**PRESS INFORMATION DEPARTMENT**

### GOVERNMENT OF BANGLADESH

### DHAKA

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**News Brief**

The ECNEC has approved the Bangladesh Railway Rolling Stock Operations Development Project involving Taka 3,602.07 crore in a bid to further improve the services of Bangladesh Railway. The approval came from the ECNEC meeting held in Dhaka with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the chair yesterday.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has emphasised on maintaining close cooperation among the neighbouring countries saying that it can speed up development in the South Asia region. The PM made the emphasis when newly-appointed Sri Lankan High Commissioner to Bangladesh General AWJC De Silva called on her in Dhaka yesterday. The Sri Lankan Envoy while exchanging views highly appreciated Bangladesh’s tremendous socioeconomic uplift over last couple of years under the leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

Newly appointed 18 judges of the High Court Division made a courtesy call on President Md. Abdul Hamid at Bangabhaban yesterday. The President, referring to the Judiciary as the last shelter house of justice-seekers, hoped that the appointment of new judges would expedite the activities of the country’s judiciary.

Newly appointed Chief of Army Staff General Aziz Ahmed has paid a courtesy call on President Md. Abdul Hamid at Bangabhaban in Dhaka yesterday. Congratulating the new Army Chief, President hoped that the Bangladesh Army would move forward further under his leadership.

Earlier, a day after taking over the charge as the Army Chief, Aziz Ahmed was adorned with the rank badge of General in the presence of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at Ganabhaban yesterday. Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Nizamuddin Ahmed and Chief of Air Staff Air Marshal Masihuzzaman Serniabat adorned the new Army Chief with the rank badge of General.

Finance Minister A M A Muhith has said, he would announce measures in July to rein in defaulted loan of the commercial banks. He said this while talking to the media at his office in Dhaka yesterday.

Commerce Minister Tofail Ahmed on a visit to Belgium said, Bangladesh is looking for new markets to boost its exports. The Minister expressed the hope that the developed countries would continue to extend necessary cooperation in this regard. Mr. Tofail Ahmed was speaking at a workshop on garment and footwear products of Bangladesh at Brussels yesterday.

Indian Home Minister Rajnath Singh is likely to pay a three-day visit to Bangladesh beginning from July 14. During the visit, the Indian Home Minister is expected to hold talks with his Bangladesh counterpart Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal on strengthening the anti-terror mechanism between the two countries and checking radicalisation of youths by terrorist groups.

Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan has said, the government is set to install wire fence and build road along Myanmar border mainly to stop smuggling of yaba and other illegal drugs in the country. He said this at a function in Dhaka yesterday.

Awami League mayor candidate Jahangir Alam is ahead in the vote counts so far in the Gazipur City Corporation polls compared to his nearest contestant BNP-backed Hasan Uddin Sarker.

DSEX, the key index of Dhaka Stock Exchange, lost 0.41 per cent, or 22.51 points, to close at 5,411.27 points yesterday.

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