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News Brief

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina accords a reception to Bangladesh U-19 women's football team who defended the SAFF title for the second time in the recently ended edition. The reception has been given today at PMO. Bangladesh defended the SAFF U-19 title beating India by a 1-0 goal in the final last December.

Foreign Minister Dr. A K Abdul Momen said, the government of Bangladesh based on development aspirations especially emphasises economic diplomacy in order to achieve the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Muzibur Rahman's dream of 'Shonar Bangla'. He made the remark yesterday while delivering his keynote address in a seminar entitled 'Economic Diplomacy' in New Delhi, arranged by Bangladesh High Commission in New Delhi in collaboration with the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII). The High Commissioners of both Bangladesh and India and President, CII also spoke at the seminar. Dr. Momen arrived at New Delhi yesterday to attend the 7th JCC meeting, co-chaired by the two Foreign Ministers of Bangladesh and India scheduled to be held on 19 June 2022. Dr. Momen is expected to interact with the concurrently accredited Ambassadors to Bangladesh with residents in New Delhi and call on important dignitaries of the Government of India during the visit. This will be the first in-person JCC meeting convened since the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic, with the previous edition held virtually in 2020. The JCC will review the entire gamut of bilateral relations, including cooperation in the wake of Covid-19, border management and security, trade and investment, connectivity, energy, water resources, development partnership and regional and multilateral issues. The meeting is likely to look at finalising the dates of a proposed official visit to India by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina this year.

Meanwhile, Foreign Minister Dr. AK Abdul Momen has greeted Heeraben Modi, mother of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi who celebrated her 100th birthday. A bouquet of flowers from the FM, now in New Delhi, was sent to her residence through the diplomatic channel yesterday. 'Happy Birthday to Smt. Heeraben Modi,' reads the message with the bouquet that contains 100 roses.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Friday made it clear that the long-cherished Padma Bridge is not part of the Chinese Belt and Road Initiative and that no foreign funds were taken to complete this multipurpose project. The Foreign Ministry came up with this in a statement issued on Friday night, hours after the Bangladesh-China Silk Road Forum and the Embassy of China in Dhaka invited media for an event titled 'The Padma Bridge: An Example of Bangladesh-China Cooperation under Belt and Road Initiative' on June 22. It has come to the attention of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs that some quarters are trying to portray that the Padma Multipurpose Bridge which is scheduled to be inaugurated on 25 June by honourable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has been constructed with the assistance of foreign funds and is part of the Belt and Road Initiative.

Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Anisul Huq yesterday said, though Bangladesh's economic condition is better, all should be frugal in the wake of global economic volatile situation triggered by the Russia-Ukraine conflict and the Covid-19 pandemic. He made the remark while addressing the annual general meeting of the Bangladesh Registration Service Association (BRSA) as the chief guest at the Bangabandhu International Conference Center in Dhaka yesterday. Any country should have reserve for three months to pay import bill to be regarded as financially well-off. Bangladesh has reserve for seven and a half months. Bangladesh has changed under the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

State Minister for Disaster Management and Relief Dr Md Enamur Rahman yesterday said, as many as 90,000 people of flood-hit Sylhet and Sunamganj district have been taken to shelter centers. Flood situation worsened severely marooning thousands of people on Friday. Civil administration began evacuation drive through rescue boats. As many as 90,000 people of flood-affected Sylhet and Sunamganj districts have been taken to shelter centers, he said. Noting that Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has directly been informed about the matter, he said the Premier immediately asked the Armed Forces Division to deploy members of Army, Navy and Coast Guard in the rescue operation. As per the PM's directives, members of Army began rescue operations with 31 speedboats in the afternoon on Friday. Navy carried out rescue operations in the night with 30 rescue swimmers in the night while Coast Guard reached there in Saturday afternoon, he mentioned. As many as 25,000 people have been taken to around 450 shelter centers in Sylhet while 65,000 people were evacuated to 200 shelter centers in Sunamganj in combined efforts. He said, all agencies are working in unison while the Premier monitored rescue operations remaining awake in the night.

The government has allocated Taka 2.25 crore cash money, 400 metric tons of rice and 41,000 packets of dry and other foods as immediate humanitarian aid to deputy commissioners of 11 districts which have been affected by flood. The Disaster Management and Relief Ministry gave the allocation to the respective deputy commissioners between June 15 and 18. Tk 80 lakh cash and 200 metric tons of rice and 7,000 packets dry food have been allocated for Sylhet district, Tk 80 lakh for 8000 packets of dry food for Sunamganj, Taka 20 lakh, 100 metric tonnes of rice and 5000 packets of dry food for Netrokona and 3,000 packets of dry food for Rangpur. Tk 5 lakh and 3000 packets of dry food have been allocated for Nilphamari, Tk 10 lakh and 1000 packets food for Kurigram, Tk 10 lakh and 2000 packets food for Habiganj, 100 metric tonnes for rice, 2000 packets of food and Tk 10 lakh for Moulvibazar, Tk 10 lakh and 4000 packets of food for Sherpur, 4000 packets food for Jamalpur district and 2,000 packets dry food for Kishoreganj districts.

Bangladesh is likely to enjoy the benefit of the waiver of Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPs) in patent rights in genetic medicine for a certain period as the World Trade Organisation (WTO) Ministerial adopted this issue in its declaration. An eligible member may apply the provisions of this Decision until 5 years from the date of this decision. The general council may extend such a period taking into consideration the exceptional circumstances of the Covid-19 pandemic, said the 12 the Ministerial Conference (MC12) of the WTO declaration. The general council will review annually the operation of this decision, the declaration document said. The WTO conference was held in Geneva, Switzerland, from 12 to 17 June 2022.

Turkish Embassy in Dhaka has celebrated the essence of Bangladeshi cuisine and music with a musical soiree and dinner at the Turkish Residence. The 'musical encounter' was part of a series of 'encounters' or engagements in different categories organised by the Embassy and initiated by Turkish Ambassador to Bangladesh Mustafa Osman Turan. The programme featured classical recitals of sarod and tabla, followed by renditions of songs of Rabindranath Tagore. The menu had a range of flavourful Bangladeshi dishes, including mutton kacchi and wrapping up with the comfort of traditional sweets.

A five-day trade fair, organised by Nepal Chamber of Commerce, was inaugurated at the Nepalese capital Kathmandu on Thursday. Nepal's Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba inaugurated the event at the national exhibition hall of Kathmandu, according to ministry of foreign affairs on Friday. Around 50 Bangladeshi traders - mostly women entrepreneurs - representing various sectors - such as garments, ceramics, handicrafts, jute and leather products are participating in the fair. Bangladesh has been designated as the country partner in this event, which is the first-ever international fair being organized in Nepal after the Covid pandemic. Bangladesh's participation is coordinated by the Export Promotion Bureau and Bangladesh Embassy in Nepal in association with the SME Foundation of Bangladesh.

Dhaka's air quality has turned 'moderate', all thanks to monsoon showers in different parts of the country. With an air quality index score of 56 at 9:08am on Saturday, the metropolis ranked 41st in the list of world cities with the worst air quality. An AQI between 50 and 100 is considered 'moderate' with an acceptable air quality however, there may be a moderate health concern for a very small number of people who are unusually sensitive to air pollution. Saudi Arabia's Riyadh, Indonesia's Jakarta and Kuwait's Kuwait City occupied the first three spots in the list, with AQI scores of 303, 170 and 168, respectively.

The Election Commission (EC) will start its three-phase meeting with the 39 registered political parties for verification of the technical issues of the electronic voting machines (EVMs) and exhibition of the machines from today.

A total of 304 people tested positive with Covid-19 in the past 24 hours until yesterday. With these, the total positive cases in the country rose to 19,55,731, according to the daily health bulletin issued by the Directorate General of Health (DGHS) Services. The DGHS recorded the positivity rate at 5.94 per cent during the period, showing an upward trend in the recent days.

A 10-member Bangladesh archery team, including seven archers, is scheduled to leave the country for France today to take part in the 2022 Hyundai Archery World Cup Stage-III to be held in Paris from June 21 to 26.

The key index of the Dhaka Stock Exchange, DSEX, lost 0.84 per cent, or 54.56 points, over the past week, to close at 6,425.74 points on June 9, the last trading session of the week after gaining 242.32 points in the previous two weeks.



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