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Newsbrief

President Mohammed Shahabuddin called upon all pro-Liberation War forces, irrespective of party affiliations, to work together to spread the spirit of liberation war and communal harmony at the grassroots. The President came up with the call as a delegation led by eminent journalist and President of Ghatak Dalal Nirmul Committee Shahriar Kabir paid a courtesy call on him at Bangabhaban yesterday. The main goal of independence was to establish a non-communal Bangladesh to be freed from hunger and poverty, the President added.

Bhutanese King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck visited the special economic zone (SEZ) in Madhabram area under Bhogdanga union of Kurigram Sadar upazila yesterday. State Minister for Information and Broadcasting Mohammad Ali Arafat and BEZA Executive Chairman Shaikh Yusuf Harun, among others, accompanied the King.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina asked all concerned to take effective steps for availing maximum benefits and facilities after the country's graduation from the LDCs in 2026 and also to devise strategies to face the challenges following the graduation. The Prime Minister gave the directive while chairing the 2nd meeting of the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (ECNEC) of the present government and also the 8th ECNEC meeting in the current fiscal year (FY24), held at the NEC conference room in the capital's Sher-e-Bangla Nagar area yesterday.

Speaker Dr. Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury, gave her speech in the concluding session of the 148th Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) at Geneva in Switzerland on Wednesday. IPU President Tulika Ackson, Secretary General Martin Chungong and Representatives from different countries were also present at the session. Dr Shirin said, it was a delightful experience to preside over the Asia-Pacific group meeting at the 148th IPU assembly held at Geneva in Switzerland on March 23.

Awami League General Secretary and Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader said, BNP wants nullify the meaning of the independence, as they did not believe the spirit of the War of Liberation and democracy. The Minister said this in a statement yesterday. This statement was also issued to condemn and protest the false, fabricated and misleading statements of BNP leaders.

Environment, Forest and Climate Change Minister Saber Hossain Chowdhury said, all development partners should come to a single platform aiming to prevent resource fragmentation. The Minister said this while addressing a workshop. The World Bank arranged the dissemination workshop on 'the Country Environmental Analysis for Bangladesh: Building Back a Greener Bangladesh' at a hotel of Dhaka yesterday. The nation's health is paramount, and the government is committed to enhancing air and water quality, the Minister added.

Donald Lu, Assistant Secretary of State for the Bureau of South and Central Asian Affairs, highly appreciated the contributions of the Bangladeshi Americans in building the foundation of bilateral relations between the two nations. Lu made the comments while addressing, as the guest of honour, a reception hosted by the Bangladesh Embassy in Washington DC on Tuesday on the occasion of Independence and National Day of Bangladesh. Bangladesh Ambassador to the United States Muhammad Imran delivered the welcome address at the function held at Bangabandhu Auditorium of the Mission.

State Minister for Information and Broadcasting Mohammad Ali Arafat left Dhaka for Bhutan at the invitation of Bhutanese King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck, who returned to his country yesterday by road after wrapping up his four-day official visit to Bangladesh. Public Relations Officer of the Information and Broadcasting Ministry Md. Iftekhar Hossain confirmed this matter yesterday.

Chief Justice Obaidul Hassan, who is on the tour of the United States, held a meeting with his American counterpart Justice John G Roberts, Jr in Washington on March 27. Justice Hassan at the meeting emphasized on bilateral and mutual cooperation between the judiciaries of the two countries. Expressing his firm support to such cooperation, Justice Roberts too hoped that a strong bond would be created between the two judiciaries through fruitful contact and programmes.

Bangladesh and China exchanged a draft feasibility study report for initially signing a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between the two countries to increase trade and investment. The two countries exchanged the report at a ceremony at the Ministry of Commerce at Bangladesh Secretariat yesterday. Senior Secretary of the Commerce Ministry Tapan Kanti Ghosh and Chinese Ambassador to Bangladesh Yao Wen were present on the occasion.

The Government of Japan will provide an amount of 2,294 million Japanese Yen for the project titled 'Project for the Improvement of Fish Landing Center of Bangladesh Fisheries Development Corporation in Cox's Bazar District'. In this regard, Grant Agreement and Exchange of Notes were signed yesterday between Bangladesh and Japan. Md. Shahriar Kader Siddiky, Secretary, Economic Relations Division (ERD), signed the Exchange of Notes and Grant Agreement on behalf of Bangladesh. IWAMA Kiminori, Ambassador of Japan in Bangladesh signed the 'Exchange of Notes' and ICHIGUCHI Tomohide, Chief Representative, JICA Bangladesh Office, signed the 'Grant Agreement' on behalf of Japan.

China yesterday expressed keen interest to import jute goods from Bangladesh as its Ambassador to Dhaka Yao Wen had a meeting with Textiles and Jute Minister Jahangir Kabir Nanak at latter's secretariat office. Briefing reporters after the meeting, the Minister said, the Chinese Envoy praised Bangladesh government for the development in different sectors. The Chinese Ambassador greeted Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for assuming office for the fourth consecutive term.



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