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**News Brief**

President Md. Abdul Hamid left Dhaka yesterday for London for health check-up and treatment of eyes. The members of the cabinet and high civil and military officials saw the President off at the Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport. The President is scheduled to return home on May 26.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is expected to inaugurate the Second Meghna Bridge and the Second Gumti Bridge on the Dhaka-Chattogram highway through a videoconference from Ganabhaban on May 25. After opening the bridges, traffic condition in the vital route would remarkably improve.

Road, Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader returned home yesterday afternoon after taking treatment at a hospital in Singapore. Leaders and activists of Awami League and its associate organizations received the Minister at the airport. The Minister while talking to media at the Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport said, with the blessings of almighty Allah and wishes of all the AL leaders and activists and the country’s people, he came back to life. The Minister specially expressed his gratitude towards Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina who did everything to save his life.

Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Riva Ganguly Das called on Information Minister Dr. Hasan Mahmud at his ministry in Dhaka yesterday. While exchanging views, they discussed different aspects of bilateral relations and the production of biopic of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at the meeting.

Information Minister Dr. Hasan Mahmud gave assurance of publishing the gazette of the 9th Wage Board Award soon for the journalists and newspaper workers. The Minister gave the assurance when a delegation of Bangladesh Federal Union of Newspaper Press Workers and Bangladesh Newspaper Workers Federation met him at his ministry yesterday.

Foreign Minister Dr. A K Abdul Momen has said, so far one dead and 39 missing in the boat capsized in the Mediterranean Sea have been identified as Bangladeshi nationals. The Foreign Minister said this to newsmen at his ministry in Dhaka yesterday. Dr. Momen quoting the Bangladesh officials now in Tunisia said, a total of 16 people were rescued by Tunisian fishermen after several hours of the boat capsize. Among the survivors 14 are Bangladeshi nationals, he added.

Food Minister Sadhan Chandra Majumder has said, paddy will be purchased from marginal farmers at a fair price so that middle men would not be able to gain through creating unfair situation. The Minister said this while inaugurating paddy procurement at Sutrapur in Bogura yesterday.

Railway Minister Nurul Islam Sujan has said, eight pairs of special trains bound for different destinations will operate during the Eid-ul-Fitr. The Minister said this at a press conference at Railway Bhaban in the capital yesterday. For the first time the advanced train tickets for Eid-ul-Fitr will be sold from different counters and stations, the Minister added.

The main jamaat of Eid-ul-Fitr will be held at the National Eidgah on the High Court premises at 8:30am on Eid day. The jamaat, however, will be held at Baitul Mukarram National Mosque at 9am in case of inclement weather. The decision was taken at an inter-ministerial meeting held at the Religious Affairs Ministry with State Minister for Religious Affairs Advocate Sheikh Md. Abdullah in the chair.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has expressed deep shock and sorrow at the death of former General Secretary of Jatiya Sramik League Roy Ramesh Chandra who died at the age of 68 in Dhaka yesterday.

Bangladesh yesterday beat host Ireland by six wickets in the last match ahead of their tri-series final against West Indies. The final is due to take place at the Malahide in Dublin tomorrow.

**Md. Zashim Uddin**

Sr. Deputy Principal Information Officer (Protocol)

Ph-02-9549095

Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal has said, the government is continuing its all-out efforts to control the narcotic menace. The Minister also said the government amended Narcotics Control Act to make it a time-befitting one while the law enforcers are playing a very strong role against drug peddling and drug abuse. The Minister came up with the remarks while inaugurating the Department of Narcotic Control's anti-drug campaign through digital device 'Kiosk' at its Shegunbagicha office.

The second meeting of the ‘National Implementation Committee for the Celebration of the Birth Centenary of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman’ was held at the International Mother Language Institute yesterday. The committee stressed the need for spreading Bangabandhu’s iconic leadership, life struggles and historic speech internationally, said an official press release. It also had a discussion on including the Bangladesh Missions and non-resident Bangladeshis in organizing different programmes across the country. Foreign Affairs Minister Dr. A K Abdul Momen, the Chairman of the committee presided over the meeting.