

**PRESS INFORMATION DEPARTMENT  
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**News Brief**

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina reached Dammam of Saudi Arabia last evening in a two-day official visit to the Kingdom at the invitation of King Salman Bin Abdul Aziz Al-Saud to attend the concluding ceremony of joint grand military exercise named "Gulf Shield-1" to be held today. The PM will leave Dammam for London this afternoon to attend the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting Summit.

Finance Minister AMA Muhith left Dhaka for the USA last night to participate in the annual spring meeting of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank to be held from April 16 to 22 at Washington DC. Bangladesh Bank Governor Fazle Kabir and Economic Relations Division Secretary Kazi Shofiqul Azam are accompany the Finance Minister on the tour.

Japanese Marubeni Corporation has expressed its interest to set up a Nitrogen, Phosphorus and Potassium fertilizer factory in Bangladesh. The interest was expressed as Chief Executive Officer of the company Naoki Izumi called on Industries Minister Amir Hossain Amu at the latter's office in Dhaka yesterday. The Minister welcoming the eagerness said, if the company gives specific proposal for setting up fertilizer factory, it will be considered.

Information Minister Hasanul Haq Inu has said, keeping militants and fundamentalists away from political power does not lead to a paucity in democracy, rather the system turns better. The Minister said this as he was talking to a delegation of foreign journalists at his office in Dhaka yesterday. The Minister said, the economic policies of Sheikh Hasina helped Bangladesh graduate from a LDC to a developing one.

Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan has said, the law and order situation will be under control during the Ramadan as the law enforcement agencies will remain alert across the country to avert any sort of untoward incident. The Home Minister said this while speaking at a seminar on price of essential commodities and law and order situation during the month of Holy Ramadan at the Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry in the city yesterday.

Prime Minister's ICT affairs adviser Sajeeb Wazed Joy has said, digital security act has been made not to gag freedom of expression rather to stop spreading of falsehood and militant activities through social media. Sajeeb Wazed Joy said this while speaking at the inaugural ceremony of two-day "Business Processing Outsourcing Conference" at a city hotel in Dhaka yesterday.

Bangladesh missions abroad celebrated the Pahela Baishakh, the first day of Bengali New Year, on Saturday through organising different traditional programmes of Bangali culture. Welcoming the Bengali New year, Bangladesh High Commission in New Delhi and Bangladesh Deputy High Commission in Mumbai in India, Bangladesh High Commission in Islamabad, Pakistan and Bangladesh Embassy in Seoul, South Korea organised various programmes.

The government has provided free legal aid services to 3 lakh 526 people through its National Legal Aid Services Organisation since its inception in 2009.

The DSEX, the core index of the Dhaka Stock Exchange, finished yesterday at 5,773.61 points.

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