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Newsbrief

President Mohammed Shahabuddin sought New Zealand's active role in the international forum to end the prevailing Rohingya crisis as New Zealand's High Commissioner in Dhaka David Pine paid a farewell call on him at Ganabhaban in Dhaka yesterday. The President hoped, New Zealand would play an active role in different international forums for the safe and dignified repatriation of the Rohingyas.

Bangladesh and Australia women's national cricket teams paid a courtesy call on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at Ganabhaban in the capital yesterday and exchanged greetings with the Premier. The Premier said, her government is sincere about sports and always promotes the development of sports.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said, the government has been able to reduce the child and maternal mortality rates along with the poverty rate in the country through various pragmatic steps. The Prime Minister made this remark when the management team of Sheikh Fazilatunnessa Mujib Memorial KPJ Specialised Hospital and Nursing College called on her at Ganabhaban in Dhaka yesterday.

Later, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina sought Chinese cooperation for Bangladesh's southern region's development as its Ambassador Yao WEN called on her at her official residence Ganabhaban in Dhaka yesterday. Mentioning that China is the great development partner of Bangladesh, the Prime Minister hoped that the cooperation, which is going on between the two countries, will strengthen in the days to come. Turning to cooperation, the Chinese Ambassador requested the Prime Minister to offer specific proposal for the development of Bangladesh's southern region.

Awami League (AL) General Secretary and Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader said, his party's tradition is to stand beside the people in any crisis. The Minister said this at a function of distributing iftar and Eid goods among the common people during the Holy month of Ramadan in front of Bangabandhu Bhaban at Dhanmondi in Dhaka yesterday.

Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Anisul Huq said, Bangladesh has a strong relationship with Kingdom of Bahrain and would work together to strengthen this existing bond. The Minister told the newsmen after a meeting with Bahraini envoy in Bangladesh at secretariat in Dhaka yesterday. The Minister also said, we emphasised on the need of strengthening our friendship and agreed that we will be working together to strengthen our bond.

Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal said, a group of militant outfit Kuki Chin was found involved in bank robberies at Ruma and Thanchi in Bandarban. The Minister said this to the journalists at his Ministry office in the capital yesterday. The Minister also said, police and BGB are carrying out operations immediately after the incident.

Foreign Minister Dr. Hasan Mahmud said, BNP leaders are now talking perplexed after boycotting the last general elections. The Minister said this while exchanging views with journalists at the Foreign Ministry in Dhaka yesterday. Mentioning that next upazila polls will be held without party symbols, the Foreign Minister said, the candidacy for the upazila elections will be open and this is nothing new in Bangladesh.

Textiles and Jute Minister Jahangir Kabir Nanak urged all to use jute-made bags instead of polythene to protect the environment. The Minister said this to journalists after visiting the Sonali Bags Production Factory of eminent scientist Dr. Mubarak Ahmad Khan in Demra yesterday. The Minister also said, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is helping Mubarak Ahmad Khan with creative innovation, and the government is making a project for almost Taka 100 crore for making jute bags.

Environment, Forest and Climate Change Minister Saber Hossain Chowdhury said, drives will be conducted soon against the illegal resorts and other establishments established by occupying forest land in

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Gazipur. The Minister also said, 26,000 acres of forest land has been recovered so far and urgent measures will be taken to recover more forest land in the districts around Dhaka. The Environment Minister made the remarks at a meeting at the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change in the capital yesterday.

Meanwhile, Environment, Forest and Climate Change Minister Saber Hossain Chowdhury said, necessary legal measures have been taken to ensure exemplary punishment to those involved in the killing of a beat officer of the Forest Department using the smugglers' drum truck in Cox's Bazar. The Environment Minister made the remarks while talking to reporters after joining a workshop at Agargaon Tourism Bhaban in Dhaka yesterday.

State Minister for Information and Broadcasting Mohammad Ali Arafat said, the government is working to make the Bangladesh Film Development Corporation (FDC) and the country's film industry as a whole self reliant reducing their dependency on the government. The State Minister said this while addressing a discussion at the FDC in the city's Tejgaon area in Dhaka yesterday marking the National Film Day. The State Minister also said, there is no more stronger media than cinema to present any country with dignity in the global arena.

Meanwhile, State Minister for Information and Broadcasting Mohammad Ali Arafat inaugurated the commercial operation of television rating point (TRP) service of the Bangladesh Satellite Company Limited (BSCL). Arafat along with State Minister for Posts, Telecommunications and ICT Zunaid Ahmed Palak opened the service at a function at BSCL Headquarters in the city's Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, said an official release yesterday.

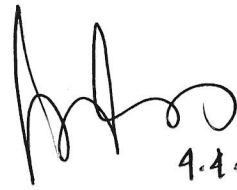
Chinese Ambassador to Bangladesh Yao Wen said, Bangladesh and China exchanged feasibility study reports on the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between the two countries last week and will officially launch the negotiations soon. The Ambassador sees this latest development between the two countries as a major step forward in Dhaka-Beijing economic and trade cooperation. The Chinese Ambassador was speaking at the inaugural ceremony of the 2024 Chinese government training programs, held at the Embassy in Dhaka yesterday.

Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) Commissioner Habibur Rahman said that, no additional fares can be charged to the commuters in all public transports during the upcoming Eid al-Fitr. The Commissioner was addressing a press briefing after a special coordination meeting on the overall law and order situation of Dhaka metropolis with various stakeholders on the occasion of upcoming holy Eid-ul-Fitr celebrations at the DMP Headquarters in Dhaka yesterday.

Bangladesh reported no more COVID-19 related deaths while there are 20 fresh cases in the past 24 hours till Wednesday morning, Directorate General of Health Services reported in a press release yesterday.

Bangladesh reported no more Dengue related deaths and 06 fresh cases in the past 24 hours till Wednesday morning, Directorate General of Health Services said in a press release yesterday.

DSEX, the prime index of the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) went up by 37.68 points or 0.66 per cent to settle at 5,776.08 yesterday.



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