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News Brief

The much-awaited Padma Bridge would be inaugurated in June next, Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader told journalists yesterday after attending a programme at his village Companiganj. About BNP's movement, the Minister said, BNP called for movement for 26 times in the last 13 years but they failed to do so. Now people laugh at BNP listening to its call for movement, he mentioned. Earlier, the Minister reached his residence at 11am and offered jiarat at his parents' graves. Later, he exchanged Eid greetings with the common people, leaders and workers of his party.

Lawmaker Haji Salim had gone abroad and returned home following the legal course, Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan said while talking to newsmen at the secretariat yesterday. The High Court on March 9, 2021, upheld a lower court judgment that sentenced the lawmaker to 10-year imprisonment in a case filed over amassing illegal wealth.

The government saved about Taka 20,000 crore by collecting vaccines of COVID-19 from different sources and it has been possible only for dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Information and Broadcasting Minister Dr. Hasan Mahmud made the comment while addressing the 16th International Science Conference- 2022 organized by Bangladesh Association of Urological Surgeons (BAUS) at a local hotel yesterday. People would come from abroad for treatment purposes if the doctors become more cautious while discharging their duties, the Minister added. The conference will be ended on May 7.

Earlier, Rejecting the report of Reporters Sans frontieres (RSF) over the ranking of Bangladesh in World Press Freedom Index, Information and Broadcasting Minister Dr. Hasan Mahmud said, the report is malicious, objectionable and unacceptable. The Minister said, RSF also published untrue and fabricated reports on Bangladesh's media. The unions of journalists of the country protested their reports that time, he added. He said, the RSF collected data and information from those persons who are spreading propaganda continuously against the country abroad. The report has no value and the organization is publishing reports against Bangladesh continuously with ill intention, he further added.

Bangladesh yesterday donated medical supplies of Taka 20 crore to Sri Lanka as per Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's direction to support the South Asian neighbor that was hit by worst economic crisis. Of the supply, Bangladesh government and local private entrepreneurs each provided Taka 10 crore worth medical products as gesture of friendship and good neighborly relations. Foreign Minister Dr. AK Abdul Momen and Health Minister Zahid Maleque handed over few boxes of medicine as a token to the Sri Lankan High Commissioner to Bangladesh Prof. Sudharshan DS Seneviratne at a ceremony held at the State Guest House Padma.

The government has taken up elaborate programmes to celebrate the 161st birth anniversary of Bishwakabi Rabindranath Tagore at national level on Sunday (May 8) in a befitting manner. The programmes were finalized at a meeting of National Committee at Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy on April 18 with State Minister for Cultural Affairs KM Khalid in the chair, said a press release yesterday.

Almost all kinds of preparations have been taken to fight cyclone 'Ashani', State Minister for Disaster Management and Relief Dr. M Enamur Rahman told reporters after a meeting on pre-cyclone preparedness at the secretariat yesterday. We had set up more than 14,000 shelter centers during Amphan, this time we can also use the shelter centers where more than 2.4 million people can stay, the State Minister added.

Raw

The reports on closure of Rohingya children learning facilities and barring teachers or students to attend the classes are false and fabricated, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) said in a press statement yesterday. The Foreign Ministry said, Bangladesh government is working with the UN agencies to gradually bring learning facilities under Myanmar Curriculum, streamline the volunteer teacher's engagement and adopting policies for their capacity building. Bangladesh government places great importance on ensuring access to education for all especially for girls and in a similar vein while it is facilitating learning activities for the Rohingya children inside the camps, it said.

Golden Jubilee Bangladesh Concert will be held at Madison Square Garden in New York City today to provide cyber security cooperation to children of least developed and poor countries. Bangladesh Hi-Tech Park Authority under ICT Division will arrange the concert where world renowned band Scorpions and Bangladesh's noted band Chirkut will perform.

Bangladesh's edible oil refiners yesterday increased the price of bottled soya bean oil by Taka 38 a litre to Taka 198 a litre. Bangladesh Vegetable Oil Refiners and Vanaspati Manufacturers Association in a press release made the announcement yesterday. It also said, the price of unpackaged soya bean oil increased by Taka 44 a litre to Taka 180 a litre being effective from yesterday.

Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission (BERC) reduced the price of Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) by TK 104 to TK 1,335 from TK 1,439 for a 12 kg cylinder at retail level.

Dhaka stocks yesterday witnessed marginally lower with sluggish turnover, the first day after Eid holidays, as the cautious investors continued their sell-off amid lower than expected earnings of some companies. The stock markets remained closed for six days from April 29 to May 5 on the occasion of Eid-ul-Fitr. DSEX went down by 12.50 points or 0.18 per cent to settle at 6,643. Two other indices also closed in the red. The DSE 30 Index, comprising blue chips, fell 7.19 points to finish at 2,453 and the DSE Shariah Index (DSES) lost 3.34 points to close at 1,443.

Bangladesh yesterday reported zero death from COVID-19 for 24 days. With 04 fresh cases, the number of infections surged to 19,52,747. The positivity rate stood at 0.18 per cent, testing 2,212 samples during the time. At the same time, the recovery count rose to 18,96,788 DGHS disclosed this information in a press release yesterday.

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