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### News Brief

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has said, Bangladesh has set a glaring example of giving equal opportunity to the people of all religions so that none can feel neglected. The Premier said this when leaders of the Buddhist community greeted her on the occasion of Buddha Purnima at Ganabhaban yesterday. While exchanging views, the PM mentioned, it is the duty of a state to ensure that all the people can observe their respective religions in a peaceful manner.

Tokyo has reassured its continued assistance for Bangladesh's development as Japanese Ambassador in Dhaka Hiroyasu Izumi called on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at Ganabhaban ahead of her planned Japan visit next week. The Envoy informed the Premier that Tokyo's financial assistance is likely to be US\$ 2.5 billion under the proposed Official Development Assistance agreement which would be 35 per cent higher than that of the last year. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina while exchanging views described Japan to be a great friend of Bangladesh.

The National Economic Council will sit this morning to consider a Tk 2,02,721 crore original ADP outlay for the next fiscal year giving highest priority on the transport sector. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will preside over the meeting.

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader has said, 67 per cent construction work of Padma Bridge Project has been completed. The Minister said this at a press briefing after a meeting with officials concerned of several mega projects at the Setu Bhaban in the capital yesterday. The 13th span of the Padma Bridge is likely to be installed today or tomorrow, the Minister added.

Agriculture Minister Dr. Md. Abdur Razzaque has said, the government provides upto 70 per cent subsidy for the mechanization of the agriculture as the number of farm labourers is declining day by day. The Minister was addressing a function marking car distribution among the Upazila Agriculture Officers at the Krishibid Institution Bangladesh in Dhaka yesterday.

Information Minister Dr. Hasan Mahmud has said, the government is working relentlessly to get back the golden era of the Bangla cinema through modernization of the film industry. The Minister said this while addressing a function marking the 41st founding anniversary of Bangladesh Film Archive at Agargaon in the capital yesterday. Information Secretary Abdul Malek also addressed the function.

Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Anisul Huq has said, the Supreme Court would give a clarification very soon about its recent notice that requested the media not to publish reports over ongoing cases. The Law Minister made the disclosure to the media after a meeting with Chief Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain at the Supreme Court in Dhaka yesterday.

Country Director of ADB Manmohan Prokash called on Foreign Minister Dr. A K Abdul Momen at his ministry in Dhaka yesterday. The Minister urged the ADB Country Director to raise the issue of Rohingya crisis with the international community and secure necessary funding and other humanitarian supports.

Industries Minister Nurul Majid Mahmud Humayun has asked BSTI to show zero tolerance policy for maintaining quality of products. The Minister gave the directive while addressing a discussion marking the World Metrology Day-2019 at BSTI auditorium in the city yesterday.

State Minister for Shipping Khaled Mahmud Chowdhury has said, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has taken a multidimensional initiative to infuse dynamism into the Chattogram Sea Port. The State Minister said this while visiting Chattogram port yesterday.

State Minister for Information Dr. Murad Hasan assumed charge of his new portfolio yesterday. On the occasion, the State Minister met Information Minister Dr. Hasan Mahmud who welcomed him with a bouquet.

Biman Bangladesh Airlines will start carrying hajj pilgrims on July 4. Booking for hajj flights already started yesterday.

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