



PRESS INFORMATION DEPARTMENT
GOVERNMENT OF BANGLADESH
DHAKA



Most Urgent
For: Bangladoot, All Missions
MSG: 342/2021-22
Date: Sunday, 26 June 2022

From: PIO, PID, Dhaka
Fax: 9540553/9540026
E-mail: piddhaka@gmail.com
Web: www.pressinform.gov.bd

News Brief

Prime minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday called the Padma Bridge as a symbol of pride, dignity, honour and ability of Bangladesh as the much-hyped bridge now stands on the mighty Padma River confronting all the conspiracies. The PM said this in a gathering of dignitaries marking the grand opening of the Padma Bridge. The bridge belongs to the people of Bangladesh and it involves our passion, creativity, courage, endurance and perseverance of all, she said. On this historic day of the inauguration of the Padma Bridge, she said, let us take fresh vow to work for the welfare of the country and the people of the country. The PM hoped that the people who opposed the construction of Padma Bridge would be more responsible.

Prime Minister's ICT Affairs Adviser Sajeeb Wazed Joy said, Padma Bridge is a symbol of pride and dignity of Bangladesh. All the people of this country equally share this glory, he said Friday night sharing a video from his verified Facebook account. He said, the future of Bangladesh hinges much on this bridge. This bridge has connected around one-third of Bangladesh's land area, entangled with rivers, to the capital, he said. Consequently, he said, it will catalyze the local and international trades of Bangladesh. In addition to transforming the economic footing of around 50 million people of the South-west part of the country, Mr. Joy said, it will also ensure a rise in the national income, meaning GDP, by at least 1.5%, a paradigm shift for the entire Bangladesh.

Bangladesh missions abroad have celebrated the grand inauguration of the long-cherished Padma Multipurpose Bridge through different programmes with much enthusiasm. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina opened the much-anticipated 6.15- kilometer Padma Bridge yesterday. The Embassy of Bangladesh in Washington DC, the Embassy of Bangladesh in Hanoi, Vietnam, the Deputy High Commission of Bangladesh, Mumbai, India, Bangladesh High Commission in Islamabad, Pakistan, Bangladesh Embassy in Rome, Italy, Bangladesh Embassy in Tokyo, Japan and Bangladesh Consulate General in New-York organised various programmes, according to messages received in Dhaka yesterday. The programmes included reading out the messages of the President Md. Abdul Hamid and the Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, offering special prayers seeking eternal peace of the departed soul of Father of Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and for the prosperity and welfare of the country, cutting cakes, screening videos on Padma Bridge and holding discussions.

Bangladesh air force (BAF) fighter jets and helicopters yesterday staged a spectacular show turning the skyline above the Padma Bridge into a virtual rainbow to mark its grand opening. Soon after Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina opened the country's longest multipurpose bridge, 28 aircraft of BAF comprising MiG-29 and F-7 fighter jets, C-130 and L-410 transport planes and Grob-120 TP training aircraft and five helicopters demonstrated a fly past in different formations by trailing colorful smokes. The five helicopters of MI-17 carried the National Flag and banners imprinted with portraits of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and picture of just opened Padma Bridge and 'Joy Bangla' slogan. Besides, a Bell-212 helicopter dropped leaflets for guests who joined the inaugural ceremony of the bridge. An aerobatic show by seven K-W and a MIG-29 marked the conclusion of the air show in line with the celebration mood of the event. The Premier was seen showing her companions the artistic BAF display while her daughter Saima Wazed Putul was capturing different photographs with a camera in a cheerful mood. The Premier unveiled a plaque at Mawa end in Munsiganj and entered the mega structure by paying toll herself at 11.47am, which has emerged in the globe as a signature of her extra courageous leadership.

Nepalese Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba has greeted his Bangladesh counterpart Sheikh Hasina on the inauguration of the country's largest infrastructure Padma Bridge. It gives me immense pleasure to extend my heartfelt felicitations to you and the Government and the People of People's Republic of Bangladesh on the completion of the Padma Bridge project, he said in a message sent to Bangladesh Prime Minister. He said, the Padma Multipurpose Bridge will unleash new opportunities for the socioeconomic development of Bangladesh and enhance connectivity in the region. He also conveyed his best wishes for Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's good health and happiness and continued peace, progress, and prosperity of the friendly people of Bangladesh.

World Bank vice-president Junaid Kamal Ahmed has called construction of the Padma Bridge with domestic financing a 'matter of glory' for Bangladesh, over a decade after the lending agency cancelled its promised funding for the project, smelling corruption, which eventually appeared unfounded. The construction of Padma Bridge is a matter of glory for the country (Bangladesh), Bangladesh embassy in Washington DC quoted him as he joined a discussion at the chancery at the US capital coinciding with the grand opening of the structure. He said, Bangladesh's connectivity witnessed a huge progress in the past few years and 'the Padma Bridge has further improved the sector'. The Bridge would make significant contribution to Bangladesh's attainment of a middle income country status as well as graduation to a higher income country soon. The World Bank was supposed to extend an amount of loan worth US\$1.2 billion under a deal with Bangladesh government. But the lending agency abruptly declined to go ahead with the promised support saying the World Bank had found what it called at that time 'credible evidence' of planned corruption involving its construction works.

Fisheries and Livestock Minister SM Rezaul Karim said, there will be no shortage of sacrificial animals this Eid-ul-Azha. He said this to the media over phone yesterday over 12.1 million (1.21 crore) sacrificial animals are ready across the country for qurbani (sacrifice) during Eid-ul-Azha. In fact, he said, the government has taken all-out preparations to celebrate Eid. No sick animals will be allowed to be sold in cattle markets across the country and govt. will ensure that no buyer and seller face any harassment, he said. Besides, additional law enforcers will be deployed to ensure law and order at cattle markets across the country, he added. No vehicles carrying cattle will be intercepted on highways and roads and the law enforcement agencies, including municipalities, upazilas, union parishads and city corporations will ensure the same, he said. Coordinated steps will be taken after discussing with the Bangladesh Bank authorities to help the farmers make their financial dealings in smart ways, he added. Last year cattle were sold through different platforms. This year the platforms will remain active too, said the minister. This year the government will introduce a money refund system.


US President Joe Biden has been invited to visit Bangladesh. Bangladesh's Ambassador to the United States, M Shahidul Islam, met with the US president at the White House and conveyed Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's invitation to him on June 24. Biden, during the meeting, said Bangladesh is 'an important country'. 'Honoured to have an audience with US President in the Oval Office, White House,' said the Bangladesh ambassador. Bangladesh and the United States had a series of bilateral meetings this year as both sides want to strengthen the ties addressing challenges.

To prevent the spread of diarrhoea and cholera diseases across the country, the government will launch the campaign for administering oral vaccines from today. Administering of first dose of cholera vaccine will continue till July 2. Except pregnant women, the oral vaccine will be administered to all people aged one year and above. Under the National cholera control programme, the vaccination campaign will be carried out in the capital's Jatrabari, Sobujbag, Mirpur, Mohammadpur and Dakkhinkhan areas, the Communicable Disease Control (CDC) unit of Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) sources said. The World Health Organization (WHO) is funding the vaccination campaign while International Centre for Diarrheal Disease Research Bangladesh (icddr,b) is implementing the drive. Health Minister Zahid Maleque is expected to inaugurate the campaign at ICDDRDB today.

The government has allocated rice, cash and dry food as humanitarian assistance for the flood and other disaster-affected people in Brahmanbaria, Cumilla and Kishoreganj districts. The allocation was made by the Disaster Management and Relief Ministry on Friday. From the allotment, Brahmanbaria will get 2,000 packets of dry and other food products, Cumilla will get 200 tonnes of rice, Taka 17 lakh, 1,700 dry and other food packets while Kishoreganj will get 100 tonnes of rice, Taka 10 lakh and 2,000 packets of dry and other food products. Earlier, 4,020 tonnes of rice, Taka 5.36 crore and 95,000 food packets were allocated for the 11 flood-hit districts across the country. The allocated relief (cash) money will be distributed only as humanitarian assistance to the victims of various natural calamities including floods during emergencies.

Bangladesh yesterday reported 15.07 percent COVID-19 positivity rate, the highest after 133 days, while it posted three coronavirus deaths in past 24 hours. The country reported 1,280 Covid-19 positive cases as 8,492 samples were tested in the last 24 hours, according to a statement issued by Directorate General of Health Services.

The key index of the Dhaka Stock Exchange, DSEX, shed 1.53 per cent, or 98.08 points, over the past week, to close at 6,327.65 points on June 23, the last trading session of the week after losing 54.56 points in the previous week.



26.06.2022

Md. Shahinoor Miah
Principal Information Officer (Acting)
Phone- 55100811