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Newsbrief

The historic Mujibnagar Day was observed yesterday in a befitting manner highlighting the oath-taking ceremony of the country's first government on April 17 in 1971. Marking the day, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina paid glowing tributes to Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman by placing wreath at his portrait at Dhanmondi 32 in Dhaka and stood in solemn silence for some time. Later, flanked by senior leaders of her party, Sheikh Hasina, also the President of Awami League, placed another wreath at the portrait of Bangabandhu as the party chief. Earlier, President Mohammed Shahabuddin and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina gave separate messages on Tuesday greeting the countrymen.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina asked all concerned Ministries to remain vigilant about the ongoing unrest in the Middle East due to Iran-Israel tension and take necessary steps to tackle any adverse effect in Bangladesh. The Premier issued the directives at the Cabinet meeting at her office in Dhaka. Cabinet Secretary Md. Mahub Hossain said this while addressing a press conference at the Bangladesh Secretariat in Dhaka yesterday. The Cabinet Secretary also said, the cabinet gave in principle and final approvals to drafts of 'The Moheshkhali Integrated Development Authority (MIDA) Act, 2024' and 'The Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioners (Remuneration and Privileges) Act, 2024'.

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader said, anti-liberation forces, including BNP, will have to be resisted to give the country's victory and independence a solid foundation. The Minister said this to the journalists after placing wreaths before the portrait of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at Dhanmondi-32 yesterday marking the historic 'Mujibnagar Day'. The Minister also said, we will take oath to continue our struggle under the leadership of Bangabandhu's daughter Sheikh Hasina to build a 'Sonar Bangla' as dreamt by Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

Finance Minister Abul Hassan Mahmood Ali said, there is nothing to worry about downgrading growth forecast for Bangladesh by IMF for the current fiscal year. The Minister said this in response to a question from a Bangladeshi journalist on the sideline of the World Bank-IMF spring meeting in Washington DC on Tuesday. The Minister also said, he is satisfied over the recovery of Bangladesh's economy as the initiatives taken by the government for economic reforms are working, added the Minister.

Foreign Minister Dr. Hasan Mahmud laid emphasis on the need for responsible and sustainable ocean management. The Minister said this while speaking at the high level panel of Foreign Ministers in the 9th Our Ocean Conference in Athens yesterday, an official release said in Dhaka yesterday. The Minister, who is also an environmentalist, pointed the need for adopting holistic approach to balance between sustainable management of ocean for environmental conservation and socio-economic development of people living in the proximity of ocean. The Minister also called upon the world community to ratify Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction Treaty and allocate fund for restoration of bio-diversity of the Oceans.

Environment, Forest and Climate Change Minister Saber Hossain Chowdhury said, UN Climate Adaptation Conference National Adaptation Plan (NAP) Expo 2024 will be held at Bangabandhu International Conference Center in Dhaka from April 22 to 25. The Minister said this at a press conference at his Ministry in Dhaka yesterday. A total of 383 people from 104 countries have registered to participate in NAP Expo 2024, 550 people including representatives of various Ministries, departments and organizations of the country, climate experts, representatives of NGOs, students will also participate, added the Minister.

State Minister for Information and Broadcasting Mohammad Ali Arafat blasted Khaleda Zia's government for its decision not to officially observe April 17 (Mujibnagar Day), a historic day memorable for formation of the country's first government on this day in 1971. A cabinet division document of 2002 revealed that BNP government decided not to observe April 17 as it found no importance of the day, the State Minister wrote in a Facebook post yesterday.

Dhaka South City Corporation Mayor Barrister Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh said, Panthakunja will be turned into an aesthetic Udyan before July. The Mayor came up with the announcement during an exchange of views with journalists after inspecting the cleaning programme of Panthpath box culvert inside Panthakunja Park yesterday.

The third phase of the 6th Upazila Parishad elections will be held in 112 upazilas on May 29. Secretary of Election Commission Secretariat Md. Zahangir Alam announced the schedule after a meeting at election commission bhavan yesterday. He said, according to the election schedule, the last date for submission of nominations is May 2 and scrutiny of the nominations is May 5, while the last date for withdrawal of candidature is May 12 and symbol distribution is on May 13 and balloting is on May 29. A total of 150 upazilas in the country will go to polls in the first phase on May 8 and 161 upazilas will go to polls on May 21.

Bangladesh and Nepal had emphasised the operationalisation of the (Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal (BBIN) Motor Vehicles Agreement (MVA) framework to contribute to the individual country's economy Bangladesh also emphasised the expeditious conclusion of a tripartite power agreement among Bangladesh-India-Nepal soon, which will help Bangladesh to import power from Nepal, according to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The issues were discussed at the third round of Foreign Office Consultations (FOC) between Bangladesh and Nepal, held in Kathmandu yesterday.

The government has asked the private sector to import 1,24,000 tonnes of rice immediately within a month aiming to further arrest the rice price in the retail market across the country, an official order issued by the Ministry of Food said yesterday. The private importers must have marketing of these amounts of rice within May 15 and must sell these amounts of rice in sacks directly in the market instead of re-packaging these goods, according to the order.

Bangladesh is preparing to introduce remote sensing and drones to detect crop damage, caused by extreme weather events or diseases. Around 20 officers of the Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE) are initially receiving training to learn how to use the state-of-the-art technologies. Malay Choudhury, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, and Edimon Ginting, ADB Country Director for Bangladesh inaugurated a workshop titled "The Use of Drone and Satellite Image for Crop Monitoring and Crop Damage Assessment" yesterday at a city hotel to initiate a 7-day training program from 17 to 25 April 2024, designed by DAE and the ADB jointly.

Another 46 members of Myanmar's Border Guard Police (BGP) entered Bangladesh through Bandarban's Naikhongchhari frontier on Wednesday. Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) public relation officer Md. Shariful Islam informed the newsmen yesterday. As many as 260 Myanmar border police entered into the district last month and they will be deported to Myanmar this April, BGB sources said.

Import-export and immigration activities through Tamabil land port in Sylhet will remain suspended on Thursday and Friday on the occasion of the 18th general election of India, Indian immigration police verbally informed Tamabil immigration police. Runu Mia, In-charge of Tamabil Immigration Police, confirmed yesterday.

DSEX, the key index of the Dhaka Stock Exchange, lost 10.80 points, or 0.18 per cent, to close at 5,763.77 points after losing 4.18 points in the previous trading session.



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