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News Brief

Information and Broadcasting Minister Dr Hasan Mahmud yesterday said, the BNP has become habituated to talk in indecent ways on any crisis of the country. He said this to the media in Chattogram yesterday. He said, when the people of the country are happy that the Padma Bridge has been built, the BNP has become speechless and can't understand what they would say after opening of the Padma Bridge. Earlier, he addressed the third broadcast conference as the chief guest, connecting online from Chattogram. Speaker of Parliament Shirin Sharmin Chowdhury inaugurated the broadcast conference, organized by the Broadcast Journalist Center (BJC), at Bangla Academy in Dhaka. Maqbool Hossain, Secretary of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, addressed the function as special guest.

Foreign Minister Dr AK Abdul Momen formally inaugurated the new own three-storey chancery building of Bangladesh Embassy on a land plot of 2,000 square metres in Lisbon, Portugal, on Friday. This building is not just a mere construction or enclosure, but bears our message to our friends in Portugal that we value our shared history, that we cherish our present-day human connectivity, and that we look to our shared future with much anticipation and optimism, he said after inauguration the new building. Dr Momen said, the chancery building symbolises the presence of a transforming Bangladesh and stands poised to enhance its global footprints by surging ahead with its value-based diplomacy in pursuit of its national development aspirations. After unveiling the inaugural plaque and cutting the ribbon, he paid his homage to the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman by placing a floral wreath at his mural portrait lying on the wall of the chancery building. Secretary General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Portugal Ambassador Alvaro Mendonca e Moura graced the inaugural ceremony as special guest. Moura in his remarks congratulated Bangladesh government and all the expatriates living in Portugal at this historic moment.

India is going to appoint Sudhakar Dalela soon as new high commissioner to Bangladesh. Incumbent High Commissioner Vikram Doraiswami is being tipped as high commissioner to the United Kingdom. Dalela is presently Deputy Chief of Mission in Washington DC. Once he served in the Indian High Commission in Dhaka as a political counsellor. He joined the Indian Foreign Service in 1993 and began his diplomatic career in Tel Aviv of Israel, where he also acquired proficiency in Hebrew. He has since served in Indian Missions in Brasilia, Chicago, Geneva, Dhaka and Washington DC.

The Maldives has launched a regularisation process of job status for the undocumented workers, including Bangladeshis. The Bangladesh High Commission in Male advised the Bangladeshi undocumented ones who are working there to be regularised through getting visas and work permits immediately, according to a circular issued by the high commission on Friday. It said, a regularisation process was going on under the Economic Development Ministry of the island country. Bangladeshi workers without having valid visas and work permits are requested to collect the documents to perform their jobs officially, reads the circular. It said the respective employers will have to apply for the regularisation of their workers at the Economic Development Ministry. The high commission also suggested the workers maintain safety measures at their respective workplaces where different accidents have taken place recently. It believes that the security measures and awareness can help reduce the workplace accidents. About 100,000 Bangladeshis are working in Maldives, but a significant number of them do not have required documents, sector insiders said.

Railway Minister Md Nurul Islam Sujon said, necessary measures would be taken if any complaints were received from passengers about getting train tickets online ahead of Eid-ul-Azha. He said this to the media after receiving 50 high-quality trollies imported from China by Islami Bank Bangladesh at Kamalapur railway station yesterday. Many media outlets have already reported that people are purchasing tickets online, he added. Yet if any gaps or complaints are found, measures will be taken accordingly, said the Railway Minister. In the current fiscal year, the government has allocated Tk 19,000 crore for the railways ministry. Once the ongoing projects are completed, people will be able to go to Cox's Bazar and Bhanga from Dhaka by train, said the Minister.

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A special screening of 'Hasina: A Daughter's Tale', a docudrama capturing the hard-to-believe real-life story of a woman struggling to reclaim her space in her own country, will take place in 'We Need Books' Multicultural Library in the historical Greek city Athens at 8.30 pm (Athens Time) today, said sources at CRI (Centre for Research & Information). The 70-minute docufiction starts dramatically with Sheikh Hasina, then staying far from her homeland, bumping into the horrifying update that a diabolical coup had killed nearly all family members. That brief moment of the end-of-the-world shock foreshadowed a stranger-than-fiction story of a woman's fight against a world of challenges. Directed by Piplu Khan and produced by CRI Trustees Radwan Mujib Siddiq and Nasrul Hamid, the movie culminated in success following five years of research and effort, presenting the never-told-before stories of the life of Hasina instead of her official role as the prime minister. The docudrama offered first-person narratives of Sheikh Hasina and her sister Sheikh Rehana, telling the tales of their lives as daughters of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu.

The second stakeholder meeting on the proposed Integrated Energy and Power Master Plan (IEPMP) will be held in Dhaka today. Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and the Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources (MPEMR) will jointly hold the meeting. Tokyo-based consulting firm Institute of Energy Economics-Japan (IEEJ) has been engaged to prepare the integrated master plan following an agreement between the Bangladesh government and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), signed on March 15 in 2021. It held the first stakeholder meeting in November 2021 to kick off its job. According to official sources, the Japanese firm held a series of meetings in the past one-and-a-half years with stakeholders, including energy professionals, academics and also different private and public entities to get their views on the future master plan.

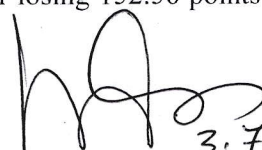
The commuters will be able to purchase train tickets through Nagad via Bangladesh Railway's website or the new mobile application 'Rail Seba'. To alleviate the sufferings of mass people during the ensuing Eid ul Azha, the mobile financial service Nagad has introduced cashback on purchasing of train tickets through Nagad while sitting at home. An agreement in this regard was signed recently between Sohoz-Synesis-Vinsen JV, a ticketing service provider of Bangladesh Railway, and the Postal Department's mobile financial service Nagad. As a result, customers traveling home will be able to purchase train tickets at any time, making the journey to their intended locations simple and convenient, said a press release. Passengers can purchase train tickets using the Nagad gateway from Bangladesh Railways' official online e-ticketing website [eticket.raipment.gov.bd] or the 'Rail Service' app. Any customer who will purchase a ticket using the website or the 'Rail Service' app and pay with a Nagad account will receive an immediate cashback of 10 percent which is up to Taka 50. This instant cashback offer will continue till July 14, 2022. Train passengers can buy tickets from Bangladesh Railway's website or 'Rail Seba' app and pay through Nagad.

Kazi Mohammad Salahuddin has become the South Asian Football Federation's (SAFF) president for the fourth consecutive term after SAFF ordinary congress re-elected him unopposed as the president of the SAFF. The SAFF ordinary congress 2022 was held yesterday at the Intercontinental Hotel in Dhaka. The re-election means Salahuddin will serve the term till 2026 as president of SAFF. The congress also re-elected Ugyen Wangchuk, the general secretary of the Bhutan Football Federation, as the SAFF executive committee's member till 2026, and Jaswar Umar, president of the Sri Lanka Football Federation as the AFC executive committee member representing SAFF.

The Supreme Court (SC) is going into a 17-day long vacation from tomorrow to July 19, leaving nine benches of the High Court to deal with the urgent matters. Detailed information regarding the benches is available on the Supreme Court's website.

Bangladesh today reported six Covid-19 deaths, the highest in nearly four months while it recorded 1,105 coronavirus positive cases during the period. Bangladesh reported 13.22 percent Covid-19 positive cases as 8,357 samples were tested in the last 24 hours, a daily statement of Directorate General of Health Services said.

The key index of the Dhaka Stock Exchange, DSEX, gained 0.78 per cent, or 49.29 points, over the past week, to close at 6,376.94 points on June 30, the last trading session of the week, after losing 152.56 points in the previous couple of weeks.



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