



Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh  
Ministry of Information and Broadcasting  
Press Information Department.  
Dhaka.



Most Urgent  
For: Bangladdoot, All Missions  
MSG: 2/15/2023-24  
Date: Tuesday, 05.03.2024

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### Newsbrief

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said, the government has been equipping BGB with state-of-the-art technology to ensure foolproof security at the frontiers and tackle transnational crimes. The Prime Minister said this while addressing at a function marking the Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) Day- at Bir Uttam Anwar Hossain Parade Ground at BGB Headquarters in the capital yesterday. Her government has set up a rudder at Shahparir Dweep in Teknaf of Cox's Bazar to enhance surveillance across the Bangladesh border with Myanmar, the Prime Minister added.

Later, Prime Minister reiterated that the forcibly displaced Rohingyas must be returned to their own country, Myanmar in a dignified manner. Sheikh Hasina said this when the Lawyer of Bangladesh to the International Court of Justice (ICJ) on climate change Dr. Payam Akhavan called on her at her Sangsad Bhaban office yesterday. The Prime Minister also reiterated Bangladesh's stance not to allow anybody to use its territory for any kind of insurgency, Prime Minister's Speechwriter Md. Nazrul Islam briefed reporters after the call on.

Agriculture Minister Dr. Md. Abdus Shahid sought cooperation from the Deputy Commissioners (DCs) to bring all barren lands under cultivation. The Minister said this while addressing a session of the Deputy Commissioners Conference at the Osmani Memorial Auditorium in the capital yesterday. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has given directives to bring all barren lands under cultivation. According to her directives, steps have already been taken to bring all unused lands of sugar mills, jute mills, textiles mills and railways under cultivation, the Minister added.

Noting that all the major macroeconomic indicators and indices are now increasing, Finance Minister Abul Hassan Mahmood Ali said, there is nothing to be worried about, no such uncertainty and to be disappointed over the country's economy. The Finance Minister said this while talking to reporters after chairing a session at the Ministry of Finance on the ongoing DC Conference, held at the Osmani Memorial Auditorium in the capital yesterday.

Environment, Forest and Climate Change Minister Saber Hossain Chowdhury said, the health dimension would be incorporated into the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) to address environment-related non-communicable diseases (NCDs), including dengue, Chikungunya and malaria. The Minister made the remarks while speaking as the chief guest at NIHRR Global Health Research Centres Symposium, organised by icddr on Non-Communicable Non-Communicable Diseases and Environmental Change, held at local hotel in Dhaka yesterday. Highlighting the connection between health and climate change, the Minister also said, climate change poses a severe threat to humans, impacting health and causing Non-Communicable Diseases (NDCs).

Textiles and Jute Minister Jahangir Kabir Nanak said, the jute sector would be transformed radically to increase the export of the eco-friendly products. The Minister said this while addressing at a seminar 'Possibilities, Obstacles and Actions in Production and Marketing of Jute Products. Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation (BJMC) organized the seminar marking the National Jute Day at BJMC Auditorium in the capital yesterday. Textile Minister also laid importance on diversification of jute products and attractive designs to attract the buyers as Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has been providing all out support in this regard.

Industries Minister Nurul Majid Mahmud Humayun asked Deputy Commissioners (DCs) to prepare a list of Geographical Indication (GI) products. The Minister said this in response to a proposal of Deputy Commissioners at the Ministry of Industries session during the second day of the ongoing Deputy Commissioners' Conference at the Osmani Memorial Auditorium in the capital yesterday.

Health and Family Welfare Minister Professor Dr. Samanta Lal Sen said, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has attached highest priority to the health sector aiming to provide better healthcare services for common people. The Minister made the comments at a meeting Senior Officials of the Health Ministry yesterday. State Minister for Health and Family Welfare Dr. Rokeya Sultana also attended the meeting. Earlier, Dr. Samanta Lal Sen and Dr. Rokeya Sultana attended the preparatory meeting for holding the admission test of Bangladesh Dental Surgeon at the Health Ministry.

Food Minister Sadhan Chandra Majumder said, 1.5 lakh tonnes of rice will be distributed to 50 lakh families under the Food-Friendly Programme (FPP) on the occasion of the holy Ramadan. The Minister told at a press briefing after joining the conference of Deputy Commissioners (DCs) at the capital's Osmani Memorial Auditorium yesterday.

State Minister for Information and Broadcasting Mohammad Ali Arafat said, the government is committed to ensuring transparency and accountability in disbursement of government grants for film production. The State Minister said this at a view-exchange meeting members of the 'Script Selection Committee' and 'Grant Disbursement Committee' for full length feature films at his Ministry's conference room in Bangladesh Secretariat yesterday. In the meeting, the State Minister also gave directives to the committee's members on selecting scripts and finalizing the films for grants.

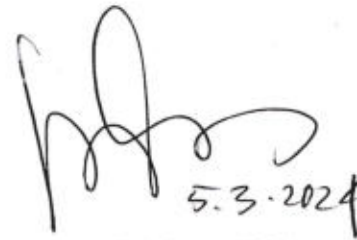
State Minister for Power, Energy and Mineral Resources Nasrul Hamid said, Bangladesh and India have great opportunity to work together for development of power and energy sector. The State Minister said this when Indian High Commissioner Pranay Verma paid a courtesy call him on at his Ministry office yesterday. The Indian High Commissioner said that India's cooperation with Bangladesh in the power and energy sector is increasing.

State Minister for Commerce Ahsanul Islam Titu said, the government will revise the 'Essential Commodities Act, 1956' soon for better suit contemporary needs. The State Minister said this in response to a proposal of Deputy Commissioners at the Ministry of Commerce session during the second day of the ongoing Deputy Commissioners' Conference at the Osmani Memorial Auditorium in the capital yesterday. Deputy Commissioners have been instructed to ensure the supply of essential products to one crore families by the Trading Corporation of Bangladesh (TCB) in a fair and well-organised manner, the State Minister added.

Bangladesh Bank (BB) will develop a policy to merge banks to ensure the best financial governance. The information was revealed at a meeting between BB Governor Abdur Rouf Talukder and a team of the Bangladesh Association of Banks (BAB) led by its Chairman Nazrul Islam Mazumder at the central bank Headquarters in the capital yesterday.

Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha (RAJUK) yesterday demolished a rooftop restaurant situated at Gawsia Twin Peak building on Satmasjid Road in Dhanmondi due to lack of approval. During the drive, led by RAJUK Executive Magistrate Tazina Sarwar, a total of 12 restaurants located in the building, were also sealed off.

DSEX, the prime index of the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE), went down by 39.94 points or 0.64 percent to 6,175.25 yesterday.



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