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**News Brief**

Jatiya Sangsad Speaker Dr. Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury has said, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has undertaken different important initiatives for the welfare of mothers including providing maternity allowance, allowance for lactating mothers, six-month maternity leave for service holder mothers and inclusion of mother’s name along with father’s in passport. The Speaker said this while addressing a function marking the Mother’s Day at RAOWA Convention Centre in the capital yesterday.

The Bangladesh Ambassador in Tripoli has already sent mission officials to Tunisia to look into the boat capsize incident in the Mediterranean Sea in which at least 30 to 35 Bangladeshi nationals are feared to have died as a while they were trying to reach Italy from Libya illegally . Foreign Minister Dr. A K Abdul Momen said this as he was talking to media at his ministry in Dhaka yesterday. Bangladesh Embassy in Libya is keeping contact with the Red Crescent in Tunisia on the issue, the Minister added .

Bangladesh Awami League General Secretary and Road, Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader will return home on May 15 from Singapore as he is cured now. Media quoting ministry sources said, the Minister took the decision to return after talking to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina over phone yesterday. A Biman Bangladesh Airlines flight will carry him back home on Wednesday evening.

Agriculture Minister Dr. Md. Abdur Razzaque has called for modernizing the agriculture sector to discourage tobacco cultivation in the country. The Minister made the urge as he was addressing a seminar on tobacco control on the occasion of 'The World No Tobacco Day' that falls on May 31 at Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation auditorium in Dhaka yesterday. Ensuring fair price of agricultural goods is must to discourage tobacco farming, the Minister added.

Planning Minister M A Mannan has said, the major international donor agencies like the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank now consider Bangladesh as a miracle due to its massive socio-economic progress over the last 10 years. The Minister said this while addressing a function titled ‘2019-20 Budget : Thoughts and Expectations of Students’ at the Daffodil Tower in Dhaka yesterday.

A High Court bench has directed the authorities concerned to immediately withdraw 52 food products of different brands from the market, which were found substandard by the Bangladesh Standard Testing Institution. The High Court yesterday ordered the authorities concerned to put on hold the production, selling or marketing of these substandard products until their quality is improved. It also gave direction to take appropriate legal action against the persons responsible for producing, selling, marketing and supplying the products.

Food Minister Sadhan Chandra Majumder has said, the government would show a zero tolerance policy against the food adulteration and dishonest traders as well as companies. The Minister said this while launching an anti-food adulteration campaign in front of Bangladesh Secretariat in Dhaka yesterday. Stressing on building mass awareness against the food adulteration at all levels, the Minister said the quarter who adulterates food is the enemy of the society and humanity.

The government is going to make university admission process hassle-free within a short time. In this way, students need not attend the particular university located different districts to get admission costing money and valuable time. Deputy Minister for Education Mohibul Hasan Chowdhury Nowfel informed this while inaugurating online application for admission into class XI at Dhaka Education Board yesterday.

Superintendent of Police in Feni S M Jahangir Alam has been closed and attached to the Police Headquarters on the charge of negligence over murder of Sonagazi madrasa student Nusrat Jahan Rafi.

Bangladesh will take on the West Indies at the Malahide in Dublin this afternoon. If the Tigers can beat the West Indies today, they will move into the final of the tri-series.

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