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News Brief

President Md. Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday paid rich tributes to the memory of poet Begum Sufia Kamal on the occasion of her 111th birth anniversary to be observed today. In his message, the President said, Poet Sufia Kamal was an inspiring brightened personality of the women society in Bangladesh. She had fought throughout her life to make the women folk free from the shackles of superstition and blockade. The PM Sheikh Hasina, in her message said, on the one hand, Sufia Kamal was a portrait of traditional Bengali women, on the other hand, she played an uncompromising and steadfast role in every movement and struggle of the Bangla. Sufia Kamal was instilled with the thoughts and ideologies of Begum Rokeya and it had a great influence on her life, she said, adding that in response to her (Sufia Kamal's) demand, the first female-dormitory of Dhaka University was named as 'Rokeya Hall'.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday hoped that the Padma Bridge would be a blessing for the nation for easier communication in the wake of flood, as the government is set to inaugurate it on June 25. The Premier made this optimism while addressing a reception ceremony of sports-persons at PMO as the chief guest yesterday. The Padma Bridge will create a vast opportunity for us to transport goods, tackle floods, stand beside people and provide them assistance, she added. Sheikh Hasina said, during the flood, river crossing becomes difficult as it gets extra current and appears as furious and that is why people get stuck on the river bank. In this connection, she also shared her own experiences of being stuck in Tungipara during the flood of 1988. The Premier said, if there would have been a bridge over the Padma River, she could have traveled to Dhaka instead of being stuck.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will inspect the overall flood situations of Sylhet, Sunamganj and Netrakona districts tomorrow. Flood situation continued worsening in northeastern and northern region of the country as water levels of all major rivers are gradually rising. The government has allocated Taka 2.25 crore cash, 400 metric tons of rice and 41,000 packets of dry and other foods as immediate humanitarian aid at flood-hit districts between June 15 and 18.

Meanwhile, the government has decided to use Bangabandhu Satellite-1 to re-establish emergency telecommunication services in Sylhet, Sunamganj, Natrekona and other flood-hit districts of the country's northern region. Bangladesh Satellite Company Limited (BSCL) is providing all necessary equipment to the rescuers to ensure uninterrupted internet and other telecommunication facilities in remote northern areas. The move comes following the directives of Post and Telecommunication Minister Mustafa Jabbar. A total of 12 Very Small Aperture Terminal (VSAT) devices - a wireless communication system that uses a combination of a small antenna and satellite terminal equipment were handed over to the Bangladesh Army on Saturday. Efforts are underway to establish two VSAT hubs in Netrokona and the northern part of the country. Besides, 23 more VSAT devices will be provided to the office of the Sylhet divisional commissioner which will allow it to reestablish communication with more flood-affected areas of the region.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said, the Rohingyas are creating social problems in Bangladesh as many of them are engaged in drug and women trafficking. The Premier said this while newly appointed Canadian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Lilly Nicholls called on her at her Sangsad Bhaban office yesterday. She also mentioned that the government has given temporary shelter to more than one lakh Rohingyas in Bhashanchar where they are getting better facilities of shelter. The Canadian High Commissioner said, Canada will always support Bangladesh on this issue. The envoy is highly pleased to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the diplomatic ties between Bangladesh and Canada. Both discussed about the Russia-Ukraine War and agreed that war always causes sufferings to the people. The High Commissioner appreciated Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for the poverty reduction rate in Bangladesh.

Information and Broadcasting Minister Dr Hasan Mahmud yesterday said, Bangladesh has ensured the food security by surprising the globe, even the World Food Organization through various invention of agriculturalists and tireless labours of farmers under the supervision of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. He said this while addressing a seminar on 'Agriculture and media in food security in the global situation' at Krishibid Institute in Dhaka yesterday. The agricultural land in the country decreases by one percent every year, he said. In this way if two lakh acres of land are lost every year, then at last there will be no more agricultural land, he added. It will become easy to face the challenge of food security if the fallow land would be cultivated through mechanization, he further added.

Bangladesh and India have agreed to work closely to further strengthen cooperation in the areas of common rivers, water management, cyber-security, energy, agriculture, food security and climate change. The agreement came at the 7th round of Bangladesh-India Joint Consultative Commission (JCC) meeting concluded in New Delhi with issuing a joint statement on the outcome of the meeting. Bangladesh Foreign Minister Dr. A.K. Abdul Momen and Indian External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar co-chaired the meeting held at the city's Hyderabad House, according to the joint statement issued after the meeting. Referring to Rohingya issue, both sides reiterated the importance of safe, speedy and sustainable return of the forcibly displaced persons from Rakhine State of Myanmar, who took shelters in deferent camps in Bangladesh.

Agriculture Minister Dr Abdur Razzaque yesterday said, the government has adequate preparation to cope with crop loss caused by the ongoing flood sweeping over the country's northeastern region. He said this while speaking at a seminar titled 'Agriculture and Media in Food Security in the Global Situation' organised by the Agricultural Information Service at the Krishibid Institution Bangladesh (KIB) Convention Hall at Farmgate yesterday. Now there is no major crop in the field. It is possible to cope with the crop loss being caused by the flood. That is why extensive preparation has already been taken to this end. He said, Aman paddy will not be affected during the flood as Aman seedbeds have not been sowed across the country yet.

Industries Minister Nurul Majid Mahmud Humayun yesterday underscored the need for implementing the formulated master plan to increase productivity. He said this while virtually presiding over the 18th meeting of the National Productivity Council (NPC) yesterday. Industries Ministry and NPO with the support of Asian Productivity Organization (APO) formulated the master plan, he said. There is a need for publicity on productivity. To this end, arrangements have to be made for organising nationwide meetings, seminars, workshops, broadcasting TVC in electronic media and publishing articles in print media. If necessary, a booklet can be published on this subject. Besides, he said, communication with the National Curriculum and Textbook Board should be maintained in order to include productivity contents in the Bangladesh Technical Education Curriculum.

Environment, Forest and Climate Change Minister Md Shahab Uddin yesterday said, a 'National Conservation Strategy and Plan of Action for Sharks and Rays in Bangladesh and CITES Non-detriment Findings' have been developed to protect endangered sharks and rays from extinction. He said this while speaking as the chief guest at a national consultation meeting organized by the Forest Department at a local hotel in Dhaka. This action plan will play an important role in controlling the cross-border trade of Sharks and Rays, ensuring sustainable and productive fishery livelihoods for the coastal community and improving the marine ecosystem, he said. He said the action plan, formulated with the technical assistance of the Wildlife Conservation Society, funded by the Sustainable Forest and Livelihood (SUFAL) project, would serve as a guide for government agencies, local communities, NGOs, research institutes and private enterprises.

The government has decided to close shops, shopping malls, markets and kitchen markets across the country after 8 pm from today to save electricity and fuel. The decision was taken at a meeting presided over State Minister for Labour and Employment Begum Monnujan Sufian held in the conference room of the Ministry of Labour and Employment yesterday.

Bangladesh yesterday reported zero Covid-19 death in the past 24 hours while it recorded 7.38 percent positivity rate of coronavirus, the highest rate in the past four months. Bangladesh reported 596 Covid-19 positive cases as 8,074 samples were tested in the last 24 hours, the country logged more than five percent positivity rate of the deadly virus for four 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, declined by 0.29 per cent, or 19.26 points, to close at 6,406.46 points yesterday after gaining 64.34 points in the previous two trading sessions.



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