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News Brief

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina urged the business community to set up industries by giving special attention to waste management and environment as she was addressing the National Export Trophy for 2016-17 distribution function at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre in Dhaka yesterday. The Premier in her speech reassuring the business community of extending all sorts of support to their any necessity said, the government is working to cut down bank loan interest rate to single digit as higher interest rate is instrumental to loan default. The Premier handed over 66 trophies — 29 gold, 21 silver and 16 bronze in 28 categories to 66 companies for their outstanding performance in the export sector.

Speaker Dr. Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury while addressing the two-day fourth South Asian Speakers' Summit on Achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Male yesterday called for building a peaceful and inclusive future world on the basis of equity removing poverty. Bangladesh reduced the poverty rate to 21 per cent from 40 per cent in the last 10 years under the leadership of the current Prime Minister, the Speaker added. On the sidelines of the summit, the Speaker held a meeting with Indian Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla yesterday. While exchanging views, the Speaker sought Indian support over the repatriation of Rohingyas to their homeland in Myanmar. During the meeting, the two Speakers also discussed the activities of parliamentary standing committees, parliamentary friendly groups and e-parliament.

Foreign Minister Dr. A K Abdul Momen while opening the Sheikh Kamal Memorial 1st SAARC Snooker Championship 2019 at Dhaka Club last afternoon said, Bangladesh is observing the situation regarding Assam's National Register of Citizens (NRC). The Minister Referring to last bilateral meeting with his Indian Counterpart Dr. S Jaishankar in Dhaka said, the Indian External Affairs Minister repeatedly assured him that NRC is an Indian internal matter and it will not affect Bangladesh by any means. About India's Assam situation, the Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader while briefing media yesterday said, citizenship issue is their internal matter and no comment would be preferable in this connection. Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal while speaking at the closing ceremony of prisoners' basic training and parade programme at Kashimpur Central Jail yesterday said, there is nothing to worry about Assam's NRC list as no Bangladeshi infiltrated into India after 1971. Meanwhile, a Spokesperson of Indian Ministry of External Affairs said, nobody will have to leave the country for not having their name in the NRC list. They will not be detained. They will continue enjoying all the rights of a citizen, he said.


Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader while briefing media at his ministry yesterday said, the bomb attack on police personnel in the capital's Science Laboratory might be a test case before carrying out any big attack. The police are investigating the attack and they are on alert. Meanwhile, IGP Javed Patwary yesterday visited the crime scene of the bomb attack. During the visit, the IGP told newsmen that the attack was made with an improvised explosive device. The police Chief also said, the pattern of the attack is similar to the previous attacks which were carried out targeting police members in the capital's Gulistan and Malibagh areas this year.

Bangladesh Television will start airing its programmes in India today by using Bangabandhu Satellite-1. Information Minister Dr. Hasan Mahmud will inaugurate airing the BTV programmes this afternoon. Meanwhile, the Minister while briefing reporters at his Ministry yesterday expressed the hope that BNP will do politics for the welfare of common people shunning militancy and terrorism. Replying to a question on IS militant issue, the Minister said, there is no existence of IS in the country.

Land Minister Saifuzzaman Chowdhury while handing over cabin-pickups to the AC Lands yesterday said, the Development Project Proposal is underway to install CCTV cameras across the country's land office to ensure corruption-free land services. State Minister for Shipping Khalid Mahmood Chowdhury while exchanging views with the members of Shipping and Communication Reporters' Forum Bangladesh at his ministry yesterday said, dredging work of four rivers – Jhinai, Ghagot, Bangshi and Nagda will begin soon. The State Minister warned, the government will not tolerate any irregularity in construction of 35 new dredgers including crane boats, tugboats, houseboats and other related material. Bangladesh has signed an agreement to buy 718 MW of electricity from India's Reliance Power over the next 22 years. Reliance plans to invest about US\$1 billion to set up a local plant by 2022 at Meghnaghat in Narayanganj. The deal was signed with the Reliance at Bidyut Bhaban in the city yesterday.

Dengue cases are declining. DGHS said, a total of 902 new dengue patients were admitted to different hospitals in the country during the last 24 hours till 8am last morning. Of them, 405 got admitted in different hospitals in Dhaka.

By-polls to Rangpur-3 parliamentary constituency that fell vacant after the demise of Jatiya Party Chairman H M Ershad will be held on October 5. Election Commission announced the schedule yesterday.


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