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Newsbrief

Prime Minister Tarique Rahman said, there is no scope for negligence in taking tough and coordinated measures to curb river pollution, stating that failure to act effectively now would leave the nation accountable to future generations. The Prime Minister made the remark while addressing a meeting titled- Improvement of Water and Environment of the Buriganga River at the Bangladesh Secretariat in Dhaka yesterday. The Prime Minister directed the authorities concerned to quickly prepare a coordinated action plan and take effective steps to prevent pollution in the Buriganga and other rivers surrounding the capital. It was also decided to form an inter-agency coordination committee under the supervision of the Prime Minister's Office to prepare and implement a coordinated, time-bound action plan for preventing pollution in the rivers surrounding the capital. The committee will coordinate the activities of the relevant ministries, divisions and agencies, periodically review progress and submit reports to the Prime Minister's Office.

Prime Minister Tarique Rahman chaired a meeting on the use of eco-friendly binna grass as a sustainable solution to protect riverbanks and canal embankments from erosion, where participants discussed its wider application following encouraging results from pilot projects. The meeting was held at the Cabinet Division at the Bangladesh Secretariat in Dhaka yesterday. The Prime Minister appreciated the alternative and innovative initiative for environmental protection and instructed the relevant ministries and agencies to take the necessary measures.

Prime Minister Tarique Rahman joined a doa mahfil and Islamic discussion organised to mark the 42nd death anniversary of his father-in-law, former Chief of Naval Staff and minister Rear Admiral Mahbub Ali Khan. The programme was arranged by Mahbub Ali Khan's family after Maghrib prayers at their Dhanmondi residence in Dhaka yesterday, PM's Press Secretary Suzauddhowla Sujun Mahmud said. On the occasion, special prayers and munajat were offered seeking eternal peace for the departed soul of Mahbub Ali Khan. Prayers were also offered for the eternal peace of Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman, former Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia and Arafat Rahman Koko.

A heartfelt letter from a fifth-grade student expressing her love for music and wish to meet Prime Minister Tarique Rahman turned into a dream come true as the Premier invited the young singer to meet him and gifted her a harmonium. In the letter, which she handed to one of the Prime Minister's officials during the National Primary Education Award-2026 ceremony last month, the young student wrote about her passion for music, her family's inability to afford a harmonium and her dream of meeting the Prime Minister. After reading the letter, the Prime Minister invited Anushree Roy and her family to the Prime Minister's Office at the Bangladesh Secretariat in Dhaka yesterday, said PM's Press Secretary Suzauddhowla Sujun Mahmud. According to the Secretary, Prime Minister also met Tabiul Islam Rakib, a private security guard, on the same day. Rakib said, he had long wished to meet the Prime Minister and had earlier posted a video on social media, saying he would not leave Dhaka until that wish came true. During the meeting, Rakib also raised a longstanding demand from residents of his area for the construction of a bridge over the Panguchi River in Morelganj upazila of Bagerhat, saying it would ease the suffering of thousands of people and help prevent frequent accidents during river crossing.

The Cabinet Committee on Government Purchase approved several proposals involving the printing, binding and supply of free textbooks for primary, Ebtedayee, secondary, Dakhil and technical education levels for the 2027 academic year. Finance Minister Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury presided over the meeting held at the Cabinet Division at Bangladesh Secretariat in Dhaka yesterday. The day's meeting also approved a proposal to revise the coal price mechanism for a coal-fired power plant in Banshkhali, Chattogram and the 307MW Barishal Electric Power Company Limited plant.

Foreign Minister Dr. Khalilur Rahman expressed hope that the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the wider UN system would support Bangladesh in addressing the challenges of its transition towards graduation from the Least Developed Country (LDC) category. The Minister made the call when newly appointed UNDP Resident Representative to Bangladesh Stephen Rodrigues presented his credentials to him at the Foreign Ministry in Dhaka yesterday. Welcoming the Resident Representative, the Minister congratulated him on his appointment and reaffirmed Bangladesh's commitment to working closely with UNDP in advancing shared development priorities.

Information and Broadcasting Minister Zahir Uddin Swapon said, the government is working to establish a permanent institutional framework to ensure that no force can suppress people's rights or shackle the nation in future. The Minister made the remarks while unveiling 'Shikol Bhangar July' (July of Breaking the Chains), a commemorative publication brought out by the Press Information Department (PID) under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting to mark the second anniversary of the July Mass Uprising, at the Secretariat in Dhaka yesterday. The Minister also said, BNP Chairman Tarique Rahman's 31-point outline had provided a roadmap for post-uprising reforms.

Power, Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Iqbal Hassan Mahmood said, gas supply across the country is expected to return to normal within the next two to three days as the Floating Storage and Regasification Unit (FSRU) has resumed operations. The Minister said this while talking to the reporters at his ministry office in Dhaka yesterday. Referring to complaints about unusually high electricity bills, the Minister urged consumers to submit their bills for verification.

Social Welfare Minister Prof. Dr. A Z M Zahid Hossain said, the government's Family Card programme will be officially launched on August 16 under the 2026–27 fiscal year. Prime Minister Tarique Rahman will inaugurate the programme from ward no. 8 of Latifabad union in Kishoreganj Sadar Upazila. The decisions were taken at a meeting of the Cabinet Committee on the Family Card programme at Bangladesh Secretariat in Dhaka yesterday. The Minister also said, the government plans to bring 4.1 million beneficiaries under the programme in its first phase. It is expected that this programme will be expanded over the next four years to cover approximately 16 million families across the country.

BNP Senior Joint Secretary General and Political Adviser to the Prime Minister Advocate Ruhul Kabir Rizvi said, giving the fugitive accused Sheikh Hasina, who is currently in India, an opportunity to deliver political speeches is an insult to Bangladesh's national sovereignty and tantamount to interference in the country's internal affairs. The Adviser made the remarks after paying tribute and offering Fatiha at the mausoleums of Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman and former Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, on the occasion of the 37th founding anniversary of the Doctors Association of Bangladesh. He also said that allowing such a fugitive accused to deliver political speeches is contrary to mutual trust and respect between the two countries.

Prime Minister's Finance and Planning Adviser Dr. Rashed Al Mahmud Titumir said, Bangladesh's existing fragile economy must be transformed into a trillion dollar one, converging the nation's development trajectory and its five-year strategic plan with global frameworks. He stressed the need for synchronization with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the Paris Agreement. The Adviser called for private-capital mobilisation and the need for global climate funds to match national ambition with speed and concessionality as well as reflected on the philosophy of the Premier as set out in BNP's election manifesto. The Adviser made the suggestions while addressing the closing session of an Economic Relations Division (ERD)-sponsored event in the capital yesterday.

State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shama Obaed Islam urged India to clarify its position on the activities of convicted disposed Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Awami League leaders from Indian territory. The State Minister said this to the reporters at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Dhaka yesterday. The State Minister also said, when "a convicted criminal" was allowed to make such remarks from Indian soil, it naturally raised concerns in Bangladesh regarding the future of bilateral ties. She, however, stressed that Dhaka remained committed to maintaining constructive relations with New Delhi and would continue dialogue on issues of mutual interest.

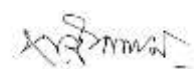
The government has decided to install Anti-Drone Systems at the country's airports to prevent unauthorised drone operations, marking a significant step towards strengthening aviation security amid growing concerns over drone incursions into sensitive airport zones. State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism M. Rashiduzzaman Millat announced the decision while attending the first meeting of the reconstituted National Civil Aviation Security Committee at the headquarters of the Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh in Dhaka on Thursday. The meeting, chaired by Civil Aviation and Tourism Minister Afroza Khanam, reviewed a series of measures aimed at enhancing Bangladesh's aviation security framework in line with international standards.

The Election Commission (EC) announced the schedule for the presidential election. EC Secretariat Senior Secretary Akhtar Ahmed announced the election schedule at the Election Commission Bhaban at Agargaon in Dhaka yesterday. According to the schedule, the last date for submission of nomination papers is August 13. Voting will be held on August 20 from 2:00pm to 5:00pm at the Jatiya Sangsad session hall. Nomination papers must be submitted at the office of the Chief Election Commissioner between 10:00am and 4:00pm on August 13. The scrutiny of nomination papers will be held at the EC Bhaban from 10:00am on August 16. The last date for withdrawal of candidature is until 4:00pm on August 18.

The Permanent Mission of Bangladesh to the United Nations in New York on Wednesday commemorated July Mass Uprising Day with a reception attended by permanent representatives, diplomats, senior UN officials and representatives of other international organisations. Bangladesh's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Ambassador Salahuddin Noman Chowdhury, paid tribute to those who sacrificed their lives during the July Mass Uprising, according to a press release received in Dhaka yesterday. Addressing the gathering, the Ambassador said, the movement embodied the collective determination of Bangladeshis to build a more peaceful, inclusive and prosperous future. The Permanent Representative also reaffirmed Bangladesh's commitment to democratic governance, the purposes and principles of the UN Charter, and strengthened international cooperation.

The Ministry of Liberation War Affairs has expressed sincere regret over the untoward situation created by several individuals during the "Reception and Discussion Meeting for July Martyrs' Families and July Fighters" held at the Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Center on August 5. The incident took place following allegations that the documentary screened at the event contained inaccuracies in presenting the sequence of events of the July Mass Uprising. In a statement issued yesterday, the ministry said, the allegations regarding the documentary would be examined, and after making the necessary revisions, the documentary would be released as soon as possible. It remains committed to preserving the history of the July Mass Uprising with accuracy and inclusion, added the ministry.

The results of this year's Secondary School Certificate (SSC) and equivalent examinations will be published on August 10, according to a press release issued by the Ministry of Education in Dhaka yesterday.



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