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Newsbrief

The historic Mujibnagar Day will be observed today marking the oath-taking ceremony of Bangladesh's first government on April 17, 1971. President Mohammed Shahabuddin and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina issued separate messages on the 'Mujibnagar Day'. In his message, the President extended his heartiest greetings and congratulations to the countrymen and all Bangladeshis staying abroad. April 17 is a memorable day in the long path of struggle for Independence of the Bangalee Nation, the President added. In her message, the Prime Minister said, April 17, the historic 'Mujibnagar Day,' is a memorable day in the national life of Bangalees. On this day in 1971, she said, the first provisional government of Independent Bangladesh had taken oath at a mango orchard at Baidyanathala in the then Meherpur sub-division. Meherpur turned into the capital of the provisional government and from that day, the place became familiar as 'Mujibnagar', she added. The Prime Minister said that within two hours after the completion of formalities of the Mujibnagar Government, Pakistani Air Force occupied Meherpur by carrying out bombings and attacks. As a result, the provisional government was bound to take shelter in India and continued its activities from there, the Premier further added.

Meanwhile, President Mohammed Shahabuddin asked the University Authorities to formulate world-standard and modern curriculums as the newly appointed Vice-chancellor (VC) of Chittagong University (CU) Professor Dr. Md. Abu Taher paid a courtesy call on him at Bangabhaban in the capital yesterday. President's Press Secretary Md. Joynal Abedin told reporters after the meeting. The Press Secretary said, the President, also the Chancellor of the universities, said that the country's higher education needs to be compatible with science and information technology (IT). The President hoped that the authorities concerned of the universities should take necessary initiatives to expand formal education as well as non-formal educational programs in the field of higher education, the Press Secretary also mentioned.

Greek Foreign Minister George Gerapetritis said that opening a diplomatic mission in Dhaka is a priority for the Greek government. The Greek Foreign Minister gave the assurance to Bangladesh Foreign Minister Dr. Hasan Mahmud at a bilateral meeting, held at the Stavros Niarchos Foundation Cultural Center in Athens on the sidelines of the 9th Our Ocean Conference. During the meeting, the Greek Foreign Minister cordially accepted the invitation of his Bangladesh counterpart to visit Dhaka and mentioned that the tour would be a good option to inaugurate the Greek Diplomatic Mission there. Both the Ministers vowed to forge bilateral cooperation between Bangladesh and Greece in different areas including migration and mobility, trade and investment, shipping, manpower and recruitment, development of renewable and alternative energy infrastructure.

Industries Minister Nurul Majid Mahmud Humayun laid emphasis on the quick implementation of action plan prepared as per the election manifesto 2024. The Minister said this while speaking as the chief guest at the Eid reunion and New Year greetings ceremony, organised by the Ministry of Industries at the Ministry's conference room in the capital yesterday.

Agriculture Minister Dr. Md. Abdus Shahid said, research activities will be increased to tackle the climate-induced damages in agriculture sector. The Minister said this while addressing a workshop - "Climate Action and Food System Transformation in South Asia" - organised by Michigan University and Farming Future at a hotel in the capital yesterday. Many successes have already been achieved by the country's agronomists and research activities will be increased in future for tackling the damages in the agriculture sector, the Minister added.

Environment, Forest and Climate Change Minister Saber Hossain Chowdhury said, public health will also be included to the National Adaptation Plan (NAP). The Minister told reporters after a meeting Chairman and first Secretary of the Climate Health and Environment Group at the Swedish Embassy in Dhaka Dr. Daniel Novak at his Secretariat office in the capital yesterday. A new NAP could not be formulated now but his Ministry wants to bring the health issue in the current structure of NAP, the Minister added.

Meanwhile, the Environment, Forest and Climate Change Minister said, the government will involve young people, especially women, in combating climate change and promoting equitable solutions for affected communities. The Minister also recognised the potential of young people as powerful agents of change, calling on them to play an active role in advocating for climate justice and holding leaders accountable. The Minister said this while delivering Professor Dr. Saleemul Huq Memorial Public Lecture on "Promoting Climate Justice: Roles of Courts and Youth" on the Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB) campus in Dhaka yesterday.

State Minister for Information and Broadcasting Mohammad Ali Arafat expressed solidarity with the journalists regarding their demand to stop the operation of unregistered and illegal online news portals and assured them of taking measures to this end. The State Minister said this at a meeting with the Executive Committee of the Online News Portal Association Bangladesh (ONAB) at the conference room of his Ministry yesterday. The government of Bangabandhu's daughter Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina believes in free media and full freedom of the press, the State Minister added.

State Minister for Commerce Ahsanul Islam Titu said, there is no scope for increasing the edible oil prices now, but these can be reviewed. The State Minister said this while speaking at a 'Meet the Reporters' event, organised by the Dhaka Reporters Unity (DRU) at its auditorium in the capital yesterday.

US Ambassador to Bangladesh Peter Haas said, Washington remains firmly committed to supporting both freedom and prosperity in Bangladesh to help Dhaka in achieving its "Vision 2041" goals. The Ambassador said this while speaking at a conference titled "Prosperity and Good Governance Conference" jointly organized by USAID and the Asia Foundation to share findings from a US based think tank Atlantic Council's new global Freedom and Prosperity Report at a hotel in the capital yesterday.

Nine members of armed terrorist group Kuki-Chin National Front (KNF) were arrested yesterday from a remote hilly area under Ruma upazila in Bandarban district in the ongoing joint operation, led by Bangladesh Army. The KNF members were arrested along with nine arms and ammunition in the drive, according an ISPR press release.

Another 13 personnel of Myanmar's army and Border Guard Police took shelter in Bangladesh amid fighting with rebels. They crossed the border through three points in Banarban's Naikhongchhari Upazila yesterday taking the number of such members of Myanmar security forces in three days to 29. Border Guard Bangladesh Spokesman Md. Shariful Islam confirmed.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) once again revised down the growth forecast for Bangladesh's economy to 5.7 per cent for the current fiscal year of 2023-24. This is the second time the IMF lowered the economic growth forecast for Bangladesh. IMF Chief Economist Pierre-Olivier Gourinchas told this to newsmen at a press briefing yesterday.



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