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News Brief

The 73rd founding anniversary of ruling Awami League, which led the country's independence through the 1971 Great Liberation War, will be celebrated today. Established in 1949 as Awami Muslim League at Rose Garden in capital's old part on the day and later the party was appeared as Bangladesh Awami League (AL) to give it a secular look. The AL has taken elaborate programmes, marking its founding anniversary with maintaining the health rules due to pandemic COVID-19 outbreak. AL President and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina virtually joins the meeting from the Ganabhaban there. As part of the days' programmes, a delegation of the AL Central Executive Committee will also pay homage at the grave of Bangabandhu, the greatest Bangalee of thousand years, by placing wreaths there at Tungipara today.

Information and Broadcasting Minister Dr Hasan Mahmud said, construction of the Padma Bridge has been possible only for Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. He stated this while addressing a seminar on 'The role of the Padma Bridge in Socio-Economic Development of Bangladesh' organized by Publicity and Publication Sub-Committee of Awami League at Engineers Institution in the capital yesterday. Bangabandhu's worthy daughter, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has proved that proper and bold political leadership can make impossible into possible. The Padma Bridge is not only a bridge, it is an ability of the Awami League government, above all Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina showing thumb to world conspirators, he said.

Agricultural Minister Dr M Abdur Razzaque yesterday said, in order to maintain agriculture production in natural calamities, it is necessary for acquiring the ability to adaptation as Bangladesh is a disaster-prone country. He said this while speaking as the chief guest at a Sub-Regional Workshop on 'South Asia nitrogen framework policy' at Hotel Sonargaon in Dhaka organised by South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP). Razzaque said, agriculture is the main livelihood in South Asian countries where nitrogen management system is very challenging in crop production and prevention of environmental pollution.

The government will procure three types of Firstline Anti-TB Drugs (FLDs) from local manufacturer ACI HealthCare Limited for treating the patients of Tuberculosis (TB). The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) in its 15th meeting in this year approved a proposal in principle in this regard. Finance Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal presided over the meeting virtually. The Directorate General of Health Services under the Health Services Division would procure these three types of FLDs from the local manufacturer under the 'TBL and ASP' operational plan to ensure uninterrupted treatment of TB free of cost all over the country except in Cox's Bazar.

Environment, Forest and Climate Change Minister Md Shahab Uddin yesterday said, the government is doing everything necessary for the flood-affected people. He said this while inspecting various flood-hit places in Juri upazila of Moulvibazar. He said as long as there is flood, everything necessary including food will be provided, this government is and will remain beside the helpless people in any disaster including floods, he added. Noting that the floods in Moulvibazar may continue for a few more days, the Minister said, in case of more floods, the power supply is cut off due to submergence of power stations, so necessary equipment including matches, flashlights and candles have to be kept ready. He distributed relief materials among the helpless people. Earlier, he also distributed VGF rice among the flood victims at Baralekha Municipality auditorium.

Railways Minister Md Nurul Islam Sujan yesterday said, Bangladesh Railway (BR) will start sale of advance tickets ahead of the holy Eid-ul-Adha from July 1 to make Eid holidaymakers' journey smooth. He made the announcement at a press conference held at the conference room of Rail Bhaban in Dhaka yesterday. The advance train tickets will be sold considering July 10 as the possible Eid day, he said, adding that advance tickets are usually sold five days before the Eid journey. According to this decision, train tickets for July 5 will be sold on July 1 while tickets of July 6 will be sold on July 2, July 7 will be on July 3, July 8 will be on July 4 and July 9 will be on July 5. Besides, return tickets for July 11 will be sold on July 7 while July 12 will be sold on July 8 and July 13 will be sold on July 9. The return tickets for July 14 and 15 will be sold on July 11. He further said, train tickets for Eid will be available at 6 stations in Dhaka and Joydebpur Railway Station in Gazipur. Tickets for the entire northern intercity train will be available at Kamalapur Railway Station, the central railway station in Dhaka, he added.

The sitting of the parliament session has been adjourned till 5pm today. Jatiya Sangsad Panel Chairman ABTajul Islam made the announcement yesterday.

The government has decided to allow shopping malls and stores across the country to keep their business open till 10pm from July 1 to 10 on the occasion of the upcoming Eid-ul-Azha, said a notification of Ministry of Labour and Employment issued yesterday. Shop owners have been closing shopping malls and stores across the country after 8pm since June 20 as per the government order.

The government yesterday approved a proposal for appointing Korea Expressway Corporation (KEC) as service provider of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Highway for the next five years. The approval came from the 20th meeting of the CCGP in this year held yesterday virtually with Finance Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal in the chair. The meeting approved a total of 15 proposals including 11 cost variation proposals. He said under the Direct Procurement Method (DPM), the KEC would act as the service provider for realization of tolls, Intelligent Transport System (ITS), operations and maintenance of the expressway for the next five years with around Taka 717.05 crore.

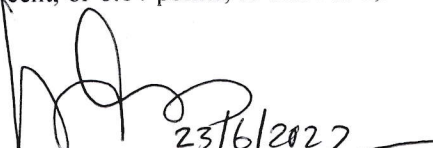
Flood situation has improved slightly in northeastern and northern parts of Bangladesh while other low-lying areas of the country are likely to be inundated. Despite flood situation is likely to improve in the Sylhet, Habiganj, Moulvibazar, Sunamganj and Netrokona districts and northern districts, it will take time for receding flood water meaning flood in northeastern, northern parts of Bangladesh might linger, a Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre said this to the media yesterday.

The United Kingdom (UK) has released additional emergency funding of £442,548 (over Taka five crore) to the support communities affected by the ongoing floods in Sylhet division. This emergency funding brings the UK's contribution to the flood relief effort in recent weeks to £636,548 (over Taka seven crore), said the release quoting acting British High Commissioner to Bangladesh Javed Patel yesterday. The UK's funding has been allocated through Start Fund Bangladesh and will be administered through Caritas Bangladesh, Christian Aid, Voluntary Association for Rural Development and World Vision Bangladesh, the release added.

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) yesterday approved a US\$41.4 million grant to help improve infrastructure and manage the basic needs of displaced persons from Myanmar sheltered in Cox's Bazar district. The grant forms the second phase of the ADB's ongoing Emergency Assistance Project, a US\$100 million grant approved in 2018, said ADB Country Director for Bangladesh Edimon Ginting. Disaster shelter centers, health facilities, improved water supply and sanitation and better waste management, which will be provided with ADB assistance, will reduce disaster risks and serve basic human needs of the camp population until their repatriation, he added. The grant, approved day, will build 200 water and sanitation facilities and three solid waste management facilities, and establish a piped water supply system at Ukhiya. It will, among others, upgrade four healthcare facilities for severe acute respiratory infection, expand six primary healthcare and diagnostic centers in Teknaf, improve skills of healthcare workers in Cox's Bazar district and construct a multipurpose disaster-resilient isolation center to help with the Covid-19 response.

Bangladesh yesterday reported one COVID-19 death while it posted 13.30 percent positivity rate of coronavirus, the highest rate over past four months. Bangladesh reported 1135 Covid-19 positive cases as 8,536 samples were tested in the last 24 hours in the country logged more than five percent positivity rate of the deadly virus for seventh straight days after nearly three and a half months, Directorate General of Health Services sources said.

DSEX, the key index of the Dhaka Stock Exchange, rose by 0.09 per cent, or 6.14 points, to close at 6,317.8 points yesterday after losing 114 points in the previous three sessions.


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