



Introduce inclusive & sustainable food management for all: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at UN food summit



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has asked the international community to introduce inclusive and sustainable food management for all as two billion people still remain out of food security in the world.

Food, fertilizer, energy and financial crises induced by the ongoing Ukraine war and sanctions and counter-sanctions have intensified the problem of hunger and malnutrition around the world, she said.

The Prime Minister was speaking at a special guest in the opening ceremony of the UN Food Systems Summit+2 Stocktaking Moment (UNFSS+2) in the Italian capital Rome July 24.

She, however, said the cost of agriculture and food products is not the only constraint to the inability to procure nutritious food. It needs the introduction of inclusive and sustainable food management for all," she said.

The theme of the three-day summit was "Sustainable Food Systems for People, Planet and Prosperity: Diverse Pathways in a Shared Journey."

It opened at the Headquarters of Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations.

Sheikh Hasina said some 690 million people are still suffering from malnutrition, nearly two billion are under food security and nearly three billion are deprived of a balanced diet in the world.

She placed five proposals to ensure sustainable, safe and nutritious food system throughout the world, including promotion of multilateral development banks and private entrepreneurs to invest in modern agriculture.

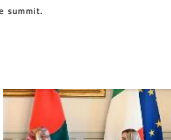
Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni, Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed, Nepalese Prime Minister Keshari Chaudhary, and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina were among the speakers at the official opening ceremony of the summit.

Some 2,000 participants from over 160 countries, including 20 Heads of State and Government attended the summit.

Source : <https://www.bssnews.net/news-flash/138106>

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina holds meeting with Italian Prime Minister

Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni, during a bilateral meeting with Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in Rome on July 25, stressed the need for migration of Bangladeshi workers in legal ways.



"Bangladeshi workers are doing very good work here. They have enough credibility. But we don't want illegal workers," she said. Foreign Minister Dr AK Abdul Momen briefed reporters after the meeting.

On her arrival at the Italian Prime Minister's office 'Palazzo Chigi', Sheikh Hasina was received by her Italian counterpart, Giorgia Meloni. Later, the Bangladesh Premier was given a guard of honour here.

A number of issues, including undocumented Bangladeshi expatriates, bilateral trade and business, came up for discussion in the bilateral meeting held between the two leaders.

The Bangladesh Premier said both documented and undocumented Bangladeshis are working for the welfare of the two countries.

But, she said, Bangladesh also discourages illegal migration. "I maintain a zero-tolerance policy towards illegal migration," she said.

Giorgia Meloni said Italy and Bangladesh can strengthen bilateral trade and business through joint collaboration.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina asked Italy to ease the import process of leather goods from Bangladesh. In response, the Italian side showed enough interest in this regard.

She thanked Italy for extending support to Bangladesh on the Rohingya issue.

Two MoUs on energy and cultural cooperation were exchanged between Bangladesh and Italy in the presence of two prime ministers.

The documents -- a memorandum on energy cooperation and a five-year cultural exchange programme - were exchanged between Bangladesh Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen and Italian Deputy Prime Minister and also Foreign Minister Antonio Tajani.

Under the MoU on energy cooperation, Italy will extend research support and investment in LNG, renewable energy, waste to energy and bio-fuel energy.

Source : <https://www.bssnews.net/news-flash/138322>

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina asks Bangladeshi envoys to combat anti-state propaganda



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has asked the Bangladeshi diplomats posted abroad to work against anti-state propaganda so that the international community won't be misled due to the falsehood.

The Prime Minister gave the directive, while addressing the Conference of Bangladeshi Envoys in Europe, held her place of residence in Rome, the capital of Italy on July 25.

Some 15 Bangladeshi envoys stationed in European countries participated in the event.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said some people are carrying out propaganda against the country, taking shelter in foreign lands after committing crimes in the country.

She said there are some people who could never take the country to a dignified position. Some of them are convicted or criminals, she added.

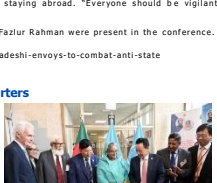
The Prime Minister said they are spreading misinformation against the country continuously staying abroad. "Everyone should be vigilant against them," she added.

Foreign Minister Dr AK Abdul Momen and PM's Private Industry and Investment Adviser Salman Fazlur Rahman were present in the conference.

Source : <https://www.dhakatribune.com/bangladesh/foreign-affairs/319589/pm-asks-bangladeshi-envoys-to-combat-anti-state>

"Bangladesh-Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Room" opened at FAO headquarters

The Bangladesh-Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Room was inaugurated on July 25 at the Headquarters of Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in Rome.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, who attended the UN Food Systems Summit+2 Stocktaking Moment (UNFSS+2), opened the room. FAO Director-General QU Dongyu was present at the function.

The establishment of the Room marks the celebration of the 100th birth anniversary of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, who had a dream of building a nation free from hunger and poverty and initiated the "Green Revolution" in the agriculture sector of Bangladesh.

Speaking on the occasion, the Prime Minister said that her country is delighted to have a little piece of Bangladesh inside the FAO Headquarters.

In this regard, she expressed her gratitude to the director general and his team for their whole-hearted support in making it possible.

The Premier said Bangladesh became a member of FAO in 1973 under the guidance of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

Source : <https://www.thedailystar.net/bangladesh/news/bangladesh-bangabandhu-sheikh-mujib-room-opened-fao-headquarters-337796>

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina reiterates commitment to hold free, fair polls



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has reiterated her commitment to hold free, fair and neutral election in the country.

"We always fought for the free, fair and neutral election in the country, and we've already held free, fair and neutral election," she said.

The Premier made the remarks while visiting US Under Secretary for Civilian Security, Democracy, and Human Rights Uzra Zeya called on her at her official residence Ganabhaban in Dhaka on July 13.

Uzra Zeya said her country announced the new visa policy to assist Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's commitment to hold free, fair and neutral election.

"We don't have any partiality towards any party. We want a neutral, free and fair election," she said.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said she personally from her student life and even Bangabandhu's family and Awami League (AL) always fought for the rights of the people.

She also said it was BNP that started vote rigging in the country, which has been changed by the present AL government. In this connection, she said that transparent ballot boxes have been introduced for the polls.

The Premier recalled the atrocities, terrorism activities and arson attacks of BNP and their allies during 2013-15 that killed 500 people.

She also mentioned the August 21 grenade attack on her, when AL leaders and activists saved her through creating human shield.

The visiting US Under Secretary for Civilian Security, Democracy and Human Rights said that she already visited the Rohingya camps and talked to them.

She put emphasis on strengthening coordinated international efforts to ensure repatriation of the forcibly displaced Rohingyas to their homeland in Myanmar. Uzra Zeya appreciated Sheikh Hasina for hosting such a huge number of Rohingyas in Bangladesh.

Source : <https://www.bssnews.net/news-flash/136085>

Kuwaiti, Bangladesh Prime Ministers express satisfaction over bilateral ties

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and her Kuwaiti counterpart Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah have expressed their satisfaction regarding the deepening and expanding bilateral relationship between the two countries.



Both the leaders expressed this view in a telephonic conversation on July 5.

The Kuwaiti Prime Minister conveyed his greetings to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and through her to the brotherly people of Bangladesh.

During their conversation, the two premiers discussed various aspects of bilateral cooperation and expressed their contentment with the progressive development of the friendly relationship between their nations.

Source : <https://www.bssnews.net/news-flash/134685>

UN Deputy Secretary General calls on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina



UN Deputy Secretary General Amina J. Mohammed paid a courtesy call on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at the latter's official residence, Ganabhaban, in the capital on July 2.

During the meeting they discussed the worldwide economic crisis stemmed from the Covid-19 pandemic and Russia-Ukraine and put emphasis on collective efforts to overcome it.

The issues of SDGs, climate change and Rohingya repatriation were also discussed in the meeting.

The Prime Minister said her government has been taking various timely measures to overcome the international food crisis.

She said her government has been working to bring all the fallow land under cultivation to ward off the crisis and also put emphasis on rooftop cultivation of food and vegetables.

About Rohingya issue, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said Bangladesh has given Rohingyas shelter on humanitarian ground. "But, they (Rohingyas) have become a big burden for us. It has also created social problem," she added.

Amina J. Mohammed said 52 countries are now on the verge of the food crisis due to the Covid-19 pandemic and Russia-Ukraine war. She praised the contribution of Bangladeshi peacekeepers to maintaining world peace.

Source : <https://www.dhakatribune.com/bangladesh/foreign-affairs/314709/un-dsg-pays-courtesy-call-on-pm-hasina>

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina opens South Asia's largest sewage treatment plant

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has inaugurated the South Asia's largest single sewage treatment plant (STP) in the capital's Khilgaon area.



The Premier formally launched operation of the Dasherbandhu Sewage Treatment Plant, first of its kind in the country, at a function at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre in Dhaka on July 13.

At the same function, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina also laid foundation stone of the reconstruction and expansion of the Pagla Sewage Treatment Plant in support with the World Bank (WB) and the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), having capacity of treating 200 million tonnes of sewage.

The Dasherbandhu plant has a capacity of treating five million tonnes of sewage per day, which is 20 to 25 percent of the total sewage in the capital.

The plant is supposed to play a key role in saving the rivers surrounding the capital from the pollution.

Source : <https://www.dhakatribune.com/bangladesh/320183/pm-to-open-south-asia-s-largest-single-sewage>

First-ever banana plant fibre made saree gifted to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has received "Kalabati Saree" and handicrafts made from the banana plant fibre.

Deputy Commissioner of Bandarban district Yasmin Parveen Tibriji handed over three sarees and two jewellery boxes made from the banana plant fibre to the Prime Minister at the Cabinet Room of her office on July 17.

For the first time in the country's history, Tant (saree) designer Radhabati Devi of Moulavibazar district produced this Manipuri design saree from the fibre of the banana tree, while Anjali Devi and Dutta Singh made the three sarees gifted to the Prime Minister, added the release.

Besides, a model of special "machang house" of residential shelter in the hilly areas, district brand calendar and purple book were also presented to the Prime Minister by the Deputy Commissioner of Bandarban.

Source : <https://www.bssnews.net/news-flash/136795>

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina calls for global cooperation to achieve public health goals

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has called upon the international community to work together to achieve public health goals aiming to improve the ability of countries with fewer resources to handle health risks.



The Premier made the call while addressing the opening ceremony of the two-day international conference on Public Health and Diplomacy in Dhaka's Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel on July 11.

"Now, it is the time to work together globally to achieve the public health goals outlined in Sustainable Development Goal 3 and Goal 17. This involves helping countries with fewer resources to improve their ability to handle health risks," she said.

The Prime Minister said Bangladesh will play a leading role in this effort, and its past success in protecting public health and dealing with the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Foreign Minister Dr AK Abdul Momen, Health and Family Welfare Minister Zahid Maleque, Union Minister of Ministry of Health of Myanmar Dr Thetkhain Win, Bhutanese Health Minister Lyonpo Dashi Dechen Wangmo and others also spoke.

Source : <https://www.dhakatribune.com/bangladesh/320148/pm-hasina-calls-for-global-cooperation-to-achieve>

SDGs to remain unachieved without big financial push: Foreign Minister Dr Momen



Foreign Minister Dr AK Abdul Momen has called upon developed nations to provide required finance and technology to developing and least developed countries as per their commitment so that United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) could be achieved.

The Foreign Minister was addressing a seminar at Foreign Service academy in the capital on July 1. Visiting UN Deputy Secretary-General Amina J Mohammed also spoke at the event.

The Foreign Ministry organized the seminar titled "Road to Sustainable Development Goals Summit 2023" as the UN is set to hold the SDG summit in September this year.

The Foreign Minister said it is unfortunate that the process of finance to achieve the SDGs is not moving very fast even after eight years of setting the targets by the UN.

Dr Momen said this is the high time to create international pressure to ensure the financial flow for achieving the SDGs within the stipulated time frame of 2030. "We need support from the UN (in this regards)," he added.

Amina J Mohammed said the UN Secretary General has urged the world leaders to deliver their rescue plan for the SDGs at the summit to be held in September.

Foreign Secretary Masud Bin Momen delivered the welcome speech while Principal Coordinator (SDGs Affairs) at the Prime Minister's Office Md Akhter Hossain gave a presentation on SDGs.

Source : <https://www.bssnews.net/news/133990>

Resolve case involving Rohingyas as soon as possible, Foreign Minister Dr Momen tells ICC prosecutor

Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen has sought efforts from the International Criminal Court (ICC) to resolve the case related to the Rohingyas as soon as possible to ensure that genocide never happens again anywhere in the world.



"You should put in efforts to finish the case as fast as possible. Justice delayed, justice denied," he said to ICC Prosecutor Karim AA Khan QC on July 4.

In November 2019, the International Criminal Court judges granted a request to open a full investigation into alleged atrocities committed against the Rohingyas within the jurisdiction of the court.

Dr. Momen said those involved in Rohingya genocide should be held accountable. "We need genocide never again."

Prosecutor Khan visited Cox's Bazar Rohingya camps and held a meeting with the RRRCC.

Source : <https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/resolve-case-involving-rohingyas-soon-possible-momen-tells-icc-prosecutor-660022>

EU delegate meets Information Minister Hasan Mahmud



Visiting delegation of the European Union (EU) met Information and Broadcasting Minister Dr Hasan Mahmud at his secretariat office in Dhaka on July 12.

Three members of the delegation, Riccardo Chelleri, Dimitra Ioannou and Cristina Dos Ramos Alves, met the information minister.

While talking to reporters after the meeting, Hasan Mahmud said no discussions regarding politics were held during their discussion. They wanted to know about the role of the ministry in the country's mass media, he added.

He said discussions were held about the responsibilities of social platforms from which rumours are spread, resulting in violence.

"You all know that the European Union has amended the law at the beginning of the year, saying every social media platform must be registered in Europe," he added.

Source : <https://www.bssnews.net/news/136020>

'EPA would help continue Japan's preferential treatment to Bangladesh in post-LDC period'

Japan would extend full cooperation to Bangladesh in its journey to become a high income country by 2041, said the country's Minister for Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) Nishimura Yasutoshi.



The Japanese Minister said this during a bilateral meeting with State Minister for Foreign Affairs Md Shahrir Alam at the State Guest House, Jamuna, in Dhaka on July 24.

Earlier, Nishimura Yasutoshi arrived in Dhaka on 23 July on a two-day official visit. This was the first time ever a minister of the METI in Japan visited Bangladesh.

Minister Nishimura referred to the 'Strategic Partnership' of diplomatic relations jointly declared by the prime ministers of the two countries during the Japan visit of prime minister Sheikh Hasina in April 2023.

He expressed his satisfaction on the mega projects carried out in association with Japan. He praised Bangladesh's youth and energetic population as well as the strategic location between the South and the South East Asia, the press release said.

State minister Shahrir Alam reiterated the commitment of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to make Bangladesh a high income country by 2041.

Source : <https://www.dhakatribune.com/bangladesh/foreign-affairs/320944/japan-seeks-economic-partnership-to-help-post-ldc>

US sees Bangladesh's strong commitment to hold free, fair, peaceful polls



US Under Secretary for Civilian Security, Democracy, and Human Rights Uzra Zeya said she has witnessed Dhaka's strong commitment to hold free, fair and peaceful elections while Washington doesn't have involvement in dialogues among political parties in Bangladesh.

"I've heard a strong commitment from the (Bangladesh's) honorable Prime Minister and all of the government ministers with whom I've had the pleasure to meet today in support of free and fair and peaceful elections," she told reporters after holding a meeting with Foreign Secretary Masud Bin Momen at State Guest House Padma in the capital on July 13.

The Under Secretary said the US, as part of its global human rights policy, supports free, fair and peaceful elections and "We want to do our part as a longtime partner of Bangladesh to help make this possible".

In replying to a question about whether the US suggests a dialogue among the political parties here regarding the election issues, she said, Washington doesn't have any "direct involvement" in this.

Uzra Zeya said it is a matter of Bangladesh to decide regarding the "timetable" of the elections.

Mentioning that the US delegation came here in recognition of the importance of the US partnership with Bangladesh, she underscored Washington's desire to deepen that partnership in support of the US's vision of a free and open Indo Pacific, which is "More resilient, more connected, more secure".

She said they discussed the need for free and fair elections, the ability of journalists to report without fear of retaliation or intimidation, collaboration to combat trafficking in persons, and the vital role that civil society plays in democracies advancing respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, including freedoms of expression and association.

"A prosperous future (of Bangladesh) depends on strong democratic institutions, and the broad participation of Bangladeshis in elections and the governance of their country," she observed.

The US Under Secretary said the US looks forward to deepening its engagement with Bangladesh over the next 50 years while its cooperation on climate change, development, economy, humanitarian assistance and security shows the range of Washington's strong partnership and future potential.

Source : <https://www.bssnews.net/news-flash/136168>

US Under Secretary Zeya reaffirms commitment to stronger ties with Bangladesh

US Under Secretary of State for Civilian Security, Democracy and Human Rights, Uzra Zeya has reaffirmed her country's commitment to strengthening ties with Bangladesh.

She met Foreign Secretary Masud Bin Momen on July 13 at a luncheon meeting at the state guesthouse Padma where she reaffirmed Washington's commitment to forging stronger relations.

Ms. Zeya who led a six-member US delegation, paid a visit to Bangladesh from July 11-14.

They discussed the protracted Rohingya crisis, including the ultimate goal of repatriation, challenges to humanitarian responses and accountability measures.

US Under Secretary Zeya appreciated Bangladesh for generously hosting over a million Rohingyas and acknowledged Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's leadership in this regard.

They further discussed issues related to labour reforms, civil rights, the upcoming national election and trafficking in persons.

Highlighting achievements in labour reforms, the foreign secretary hoped that this would further boost bilateral trade and US investment in Bangladesh.

He reiterated Bangladesh's request to repatriate Rashed Chowdhury, a self-confessed and convicted killer of Bangabandhu.

The foreign secretary also restated Bangladesh's request to review sanctions on RAB.

Ms. Zeya appreciated the prime minister's unequivocal commitment to holding a free, fair and violence-free national election.

The under secretary was accompanied by Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asia Bureau Donald Lu, USAID Deputy Assistant Administrator Anjali Kaur, US Ambassador to Bangladesh Peter Haas, National Security Council Director for South Asia Regional Affairs Brian Luti and other US officials.

Uzra Zeya called on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina earlier in the morning and later met Law Minister Anisul Huq and Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan in their offices.

The US delegation also visited Rohingya camps in Cox's Bazar on July 12.



Source : <https://www.daily-sun.com/post/699932/US-Under-Secy-Uzra-Zeya-voiced-for-stronger-ties>

UN to further support Bangladesh to address climate issues



United Nations Assistant Secretary-General and Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction in United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) Mami Mizutori has assured Bangladesh of providing more support to deal with the adverse impacts of climate change.

"Bangladesh is one of the 30 prioritised countries announced by the United Nations Secretary-General. The UN will continue supporting Bangladesh on priority basis to address the adverse impacts of climate change and natural disasters," she said during a meeting with Environment, Forest and Climate Change Minister Md Shahab Uddin in Dhaka on July 4.

During the meeting, the visiting UN Assistant Secretary-General said the UN will provide support to Bangladesh for preparing, monitoring, communicating and introducing early warning systems for various disasters after identifying the need and promoting green technology.

Mentioning that Bangladesh has made a remarkable progress in various social indicators, she said the world has a lot to learn from Bangladesh.

Minister Shahab Uddin said the Bangladesh government is committed to protecting the lives and livelihood of its people from climate change impacts.

Source : <https://www.bssnews.net/news/134430>

Bangladesh Embassy hosts reception to celebrate longstanding Dhaka-Washington partnership: Washington keen to expand trade, create job opportunities for BD & US people says, Congressman Joe Wilson



Congressman Joe Wilson, the Co-Chair of Bangladesh Caucus at the US Congress, has praised Bangladesh's tremendous economic progress and said that the United States is looking forward to expanding trade ties and creating job opportunities for the people of both the countries.

Mr Wilson, a Congressman elected from South Carolina, was speaking as the chief guest at a reception hosted by Bangladesh Embassy in Washington DC on July 20 celebrate longstanding partnership between Bangladesh and the USA.

Bangladesh Ambassador to the United States Muhammad Imran delivered the welcome address.

Ms Elizabeth Horst, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of South and Central Asia, State Department, and Mr Brian Luti, Director for South Asia Regional Affairs, the National Security Council, the White House, spoke at the event as the Guests of Honour. Former Congressman Mr Jim Moran also addressed it.

Congressman Wilson said it's a great opportunity of association of the United States for mutual benefits for the people of both Bangladesh and the USA.

While appreciating Bangladesh's tremendous economic development, Joe Wilson mentioned the country's strides to move towards trillion dollar economy, and achievement in reduction of poverty.

Bangladesh is an important country of South Asia and its people are hard working, Mr Wilson said and added that he introduced a resolution in the House of Representatives this week commending Bangladesh for providing safety of the Rohingyas.

In his welcome address, Bangladesh Ambassador Muhammad Imran welcomed the guests at the reception and extended sincere thanks to Congressman Joe Wilson for his encouraging remarks about Bangladesh-US relations and Bangladesh's socioeconomic development.

Turning to Bangladesh's impressive socioeconomic transformation under the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, the Ambassador said the government has been working towards economic growth by creating equal opportunities for all and realizing an inclusive society.

Ambassador Imran expressed sincere gratitude to the USA for its continued support and the humanitarian assistance for the Rohingyas temporarily sheltered in Bangladesh.

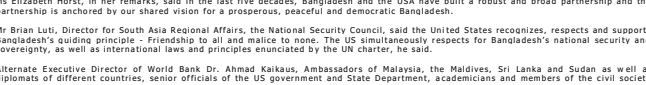
Ms Elizabeth Horst, in her remarks, said in the last five decades, Bangladesh and the USA have built a robust and broad partnership and the partnership is anchored by our shared vision for a prosperous, peaceful and democratic Bangladesh.

Mr Brian Luti, Director for South Asia Regional Affairs, the National Security Council, said the United States recognizes, respects and supports Bangladesh's guiding principle - Friendship to all and malice to none. The US simultaneously respects for Bangladesh's national security and sovereignty, as well as international laws and principles enunciated by the UN charter, he said.

Alternate Executive Director of World Bank Dr. Ahmad Kaikaus, Ambassadors of Malaysia, the Maldives, Sri Lanka and Sudan as well as diplomats of different countries, senior officials of the US government and State Department, academicians and members of the civil society joined the reception.

On the occasion, traditional Bangladeshi handicrafts were displayed and the traditional Bangladeshi foods were served for the guests.

Bangladesh Ambassador meets House Democratic Leader Hakeem Jeffries and other members of US Congress



Bangladesh Ambassador to the United States Muhammad Imran has met several congressmen and congresswomen during the last few weeks and briefed them about Bangladesh's remarkable socio-economic development that took place under the dynamic and visionary leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. They also discussed various other issues of bilateral interests like the Rohingya issue, peace-keeping, labour issues, trade cooperation, Indo-Pacific Strategy, and regional and global issues.

Ambassador Imran met House Democratic Leader Hon'ble Hakeem Jeffries (D-NY-08), who has joined as a member of the Bangladesh Caucus recently. He also met four co-chairs of the Bangladesh Caucus Claudia Tenny (R-NY 24), Gerry Connolly (D-VA 11), Dwight Evans (D-PA 03) and Joe Wilson (R-SC 02) in their respective offices.

The ambassador also met congressmen Rep. William Keating (D-MA 09), Rep. James P McGovern (D-MA 02), Rep. Jim Costa (D-CA 21), Rep. Bill Pascrell (D-NJ 09), Rep. Brad Sherman (D-CA 06) and Chief of Staff of Congressman Rep. Barry Moore (R-LA 02) recently.

As part of regular engagement, the Ambassador and Embassy officials also had separate meetings with Senator Roger Marshall (R-KS 01), Rep. Lois Frankel (D-FL 22), Rep. Haley Stevens (D-MI 11), Rep. Grace Meng (D-NY 06), Rep. Mario Diaz Balart (R-FL 25) and other current and former congressmen/senators and their senior staffers.

Bangladesh ranks as fastest growing economy in Asia-Pacific

Bangladesh has been named the fastest growing economy in the Asia-Pacific economies, out of 32 countries, according to the latest report published (as of June 2023) by World Economics.

On a 10-year gross domestic product (GDP) compound annual growth rate (CAGR) basis, Bangladesh ranked as the fastest growing economy in the Asia-Pacific region and also the fastest in the frontier markets, the report said.

Bangladesh's CAGR over the last 10, 5 and 3 years was 9.1%, 9.4% and 8.5% respectively.

Compound annual growth rates (CAGR) are based on the World Economics Database which presents GDP in purchasing power parity terms, with added estimates for the size of the informal economy and adjustments for out-of-date GDP base year data.

Over the past 10 years the global economy has grown by 35%. Bangladesh's contribution to this growth was 1.9% once any allowances are made for base year and informal economy size. In 2022, Bangladesh's contribution to global economic growth was 0.9%.



Source : <https://www.dhakatribune.com/business/economy/319804/bangladesh-ranks-as-fastest-growing-economy-in>

Bangladesh's inward remittances rise to \$2.2bn in June, highest in three years



Inward remittances sent by Bangladeshis abroad in June have increased by 19.5 percent year-on-year to around \$2.2 billion, most in about three years.

The latest figure took remittances received by the country in the 2022-23 financial year to \$21.61 billion with an annual growth of 2.75 percent, Bangladesh Bank data showed on July 2.

The country's inward remittances increase abruptly during the Muslim festivals of Eid during which expatriates try to send more money to their families. The country celebrated Eid-ul-Azha on Jun 29, which is believed to be a factor behind the rise in remittances.

But this was not the case during Eid-ul-Fitr in April, when inward remittances dipped by 16.24 percent to \$1.7 percent in April, compared with the same month last year.

In March, Bangladesh's monthly inward remittances crossed the \$2 billion mark for the second time in the last fiscal year. They continued to remit robustly until the festival on Apr 22. The remittances slumped in the last week of April after the festival, according to data published by the Bangladesh Bank.

Source : <https://www.daily-sun.com/post/635450/Bangladesh-bags-record-2.2bn-remittance-in-July>

Bangladesh moves 3 spots up in SDG Index

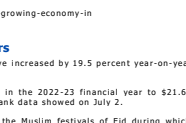
Bangladesh has moved three notches up in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Index 2023 as it has ranked 101st among the 166 countries.

Last year, the country ranked 104th among 163 countries while Bangladesh moved 19 spots up compared to the SDG Index of 2017 as the country ranked 120th among 157 nations in the first SDG Index.

As per the Sustainable Development Report-2023, the position of Bangladesh is, however, ahead of India (112th) and Pakistan (128th) in South Asia.

Teams of independent experts at the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) prepared the report and released it recently.

According to the report, Bangladesh is on-track or maintaining SDGs achievement on two targets- SDG4 (quality education) and SDG12 (Responsible Consumption and Production).



Source : <https://www.bssnews.net/news-flash/138282>

Four new items of Bangladesh gain GI status



Four new items - Yogurt from Bogra, Tulsimala rice from Sherpur, Ashwina and Langra mangoes from Chapainawabganj - have been recognized as Geographical Indicator (GI) products status.

Deputy Registrar (Deputy Secretary) of the Department of Patents, Designs and Trademarks (DPDT) Md Jellur Rahman on July 4 confirmed that Bangladesh is now one and only owner of the four products.

So far, Bangladesh has got the ownership of a total of 15 GI products. No other country or individual in the world can claim the ownership of these products.

Geographical Indication (GI) is a special name or symbol used for a material which is determined by the geographical location or source (such as a country, region or city) of a particular item.

Source : <https://www.daily-sun.com/post/698342/Four-new-items-from-Bangladesh-gain-GI-status>

Hazardous child labour declined significantly in Bangladesh

The number of children engaged in hazardous child labour has declined significantly in the country as it has been possible due to various initiatives taken by the government to eradicate child labour from Bangladesh.

According to the provisional report of the National Child Labour Survey 2022 released today, the number of hazardous child labour in the country was 1,068,212 (2.7%) in 2022 which was 1,280,195 (3.2%) in 2013.

Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) formally published the provisional report on "National Child Labour Survey 2022" under "National Child Labour Survey 2022" at a simple ceremony held at the auditorium of the BBS on July 19.

Planning Minister MA Mannan spoke at the function as the chief guest.



Source : <https://www.bssnews.net/news/137211>

Bangladesh sets \$72 bn export target for FY24



The Ministry of Commerce has set an export target of \$72 billion for the current fiscal year (FY24) with a growth of 11.52 percent.

Out of this export target, the target for goods exports in the current fiscal year has been set at \$62 billion aiming for an 11.59 percent growth while that of the target for services export at \$10 billion with a goal of 11.11 percent growth.

Commerce Minister Tipu Munshi informed this to reporters after holding a meeting on setting the export target for FY24 held at the Commerce Ministry conference room on July 12.

Tipu Munshi said that out of the overall export target of \$67 billion in the last fiscal year (FY23), the export earnings totaled \$64.56 billion.

He mentioned that the government has already set an export earnings target of \$100 billion by 2030 hoping that the export earnings target in the current fiscal year would be achievable as the country's business community has expressed their positive note over the target.

Source : <https://www.newagebd.net/article/206447/bangladesh-sets-72b-export-target-with-1152pc-growth-for-fy24>

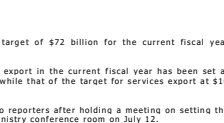
Bangladesh's RMG exports to non-traditional markets rise in FY23

Bangladesh's garment exports to non-traditional markets increased by 32.74 percent in the last fiscal year 2022-23 over the previous fiscal year.

According to data from the Export Promotion Bureau (EPB), the country's garment exports to the European Union (EU) in the previous fiscal year were \$21.40 billion. In the fiscal year 2022-23, this increased by 9.93 percent to \$23.52 billion.

Although garment shipments from Bangladesh to major destinations witnessed negative growth over the past few months due to global crisis, rising exports to non-traditional markets is a good news for the country, experts said.

They said the apparel sector is performing well in non-traditional markets following the Covid-19 recovery. This is attributed to the relatively stronger economic performances of these markets compared to their Western counterparts, they added.



Source : <https://www.dhakatribune.com/business/322146/bangladesh-s-rmg-exports-to-non-traditional>