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News Brief

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has reiterated her government's stance on not setting up industries by destroying arable land. The Premier came up with the assertion while addressing the 10th national council of Bangladesh Krishak League at Suhrawardy Udyan in Dhaka yesterday. The PM said, her government would promote industrialisation protecting the interest of the farmers and e-agriculture had already been introduced in Bangladesh. The Premier urged all concerned to use modern technology in agriculture alongside introducing machines in this sector. Earlier, Sheikh Hasina inaugurated the national council of the Bangladesh Krishak League. Samir Chanda and Umme Kulsum Smrity have been elected President and General Secretary of the Bangladesh Krishak League central executive committee respectively.

The fifth session of the 11th Jatiya Sangsad is set to begin at 4.15 pm today. President Md. Abdul Hamid summoned the session.

Speaker Dr Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury has called for paving ways to the youth to play their roles for achieving the targets of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the country. The Speaker said this while addressing the inauguration programme titled 'SDG for the Youth, by the Youth' at Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy in Dhaka yesterday. Youths must be given opportunity to participate in the social programmes such as prevention of child marriage, protest against drugs as well as in other global issues like disaster relief and climate change, the Speaker added.

Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal has said, the present government is working to make the Fire Service and Civil Defence department modern and time-befitting. The Minister made the statement while inaugurating the Fire Service and Civil Defence Week -2019 at Rupganj in Narayanganj yesterday. The Minister said, under the directives of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, the fire service department has been modernized and developed tremendously, which was acclaimed worldwide. With the theme "Awareness, preparation and training is the best way to deal with disasters", the Fire Service and Civil Defence Week – 2019 is being observed across the country from yesterday to create greater awareness among the people on fire safety.

Foreign Minister Dr A K Abdul Momen while addressing the inaugural ceremony of the 15th meeting of the governing council of the South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme arranged in Dhaka yesterday said, the makeshift camps made for 1.1 million forcibly displaced Rohingyas on 6,800 acres of forest land in Cox's Bazar is affecting the entire ecosystem of the country's south-eastern part. It is the responsibility of the global leadership, specially the South Asian partners, to do more to ensure the Rohingyas quick return to Myanmar, the Minister added.

Japan has reiterated its stand with displaced Rohingyas in realizing their early repatriation to Myanmar in a safe, voluntary and dignified manner. The newly-appointed Japanese Ambassador to Bangladesh Naoki Ito said this after his first visit at Rohingya camps in Cox's Bazar on Tuesday. Describing the Rohingya situation as extremely severe, the envoy thanked the staffs of international organizations and NGOs who devoted themselves to help the displaced persons under such condition.

Information Minister Dr Hasan Mahmud at his ministry office in Dhaka yesterday gave financial assistance to film director Arannyo Polash, who has become penniless by making a film and is now working as a hotel boy. The Minister has said, no profession is disgraceful; I have no hesitation to say that I also worked as a waiter when I was a student of masters and PhD. State Minister for Information Dr Murad Hasan was also present at the function.

Finance Minister A H M Mustafa Kamal has expressed dissatisfaction over disobeying the Bangladesh Bank's directives to reduce the bank loan interest to single digit and warned the banks of merger with other banks for disobeying the order. The Minister told reporters after a meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Government Procurement held at his ministry office in Dhaka yesterday.

Planning Minister M A Mannan while addressing the CPD-Oxfam dialogue on Introducing 'Universal Pension Scheme' in Bangladesh: In Search of a Framework' held at a city hotel yesterday expressed his optimism about bringing more eligible people under the social safety net coverage to lift them out of poverty. Pension law has to be enacted to support senior citizens of the country, so that they continue to contribute the national economy as per their skill and ability, the Minister added. The Minister also noted that for accomplishing this huge task, there is a need for making accurate calculation for which a wide range of researches are needed to be carried out both by the public and private sectors.

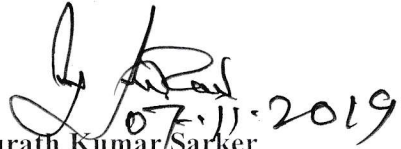
Export target during first four months in the running financial year has missed target by 11.21 per cent and it is 6.82 per cent lower growth over the corresponding of the last fiscal, according to Bangladesh Export Promotion Bureau latest statistics released on Tuesday. Commerce Minister Tipu Munshi has blamed readymade garment manufacturers and exporters for reducing product prices resulting in sluggish export growth in the first four months of the current fiscal year. The Minister said this while speaking to reporters after a meeting with RMG business leader at his ministry in Dhaka yesterday. The Minister promised to take necessary steps on all the recommendations presented in the meeting.

State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism M Mahbub Ali has said, the government has taken initiative to formulate a Tourism Master Plan in next two years for proper branding of Bangladesh in front of both local and foreign tourists. The State Minister said this while addressing a function in Dhaka University yesterday. The Minister hoped that construction of the Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport third terminal, Metrorail and underground train will also provide international standard amenities to the foreign tourists along with the local city dwellers.

A consortium of Japanese and South Korean firms is going to get the job for constructing the third terminal of Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport at a much higher cost than the initial estimate as the Cabinet Committee on Public Purchase approved the project yesterday. According to official sources, Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh has already selected Aviation Consortium Dhaka as the lowest bidder through a tender process where another Japanese firm Shimizu-ITD-JVG JV was a contender.

The governments of Bangladesh and Malaysia agreed to reopen the Malaysian labour market for Bangladeshi migrants soon with minimum expense and pre-departure health checkup. Under the consensus, the two governments will try to reopen the market by December this year after completing all procedures following the employer country's demands. To finalise other issues, a Joint Working Group meeting will be held at Dhaka from November 24 to 25. The Malaysian members of the JWG will visit Bangladesh during the period. Bangladesh's Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment Minister Imran Ahmad and Malaysian Human Resources Minister M Kulasegaran led the delegations of their respective countries at the meeting held yesterday in Parliament Bhaban at Kuala Lumpur.

Prothom Alo editor Matiur Rahman was sued yesterday in connection with the death of Naimul Abrar Rahat, a ninth grader of Dhaka Residential Model College. The victim's father, Mojibur Rahman, filed the case with the Fourth Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court in Dhaka. Abrar was electrocuted during the anniversary programme of Prothom Alo's youth magazine Kishor Alo on Friday.


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