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News Brief

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina sought the support of Japan and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) to fulfill the vision of Bangladesh to turn into a developed nation by 2041. The Premier said this in her video message aired in the celebration programme of the 50 Years of Cooperation between Bangladesh and JICA. She said, Bangladesh is marching forward to fulfill the Father of the Nation's dream of turning Bangladesh into a developed nation. Recalling the visit of the then Prime Minister of Japan Shinzo Abe to Bangladesh in 2014, she said, both the countries affirmed commitment to strengthen bilateral cooperation. She also recalled that Bangladesh remained deeply grateful for the invaluable support and contribution of Japan and its people during the War of Liberation. On the occasion of the golden jubilee of the cooperation, the PM conveyed her warmest greetings to the Emperor, the Empress, the Prime Minister and the friendly people of Japan.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday reiterated that her government is working to ensure people's overall development, saying southern region of the country wouldn't remain neglected anymore as the much-awaited Padma Bridge is set to open on June 25. The Premier made the remarks while virtually inaugurating the Palli Janopad, Rangpur and the Bangabandhu Poverty Alleviation and Rural Development Academy (BAPARD), Kotalipara, Gopalganj schemes. She requested all not to engage in any unhealthy car race competition on the Padma Bridge upon its inauguration. PM said, she wanted to make a grand celebration in every district of the country instead of on the bank of the Padma River marking the opening of the Padma Bridge.

The character of BNP is to make the election of the country questionable, Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader said this in a statement given to the media yesterday. Referring to BNP's ill-motives regarding the Cumilla City Corporation (CuCC) election, the Minister said, whenever any BNP leader takes part in the polls, the drama of expelling them is staged. Noting that BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir and other BNP leaders have made fictitious remarks about Cumilla City Corporation election, he said that the remarks of the BNP leaders made the people frustrated as they are observing that BNP does not believe in democracy and hence, it is reluctant to take part in elections too. BNP leaders want to destroy the fair electoral system of Bangladesh, he added.

The government is making its all-out strides to make the country self-reliant in food and nutrition, Agriculture Minister Dr. Muhammad Abdur Razzaque told this in an inaugural ceremony of a three-day National Fruits Fair-2022 on the premises of Krishibid Institution Bangladesh (KIB) at Khamarbari in the capital. The Minister hoped the government would be able to make a revolution in fruit production as like as it did in rice production. Noting that indigenous food will never be extinct, he said, germplasm of native fruits is being conserved. The fruit fair will continue till June 18 from 9am to 9pm every day with the theme "Yearlong fruit cultivation brings both money and nutrition". It will remain open for all. Some 67 government and private institutions are taking part in the fair. Earlier, the Minister laid foundation stone of "Mrityika Bhaban" of Soil Resource Development Institute on Khamarbari road.

Information and Broadcasting Minister Dr. Hasan Mahmud yesterday thanked the Election Commission and said, the commission has conducted a fantastic, fair and peaceful election despite keeping excessive surveillance on the Awami League candidates and supporters in the Cumilla City Corporation (CuCC) polls. The Minister said this while talking to reporters after unwrapping the cover of 'BSRF Barta', an annual publication of Bangladesh Secretariat Reporters Forum (BSRF), in the meeting room of his Ministry at the Secretariat. He said, all the candidates of the polls have claimed that the election was participatory and it held in a transparent manner and in an enthusiastic environment.

Foreign Minister Dr. AK Abdul Momen said, Bangladesh believe in 'reasoning by first principle' and believe in partnerships for mutual economic benefits. The Minister said this while speaking at the inaugural ceremony of a seminar titled "Changing Global Order: Securing Bangladesh's National Interest" Organized by Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies (BIISS) at its auditorium in the capital. He said, Bangladesh believes in inclusive and sustainable development and it continuously studies the international events and actors. Dhaka is ready to engage with everyone who wishes no harm and who would not wish to use Bangladesh's resources for launching offensive agenda of their own, he added. The strategic location, the rich demographic dividend and a strong domestic market, makes Bangladesh an important player on the chessboard, he further added.

M. Ali
17/06/2022

Health Minister Zahid Maleque urged everyone to take the booster dose of vaccine against Covid-19 as the number of cases is increasing in the country as well as in neighboring countries. The Minister made the remark after a meeting with Bangladesh Pharmaceutical Industries Association at the Secretariat yesterday. In the proposed budget, the prices of some raw materials used in the manufacture of medicines have gone up. This will also affect the price of medicines, he added. The government is working to keep drug prices affordable in coordination with the manufacturing companies, he further added.

Barisal will be developed as silicon city which will make a significant contribution in building a smart Bangladesh, State Minister for Information and Communication Technology Zunaid Ahmed Palak made the remarks while exchanging views with the newsperson after laying the foundation stone of the Hi-Tech Park at Kashipur Mouza in Barisal yesterday. Hoping that the high-tech park will turn Barisal region into a technology- rich city, the State Minister said, the young generation of Barisal will be able to create employment opportunities for others and prepare themselves for employment by developing their talents properly. Later, he planted saplings of various medicinal and fruit trees in the yard of the park.

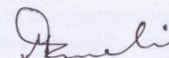
State Minister for public administration Farhad Hossain said, a total of 3,92,117 posts have remained vacant in different ministries, directorates and divisions. The State Minister came up with this disclosure in parliament yesterday in replying to a question of ruling party's lawmaker Benjir Ahmed with speaker Shirin Sharmin Choudhury in the chair.

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the government of Bangladesh signed agreements for a \$143 million policy-based loan to improve the volume, efficiency, predictability and security of cross-border trade in Bangladesh.

Fatima Yasmin, a senior bureaucrat, has been appointed the country's first woman finance secretary. Fatima Yasmin was promoted to the position of senior secretary yesterday. This promotion will be effective from today, according to a gazette notification of the Ministry of Public Administration.

Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) and Chittagong Stock Exchange (CSE) yesterday witnessed an upward trend like earlier as investors continued their buying spree on large-cap issues amid optimism. DSEX went up by 51.22 points or 0.80 per cent to settle at 6,425.74. The DSE 30 Index, comprising blue chips, and the DSE Shariah Index (DSES) also gained 26.03 points to finish at 2,327.95 and 13.66 points closing at 1,403.26.

Bangladesh yesterday reported zero death from COVID-19. With 357 fresh cases, the number of infections surged to 19,54,994. The positivity rate stood at 5.76 per cent, testing 6,200 samples during the time. At the same time, the recovery count rose to 19,05,618. DGHS disclosed this information in a press release yesterday.



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