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### Newsbrief

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina asked all concerned, particularly the field level administration to ensure maintaining building codes and taking actions against food stockpiling across the country. The Prime Minister also directed to become tough on any sort of food stockpiling and adultery as such dishonest acts generally increase ahead of the holy Ramadan. The Premier was providing a set of instructions while inaugurating the four-day DC Conference-2024 at the Shapla Hall of the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) in Dhaka yesterday. She also directed the field administration to take effective measures so the three-crop arable land can't be used for other purposes like building houses or industries.

Later, Iraq's Bagdad Sharif's Motwalli Hazrat Sheikh Khalid Abdul Quader Monsoor Al Jilani (R) invited Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to perform jiarat at the Shrine of Boro Pir Abdul Quader Jilani (R). He extended the invitation while paying a courtesy call on the Prime Minister at her office in the Sangsad Bhaban yesterday. Mentioning that the relationship between Bangladesh and Iraq is friendly, he said, people of Bangladesh respect the Boro Pir a lot. Sheikh Hasina said that after the devastating Nimtoli fire incident she adopted two Shia girls and arranged their marriage ceremonies like her daughters. The Prime Minister thanked Hazrat Sheikh Khalid Abdul Quader Monsoor Al Jilani (R) for visiting Bangladesh.

Foreign Minister Dr. Hasan Mahmud called for raising united global voices to stop Israel from committing genocide and ethnic cleansing in Gaza. The Minister who is now participating in the Antalya Diplomacy Forum in Turkey was giving an interview with TRT World in Turkey on Saturday. Pointing that the death toll on civilians, with over 30,000 people, predominantly women and children, killed in the conflict in Gaza, Hasan Mahmud said, the world has not seen enough effort to stop this 'war and genocide' while Israel is violating all the norms of any war.

Japanese Foreign Minister Kamikawa Yoko expressed deep shock and sorrow over the loss of lives due to a fire at the Green Cozy Cottage Shopping Mall on New Bailey Road in Dhaka on 29 February. In a message sent to the Bangladesh Foreign Ministry on 1 March, Japanese Foreign Minister said this yesterday.

Finance Minister Abul Hassan Mahmood Ali said, the country's economy is now improving while the people of the country are doing fine and in good condition. The Finance Minister said this in response to a query from a journalist regarding the economic condition of the country at his Ministry yesterday.

Health and Family Welfare Minister Professor Dr. Samanta Lal Sen sought cooperation of Deputy Commissioners (DCs) to shut down illegally-run healthcare facilities at district level. The Minister told this at the four-day conference of Deputy Commissioners at the Osmani Memorial Auditorium in the capital yesterday. The government is continuing drives against unauthorized healthcare facilities as a section of dishonest people are running healthcare establishments only for gaining financial purpose, the Minister added. At the conference, State Minister for Health Dr. Rokeya Sultana laid emphasis on collective efforts to remove different malpractices and problems that are affecting total health sector for providing smooth medical services to the people.

State Minister for Power, Energy and Mineral Resources Nasrul Hamid said, Bangladesh has huge potential of solar energy among renewable energy sources. The State Minister made the comments when Director General of International Solar Alliance (ISA) Dr. Ajay Mathur met him at his residence in the capital yesterday. Nasrul Hamid said, the economy size of Bangladesh is gradually increasing. There are huge investment opportunities in the ongoing and upcoming projects in Bangladesh. The Director General of ISA informed Nasrul Hamid about the issues and decisions of the first steering committee meeting of ISA held yesterday. A total of nine projects will be implemented by December 2024, of which \$5.41 lakh will be spent for implementation of six projects, the Director General of ISA added.


State Minister for Commerce Ahsanul Islam Titu said, the government is trying to create a US\$5 billion fund for the country's export oriented industry. The State Minister said this while having a meeting with a delegation of Bangladesh Chamber of Industries (BCI), led by its President Anwar-ul Alam Chowdhury at the Ministry yesterday.

Later, UNDP Resident Representative for Bangladesh Stefan Liller said, the UNDP would play a supporting role in Bangladesh's development stride, especially in various operations related to LDC graduation. The UNDP resident representative came up with such remarks when he made a courtesy call on State Minister for Commerce Ahsanul Islam Titu at his Secretariat office yesterday. During the meeting, the State Minister said, the government is working to bring in worthy entrepreneurs and products from across the country into the national stage and in the export market.

State Minister for Primary and Mass Education Rumana Ali said, more than 2.38 lakh teachers have been recruited in the Primary Schools during the last one decade. Rumana told this while responding to a written question in the question-answer session which was tabled at the Jatiya Sangsad yesterday with Speaker Dr. Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury in the chair.

Bangladesh recorded one Covid-19 death while it reported 37 Coronavirus positive cases, a daily statement of the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) said yesterday.

Expatriate Bangladeshis sent around US\$ 2.16 billion remittances during February which is the highest in the past eight months, as per data from Bangladesh Bank yesterday.



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