



Most Urgent  
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### Newsbrief

President Mohammed Shahabuddin sought Qatar's investment in the Special Economic Zones (SEZs) in Bangladesh as he held a meeting with visiting Amir of Qatar Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani at the Bangabhaban in Dhaka yesterday. The President said, the Qatari investors can avail the comprehensive incentives and support in investing in some areas like petro-chemical, energy, machineries, IT, electronics, ceramics, agri-business and food processing in the SEZs. The Amir of Qatar lauded the socio-economic development of Bangladesh in almost all sectors under the charismatic and efficient leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. The Amir assured of providing all necessary support for Bangladesh in the days to come. The President hosted a state luncheon in honor of the Amir of Qatar at the Durbar Hall of Bangabhaban. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Speaker Dr. Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury, Chief Justice Obaidul Hasan, Ministers, advisers to Prime Minister and other dignitaries also took part in the lunch.

Bangladesh and Qatar signed five agreements and five memorandums of understanding (MoUs) to enhance mutual cooperation between the two countries. Amir of the State of Qatar Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al Thani and Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina witnessed the signing ceremony held at Prime Minister's Office in Dhaka yesterday. Earlier, on the arrival of Qatar Amir at the PMO, the Prime Minister welcomed him with the flower bouquet. They also had a Tête-à-tête (one-to-one meeting) and a bilateral meeting. At the ceremony, a road and a park in the capital city of Dhaka were named after Qatar Amir Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al Thani. The park is being built in Balur field in Kalshi area of Mirpur under Dhaka North City Corporation, while the road is from the Mirpur ECB Chattwar to Kalsi Flyover. The Amir left Dhaka yesterday wrapping up his two-day state visit to Bangladesh.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina left Dhaka for Bangkok, Thailand this morning on a six-day official visit at the invitation of her Thai counterpart Srettha Thavisin to strengthen the bilateral ties between the two countries. A flight of Biman Bangladesh Airlines, carrying the Premier and her entourage members departed Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport at 10am. The aircraft is scheduled to land at Don Mueang International Airport, Bangkok at 1.30pm (local time).

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader said, the country has witnessed unprecedented development in the last 15 years because of the stability of the government. The Minister said this at a leaflet distribution ceremony at AL's Bangabandhu Avenue central office in the capital yesterday. The Minister also said that anti-state evil forces are hatching conspiracy constantly and the conspirators are making anti-polls activities to make the people deprived of their voting rights. The Minister urged all to build united resistance against the evil forces who are hatching conspiracy against democracy, peace, development and election.

Finance Minister Abul Hassan Mahmood Ali called upon the country's esteemed partners and stakeholders to join hands with Bangladesh in leveraging digital innovation for sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific. The Minister said this while delivering the country statement at the 80th Session of UNESCAP on Monday at the United Nations Conference Centre in Bangkok on the topic titled 'Leveraging digital innovation for sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific', according to the statement received in Dhaka yesterday. The Minister hoped that the members of ESCAP would take pivotal role and take coordinated actions to harness the power of digital innovation to build a better world with a sustainable and resilient future.

Land Minister Narayan Chandra asked all the authorities concerned with the project to implement necessary measures for ensuring that the landowners within the current BDS survey areas are adequately informed about the process. The Minister said this at a project progress review meeting held at the Ministry office premises in the capital yesterday. The Minister directed the BDS survey officers to publicise news about the ongoing survey locally and nationally so that people living in and outside the survey area can know about it.

Environment, Forest and Climate Change Minister Saber Hossain Chowdhury said, Bangladesh needs US\$ 534 billion to address climate change impact by 2050 and that is why international financial support is a

must for implementing climate plans. The Minister said this while addressing a technical session of the National Adaptation Plan Expo-2024 at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre in Dhaka yesterday.

Meanwhile, Environment, Forest and Climate Change Minister Saber Hossain Chowdhury stressed the need for protecting the Ganges river dolphins aiming to save the ecosystem of the country's rivers. The Minister said this while speaking at the opening session of a three-day conference at a local hotel in Dhaka yesterday. In collaboration with the World Bank, Bangladesh Water Development Board, Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority and Bangladesh Forest Department jointly arranged the First International Conference on Management and Conservation of the Ganges River Dolphins. The Minister also said, intergovernmental collaboration is urgent to ensure the water flow and depth of the transboundary rivers.

The High Court yesterday passed an order stating that the Chairmen of the Union Parishad (UP) can participate in the UP elections without resigning from their positions. A High Court Division Bench comprising Justice Sheikh Hasan Arif and Justice Md. Bazlur Rahman passed the order. The High Court has given such an order in view of the writ brought by the Chairmen of the Union Parishad for the two upazila elections of Kushtia and Sylhet.

Elections to 55 upazilas will be held in the 4th phase on June 5 as the Election Commission (EC) announced the schedule after a meeting. EC Secretary Md. Jahangir Alam announced the schedule after a meeting at the Agargaon's Nirbachan Bhaban with Chief Election Commissioner Kazi Habibul Awal in the chair yesterday. According to the schedule, the last date for submission of nomination paper is May 9 and nomination papers will be scrutinized on May 12. Appeals can be made against the decisions of returning officers from May 13 to 15. Appeals will be settled from May 16 to 18. The last date for withdrawal of candidature is May 19 and symbols will be allotted on May 20.

Bangladesh Bank (BB) stated that account holders of two merging banks will be able to maintain their accounts as usual even after the merger is finalised. In a statement released to the media yesterday, the central bank disclosed this information. According to the BB, both individual and institutional depositors' funds will be entirely safe and protected in the banks undergoing the merger process.

The Annual Development Programme (ADP) has experienced a notable setback, with progress reaching only 42.30% in the first nine months of the current fiscal year, as the ongoing economic crisis looms large. This information was unveiled by the latest report from the Implementation Monitoring and Evaluation Department (IMED) under the Ministry of Planning yesterday.

The largest return of Bangladeshi citizens from Myanmar took place as 173 'verified Bangladeshi' en route home from Sittwe prison in Rakhine State of Myanmar, said the Bangladesh Embassy in Yangon yesterday. The ship is expected to reach the Bangladesh terrain today and the handover procedure of the Bangladeshi citizens to the relevant authorities will take place.

DSEX, the prime index of the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE), went down by 41.26 points or 0.73 percent to 5,633.61, which is a 35-month low, meaning the lowest since May 2021.

  
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