

National Day of France

The Daily Star

SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT

July 14, 2009

Ambassador's message

It gives me great pleasure to address the people of Bangladesh and my fellow citizens living in this country on the occasion of the French National Day.

Today, we celebrate the 220th anniversary of the storming of the Bastille. In this fortress, anyone could be detained sometimes for years, with or without trial and often

for no reason, upon a simple request by a member of the nobility.

On the 14th of July 1789, the people of Paris seized weapons, broke into this royal prison and released the handful of prisoners held there. More than commemorating the fall of a fortress, the French National Day is an opportunity for us to mark a victory

against the reign of arbitrary rule and despotism and to celebrate the values put forth on the occasion of this event, namely liberty, equality and fraternity, upon which every democratic society is founded.

Bangladesh clearly demonstrates its commitment to these values.

Liberty, first, is of a great

concern to the Bangladeshi people, who fought so fiercely for their independence. Their struggle for liberty was again illustrated by the restoration of democracy and fundamental rights last December when they exercised their franchise in fair, transparent and credible general elections. Not only does Bangladesh contribute to the advancement of this principle at home, but also at the international level through its involvement in United Nations peacekeeping operations.

Equality is also a cherished ideal to Bangladeshis. By being home to diverse religious and ethnic minority groups living in harmony for generations, Bangladesh stands as an example. Muslims, Hindus, Buddhists, Christians are free to practice their own religion and culture. Gender equality is also making headway. Women's status in both private and public spheres is improving. A key government focus is to curtail gender disparities in areas of law, economics, politics and family and women are increasingly assuming leadership roles at national and local levels.

Bangladesh shows a deep sense of fraternity and solidarity as well. Poverty eradication has been the country's top policy priority since its independence. The highest allocation of the budget usually goes to poverty-reduction activities; a wide range of social safety-nets have been put in place to address challenges faced by the poor, such as scarcity of food, unemployment, diseases and lack of education. In order to tackle the frequent natural disasters, the government has implemented an efficient early-warning system which can save thousands of lives. Despite their own problems, Bangladeshis are able to mobilize themselves quickly and to bring aid to foreign countries

through their local NGOs, such as BRAC or Friendship.

In short, both France and Bangladesh are strongly attached to the same ideals which have to be defended endlessly in order to build a better world.

Bound by the same fundamental beliefs and sharing the same views on most of international issues, our two countries have developed very friendly relations ever since your liberation war. These relations could expand further in many domains; new sectors of co-operation, like science and technology, should be explored, especially at a point in time when we are increasingly confronted with the same global challenges.

Let me assure you that the Embassy of France in Bangladesh will keep on playing an active role to strengthen these relations. I am convinced that all my compatriots residing here, whether they are business men, civil servants, or members of NGOs, will participate in this endeavour.

Looking forward to a growing partnership between France and Bangladesh, I wish every success to both our countries in their common march ahead towards prosperity and happiness.



Charley Causeret
Ambassador of France to Bangladesh



Nicolas Sarkozy, President of France

Felicitations on the occasion of French National Day



Lafarge, a French company, is the global leader in manufacturing building materials. Together with a leading Spanish cement maker Cementos Molins, it has set up the biggest and modern dry process integrated cement plant at Chhatak in north-east Bangladesh. It produces the high quality Supercement and adds value to sustainable development in Bangladesh.

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How well do you know France?

Test yourself in 10 questions

1. What is the population of France?
A 33,8 Million people
B 43,8 Million people
C 53,8 Million people
D 63,8 Million people
2. What is the date of the French revolution?
A 1515
B 1654
C 1789
D 1870
3. How old is the Eiffel tower?
A 80 years
B 100 years
C 120 years
D 140 years
4. How many French sites are there on the UNESCO World Heritage List?
A 13
B 23
C 33
D 43
5. What was the speed record reached by the TGV (French High speed train)?
A 420,2 km/h
B 487,6 km/h
C 520,4 km/h
D 574,8 km/h
6. How many tourists visit France every year?
A 30 Million
B 56 Million
C 67 Million
D 72 Million
7. How many summer Olympic games did France host?
A 0
B 2
C 5
D 6
8. How many international students are currently in France?
A 50 000
B 160 000
C 260 000
D 310 000
9. What is the main source of energy in France?
A coal
B nuclear energy
C hydroelectricity
D renewable energies
10. How many varieties of cheese can you get in France?
A More than 100
B More than 200
C More than 300

D More than 400
Answers
1D, 2C, 3D, 4C, 5D, 6C, 7C, 8C, 9B, 10D

NATIONAL DAY OF FRANCE



CELEBRATING WITH PRIDE



Bureau Veritas
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Commercial Bank felicitates France & salutes the achievements of the French people on their National Day



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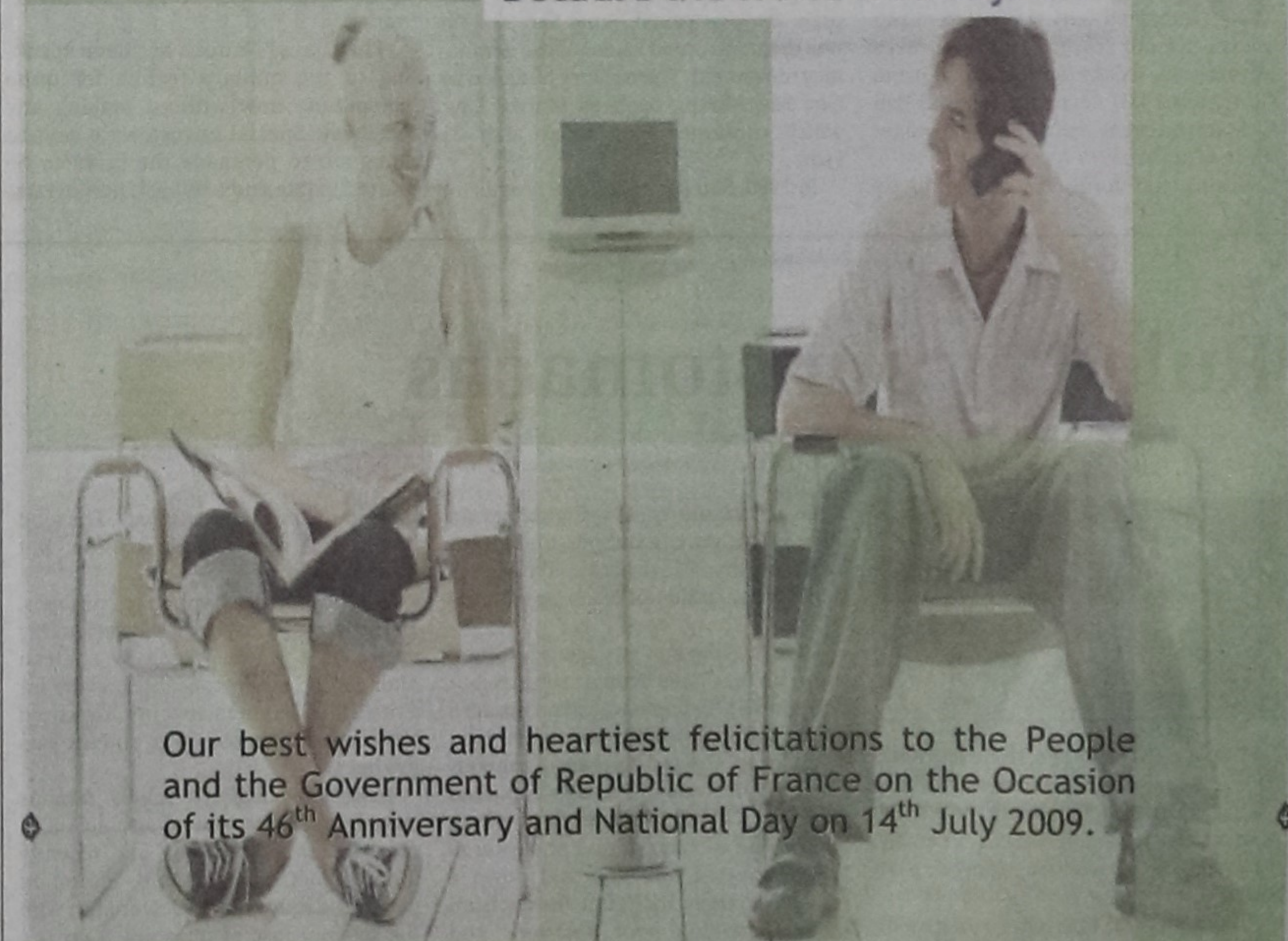
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Our best wishes and heartiest felicitations to the People and the Government of Republic of France on the Occasion of its 46th Anniversary and National Day on 14th July 2009.

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