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Newsbrief

Outgoing Chief of Bangladesh Navy Admiral M Nazmul Hassan paid a farewell call on Prime Minister Tarique Rahman at the Prime Minister's Office at Bangladesh Secretariat yesterday. During the meeting, they discussed issues relating to safeguarding the country's sovereignty, maritime security, modernization of the Bangladesh Navy and other matters of national interests.

The Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (ECNEC) approved a total of eight development projects involving an overall estimated cost of Tk 14,041.21 crore. Of the total project cost, the government will provide Tk 10,494.21 crore from its own resources, while Tk 3,550.44 crore will come as project loans. The approvals came at a meeting of the ECNEC chaired by ECNEC Chairman and Prime Minister Tarique Rahman at the Cabinet Division conference room at Bangladesh Secretariat yesterday.

Prime Minister Tarique Rahman formed a high-level committee to review and resolve the existing problems facing the country's textile industry. The committee was formed following a meeting of the leaders of Bangladesh Textile Mills Association (BTMA) with Prime Minister Tarique Rahman at the Prime Minister's Office at Bangladesh Secretariat yesterday. During the meeting, the BTMA leaders discussed the current state of the country's textile industry, its export potential and the challenges confronting the sector.

Prime Minister Tarique Rahman said that the government is working to build a transparent, accountable and investment-friendly environment for a planned, sustainable and corruption-free housing sector in the country. The Prime Minister made the remarks during a courtesy meeting with a delegation of the Real Estate and Housing Association of Bangladesh (REHAB) at the Cabinet Division of the Bangladesh Secretariat yesterday.

LGRD and Cooperatives Minister and BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir has alleged that efforts are being made to create a new form of divisive politics in the country using religion. The Minister also said that although Muslims constitute the majority of the population, every citizen enjoys equal importance in Bangladesh and there is no room for undermining followers of any religion. The Minister made the remarks while speaking at a discussion organized by Bangladesh Union Parishad Chairmen and Members Association at the Institution of Diploma Engineers, Bangladesh yesterday.

Power, Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Iqbal Hasan Mahmood said that the government planned to privatise electricity distribution at consumer level to improve accountability, enhance service quality and bill collection. The Minister made the remarks while addressing 'Energy Security and Transformation of Bangladesh' conclave organized by Bangla Daily Banik Barta at the Pan Pacific Sonargaon in Dhaka yesterday.

World Food Programme (WFP) Country Director in Bangladesh Coco H. Ushiyama met Women and Children Affairs and Social Welfare Minister Dr. Abu Zafar Md. Zahid Hossain at his office at the Secretariat yesterday. They discussed social safety programmes, Family Card, food security, mid-day meals for primary school students, education, health, nutrition, climate change impacts and technical cooperation.

Foreign Minister Dr. Khalilur Rahman invited US Secretary of State Marco Rubio to visit Bangladesh as Dhaka and Washington discussed ways to further strengthen bilateral relations between the two countries. The Foreign Minister extended the invitation during a meeting with the US Secretary of State Marco in Manila on the sidelines of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations Regional Forum Foreign Ministers' Meeting, according to a press release issued by the Foreign Ministry yesterday. Prime Minister's Foreign Affairs Adviser Humaiun Kobir, US Ambassador to India and US President's Special Envoy to South and Central Asia Sergio Gor were present during the meeting.

Bangladesh and China discussed cooperation on transport corridors as the two countries explored ways to advance their comprehensive cooperative partnership and deepen connectivity and economic ties. Foreign Minister Dr. Khalilur Rahman and Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi held the bilateral meeting in Manila on the sidelines of the ASEAN Regional Forum Foreign Ministers' Meeting yesterday. Prime Minister's Foreign Affairs Adviser Humaiun Kobir accompanied the Foreign Minister at the meeting.

Bangladesh and Russia discussed ways to strengthen their existing bilateral cooperation, particularly in the energy sector, as the two countries reaffirmed their commitment to further deepening ties. Foreign Minister Dr. Khalilur Rahman and his Russian counterpart Sergey Lavrov led their respective delegations at the bilateral meeting held in Manila yesterday. Prime Minister's Foreign Affairs Adviser Humaiun Kobir accompanied the Foreign Minister at the meeting.

Commerce, Industries and Textiles Minister Khandakar Abdul Muktadir highlighted the strategic importance of Bangladesh's ship recycling industry, saying the sector plays a vital role in the national economy and has immense potential for generating employment and supporting industrial growth. The Minister said this while speaking at a meeting with a delegation of the Japan International Cooperation Agency at the Ministry of Commerce yesterday.

Information and Broadcasting Minister Zahir Uddin Swapon said, the philosophy of Bangladeshi nationalism introduced by statesman Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman is the country's only inclusive and widely acceptable national identity which embraces people of all languages, religions, cultures and ethnic communities. The Minister made the remarks at a seminar titled 'Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman and Bangladeshi Nationalism' held at the central auditorium of Jagannath University yesterday.

Education and Primary and Mass Education Minister Dr. A N M Ehsanul Hoque Milon urged teachers to educate students with care and responsibility by considering them as their own children. The Minister also said, the government is working sincerely for the development of primary education and called upon teachers, guardians and education officials to work together for improving the sector. The Minister made the remarks at a view exchanging meeting on the responsibilities of officials for ensuring quality primary education at the Primary Teachers Training Institute auditorium in Mirpur yesterday.

Health and Family Welfare Minister Sardar Md. Sakhawat Husain said, the government will launch a nationwide home-to-home health screening programme to detect diseases at an early stage among the general population. The Minister said this while speaking at the inauguration ceremony of Hygiene for Health Bangladesh at Gulshan Lake Park in Dhaka yesterday. The Minister also said, the government plans to recruit 100,000 health workers, 80 percent of whom will be women.

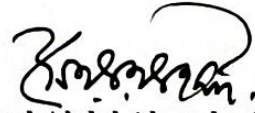
Posts, Telecommunications and Information Technology Minister Faqir Mahbub Anam said, the government, led by Prime Minister Tarique Rahman, is set to launch a 'National Health Card' to narrow the urban-rural healthcare gap and ensure every citizen has access to modern, quality healthcare. The Minister made the remarks while speaking at the session titled 'Digital and Intelligent Integration for Health - Towards a New Cooperative Ecosystem along the Silk Road', held in Xi'an, China yesterday.

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Shaikh Rabiul Alam has called for stronger institutions, coordinated implementation and greater accountability to accelerate global efforts to reduce road traffic deaths and serious injuries. The Minister made the call while co-chairing a multi-stakeholder panel session at the United Nations Headquarters in New York on Tuesday, held in recognition of Bangladesh's leadership in improving road safety, according to a message received yesterday.

State Minister for Planning Md. Zonayed Abdur Rahim Saki said, the government has undertaken a comprehensive set of measures to overhaul Bangladesh's public project implementation system by reducing delays, strengthening accountability, introducing a new policy for appointing project directors, revising construction rate schedules and improving monitoring through digital platforms. The State Minister made the remarks while briefing reporters at the Press Information Department (PID) yesterday after the ECNEC meeting at the Cabinet Division.

Bangladesh strongly condemned the Houthis' declaration of a naval blockade against Saudi Arabia, warning that such actions could escalate tensions, undermine regional peace and stability and disrupt international maritime trade. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs said this in a press release yesterday. Bangladesh said, such actions risk escalating tensions in the region while posing threats to peace, stability and the smooth flow of international maritime commerce. Reaffirming its commitment to freedom of navigation, Bangladesh stressed the importance of uninterrupted and lawful navigation along international maritime routes, including in the Red Sea, in accordance with international law and the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

Bangladesh Ambassador to Japan Md. Daud Ali said, Bangladesh's young and skilled IT professionals can emerge as reliable partners in meeting Japan's growing technology sector workforce demand. The Ambassador made the remarks at a seminar titled AI-Driven Development Amplifying Talent Capacity in the Japanese Market held at the Bangladesh Embassy in Tokyo yesterday.


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