



President Shahabuddin attends Turkey President Erdogan's oath-taking ceremony in Ankara



President Mohammed Shahabuddin along with his spouse Dr. Rebecca Sultana attended the oath-taking ceremony of Turkey's newly elected President Recep Tayyip Erdogan at the Grand National Assembly of the Presidential Complex in Turkey's capital Ankara on June 3.

The Bangladesh President along with other 77 world leaders joined the function. Besides, representatives of some other international organizations, including NATO and Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), were also present on the occasion.

Later, a special ceremony was held at the Presidential Palace marking the installation of President Erdogan. After the ceremony, President Erdogan exchanged greetings with Bangladesh President Mohammed Shahabuddin and other world leaders.

Source : <https://www.bssnews.net/news-flash/128986>

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina urges the global community to invest in social justice

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has urged the global community to invest in social justice in an effort to build peaceful, just and inclusive societies worldwide.

"We can achieve lasting peace and sustainable development on the foundation of social justice. We must invest in social justice in our efforts to build peaceful, just and inclusive societies worldwide," she said, addressing the Plenary of "World of Work Summit 2023" at Palais des Nations in Geneva, Switzerland on June 14.



She said that the summit, with the launch of the Global Coalition, has created an opportunity to place social justice at the heart of all international development agenda, including SDGs.

In this context, Sheikh Hasina made five suggestions from Bangladesh's viewpoint.

In her first point, she said that it would be advisable to develop the Coalition as a consultative or advocacy platform rather than as a norm-setting or negotiating forum.

Secondly, the Coalition must guard against weaponising "social justice" by one international quarter against the other in the current geopolitical context, she said.

Thirdly, the Coalition should make sure that instead of being used as a protectionist tool, social justice should be widely promoted under a rules-based multilateral trading system, she added.

Fourthly, she said, the Coalition needs to ensure broad-based support from ILO's own constituents with a view to enlisting the International Financial Institutions for the purpose of promoting decent work and productive employment.

Finally, the Coalition should give attention to making our youth champion social justice, said the premier.

Source : <https://www.bssnews.net/news-flash/131206>

Bangladesh and Switzerland ink a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)



Bangladesh and Switzerland have inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the aim of enhancing skill training capacity in Bangladesh, which would also widen opportunities to export the skilled workforce, specifically from the medical and IT sectors to Switzerland.

The signing ceremony was held at the bilateral meeting room in Palais des Nations after the meeting between President of the Swiss Confederation Alain Berset and Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on June 14.

Permanent representatives of Switzerland and Bangladesh Jurg Lauber and Sufiur Rahman signed the MoU titled "Knowledge Partnership and Skill Enhancement" for their respective countries.

President of the Swiss Confederation Alain Berset and Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina witnessed the signing ceremony.

While briefing reporters, Foreign Minister Dr AK Abdul Momen said that this MoU signing will pave the way for skill training and knowledge sharing partnership.

Source : <https://www.newagebd.net/article/204206/bangladesh-switzerland-ink-deal-for-skill-development>

Bangladesh will never bow down to any foreign pressure: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina



Prime Minister and Awami League President Sheikh Hasina has firmly said that the people of Bangladesh will never bow down to any foreign pressure.

"No matter how much domestic and foreign pressure comes, the Bangalees will never bow down to that pressure," she said, addressing, as the chair, a discussion on the occasion of historic Six-Point Day.

Bangladesh Awami League (AL) organised the meeting in city's Banqabandhu International Conference Center (BICC) in Dhaka on June 7.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said, "We must always remember that this country is ours. We will not let anyone play ducks and drakes with the fate of the people of this country."

"We will protect the rights of the people of our country," she said, adding "We (AL) have brought democracy in this country through struggle. Bangladesh has progressed today because of democratic continuation."

Mentioning that the Six-Point was the "Magna Carta" of the people of Bangladesh, the Premier said progress march of the country has been possible with this and Bangladesh became a role model of development. "We will move forward as a role model."

Source : <https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/national/bangladesh-will-never-bow-down-to-any-foreign-pressure-pm-says>

UN highly praises Bangladeshi peacekeepers for professionalism

Jean-Pierre Lacroix and Catherine Pollard, undersecretaries general of the United Nations, have praised Bangladesh for its contribution to the UN Peacekeeping Mission.

Their appreciation came when they called on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her official residence Ganabhaban in Dhaka on June 25.

During the meeting, they discussed various issues, including UN peacekeeping operations, climate change and women's safety.

The UN representatives, during the meeting, said that the world body has successfully completed 75 years of its peacekeeping operation.

In this regard, the Prime Minister said Bangladesh has been contributing to the UN peacekeeping missions for over three decades with utmost dedication and professionalism.

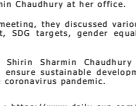
She mentioned that Bangladesh is the largest troop-contributing country for the UN peacekeeping missions.

"Some 7,500 Bangladeshi male and females are employed in nine UN peacekeeping missions around the globe," she said.

Catherine Pollard thanked the Prime Minister for Bangladesh's contribution to the trust fund, which has been formed to check sexual exploitation and abuse.

Source : <https://www.daily-sun.com/post/696971/UN-highly-praises-Bangladeshi-peacekeepers-for-professionalism>

Bangladesh hosts 1st UN peacekeeping preparatory meeting



they serve, according to the UN.

Source : <https://www.newagebd.net/article/205068/bangladesh-hosts-first-un-peacekeeping-preparatory-meeting-sunday>

UN lauds Bangladesh for implementation of SDGs

United Nations Deputy Secretary General Amina J Mohammed praised Bangladesh for making remarkable progress in implementing Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

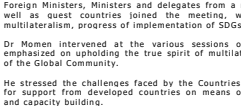
Her appreciation came when she paid a courtesy call on National Parliament Speaker Dr Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury at her office.

During the meeting, they discussed various issues, including climate change, sustainable development, SDG targets, gender equality, child labour, child marriage and violence against women.

Speaker Dr Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury said the Bangladesh government is working tirelessly to ensure sustainable development by 2030 despite the fact that the country suffered the coronavirus pandemic.

Source : <https://www.daily-sun.com/post/697779/UN-Dy-Secy-Gen-meets-JS-Speaker-lauds-Bangladesh%E2%80%99s-SDG-implementation->

Foreign Minister Dr Momen urges BRICS to transfer cost-effective technology



The Foreign Minister also underlined the need of more coordinated approach for tackling economic and environmental crisis.

Source : <https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/momen-urges-brics-transfer-cost-effective-technology-642950>

Foreign Minister Dr Momen attends G20 Development Ministers' Meeting in Varanasi

Foreign Minister Dr A K Abdul Momen on June 12 attended "G20 Development Ministers' Meeting (G20 DMM)" at Varanasi in the Indian state of Uttar Pradesh.

Foreign Ministers, Ministers and delegates from a number of G20 countries as well as guest countries joined the meeting, which primarily focused on multilateralism, progress of implementation of SDGs and Green Development.

Dr Momen intervened at the various sessions of the G20 DMM where he emphasized on upholding the true spirit of multilateralism for greater interest of the Global Community.

He stressed the challenges faced by the Countries of Global South and called for support from developed countries on means of implementation, financing and capacity building.

Dr Momen highlighted various steps and achievements made by Bangladesh under the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in implementation of SDGs, Green Development and adopting various initiatives to facilitate the 'Lifestyle for Environment' Mission.

The Bangladesh Foreign Minister also met his Indian counterpart S Jaishankar on the sidelines of the G20 DMM.

Both Foreign Ministers expressed satisfaction on the existing excellent bilateral relations between the two countries.

Source : <https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/momen-attends-g20-development-ministers-meeting-varanasi-648654>

Bangladesh Parliament passes Tk 7,61,785 cr budget for FY2023-24

The Jatiya Sangsad (JS) on June 26 passed the Tk 7,61,785 crore national budget for the Fiscal Year 2023-24 with an immediate effect from July 1.

The theme of the budget is "Towards Smart Bangladesh Sustaining the Development Achievements of a Decade and a Half" aiming to build 'Smart Bangladesh' by 2041 as envisioned by the incumbent Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina amid adverse impact of the Russia-Ukraine war on the economy.

Finance Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal moved the Appropriations Bill, 2023 seeking a budgetary allocation of Tk1110840,76,97,000 which was passed by voice vote.

Earlier, the House passed the Finance Bill 2023 with bringing some important changes including scarping of proposed annual tax payment of Taka 2,000 for every TIN holders.

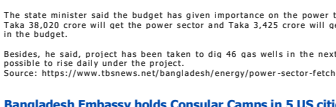
The Finance Minister on June 1 placed a Tk7,61,785 crore-national budget for FY2023-24. This is his fifth budget and the 52nd budget of the Bangladesh government.

The proposed budget has kept the GDP growth target at 7.5% and the GDP size is estimated at Tk 50,06,782 crore.

The proposed budget will be 15.2 per cent of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), according to the budget speech of the Finance Minister said.

Source : <https://www.bssnews.net/news/133334>

Security cooperation doesn't mean joining any alliance: Shahriar Alam



State Minister for Foreign Affairs Md Shahriar Alam has said Bangladesh's security cooperation to other countries doesn't mean to join any strategic alliances rather to protect its own sovereignty.

"Security cooperation doesn't refer to necessarily strategic alliance ... (if anyone thinks that) Bangladesh might join that country against a war with a third country that is far away from reality," he said when asked on what ground Bangladesh has signed security cooperation agreements with other countries.

The state minister was speaking at an interaction session titled "Bangladesh at the Crossroads" hosted by the Daily Ittefaq at a city hotel.

Shahriar Alam said, "Bangladesh doesn't want any war, will not go for any war ... (and) we are not under any security threat".

The Daily Ittefaq Executive Director and Publisher Tareen Hossain delivered welcome remarks.

Bangladesh's power sector fetches \$30b foreign investment in last 13 years: State Minister Nasrul Hamid

State Minister for Power, Energy and Mineral Resources Nasrul Hamid had said power sector fetched USD 30 billion foreign investments in the last 13 years since 2009.

"Power is the only sector where maximum foreign investment has come during the period between 2009 and 2022", said the state minister while participating in the general discussion on the proposed national budget for 2023-24 at the Jatiya Sangsad on June 13.

Nasrul Hamid said the accumulated foreign investment in the mineral and energy sector was Taka 15,373 crore. "We hope that the accumulated foreign investment in the power, energy and mineral resources sector would be around USD 150 billion", he told the Parliament

The state minister said the power sector will get higher importance on the power transmission as over Taka 38,020 crore will get the budget and Taka 3,425 crore will get the energy sector in the budget.

Besides, he said, project has been taken to dig 46 gas wells in the next 2024 year and it is expected that 18 million cubic feet gas would be possible to rise daily under the project.

Source : <https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/energy/power-sector-fetches-30b-foreign-investment-last-13-yr-nasrul-649318>

Bangladesh Embassy holds Consular Camps in 5 US cities in June



The Embassy of Bangladesh in Washington DC sent mobile consular teams to the following US cities in June 2023 to provide various consular services to the members of Bangladeshi diaspora:

The cities are Houston, Texas (10-11 June 2023), Chicago, Illinois (17-18 June 2023), Columbus, Ohio (18 June 2023), Dallas, Texas (24-25 June 2023), Upper Darby (greater Philadelphia) Pennsylvania (24 June 2023)

The consular teams extended various services like issuance of NVR (No Visa Required), and processing of DNC (Dual National Certificate), MRP (Machine Readable Passport) renewal, travel permit issuance, and other supports.

Around 2000 (two thousand) members of Bangladeshi diaspora and their families received aforementioned services during the visit of consular teams. Bangladesh Ambassador to the USA H.E. Mr. Muhammad Imran and other officers visited the consular camps and exchanged views on various issues including consular matters.

Bangladesh in Washington organizes Open House Day



To celebrate holy Eid-ul-Adha and to exchange Eid greetings, Ambassador of Bangladesh to the United States H.E. Mr. Muhammad Imran and his spouse hosted an Eid Get-together at Bangladesh House (official residence of Bangladesh Ambassador) in Washington DC in the evening of 29 June 2023. The event was attended by the Embassy officials, Bangladeshi nationals and their families in the USA.

On this occasion, various events and competitions were arranged for the children and other participants. The Ambassador and his spouse handed over prizes to the winners. Delicious traditional Bangladeshi dishes were served at the dinner.

Bangladesh pledges \$50,000 donation for Palestine refugees

Bangladesh has pledged to provide \$50,000 donation to support the Palestine refugees.

Bangladesh has been providing donation to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) since 2018 as demonstration of the steadfast commitment of the government and people of Bangladesh to the just struggle of the Palestinians.

The pledge was given at a conference held at the United Nations Headquarters on June 3.

On behalf of the Bangladesh government, Deputy Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the UN in New York Dr MD Monwar Hossain declared the pledge.

President of the UN General Assembly convened the conference while the Commissioner General of the UNRWA briefed the member states about Palestine in the meeting.

Source : <https://www.bssnews.net/news/128966>

Bangladesh to receive \$858m WB financing in two projects

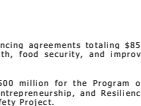
Bangladesh and the World Bank have signed two financing agreements totaling \$858 million to enhance climate-resilient agricultural growth, food security, and improve road safety.

Of the total amount, the World Bank will provide \$500 million for the Program on Agricultural and Rural Transformation for Nutrition, Entrepreneurship, and Resilience (PARTNER) while another \$358 million for the Road Safety Project.

The agreement was signed on June 7 by Economic Relations Division (ERD) Secretary Sharifa Khan and World Bank Country Director for Bangladesh, Bhutan and Nepal Abdoulaye Seck on behalf of their respective sides.

The credits are from the World Bank's International Development Partnership (IDA) and have a 30-year term, including a five-year grace period. The PARTNER project will also receive a \$43 million co-financing from the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).

Source : <https://www.dhakatribune.com/foreign-affairs/2023/06/07/bangladesh-receives-858m-world-bank-fund-for-agriculture-growth-road-safety>



Italy agrees to take skilled workers from Bangladesh under bilateral arrangement.



Italy has agreed to take skilled workers from Bangladesh under bilateral migration and mobility arrangement, particularly for Italian construction, shipbuilding and hospitality sectors.

This was revealed at the first-ever Political Consultations between Bangladesh and Italy held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation on 7 June in Rome.

The Italian side expressed satisfaction that at present over 46% of workers under Flussi Decree are coming to Italy from Bangladesh for seasonal and non-seasonal work.

Foreign Secretary Masud Bin Momen and Secretary General of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Riccardo Guaiarlata led the respective side at the Consultations.

Before the Political Consultations, Foreign Secretary Momen and Secretary- General Guaiarlata signed a Memorandum of Understanding on Political Consultations between the Foreign Ministries of Bangladesh and Italy.

Source : <https://www.thedailystar.net/nrb/migration/news/italy-take-skilled-workers-bangladesh-3340711>

Bangladesh marks significant gains in Global Innovation Index

Bangladesh witnessed notable gains in creative outputs, intangible assets and online creativity- a category that includes high-ranking web domains and mobile app creation.

According to World Economic Forum's recently released Global Innovation Index, the country's also performs especially well in corporate intangible asset intensity which measures how companies are generating and building value through assets like industrial designs and global brand value, as well as trademarks.

This rise testifies to the country's remarkable gains accomplished owing to a number of measures put in place by the current government.



Source <https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/bangladesh-jumps-14-spots-global-innovation-index-505730>

Bangladesh's exports hit \$55.6bn in FY23



Fueled by apparel exports, Bangladesh's earnings from exports of goods saw a significant increase of 6.67% year-on-year in fiscal year 2022-23, reaching \$55.55 billion.

On the other hand, the country, in the same fiscal year, received inward remittances of USD \$21.61 billion through official channels, which is the second-highest ever.

In June 2023, the last month of the outgoing fiscal year, the expatriates sent \$2.19 billion in remittances during the time of the biggest festival of Eid-ul-Azha. Buoyed by this the inward remittances collection stood at \$21.61 billion in FY23, which was \$21.03 billion in FY22.

Source : <https://www.daily-sun.com/printversion/details/697975/Exports-hit-55.6bn-in-FY23>