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### Newsbrief

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina called upon the countrymen to pay their taxes, stressing the need for increasing revenue income and expanding the tax net in view of the ongoing global economic crisis. She said this while inaugurating the country's first-ever two-day Revenue Conference-2023 at Agargaon in the capital yesterday.

Meanwhile Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina called upon all to make investments in the country for building a developed Bangladesh. The Premier made the call while inaugurating the newly constructed "Biniyog Bhaban" (Investment Building) of Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (BIDA) in Agargaon in the capital yesterday.

Speaker Dr. Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury called upon the new ambassador to reduce China's trade deficit with Bangladesh, increase regional cooperation and China's investment in Bangladesh's economic zones. She made the call when the newly appointed Chinese Ambassador to Bangladesh Yao Wen paid a courtesy call on her at her office in the Sangsad Bhaban yesterday.

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader said, the target of BNP's movement is failing for lack of people's involvement while its movement is sinking in the tide of the government's development. He said this while exchanging views with journalists on contemporary issues at the Secretariat in Dhaka yesterday.

Information and Broadcasting Minister Dr. Hasan Mahmud said, continuous progress of the country in the world democracy index has proved the criticisms of BNP and their collaborators as false and baseless. The Minister said this while exchanging views with journalists at the meeting room of his Ministry at the Secretariat yesterday.

Agriculture Minister Dr. Abdur Razzaque said, Bangladesh will resume exporting potatoes to Russia this year. The Minister told reporters after having meeting with Russian Ambassador to Bangladesh Alexander Mantytskiy at the meeting room of his Ministry at the Secretariat yesterday.

Health and Family Welfare Minister Zahid Maleque said, the education curriculum of five private medical colleges has been postponed for violating rules. The Minister said this while responding to a tabled question placed by Jatiya Party Lawmaker Moshir Rahman Ranga at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban yesterday. At present, there are 65,910 arsenic patients in the country, he said this in reply to a question of Lawmaker Mamunur Rashid in the question-answer session in Parliament.

Malaysian Home Affairs Minister Saifuddin Nasution Ismail expressed his keen interest to recruit security guards from Bangladesh. He came up with the interest when he held a meeting with Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal at the state Guest House Padma in the city yesterday.

Commerce Minister Tipu Munshi underscored the need for increasing the usage of digital method competently to boost the revenue collection. The Minister said this while addressing a seminar titled "The role of vat in national development: Present and future" on the opening day of the two-day Revenue Conference-2023, held at the Bangabandhu International Conference Center in the capital yesterday.

Foreign Minister Dr. AK Abdul Momen yesterday said, Bangladesh wants Pakistan to "seek apology publicly with a formal announcement" for the atrocities, perpetrated against unarmed Bangalees in 1971. He told reporters after having meeting with State Minister for Foreign Affairs of Pakistan Hina Rabbani Khar in Sri Lanka on Saturday.

Bangladesh is expected to get back the money borrowed by Sri Lanka from September this year as the country's economic situation is improving. Foreign Minister Dr AK Abdul Momen told reporters at the state guesthouse Padma in the capital yesterday.

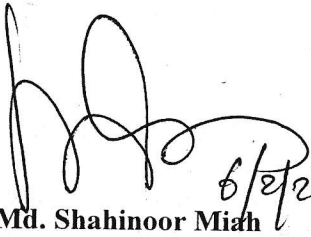
US Ambassador in Dhaka Peter Haas said, a smart Bangladesh needs greater economic connectivity to take its place as a leader on the world stage. Haas said this while addressing a panel discussion on "Online Freedom and Business Investment in Bangladesh" at EMK Centre in the capital yesterday.

State Minister for Power, Energy and Mineral Resources Nasrul Hamid said, the electricity under the

State Minister for Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Junaid Ahmed Palak informed the Chairman of Saudi Telecommunication Company (STC) Mohammed Bin Khalid Al Abdullah Al Faisal Saudi about the overall development and progress of ICT and Telecommunication sector in Bangladesh. ICT State Minister had a meeting with STC Chairman at the latter's office in Riyadh, the capital of Saudi Arabia yesterday.

The Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth rate in the country in the last fiscal year (FY22) reached a healthy 7.10 percent braving the shocks from the COVID-19 pandemic and the Russia-Ukraine conflict. Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics issued a notification in this regard yesterday,

One more dengue patient died and five people were hospitalised with dengue in 24 hours till 8am yesterday and Bangladesh has recorded 9 new cases of COVID-19 in a day.



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