



Awami League clinches landslide victory in 12th general elections of Bangladesh



Bangladesh Awami League clinched a landslide victory with over two-thirds majority in the 12th general elections amid festivity giving the AL-led 14-party alliance yet another chance to form the government for the fourth consecutive terms.

The massive victory has paved the way for Awami League President Sheikh Hasina to lead the government as Prime Minister for the fifth terms and fourth times in a row.

The election commission announced the results of all 300 parliamentary seats where election was held on January 7 in a free and fair manner.

According to the results, the AL bagged 224 seats alone while Jatiya Party secured 11 seats. Independent candidates secured second highest 62 seats and JSD, Bangladesh Kalyan Party and Bangladesh Workers' Party got one seat each.

Voter turnout at the 12th parliamentary election was at 41.8%, Chief Election Commissioner Kazi Habibur Awal said while presenting this figure at a press conference at the EC Secretariat on January 8.

Source : <https://www.bssnews.net/news-flash/167033>

Sheikh Hasina sworn in as Prime Minister for 5th term, forms 37-member cabinet



Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has formed the government for the fourth consecutive term with a 37-member cabinet as she took oath as the prime minister for fifth term. Her council of ministers included 25 ministers and 11 state ministers.

President Mohammed Shahabuddin administered the oath of office and oath of secrecy to Sheikh Hasina, elder daughter of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, and her new ministers at Durbar Hall of Bangabhaban in Dhaka on January 11.

Guests present at the jam-packed glittering Durbar Hall of Bangabhaban included the Parliament Speaker, Chief Justice, Chief Election Commissioner, Judges of the Supreme Court, MPs, political leaders, chiefs of the three services, members of diplomatic corps, journalists, and high civil and military officials.

President's spouse Dr Rebecca Sultana, PM's youngest sister Sheikh Rehana and other family members were present at the function.

Sheikh Hasina took oath first pledging to preserve, protect and defend the national constitution and the state sovereignty. Cabinet Secretary Md Mahub Hossain conducted the oath-taking function, while around 1,400 guests were invited to witness the historic ceremony.

The Bangladesh Awami League attained a resounding victory bagging 224 seats with 'boat' symbol in the 12th Parliamentary election held on January 7 last.

Source : <https://www.bssnews.net/news-flash/167551>

President receives credentials of 7 non-resident envoys



President Mohammed Shahabuddin received credentials of newly appointed ambassadors and high commissioners of seven countries to Bangladesh at Bangabhaban on January 31.

The new non-resident envoys are: High Commissioner of Botswana Gilbert Shimane Magole, Ambassador of Cambodia Koy Kuong, Ambassador of the Czech Republic Dr. Eliska Zigova, High Commissioner of Gambia Mustapha Jawara, Ambassador of Hungary Istvan Szabo, High Commissioner of Jamaica Jason K. Hall and Peggy Frantzen, ambassador of Luxembourg.

Speaking on the occasion, the President said Bangladesh attaches importance to developing bilateral ties with all countries of the world.

Pointing out that the country made tremendous progress in various sectors in the last one and a half decades, he said the current trade and investment situation of Bangladesh is very promising.

The new ambassadors would work with Bangladesh to explore the development potentials of their respective countries and increase mutual cooperation, including trade and investment, the Head of State hoped.

During the meeting, the envoys expressed their determination to work for further enhancing the relations of their respective countries with Bangladesh.

Source : <https://www.bssnews.net/news/president/171029>

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, new cabinet members pay homage to martyrs in Savar



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina paid homage to the martyrs of the Liberation War on January 13, a day after taking oath to form the government for a record fifth term and fourth in a row.

Sheikh Hasina as the Prime Minister first paid tributes to the martyrs by placing a wreath at the altar of the National Memorial at Savar, on the outskirts of the capital city Dhaka.

Flanked by the new cabinet colleagues, Sheikh Hasina, also placed another wreath at the altar of the National Memorial.

After laying the wreaths, they stood in solemn silence for some time as a mark of profound respect to the memories of the martyrs who made supreme sacrifice for the independence of Bangladesh.

The Prime Minister with her new cabinet members earlier in the morning paid homage to Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in Dhanmondi by placing wreaths at his portrait in front of Bangabandhu Bhaban in the capital.

Bangabandhu's younger daughter and Prime Minister's younger sister Sheikh Rehana was present at that time.

Source : <https://www.bssnews.net/news-flash/167645>

Economic progress main goal for next 5 years: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has said her prime goal for the next five years is to sustain economic growth and improve the lives of the country's citizens.

"My primary target is to complete all the initiatives I have undertaken, so that I can ensure a prosperous life for the people of our country," she said on January 13 while exchanging views with foreign journalists and election observers at Ganabhaban in Dhaka, after the party's landslide victory in the 12th parliamentary elections.

Sheikh Hasina, also the Awami League president, continued, "I have already declared our election manifesto. Each time we release our manifesto and annual budget, we adhere to our election promises. Our commitment is to fulfill these pledges. So, the development of both the people and the country is my main target."

She also said the victory attained by the Awami League in the elections is a triumph for the people.

She said the people elected her party by voting for it in the elections. Besides, many independent candidates and some contenders from other parties were elected, she said.

"The people of this country elected them by voting spontaneously. We'd taken all sorts of measures to conduct the elections in a free and fair manner as you witnessed," said Sheikh Hasina.

Thanking the foreign observers and journalists for their participation, the prime minister remarked, "I believe that your presence will further fortify the democratic system in our country."

She said Bangladesh maintains good relations with all its neighbouring countries. "We maintain good relations with neighbours. Our foreign policy is friendship with all and malice towards none."

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said that she looks after the country's people with motherly affection and she never thought her femininity is any obstacle to her work.

"I try to work for my people and yes, I can tell you one thing. You know a woman as a mother looks after her family, look after her children. I have also brought up my children. In the same way with motherly affection, I look after my people. And I try to assist them and help them," she said.

Source : BSS & UNB

Bangladesh keen to work together with all countries: Foreign Minister Dr. Hasan Mahmud

Foreign Minister Dr Hasan Mahmud has expressed his the government's willingness to work in collaboration with all countries.

"All the countries in the east and the west have already expressed their willingness to work with us, with the government. At the end of the day, they are our development partners and we will work together," he said in his maiden media interaction on January 14 after assuming the charge of his new portfolio.

Hasan Mahmud said economic diplomacy would be the major focus of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's new government while Dhaka would continue to work with countries both in eastern and western hemispheres.

The foreign minister said maintaining relations with countries in the East and Western hemispheres appeared as a major challenge against the backdrop of growing global polarization.

But, he said, Bangladesh would stick to Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's foreign policy doctrine - friendship to all, malice towards none.

Source : <https://www.bssnews.net/news-flash/167933>



Dhaka, Washington agree to deepen ties, expand business: Foreign Minister Hasan Mahmud



Foreign Minister Dr Hasan Mahmud has said Dhaka and Washington have agreed to deepen bilateral ties, work together on expanding trade and tackle terrorism and fanaticism.

"We (Bangladesh and the US) have expressed our willingness to work together to deepen our ties, to increase our cooperation in expanding business and tackle anti-terrorism and fanaticism," he told reporters on January 17.

The minister was briefing journalists on his meeting with the US Ambassador to Bangladesh Peter Haas and European Union Ambassador Charles Whiteley at his office at the foreign ministry in Dhaka.

Replying to a question, the minister said that they had discussed oil exploration in the Bay of Bengal as an American company discovered the potentiality of oil reserves on Bangladesh's offshore.

The US Ambassador Peter Haas said Washington will work closely with the new Bangladesh government in the areas of commerce, climate change and Rohingya issue in the coming days.

Source : <https://www.bssnews.net/news/top-news/168580>

WHO DG congratulates Saima Wazed

World Health Organization (WHO) Director General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus has extended congratulations to Saima Wazed, a strong advocate for autism, on her appointment as WHO's Regional Director for South-East Asia Regional Office (WHOSEARO).

"You have the confidence and trust of the member states of the South East Asia and of the Executive Board," Adhanom Ghebreyesus wrote in a post from X handle on January 23.

He wrote Saima has been entrusted with guiding the health systems of 11 countries comprising nearly two billion people. The region is extremely diverse, and the range of health challenges is equally diverse, he added.

"Of course, we are not alone. You are supported by a very dedicated and talented team at the Regional Office. You have my full support and trust, and that of my colleagues in headquarters. I look forward to working with you," the WHO DG wrote.

Source : <https://www.daily-sun.com/post/731739>



World Bank keen to disburse \$700m more for Rohingyas, host community



The World Bank (WB) has expressed its interest to disburse additional 700 million US dollar in the form of both grant and soft loan to Bangladesh for forcefully displaced Rohingyas and the host community in Chattogram.

Foreign Minister Dr Hasan Mahmud told reporters after holding a meeting with WB's country director Abdoulaye Seck at the foreign ministry on January 23.

Of the 700 million US dollar, he said, 315 million would be disbursed as grant for the Rohingyas and 385 million for the host community of the Chattogram division under soft loan scheme.

He said the fund under the soft loan would be used for elevating livelihood of inhabitants of the Chattogram division through developing infrastructure facilities and improving healthcare services.

During the meeting, the minister said they discussed to further strengthen the development cooperation between Bangladesh and the World Bank in the day to come.

Currently World bank has been running its 15 billion US dollars fund in 56 ongoing projects in Bangladesh.

Source : <https://www.bssnews.net/news/169663>

Post polls, confidence in Bangladesh's economy will be restored: ADB country director

Following the recent national elections, confidence in Bangladesh's economy will be restored, Country Director of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) to Bangladesh Edimon Ginting has said.

"Most importantly, I think as the election is over, confidence will come back," he said while talking to reporters after making a courtesy call on Finance Minister Abul Hassan Mahmood Ali at the latter's office at the Secretariat on January 18.

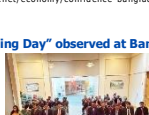
Edimon Ginting said the ADB is very proud of the progress that has been achieved over the last 15 years in Bangladesh.

"So, we're looking forward to helping the government to bring back the high growth that has been achieved in the past. Given the current challenges, we're assured that the future, over the next five years, will be better in Bangladesh."

Source : <https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/confidence-bangladeshs-economy-will-be-restored-adb-country-director-777226>



Bangabandhu's "Homecoming Day" observed at Bangladesh Embassy in Washington



The Bangladesh Embassy in Washington DC on January 10 observed the historic "Homecoming Day" of the greatest Bangalee of all time, Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, by taking a renewed vow to materialize his unfinished dream of building 'Sonar Bangla' (Golden Bangladesh).

On the occasion, the Embassy arranged a program by paying deepest homage to the great architect of Independence.

The day's program commenced with placing a floral wreath at the bust of Bangabandhu at the Bangabandhu Corner of the Mission by Bangladesh Ambassador to the United States Mr. Muhammad Imran. Officials and employees of the Embassy were present on the occasion.

The messages issued on the occasion of the historic day by Hon'ble President Mohammed Shahabuddin and Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina were read out by Minister (Press) AZM Sajjad Hossain and Counsellor (Political) Arifa Rahaman Rums. Later two documentaries on the historic Homecoming Day of Bangabandhu and his long struggle for independence was screened.

Afterward, a discussion session was held at the Bangabandhu Auditorium of the Mission highlighting the significance of the day.

Taking part in the discussion, Ambassador Muhammad Imran paid rich tributes to Bangabandhu and narrated Bangabandhu's long struggle and great sacrifice from great Language Movement to the Liberation War to achieve long-aspired independence for Bengali nation.

He said under Bangabandhu's unwavering leadership, the Bengali nation snatched ultimate victory in the great Liberation War on 16 December in 1971. With the homecoming of the great leader on this historic day, the joy of the final victory of the Liberation War was fulfilled, he added.

Minister (Consular) Mohammad Habibur Rahman also took part in the discussion and highlighted the background of the historic Homecoming Day of Bangabandhu. He also described Bangabandhu's unforgettable role in the great Liberation War and rebuilding the war-ravaged country.

USAID aims to propel growth trajectory in Bangladesh



Bangladesh has made remarkable strides in the economic growth and there are numerous untapped opportunities for further growth, yet to be realized.

Mr. Reed Aeschliman, Mission Director, U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), said this while speaking as the guest of honor and speaker at a meeting titled "The Transforming Bangladesh: USAID Partners in Progress" organized by American Chamber of Commerce (AmCham) in Bangladesh in Dhaka on Jan 25.

He said the USAID is actively engaged in various crucial areas that are pivotal for economic development and it actively aims to propel the growth trajectory in Bangladesh.

Syed Ershad Ahmed, President of the AmCham, delivered the welcome speech while John Fay, Commercial Counselor, U.S. Embassy, U.S. Chamber's vice president Syed Mohammad Kamal, its former presidents, executive committee members and members, among others, were present at the event.

Source : <https://www.observerbd.com/news.php?id=457009>

Bangladesh's remittance inflow sees 17.07pc growth in December

Expatriate Bangladeshis sent US\$1,989.87 million remittances in December, 2023 which was 17.06 percent higher than the corresponding month of the previous year.

The country received US\$1,699.70 million from overseas workers in December 2023, according to the central bank data released on January 2.

During the July to December in the current 2023-24 fiscal year, expatriate Bangladeshis sent US\$10,798.29 million remittances against US\$10,493.26 million for the same period of the previous fiscal.

Source : <https://thebangladeshtoday.com/?p=58195>



Bangladesh's export earnings totals \$27,540.37m during July-Dec period



Bangladesh's export earnings during the first half (July-December) period of the current fiscal year (FY24) totaled \$27,540.37 million with a 0.84 percent growth.

According to the latest statistics of the Export Promotion Bureau (EPB), country's export earnings during the July-December period of the last fiscal year (FY23) totaled \$27,311.26 million.

The performances of the main exportable items during the first half were RMG \$23,391.34 million including knitwear \$13,480.19 million and woven garment \$9,911.15 million, primary commodities \$730.64 million, manufactured commodities \$26,809.72 million, plastic products \$116.64 million, leather and leather products \$523.03 million, jute and jute goods \$436.12 million, home textile \$369.91 million.

Source : <https://www.bssnews.net/business/166058>