



PRESS INFORMATION DEPARTMENT
GOVERNMENT OF BANGLADESH
DHAKA



Most Urgent
For: Bangladoot, All Missions
MSG: 302/2021-22
Date: Friday, 13 May 2022

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

News Brief

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader yesterday stressed the need for valuing the tested leaders and said the opportunists would not be available during any crisis of the party. The Minister told the inaugural session of Faridpur district Awami League's triennial council, joining virtually from his official residence in Dhaka. He said, Bangladesh achieved tremendous development in the last 13 years under the bold leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. He also said, the AL must survive to protect the country's democracy, economic solvency and development. People should vote for AL again to keep the party in power for continuation of the country's development, he added. Highlighting the progress of ongoing mega projects, he said the Padma Multipurpose Bridge will be inaugurated in June.

Information and Broadcasting Minister Dr. Hasan Mahmud yesterday held a fruitful view-exchange with cinema hall owners on proper utilization and facilities of the government's Taka 1,000 crore refinance scheme for construction of new cinema halls and renovation. The Ministry arranged the meeting at Tathya Bhaban in the city's Kakrail area while over 100 cinema hall owners and entrepreneurs from across the country joined it. After the discussion the Minister expressed his optimism that it is possible to open several hundred cinema halls across the country within one and half or two years through constructing Cineplex and cinema halls at every district and upazila by getting soft loan facilities from the scheme. Describing film as a huge part of culture, he said, film or expansion of cinema halls is conducive to protect society from derailment.

Foreign Minister Dr. AK Abdul Momen yesterday sought Seoul's support in improving "ease of doing business" as currently South Korea is ranked the 4th in doing business index while Dhaka has been striving to elevate the trade to attract more foreign investment. The Minister was addressing a seminar titled, "50 years of Korea-Bangladesh Relationship" at the foreign service academy that showcased and discussed the study of Dhaka University on the past, present and future of the Korea- Bangladesh relationship in various areas of cooperation. In his speech, Dr. Momen also urged Seoul to share their knowledge in the completion of development projects in due time.

Food Minister Sadhan Chandra Majumder yesterday called upon the organizations engaged in ensuring safe food to work together to implement the vision of the government. The Minister made the call while virtually addressing the 6th meeting of the Food Management Advisory Council. The Food Minister said, a prosperous golden Bengal should be built under the leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina imbued with the ideology of Father of Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. He called upon the concerned people to turn the new generation into a talented one by ensuring safe food free from adulteration.

Bangladesh needs more international support for successful implementation of Bangladesh National Adaptation Plan 2022, Environment, Forest and Climate Change Minister Md. Shahab Uddin said this at a ministerial meeting titled 'Local Climate Adaptive Living Facility' organized by the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) held Wednesday in Brussels, Belgium. The Minister said, UNCDF and Local Climate Adaptive Living Facility (LoCAL) may provide useful technical support to explore innovative financing instruments. They may also help explore other innovative approaches as well, he mentioned. The government is currently spending around 6 percent to 7 percent of the annual budget for climate change adaptation, he added. More than 75 percent of this amount is financed from domestic sources while the adaptation financing needs will increase with the increase of frequency of extreme events, he further added.

Ameli
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A meeting between Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment Minister Imran Ahmed and Saudi ambassador to Bangladesh Essa Yousef Essa Alduhailan was held at the meeting room of the Ministry yesterday. During the meeting, they discussed issues related to the friendly relations between the two countries, expanding Bangladesh's labor market in Saudi Arabia, sending more workers with minimum migration costs in the shortest possible time, controlling dominance of middlemen in recruitment process and other interests of Bangladeshi workers in Saudi Arabia.

While the country has accomplished awe-inspiring projects such as Padma Bridge and Bangabandhu Satellite, a vested quarter continues portray any success story in the wrong manner, said Prime Minister's ICT Advisor Sajeeb Wazed Joy. He also called upon the countrymen to show zero tolerance to the peddlers of religion. He made these observations in the post, accompanied by a video on a concert paying tribute to the 1971-Concert for Bangladesh.

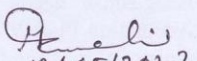
The government has restricted foreign trips of its officials under operating and development budgets in the context of post-Covid-19 economic recovery and ongoing global situation. In a circular yesterday, Finance Ministry said all types of foreign trips, including exposure visits or study tour or APA and innovation tour, and participation in workshops or seminars, for all government officials will remain stopped until further notice.

The state-run Trading Corporation of Bangladesh (TCB) will start selling essential commodities, including edible oil, at affordable among low-income groups of people across the country from 16 May 16 to May 30. TCB's products will be sold through 300 trucks across the country.

Chinese telecommunications giant Huawei Technologies is willing to provide technical solutions and support to the RMG industry of Bangladesh in increasing capacity of renewable energy generation in the sector. A delegation of Huawei Technologies (Bangladesh) Ltd. expressed the interest when they paid a call on BGMEA President Faruque Hassan at BGMEA's office.

Bangladesh yesterday reported zero death from COVID-19 for 24 days. With 51 fresh cases, the number of infections surged to 19,52,923. The positivity rate stood at 0.89 per cent, testing 5,736 samples during the time. At the same time, the recovery count rose to 18,98,603 DGHS disclosed this information in a press release yesterday.

Stocks yesterday extended the losing streak for the third straight session as risk-averse investors opted for a quick profit on major sector issues. DSEX went down by 26.52 points or 0.40 per cent to settle at 6,565. The DSE 30 Index, comprising blue chips, fell 13.72 points to finish at 2,406 and the DSE Shariah Index (DSES) lost 1.24 points to close at 1,432.


13/05/2022
Principal Information Officer (Acting)
Phone- 55100811