



Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Ministry of Information and Broadcasting
Press Information Department
Dhaka.



Most Urgent
For: Bangladoot, All Missions
MSG: 197/2022-23
Date: Tuesday, 17 January 2023

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Newsbrief

International Monetary Fund (IMF) will continue support for Bangladesh to accomplish its aspiration to become a developed, prosperous and higher income country by 2041. Deputy Managing Director of IMF Antoinette Monsio Sayeh said this while paying a call on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her official residence Ganabhaban yesterday.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said, people would get true knowledge of Islamic values and culture from the model mosques and Islamic cultural centres which help them not to be misled in the name of religion. She said this while virtually opening 50 more model mosques across the country from her official residence Ganabhaban yesterday.

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader termed BNP's movement for ousting the government and their mass-upsurge as fake. He came up with the comment while addressing a protest rally against 'BNP's terrorism, militancy, anarchy, evil-politics and anti-state conspiracy' on the premises of Bhatara Natun Bazar in the capital yesterday.

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader said, BNP has now become sick after doing the negative politics, destruction, intrigue and corruption. Quader made the remarks while speaking at a rally in front of Awami League's central office at Bangabandhu Avenue in the capital yesterday.

Agriculture Minister Dr. Md Abdur Razzaque said, the government has taken initiatives to make the country selfsufficient in food production. He said this while addressing a workshop on "Work plan of increasing the production and development of Mustard and Paddy-23" at Shilpakala Academy in Dhaka yesterday.

Information and Broadcasting Minister Dr. Hasan Mahmud said, rallies that BNP is holding at different places aim to create unrest across the country. The Minister made this remarks while speaking on the occasion of 'the peaceful sit-in programme protesting the terrorist activities and anarchies of BNP-Jamaat, organised by Dhaka City South Awami League at Bangabandhu Avenue in the capital yesterday.

US Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asia Donald Lu said, Washington will be focusing on whether there is intimidation during the next national elections due early next year and says it important for the democracies to provide feedback and encourage each other for better democracies. He said this yesterday in an interview with a national daily following his meetings with the Ministers, Officials and Civil Society Leaders the day before yesterday.

Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal said, the US sanctions on Rapid Action Battalion (RAB) will be lifted soon as the US Assistant Secretary Donald Lu expressed his satisfaction over RAB's recent activities. The Minister told reporters at his Secretariat office yesterday.

Visiting Deputy Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) Antoinette Monsio Sayeh said, the IMF Board is likely to consider the \$4.5 billion loan to Bangladesh on January 30. She said this in a press statement yesterday.

Health Minister Zahid Maleque said, the Directorate General of Health Services has taken an initiative to introduce one-stop emergency and casualty service at every district hospital in the country. He said this while speaking at the inaugural function of setting up OSEC services at Suhrawardy Medical College Hospital in Dhaka yesterday.

State Minister for Shipping Khalid Mahmud Chowdhury said, the Bay Terminal and Matarbari Deep Seaport will be operational by 2026. The State Minister said this while speaking at a ceremony marking the first berthing of a vessel with a 10-meter draft and 200-metre length at Chattogram port jetty in Chattogram yesterday.

The Bangladesh Public Service Commission Bill 2022 was passed in the Parliament incorporating the punishment for involvement in any irregularities in any examination under PSC. State Minister for Public Administration Farhad Hossain moved the bill in the House which was unanimously passed by voice votes with Speaker Dr. Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury in the chair yesterday.

State Minister for Power Nasrul Hamid said, diesel import from India would start through a recently built pipeline on an experimental basis from June. The State Minister said this while replying to a question from Awami League MP Abdul Latif at the question-answer session in Parliament yesterday.

Bangabandhu Parishad protested BNP Leaders Gayeshwar Chandra Roy and Abdul Awal Mintu's audacious and derogatory comments over the country's independence and the constitution. Acting President of Bangabandhu Parishad and Dhaka University former Vice-Chancellor Professor AAMS Arefin Siddique and General Secretary Professor ABM Faroque issued a statement yesterday protesting the comments.

The Jatiya Sangsad (JS) yesterday reconstituted five Parliamentary Standing Committees on different Ministries. Chief Whip of the JS Noor-E-Alam Chowdhury on behalf of the Leader of the House and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina proposed the reconstitution.

Bangladesh and Rwanda signed air services agreement to facilitate movement of people and goods between the two countries by direct air route. Bangladesh High Commissioner in New Delhi Mustafizur Rahman and Rwanda High Commissioner based in Indian capital Delhi signed the documents last Thursday. Foreign Ministry issued a press release in yesterday.

Appellate Division of the New York Supreme Court dismissed appeals made by defendants for cancelling the reserve heist case filed by the Bangladesh Bank (BB). The BB in a statement yesterday said that the court on January 13 dismissed an appeal made by Philippines' Rizal Commercial Banking Corporation and six other defendants for dismissing the BB's reserve heist case.

Outgoing Turkish Ambassador Mustafa Osman Turan credited "very strong leadership" on both sides and deep political trust for the significant progress in Dhaka-Ankara relations in recent times with growing economic and defence cooperation hand in hand. Turkish Ambassador told UNB in an exclusive interview yesterday.

A total of 13 dengue patients were admitted with no death to different hospitals across the country during the past 24 hours till 8 am and Bangladesh recorded zero Covid-19 death while it reported nine coronavirus positive cases, a daily statement of the Directorate General of Health Services said yesterday.

The key index of the Dhaka Stock Exchange lost 0.07 per cent or 4.43 points and settled at 6,246.06 points after gaining 58.91 points in the past three trading sessions.



17/01/2023

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