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News Brief

President Md. Abdul Hamid has urged all concerned to promote the country's traditional culture and expand it at home and abroad. The President made the call while inaugurating the 'First International Folklore Festival-2018' at Mukterpara in Netrokona yesterday. Later, the President laid the foundation stone of Sheikh Kamal IT Park there.

The cabinet has approved scrapping the quota system in recruiting first and second class officers in government services accepting recommendations of a committee formed by the government in this regard. The approval was given in the cabinet meeting with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the chair yesterday.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has said, the government had been able to brighten the image of Bangladesh by playing a strong role in the just held 73rd United Nations General Assembly in New York. The Prime Minister said this while addressing a press conference at Ganabhaban yesterday on the outcome of her recent visit to New York for attending the 73rd UNGA.

The three-day 4th National Development Fair begins at International Trade Fair Ground at Agargaon in Dhaka this morning. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will inaugurate the fair through video-conferencing from Ganabhaban. The fair for showing the government's multiple development initiatives and successes remains open from 10 am till 9 pm every day.

Finance Minister A M A Muhith has said, the government has set a target to reduce the rate of poverty by 1.6 to 1.8 percent a year through inclusive economy. The Minister said this while addressing a seminar titled 'Development of Bangladesh Economy: Achievements and Potentialities' in Dhaka yesterday.

Industries Minister Amir Hossain Amu has said, the government has undertaken widespread reforms towards greening of industries by prioritising a low-carbon economy. The Minister said this while speaking at a ministerial panel on Regional Perspectives on Green Industry Policy in Bangkok yesterday.

Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury has stressed the need for creating skilled human resources to enhance productivity for attaining economic development goals as well as to turn the country into a middle-income country within the stipulated time. The Minister made the call while addressing a seminar marking the National Productivity Day at CIRDAP in Dhaka yesterday.

Health and Family Welfare Minister Mohammed Nasim has urged the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation to play an active role for hastening Rohingya repatriation. Mr. Nasim said this as Iranian Ambassador Abbas Veizi Dehnnvi called on him at his ministry in Dhaka yesterday.

State Minister for Foreign Affairs Md Shahriar Alam has said, Bangladesh is committed to ensure green, clean and sustainable energy. The Minister made the remark while delivering the country statement during the first General Assembly of International Solar Alliance at Noida in India yesterday.

The Foreign Affairs Ministry has started public hour service to provide hand to hand support to mass people. Under the service, anyone can visit Room no-322 of the ministry from 10am to 1pm on every Monday and Wednesday for filing complain or enquiring any information regarding welfare related matters provided by foreign ministry and Bangladesh missions abroad.

Bangladesh Under-19 cricket team takes on India in their first semifinal of the Asia Cricket Cup U-19 at Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium in Mirpur this morning.

DSEX, the key index of Dhaka Stock Exchange, added 0.77 per cent, or 41.72 points, to close at 5,422.65 points yesterday.

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