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News Brief

President Md. Abdul Hamid called on all concerned to involve more youths in scouting alongside academic achievement in order to develop them into good citizens. He came up with the instructions while inaugurating the 50th Annual General Meeting (Golden Jubilee) of the National Council of Bangladesh Scouts and the awards-giving ceremony at the Bangabandhu International Conference Centre in the capital yesterday. He directed the authorities concerned to continue their efforts to increase the number of scouts as well as ensure their quality through effective training. The head of the state virtually joined the function from the Gallery Hall of the Bangabhaban. He said, scouting was an international voluntary, non-political, educational movement and in addition to conventional education, scouting was a complementary education system. The main objective of scouting is to develop children, adolescents, and youths into ideal citizens through education, through continuous and planned programs, the president stated.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said, the government is developing communication systems across the country as developed communication expedites industrialisation as well as boosts trade and business. The Premier said this at a financial donation-providing ceremony at the PMO, joining virtually from her official residence Ganabhaban. In the function, 45 financial institutions donated some Tk 3.05 billion to the Prime Minister's Relief and Welfare Fund for the flood-hit people. Talking about the recently opened Padma Multipurpose Bridge, she hoped the bridge would change the fate of the people of 21 districts. The PM said, the bridge has created a huge scope for the marketing of local agricultural goods of the southern region and the purchasing power of the people of the region will get enhanced.

Foreign Minister Dr. AK Abdul Momen proposed Britain, as a global leader in justice and human rights, for resettling 0.1 million Myanmar Rohingyas currently sheltered in Bangladesh to lessen the unfair Rohingya burden on Dhaka. He made the proposal while holding a bilateral meeting with his British counterpart Elizabeth Truss in Kigali on the sidelines of the Commonwealth Summit on 24-25 June. Mr. Momen also called upon the UK government to exert pressure on Myanmar for the immediate repatriation of their Rohingya citizens from Bangladesh which simply cannot continue to take the burden of 1.1 million forcibly displaced Myanmar nationals any longer. He briefed Truss about the status of the protracted Rohingya crisis and stalemate in the process of their safe and sustainable return to Myanmar in the absence of political commitment of the Myanmar government. Myanmar took them back as they were under sanctions at that time by the West, which is not the present case, while UK and other western countries continue to invest heavily in Myanmar, despite living proof of their persecution of Rohingyas and adjudication of their justice at the ICJ, he said.

Bangladesh and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) are keen to strengthen economic cooperation through an increased presence in the fields of trade, investment and direct shipping connectivity between Chattogram and Jeddah. Saudi Ambassador in Bangladesh Essa Youssef Essa Al Duhailan met State Minister for Foreign Affairs Md. Shahriar Alam yesterday and discussed ways to further broaden the relations. The ambassador congratulated the government of Bangladesh under the leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for successful completion of the Padma Multipurpose Bridge. The state minister thanked the ambassador and government of Saudi Arabia for necessary arrangements including pre-immigration facilities for pilgrims at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport. The ambassador briefed the state minister on further willingness of more Saudi investment in Bangladesh. The state minister expressed his satisfaction over the excellent relationship that exists between Bangladesh and Saudi Arabia in bilateral and multilateral sectors. He thanked the ambassador for his efforts in promoting the relations between Bangladesh and Saudi Arabia. They also discussed cooperation in the areas of culture, education and tourism.

As many as 51,316 vehicles from both Mawa and Jajira points crossed the Padma Bridge and paid Tk 2,09,40,300 as toll on the first day. According to the first day toll collection, the bridge authority collected Taka 2, 09, 40, 300 as toll on the first day on Padma Bridge till 6am yesterday after opening the bridge to traffic on June 26.

State Minister for Disaster Management and Relief Dr Enamur Rahman yesterday said, the government has managed country's flood situation efficiently under the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. He made this statement under section 300 of the rules of procedure at the Jatiya Sangsad with Dr Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury in the chair. Regarding the intensity of the flood, Dr Rahman said, Sylhet and Sunamganj never witnessed such types of floods in last 122 years and later Moulvibazar and Netrokona also were submerged with flood water. But the rest of the districts like Kurigram, Jamalpur, Sherpur, Hobiganj, Nilphamari, Rangpur and Gaibandha were affected by medium level of flood. No one died of starvation in the flood affected districts due to quick and time befitting initiatives were taken by the Prime Minister, he told the Parliament. Army were deployed with 64 speed boats, Navy and Coast Guard with four speed boats and Airforce carried out rescue operation with four helicopters at the flood affected areas, said Dr Rahman.

Deputy Minister for Education Barrister Mohibul Hasan Chowdhury Nowfel yesterday emphasized on ensuring proper accountability of officials and employees working at different levels of the government. He said this while addressing the signing ceremony of the Annual Performance Agreement for the financial year 2022-2023 between the Technical and Madrasah Education Division and its affiliated offices at the conference hall of the International Mother Language Institute in the capital. A large-scale infrastructure and installation will be meaningless if the officers and employees do not have proper management skills, professionalism and the ability to meet people's demand in public service, he said. Even if service providers become unable to provide the desired service in time, they should politely inform the people about the reason for not being able to do so, he added. Mr. Mohibul asked the authorities concerned to take necessary measures to ensure that the citizens can take all kinds of services following the due procedures.

A Pabna court yesterday sent Jakaria Pintu to jail, convicted and sentenced to jail in a case lodged over attempt to murder the then leader of the opposition in Parliament, Awami League president and incumbent Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, by launching attack on a train carrying her in Pabna in 1994. Pabna Special Tribunal-2 sent Pintu, 50, to jail as police produced him before the court. Rapid Action Battalion (RAB) arrested Pintu from Teknaf on June 25 and handed him over to Ishwardi Police the next day.

The United States has donated another four million ready-to-use doses of Pfizer Covid-19 vaccines to Bangladesh. This brings the total of US-donated vaccines to over 68 million doses delivered to date. The doses will help the Bangladesh government expand vaccination and booster campaigns across the country to continue protecting people from Covid-19, said the US Embassy in Dhaka yesterday.

The much-awaited Dhaka-Toronto flight of Biman Bangladesh Airlines began from yesterday. Travelers from any part of the world will be able to buy tickets on Biman's website. Travel agents from any country, except Toronto, Canada, will also be able to book tickets from today. The Biman MD said that after completing some necessary formalities, travel agents of Canada will also be able to sell and book tickets using Biman's website within five-six days.

Bangladesh U-17 football team will participate in the SAFF U-17 championship which will be held in Sri Lanka from September 5-15. The decision has been taken at a Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) development committee's meeting held yesterday.

The sitting of the parliament session has been adjourned till 5pm yesterday. Jatiya Sangsad Panel Chairman Shamsul Huq Tuku of Pabna-1 made the announcement yesterday.

DSEX, the key index of the Dhaka Stock Exchange, gained 0.3 per cent, or 19.24 points, to close at 6,320.33 points yesterday after losing 26.56 points in the previous session.


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