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News Brief

The National Parliament goes into its ninth session at 11am today after a 59-day recess as the last session was prorogued on July 9 last. The session will begin maintaining health codes amid the Covid-19 pandemic. President Abdul Hamid on August 19 last summoned the 9th session (4th session of this year) of the 11th Parliament exercising the power bestowed on him as per clause (1) of article 72 of the constitution.

The death toll in Friday night's AC blast incident at a mosque in Narayanganj has risen to 21 at the Sheikh Hasina National Institute of Burn and Plastic Surgery till now. Besides, 16 patients, who are in critical state, are now undergoing treatment there. Meanwhile, President Md. Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in separate condolence messages, have expressed profound shock and sorrow over the casualties in the incident. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina also directed the authorities concerned to ensure the best treatment for the patients who suffered burn injuries in AC explosions. The Premier is constantly enquiring about the condition of the burned patients. Three separate probe committees by Narayanganj District Administration, Fire Service and Civil Defence and Titas Gas Transmission and Distribution Company Limited have been formed to investigate the explosion. State Minister for Power, Energy and Mineral Resources Nasrul Hamid after visiting Sheikh Hasina National Institute of Burn and Plastic Surgery yesterday warned that stern action will be taken after receiving probe reports on the AC blast incident in Narayanganj Mosque. He further said that instructions have been given to check power lines and AC condition of existing mosques, temples and other religious establishments covered by all distribution companies. Earlier, he visited incident spot in Narayanganj.

Ghoraghat UNO Wahida Khanam, is showing signs of improvement after undergoing a surgery on Sept 3 at the National Institute of Neurosciences and Hospital, according to the medical board overseeing her treatment. She is having a little trouble moving the right side of her body because of her head injury. It may take a while to recover. She does not have any other problems at the moment, ABM Khurshid Alam, DG of health services said after visiting Wahida at the hospital yesterday. Cabinet Secretary Khandker Anwarul Islam also visited the ailing UNO. Two among three arrested attackers of Wahida Khanam and her father Omar Ali Sheikh were taken on seven-day police remand yesterday in Dinajpur. Earlier, RAB-13 arrested three persons including prime suspect Asadul Haque on Friday.

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader has said, the educational institutions will be reopened when congenial atmosphere will prevail. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is intensely observing the matter of reopening the educational institutions by keeping the fact in mind that different countries in the world opened educational institutions which resulted in increase of virus transmission. The Minister was addressing a virtual discussion on "Bangabandhu: lighthouse of Bangalees' conscience" at Jatiya Kabi Kazi Nazrul Islam University at Trishal in Mymensingh yesterday.

Information Minister Dr. Hasan Mahmud coming down heavily on BNP's activities said, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has shown her unprecedented generosity by extending Begum Khaleda Zia's release from jail for another six months for the second time. For this, BNP needed to be thankful to the Premier, but they do not practice the culture of giving thanks, he said. The Minister was talking to newsmen after a meeting with the leaders of Federation of Television Professionals Organization-FTPO at his official residence yesterday. Criticising a comment of BNP leader Ruhul Kabir Rizvi on democracy, the Information Minister said, the countrymen witnessed their means of protecting democracy and how they tried to rig votes, torched 500 polling centres and killed people even the polling officers. If this is a model of restoring democracy, then BNP is a threat to democracy, he added. In the meeting, he informed

that his ministry has begun works three months ago to bring the TRP system under rules and regulations and formed a committee in this regard.

Education Minister Dr. Dipu Moni has said, the government is planning to appoint a child psychologist in each upazila to support and provide counselling services to students on mental health issues. The Minister was speaking at an online discussion organized by the Centre for Research and Information and Young Bangla yesterday.

Fisheries and Livestock Minister S M Rezaul Karim inaugurated a gene bank, the first of its kind in the country, for endangered local fish species at Bangladesh Fisheries Research Institute-BFRI headquarters in Mymensingh yesterday. The bank has collected genes of a total 143 endangered fish species.

Sector 8 Commander during the 1971's Liberation War, retired Lieutenant Colonel Abu Osman Chowdhury, who breathed his last at the Combined Military Hospital in Dhaka last morning was laid to eternal rest after Asr prayers with full state honor at Banani Military Graveyard yesterday. President Md. Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina expressed profound shock at the death of Abu Osman Chowdhury.

Singapore President Halimah Yacob has assured that her country will play a constructive role in ASEAN and other forums for ensuring fast and safe repatriation of the forcefully displaced Rohingyas from Bangladesh to Myanmar. She made the remark while outgoing Bangladesh High Commissioner to Singapore M Mostafizur Rahman paid a farewell call on her at the Presidential palace Istana in Singapore City on September 1.

Meanwhile, a total of 40 Rohingya leaders went to Bhasan Char yesterday by a Navy vessel to see facilities over there as the government has planned to relocate some 1 lakh Rohingyas to the island, aiming to ease the pressure on Cox's Bazar camps.

The trial run of river vessel between Bangladesh and India started yesterday as a vessel carrying 10 tons of cement reached Sonamura Port of Tripura from Daudkandi of Cumilla through the Gomti River. BIWTA Chairman Golam Sadeq formally inaugurated the test run operations of river vessel at Bibir Bazar in Cumilla. Indian High Commissioner Riva Ganguly Das was present on the occasion.

Bangladesh yesterday recorded 35 more fatalities from the novel coronavirus in a daily count, raising the death toll from the pandemic to 4,447. At the same time recovery count rose to 2,17,852 after another 1,661 patients were discharged from the hospitals during the period. The country also saw further rise in coronavirus cases with the detection of 1,950 new cases taking the total number of cases to 3,23,565.

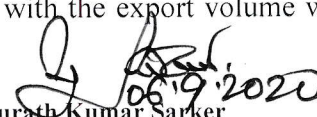
UN Women Bangladesh in collaboration with Unilever Bangladesh and Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment launched a project yesterday to support women returnee migrant workers from COVID-19 risks and challenges, with 'dignity' packages and health-hygiene kits in 10 districts across the country.

After a three-day steady condition, water level in most of the rivers in Ganges basin started declining yesterday forecasting of improving the overall flood situation in the basin within the next couple of days. Of the 30 monitored river points, water levels receded at 24 points while increased at six points, according to data of Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre.

Dhaka North City Corporation Mayor Atiqul Islam at a virtual meeting on Friday warned that the authorities would sell any construction materials, shops or establishment at auction immediately which will be left on footpaths or roads, from tomorrow.

Two benches of the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court start operating virtually from today.

The country's readymade garment sector has hiked by 47 per cent with the export volume worth \$336.33 crore in August, BGMEA said.


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