



গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

তথ্য অধিদফতর



PRESS INFORMATION DEPARTMENT, GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH

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### Newsbrief

Chief Adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus met Thai Prime Minister Paetongtarn Shinawatra and Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum Summit in Davos, Switzerland yesterday. The Chief Adviser also held a meeting with Finland President Alexander Stubb there. Besides, the Chief Adviser joined a meeting with UN High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi on the sidelines of the summit.

Dhaka yesterday extended greetings to Donald Trump as he is set to be sworn-in for a second term as President of the United States of America (USA) within few hours in Washington DC. Chief Adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus had sent a congratulatory message to Donald Trump upon his election as the President of the United States. In that message, the Chief Adviser expressed firm belief that both nations would work together to explore new avenues of cooperation, according to a message Foreign Ministry that was shared to media.

German Chancellor Olaf Scholz said, his government would do its best to support Bangladesh in its transition to democracy. The German Chancellor made the comments when he met Chief Adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum Summit in the Swiss city of Davos yesterday. The German Chancellor told Professor Yunus as the Chief Adviser briefed him on the reform agenda of the Interim Government. The Chief Adviser said, he was leading a consensus Commission in an effort to facilitate consensus building among the political parties on major reform reports submitted by six commissions.

The Munich Security Conference Chairman, Ambassador Christoph Heusgen, called on Chief Adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum meeting in the Swiss city of Davos yesterday. Ambassador Heusgen invited the Chief Adviser to join the key annual security conclave to be held in the German city of Munich in February this year. During the meeting, the two Dignitaries discussed the July uprising, Bangladesh's relationship with its neighbours, the Rohingya crisis and the online misinformation campaign. Besides, the Chief Adviser met Timor-Leste President Jose Ramos-Horta on the sidelines of World Economic Forum Summit in Davos.

China agreed to extend Bangladesh's loan repayment period, ensure duty-free, quota-free market access for Bangladeshi products for three years post-LDC graduation and designate hospitals in Kunming for Bangladeshi patients' treatment, bolstering bilateral ties. Beijing also assured considering Dhaka's request to reduce interest rate of Chinese loan to Bangladesh. The Chinese pledges were made during the bilateral talks held between Bangladesh Foreign Adviser Md. Touhid Hossain and Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi at the Diaoyutai State Guest House in Beijing, according to a Foreign Ministry's press release yesterday.

Home Affairs Adviser retired Lieutenant General Md. Jahangir Alam Chowdhury called upon the United States to offer refuge to more Rohingyas as US Embassy Chargé D'affaires in Dhaka Tracey Ann Jacobson paid a courtesy call on him at Secretariat yesterday. According the press release of Home Ministry, US Embassy Chargé D'affaires told the Adviser that her country by now provided refuge to around 17,000 Rohingyas under a process which was still underway.

Agriculture Adviser Lieutenant General (ret'd) Md. Jahangir Alam Chowdhury said that Canada has remained a tested friend of Bangladesh for more than fifty years. The Adviser said this as a delegation led by Canadian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Ajit Singh paid a courtesy call on him at his office in the Secretariat yesterday. The Adviser told the delegation that Bangladesh expects more cooperation from Canada in various sectors, including agriculture.

Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Adviser Prof. Dr. Asif Nazrul said, more than 2,500 'ghost' cases filed during the previous Awami League government in 25 Districts have been identified to withdraw the cases within the next seven days. The Adviser told a press conference at the Secretariat yesterday.

Information and Broadcasting Adviser Md. Nahid Islam has said he believes the influence of youths would persist in Bangladesh's politics and society in next two decades as the outcome of the July uprising. The Adviser told BSS in an exclusive interview yesterday. Despite their lack of experience and other limitations, the youths are eager to contribute to the country in every possible way, The Adviser added.

Advisor to the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and Water Resources Syeda Rizwana Hasan emphasized on taking collective efforts to preserve the environment and reducing plastic pollution. The Adviser said this while addressing a certificate giving ceremony to the volunteers involved in the campaign and cleanliness drive at Kuakata Sea Beach as the chief guest. The Adviser also said, it is the high time to phase out the use of polythene and polypropylene bags and promote sustainable alternatives for a healthier environment.

Head of Mission of the Netherlands to Bangladesh André Carstens met with Adviser to the Ministries of Environment, Forest and Climate change and Water Resources Syeda Rizwana Hasan at her secretariat office yesterday. During the meeting, they discussed avenues for collaboration in addressing Bangladesh's pressing environmental challenges and water management priorities.

Canadian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Ajit Singh paid a courtesy call on Disaster Management and Relief Adviser Faruk E Azam, Bir Protik at his Secretariat office. During the meeting, they discussed about the recent devastating floods in Bangladesh and the infiltration of forcibly displaced Myanmar citizens. The High Commissioner discussed the floods in Bangladesh and inquired about the flood rehabilitation plan.

Food Adviser Ali Imam Mazumder said that there are no chances of increasing the price of rice; rather, the price will decline gradually due to combined efforts of the government. The Adviser made the remarks while briefing journalists after visiting unloading activities of imported rice from Myanmar at Chattogram port and also visiting the under-construction site of a new silo (storage facility of rice) at Patenga in the city yesterday.

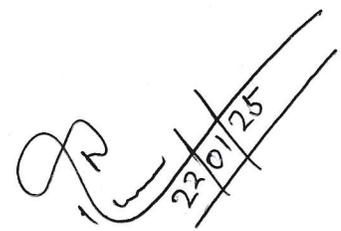
Information and Broadcasting Secretary Mahbuba Farjana said, new officials must work sincerely in serving the country following the government regulations. The Secretary said this while speaking at the certificate distribution and closing ceremony of the five-day orientation training of the 43rd BCS information cadre officers at the Tathyo Bhaban in Dhaka yesterday.

The European Union and UN Women signed a partnership agreement at the EU office in Dhaka to prevent sexual and gender-based violence in public spaces, workplaces and tertiary educational institutions in Bangladesh. Under the deal the EU will provide 4.8 million Euro to UN women for a project that is aligned with the Bangladesh government's commitment to achieving "a society without violence against women and children by 2025," as outlined in its National Action Plan to Prevent Violence against Women and Children (2018-2030), according to a EU press release yesterday.

BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir called for taking measures for holding elections after completing minimum reforms. The BNP Secretary General made this comments while addressing a discussion organized by the Zia Memorial Library on the occasion of the 89th birth anniversary of Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman and the 12th founding anniversary of the Zia Memorial Library at the Tofazzal Hossain Manik Mia Hall of the National Press Club in Dhaka yesterday.

Election Commission (EC) officials said, they launched works for updating voters' list, visiting households in the district. EC-appointed Information Collector Md. Razib Khandkar said.

The prime index of the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) increased 50.75 points to settle at 5,195.83 points yesterday.



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