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News Brief

The 46th anniversary of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's receiving the Julio-Curie Award is being celebrated today across the country through various programmes. President Md. Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina have issued separate messages on the occasion. To mark the day, Information Minister Dr. Hasan Mahmud will hand over the "Bangabandhu Shanti Padak," at a function to be held at Engineers' Institution in Dhaka today.

Road, Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader has said, Bangladesh would continue its existing warm ties with India whoever is elected by Indian people. The Minister came up with the remark as Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Riva Ganguly Das called on him at his ministry in Dhaka yesterday.

Finance Minister A H M Mustafa Kamal has said, new tax law would not hurt the taxpayers as tax rate would not be increased, just the existing tax net would be further widened. The Finance Minister said this while addressing a function at the NEC Conference Room at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar in Dhaka yesterday.

Industries Minister Nurul Majid Mahmud Humayun has said, the government is going to frame a new business-friendly and modern industrial policy by holding discussions with the stakeholders at all levels. The Minister said this while addressing a seminar on industrialization at Hotel Westin in the city on Tuesday.

Bangladesh and Czech Republic have signed trade promotion and economic cooperation agreement to strengthen bilateral trade and economic activities through forming a joint commission. Commerce Minister Tipu Munshi and Czech Republic's Industries and Commerce Minister Karel Havlicek penned the agreement in Prague on Tuesday.

Chairperson of Bangladesh National Advisory Committee for Autism and Neuro Development Disorders Saima Wazed Hossain has said, the Government of Bangladesh has recently passed the new Mental Health Act that includes psychological support in crisis preparedness and management. The government is currently in the process of finalizing the National Mental Health Policy, she added. Saima Wazed Hossain said this while addressing a technical briefing titled "Mental Health: Time to Scale Up" on the sideline of 72nd World Health Assembly at Geneva, Switzerland yesterday.

A bust of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman will be placed at the head of a boulevard named after Bangabandhu in Ankara, Turkey soon. The Turkish side will take a similar step for installing a bust of Ataturk in Dhaka. It was agreed at a meeting of Bangladesh-Turkey Foreign Office Consultations at Ankara yesterday. Foreign Secretary Md. Shahidul Haque and Deputy Foreign Minister of Turkey Sedat Onal led their respective delegations in the meeting.

State Minister for Information Dr. Murad Hasan has said, the government is sincere about the implementation of the 9th Wage Board Award for journalists. The State Minister said this while exchanging views with the journalists at his ministry in Dhaka yesterday. Information secretary Abdul Malek was present on the occasion.

The government has increased the regulatory duty on rice import to 25 per cent from the existing 3 per cent, aiming to discourage its import following a drastic fall in rice prices after a bumper harvest. The National Board of Revenue yesterday issued a circular in this regard with immediate effect. The circular also said, the importers have to pay five per cent Advance Income Tax on rice import. Now, rice importers have to count a total of 55 per cent tax and duty.

The government will provide 40 kilograms of rice monthly to each of 4,14,784 fishermen's families in 42 upazilas of 12 coastal districts during a 65-day ban beginning from May 20 on fishing in the Bay of Bengal. State Minister for Fisheries and Livestock Md. Ashraf Ali Khan Khasru announced this at a press conference at his ministry in Dhaka yesterday.

All-rounder Shakib Al Hasan of Bangladesh Cricket Team finally reclaimed his number one spot in ICC ODI all-rounder rankings from the Afghanistan all-rounder Rashid Khan. The present ranking points of Shakib and Rashid are 359 and 339, respectively. Shakib got the uplift after the recent Tri-nation ODI series in Ireland.

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