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## Newsbrief

The World Consumer Rights Day will be observed in the country today like elsewhere in the world. On the eve of the day, President Mohammed Shahabuddin and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday issued separate messages. President, in his message, said consumer rights is a universal and fair right. In her message, Prime Minister said, the Awami League (AL)-led government enacted the 'Consumer Rights Protection Act' in 2009 to protect the interests of consumers and prevent acts against consumer rights. The President and the Prime Minister greeted all consumers wishing all success of the day's programmes.

President Mohammed Shahabuddin returned home after his 10-day medical checkup in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and the United Kingdom (UK). Industries Minister Nurul Majid Mahmud Humayun, Dean of the Diplomatic Corps to Bangladesh, UAE Ambassador in Dhaka, Cabinet Secretary, Chiefs of the Three Services, Inspector General of Police (IGP) and Civil and Military High Officials concerned received the President at the VVIP lounge of the airport yesterday.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina asked for finding out newer jute products and their fresh overseas markets for having enhanced export of the golden fibre to build a developed and prosperous "Sonar Bangladesh. The Prime Minister said this while opening six jute mills and "Diversified Jute Goods Fair -2024". The Textiles and Jute Ministry organised the inaugural function at the Bangabandhu International Conference Centre (BICC) in the capital yesterday coinciding with the National Jute Day. The Prime Minister also called on the people getting leases of the jute mills to attract foreign investors in the sector and run the mills in collaboration.

Awami League (AL) General Secretary and Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader said, the government is trying to identify those who are involved in market syndicates and hoarders. The Minister said this while exchanging views with the leaders of Mohila Awami League and Jubo Mohila League at AL central office at Bangabandhu Avenue yesterday. The Minister said, the whole world is now going through crisis and Bangladesh is not out of the global phenomena. Replying to a question about the recent hijacking of Bangladeshi ship and crew in Somalia, the Minister also said, the Foreign Ministry is actively working to secure their release.

Meanwhile, Road Transport and Bridges Minister expressed profound shock and sorrow at the death of noted Rabindra Sangeet singer Sadi Mohammad. In a condolence message yesterday, the Minister prayed for eternal peace of the departed soul and conveyed his sympathy to the bereaved family members, relatives, colleagues and well wishers to mourn his death.

Environment, Forest and Climate Change Minister Saber Hossain Chowdhury said, the government will take an initiative to produce fertilizer from waste as it is working to turn wastes into resources. The Minister told reporters after a meeting with the delegation of USAID and 'Dhaka Calling' at Bangladesh Secretariat yesterday. The Minister said, by 2025 around 50,000 metric tonnes of waste will be generated in various sectors in the country daily. Fertilizer import will decrease if the production of fertilizer from waste begins and this will save us a lot of foreign exchange, the Minister added.

Food Minister Sadhan Chandra Majumder called upon the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) of the United Nations to extend its support to boost mango exports in different countries across the world. The Food Minister came up with the call when Dr. Jiaoqun Shi, newly appointed representative of the FAO in Bangladesh, called on Majumder at his Secretariat office in Dhaka yesterday. During the meeting, the Minister discussed the country's comprehensive food and fruit management system as well as the trade potential of mango in the global market. The Minister also claimed that Bangladesh has already gained self-sufficiency in food grain production while it is in the process of achieving self-dependency in fruit and vegetable production. Besides, Jiaoqun Shi said, the FAO is working relentlessly to ensure food security in Bangladesh and the efforts will continue in the future.

Minister for Social Welfare Dr. Dipu Moni said, government, under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, is committed to safeguarding the children of Bangladesh from harm. The Minister said this while speaking at a orientation Training of Trainers (ToT) for the social workers in Dhaka yesterday. The Department of Social Services (DSS) and UNICEF jointly completed this 3-day long orientation Training.

As many as 32 people, who suffered burn injury in a gas cylinder fire in Gazipur's Kaliakoir area on January 13, were hospitalized, Health and Family Welfare Minister Professor Dr. Samanta Lal Sen said yesterday. The Minister told this at a board meeting with physicians of Sheikh Hasina National Institute of Burn and Plastic Surgery. The

Health Minister attended the board meeting and directed the physicians to provide better treatment facilities to the people. The Minister enquired about health conditions of the burn injured people. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is enquiring about the burn injured people round-the-clock and will bear all expenses of the injured people, the Minister added.

Youth and Sports Minister Nazmul Hassan expressed deep shock and sorrow at the death of Razia Khatun, former footballer of national women's football team. In a condolence message yesterday, the Minister said, footballer Razia Khatun is a bright star in women's football. Her untimely death is an irreparable loss to women's football. The Minister also prayed for the eternal peace of the departed soul and conveyed deep sympathy to the bereaved family.

Prime Minister's Education and Cultural Affairs Adviser Dr. Kamal Abdul Naser Chowdhury expressed profound shock and sorrow at the death of noted Rabindra Sangeet singer Sadi Mohammad. In a condolence message yesterday, Kamal Chowdhury prayed for eternal peace of the departed soul and conveyed deep sympathy to the bereaved family members.

All 23 sailors of hijacked Bangladeshi-flagged cargo ship MV Abdullah are in good health while the government put all efforts to rescue the sailors, Foreign Ministry's Maritime Affairs Unit Secretary Rear Admiral (Retd) Khurshed Alam said. He said this while briefing the media after attending an inter-ministerial meeting regarding the hijack at the Foreign Ministry yesterday. Discussions with various third-party groups are ongoing in a bid to rescue the hijacked ship, he added.

Foreign Secretary Masud Bin Momen rejected any idea of Rohingya integration into Bangladesh and requested all humanitarian actors including UNHCR and IOM to facilitate the safe and voluntary return of Rohingyas to their Homeland, Myanmar. The Foreign Secretary reiterated Bangladesh's commitment in finding a durable solution to the protracted Rohingya crisis. The Foreign Secretary made the statement at the launching ceremony of 2024 Joint Response Plan (JRP) for the Rohingyas, held in Geneva on March 13.

The hijacked Bangladeshi-flagged cargo ship anchored 20 miles off the Somalian port of Garacad, BMMOA sources said. Talking to BSS yesterday, Bangladesh Merchant Marine Officers' Association (BMMOA) General Secretary Md. Shakawat Hossain said, the latest position of the ship was confirmed by a global shipping source which is monitoring its movement.

The officials are tagging crocodiles with the technical assistance of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and GIZ, Abu Naser Mohsin Hossain, Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) of the Sundarbans west Division confirmed on Wednesday.



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