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Newsbrief

A new building with a capacity of 500 more beds will be inaugurated today at the National Institute of Neurosciences & Hospital (NINS) in the capital. Prime Minister Tarique Rahman is expected to inaugurate the new building. Officials at NINS said, the construction work on the new building has already been completed and most of the equipment has also been installed. According to the them, Once the 15-storey building is inaugurated, the total number of beds at the hospital will increase to 1,000. As a result, it will become the largest specialised neurological treatment centre in the country.

Finance and Planning Minister Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury said, a probe committee will be formed to investigate the incident where eight workers were killed in suspected toxic gas leak at a ship breaking yard in Chattogram's Sitakunda. The Minister made the remarks while visiting the Chattogram Medical College Hospital yesterday to offer condolences to the families of the victims and to inquire about the medical care of the injured workers. The Minister mentioned that the Bangladesh Shipbreakers and Recyclers Association is providing Tk 10 lakh to the families of each victim. The government will also contribute in some manner.

Meanwhile, Finance and Planning Minister Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury has expressed concern that a significant number of children and adolescents are currently spending an excessive amount of time on mobile devices. They need to be redirected from mobile addiction back to outdoor activities. Additionally, their participation in cultural events should be encouraged. The Minister made the remarks while inaugurating Shaheed Zia and Khaleda Zia Memorial Inter-School Gold Cup Football Tournament 2026 at the Chattogram District Stadium in Chattogram yesterday. The Minister also said, in addition to education, the next generation must be nurtured through a blend of sports, cultural activities, and technical training. Sports are vital in fostering healthy and skilled citizens.

Minister for Women and Children Affairs and Social Welfare Abu Zafar Md. Zahid Hossain said, the government is working to establish sports as a profession. For the first time in the country's history, Prime Minister Tarique Rahman has brought athletes under a salary structure and inaugurated a sports allowance programme. The Minister made the remarks at the inaugural ceremony of the two-day 'Best of Best National Kickboxing Championship 2026' at the Mohammad Ali Boxing Stadium in the capital yesterday. The Minister also said, the government has taken an initiative to construct a playground in every union across the country to encourage sports activities at the grassroots level.

Information and Broadcasting Minister Zahir Uddin Swapan has called upon all concerned to nurture and promote cultural practices rooted in communal harmony and religious values. The Minister made the remarks at a 'Qawwali Evening' organized by the Jatiya Press Club at its premises yesterday. The Minister also said, in the Indian subcontinent, Qawwali and Sufi culture have been playing a major role in promoting Islam as a religion of peace. Noting that he has long-standing relationship with the Press Club, the Minister said, as a member of the club, he has very good term with the journalists and he would continue working together for continued press freedom and welfare of the journalists.

Disaster Management and Relief Minister Asadul Habib Dulu laid importance on making Lalmonirhat district as regional economic hub saying the district has immense potential to develop border trade, agriculture, tourism and human resources. The Minister said this while speaking at a views-exchange meeting organized on the occasion of the 'Hamar Lalmoni' (Our Lalmonirhat) exhibition at Lalmonirhat Circuit House on Thursday night. The Minister also said, in the future, Lalmonirhat will be developed as a modern, prosperous and peaceful district in combination of its rich tradition and enormous potential.

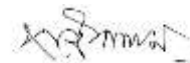
State Minister for Power, Energy and Mineral Resources Aninda Islam Amit said, the government has been taking various initiatives to expand healthcare facilities to ensure quality treatment for the people. The State Minister said this while speaking at an annual art exhibition at the premises of SM Sultan Fine Arts College, organised to mark the 103rd birth anniversary of renowned artist SM Sultan.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Md. Aminul Haque said, the government is pursuing a zero-tolerance policy towards corruption and working to build a productive youth workforce through a fair and transparent political environment. The State Minister made the remarks while speaking at a programme marking 'International Youth Day' at the Film Development Corporation in Dhaka yesterday. The State Minister also said, the government is taking various measures to ensure that young people do not remain unemployed after completing their academic studies. Instead, they will be encouraged to acquire practical skills through technical education and become self-reliant. The government also plans to develop playgrounds wherever vacant land is available across the country, added the State Minister.

Chief of Army Staff General Waker-Uz-Zaman returned home yesterday after concluding a five-day official visit to the United Nations Mission in South Sudan and the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei. During the visit, the Army Chief inspected the Bangladesh Army's Engineer Company and Infantry Battalion and Bangladesh Navy's Force Marine Unit deployed in South Sudan, as well as the Bangladesh Army's Infantry Battalion in Abyei, an ISPR press release said. In both mission areas, the Army Chief provided guidance to Bangladeshi peacekeepers to maintain the highest level of alertness and discharge their duties with professionalism, discipline and dedication.

Bangladesh and Kosovo have agreed to explore a government-to government (G2G) mechanism for transparent and orderly recruitment of Bangladeshi workers in Kosovo amid growing demand for labour mobility. The understanding came at the second Foreign Office Consultations (FOC) between the two countries held in Prishtina on Thursday, according to a joint communique, received here yesterday. Bangladesh delegation was led by Foreign Ministry's Secretary (Bilateral-East & West) Dr. M. Nazrul Islam, while Kosovo's delegation was headed by Secretary General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Diaspora Ilir Mucaj.

Dutch Ambassador Joris Van Bommel said that cooperation between the Netherlands and Bangladesh can help expand access to safe drinking water, particularly in climate-vulnerable communities, through public-private partnerships. The Ambassador made the remarks while speaking to the journalists during a visit to the Building Water Business programme of Max Foundation at Dudholmou in Bakerganj of Barishal on Thursday, said a press release in Dhaka yesterday.



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