



Bangladesh celebrates the 53rd Victory Day



Bangladesh on December 16 celebrated the 53rd Victory Day by placing glowing tributes to 1971 Liberation War martyrs and recalling the glorious history, the nation scripted 52 years back by freeing the soil from long subjugation.

On December 16 in 1971, Bangladesh was born as an independent state under the leadership of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at the cost of the supreme sacrifices of three million people and the honour of nearly half a million women.

Marking the day, President Mohammed Shahabuddin and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina paid homage to the martyrs of the Liberation War by placing wreaths at the National Memorial on the outskirts of Savar in the morning. Following that people of all strata paid their tributes to the 1971 martyrs by placing wreaths.

Patriotic songs and Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's landmark March 7 speech were played through loud speaker on the premises of the National Memorial.

Ciad in green and red dresses including shawl and panjabee, people in massive number irrespective of gender and age thronged the memorial to place wreaths since the dawn and the stream of people continued till afternoon.

In the afternoon, President Mohammed Shahabuddin and his wife Dr Rebecca Sultana hosted a reception programme at Bangabhaban marking the Victory Day.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and her sister Sheikh Rehana joined the reception on the lush green lawn of the Bangabhaban.

The Victory Day programmes taken at national level included a 31-gun salute, hoisting of the national flag atop all government, semi-government and private offices as well as offices of autonomous bodies across the country. Receptions were hosted to freedom fighters and family members of martyrs at the city, district and upazila levels.

Special prayers were offered at mosques and other places of worship, seeking eternal peace in the souls of martyrs of the Liberation War and peace, progress and prosperity of the country. Similar programmes were organized at district and upazila levels as well as Bangladesh missions abroad, highlighting the significance of the day.

Source : <https://www.bssnews.net/news-flash/163535>

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina pledges to build a developed and prosperous Smart Bangladesh



Prime Minister and Awami League (AL) President Sheikh Hasina has vowed to build a developed, prosperous and Smart Bangladesh by 2041 as she announced her party's polls manifesto ahead of January 7 general elections.

"Bangladesh will be established as a high-middle-income country by 2031 and a developed, prosperous, smart one by 2041 by the Bangladesh Awami League, the bearer of the spirit of the Liberation War, if the people once again allow us to serve them by voting for the Boat, the AL's electoral symbol," she said.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina made the remarks while unveiling her party's election manifesto at a city hotel on 27th December, 10 days before the 12th parliamentary elections.

In the manifesto, the AL vowed to show zero tolerance against corruption and terrorism, alleviate poverty, create employments, ensure service-oriented and accountable administration.

The AL manifesto also put more focus on infrastructure development, freedom of press and the practice of transparency, accountability, good governance as well as strengthen democratic values in all aspects of state management.

Source : <https://www.bssnews.net/news-flash/165179>

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina conferred on 'Asia Climate Mobility Champion Leader Award'

'Asia Climate Mobility Champion Leader Award' has been conferred on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, acknowledging her voice of leadership in championing the climate actions and a lead global advocate for vulnerable communities.



The Global Centre for Climate Mobility, supported by IOM and the UN system, conferred the Award during a high-level panel on the sidelines of the COP28 in Dubai on December 1.

The award is a significant international recognition to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and the country's continuous advocacy in addressing climate mobility and the challenges derived from it.

During the UNGA78 Climate Mobility Summit, the Prime Minister drew the focus of the global leaders to the urgency of climate-forced migration and displacement.

Meanwhile, Foreign Minister (the then Information and Broadcasting Minister) Dr Hasan Mahmud handed over the Asia Climate Mobility Champion Leader Award to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her official residence Ganabhaban on December 3.

Earlier, Dr. Hasan Mahmud, the Head of Bangladesh delegation in the COP28 high level segment, received the Award on behalf of the Prime Minister.

Source : <https://www.bssnews.net/news-flash/161281>

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is victor of Bangladesh's 2nd liberation war: MJ Akbar



India's former State Minister for External Affairs and renowned author MJ Akbar has said Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is the victor of Bangladesh's second liberation war as she had liberated the country from dictatorship.

"Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina should be honored as the liberator and as the leader of the (Bangladesh's) second liberation war," he told reporters at the Foreign Service Academy in Dhaka on December 17.

The eminent author-journalist turned politician appeared in front of the media along with Foreign Minister Dr A.K. Abdul Momen after giving a keynote speech at a discussion, titled "Bangladesh's achievements in 52 years and its place in the region and beyond in the coming decades".

MJ Akbar said Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is not only turning Bangladesh as a success state but also building the country as a modern one based on principles and based on provable and visible success.

While delivering the keynote speech, MJ Akbar highlighted Prime Minister Sheikh Haisna's development efforts towards ensuring an inclusive growth and termed Bangladesh as the 'emerging power of Asia'.

He said Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina led the nation by delivering all "four dimensions" to turn Bangladesh as a modern state.

Glorifying the heroism of the freedom fighters, he said, freedom was not handed to Bangladesh, but Bangladesh earned it.

And today, he said, Bangladesh has become a nation of opportunities under the leadership of the able daughter of its founding father Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

Foreign Minister Dr A.K. Abdul Momen, Senior Secretary of the Foreign Ministry Masud Bin Momen and Rector of Foreign Service Academy Mashfee Binte Shams also spoke on the occasion.

Source : <https://www.bssnews.net/news-flash/163726>

Ambassador Imran meets Acting US Secretary of Labour Julie Su, discusses labour situation in Bangladesh

Bangladesh Ambassador to the United States Mr. Muhammad Imran met with Acting US Secretary of Labour Ms. Julie Su in Washington DC on December 14 and had an exclusive interaction on various bilateral issues.

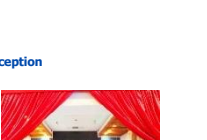


The meeting took place on the sidelines of an event organized by the US Department of Labour in the US capital in the afternoon.

During the meeting, the Ambassador and the Acting US Secretary of Labour discussed about current labour situation in Bangladesh and steps taken by the government to improve workers' rights.

They agreed to remain engaged at different levels of the two governments on labour standard of Bangladesh and further understand the concerns of the parties. Ambassador Imran also met with Deputy Under Secretary of US Department of Labour Ms. Thea Lee at the same event.

Great Victory Day celebrated at Bangladesh Embassy in Washington. Bangladesh makes remarkable progress, Afreen Akhter tells Victory Day reception



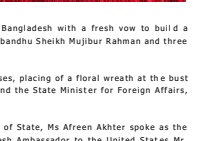
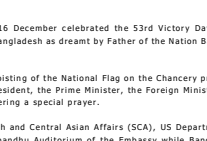
The Bangladesh Embassy in Washington DC on 16 December celebrated the 53rd Victory Day of Bangladesh with a fresh vow to build a hunger-and-poverty-free happy and prosperous Bangladesh as dreamt by Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and three million martyrs.

The day-long program of the Embassy included hoisting of the National Flag on the Chancery premises, placing of a floral wreath at the bust of Bangabandhu, reading out messages of the President, the Prime Minister, the Foreign Minister and the State Minister for Foreign Affairs, hosting a reception and cultural function and offering a special prayer.

Deputy Assistant Secretary in the Bureau of South and Central Asian Affairs (SCA), US Department of State, Ms Afreen Akhter spoke as the Guest of Honour at the reception held at Bangabandhu Auditorium of the Embassy while Bangladesh Ambassador to the United States Mr. Muhammad Imran delivered the address of welcome.

Addressing the reception, Ms Afreen Akhter appreciated Bangladesh's remarkable progress since its independence and said the United States has been an important development partner in this journey. The progress that Bangladesh has made as a country has been truly remarkable, she said.

Bangladesh Embassy in Washington observes "Martyred Intellectuals Day"



The Bangladesh Embassy in Washington DC on 14 December observed the "Martyred Intellectuals' Day" by paying glowing tributes to the golden sons of the soil who were brutally killed by the Pakistan occupation forces and their local collaborators on the eve of the ultimate victory in the country's Liberation War in 1971.

The program of the Embassy commenced by placing a floral wreath by Bangladesh Ambassador to the United States Mr. Muhammad Imran at the bust of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at Bangabandhu Corner. Officials and employees of the Mission were present on the occasion.

Addressing a discussion, Ambassador Muhammad Imran paid rich tributes to martyred intellectuals. He also paid deep homage to Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and all martyrs of the great Liberation War.

The Ambassador said the barbaric killing of the golden sons of the soil by the Pakistani occupation forces and their local collaborators is one of the grave human rights violations in the human history and urged all to highlight this heinous killing before the world conscience by observing the day on a larger scale.

Bangladesh Embassy holds a consular camp in Upper Darby



The Embassy of Bangladesh in Washington, DC held a consular camp in Upper Darby, Pennsylvania on 02-03 December 2023. The consular team was led by Counsellor Shamima Yeasmin and First Secretary Muhammad Abdul Hye Milton.

A total of 479 applicants were served and USD 31,075.00 revenue was earned in two days in this mobile consular camp. The services delivered in the consular camp included issuance of NVR (No Visa Required for Travel to Bangladesh) as well as receiving applications for Dual Nationality Certificate (DNC) and reissue of Machine Readable Passport (MRP).

Bangladesh wins IMO Council election-2023



Bangladesh has won the 175-member International Maritime Organization (IMO) council election 2023 in category C, held on December 1 in the IMO headquarters in London, securing 128 votes.

This is for the first time Bangladesh has won the election in the highly competitive category C of the IMO.

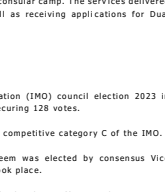
Earlier, Bangladesh High Commissioner to the UK Saïda Muna Tasneem was elected by consensus Vice President of the 33rd assembly of the IMO during which the election took place.

IMO, the only UN specialised body, regulates global shipping standards that have effect on ship operating flag states, seafarers and maritime safety security and marine pollutions.

Source : <https://www.newagebd.net/article/219219/bangladesh-wins-imo-council-election>

Dhaka's rickshaws, rickshaw arts inscribed on UNESCO's intangible heritage list

Rickshaws and Rickshaw painting in Dhaka have been inscribed on the UNESCO Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.



The Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage on December 6 inscribed 'Rickshaws and Rickshaw painting in Dhaka' on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity during its 18th session in Kasane, Botswana, from December 5 to 9.

Also known as Dhakar Rickshaw or Rickshawchitra, the motif of Rickshaw Art is an exceptional decorative art and decoration on the body of the vehicle in Bangladesh. The Rickshaw is a human-propelled transport on three wheels and is a recognised feature of Dhaka and Bangladesh, as a whole.

Rickshaw craftsmanship has been highly renowned for its traditional process of fashioning the Rickshaw by hand. In Bangladesh, almost every part of a Rickshaw is decorated and painted.

Source : <https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/rickshaws-and-rickshaw-painting-dhaka-inscribed-unesco-representative-list-intangible-cultural>

Bangladesh joins global wind power club



Bangladesh has joined the global wind power club with the inauguration of its Cox's Bazar wind power project.

The wind power project, located in Bangladesh's southeastern Cox's Bazar district, some 400 km away from capital Dhaka, is invested by Wuling Power Corp., a subsidiary of China's State Power Investment Corp. (SPIC), and built by Power China Chengdu Engineering Corp.

Upon operation, the project will provide Bangladesh with about 145 million kWh of clean electricity per year, reduce coal consumption by 44,600 tons and carbon dioxide emissions by 109,200 tons, as well as meet the electricity demand of 100,000 households.

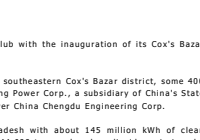
"It's a major watershed in our nation's journey towards cleaner and more sustainable energy," Md. Habibur Rahman, senior secretary of Power Division under the Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources, said this while addressing the launching ceremony.

This project will not only provide clean electricity to thousands of households but also contribute significantly to mitigating the country's reliance on fossil fuels. It will also have a positive impact on Bangladesh's environment, improve air quality, and mitigate the effects of climate change, the official noted.

Source : <https://asianewstoday.com/bangladesh-enters-wind-power-era-with-coxs-bazar-project-in-operation/>

ADB approves \$400m to support climate priorities in Bangladesh

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a \$400 million policy-based loan to support the Government of Bangladesh in implementing its National Adaptation Plan, 2023-2050 and Nationally Determined Contributions 2021 Update to the Paris Agreement to achieve a climate-focused inclusive development.



Bangladesh is one of the world's most vulnerable countries to the adverse impacts of climate change, recording an annual average loss of about \$3 billion.

This loan is the first subprogram of the indicative \$700 million Climate-Resilient Inclusive Development Program, which will help Bangladesh strengthen its climate resilience, transition to a low-carbon economy, mitigate its greenhouse gas emissions, and mainstream gender equality and social inclusion in the government's climate actions.

The program will create an enabling institutional and policy environment to mobilize climate finance, prioritize climate actions in the country's overall development agenda, and help the government implement reforms in climate-critical sectors, including agriculture, disaster management, transport and infrastructure, urban development, and energy.

Source : <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/adb-gives-400-million-support-climate-priorities-bangladesh-3491911>

Japan to provide 76,635m yen to Bangladesh, deals signed



Under the 44th Japanese ODA loan, Japan will provide 76,635 million Japanese Yen (JPY) (approximately US\$517.27 million) to Bangladesh as the third tranche of the Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport Expansion project.

The 'Exchange of Notes' and 'Loan Agreement' in this regard were signed between Bangladesh and Japan on December 24.

Md. Shahriar Kader Siddiky, secretary of Economic Relations Division, Ministry of Finance, and IWAMA Kiminori, the ambassador of Japan to Bangladesh signed the 'Exchange of Notes' and the 'Loan Agreement' on behalf of the respective governments.

Source : <https://www.bssnews.net/news-flash/164805>