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**News Brief**

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday hosted an iftar party for orphans, physically-challenged children, war-wounded freedom fighters and alem-ulema at her official residence Ganabhaban. Before the iftar, the Prime Minister went round different tables set for the guests, exchanged pleasantries with them and enquired about their well-being. A munajat was offered seeking continued peace, progress and prosperity of the nation.

Finance Minister Abul Maal Abdul Muhith has said the government has taken different measures to increase remittance inflow to boost economic development in the country. "Bangladesh is one of the top remittance recipient countries in the world. According to a BBS study, families of Bangladeshi expatriates received Tk. 3.02 lakh on an average in 2015," he added at the post-budget press conference yesterday.

The government has a plan to install 42 more power plants having 11,124 MW capacity as sustainable development of power generation, transmission and distribution system is one of the priority areas in the country. Finance Minister A M A Muhith said this while delivering his budget speech for 2017-18 in the Jatiya Sangsad on June 1. "In addition, 33 power plants having 11,214 MW capacity are now under construction as part of the power sector master plan," he said.

Industries Minister Amir Hossain Amu left Dhaka yesterday morning for Doha, the capital of Qatar, on a four day official visit to finalize the matter for importing urea fertilizer on state-level agreement (G-2G) basis. He led a six-member high-level delegation team to discuss the issues.

The government has taken up a Tk. 11,500 crore project to dredge 53 river routes across the country, Shipping Minister Shajahan Khan said yesterday. As part of the projects, 36 river routes are now being dredged under 24 projects. Again, there are also 12 projects for the dredging of important river routes in the first phase. The Minister said this while inaugurating the dredging of the Char Tekerhat–Shibchar river route on the Moynakata river at Shibchar in Madaripur yesterday.

The World Bank has approved \$100 million financing to help Bangladesh diversify its exports in labor and skill intensive industries beyond the garment sector and create more and better jobs. "Bangladesh is the world's second largest garment exporter after China and it can boost growth by diversifying its exports, and repeat the garment sector success story in other sectors," said Qimiao Fan, World Bank Country Director for Bangladesh, Bhutan and Nepal.

Iraq has expressed keen interest in import of medicines from Bangladesh in bulk. The Iraqi government primarily has showed its interest in import of one thousand items of medicines from Bangladesh. A delegation of Iraqi government will visit Bangladesh soon to physically witness the pharmaceutical plants.

India will introduce land port entry visas for Bangladeshis, said Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Harsh Vardhan Shringla yesterday. He made the disclosure while talking to reporters on his way to Indian city of Agartala through Akhaura land port.

Bangladesh has sought Dutch support for implementation of the Paris climate agreement. Bangladesh Ambassador to the Netherlands Sheikh Mohammed Belal sought the support when he met Member of Parliament of the House of Representatives of the Netherlands Bram van Ojik on Friday at the parliament building.

The Market Monitoring Cell of Chittagong District Administration in a bid to control price hike during the holy month of Ramadan yesterday visited several kitchen markets and a wholesale market in the port city and fined 16 shops TK 80,0000 on different grounds.

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) is developing a digital monitoring software to check institutional graft. ACC Secretary Abu Md Mostafa Kamal told that the commission is now developing software to install a digital system.

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