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News Brief

President Md. Abdul Hamid has asked air force members to become efficient and ideal ones to elevate the image of Bangladesh Air Force and the country as well. The President made the call while addressing the National Standard Award Ceremony of six Squadrons of BAF at its Bangabandhu Base in Dhaka Cantonment yesterday. The President stressed the need for imparting advanced training to take the BAF's achievements into a new height. The Head of the State hoped that the air force personnel would play more active role for the development activities of the country and the nation in the days to come.

The ECNEC has approved the Physical Protection System Project for Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant with an estimated cost of Taka 3,449.05 crore in a bid to ensure security to this plant. The approval came at an ECNEC meeting with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the chair held at the NEC Conference Room in the city's Sher-e-Bangla Nagar area yesterday. A total of 6 projects were approved in the meeting involving an overall estimated cost of Taka 4,447.76 crore. Of the approved six projects, five are new while another one is a revised project. The PM instructed not to appoint the same contractor repeatedly for the government construction works.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has urged the insurance companies to utilise their industry for humanitarian welfare giving importance to the issue of social responsibility alongside making profit. The Premier made the call while addressing the inaugural ceremony of the 15th International Conference on Inclusive Insurance at Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel in Dhaka yesterday. Sheikh Hasina said, unified messaging platform will be introduced to save the customers from insurance-related cheating. Putting emphasis on introduction of micro insurance schemes to tackle climate change risk, Sheikh Hasina said it will greatly benefit lower income group people affected due to natural calamities.

Bangladesh Krishak League will hold its 10th national council today. Awami League President and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is expected to inaugurate the council at Suhrawardy Udyan in the capital at 11 am this morning.

Construction work of 8-kilometre Barishal-Bhola Bridge will begin soon. Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader informed this at a meeting with officials at Setu Bhaban in Dhaka yesterday. The Minister said, work on formulating Development Project Plan (DPP) for the bridge is going on and talks are underway over funding. China has shown interest to finance the bridge construction, he added.

Railways Minister Nurul Islam Sujan has said, three construction companies of Japan took part in the tender process of the Bangabandhu Rail Bridge, to be constructed over the river Jamuna in parallel with the existing Bangabandhu Bridge. The Minister told journalists after visiting the proposed site for the bridge on the east part of the Jamuna River in Tangail yesterday. The construction work of the bridge will be implemented from both sides – east and west – of the river, the Minister said, adding the bridge will be constructed within four years from the starting date of the construction work.

Information Minister Dr Hasan Mahmud in a meeting with his visiting Indian Counterpart Prakash Javadekar at his ministry yesterday has urged to remove barriers of broadcasting Bangladeshi private TV channels in West Bengal state and other parts of India where cable operators visibly created obstacles for their airing. Responding to the request the Indian Minister said, he would deeply look into the issue. The meeting also discussed the progress of two films on Bangabandhu and War of Liberation under the joint initiative of the two governments. Indian High Commissioner in Dhaka Riva Ganguly Das and Information Secretary Abdul Malek were present in the meeting.

The USA retreated its full support to Bangladesh on Rohingya crisis and it is fully engaged with ASEAN countries to ensure safe and dignified repatriation of forcefully displaced people to Myanmar. The assurance came as USA's acting assistant secretary for South and Central Asian affairs Alice Wells met Foreign Minister Dr A K Abdul Momen at foreign ministry in Dhaka yesterday. During the meeting, they also discussed global issues like human trafficking, climate protocol, counter terrorism and the UN peace keeping mission. Meanwhile, Foreign Minister had a meeting with newly appointed Ambassador of Thailand to Bangladesh Arunrung Phothong Humphreys at his Ministry in Dhaka yesterday. The Minister urged Thailand to play a proactive role over the repatriation of Rohingyas and invest in Bangladesh to offset the trade deficit. The Envoy informed that Thailand, as the outgoing chair of ASEAN, attached top priority to the Rohingya crisis and a durable solution to it.

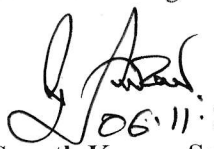
Local Government Minister Md Tajul Islam has sought Japan's enhanced funding for rural infrastructure development. The Minister sought the assistance as a three-member delegation including Hiroshi Hirata of Japan International Cooperation Agency met him at his office in Dhaka yesterday. Bangladesh needs enhanced aid and technical assistance from Japan for the smooth implementation of the 'Amar Gram Amar Shohor' project, the Minister added. The delegation assured the Minister of necessary support for the project and said currently financial assistance provided by JICA to 18 projects of the LGRD Ministry is more than Taka 13 thousand crore.

Chief Election Commissioner K M Nurul Huda inaugurated the expatriate voter registration at a function through video conferencing at the Nirbachan Bhaban in the city's Agargaon area yesterday. Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment Minister Imran Ahmad joined the function from Malaysia. Addressing the inaugural function the Nurul Huda said, the Bangladeshi expatriates living in Malaysia will get the opportunity to be voters for the first time. The EC has taken initiative of providing NID to the expatriate Bangladeshis as they need the NID cards to open bank accounts, getting marriage, transferring land and making passport, the CEC said.

State Minister for Information Dr Murad Hasan while speaking a discussion at Jatiya Press Club in Dhaka yesterday said, a process continues to form a judicial commission to unmask the masterminds behind the coups took place in army after the assassination of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in 1975. The State Minister said, an unknown history will be revealed before the countrymen by forming the judicial commission.

State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shahriar Alam has said contemporary Bangladesh readymade garment and textile sector is going through transformation, like other sectors of country's economy and society. The State Minister said this while speaking at the inauguration ceremony of the Sustainable Apparel Forum-2019 at Bashundhara International Convention Centre in the capital yesterday.

The remittance has increased by more than 20 percent in the first four months – July to October – of the current fiscal year compared to that a year ago after the government declared a 2-percent incentive on the greenback inflow. Bangladesh Bank data shows an upswing of remittance to US\$6.15 billion during the July-October period of FY'19-20 from \$5.11 billion in the same period in the previous fiscal. A spokesperson of Bangladesh Bank yesterday told media; the flow of remittance will increase further in the coming months as the government has announced 2 percent incentive for remittance receipt.


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