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June 8, 2026 – Dinamani Newspaper – Tit bits

1. Bangladesh and Turkey Decide to Cooperate in Security and Political Sectors

(i) Bangladesh and Turkey have decided to strengthen cooperation in the fields of security and politics. During an official visit to Bangladesh, Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan met Bangladeshi Prime Minister Tarique Rahman. The two leaders discussed the Rohingya refugee crisis, climate change, trade and investment, joint production initiatives, and regional and international issues of mutual interest.

During the meeting, both countries agreed to enhance bilateral relations through closer cooperation in security and political affairs and decided to establish a joint ministerial-level committee for this purpose.

(ii) Prime Minister Tarique Rahman thanked Turkey for supporting Bangladesh's candidate in the election for the President of the 81st Session of the United Nations General Assembly. He also invited Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan to visit Bangladesh.

2. Norway Qualifies for FIFA World Cup After 28 Years

The national team of Norway has qualified for the FIFA World Cup after a gap of 28 years.

3. Most 2026 FIFA World Cup Stadiums Receive Green Building Certification

The 2026 FIFA World Cup will be hosted across the United States, Canada, and Mexico. Of the 16 stadiums selected for the tournament, 13 have received the renowned LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certification for environmentally sustainable buildings.

The certification was awarded based on measures such as generating electricity through solar panels and reducing water and plastic consumption.

(i) According to FIFA, several initiatives have been implemented to minimize pollution associated with the tournament. However, environmental researchers have expressed concern that carbon emissions from air travel by teams and fans will remain significant, especially given that the event will be held across three countries and involve 48 teams.

4. Kimi Antonelli Wins Monaco Grand Prix

Italian driver Kimi Antonelli of the Mercedes won the Monaco Grand Prix, the eighth race of the Formula One season.

5. Harjit Singh Tops Men's 100m at Indian Athletics Series

Indian Air Force athlete Harjit Singh secured first place in the men's 100-meter event at the Indian Athletics Series, finishing in 10.17 seconds.

6. UCI Supports Pune Grand Tour Bid

The Union Cycliste Internationale (UCI) assured India of its support in recognizing the Pune Grand Tour cycling race as the world's fourth Grand Tour event.

7. Former International Cricket Umpire V. Vikram Raju Passes Away

- (i) Former international cricket umpire V. Vikram Raju passed away in Bengaluru at the age of 92.
- (ii) He served as an umpire in the famous tied Test match between India national cricket team and Australia national cricket team in Chennai in 1986.

8. Alexander Zverev Wins French Open Men's Singles Title

Alexander Zverev won the men's singles title at the French Open. In the final, he defeated Italy's Flavio Cobolli to capture his long-awaited first Grand Slam title.

- (i) Zverev had already achieved major success in tennis, including seven Masters titles, two ATP Finals championships, and an Olympic gold medal. The Grand Slam title was the only major achievement missing from his résumé, and he has now secured it.
- (ii) He became the first German man to win the French Open in 89 years. The previous German champion was Henner Henkel in 1937.
- (iii) In the Open Era (since 1968), Zverev became only the third German player to win a Grand Slam title. The first two were Boris Becker (1996 Australian Open) and Michael Stich (1991 Wimbledon).

9. India's Rising Energy Demand Reshaping Global Markets: Rosneft CEO

The Chief Executive Officer of Rosneft, Igor Sechin, stated at the St. Petersburg International Economic Partnership event that India's rapidly growing energy demand is bringing major changes to international markets.

- (i) He noted that the Indian economy has emerged as a major contributor to the growth of global energy consumption. According to projections by the International Energy Agency, India's share of global electricity demand is expected to rise to 15% over the next decade.
- (ii) Likewise, India is expected to account for 50% of the increase in global crude oil demand over the next ten years.

In this context, the closure of the Strait of Hormuz has posed a serious challenge to India's energy security. As a result, India's energy imports have increased, causing significant shifts in global markets.

- (iii) The disruption of the Strait of Hormuz has affected not only crude oil supplies but also fertilizer shipments. Consequently, food prices have risen sharply in India, Africa, and Southeast Asia.

Given the global shortage of crude oil, Sechin argued that no country can afford to ignore Russian supplies.

- (iv) He further stated that Russia maintains strong economic relations with both India and China and has continued supplying crude oil steadily to both countries, thereby helping preserve economic stability.
- (v) Since April 2022, Russia has sold crude oil worth approximately \$40 billion (₹3.76 lakh crore) to India and China.
- (vi) He also warned that trade sanctions and arbitrary tariffs are harming the global economy, creating a need for alternative payment systems and trade routes beyond the U.S. dollar.

10. Rise in Domestic Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) prices

(i) Details of the Price Hike

- The price of a 14.2 kg domestic LPG cylinder has been increased by ₹29.
- In Chennai, the price has risen from ₹928.50 to ₹957.50, while in Delhi, it has moved from ₹913 to ₹942.
- This follows a previous increase of ₹60 in March, bringing the total hike over the last four months to ₹89.

(ii) Impact of Global Geopolitical Tensions

- The Central Government attributes the rise primarily to the West Asian war, which has disrupted global supply chains.
- Specifically, the blockade of the Strait of Hormuz, a critical transit point for crude oil and gas exports, has severely hampered fuel distribution.
- Before this crisis, 54% of India's LPG imports were routed through this strait.

(iii) Escalating International Costs

- India's LPG import costs are tied to the Saudi Contract Price (CP), which has surged by 46% due to regional instability.
- The base price for LPG imports has risen from \$543 per ton in February to \$790 per ton this month.

(iv) Financial Losses of Oil Companies

- Public sector oil companies reported a loss of approximately ₹703 per cylinder following the start of the West Asian conflict in February.
- The total cost of distributing a single cylinder is reported to exceed ₹1,600.
- Losses for oil companies in the LPG sector reached ₹60,000 crore by the end of the last financial year, up from ₹41,338 crore previously.
- To help offset these losses, the Central Cabinet has approved a one-time grant of ₹30,000 crore to the oil companies.

(v) Procurement Diversification and Domestic Growth

- To ensure an uninterrupted supply despite the Hormuz blockade, India has diversified its procurement, increasing imports from the USA, Canada, and Algeria.
- Domestic LPG production has also seen a significant boost, rising 60% from 32,000 tons to 52,000 tons.

(vi) Global Price Comparison

- The Central Government maintains that despite the hike, LPG prices in India remain lower than in many other nations.
- Prices are reported to be lower than in neighboring countries such as Pakistan, Nepal, Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka, as well as developed nations like the USA, Australia, and Canada.