an international plan for universal healthcare, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said this is very important. This issue needs to be given more importance and an international plan should be made," she said.

Source : <https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/pm-hasina-urges-rich-countries-ensure-universal-healthcare-all-630118>

## Dhaka-Delhi satisfied at bilateral cooperation

Bangladesh and India have expressed satisfaction at the level of bilateral cooperation in various fields.

They expressed the satisfaction when Indian External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar paid a courtesy call on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at the latter's official residence Ganabhaban on May 11.

During the meeting, they discussed the South Asian regional economy amid the emerging situation in the backdrop of the post-Covid and Ukraine War.

Indian External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar paid a two-day official visit to Bangladesh to attend the 6th Indian Ocean Conference held in Dhaka on May 12-13.

Mr Jaishankar thanked Bangladesh for hosting the 6th Indian Ocean Conference. Bangladesh's participation is very big (in the conference), he said.

Source : <https://www.thedailystar.net/news/bangladesh/diplomacy/news/dhaka-delhi-satisfied-over-bilateral-cooperation-3317311>



## Bangladesh doesn't want conflict: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina



Prime minister Sheikh Hasina has said Bangladesh doesn't want any more conflict rather it wants to improve the quality of people's lives.

The Prime Minister made these remarks while addressing a function organised to celebrate the golden jubilee of the conferment of the Joliot-Curie Peace Medal to Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

"We don't want any more unrest and conflict. We want to improve the quality of people's lives. And we always wish it," she told the function held at Bangabandhu International Conference Center in Dhaka on May 28.

In this regard, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina referred to the peaceful democratic environment that prevailing in the country from 2008 election helped Bangladesh to attain the remarkable socioeconomic development in the last 14 years.

"Bangladesh has been able to attain socioeconomic development due to the peaceful democratic environment prevailing in the country since 2008 election as Awami League won the elections and formed the government in 2009," she said.

Cabinet Secretary Md Mahbub Hossain delivered the welcome address, while eminent politician and researcher Monayem Sarker made keynote speech at the programme.

Source : <https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/bangladesh-doesnt-want-conflict-pm-639902>

## Bangladesh-China relations should focus on further development: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has described China as one of the major development partners of Bangladesh, saying the main focus of the bilateral relations between the two countries should be focused on further development of the two nations.

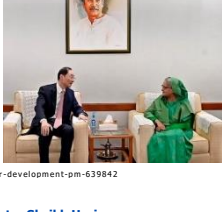
The Premier made this remarks when visiting Chinese Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Sun Weidong paid a courtesy call on her at the latter's official Ganabhaban residence on May 28.

The Chinese Minister said China is keen to strengthen cooperation with Bangladesh in various sectors particularly renewable energy and hi-tech.

The Prime Minister said Bangladesh allotted lands for Chinese entrepreneurs in the economic zones in Bangladesh and they can set up industries there.

The Chinese Vice-minister conveyed the greetings of the Chinese President and Premier to Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

Praising the development of Bangladesh, he said he visited Bangladesh some 10 years ago, but this time he found Bangladesh as much more developed one.



Source <https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/bangladesh-china-relations-should-focus-further-development-pm-639842>

## Next national polls will be free, fair under her government: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has reiterated that the next general election in Bangladesh will be held in a free and fair manner upholding democracy and voting rights of the people.

The Prime Minister told a session titled "In conversation with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina" at the Qatar Economic Forum (QEF) at the Raffles Hotel in Doha on May 24.

She said the people should decide who will run the country. "It is people's power. So, I want to ensure people's power," she said.

Haslinda Amin, host and Editor-at-large of QEF, anchored the session in a jam-packed audience hall room at the venue.

Earlier, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina joined the opening session of the 3rd Qatar Economic Forum in Doha on May 23.

On the sidelines of the forum, she had meetings separately with Prime Minister of Qatar Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al Thani, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Saudi Arabia Adel bin Abdulaziz Al Rajeh and Saudi Minister of Investment Khalid A. Al-Falih.

The Bangladesh Premier also delivered her speech before the students of Qatar University in Doha.

Source <https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/national/hasina-says-next-national-polls-will-be-free-fair-under-her-govt>

## Bangladesh firm on geopolitical position hosting IOC: Foreign Minister Dr Momen

Foreign Minister Dr AK Abdul Momen has said Bangladesh's position as a stakeholder in the international arena has been made more firm under the changing geopolitical and geo-economic situation by hosting the Indian Ocean Conference (IOC).

"Bangladesh partnership with countries in the Indian Ocean region and beyond has been strengthened within the context of regional politics by hosting the Indian Ocean Conference IOC 2023," he told virtually at a press briefing on May 13 after the conclusion of the IOC at a city hotel.

During the closing session of 6th Indian Ocean Conference, Foreign Secretary Masud Bin Momen said Bangladesh envisions an Indian Ocean that is free, open, peaceful, secure and inclusive, promoting shared prosperity for all.

Bangladesh considers the stability and prosperity in the Indian Ocean as an essential component in achieving her "Vision 2041" of establishing a modern and knowledge-based developed country by 2041, he said.

The Foreign Secretary said Bangladesh believes the Indian Ocean can significantly contribute to the global GDP, international trade, towards climate action, and growing technological advancements for ensuring global peace and prosperity.



Source : <https://www.bssnews.net/news/125280>

## Political commitment needed to resolve Rohingya crisis: Foreign Minister Dr Momen



Foreign Minister Dr. AK Abdul Momen has said sincerity with political commitment of all friendly countries is needed to resolve the Rohingya crisis.

He said political commitment of all our friendly countries will help resolve the protracted problem. If they don't have the sincerity it would not be settled.

The Foreign Minister was talking to reporters after a seminar titled "Rohingya Repatriation: A Pathway to Peace, Stability and Harmony in the Bay of Bengal Region" organised by the Diplomats World Publication magazine in Dhaka on May 20.

Dr. Momen urged the countries, those are investing in Myanmar heavily, to come forward for a sustainable solution to the Rohingya crisis for their own interests and to protect their investment.

Source : <https://www.dhakatribune.com/bangladesh/2023/05/20/momen-political-commitment-needed-to-resolve-rohingya-crisis>

## Information Minister Hasan Mahmud attends 2nd EU Indo-Pacific Ministerial Forum in Stockholm

Information and Broadcasting Minister Dr Hasan Mahmud attended the 2nd EU Indo-Pacific Ministerial Forum held in Stockholm on May 13. He led a Bangladesh delegation in the forum.

On the sidelines of the forum, Dr Hasan had bilateral meetings with Belgium Foreign Minister Hadja Lahabit, State Minister for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development of the United Kingdom Lord Ahmad and Secretary of State of Portugal Francisco Andre.

During the meeting with the UK State Minister, they discussed the whole gamut of multifarious relations between Bangladesh and the UK. They particularly focused on climate cooperation, trade and investment etc.

Lord Ahmad extended thanks to Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for attending the historic coronation of King Charles III and Queen Camilla.

At the meeting with the Bangladesh Information Minister, the State Secretary of Portugal praised the growing Bangladeshi community in Portugal for their hard-working and entrepreneurial nature and for their positive contribution to the Portuguese society and economy.



Source : <https://www.bssnews.net/news-flash/125351>

## Dhaka-London signs deal to develop Bangladesh's aviation sector



Dhaka and London have signed a joint communique to establish an "Aviation Partnership" for the necessary cooperation in the development of Bangladesh's aviation sector, including the purchase of passenger and cargo aircraft from Airbus.

Prime Minister's Private Industry and Investment Adviser Salman F Rahman and UK's Investment Minister Lord Dominic Johnson signed the agreement in London on May 5.

Prime Minister's Principal Secretary M Tofazzal Hossain Mia and UK Prime Minister's Trade Envoy to Bangladesh Rushanara Ali were present during the signing ceremony.

With the signing of the deal, Bangladesh's trade and investment relations with UK and the other European partners of Airbus will be strengthened along with the development of Bangladesh's aviation industry through this initiative, officials said.

Source : <https://www.newagebd.net/article/200993/bangladesh-uk-sign-deal-to-establish-aviation-partnership>

## Bangladesh optimistic over victory in IMO Secretary General election: Shahriar Alam

State Minister for Foreign Affairs Md Shahriar Alam has said Dhaka is optimistic over Bangladesh's victory the International Maritime Organization (IMO) elections for the post of its Secretary General.

"We expect good result," he told reporters at state guesthouse Padma on May 18 after briefing the diplomats of the IMO council member countries stationed in Dhaka to seek support in favour of the Bangladesh candidate.

Bangladesh is nominated Captain Moin Uddin Ahmed as a candidate for the post of IMO Secretary-General. The election to the post will take place at IMO Headquarters on July 18.

IMO currently has 175 Member States and three Associate Members and there are candidates from Finland, China, Turkey, Dominica, Kenya and Panama for the same post.

Source : <https://www.bssnews.net/news/126152>



## Bangladesh, EU agree to further deepen bilateral partnership



Bangladesh and the European Union (EU) have agreed to further deepen partnership on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of bilateral relations.

This was revealed during the meetings of State Minister for Foreign Affairs Md. Shahriar Alam with the EU dignitaries, including Commissioner for International Partnerships Jutta Urpilainen, Commissioner for Home Affairs Ylva Johansson, Commissioner for Crisis Management Janez Lenarcic, European Parliament's Chair of the Committee on International Trade Bernd Lange, Chair of the Committee on Foreign Affairs David McAllister, and EU Special Representative for Human Rights Eamon Gilmore on May, 2-3 in Brussels.

During the meetings, the EU commended Bangladesh on its outstanding development journey and hailed the country as a success story.

Bangladesh expressed appreciation of the EU's political and humanitarian support for the Rohingyas being temporarily sheltered by Bangladesh and sought EU's support for their early repatriation to Myanmar.

The two sides also shared their views on different regional and international issues of mutual interest and concerns, including climate change, Russia-Ukraine conflict, Indo-Pacific, combating human trafficking and migrants smuggling.

Source:<https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/bangladesh-eu-agree-further-deepen-bilateral-partnership-625858>

## 9th Bangladesh-US Partnership Dialogue held in Washington

The 9th Bangladesh-US Partnership Dialogue was held at the U.S. Department of State in Washington, DC on May 3 where key bilateral and global issues of mutual interest were discussed.

Foreign Secretary Ambassador Masud Bin Momen and US Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs Ambassador Victoria Nuland led their respective delegations.

Foreign Secretary Masud briefed the US side about Prime Minister's visit to Japan and later to Washington DC to celebrate the 50 year partnership between Bangladesh and the World Bank.

He also shared the outline of Bangladesh's recently released Indo-Pacific outlook, said the Foreign Ministry.

Ambassador Nuland noted number of areas of convergence between the two countries respective Indo-Pacific documents.

Foreign Secretary Momen also briefed his US counterpart about various measures taken by the Election Commission to pave way for free and fair elections at both local and national level.

The US side appreciated the Bangladesh Prime Minister's express commitment on free and fair elections as well as openness to engage international election monitors.

The Bangladesh Foreign Secretary shared some of the positive developments on Bangladesh's recent human rights performance.

He reiterated the call for lifting the sanctions on RAB and extraditing Rashed Chowdhury, the self-confessed killer of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

Ambassador Nuland acknowledged the Bangladesh Government's announcement to review the Digital Security Act by this year.

She also emphasized the importance of continuing progress with the labour sector reform in order for attracting enhanced investment from the US.

Both sides expressed satisfaction at the growing and vibrant business cooperation in a number of critical sectors.

They agreed to continue working further on cyber security and data protection to enhance business engagements by the US tech giants in Bangladesh.

Ambassador Nuland appreciated Bangladesh's remarkable generosity in hosting the Rohingyas from Myanmar and assured USA's continued humanitarian support.

Foreign Secretary Momen briefed her about the latest situation of the funding for Rohingya response as well as the renewed pilot scheme for repatriating a limited number of Rohingyas to Myanmar.

Both sides agreed to further scale up the resettlement programme for some of the most vulnerable Rohingyas. They also exchanged their views on the climate change related issues and discussed areas of cooperation in this regard.

The Foreign Secretary invited Under Secretary Nuland to the 10th round of the Partnership Dialogue which will take place in Dhaka next year.

Bangladesh Ambassador to USA Muhammad Imran and senior officials from relevant Ministries and Bangladesh Embassy in Washington were present in the meeting.

The US Ambassador to Bangladesh Peter Haas, Ambassador Donald Lu and senior officials from the US State Department, White House and the USAID were present from the US side.



## Bangla Nabo Borsho celebrated at Bangladesh Embassy in Washington: Pohela Boishakh is the most universal festival of the nation, says Ambassador Imran



The Bangladesh Embassy in Washington DC celebrated the Bangla Nabo Borsho (Bangla New Year-1430) on May 6 much enthusiasm and fanfare. It also organized an "Open House" program as part of the "Passport DC's Embassy Tour 2023".

To celebrate the Bangla Nabo Borsho, a "Mongal Shobhajatra" (a rally of well-being) was brought out from Bangabandhu Auditorium of the Embassy. The traditional procession ended on the Chandery premises after parading the nearby streets of the US capital.

Led by Bangladesh Ambassador to the USA Muhammad Imran, Embassy officials and employees and their family members and invited guests took part in the rally carrying indigenous musical instruments, drums, masks and various traditional items.

Ambassador Imran delivered the welcome address at the function, while Afreen Akhter, Deputy Assistant Secretary, the Bureau of South and Central Asian Affairs (SCA) at the US State Department was present as the guest of honor. Officials of the US Government and State Department also joined the joyful event.

The key attraction of the program was a spectacular cultural show which presented Bangladesh's rich culture and heritage. The cultural event started with rendering of Biswa Kabi Rabindranath Tagore's famous song — Esho, He Boishakh, Esho Esho (Come, O Boishakh, Come, Come) — by officials of the Embassy and their spouses.

Later, artistes of "Ektara", a Bangladeshi folk cultural organization based in greater Washington Metro Area, and "Aparajeyo Bangla" another Bangladeshi cultural group, enthralled the audience by singing folk and patriotic songs. The show ended with excellent performance of songs and dance by children of the officials of the Embassy.

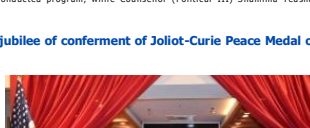
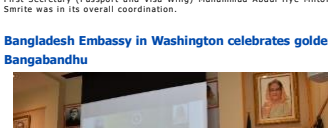
Ambassador Muhammad Imran, in his remarks, extended heartfelt greetings to the countrymen, expatriate Bangladeshis and the US people on the occasion. He highlighted illustrious history of Bangla New Year celebration, saying "Pohela Boishakh" is an integral part of Bengali culture and tradition, and the most universal festival of the nation.

Nearly 10,000 enthusiastic foreigners and local residents visited Bangladesh Embassy to enjoy the daylong program. Traditional Bangladeshis foods were displayed and served for the guests.

A number of stalls showcasing Bangladesh's traditional handicrafts, including Jamdani and Tanqail saree, were set up at Bangabandhu Auditorium. The visitors with great interest also collected posters, leaflets and books which portrayed the history of Bangladesh's independence, the great Language Movement and development as well as rich culture, heritage and tourist spots.

First Secretary (Passport and Visa Wing) Muhammad Abdul Hye Milton conducted program, while Counsellor (Political-III) Shamima Yeasmin Smrite was in its overall coordination.

## Bangladesh Embassy in Washington celebrates golden jubilee of conferment of Joliot-Curie Peace Medal on Bangabandhu



The Bangladesh Embassy in Washington DC celebrated the golden jubilee of the conferment of the Joliot-Curie Peace Medal on greatest Bangladeshi of all time, Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in a befitting manner on 23 May.

On this day in 1973, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the architect of independence and the forerunner of democracy and peace movement, was awarded the Julio-Curie Peace Prize by the World Peace Council.

To commemorate the historic day, the Bangladesh Embassy staged a program paying rich tributes to the Father of the Nation and remembering his outstanding contributions to establishing peace in the world.

The program commenced with placing a floral wreath by officials and employees led by Ambassador Muhammad Imran at the bust of Father of the Nation at Bangabandhu Corner of the Embassy.

The messages issued on the occasion by Hon'ble President and the Prime Minister were read out by Deputy Chief of Mission Ms Ferdousi Shahriar and Counsellor (Public Diplomacy) Arifa Rahman Ruma at the auditorium of the embassy. Later, a documentary was screened on the occasion.

Afterward, a discussion highlighting Bangabandhu's undaunted leadership in Bangladesh's great Liberation War and advancing world peace movement was held.

Taking part in the discussion, Ambassador Muhammad Imran paid deepest homage to Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and recalled his great role in achieving independence and establishing world peace.

Describing May 23 as a glorious day for Bengali nation, the Ambassador said the Father of the Nation dedicated his entire life to the quest for peace and freedom. During his long political career, Bangabandhu always supported the peace-loving people at home and abroad and stood beside them, he said.

## UN adopts resolution on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's initiative

The United Nations has unanimously adopted the first-ever resolution on community-based health care.

The resolution, titled "Community-based primary health care: a participatory and inclusive approach to universal health coverage," acknowledged the important role community clinics play in promoting primary health care, women's empowerment, community engagement and mobilisation towards achieving universal access to health.

The resolution, in recognition of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's stellar contribution in establishing model community clinics in Bangladesh, highlighted "the Sheikh Hasina Initiative" as an exemplary innovative model of public-private partnership.

The Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the United Nations in New York Ambassador Muhammad Abdul Muhith introduced the resolution in the General Assembly.

The resolution, the first of its kind in the United Nations or the World Health Organization, was co-sponsored by 70 countries.



## 'Exercise Tiger Circ-40' of Bangladesh-US Navy begins



A joint exercise of Bangladesh and US navies titled 'Exercise Tiger Circ-40' began at BNS Nirvik in Chattoqram on May 21.

Chattoqram Naval Regional Commander Rear Admiral Abdullah Al Mamun Chowdhury was present as the chief guest at the inaugural function of the exercise.

Under the management of Commodore SWADS Command, special forces of Bangladesh Army and Navy and special forces of the US are participating in this exercise. Besides, representatives from the US Embassy in Bangladesh are also participating in the exercise which will end on June 15.

The main objective of the joint training exercise is to improve the existing good relations between the armed forces of the two countries, as well as to increase the strategic capabilities of the both countries and to acquire mutual technical and procedural knowledge.

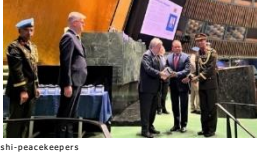
## UN honours 5 fallen Bangladeshi peacekeepers

The United Nations (UN) has awarded 'Daq Hammarskjold Medal' to five fallen Bangladeshi peacekeepers for their supreme sacrifice in UN Peacekeeping operations.

The award was handed over on May 25 at the General Assembly Hall by UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres in a ceremony to honor 103 peacekeepers from 39 countries who sacrificed their lives in the line of duty in 2022.

The respective Permanent Representatives received the awards on behalf of their countries.

Ambassador Muhammad Abdul Muhith, Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the UN in New York, received the medals on behalf of the fallen peacekeepers of Bangladesh.



Source : <https://www.newagebd.net/article/202597/un-honours-5-fallen-bangladeshi-peacekeepers>

## Bangladesh to overtake China in growth rate: IMF



Bangladesh is set to overtake China in terms of GDP growth rate in the current financial year, according to the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) latest report on the Asia-Pacific region.

The report also predicts that Bangladesh will be in second place, after Vietnam, for achieving growth in the next fiscal year. Furthermore, Bangladesh is expected to surpass both China and India in terms of growth in 2024, according to the IMF's Regional Economic Outlook for Asia and Pacific May 2023 report.

The IMF report suggests that the recently approved Extended Fund Facility for Bangladesh will help address economic challenges caused by Russia's war in Ukraine, and the Resilience and Sustainability Facility arrangement will expand fiscal space to finance climate investment priorities and build resilience against long-term climate risks.

Source : <https://www.dhakatribune.com/bangladesh/2023/05/06/imf-bangladesh-to-overtake-china-in-growth-rate>

## Bangladesh, a happier nation than Canada, New Zealand, Finland, Sweden: HAMI

A renowned economist of Johns Hopkins University of the USA has found out that Bangladesh is a happier nation than Belgium, Canada, Ireland, Finland, Bahrain, New Zealand, Saudi Arabia and Sweden.

The professor of Applied Economics, Steve H Hanke, measured the happy or misery state of the 157 countries around the world and came up with the result that Bangladesh is even a happier nation than its Asian peers, surpassing Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Myanmar and even India.

Steve H Hanke measured with the data on the country's year-end unemployment (multiplied by two), inflation, and bank-lending rates, minus the annual percentage change in real gross domestic product per capita and formed the Hanke's Annual Misery Index (HAMI).

Bangladesh ranked 115th in the latest 2022 edition of the index whereas India ranked 103rd, Nepal 63rd, Myanmar 39th, Pakistan 35th and Sri Lanka 11th.

Source : <https://www.albd.org/articles/news/40860/Bangladesh,-a-happier-nation-than-Canada,-New-Zealand,-Finland,-Sweden:-HAMI>



## Global Terrorism Index: Bangladesh makes significant progress



Bangladesh emerged as the second most improved country in terms of terrorism impact in South Asia as it has jumped down two notches to the 43rd rank among 163 countries, according to the latest edition of the Global Terrorism Index (GTI).

Bangladesh received a score of 3.827 on the GTI index. The calculation of the score takes into account the deaths, incidents, hostages, and injuries caused by terrorism, weighted over a five-year period.

The GTI scores each country on a scale from 0 to 10, where 0 represents no impact on terrorism and 10 represents the highest measurable impact of terrorism. A higher rank with a lower score indicates a lower impact on terrorism.

Source : <https://bangladeshpost.net/posts/bangladesh-makes-significant-progress-110376>