



Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh  
Ministry of Information and Broadcasting  
Press Information Department.  
Dhaka.



Most Urgent  
For: Bangladoot, All Missions  
MSG:179 /2024-25  
Date: Sunday, 29.12. 2024

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### Newsbrief

Foreign Adviser Touhid Hossain said, Dhaka needs to strike a balance in its perusal of relations with India, China and the US, because Bangladesh has interests to protect and is not a major player in the global arena, despite tensions India maintains trade relations with China and the US. This is why Bangladesh needs to maintain good relations with all three countries, he said. The Adviser said this in his address to a national dialogue organized by the Forum for Bangladesh Studies at the Krishibid Institute Bangladesh in the capital yesterday.

Law adviser Asif Nazrul said, the government's lawyers have already been instructed to investigate all cases filed out of political motivation. The Adviser said that his Ministry had gotten an estimate from 51 districts and are still waiting on the data from the remaining 13. The Adviser made the remarks at a national dialogue organised by the Forum for Bangladesh Studies at the Krishibid Institute Bangladesh in Dhaka yesterday.

Syeda Rizwana Hasan, Adviser to the Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change, announced that strict actions will be taken, regardless of the power and influence of illegal occupants to protect forests and the environment. The Adviser said this at a discussion on forest and environmental conservation at the Gazipur Deputy Commissioner's office yesterday.

The vacant rooms in the Nagar Bhaban, the Headquarters of Dhaka South City Corporation, will be used to conduct the official activities of the Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development (LGRD) and Cooperatives from today. LGRD Adviser Asif Mahmud Sajeeb Bhuiyan disclosed the information at a meeting with senior officials of the Ministry at his residence on Hare Road, Dhaka yesterday. The Adviser also stated that official activities will not be halted for even a single day.

Adviser to Chattogram Hill Tracts (CHT) Affairs Ministry Suprodip Chakma urged the officials working in the CHT to realize the problems of hill people first and then solve those. The Adviser said this while addressing the officials of sadar upazila administration in Bandarban after inaugurating an extended building of the upazila complex.

The decision regarding the entry of journalists to the Secretariat is temporary. The Ministry of Home Affairs said, a positive decision in this regard will be taken soon after discussing with the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, according to a press release yesterday sent by Public Relations Officer of Home Affairs Ministry. The release said, in view of the ongoing investigation into the fire incident at the Secretariat, the above decision has been taken regarding the entry of the journalists.

The National Task Force (NTF) on forcibly displaced Myanmar nationals (FDMNs) urged the United Nations (UN) and the international community to secure adequate funding to sustain ongoing humanitarian activities for the Rohingyas and host community in Bangladesh. The call was made at the 46th meeting of the NTF held with its Chairperson Foreign Secretary Md. Jasim Uddin in the chair on December 24 at the Foreign Ministry, said a Ministry's press release yesterday.

The government suspended the entry of journalists to the Bangladesh Secretariat on security reasons following a recent fire incident, Chief Adviser's press wing said. It said this in a statement yesterday.

Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) yesterday strongly protested a report of the Anandabazar Patrika (online) published on December 27, 2024, terming it misleading and baseless information about the Bangladesh Army. The report published involving the Bangladesh Army was "Urdite Bangali Ganohottar Rokter Chhitey! Tepanno Basor Pore Bangladeshe Firchhey Sei Porajito Pak Fouj (Blood of Bengali Genocide in Urdu (security dress)! The Defeated Pak Army Returning to Bangladesh After 53 Years)". The ISPR said, Bangladesh Army adheres to the principles of professionalism, impartiality and international cooperation.

BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam accused the interim government of creating apprehension among the public by "delaying" the election process. The BNP Secretary General said this at a discussion at the Jatiya Press Club in Dhaka yesterday. Criticising the Chief Adviser's recent suggestion to lower the voting age to 17, the BNP Secretary General said, the move would put the Election Commission (EC) on pressure.

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Fact-checking organization Rumor Scanner in an investigation debunked a video showing an apparently injured woman emerging from a pond or canal at night has been circulating on social media, with claims that a Hindu woman was being raped and tortured in Bangladesh by Muslims. The Fact-checking organization confirmed that the woman in the video is not Hindu; her name is Lovely Akter. The claim of rape of the woman is also false. The video actually depicts a woman, allegedly linked to a group of robbers, emerging from a pond after attempting to escape. She was allegedly beaten and handed over to the police, said a report of the fact-checking body published on its website on Friday.

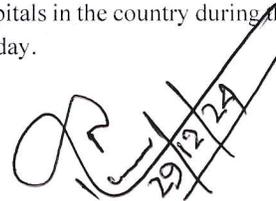
Inspector of General of Police (IGP) Baharul Alam said, his force is working insistently to reduce all sorts of felonies, including robbery and murder, across the country. The IGP said this while speaking at the 41st annual general meeting (AGM) of the 'Bangladesh Retired Police Officers Welfare Association' at Rajarbagh in the capital yesterday.

Additional Police Commissioner SN Md. Nazrul Islam of Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) said, they have been working tirelessly to improve law and order and build a safe city. The IGP said this in a view-exchange meeting as the chief guest at a local community centre of Rupnagar police station yesterday.

The Maharashtra Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) arrested 16 Bangladeshi nationals, including six women, on charge of entering India illegally and staying without valid documents. The arrests were made during a special operation conducted in Navi Mumbai, Thane and Solapur over the past 24 hours till yesterday, according to a report by PTI.

One more dengue patient died and 104 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.

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