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News brief

President Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday congratulated all the players and officials of Bangladesh cricket team for their victory against Sri Lanka in the 100th Test match. Prime Minister talked to Bangladesh skipper over phone and congratulated on their historic Test victory uttering 'Joy Bangla' and prayed for continued success of the Bangladesh cricket team.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday assured of extending all kinds of cooperation for further expansion of weaving industry. The Premier also put emphasis on modernization of weaving industry and multipurpose use of its products. The Prime Minister was addressing the first national council of Bangladesh Tanti League at the auditorium of Krishibid Institution at Farmgate in the capital.

Finance Minister AMA Muhith yesterday underscored the need for taking additional care for the Basic Bank to solve the bank's various problems, including its capital deficit. The Finance Minister told journalists after a meeting with representatives of state-owned specialized banks at secretariat in the city.

Industries Minister Amir Hossain Amu said sustainable and environment-friendly industrialisation is the political commitment of the present government. The Minister said this while addressing the inaugural ceremony of the month-long 25th Chittagong International Trade Fair-2017 at Railway Polo-ground field yesterday. The Minister said the National Industry Policy-2016 has been drafted with a view to creating entrepreneurs and production-friendly industries in the country.

Shipping Minister Shajahan Khan yesterday underscored the need for building a social movement to save the rivers across the country. The Minister was speaking at an opinion exchange meeting titled 'Save the Rivers, Save the Country, Save the People' in the capital's National Press Club auditorium as the main discussant. The Minister said, we have to save the rivers to save the country.

State Minister for ICT Zunaid Ahmed Palak yesterday said the government has planned to bring the country's all unions under high-speed internet connectivity by 2018. The State Minister was addressing an inaugural function of Jhenaidah Poursabha's "Online billing and payment system & Human waste treatment plan project" as the chief guest.

Chairperson of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Former Foreign Minister Dr. Dipu Moni said the government of Bangladesh had been working relentlessly to ensure the equal and active participation of women in the mainstream socio-economic activities of the country. She said this at an event in the UN headquarters in New York mentioning that Bangladesh would continue to empower women to unlock their potentials. She was leading the Bangladesh parliamentary delegation to the IPU event.

Foreign investors can now invest their funds in local companies through purchasing shares with local currency directly as the Central Bank opened a window. It will also help in averting exchange-rate-fluctuation risk during the investment period. The Central Bank issued a clarification to this effect yesterday, asking all Authorised Dealer (AD) banks in foreign exchange to follow the latest instructions on issuance of shares in favour of non-residents by debit to non-resident Taka accounts with overseas branches and correspondents.

A Myanmar government delegation has reached Cox's Bazar to visit three camps where the Rohingyas are sheltered. The 10-member team arrived in the tourist town in the morning yesterday and met the Cox's Bazar Deputy Commissioner at around 11:00am.

A new gas pipeline is likely to be installed through the Padma Bridge to expand gas supply to the south and south western region and carry the LNG to be imported through Payra port to the national grid. The government is undertaking two separate projects for constructing two 30-inch diameter gas pipelines, one in the western part of Padma Bridge and another in the south-western part, Planning Commission sources said. The first pipeline will stretch 45 km from Langloland in Narayanganj to Mawa in Munshiganj and the length of the second one will be 95 km from Jajira point to Gopalganj.

The government has restructured the Health Ministry by bifurcating it into two division namely 'Health Services', and 'Health Education and Family Welfare'. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina ordered the bifurcation of the Ministry in line with the Rules of Business.

DSEX, the prime index of the DSE, settled yesterday at 5695.45 points.

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