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News Brief

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina left Dhaka this morning for Kolkata on a daylong official visit to watch the second cricket Test of the two-match Test series between Bangladesh and India that begins at Eden Gardens at 1:30 pm BST. Indian Premier Narendra Modi has invited Prime Minister to attend the historic day-night Test Match in which pink ball will be used. Sheikh Hasina will go to the Eden Gardens Stadium at about 12:30pm local time where she will ring the ceremonial bell along with the Chief Minister of West Bengal Mamata Banerjee for the opening of the test match. She will attend a cultural programme to be followed by a felicitation programme arranged by the Cricket Association of Bengal at the Eden Gardens Stadium. The Prime Minister will depart Kolkata at 10pm local time and will reach in Dhaka at 11.30 BST today.

The Armed Forces Day, marking an all-out attack by army, navy and air force on the Pakistani occupation forces on this day during the Liberation War of 1971, was celebrated in the country yesterday. On the occasion, President Md. Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina paid rich tributes to the martyred members of the Armed Forces by separately placing wreaths at the altar of Shikha Anirban -eternal flame in Dhaka Cantonment in the morning. Chief of Army Staff General Aziz Ahmed, Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Aurangzeb Chowdhury and Chief of Air Staff Air Chief Marshal Masihuzzaman Serniabat also placed wreaths at the altar of Shikha Anirban.

President Md. Abdul Hamid has said, our Armed Forces have been contributing positively to the socio-economic development of the country as well as protecting the sovereignty of Bangladesh. The Head of the State said this while Chief of Army Staff General Aziz Ahmed, Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Aurangzeb Chowdhury and Chief of Air Staff Air Chief Marshal Masihuzzaman Serniabat called on him on the occasion of the Armed Forces Day at Bangabhaban in Dhaka yesterday. The President said, the Armed Forces have also played a vital role in brightening the country's image by participating in different peacekeeping programmes. He remembered with gratitude the role of the Armed Forces during the Liberation War and hoped that they will devote themselves to the need of the country anytime. The Chiefs of three services also called on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at the Armed Forces Division at the Dhaka Cantonment yesterday.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina called upon all to accomplish their respective duties sincerely to make Bangladesh a developed and prosperous country. The Premier made the call while addressing a reception accorded to the successors of Birshreshthos and other gallantry award-recipient freedom fighters of the armed forces marking the Bangladesh Armed Forces Day at Senakunja in Dhaka yesterday. The PM said, she wants to advance the country without begging anything to anyone and bowing down to anybody, rather moving forward with the head high being a victorious nation of the Liberation War. Expressing hope that the armed forces would play an effective role to continue the democratic trend with the sense of the highest responsibility, she said, there will be economic development in the country if peace and security prevail. Speaker Dr Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury, Chief Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain and other dignitaries joined the reception.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina mentioning the recent rumours over the scarcity of onion and salt in the market has urged all not to pay heed to such propaganda. The Premier made the call while addressing a reception for the close relatives of the Bir Shresthas and other gallantry award-winning freedom fighters and their family members on the occasion of the Armed Forces Day 2019 at Army Multipurpose Complex in the Dhaka Cantonment yesterday. The Premier urged the freedom fighters to share the stories of the Liberation War with the new generation and local people so that they can learn the history. Sheikh Hasina said, Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman engaged himself in developing every force — Army, Navy, Air Force, BGB, Police and Ansar and made them fit for an independent country. The PM also handed over 'Shantikalin Padak 2018-2019' -peace medals to 13 members of the armed forces.

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader has said, there would be no further complexities regarding the Road Transport Act as exaggeration will be avoided while enforcing the law. The Minister came up with the remarks while talking to reporters after a meeting of the cultural sub-committee of Bangladesh Awami League's 21st national council preparation committee in Dhaka yesterday.

Information Minister Dr Hasan Mahmud while addressing a seminar marking the World Television Day at Bengal Multimedia Studio in Dhaka yesterday said, the proposed 'Broadcast Act' will give legal protection to broadcast journalists and workers. A big revolution has taken place in Bangladesh's media sector during the Awami League regime under the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Sheik Hasina, he added. Terming television 'a medium of nation building', he urged the private television owners to make programmes containing patriotism and human values for the new generation as they are the future of the country.

State Minister for Power and Mineral Resources Nasrul Hamid while presenting the keynote paper at Power Summit-2019 in Kathmandu yesterday said power and trade are playing a significant role for coordinated geopolitical development in South Asian countries. Bangladesh is importing 1,160 MW of electricity from India per day, he added. Earlier, Bangladesh signed an MoU with Nepal in Kathmandu to increase cooperation in the power sector and speed up the process of importing hydro-electricity from Nepal through a cross-country grid via India.

Former UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon will arrive in Dhaka today. According to Foreign Ministry source, Ban Ki-moon is set to attend the 13th convocation of Brac University at Army Stadium tomorrow afternoon. Foreign Minister Dr AK Abdul Momen will hold a meeting with the former UN Chief on the same day.

Bangladesh has reaffirmed its unflinching support for Palestine and its territorial integrity as established through United Nations Security Council resolutions and the principle of 'land for peace' said by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Dhaka yesterday in a statement on recent declaration stating Israeli occupation in Palestine legal. The Security Council, the UN General Assembly, the HRC and the International Court of Justice have all confirmed that the construction and expansion of Israeli settlements and other settlement related activities in the Occupied Palestinian territories are illegal under international law, the statement reads.

World Economic Forum in a report posted on its website two days ago said, Bangladesh was currently experiencing a "rocketing economy" with its GDP growth rate by now placing the country well above the other Asian nations. The report expected the country to shed its "least developed country" status in five years since "things have moved". The WEF report described Bangladesh's graduation from LDC status as a sign the country's per capita gross national income, human assets, and resilience to economic and environmental shocks saying all these factors were "robust enough to enable sustainable development".

BUET authorities have expelled its 26 students for their alleged involvement in Abrar Fahad murder case. Of the 26 students, police have already pressed charges against 25 students in the murder case. Board of Residence and Discipline of BUET took the expulsion decision based on the report submitted by a probe committee formed to investigate the incident of Abrar Fahad murder.

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