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Newsbrief

President Mohammed Shahabuddin urged the international community to come forward to end the Rohingya crisis in Bangladesh, saying the crisis has been posing a serious threat to the country's economy. The President made the call when the newly appointed Non-Resident Ambassadors of Belarus and Estonia and the Non-Resident High Commissioner of Uganda presented their credentials to the President through three separate ceremonies at Bangabhaban in Dhaka yesterday.

The Advisory Council of the interim government approved the proposed list of 26 holidays for the 2025 calendar year. The approval came at the Advisory Council meeting held with Chief Adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus in the chair at his Tejgaon office yesterday.

Foreign Affairs Adviser Md. Touhid Hossain said the government will take necessary steps to bring ousted Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina back to the country following an arrest warrant issued by the International Crimes Tribunal against her. The Adviser told newsmen at his Ministry yesterday. The government is set to repatriate documented Bangladeshi nationals from Lebanon, with the first group of 50 expatriates scheduled to return home on October 20, Foreign Affairs Adviser added.

Foreign Affairs Adviser Md. Touhid Hossain will lead the Bangladesh delegation at the upcoming Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Samoa, as Chief Adviser Professor Dr. Muhammad Yunus will not attend. The Adviser said during a press briefing at the Foreign Ministry in Dhaka yesterday. The Adviser also confirmed that the Chief Adviser is expected to attend the BIMSTEC Summit in Thailand, with the date yet to be finalized.

The newly appointed Non-resident Belarus Ambassador to Bangladesh Mikhail Kasko paid a courtesy call on Foreign Affairs Adviser Md. Touhid Hossain at the Foreign Ministry in Dhaka yesterday. The Envoy expressed his commitment to deepening bilateral relations between the two nations. The Adviser also expressed satisfaction with the current state of Bangladesh-Belarus cooperation.

Bangladesh and Uganda discussed the probability of signing a Visa Waiver Agreement for holders of diplomatic and official passports of the nationals of both countries. The discussion took place when Uganda's Non-resident High Commissioner to Bangladesh, Joyce Kakuramatsi Kikafunda, paid a courtesy call to Foreign Affairs Adviser Md. Touhid Hossain at the Foreign Ministry yesterday.

Syeda Rizwana Hasan, Adviser for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, said the government would also take a long-term program for elephant conservation. The Adviser made the remarks while speaking at a meeting on elephant conservation project at Bangladesh Secretariat yesterday.

Each family of those who sacrificed their lives in the July-August anti-discrimination movement will be provided Taka 30 lakh for their rehabilitation. Mahfuj Alam, Special Assistant to the Chief Adviser, told a press briefing at the Foreign Service Academy in the capital yesterday.

The International Crimes Tribunal yesterday issued an arrest warrant against ousted Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on a charge of her crimes against humanity committed during the July-August mass uprising. The three-judge tribunal led by its Chairman Md. Golam Mortuza Majumdar passed the order, allowing a plea of the prosecution.

The government formed four more new reform commissions on health, mass media, workers' rights, and women's affairs. National Prof. Dr. AK Azad will lead the Commission on Health Affairs, while columnist Kamal Ahmed will head the Commission on Mass Media. On the other hand, Syed Sultan Uddin Ahmed will lead the Commission on Workers' Rights, and Shirin Parveen Haq will lead the Commission on Women's Affairs. Environment, Forest and Climate Change Adviser Syeda Rizwana Hasan shared the decisions while briefing reporters at Foreign Service Academy in the capital yesterday.

Ahead of the UN Biodiversity Conference (COP16), the government of Bangladesh, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Global Environment Facility (GEF) partnered to improve the sustainable management of critical wetland ecosystems by launching two new projects. A signing ceremony was held yesterday at the NEC-II conference room, Economic Relations Division in Dhaka yesterday. The agreements were signed by Stefan Liller, UNDP Resident Representative, Dr. Farhina Ahmed, Secretary of the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change; and Md. Shahriar Kader Siddiky, Secretary of the Economic Relations Division, according to a UNDP press release.

Eight more deaths were reported from dengue and 1100 more patients were hospitalized with viral fever till Thursday morning, according to the Directorate General of Health Services yesterday.

The DSE's benchmark index, DSEX, dropped by 58.23 points, closing at 5257.97 points yesterday.



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