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**Newsbrief**

Malaysia would continue to support Bangladesh, including resolving the Rohingya humanitarian crisis and Bangladesh's inclusion as a sectoral dialogue partner of the ASEAN. Malaysian Higher Education Minister Dr. Zambry Abdul Kadir said this when he called on Chief Adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus at the St. Regis Hotel in the Egyptian capital, Cairo yesterday.

Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment Adviser Dr. Asif Nazrul said, the government is working sincerely for the welfare and betterment of the Bangladeshi expatriates. The Adviser said this while addressing a programme as a chief guest on the International Migrants Day and the National Expatriates Day at the Osmani Memorial Auditorium in the capital yesterday.

Environment, Forest and Climate Change Adviser Syeda Rizwana Hasan today said the government is committed to ensuring the best use of climate budget. The Adviser made the remark while speaking at a seminar titled "Global Climate Negotiation Challenges and Priorities for Bangladesh" organized by Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies (BISS) at its Auditorium in the capital yesterday.

Adviser to the interim government on the Ministry of Commerce Sk Bashir Uddin urged the Swedish entrepreneurs to come up with more investment in Bangladesh. The Adviser said this when Swedish Ambassador to Bangladesh Nicolas Weeks made a courtesy call on him in his office at Bangladesh Secretariat yesterday.

Earlier, the Environment, Forests, Climate Change Adviser stressed taking an integrated effort to cope with adverse impacts of climate change on agricultural sector. The Adviser made the remarks while speaking as the chief guest at a roundtable titled "Impact of Climate Change in Agriculture and Way Forward". Bangladesh Agricultural Reporters Forum (BARF) organized the meeting at Jatiya Press Club in Dhaka yesterday.

A high-level taskforce on the semiconductor sector will work with the Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (BIDA) to develop a roadmap for sectoral growth, focusing on testing, assembly, and scaling up chip design capabilities. The decision was adopted in a stakeholder meeting chaired by M Siraz Uddin Miah, Principal Secretary to the Chief Adviser at BIDA Headquarters in the capital yesterday.

Chief Election Commissioner AMM Nasir Uddin said, votes would be cast on ballots and not electronic voting machines during the next general elections, expected by mid-2026, to ensure transparency. The Chief Election Commissioner made the remarks while speaking to reporters at his office in the capital on Tuesday.

Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) Acting Chairman Tarique Rahman yesterday said, they would respond to the injustice and represses they endured through the implementation of 31-point outline for repairing state structure, not through revenge. The BNP Acting Chairman said this while virtually addressing a training workshop on 31 points for repairing the state structure and public engagement for party men. BNP Training Affairs Committee organized the event in Tangail, Gazipur and Narayanganj.

United States welcomed plans by Bangladesh's interim leader to hold elections after a student-led uprising toppled long-ruling Sheikh Hasina. State Department Spokesman Vedant Patel told reporters yesterday. State Department Spokesman also said that the United States would encourage the respect of the rule of law over the course of this whole process, as well as the respect for democratic principles should a transition come to fruition.

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Government yesterday refuted attempts to distort the history of its 1971 Liberation War, referencing a book written by the late J.N. Dixit, a former Indian Foreign Secretary, Diplomat and National Security Adviser. The Foreign Ministry stated this in a post on its verified Facebook page, citing Dixit's observations on the events of December 16, 1971.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) staff and the Bangladesh authorities reached a staff-level agreement on the policies needed to complete the third review of the programmes being supported by the IMF's Extended Credit Facility (ECF), Extended Fund Facility (EFF), and Resilience and Sustainability Facility (RSF). Chris Papageorgiou, IMF Mission Chief to Bangladesh said at the end of the visit, said a press release yesterday. An IMF staff team led by Chris Papageorgiou visited Dhaka during December 3-18, 2024 to discuss economic and financial policies in the context of the third review of the IMF supported ECF, EFF and RSF.

Indian Border Security Force (BSF) allegedly detained a Bangladeshi teenager along Tokapara border in Panchagarh's Sadar upazila. The detainee is Wasim, 17, son of Rezaul Karim of Senpara village under the same upazila. Lt Col Sheikh Mohammad Bodruddoza, commanding officer of Border Guard Battalion (BGB) battalion-56 in Nilphamari confirmed yesterday.

Bangladesh Railway will introduce two new intercity train services from December 24 on Khulna-Dhaka-Khulna and Benapole-Dhaka-Benapole routes connecting the capital with the country's southwest region. With these new trains, Dhaka-Jashore rail route via the Padma Bridge is going to be operational, Nahid Hasan Khan, Director of Bangladesh Railway, told The Daily Star yesterday.

Five more dengue patients died and 274 patients were admitted to different hospitals in the country during the last 24 hours, according to a press release issued by the Directorate General of Health Services yesterday.

DSEX, the broad index of the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE), lost 16.4 points or 0.3% to settle at 5,208 points, as against 5,225 points yesterday.

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