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Newsbrief

Chief Advisor Professor Muhammad Yunus said, the interim government plans to hold the next general elections and local government polls. The Adviser said this while Nicola Beer, the Vice President of the European Investment Bank (EIB), met the Chief Advisor at the State Guest House Jamuna in Dhaka yesterday. The Chief Advisor sought EIB's help in tackling corruption, the green transition in energy, and formulating a broader plan for the Sundarbans mangrove forest and the surrounding region and river system. The Chief Adviser also sought EIB's support in building facilities in Chittagong Port for the development of the people in eastern Bangladesh and water management in northern Bangladesh. The Vice President has assured the Bangladesh's interim government of its support in carrying out vital reforms it had undertaken.

The Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (ECNEC) approved 10 projects worth Tk 4,246.72 crore including one for building Chattogram Tax Building with Taka 437.07 crore. The approval came from the 6th meeting of the ECNEC in this fiscal year and the 5th meeting of the interim government. The meeting was held at the NEC Conference Room in the city's Sher-e-Bangla Nagar area yesterday.

Finance Adviser Dr. Salehuddin Ahmed said, the present government is trying to recover the economy and bring the growth on track and stressed on the necessity of financial support from European Investment Bank in the context of LDC graduation, the need for development in sectors of RMG, agriculture, education, skill development, renewable energy and leather, and also research and innovation and employment generation. The Adviser said this while a delegation of European Investment Bank (EIB) led by Vice-president Nicola Beer met the Adviser at a hotel in the capital yesterday.

Planning and Education Adviser Dr. Wahiduddin Mahmud said, the Education Ministry has no direct role in addressing the problems faced by private universities in the country, as these institutions are managed by their respective trustee boards. The Adviser said this to the reporters following an ECNEC meeting at the NEC conference room in Dhaka yesterday.

Emphasising strong bilateral ties with the United Kingdom (UK), Foreign Adviser Md. Touhid Hossain drew attention to the ongoing 'misinformation campaigns' against Bangladesh and appreciated strong support of friends in the UK Parliament in fending off such malicious efforts. The issues were discussed when a visiting delegation of the UK-Bangladesh Catalysts of Commerce and Industry, including Dr. Rupa Huq, an MP of House of Commons of the British Parliament, called on the Adviser at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Dhaka yesterday.

Besides, Foreign Affairs Adviser Md. Touhid Hossain said, Bangladesh has not yet received a response from New Delhi regarding the Dhaka's letter sent to facilitate the return of Sheikh Hasina. The Adviser said this to the journalists at the Foreign Ministry in Dhaka yesterday.

Environment, Forest and Climate Change Adviser Syeda Rizwana Hasan said, the government has finalised the Integrated Management Plan for the Swatch of No-Ground Marine Protected Area. The Adviser said this at a meeting joining virtually. The meeting was arranged for finalising the Integrated Management Plan for the Swatch of no-ground Marine Protected Area. The plan not only ensures biodiversity protection but also supports sustainable marine fisheries and coastal livelihoods, contributing to a resilient blue economy, added the Adviser.

Information and Broadcasting Adviser Md. Nahid Islam emphasised on the due role of the Bangladesh Film Archive (BFA) in preserving the country's history, heritage and culture through films and documentaries. The Adviser said this while visiting several key areas of the archive, including the projection hall, multipurpose hall, digital lab, film museum, film checking room, film vault and library. The Adviser also called on archive officials to focus on expanding its capacity to further enhance its contribution to safeguarding the country's cinematic and cultural legacy. The Adviser announced government support for documentary on July uprising.

Health Adviser Nurjahan Begum said, the clinics like 'Aalo' play a vital role in providing prompt medical services and easing pressure on other healthcare arrangements. The Adviser said this after visiting the Aalo Clinic in the capital's Karail area yesterday, which is operated with funding from the Swedish donor agency Sida and technical assistance from Unicef. During the visit, the Adviser focused on the role of such clinics in addressing urban health challenges, said a PID handout.

Commerce Adviser Sheikh Bashir Uddin said, there is no reason for price hike in the market as the country currently has no scarcity of rice. The Adviser said this while inaugurating the nationwide selling programme of goods by the Trading Corporation of Bangladesh among smart family cardholders at Dipikarmor of Bagunbari in Dhaka yesterday.

BNP Chairperson and former Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia reached London yesterday. Bangladesh acting High Commissioner in London Mohammad Hazrat Ali Khan welcomed the former Prime Minister with a bouquet at the airport. Then, the Chairperson was admitted to the London Clinic, a specialized hospital in London, UK for advanced treatment.

A court yesterday ordered the authorities concerned to seize tax files of former Inspector General of Police Benazir Ahmed's wife, his daughter, former head of Detective Branch of Dhaka Metropolitan Police Harun or Rashid and his brother ABM Shahriar. Dhaka Metropolitan Sessions Judge Md. Zakir Hossain Galib passed the orders, allowing separate pleas of the Anti-Corruption Commission.

India has extended the visa of Sheikh Hasina, the deposed Prime Minister of Bangladesh, amid mounting calls from Dhaka for her extradition. Hasina, 77, has been residing in India since fleeing her country in August last year, following widespread protests that culminated in her resignation. The Hindustan Times, a major national daily of India, reports that Sheikh Hasina's visa extension was recently approved, facilitated by India's Union Home Ministry through the Foreigners Regional Registration Office.

Fifty-one new dengue cases were reported in the 24 hours leading up to Wednesday morning, according to the Directorate General of Health Services. The number of deaths remained unchanged, as no fatalities were recorded during this period.



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