



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 said, the state would become stronger only when its people are economically empowered, stressing the need to ensure economic capacity of citizens alongside political rights to build a strong and prosperous Bangladesh. The Prime Minister made the remarks at a ceremony held yesterday at the Cabinet Division of Bangladesh Secretariat in Dhaka marking the signing of lease agreements to reopen three closed state-owned jute mills under private management. The government signed lease agreements with two private business groups to reopen three long-closed state-owned jute mills with around Tk 619 crore in investment, creating at least 11,629 jobs and generating an estimated annual turnover of Tk 1,175 crore. Under the agreements, PRAN-RFL Group will lease National Jute Mills Ltd in Sirajganj and Star Jute Mills Ltd in Khulna, while HAMCO Group will lease Platinum Jubilee Jute Mills Ltd in Khulna.

Prime Minister Tarique Rahman assured foreign investors of the government's all-out support, saying Bangladesh is ready to facilitate investment and provide a favourable business environment. The Prime Minister made the remarks when a delegation of the American Chamber of Commerce in Bangladesh (AmCham) paid a courtesy call on him at the Cabinet Division meeting room at Bangladesh Secretariat in Dhaka yesterday. An eight-member AmCham delegation led by its President and Mastercard Vice President Syed Mohammad Kamal met the Prime Minister.

Visa President for Asia-Pacific Stephen Karpin expressed the global financial technology company's interest in expanding its investment and business operations in Bangladesh. He expressed the interest during a courtesy call on Prime Minister Tarique Rahman at the Cabinet Division of Bangladesh Secretariat in Dhaka yesterday. The meeting also discussed the possibility of expanding the use of Visa cards in various government and public service systems, including the metro rail, toll plazas and expressways, to make everyday transactions easier for people.

Finance and Planning Minister Amir Khasru Mahmud Chowdhury said, the government steps were underway to stabilize the fragile economy and put it on a path of growth. The Minister said this to the reporters after joining a joint meeting with Chattogram customs and port officials in Chattogram yesterday. The Minister also said, the national revenue board and Chattogram Port authorities jointly identified every problem of the port and final decisions have been taken on how to resolve them and set deadlines for implementation. The Minister expressed hope that if the decisions could be implemented with determination, the time currently being required for cargo clearance and exports would come down dramatically and transparency and efficiency in operations would increase.

Finance and Planning Minister Amir Khasru Mahmud Chowdhury inaugurated a 15-day tree fair at the historic Laldighi Maidan in Chattogram yesterday. Chattogram North Forest Department organised the fair with support from the district administration. Addressing the function, the Minister said, the government has placed a high priority on environmental development alongside economic growth. To this end, the country aims to plant 25 crore trees over the next five years. The Minister also said, if the government's objectives are achieved and citizens also plant trees out of necessity, Bangladesh will emerge as one of the greenest nations globally.

Home Minister Salahuddin Ahmed urged US businesses to increase investment in Bangladesh, assuring them of a business-friendly environment and comprehensive security for foreign investors. The Minister made the call when a high-level delegation from the US-Bangladesh Business Council led by its President and US Chamber of Commerce Senior Vice President for South Asia Atul Keshap met with him at the conference room of the Home Ministry at the Bangladesh Secretariat in Dhaka yesterday. The Minister also said, Bangladesh currently offers ample opportunities for foreign direct investment and the government has ensured a tariff-friendly environment for the convenience of investors.

Home Minister Salahuddin Ahmed said, all citizens living within Bangladesh's territory share one constitutional and national identity – 'Bangladeshi'. The Minister made the remarks at a roundtable discussion titled 'Indigenous Identity is Irrelevant for Bangladesh' at a hotel in Gulshan in Dhaka yesterday. The Minister also said, the Constitution guarantees equal rights and opportunities to all citizens, while the state remains committed to protecting and promoting the religious, social and cultural heritage of small ethnic groups, tribal communities and other communities.

Power, Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Iqbal Hassan Mahmood said, the government is focusing on exploring domestic gas, utilising gas from Bhola, importing gas from Malaysia and increasing solar power generation to tackle the current crisis in the

power and energy sectors. The Minister made the remarks at Parallel Session 4, titled 'Regional Balanced Development and Sustainable Capacity', of the national conference titled 'Navigating Five Year Strategy for Achieving SDGs', held at Windy Town Hall of the Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Center in the capital yesterday. The Minister also said, an initiative is being taken to supply gas from Bhola in containers to Dhaka and various industrial areas to address the gas shortage.

Foreign Minister Dr. Khalilur Rahman yesterday expressed profound sorrow over the loss of lives and widespread damage caused by a devastating earthquake in San José del Palmar, Colombia. In a condolence message sent to his Colombian Counterpart, the Minister conveyed his deepest sympathies to the bereaved families on behalf of the government and people of Bangladesh as well as on his own behalf, said a Foreign Ministry press release. The Minister also wished a speedy recovery to those injured in the earthquake and expressed Bangladesh's solidarity with the people of Colombia at this difficult time.

Information and Broadcasting Minister Zahir Uddin Swapon said, Bangladesh's demography or anthropology cannot be understood through the mindset or lens of immigrant thought. The Minister urged everyone not to fall into any trap and create a new narrative around the word 'indigenous.' The Minister said this while speaking at a roundtable discussion titled 'Indigenous Identity Is Irrelevant for Bangladesh' at a hotel in Gulshan in the city yesterday. The Minister also said, our demography and nation have been formed through the natural evolutionary process of anthropology over thousands of years. Therefore, there is no scope for any conflict between outsider immigrants and indigenous peoples here.

Fisheries and Livestock Minister Mohammad Amin Ur Rashid said, vaccines for avian influenza and Gumboro disease developed by the Bangladesh Livestock Research Institute have been formally handed over to the Department of Livestock Services for commercial production and expansion at the farmers' level. The Minister said this at a vaccine handover ceremony held at the conference room of the ministry at the secretariat in Dhaka yesterday. The Minister also said, the vaccines, developed through indigenous technology and research, would play an important role in controlling diseases in the country's poultry sector, reducing production costs and decreasing dependence on imports.

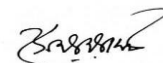
Water Resources Minister Md. Shahiduddin Chowdhury Anee said, China and Bangladesh are long-standing and time-tested friends, and that the two countries maintain strong bilateral relations. The Minister called for cooperation between the two countries in exchanging knowledge and experience in water resources management, education, technological cooperation, professional capacity development, and research. The Minister made the call as Chinese Ambassador to Bangladesh Yao Wen paid a courtesy call on him at his Secretariat office in Dhaka yesterday. Bangladesh and China expressed their commitment to working together on water resources management.

Chief Whip of the Jatiya Sangsad Md. Nurul Islam Moni, said Article 70 of the Constitution will remain effective in the upcoming presidential election, meaning any lawmaker voting against party decision will lose parliament membership. The Chief Whip made the remarks while talking to the journalists after a meeting at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban between parliamentary representatives of the ruling and opposition parties and officials of the Election Commission and Parliament Secretariat on preparations for the upcoming presidential election slated for August 20. The Chief Whip also said, the presidential election will be held on August 20, while the deadline for withdrawal of candidature is the night of August 18 after submission and scrutiny of nomination papers.

Prime Minister's Information and Broadcasting Adviser Dr. Zahed Ur Rahman said, the school students across the country will get an opportunity to visit July Mass Uprising Memorial Museum once in a month under government management. The Adviser said this at a press briefing at the Press Information Department (PID) in the secretariat in Dhaka yesterday. The initiative will help the students to be familiar with the history, liberation war and the spirit of the mass uprising, the Adviser said, adding that not only the July memorial museum but the initiative also will be taken to take the students at other museums across the country in phases.

Bangladesh and Singapore expressed hope for the early conclusion of the proposed bilateral Free Trade Agreement and underscored the need for stronger business-to-business engagement to deepen trade, investment and economic cooperation. The issue figured prominently during separate meetings of State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shama Obaed Islam held with Singaporean Foreign Minister Dr. Vivian Balakrishnan and Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Zhulkarnain Abdul Rahim in Singapore, according to a Foreign Ministry press release issued in Dhaka yesterday. The State Minister also highlighted Bangladesh's potential to diversify exports to Singapore beyond ready-made garments, particularly pharmaceuticals, ceramics, agro-products, jute and jute goods.

Bangladesh has sought New Zealand's active support for its membership of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), a three-year extension of its LDC graduation preparation period until November 2029, and the signing of a comprehensive bilateral Free Trade Agreement. The proposals were made at a high-level policy meeting held at the headquarters of New Zealand's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade in Wellington yesterday aimed at further strengthening and diversifying Bangladesh-New Zealand trade and diplomatic relations. New Zealand's Trade Negotiations and Policy Division were represented by Division Manager Sara Meymand and Unit Manager Jonas Holland. Bangladesh's delegation was led by Commerce Secretary Md. Ataur Rahman Khan and included officials concerned with the Foreign Trade Agreement Wing of the Ministry of Commerce and Counsellor at the Bangladesh High Commission in Wellington Ishtiaq Ahmed.



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