



Most Urgent  
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### News Brief

President Md. Abdul Hamid has sought enhanced German investment at the Special Economic Zones and High-Tech Parks in Bangladesh as he held a courtesy call with his German counterpart Frank-Walter Steinmeier at Bellevue Palace in Berlin yesterday (Berlin time). The Head of the State also urged all international partners including Germany to effectively engage with the Myanmar authorities to find a durable solution of the Rohingya repatriation issue. The President, who is now in Berlin as part of his 12-day medical checkup in Germany and the UK, also thanked the Germany as it set up the Bangabandhu Professorial Fellowship in Heidelberg University, Germany in recent time.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said, the people involved in vandalizing Hindu temples must face exemplary punishment, calling upon all to work in unison and remain vigilant to stop recurrence of such heinous acts. The Premier said this while exchanging greetings with leaders of the Hindu community being connected virtually with the Dhakeshwari National Temple marking the Sharodia Durga Puja from Ganabhaban yesterday. The Prime Minister said the people irrespective of caste, creed and religion in Bangladesh celebrate all festivals together. But, there are a few cliques who are out to destroy the spirit by staging some communal incidents, she said. The Prime Minister called upon the Hindu community not to consider them as minority and perform their religious rituals with the same rights enjoyed by followers of other faiths as part of their constitutional and birthrights.

Liberation War Affairs Minister A K M Mozammel Haque said, the list of razakars will be published soon after the related law is enacted in the Jatiya Sangsad. The Minister said this at a views-exchange meeting with the heroic freedom fighters after inaugurating the newly-built Rangpur Sadar Upazila Muktiyoddha Complex Bhaban in the city yesterday. The Minister said anti-independence ghosts create religious tensions for no reason and break sculptures. He said the law enforcement agencies have arrested several people in the incident. The culprits will be unmasked in a short time, he said.

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader while talking to the media yesterday said, the government, led by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, will resist strongly the communal forces involved in vandalism of temples and houses of Hindu community. He said those who are getting inflamed over the country's development and those who are angry over the peaceful celebration of worship in every puja mandapa across the country want to push the country back with various tactics. Creating enmity between the Hindus and Muslims is one of their ill-tactics, he said, urging all to maintain religious harmony and unity in the country.

Agriculture Minister Dr. Abdur Razzaque while exchanging views with minority hindu devotees after visiting different puja pandels in Tangail yesterday said, the perpetrators and those who were involved in Cumilla incident will be nabbed and get exemplary punishment as per the law.

Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal said, law enforcement agencies have already identified most of those offenders in Cumilla temple incident and the agencies are quizzing those culprits to this end. The Minister said this while talking to journalists after a meeting with top officials of law enforcement agencies over the incidents at the secretariat yesterday. He said those who are involved in the Cumilla incident will never be spared.

Information and Broadcasting Minister Dr. Hasan Mahmud while talking to the reporters at the secretariat yesterday said, an identified quarter committed the heinous crime at Nanua Dighi in Cumilla with an ill political motive. He said Bangladesh is now an example of communal harmony before the globe and this has been established under the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. The country achieved the independence through the blood of the followers of all religious faiths, including Hindus, Muslims, Buddhists and Christians, under the leadership of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. But, the vested quarter that was against the country is now busy with conspiracy against the ongoing development under Bangabandhu's daughter Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and this quarters doesn't want the communal harmony to exist, he added.

The government is working to transform the Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institution (BSTI) into a modern institute for expanding its activities. Industries Minister Nurul Majid Mahmud Humayun said this while speaking at a discussion on 'Shared Vision for a better world-Standard for SDGs' in Dhaka yesterday.

The government yesterday administered Covid-19 vaccines to 120 students aged between 12 and 17 from three schools in Manikganj on trial basis. Health and Family Welfare Minister Zahid Maleque inaugurated the trial run vaccination programme at Colonel Malek Medical College Hospital of Manikganj, Directorate General of Health Service official sources informed.

Expatriate Welfare and Overseas Employment Minister Imran Ahmed urged all stakeholders to work together to rehabilitate migrant workers who have returned to Bangladesh. The minister said this while addressing a meeting on "Post Covid-19 Reintegration of Returned Migrant Workers: An Analysis and Way Forward" at his ministry yesterday. He said the government has taken various socio-economic initiatives to rehabilitate the workers who have returned to Bangladesh.

State Minister for Information and Broadcasting Dr. Md. Murad Hassan while addressing a function of Maha Nabami, the ninth day of the five-day Durga Puja of the Bangalee Hindu community in the capital yesterday said, the conspirators who want to destroy the communal harmony existing in the country must be resisted.

The World White Cane Safety Day-2021 is being observed in the country as elsewhere in the globe today. This year's theme of the day is 'Digital Sadachari, Nirapodey Poth Choli'. President Md. Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, in separate messages, greeted all concerned on the occasion of the Day.

The government has deployed Border Guard Bangladesh at different districts across the country with an objective to keep law and order situation stable during the Durga Puja, a religious festival of the Hindu community. The paramilitary forces have been started their works from Wednesday.

The National Board of Revenue has withdrawn import duty on onion till December 31 this year in order to keep its price at a tolerable level. The NBR issued a gazette notification to this end with immediate effect. Meanwhile, the NBR also reduced the regulatory duty on import of non-refined sugar to 20 percent from 30 percent till February 28, 2022. A separate notification has been issued in this regard.

The government has imposed a ban on exporting soybean meal, a key ingredient of poultry and cattle feed, to protect the interests of the country's dairy and poultry sectors. The Commerce Ministry issued a notification in this regard to control the rising prices of the key elements of poultry and cattle feed.

India today appreciated the "prompt" action and other security measures taken by Bangladesh to control the situation erupted following some "disturbing, reports involving attacks on religious gatherings, India's External Affairs Ministry spokesperson said this at the weekly media briefing in New Delhi yesterday.

The United Kingdom's Royal Navy warship HMS Kent arrived at Chattogram Port Jetty yesterday marking the birth centenary of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and the golden jubilee of the country's independence, said a press release. Meanwhile, British High Commissioner in Dhaka Robert Chatterton Dickson said, the UK is proud of longstanding defence cooperation between Britain and Bangladesh while London is committed to deepening ties with Dhaka. He made the remark while the Frigate HMS Kent the UK's Carrier Strike Group deployment was welcomed by the Bangladesh Navy yesterday, a British High Commission press release said.

Japanese Ambassador in Dhaka Ito Naoki while addressing a discussion at the Jatiya Press Club yesterday said, Bangladesh has made 'great achievement' in Covid-19 management under Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's leadership while his country assured more support to Dhaka in this field in the coming days.

The country yesterday recorded 7 fatalities from COVID-19, taking the death toll to 27,737. With 466 fresh cases, the number of infections surged to 15,24,890. The positivity rate stood at 2.16 per cent as 21,568 samples were tested during the time. At the same time, the recovery count rose to 15,26,368, DGHS disclosed this information.

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