



PRESS INFORMATION DEPARTMENT
GOVERNMENT OF BANGLADESH
DHAKA



Most Urgent
For: Bangladdoot, All Missions
MSG: 334/2021-22
Date: Saturday, 18 June 2022

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News Brief

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina sent 1,000 kilograms of "Amropali" mangoes as a gift for President of India Ram Nath Kovind and her Indian counterpart Narendra Modi yesterday. The mangoes were sent to the two dignitaries through "diplomatic Channel".

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina extended her greetings to Bangladesh Financial Intelligence Unit (BFIU) on 20 years of its founding, to be observed today. The Premier wished continued prosperity of BFIU. The Awami League government has announced a 'Zero Tolerance' policy to prevent corruption, terrorism and financing of terrorist activities as the constitution of Father of Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman directed the people of the country to keep away from consuming unearned income, she added. In the light of international standards, Bangladesh's money laundering and prevention system of terrorist financing have been streamlined and the financial sector's intelligence agency has been established providing necessary freedom to carry out its activities, she further added.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader and Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Anisul Huq expressed profound shock and sorrow at the death of Chattogram South District AL vice-president Advocate AKM Sirajul Islam Chowdhury. He breathed his last while undergoing treatment at a local hospital in Chattogram last night at the age of 75.

Information and Broadcasting Minister Dr. Hasan Mahmud called upon the people to remain alert against BNP-Jamaat clique and anti-state evil forces' conspiracies to thwart the Padma Bridge opening. The Minister said this while replying to journalists at Gaibandha Circuit House before joining Saghata Upazila AL council in the district. About Padma Bridge, he said, it is not only a bridge rather it is symbol of capacity and dignity of Bangladesh as well as Bangabandhu's daughter Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. Though people all over the country become happy because of the bridge completion, Jamaat-BNP and some midnight television talk-show experts could not be happy, he added. Asked about Cumilla city polls, the Minister said, the election was held in a very festive mood with the spontaneous participation of candidates and voters while defeated candidates also said it and no disorder took place during polls. About proposed budget, he said the budget size has increased seven to eight times in the last 13 and half years, poverty declined to 20 percent from 41percent and extreme poverty declined to 10 percent.

Foreign Minister Dr. AK Abdul Momen urged all to get involved to help the flood-affected people in Sylhet region and join hands with the government to rescue those stranded by flood waters. The Minister said the administration is mobilizing an adequate number of speedboats and boats to rescue the marooned people in flood-affected regions and take them to nearby shelters. The Minister in a video message from his verified Facebook page yesterday pledged to take government assistance to all flood affected people in Sylhet region.

Posts and Telecommunications Minister Mustafa Jabbar said, the days ahead would be the digital age. The Minister said this while speaking as the chief guest at the convocation ceremony of Canadian International School, Bangladesh at a city hotel. Software developed by boys and girls in Bangladesh is being used successfully in almost all areas including banks and financial institutions, he added. We are exporting software to 80 countries around the world, he further added. He said, students are now passing the age of internet civilization and added that Bangladesh was declared as the first digital country in the world.

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18/06/2022

State Minister for Power, Energy and Mineral Resources Nasrul Hamid said, the government was considering a hike in petroleum prices from next month. The State Minister said, the state-owned Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation has been incurring a loss of Tk 90 crore per day. Adjustment may come in the price of diesel and octane. About the BPC's huge profit of about Tk 50,000 crore in last 7 years, the State Minister claimed that that profit has already been adjusted with the loss.

The Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief allocated Tk 80 lakh in cash and 26,000 packets of dry food for flood affected people in various regions of the country. Each packet contains food items including rice, pulses, oil, salt and sugar, which is expected to last a week for a family of five. Of the allocations, Sylhet district has been allotted Tk 30 lakh in cash, 200 tonnes of rice, and 8,000 packets of dry and other food items. Sunamganj district will be provided Tk 30 lakh in cash and 8,000 packets of dry and other food items.

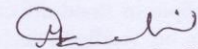
The government postponed this year's Secondary School Certificate and equivalent examinations due to the worsening flood situation in the country. The changed schedule of the examination will be announced later.

Flight operations, including take-off and landing, have been suspended at Sylhet Osmani International Airport as the flood water has reached near the runway. All flights have been suspended at the airport until 12 midnights on June 20.

The government directed the authorities concerned to take necessary steps to close shopping malls and kitchen markets by 8 pm to save electricity and energy in the current climate of continuous rise in global energy price hikes.

The health authorities confirmed 29 more dengue cases in the 24 hours until last morning. All the new patients were admitted to different hospitals in Dhaka, according to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS). A total of 104 dengue patients, including 101 in the capital, are now receiving treatment at hospitals across the country.

Bangladesh yesterday reported zero death from COVID-19. With 433 fresh cases, the number of infections surged to 19,55,427. The positivity rate stood at 6.27 per cent, testing 6,905 samples during the time. At the same time, the recovery count rose to 19,05,711. DGHS disclosed this information in a press release yesterday.


18/06/2022

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