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**News Brief**

The government has redistributed the tasks of ministers and State Ministers in two ministries and changed the portfolio of another State Minister. Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives Minister Md. Tazul Islam would be responsible for Local Government Division alone and State Minister of the same ministry Swapan Bhattacharjee would look after the tasks of Rural Development and Cooperatives Division. Posts, Telecommunications and Information Technology Minister Mustafa Jabbar would look after the affairs of Posts and Telecommunication while State Minister of the same ministry Zunaid Ahmed Palak would be responsible for Information and Communication Technology Division. State Minister for Health and Family Welfare Dr. Murad Hasan has been given the charge of State Minister for Information.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has reiterated her firm determination to build a terrorism, militancy and drug-free developed and prosperous Bangladesh and sought doa and cooperation of all, particularly the religious scholars and alem-ulema, in attaining the goal. The Premier expressed her determination while hosting an iftar for war-wounded freedom fighters, orphans, physically-challenged children and alem-ulema at Ganabhaban yesterday.

Road, Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader has said, bringing discipline in transport sector by reducing traffic congestion is now the biggest challenge in the ‘second innings’ of his life. The Minister said this as he joined his office yesterday after receiving treatment at a Singapore hospital.

Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal has said, the government has undertaken all-out security measures to ensure safety and security of the common people on the occasion of the Holy Eid-ul-Fitr across the country. The Minister said this as he was briefing the media after emerging from a meeting on Eid security at his ministry in Dhaka yesterday.

Information Minister Dr. Hasan Mahmud has said, the concept of ‘Digital Bangladesh’ is now not a dream, but a reality. The Minister said this while addressing a function marking the launching anniversary and commercial operation of the country’s first communication satellite Bangabandhu-I at the InterContinental Hotel in the capital yesterday. Posts and Telecommunication Minister Mustafa Jabbar, State Minister for Information and Communication Technology Zunaid Ahmed Palak and Information Secretary Abdul Malek also attended the function.

Chinese Ambassador in Dhaka Zhang Zuo called on Information Minister Dr. Hasan Mahmud at his ministry in Dhaka yesterday. During the meeting, the Minister drew the attention of the Envoy to accelerate the process of building full-fledged television stations in six divisions in Bangladesh with the chinese cooperation. While exchanging views Mr. Zhang Zuo reiterated that China would extend cooperation in the repatriation of the forcibly displaced Rohingya people who took shelter in Bangladesh. Information Secretary Abdul Malek was also present during the call.

Bangladesh Awami League has nominated S M T Zaman Niketa to contest the Bogura-6 parliamentary by-election slated for June 24.The nomination was finalized at a joint meeting of the Awami League Parliamentary Nomination Board and Local Government Nomination Board held at Ganabhaban yesterday with AL President and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the chair. The AL Local Government Nomination Board also finalised the nomination of the party candidates for the final phase of the countrywide upazila elections.

Bangladesh has expressed its deep concern over several attacks targeting oil establishment in Saudi Arabia and the UAE. Foreign Ministry in Dhaka at a press release yesterday said, Bangladesh has observed with deep concern the secret drone attacks on the oil pumping stations in the Saudi Arabian Eastern Province.

World Metrology Day is being observed in the country today. President Md. Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina have issued separate messages on the eve of the day.

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