**PRESS INFORMATION DEPARTMENT**

### GOVERNMENT OF BANGLADESH

### DHAKA

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**News Brief**

President Md. Abdul Hamid has urged the Bangladeshi peacekeepers to uphold country’s image in the UN peacekeeping mission through their bravery and heroic work showing utmost professionalism and expertise. The President made the urge while addressing a programme on the occasion of the International Day of UN Peacekeepers at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre at Dhaka yesterday. The President, in his address, laid emphasis on enhancing the IT and technical expertise of the peacekeepers of Bangladesh to compete with peacekeepers of the other countries.

The ECNEC has approved five projects to improve the highways of Rajshahi, Khulna, Rangpur, Chattogram and Sylhet Zones with an overall outlay of Taka 3,368.21 crore. The approval came from the ECNEC meeting held in Dhaka yesterday with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the chair. A total of 13 projects involving an overall estimated cost of Taka 9,518.62 crore were approved at the meeting.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina attended an iftar mahfil jointly hosted in honour of her by Bangladesh Armed Forces at Sena Malancha in Dhaka Cantonment yesterday. Before the iftar, a special munajat seeking divine blessings for continued peace, progress and prosperity of the nation as well as development of the armed forces was offered.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will address a press conference today to brief the media about the outcomes of her just-concluded visit to India. The PM went to Kolkata on May 25 on a two-day official visit to India.

## Visiting Thailand's Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn yesterday held a meeting with Foreign Minister A H Mahmood Ali and discussed various issues of mutual interest. Ms. Sirindhorn who arrived in Dhaka on Monday is visiting a collaborative project of Thailand and Bangladesh on Vetiver Grass Development near Tiger Pass Area in Chattogram today.

## Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury has stressed upon the need for using bio-pesticide reducing dependency on different chemical pesticides in agricultural production to ensure safe food and nutrition. The Minister made the emphasis while addressing a discussion on 'Regional Training Programme on Integrated Pest Management in SAARC Member States' at her Ministry yesterday.

Elections to Rajshahi, Sylhet and Barishal city corporations will be held on July 30. Chief Election Commissioner K M Nurul Huda informed this to the media at Nirbachan Bhaban yesterday. According to the schedule, the last date for submitting nomination is June 28 while withdrawal July 9.

The Department of Narcotic Control is set to start a nationwide massive anti-narcotic campaign involving over 29,000 committees in educational institutions to create awareness about the adverse impact of drugs. Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan is due to inaugurate the campaign from a programme to be held at Sidheswari campus of Stamford University on Sunday.

## Bangladesh has ranked 73 out of 100 nations in the global cyber security index measured by UK-based National Cyber Security Index (NCSI). The NCSI put the countries in the ranking after measuring their preparedness to prevent fundamental cyber threats and readiness to manage cyber incidents, crimes and large-scale cyber crises.

DSEX, the key index of Dhaka Stock Exchange, lost 0.14 per cent, or 7.72 points, to close at 5,409.69 points yesterday.

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