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News Brief

The ECNEC has approved a project involving Taka 10,982 crore to improve transmission infrastructures for evacuating power from the Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant. The approval came from the ECNEC meeting held at the NEC conference room in the capital's Sher-e-Bangla Nagar yesterday with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the chair. A total of 16 projects involving Taka 15,683.24 crore were approved in the meeting.

Newly appointed French Ambassador to Bangladesh Marie-Annick Bourdin called on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her Sangsad Bhaban office in Dhaka yesterday. The PM while exchanging views said, her government has been making efforts to give the democracy an institutional shape. The Premier said, her government believes in democracy and participatory elections. The envoy said, they believe in inclusive, participatory, free and fair elections in Bangladesh, but won't interfere in the country's internal affairs.

The Jatiya Sangsad yesterday passed the 'Buddhist Religious Welfare Trust Bill, 2018', the 'Christian Religious Welfare Trust Bill, 2018'. Religious Affairs Minister Principal Matiur Rahman moved the bills in the House. Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury while responding to a query said, initiative has been taken to expand the local prominent rice varieties. Liberation War Affairs Minister AKM Mozammel Haque informed the House, the process of finalization of the martyred intellectuals lists is underway.

Information Minister Hasanul Haq Inu has said, the quota system is not a permanent system and it can be reviewed and recast, according to the needs of the time. The PM had already asked Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader to do it. The Information Minister said this as he was speaking at a press conference in his Secretariat office yesterday.

Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan has said, troublemakers carried out the attack on the residence of Dhaka University VC to create anarchy and the government is trying to identify the people involved in the attack seeing video footage. The Minister said this as he was talking to reporters at his office yesterday.

Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Anisul Huq has said, the government is working sincerely to speed up the process to resolve the land disputes in Chittagong Hill Tracts region. The Minister was addressing a seminar at BIISS auditorium in Dhaka yesterday. He said, the government has given permission to set up two regional offices of Land Dispute Resolution Commission in Rangamati and Bandarban to ease its activities.

Shipping Minister Shajahan Khan has said, stern action would be taken against the people who are involved in river grabbing. The Minister made the warning while inspecting the activities of removing illegal establishments on Turag riverbank yesterday.

The 2nd international conference on 'Disability and Disaster Risk Management' will be held in Dhaka from May 15 to 17. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will inaugurate the conference, Disaster Management and Relief Minister Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya said this at a press conference at his ministry yesterday.

The government has signed two financing agreements totaling \$515 million with the World Bank to help expand electricity transmission network and improve insurance coverage. The agreements were signed by the ERD and the World Bank in Dhaka yesterday.

British High Commissioner in Dhaka Alison Blake has said, perpetrators of atrocities in Myanmar's Rakhine state must be accountable for their crimes as Rohingyas deserved justice being victims of the mayhem. She said this while speaking at DCAB Talks at Jatiya Press Club yesterday.

The DSEX, the core index of the Dhaka Stock Exchange, finished yesterday at 5,859 points.