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News Brief

Ambassadors of two countries to Bangladesh separately presented their credentials to President Md. Abdul Hamid at Bangabhaban yesterday. The envoys are ambassador of Austria Katharina Wieser and ambassador of Libya Abdul Mutaleb Suliman Mohammad Suliman. Welcoming them at Bangabhaban, the President said, Bangladesh maintains excellent relations with Austria and Libya. He hoped that this relationship will be further expanded in various fields including, trade and investment in the days to come. He also stressed on high-level communication and exchange of visits between the countries. The President thanked the Austrian government for its cooperation on the Rohingyas issue. Their cooperation would continue in the future for the dignified return of the Rohingyas and would continue to put pressure on Myanmar in this regard, he hoped.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina urged the countrymen to exercise austerity and make savings in order to protect themselves. The Premier said this while taking part in the discussion on the national budget for the 2022-23 fiscal year in the 18th session of the 11th parliament. The budget has given the highest priority to rein in inflation in the fiscal year beginning on July 1, she added. The government has been able to give such a large budget of Tk 6,78,064 crore despite an adverse situation caused by the Ukraine war that came close on the heels of the Covid-19 pandemic, the Premier added. Bangladesh will have to go forward overcoming the adverse impacts of the war and coronavirus pandemic and it will be able to do so, she further added. She said, the government is taking all necessary measures to control inflation fuelled by price-hike of goods in the global market. The PM also said, the main strategy to keep the inflation under control would be raising the supply of goods and reducing the existing growth of demand. Earlier, the PM said, the construction of the Padma Bridge was delayed by two years due to conspiracy by a vested interest group. She mentioned that the inauguration of the much-desired Padma Bridge project is not a dream today but a visible reality.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Ministers and State Ministers expressed profound shock and sorrow at the demise of Bangladesh Awami Swechchhasebak League President Nirmal Ranjan Guha. Nirmal Ranjan Guha died yesterday morning while undergoing treatment at the Mount Elizabeth Hospital in Singapore at the age of 58.

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader congratulated Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for construction of the much-awaited Padma Bridge with own finance. The Minister expressed his gratitude while delivering a speech as the chief guest of the signing ceremony of the annual performance agreement for the fiscal year 2022-23 between the bridge department and Bangladesh Bridge Authority (BBA) last morning in the Setu Bhaban at city's Banani. He also thanked the officials and employees of Bangladesh Bridge Department. The Minister then directed the concerned authorities to expedite the work of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Tunnel at the bottom of Karnafuli River.

Meanwhile, the incumbent government believes in the democratic rights of all parties and people of all thoughts, Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader said in a statement yesterday. That is why the Awami League has showed optimum tolerance to the BNP despite the provocative statements of the party and the Chhatra Dal leaders, the Minister added. Responding to a statement of BNP secretary general Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir that the government is more aggressive in suppressing the opposition, the Minister said, Fakhrul's statement is nothing but a part of BNP's ill-politics of falsehood.

Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal expressed deep shock over the harassment of a teacher in Narail. The extent of negligence of people concerned is being analyzed and scrutinized properly, the Minister said this while talking to the journalists after holding a meeting on law and order on the occasion of the holy Eid-ul-Azha at the conference room of the Home Ministry at the Secretariat yesterday. Mentioning that the incident took place instantly, he said, the unpredicted occurrence had happened with the influx of a huge number of people, before Deputy Commissioner and Superintendent of Police could take any action. But, they took action as fast as they could take within that shortest time, he added. Actions would be taken if any person related to law enforcement agencies had shown negligence in performing duties properly, he cautioned.

The government doesn't want to cause personal damage to anyone while recovering canals and river channels from illegal occupation, LGRD Minister Md. Tazul Islam said this while speaking at the inauguration of Dhaka South City Corporation's (DSCC) re-excavation works on parts of Old Buriganga in the capital's Shahidnagar. Emphasizing on the importance of freeing Dhaka's waterbodies from illegal occupants, the Minister said, the government must recover the lost canals and rivers to turn Dhaka into a beautiful and liveable city.

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Foreign Minister Dr. AK Abdul Momen is scheduled to arrive in Portuguese capital Lisbon today to lead the Bangladesh delegation at the 2nd UN Ocean Conference 2022. The Minister is expected to make the country statement at the plenary session and to participate in the interactive dialogues on the sidelines of the conference. He is also scheduled to hold a bilateral meeting with Portuguese Foreign Minister Mr. Joao Gomes Cravinho and inaugurate the chancery building of the Bangladesh Embassy in Lisbon.

The Commerce Ministry warned against fraud using the name of Commerce Minister Tipu Munshi and his personal secretary (PS). In this regard, the country's law enforcement forces, police, CID and RAB's IT intelligence branch have conducted necessary activities and arrested several fraudsters. All concerned are requested to be vigilant against such scams. The ministry also said that Commerce Minister Tipu Munshi does not operate any facebook account and he has no Facebook account using his name and picture. Two general diaries (GDs) have been filed with the Ramna Model Police Station in this connection.

Strict instructions have been given to the officials and employees of the ministry to make the development of the country's environment visible as part of the implementation of the national commitment, Environment, Forest and Climate Change Minister Md. Shahab Uddin said this while speaking at the signing ceremony of the Annual Performance Agreement (APA) for the financial year 2022-2023 with the ministry and seven departments under it at the ministry's conference room yesterday. The progress of noise pollution control should be made visible to the people within the next one month, the Minister added. Necessary steps need to be taken to recover occupied forest land and increase the amount of green coverage in the country to 24 percent, he further added.

The National Moon Sighting Committee will meet today to fix the date of the holy Eid-ul-Azha, after reviewing reports on the appearance of the new moon of the holy month of Zilhajj of 1443 Hijri. State Minister for Religious Affairs and National Moon Sighting Committee President Md. Faridul Haque Khan will chair the meeting at the conference room of Islamic Foundation (IF) at Baitul Mukarram National Mosque at 7:15 pm.

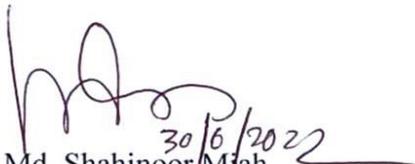
The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Government of Bangladesh yesterday signed an agreement for \$41.4 million grant to improve the infrastructure and meet up the basic needs of the displaced persons from Myanmar- sheltered in Cox's Bazar. Fatima Yasmin, Secretary, Economic Relations Division, and Edimon Ginting, Country Director of the ADB, signed the agreement on behalf of Bangladesh and the ADB, respectively.

The World Bank (WB) approved \$1.03 billion of financing to help improve regional trade in Bangladesh and Nepal by reducing trade and transport costs and transit time along the regional corridors. Earlier, A loan agreement was signed yesterday between the government of Bangladesh and the World Bank (WB) under which the lending agency will provide \$500 million to modernize the rural electricity distribution system under Dhaka and Mymensingh regions. Economic Relations Division (ERD) Secretary Fatima Yasmin and World Bank Acting Country Director for Bangladesh and Bhutan Dandan Chen signed the loan agreement on behalf of their respective sides.

Forty new dengue patients were hospitalized in 24 hours till last morning. DGHS disclosed this information in a press release yesterday.

Bangladesh yesterday reported zero death from COVID-19. With 2,241 fresh cases, the number of infections surged to 19, 71,602. The positivity rate stood at 15.23 per cent, testing 14,712 samples during the time. At the same time, the recovery count rose to 19, 07,219. DGHS disclosed this information in a press release yesterday.

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 7.87 points or 0.12 per cent to settle at 6,350.


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