



গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

# তথ্য অধিদফতর



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

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## Newsbrief

Prime Minister Tarique Rahman visited offices of different Ministries at the Bangladesh Secretariat yesterday. Before entering his Cabinet Division office in the secretariat, the Premier visited the offices of the Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources; the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs; the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and the Ministry of Housing and Public Works. Prime Minister's Deputy Press Secretary Mostafa Zulfiqar Hasan (Hasan Shiplu) confirmed the matter.

Local Government, Rural Development (LGRD) and Co-operatives Minister Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir said, in Parliament that the fascist regime had committed massive corruption in the name of development. The Minister said this while replying to a supplementary question from opposition lawmaker Akhter Hossen during the question-answer session in the House yesterday. The Minister said, it is also unfortunate that the roads and streets in the northern region remained utterly neglected.

Home Minister Salahuddin Ahmed has sought France's cooperation in police reform and capacity building. The Minister also said that improving the country's law and order situation is the top priority of the current government, emphasizing ongoing efforts to reform and strengthen law enforcement agencies, including the police. The Minister made the appeal when French Ambassador to Bangladesh Jean-Marc S  r  -Charlet paid a courtesy call on him at his Ministry office in the Bangladesh Secretariat yesterday.

Power, Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Iqbal Hassan Mahmood Tuku announced that the government has decided to withdraw the monthly rental or meter charge on prepaid electricity meters. The decision comes in response to long-standing complaints and dissatisfaction among consumers. Speaking to journalists yesterday at Ministry office the Minister said, customers had been expressing concerns for a long time about the monthly charges associated with prepaid meters.

Agriculture, and Fisheries and Livestock Mohammad Aminur Rashid said that an initiative has been taken to introduce 'Farmer Card' for farmers, which will be implemented across the country in phases. This year, the programme will be launched experimentally in 11 blocks across various districts, the Minister said, adding that it will gradually be expanded nationwide. The Minister said this when a delegation led by Jean Pesme, World Bank Division Director for Bangladesh and Bhutan, paid a courtesy call on him at the conference room of the Agriculture Ministry yesterday.

Health and Family Welfare Minister Sardar Md. Sakhawat Hossain said, the government has allocated an additional amount of Taka 604 crore for the procurement of vaccines to tackle the recent prevalence of measles. The Minister said this while inaugurating the 17th Asia Pharma Expo at the Bangladesh-China Friendship Exhibition Center in Purbachal yesterday.

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Shaikh Rabiul Alam said, the government has decided to introduce GPS tracking system in all public transport across the country to curb irregularities on roads and highways and to bring discipline in the transport sector. The Minister told reporters after a high-level meeting on road safety held at Bangladesh Secretariat yesterday.

Newly-elected Deputy Speaker Barrister Kayser Kamal expressed his high optimism that the Jatiya Sangsad would be transformed into a dignified, effective and truly democratic institution through neutrality, cooperation of its members and adherence to Parliamentary traditions. Delivering his introductory speech at the house yesterday after assuming office at the national Parliament, the Deputy Speaker expressed deep gratitude to all its members for electing him as Deputy Speaker and placing their confidence in him.

United States Ambassador to Bangladesh Brent T. Christensen paid a courtesy call on Defence Adviser Brigadier General (Retd) Dr. A K M Shamsul Islam. During the meeting held at the office of the Defence Adviser, the two sides held fruitful discussions on bilateral defence cooperation and other issues of mutual priority. Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to further strengthening existing cooperation and enhancing future partnership in areas of shared interest.

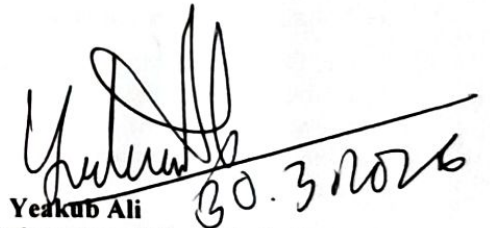
State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shama Obaed Islam said, the government would ensure exemplary punishment for the human traffickers responsible for death of Bangladeshis while attempting a perilous Mediterranean crossing via Libya. The State Minister said this to reporters at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs yesterday.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Aminul Haque yesterday said, the government is set to make sports compulsory from the fourth grade starting the next academic year. Responding to a question of Zahidul Islam, a Member of Parliament elected from Chittagong-16 at Parliament, the Minister said the initiative is part of the ruling party's election manifesto.

State Minister for Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment Md. Nurul Hoque invited the Japanese side to utilize these facilities to provide language and cultural training to Bangladeshi students. The State Minister said this when a Japanese delegation met at his office in Dhaka yesterday. The delegation expressed their keen interest in facilitating higher education and employment opportunities for Bangladeshi students in Japan.

Russian Ambassador to Bangladesh Alexander Khozin Russia supports a swift end to hostilities and remains ready to facilitate a solution to the ongoing conflict through political and diplomatic means. The Russian Ambassador made his comments when he met with the Foreign Secretary at the Foreign Ministry in Dhaka yesterday. They discussed the Middle East crisis and bilateral cooperation with Foreign Secretary Asad Alam Siam, reaffirming Moscow's support for a political resolution.

French Deputy Homeland Security Attaché Christelle Fontaine expressed her country's eagerness to support Bangladesh Police in its capacity building particularly on crowd control and investigation. Fontaine also praised the role and performance of Bangladesh Police during the 13th National Parliament Election. The French Deputy Homeland Security said this while paying a courtesy call on Inspector General of Police (IGP) Md. Ali Hossain Fakir at the Police Headquarters yesterday.



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