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### Newsbrief

The 17th World Autism Awareness will be observed in the country as elsewhere across the globe today aiming to raise awareness, promote acceptance, and celebrate the unique strengths and experiences of autistic people. President Mohammed Shahabuddin and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday gave separate messages on the eve of the day urging all concerned to come forward for the welfare of the disabled. In his message, President Mohammed Shahabuddin said, "Autistic and people with disabilities are the part of our family and society." The present government is sincerely working for ensuring a congenial atmosphere of the people with autism and differently able people through taking various effective programmes, he said. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, in her message, said the Awami League government has taken massive programmes for people with differently able and autism.

Cabinet meeting was held at the Prime Minister's Office with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the chair yesterday. Cabinet Secretary Md. Mahub Hossain said, the Eid-ul-Fitr vacation will be three days beginning from April 10. The Cabinet Secretary said this at a press conference after the meeting.

Awami League (AL) General Secretary and Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader said, the contribution of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) to the country's liberation war is undeniable while around 17,000 BCL men sacrificed their lives in the 1971 war. The Minister said in a statement yesterday. BCL is always working to implement the spirit of liberation war. BCL is a student organisation run by its constitution and principles, while it does not believe in occupation, the Minister added.

Foreign Minister Hasan Mahmud suggested the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) to continue to highlight climate-induced displacement and migration in all relevant forums, including as part of the UNFCCC COP processes. Chief of Mission, IOM Bangladesh, Abdusattor Esoev met the Foreign Minister at the latter's office at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs yesterday and discussed issues of mutual interest. During the meeting, the IOM Representative acknowledged Bangladesh as the birthplace of the Global Compact on Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM), and the work being undertaken with the inter-agency Migration Compact Taskforce for its follow-up. The Foreign Minister assured of Bangladesh's continued support and advocacy as one of the GCM Champion Countries.

Meanwhile, Indonesian Ambassador to Bangladesh Heru Hartanto Subolo paid a courtesy call on the Foreign Minister at the Foreign Minister's office yesterday. At the meeting, the Indonesian Ambassador and the Foreign Minister exchanged views on mutual interests and pledged to further strengthen bilateral relations between the two brotherly countries.

Foreign Minister Dr Hasan Mahmud today said that Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) should not be made a hideout of militancy in the name of depoliticizing the campus. The Minister made the comments while addressing a discussion titled 'Smart Bangladesh of the Liberation War' at the Jatiya Press Club (JPC) in Dhaka yesterday, marking the 56th founding anniversary of Bangladesh Chhachitra Sangbadik Samity (BACHSAS).

Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan said, buses, trains, and launches will not be allowed to carry extra passengers and that legal action will be taken against those violating the directive. The Minister said this while addressing the reporters at the Secretariat after a preparatory meeting for the upcoming Eid. On the occasion of the upcoming Eid-ul-Fitr, the concerned authorities have been instructed to take steps to ease traffic congestion and maintain law and order strictly all over the country. All measures will be taken to maintain law and order throughout the country during the holy Eid-ul-Fitr, the Minister added.

Environment, Forest and Climate Change Minister Saber Hossain Chowdhury said, the government is sincerely working to implement climate adaptation actions by spending US\$ 3.5 billion every year. The Minister said this while launching the UK Government's Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO)'s the Nature-Based Adaptation towards Prosperous & Adept Lives & Livelihoods in Bangladesh (NABAPALLAB) project at Hotel Intercontinental in the capital yesterday. The government will empower communities, particularly women, to overcome climate challenges and adapt to changing circumstances, the Minister added.

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Earlier, Environment, Forest and Climate Change Minister urged members of Parliament (MPs) to raise their expectations and commitments to implementing climate actions. The Minister said climate change is not just an environmental issue but an existential crisis that demands urgent and unified action. The Minister said this while speaking at a function on the occasion of the announcement of the newly-formed committee of Climate Parliament, Bangladesh, held at a hotel in the capital yesterday.

State Minister for Commerce Ahsanul Islam Titu said, the state-run Trading Corporation of Bangladesh (TCB) would start selling onion imported from India at Taka 40 per kg from on Monday. Talking to the media, Senior Secretary of Commerce Ministry Tapan Kanti Ghosh also said the first consignment out of 50,000 metric tons of onion has already arrived in the country from India and the sale of this onion would start today.

The High Court yesterday stayed an existing decision debarring student politics at Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) campus.) The bench simultaneously issued a rule asking for explanations by the Education Ministry and the BUET why the ban on student politics on the Premier Engineering University should not be declared illegal.

Chinese company Taisheng (Bangladesh) Webbing Co. Ltd. is going to invest US\$ 6 million to set up a Shoe, Bag and Garments Accessories manufacturing industry in BEPZA Economic Zone (BEPZA EZ) located at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Shilpa Nagar (BSMSN), Mirsharai, Chattogram. In presence of the Executive Chairman Major General Abul Kalam Mohammad Ziaur Rahman, Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority (BEPZA) signed an agreement with the company recently, according to a press release yesterday.

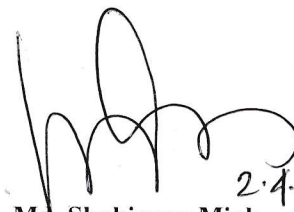
A delegation of Global Institute for Food Security (GIFS) at the University of Saskatchewan from Canada headed by Bangabandhu Research Chair of the university Dr. Andrew Sharpe today visited Bangladesh Rice Research Institute (BRRI) headquarters in Gazipur. BRRI Director General Dr. Md. Shahjahan Kabir offered a cordial welcome to the delegation team at the Institute and briefed them about its main features.

Expatriate Bangladeshis sent around US\$1,996.85 million remittances during March in the fiscal 2024-25. As per Bangladesh Bank (BB) available data, state-owned banks brought in \$261.77 million while 43 private sector banks brought \$1691.70 million remittances. The highest \$491.79 million remittance came to the country through Islami Bank Bangladesh PLC.

According to the National Committee to Protect Shipping, Roads and Railways (NCPSRR), around 1.50 crore people are expected to exit the greater Dhaka area for the celebration of the upcoming holy Eid-ul-Fitr, including Dhaka North, Dhaka South, Gazipur, and Narayanganj City Corporation areas. An estimated 60 percent of these holidaymakers, roughly 90 lakh people, will opt for road travel, while the rest will utilise waterways and railways, according to a release of NCPSRR yesterday.

After the downward adjustment of diesel and kerosene prices, the government committee responsible for fixing bus fares has recommended cutting the fare by 3 paisa per kilometre. The committee headed by Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) Chairman Nur Mohammad Mazumder made the recommendations at a meeting, held at its Headquarters in the capital yesterday.

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